

Open Space Advisory Board

Agenda

Wednesday, August 13, 2025
Library 1st Floor Meeting Room
951 Spruce Street
6:45 PM

Members of the public are welcome to attend and give comments remotely; however, the in-person meeting may continue even if technology issues prevent remote participation.

- Call in to: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 408 638 0968 or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free) Webinar ID: 883 3175 6380 or
- You can log in via your computer. Please visit the City's website here to link to the meeting: www.louisvilleco.gov/osab

The Council will accommodate public comments during the meeting. Anyone may also email comments to the Council prior to the meeting at EmberB@LouisvilleCO.gov.

1. 6:45 pm Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
5. 6:55 pm Staff Updates (5 Minutes)
6. 7:00 pm Board Updates (5 Minutes)
 - i. OSAB Letter of Support to the City Manager for New Positions
7. 7:05 pm Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda (5 minutes, more time as needed)

Persons planning to attend the meeting who need sign language interpretation, translation services, assisted listening systems, Braille, taped material, or special transportation, should contact the City Clerk's Office at 303 335-4574 or ClerksOffice@LouisvilleCO.gov. A forty-eight-hour notice is requested.

Si requiere una copia en español de esta publicación o necesita un intérprete durante la reunión, por favor llame a la Ciudad al 303.335.4536 o 303.335.4574.

8. 7:10 pm Discussion Item: Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Long Range Plan & Trail Master Plan Kick off Meeting. Presented by: DTJ Design Consulting Team (60 Minutes)
9. 8:10 pm Action Item: OSAB Approval of the City Manager Proposed Acquisition Process. Presented by: Diana Langley, City Manager (15 Minutes)
 - i. City Manager Communication with City Council Regarding the Acquisition Process
 - ii. How will City Council Communicate its Property Priorities to OSAB?
10. 8:25 pm Discussion Item: OSAB Recommendations for 2025 “Potential Open Space Candidate Ranking” Criteria and Property Review. Presented By: Michiko Christiansen & Brad Pugh, OSAB Board Members (30 Minutes)
 - i. Determine Ranking Criteria
 - ii. Identify Properties to be Ranked and Properties for the Driving Tour
 - iii. Driving Tour Process (1 Tour or 2 Tours)
11. 8:55 pm Action Item: Approval of Bird City Resolution. Presented By: Susan McEachern, OSAB Chair (15 Minutes).
12. 9:10 pm Action Item: Gateway (MM) Acquisition- OSAB Recommendation to City Council for Louisville Contribution. Presented by Susan McEachern (15 Minutes)
13. 9:25 pm Discussion Items for Next Meeting September 10th, 2025
 - i. “Potential Open Space Candidate” Driving Tour
14. Adjourn

Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 9, 2025, 6:45pm

Library 1st Floor Meeting Room

951 Spruce St.

1. 6:45 pm Call to Order**2. Roll Call**

Present: Board members Brad Pugh, Susan McEachern, Michiko Christiansen, Ben Mow, Graeme Patterson, Mark Poletti

Absent: Andy Dorsey, Daniel Rupp

City Staff Present: Ember Brignull (Superintendent of Open Space), Ginger Cross (Marketing Specialist), Adam Blackmore (Director of PROS), Diana Langley (City Manager)

3. Approval of Agenda

Approved unanimously

4. Approval of Minutes

Approved unanimously

5. 7:00 pm Staff Updates (5 Minutes)

- Vegetation Survey: Part 1 completed (trail corridor); Part 2 ongoing.
- Youth Engagement: Ongoing work with Boulder County Youth Corps.
- Neurodivergent Education Programs: Consultant hired; update at next meeting.
- Open Space Contractor Work: Spring contracts ended; Fall contracts to begin in a few months. Grazing has largely wrapped up.
- North Open Space: Bank stabilization underway; RFP in fall.
- Daughenbaugh Open Space: Parking lot off of Cherry to be improved to standard specs.

Board Questions:

- Biocontrol Update: No data yet; updates to come.
- Harper Lake Trail: Trail separates pedestrians from service road; is this necessary? Ember: this could be a question for the PROST plan.
- Neurodivergent Training: Consultant-led; 2026 expansion possible if the 2025 program is successful.

Additional Staff Announcements:

- July 14: Special Council Meeting (Comprehensive Plan)
- July 15: Work Plan Meeting (2026 Priorities)
- Aug 5: Public Hearing for E-Bike Ordinance
- July 10: Enclave and Sunflower Parks Grand Opening

- July 23: Council Budget Retreat (Noon–5 PM; public welcome)

6. 7:05 pm Board Updates (5 Minutes)

- E-Bike Ordinance covers speed only (15 mph speed limit signs), and only on open space. No mention of enforcement or limiting to 1 and Class 2 E-Bikes.
- Finance Committee: In the last finance committee meeting, there was a suggestion to permanently allot half of the Conservation Trust Fund to Parks. Susan raised equity concerns over the permanent allocation of these funds for Parks versus Open Space.
- Budget: Parks are over budget; Open Space reserves are stable.
- Conservation Trust Fund: Lottery money; flexible use for outdoor recreation, preservation, parks and rec, and open space. Intentionally broad use.
- Board Discussion: Urged annual review of funds to be allocated based on departmental need, rather than committing certain amounts permanently to different departments.

7. 7:10 pm Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda (5 minutes, more time as needed)

- Public Comment 1 (North of Avista neighborhood resident): Regarding plot of land behind Avista Hospital (parcel DD). Lots of wildlife and used by neighborhood kids. Concerned it could be re-zoned for development. Thinks it would be a great spot for Open Space. Could be a connector to Superior and Monarch HS. Provides buffer to whatever happens to Avista land. Small parcel with big impact, and hoping the city can acquire and zone as open space.
- Public Comment 2 (North of Avista neighborhood resident): agrees with his wife. They border this parcel. Multiple residents who are concerned about this plot and are hitting all public meetings to explain why it is important to maintain as Open Space.
- Public Comment 3 by resident Cathern Smith: City Code. Referenced Title 16 Subdivision Code under Design Standards (Sec. 16.16.010) can be used to advocate for Open Spaces. Also seconds what Public Commentors 1 & 2 said.
- Michiko/Ember: Property to be discussed by OSAB at a future meeting; potential memo to City Council recommending acquisition.

8. 7:15 pm Update Item: Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department Marketing Update. Presented by Ginger Cross, Marketing Specialist (15 Minutes)

- Ginger lives in Louisville and has been working for the city for 9 years.
- Job is to educate the public on what is going on in the Parks, Recreations, and Open Space Department.
- Target market is huge for the City of Louisville. People who live here have a wide variety of interests and passions.
- Interacts with all staff in Park, Recreations, Open Space, and Golf (50 full-time employees).
- Social Media: monitors activity but does not respond to comments directly.
- Keeps a matrix showing all ongoing activity to help track what is going on.
- The Rec Center has the most communication tasks because there are so many ongoing activities (fitness classes, sports, senior center, etc.). Rec Center has more requests but not necessarily more time spent on it than open space
- Encouraging people to follow Louisville social media accounts could help keep people more aware of what is going on. Somewhat at the mercy of social media algorithms on what gets visibility.
- "Latest Buzz" newsletter has been popular.
- Susan recommends site-specific physical signs (in-line skating rink conversion to pickleball as an example) to help reach the younger audience.
- She tries to highlight the little things that make Louisville a great place to live (picking up trash, etc.)
- All departments get a monthly newsletter, if not more frequent. Open Space newsletter is more seasonal. Tries her best to balance different departments.
- Discussion around effective wording on signs, especially as it relates to people with differing needs. It is very difficult to choose the correct words for a sign that are inclusive, informative, and concise.
- Ongoing efforts to provide bilingual signs.
- Weekly Louisville Lookahead is a great way for citizens to be made aware of all board and council meetings.

9. 7:30 pm Update Item: Collaboration with External and Internal Boards. Presented by Susan McEachern, OSAB Chair (15 Minutes)

- Susan feels that collaboration with other boards is an important dimension of what we do as an advisory board.
- Priorities:
 - Restoration and preservation of Coal Creek
 - Best Practices: Learn from other communities and boards. How do they work with city staff and city council? How do they build long-range plans?
 - Wildlife plan
 - Land acquisition: learn how other boards reach out to land owners

City of Louisville

*Parks Division 749 Main Street Louisville CO 80027
303.335.4774 (phone) www.LouisvilleCO.gov*

- Graeme and Mark are our OSAB/LOSAC Tiger Team. They will set up meeting with Lafayette Open Space Advisory Council. One topic will be Coal Creek
- Joint meeting with Superior Open Space Board in the fall.
- OSAB should develop a list of what we want to learn from neighboring communities, especially as it relates to current ongoing priorities.
- Susan will reach out to other Louisville advisory board chairs to determine shared concerns.

10. 7:45 pm Update Item: Property Acquisition OSAB Ranking Criteria. Presented by Michiko Christiansen & Brad Pugh, OSAB Board Members (30 Minutes)

- In the past, OSAB viewed all parcels in person and obtained aerial imagery
- Each parcel was ranked 0-10 on three different criteria: natural resource, visitor experience, and strategic value
- Parcels were divided into low, medium, and high priorities, a distinction that was difficult to make.
 - The idea is that a property could always be moved up in the priority list, especially if a property comes up for sale.
- Original list of parcels came from city staff. But properties have been added since on recommendations from council members, board members, and citizens.
- OSAB should have an ongoing dialogue with city council on its priorities and what properties it would consider acquiring.
- Graeme brings up that the city hasn't bought anything for 8 years. How do we make progress and get the ball rolling?
 - How do we encourage sellers to work with the city?
- City Council appreciates the map that OSAB has put together
- Diana: Council asked that OSAB acquisition map be overlaid with land use map. She expects council discussion on this.
 - Council is aware of interest in some of OSAB's high-priority parcels. It would be helpful to know if parcels are encumbered in any way.
 - Diana will follow up on asking staff to add zoning and other necessary information to parcels identified by OSAB.
- Discussion on whether it is best to wait for high-priority parcels to become available, rather than risk spending money on a lower-priority parcel and then not having enough funds for a potential future high-priority parcel.
 - Brad thinks current effort should focus on DD parcel and other high-priority parcels. This also helps manage political capital. Clarifies that all parcels (low, medium, high priority) should be considered if they

are listed for sale, but careful consideration is necessary before pushing hard for acquisition

- Michiko: thinks we should be more positive and find solutions to buying parcels should they come available. Grant opportunities? Work with neighboring cities?
- Grants: Louisville does not have a grant writer; this falls within scope of existing staff in department
- No current plans to revise parcel ranking
- Update map to show jointly owned parcels
 - Add detail to parcel description in table
- Next meeting discuss parcels to add and the meeting following a driving tour of high-priority properties. Board members can choose to visit other lower-priority properties on their own.
- City council is aware of land acquisition process flow diagram
 - Need to remove step of board member in executive session because that is not allowed in city charter

11. 8:15 pm Discussion Items for Next Meeting on August 13th, 2025

- PROST Long Range Plan
- Bird City Resolution
- Wayfinding Update
- Update Acquisitions Map for driving tour in September

12. Adjourn

MEMORANDUM

To: Open Space Advisory Board
From: Open Space Division
Date: August 13, 2025
Re: Information Item 6: Staff Updates

General:

- Planning efforts continue for the CO-42 CDOT/Louisville roadway project. This project borders and impacts jointly owned Harney-Lastoka and Mayhoffer Open Space properties. Phase I of this project includes work from Empire Road north to Short Street with a proposed underpass at South Street. Final design for Phase I is anticipated by the end of 2025 with construction as early as Spring of 2026. Utilities and other amenities are proposed to be located within Open Space land. Joint owners of the Open Space properties are collaborating with Public Works on this project to mitigate impacts to Open Space where possible and determine the next steps.
- City Council Budget Retreat Update from July 23, 2025.
 - Tentative upcoming meeting schedule:
 - September 2nd City Manager Recommended Budget to City Council
 - October 21st City Manager Final Budget Presentation to City Council
 - November 3rd- 2026 City Council Budget Adoption
 - Parks Budget. Utilize the Conservation Trust Fund to meet current needs in 2026. Continue discussions to identify long-term solutions.
 - OSAB Work Plans were not discussed in detail.
- Fire Mitigation Update:
 - **CU Fire Science Study -**
 - City of Louisville staff are continuing their partnership in a joint grassland fire science study with CU Boulder, Boulder County Parks & Open Space, and City of Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks. First-year data will be collected this fall following mowing and grazing treatments on study plots, aimed at evaluating how these methods affect wildfire severity, intensity, and spread.
 - **Spring Cattle Grazing -**
 - Spring grazing is complete! Despite rapid grass growth from a wet season, cattle grazed approximately 125 acres with varying utilization rates.
 - We mitigated an average of 298.95 lbs/acre, totaling 37,368.75 lbs of grass—our highest total yet!
 - Damyanovich Open Space was added back into our grazing program this year to support grassland health and fuel reduction.

- Cattle will return to Damyanovich this fall. Davidson Mesa and North Open Space will rest until spring 2026 to support grass recovery and soil health. Rest rotations improve root development, native grass vigor, carbon sequestration, and overall ecosystem resilience.
- **Spring Goat Grazing -**
 - Spring goat browsing treated 5.1 acres, including a new site: Coyote Run Open Space.
 - This season focused on noxious weed control, targeting flower heads to reduce seed development.
 - Goats will return to North Open Space this fall to browse dense shrub areas on the western edge.
- **Fall Look ahead:**
 - Staff are in discussions with the:
 - Sheriff's Office for collaborative opportunities for additional woody materials removal to support fuels mitigation.
 - Denver Zoo for donation of woody materials to the Zoo for animal welfare.
 - Colorado State Forest Service to expand Fire Mitigation Grant Funding opportunities through 2027
 - Ditch Company for collaboration on mitigation opportunities for ditches that cross Open Space lands.
 - Louisville Fire Department. Staff is offering Open Space mitigation data and support in the Development of the Fire Departments Wildfire Risk Analysis.
- Staff is wrapping up the 2025 Boulder Youth Corps season with the crew's final day of work set for August 5, 2025. It has been a great benefit to have their assistance this year with such a wide range of projects. From fortifying and enhancing the aesthetics of amenities like our bench pads to installing new education and interpretive signs, and installing animal-proof trash cans.

Natural Resources:

- Staff released biocontrol on diffuse knapweed.
- The Warembourg fishing pond was refilled.
- A contractor is conducting vegetation surveys on all Open Space properties.

Maintenance & Trails:

- On July 17, 2025, the Dillon Underpass was impacted by a heavy rain event that flooded the area and undercut the concrete path. Staff took action the next morning by closing the trail and updating our partners and trail map. The trail has been fully repaired.

- Staff are continuing the effort to mow the trail corridors to keep up with the seasonal vegetative growth.
- Staff have continued to monitor trail counters placed across Open Space properties. Visitation for June and July is following this document.
- Staff has awarded Kimley-Horn with the “Task Order” to provide engineered drawings and assist with developing a scope of work for the “Daughenbaugh Open Space Parking Lot Resurfacing Project 2025”. This information will be used to finalize the “Request for Bid” for the project and allow staff to move forward with the process of procuring a construction contractor for the project.

Resource Protection:

- Rangers facilitated removal of a tree “fort” at North Open Space with significant help from both Natural Resources and Trails and Maintenance work groups. The fort had drawn complaints from the public and was in a high-visibility area identified as higher wildfire risk in the Wildfire Risk Assessment.
- Rangers have noted a sharp increase in calls for service related to sick wildlife, especially distempered raccoons.
 - Rangers have provided increased support to the Police Department for wildlife/animal control calls while the PD’s code enforcement position is vacant.
 - In May, June, and July, rangers responded to 47 wildlife calls. This is a significant increase compared to 18 in January through April of this year and 32 during the same May-July time frame last year.
- Hot weather has brought a decrease in apparent daytime trail visitation but an increase in heat-related enforcement issues, such as swimming and wading in Harper Lake.
- Rangers have been providing enforcement support to the Coal Creek Golf Course, which has reported multiple instances of kids fishing on golf course ponds. The risk of golf ball strikes makes fishing on CCGC hazardous.
- Staff presence along property lines to monitor perimeter mowing has resulted in a surge of encroachment cases being reported to rangers. Most cases have been resolved with simple courtesy notices, but one more extensive case resulted in a citation being issued.

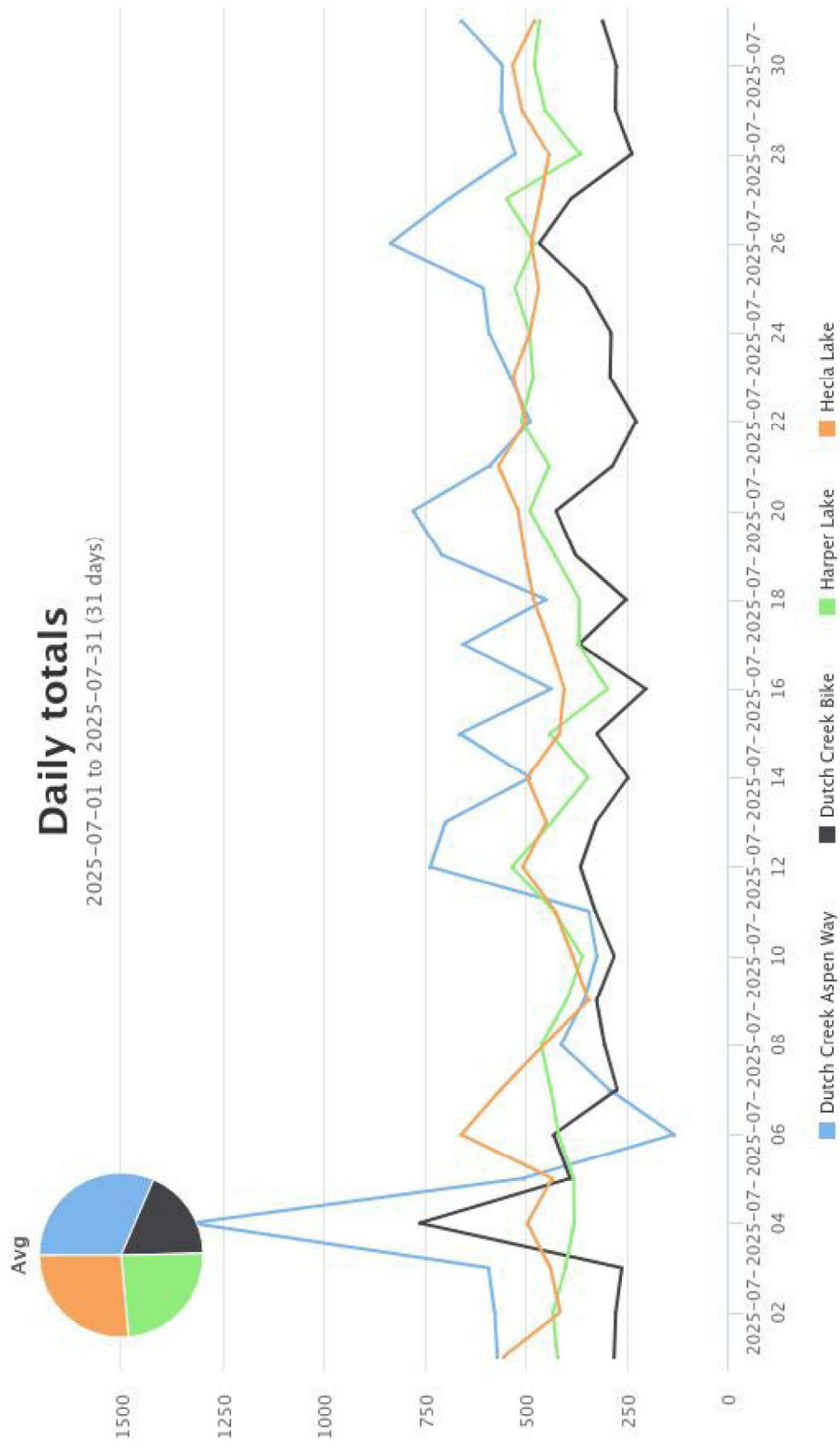
Education Events Upcoming:

- Saturday, August 9, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Ranger Quests at Davidson Mesa Open Space.
- Sunday, August 17, 2025, from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM, Harper Lake on Canvas at Harper Lake Open Space.
- Sunday, August 24, 2025, from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM, Open Space Stargazers at Aquarius Open Space.

Education Events Past:

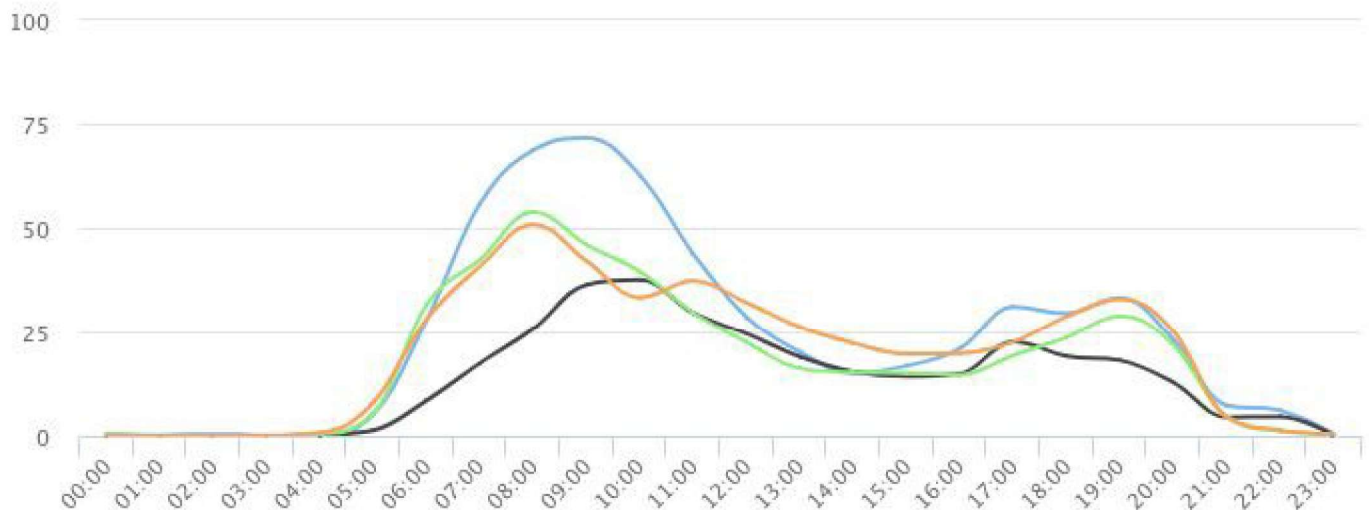
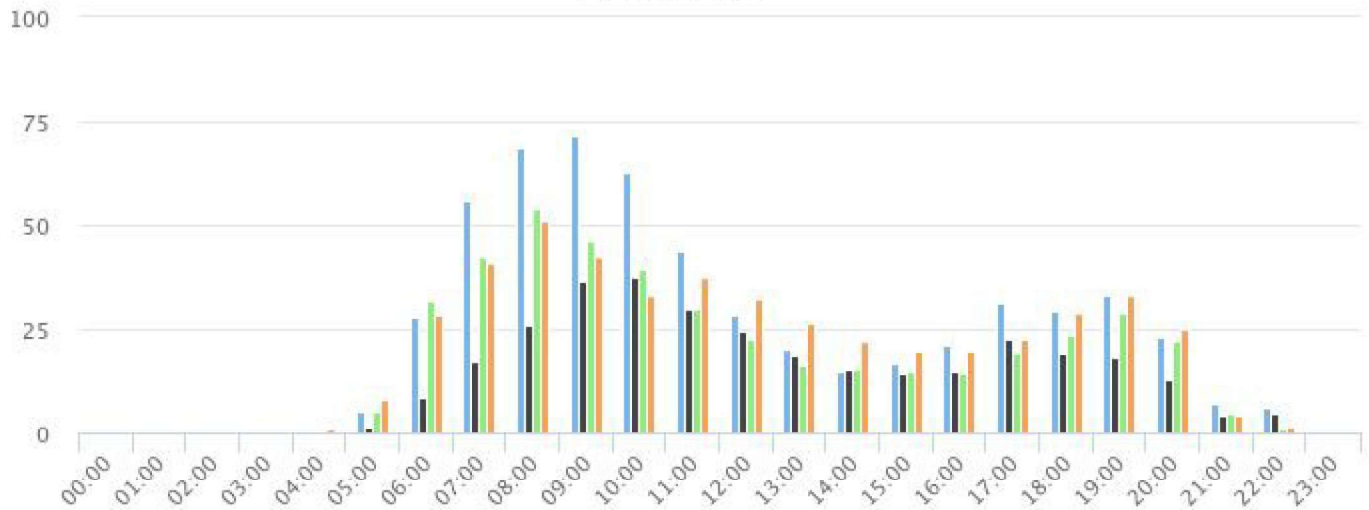
- Friday, July 11, 2025, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM, Open Space 101 at Harper Lake Open Space. 4 attendees.
- Saturday, July 12, 2025, from 8:00 to 10:00 AM, Pulling for Louisville at Davidson Mesa Open Space. 9 attendees.
- Thursday, July 17, 2025, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, Wildflower Hike at Davidson Mesa Open Space. 15 attendees.
- Saturday, July 20, 2025, from 7:00 to 9:00 AM, Aquarius Overlook on Canvas at Aquarius Open Space. 5 attendees.
- Saturday, July 26, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Trail Maintenance Volunteer Event at Harper Lake Open Space. 1 attendee.

Open Space July 2025 Visitation



Hours of the day

2025-07-01 to 2025-07-31
Hourly averages

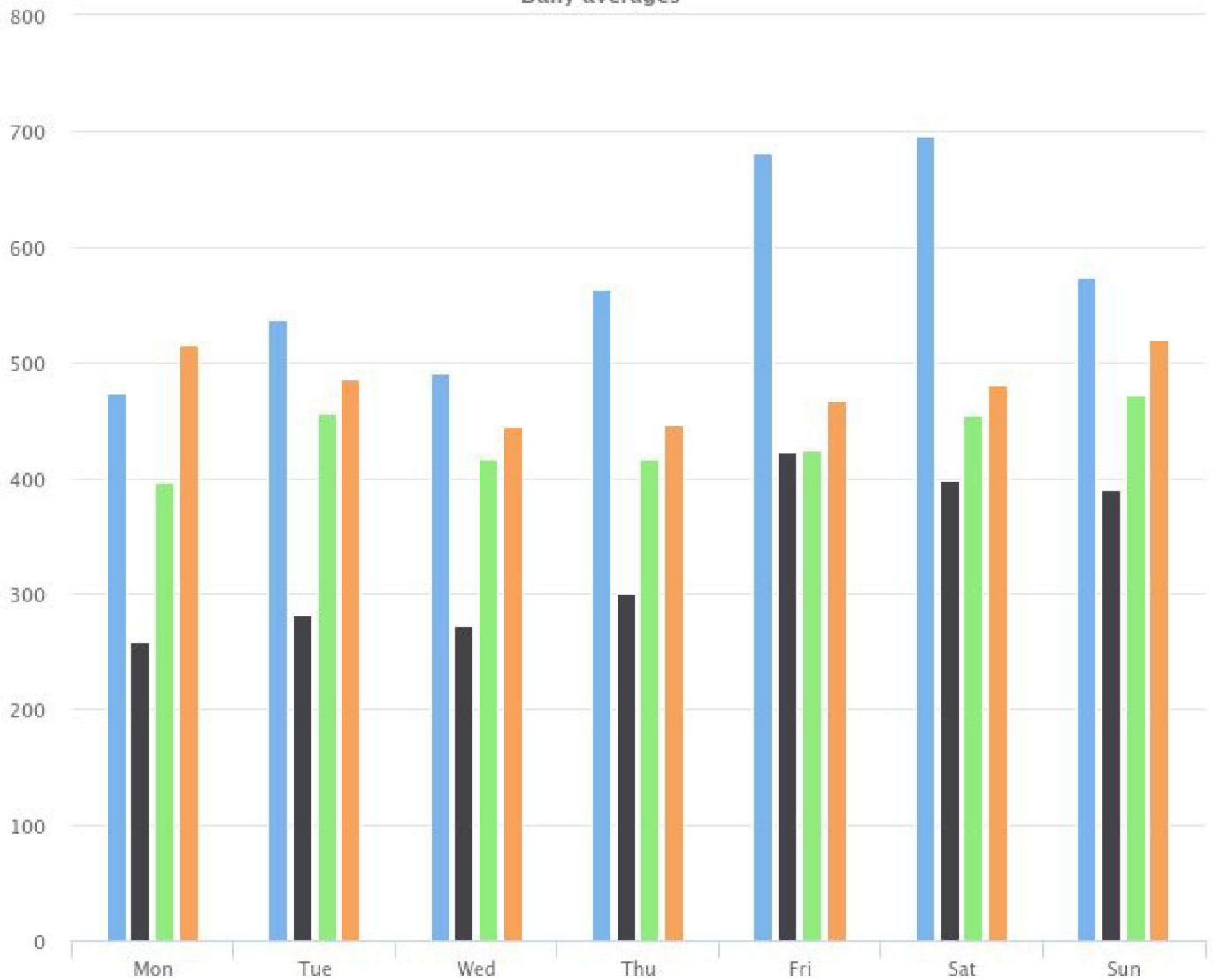


Site Name		Average	Median	STDV	Min	Max
Dutch Creek Aspen Way		23.7	20.5	22.2	0.1	71.6
Dutch Creek Bike		13.6	14.6	11.6	0.0	37.6
Harper Lake		18.0	15.7	16.1	0.0	53.8
Hecla Lake		19.9	22.4	15.8	0.0	50.8

Days of the week

2025-07-01 to 2025-07-31

Daily averages



Site Name		Average	Median	STDV	Min	Max
Dutch Creek Aspen Way		573.1	562.2	79.8	472.8	695.3
Dutch Creek Bike		331.8	300.0	63.6	258.8	421.8
Harper Lake		433.2	424.0	25.3	395.8	471.3
Hecla Lake		479.5	480.8	28.5	444.0	520.8

MEMORANDUM

To: City Council
Cc: Diana Langley, Adam Blackmore, Ember Brignull, Ryder Bailey
From: Open Space Advisory Board
Date: August 13, 2025
Re: Open Space 2026 Budget Amendments

The Open Space Advisory Board is writing in support of the Open Space Division's request for essential additional staff to manage an ever-increasing workload for maintaining and restoring our open space properties.

Operational Budget Amendments

The Open Space Division has requested two new full-time staffing positions: A PROS Department Project Manager and a Natural Resource Specialist. We strongly recommend filling both positions as soon as possible, with the Project Manager the position of highest priority. Essential management and restoration projects have been long delayed on our open space properties given a staff shortage. Project management for the entire department has been undertaken by Bryon Weber, but the demands on his time are far greater than one person can handle, especially with the requirements of large developments like Redtail Ridge and the installation of new playground equipment in our parks. A second project manager working under him would free Bryon's time for the more complex CIPs department-wide and ensure that project management is handled by professionals with the necessary knowledge, rather than ad hoc by inexperienced staff.

We advocate for immediately undertaking whatever administrative steps are necessary to prepare for hiring new staff members.



JOIN^{the} JOURNEY!

GUIDING THE FUTURE

of Louisville Parks, Recreation & Senior Center,
Open Spaces, Trails, and Golf Course

PROS Guidebook

The Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Department is creating a new Guidebook that will shape the future of Louisville's parks, Recreation & Senior Center, golf course, open spaces, and trails.

The PROS Guidebook includes two related plans:

1. **The PROS Long-Range Plan:** for parks, recreation, golf, open space, and senior services
2. **The Trails Master Plan:** for the city-wide trail system and trail connections

Together, these plans will set the direction for a community-driven vision and guide future decision making. Public input will help shape the plan's focus and discussions will likely include topics such as outdoor recreation amenities, playgrounds, courts, conservation of natural areas, trails, facilities, programs, land acquisitions, and more.

Advisory Board Members Role in the Planning Process

We need you as thoughtful advocates and supporters of this important effort—helping to ensure it is inclusive, mission-focused, and representative of the Louisville community.

Ways you can help:

- **Provide Strategic Guidance:** Offer insights and advice to help shape the overall direction of the plans in alignment with our mission, vision, and long-term goals.
- **Bring an External Perspective:** Contribute your experience and perspective to ensure the plans consider challenges and opportunities beyond the department.
- **Focus on Mission-Driven Priorities:** Help us maintain focus on what's best for the city as a whole, rather than advocating only for specific programs or interests.
- **Ask Thoughtful Questions:** Support the planning team by raising constructive questions that challenge assumptions and encourage strategic thinking.
- **Encourage Broad Engagement:** Help ensure the process reflects a diversity of voices and perspectives, including staff, stakeholders, and community members.
- **Review and Reflect:** Provide balanced feedback that strengthens the quality and relevance of the plans now and in the future.
- **Champion the Process and Outcomes:** Support the public engagement process and future implementation by serving as ambassadors and advocates in the community.

Purpose

The guidebook is intended to give the PROS Department direction for the next 10+ years. It will:

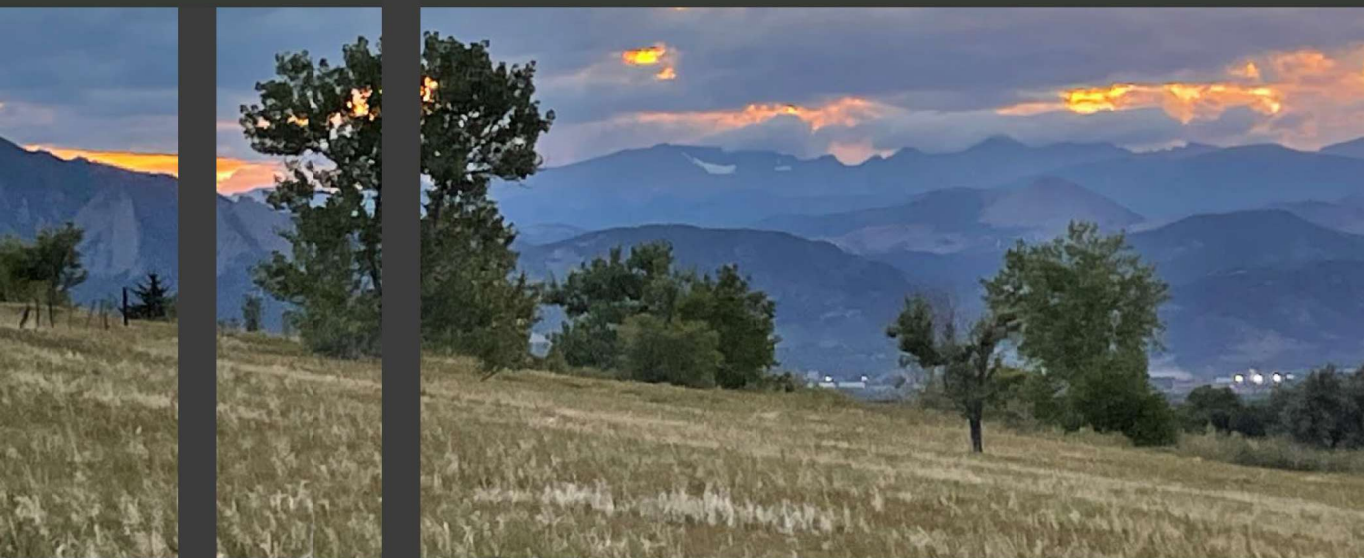
- Replace the current Parks and Recreation Master Plan (last updated in 2012)
- Create the City's first Trails Master Plan, as identified by the City Charter
- Complement previous plans (including the City Comprehensive Plan) and inform future studies, plans, and priorities

Goals

- Take stock of current land, facilities, programs, and levels of service
- Learn what the community wants and needs—now and in the future
- Identify opportunities, gaps, and challenges
- Recommend ways to manage and prioritize resources
- Reflect public input, local data, national best practices, and benchmarking to similar cities
- Plan for funding, partnerships, and future projects
- Guide smart, sustainable decision-making
- Support decisions about trail maintenance, development, connections, and design—while balancing amenities with land and resource conservation

The PROS Guidebook will not...

- Provide a design or construction plan for individual amenities
- Include detailed evaluation or recommendation for specific properties or facilities
- Guarantee funding or result in immediate implementation
- Lock in a fixed list of projects—it's built to evolve as community needs and/or Council priorities change
- Replace future public input—projects will still follow the City's budget and engagement processes



 **City of
Louisville**
COLORADO • SINCE 1878

Louisville PROS Long Range Plan & Trails Master Plan Advisory Board Meeting #1

August 13, 2025

dtj
DESIGN

MEETING AGENDA

- Project Purpose + Overview
- Questions + Discussion
 - Top Priorities + Measures of Success
- Next Steps



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GUIDING THE FUTURE
of Louisville Parks, Recreation, Senior Services,
Golf, Open Space & Trails



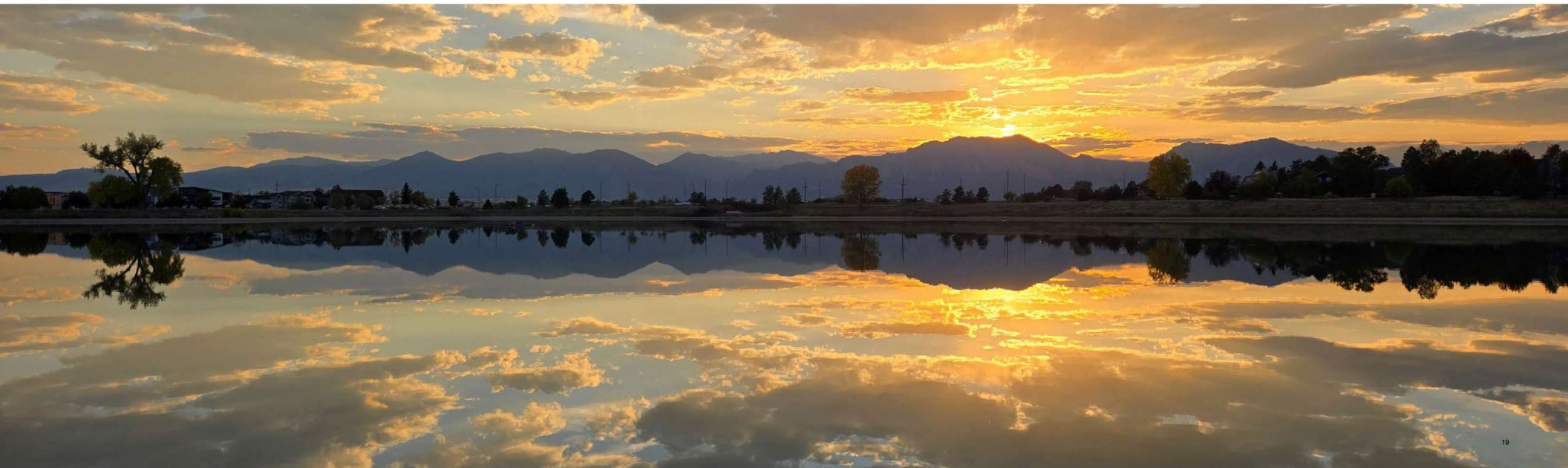
PROJECT PURPOSE

Update the 2012 PROS Plan

Provide a vision and strategic direction for the PROS management and enhancements in the city.

Establish a New Trails Master Plan

Assess the current trail system and provide recommendations for future improvements.



■ Be Comprehensive + Inclusive

- Address needs of each PROS Division
- Engage diverse community members
- Obtain a wide range of input

■ Define Current Trends + Preferences

- *What aspects of the previous plan apply today?*
- *What do current trends and research tell us now?*

■ Prioritize Plan Objectives

- Based on community input and available resources

■ Focus on Measurable Outcomes

- National Recreation + Park Association (NRPA): CAPRA Accreditation
- Community Desires + Preferences



Photo credit: Stock Images



PROJECT OBJECTIVES



JOIN^{the} JOURNEY!
GUIDING THE FUTURE
of Louisville Parks, Recreation, Senior Services,
Golf, Open Space & Trails

City of Louisville PROS
Department

dtj
DESIGN

Studio SIX
Community Outreach
Communications

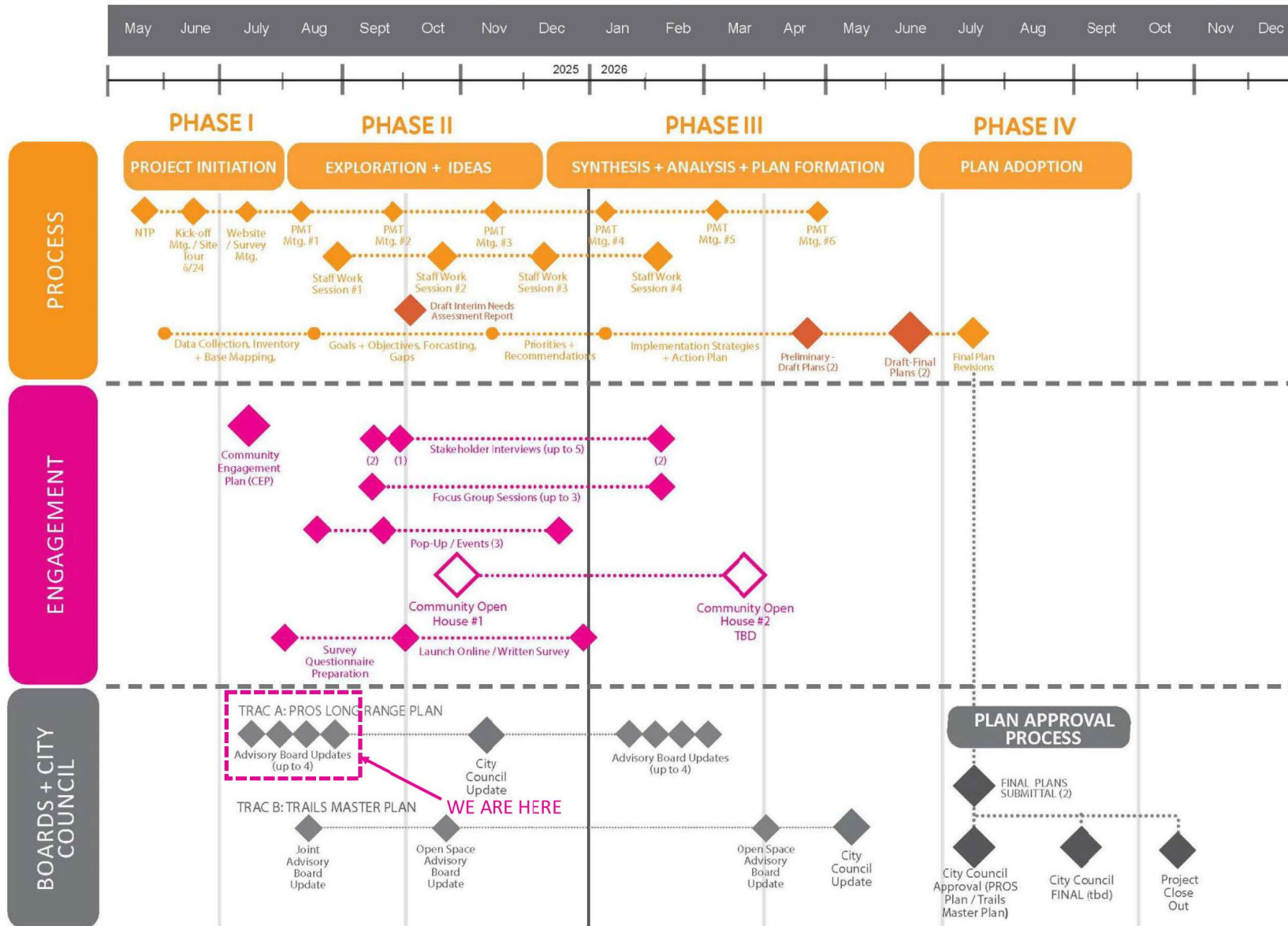
RRC Associates
Community Research / Survey

Ballard*King
Recreation Planning / Golf
Facilities

ERO
Natural Resources / Open Space
/ Sustainability

TOOLE DESIGN GROUP
Multi-modal / Trails Planning

PROJECT TEAM



PROJECT DELIVERABLES	No.
Community Engagement Plan (CEP)	1
Interim Needs Assessment Report	1
Draft PROS Long Range Plan	1
Draft Trails Master Plan	1
Final PROS Long Range Plan	1
Final Trails Master Plan	1
TOTAL	6

Open Space + Natural Resource data and Plan Recommendations will be addressed in both the PROS Long Range Plan and Trails Master Plan

PROJECT DELIVERABLES

A large group of people, including men, women, and children, are sitting on a grassy hill. In the background, there is a large, abstract, angular sculpture. The entire scene is overlaid with a monochromatic orange tint. The text "OUTREACH + ENGAGEMENT" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters in the bottom left corner.

OUTREACH + ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

In-Person Events

Advisory Board + Elected Officials Input / Guidance

Digital Web Presence

Project Updates + Timeline

Social Media + Quarterly Newsletter Updates

Facebook / Linked-in

Statistically-valid Project Survey

Print Collateral

Print Postcard

Survey Notifications / QR Code



COMMUNITY OUTREACH + ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Advisory Board Updates

2 per Board
+2 trails specific
Launch Sept 2-5
Fall 2025

Survey Questionnaire

Pop-Up Events

- Farmer's Market
- Cottonwood Park
- Coal Creek Golf Course
- Soccer Saturday – Louisville Elementary School
- Senior Health + Resource Fair
- Davidson Mesa Trailhead
- Others TBD

Stakeholder Interviews + Focus Groups

Fall 2025

- External community members
- Broad representation of Louisville interests

Community Open House Event #1

Oct 29th
12:30-2pm / 5-6:30pm

Community Open House Event #2

Mar 2026



COMMUNITY OUTREACH + ENGAGEMENT

DISCUSSION

What is the City of Louisville PROS doing well now?



DISCUSSION

What are the challenges ahead?

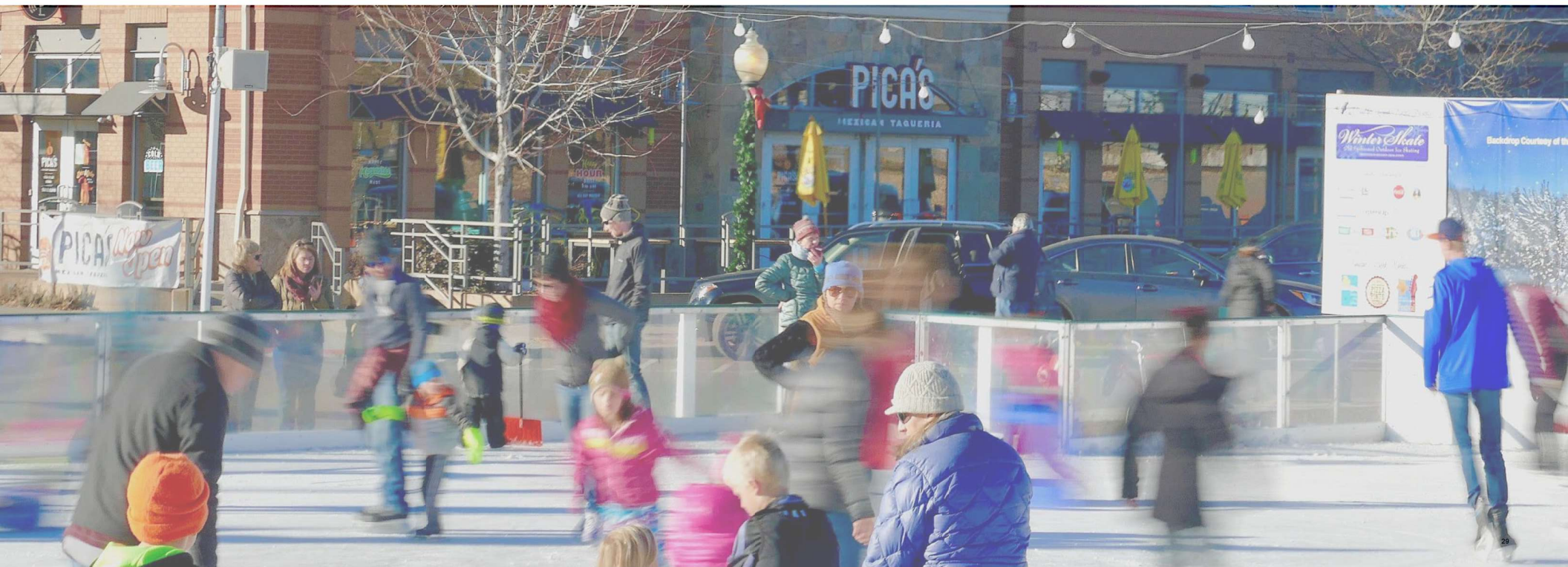
What are your Top Priorities (PROS Long Range Plan + Trails Master Plan)



DISCUSSION

Measures of Success

How do we know we have been successful in the plan process?



NEXT STEPS

Technical Needs Assessment Report

Existing Conditions
Benchmarking (National Standards + Peer City's)
Trends + Forecasting

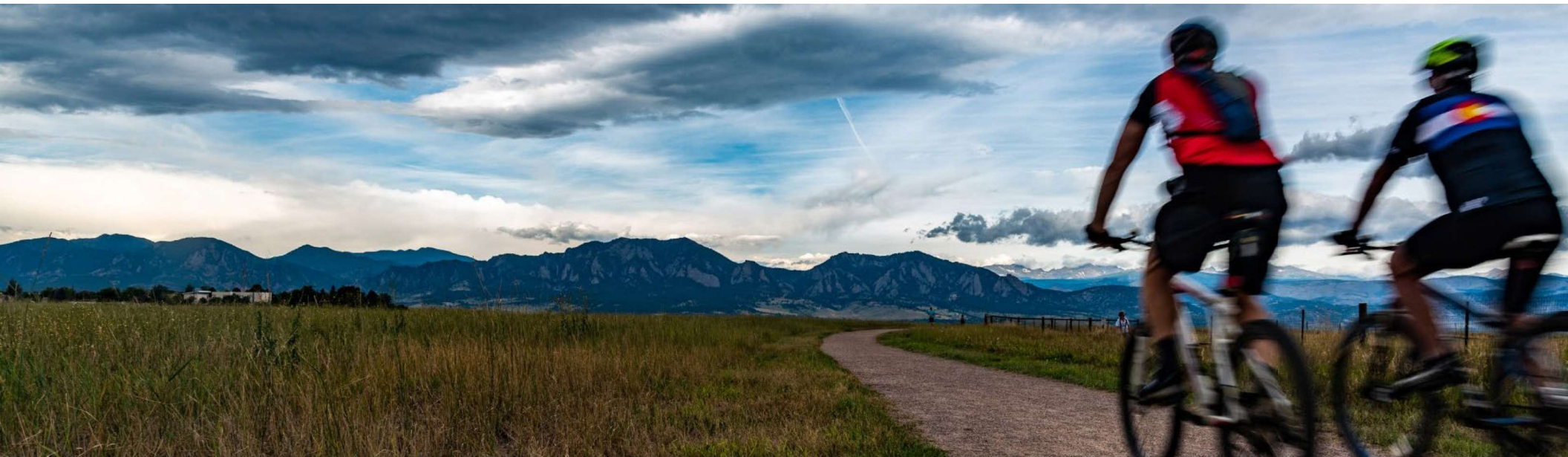
Mid-September

Advisory Board Updates Survey Questionnaire

August - September
Fall 2025

Pop-Up Events Community Open House Event #1

Fall 2025
October 29th

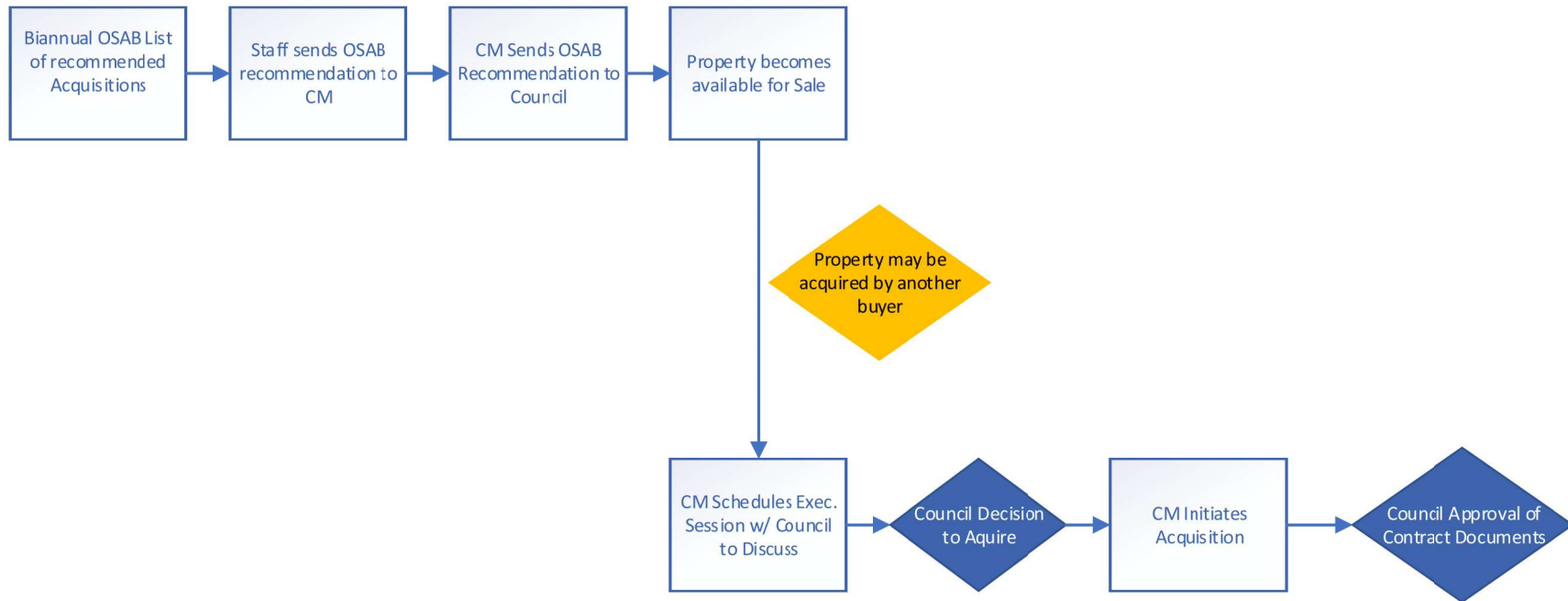


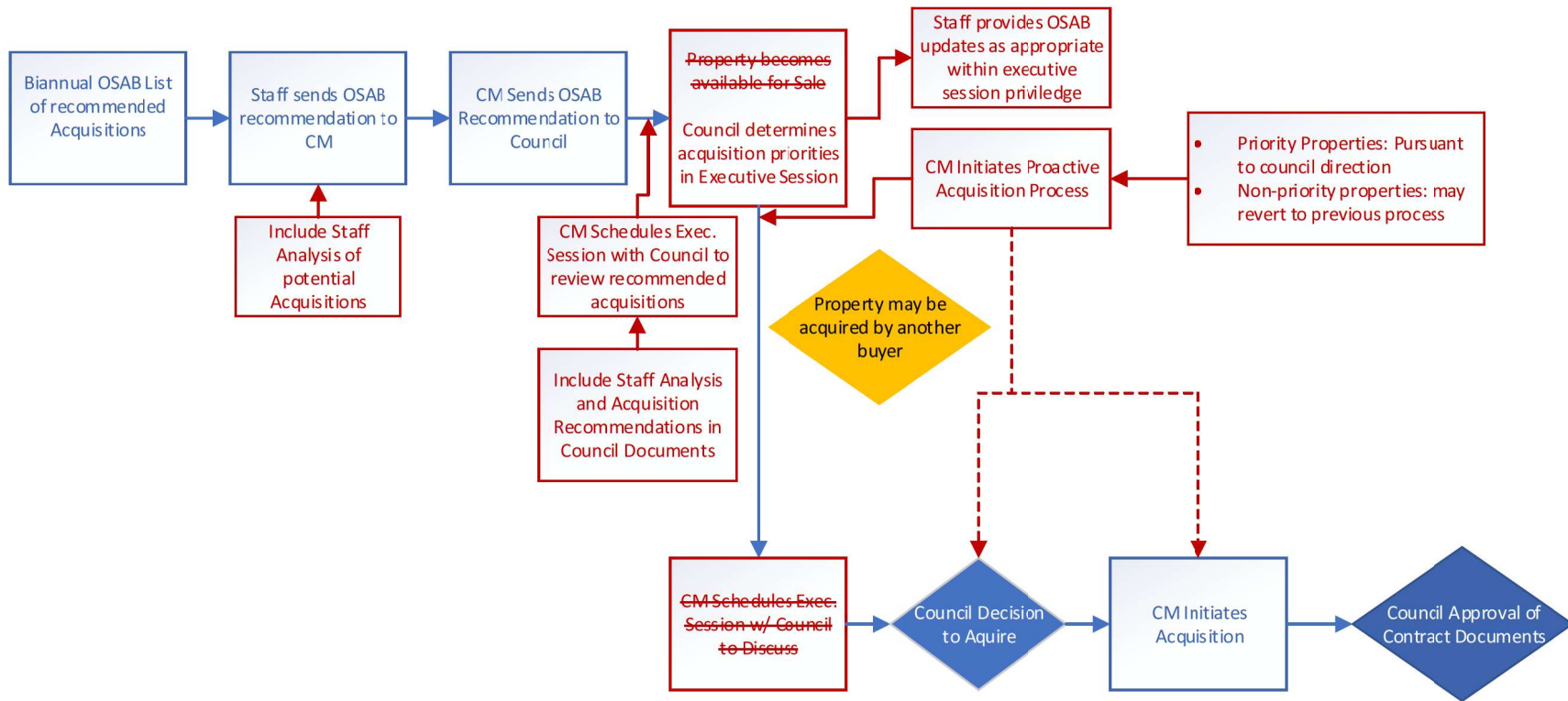
Thank you

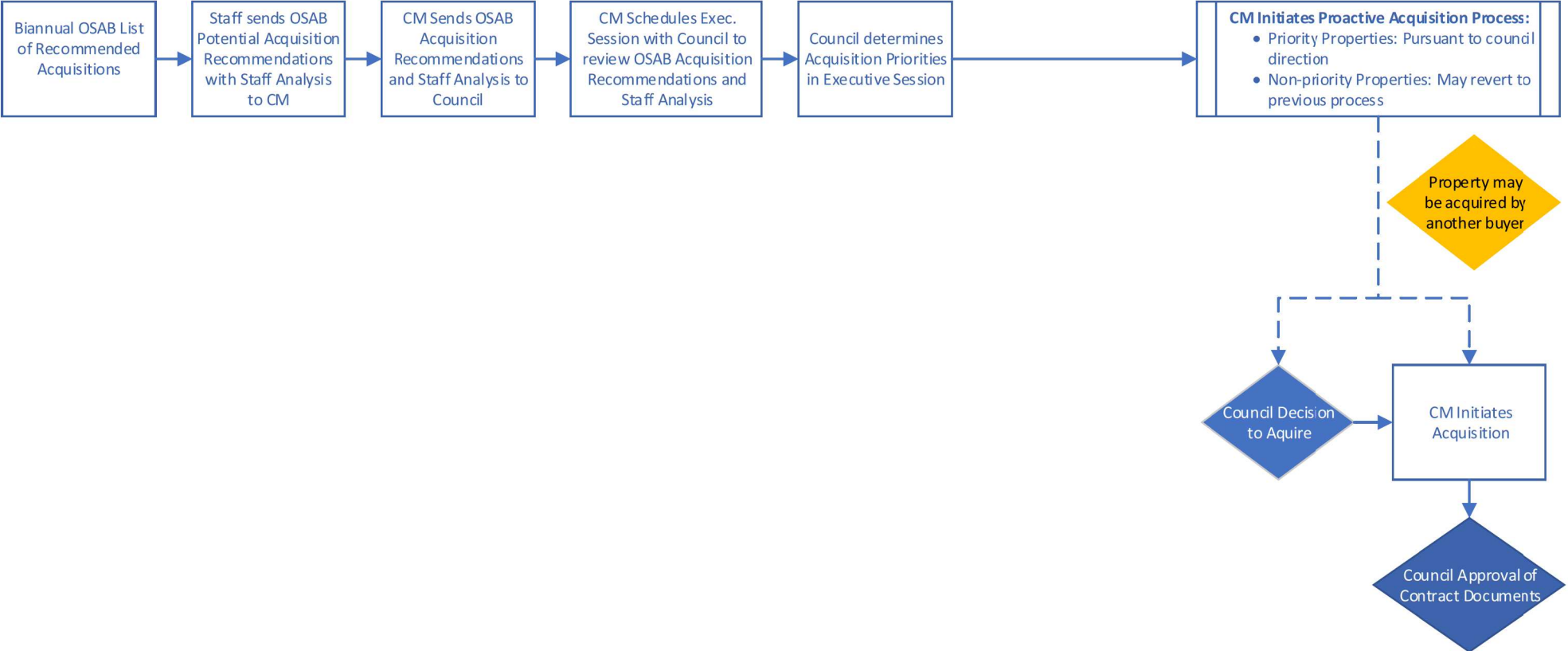


planning | architecture | landscape architecture

Action Item 9: OSAB Approval of the City Manager Proposed Acquisition Process







DRAFT MEMORANDUM FOR OSAB CONSIDERATION DURING THE JUNE MEETING

To: City Council and City Manager
From: Open Space Advisory Board
Date: May 7, 2025
Re: Acquisition Process Recommendations

Recently the Open Space Advisory Board completed its annual review of the Property Acquisition List (attached) that was created by the Board and after careful consideration and discussion would like to make the following recommendations to the City Council and the City Manager.

- The Board recommends that the City create a formal process for how potential acquisition properties will be identified and purchased. The City doesn't currently have a documented process for property acquisitions and the Board is concerned that this will put the City at a disadvantage relative to private buyers should an appropriate property become available for purchase. By creating and implementing a formal acquisition process it is the Board's belief that the City will be able to make informed decisions about potential acquisitions in a faster and more efficient way that will increase the odds of successfully acquiring a property should Council choose to do so.
- The Board recognizes that the creation of a formal documented acquisition process will take time to develop and would like to recommend the following steps that can likely be implemented in the short term that will increase the odds of the City successfully acquiring properties on the Property Acquisition List should one become available for purchase. They are:
 - **CM/staff** begins the process of proactively reaching out to owners of the highest priority properties as outlined on the attached Property Acquisition List created by OSAB in order to build a relationship with the owner(s) and to express the City's interest in possibly purchasing the property should it become available. A Right of First Refusal can also be sought but likely isn't necessary at this stage.
 - **CM/Director** establishes a relationship with a local commercial real estate broker who can keep the City apprised of the market and properties that might become available. Director appoints someone as the primary contact for the broker and that person periodically checks in with the broker. Broker might also add staff to an MLS search so they are notified in real time as properties are listed for sale.
 - **CM/City Council/Staff** participates in site visits of top priority properties as outlined by OSAB's Property Acquisition List, possibly with an OSAB member(s),

so CM/City Council understands the reasoning and logic behind OSABs recommendations.

The Open Space Advisory Board believes it is critically important that the City establishes a relationship with the owners of potential acquisition properties as soon as possible and well ahead of when a property might become available for purchase. This will increase the likelihood that the City will become aware of a property's availability before it goes on the market, giving the City more time to carefully consider purchasing the property and ultimately increasing the odds of a successful acquisition.

DRAFT

2023 OSAB Candidate Open Space Ranking

Parcel	Size (acres)	Natural Resource Value (1-10)	User Experience Value (1-10)	Strategic Value (1-10)	Totals	Priority
CC	67.54	9	9	8	26	High
DD	15.42	7	8	8	23	High
WW	19.27	7	8	8	23	High
WW.1	6.03	7	8	8	23	High
ZZ.1	4.72	7	8	8	23	High
D.1	14.75	8	7	7	22	High
BB	5.04	7	7	8	22	High
N.2	8.28	8	7	6	21	High
N.3	9.9	7	7	7	21	High
D.4	11.05	7	6	7	20	High
MM	72.42	7	5	8	20	High
WW.2	19.6	6	7	7	20	High
D.5	8.9	7	6	6	19	High
D.2	3.33	7	6	6	19	Medium
AA.1	4.71	6	6	7	19	Medium
AA.2	2.68	5	6	7	18	Medium
D.3	5	6	5	6	17	Medium
N.1	1.65	6	6	5	17	Medium
XX	19.03	5	6	6	17	Medium
F	9.13	5	6	5	16	Medium
B	7.96	5	5	5	15	Low
J	30.22	3	5	5	15	Low
G	2.59	3	4	4	11	Low
H	8.21	4	3	4	11	Low
I	8.1	3	3	4	10	Low
K	12.05	3	1	3	9	Low
C.1	5.2					Considered, but not priority
C.3	30.5					Considered, but not priority
FF	9.65					Considered, but not priority
HH	9.72					Considered, but not priority
O	4.93					Considered, but not priority

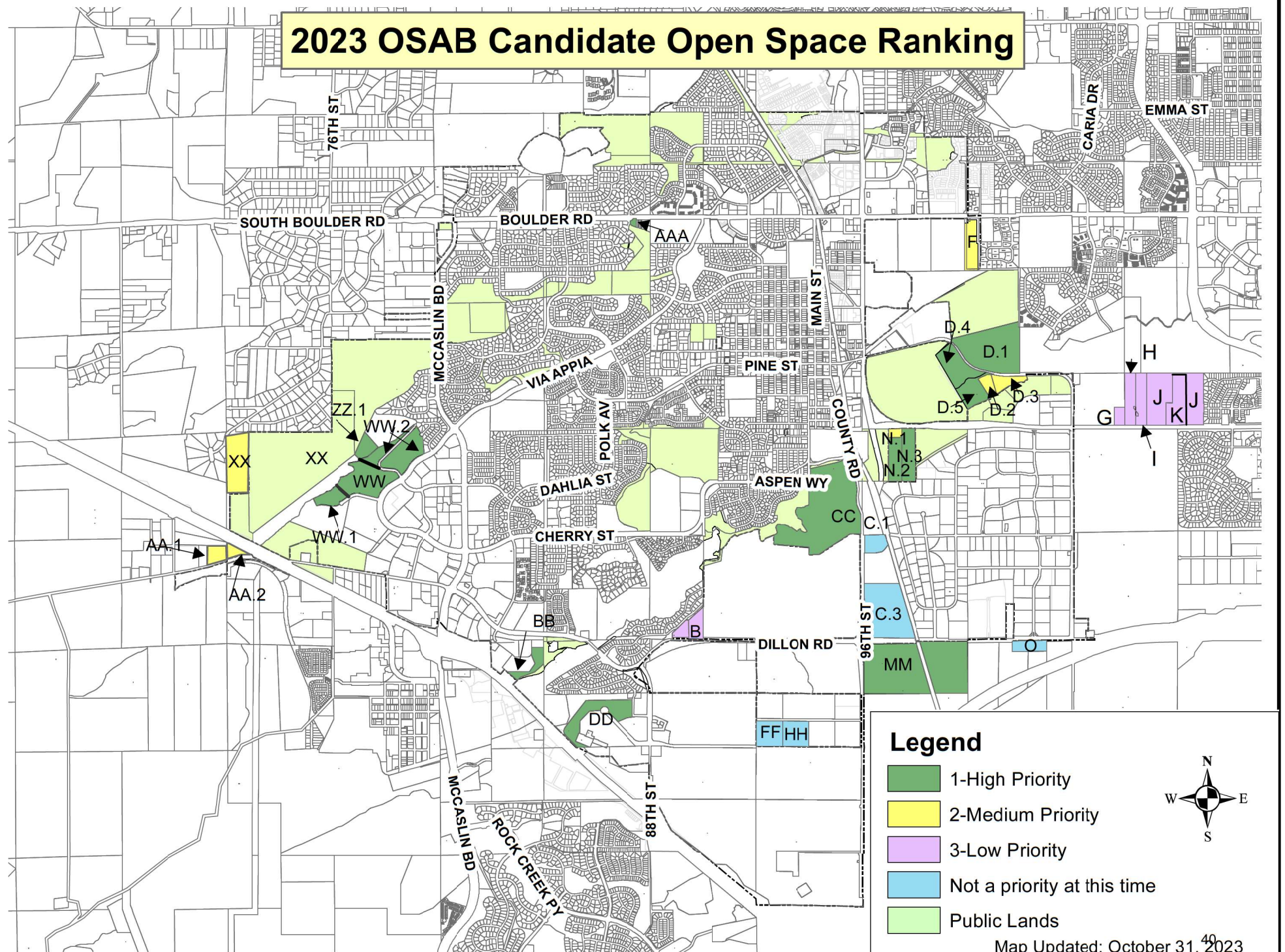
2023 OSAB Candidate Open Space Ranking

Parcel2	Notes/comments/observations
CC	cultural & historical & iconic value, riparian, wooded
DD	good connectivity to other open space, habitat
WW	contiguous to Davidson Mesa, ag ditch, works best in conjunction with other WW & ZZ properties, habitat
WW.1	contiguous to Davidson Mesa, ag ditch, works best in conjunction with other WW & ZZ properties, habitat
ZZ.1	contiguous to Davidson Mesa, works best in conjunction with other WW & ZZ properties, habitat
D.1	wetlands, riparian area, has house, "lost cause", works best in conjunction with other D properties
BB	adjacent to Coal Creek Trail, corridor, & Creek, wetlands, pretty, detention pond
N.2	Coal Creek crosses the land, adjacent to other open space, large house, zoned agricultural, need other N properties to make worthwhile
N.3	Coal Creek crosses the land, adjacent to other open space, several buildings, zoned ag, need other N properties to make worthwhile
D.4	adjoins other open space, house & barn, connect to further properties to the east
MM	buffer to Broomfield, currently ag land, buildings on land, divided by road/railroad, limited recreational potential
WW.2	works best in conjunction with other WW & ZZ properties, hemmed in by roads and houses, good view
D.5	zoned agriculture, has house, Coal Creek crosses the land, works best in conjunction with other D properties
D.2	zoned agriculture, has house, Coal Creek crosses the land, works best in conjunction with other D properties, may already be eased
AA.1	adjacent to HWY 36, okay habitat, close to Overlook Underpass and Boulder City/County open space land, social trails
AA.2	only worthwhile if also conserve AA.1, degraded habitat, close to Overlook Underpass & Boulder City/County open space land, social trails
D.3	zoned agriculture, has house, riparian, works best in conjunction with other D properties, adjacent to Aquarius
N.1	adjacent to Coal Creek Trail and CTC Trail, zoned agricultural, need other N properties to make worthwhile
XX	adjacent to Davidson Mesa, great view
F	adjacent to Lafayette, already trail to the west, house on property
B	small, between houses and road, may need soil remediation, land degraded, zoned agricultural
J	J is the best-looking ag land of all of these, zoned agricultural, houses, need other properties to make worthwhile
G	zoned agricultural, houses, need other properties to make worthwhile
H	zoned agricultural, houses, need other properties to make worthwhile
I	zoned agricultural, houses, need other properties to make worthwhile
K	zoned agricultural, houses, need other properties to make worthwhile
C.1	
C.3	
FF	
HH	
O	

2023 OSAB Candidate Open Space Ranking

ID2	Possible goals
CC	trail easement along creek, trail to south towards Dillon, possible city cultural facility, no further development
DD	trail to 36 Bikeway, ensure conservation if Avista leaves, hilltop buffer, no further development
WW	trail connectivity to Lake-to-Lake Trail, buffer, no/low further developemnt, 4H
WW.1	trail connectivity to neighborhood, buffer, no/low further developemnt
ZZ.1	trail connectivity, buffer, no/low further developemnt
D.1	easement around house, CC Trail re-route to follow creek, buffer, agricultural site, no further development
BB	purchase, ensure buffer around CCT, no further development
N.2	protect creek, reroute trail corridor along creek (though many members thought this was unlikely)
N.3	protect creek, reroute trail corridor along creek (though many members thought this was unlikely)
D.4	easement, CC Trail re-route to follow creek, buffer, educational site, no further development
MM	agricultural easement or partnership acquisition with County, prairie dog relocation site, 4H, goats
WW.2	trail connectivity to rec center, no/low further developemnt
D.5	buffer to Aquarius, conservation easement, agricultural uses, no further development
D.2	buffer to Aquarius, conservation easement, agricultural uses, no further development
AA.1	only worthwhile with partners, trail connection from underpass to other trail networks, safe crossing?, highway buffer
AA.2	only worthwhile with partners, trail connection from underpass to other trail networks, safe crossing?, highway buffer
D.3	buffer to Aquarius, conservation easement, agricultural uses, no further development
N.1	protect creek, reroute trail corridor along creek (though many members thought this was unlikely)
XX	trail easement, buffer to DM and its trail, no further development
F	trail buffer, dog park in partnership with Lafayette, ag use, trail buffer, no further development
B	dog park? Trail head/connection to other trails? Road buffer, no further development
J	agricultural easement? Remediation with partnership? Low value to board
G	agricultural easement? Remediation with partnership? Low value to board
H	agricultural easement? Remediation with partnership? Low value to board
I	agricultural easement? Remediation with partnership? Low value to board
K	agricultural easement? Remediation with partnership? Low value to board
C.1	
C.3	
FF	
HH	
O	

2023 OSAB Candidate Open Space Ranking



Legend

- 1-High Priority
- 2-Medium Priority
- 3-Low Priority
- Not a priority at this time
- Public Lands



Map Updated: October 31, 2023

City of Louisville Candidate Open Space Category Definitions

The rating scale consist of a 0-2 rating, zero meaning the feature / quality is not present and two meaning the feature / quality is fully represented. One will indicate a partial representation of the feature / quality.

- a. Vegetation – The abundance / diversity of native plant species.
- b. Wetlands – Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetation.
- c. Riparian Areas – Riparian vegetation and land adjacent to natural flowing water.
- d. Wildlife Habitat – Area that provides sustainable shelter, food, or protection for indigenous wildlife.
- e. Connectivity – A piece of land that contributes to an overall open space and or community recreational network.
- f. Open Water – A standing body of water present year round or seasonal that is important to the sustenance of vegetation, wildlife, or recreational opportunities.
- g. Topographic / Geological Significance – Features that act as visual markers, aesthetic formations, geological uniqueness, or vantage points deemed of public value.
- h. Size – Small, medium or large.
- i. Public Visibility – The degree in which a prospective open space parcel can be viewed from public roads or facilities.
- j. Scenic – An area that provides for natural visual enjoyment to an observer while not on the property.
- k. Views – An area that provides for natural visual enjoyment to an observer while on the property.
- l. Historical Significance – Contains physical reminders, archeological sites, or historical structures, or there is knowledge of significant past use that is of public value.
- m. Agricultural Preservation – Value in maintaining the active use of farming or ranching and/or preserving the history of prior agricultural use.
- n. Recreation Potential – Feasibility and quality of appropriate recreational use.
- o. Existing Condition – How close the current state of the property is to the desired state.
- p. Threat of Development – Possibility or probability of new development in the near term.
- q. Buffers – Natural divisions providing a discernable break between or within communities.
- r. Potential for Partners – The likelihood that other entities would share the financial burden of acquisition and/ or management of the property.
- s. Undefined Unique Quality – Value not captured in other category
- t. Comp. Plan – The comp plan designation for this property is as open space.

Property Acquisition Ranking Process, June-September 2023

Laura Denton & Michiko Christiansen

Based on work and board discussion led by Jessamine Fitzpatrick for the January 2023 OSAB meeting. Updated with feedback from the June 2023 OSAB meeting.

Purpose

To inform City of Louisville and Boulder County open space and trail acquisition priorities.

Process

1. OSAB determines which properties to evaluate (based on prior rankings, staff-provided property profiles, and discussion) and confirms criteria for evaluation (June, 2023 meeting).
2. Staff lead OSAB on a driving tour to visit selected properties (July/August, 2023 meeting).
3. OSAB members rank properties based on established criteria.
4. Staff tabulate ranking results and share output with OSAB.
5. OSAB votes on final ranking and adds acquisition strategies for each property (August/September, 2023 meeting).
6. Final, approved ranking (with strategies) is then shared with the City Council.

Ranking Criteria

Each board member will rate a parcel from 0-10 on three different scales. These ratings will be combined by staff (average and range) for each property.

- Natural Resource Value (quality of vegetation, presence of wetlands/riparian areas/open water, wildlife habitat, habitat connectivity, topological/geologic significance, size)
- Visitor Experience Value (public visibility, scenery, views, historical/cultural significance, passive recreation potential, trail potential/connectivity)
- Strategic Value (agricultural preservation, city/county buffers, significance to the City's trail network, potential for partners, threat of development, relevance to Comprehensive Plan/Transportation Master Plan)

These rankings will be paired with the property profiles maintained by staff, which will include "objective attributes" of each parcel, including information like parcel area, ownership, history, a rough description, and suggested management/development recommendations from previous rankings.

Looking forward

For the June Meeting packet:

- Include this document, describing the process agreed to at the January, 2023 meeting.

For the July Meeting packet:

- Include the City Open Space parcel map with letters for each parcel so board members can consider which properties they would like to visit in person.
- Include the property profiles so the board can review them along with the map.
- Set an Agenda Discussion Item for July Meeting: “Final review of process and property selection for visitation tour.”

For the August (Property Visit To) Meeting Packet:

- Include a map of the selected properties.
- Include Property Profiles of the selected properties.
- Include a Property Ranking worksheet for the board members that provides a space for the three ranking criteria for each selected property.

(e.g.)

Parcel	Size (acres)	Natural Resource Value (0-10)	User Experience Value (0-10)	Strategic Value (0-10)	Notes on possible management goals

For the September Meeting Packet:

- Set an Agenda Discussion Item for the meeting: “Final consideration of acquisition target properties and preparation of Property Ranking document for City Council.” The board will discuss the results, adjust ranking as needed, and describe acquisition strategies and management goals for each high/medium priority property. The board will discuss a final Property Ranking document for City Council, to be prepared by staff or a board member.
- Staff shares the averages and ranges of each ranking criteria for each property.

MEMORANDUM

To: Open Space Advisory Board
From: Open Space Division
Date: August 13, 2025
Re: Action Item 11: Approval of Bird City Resolution

Purpose:

Update on the Bird City Application Process and Resolution.

Background:

City of Louisville Open Space Staff supports OSAB's pursuit of certification as a Colorado Bird City. The City of Louisville's Open Space program has already achieved several requirements and consistently addresses criteria that will allow us to qualify for and exceed the requirements for this certification. Seeking this certification will showcase the excellent work our staff has been doing and demonstrate our commitment to fostering healthier ecosystems for birds and the greater Louisville community.

Next Steps:

- OSAB to review the attached draft Bird City application for awareness and background.
- OSAB to review and revise the attached Bird City Resolution. The resolution will then be reviewed and finalized by the City Attorneys office before being presented to City Council for consideration.
- Once the resolution is approved staff will submit the Bird City Application, including the following:
 - The passing of a bird city application is **required** for any form of certification
 - **3 . 7 . 1 - Resolution:** Attach a copy of your community's officially enacted resolution. This must be a resolution that is voted on and passed by the appropriate municipal council/board. Do not submit a proclamation. The resolution must be voted on and passed at least every two years, with an annual preference. (MANDATORY)
 - Requirements already met:
 - 1 . 1 . Promote the best management of community habitat
 - 1 . 2 . Create and protect habitat
 - 1 . 3 . Promote native plants
 - 1 . 4 . Control invasive plants
 - 2 . 3 . Address light pollution
 - 2 . 4 . Address direct human-related threats
 - 3 . 1 . Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day
 - 3 . 2 . Increase awareness of birds and their habitats

- 4 . 2 . Reduce energy use and carbon emissions

Bird City Application Material – Deadline November 21, 2025

Narrative Statement:

The City of Louisville is dedicated to creating a healthier community for both birds and people. By managing its Open Spaces, parks, and facilities, the City aims to promote habitat conservation and restoration, support native plants, control invasive species, address threats to bird populations, and engage and educate the community on effective ways to support bird and ecosystem health in a holistic manner.

1. HABITAT

1.1 Promote the best management of community habitat

- 1.1.1 *Document that current community planning seeks to provide additional bird habitat (+1)*

The City of Louisville Open Space staff's current work centers on implementing prairie restoration and planting native shrubs, grasses, and forbs on open space properties. Last year (2024), staff planted over 25 native shrubs across 3 properties and over 50 species of forbs. Staff also seeded over 5 acres of land with native shortgrass/piedmont grassland species.

- 1.1.5 *Demonstrate that your community understands the critical ecological role of pollinators by documenting your Bee City USA status (+1)*

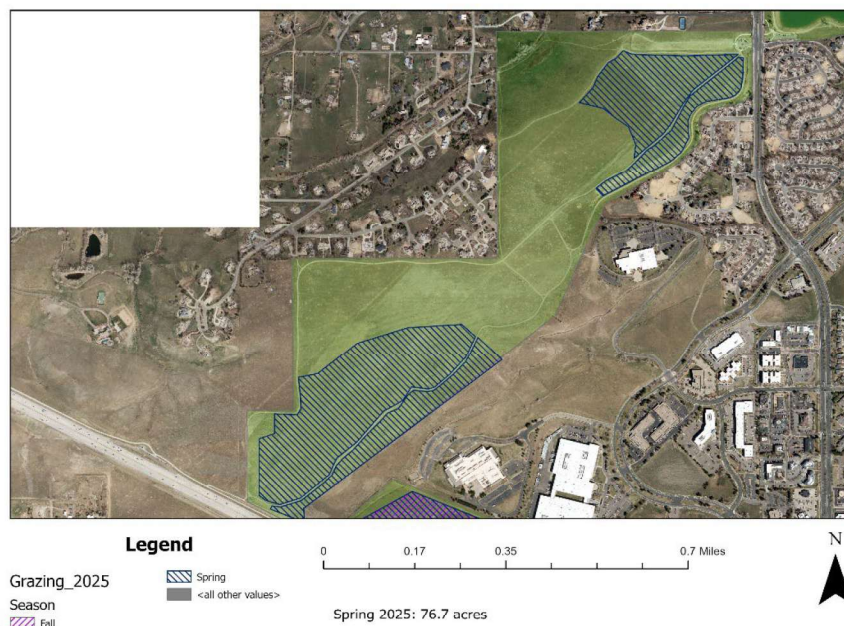


1.2 Create and protect habitat

1.2.1 Document a recent project that created or restored bird habitat

With the large decline in native grassland ecosystems across the western United States, the City of Louisville's Open Space program has prioritized managing and restoring grasslands throughout its portfolio. Restoration efforts have focused on properties historically used for agricultural grazing and planted with non-native, cool-season grasses. Key tools in this work include adaptive multi-paddock grazing, reseeding with native species, and noxious weed management.

In 2024, Open Space staff treated more than 66 acres of noxious weeds on Open Space properties, targeting List A, B, and C species as well as select watch list species. Additionally, 155.74 acres were managed through adaptive multi-paddock cattle grazing - a method that involves frequent livestock rotation to prevent overgrazing and promote a diversity of vegetation heights. This approach supports grassland bird habitat and increases ecological diversity through greater landscape heterogeneity.



1.3 Promote Native Plants

- 1.3.1 Show that your community has restored at least two acres of woodlands, wetlands, prairie, or other habitat important to bird nesting, overwintering, or migration stopover.*

In 2024, Open Space staff planted more than 25 native shrubs and over 20 species of forbs across three properties. They also seeded over 10 acres with native shortgrass and piedmont grassland species. These planting events were open to the community, providing opportunities to share native plants with residents and highlight the ecological benefits they offer to native insects, birds, and pollinators.

1.4 Control invasive plants

- 1.4.1 Show that your community offers the public information on how they can control and remove invasive species in order to improve or maintain bird habitat*

City Open Space staff offers multiple opportunities for the public to learn about noxious weed management annually. This includes a Noxious Weed ID Training hosted in May, a Weed ID Booth in June, and multiple volunteer noxious weed pulling event opportunities throughout the growing season. In addition, staff also coordinates a weed control volunteer program, Weed Whackers, which promotes conservation and engages the public to learn why management is important and help control weeds on our Open Space lands.

To learn more about our noxious weed program, please visit our website at: <https://www.louisvilleco.gov/local-government/government/departments/parks-recreation-and-open-space/open-space-division/weed-management#!/>

- 1.4.3 Show that your community works on public lands to control invasive species that have significant negative impacts on bird habitats*

In 2024, the Open Space Division dedicated over 627 hours to managing invasive weeds. This total includes efforts by contracted professionals, volunteers, and Open Space staff. A particular focus

was placed on eradicating cheatgrass and Japanese brome, with staff spending 12 hours treating infestations across 11.5 acres.

2. THREATS TO BIRDS

2.3 Address light pollution

2.3.1 Document that your community operates a significant Lights Out program that dims building lights to reduce collisions during spring and fall migration or that you have an outdoor lighting ordinance that includes Lights Out during bird migration.

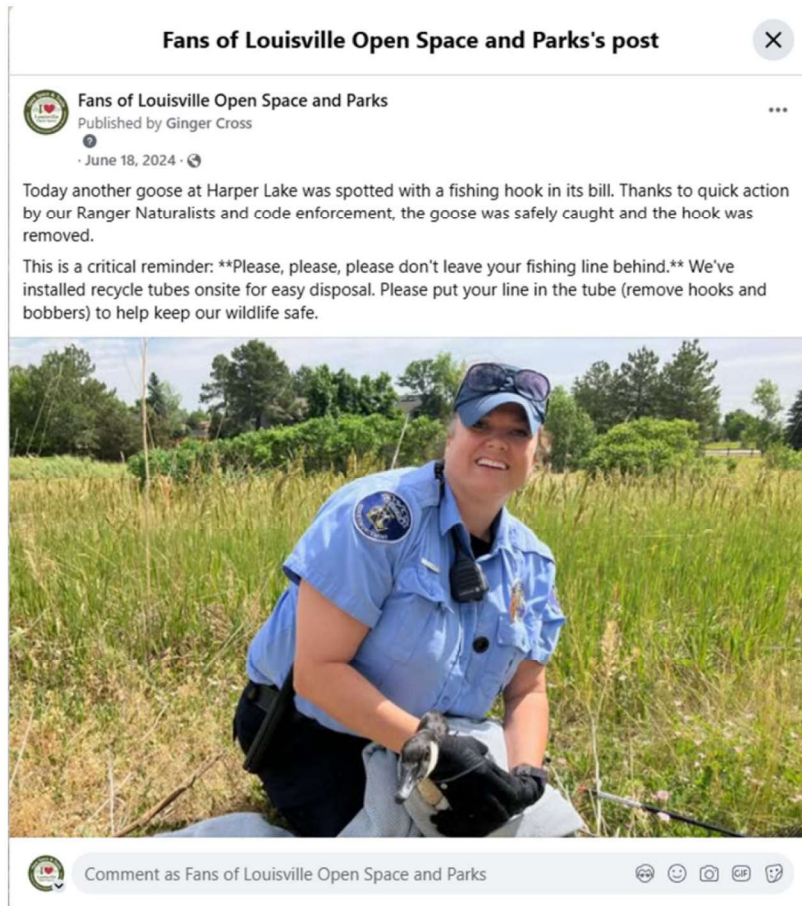
City Open Space Ranger Naturalists lead the *Open Space Stargazers Series*, a popular astronomy program that has drawn over 800 participants in the past four years. As part of the program, Rangers distribute *Dark Sky Friendly Home Lighting Program* guides—produced by the International Dark Sky Association—which offer practical tips on reducing home light pollution and include a self-assessment tool for evaluating personal lighting impacts. Each year, one Stargazers event is held during *International Dark Sky Week* and focuses specifically on the ecological effects of light pollution, including its impacts on wildlife such as birds, and how individuals can help by minimizing their own light emissions.

2.4 . Address direct human-related threats

In May 2024, the City of Louisville joined the BoatUS Foundation's *Reel In and Recycle* program as a proactive step to reduce the harmful impacts of discarded monofilament fishing line on wildlife and the environment.

To learn more about our participation in this program, please visit:
<https://www.louisvilleco.gov/Home/Components/News/News/7072/>

Staff also assist with injured waterfowl as shown in this Facebook post:



3. **EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT**

3.1 **Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day**

(MANDATORY) Share detailed plans for the event on WMBD

Location: Hecla Lake

Date & time: April 13th, 2025

Attendance: 28 community members

Theme: Program focused on covering migratory ducks and other shorebirds, the importance of conservation of ephemeral lakes, ponds and other waterbodies and their important role during migration season as well as informing the community of the upcoming World Migratory Bird Day. As well as teaching community members things they can do to support native and migratory birds on their properties, in their backyard, and across the community by building and restoring healthy habitat.

3.2 Increase awareness of birds and their habitats

3.2.3 Demonstrate that your community actively raises awareness of its bird assets. Examples include placing a remote web camera on a nest platform, offering regular public bird-watching field trips, or creating a significant educational resource on your community's wildlife.

Since 2019, the Open Space Division has partnered with the Colorado Avian Research and Rehabilitation Institute (CARRI) to offer the public a unique look at local raptor nesting activity through outdoor webcams installed on select Open Space properties. Currently, two nest cameras are in place: one at a Great Horned Owl nest box and another at an American Kestrel box. In 2024, a pair of kestrels successfully nested in the box, and five chicks fledged. The chicks were banded by Scott Rashid, Director of CARRI.

Video clips from the nest cam are available for viewing on the City's Facebook page and website: <https://www.louisvilleco.gov/living-in-louisville/residents/departments/parks-recreation-and-open-space/open-space-division/wildlife/american-kestrel>

The City of Louisville also provides handout printed bird checklists at its property Hecla Lake which attracts a variety of seasonal/migratory birds. (see below)

Responsible Wildlife Viewing

- Maintain a respectful distance from wildlife, especially near nesting areas and feeding sites
- Heed closures for natural resource restoration and critical wildlife habitat
- Stay on the trail to minimize wildlife and habitat disturbance

Bird Conservation Tips

- Plant native vegetation
- Keep house cats indoors
- Purchase shade grown coffee
- Increase window visibility with bird tape, stickers, or fishing line to reduce collisions
- Join local birding organizations

Field Notes

Date: _____ Time: _____

Weather: _____

Observer(s): _____

Notes: _____

Key

Occurrence

C Common Regularly found in season (>30% of visits)

U Uncommon Infrequent sightings (10-30% of visits)

R Rare Not expected, but likely occurs annually

* Very Rare/Accidental Few historical records

Season

W Winter

Sp Spring

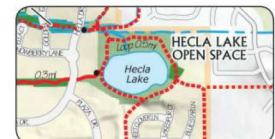
Su Summer

F Fall



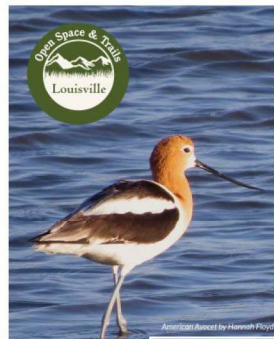
Hecla Lake Open Space Rules & Regulations

- Hecla Lake Open Space is open daily one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset
- Stay on the trail to minimize wildlife disturbance and vegetation trampling
- No swimming or recreational activities are allowed in the lake
- Dogs must be on leash and under physical control at all times
- Dog waste must be picked up and properly disposed of



Open Space Mission

To conserve and restore Open Space through land acquisition and management for the protection of natural and cultural resources and provide opportunities for education, volunteering and appropriate passive recreation.



Hecla Lake Open Space

Hecla Lake Open Space features a 5.8-acre lake and 10 surrounding acres of bird habitat. Over 150 bird species have been documented at Hecla Lake Open Space to date, but many more species are possible.

The lake and shoreline attract migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Great Blue Herons regularly use the island platform for nesting. Brushy upland areas are used by resident songbirds for breeding and as a stopover point for migrating songbirds.

Bird Checklist

This checklist is designed to help visitors record birds they observe while recreating at Hecla Lake Open Space. It was created using citizen science data from eBird.org and Open Space staff records. The checklist includes the species of wild birds that have been seen here since 2016.

The taxonomic sequence and nomenclature follow the American Ornithological Society's Checklist of North American Birds.

Space is provided for recording the presence or number of each species found and general trip information. You can track and record your bird sightings on eBird.org.

If you find a species not on the current list, please email us at OpenSpace@louisvilleco.gov



4. SUSTAINABILITY

4 . 2 . 2 - *Show that your community has implemented a sustainability plan that improves your community's energy efficiency and/or increases the use of renewable energy (Exclusions: Smart Growth comprehensive plans).*

In 2020, the City of Louisville updated its Climate Action Plan, setting new goals to enhance both internal operations and community-wide efforts aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy efficiency, expanding the use of renewable energy, and improving the overall resiliency of the energy grid.

For more information, please refer to the City of Louisville Sustainability Action Plan (see pages 15–19):

<https://www.louisvilleco.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/28886/637376646025230000>

SUMMARY

Birds are under threat from habitat loss, climate change, and environmental toxins. Designating Louisville as a Bird City Colorado will educate citizens about threats to birds and enhance bird health and population stability.

BACKGROUND

OSAB provided a memo to City Council advocating for Bird City Colorado on May 15, 2025, and included it as a priority in its 2025 Work Plan for City Council. The application is supported by the Open Space Division, which already has implemented many of the requirements for Bird City designation.

2025 COUNCIL WORK PLAN

Designating Louisville as a Bird City Colorado will align with the City's Economic Vitality priority under the lens of Environmental Sustainability.

FISCAL IMPACT

\$200 annually for application in yearly renewal.

RECOMMENDATION

The Open Space Advisory Board strongly recommends passage of an ordinance designating Louisville as a Bird City Colorado.

CITY OF LOUISVILLE RESOLUTION NO. 2025-__

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOUISVILLE, COLORADO, DESIGNATING THE CITY OF LOUISVILLE AS A BIRD CITY COLORADO AFFILIATE

WHEREAS, migratory birds are some of the most beautiful, important, and easily observed wildlife that share our communities; and

WHEREAS, songbirds and other migratory birds are celebrated as symbolic harbingers of spring and play critical ecological roles, including controlling insect pests, pollinating plants, and dispersing seeds; and

WHEREAS, supporting birds fosters environmental awareness, community engagement, and broader sustainability efforts; and

WHEREAS, birds also provide significant economic value through recreational activities such as birdwatching, which contributes hundreds of millions of dollars statewide; and

WHEREAS, many bird species are experiencing significant population decline due to habitat loss, pesticide use, poor nutrition, disease, and climate change; and

WHEREAS, public awareness and education are essential components of bird

conservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Louisville has invested in conserving open space that provides essential habitat for birds, while also promoting environmental education and stewardship; and

WHEREAS, community members who are informed about the threats birds face and engaged in conservation efforts can play a direct role in helping bird populations recover; and

WHEREAS, the Louisville Open Space Division supports the protection of bird-friendly habitat by promoting the use of native vegetation, minimizing pesticide use, preserving undisturbed areas for nesting and feeding, and enhancing habitat connectivity across the landscape; and

WHEREAS, World Migratory Bird Day, celebrated annually since 1993, is a global campaign to raise awareness about the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats; and

WHEREAS, this event brings communities together across North, Central, and South America to learn about, celebrate, and take action on behalf of birds; and

WHEREAS, Bird City Colorado works to galvanize communities to conserve birds by providing healthy habitats, free or nearly free of pesticides, and rich in native plants; and

WHEREAS, based on the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Board and the Open Space Division, the City Council supports the pursuit of certification as a Bird City Colorado community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Louisville, Colorado, as follows:

1. The City of Louisville Open Space Division shall submit an application for Bird City Colorado certification by November 1, 2025.
2. The City of Louisville is hereby designated as a Bird City Colorado affiliate.
3. The City of Louisville Open Space Division supports the continued hosting of bird-related educational events, habitat restoration, and community engagement initiatives to showcase Louisville's commitment to bird conservation and the enhancement of healthy bird habitat.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2025, by the City Council of the City of Louisville, Colorado.

October 1, 2025.

RESOLVED AND PASSED THIS SECOND DAY OF OCTOBER 1, 2025.

CITY OF LOUISVILLE, COLORADO

Chris Leh, Mayor

ATTEST:

Genny Kline, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kathleen Kelly, City Attorney

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM

To: City Council
From: Open Space Advisory Board
Date: August 13, 2025
Re: Gateway Property Purchase: Louisville Contribution

For many years, OSAB has placed a high priority on what we have labelled as the MM property (now called Gateway) and has communicated that priority to City Council over time. This 72-acre property aligns with the city's priorities of preserving agricultural land, maintaining space between neighboring municipalities, and expanding existing contiguous properties, thus reducing habitat fragmentation and enhancing ecosystem health. In addition, its prairie dog colony is an important resource for the Stearns Lake eagle family and other raptors that nest nearby.

OSAB strongly recommends that the City of Louisville contribute 25% (\$675,000) to the \$2.7 million purchase price of the Gateway property for open space. This aligns with past practices and expectations (e.g., Mayhoffer) among IGA members and signals to Boulder County that Louisville is a committed partner for future purchases that are important to our community.