

**SUBJECT: PRESENTATION: PROS LONG-RANGE PLAN AND TRAIL
SYSTEM PLAN CONSULTANT UPDATE**

DATE: JANUARY 6, 2026

PREPARED BY: BRYON WEBER, PROS PROJECT MANAGER

**PRESENTED BY: ADAM BLACKMORE, PROS DIRECTOR
KEITH WALZAK, DTJ DESIGN
BRYON WEBER, PROS PROJECT MANAGER**

SUMMARY:

Lead consultant, DTJ Design, will present an update for the on-going planning efforts of the Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Department. The two-pronged project has been branded as the PROS Guidebook and includes a Long-Range Plan for the four PROS divisions (Parks, Recreation & Senior Center, Open Space, and Coal Creek Golf Course) along with a dedicated Trail System Plan to align with the City Charter. The update will focus on an overview of the planning process, work completed to date (including findings from community engagement), and the project's next steps.

BACKGROUND / PRIOR DISCUSSIONS:

- [November 15, 2022](#) – [Council Approval of 2023-28 Capital Improvements Plan](#)
Approval of the 2023 budget included the 5-year CIP plan with \$300,000 in fiscal year 2024 for what was then called the “PROST Master Plan Update”.
- [November 6, 2023](#) – [Council Approval of 2024 Budget](#)
Approval included \$300,000 for the “PROST Master Plan Update” as part of the then Open Space & Parks Fund (then Fund 201).
- [May 7, 2024](#) – [City Council Budget Amendment](#)
Council approved an amendment of the 2024 budget which included (among other items) allocation of \$100,000 for completion of the Trails Master Plan.
- June - July 2024 – [Request for Proposal \(RFP\) Development](#)
Staff developed the RFP based on review of the previous PROS Master Plan completed 2012, research of other municipalities planning efforts and on-going conversations with PROS leadership and division staff.
- September – October 2024 – [Advisory Board Review](#)
A draft Request for Proposal (RFP) was presented to the Open Space Advisory Board ([OSAB](#)), Parks and Public Landscaping Advisory Board ([PPLAB](#)) and Recreation Advisory Board ([RAB](#)) to allow board members to review and comment

on the staff's suggested approach, scope and strategy. Board comments were used to modify the RFP before submission to Council for additional feedback.

- [October 15, 2024](#) – [City Council Consent Agenda](#)
Council approved a revised Request for Proposal (RFP) outlining staff's desired planning approach and scope. This RFP was publicly advertised and used to solicit consulting proposals for both plans as part of a combined planning effort.
- [March 18, 2025](#) – [City Council Consent Agenda & Regular Meeting](#)
Contract approval was removed from the consent agenda and discussed as part of the regular meeting. No formal staff presentation was made, but the PROS Project Manager was present to answer questions from Council.
- [May 6, 2025](#) – [City Council Consent Agenda](#)
City Council voted to approve a consulting contract with DTJ Design as the project's lead consultant with a support team including:
 - ERO Resources – local experts in the environmental and natural resources topics that will direct many aspects of both plans
 - Ballard*King – specialists in recreation planning and administration
 - Toole Design Group – offering technical assistance on the trails master plan
 - RRC Associates – providing community research and a statistically valid survey
 - Studio 6 – supporting implementation of the public outreach and community engagement essential for successful completion of both plans
- Summer of 2025 (June – August)
 - Staff began assembling requested background information on each division to enable consultant's initial needs assessment activities.
 - A formal kick-off was completed with a Staff-led tour of select PROS amenities and a workshop held which engaged PROS leadership on topics such as what's working, what's not working, and what a successful project might look like upon completion.
 - Planning of the community engagement strategies began with an outline of engagement events and development of the public survey. Project branding and a dedicated website were created to support the engagement efforts.
 - The first Advisory Board engagement took place with the August meeting of the Open Space Advisory Board ([OSAB](#)).
- Fall of 2025 (September – November)
 - Consultants met with remaining PROS Advisory Boards ([PPLAB](#), [RAB](#), [YAB](#)) to provide a project overview and collect input from board members.
 - The online survey was launched with invite postcards sent to each Louisville household for participation in the statistically valid survey. An open-link survey was later made available to all members of the public.

- Group interviews were held with stakeholder panels specific to each PROS division to collect input about current and desired future offerings.
- A series of pop-up events were held at locations relevant to each division to collect public input and facilitate open dialogue with community members.
- The first Open House events formally engaged the community on needs of each division with various opportunities to vote on preferences for future amenities, programs, services and priorities.
- A focus group workshop brought together a blend of staff, industry professionals and local advocates to collaborate on trails planning and the overlaps pertaining to open space properties.
- Winter of 2025 (December - Present)
 - Draft needs assessment report is being finalized by consultants, along with a summary of the community engagement findings from various input and engagement events.
 - Results from the online survey have been analyzed and reported via a summary report.
 - Going into 2026, preliminary goals, strategies and priorities will be compiled for public input during engagement window #2 to be held in spring.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:

Not Applicable

ANALYSIS:

A vote by Council is not needed at this time.

Council should be aware that next steps for Staff and Consultants will be working on drafting preliminary goals, strategies and priorities based on the combined input from public engagement, division/department staff, consulting team and industry best practices. The drafts will then be subject to review and discussion as part of Public Engagement window #2, which will include Advisory Board reviews and another Open House to be held in spring/summer of 2026. Staff anticipates bringing the plan(s) back to City Council for review/approval in Q2 or Q3 of 2026.

2025 COUNCIL WORK PLAN:

The PROS Long-Range Plan and Trails Master Plan are listed in the Core Services section of the 2025 work plan. These plans incorporate Council's lens of EDI and sustainability.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

Budgeted?: Yes

As outlined in the May 6, 2025 Council packet, the City currently has \$300,000 allocated to the PROS Long-Range Plan and an additional \$100,000 specifically for the Trails Master Plan. To date, the project is still aligned with the identified budget.

ALTERNATIVE(S):

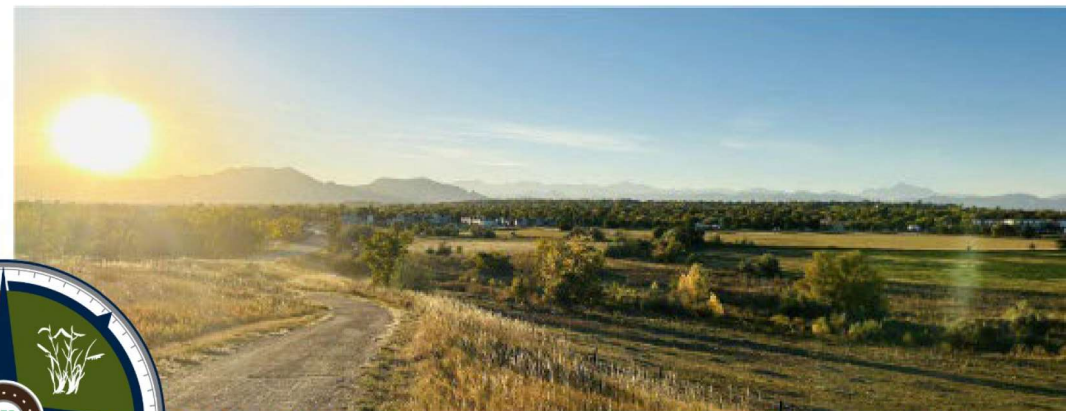
No alternatives are necessary for consideration at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

No recommendations are necessary for consideration at this time.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Presentation Slides DTJ Design



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

PROS GUIDEBOOK

City Council Update

January 6, 2026

AGENDA

Project Update

Community Outreach + Engagement

Process + Findings

Trends + Preferences

Next Steps

Discussion



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Golf, Open Space & Trails

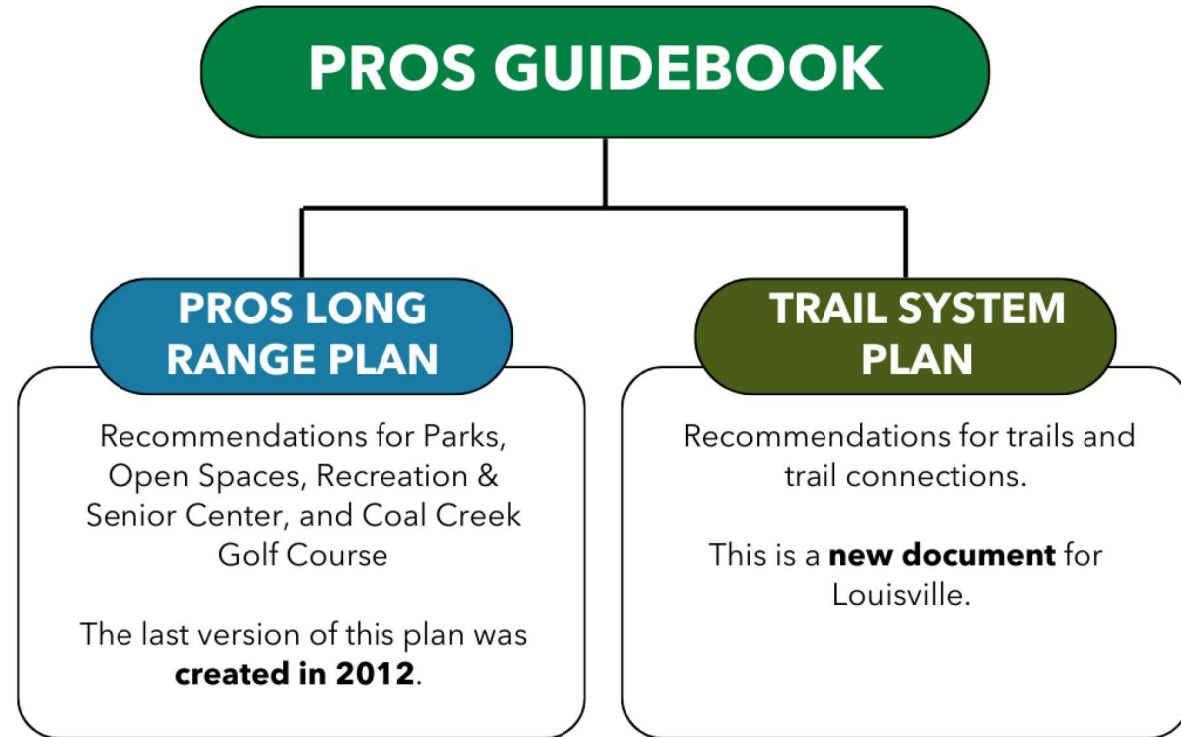


What is the PROS Guidebook?

Overview

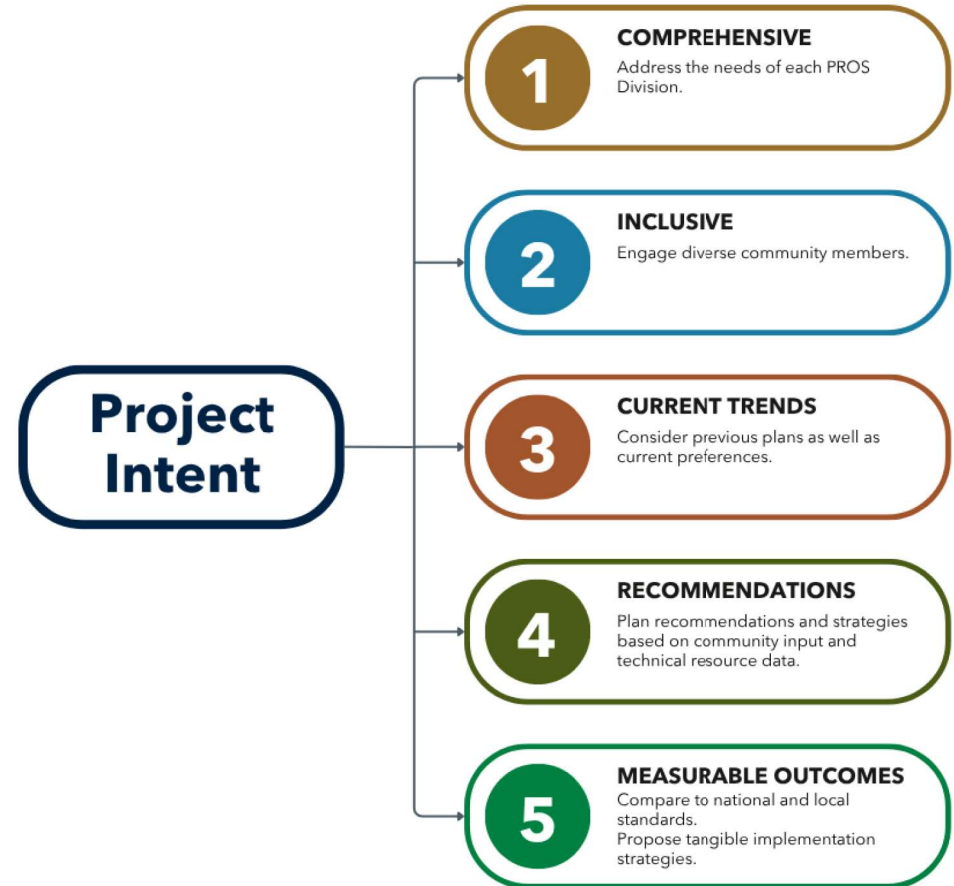
Define PROS Long Range Plan Priorities
Next 10+ years

- Parks
- Recreation + Senior Center
- Open Space
- Recreational Trails
- Golf Services



Plan Development Focus

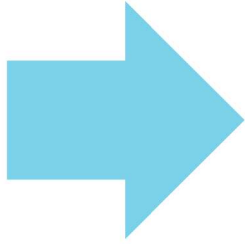
- **Community Input**
 - Preferences Trends
- **Stakeholder Feedback**
 - Interviews + Community-based Discussions
- **Technical Needs Assessment Findings**
- **Best Practices**



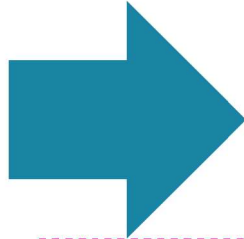
PLAN PROCESS

Project Process

PHASE I
Project Initiation
June 2025



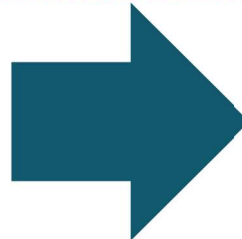
PHASE II
Exploration + Ideas
(July-November)



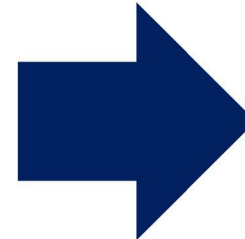
WE ARE HERE



PHASE III
Synthesis + Analysis
Plan Formation
(November-May)



PHASE IV
Plan Adoption
(June-July)



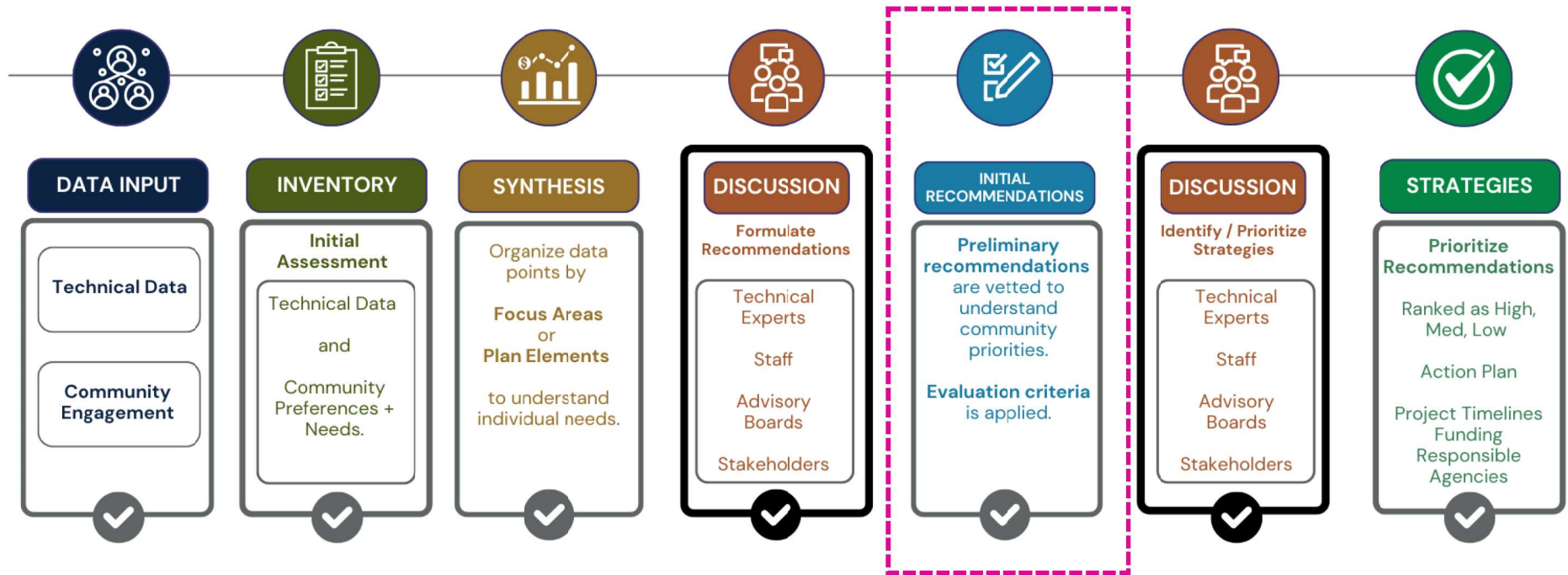
**PROJECT
COMPLETION**
Summer 2026



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PROJECT TIMELINE

Process Diagram



PHASE III
Synthesis + Analysis
Plan Formation



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PROJECT TIMELINE

A large group of people, including men, women, and children, are gathered on a grassy hill. Many are sitting on a low stone wall or on the grass itself, while others stand. In the background, there is a large, abstract, angular sculpture. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a building visible in the distance. The entire image is overlaid with a monochromatic orange tint.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OUTREACH PARTICIPATION

Pop-up Events (7)

- Recreation + Senior Center Health Fair
- Louisville Elementary Soccer
- Cottonwood Park
- Davidson Mesa Trailhead
- Coal Creek Golf Course
- Monster Dash At Community Park
- Open Space Grasslands Walk

~150 plus participants

Community Open House #1

182 participants

Community Survey

Statistically Valid Survey

766 responses

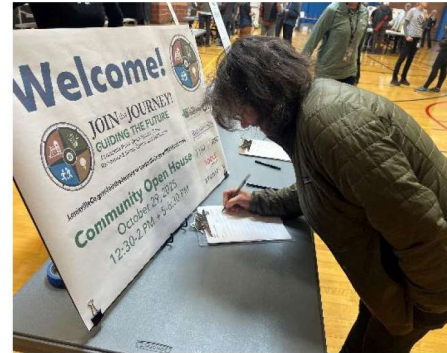
+/- 3.5 margin of error

Open link Survey

+1,400 responses

Open Space/Trails Workshop

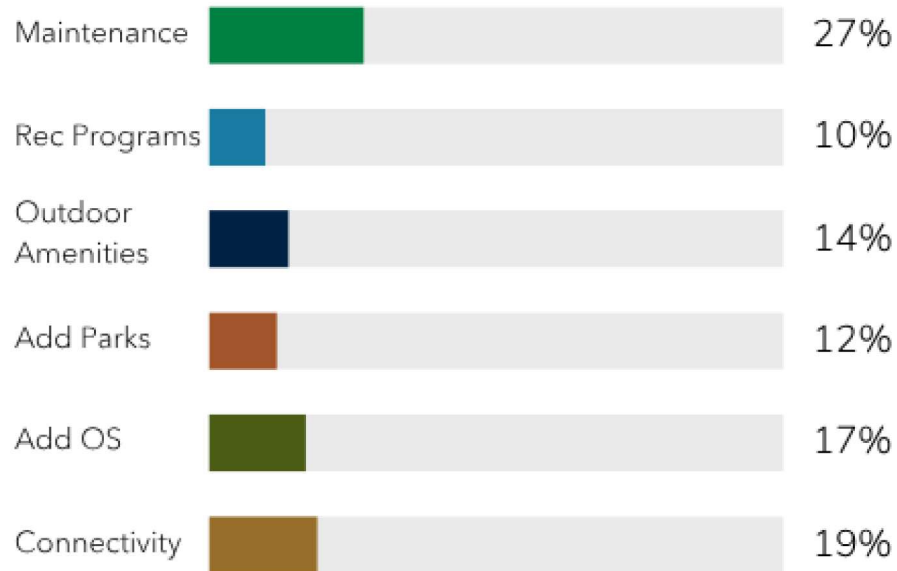
23 participants



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY PREFERENCES

Pop-ups + Open House Event



Marble / Jar Activity

Priority #1: Deferred Maintenance

Priority #2: Improve Trail Connectivity

Priority #3: Acquire More Open Spaces

Priority #4: Enhance Outdoor Recreation Amenities

Priority #5: Build New Parks

Add More Recreation Programs

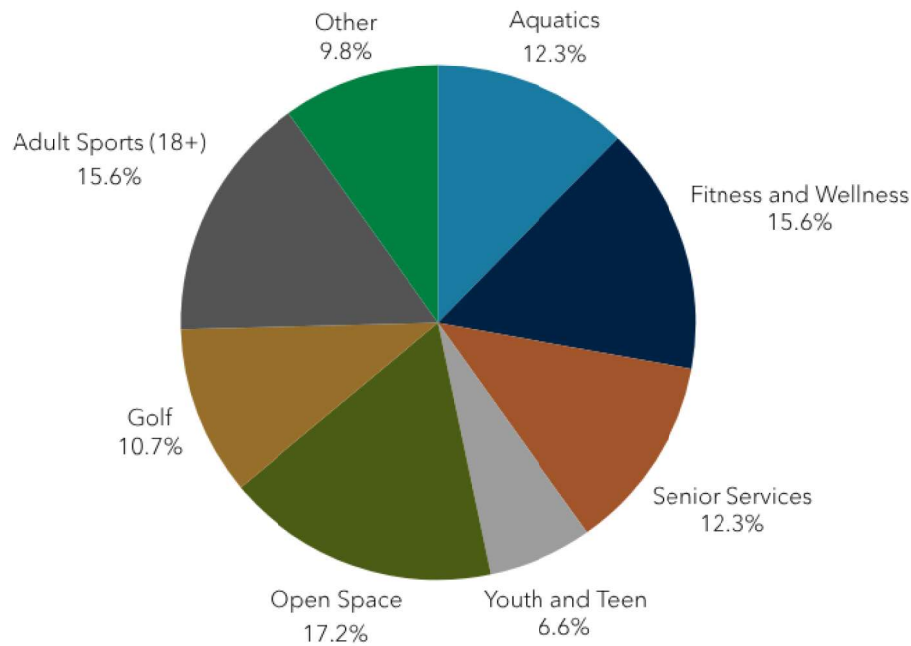


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY PREFERENCES

Open House Event: Programs

PROMPT: Using stickers, indicate which **PROS Programs** you are most likely to participate in over the next 10 years.



RECORDED City of Louisville

Programming & Events

Using stickers, indicate which Louisville PROS programs and events you would **most like to see enhanced** over the next 10 years.

Open Space

Volunteer opportunities
Educational/outreach events
Volunteer Events

Golf

Adult & Senior leagues
Junior programs & camps
Leagues

Adult Sports (18+)

Recreational instruction & play
Drop-in sports

Other

Partnership opportunities
Events
Holiday/special events
Community outreach
Hiking

RECORDED City of Louisville

Programming & Events

Using stickers, indicate which Louisville PROS programs you are **most likely to participate in** over the next 10 years.

Aquatics

Water polo league
Swim lessons
Lifeguard certification

Fitness & Wellness

Group fitness
Classes & personal training
Recreation center

Senior Services (60+)

Events, trips, outings & parties
Classes & workshops
Day trips

Youth & Teen

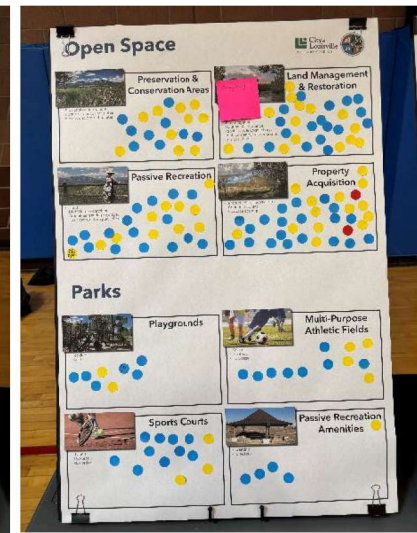
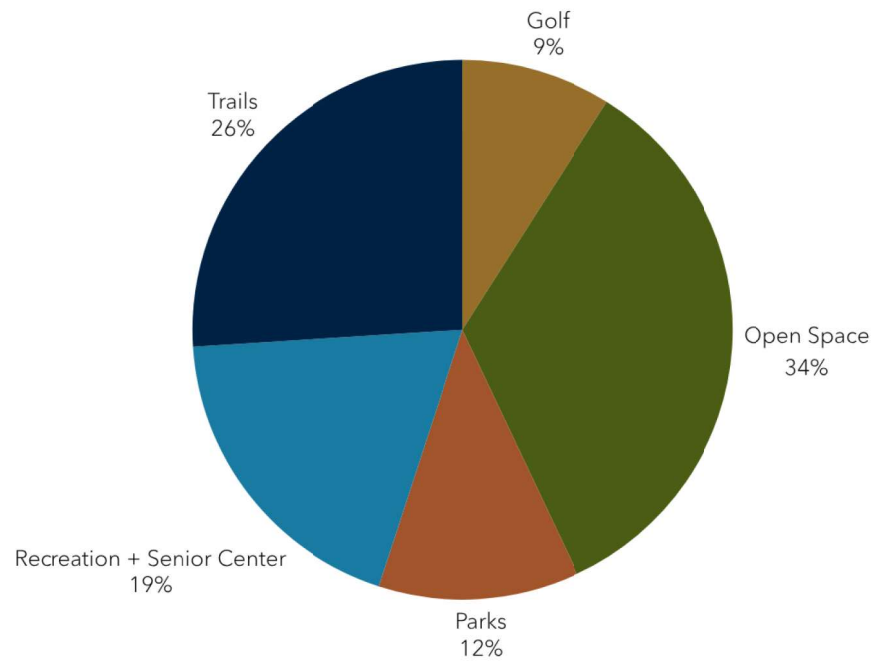
Drop-in programs
Summer day camps
Sports leagues

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY PREFERENCES – Amenities

Open House Event

PROMPT: Using stickers, indicate which **PROS Amenities** you would most like to see enhanced over the next 10 years.

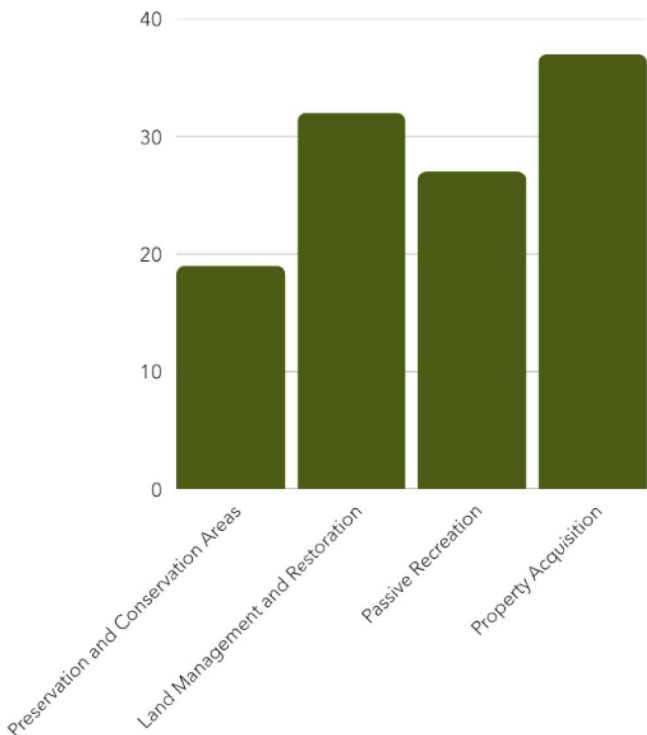


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

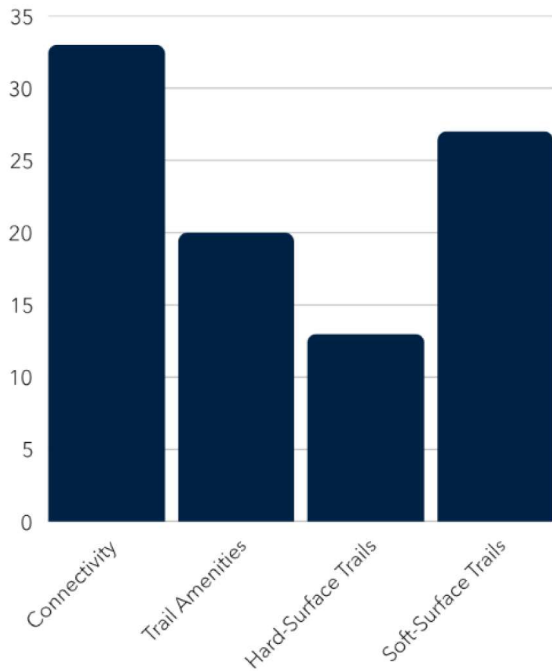
COMMUNITY PREFERENCES - Amenities

NUMBER OF RESPONSES BY CATEGORY

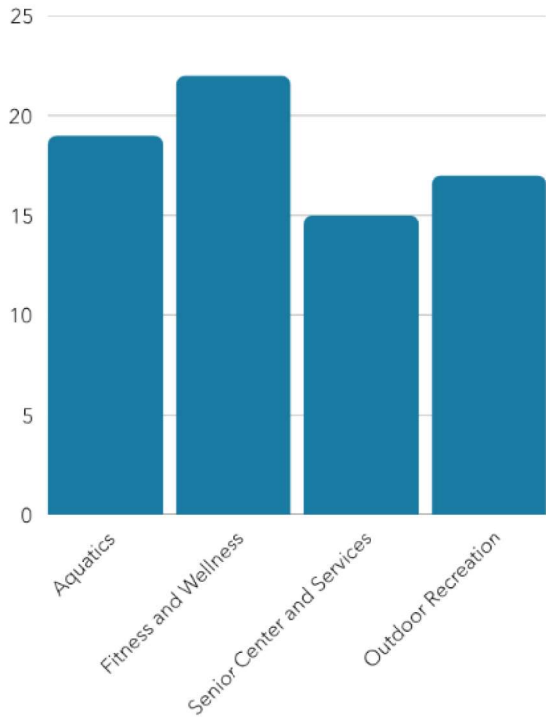
Open Space (34%)



Trails (26%)

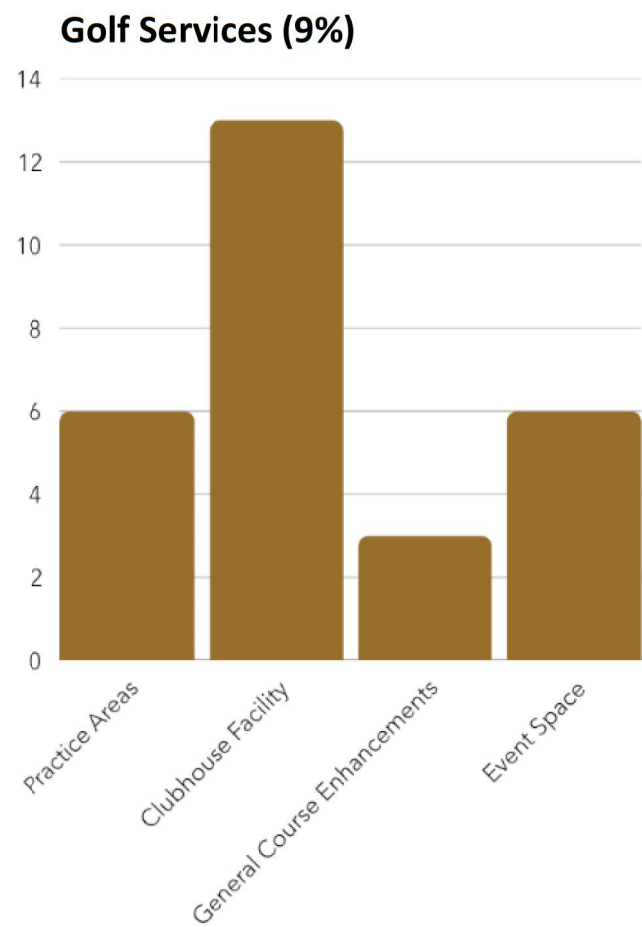
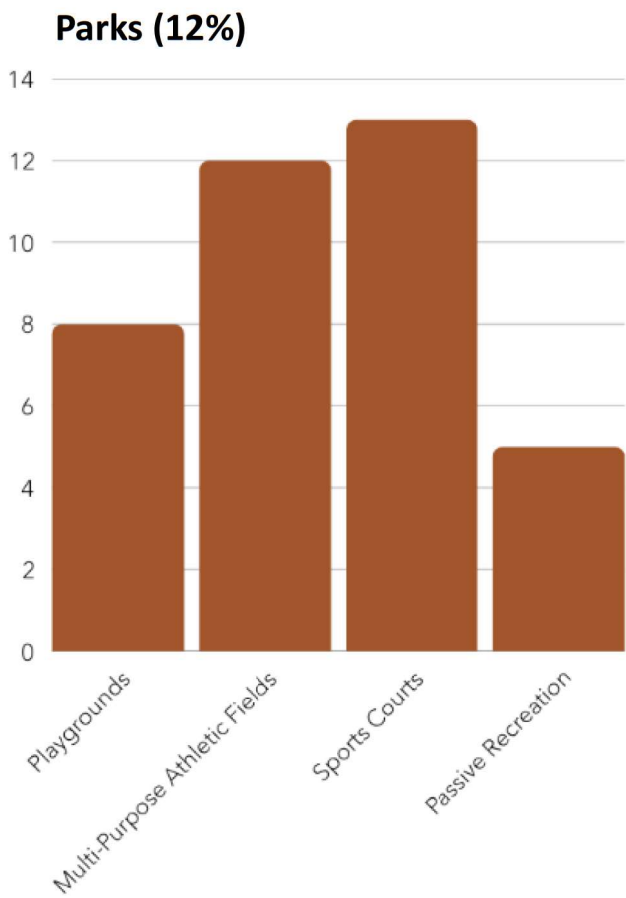


Recreation + Senior Center (19%)



COMMUNITY PREFERENCES - Amenities

BREAKDOWN OF NUMBER OF RESPONSES BY CATEGORY



MAP COMMENTS

Pop-Up + Open House Event

Parks

- Additional amenities
- Improve accessibility
- Preserve natural aesthetics

Recreation

- Sport courts
- User group variety
- Seasonal uses

Golf

- New clubhouse
- Allow after-hours trail use
- User group variety
- Connectivity - Reroute Coal Creek Trail through CCGC

Open Space

- Maintain existing open space
- Protect sensitive habitat areas
- Improve weed and invasive species control
- Support for fire mitigation

Trails

- Expand trails and improve connections
- Address roadway crossings (safety and signage)
- Enforce e-bike regulations
- Maintenance - maintain trail quality
- Evaluate social trails and single-track routes and modify as required



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PROJECT WEBSITE

www.engagelouisvilleco.org/join-the-journey

[Engage Louisville CO](#)



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HELP GUIDE THE FUTURE
of Louisville Parks, Open Space, Trails,
Recreation & Senior Center, and Coal Creek Golf Course

PROS Guidebook

We need your input to help guide the future of our Parks, Open Spaces, Trails,
Recreation & S...

[View Project](#)

PROS Guidebook



JOIN^{the} JOURNEY! GUIDING THE FUTURE

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

Thank you for taking the survey and attending our open house. Stay tuned for more public engagement opportunities coming in 2026.

We need your input to help guide the future of our Parks, Open Spaces, Trails, Recreation & Senior Center, and Golf Course!



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Postcard Invite + Open Link Survey

METHODOLOGY

1

STATISTICALLY VALID (INVITE) SURVEY

Postcards were mailed to every residential address within the City of Louisville, with instructions to complete online through password protected website (1 response per household). Paper surveys and postage-paid return envelopes were also available upon request, and the survey was translated into Spanish.

766

Invitation surveys completed
+/- 3.5% Margin of Error

2

OPEN LINK SURVEY

Later, the online survey was made available to all City of Louisville stakeholders, including non-residents (e.g., commuters, residents of nearby communities)

1,407

Open Link surveys completed

2,173

Total Surveys Completed

7,770 Postcards Mailed

7,601 Delivered

Using the map below, which area do you live in?

Invite

Area	Percentage
Area 1	19%
Area 2	14%
Area 3	21%
Area 4	35%
Area 5	0.4%
Area 6	11%
n=	766

Using the map below, which area do you live in?

Open

Area	Percentage
Area 1	17%
Area 2	17%
Area 3	14%
Area 4	28%
Area 5	3%
Area 6	16%
Area 7	0.3%
Other	4%
n=	950

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Postcard Invite + Open Link Survey

Key Takeaways

- **93% of respondents identify parks, recreation, open spaces and trails as important to why people live in Louisville.**
- Most residents feel that the City's parks amenities meet community needs **(1/2 half of resident's rate parks as performing well).**
- Residents strongly prioritized **maintaining and enhancing existing amenities over building new ones.**
- **Residents are highly engaged trail users**, w/ exercise, nature connections, mental well being and passive recreation as the leading reasons.
- Fitness amenities (weight room, indoor pools, locker rooms, hot tubs) rate high in terms of community needs, suggesting that **current offerings align well with expectations.**
- **Open Space received high importance** w/trails and natural habitat areas and trailhead amenities consistently viewed as meeting community needs **w/4 or 5 ratings across categories.**

“...residents strongly prioritize maintaining and enhancing existing amenities over building new ones,...”

Source: RRC Associates, Inc.
2025 City of Louisville 2025 PROS Survey Report

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Trails System Plan

Strategic Framework Document

Considerations

- Existing Open Space Land Classification System
- Land Management Practices
- Recreation Trail Access
- Multi-Modal Transportation Needs
 - Connecting Origins and Destinations
 - Eliminating Barriers
 - Wayfinding and Signage

Trail System Standards

- National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)
 - CAPRA Accreditation (Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies)
- AASHTO Standards (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials)
 - Shared pathways and trails
- MUTCD Standards (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices)
- USDA Forest Service Standards



PLANNING CONTEXT

Open Space + Trails Workshop

November 14th

City Hall

Participants: 23 community members + staff
4 consultant team members

Workshop Topics

- Community Values
- Big Ideas
- Trail System Gaps
- Plan Recommendations
- Top Priorities



WORKSHOP GOAL

COMMUNITY VALUES

Key Themes

Habitat + Ecosystem Protection

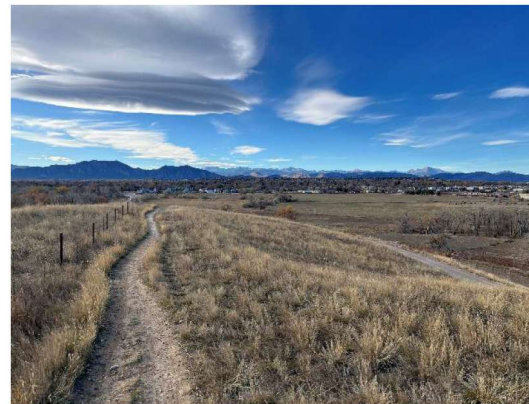
- Emphasis on conservation + sustainability
- Protect high-value areas
- Science based decision-making
- Balance recreation with ecological integrity

• Safe, Connected + Accessible Trail Network

- Safety is a top priority
- mobility and connectivity for all users
- Provide equitable access for all abilities
- Develop clear standards + policies for social trails

• Recreation, Health + Community Engagement

- Trails as spaces for exercise, wellness + nature connection
- Support multi-use opportunities while managing impacts
- Foster education + stewardship; environmental learning
- Encourage community involvement in planning



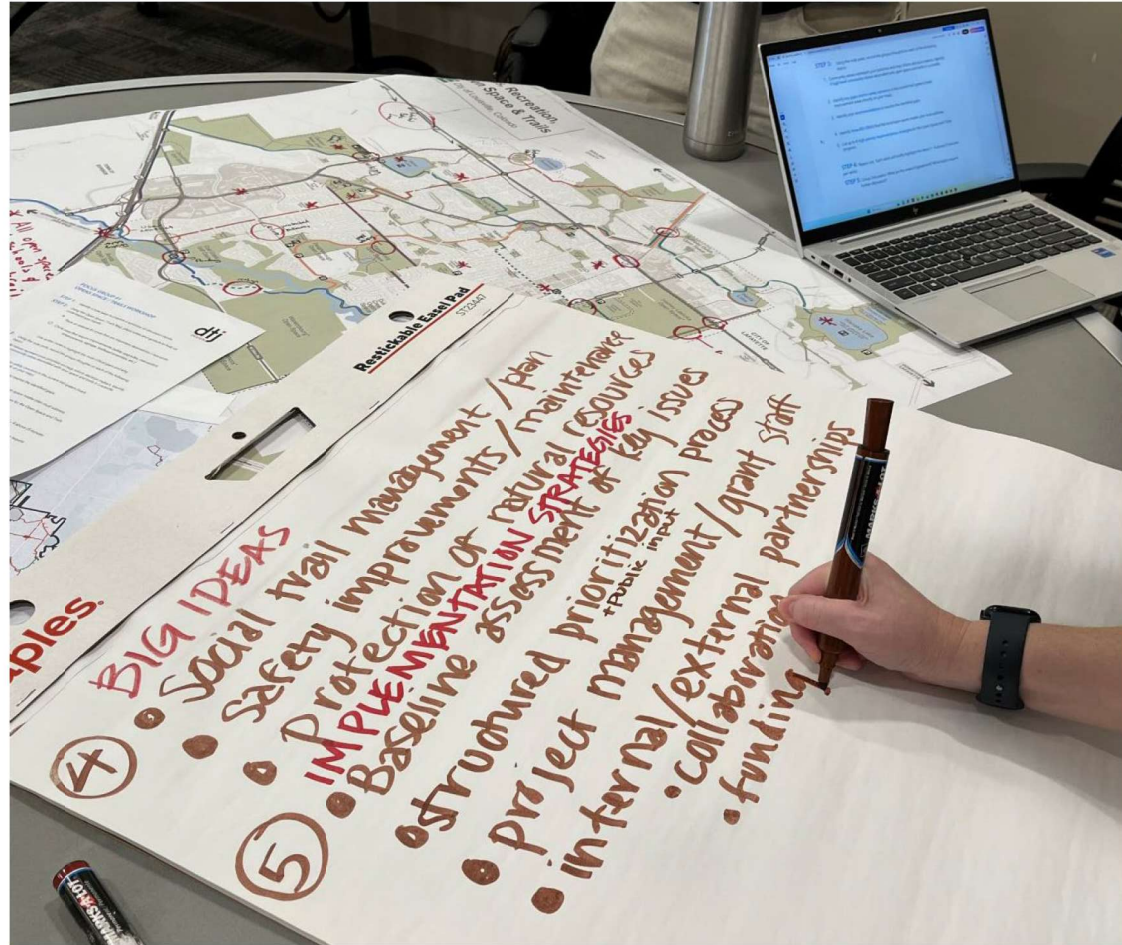
WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

PLAN 'BIG IDEAS'

Identify 3 Big Ideas for the Trails Plan.

Response

- Connectivity + Wayfinding
- Policy + Standards for Trails
- Habitat + Ecosystem Protection



WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

TRAIL SYSTEM GAPS

Define critical gaps in the current system
Prioritize infrastructure needs

Participants were asked to:

- Assess the current trails system
- Identified open space + trails compatibility issues (and areas of conflict)
- Identify physical gaps in the trails system
- Establish preliminary recommendations for future consideration



NEXT STEPS

- Staff Review + Input
Community Engagement Summary Report
Initial Draft Plan Recommendations
- Draft Plan Strategies
- Draft PROS Long Range Plan + Trails Plan

Ongoing

Winter 2026

Spring 2026

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

- Open Space Advisory Board #3
- Focus Group #2 (Recreation Amenities)
- Advisory Board Mtgs. (Round 2)
- Community Open House #2 (Draft Plans)

February

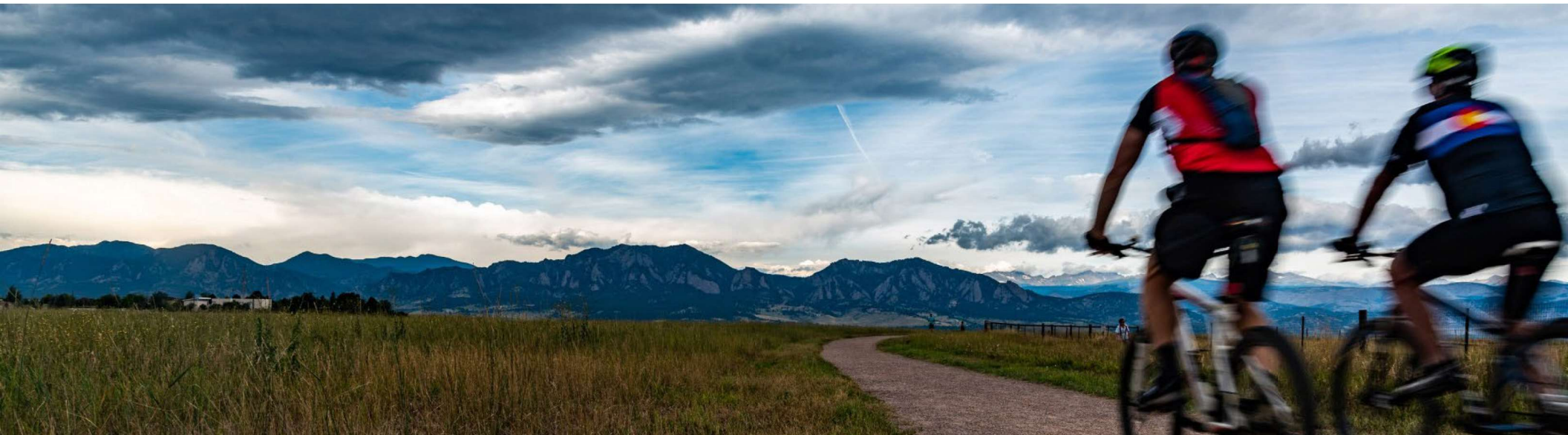
TBD

Spring 2026

Spring 2026



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Golf, Open Space & Trails



Thank you!



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Golf, Open Space & Trails