



**Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
AGENDA**

March 25, 2021
6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Suggested Timetable

6:30 Call to Order

6:30 Approval of the February 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes
ACTION REQUESTED: Minutes Approval

Presentations

6:35 Clark (David & Joseph) Acquisition
ACTION REQUESTED: Recommendation to BOCC
PRESENTER: Tina Burghardt, Senior Land Officer

6:45 Caretaker Ranger Update
ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only
PRESENTER: Sarah Andrews, Kevin Grady, Denny Morris, Juan Ocampo, and John Queen

7:10 Strategic Plan Updates: Resource Planning and Public Information & Engagement
ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only
PRESENTER: Ernst Strenge, Senior Planner, and Justin Atherton-Wood, Senior Planner and Vivienne Jannatpour, Public Information & Engagement Manager

8:00 Director's Update

8:10 Adjourn

**DRAFT**

**Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
MINUTES**

February 25, 2021
6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by James Krug

Members:

Scott Miller
Heather Williams
James Krug
Paula Fitzgerald
Steven Meyrich
Trace Baker
Ann Obenchain
Tony Lewis
Jenn Archuleta -- **Excused**

Staff:

Eric Lane
Therese Glowacki
Janis Whisman
Melissa Arnold
Vivienne Jannatpour
Nik Brockman
Renata Frye
Susan Spaulding
Stefan Reinold
David Hirt
Mac Kobza
Sean Reynolds

Approval of the January 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes

ACTION REQUESTED: Minutes Approval

ACTION: Fitzgerald moved approval of item. Baker seconded the motion.

VOTE: **AYES:** Miller, Williams, Krug, Fitzgerald, Meyrich, Baker, Obenchain, Lewis; **EXCUSED:** Jenn Archuleta

Presentations

Real Estate Division's Strategic Plan

ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only

Attachment: Feb. 25 Minutes (4812 : Approval of the February 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes)

PRESENTER:Janis Whisman, Real Estate Division Manager and Melissa Arnold, Conservation Easement Program Manager
Public Comments:

Jeff Unger, 1357 Washburn St., Erie. He wanted to speak about the proposed compost facility at Rainbow Nursery site. He was asked to wait to make comments until that item comes before POSAC during the public process phase.

Ed Dawson, 11285 Lookout Rd., Longmont. He had questions regarding land placed under a conservation easement.

Project Management & Design Strategic Plan Overview

ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only

PRESENTER:Sean Reynolds, Project Manager

Public Comments:

Sepp Seitz, 11377 Lookout Road, Longmont.

Species Conservation and Recovery Plans

ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only

PRESENTER:Susan Spaulding, Stefan Reinold, and David Hirt

Public Comments:

Nancy Davis, She spoke about resources for assistance to protect environmental resources.

Theo Kuhn, 2815 W 42nd Ave., Denver. He spoke about species of special concern.

The Northern Redbelly Dace Recovery Project

ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only

PRESENTER:Mac Kobza, Wildlife Biologist

Due to a lack of time, this item was tabled until a later date.

Calwood Fire and Recovery Measures

ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only

PRESENTER:Stefan Reinold and David Hirt

Public Comments:

Richard Lopez, 8034 Lefthand Canyon Dr., Jamestown. He is the President of Cal-Wood Education Center. He spoke about the impact of the fire on Cal-Wood and their mitigation and restoration efforts.

Director's Update

- Raptor nest volunteer monitors are onboard. At least 2 bald eagle nests in our region have already started incubation (quite early for this) including the one at Stearns Lake.
- POS approved 4 small research grants for a total of \$40,000 for 2021 research. This year we will have 3 projects looking at the CalWood Fire (treated areas and burn severity; cheatgrass response to fire; soil carbon stocks after fire), and one continuing long-term bat research on POS.
- The Fairgrounds will be starting limited public use. The county's Recovery Team has approved gathering of 10 or less individual for groups that will adhere to standard safety guidelines including masks and social distancing. Open Ride will begin March 3rd and Barrel Racing will begin March 4th. Our staff will be monitoring Open Ride throughout the event to make sure no more than 10 riders are in the building at any time. Barrel Racing will have a sign up so no more that 8 racers are in the building plus two producers. Discussions will occur next week on the potential for reopening the campground and perhaps increase events to 25 people in April.
- Today, the weather allowed us to burn forestry slash piles at Hall Ranch - no numbers yet.
- In preparation for spring break, our Education and Outreach team is creating web-based family scavenger hunts for Betasso Preserve, Mud Lake, and Legion Park.
- We will soon deliver to the BOCC an IGA that formalizes our relationship with Cities of Louisville and Lafayette for the design and construction of the 104th St Trail connecting the Coal Creek and Rock Creek Trails. Louisville will take the lead on selecting design and construction firms. Trail design is scheduled to begin by late May 2021 and anticipated to be about 9 - 12 months. It will include stakeholder meetings with adjacent property owners, including POS agricultural operations tenants. Construction is forecasted to begin in early 2022.

2/25/2021

- We also expect a March BOCC hearing on the Federal Lands Access Program grant for the Rocky Mountain Greenway. No date set yet.
- The Fairgrounds Master Plan process will continue to be on hold for several more months until we believe that we can have robust public engagement.

Lastly, please remember that the annual POSAC retreat will be next Saturday via Zoom from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Note that the first 45 minutes will be an executive session closed to the public. The public session will start around 9:15 am.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:18 PM



Parks & Open Space

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PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 25, 2021

Location: Virtual Meeting

TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
FROM:	Tina Burghardt, Senior Land Officer
AGENDA ITEM:	Clark (David & Joseph) Acquisition
ACTION REQUESTED:	Recommendation to the BOCC

Summary

Boulder County proposes to pay \$1,800,000 to acquire fee title to the 38-acre Clark (David & Joseph) property and associated water rights owned by David and Joseph Clark. The property has an address of 6553 Jay Road and is located just east of the northeast corner of 63rd Street and Jay Road (please see the maps at the end of this memo). Staff supports this acquisition.

Background Information

The Clark property is an approximately 38-acre vacant parcel of statewide significant agricultural land, including 36 shares of North Boulder Farmers Ditch. Adjacent and to the east of this parcel is the 31-acre Johnson Trust property and the 30-acre Coen property. Both properties were acquired by and are currently owned by the Gunbarrel Public Improvement District (GPID), which is managed by Boulder County. The Clark property is within the GPID area (please see the map of the GPID area at the end of this memo).

The GPID was formed in 1993 by Resolutions GD-93-1 and GD-93-2 of the Boulder County Board of County Commissioners. In 1994, Boulder County entered into an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the GPID for the purpose of purchasing and managing open space properties within the GPID. The proposed acquisition of the Clark property furthers the IGA goals and preserves as open space one of the last remaining vacant parcels within the GPID area.

Deal Terms

Parks & Open Space proposes to acquire the property, including 36 shares of the North Boulder Farmers ditch water, for a total of \$1,800,000.

Acquisition Summary

Acres	Water Rights	# Building Rights	Price per Acre	Water Right Value	Total Purchase Price
38.48	36 Shares North Boulder Farmers Ditch	One (1)	\$42,100	\$180,000	\$1,800,000

Attachment: Clark (David Joseph) Acquisition (4813 : Clark (David & Joseph) Acquisition)

This transaction will be paid for with open space sales and use taxes, which Boulder County can only use for open space purposes.

Mineral Rights

Boulder County will acquire all mineral rights with this property, pending title information.

Oil & Gas Leases

The property is subject to a 1981 oil and gas lease, but there is no evidence of production on that lease, so it may be expired. The closest wells that were drilled lie about 1/2 mile away and were dry and abandoned. Staff will investigate this further during the due diligence process. Boulder County will be taking its interest subject to those pre-existing property rights and must honor by those rights.

Boulder County Comprehensive Plan Designations

The Boulder County Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) provides information about the area's agricultural, cultural, environmental, and other open space resources (including passive recreation, community buffers, and scenic viewsheds). Maps in the Comp Plan indicate the following designations of these resources near the property: Significant Agricultural Land of Statewide Importance, Wetlands, and Riparian Area.

Potential Uses

At this time, the property is used for agricultural purposes. The property will be closed to public use due to agricultural lease. The process to determine potential public access (including trails or other passive recreation) versus closures that protect a property's open space resources is an involved planning process that can only be done after acquisition. Parks & Open Space staff need ample time after acquisition to evaluate the property, and no evaluations about other potential future uses have been made at this time.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval. Acquiring this property for open space will complete the community's intention to protect this land. It will also make the adjacent open space farm larger and more viable.

POSAC Action Requested

Recommendation to the Boulder County Commissioners to approve the request as described above and by staff at the POSAC meeting.

Suggested motion language: I move approval of this transaction as staff has described.

GPID Map:



Clark Property

Attachment: Clark (David Joseph) Acquisition (4813 : Clark (David & Joseph) Acquisition)



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PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 25, 2021

Location: Virtual Meeting

TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
AGENDA ITEM TITLE:	Strategic Plan Overview: Planning Workgroup and Public Information & Engagement Workgroup
PRESENTERS:	Justin Atherton-Wood and Ernst Strenge (Planning) and Vivienne Jannatpour (Public Information and Engagement)
ACTION REQUESTED:	Information Only

Background

In 2019, staff embarked on an internal planning process to ensure that our work reflects strategic priorities and moves us toward our desired future conditions and goals. The result of this work is an internal strategic plan for each workgroup in the Parks & Open Space Department that sets forth Desired Future Conditions (DFCs), Goals, Strategies, and near term specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timebound (SMART) Objectives.

An overview of the strategic plan was provided at the January POSAC meeting, including process, themes, principles, and how this framework will help inform the Department’s priorities going forward. Throughout the remainder of 2021, staff from each workgroup will provide an overview of their 2021 SMART objectives to POSAC.

March presentations will be from the Planning workgroup and the Public Information and Engagement workgroup, which is in the Director’s Division. The remainder of this memo provides a summary of strategic plan information for each of these groups for your reference.

Planning Workgroup DFC

Planning processes are reflective of all open space values, consider community input, and advance the mission and goals of Parks & Open Space.

Planning Workgroup Goals and Objectives

Goal 1. Lead integrated, inclusive, and interdisciplinary planning processes with staff and partners in the context of the local and regional setting.

Objective 1-1: Work with all relevant work groups in 2021 on developing a framework for a landscape level, resilience-based planning process across Boulder County to better focus our land management activities.

Objective 1-2: Participate and engage in regional planning efforts that would benefit Parks & Open Space, including:

- Mayhoffer Farm Management Plan with CU Masters of the Environment students, City of Lafayette, and City of Louisville
- Commence Regional Trail Master Plan
- Continue regional efforts to address recreational demand and access overcrowding

Objective 1-3: Lead the following departmental planning processes in 2021:

- St. Vrain property planning, including:

Attachment: SP presentations March 2021-Final (4815 : Strategic Plan Updates: Resource Planning and Public Information & Engagement)

- Complete the *Zapf Open Space Agricultural Operating Plan*.
- Initiate internal scoping for upcoming management plan update for Braly, Western Mobile, and Ramey open spaces (post-flood recovery project)
- Commence a visitor access and parking management study for popular trailheads
- Develop an implementation and action plan for Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm based on the adopted management plan
- Complete a site plan for Southdown Indian Mountain Open Space with guidelines for use
- Complete the *Cultural Responsiveness & Inclusion Strategic Plan (CRISP)* and assist the department in the development of an implementation plan

Objective 1-4: Lead the completion and close-out of remaining FEMA and CDBG funded flood recovery projects.

Objective 1-5: Lead and coordinate the following internal department-wide efforts in 2021:

- Strategic Plan Core Groups, including:
 - Land & Water: develop a landscape-level analysis for BCPOS
 - Community: implement CRISP-related items
 - Public Amenities & Infrastructure: develop an asset management and maintenance tracking system
 - Organizational Stewardship: create, document, and communicate consistent practices and procedures
- Update each workgroup's strategic plan objectives for 2022-2024
- CRISP Working Group
- Science, Research & Data Committee

Objective 1-6: Continue participation in and act as departmental liaison for special project planning processes led by outside agencies as needed throughout 2021, including, but not limited to:

- Rocky Mountain Greenway and FLAP
- Eldorado Canyon State Park Visitor Use Management Plan
- 104th Street connector trail
- Lower reach of Lower Boulder Creek restoration project planning and design (Doniphan property near Kenosha Road and County Line Road).
- Final planning and implementation of the Lyons Quarry mining reclamation at Hall 2
- RTD regional trail master planning
- SH 119 bikeway design
- SH 7 post-flood permanent repairs

Objective 1-7: Evaluate, adopt, and document essential planning processes, including:

- Data & Information for Planning standard operating procedure (SOP)
- Planning Communication & Engagement SOP
- Interdisciplinary Planning Team Framework

Goal 2. Understand the interests, needs, values, and priorities of the public, decision makers, and subject matter experts

Objective 2-1: Incorporating best practices from the CRISP, engage with leaders in the Latinx community about how the department can better serve and welcome the Latinx community.

Objective 2-2: Facilitate engagement with Indigenous and American Indian communities, as well as work with municipal and community partners, to build and sustain relationships and identify ways the department can better serve their communities and represent ancestral connections to open space lands.

Objective 2-3: Continue working with staff on short and long-term planning priorities for the department.

- Goal 3.** Utilize the most up-to-date information about resources, uses, management, and services and their collective interactions.
- Goal 4.** Develop planning documents and projects that provide management direction, public benefits, and advance the achievement of the department's desired future conditions.
- Goal 5.** Bring conservation perspective to land use docket reviews.

Objective 5-1: In 2021, prepare and recommend revisions with the CPP Department to the County's Land Use Code that incorporate and embody the policies from the Environmental Resource Element (ERE) BCCP Update.

Objective 5-2: In 2021, assist GIS and CPP staff in completing the update to ERE maps and data that adds new information to the BCCP so that more accurate assessments of impacts can be performed for land use docket reviews.

Public Information & Engagement (PIE) Desired Future Condition

The community feels informed, heard, and valued, can find information quickly and easily, and knows how to engage with the department. The public is supportive of Parks & Open Space and embodies the stewardship ethic.

PIE Goals and 2021 Objectives

- Goal 1.** *Provide information* that is easily accessible for residents to stay informed about BCPOS services, natural and cultural resources, amenities, events, projects, plans, and accomplishments.

Objective 1-1: Establish and implement criteria for inclusive communications as guided by CRISP. **Timeline to be established** when CRISP is completed and available for reference.

Objective 1-2: **In 2021**, Establish continuing services contracts with photographers and videographers or collaborate with a county department that has established CS contracts in order to increase quality and quantity of photos and videos available for our communications.

Objective 1-3: Ongoing, ensure use of communication tools follow industry best practices to reach the full spectrum of Boulder County residents. Periodically assess tools and procedures and their effectiveness in reaching specific audiences. Communication tools currently include website, press releases, email marketing, social media, and text messages. These may expand with emerging technologies.

Objective 1-4: Ongoing, serve as a conduit of information between the department and the public to increase transparency, understanding, and support for initiatives and actions of the department.

Goal 2. *Encourage engagement* in public process regarding department decision-making and plans.

Objective 2-1: Ongoing, use existing and emerging online tools and communications channels to invite public engagement. Tools include email, online public comment forms, press releases, media requests.

Objective 2-2: Ongoing, facilitate and encourage participation in POSAC meetings.

Objective 2-3: Daily, answer public questions and inquiries or facilitate responses with other staff.

Objective 2-4: In 2021, update procedures and tools for public comment on department projects that are accessible to the public and works best for project leads to manage and assess results.

Goal 3. *Develop and maintain partner relationships* with local businesses, user groups, and organizations. Provide opportunities for partners to get involved in protecting and enhancing open space values.

Objective 3-1: In 2021 and beyond, work with E&O to develop and maintain relationships with underserved communities through project work.

Objective 3-2: In 2021 and beyond, work with Volunteer Work Project Coordinators to encourage Ag staff to offer volunteer groups the opportunity to experience the department's valued practices as relates to agricultural resources.

Objective 3-3: Ongoing, look for opportunities to reach new user groups in ways that help them connect to open space and find relevance in the services and benefits BCPOS provides.

Objective 3-4: Annually, hold an exhibit which features a different user group, including but not limited to, photographers, *en plein air* artists, woodworkers, and musicians.

Objective 3-5: Ongoing, recruit businesses and organizations to help maintain open space resources and build the stewardship ethic. Maintain approximately 50 active partners.

Annually, celebrate and share partner projects, donations, and accomplishments.

Goal 4. *Provide communications services and tools to staff* to help them keep the public and the department updated on their workplans and projects.

Objective 4-1: Ongoing, through work with the Organizational Stewardship Core Group, help project author think through and develop public information plan as part of every project charter.

Objective 4-2: Ongoing, facilitate director-led meetings and events.

Objective 4-3: Ongoing, guide and assist staff in the content and format of public communications including social media, media releases, and website content. Team is responsible for governance of department communications content, including adherence to social media policy, web standards, and maintaining a unified department and county voice.