Boulder County

Parks & Open Space
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NOTICE OF POSAC PUBLIC SITE VISIT

The Boulder County Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC) and the City of Boulder Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) will attend a site visit on Friday, Oct. 27. Attendees will meet at the Niwot Park-n-Ride, located at Hwy 287 & Niwot Rd., at 10 a.m. Vans will depart no later than 10:15 a.m. Vans will return to the Niwot Park-n-Ride around 12:30 p.m.

Members of the public wishing to accompany committee members on the site visit must register to attend. Attendees should wear comfortable walking shoes and bring rain gear and bottled water.

This joint site visit provides an opportunity to learn about projects by Parks & Open Space and Open Space and Mountain Parks.

SITE #1: Lower Boulder Creek

The Lower Boulder Creek Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project was a joint endeavor of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Boulder County Parks & Open Space to restore an approximately 1.0-mile degraded stretch of Boulder Creek on the county's Alexander Dawson open space property between N 109th Street and Kenosha Road. The natural stream design created alternating meanders, in-stream habitat enhancements, and a broad floodplain that will support native riparian habitat. Staff will provide an overview of the history and objectives of the project, information about the creek restoration design and implementation, and lessons learned for future restoration projects.

SITE #2: ERTL Property

The Boulder Creek floodplain on Open Space and Mountain Parks properties has been heavily modified through establishment of irrigation infrastructure, agricultural uses and especially aggregate (gravel) mining. Beginning in 2022, Open Space and Mountain Parks

undertook a large-scale restoration of the Boulder Creek floodplain on the South side of the Boulder Creek on our ERTL property. Prior to OSMP acquisition of the property, it was extensively mined, and the floodplain was characterized by a series of deep, permanent ponds, mounded upland areas and non-native vegetation resulting from the mining activity and mining reclamation. Because this series of ponds and piles of dirt and material was not a natural state for the floodplain, the restoration strives to re-establish natural topography, hydrology, and vegetation on the site to support a variety of wetland types typical of natural floodplains along Boulder Creek. The restoration site and resulting habitats will support valuable areas for native plants and animals to flourish, and re-establishes resilience to natural disasters and disturbances characteristic of natural floodplains but absent in reclaimed gravel mining areas. This increased resilience will help protect and maintain the natural values associated with the floodplain and creek corridor in the face of changing climate and likely potential increase in natural disturbances and disasters.

This site visit will not provide an opportunity for formal public comment. The tour is informational only and POSAC will not vote on matters related to this item.