

Open Space Advisory Board

Agenda

April 8, 2026

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 board will accommodate public comments during the meeting. Anyone may also email comments to the board 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)
7. 7:05 pm Action Item: Vote on OSAB Secretary Position (5 Minutes)
8. 7:10 pm Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda (5 Minutes, more time as needed)

9. 7:15 pm Action Item: Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Long Range Plan.
Presented by Keith Walzak, DTJ Design (90 Minutes)
 - Review and Provide Recommendations for:
 - i. Open Space Division Strategies & Action Items
 - ii. Trails Plan Strategies & Action Items
10. 8:45 pm Action Item: Finalize Acquisition Ranking. Presented by Susan McEachern, OSAB Chair (15 Minutes)
11. 9:00 pm Discussion Item: OSAB Recommendations for Capital Improvement Projects for 2027-2033. Presented by Susan McEachern, OSAB Chair and Ember Brignull, Open Space Superintendent (45 Minutes)
12. 9:45 pm Discussion Item: Select Joint Board Meeting Dates (10 Minutes)
 - Summer: Superior Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)
 - Fall: Lafayette Open Space Advisory Board (LOSAB)
13. 9:55 pm Discussion Item: Consider Formation of Tiger Team Between OSAB & RAB. Presented by Susan McEachern, OSAB Chair (5 Minutes)
14. 10:00 pm Discussion Items for Next Meeting
 - Trail Typology
 - Finalize OSAB Capital Improvement Budget Recommendations Memo to City Council
 - Recommend and Finalize Open Space Operations Budget & Staffing Recommendations to City Council
15. Adjourn

Open Space Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2026

City Council Chambers

749 Main Street, Louisville CO 80027

6:45 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
 - Present: Susan McEachern, Bud Talbot, Michiko Christiansen, Mark Poletti, Daniel Rupp, Denise Montagu, Andy Dorsey
 - Absent: Brad Pugh
 - Staff: Ember Brignull, Bryon Weber
3. Approval of Agenda
 - Motion: Mark
 - Second: Daniel
 - Outcome: Approved Unanimously
4. Approval of Minutes
 - Motion: Denise
 - Second: Mark
 - Outcome: Approved Unanimously
5. Staff Updates (5 Minutes)
 - New Ranger starting in April
 - Bryon gave an update on Hackberry Bridge, Northwest Corner of Warembourg. Project has been in discussion since 2017. Mile-High

Flood District has agreed to pay for construction if Louisville pays for design. New bridge alignment avoids existing low water crossing and is designed to meet ADA accessibility.

- Board members raised some concerns about safety at the intersection of the new bridge trail with the existing trails based on limited site lines, curves in the trails, and meeting of multiple trails. One suggestion was a roundabout for the intersection. Byron noted that the flood district won't pay for revisions to the intersection so there may be limits on what the city can do with this project but will follow up with engineers.

6. Board updates (5 Minutes)

- Mark met with Gordon from Superior and Casey from Lafayette to see what kinds of synergies we might have with neighboring open space boards. Among his findings: Superior City Council meets with the board each year. Lafayette has a wildlife plan that helps set their work plan for the year. Superior does not have a wildlife plan, nor does Louisville. Wayfinding is a common topic among all three boards as are e-bikes. Lafayette has e-bike rules; Superior does not. Both see opportunities for cooperation and conversation about wayfinding, e-bike rules and social trails. Mark and his counterparts agreed to meet once per quarter.
- Susan asked Mark if the other two cities have a vegetation plan; Mark said he will ask about that at the next meeting.
- Michiko mentioned the Front Range Passenger Rail project and asked Board Members to be aware of upcoming events and conversations about the project.

7. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda (5 Minutes, more time as needed)

- Tanya Somauroo, Louisville resident: Wants to make sure we are aware of the wildfire conflagration risk assessment that looks at risk to homes from fuels in the open space. She believes there are two key findings - (1) Open space department actions have reduced risk significantly and (2) there are significant open space fire mitigation actions that still should be undertaken. Her concern is her sense that the department believes they have done almost all the necessary mitigation, which she does not believe is accurate. Requests more transparency from open space about how the department is making decisions on what to do and not do.
- Don Patcher, Louisville resident: Concerned about climate change and loss of biodiversity. Note that E.O. Wilson argued that we need to set aside about half of the Earth's surface to preserve biodiversity. Is organizing a spring get

together for networking and would appreciate open space presence. Event is occurring on May 16 at Memory Square Park from 1-4pm.

- Tamar Kranz, Louisville resident: City Council will be considering an item that impacts public land dedications and wants to make us aware. Noted also that the city's relatively novel approach to purchasing the open space on Cherry Street- selling back the part of the parcel that contains the house but retaining the open land - might be a model for future purchases.

8. Action Item: Acquisition Ranking. Presented By Susan McEachern,
OSAB Chair (15 Minutes)

- Discussion about a small privately owned parcel on Dyer Road that is bordered on three sides by Damyanovich open space.
- Ember noted that the open space around this property is seen as an agricultural use (with annual grazing) and there is some potential to use the property for parking for the agricultural use including some potential 4H use. There is also some citizen interest in a trail to Davidson Mesa in the area and parking for the US 36 Bikeway. She also noted that the overall area (surrounding open space and this property) was bought by the city in roughly 2007 and the property in question was sold back with a house on it. That sale helped finance the open space purchase. The house was lost in the Marshall fire.
- Ember also noted that the property owners have interest in selling and City Council would like feedback on our interest in the property.
- Board members had mixed reactions; generally not strong support but some did see some benefits of acquiring the property if it were available at a good price, particularly because it is surrounded by open space. Suggestions that there might even be some value in acquiring the land to mitigate fuels on the property or to use as a staging ground for grazing.
- **Action: Because** Ember's information provided some additional context that caused board members to reconsider their thoughts, Susan asked board members to think about their rankings. Ember will send out a follow-up communication where board members can provide final rankings.

9. Action Item: Parks Recreation and Open Space Long Range Plan. Trail
Connection and Safety Opportunities Work Session. Presented by Bryon Weber,
PROST Project Manager (120 Minutes)

Part A: Preliminary Feedback on Draft Trails Goals and Strategies

- Bryon noted that the draft is a work in progress as the team compiles feedback from the March open house and other feedback gathered. He believes the high-level goals are relatively solid at this point, but that other parts of the plan are in active revision.

- Bryon's other key points:
 - At the open house, among the trail plan goals, the public most highly prioritized connectivity, then safety, then resource protection. Trail connectivity was one of the top five priorities across all departments.
 - Goals and strategies are not meant to be listed in priority - the numbers are just to help reference the goals.
 - There is a special meeting with City Council on April 14 to provide an update on PROS and Trails plans.

Board feedback included several comments about making sure the trail plan strategies reflect natural resource and wildlife protection more explicitly, including protecting riparian areas and not splitting open space parcels. There was also some concern that even though the goals and strategies are not meant to be in priority order they will be read that way, so natural resource protection should be listed earlier in both goals and strategies within goals.

Part B: Map Exercise

This discussion also included three members of the trails task force. They also provided input on the priorities but that input is being compiled separately from OSAB.

Board agreed to base their recommendations on the votes submitted prior to the meeting and only discuss ties.

Regional Connections: Top Choice was #1 - extending the trail underneath 36 across Marshall Road and through the county open space to Superior. Second was #4 (Off-street path along 42 north of Empire).

Underpass/Overpass: Top was #9 (South Boulder Rd at Main Street). Second was #3 (Dillon Rd at Powerline Trail). Agreed on #7 (South Boulder Rd. At Via Appia) as the final selection.

Neighborhood Connections: The two highest were #1 (Centennial Pkwy to Davidson Mesa) and #8 (a connection near Louisville Middle School). There were 7 tied for third place. Of the 7, the board prioritized #6 (on the south side of North open space to replace existing social trails), #17 (along 88th Street to provide safer access for Monarch students), and #15 (a short connection between the Coal Creek Trail and Dillon Road that would mesh with a prioritized underpass).

Public Comment:

- Daniel from the Trails Task Force: Noted that the recommendations from the task force did not always align with the OSAB recommendations. He was particularly interested in an underpass on South Boulder Road and Via Appia because of children accessing Cottonwood Park. (His comment led the board to revise its underpass rankings and include that underpass as one of the top three.)
- Matt Jones: OK with the ranking choices OSAB has just made. Feels that it would be better to list out the constraints first (cost, habitat, topography) before we start ranking. Regarding goals and strategies, argued that we should prioritize natural resource protection more clearly in the goals, and that strategies should be clear that we would close undesignated social trails in sensitive areas.
- Tamar Kranz: Supports underpass at South Boulder and Main. Regarding goals and strategies, feels it is important to differentiate between trails through open space and other trails. Concerned that since we did not differentiate between these two types of trails the data from the open house was not necessarily valid. Noted that most responses indicated that people most often used the trails to engage with nature. She also noted that there were written comments that provide important additional information beyond the survey data and that there should be a summary of those comments in the report. Overall, she believes the data suggests that at least for trails in open space, preserve and protect should be the top priority.
- Cathern Smith: Agrees with Matt and Tamar. Concerned that Council will see a version of the plan that OSAB has not had a chance to review and believes Council should slow its review to allow OSAB input.

10. Discussion Items for Next Meeting:

PROS Review

- Updated Trails Plan Review in Advance of May City Council Meeting
- Assign Joint Board Meeting Dates with Superior and Lafayette
- Approval of Andy as 2026 Secretary

11. Adjourned at 9:35

MEMORANDUM

To: Open Space Advisory Board
From: Open Space
Date: April 8, 2026
Re: Information Item 5: Staff Updates

General:

1. Hiring:
 - Ranger Naturalist- Candidate Andrew Bailey has been selected and approved the offer with a start date of April 6. Andrew has wide set of experiences, including time with the US Air Force as a weather forecaster and ranger work with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Highlands Ranch, and the City of Boulder and we are excited to add him to our team!
 - Open Space Manager- The Application process closes on April 3rd. Selection of candidates for interviews to follow.
 - Open Space Part Time Natural Resource Position- This position will be a year round 29 hour a week position replacing two Natural Resource seasonal positions. This position will be advertised on the week of March 30th.
 - Open Space Seasonal- One Trails & Maintenance seasonal position has been filled with a start date of April 20th interviews. The second seasonal position is still being filled.
2. Staff will be attending training for our new Agents of Discovery application. Exciting new programming will be coming soon for the community to enjoy.

Natural Resources:

1. Staff are working with IT and an Open Space volunteer to develop an application for collecting data for the Raptor Monitoring volunteering program. This app will simplify the process for volunteers by replacing paper forms with a more user-friendly digital option, eliminating the need to physically submit, scan, and email documents.
2. Harper Lake was stocked with 1,500 rainbow trout.

Maintenance & Trails:

1. Staff are continuing to monitor trail counters. Counts for February are: Dutch Creek— 3938 cyclists, 7,936 pedestrians; Harper Lake-- 2,022 cyclists, 8,394 pedestrians; Hecla Lake—1,954 cyclists, 10,021 pedestrians

2. Staff are in the process of completing the trail and trail corridor repairs to the damaged area of Coal Creek Trail from a faulty water line.
3. Wayfinding Signs for the Lake-to-Lake trail are nearing installation completion at all project sites.



Resource Protection:

1. The combination of recent fish stocking and warm weather has dramatically increased fishing use at Harper Lake. Fishing license checks are up about 55% compared to this time last year.
2. Staff have observed an increase in transient activity in and around Louisville. Rangers work closely with the Police Department and the Boulder County Sheriff's Office to coordinate enforcement of camping ordinances.

Education and Volunteers:

1. Staff are working with the Keep It Clean Partnership to provide a trash pickup on Davidson Mesa Open Space for Earth Day.
2. Five community members have signed up to provide a volunteer trash pick-up on select properties for Earth Day. If you are interested in participating, please contact Catherine Manian at CManian@louisvilleco.gov by April 16.

3. Participation in the raptor monitoring program has doubled from 6 volunteers in 2025 to 12 this year. They are currently monitoring 11 active great horned owl or red-tailed hawk nests so far.
4. Volunteers have signed up or renewed to Adopt nine Open Space properties.
5. Marketing is working on a rack card for education and volunteer programming for distribution at events.

Education Events Upcoming:

1. Sunday, April 12, 2026, from 8:30 to 10:30 AM, Migratory Duck Watching at Hecla Lake Open Space.
2. Sunday, April 19, 2026, from 8:00 to 10:00 PM, Open Space Stargazers: Discover the Night Sky at Aquarius Open Space.
3. Sunday, May 3, 2026, from 7:30 to 9:30 AM, Dutch Creek on Canvas at Dutch Creek Open Space.
4. Canceled: Pocket Prairie Restoration at Dutch Creek due to limited staffing.
5. Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Adaptive Bike Ride on Davidson Mesa.

Education Events Past:

1. Friday, March 13, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM, Friday Afternoon Club: How Smart is a Coyote? At the Louisville Library. Thirty-four participants.

April 1, 2026

To: Open Space Advisory Board
From: Bryon Weber, PROS Project Manager

Re: OSAB Review - PROS Guidebook Planning Framework

Board review is requested for the updated PROS Guidebook planning framework. Enclosed are PDF slides containing the two sections most relevant to OSAB: (1) the Open Space Division and (2) the Trail System Plan.

Given the volume of material, individual review and development of comments in advance of the April 8 meeting is strongly encouraged. This will allow meeting time to focus on open discussion and the collection of Board feedback.

For reference, the framework is structured in four levels: Guiding Principles, Goals, Strategies, and Action Items. Please refer to slides 9–10 for definitions of each level and additional guidance on the requested focus of your review, particularly the strategies and action items.



JOIN ^{the} **JOURNEY!**
GUIDING THE FUTURE
 of Louisville Parks, Open Spaces, Trails,
 Recreation & Senior Center, and Golf Course

PROS GUIDEBOOK

OSAB Meeting #4

April 8, 2026

AGENDA



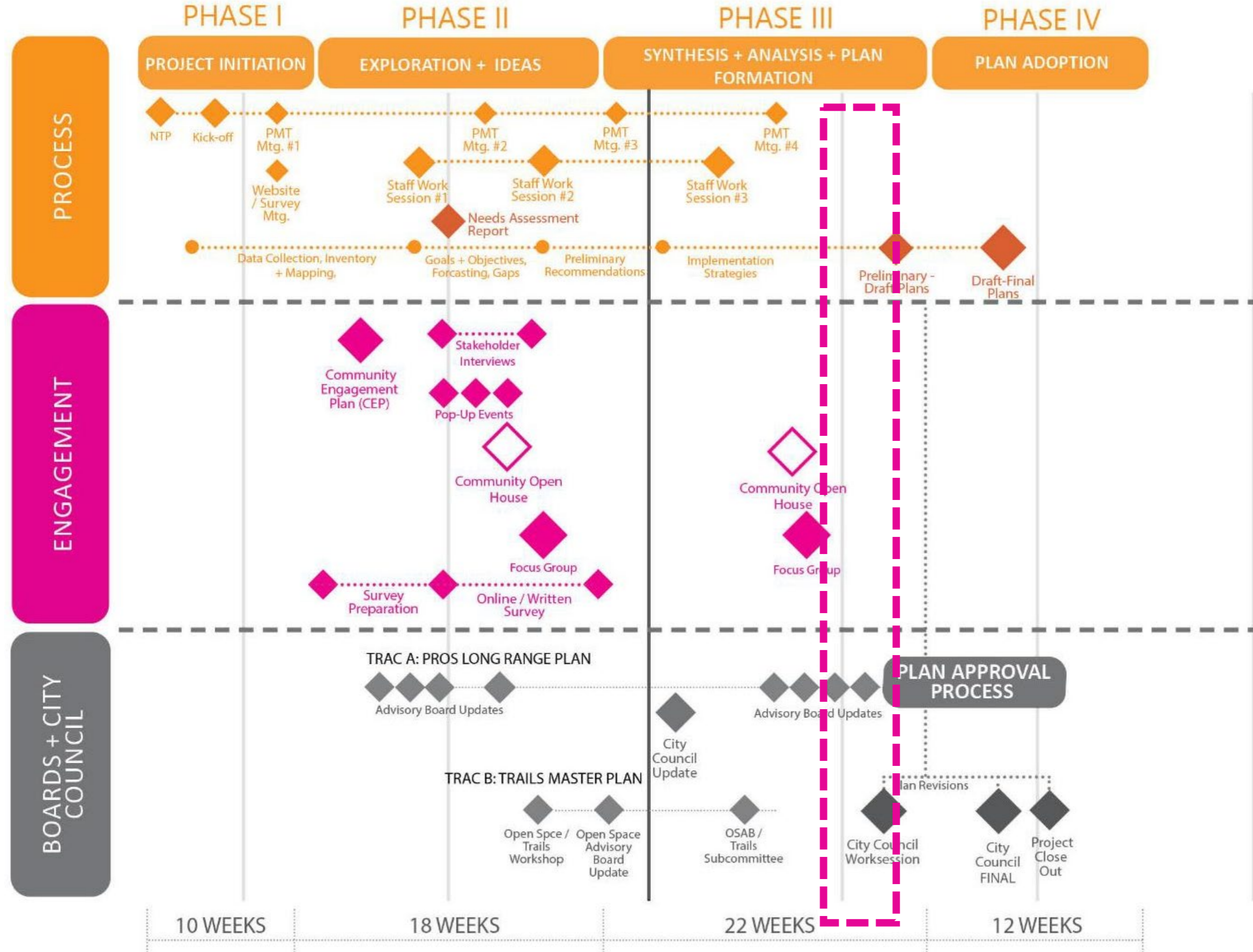
- **Project Schedule Update**
- **Community Engagement Findings**
- **Recommendations**
 - Guiding Principles
 - Draft Open Space Goals, Strategies, and Action Items
- **Next Steps**



May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May June July Aug Sept



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PROJECT SCHEDULE UPDATE



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

Highlights



31,500 webpage views



766 statistically valid survey responses
(+/- 3.5% Margin of Error)



1,407 open-link survey responses



2 Community Open House Events

182 Open House #1 attendees (10/29/25)
80 Open House #2 attendees (3/12/26)



7 Pop-Up Events



18 stakeholders interviewed
(multiple topics)



25 Open Space and Trails Workshop
participants
(11/14/25)



10 Advisory Board Meetings



2 City Council Updates

Open Space

What we heard...



CHALLENGES

- ✘ Diverse perspectives on land management
- ✘ Additional mapping and inventories needed
- ✘ Limited policies for undesignated (social) trails
- ✘ Opportunities to increase education and awareness
- ✘ Need for permanent, dedicated funding sources

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

- Continue **applying best land management practices** to address wildfire risk through vegetation & ecological management, access planning, property restoration, and fuels reduction consistent with adopted wildfire mitigation guidance.
- **Routinely monitor ecosystem health** to guide passive recreational use while protecting environmental resources.
- Strategically acquire and protect contiguous lands to strengthen habitat connectivity and conservation corridors.
- **Complete foundational inventories** to inform decisions on topics such as vegetation, restoration, and wildlife management.
- Support **implementation of the Trail System Plan** through thoughtful enhancements to trails on open space properties, where allowed and appropriate.
- **Expand community involvement** through volunteer programs, including open space/trail ambassadors, trail maintenance and vegetation management, as aligned with available resources.
- **Advocate for reliable, long-term funding sources** to sustain open space stewardship, land management, and capital needs.

Trail System

What we heard...



CHALLENGES

- ✘ Missing key connections to regional trail network
- ✘ Safety concerns – Crossing, Underpass flooding, lighting, and visibility
- ✘ E-bike safety, etiquette, and enforcement.
- ✘ Natural resource impacts from undesignated (social) trails
- ✘ Lack of consistent trail standards.

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

- Identify and **prioritize missing trail connections** that improve access between neighborhoods, PROS facilities, schools, commercial areas, and regional trail corridors.
- Continue to pursue a connected trail network that improves local connectivity within Louisville and **supports regional connections** to Superior, Lafayette, Boulder, Erie, and other nearby communities through coordinated planning and partnerships.
- Evaluate and improve trail visibility at strategic locations by addressing sightlines, lighting needs, vegetation, and other physical conditions that affect user **safety, comfort, and awareness.**
- Continue and expand community education and outreach efforts related to trail safety, etiquette, and policies, **including e-bike use and motorized-vehicle regulations**, in coordination with the Police Department, City Manager's office, and neighboring jurisdictions where appropriate.
- **Update previous informal inventories** and mapping of undesignated trails to document current conditions, locations, and use patterns.
- Coordinate evaluations of undesignated trails with **ecological data, land classifications, and habitat protection strategies** outlined in Goal T4.2 to ensure consistent decision-making on Open Space properties.
- **Develop formalized guidelines** that define trail types, accessibility, maintenance needs, and supporting features.
- **Apply appropriate regional and national standards** (such as USFS, MUTCD, AASHTO, etc.) for applicable guidance towards the development of shared-use paths, multimodal facilities and/or off-road trails.

RECOMMENDATIONS



Plan Framework



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Department-wide core values that shape both the PROS Long-Range Plan and Trail System Plan.

GOALS

Division-specific, aspirational outcomes that advance the Guiding Principles.

STRATEGIES

Key approaches for achieving each goal.

ACTION ITEMS

Measurable steps for implementing each strategy.

OSAB Review



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

GOALS

The Guiding Principles and Goals have been **established and well-received** through on-going engagement

STRATEGIES

ACTION ITEMS

OSAB feedback is now requested on the latest iterations of **strategies and action items.**

As you review, please focus feedback on:

- Overall direction
- Alignment with policy
- Public-facing clarity

In particular, consider:

- How well are the **values and priorities of OSAB** (and the Louisville community) reflected?
- Are there **gaps or missing components** that would make the approach more complete?
- Do any strategies or action items feel **unclear or confusing**?
- Does the framework seem **feasible and practical** to implement?
- Will implementation have a **meaningful impact**?
- Is there anything else that could improve **clarity, understanding, or effectiveness**?

Guiding Principles



N

Nurture existing assets

Maintain and invest in existing assets to ensure their continued success and quality, while thoughtfully planning new opportunities that reflect evolving community interests, needs, and priorities.

O

Optimize connections between people and places

Strengthen the connections that link people, places, and experiences to further provide safe, easy, and equitable access to amenities, programs, and services.

R

Reinforce commitment to health & wellness

Foster inclusive programs, spaces, and engagement opportunities that support a sense of belonging and promote physical, mental, and social well-being for people of all ages, interests, and abilities.

T

Tailor systems for sustainability and resilience

Shape plans and practices to steward the community's ecological, financial, and social interests and strengthen the long-term resilience of both natural and built environments.

H

Honor community resources

Provide high-quality services and community benefits through fiscal responsibility, operational efficiency, proactive leadership, and informed decision-making.

Department-wide core values

Provide direction to both the **PROS Long-Range Plan** and **Trails System Plan**



Draft Open Space Goals



1

Prioritize open space **natural resource management** to support stewardship, resource protection, and sustainable practices.

2

Advance and maintain **foundational inventories, plans, and procedures** to support informed land management decisions.

3

Promote environmental stewardship through **outreach and education.**

4

Enhance the open space system to promote ecological benefits and **equitable access.**

5

Support **funding and partnerships** to sustain division services

Draft Open Space Strategies and Action Items



1

Prioritize open space **natural resource management** to support stewardship, resource protection, and sustainable practices.

Strategy 1.1: Continue to align open space management with adopted governing policies and allowable uses

Action Item 1.1.1: Further integrate policy alignment checks into project planning, capital projects, and operational decision-making

Action Item 1.1.2: Maintain clear reference tools and staff training to support consistent application of governing policies

Strategy 1.2: Strengthen and clarify policies to support effective natural resource management and protection

Action Item 1.2.1: Review existing policies to identify gaps, overlaps, and ambiguities

Action Item 1.2.2: Update and clarify guidance for vegetation management, riparian areas, buffer zones, and watershed health

Action Item 1.2.3: Develop and formally adopt policies addressing erosion prevention and undesignated (social) trails

Action Item 1.2.4: Create implementation guidance to ensure consistent application across staff and properties

Strategy 1.3: Apply a land classification system to guide site-specific management and decision-making

Action Item 1.3.1: Complete mapping and classification for all open space properties

Action Item 1.3.2: Align management guidance tied to each classification type

Action Item 1.3.3: Formally adopt the land classification system as a standard management framework

Action Item 1.3.4: Integrate classification into planning, capital projects, and maintenance practices

Draft Open Space Strategies and Action Items



2

Advance and maintain **foundational inventories, plans, and procedures** to support informed land management decisions.

Strategy 2.1: Develop and maintain comprehensive inventories and monitoring systems to inform land management decisions

Action Item 2.1.1: Complete and maintain foundational inventories (e.g., vegetation, wildlife, restoration areas)

Action Item 2.1.2: Establish and implement consistent ecosystem health monitoring protocols

Action Item 2.1.3: Integrate inventory and monitoring data into decision-making, project planning, and prioritization

Action Item 2.1.4: Regularly update datasets to reflect changing conditions and management outcomes

Strategy 2.2: Develop, update, and prioritize planning documents to guide resource management and address emerging needs

Action Item 2.2.1: Prioritize and develop management documents aligned with adopted policies and current best practices (e.g., restoration, riparian management)

Action Item 2.2.2: Review and update plans on a 5–10 year cycle to reflect evolving conditions

Action Item 2.2.2: Ensure planning documents provide clear, actionable guidance for staff implementation

Strategy 2.3: Apply best management practices and planning frameworks to guide implementation and reduce resource impacts

Action Item 2.3.1: Continue applying best management practices for vegetation management, wildfire mitigation, and ecological restoration

Action Item 2.3.2: Incorporate resource protection measures into project design and implementation to minimize impacts

Action Item 2.3.3: Align all projects and operational activities with adopted plans, policies, and environmental considerations to ensure consistent implementation

Draft Open Space Strategies and Action Items



3

Promote environmental stewardship through **outreach and education.**

Strategy 3.1: Deliver engaging education programs and interpretive materials to promote stewardship and responsible recreation

Action Item 3.1.1: Continue supporting and enhancing education programs such as ranger outreach and natural resource walks, with year-round opportunities for all demographics

Action Item 3.1.2: Implement interpretive and educational signage throughout relevant properties to provide information on natural resources and stewardship practices

Action Item 3.1.3: Evaluate and update educational content to reflect evolving conservation priorities and audience needs

Strategy 3.2: Expand community involvement through volunteer programs

Action Item 3.2.1: Recruit and train volunteers for stewardship roles, including trail maintenance, vegetation management, and ambassador programs

Action Item 3.2.2: Recognize and retain volunteers through engagement events, skill-building opportunities, and acknowledgement programs

Action Item 3.2.3: Align volunteer activities with management priorities and available resources to maximize impact

Strategy 3.3: Leverage partnerships to extend the reach and impact of open space programs

Action Item 3.3.1: Identify and engage local organizations, schools, and community groups to support open space initiatives

Action Item 3.3.2: Develop collaborative programs or events that expand educational and stewardship opportunities

Action Item 3.3.3: Evaluate partnership outcomes and refine approaches to increase participation and program effectiveness

Draft Open Space Strategies and Action Items



4

Enhance the open space system to promote ecological benefits and **equitable access**.

Strategy 4.1: Acquire and protect lands to strengthen habitat connectivity and conservation corridors

Action Item 4.1.1: Continue identifying and prioritizing parcels for potential acquisition and open space dedication

Action Item 4.1.2: Strategically acquire and protect contiguous lands to strengthen habitat connectivity and conservation corridors

Action Item 4.1.3: Integrate ecological considerations and long-term stewardship requirements into all acquisition decisions

Strategy 4.2: Manage trails to provide inclusive passive recreation while protecting ecological resources

Action Item 4.2.1: Implement priorities of the Trail System Plan, ensuring all changes are carefully vetted to protect natural resources

Action Item 4.2.2: Pursue trail enhancements that minimize ecological impacts while enhancing user experience

Action Item 4.2.3: Monitor trail use and conditions to inform ongoing maintenance and/or restoration needs

Strategy 4.3: Sustain and enhance visitor amenities to support safe, responsible, and equitable use

Action Item 4.3.1: Maintain and improve amenities such as wayfinding, seating, trash receptacles, restrooms, and trailheads

Action Item 4.3.2: Prioritize upgrades that improve accessibility, safety and user experience across demographics

Action Item 4.3.3: Coordinate amenities with ecological and trail management objectives to minimize environmental impacts

Draft Open Space Strategies and Action Items



5

Support **funding and partnerships** to sustain division services

Strategy 5.1: Foster collaboration within PROS and across City departments

Action Item 5.1.1: Continue coordination with other PROS divisions to maximize alignment and achieve efficiencies for shared initiatives

Action Item 5.1.2: Maintain and enhance cross-department collaboration with key City partners, including Community Development, Public Works, Sustainability

Action Item 5.1.3: Leverage department support (communications, project management, and administrative expertise) to support service and project implementation

Strategy 5.2: Expand external partnerships to support programs and services

Action Item 5.2.1: Identify partnership opportunities that support facility, programming, or operational enhancements

Action Item 5.2.2: Continue building relationships with external partners, including industry associations, Louisville Fire Protection District, event organizers, and neighborhood or community groups

Action Item 5.2.3: Coordinate with community and development stakeholders to identify opportunities that support open space infrastructure and service needs

Action Item 5.2.4: Participate in industry and community networks to support knowledge sharing and collaboration

Strategy 5.3: Align staffing and funding resources to sustain service delivery

Action Item 5.3.1: Evaluate staffing capacity and adjust assignments to meet operational and capital project demands

Action Item 5.3.2: Incorporate division priorities into annual budgeting and capital planning processes

Action Item 5.3.3: Pursue external funding opportunities such as grants, partnerships, and development contributions

Action Item 5.3.4: Track resource needs and constraints to inform future planning and funding requests

Draft Trail System Goals



1

Improve trail connectivity to better link neighborhoods, local destinations, and the regional trail system.

2

Establish clear and **consistent written standards** for trail maintenance, design, and construction.

3

Enhance safety for all users across the trail system.

4

Protect natural resources by thoughtful, data-informed trail planning and management.

5

Adopt a decision-making framework for **undesignated trails** (i.e. social trails).

6

Support **funding and partnerships** to sustain the trail system.

Draft Trail System Strategies and Action Items



1

Improve trail connectivity to better link neighborhoods, local destinations, and the regional trail system.

Strategy 1.1: Prioritize maintenance, rehabilitation, and safety upgrades of existing trails

Action Item 1.1.1: Continue routine maintenance to provide reliable and functional trails

Action Item 1.1.2: Implement safety upgrades where needed, with consideration to equity and access priorities

Action Item 1.1.3: Prioritize new trail connections that close identified gaps and enhance inclusive, safe use.

Strategy 1.2: Expand and connect the trail network to improve local and regional connectivity

Action Item 1.2.1: Prioritize missing connections that link neighborhoods, PROS facilities, schools, commercial areas, and regional corridors

Action Item 1.2.2: Coordinate implementation of trail and multimodal mobility improvements from the Transportation Master Plan in partnership with relevant City departments

Action Item 1.2.3: Pursue partnerships and collaborative planning to strengthen regional connections with nearby communities (e.g., Superior, Lafayette, Boulder, Erie)

Strategy 1.3: Collect and utilize trail data to inform planning and investment decisions

Action Item 1.3.1: Develop and maintain accurate mapping and inventory of existing and planned trail corridors, access points, and easement needs

Action Item 1.3.2: Monitor trail use through counters and other technology to inform planning and prioritization

Action Item 1.3.3: Use collected data to guide capital planning, development review, and system improvement decisions

Strategy 1.4: Promote trail use to support recreation, health, and alternative transportation

Action Item 1.4.1: Encourage trail use consistent with system capacity and ecological considerations

Action Item 1.4.2: Develop outreach and education programs to highlight recreational, wellness, and transportation benefits

Action Item 1.4.3: Celebrate trail enhancements that improve user experiences

Draft Trail System Strategies and Action Items



2

Establish clear and **consistent written standards** for trail maintenance, design, and construction.

Strategy 2.1: Develop formalized guidelines for trail types, accessibility, maintenance, and supporting features

Action Item 2.1.1: Define trail types, access levels, maintenance needs, and supporting infrastructure (trailheads, signage, parking, wayfinding)

Action Item 2.1.2: Provide clear guidance for selecting design and management approaches appropriate to each trail context

Action Item 2.1.3: Ensure guidelines integrate ecological protection, passive recreation, and equitable access considerations

Strategy 2.2: Apply adopted and recognized standards consistently across the trail system

Action Item 2.2.1: Refine and adopt trail design and maintenance standards to ensure predictable and equitable trail management

Action Item 2.2.2: Incorporate regional and national standards (e.g., USFS, MUTCD, AASHTO) where applicable

Action Item 2.2.3: Monitor compliance and provide staff guidance to maintain consistent application across projects

Strategy 2.3: Use sustainable and context-sensitive trail design techniques

Action Item 2.3.1: Apply design practices such as contour alignment, durable surfaces, and context-appropriate materials

Action Item 2.3.2: Minimize environmental impacts while improving trail durability and long-term maintainability

Action Item 2.3.3: Evaluate and update sustainable design approaches to reflect evolving best practices

Draft Trail System Strategies and Action Items



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3

Enhance safety for all users across the trail system.

Strategy 3.1: Monitor trail conditions and use data to inform improvements.

Action Item 3.1.1: Continue regular inspections using staff, contractors, and volunteers to identify maintenance and operational needs

Action Item 3.1.2: Track trail-related data (e.g., incidents, flooding, frequent repairs) to prioritize improvements

Action Item 3.1.3: Implement targeted operational or capital improvements based on inspection and data findings

Strategy 3.2: Reduce user conflicts and promote responsible trail use

Action Item 3.2.1: Apply signage, trail markings, and physical separation where appropriate to minimize conflicts between user groups

Action Item 3.2.2: Expand community outreach and education on trail etiquette and regulations (including e-bike and motorized vehicle use)

Action Item 3.2.3: Coordinate with relevant departments and neighboring jurisdictions to ensure consistent messaging

Strategy 3.3: Enhance crossings and navigation to support user confidence

Action Item 3.3.1: Support implementation of pedestrian and bicycle crossing treatments at high-risk locations

Action Item 3.3.2: Refine wayfinding and mapping tools to help users navigate trails effectively

Action Item 3.3.3: Minimize unintended impacts on the environment through thoughtful placement of improvements

Strategy 3.4: Optimize physical conditions to improve visibility and the user experience

Action Item 3.4.1: Maintain sightlines, lighting, and other physical conditions that facilitate user comfort and awareness

Action Item 3.4.2: Evaluate strategic locations for improvements to maximize visibility and reduce conflicts

Action Item 3.4.3: Ensure physical changes align with ecological protection and passive recreation objectives, where applicable

4

Protect natural resources by thoughtful, data-informed trail planning and management.

Strategy 4.1: Align trail planning, design, construction, and maintenance with applicable policies

Action Item 4.1.1: Follow the relevant goals, regulations and management guidance for each property type when making trail-related decisions

Action Item 4.1.2: Coordinate with appropriate divisions (Open Space, Parks, Public Works) to integrate land management objectives

Action Item 4.1.3: Document alignment decisions to support consistent application and transparency

Strategy 4.2: Use data and science to minimize ecological impacts

Action Item 4.2.1: Apply property-specific classifications, management plans, condition surveys, and ecological data to plan trail routes

Action Item 4.2.2: Establish appropriate buffers or setbacks to inform trail planning and management decisions

Action Item 4.2.3: Incorporate best available information to reduce impacts on sensitive resources

Strategy 4.3: Manage trail use to protect sensitive resources

Action Item 4.3.1: Implement property-appropriate off-trail restrictions on sensitive lands (e.g. open space)

Action Item 4.3.2: Apply seasonal closures during breeding or migration periods as required by law or recommended based on ecological monitoring

Action Item 4.3.3: Monitor trail use and evaluate interventions using trail and ecological data to ensure effective resource protection

Draft Trail System Strategies and Action Items



5

Adopt a decision-making framework for **undesigned trails** (i.e. social trails).

Strategy 5.1: Document and monitor undesigned trails

Action Item 5.1.1: Update inventories and maps to reflect current conditions, locations, and use patterns

Action Item 5.1.2: Collect trail use data through observations, counters, or staff/volunteer reporting

Action Item 5.1.3: Maintain records to support informed, consistent decision-making

Strategy 5.2: Develop and adopt a structured framework for case-by-case evaluations

Action Item 5.2.1: Create a decision-making framework to guide restoration, monitoring, or formalization of trails

Action Item 5.2.2: Coordinate evaluations with ecological data, habitat protection priorities, and land classifications when applicable

Action Item 5.2.3: Apply the framework consistently across property types to ensure balanced outcomes

Strategy 5.3: Communicate trail decisions and rationale to the public

Action Item 5.3.1: Share decisions via signage, maps, and outreach

Action Item 5.3.2: Highlight the ecological, safety, and stewardship reasons behind trail management actions

Action Item 5.3.3: Engage the community to promote responsible trail use



6

Support **funding and partnerships** to sustain the trail system.

Strategy 6.1: Foster collaboration within PROS and across City departments

Action Item 6.1.1: Continue coordination with other PROS divisions to maximize alignment and achieve efficiencies for shared initiatives

Action Item 6.1.2: Maintain and enhance cross-department collaboration with key City partners, including Community Development, Public Works, Sustainability

Action Item 6.1.3: Clarify the roles and responsibilities of the PROS and Public Works Departments for managing trails and segments which occupy public rights-of-way.

Action Item 6.1.4: Leverage department support (communications, project management, and administrative expertise) to support service and project implementation

Strategy 6.2: Expand external partnerships to support programs and services

Action Item 6.2.1: Identify partnership opportunities that support facility, programming, or operational enhancements

Action Item 6.2.2: Continue building relationships with external partners, including adjacent municipalities, surrounding counties, trail advocacy organizations, and potential funding partners.

Action Item 6.2.3: Coordinate with community and development stakeholders to identify opportunities that support trail infrastructure and service needs

Action Item 6.2.4: Participate in industry and community networks to support knowledge sharing and collaboration

Strategy 6.3: Align staffing and funding resources to sustain service delivery

Action Item 6.3.1: Evaluate staffing capacity and adjust assignments to meet operational and capital project demands, including options for additional trail-focused staffing

Action Item 6.3.2: Incorporate division priorities into annual budgeting and capital planning processes

Action Item 6.3.3: Pursue external funding opportunities such as grants, partnerships, and development contributions

Action Item 6.3.4: Track resource needs and constraints to inform future planning and funding requests

Next Steps

- City Council Workshop April 14
- Draft Guidebook Development & Full Draft Plans (PROS Long Range Plan and Trails System Plan) April - June
- City Council Presentation for Adoption June 30



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Thank you!



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Discussion Item 10-Board Member Damyanovich Open Space Ranking Results

Board Member	Natural Resource Value (1-10)	User Experience Value (1-10)	Strategic Value (1-10)	Totals	Notes/Comments/Observations
Susan McEachern	3	3	5	11	
Mark Poletti	2	2	4	8	Surrounded by Damyanovich Open Space
Daniel Rupp	7-While the parcel is small (1.22 acres), it features native grass and mature trees. It features a ditch (riparian zone) on the back side. Its highest value here is Habitat Connectivity & allow for an undisturbed living space for plants and animals; as an inholding property surrounded by the Damyanovich Open Space, it is a core piece of the local ecosystem.	5-The property offers limited recreation value, but offers views of the Back Range and Foothills, but close to Hwy 36. It has road access from Dyer. It lost it's significant Historical/Cultural Value due to the loss of the Chaussard Barn, which was a Boulder County Historic Landmark.	8-It acts as a critical Buffer and is an "island" of private land within public holdings. Acquisition eliminates the Threat of Development that would otherwise fragment the contiguous open space and "completes" this open space block. The site of the former house could also serve for various purposes the Open Space Departement might see an opportunity for use.	20/30	Highly Recommended due to strategic necessity as an inholding.
Michiko Christiansen	Medium	Low	High	N/A	Strategic value is high due to possible for agriculture use and future farming with 4H and make it complete as all in open space once as a whole, Vistor value is low. Natural: medium, there is always wildlife there. Can acquire this lot to complete it as a whole.... As it fits in the budget. Can put this in the catagory: other potential acquisitions..
Bud Talbot	3	4	8	15	Please see attached report.
Andrew Dorsey	2	4	4	10	While there is some value to this parcel as a parking lot, I think open space would be better served by using some of the existing property for parking and preserving our money for other properties. The proximity to US 36 into the industrial Park make this property overall not very attractive to me.
Brad Pugh	6	10	8	24	Surrounded by Damyanovich Open Space
Denise Montagu	1	1	3	5	N/A
Total for 7/8 Members-	24	29	60	93	N/A
Average Score for 7/8 Members-	3.42857	4.14285	8.05714	13.2857	N/A

Memorandum

To: Open Space Advisory Board
From: Ember Brignull, Open Space Superintendent
Date: April 8, 2026
**Re: Discussion Item 11: OSAB Recommendations
for Capital Improvement Projects 2027-2032**

Purpose:

This item will be discussed at both the April and May OSAB meetings.

At the April meeting, the goal is for OSAB to:

1. Review staff Capital Improvement Project (CIP) recommendations, and
2. Add any new OSAB CIP recommendations for 2027–2032, if desired.

The attached 2027-2032 CIP spreadsheet includes three components:

- Component one: Existing 2026 CIP projects (for reference only; no action needed).
- Component two: Proposed staff CIP projects for 2027–2032.
- Component three: Space for OSAB to add project ideas for 2027–2032 during the April meeting.

Before the May meeting, OSAB will have homework to rank all CIP projects (both staff and OSAB recommendations) in priority order. These rankings will be recorded in a spreadsheet and included in the May meeting for further OSAB review and finalization. The finalized results will be presented in a memo from OSAB to City Council. An example of OSAB’s 2024 Recommendations memo is attached for reference.

Background:

Capital Projects are defined as follows:

A Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a planning process that identifies the capital investments a local government intends to make over a period of time. Capital, for a local government, constitutes the facilities and materials needed to perform the jurisdiction’s functions and to produce and deliver the services expected of it. Generally speaking, capital improvements are assets that are unique, fixed in place (relatively), permanent or which have long useful lives, and are (relatively) expensive. The City’s capitalization threshold is \$10,000.

The City of Louisville's CIP includes expenditures for buildings, land, parks, water and sewer plants, sidewalks, streets and curbs, storm drains, major equipment and other commodities which are of significant value and have a useful life of several years.

The planning period for the City's CIP is six years. The expenditures proposed for the first year of the program are incorporated into the Annual Budget.

Next Steps:

Staff will then provide both the Division recommendations and OSAB recommendations to the Director of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROST).

The PROST Director will consider both staff and OSAB recommendations when developing the overall Department budget.

OSAB recommendations will then be presented to the City Manager and Finance Director during the Department budget review. City Council typically adopts the budget in early November.

The budget process is open and includes multiple public meetings and hearings. Advisory boards and community members are encouraged to participate.

Important budget process dates relevant to OSAB:

- Department (staff) request CIP recommendation from the board: April 8, 2026
- Department (staff) CIP recommendations due to Finance: May 1, 2026
- Board CIP recommendations due to Finance: May 15, 2026
- Department Operational Budget due to Finance: June 12, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: Ryder Baily, Finance Director
Samma Fox, Deputy City Manager

From: Open Space Advisory Board

Date: July, 9 2024

Re: Capital Improvement Projects 2025-2030

OSAB supports the staff recommendations of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department for Capital Improvement Projects spanning 2025-2030. More urgent and prioritized needs are listed first.

1. **Implementation of Wayfinding** across the entire open-space system. This has been OSAB's highest priority for the last ten years, and we advocate strongly for it to be completed in 2025 rather than being spread out over several years.
2. **Open Space Planning Documents.** Hire a consultant in 2025 to develop a cohesive management plan that integrates all elements of our open space resources: wildlife, native plants, riparian corridors, prairie restoration, and water management.
3. **Warembourg Property Plan.** Hire a consultant in 2025 to assess strategies for maintaining water in the fishing pond and for enhancing recreation and natural resource opportunities. Implementation and construction to follow in 2026.
4. **North Open Space Property Plan.** Hire a consultant in 2025 to develop an ecologically sound restoration and fire mitigation plan. Implementation to follow in 2026, including Siberian Elm removal.
5. **Open Space Equipment.** Purchase new equipment and replace aging equipment as needed.
6. **Trail Maintenance and Design.** Reseed trail edges. Soft and hard surface maintenance and improvement as needed.
7. **Amenity Maintenance.** Maintain or replace as needed, including adding a vault restroom at Aquarius, replacing retaining wall at North, replacing benches.
8. **New Trail Design and Construction.** As needed to support city-wide transportation network.
9. **New Open Space Signs.** Design and install new interpretative signs and replace property signs in 2025.

10. Parking Lot Maintenance. Grading, striping, and ADA signage as needed.

11. Education Center. Develop a tough shed/mobile learning center comparable to Lafayette's at Waneka Lake.

12. Mayhoffer Management Plan. Work with Lafayette and Boulder County to implement practices approved in the management plan.

Attachment: OSAB CIP Ranking Spreadsheet

OSAB CIP Recommendations Voting Master Sheet

High priority: 3.0-2.5; Medium priority: 2.4-2.0; Low priority: 1.9-1.4

2025-2030 Capital Improvement Project Recommendations (CIP)- PLANNING WORKSHEET		
OSAB Score	2025-2030 Potential CIP Projects	Brief Description
H	2.9 Wayfinding Implementation	Installation of Wayfinding Sign Plan. OSAB recommends completing all remaining trails in 2025.
H	2.6 Warembourg Property Plan & Implementation	Property plan to maintain water in fishing pond and assess recreation & natural resource opportunities with construction implementation the following year
H	2.6 Equipment Purchase	Pending City Council Approval on May 7th- Equipment to rip and de compact soil and to seed native grasses
H	2.5 Open Space Equipment	Skid Steer, trail roller, trailer, tommy gate & replacement of aging equipment.
H	2.5 Open Space Planning Documents	Open Space Management Plans to provide management vision and direction by property topics: Wildlife, Riparian, updates to Prairie Restoration & IWMP
M	2.25 Soft Surface Trail Maintenance & Design	Annual maintenance to existing crusher fines trails (replacing/repairing surfaces, design drainage improvements, reseeding trail edge etc.)
M	2.2 Purchase of Two Trucks	Pending City Council Approval on May 7th- For approved two new employees and seasonal employee use
M	2.1 North Open Space Forestry Plan & Implementation	Consulting services for an ecologically sound restoration plan with a fire mitigation component & implementation of 5 ac
M	2.1 Siberian Elm Removal at North Open Space	Pending City Council Approval on May 7th- Removal of non native species for Natural Resource management and fuels reduction
M	2 Amenity Maintenance	Maintenance to existing amenities or new. North trail undercutting, vault restroom at Aquarius, retaining wall replacement at North, bench replacement.
L	1.9 New Trails Design & Construction- South Boulder Road to Centennial Trail (new sheet)	Trail design & construction supporting City wide transportation network & development projects. Submitted by Public Works, funding source "capital".
L	1.9 Open Space Signs	New: Design and installation of three interpretive education signs and replacement of large property signs.
L	1.75 Concrete Trail Maintenance	Annual maintenance to existing concrete trails (cracks, lips, etc.)
L	1.75 New Trails Design & Construction- Dillon to Coal Creek	Trail design & construction supporting City wide transportation network & development projects. Submitted by Public Works, funding source "capital".
L	1.75 Parking lot Maintenance	Grading aggregate lots, maintaining striping and required ADA signage

April 8, 2026 Discussion Item 10: OSAB Recommendations for Review Capital Improvement Budget 2027-2032

DRAFT 2027-2032 Capital Improvement Project Recommendations (CIP)- PLANNING WORKSHEET DRAFT

Ref. #	OSAB Score	Potential CIP Projects	Brief Description
2026 EXISTING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (For reference ONLY; no funding)			
1	NA	Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Long Range Plan	One time. Department visioning and long term planning document.
2	NA	Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Trail Plan	One time. System Trails Plan.
3	NA	Open Space Equipment	Annual reoccurring. Tracked skid steer including attachments. Used for trail construction/maintenance and other maintenance projects.
4	NA	City Vehicles	As needed. Truck for staff field use.
5	NA	Soft Surface Trail Maintenance & Design	Annual reoccurring. Maintenance to existing crusher fines trails (repairing surfaces, drainage improvements, reseeding trail edge etc.) Hecla (2025)& Aquarius.
6	NA	Open Space Amenity Maintenance	Annual reoccurring. Trailhead amenity: Vault toilet installation at Aquarius.
7	NA	Open Space Amenity Maintenance	One time. Ditch Stabilization at North. Design & Construction (Carry forward from 2025 and construction may carry forward to 2027)
8	NA	Open Space Parking Lot Maint	Annual reoccurring. Parking lot maintenance: Aquarius Parking Lot (drainage improvements, speed regulators)
9	NA	Open Space Planning Documents	Scope to be identified as part of the PROST Long Range Plan. Possibilities: Prairie Dog Management Plan, Wildlife Plan, Restoration Plan, Property Planning, etc.
10	NA	Wayfinding	Fabrication and installation of wayfinding trail directional signs on the Lake-to-Lake Trail and others.
2027-2032 PROPOSED STAFF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS			
			Brief Description
11		Soft Surface Trail Maintenance & Design	Annual reoccurring. Maintenance to existing crusher fines trails (replacing/repairing surfaces, design drainage improvements, reseeding trail edge etc.) CCT
12		Concrete Trail Maintenance	Annual reoccurring. Safety maintenance to existing concrete trails (cracks, lips, etc.)
13		Open Space Amenity Maintenance	Annual reoccurring. Examples include: Possible continuation of North ditch stabilization, replacement of North retaining wall, bench replacement, etc.
14		Open Space Parking Lot Maintenance	Annual reoccurring. Routine maintenance including grading, striping, etc.
15		Open Space Equipment	Annual reoccurring and new. Water Meters, Ventrac mowing equipment, HETAP, gas to electric equipment conversion, routine replacement of existing equipment.
16		Wayfinding Implementation	If needed for completion of the Wayfinding fabrication and installation plan.
17		Emergency Gates Phase II	One time. Additional gates, bollards, and fencing to manage access for emergencies and maintenance closures.
18		Open Space Signs	Design and installation entry rules & regulations signs and large property signs, interpretive educational signs, replace existing worn signs.
19		Warembourg Property Plan & Implementation	Property site plan. Assess and improve: Fishing pond, recreation & natural resource opportunities, amenities (vault restroom, parking lot). Plan & Implement.
20		New Trails: Neighborhood Connectors	Design & construction of neighbourhood trails identified in the Trails Master Plan
21		New Trails: Regional Trails	Design & construction of regional trails identified in the Transportation Master Plan & Trails Master Plan
22		New Trail: Safety, Access, Road Improvements	HAWK Crossing, ADA crossings, etc. as identified in the Transportation Master Plan & Trails Master Plan