

# Longmont Open Space Master Plan Public Meeting February 22, 2018

## Raw Data

### Open Comments Box

- Highly recommend land purchase vs. easement acquisition... Otherwise, landowners will hold onto land until price increases and eventually becomes too expensive for open space to acquire when in competition with developers.
- Help Pay for CRW Stocking Programs in Open Space waters (McIntosh, Union Reservoir, Golden Ponds, etc.).
- Is Rider OS quality open space? What is the purpose of this acquisition? Preserve the trail through the property and use the rest for more pressing issue of affordable housing.
- Plant more fruit trees on open space, and (that are) open for community harvest days in the fall.
- Consider prairie dog management on agricultural land, help producer remove them from conserved properties (ideally not “relocate”).
- Prairie dogs are a rodent. They need to be controlled. They destroy land. They spread disease.
- Absolutely DO NOT cave to the anti-GMO activists. Farmers have always been the best stewards of the land. We want to preserve the beautiful City of Longmont Open Space, and we can do so if given the opportunity to farm using our best management practices and crop choices.
- You should never make policy listening to a group of activists.
- Farmers have always been the best stewards of the open space lands.
- Keep radical out of decisions.
- Strongly encourage not getting involved in the GMO debate.
- Let producers decide for themselves what is best.
- Need to preserve the eastern buffer so that Longmont remains a standalone community that DRCOG has designated. Do not become Metro Denver where you travel from one city to the next and you aren't sure where you are.
- Prevent further incursion from Firestone and Mead.
- Prohibit the uses of open space funds for urban arterial landscaping as was done on the Martin Street extension. Approximately \$88,000 of Open Space funds were used to pay for landscaping the road and sidewalk. City Council financial policies should not override the Open Space criteria voters approved.

### Open Comments Boards

- Extend the St. Vrain Trail west from Golden Ponds. +1
- Finish repairs at Golden Ponds from flood damage. +1
- Increase the open space sales tax. +5
- Find a way to keep oil/gas development activities off open space properties. +6

- Establish/maintain wildlife corridors. +7 (Side note: Look at science-based ecological evaluation of key areas/different species needs.)
- Designate environmental conservation areas. +5
- Purchase open space for prairie dog relocation receiving sites. +5 (Side note: Peschell (is a) good (site) for re-intro (of prairie dogs).)
- Acquire mineral rights with new acquisitions. +6
- Continue to support the conservation of agricultural lands. +3
- Limit lights (artificial) and noise in open space and esp. along St. Vrain. +5 (Sidenote: Dark skies)
- Limit use of people from sunrise to sunset on O/S, greenways, reservoirs, etc. +4
- Purchase the land between Golden Farms and Ohmie. +4
- There should be a policy for hemp cultivation on OS agricultural properties.
- There should be support to incorp. indust. hemp. (*Incorporate hemp industry? industrial hemp?*)
- Wildlife surveys on open space to determine what's there.
- Environmental Impact studies should be conducted by a neutral entity. Not one prone to bias.
- Aging population – consider how disability and age may drive needed changes in recreation infrastructure: trails, signage, parking.
- No GMO's on O/S (and) ag. lands. +2
- No oil and gas operations on OS – including no road access through for O+G. +3
- Hold-our-ground.org: citizens' initiative to engage Boulder commissioners to support legal defense against oil and gas developers.
- More buffers between neighboring communities. +1
- City Council – not Planning and Zoning Board – should make determination Re: new and re-development applications adjacent to OS/greenways, etc. +1
- City has fabulous staff at Natural Resources – Need robust volunteer outreach effort and staff/ fulltime to build/support (i.e. wildlife surveys, adopting areas/watching, etc.) +6
- Use OS dollars to purchase property(s) along St. Vrain Greenway to support creek/riparian health and wildlife habitat. +3
- We need: Open grassland that does NOT get mowed! Bring back Bobolinks! +5 (Side notes: Open “native” grasslands... And Pollinators!)
- Purchase land east of Golden Farms, along St Vrain River, to Future Ohmie Nature Area (where prairie dogs are living). +3
- Open Space trails should be constructed with crusher fines not concrete (like in sidewalks).
- Dogs need to be limited; humans also restrained (*restricted?*) from access to some stream banks, key ecological areas.
- Create new/small farmer program for Longmont residents on ag. leases – community garden model. +1
- Archery range SE of St. Vrain State Park is too exclusive and expensive. City should partner w/ CPW to make more accessible and/or add new one on open space land.
- Trails need to accommodate all users +2
- Develop the large proposed part in the Silver Creek H.S. dry creek area
- Limit use to sunrise/sunset not from (keep closed at night)

## Expenditure Board

- Keep greenway connections growing

## 2002 Plan Recommendations Board

- The airport (not really an open space issue)
- Continuous consideration of open corridors for wildlife movement (bears, lions, etc.)
- Definitely keep sections for any listed species or species of concern +1
- Yes, prairie dog habitat is important and provides a valuable resource – especially at places such as McIntosh. However, safety concerns also should be incorporated into considerations – such as relocating prairie dogs near +1
- We must preserve our wildlife on the east side. We have so many deer, birds, ducks, and their nests in the area along with eagle sightings. Build responsibly and with care.
- Do not allow prairie dogs to turn open space grassy areas into desert (no foliage). No, No
- No e-bikes on trails – they can ride reg bikes like rest of us. E-bikes are same as scooters/motor vehicles. +3, 1 disagree
- Allow electric bikes on trails. (Side note: No!)
- Interpretive signs – an educated public is more likely to value and care for its open space +1
- Parks and Rec Advisory Board should be renamed to include open space in the name and the focus more balanced between recreation and environmental protection +1
- Disc golf results in people stomping around where ground-nesting birds are nesting. Do not put disc golf on open space +2
- Current disc golf courses are maxed out. Add on open space?
- Could we create a community garden; program on the ag leases to allow Res. To plant bigger plots and/or small businesses +1
- I would like to see an archery course on the open space land & think it is compatible, quiet, same, etc. Partner with CPW or non-profit orgs to create and manage and on BCPOS – Cushman property
- Task/Implementation strat. – planning to support economic development of city; encourage developer partnerships for open space maintenance and sustain. +1
- Pollinator – plantings along greenway trails w/signage about the importance of pollinators +1

## Land Acquisition Board

- How do we measure success for an ag lease? Is it still viable, can it still grow? +3
- Add annual maintenance cost into total purchase cost +3
- Trails should continue as part of acquisition strategy +1
- Keep Longmont Conservation District in mind for more agricultural CE acquisitions; more Ag CEs
- Open Sandstone Ranch as a nature center all year and not just 2 days a week. Hire or staff w/volunteer naturalists
- Visitors Center on Main & St. Vrain connect & coordinate w/ other open areas

## Vision Board

- Decent vision, but “feels” outdated in tone

## Goals Board

- Link not just trails, but create habitat linkages (corridors) between habitats for wildlife movement +4
- Purchase properties amenable to multi-use; ag +wildlife, ag + rec use, etc. +1
- Do a connecting trail from Golden Ponds to Pella Crossing
- Connect Pella Crossing to Golden Ponds with multi-use trail
- These goals and resources are sound; recommend we refine, not re-do
- We need a goal related to an oil & gas management plan/point of view; needs to be part of city strategy +1

## Accomplishments Board

- Do not spend Open Space funds on St. Vrain Blueprint “sidewalk” trails going to Twin Peak Mall Area +1
- Trails can co-exist on ag land, not just along water
- Support a nature center-based @ new Dickens Park??, with combination visitor center & volunteer coordinated program +2
- Yay conservation easements – do more! +1
- Increase Open Space tax to 5 cents +1
- Yay riparian setbacks +2
- Boo on variances to setback for development +1
- ++ fishing program
- ++ programs @ Sandstone
- Suggestion: do more ongoing youth outreach for natural areas +2
- Work a way out with Ute Creek Golf Course to use trails on their grounds. Wasted opportunity for trail connectivity; do not let it remain a trail dead zone +1
- Chick Clark is awesome!
- Expand partnerships w/ non-profit and others to grow educational opportunities to connect community w/ the resource +2
- Look at science-based riparian zones ecology – crucial areas might be mud banks, or marshy areas. Wildlife might need more privacy (wider than culvert underpasses) on overpasses trees or thick brush, humans and dogs allowed or not. Not an arbitrary setback distance issue +1
- Ensure a robust management plan
- Disposal of open space should go through City Council just like acquisition otherwise you end up w/ problems sim. to the land next to Twin Lakes (Boulder County Open Space)

# Mapping Station

- Map A

Grid	Number	Comments
A2		Extend St Vrain Trail to Pela Crossing
B2		Possible open space. Acquisition.
B2		Implement Catch's Release Fishing Regs, minimally along stretches with Redds
C2		Keep it (St Vrain Greenway) wild

- Map B

Grid	Number	Comments
A1		Trails crossing RR
A1-A2		Eco-Tourism with rails to trails conversion to Lyons/RTD station
A2		Connect to county trails
A2		New trees for Osprey nest(moved by West Grange)
A2		Maybe show "Parks" too - shade differently?
A3		Wildlife corridor connectivity to County Big Sky Lagerman
B1		Ways to attract nature/wildlife back to more dense populations? Native plants at parks?
B2		Add Main Street to map
B2		Bohn Farm Co-Housing access to Greenway
B2	No. 20	Build/Find a visitor center/nature center here (hub of volunteer coordination) -planting and parking; -"Visit Longmont" housed here; -great location
C2		Wildlife preserve
C2		Preserve wildlife in land make park
C2		Purchase for open space +1
C2	No. 14	Prairie dogs drowned in flood. Peschel would be a good place for reintroduction of prairie dogs removed from developed properties
C2		Public Archery Range

- Map C

Grid	Number	Comments
A2		Western buffer + Boco trail lines
A2		Osprey nest
B1		Trail to Terry Lake. Acquire?
B2		Keep left hand brewing from building an amphitheatre in 150 ft riparian buffer
B2		Science based ecological evaluations to evaluate of balance wildlife needs with human access. Turning backs to river doesn't build support. Wildlife doesn't use a tape measure to determine safe passage/habitat.
C1		Wasted opportunity with no trails through golf course
C2		Wildlife preserve
C2		Preserve grasslands wildlife
C2		Protect bank swallow nesting habitat along County Line Rd +1
C2	No. 15	We need unmoved natural grasslands
C2		Oil and gas buffer around Union Res
C2-D2		Connections between habitats (Parcel 9,10,11)
D2-D3		Keep/install pollinator habitat along trails and ditches with native plants
D2		Stop further incursion from Firestone/Mead

# Longmont Open Space Master Plan Public Meeting February 22, 2018

## Theming (using Open Space criteria)

### ➤ Preservation of natural areas, wildlife habitat, wetlands, agriculture and visual corridors.

#### Acquisition Criteria

- Acquire mineral rights with new acquisitions
- Preference for land purchase vs. easement acquisition to avoid price gouging later when development pressure

#### Wildlife

- Link not just trails, but create habitat linkages (corridors) between habitats for wildlife movement (example: Parcel 9,10,11; connectivity to County Big Sky Lagerman)
- Designate wildlife preserve - keep sections for any listed species or species of concern; Protect bank swallow nesting habitat along County Line Rd)
- Grasslands for wildlife - un-mowed natural grasslands
- Prairie dog habitat – disagreement
  - Purchase open space for prairie dog relocation receiving sites (Peschell is a good site for reintroduction)
  - Safety concerns - incorporate into considerations
  - Do not allow prairie dogs to turn open space grassy areas into desert (no foliage); prairie dogs are a rodent - destroy land, spread disease.
- Science-based ecological evaluations to evaluate of balance wildlife needs with human access
  - Turning backs to river doesn't build support; wildlife doesn't use a tape measure to determine safe passage/habitat; wildlife might need more privacy (wider than culvert underpasses) on overpasses trees or thick brush, humans and dogs allowed or not. Not an arbitrary setback distance issue

#### Wetlands/Riparian Corridors

- St. Vrain Greenway - purchase property(s) along to support creek/riparian health and wildlife habitat
- Science-based riparian zones ecology – crucial areas might be mud banks, or marshy areas
- Riparian setbacks are important – don't allow variances for development (example: keep Left Hand Brewing from building an amphitheatre in 150 ft riparian buffer)

#### Agricultural Leases

- Conservation of agricultural lands - continue to support
- Measuring success for ag lands – need criteria
- Longmont Conservation District – keep in mind for more agricultural CE acquisitions

- Trails can co-exist on ag land, not just along water
  - Prairie dog management - consider on agricultural land, help remove them from conserved properties (ideally not “relocate”)
  - There should be a policy for hemp cultivation on OS agricultural properties; There should be support to incorp. indust. hemp. (*Incorporate hemp industry? industrial hemp?*)
  - Create new/small farmer program for Longmont residents on ag. leases – community garden model. +1; Could we create a community garden; program on the ag leases to allow Res. To plant bigger plots and/or small businesses +1
- **Linkages and trails, access to public lakes, streams and other usable open space lands, stream corridors and scenic corridors along existing highways**
- Keep greenway connections growing; trails should continue as part of acquisition strategy
  - Keep St Vrain Greenway wild
  - Trail construction on Open Space – use crusher fines not concrete
  - Specific connection interests (perhaps forward these to P&R to respond regarding alignment with trails plan, and/or future potential)
    - Visitors Center on Main & St. Vrain connect and coordinate w/ other open areas
    - Extend the St. Vrain Trail west from Golden Ponds.
    - Connect to county trails
    - Bohn Farm Co-Housing access to Greenway
    - Trail to Terry Lake
    - Extend St Vrain Trail to Pella Crossing
    - Connect trail from Golden Ponds to Pella Crossing
    - Golf Course -wasted opportunity for trail connectivity
- **Conservation of natural resources including, but not limited to, forest lands, range lands, agricultural lands, aquifer recharge areas, and surface water.**
- Purchase properties amenable to multi-use; (ag +wildlife, ag + rec use, etc.)
  - Conservation easements – do more!
- **Specific Parcel Interest**
- Land east of Golden Farms, along St Vrain River, to Future Ohmie Nature Area (where prairie dogs are living) - purchase
  - Rider OS – question quality of open space - what is the purpose of this acquisition; preserve the trail through the property and use the rest for more pressing issue of affordable housing
  - Other specific suggestions are in the mapping raw data.
- **Low-impact Recreational Uses**
- Disc golf – disagreement
    - Don’t allow on Open Space - concern about people stomping around where ground-nesting birds are nesting.
    - Add on open space? - current disc golf courses are maxed out.
  - Archery range

- Partner with CPW or non-profit orgs to create and manage and on BCPOS – Cushman property
- Archery range SE of St. Vrain State Park is too exclusive and expensive - partner w/ CPW to make more accessible and/or add new one on open space land
- Aging population – consider how disability and age may drive needed changes in recreation infrastructure: trails, signage, parking

### ➤ Greenways and open space policies or strategies

- Task/implementation strategy – support economic development of city
- Development applications adjacent to OS/greenways - City Council, not Planning and Zoning Board, should make determination
- GMO - disagreement
  - Don't get involved in the debate; let farmers decide using best management practice and crop choices
  - No GMO's on O/S (and) ag. lands
- Oil & Gas Strategy
  - Need a goal related to a management plan/point of view; part of city strategy
  - Keep oil/gas development activities off open space properties, including no road access

### ➤ Urban shaping buffers

- Buffers
  - more between neighboring communities to the east
  - western buffer

### ➤ Operational policy issues

- Trail use - accommodate all users
- E-bikes on trails - disagreement
  - Disallow e-bikes (same as scooters/motor vehicles)
  - Allow e-bikes
- Management Plans - ensure they are robust
- Artificial lights and noise - limit in open space and especially along St. Vrain (dark skies)
- Human and dog use
  - Restrain or possibly restrict from access to some stream banks, key ecological areas
  - Limit to sunrise to sunset on O/S, greenways, reservoirs, etc.
- Golden Ponds - finish repairs at from flood damage
- Trees on open space - Plant fruit trees open for community harvest days in the fall
- Environmental conservation areas – designate
- Increase amount of open grassland that does NOT get mowed!
- Bring back Bobolinks

### ➤ Program, research, education, awareness

- Kudos
  - Programs @ Sandstone, Chick Clark awesome
  - Fishing program
  - Natural Resources staff fabulous



- Interpretive signs – increase to educate and promote value and care for open space
  - Example: Pollinator – plantings along greenway trails w/signage about importance
- Nature Centers
  - Sandstone Ranch – extend to all year and not just 2 days a week operation; hire or staff w/volunteer naturalists
  - New Dickens Park?? - add nature center-based with combination visitor center & volunteer coordinated program
- Partnerships – increase w/ non-profit and others to grow educational opportunities and connect community w/ the resource
- Youth – increase ongoing outreach for natural areas
- Research
  - Wildlife surveys on open space to determine what’s there.
  - Environmental Impact studies conducted by unbiased neutral entity.
- Volunteer outreach effort and staff/ fulltime - build/support robust program (i.e. wildlife surveys, adopting areas/watching, etc.)

### ➤ Finance and budget

- Increase Open Space Tax (5 cents suggested)
- Prohibit the uses of open space funds for urban arterial landscaping – (examples: Martin Street extension; St. Vrain Blueprint “sidewalk” trails going to Twin Peak Mall Area)
- City Council financial policies should not override voters approved Open Space criteria
- Maintenance cost – consider during acquisition into total purchase cost; encourage developer partnerships
- CRW Stocking Programs - help pay for

### ➤ The Plan and governance/administration

- Vision and Goals – sound, but outdated in tone; refine, not re-do
- Policy making – don’t make policy listening to activists
- Mapping – add parks, add Main Street
- Parks and Rec Advisory Board - rename to include open space with focus on balance between recreation and environmental protection
- Disposal of Open Space - should go through City Council similar to acquisition

### ➤ Not sure of the reference for these:

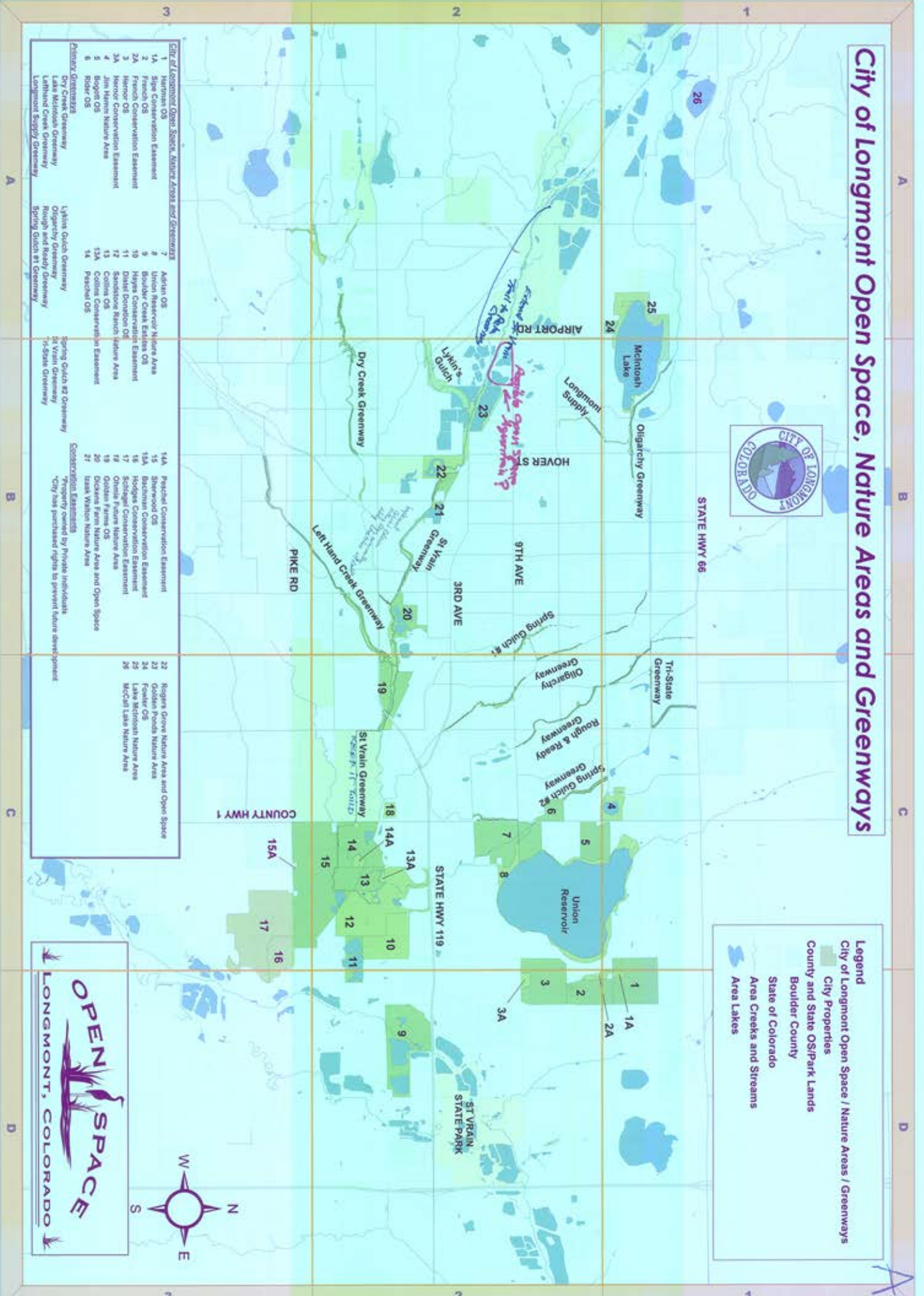
- Develop the large proposed part (sic) **park?** in the Silver Creek H.S. dry creek area
- The airport (not really an open space issue) – **from 2002 recommendations board**

# City of Longmont Open Space, Nature Areas and Greenways



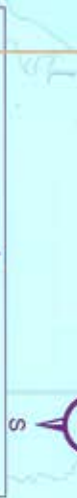
**Legend**

- City of Longmont Open Space / Nature Areas / Greenways
- City Properties
- County and State OS/Spark Lands
- Boulder County
- State of Colorado
- Area Creeks and Streams
- Area Lakes



**City of Longmont Open Space, Nature Areas and Greenways**

- |                            |                              |     |                               |     |  |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|-----|--|
| 1                          | Normant OS                   | 7   | Adrian OS                     | 14A | Patchel Conservation Easement          |
| 1A                         | Shive Conservation Easement  | 8   | Union Reservoir Nature Area   | 15  | Sherwood OS                            |
| 2                          | France OS                    | 9   | Boulder Creek Estates OS      | 15A | Bachman Conservation Easement          |
| 2A                         | France Conservation Easement | 10  | Upper Creek Estates OS        | 16  | Upper Creek Conservation Easement      |
| 3                          | Homer OS                     | 11  | Duane Doolittle OS            | 17  | Schuler Conservation Easement          |
| 3A                         | Homer Conservation Easement  | 12  | Sandstone Ranch Nature Area   | 18  | Omaha Nature Area                      |
| 4                          | Jim Harris Nature Area       | 13  | Collins OS                    | 19  | Godwin Farms OS                        |
| 5                          | Boyer OS                     | 13A | Collins Conservation Easement | 20  | Decker Farm Nature Area and Open Space |
| 6                          | Rider OS                     | 14  | Patchel OS                    | 21  | Isak Wilton Nature Area                |
| <b>Other Greenways</b>     |                              |     |                               |     |  |
| Dry Creek Greenway         |                              |     |                               |     |  |
| Latta Meadows Greenway     |                              |     |                               |     |  |
| Lathland Creek Greenway    |                              |     |                               |     |  |
| Longmont Spring Greenway   |                              |     |                               |     |  |
| Lykins Gulch Greenway      |                              |     |                               |     |  |
| Ogarechey Greenway         |                              |     |                               |     |  |
| Rough and Ready Greenway   |                              |     |                               |     |  |
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| Spring Gulch #96 Greenway  |                              |     |                               |     |  |
| Spring Gulch #97 Greenway  |                              |     |                               |     |  |
| Spring Gulch #98 Greenway  |                              |     |                               |     |  |
| Spring Gulch #99 Greenway  |                              |     |                               |     |  |
| Spring Gulch #100 Greenway |                              |     |                               |     |  |



- Map A

Grid	Number	Comments
A2		Extend St Vrain Trail to Pela Crossing
B2		Possible open space. Acquisition.
B2		Implement Catch's Release Fishing Regs, minimally along stretches with Redds
C2		Keep it (St Vrain Greenway) wild

- Map B

Grid	Number	Comments
A1		Trails crossing RR
A1-A2		Eco-Tourism with rails to trails conversion to Lyons/RTD station
A2		Connect to county trails
A2		New trees for Osprey nest(moved by West Grange)
A2		Maybe show "Parks" too – shade differently?
A3		Wildlife corridor connectivity to County Big Sky Lagerman
B1		Ways to attract nature/wildlife back to more dense populations? Native plants at parks?
B2		Add Main Street to map
B2		Bohn Farm Co-Housing access to Greenway
B2	No. 20	Build/Find a visitor center/nature center here(hub of volunteer coordination) -planting and parking -"Visit Longmont" housed here -great location
C2		Wildlife preserve
C2		Preserve wildlife in land make park
C2		Purchase for open space +1
C2	No. 14	Prairie dogs drowned in flood. Peschel would be a good place for reintroduction of prairie dogs removed from developed properties
C2		Public Archery Range

- Map C

Grid	Number	Comments
A2		Western buffer + BoCo trail lines
A2		Osprey nest
B1		Trail to Terry Lake. Acquire?
B2		Keep left hand brewing from building an amphitheater in 150 ft riparian buffer
B2		Science based ecological evaluations to evaluate of balance wildlife needs with human access. Turning backs to river doesn't build support. Wildlife doesn't use a tape measure to determine safe passage/habitat.
C1		Wasted opportunity with no trails through golf course
C2		Wildlife preserve
C2		Preserve grasslands wildlife
C2		Protect bank swallow nesting habitat along County Line Rd +1
C2	No. 15	We need unmoved natural grasslands
C2		Oil and gas buffer around Union Res!
C2-D2		Connections between habitats (Parcel 9,10,11)
D2-D3		Keep/install pollinator habitat along trails and ditches with native plants
D2		Stop further incursion from Firestone/Mead