

Memo to: Dan Wolford, City of Longmont Land Program Administrator

CC: Chris Dropinski, GreenPlay PiC
Rebecca Hannon, Smith Environmental and Engineering
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From: Keri Konold, Project Manager, GreenPlay, LLC

Date: April 10, 2019

Subject: **Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) Update – Public Meeting #2 Summary**

The intent of the WMP Update is to:

- Update existing plan
- Inventory wildlife resources
- Integrate ecological principles
- Include proven management techniques
- Adhere to City value of “coexistence with wildlife”
- Provide opportunities for community participation

To consult the public regarding elements of the WMP, a second public meeting was held on April 4, 2019. (The first was held on March 7, 2019). This meeting was held at the Sunset Campus, 7 S Sunset Street. Staff strategically shared information about the project and engagement opportunities through the associated public meetings through a variety of channels. Efforts included direct emails to interested groups and individuals as well as web notification, City project webpage, and distribution of information on listservs such as Boulder County Nature Association.

The goal of this second meeting was to inform the public about:

- Best management practices suggested by Colorado Parks and Wildlife for managing native fish,
- Currently identified wildlife conflict issues, existing regulatory conditions, and the City’s philosophy of “coexistence with wildlife”, and
- Importance of biodiversity and how wildlife enhances the quality of life of its residents.

And, to consult with the public about:

- Best management practices the City should consider when managing pollinators,
- Identify any wildlife conflict issues that the City may not be aware of or may not currently be able to address, and
- Understanding what species enhance the lives of Longmont residents.

This gathered input will help inform the development of the recommendations of the WMP. Participants at the first public meeting included:

- Community members (45)
- City Council members (1)
- Staff & Peer Agency Staff (9)
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member (1)

A summary of responses follows. A full listing of comments received and the presentation given to the public on the 4th are attached as a supporting document. Responses are not prioritized. It should be noted that some participants chose not to respond to the questions asked.

Key themes for management of native fish:

- Provide habitat along creek corridors
- Measure and improve numbers of native fish species in creek corridors
- Create fish passages
- Prioritize native fish species over non-native and game species where possible

Key themes of responses when asking ‘What would you like to see the City do to benefit pollinators?’:

- Provide more pollinator habitat throughout the City (i.e., in new developments, when public spaces are renovated)
- Restrict the use of neonicotinoids
- Install bee boxes
- Provide environmental education signage about the purpose of pollinators and what the public can do to provide habitat
- Create pollinator-friendly policies

Key themes from comments about biodiversity:

- Establish baseline data, monitor changes over time, and respond with management actions as needed
- Preserve habitat, particularly corridors, through various mechanisms including land preservation and development requirements
- Understand and recognize the impact of wildlife management in and around Longmont (think regionally)

Key themes when asking ‘What wildlife species enrich your quality of life? How do they do this? Where are important wildlife areas in the community?’:

- Continue to protect and provide habitat for the variety of species in Longmont
- Wildlife passages and connectivity should be provided, including riparian buffer zones
- A variety of wildlife including foxes, birds, and prairie dogs are enjoyed by residents

Key themes when asking ‘What other wildlife conflicts could be addressed in the Update? Why is this an issue? What do you suggest as a solution for managing the issue?’:

- Preserve land and corridors for wildlife to coexist within, and around, the City using public and private land opportunities
- Provide habitat improvements such as bat houses
- Partner with neighboring agencies to increase natural areas and wildlife habitat
- Provide outreach to the community about how to address conflict issues

Comments on the existing Guiding Principles resulted in the following key themes:

- Extension of open space tax for land acquisition (habitat preservation)
- Natural resource planner involvement in relevant planning projects and proposals
- Usage of conservation tools to protect and preserve habitat



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Key themes from additional comments received:

- Data collection on wildlife is necessary to making meaningful management decisions
- Understand and manage riparian corridors as zones, holistically - up and down stream and as extensions into uplands
- Acknowledgement of the rights of nature to exist
- Use conservation tools (i.e., easements) to protect and improve habitat along the St Vrain
- The City should act as a leader in habitat preservation and restoration efforts.
- Manage invasive species
- Protect wildlife in riparian corridors and streams by providing habitat (i.e., trees, shrubs, forbs)
- No allowance of variances along the St Vrain
- Policy needed for cats "running at-large"