

Ground Rules

Please follow a few ground rules to encourage respectful listening, increase participation and the sharing of ideas and perspectives, promote openness to points of view and increase learning, prevent conflict and misunderstanding, manage problems before and as they occur, and build trust and a sense of safety among group participants. Here are suggestions for ground rules that can be especially helpful for public meetings:

- **This is a public discussion, not a debate.** The purpose is not to win an argument, but to hear many points of view and explore many options and solutions.
- **Everyone is encouraged to participate.** You may be asked to share what you think, or we may ask for comments from those who haven't spoken. It is always OK to "pass" when you are asked to share a comment.
- **No one or two individuals should dominate a discussion.** If you have already voiced your ideas, let others have an opportunity. When you speak, be brief and to the point.
- **When you speak, state your name and where you live.** In a public meeting, it is helpful to know who is speaking as well as where they live in the community.
- **One person speaks at a time.** Refrain from side conversations. Pay attention to the person speaking. If you think you will forget an idea that comes to mind, write it down.
- **Listen to and respect other points of view.** All of us bring information and ideas to contribute. People are more likely to contribute if they know they are respected.
- **Do your best to understand the pros and cons of every option,** not just those you prefer. Be as objective and fair-minded as you can be.
- **Seek first to understand, not to be understood.** Ask questions to seek clarification when you don't understand the meaning of someone's comments.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

2013 Wildlife Management Plan

1. Provide for the coexistence of wildlife and human activities to the extent possible.
2. Ensure that Longmont continues to support diverse and abundant wildlife for their intrinsic value and importance to many Longmont residents.

Riparian and Corridor Management Zones

1. Promote, preserve, and enhance the important hydrologic, biological, ecological, aesthetic, recreational, and educational functions that river and stream corridors, wetlands, and associated riparian areas provide in the City of Longmont.

(Source: Longmont Municipal Code Chapter 15.05)

2. Maintain large patches of riparian habitat along streams, ditches and other water bodies, and ensure optimal adjacency between to minimize the effects of fragmentation. (Source: 2005 Longmont WMP)

3. Maintain woodland, shrubland, and grassland habitats not located along streams or ditches in undeveloped lands to support wildlife movements and connectivity between habitat patches. (Source: 2005 WMP)

NATIVE FISH

STATE LISTED SPECIES OF CONCERN IN ST. VRAIN CREEK



Stonecat: Found only in the St. Vrain and the North Fork of the Republican River. A nocturnal fish!



Iowa Darter: A member of the perch family reaching only three inches in length. Patchy distribution across the South Platte Basin.



Common Shiner: Once widespread across the Front Range but has not been observed in the St. Vrain since the 2013 flood.



Plains Topminnow: Showing recent declines across range and in St. Vrain, due to loss of floodplain connectivity and nonnative competition.



Orangespotted Sunfish: Rare within Colorado, preferring ponds and backwaters.



Brassy Minnow: Once widespread in the South Platte Basin, but now rare in transition zone streams such as the St. Vrain.



Northern Redbelly Dace: Last documented in the St. Vrain in 1984 – a high priority for reintroduction!

NATIVE FISH

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- **Restore habitat** connectivity via constructing fish passage at current barriers (e.g. diversion dams)
- **Improve**/restore floodplain connectivity where appropriate
- **Maintain** and improve riparian habitat quality to increase stream shading and provide opportunity for natural wood in streams
- **Facilitate** beaver colonization or emulate beaver pond dams where appropriate
- **Screen** outflow of gravel pit ponds that spill into streams to minimize impacts from non-native piscivores
- **Facilitate conservation** of special status species through coordinated stocking (reintroduction) with CPW
- **Promote** the creation of wetland ponds

POLLINATORS

HOW IS LONGMONT ALREADY HELPING POLLINATORS?

- Boosting proportion of shrubs and forbs in native seed mixes
- Collecting native seed and plants; collaborating with the Southern Rockies Seed
- Network to develop ecotypic plant material
- Restoring degraded habitats at Roger's Grove, Sandstone Ranch, and St. Vrain Creek
- Leaving dead and downed wood in place
- Reducing mowing where feasible
- Participation in the Pollinator Action Team with Boulder and CSU Extension
- Support research on integrated pest management
- City Council passed the Pollinator Resolution in May 2017

POLLINATORS

FUTURE ACTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

- Apply for grant funding to study native plants that benefit pollinators
- Evaluate feasibility of converting turf in parks and rights-of-way to pollinator gardens
- Increase public outreach on the benefits of native plants and the proper use of chemical pesticides
- Where mowing and pesticide use is necessary, time applications to minimize impacts
- Install bee boxes
- Minimize or remove honeybee hives on City open space
- Establish more demonstration gardens in public places

What would you like to see the City do to benefit pollinators?

BIODIVERSITY

WHY IS BIODIVERSITY IMPORTANT?

Utilitarian Benefits: food, medicines, raw materials, etc.

Ecosystem Services: pollination, seed dispersal, water filtration, nutrient cycling, etc.

Human Impacts: Recreational, spiritual, cultural value

Resiliency: ability to respond and adapt to catastrophic situations

Intrinsic Value: the “right to exist”

HOW DOES LONGMONT PROMOTE BIODIVERSITY IN ITS MANAGEMENT PRACTICES?

The “Ecosystem Management” Approach

- Generally do not manage for single species
- Emphasis on wildlife and vegetative communities, including the management of non-native and invasive species
- Promote species diversity by using native plant and seed mixes in restoration projects (no monocultures!)
- Utilizing principles of landscape ecology, avoiding fragmentation and maintaining connectivity where possible

BIODIVERSITY



WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biological meaning “life”
Diversity meaning “variety”

Biodiversity = Variety of life on Earth at all levels

Genetic diversity: variety among individuals

Species diversity: variety among species

Ecosystem diversity: variety of habitats, communities, and processes

Photo credits:
 Habitat: Dale Coker, NPS
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 Pollution: Eric Vance, EPA
 Recreation/Overuse: Michael Quinn, NPS
 Genetic diversity: Eric Vance, EPA
 Public health: Amanda Mills, CDC
 Recreation, culture, & aesthetics: Jim Peaco, NPS

This EnviroAtlas eco-wheel was created by Jessica Jahre, EPA contractor

ENRICHING OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

SPECIES HIGHLIGHTED IN THE CURRENT WMP

- Preble's meadow jumping mouse (federally listed threatened species)
- Bald Eagle (State Special Concern, federally delisted)
- Burrowing Owl (state-listed threatened species)
- Other State Species of Special Concern
- Boulder County Birds of Special Concern
- Migratory Birds
- Game Species and Furbearers
- "Uncommon, Secretive, Habitat-Specialist, or High-Interest Species or Groups"
Bats, carnivores, neotropical migrants, etc.
- Species on Which Other Species are Highly Reliant
Prairie Dogs (ecosystem engineers)
Small rodents (prey base)

What wildlife species enrich your quality of life?

How do they do this?

Where are important wildlife areas in the community?

WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN THE CURRENT WMP

- Red Foxes: burrowing
- Fox Squirrels: nonnative, damage to trees, denning in buildings
- Beavers: damage to trees, flooding
- Muskrats: damage to dams and water features
- Raccoons and striped skunks: proximity/tolerance to humans
- Canada Geese: droppings, overgrazing
- Small birds and mammals: nesting/denning/roosting in buildings

ADDITIONAL ISSUES TO ADDRESS IN WMP UPDATE

- Turkey Vultures: droppings
- Prairie Dogs: burrowing, plague concerns
- Pigeons: nonnative, droppings

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?