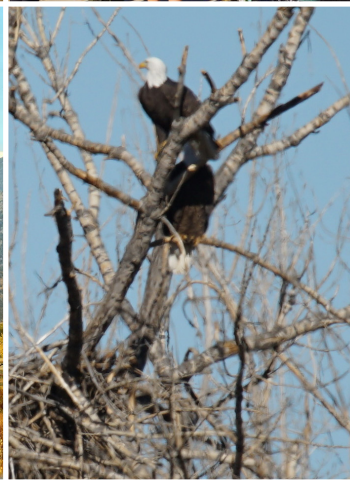




Longmont Open Space Master Plan Update



City of Longmont Natural Resources

A Division of Public Works & Natural Resources Report
to the Longmont City Council
July 2018

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Longmont Open Space Master Plan has been updated by the City of Longmont’s Public Works and Natural Resources Department (PWNR) guided by community input and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

The City’s ordinance, O-2000-41, that created the Open Space Program remains the guiding basis for this update, and the original 2002 Open Space and Trails Master Plan provides the foundation. Input from the general public, City staff, the TAC, and the consulting team confirms that the ordinance represents the needs and desires of Longmont; these desires are as strong as ever, with even more urgency noted. The open space criteria spelled out in the ordinance identifies characteristics of suitable land for preserving as open space in the study area. Throughout the process, input received from the community validated that these criteria remain current, so the criteria were not changed as part of this update. However, the community felt that the vision and goals of the Open Space Program needed “refreshing.”

COMMUNITY INPUT

The community input during the 2018 update included:

- Public workshops – Two workshops were held. The first was intended to inform the community about the process, gather initial thoughts regarding the strengths and opportunities of the program, and to inform development of a survey. The second workshop presented findings to the community and asked participants to respond and identify ways to use the information, including updating mapping tools and the overall goals and vision of the program.
- Community surveys – Two surveys were developed. A statistically-valid, invitation-only survey was widely distributed through a community mailing and reached approximately 4,500 households. A separate survey was available to the general public through an open link option. The final sample size for the statistically-valid survey was 629, resulting in a margin of error of approximately +/- 3.9 percentage points calculated for questions at 50 percent response. The open link survey received an additional 312 responses.
- Additional input was received through TAC interviews and meetings. This committee was comprised of City of Longmont staff representing a variety of Departments, as well as representatives from other agencies and resource experts.

Support for the plan has been evident through the community involvement process. A draft plan was taken to the Board of Environmental Affairs (BEA) on May 16 as well as the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) on June 11, for discussion. On June 11, 2018, the PRAB voted to recommend the plan to City Council for adoption and implementation. City Council reviewed the draft plan and Board recommendations on July 10, 2018.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Open Space Program has celebrated many accomplishments since the 2002 Master Plan, including:

- Acquiring land within the St. Vrain Creek Corridor, east of Martin Street to St. Vrain State Park. This enabled the construction of the St. Vrain Greenway, which currently extends for 9.5 miles through Longmont.
- Acquiring 722 acres for the Union Reservoir Community Buffer, which includes the Hartman, French, Hernor, Sipe, Adrian, Rider, and Bogott Open Spaces.
- Managing over 1,000 acres under seven agricultural leases, which supports the local food market with items such as Winter Wheat, Sugarbeets, Barley, Shelled Corn, Alfalfa, Grass Hay, etc. This equates to over 15,000 tons and nearly 23,000 bushels of crops on an annual basis.
- Wildlife and vegetation management on 3,647 acres of non-agricultural lands.
- Providing the Chick Clark Youth Fishing Education Program, which celebrated its 16th Year on March 24, 2018 and providing fishing opportunities for At-Risk-Youth of the City’s Youth Center through the “Fishing with a Fireman” program, both activities at Izaak Walton Park.
- Developing and implementing the Lake McIntosh Trail/Park Master Plan.
- Providing a foundation for the City-wide Wildlife Management Plan, which was adopted in 2005.
- Developing partnerships with Boulder County Park and Open Space, Weld County, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Longmont Conservation District, Aggregate Industries, and Great Outdoors Colorado.
- Coordinating Oil & Gas monitoring throughout the City since 2012.
- Providing a variety of volunteer/stewardship opportunities throughout the community including, raptor monitoring, tree planting, native seed collection, native plant propagation, noxious weed removal, and others.

This Plan builds on the accomplishments of the Open Space Program and furthers the City of Longmont’s position as a regional leader in open space.

The information presented within the Open Space Master Plan Update is intended to support the direction the community described within the Envision Longmont Multimodal & Comprehensive Plan (Envision Longmont) and the Sustainability Plan, as well as other planning documents of the City. The vision, goals, and recommendations within this plan have been updated to reflect the Open Space Program’s role in providing “A Sustainable and Resilient Longmont.”

VISION AND GOALS FOR THE OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS PROGRAM

A Vision Statement, developed through the public process, blended with Open Space Criteria and resultant goals has been used to help develop the plan.



Connecting our community with our natural resources by:

- Protecting our natural resources
- Respecting our natural environment
- Balancing our growth
- Furthering our community identity
- Providing experiential opportunities
- Educating a new generation of stewards
- Protecting what we value
- Promoting a “Sustainable and Resilient Longmont” today and into the future

GOALS

1. *Preserve and Enhance Our Natural Resources*
Preserve and enhance natural areas, wildlife habitat and movement corridors, wetlands, agriculture, and visual corridors. Conserve natural resources including, but not limited to, forest lands, grass lands, agricultural lands, aquifer recharge areas, and surface water.
2. *Acknowledge and Support Other Planning Efforts and Potential Collaborations*
Implement greenway and open space policies and strategies of Envision Longmont and integrate efforts with the Parks & Recreation Master Plan, the Sustainability Plan, and other community plans.
3. *Shape the Identity of Longmont*
Provide urban shaping buffers between municipalities and use appropriate signage to identify the open space and trails system within the city.
4. *Provide Connections*
Connect neighborhoods to open space through linkages and trails away from noise and traffic where possible, providing regional connections and access to public lakes, streams corridors, other usable Open Space lands, and scenic corridors.

5. *Provide Passive, Low Impact Recreation Compatible with Resource Protection Goals*
Complement the active recreation available on the City’s parkland with low-impact recreational and educational opportunities, building appreciation of, and stewardship for, what the open space has to offer, while protecting this asset. Providing opportunities to interact with these open space areas, such as hiking, biking, bird watching, fishing, picnicking, or simply enjoying nature, is critical to maximizing the benefits that open space provides.

6. *Embrace Public Engagement*
Provide community-wide awareness and education about Longmont’s open space lands and resources while engaging the public to gain input and provide opportunities for stewardship. Promote learning about the natural and cultural heritage and collaborative efforts to preserve and enhance public lands through efforts like the presence of rangers, programming, and marketing efforts.

7. *Ensure Funding to Fulfill the Vision*
Seek additional funding sources while open space is still available to be acquired and continue to develop a secure and sustainable funding stream for the future. Ensure an appropriate balance of maintenance and operation funding to properly care for acquired lands.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A. OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION

1. Apply the open space criteria through a tiered filtered approach for prioritizing acquisitions.

Initial Filter/Tier I: Mapping tools, based on the open space criteria of the Open Space Ordinance, are to be used as a guide to broadly determine how many and what type of values are present or possible on the property, including:

- Ecology and wildlife
- Agricultural lands
- Visual corridors
- Linkage/access connections
- Urban shaping/buffer
- Surface water
- Low-impact recreation

Second, Finer Filter/Tier II: At this level, individual parcels are examined with a finer filter. Evaluation tools and additional field study are to be used to further assess individual parcels to determine the degree of value present; evaluation criteria include:

- Willingness of seller to sell property
- Wildlife/vegetation and restoration potential
- Recreation value and adjacent land uses
- Cost/benefit of acquisition and long-term management/maintenance/repair
- Cultural and historic value
- Ecosystem service benefit (infiltration, reducing runoff, enhancing water quality, heat island effect reduction, tree canopy, air quality, floodplain, environmental health, watershed protection, water conservation, etc.)
- Equitable access

This evaluation will allow staff to determine and compare acquisition priorities.

Third, Finest Filter/Tier III: Determination to be made regarding who should acquire the parcel (if it is a partnering opportunity) and what the appropriate acquisition technique would be. One intent of the partnership is for the partner to hold a conservation easement on the fee acquisition to provide an additional level of protection for the land.

1. Provide Boulder and Weld Counties with Master Plan Update after approval by the City to solicit support. Cooperation and support to be sought with neighboring municipalities with interests in the study area.
2. Meet with Planning & Development Services (PDS) Staff to review and evaluate the applicability of the regulatory techniques and financial incentives to determine which may be appropriate for use.
3. Evaluate future Open Space ballot initiatives or extensions to continue the dedicating funding source.

B. TRAIL ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Ensure that open space funding for trails is consistent with trails on open space properties, regional trail development, or is for connections to open space or greenway properties. For other trails or trail connections, reference the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, or Envision Longmont and the Enhanced Multi-Use Corridor Plan to seek the appropriate funding source.
2. Provide a recreational, multi-use corridor without favoring a specific type of user, as a general philosophy of trails. The Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan provides system-wide guidance for the needs of the trail system throughout the City.
3. Follow accepted property or area management plans and avoid sensitive wildlife habitat, riparian and movement corridors, productive agricultural lands, etc. for trail location and placement.
4. Follow guidelines established in the St. Vrain Greenway Master Plan Update (2001) for trail types and cross sections, structures, and trail furnishings. Furnishings and signage is the same or similar with appropriate modifications made for more rural and natural settings. For example, the blue color scheme might become an earth-toned scheme of greens and browns. Open Space signage and amenities should promote the unique identity and character of City of Longmont Open Space while also tying into and relating to the city's park and greenway standards.
5. Plan and construct trailheads where roads intersect trails and a suitable pull-out or curb cut can be attained, especially in rural areas, if they occur.
6. Conduct an inventory of social trails within the system to determine which can be incorporated into City-maintained trails, and which need to be closed.

C. UPDATING KEY OPPORTUNITIES

Staffing and Administration

1. Emphasize the importance and role of the Park Rangers for the purpose of natural resources protection and visitor services.
2. Continue to grow the volunteer programs within the Natural Resources Division to foster Community Stewardship.
3. Continue to dedicate employee resources to focus on vegetation, weed, and wildlife management.
4. Rely on research and evaluation for science-based management.
5. Engage the PRAB and the Board of Environmental Affairs to advise City Council on the preservation, acquisition, and management of open space, along with the acquisition, provision, and management of active park and recreation resources.
6. Seek partnerships for each fee acquisition to hold a conservation easement on the parcel to provide an additional level of protection for the land.
7. Coordinate with Recreation Services to provide environmental and educational programming.
8. Combine the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan with the Open Space Master Plan for a more holistic planning document when the next plan update occurs.

Signage

1. Follow the guidelines established in the St. Vrain Greenway Master Plan Update (2001). Signage is the same or similar with appropriate modifications made for more rural and natural settings. For example, the blue color scheme might become an earth-toned scheme of greens and browns.
2. Include entry signs for parcels with access, boundary, and identification signs for parcels not open to public access, trail wayfinding signs, and information kiosks with maps.
3. Conduct a system-wide evaluation to determine the current need for signage through the system.

Naming of Properties

1. Keep the lands that are currently named under the same name when acquired by the City.
2. Follow the same policy and procedure as established for park naming for properties with public access.

Memorials

1. Designate and standardize plaques used for memorial benches and trees.

Low-Impact and Passive Recreation

1. Define low-impact or passive recreation:

Low-impact or passive recreation is outdoor recreation that:

- Requires **minimal development** on the recreational site
 - Provides educational, health and well-being, restorative, and pleasurable opportunities to the public
 - Preserves wildlife and the natural ecosystem of the area and is environmentally sensitive
 - Focuses on the area in its **natural state**, minimizing environmental impact
 - **Has minimal rules of engagement**, coordination, formal programming, etc.
 - **Includes non-consumptive uses** such as wildlife observation, walking, biking, etc.
 - **Emphasizes preservation**
2. Art, fishing, hiking/jogging, non-motor boating, photography, picnicking, reading, and wildlife viewing are generally appropriate on open space lands. Establish additional parameters and allow these activities on open space lands.
 3. Other activities may not generally be appropriate or compatible with open space; however, certain activities could be addressed on a case-by-case basis. The City will need to determine if they are appropriate for park land and could be accommodated on open space land without undue impact to the property and its resources.
 4. Certain uses, such as bikers and horses on the trails system were generally found to be incompatible with open space lands but could be acceptable on a trail system within open space. Restrict these types of activities to designated portions of the trails system.
 5. Engage the PRAB to determine the appropriateness of recreational activities on open space lands by weighing recreational needs versus available land resources throughout the system.
 6. Communicate **intentions when acquiring property for parks or for open space**. Develop site plans for use and management for each parcel or area based on the purpose of acquiring the property and continuing public process.

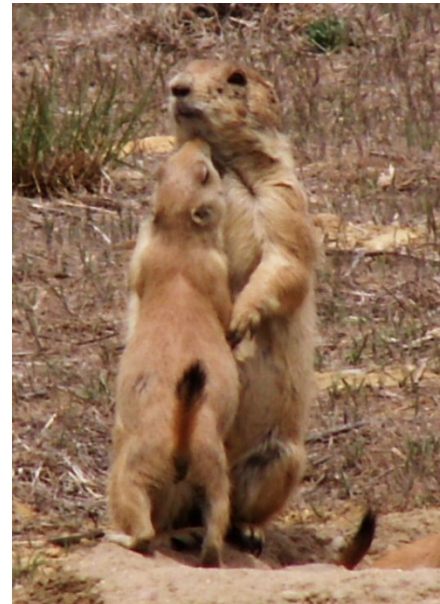
Dog Management

1. Continue the overall philosophy of:
 - Not allowing dogs off leash on open space properties
 - Allowing dogs on-leash in designated areas
 - Designating areas where dogs are not allowed in order to protect wildlife resources and to provide a dog-free trail experience
2. Consider specific areas to be set aside for off-leash dogs. Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the entire park system to determine where dog off leash areas are appropriate.

3. Develop a comprehensive effort to address the issue of dog management including:
 - An educational campaign
 - The creation of a map showing areas for dogs on leash, dogs off-leash, and no dogs areas
 - The creation of coalition including local dog owner groups and the Humane Society
 - Cooperation with Animal Control Units from the City and the Counties

Wildlife

1. Acquire and manage open space lands to maintain ecosystems and environments and to accomplish multiple goals. Allow the coexistence of wildlife and human activity on open space properties whenever possible.
2. Preserve existing wildlife habitats and improve degraded habitats.
3. Incorporate the following into the wildlife management plan being initiated in the fall of 2018:
 - Collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions and resource agencies.
 - Include a section addressing prairie dog habitat management, as this remains one of the largest single wildlife issues facing the City.
 - Include sections addressing species of concern for the Longmont community and threatened and endangered species such as the Preble's meadow jumping mouse; these species are known to inhabit the study area.
 - Review and enhance the City's **wildlife movement corridors**, which could include riparian corridors along streams, ditches, and creeks like the St. Vrain Creek, Left Hand Creek, Spring Gulch, etc.



Agricultural Lands

1. Ensure that the agricultural preservation efforts, which typically fall outside of the Longmont Planning Area (LPA):
 - a. Support economically viable farming in Longmont
 - b. Preserve cultural landscapes
 - c. Maintain viewsheds
 - d. Provide wildlife corridors
 - e. Create community buffers
2. Utilize smaller scale, urban agriculture on properties within the LPA to support:
 - a. Local food production
 - b. Small scale farming operations
 - c. Community supported agriculture
3. Communicate the value, purpose, and heritage of agricultural lands to the public

Gravel Mining and Mineral Rights/Oil and Gas Development and Code

1. Consider gravel mining, water rights, and other mineral rights on a case-by-case basis using relevant information presented in the City’s planning documents and current circumstances, such as funding and other priorities.
2. Incorporate the City’s Code regarding oil and gas development on City open space along with supporting an operating philosophy to:
 - i. Acquire all **minerals rights** as well as **historical water rights**, if available.
 - ii. **All royalties** from Open Space properties should be deposited into the Open Space Fund accounts.
 - iii. Request agreements in cases where mineral rights have been **severed** based on the following standards:
 - 1) If **no** drilling has occurred – request agreement stipulating no surface disturbance.
 - 2) If **already** drilled – request agreement stipulating no further surface disturbance.
 - iv. Provide more oversight and **increased inspections** of oil and gas production/sites, to be paid through royalty account.
3. Monitor the effects of oil and gas development on open space areas over time.
4. Communicate the economic benefits and associated risks along with the intention of these acquisitions to the public, in an effort to maintain program accountability and integrity.

Long Range Management and Maintenance Costs

1. Utilize historical data and comparative data to:
 - Determine the appropriate balance of resource allocation to each site and for the program as a whole.
 - Determine more accurate costs, including the balance of acquisition vs. maintenance/development needs, during annual budget cycles.
 - Develop communication efforts of the City to further establish trust and advocacy.
 - Establish evaluation metrics to determine how well resources are meeting the needs of the community.
2. Explore strategies to extend the dedicated Open Space Sales Tax funding beyond 2034. Steps will need to be taken to ensure that long-term funding for management and maintenance of the lands is secured. Discussions may need to take place in the very near future to meet current open space desires, to allow adequate time to appropriately assess the desires of the community before the expiration of the tax.

Area Management Plans

1. Define areas to accommodate the different uses and needs of the lands as an efficient management tool, creating an inventory of what exists in each area and developing methods and costing of ongoing management and maintenance for each area.

D. NEW OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFIED DURING THE UPDATE PROCESS

Alignment with Other Planning Efforts

1. Consider other planning documents when determining the appropriate allocation of funding, priority projects, and appropriate implementation strategies.
2. Communicate the City's and the Program's accomplishments by creating messaging that incorporates how and why resources are allocated, and the collaborative efforts between Departments.
3. Combine the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan with the Open Space Master Plan the next planning update. This will result in a more holistic approach for recreation delivery across the city.

Annexing Open Space When Possible

1. Annex property that has been purchased and is part of the open space system to the City of Longmont whenever possible.

Awareness and Education

1. Strategize with the PWRN Communications and Marketing teams about ways to build support for the Open Space Program through key messages that include:
 - a. Sharing the vision and goals of the Open Space Program.
 - b. Developing programming to increase user engagement and education.
 - c. Providing education about the purpose, intent, and prioritization for all projects (capital, wildlife, preservation, etc.).
 - d. Increasing interpretive and property identification signage.
 - e. Communicating the economic value and benefits to public health provided by Longmont's open space.
2. Communicating the economic value and benefits to public health provided by Longmont's open space. Communicate the economic benefits and associated risks along with the intention of these opportunities to the public, in an effort to maintain program accountability and integrity.

Updating the Plan

The progress on this Open Space Master Plan Update should be reviewed annually, with an update of the plan every five years. Priorities for acquisition and activities that are acceptable may change over time, and other planning documents of the City of Longmont and surrounding areas will be updated and may have an impact on this program.

The 2002 Plan was called the Longmont Open Space and Trails Master Plan and provided more significant direction regarding trail development. Since 2002, trail development has been addressed through other planning documents, providing a more comprehensive approach. At the time of the next update, this plan should also be merged with the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Plan (changing the format of this document) to provide a more comprehensive view of recreational and outdoor opportunities throughout the community.

Changes, amendments, or updates to the plan should be in line with other City planning efforts. This update supports the direction of the City's other planning efforts, such as Envision Longmont and the Sustainability Plan.

I. PROPOSED PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION

A. OVERVIEW

The guiding basis for updating this plan has been the City’s ordinance that created Longmont’s Open Space Program, along with a broad-based participatory process that has included the public and a knowledgeable Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) representing agencies and interests at the state, county, and municipal levels. The ordinance may be found in **Appendix A**.

THE 2002 PLAN

The original plan was developed through a process that started with reviewing, testing, and cross-checking the ordinance to verify that it fully and accurately represented the needs and desires of the Longmont community. Based upon input from the consulting team, the TAC, PRAB, and the general public, the ordinance was determined to stand up very well without the need for amendment or annotation. Input at the public meetings supported equal weighting of the Open Space Ordinance Criteria, and the community survey revealed a fairly balanced support of all uses, with conservation and resource-based uses as slightly higher ranked priorities. As a result, the study process proceeded with the open space criteria spelled out in the ordinance, with equal weighting, as the basis for identifying suitable lands for preserving as open space within the study area.

The next step was to get a sense of what the people of Longmont thought open space should look and feel like. *Where should it be located? What activities or uses should it support? How should it be managed?* To get these answers, a series of workshop activities and a community survey were conducted. It should be noted that it is the intent of the City of Longmont to only pursue the acquisition of land with willing sellers.

Simultaneously, information from existing resource inventories, regional plans, and other data sources was compiled into a single GIS database and analyzed to determine how the landscape within the study area stacked up against the criteria in the ordinance.

The final step was to synthesize the public input with the physical characteristics of the lands within the study area to arrive at a comprehensive plan for acquiring and managing land for open space.

THE UPDATE

This update followed a similar process, utilizing the 2002 plan, existing City planning documents, and the accomplishments to date as a starting point. The project team guided the development of a public input process which included a statistically-valid survey, an open survey, and public workshops. The goal of each was validating elements that exist within the plan and making updates where appropriate.

In general, this update process resulted in similar conclusions to the 2002 process, determining that the criteria and much of the plan are still in line with community wants and needs.

B. THE STUDY AREA

The study area is generally defined by 65th Street on the west, Vermillion Road on the north, Weld County Road 8 on the east, and Oxford Road on the south. This area is approximately 80 square miles (51,200 acres) in size and includes all of the City of Longmont as well as rural portions of Boulder and Weld Counties. The entire area lies within the northern portion of the Front Range that sits on a piedmont plain at the base of the Rocky Mountains, a broad, rolling basin that contains the South Platte River and its tributaries. Major tributaries running through the study area are the St. Vrain River, Left Hand Creek, and Boulder Creek.

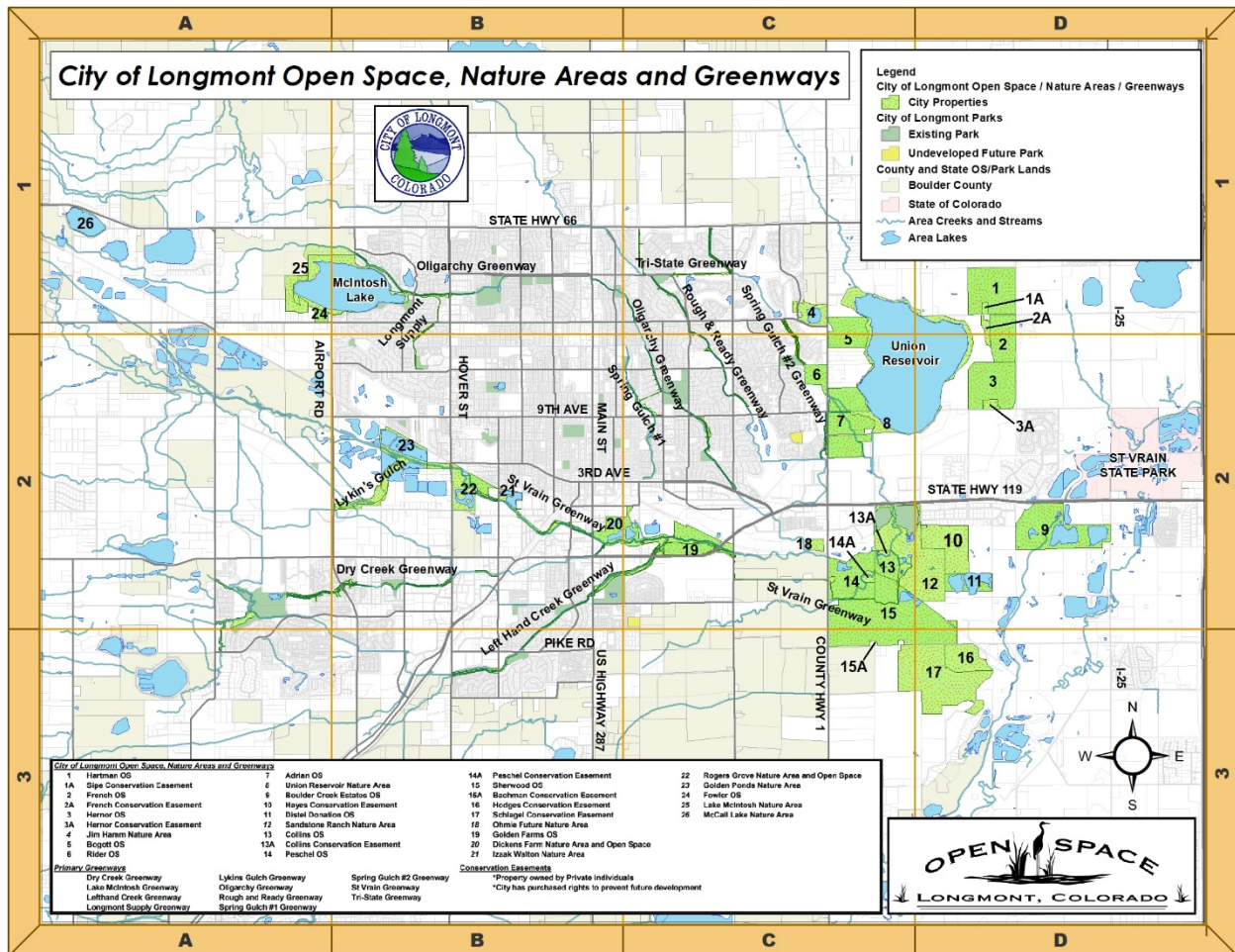
The natural character of this landscape is an open grassland laced with perennial streams along which groves of cottonwoods and other riparian vegetation can be found. Farming and gravel mining over the past 150 years have transformed this landscape with a patchwork quilt of plowed fields, wetlands, ditches, roadways, and settlements. The area remains an attractive blend of rural farmsteads and natural areas, backdropped with spectacular views of the Rocky Mountains, with Longs Peak as a focal point.

As with the 2002 Plan, the City of Longmont is rapidly changing in character due to continued growth. It has evolved from a farm and railroad town to a full-service community centrally located between Boulder, Fort Collins, and the Denver Metropolitan area. Longmont is a progressive city with its own industry and commercial base. Longmont is the site of some of the first new urbanist developments in Colorado, including Prospect and Quail Ridge. The City is also progressive with regard to parks and trails development, with the St. Vrain Greenway as a prime example.

At the time of this update, the City of Longmont Open Space Program, consisting of open space, nature areas, and greenways, has grown to approximately 4,570 acres across 32 properties as shown in **Figure 1**, and 94 miles of trails (city-wide); serving approximately 95,000 community members. It should be noted that this figure includes properties owned by Boulder County and Weld County, highlighting the partnerships with neighboring agencies that help provide opportunities for trails, acquisition, etc.



Figure 1: 2018 Longmont Open Space, Nature Areas, and Greenways



The above map highlights the City of Longmont Open Space, Nature Areas, Greenways, and Conservation Easements:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Hartman Open Space | 14. Peschel Open Space |
| 1A. Sipe Conservation Easement | 14A. Peschel Conservation Easement |
| 2. French Open Space | 15. Sherwood Open Space |
| 2A. French Conservation Easement | 15A. Bachman Conservation Easement |
| 3. Hernor Open Space | 16. Hodges Conservation Easement |
| 3A. Hernor Conservation Easement | 17. Schlagel Conservation Easement |
| 4. Jim Hamm Nature Area | 18. Ohmie Future Nature Area |
| 5. Bogott Open Space | 19. Golden Farms Open Space |
| 6. Rider Open Space | 20. Dickens Farm Nature Area and Open Space |
| 7. Adrian Open Space | 21. Izaak Walton Nature Area |
| 8. Union Reservoir Nature Area | 22. Rogers Grove Nature Area and Open Space |
| 9. Boulder Creek Estates Open Space | 23. Golden Ponds Nature Area |
| 10. Hayes Conservation Easement | 24. Fowler Open Space |
| 11. Distel Donation Open Space | 25. Lake McIntosh Nature Area |
| 12. Sandstone Ranch Nature Area | 26. McCall Lake Nature Area |
| 13. Collins Open Space | |
| 13A. Collins Conservation Easement | |

C. DATA COLLECTION

Information from the initial planning process in 2002 indicated that the criteria in the ordinance were valid and should be applied in a balanced manner as the primary basis for selecting and managing open space lands. Some additional criteria and issues were identified as secondary concerns. The update process identified similar findings to 2002 Plan. The data presented within this update follows a similar structure to the 2002 Plan, with new information incorporated into ongoing/continued issues, and new issues being discussed and analyzed.

City of Longmont data from the previous master plan was updated as appropriate for this study. Primary sources of this data included GIS files from the City of Longmont, Boulder County, and Weld County. Previous data and information on wildlife, ecology, and agricultural lands obtained from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP), the City of Longmont, and select private studies was considered to still be valid in 2018.

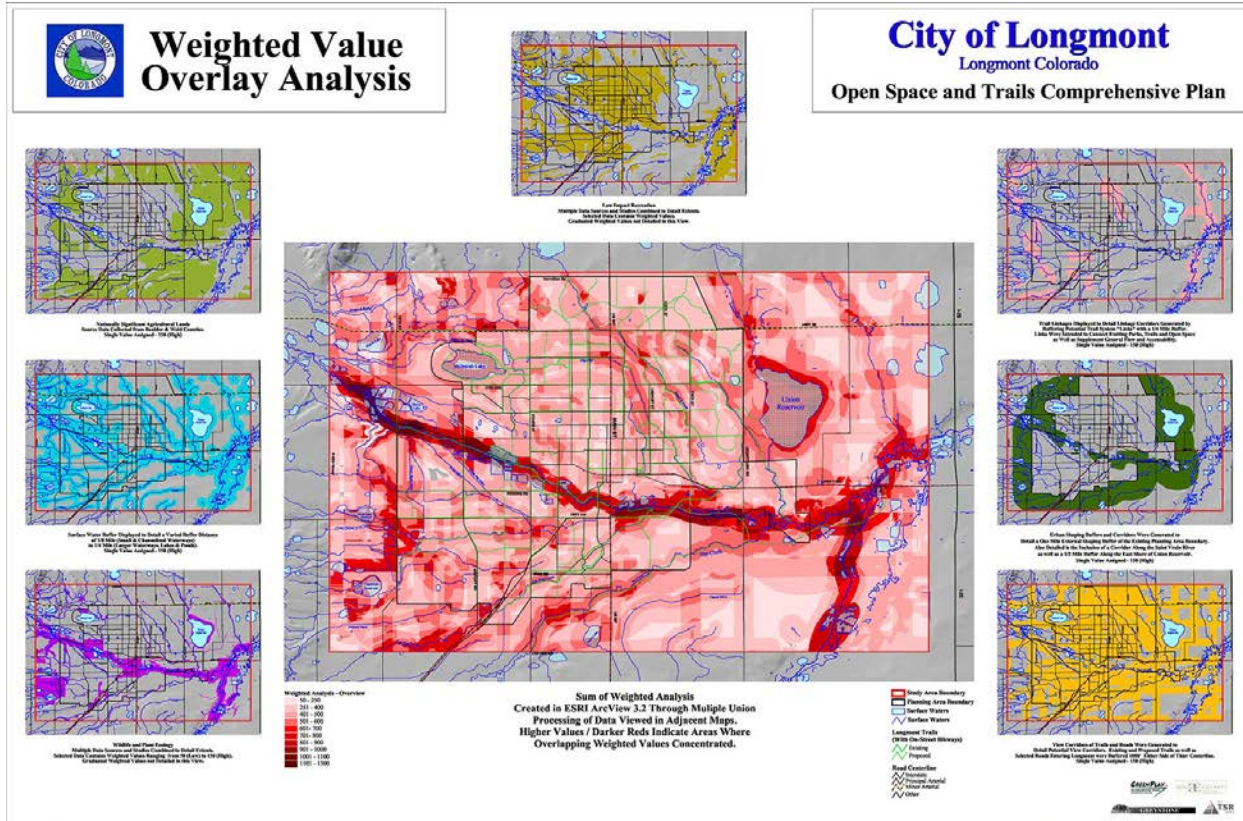
Updated mapping was reviewed by TAC. It is important to note that there were no field verifications of any data, and it represents a single point in time. The compiled database is suitable for this study in its current updated, annotated, and compiled format. It has usefulness to the City and counties for other purposes beyond this study.

D. ACQUISITION

The “Methodology for Applying the Open Space Criteria” from the 2002 plan is considered to be valid and was therefore not updated as part of the 2018 planning effort. The following weighted values map represents a summary of the Tier I data used to assess potential acquisition parcels. In this analysis, seven different variables were analyzed and overlaid to create the final weighted values analysis, which is displayed in the center map in **Figure 2**, that shows the most valuable or desired areas in darker shades of red. The seven variables include:

- Low impact recreation
- Trail linkages
- Urban shaping buffers and corridors
- View corridors
- Wildlife and plant ecology
- Surface water
- Nationally significant agriculture lands.

Figure 2: Weighted Value Overlay Analysis Mapping



METHODOLOGY FOR APPLYING THE OPEN SPACE CRITERIA

This methodology was created during the 2002 plan. It was analyzed by the project team and staff during the update process and considered valid information to use going forward. The evaluation form tool provided for Tier II evaluation was identified by staff as not previously relied upon in the decision-making process as generally, prioritization of parcels was not an issue. While not critical previously, it was determined that future opportunities may rely on Tier II evaluation tools.

Information within the database is broken into “themes” representing the values expressed in the ordinance criteria. These themes were overlaid to form a composite map that ranks the suitability of lands within the study area for open space. This became Tier I in a three-tiered methodology. The purpose of this first tier was to score all lands within the study area according to the values expressed in the ordinance. This Tier is not intended to be parcel specific, but identifies,

- OPEN SPACE CRITERIA**
- Preservation of natural areas, wildlife habitat, wetlands, agriculture, and visual corridors.
 - Linkages and trails; access to public lakes, streams, and other usable open space lands, stream corridors, and scenic corridors along existing highways.
 - Conservation of natural resources including, but not limited to, forest lands, range lands, agricultural lands, aquifer recharge areas, and surface water.
 - District parks devoted to low-impact recreational uses.
 - Implementing greenways and open space policies or strategies of the Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan.
 - Urban shaping buffers between or around municipalities or community service areas and buffer zones between residential and non-residential development.

with a broad brush, those lands that support these values to the greatest extent.

The public input process confirmed the validity of the ordinance criteria for open space lands; additional criteria emerged that were not part of the ordinance, like the Sustainability Evaluation System (SES). The public felt that these criteria should be considered secondarily, to help in determining the suitability of a given parcel for open space. These became Tier II criteria, intended to be applied once the Tier I analysis has been completed. These included such considerations as cultural/historic value, location, availability, and price of the land. Tier II also goes beyond Tier I to evaluate specific parcels to determine the level or degree to which they address the individual criteria from the ordinance.

Tier III is the level at which decisions are made as to what specific actions or strategies should be used to preserve a parcel of land that has been found through Tiers I and II to be worthy of preservation as open space.

This methodology can be (and very likely will be) applied in reverse. If a parcel of land is offered to the City as open space, it can be evaluated to determine how well it satisfies the ordinance criteria and other aspects of the open space program.

TIER I

Based on the criteria in the ordinance, the data set was assembled into the following categories or themes:

- Ecology and wildlife
- Agricultural lands
- Visual access/viewshed
- Linkage/access
- Urban shaping/buffer
- Surface water
- Low-impact or passive recreation

The project team attempted to weigh all ordinance criteria equally, so that none was given priority over another in the scoring. Attributes within the dataset were assigned a value score and geospatial extent. These were determined as follows:

- **Ecology and Wildlife** – Information detailing ecology and wildlife surveys was in the dataset. Survey data included habitat and range studies of Bald Eagles, Prairie Dogs, and Preble’s Jumping Mouse as well as Element Occurrence Records from the Colorado Natural Heritage Program. Greystone biologists ranked these lands on a scale of 50 to 150. Values of 50 (Low), 100 (Medium), and 150 (High) were assigned to attribute tables as directed by Greystone. All other lands were scored as zero.
- **Agricultural Lands** – Information on Nationally Significant Agricultural Lands was in the data set. Lands in these areas could be utilized for the agricultural qualities they possess. These lands were assigned a score of 150. All other lands were scored as zero. Since the original attributes were mapped, PWNR staff have developed additional criteria for evaluating open space agricultural lands. The preservation of agricultural lands was identified as a goal of the open space ballot language.



These properties recognize the community's agrarian past, support economically viable farming in Longmont, preserve cultural landscapes, maintain viewsheds, provide wildlife corridors, and create community buffers. In addition to these goals, Open Space staff should evaluate soil types and water supplies that are consistent with the proposed agricultural activities and ensure that they are located in areas that are in compliance with current City land use and planning documents.

- **Visual Access/Viewshed** – Since the data set had no data on visual quality, this task began with a broad viewshed analysis of Longs Peak, Mount Evans, and Pikes Peak. Since virtually the entire study area was found to have views to one or more of these prominent sites along the Front Range, all lands within a reasonable distance of a public trail or roadway were considered to be potentially visible to the public, and therefore potentially of benefit as open space, subject to further analysis of the visual quality of any particular parcel. The project team assigned a score of 150 to any lands within a distance of 1,000 feet from trails and select roads. All other lands were given a score of zero.
- **Linkage/Access** – For this theme, the project team looked at all known existing and proposed trails in the study area and noted any missing links between trails, and between trails and parks, open space, or other recreational destinations. The project team then assigned a score of 150 to the corridor 0.25 mile (1,320') wide along these missing links, on the assumption that a trail somewhere within that corridor would satisfy the need for a trail connection.
- **Urban Shaping/Buffer** – Since the primary goal of this criterion is to create a separator between Longmont and other developed communities, the project team used the Longmont planning area boundary as the basis for this theme. The project team offset this boundary by one mile to the outside on the assumption that lands within this area would satisfy the buffering. Values were not assigned for the part of the ordinance dealing with the separation of residential and non-residential development, because adequate data was unavailable. This goal could be accomplished through the City's site plan approval process. The project team also took into account the functionality of selected areas along the St. Vrain Greenway and Union Reservoir as urban shaping devices. The river corridor provides spokes or fingers of open space to connect the urban core to the rural areas. These lands were assigned a value of 150. All other lands were scored as zero.
- **Surface Water** – In order to represent the Open Space Criterion calling for the conservation of surface water, the edges of water bodies and stream corridors were scored a value of 150. This included all lands within a selected variable distance of 0.125 (660') to 0.25 (1,320') miles from lakes and streams. Narrow, channelized reaches of the St. Vrain as well as other small waterways were buffered to 0.125 miles. All other reaches of the St. Vrain, Boulder Creek, and other water bodies were buffered to 0.25 miles.

- **Low-Impact and Passive Recreation** – Attributes within the dataset that would indicate some potential for recreational uses were scored. Thus, lands with topographic interest or proximity to water, or with potentially good vistas were assigned a positive value. Lands within 0.25 mile of existing or proposed trails were assigned positive value for recreation on the basis of access. Parcel size was also factored in on the assumption that larger parcels will accommodate recreation activities with less impact than smaller ones. At the same time, in order to represent the open space criterion for the preservation of wildlife habitat often present near water, lands were devalued if they were within 0.25 mile of major streams or reservoirs, or 0.125 mile of smaller waterways, to protect the habitat from low-impact recreation. Nationally significant agricultural land was also devalued for recreation, as were lands identified as sensitive areas for wildlife habitat. However, lands identified as good, but not critical, habitat were given a positive value. A composite map of all of these attributes was generated.

Utilizing the GIS, the theme maps were overlaid to create a composite map (see **Figure 2: Weighted Values Overlay Mapping**) based on accumulated scores for any given point within the study area. Darker colored areas score the highest in terms of their potential to satisfy criteria in the ordinance; lighter colored areas score the lowest. Additional mapping resources from the previous plan are found in **Appendix B**.

The analysis was broad-stroke and did not address individual parcels. It simply gave an idea of where open space parcels that meet the criteria outlined in the ordinance are likely to be found. However, individual parcels that meet these same criteria may exist within areas that scored low overall. Also, because an attempt was made to weigh all of the criteria equally, based on the potential for those attributes to occur, there is no evaluation of how well or to what extent individual parcels meet specific criteria. In this analysis, the potential to meet several criteria even marginally would result in a higher score than a parcel that met a single criterion exceptionally well. Therefore, it is necessary to evaluate individual parcels under consideration by additional means. This is the purpose of Tier II.

TIER II

Individual tracts of land that are under consideration for inclusion in the open space system should be evaluated to determine how well they address the specific criteria and overall goals of the City’s open space ordinance. This includes lands that are identified in Tier I and any lands offered through a willing seller or other means. It should be noted that it is the intent of the City of Longmont to only pursue the acquisition of land with willing sellers.

At this level, the project team should begin to look at individual parcels with a finer filter. Evaluation tools and additional field study should be used to further evaluate individual parcels to determine the degree of each value present including:

- Willingness of seller to sell property
- Wildlife/vegetation and restoration potential
- Recreation value and adjacent land uses
- Cost/benefit of acquisition and long-term management/maintenance/repair
- Cultural and historic value
- Ecosystem service benefit (infiltration, reducing runoff, enhancing water quality, heat island effect reduction, tree canopy, air quality, floodplain, environmental health, watershed protection, water conservation)
- Equitable access

This evaluation will allow staff to determine and compare acquisition priorities.

To evaluate individual tracts, PWNR staff can utilize the evaluation forms provided as part of this study. This will help staff make decisions on whether or not a given parcel of land is worth the cost of acquiring and maintaining it. Taken as a whole, the evaluation also can become part of a database that will tell the City how well its open space lands are meeting the objectives of the ordinance. Also, the evaluations can be used to determine how specific parcels should be maintained. If a parcel scores high as agricultural land, it should be maintained differently from one that scores high for wildlife habitat.

TIER III

Once a parcel has been evaluated and selected through Tiers I and II, it is time to pose the questions:

- Who should acquire the land?
- Is it a partnering opportunity?
- Should it be acquired fee simple or protected through some other means?

City Council has directed staff to establish a partnership policy to seek partners for all open space fee acquisitions to hold a conservation easement for the propose of providing an additional level of land preservation and protection.

Each parcel should be evaluated to determine how well it meets the goals and objectives of other planning efforts of the City and other partnering jurisdictions.

- Parcels should be referred to other city agencies to determine need for water, transportation, or other uses.
- Staff from both counties were involved in the development of this plan and in the update. Both Weld and Boulder Counties should be encouraged to formally support the plan update through an inter-governmental, or other, working document to help ensure the long-term success of the Open Space Master Plan Update. This recommendation was also a recommendation made in the St. Vrain Greenway Master Plan.
 - Longmont Staff should meet with Boulder County Parks and Open Space Staff, after this Plan is adopted by the Longmont City Council, in order to present the updated plan to the Boulder County Open Space Advisory Committee and forward it to the Boulder County Commissioners.
 - A presentation should be made to the Boulder County Commissioners with recommendation for support.
 - Longmont Staff should meet with the Weld County Planning Department, after this Plan is adopted by the Longmont City Council, to identify compatibility with the St. Vrain Valley Open Lands and Trails Plan and recommendation for a presentation to the Weld County Commissioners.
 - A presentation should be made to the Weld County Commissioners with recommendation for support.

Side note: The St. Vrain Greenway remained a high priority throughout the public process. This Update does not incorporate trail priorities in the same manner that the previous plan did. Information regarding the St. Vrain Greenway can be found in the St. Vrain Greenway Master Plan East Corridor Update, which provides a compilation of Federal, State, and Local Tools for Acquisition, Protection, and Implementation/Funding Sources. This document also provides information appropriate for the entire open space system and should be referenced as answers to these questions are sought.

IMPLEMENTATION

The mapping tools developed throughout this process are based on the Open Space Ordinance Established Criteria and should be used, recognizing their limitations, as a guide for the first level evaluation of properties for acquisition. This is true whether appropriate properties are sought out or opportunities for acquisition present themselves. The process for evaluation is designed to work in either case.

The study area boundary will continue to be viewed as the target acquisition area; however, acquisitions may not be limited to this area, as land with open space values around a city facility, or in some way providing an important connection, may be deemed a critical open space acquisition and should be considered, such as the Button Rock Preserve.

Individual parcels should pass through the Tier I evaluation to determine, from a broad-brush perspective, how many and what type of values are present on the property. The Tier II analysis allows a site-specific analysis to occur, which will most likely include a further determination of the degree of each value present through additional field study. *As noted previously, the Tier II evaluation form tool was not utilized during the implementation of the original plan due to the lack of competing parcels. The Tier II tool remains in this update because it may be utilized to help determine priority acquisitions as resources or opportunities are less available in the future.*

When a property is deemed desirable for acquisition, the questions pertinent to Tier III come into play. Based on how well the parcel meets goals of other jurisdictions, who should acquire the land? Is this a partnering opportunity? Should it be acquired fee simple or protected through some other means?

It will be important to this step in the process that Boulder and Weld Counties are familiar with the intentions of the City of Longmont through this planning effort. Their support of the City's effort by the Counties should be sought immediately after approval of this plan by the City Council.

The Compilation of Federal, State, and Local Tools for Acquisition, Protection, and Implementation/Funding Sources found in the St. Vrain Greenway Master Plan East Corridor Update should be referenced to determine an appropriate strategy to protect the resource. This information outlines and details regulatory approaches, incentive programs, and outright acquisition techniques that can be employed. Common techniques are listed below (techniques that have been utilized by Longmont in the past are marked with an *):

Acquisition Techniques

- Fee simple purchase*
- Conservation easement/purchase of development rights (partial interest)*
- Joint purchase with other entity(s) (undivided interest)*
- Leaseback or Lease*
- Donations and gifts (full or partial)*
- Non-profit acquisition and conveyance to the City

Regulatory Protection Techniques

- Zoning* – large lot, performance, cluster, preservation
- Exaction
- Phased Growth
- Moratorium
- Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)

Financial Incentives

- Preferential Assessment
- Density Bonuses
- Grants and Loans*

PWNR Staff should meet with PDS Staff to review and evaluate the applicability of the regulatory techniques and financial incentives to determine if they are appropriate for use. For any deemed appropriate, next steps should be identified for potential implementation.

Even with the tools available, to maximize partnering potential and realize the desires of Longmont community members, it may be necessary to obtain additional financial resources. Current input revealed that the community may support another ballot initiative or an extension of the current initiative; additional discussion relating to future funding opportunities can be found in the Key Issues section.

ACQUISITION PROCESS

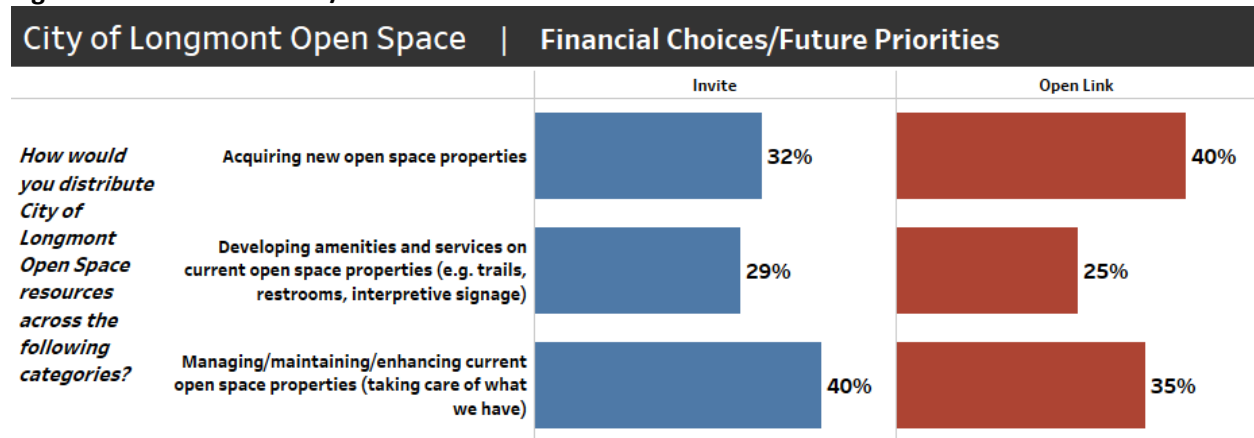
Once the City has determined interest in a particular parcel, staff is responsible for evaluation of the parcel, using the approach provided in this plan. After the evaluation, staff presents a negotiated deal to PRAB for its recommendation to City Council. City Council gives final approval for acquisitions.

PRIORITIZING ACQUISITION BY THE COMMUNITY

Since the approval of the previous plan, the program has grown and developed through acquisition. Knowing that there are still opportunities for acquisition in the area and the cost to maintain lands is increasing, several questions regarding acquisition of lands were posed to the community. A survey was used to better gauge how the community thought land should be acquired, where they thought it should be acquired, and their expectations regarding access and uses on those lands. A summary of this information is provided below, and the full results of the community survey are found in **Appendices C and D**. Further information regarding the survey process can be found in the Needs Assessment section of this document.

When asked how the resources should be distributed between acquisition, development, and maintaining/managing, 40 percent of respondents in the open survey selected “acquiring new open space properties,” as compared 32 percent of respondents in the invitation survey (**Figure 3**). This is not the highest response on the invitation sample, but respondents in both surveys favored distributing resources toward acquisition and managing/maintaining over development. Participants in the public workshops reiterated this finding, noting the need to prioritize acquisition now over other opportunities. Participants in the public workshops noted the rising costs of land in the area and the threat of other communities buying lands that abut Longmont boundaries.

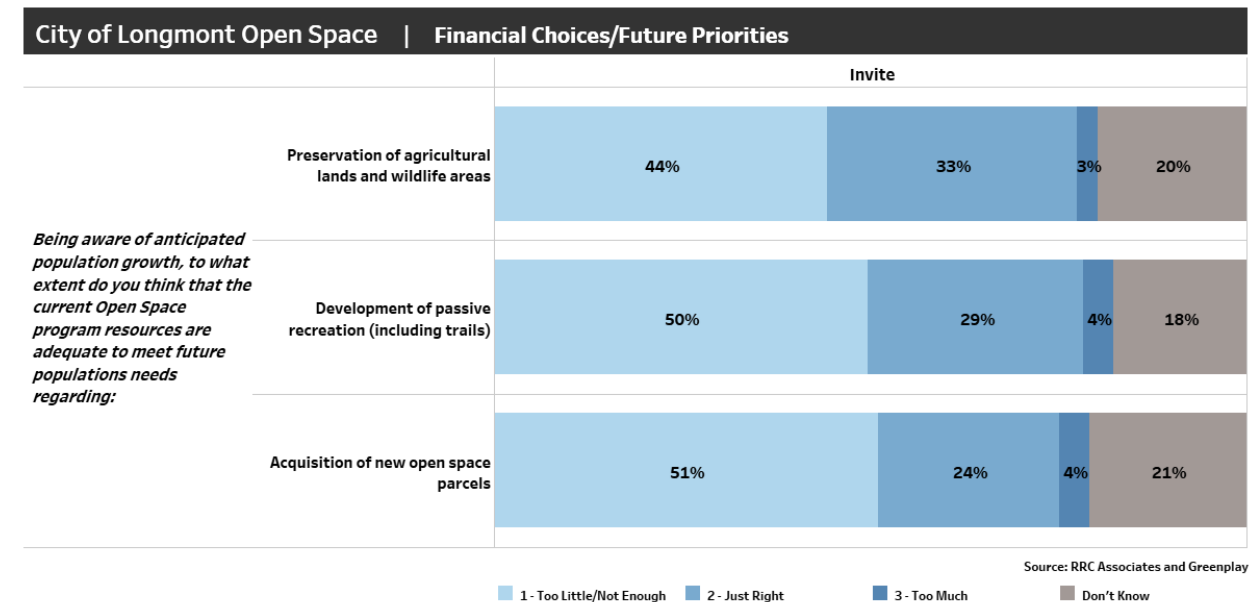
Figure 3: Financial Choices/Future Priorities – Distribution of Resources



Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

When asked how adequately resources meet the future needs of Longmont, roughly half said that the development of passive recreation (50%) and acquisition of new open space parcels (51%) received too little/not enough resources (**Figure 4**). This was also a concern expressed in the public workshops during the open discussion periods and noted on some of the working stations. Some participants felt that this update should recommend a focus on acquisition in the short- or midterm. In general, the respondents seemed to be in favor of balancing preservation, development, and acquisition, which is consistent with the findings from the 2002 surveying effort.

Figure 4: Financial Choices/Future Priorities – Meeting the Needs of Potential Growth



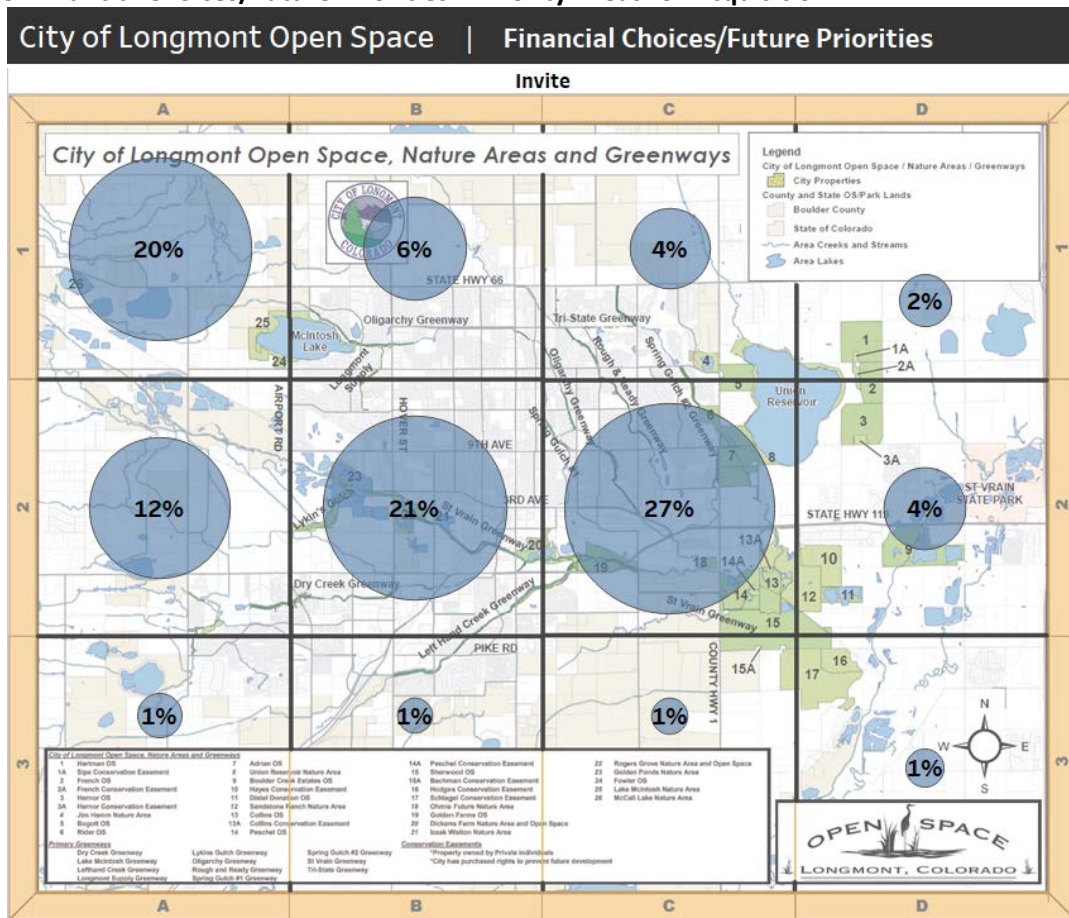
Prioritizing Where Parcels Should Be Acquired

Participants were also asked to identify priority areas for acquisition (**Figure 5**). The majority of respondents noted the central, northern, and western parts of Longmont as key areas for acquisition. While workshop participants also indicated many of these areas, the leadership team noted that there were not many opportunities in these areas, or that lands have been acquired by other agencies.

The project team also noted that the respondents to each engagement opportunity seemed to favor lands that were the closest to water, reservoirs, and river corridors. During this planning update, and after the survey and workshops, the City Council approved acquisitions on the eastern edge of Longmont near Union Reservoir. While much of this acquisition falls in a location on the map that was not identified as a priority (D1 and D2), these areas are close to water, help support a buffer on the eastern edge of Longmont, and help further the vision set forth in Envision Longmont.

During future prioritization efforts, these results should be compared to and analyzed with the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan to ensure further alignment with the City's planning documents.

Figure 5: Financial Choices/Future Priorities – Priority Areas for Acquisition



Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

E. TRAILS

The 2002 plan included discussion regarding comprehensive trails planning. Since then, the City has determined that the development and planning for trails should be addressed in the Park, Recreation, and Trail Master Plan and Envision Longmont. Since trails are considered an important amenity on open space areas, this update only address trails that are, or will be, located on the open space lands.



In addition to displaying Open Space lands, the 2018 Longmont Open Space, Nature Areas, and Greenways Map (**Figure 1**), also shows the following eleven greenways:

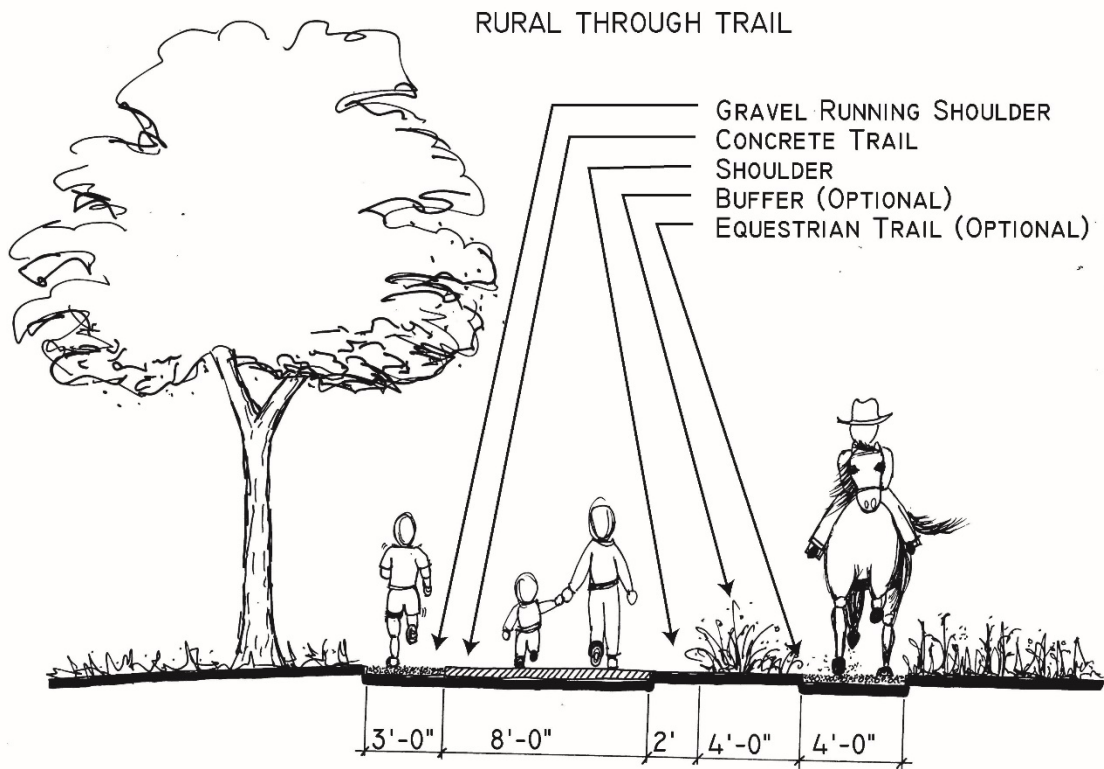
1. Dry Creek Greenway
2. Lake McIntosh Greenway
3. Lefthand Creek Greenway
4. Longmont Supply Greenway
5. Lykins Gulch Greenway
6. Oligarchy Greenway
7. Rough and Ready Greenway
8. Spring Gulch #1 Greenway
9. Spring Gulch #2 Greenway
10. St. Vrain Greenway
11. Tri-State Greenway

Additional trails information and planning efforts can be found in the 2014 City of Longmont Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan, the 2016 Envision Longmont Multimodal and Comprehensive Plan, and the 2018 Longmont Enhanced Multi-Use Corridor Plan.

The general concept for the recreational trail system on open space lands is to provide a multiple-use corridor without favoring a specific type of user. Improved trail connections between neighborhoods and open space properties, greenways, or regional trails received strong support in the community survey. This is consistent with a general philosophy that the intent of the open space trails system will be to provide low-impact recreation. This does not mean that the low-impact recreational trails system should not augment and be coordinated with the overall multi-use trail system, but the overall system is more appropriately addressed by other planning efforts and through other, appropriate funding sources.

Trails which are developed on open space lands in general follow guidelines set up in the St. Vrain Greenway Master Plan Update (2001) for trail types and cross sections. Cross-sections for these trails vary depending on use but are generally eight to eleven feet wide (**Figure 6**). Surfaces are either crusher fines (gravel) or concrete. A crusher fines path that is three feet wide is recommended parallel to all concrete trails in this group.

Figure 6: Through Trail Cross Section

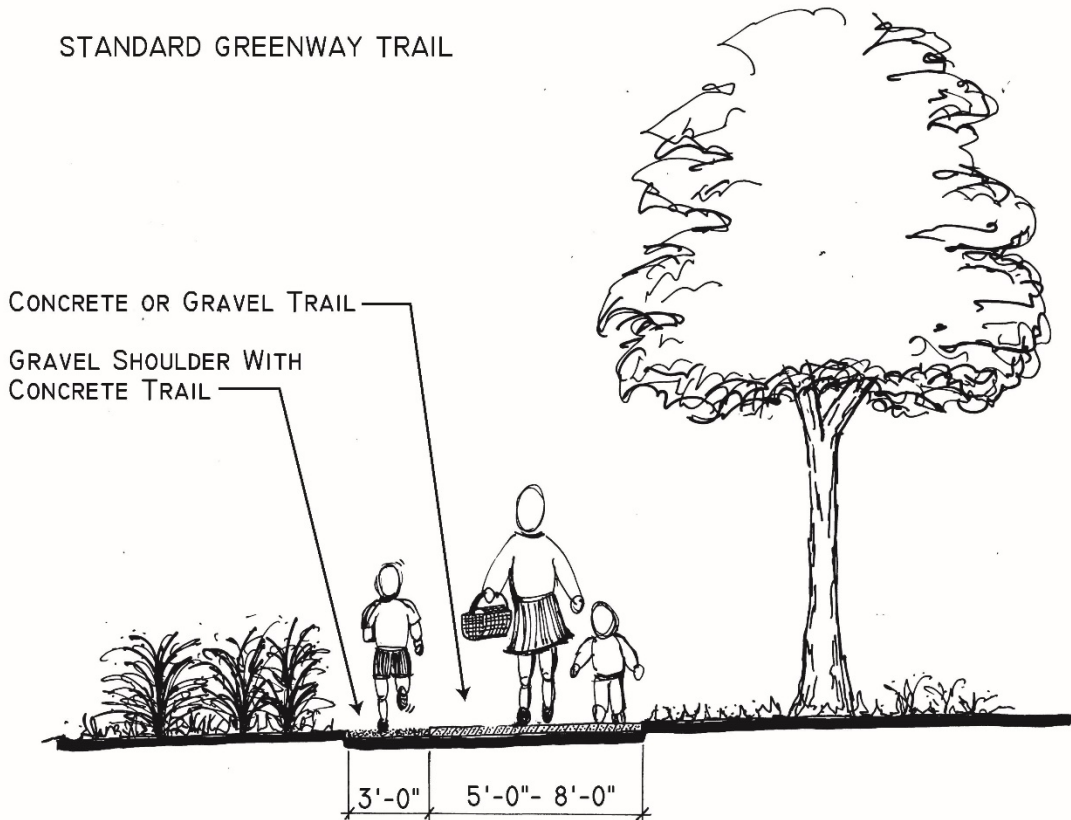


(The widths referenced within these cross-sections should be considered as suggested minimums only. They are not intended to communicate the design standards of the City.)

Additional detail, including cross-sections, materials, and other specifications can be found in the City's Design Standards and Construction Specifications; these standards are currently being updated and will contain the most up to date standards for trail development on public property.

Open space trails, which provide connections from residential areas, existing parks, and trails to open spaces should follow criteria for the Standard Greenway Trail as outlined in the St. Vrain Greenway Master Plan. This trail type is eight to eleven feet in width and either concrete or gravel according to location and intensity of use (**Figure 7**). Future trails along Spring Creek and Left Hand Creek should be eight feet wide concrete trails to accommodate frequent users. A three-foot gravel running shoulder should be added adjacent to the concrete trail. Other maintenance standards, such as mowing, should be evaluated on a site-by-site basis, taking into consideration the intention of the pathway and impact to the natural habitat of the area.

Figure 7: Greenway Trail Cross Section



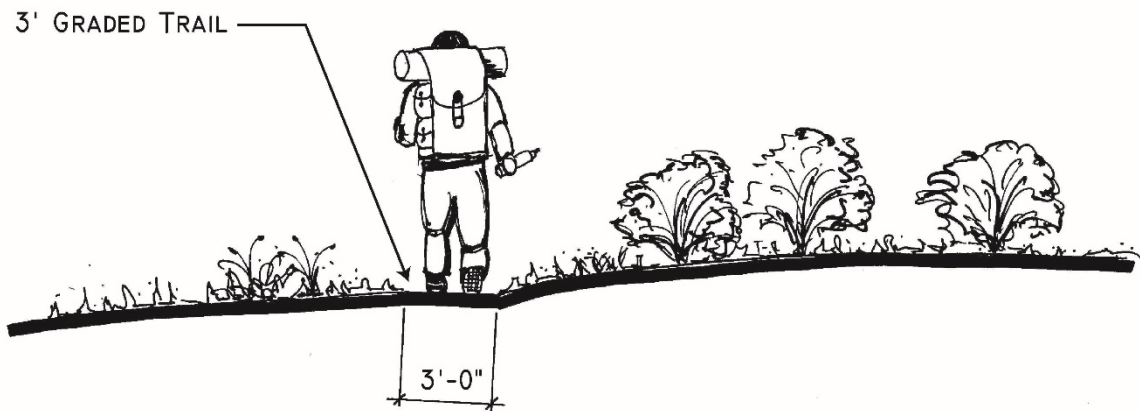
(The widths referenced within these cross-sections should be considered as suggested minimums only. They are not intended to communicate the design standards of the City.)

An additional trail type is recommended for use in open space lands, which was not addressed in the St. Vrain Greenway Master Plan, and should be addressed in the Design Standards and Construction Specifications update. This would be called the backcountry or single-track trail and is utilized under certain conditions. Primarily, this is used in situations where the trail accesses somewhat remote wildlife viewing areas and natural features, and where the goal of the trail is to offer a more natural experience. The cross section for this trail type is native soil with improvements made for trail stabilization and erosion control (**Figure 8**). The trail surfacing may be upgraded in some instances to provide for universal accessibility to specific features for example, wildlife-viewing areas where intensity of use may be greater.

Costs for these trails vary depending on conditions and the need for culverts, retaining walls, railings, or other appurtenances.

Figure 8: Backcountry Trail Cross Section

BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL



(The widths referenced within these cross-sections should be considered as suggested minimums only. They are not intended to communicate the design standards of the City.)

Trail furnishings throughout open space lands should also follow guidelines set forth in the St. Vrain Greenway Master Plan Update (2001). Benches, trash receptacles, and signage will be the same or similar to those along the St. Vrain Greenway with appropriate adaptations and modifications made for more rural and natural settings. For example, the blue color scheme utilized for the Primary Greenway might become an earth-toned scheme of greens and browns elsewhere, while the style of the shelters, benches, and other furnishings remains unchanged. The goal is to convey to the user that the open space and other trails throughout the Longmont community are all part of the same system. As the open space lands continue to evolve, PWR staff could adopt their own design and amenity standards or incorporate existing standards in the Design Standards and Construction Specifications update.

Trailheads also need to be a part of the trail system and should be developed in locations where roads intersect trails and a suitable pull-out or curb cut can be attained, especially in rural areas. Traffic safety for cars entering or exiting the parking area is a primary concern. Some trailheads may consist of little more than a safe parking space or two, and appropriate signage. Where greater use is expected, additional improvements such as trash bins and toilets may be necessary. Permanent toilets and other such structures on open space lands should have an architectural style like the shelters in the St. Vrain Greenway standards, except that the color scheme should be earth-tone colors in place of the blue color called for there. If portable toilets are included, they should be in a permanent enclosure.

Trails can be implemented in a variety of ways other than fee-simple acquisition of land and the use of open space dollars for construction. Partnering with other agencies, including the counties, the state, and private developers can stretch limited funds. Easements can be obtained through purchase or land dedication requirements. Developers can be required to provide segments of trail on primary greenways as part of the Site Plan Approval Process.

Trail management will consist of maintaining trail surfaces and related features such as parking lots and furnishings. Regular maintenance will be required for trash bins and portable toilets. Trail maintenance will include clearance trimming, and removal of fallen branches, debris, and other obstacles.

F. UPDATING KEY MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS

Since the 2002 plan, the Longmont Open Space Program continues to evolve as an element of the City's Natural Resources Division within the City of Longmont. In order to build upon successes and progress that has already been made, steps need to be taken to effectively manage program growth, duties, personnel requirements, and integration with the rest of the City.

The Open Space Program is taking on more land holdings, managing more assets, and providing more programs. While this was the direction intended for the program, changes in the political and social environment have occurred. For example, the 2002 update encouraged an integration of the Open Space and Trails Program into the Parks and Recreation Division of the City. In the last 15 years, the organizational structure of the City has changed. The goal of this plan is to be flexible given these situational changes, while still providing a community-driven direction for the Open Space Program.



The program is continuously faced with a greater variety of tasks to be carried out, more users, and the need to balance the activities of nature and people. For example, wildlife, native vegetation, and weeds will require science-based management, and there may be a need for specialized equipment, or a special permitting process may be required to help manage heavy use. The 2002 plan referenced a need to plan appropriately for a shift from funding acquisition to funding management. Planning for this shift is something that continues to be important and needs to be balanced with strong support for acquisition while lands are still available.

Program Opportunities continue to be in the following core services:

- Resource Protection
- Visitor Services/Environmental Education
- Maintenance
- Contract Management
- Public Safety

And supplemented by the following support services:

- Public Outreach
- Resource Planning
- Research and Evaluation
- Volunteer Management
- Training

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staffing and Administration

- The PRAB should continue to advise City Council on the preservation, acquisition, and management of open space, along with the acquisition, provision, preservation, and management of active park and recreation resources.
 - A common board promotes balance for the community in the provision of natural lands and active recreation sites, while clearly distinguishing between the two through separate and distinct inventories of land types.
 - Equal priority must be given for both the natural land and low-impact or passive recreation elements.
 - A commitment to distinct designations and plans for use of acquired lands must be made up front.

- A strong relationship must be maintained between the Open Space Program and other parks, recreation, and trails related planning efforts, including collaborative planning, staffing, and equipment.
 - The Open Space Program should continue to partner with Recreation Services for low-impact and passive recreation opportunities, and for managing conflict when lands are desired to be used for inappropriate activities, or an inappropriate mix of activities.
 - The Open Space Program should continue to partner with Parks and Forestry for maintenance and repair of trails, buildings, structures, roads, gates, fences, and signs and care for trees. Shared staffing and equipment, with equal priority for natural lands and active parks, requires a tracking system to identify deficiencies in staffing, as well as contractual back-up, when possible, for high demand times.
 - The Open Space Program should continue to work toward the vision laid out by other umbrella documents, like Envision Longmont and the City's Sustainability Plan.
 - During the next update of this plan, the Open Space Master Plan Update should be combined with the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan.

- A specific effort to coordinate and not duplicate will be necessary among the divisions in the City of Longmont. Contracts related to resource elements such as weed management, agricultural leases, and others, should be continuously managed, and reviewed to determine the appropriate fit within the Open Space Program's purview.

- A larger volunteer program should be explored. This was identified as an opportunity for the Open Space Program to develop deeper programming within the program. In 2015, a grant-funded volunteer coordinator for the Department was able to accumulate 2,670.75 hours of volunteer time, or \$62,923 equivalent, according to Independent Sector – a coalition of charities, foundations, corporations, and individuals that publishes research important to the nonprofit sector.

- A public relations program, with strong information and communications objectives, must be pursued. Well-informed users are likely to make better choices and become stewards of the land.

- Research and evaluation will be necessary for science-based management. A university stipend to support research should be considered to better understand acquired lands.
- The Park Ranger Program which was identified as a result of the 2002 Plan and supported by the 2003 Lake McIntosh Master/Management Plan needs to continue to evolve with the growth and increased demands of the system. In the current programs, park rangers focus on visitor services, resource protection and environmental education, and law enforcement. They have been granted limited commission by the City Manager similar to many of the communities in the area (a benchmarking matrix can be found in **Appendix E**), but their role needs to be continuously evaluated. Currently, park rangers are assigned to Union Reservoir and Button Rock Preserve. With visitation ever increasing at these two locations, rangers are unable to adequately provide services to other Greenway of Nature Areas throughout the City. As a result, the City has experienced increased incidences of vandalism its natural areas, increased social trail development, increased camping, and increased transient populations, only to name a few violations. Options that should also be considered for this effort are limited commissions granted by local and partnering jurisdictions like Boulder and Weld Counties. Duties of these personnel should complement, but not overlap with duties of other positions in dealing with issues such as leash laws and other criminal mischief.

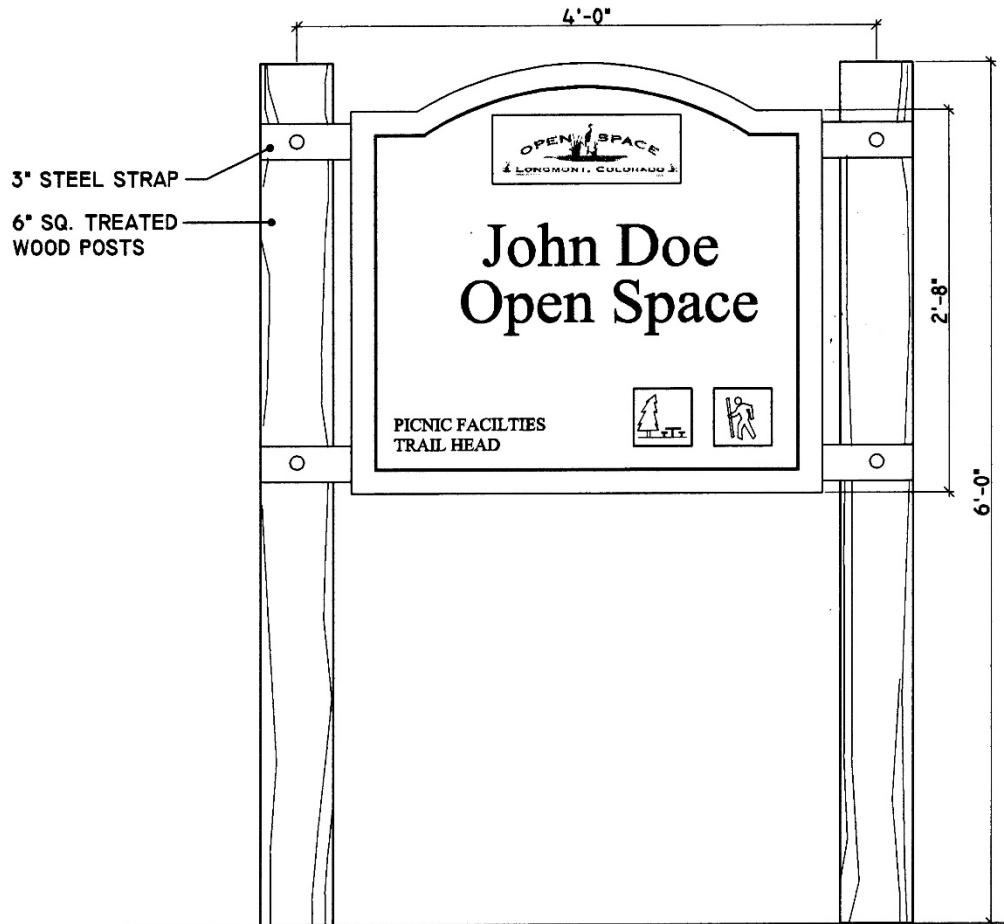
Signage

Signage for Open Space parcels and trails in general follows the guidelines set forth in the St. Vrain Greenway Master Plan Update (2001). Signage is the same or similar to that along the St. Vrain Greenway with appropriate adaptations and modifications made for more rural and natural settings. For example, the blue color scheme utilized for the Primary Greenway might become an earth-toned scheme of greens and browns elsewhere. The goal is to convey to the user that the open space and other trails throughout the Longmont community are all part of the same system.



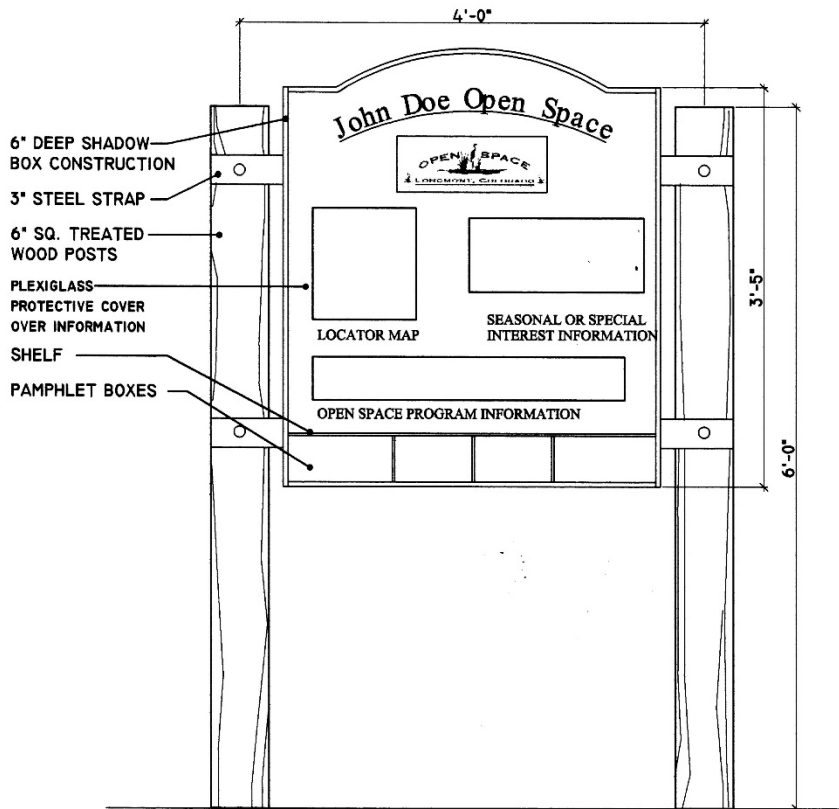
Parcels with anticipated access will have a free-standing sign, similar to park signs; however, they will be taller and narrower to allow visibility from a distance. The signs should include the property name, open space and trails logo, and funding source (**Figure 9**).

Figure 9: Example Open Space Sign



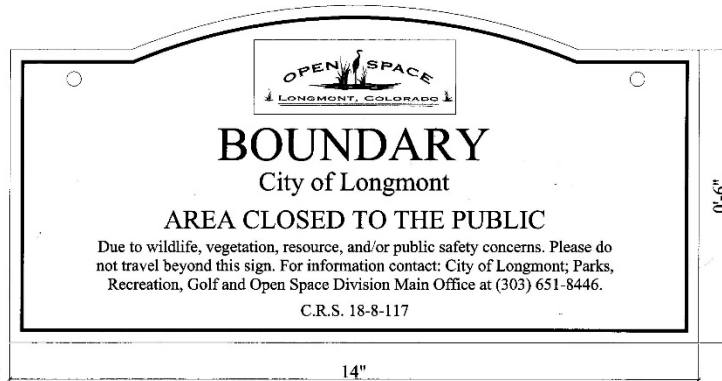
Information kiosks may also be provided as needed (**Figure 10**). The kiosk is similar design to the Free Standing Sign with a shadow box design and protective covering for printed materials. The kiosk should contain a locator map of the open space within the Longmont area Park and Open Space system, as well as seasonal information or information of specific interest to the parcel. Pamphlets boxes may also be provided.

Figure 10: Example Open Space Kiosk



Parcels not open to public access, for example those leased for agriculture or having a conservation easement, will be identified by boundary signs on the fence (**Figure 11**). Information on the sign should include a statement indicating that the property is funded by taxpayers to protect uses and is not open for public access. It should be identified as an "agricultural preserve" or other notation, as appropriate, so the public may understand and appreciate the values of the parcel.

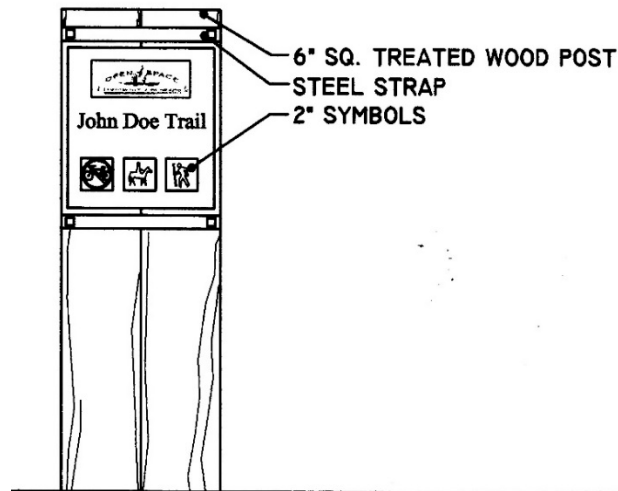
Figure 11: Example Boundary Sign



Parcels acquired jointly with other entities should include logos of all the participating entities.

Trails should be identified with Trail Marker signs like those used along the St. Vrain Greenway with minor modifications (**Figure 12**). This sign will identify appropriate activities allowed on the specific trail.

Figure 12: Example Trail Marker



Naming of Properties

Generally, open space parcels that are not open and accessible by the public will retain the name of the property owner from whom the parcel was purchased. Parcels that are open to the public will be named and the naming of these parcels should follow the same policy and procedure as for park naming. This information is found in the Longmont Municipal Code 13.20.030 Park Naming. Parcels may be named for a natural landmark, natural feature, or habitat in the vicinity of the site, or person or family who meets one or more criteria for worthiness.

After soliciting public input, the program will present suggestions to the PRAB who will recommend one name to City Council. The Council will confirm the park name by resolution.

Memorials

It is common for the public to desire to memorialize a loved one through a memorial bench or tree. To avoid a random distribution of memorials throughout the system, appropriate areas should be designated, and standardized plaques should be used. The cost of the memorial will be borne by the requester.

Policy Development

ISSUE

Different policies have been set in place as a result of considerations recommended in the 2002 planning effort. As with all policies within the program's purview, these should be evaluated for their effectiveness and updated accordingly during the annual review of this plan. Areas for consideration addressed previously that should continue to be evaluated include:

- Special use permits
- Consideration of open space amenities such as trash containers, security lighting, drinking water, and restrooms
- Hours of operation – sunrise to sunset
- Closures for agricultural use and seasonal wildlife requirements

SPECIFIC POLICY ISSUES ADDRESSED THROUGH THIS PLANNING PROCESS

Efforts to identify guiding policies acceptable to the Longmont community regarding specific issues were made both during the public workshops and through the community survey. The results of these efforts will guide management efforts into the future.

Low-Impact and Passive Recreation

ISSUE

From the 2002 planning effort:

The Open Space Ordinance identifies "Nature Areas devoted to low-impact recreational uses" as one of the criteria for how the open space funding should be used. However, no definition of low-impact recreation is present in the ordinance.

As the system has grown, this issue has become more relevant. The survey clearly showed strong opinions toward the preservation, conservation, and growth of the system, but in the same regard, recreational opportunities were a key area of opportunity to be addressed.

ANALYSIS

The Open Space Ordinance identifies typical open space functions such as the preservation of natural areas, wildlife habitat, and agricultural lands and also allows the funding to be used for District Parks, now known as Nature Areas as recently redefined in Envision Longmont.

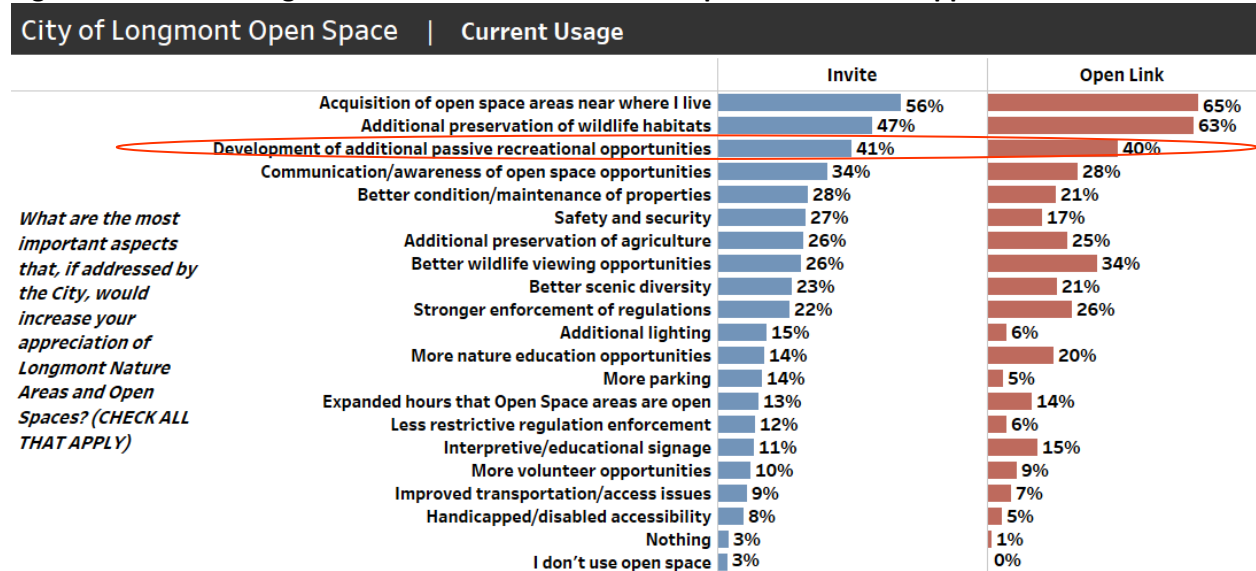
The Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan provides the following definition of Nature Areas, formerly District Parks:

Nature Area, formerly District Parks

Nature Areas protect and provide access to and enjoyment of important natural, historic, and cultural resources, such as viewing wildlife at Union Reservoir, and honoring local veterans at Jim Hamm Nature Area. These parks allow for limited recreational uses that fit their unique natural characteristics and promote low impact, passive outdoor recreation opportunities.

In the most recent survey, 41 percent of respondents on the invitation survey and 40 percent of respondents on the open-link survey identified the development of more recreational opportunities as something that would increase their appreciation of the open space system (**Figure 13**).

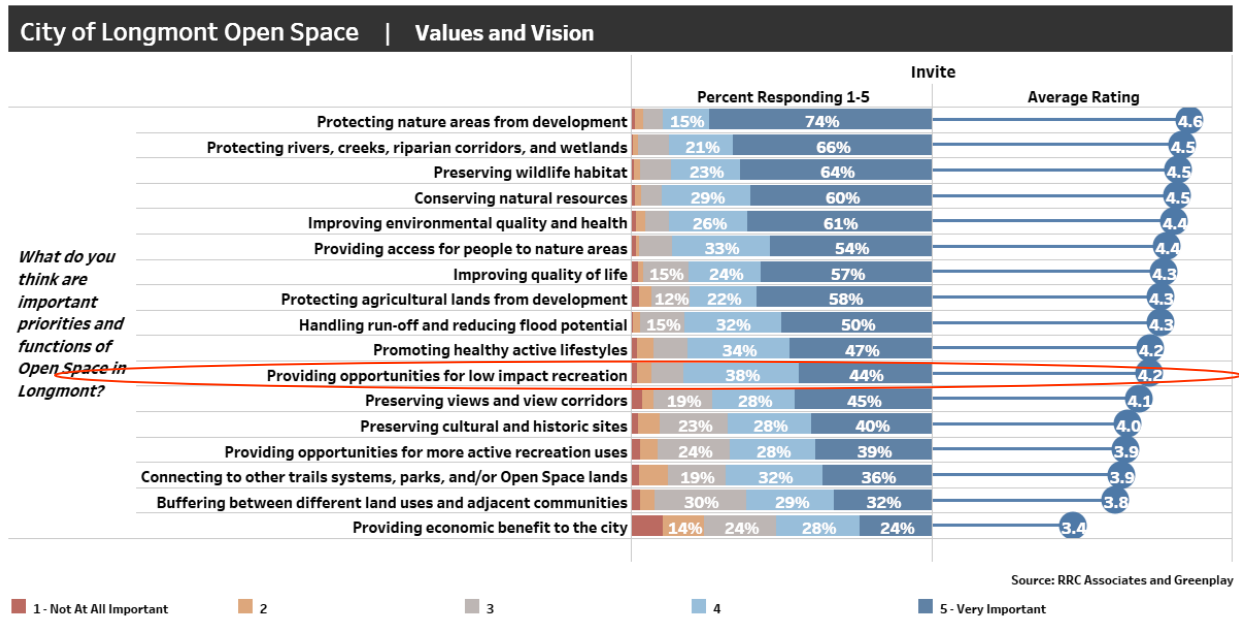
Figure 13: Current Usage – Distribution of Resources – Aspects to Increase Appreciation



Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

Though the development of additional opportunities was not rated as highly as part of the Vision and Values as other priorities and functions in the survey, more direction from staff, the PRAB, and the City Council is needed to provide the appropriate balance of uses within the Longmont system (**Figure 14**), especially considering how highly the “development of additional passive recreational opportunities” was to increasing the respondents’ appreciation of the system.

Figure 14: Values and Vision – Priorities and Functions of Open Space



Without a formal definition though, staff is not able to communicate appropriate uses on open space areas to the community and cannot justify or prioritize opportunities based on the impact they may have on the assets of the system. This planning process attempted to define these recreational opportunities within Longmont through multiple channels.

1. Open Space Public Workshop #2 – Open discussion item.
 During the open discussion of Public Workshop #2, a definition created by staff was presented to the community. The intent of the discussion was to see how participants felt about the definition presented, and to find appropriate changes/submissions that could be incorporated in to a definition that best represents the community of Longmont.
2. Regional benchmarking – Definition of “passive recreation.”
 In an attempt to further refine the definition of what recreational opportunities are appropriate on Longmont’s open space, neighboring communities were engaged in a benchmarking survey that included questions regarding their use of a definition for “passive recreation.” In general, many communities utilized a definition for opportunities appropriate for their open space properties. Definitions varied, but contained similar themes that included:
 - Low/minimal impact or development
 - Non-motorized uses
 - Prioritizing preservation and conservation
 - Provides education and health and well-being

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Program should adopt and communicate/promote a definition of “low-impact or passive recreation” as directed by the Open Space Ordinance. The draft definition produced through this planning process is:

Low-impact or passive recreation is outdoor recreation that:

- *Requires **minimal development** on the recreational site*
- *Provides educational, health and well-being, restorative, and pleasurable opportunities to the public*
- *Preserves wildlife and the natural ecosystem of the area, and is environmentally sensitive*
- *Focuses on the area in its **natural state**, minimizing environmental impact*
- ***Has minimal rules of engagement**, coordination, formal programming, etc.*
- ***Includes non-consumptive uses** such as wildlife observation, walking, biking, etc.*
- ***Emphasizes preservation***

The intent of this formal definition to provide direction to staff and promote appropriate uses by the public on open spaces in the City.

Dog Management

ISSUE

This issue was addressed during the previous planning process and did not receive significant concern during the update process. The City has current policies in place that seem to be providing sufficient balance and appropriate guidance regarding dogs on open space properties.

ANALYSIS

From the previous planning process:

60% of those responding to the community survey found having dogs allowed off-leash on open space properties to be an inappropriate activity. From comments on the community survey, it can probably be safely stated that underlying reasons for this include protection of wildlife, intimidation of other users by dogs off-leash, and issues regarding dog excrement.

55% responded that dogs on-leash would be appropriate with another 34%, for a total of 89%, believing that dogs on-leash would be appropriate in some cases.

Having no dogs on open space at all was supported by only 23% of the respondents. Another 42% of the respondents felt no dogs was appropriate in some cases for a total of 65% indicating there should be some areas of open space where no dogs are allowed.

Understanding that dog management continues to be a challenge for park, recreation, and open space providers across the country, though, “dog management” remains an issue of which staff needs to be aware. Dog ownership and the investment in dog-specific infrastructure are increasing, and are a major reason why people choose to frequent specific parks and recreational areas. In this regard, this update process acknowledges the need for staff to continuously evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of their policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The philosophy suggested in the last process was:

- *Dogs should not be allowed off leash on open space properties.*
- *Dogs should be allowed on-leash in designated areas.*
- *There should be designated areas where dogs should not be allowed in order to protect wildlife resources and to provide a dog free trail experience.*

Staff has done well to address the recommendations regarding dog management found in the original plan. Moving forward staff should prioritize the following recommendation:

A comprehensive effort to address the issue of dog management includes:

- An educational campaign.
- The creation of a map showing areas for dogs on leash, dogs off-leash, and no dogs areas.
- The creation of a coalition including local dog owner groups and the Humane Society.
- Cooperation with Animal Control Units from both the City and the Counties.

This should be a part of the larger communication plan addressed in following sections.

Wildlife

ISSUE

Preservation of wildlife habitat is identified in the Established Criteria found in the Open Space Ordinance. There are strong variances in attitudes about certain wildlife, the level of city resources that should be applied to addressing these issues, and what role the city should play. Prairie dogs, geese, pigeons, deer, and beaver continue to raise some level of concern.

ANALYSIS

Wildlife management was identified as a high priority in the public workshops, staff interviews, and the survey. The participants in the public workshop discussed the issue from multiple viewpoints. Many felt that the open space properties should be used for wildlife habitat preservation, while others approached the issue as one of pest control, especially considering prairie dogs.



The survey found that preserving wildlife habitat was the third highest priority and function of open space properties, and one of the things to address that would increase a respondent's appreciation of open space properties moving forward (**Figure 15 and Figure 16**).

Figure 15: Values and Vision – Important Priorities and Functions of Open Space

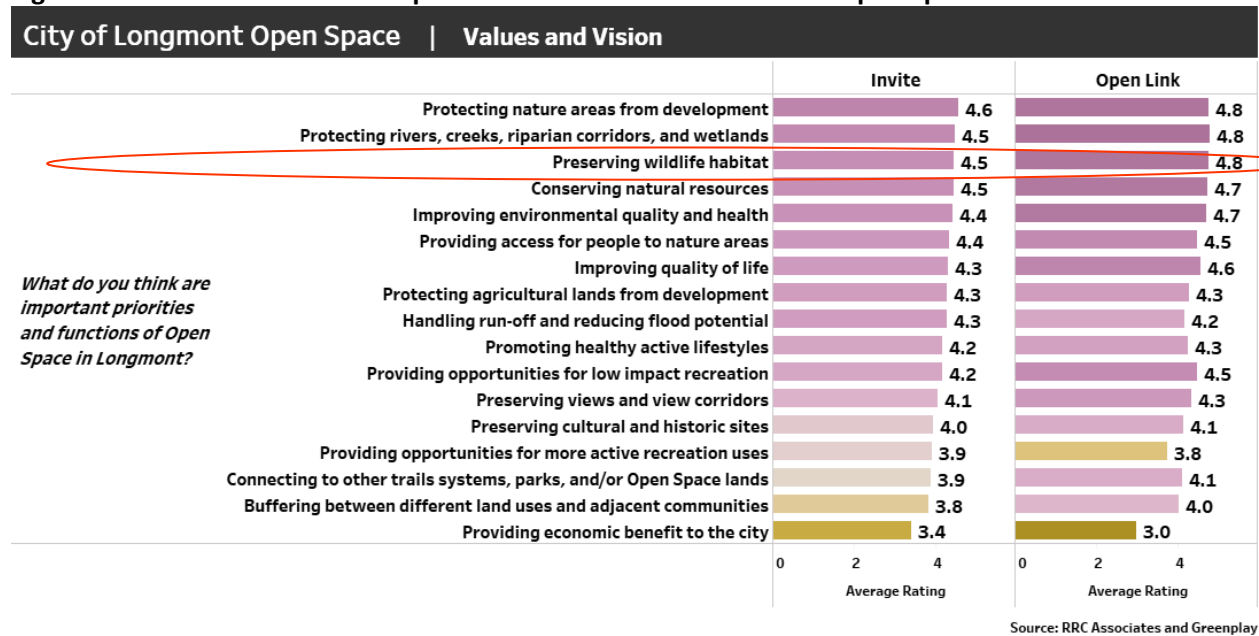
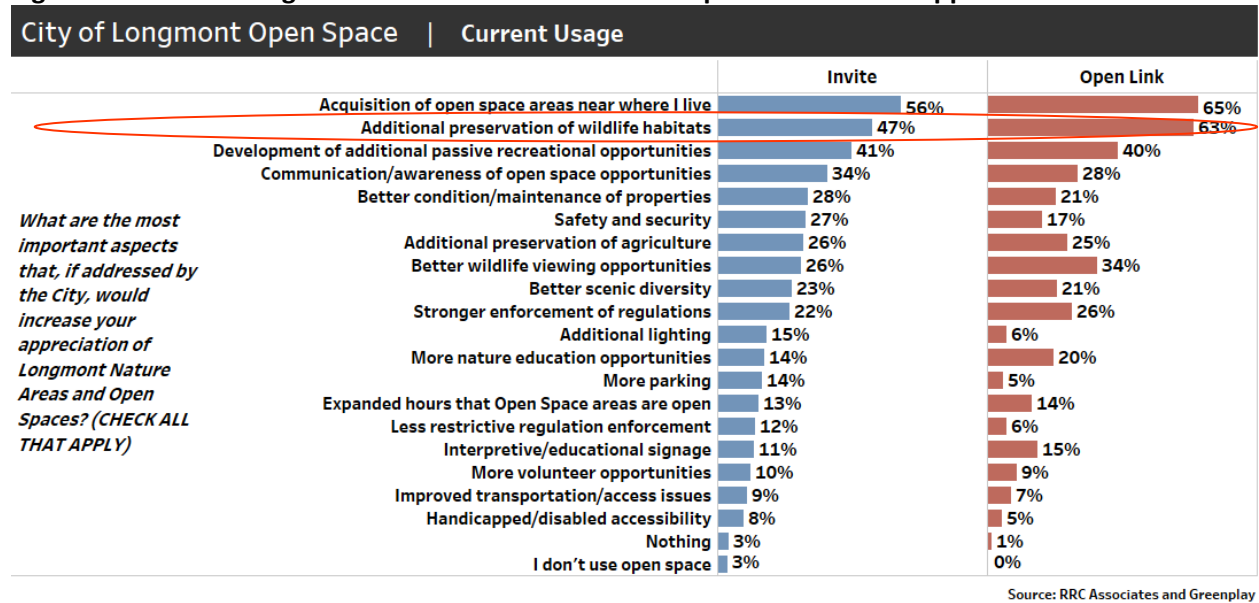


Figure 16: Current Usage – Distribution of Resources – Aspects to Increase Appreciation



Balancing preservation of wildlife with other uses and opportunities on Open Space areas will need to be continuously addressed by staff moving forward. The previous plan made recommendations regarding wildlife management and preservation, including establishing separate wildlife management plans and site-specific management. Staff has continued to follow through with these recommendations and will begin the process of updating the current Wildlife Management Plan immediately following this planning process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

At the time of this planning process, the City was undergoing a separate Wildlife Management planning process to address opportunities within the system. This plan will defer to that planning process regarding wildlife management recommendation and policy in the City of Longmont.

Agricultural Lands

ISSUE

Preservation of agricultural lands is identified in the established criteria found in the Open Space Ordinance. The intention and use of agricultural lands varies and is not clear to the public.

ANALYSIS

Longmont has long valued its agricultural roots and continues to support agriculture in the study area. The Open Space Program agricultural preservation efforts support economically viable farming in Longmont, preserve cultural landscapes, maintain viewsheds, provide wildlife corridors, and create community buffers.

Typically, agricultural lands that are part of the Open Space Program will be larger properties that are outside the Longmont Planning Area (LPA). Properties within the LPA may still support smaller scale, urban agriculture. These types of agricultural activities can support local food production, small scale farming operations, and community supported agriculture.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Open Space Program should continue to support a wide variety of programs, large and small, throughout the system. Larger opportunities should be evaluated for fit within the system and need to support preservation through economically viable farming in Longmont, preserve cultural landscapes, maintain viewsheds, provide wildlife corridors, and create community buffers. Smaller scale opportunities within the LPA should support local food production, small scale farming operations, community supported agriculture, and programming.

Larger communication efforts should be developed to educate the public about the value, purpose, and heritage of agricultural lands.

Gravel Mining and Mineral Rights/Oil and Gas Development

ISSUE

This issue of gravel mining was not addressed during the update process, but mineral rights or potential oil and gas production on open space areas was. These continue to be an area of opportunity for the Open Space Program to balance the uses of lands in Longmont and potentially identify additional sources of funding.

In general, the municipal code strongly supports the development of the Open Space Program within the City. There are, though, certain areas where the City must balance conflicting ideologies. One such area is oil and gas development. The general philosophies of the Open Space Program and the oil and gas initiatives of the City are in conflict. Both need to be supported throughout the system to create an appropriate balance of uses, but many supporters of the Open Space Program felt that oil and gas initiatives should be restricted or eliminated from open space properties in Longmont.

ANALYSIS

During the update process, many participants in the public workshops noted the importance of mineral rights as a way to balance the development of resource production and preservation. It is not in the control of the Open Space Program to govern the transfer of these rights, or to determine their appropriate use, but the topic of gravel mining and mineral rights is an important consideration on all potential lands. The Open Space Program can influence and recommend potential uses, but the City will make the ultimate determination of uses and the distribution of funding.

The City's current municipal code regarding oil and gas development requires:

- Occupied building setbacks are set at 750 feet – recommended, 500 feet min.
- Water body setbacks are set at 300 feet.
- Operations must be closed loop systems.
- No injection wells are allowed.
- Ground water quality testing is required.
- City monitors air quality (voluntary operator cooperation).
- City continues to monitor sites after wells are plugged and abandoned.
- 14.04.155. Policy regarding requests for water service for oil and gas purposes.

The City's general operating philosophy includes:

- Providing more oversight and increased inspections of oil and gas production/sites.
- Acquiring all mineral rights that have not been severed, similar to water rights, or attempt to include verbiage to minimize or eliminate any or further surface disturbance in the purchase contract.
- Ensuring that the viewsheds within open space areas are kept intact and not disturbed by oil and gas wells and other production.
- Exploring strategies for mineral extraction on City-owned properties, including noise abatement, visual mitigation, and encouraging oil and gas operators to tap directly into pipelines to avoid transfer and storage issues, thereby reducing truck traffic and associated fugitive emissions.

In an open discussion during public workshop #2, the community voiced concern that the municipal code does not do enough to protect the resources on open space lands. Adversely, some members of the public felt that the development of oil and gas initiatives on open space should be allowed, and that the City should keep working toward providing appropriate balance. Some solutions included:

- Designating certain properties for oil and gas development, leaving others dedicated to preservation
- Ensuring the revenue generated from oil and gas development on open space was dedicated back to the Open Space Program
- Amending the municipal code to include language specific to open space lands

RECOMMENDATIONS

Potential land eligible for gravel mining and other mineral rights should be weighed on a case-by-case basis using relevant information presented in the City's planning documents and current circumstances, such as funding and other priorities.

It is the intention of the Open Space Program to incorporate the City's Code regrading oil and gas development on City Open Space along with the supporting operating philosophy of:

- Acquiring all **minerals rights** as well as **historical water rights**, if available
- Reimbursing the Open Space Fund with all mineral **royalties** generated on open space properties
- Requesting agreements in cases where Mineral Right have been **severed** based on the following standards:
 - If **no** drilling has occurred – Request agreement stipulating no surface disturbance
 - If **already** drilled – Request an agreement stipulating no further surface disturbance
- Providing more oversight and **increased inspections** of oil and gas production/sites, to be paid through royalty account

Since the municipal code is written and amended by the City, the Open Space Program does not have the authority to restrict development on open space lands. The Open Space Program should continue to abide by the municipal code and consider the impact of oil and gas development on each site and project; monitoring the codes effect over time can help the program influence future conversations regarding amending the code.

Knowing that some community members do not agree with the code, the Open Space Program should incorporate information within its communication materials about the benefits of these activities and the general direction of the City within its communication material, especially regarding the enforcement of oil and gas initiatives. Doing so will maintain the program's accountability and integrity.

Long Range Management and Maintenance Costs

ISSUE

Open space land managers recognize the importance of adequately managing land acquired by public entities over the long term. This is also recognized by the public, as evidenced through comments received at the public meetings and through the community survey.

ANALYSIS

The previous plan noted that with growth and acquisition comes the responsibility to appropriately manage properties. It also calls out the need, in the long term, to shift a focus from acquisition to management. While the community still seems to hold acquisition as a high priority, there is also sentiment from the current process that shows that this shift is occurring. Many participants, including staff, addressed growing concerns with management issues on the current open space properties: short- and long-term.

At the time of the last planning process, assumptions and estimates were utilized to paint a scenario of need and justify recommendations to appropriately plan for costs moving forward. It also called for continued benchmarking against historical data, so that staff can create more accurate projections moving forward. **Table 1** is a snapshot of Open Space Capital Activity from 2009-2017. Open Space Capital Activity refers to the Program's expenditures as they pertain to acquisition, trail development, or routine maintenance. More information regarding expenditures from previous years or more specific details about these line items can be found in Department archives and documentation.

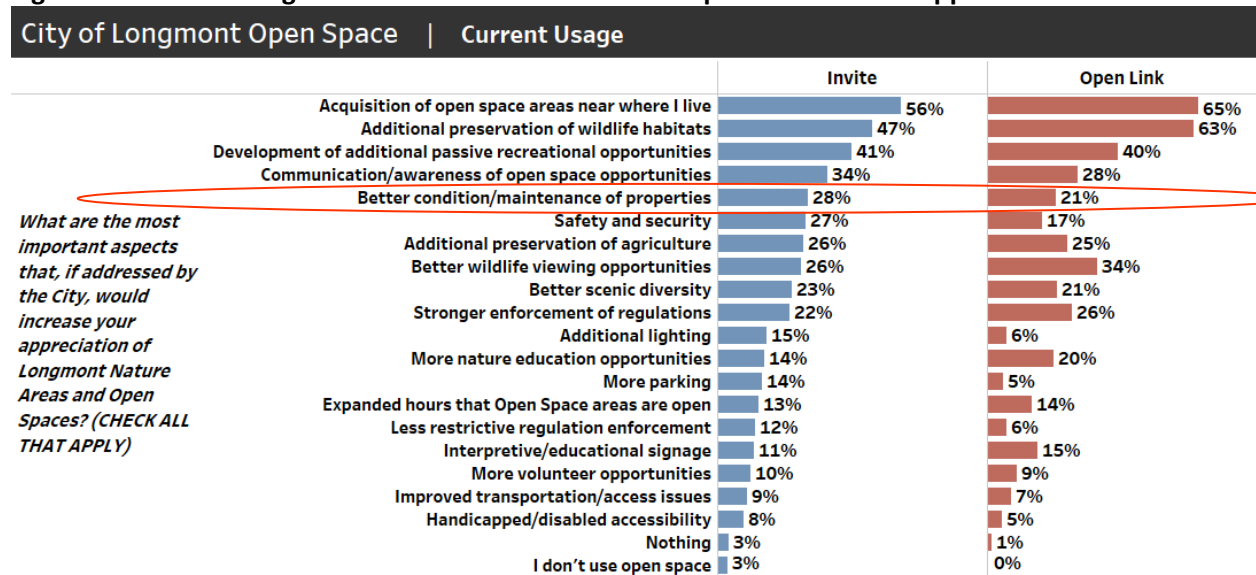
Table 1: Open Space Capital Activity

Sum of Payment Amount	Column Labels									
Row Labels	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Grand Total
642 (Open Space Bond)	\$ 6,767,550.31			\$ 1,659,601.52	\$ 968,413.33	\$ 3,111,525.08	\$ 339,762.81	\$ 65,361.34	\$ 55,627.96	\$ 12,967,842.35
+ Acquisition	\$ 6,767,550.31			\$ 1,514,450.42						\$ 8,282,000.73
+ District Park				\$ 44,550.80	\$ 233,509.45	\$ 1,217,770.99	\$ 21,324.78	\$ 390.22		\$ 1,517,546.24
+ Trail				\$ 100,600.30	\$ 684,655.88	\$ 1,893,754.09	\$ 318,438.03	\$ 64,971.12	\$ 55,627.96	\$ 3,118,047.38
+ Property Maintenance				\$ 50,248.00						\$ 50,248.00
640 (Open Space)	\$ 1,949,144.70	\$ 325,469.51	\$ 109,715.23	\$ 166,516.51	\$ 290,203.34	\$ 101,930.57	\$ 16,311.84	\$ 367.28	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 2,960,958.98
+ Acquisition	\$ 1,943,516.27									\$ 1,943,516.27
+ District Park	\$ 5,628.43	\$ 22,626.51	\$ 25,688.47	\$ 109,418.07	\$ 94,589.97	\$ 65,194.40	\$ 16,311.84	\$ 367.28	\$ 650.00	\$ 340,474.97
+ Trail		\$ 302,843.00	\$ 47,495.76	\$ 45,755.24	\$ 1,063.34	\$ 838.73			\$ 650.00	\$ 398,646.07
+ Property Maintenance			\$ 36,531.00	\$ 11,343.20	\$ 194,550.03	\$ 35,897.44				\$ 278,321.67
Grand Total	\$ 1,949,144.70	\$ 7,093,019.82	\$ 109,715.23	\$ 1,826,118.03	\$ 1,258,616.67	\$ 3,213,455.65	\$ 356,074.65	\$ 65,728.62	\$ 56,927.96	\$ 15,928,801.33

Noting the importance that management and maintenance will have on the budget in the future, the survey was utilized to see where the issue ranked amongst others according to the community.

When compared to other options to address, in **Figure 17**: “better condition/maintenance of properties” ranked 4th in both surveys, with 28 percent of respondents on the invitation link survey and 21 percent on the open link survey identifying it as an opportunity that would increase the current appreciation of open space properties.

Figure 17: Current Usage – Distribution of Resources – Aspects to Increase Appreciation

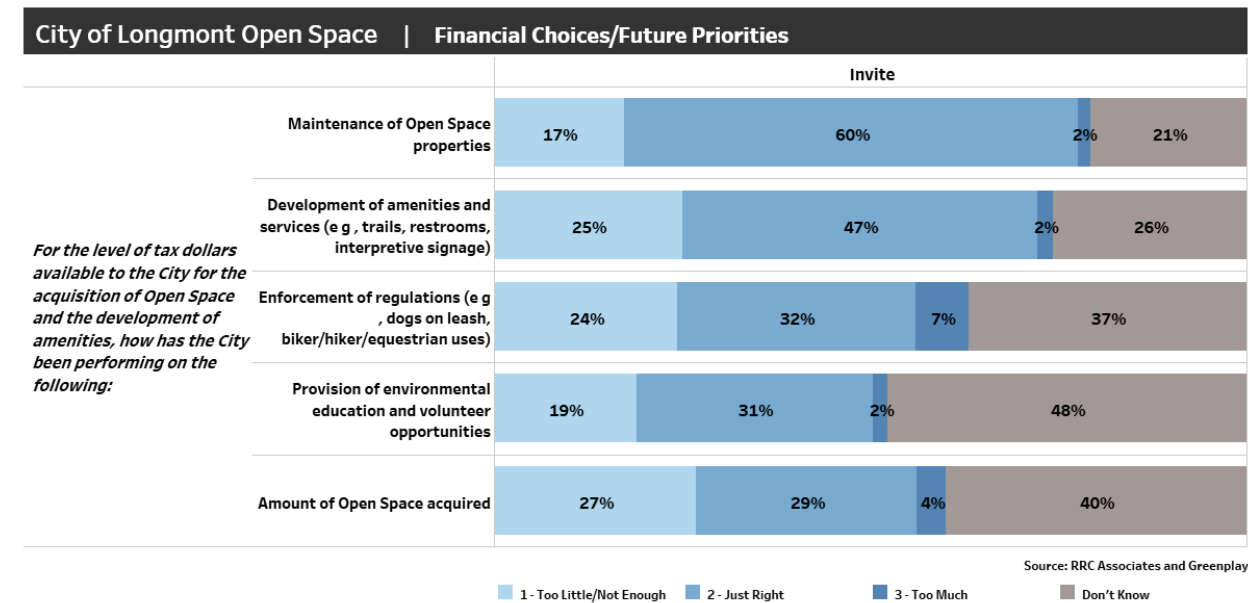


Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

Knowing that maintenance costs will continue to increase, the survey also asked participants to respond to questions regarding the allocation of resources within the Program.

When asked how the City is performing with the tax dollars allocated to the Open Space Program, **Figure 18** shows that 60 percent of respondents to the survey identified that the amount of resources allocated to maintenance was “Just Right:”

Figure 18: Financial Choices/Future Priorities – Perception of Open Space Program’s Spending

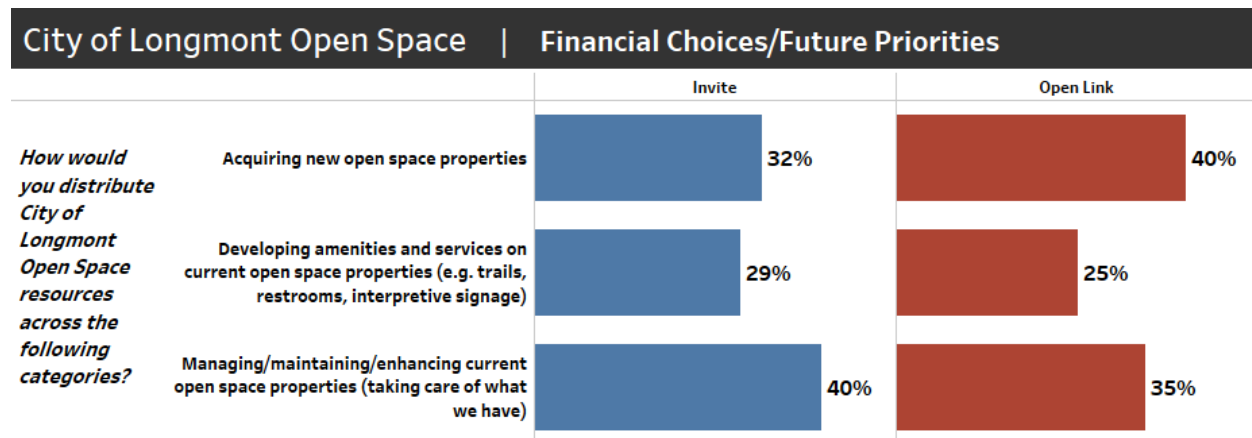


Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

1 - Too Little/Not Enough 2 - Just Right 3 - Too Much Don't Know

However, when asked how they would distribute the program’s resources amongst maintenance, development, and acquisition (**Figure 19**), respondents allocated the highest average percentage of budget toward managing/maintaining/enhancing current Open Space properties (40%), similar to the Open Link survey (35%).

Figure 19: Financial Choices/Future Priorities – Distribution of Resources



Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

In 2018, the program allocated 25 percent of its \$4,000,000 budget to maintenance, an increase from 12.6 percent in 2017 (and changes on an annual basis due to land acquisitions). Comparing these percentages to other communities, the 25 percent is in-line with many of them. Responses varied between 20 percent and 40 percent annually, but were also dependent on the age of the system, meaning that communities that had previously been allocating resources toward acquisition were seeing the shift to allocating resources toward maintenance.

As costs for management and maintenance grow, staff should also continuously evaluate their techniques and strategies. This was not identified as an issue during the public process, with many noting the quality of work done within the system, but each site or area (*See Area Management Plans*) plan should be reviewed. New strategies should be considered within the operational philosophy of the Natural Resources Division and incorporated where appropriate, ensuring alignment with Envision Longmont and The Sustainability Plan.

At the time of the previous planning effort, the open space tax was due to sunset in 2020. In 2007, the community voted to extend this tax through 2034. While this remains a reliable and dedicated funding source, it is not in perpetuity. Many participants in the public workshops wanted to see the tax extended in the short-term and increased/dedicated in perpetuity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The previous planning effort recommended the following:

1. *Until a more refined study is available, or Longmont is able to determine its own costs, assumptions developed through a survey of Front Range agencies should be applied, as appropriate, to current and potential open space parcels to determine an operating budget.*
2. *An appropriate balance will need to be struck between operating and acquisition funding, which could result in a policy regarding the amount of money available for each purpose.*

Now that historical data is available, and a benchmarking survey and community outreach specific to allocating resources has been completed, staff can use this information in a number of different ways:

- Determining the appropriate balance of resource allocation to each site or for the program as a whole
- Determining more accurate costs during annual budget cycles
- Determining more accurate costs of potential acquisitions or CIP projects
- Establishing more transparency with the community
- Integrating the information into the communication efforts of the City to further establish trust and advocacy

This material will also be a critical piece of a successful renewal campaign. While renewal of the tax should be a consideration of staff in the short-term, the current (as of 2018) timing does not seem appropriate for a few reasons, including the relatively recent extension to 2034 and considering that multiple bond projects have gone out to the community in recent years. Instead, the City should prioritize communicating the impact of the current system and developing communication surrounding future needs; building momentum that it has already created to grow the advocacy for open space properties in Longmont and developing a campaign to extend the tax should happen closer to the sunset of the 2034 tax. More information regarding the economic impact of open space can be found in Chapter II.

Area Management Plans

ISSUE

This issue was not specifically addressed during the update process but continues to be an area of opportunity. From the previous plan:

The area for this study is approximately 80 square miles (51,200 acres) and encompasses plowed fields, wetlands, canals, roadways and settlements, rural farmsteads, and natural areas. The management of different types of open space lands acquired to meet multiple goals will require a variety of approaches.

ANALYSIS

An area management system allows a higher level of protection to areas with high resource values, a higher level of maintenance to areas with high visitor use, recognition of broader management overlays, such as comprehensive dog use designations, and identification of other special needs, such as weed management. Area management plans will further the ability to predict long-term management and maintenance costs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As the open space system grows, areas should be defined to accommodate the different needs of the lands. The delineation should not be so narrow as to be cumbersome but should function as an efficient management tool.

An inventory of what exists in each area should be recorded and should include (but should not be limited to):

- *Natural/cultural resource values*
- *Restoration or rehabilitation needs*
- *Activities present or anticipated*
- *Maintenance standards*
- *Presence of noxious weeds*
- *Development present or anticipated*
- *Research needs*
- *Visitor Capacity*
- *Problems or concerns*
- *Ecosystem services (flood control, water quality, habitat preservation, etc.)*

Costing of ongoing management and maintenance should be developed for each area. Adjacent landowners should be invited to participate in the process of developing area management plans.

The following original recommendation regarding this issue continues to be addressed by staff – updating inventories, accommodating different needs, evaluating cost efficiencies and best management practices, etc.

1. *As the open space system grows, areas should be defined to accommodate the different needs of the lands as an efficient management tool. An inventory of what exists in each area should be recorded, and methods and costing of ongoing management and maintenance should be developed for each area.*

NEW OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFIED IN THIS UPDATE

Alignment with Other Planning Efforts

ISSUE

Planning documents within the City are intended to communicate the overall direction or initiatives of the community. While each has its own focus areas, there are planning documents that overlap with the Open Space Master Plan Update, specifically:

- *Envision Longmont Multimodal & Comprehensive Plan*
- *Sustainability Plan*
- *Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan*

ANALYSIS

The intention of the Open Space Master Plan Update document is to act in support of the direction intended by the community and its government, and to work in tandem with the other planning documents within the community.

Envision Longmont

Envision Longmont contains guiding principles and goals regarding the direction of the City. Goal 1.8 specifically addresses parks, recreation, and open space areas, and provides the following direction for the open space areas.

1.8B of Envision Longmont:

Continue to expand the City's network of open space and support the City's desire to remain a stand-alone community by:

- *Preserving natural and cultural resources, including but not limited to: range lands, forest lands, wildlife habitat, wetlands, agricultural lands, aquifer recharge areas, surface water, and visual corridors.*
- *Providing urban shaping buffers between or around municipalities or community service areas and buffer zones between residential and non-residential development.*
- *Providing linkages to trails, access to public lakes, streams and other usable open space lands, stream corridors and scenic corridors along existing roadways.*
- *Providing for low-impact recreation compatible with resource protection goals.*

1.8C of Envision Longmont:

Continue to work towards completing the greenway system, developing and maintaining a system that:

- *Includes both primary and secondary greenways.*
- *Encompasses habitat corridors, waterways, utility corridors, or any other natural or man-made open space corridors within the City that can accommodate trail-oriented recreation while connecting residential areas to the community's pedestrian and bike network, parks, schools, and other activity centers.*
- *Includes adequate and appropriate furnishings and other amenities, such as benches, bicycle parking, bicycle repair stations, and recycling/trash collection to support the safety and enjoyment of all users.*
- *Connects Longmont's trails and greenways to other regional trails in accordance with the State Trails Plan and planned trails in surrounding jurisdictions.*
- *Considers alternative ways to fill gaps in the trail system that cannot be filled by primary or secondary greenways and that can accommodate a variety of recreational activities, such as walking, jogging, and biking.*
- *Ensures that recreation connections are coordinated with existing and planned investments in the City's transportation system so that such facilities can accommodate the community's recreational needs, both active and passive, as well as its multimodal transportation needs.*

Sustainability Plan

The City of Longmont Sustainability Plan also contains sections that support the efforts of the Open Space Program. While much of the information within the plan can be related to the Program, the chapter regarding the Natural Environment (NE) provides specific direction.

Strategies from that chapter where "Open Space" is tasked as the lead are:

- *NE-1 – Work with community partners to promote education and awareness*
- *NE-3 – Continue and increase participation in existing volunteer programs*
- *NE-4 – Update the Open Space Master Plan*
- *NE-5 – Update the Wildlife Management Plan*
- *NE-6 – Create and implement a plan to restore and remediate damaged ecologically sensitive areas and critical corridors and habitat areas*

The City’s Sustainability Plan also lists the Sustainability Evaluation System (SES) as the recommended tool for evaluation of the sustainability aspects of projects. The SES helps users apply interdisciplinary thinking across sustainability-related topic areas and consider important questions that might otherwise be overlooked. The SES is intended to be used as early as possible in a project so that sustainability can be integrated into decisions from the beginning to avoid having to mitigate a project or decision after the fact. The SES provides a structured way to address social, environmental, and economic considerations in order to help make more informed and transparent decisions about plans, projects, or programs.

A review of sustainability topics related to the Open Space Master Plan was completed by a team made up of City staff from the Public Works & and Natural Resources Department, the Planning and Development Services Department and the rest of the TAC.

The categories and topics in the SES are aligned with and support the goals and policies in the Envision Longmont plan and the Sustainability Plan. The categories (shown in bold) and topics are as follows:

Best Practices (Organizational)

- Alignment
- Integration
- Partnerships
- Stakeholder engagement

Best Practices (Assets and Infrastructure)

- Adaptability
- Commissioning
- Ongoing monitoring & evaluation
- Long-term maintenance and repair
- Reliability
- Infrastructure Resilience

Best Practices (Financial)

- Debt ratios
- Funding of capital costs
- Operations & Maintenance (O&M) cost recovery
- Rate impacts

Buildings and Infrastructure

- Accessibility
- Ambient light and noise
- Cultural and historic preservation
- Development footprint
- Floodplain protection
- Heat island effect
- Housing options
- Indoor air quality
- Infill or redevelopment
- Low impact development (LID)
- Public spaces
- Scale and massing
- Site compatibility

- Vegetation
- Wayfinding

Energy

- Alternative fuels
- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energy
- Embodied energy

Transportation

- Bicyclists and pedestrians
- Freight delivery systems
- Level of service
- Parking
- Transit
- Vehicle miles traveled (VMT)

Community and Individual Well-being

- Arts and culture
- Crime and law enforcement
- Diversity and rights
- Education
- Environmental justice
- Food and nutrition
- Hazard mitigation
- Health and human services
- Safety features
- Sense of community

Economic Vitality

- Business development
- Affordable housing
- Jobs
- Local commodities and services
- Economic Resilience

Materials and Waste

- Deconstruction/reuse
- Environmentally responsible materials
- Waste
- Natural Environment
- Agricultural lands
- Air quality
- Aquatic habitat
- Climate adaptation

- Ecological connectivity
- Natural floodplains
- Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)
- Tree Canopy
- Wildlife and habitat

Water Resources

- Irrigation efficiency
- Water conservation
- Water source protection
- Water management

Water Quality

- Watershed health
- Pollution control
- Stormwater management

A full listing of recommendations from this process can be found in **Appendix F**.

Since this Master Plan Update utilizes the structure and format of the previous Open Space Master Plan, these specific recommendations are not called out in the body of this document, but the Open Space Program is currently taking action to complete or support each of these recommendations. While these may be completed in the short-term, actions should be continuously evaluated for fit within this plan. This process should continue through the life of the Open Space program.

Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan

This planning effort updated some of the elements previously found in the Open Space and Trails Master Plan.

During the 2014 Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan process, it was determined that the plan should contain the trails master plan for the City. As such, the trails portion of this plan relates to the development of trails on open space properties; it also provides direction for regional linkages, missing links, and other connections that may be constructed using open space funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

With the intention of this document being to act in support of the direction of the City, each plan should be considered when determining the appropriate allocation of funding, priority projects, and appropriate implementation strategies. This is also an opportunity to communicate the City’s and program’s direction by creating messaging that incorporates how and why resources are allocated, and the collaborative efforts between Departments.

The Vision/Goals of the Open Space Program are “Out of Date”

ISSUE

The previous planning process took place in 2002. During the last sixteen years, the community has evolved and grown. It was noted during the initial public workshop that the mission and vision of the program was “out of date.”

ANALYSIS

The previous planning effort called for an update every five years to ensure that the direction of the Open Space Program continued to be in line with the community. Though five year updates have not occurred, staff has done well to stay on target with meeting the community's needs and expectations. The community did not feel that the vision and goals were incorrect or out of line with the community values, they felt that they could be updated to help lead Longmont into the next decade.

During Open Space Public Workshop #2, the community was asked to have an open discussion regarding the vision and goals of the Open Space Program and then invited to participate in a visioning exercise as one of the stations within the workshop. At the visioning station, participants were asked to brainstorm thoughts and ideas that best capture their vision for the Open Space Program. A summary of this station can be found in **Appendix G**. Staff and the TAC were also engaged in a process to further refine these guiding messages.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Update the Vision and the Goals of the Open Space Program to reflect the following:



Connecting our community with our natural resources by:

- Furthering our community identity
- Protecting our resources
- Respecting our environment
- Balancing our growth
- Providing experiential opportunities
- Educating a new generation of stewards
- Protecting what we value
- Promoting a “Sustainable and Resilient Longmont” today

Goals:

1. *Preserve and Enhance Our Natural and Cultural Resources*
Preserve and enhance natural areas, wildlife habitat and movement corridors, wetlands, agriculture, and visual corridors. Conserve natural resources including, but not limited to, forest lands, grass lands, agricultural lands, aquifer recharge areas, and surface water.
2. *Acknowledge and Support Other Planning Efforts and Potential Collaborations*
Implement greenway and open space policies and strategies of Envision Longmont and integrate efforts with the Parks & Recreation Master Plan, the Sustainability Plan, and other community plans.

3. *Shape the Identity of Longmont*
Provide urban shaping buffers between municipalities and use appropriate signage to identify the open space and trails system within the city.
4. *Provide Connections*
Connect neighborhoods to open space through linkages and trails away from noise and traffic where possible, providing regional connections and access to public lakes, streams corridors, other usable Open Space lands, and scenic corridors.
5. *Provide Passive, Low Impact Recreation Compatible with Resource Protection Goals*
Complement the active recreation available on the City's parkland with low-impact recreational and educational opportunities, building appreciation of, and stewardship for, what the open space has to offer, while protecting this asset. Providing opportunities to interact with these open space areas, such as hiking, biking, bird watching, fishing, picnicking, or simply enjoying nature, is critical to maximizing the benefits that open space provides.
6. *Embrace Public Engagement*
Provide community-wide awareness and education about Longmont's open space lands and resources while engaging the public to gain input and provide opportunities for stewardship. Promote learning about the natural and cultural heritage and collaborative efforts to preserve and enhance public lands through efforts like the presence of rangers, programming, and marketing efforts.
7. *Ensure Funding to Fulfill the Vision*
Seek additional funding sources while open space is still available to be acquired and continue to develop a secure and sustainable funding stream for the future. Ensure an appropriate balance of maintenance and operation funding to properly care for acquired lands.

City Cannot Acquire Buffering Parcels Alone

ISSUE

The City is directed and guided by the vision of being a “free-standing” community, meaning that it intends to create buffers, mainly using open spaces or other lands, to keep development in neighboring jurisdictions from encroaching on the City. The Open Space program does not have the dedicated funding to purchase all of the surrounding lands, and may need to find additional sources of income.

ANALYSIS

Since the program has a dedicated, but limited (by the 2034 sunset), funding mechanism, staff needs to prioritize balancing its resources among acquiring new lands, developing properties, and maintaining what's already being managed. If it is directed to expedite the process of acquiring lands, the program could risk not having enough funding for future maintenance; alternative funding strategies to fund the acquisition of lands should be developed.

One strategy that was identified by the community, staff, and the TAC was partnering with neighboring agencies to acquire and maintain adjoining properties. Challenges to this strategy include defining which agency would own or operate the land, how much each community would invest, and what the intended use of the land should be.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Since this plan will be presented to the councils of neighboring communities, the City should also use this opportunity to discuss potential partnerships, specifically regarding acquisition. The City should also identify potential partners during the annual review and implementation process.

Awareness and Education

ISSUE

A sentiment expressed during the information gathering process was that the community is generally uninformed regarding the Open Space Program. This was a common theme when discussing various topics:

- Priority acquisitions/projects
- Maintenance/management
- The general purpose of open space in Longmont
- Appropriate uses of open space lands (recreationally, administratively, etc.)
- The differentiation of parks and open space
- Opportunities within the system
- The value and impact of open space to the community's economic health and well-being

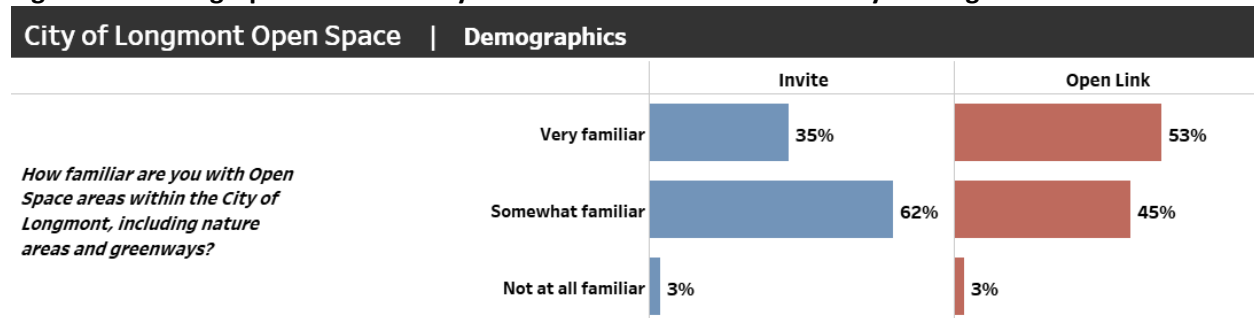
ANALYSIS

(This analysis focuses on the general communication practices of the Open Space Program. Marketing and communication opportunities regarding trails, appropriate uses, and open space signage are addressed in a separate section of this document.)

Participants in both public workshops expressed concern that the Open Space Program did not communicate or market itself well enough creating multiple issues ranging from management or user conflicts to low advocacy and general underappreciation of the Program's efforts. While this sentiment was not directly explored on the survey, similar or like themes were identified.

When asked how familiar participants are with the open space areas in the City of Longmont, **Figure 20** shows that over 95 percent of respondents on each survey noted that they were very or somewhat familiar with the spaces. The open-link survey shows a higher response of "very familiar." This is consistent with surveying trends in that open-link respondents generally have more familiarity with the agency than respondents to the invitation sample.

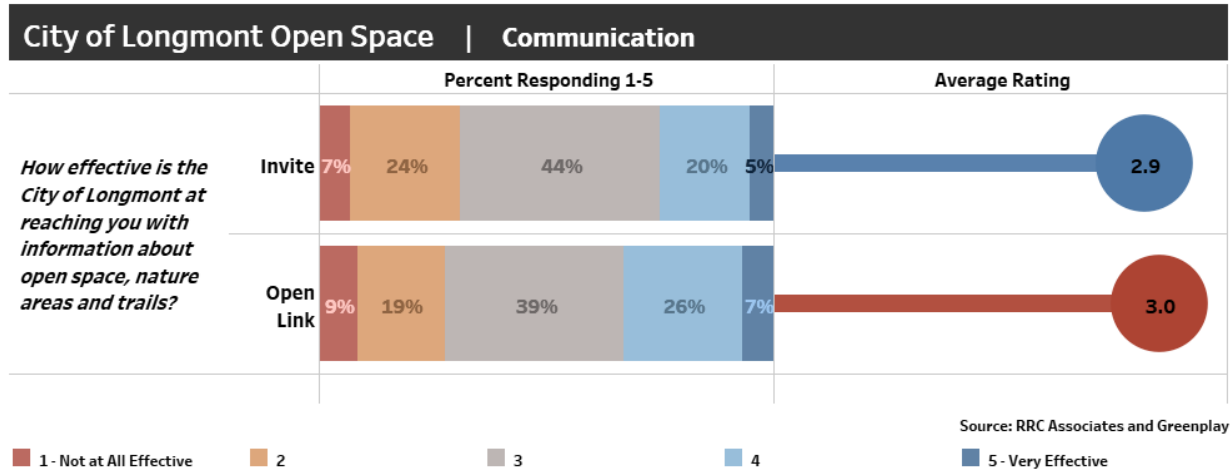
Figure 20: Demographics – Familiarity with Nature Areas within the City of Longmont



Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

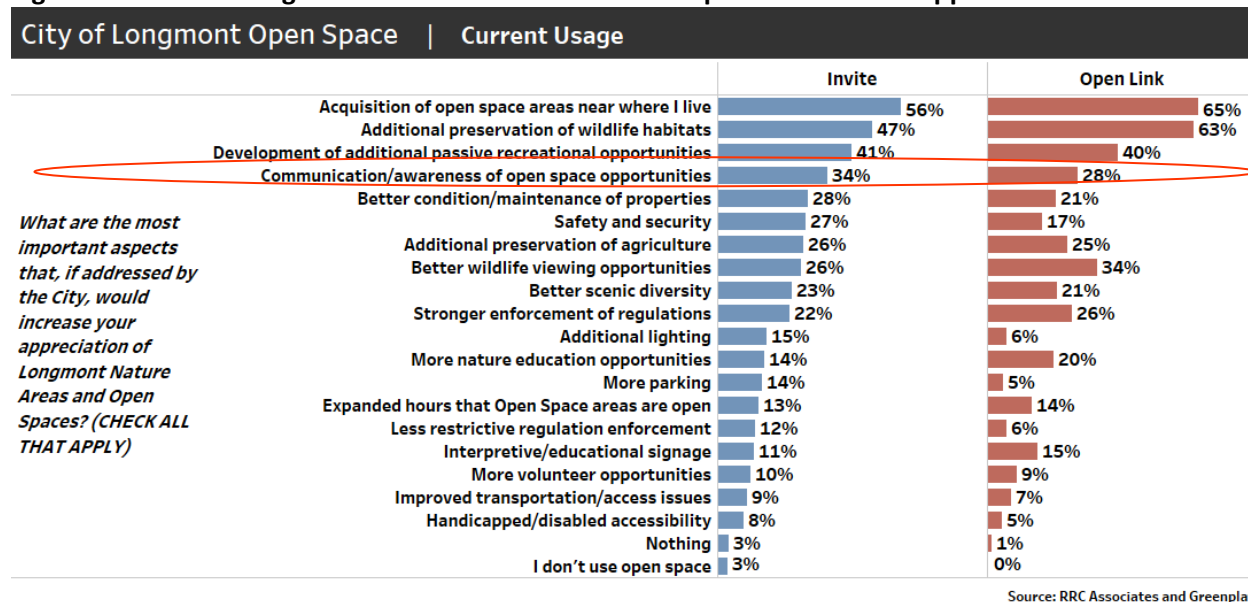
This finding alone does not call for increased communication efforts on the part of the City; having 95 percent of respondents identifying as at least “somewhat familiar” is very good. If compared to other questions specific to communication, like rating the effectiveness of communication from the City (**Figure 21**), this opportunity becomes more apparent.

Figure 21: Communication – Effectiveness of Reach by the City of Longmont



When coupled with the question regarding what the City could address to increase the appreciation of open space areas (**Figure 22**), where 34 percent of respondents on the invitation survey, and 28 percent of respondents on the open-link survey (top 5 responses on both surveys) felt that increasing communication and awareness would increase their appreciation, this becomes a priority opportunity for the Open Space Program in the short-term.

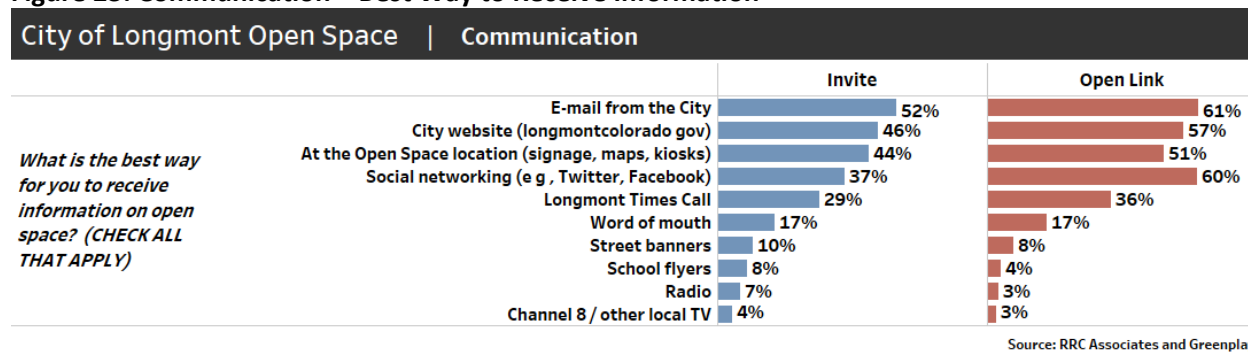
Figure 22: Current Usage – Distribution of Resources – Aspects to Increase Appreciation



Challenges with increasing communication efforts regarding the Open Space Program come in the form of dedicated staff time and expertise. The City does have communications staff members who help promote all of the City’s offerings, but it does not have a dedicated resource for the Open Space Program. The communication opportunity and the size of the Open Space Program may not call for dedicated staff members, but there should be a more concentrated effort to promote the Open Space Program.

Keys to successful communication and marketing campaigns include identifying key target audiences, key messages, and key communication channels. Channels that were identified by the survey are seen in **Figure 23**. Internet channels (e-mail, website, and social networking) are highly rated, as well as on location opportunities, which would include signage, park rangers, visitor centers, and programs.

Figure 23: Communication – Best Way to Receive Information



RECOMMENDATIONS

Moving forward with the goal of extending the tax initiative, the Open Space Program should consult with the Communications and Marketing staffs of PWRN to strategize ways to build the advocacy for the Open Space Program through key messages to include:

- The vision and goals of the Open Space Program
- Developing programming to increase user engagement and education
- The purpose, intent, and prioritization for all projects (capital, wildlife, preservation, etc.)
- Increasing interpretive signage
- Communicating the economic value of Longmont’s open space

The following chapter provides language and content regarding the economic value of open space. The chapter categorizes the economic value in numerous ways (Environmental, Monetary, and Health and Wellness), and provides a base of information for the program to use moving forward.

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II. THE VALUE OF OPEN SPACE IN LONGMONT

There is a deep and growing base of research and literature showing that public parks and open spaces can and do directly impact the quality of life in communities. Cities are viewing parks and natural areas as critical local infrastructure, assets that constituents want, need, and are willing to support. Communities that have strategically invested in land preservation and the development of large (acreage-wise) open space systems are now serving as national models for others seeking to thoughtfully expand and maintain their public parks and open space systems. These cities with robust open spaces and diverse outdoor recreation opportunities attract and retain residents who find tremendous value in having access to open spaces. In regular studies and articles about the best, happiest or healthiest cities to live in, media and news organizations, such as *Time* magazine and *Business Insider*, find that communities with robust opportunities for people to participate in fitness and recreation activities outdoors, consistently rank very highly as healthy and desirable places to live.



A. ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF OPEN SPACE

The preservation of open space is a key component in protecting natural resources and biodiversity, and mitigating storm damage. Public open spaces also serve as venues that facilitate engagement with nature. The overall environmental benefits of conserving natural landscapes are well documented and include the facts that natural systems support biodiversity and help filter the air we breathe and water we drink. Over the past several decades, public agencies and partners have expanded their conservation strategies to not only include seeking to protect lands of critical environmental value, but to create connected “greenway systems” of preserved lands and “green infrastructure.”¹

According to the American Planning Association:

- *Creating an interconnected system of parks and open space is manifestly more beneficial than creating parks in isolation.*
- *Cities can use parks to help preserve essential ecological functions and to protect biodiversity.*
- *When planned as part of a system of green infrastructure, parks can help shape urban form and buffer incompatible uses.*
- *Cities can use parks to reduce public costs for storm water management, flood control, transportation, and other forms of built infrastructure.*

Public parks and recreation agencies have a critical role to play as stewards of the environment and resources that build connections between people and nature. The National Recreation and Park Association emphasizes this message through incorporating “Conservation” as one of their three pillars, or key focus areas where parks and recreation agencies can have a major impact in fostering community quality of life.

¹ <https://www.planning.org/cityparks/briefingpapers/greeninfrastructure.htm>, accessed 3/2018

According to the National Parks and Recreation Association, some of the key benefits of conservation and environmental stewardship are:

- Parks and public lands in the United States are the largest source of publicly accessible open space, and critical to quality of life for all Americans. “The quality of life for every person in every community is improved by clean, green, and accessible parks and open spaces.”
- Maintaining carbon-reducing landscapes (such as forests and wetlands) cleans air and water, reduces stormwater runoff, preserves aquifer health, and protects wildlife habitat.
- The return on investment from protecting open space is estimated to be 100 to 1 from ecosystem services that benefit people.²
- Engaging and connecting children with nature and providing education and volunteer opportunities and interpretative programs for people of all ages can help create a better understanding of the natural world and develop an environmental stewardship ethos in the community.

NATURAL RESOURCE AND HABITAT CONSERVATION

In addition to the many social and economic benefits of public open spaces, the conservation of natural resources and landscapes, and the ecological functions they serve the public benefit to degrees that are hard to calculate. Natural systems clean the air we breathe and water we drink; healthy soils are the source of the food we eat and are home to ecosystems that support biodiversity. The National Recreation and Park Association cites a study from the Gund Institute for Environmental Economics at the University of Vermont. According to the Environmental Law Institute, “the greatest threats to wildlife and biodiversity in the United States are habitat destruction, degradation, and fragmentation, purchasing land outright or protecting it through the acquisition of a conservation easement ensures the protection of lands important for habitat.”³ Through their roles in the community, parks and recreation agencies are well-positioned to be leaders in preserving natural lands, conserving natural resources, practicing and educating others about sustainability and environmental stewardship, and providing opportunities for people to engage with nature.

National Recreation and Park Association Conservation Task Force

Top 10 Recommendations for Public Park Agencies:

1. Take a leadership role in the community to promote conservation.
2. Lead by example in employing best management conservation practices in parks.
3. Protect natural resources in parks and in the community.
4. Forge partnerships that foster the mission of conservation.
5. Create sustainable landscapes that demonstrate principles of conservation.
6. Engage youth in conservation.
7. Involve volunteers in conservation and stewardship.
8. Establish a strategic land acquisition strategy.
9. Conserve energy in all ways.
10. Utilize technology to promote conservation.

² <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/role-of-parks-and-recreation-in-conservation/>, accessed 4/2018

³ <https://www.eli.org/research-report/nature-open-space-programs-linking-land-protection-and-biodiversity-conservation>, accessed 3/2018

FLOOD MITIGATION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Developing a stronger and more proactive program for flood mitigation and hazard management has been a focus in Longmont over the past five years. The flooding Longmont experienced in 2013 resulted in a strengthened focus on improving the community's resiliency to flooding and other emergencies. Since that time the city has invested in multiple programs to improve residents' knowledge of

flooding and implement programs and capital improvements enhance the capacity of stream corridors and floodplains to absorb floodwaters and abate damage to public and private properties. Acquiring or otherwise preserving natural lands in and around flood plains areas, stream corridors, and wash areas for conservation purposes should be key part of any flood risk abatement program. Conservation of open space in such areas provides multiple benefits including:

- Limiting future development in flood prone areas, reducing risk to life and property in the event of future floods.
- Allowing the natural landscape to absorb flood waters and storm damage.
- It is less costly to construct, operate, and maintain than man-made flood control infrastructure.
- Preserved land in floodplains can be developed with minimal basic infrastructure to serve complimentary outdoor recreation functions. Floodplains and river corridors can be great locations for viewing wildlife and/or hiking and biking trails.

"A remedy for a flooding problem can also be a remedy for some other local concerns and vice versa. Finding ways to combine solutions to these problems can be the key to simultaneously improving life in the community and alleviating flooding. A low-lying area converted to public space could fulfill that purpose and also provide needed storage for stormwater to alleviate flooding of nearby homes or businesses."

FEMA: Reducing Damage from Localized Flooding: A Guide for Communities



CREATING BUFFERS AND PRESERVING COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Open space preservation can be a powerful tool for a community to utilize to shape its future, through preserving elements of its landscape, including natural features and agricultural lands, as well as sites important to cultural and social history of the community. As part of a community's system of green infrastructure, public parks, and protected open space areas can, and in many cases purposefully do, preserve the natural and cultural features of a community that make it unique. Scenic vistas, unique landscapes, and sites of cultural and historical significance set in public lands add interest to users and celebrate local identity.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC SITES, VISTAS, AND LANDSCAPES, ETC., BUFFER FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES

Protected open space areas and parks can also serve as “buffers” that separate incompatible land uses and aid in steering future local land development. Open space land conservation strategies also often seek to further the protection of natural resources, like wetlands or streams, through targeted acquisition or easement protection of lands located adjacent to or near such resources to further separate them from land development activities.

B. ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF OPEN SPACE

VALUE THROUGH ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the most economical way to absorb and clean water is to protect existing forests and wetlands.⁴ Over the past ten to twenty years, academics and institutions have produced a number of studies and reports regarding the value of natural resource land conservation. The non-profit Trust for Public Land refers to their measure and analysis of the economic benefits of land conservation as “Conservation Economics.” Through their studies, the Trust has shown that for every dollar invested in land conservation, the public sees a four to ten dollar return from the ecosystem services, social, and economic benefits provided by conserved land.⁵ In Colorado, the Trust for Public Land studied the value the public was receiving through the State's conservation easement programs. The study “A Return on Investment: The Economic Value of Colorado's Conservation Easements” was released in 2009 and estimated that public investment in conservation easements alone were generating a 6:1 return on investment.⁶

⁴ <https://coast.noaa.gov/data/docs/digitalcoast/gi-econ.pdf>, accessed 3/2018

⁵ <https://www.tpl.org/how-we-work/fund/conservation-economics#sm.0001baepx07ksejiw5a2qwsqa5i8l>, accessed 4/2018

⁶ <https://www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/cloud.tpl.org/pubs/benefits-CO-easements-taxcredit.pdf>, accessed 4/2018

VALUE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

Nationally, outdoor recreation is a major economic driver. In their 2017 “Outdoor Recreation Economy” report, the Outdoor Industry Association, a national outdoor industry trade organization, estimated that \$887 billion is spent annually by consumers in the United States on outdoor recreation. This spending supports the jobs of over seven million residents and generates over \$65 billion in federal tax revenue and over \$59 billion in state and local tax revenues.⁷

“Communities across Colorado recognize that outdoor recreation supports health, contributes to a high quality of life and—perhaps most importantly—attracts and sustains employers and families. Investing in outdoor infrastructure attracts employers and active workforces, ensuring those communities thrive economically and socially.”
Outdoor Industry Association

In Colorado, an estimated 71 percent of residents participate in outdoor recreation activities annually. This high level of participation sustains 229,000 directly related jobs and generates \$28 billion in annual consumer spending.⁸

In its January 2018 report “The Economic Benefits of Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF)”⁹ the Trust for Public Land sought to measure the economic value of the State’s lottery-proceed funded programs that create and support public outdoor recreation opportunities. Through its study, the Trust concluded that the investments made in outdoor recreation through GOCO and CTF have delivered wide and diverse economic returns, including, but not limited to:

- **Job Creation and Economic Activity:** nearly 12,000 jobs, and \$500 million in labor income over the past 10 years.
- **Leveraging Other Funds:** GOCO and CTF funds are used to leverage outside matching grants. Over the program’s lifespan, every GOCO dollar invested in a project attracts an additional \$2.31; every CTF dollar invested attracts at least \$2.43 in outside investment.
- **Attracting Tourism:** Most people visit Colorado for its scenic landscape and outdoor recreation opportunities. An estimated 15 percent of leisure visitors come specifically to participate in outdoor recreation, and these tourists spend \$1.2 billion annually while visiting the state.
- **Propelling Economic Development:** Open space, trails, and other recreation opportunities contribute to the high-quality life in Colorado which attracts businesses and employees to the state. GOCO and CTF supported recreation opportunities entice/support spending on sporting goods, which supports over 1,500 businesses and nearly 15,000 jobs. Spending on sporting goods in Colorado generates over \$4 billion in sales.

POSITIVE EFFECTS ON LOCAL REAL ESTATE VALUES

While the presence of public parks and open spaces in communities is attractive to tourists and outdoor recreation participants, home and real property values also tend to be positively impacted when located near parks. In its City Parks Forum Briefing Paper “How Cities Use Parks for Economic Development,”¹⁰ the American Planning Association discussed five key points to support its position that investing in parks yields economic benefits for communities.

⁷ https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/OIA_RecEconomy_FINAL_Single.pdf, accessed 4/2018

⁸ <https://outdoorindustry.org/state/colorado/>, accessed 4/2018

⁹ <https://www.tpl.org/economic-benefits-great-outdoors-colorado-and-conservation-trust-fund#sm.0001baepx07ksejiw5a2qwsqa5i8l>, accessed 4/2018

¹⁰ <https://www.planning.org/cityparks/briefingpapers/economicdevelopment.htm>, accessed 4/2018

1. Real property values are positively affected – investment in parks increases the value of properties located nearby.
2. Municipal revenues are increased – as property values rise, so do their property taxes. Park users and tourists also spend on retail goods and services, like admission fees, sports equipment, fuel, and hotel room stays.
3. Affluent retirees are attracted and retained – more retirees are living active lifestyles and seeking out communities that support their lifestyle. This demographic brings with them disposable income, and their tax payments fund services, like schools, that they may not utilize, which benefits the community at-large.
4. Knowledge workers and talent are attracted to live and work – employees in technology and other “knowledge” based industries prefer to live in places that provide diverse outdoor recreation opportunities.
5. Homebuyers are attracted to purchasing homes – if given the option, most people would choose to live in a home near a park or open space rather than in one that was not. People are also willing to pay somewhat more for a house located near a park.

“Parks are a good financial investment for a community. Understanding the economic impacts of parks can help decision makers better evaluate the creation and maintenance of parks.”

American Planning Association

Further supporting the position that parks are a good investment in terms of delivering economic and real estate value in communities are the results of studies completed by trade organizations

including the National Association of Realtors and National Association of Home Builders. Findings from surveys completed by these groups indicate that prospect buyers, from young families to retirees, want to live in walkable communities with access to parks, open spaces, and recreation opportunities. A more targeted economic study completed in 2016 by Trust for Public Land of the Great Rivers Greenway, a regional parks and trails district located in the St. Louis metropolitan area, sought to gauge how well the Greenway’s parks and trail system was generating social and economic benefits. This study found that property value was affected by two factors relevant to parks and greenways – proximity and quality.¹¹

“In our community, parks are at the center of helping us address all sorts of health issues common in urban areas. Like many other cities in America, we’re seeing an epidemic of childhood obesity, especially among our low-income residents. One way we’re fighting this is through our parks. They offer kids a chance to run around and play outdoors, as well as programs that give them access to healthy meals. And as we rebuild our tree canopy and improve our green spaces, we’re bringing relief to residents who suffer from asthma at one of the highest rates in the country. But parks are not all about solving problems. In a city like Hartford, where many families struggle to make ends meet, our parks are stress-reducers and vacation destinations. Places where people can relax, recharge, and spend real quality time with their friends and families.”

Mayor Pedro Segarra
Hartford, Connecticut

From the National Park and Recreation Association’s “Making the Case: Parks and Health”

¹¹ https://www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/files_upload/GRG%20report_final_low-res.pdf, accessed 4/2018

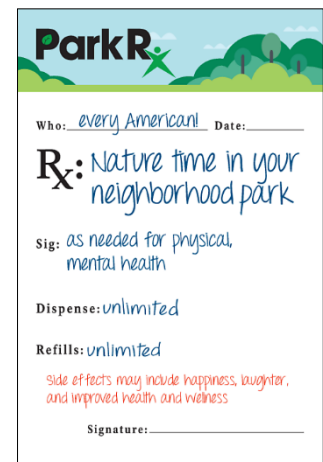
- **Quality:** Attractive parks, open spaces, and recreation opportunities with public access generally raise nearby property values. While measures of “quality” in a park are subjective and conditions in parks change over time, the Trust’s study found that people are willing to pay a premium for homes with easy access to a beautiful park, trail, bicycle path, or greenspace. Less attractive or poorly maintained parks may create marginal value increases, no increase in value, or decline in value of nearby properties if the park is known to be more of a nuisance rather than an amenity.
- **Proximity:** Generally, the closer a home is located to an attractive public park or recreation amenity, the more the property’s value is increased by the park. The Trust’s study reviews findings from analysis completed by the National Association of Realtors and others that reach this conclusion. Where the findings differ slightly is in how far and to what extent the positive value impact of a park on nearby properties extends. The Trust for Public Land concluded that value of properties within the first 500 feet from a desirable park or recreation amenity see the most benefit.

Communities that place a high value on open space can steer land use and development patterns that favor and promote the conservation of natural areas. Common tools used by public agencies to prioritize open space conservation include, but are not limited to:

- Planning, land use, and zoning regulations that only allow uses that are compatible with the natural conditions of the site.
- Cluster development regulations or incentives.
- Tax incentives for open space conservation.
- Smart growth and sustainable development goals in comprehensive plans.
- Programs to support the acquisition of conservation easements or purchase of development rights.

C. PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS VALUE

Public entities, often with parks and recreation agencies taking the leading role, are typically the key providers and stewards of lands and amenities that provide opportunities for all populations to be active outdoors and to engage with nature close-to-home. According to the National Recreation and Park Association, parks and recreation offer an “affordable and accessible solution” to combat public health issues such as rising rates of serious diseases, obesity, and other issues associated with an increased prevalence of sedentary lifestyles and poor health choices of Americans.¹² The positive effects that getting outdoors and being active in greenspaces can have on a person’s physical and mental well-being are so widely recognized that the medical community encourages people to get outside and be active, through insurance incentives and programs like ParkRx, in which doctors issue patients prescriptions to exercise outside to help improve their health.



¹² <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/role-of-parks-and-recreation-on-health-and-wellness/>, accessed 5/2018

Public parks, natural areas, and open spaces and their trail systems provide ideal and diverse opportunities to walk, hike, bike, and enjoy nature, and are sought out for such. With walking, biking, and other trail-based activities consistently ranking among the top fitness and recreation activities in which Americans participate, the health benefits of trails can have far-reaching positive impacts on local public health.

LONGMONT'S OPEN SPACE KEEPS RESIDENTS HEALTHY

Spending time outside is an important part of staying healthy. Social reformers of the 1800s believed that providing places for people to get a break from the urban environment would be good for their health and spirit. Recent research has proven this to be true. Benefits from spending time in nature--whether in parks, greenways, or open space--include quicker recovery from stress and anxiety, improved memory, better focus and attention span, a stronger immune system, reduction in cardiovascular problems, healthier body weight, sharper vision, and increased longevity.¹³ Longmont's open space provides a place where residents can have access to the health benefits of spending time outdoors.

Researchers have also found that being outside in nature can make you happier.¹⁴ A key finding of this research is that having a diverse choice of activities to participate in outside is more important than the duration of time spent there when it comes to being happy. Thus, providing a variety of things to do in open space, such as hiking, biking, fishing, being with friends, or simply relaxing is critical to maximizing the benefits that open space provides.



The 2008 “Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans Summary” published by the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion recommends that adults get 2.5 hours per week of moderate physical activity. Moderate physical activity is defined as that which causes a person to burn off three to six times as much energy as they would simply sitting still.¹⁵ The Centers for Disease Control identifies biking or walking in the manner engaged in on open space trails as moderate physical activity.¹⁶ Thus, when Longmont residents visit open space to walk or hike, the time they spend counts toward their recommended weekly amount of moderate physical activity. When they involve more challenging terrain or more intense effort, hiking and biking are considered to be vigorous activities, which allows a person to meet their weekly activity levels even more quickly—bringing the recommended amount for adults down to 1.5 hours per week.

¹³ Sprouse, Sydney (2017). 10 Reasons why being outside is important. *Ask The Scientists*. Retrieved April 23, 2018 from <https://askthescientists.com/outdoors/>

¹⁴ Frash, R. E., Jr., Blöse, J. E., Norman, W.C., Patience, M. (2016). Healthy parks, happy people: an exploratory study of a county park system. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 34(1) 84-102.

¹⁵ Harvard School of Public Health (2018). Examples of moderate and vigorous physical activity. *Obesity Prevention Source*. Retrieved April 24, 2018 from <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/obesity-prevention-source/moderate-and-vigorous-physical-activity/>

¹⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2018). General physical activities defined by level of intensity. Retrieved April 24, 2018 from https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/physical/pdf/pa_intensity_table_2_1.pdf

The results of the statistically-valid survey conducted for this study indicate that Longmont residents visit open space an average of 62 times per year, or 1.2 times a week. The average duration of each visit is 1.8 hours. This means that the average person is spending 2.2 hours per week in the open space. This is 88 percent of the recommended 2.5 hours per week of moderate physical activity mentioned above. However, while simply being outside is a benefit to health, whether physically active or not, the goal is 2.5 hours of *moderate physical activity*. The survey indicated that 87 percent of respondents said that they participate in hiking when they visit open space. Evaluating that activity alone and assuming all of it to be moderate activity (as opposed to vigorous activity), it can be inferred that on average, 87 percent of Longmont residents are meeting almost their entire weekly recommended physical activity allowance by visiting open space. This shows that by simply providing a place to walk, Longmont's open space is meeting a critical health parameter for its community. This does not even include getting to and from the open space, which 50% of respondents said they do by walking or biking--both of which are moderate activity generators. The average reported travel time in the survey was 11.9 minutes, or 29 minutes total getting there and back 1.2 times per week. This is an additional 0.48 hours per week of moderate activity. Thus, half of Longmont's residents are getting 19% of their weekly physical activity needs just from travelling to and from open space. Including other open space activities, such as running and biking, it becomes apparent that the open space system plays a significant role in keeping people happy and healthy. Perhaps this is why this area consistently rates at the top of the nation in happiness and health rankings.

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III. CONTEXT AND PROCESS OF THE PLAN

A. FOUNDATION FOR THE PLAN

HISTORY OF THE LONGMONT OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS PROGRAM FROM THE 2002 PLAN

In April of 1987, the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council approved the first Open Space Plan for the City of Longmont. This research and planning effort resulted in a recommendation of a goal and a series of policies and strategies. This language was altered somewhat, and ultimately adopted as Goal 31 of the Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan (LACP).

Goal 31 States:

“Preserve the natural features and resources of the Longmont area, maintain the City’s separate identity, provide outdoor recreation, and enhance the visual quality of entrance corridors to the City.”

Policy 31.5 calls for the adoption and implementation of an open space plan and management program with the following strategies:

Strategy 31.51: Detail an open space plan and management program that defines and prioritizes open space parcels for preservation and/or for acquisition that outlines methods appropriate for either approach, that identifies available resources, and that establishes land management policies and procedures.

Strategy 31.52: Designate the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to advise City Council on the preservation, acquisition, and management of open space.

The recommendations of the 1987 Open Space Plan did not address the issue of funding.

In November of 1995 the community of Longmont were asked to support a .25 cent sales tax increase and bonding authority for ten years for the acquisition of open space. The Open Space Focus Group, comprised of Longmont residents, attempted to implement this tax for purposes of acquiring, maintaining, and administering an open space program. With split support from City Council and the community, this effort failed.

In 1993, the original St. Vrain River Greenway Master Plan was adopted, and an East Corridor Update was undertaken in the summer of 2000. The East Corridor Update indicates that the LACP designated the St. Vrain River Corridor as a District Park, an identified element of the Longmont open space system, and further identified it as the primary focus of the City’s open space network and gave it the highest priority.

The City of Longmont saw a population increase in 2000 to 12.3% above the population originally anticipated based on 1990 Census data. (Department of Community Development Planning Division Memorandum, June 29, 2001). There has also been significant growth along the Front Range, and continuing concern about the uncontrolled growth in both Weld and Boulder Counties. These conditions influenced a second attempt at an open space sale tax for Longmont.

Through the efforts of the Longmont Open Space Committee, a community driven task force, and unanimous support by City Council, Goal 31 of LACP was begun to be fulfilled. In November 2000, City of Longmont community voted to increase the City sales tax by two-tenths-cents to be designated as the Open Space Sales Tax Fund. The funds from this increase are to be used for acquisition, development, and maintenance of land for open space. The parcels of land under this program must meet one or more of the criteria established as Open Space Attributes in the Open Space Program (These attributes are articulated in the ordinance language found in section 3 of this portion of the Needs Assessment). Throughout public presentations, prior to the November, 2000 election, the city promised that, should the tax pass, the City would apply the Open Space Attributes to all land acquisitions, only negotiate with willing land owners, pay fair market values, and complete a comprehensive Open Space and Trails Plan.

With the passage of the sales tax, the City of Longmont established the position of Superintendent of Open Space and Trails to head a division of the Parks and Recreation Department by the same name. The efforts of this division are guided by the advice of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

To further Goal 31 and Policy 31.5 and promises made during the election, the City of Longmont commissioned the development of this current effort, known as the Longmont Open Space and Trails Comprehensive Plan.

Accomplishments since the 2002 Plan

- Acquiring land within the St. Vrain Creek Corridor, east of Martin Street to St. Vrain State Park. This enabled the construction of the St. Vrain Greenway, which currently extends for 9.5 miles through Longmont.
- Acquiring 722 acres for the Union Reservoir Community Buffer, which includes the Hartman, French, Hernor, Sipe, Adrian, Rider, and Bogott Open Spaces.
- Managing over 1,000 acres under seven Agricultural Leases, which support the local food market with items such as Winter Wheat, Sugarbeets, Barley, Shelled Corn, Alfalfa, Grass Hay, etc. This equates to over 15,000 tons and nearly 23,000 bushels of crops on an annual basis.
- Wildlife and vegetation management on 3,647 acres of non-agricultural lands.
- Providing the Chick Clark Youth Fishing Education Program, which celebrated its 16th Year on March 24, 2018 and provided fishing opportunities for At-Risk-Youth of the City's Youth Center through the "Fishing with a Fireman" program, both activities at Izaak Walton Park.
- Developing and implementing the Lake McIntosh Trail/Park Master Plan.
- Providing a foundation for the City-wide Wildlife Management Plan, which was adopted in 2005.
- Developing partnerships with Boulder County Park and Open Space, Weld County, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Longmont Conservation District, Aggregate Industries, and Great Outdoors Colorado.
- Coordinating Oil & Gas monitoring throughout the City since 2012.
- Providing a variety of volunteer/stewardship opportunities throughout the community including raptor monitoring, tree planting, native seed collection, native plant propagation, noxious weed removal, and others.

B. THE PROCESS

THE TASK

The task of researching, writing, and updating the Longmont Open Space and Trails Master Plan included the following:

- Conducting public outreach utilizing a mixed methods approach
- Identifying new key issues and opportunities
- Identifying priority land acquisitions
- Updating the open space and trails inventory
- Conducting analysis utilizing the sustainability evaluation system
- Building consensus on process, vision, and goals
- Defining implementation strategies and plan
- Defining the economic impact of open space to the community
- Incorporating previous planning documents
- Presenting preliminary report to the TAC
- Presenting updated report to the PRAB
- Presenting final product to City Council for adoption
- Displaying open space and trails inventory using existing GIS data available from the City of Longmont
- Building consensus on process, vision, and goals
- Defining implementation strategies and plan
- Defining acquisition and protection strategies
- Presenting preliminary report to the PRAB
- Presenting final product to City Council for adoption

THE PUBLIC

The community outreach process included meetings with the public, as well as a widely distributed survey – a similar process to the previous planning effort. These efforts focused on information seeking; the development of program vision, goals, and priorities; identifying current and potential uses; long term maintenance; and reviewing land/natural resources inventories and potential trail inventories.

Throughout the process, information about this planning effort was made available on the City’s website and social media outlets.

THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

To guide the development of the updated Plan, a Technical Advisory Committee was brought together to identify key issues, help integrate this effort with those of surrounding and overlapping jurisdictions, provide input on approach and methodology, and provide other expertise.

The Technical Advisory Committee met in December, 2017, January, 2018, and May 2018.

THE BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

The preliminary recommendations for the plan was presented to the Board of Environmental Affairs in May of 2018.

THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

The preliminary plan was presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in a public hearing, for input and an advisory recommendation, in June of 2018.

THE CITY COUNCIL

A final updated plan presentation was made to City Council in a public hearing for plan adoption.

C. COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

A series of public meetings were held in February and March, 2018. Two additional public hearings before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and City Council were held in June and July 2018. Advertising for the meetings included public notices and social media invitations. Meeting notices were submitted for each of the meetings were also distributed by the City of Longmont to various media outlets in the community and ran throughout the entire planning process. Members of the community that were not able to attend the meetings were encouraged to engage in the process through alternative methods (direct email to staff, open link survey, etc.). The following sections describe what took place during each outreach session. Notes and a summary of data collected can be found in **Appendix G**.

Open Space Program Public Meeting #1 – February 22, 2018

The first public meeting was used as a general information gathering session allowing members of the public to review and respond to the original 2002 Plan’s Vision, Goals, and Recommendations and to the Open Space Program’s operations (via a fact sheet/board of depicting expenditures, budget, land managed, etc.) and accomplishments during the previous 17 years.

The community was presented with a summary of the previous plan and asked to respond via open comments, comment cards, sticky notes, and written/drawn feedback at stations set-up throughout the venue. The following are identified themes (using the existing open space criteria) captured during the workshop:

WORKSHOP 1 MAP EXERCISE

Assignment

Participants were invited to add comments, issues, or suggestions to maps displayed on tables using markers.

Following the meeting, all maps were reviewed, and comments recorded. Comments ranged from possible acquisition areas to desirable trail connections. Map comments were compiled and are shown in the **Appendix G** (Workshop 1 Mapping).

DOT-VOTING EXERCISE

Before participants left the meeting, they were given a limited number of “dots” to place on various pictures reflecting aspects of open space and trails. They were asked to vote with dots for those pictures that best represented their image for the future of the open space system.

Open Space Program Public Meeting #2 – March 22, 2018

The second public meeting was intended to present the community with the initial feedback gathered during the initial public workshop and the initial survey results, with the intention of gathering feedback in regards to how to use the information gathered to influence and update the Open Space Plan. Community members engaged in a similar process to the first workshop – presentation, discussion, and interactive stations.

Specific stations and discussions included:

- Direct questions regarding the definition of passive recreation in the community, the purpose of trails within open space, the influence this plan plays in the overall conversation about oil and gas development in the community, and discussion regarding the current tax program.
- Brainstorming and potential updates to 2002 Vision and Goals and Recommendations.
- Creating a new visioning map based on the 2002 Vision Map and the current system.

Public Meeting #3 – Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, June 11, 2018

The draft document was presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on June 11, 2018. The Board unanimously approved the draft and made the recommendation that City Council adopt the Plan.

Public Meeting #4 – City Council, July 10, 2018

Community Survey

The purpose of the survey was to provide public feedback on open spaces, nature areas, and trails owned, managed, and maintained by Longmont’s Open Space Program. Understanding that it is not feasible to communicate directly with every resident in Longmont, the survey was one method to gather community input from a representative sample of the community.

The survey was conducted using three primary methods:

1. A mailed survey to a random sample of Longmont residents (referred to as the invitation survey throughout the report).
2. An online invitation-only survey accessed through a password-protected website as an additional option for those residents who received the initial invitation survey.
3. An “Open Link” online survey for members of the public who were not part of the invitation sample. Multiple means for promotion were used including internal lists and social media.

The primary list source used for the mailing was purchased from Melissa Data Corp., a leading provider of data with emphasis on U.S., Canadian, and international address and phone verification as well as postal software. Use of the Melissa Data list also includes renters in the sample who are frequently missed in other list sources such as utility billing lists

Approximately 4,300 surveys were mailed to a random sampling of Longmont residents in February 2018. The final sample size for this statistically valid survey was 629, resulting in a margin of error of approximately +/- 3.9 percentage points calculated for questions at 50% response. The open link survey received an additional 312 responses.

Figure 24 is a summary of key takeaways from the survey. The full report, and further detailed responses can be found in **Appendix C**.

Figure 24: Top 10 Finding from the Survey



Appendix A: Longmont Open Space Ordinance

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ORDINANCE O-2000-41

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A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, CHAPTER 4.04, OF THE
MUNICIPAL CODE FOR THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO, INCREASING THE
CITY SALES AND USE TAX RATE BY 0.2 CENT (TWO TENTHS OF ONE CENT) PER
DOLLAR, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2001, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020,
AUTHORIZING BONDED DEBT, WITH PROCEEDS USED FOR OPEN SPACE
ACQUISITION, IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE, AND REFERRING SAID TAX
INCREASE AND BONDED DEBT AUTHORIZATION TO A VOTE OF THE QUALIFIED
ELECTORS

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO, ORDAINS:

Section 1

The Council finds:

A. There is a critical need for the preservation of open space lands in and around the City of Longmont, preserved open space being a fundamental shared value of the citizens of Longmont, which open space lands can be used for purposes including, but not limited to:

1. Preservation of natural areas, wildlife habitat, wetlands, agriculture and visual corridors; and
2. District parks devoted to low-impact recreational uses.

B. Therefore, there is a critical need to increase City sales and use taxes to finance the acquisition and limited development of said lands; and

1 C. Due to the immediacy of the need, revenue bonds, as authorized by §10.2
2 of the Longmont Charter, should be issued in order to allow such acquisitions and
3 improvements to take place as soon as possible; and

4 D. The City of Longmont City Council desires to refer the question of
5 approval of such taxes and bonded debt to the registered electors of the City of
6 Longmont.

7 Section 2

8 The Council amends Section 4.04.130 of the Longmont Municipal Code, by adding any
9 italicized material and deleting any stricken material, to read as follows:

10 4.04.130 Sales tax levied—Allocation of increased tax for *open space*
11 *acquisition and maintenance and street system maintenance and improvements from*
12 *special public improvement funds—Sunset clause.*

13 A. There is imposed upon all sales of commodities and services specified in
14 Section 4.04.080, ~~taxes tax in accordance with the following schedule:~~

Amount of Sale	Tax
\$0.01 including	\$.17 No tax
.18 including	.54 1 cent
.55 including	.90 2 cents
.91 including	1.27 3 cents
1.28 including	1.63 4 cents
1.64 including	1.99 5 cents
2.00 including	2.36 6 cents
2.37 including	2.72 7 cents

1 ~~2.73 including 3.09 8 cents~~

2 ~~3.10 including 3.45 9 cents~~

3 ~~3.46 including 3.81 10 cents~~

4 ~~3.82 including 4.00 11 cents~~

5 ~~On sales in excess of four dollars, the tax shall be at the rate of two and three-~~
6 ~~quarters 2.95 percent cents on each full dollar of the sales price plus the tax~~
7 ~~shown in the above schedule for each fractional part of four dollars of each such~~
8 ~~sales price, to be computed in accordance with schedules or systems approved by~~
9 ~~the finance director. Said schedules or systems shall be designed so that no such~~
10 ~~tax is charged on any sale of sixteen cents or less.~~

11 B. All revenues derived from the three-quarters-cent increase and all revenues
12 received by the city from the county, state and federal government for the purpose of
13 street system operations and improvements shall be allocated to a special public
14 improvement fund as contemplated by Article 9.9 of the City Charter, designated the
15 Street System Maintenance and Improvement Fund, which shall exist solely to fund
16 operations, maintenance, rehabilitation and improvement of the city street system.

17 C. Revenues derived from the three-quarters cent street system maintenance
18 and improvement component of the taxes imposed by this section shall be allocated
19 and expended, as closely as practicable, among street fund programs, as listed
20 below. Minor variations from these percentages shall be allowed annually, as
21 required to permit funding requirements for entire projects to be satisfied:

Street Fund Program	Approximate Annual Allocation
Street maintenance, transportation services, traffic signal maintenance, snow removal	39 percent
Capital construction projects	21 percent
Street rehabilitation program, concrete repair and replacement	31 percent
Transportation system management projects, school and pedestrian safety, traffic signals, turn lanes, safety and capacity improvements, etc.	9 percent

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- 2 Specific annual expenditures for qualifying projects shall be determined annually
- 3 through the city's capital improvements program and annual operating budget.
- 4 D. No revenues derived from the three-quarters-cent increase shall be applied to
- 5 debt existing prior to July 1, 1986.
- 6 E. No administrative transfer fee in excess of eight and five-tenths percent shall
- 7 be charged to the Street System Maintenance and Improvement Fund.

1 F. On December 31, 2001, unless the electors authorize extending the three-
2 quarters-cent street system maintenance and improvement component of the taxes
3 imposed by this section, the tax rates listed in subsection A of this section shall be
4 reduced in the amount by which they were increased by Ordinance O-86-22, and
5 subsections B through F of this section shall be repealed.

6 *G. All revenues derived from the 2001 two-tenths-cent increase shall be*
7 *allocated to a special public improvement fund, as contemplated by Article 9.9 of the*
8 *City Charter, designated the Open Space Sales Tax Fund, which shall be used solely*
9 *for the following purposes:*

10 1. *To acquire, for open space, interests in real property, including, but*
11 *not limited to, fee title, leases, development rights, mineral and other*
12 *subsurface rights, conservation easements, rights-of-way, easements, and*
13 *options through all means available and by various types of instruments and*
14 *transactions, when determined by the Longmont City Council, to be*
15 *necessary to preserve such areas;*

16 2. *To acquire water rights and water storage rights for use in*
17 *connection with real property acquired for open space;*

18 3. *To acquire rights-of-way and easements for access to open space;*

19 4. *To acquire options related to these acquisitions;*

20 5. *To pay for all related costs of acquisition, improvements and*
21 *maintenance;*

22 6. *To improve all City of Longmont open space property in accordance*
23 *with Open Space policies recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board*

1 *and adopted by the City Council as part of the Longmont Area*
2 *Comprehensive Plan (LACP);*

3 7. *To manage, patrol, and maintain all City of Longmont open space*
4 *property in accordance with Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan policies*
5 *adopted by Council;*

6 8. *To permit the use of these funds for the joint acquisition of open*
7 *space property, with other governmental entities in accordance with*
8 *intergovernmental agreements, or with land trusts;*

9 9. *To establish reserves for, and to pay the costs of issuance and debt*
10 *service of revenue bonds, including principal and interest thereon.*

11 H. *Open space, for the purposes of this section, is generally described as: those*
12 *lands in which the Longmont City Council determines that it is, or may in the future*
13 *be, within the public interest to acquire an interest, to assure their protection and to*
14 *fulfill one or more of the functions described below. Interests acquired may include,*
15 *but are not limited to, fee title, leases, development rights, mineral and other*
16 *subsurface rights, conservation easements, water rights and water storage rights,*
17 *rights-of-way, easements, and options.*

18 I. *Open space shall serve one or more of the following functions:*

19 1. *preservation of natural areas, wildlife habitat, wetlands, agriculture*
20 *and visual corridors;*

21 2. *linkages and trails, access to public lakes, streams and other usable*
22 *open space lands, stream corridors and scenic corridors along existing*
23 *highways;*

1 3. *conservation of natural resources including, but not limited to, forest*
2 *lands, range lands, agricultural land, aquifer recharge areas, and surface*
3 *water;*

4 4. *district parks devoted to low-impact recreational uses;*

5 5. *implementing Greenways and Open Space policies or strategies of*
6 *the Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan.*

7 6. *urban shaping buffers between or around municipalities or*
8 *community service areas and buffer zones between residential and*
9 *non-residential development;*

10 J. *Once acquired, open space may be used only for purposes set forth above.*

11 K. *Specific annual expenditures for qualifying projects shall be determined*
12 *annually through the City's capital improvements program and annual*
13 *operating budget.*

14 L. *On December 31, 2020, unless the electors authorize extending the two-*
15 *tenths-cent open space acquisition component of the taxes imposed by this*
16 *section, the tax rates listed in subsection A of this section shall be reduced*
17 *in the amount by which they were increased by Ordinance O-2000-41, and*
18 *subsections G through L of this section shall be repealed.*

19 Section 3

20 The Council amends Section 4.04.280 of the Longmont Municipal Code, by adding any
21 italized material and deleting any stricken material, to read as follows:

1 4.04.280 Storage, consumption and use tax levied—Allocation of increased
2 tax for open space acquisition and maintenance and street system maintenance and
3 improvements from special public improvement funds—Sunset clause.

4 A. Except as provided separately in subsections F through K of this section for
5 construction equipment, there shall be levied and there shall be collected from every
6 person a tax or excise for the privilege of storing, using, distributing or otherwise
7 consuming any article of tangible personal property purchased at retail from sources
8 outside the corporate limits of the city, subsequent to the effective date of the
9 ordinance codified in this chapter. Such tax shall be payable to and shall be collected
10 by the director of finance *at the rate of* ~~in accordance with the following schedule:~~

11	Amount of Sale	Tax
12	\$.01 including	\$.17 No tax
13	.18 including	.54 1 cent
14	.55 including	.90 2 cents
15	.91 including	1.27 3 cents
16	1.28 including	1.63 4 cents
17	1.64 including	1.99 5 cents
18	2.00 including	2.36 6 cents
19	2.37 including	2.72 7 cents
20	2.73 including	3.09 8 cents
21	3.10 including	3.45 9 cents
22	3.46 including	3.81 10 cents
23	3.82 including	4.00 11 cents

1 ~~On use in excess of four dollars, the tax shall be two and three quarters 2.95~~
2 ~~percent cents on each full dollar of the use price plus the tax shown in the above~~
3 ~~schedule for each fractional part of four dollars of each such use price., to be~~
4 ~~computed in accordance with schedules or systems approved by the finance~~
5 ~~director. Said schedules or systems shall be designed so that no such tax is~~
6 ~~charged on any sale of sixteen cents or less.~~

7 B. All revenues derived from the three-quarters-cent increase and all revenues
8 received by the city from the county, state and federal government for the purpose of
9 street system operations and improvements shall be allocated to a special public
10 improvement fund as contemplated by Article 9.9 of the City Charter, designated the
11 Street System Maintenance and Improvement Fund, which shall exist solely to fund
12 operations, maintenance, rehabilitation and improvement of the city street system.

13 C. Revenues derived from the three-quarters-cent street system maintenance
14 and improvement component of the taxes imposed by this section shall be allocated
15 and expended, as closely as practicable, among street fund programs, as listed
16 below. Minor variations from these percentages shall be allowed annually, as
17 required to permit funding requirements for entire projects to be satisfied:

Street Fund Program	Approximate Annual Allocation
Street maintenance, transportation services, traffic signal maintenance, snow removal	39 percent
Capital construction projects	21 percent
Street rehabilitation program, concrete repair and replacement	31 percent
Transportation system management projects, school and pedestrian safety, traffic signals, turn lanes, safety and capacity improvements, etc.	9 percent

- 1
- 2 Specific annual expenditures for qualifying projects shall be determined annually
- 3 through the city's capital improvements program and annual operating budget.
- 4 D. No revenues derived from the three-quarters-cent increase shall be applied to
- 5 debt existing prior to July 1, 1986.
- 6 E. No administrative transfer fee in excess of eight and five-tenths percent shall
- 7 be charged to the street system maintenance and improvement fund.

1 F. Construction equipment which is located within the boundaries of the city
2 for a period of more than thirty consecutive days shall be subjected to the full
3 applicable storage, consumption and use tax of the city.

4 G. Construction equipment which is located within the boundaries of the city
5 for a period of thirty consecutive days or less shall be subjected to the city's storage,
6 consumption and use tax in an amount which does not exceed the amount calculated
7 as follows: the purchase price of the equipment shall be multiplied by a fraction, the
8 numerator of which is one and the denominator of which is twelve, and the result
9 shall be multiplied by the rate set forth in this section.

10 H. Where the provisions of subsection G of this section are utilized, the credit
11 provisions of subsection K of Section 4.04.290 shall apply at such time as the
12 aggregate sales, storage, consumption and use taxes legally imposed by and paid to
13 other statutory and home rule municipalities on any such equipment equal to the rate
14 set forth in this section.

15 I. In order to avail himself or herself of the provisions of subsection H of this
16 section, the taxpayer shall comply with the following procedure:

17 1. Prior to or on the date the equipment is located within the boundaries
18 of the city, the taxfiler shall file with the city's finance director an equipment
19 declaration on a form provided by the city. Such declaration shall state the
20 dates on which the taxfiler anticipates the equipment will be located within
21 and removed from the boundaries of the city, shall include a description of
22 each such anticipated piece of equipment, shall state the actual or anticipated

1 purchase price of each such anticipated piece of equipment, and shall include
2 such other information as reasonably deemed necessary by the city.

3 2. The taxfiler shall file with the city an amended equipment
4 declaration reflecting any changes in the information contained in any
5 previous equipment declaration no less than once every ninety days after the
6 equipment is brought into the boundaries of the city or, for equipment which
7 is brought into the boundaries of the city for a project of less than ninety
8 days' duration, no later than ten days after substantial completion of the
9 project.

10 3. The taxfiler need not report on any equipment declaration any
11 equipment for which the purchase price was under two thousand five
12 hundred dollars.

13 J. If the equipment declaration is given as provided in subsection I of this
14 section, then as to any item of construction equipment for which the customary
15 purchase price is under two thousand five hundred dollars which was brought into
16 the boundaries of the city temporarily for use on a construction project, it shall be
17 presumed that the item was purchased in a jurisdiction having a local sales or use tax
18 as high as the applicable rates therefor set forth in this chapter, and that such local
19 sales or use tax was previously paid. In such case the burden of proof in any
20 proceeding before the city's director of finance, the executive director of the
21 department of revenue, or the district court, shall be on the city to prove such local
22 sales or use tax was not paid.

1 K. If the taxfiler fails to comply with the provisions of subsection I of this
2 section, the taxpayer may not avail himself or herself of the provisions of subsection
3 G of this section and shall be subject to the provisions of subsection F of this section.
4 However, substantial compliance with the provisions of subsection I of this section
5 shall allow the taxfiler to avail himself or herself of the provisions of subsection G of
6 this section.

7 L. On December 31, 2001, unless the electors authorize extending the three-
8 quarters-cent street system maintenance and improvement component of the taxes
9 imposed by this section, the tax rates listed in subsection A of this section shall be
10 reduced in the amount by which they were increased by Ordinance O-94-51 and
11 subsections B through E and subsection L of this section shall be repealed.

12 M. *All revenues derived from the 2001 two-tenths-cent increase shall be*
13 *allocated to a special public improvement fund as contemplated by Article 9.9 of the*
14 *City Charter, designated the Open Space Sales Tax Fund, which shall be used solely*
15 *for the purposes stated in section 4.04.130, subsections G through L.*

16 N. *On December 31, 2020, unless the electors authorize extending the two-*
17 *tenths-cent open space acquisition component of the taxes imposed by this section,*
18 *the tax rates listed in subsection A of this section shall be reduced in the amount by*
19 *which they were increased by Ordinance O-2000-41 and subsections M and N of*
20 *this section shall be repealed.*

21 Section 4 Bonded Debt Authorized

22 City of Longmont debt may be increased \$22,000,000 with a repayment cost of
23 \$40,500,000, to acquire, improve and maintain open space for purposes identified in this ordinance.

1 The City may evidence such debt by issuing bonds (or bonds issued to refund such bonds). The City
2 may sell such bonds in one series or more, in an aggregate amount not to exceed the maximum
3 authorized principal amount and repayment costs, on terms and conditions as the City Council may
4 determine, including provisions for a redemption of the bonds before maturity with or without
5 payment of a premium.

6 Section 5 Election and Effective Date

7 Under Article 9.15 of the Longmont Municipal Charter and Article X, Section 20 of the
8 Colorado Constitution, the Council refers this ordinance to the qualified electors of the City for
9 approval at the special City election now scheduled for November 7, 2000. If approved by a
10 majority of the electors voting thereon, it shall become effective when the City Clerk or other
11 designated election official duly files the required certificate of election, or on January 1, 2001,
12 whichever occurs last.

13 Section 6 Ballot Title and Question

14 The ballot title and question submitted to the electors shall be as follows:

15 SHALL THE CITY OF LONGMONT SALES AND USE TAX BE
16 INCREASED \$3,000,000 ANNUALLY (FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR
17 INCREASE) BY INCREASING THE SALES AND USE TAX RATE
18 BY 0.2 CENT (TWO-TENTHS OF ONE CENT) PER DOLLAR,
19 BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2001 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020;
20 AND SHALL CITY OF LONGMONT DEBT BE INCREASED
21 \$22,000,000, WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF \$40,500,000, ALL TO
22 ACQUIRE, IMPROVE AND MAINTAIN OPEN SPACE FOR
23 PURPOSES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- 1 • PRESERVATION OF NATURAL AREAS, WILDLIFE HABITAT,
2 WETLANDS, AGRICULTURE AND VISUAL CORRIDORS; AND
3 • DISTRICT PARKS DEVOTED TO LOW-IMPACT
4 RECREATIONAL USES,

5 WITH SUCH DEBT TO BE EVIDENCED BY ISSUANCE OF BONDS (OR
6 BONDS ISSUED TO REFUND SUCH BONDS), SUCH BONDS TO BE SOLD
7 IN ONE SERIES OR MORE, IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT NOT TO
8 EXCEED THE MAXIMUM AUTHORIZED PRINCIPAL AMOUNT AND
9 REPAYMENT COSTS, ON TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS THE CITY
10 COUNCIL MAY DETERMINE, INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR
11 REDEMPTION OF THE BONDS PRIOR TO MATURITY WITH OR
12 WITHOUT PAYMENT OF A PREMIUM, ALL ACCORDING TO
13 ORDINANCE O-2000-41?

14 YES _____

15 NO _____

16 Section 7 Repealer

17 If the electors approve this ordinance, then on the effective date specified above, all
18 ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed, but only to the extent of
19 such inconsistency.

20 Section 8

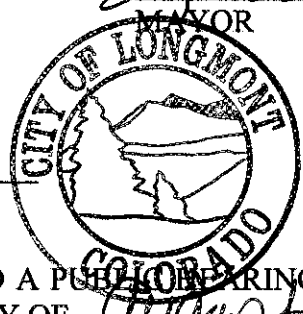
21 To the extent only that they conflict with this ordinance, the Council repeals any
22 conflicting ordinances or parts of ordinances. The provisions of this ordinance are severable, and
23 invalidity of any part shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the rest of this ordinance.

1 Introduced this 8th day of August, 2000.

2
3 Passed and adopted this 22nd day of August, 2000.

4
5
6 Leona Steuber
7 MAYOR

8 ATTEST:
9
10 Valeria D. Statt
11 CITY CLERK
12



13
14 NOTICE: THE COUNCIL WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THIS ORDINANCE AT
15 7:00 P.M. ON THE 22nd DAY OF August, 2000, IN THE
16 LONGMONT COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

17
18
19 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

20
21 [Signature]
22
23 CITY ATTORNEY

8/9/00
DATE

24
25
26 Nancy R. Russell
27
28 PROOF READ

8-9-00
DATE

29
30
31
32
33 APPROVED AS TO FORM AND SUBSTANCE:

34
35 [Signature]
36
37 ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT
38
39 File: 3833
40

8-9-00
DATE

Appendix B: Previous Mapping Resources

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City of Longmont

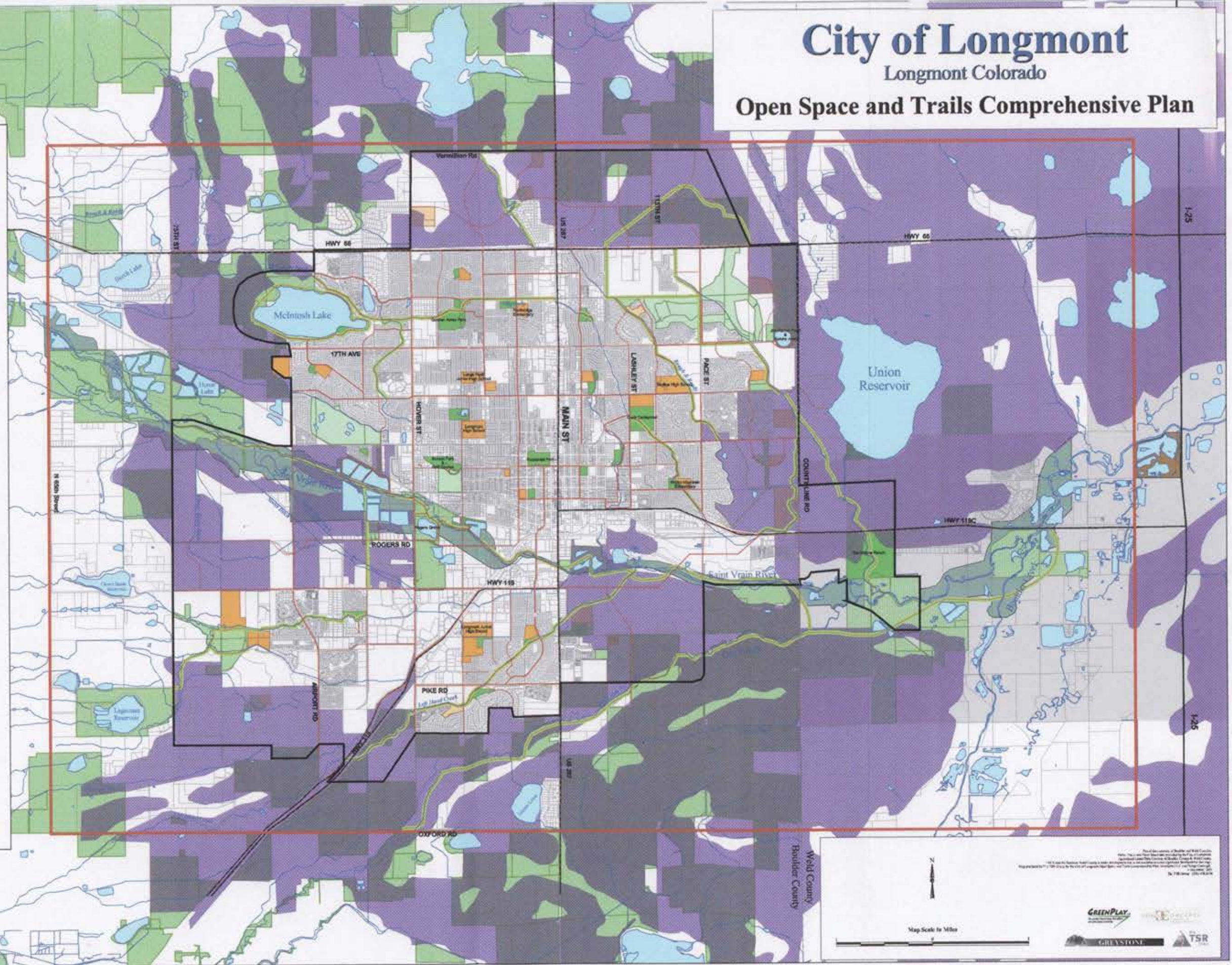
Longmont Colorado

Open Space and Trails Comprehensive Plan

Agricultural Lands of National Importance

Map Legend

- Agricultural Lands of National Importance
- Study Area Boundary
- Longmont Planning Area Boundary
- I-25 Mixed Use Development Area
- Parks**
- Proposed
- Existing
- Additional Recreation Lands**
- County & Municipal Open Space
- Greenway
- Private Golf Course
- Public Golf Course
- Longmont Open Space
- St. Vrain Greenway
- Barbour Ponds State Park
- Public Schools**
- Proposed
- Existing
- Longmont Trails (With On-Street Bikeways), Greenways**
- Existing
- Proposed
- Primary Greenway
- Surface Waters
- Surface Waters
- Parcels
- CDOT Centerline**
- Interstate
- Principal Arterial
- Minor Arterial
- County Line



Weld County
Boulder County



Map Scale in Miles



Final Document of Boulder and Weld Counties
This Plan is a joint effort between the City of Longmont, Weld County, and Boulder County. It is a collaborative effort between the City of Longmont, Weld County, and Boulder County. It is a collaborative effort between the City of Longmont, Weld County, and Boulder County. It is a collaborative effort between the City of Longmont, Weld County, and Boulder County.





City of Longmont

Longmont Colorado

Open Space and Trails Comprehensive Plan

Bald Eagle Habitat

Map Legend

Bald Eagle Habitat Study

- Bald Eagle Winter Foraging Area
- Bald Eagle Winter Concentration
- Bald Eagle Year-Round Foraging
- Bald Eagle Communal Roost Site
- Bald Eagle Roost Sites

- Study Area Boundary
- Longmont Planning Area Boundary
- I-25 Mixed Use Development Area

- ##### Parks
- Proposed
 - Existing

- ##### Additional Recreation Lands
- County & Municipal Open Space
 - Greenway
 - Private Golf Course
 - Public Golf Course
 - Longmont Open Space

- St. Vrain Greenway
- Barbour Ponds State Park

- ##### Public Schools
- Proposed
 - Existing

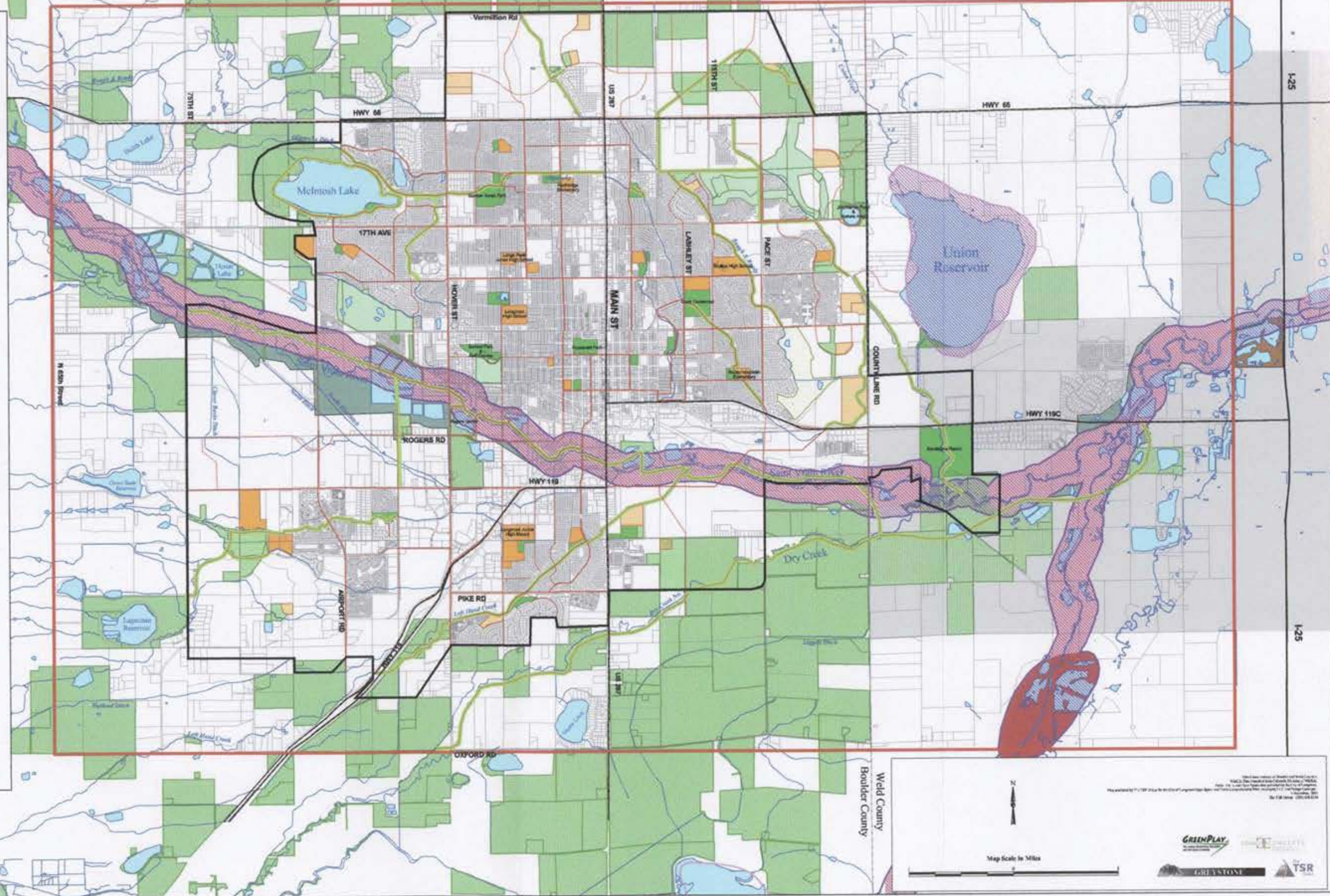
Longmont Trails (With On-Street Bikeways), Greenways

- Existing
- Proposed
- Primary Greenway
- Surface Waters
- Surface Waters

Parcels

- CDOT Centerline
- Interstate
- Principal Arterial
- Minor Arterial

- County Line



Weld County
Boulder County



Map Scale in Miles



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City of Longmont

Longmont Colorado

Open Space and Trails Comprehensive Plan

Elements of Occurance Records Colorado Natural Heritage Program

Map Legend

Species Common Name

- Plant Community - Salt Meadows
- Mollusk - Cylindrical Papershell
- Fish - Northern Redbelly Dace
- Fish - Southern Redbelly Dace

- Study Area Boundary
- Longmont Planning Area Boundary
- I-25 Mixed Use Development Area

- ##### Parks
- Proposed
 - Existing

- ##### Additional Recreation Lands
- County & Municipal Open Space
 - Greenway
 - Private Golf Course
 - Public Golf Course
 - Longmont Open Space

- St. Vrain Greenway
- Barbour Ponds State Park

- ##### Public Schools
- Proposed
 - Existing

Longmont Trails (With On-Street Bikeways), Greenways

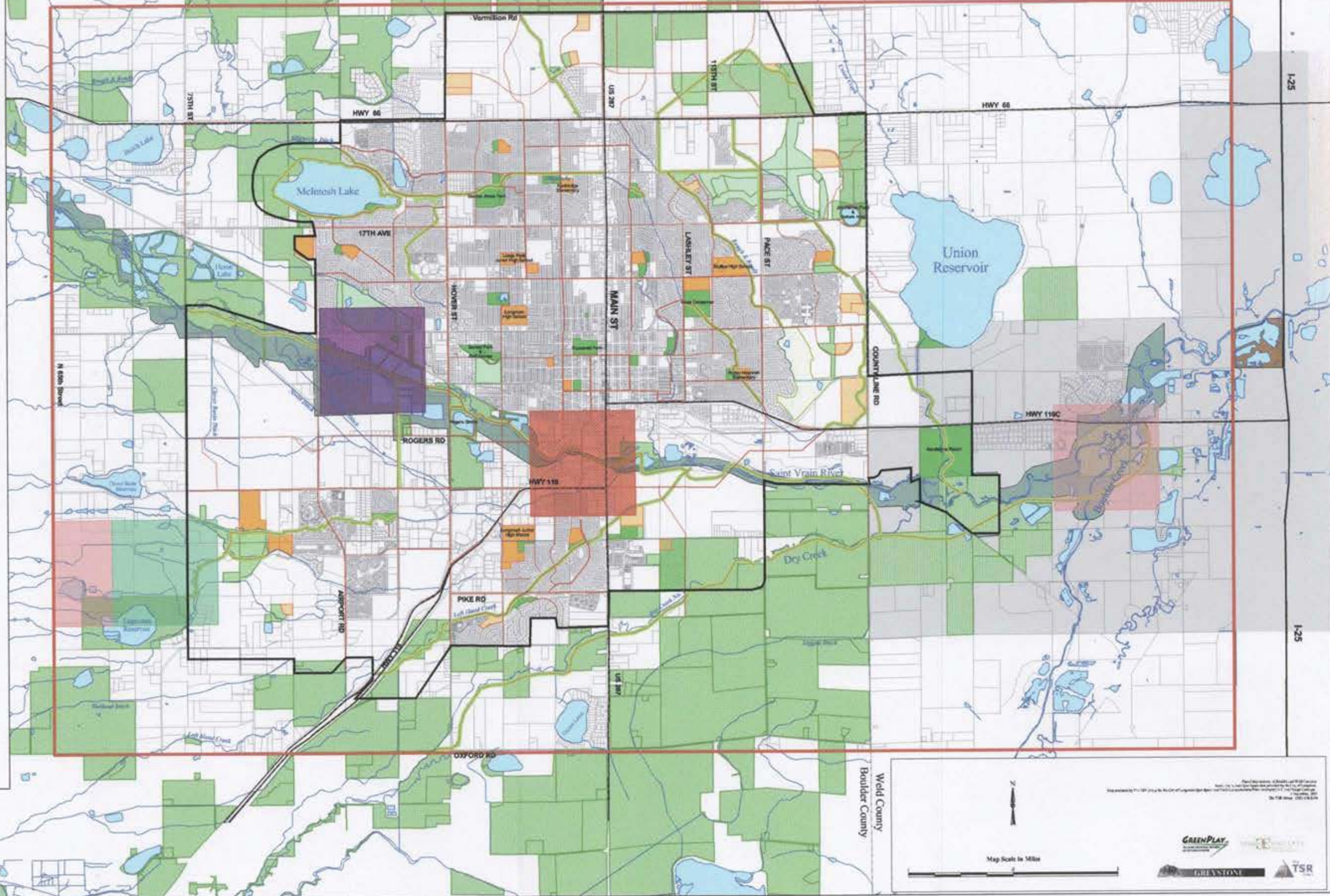
- Existing
- Proposed
- Primary Greenway

- Surface Waters
- Surface Waters

Parcels

- CDOT Centerline
- Interstate
- Principal Arterial
- Minor Arterial

- County Line



Weld County
Boulder County



Map Scale in Miles



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City of Longmont

Longmont Colorado

Open Space and Trails Comprehensive Plan

Prairie Dog Habitat

Map Legend

Prairie Dog Habitat Study

- Prairie Dog Site - Status Active
- Prairie Dog Site - Status Inactive
- Prairie Dog Site - Status Unknown

- Study Area Boundary
- Longmont Planning Area Boundary
- I-25 Mixed Use Development Area

- ##### Parks
- Proposed
 - Existing

- ##### Additional Recreation Lands
- County & Municipal Open Space
 - Greenway
 - Private Golf Course
 - Public Golf Course
 - Longmont Open Space

- St. Vrain Greenway
- Barbour Ponds State Park

- ##### Public Schools
- Proposed
 - Existing

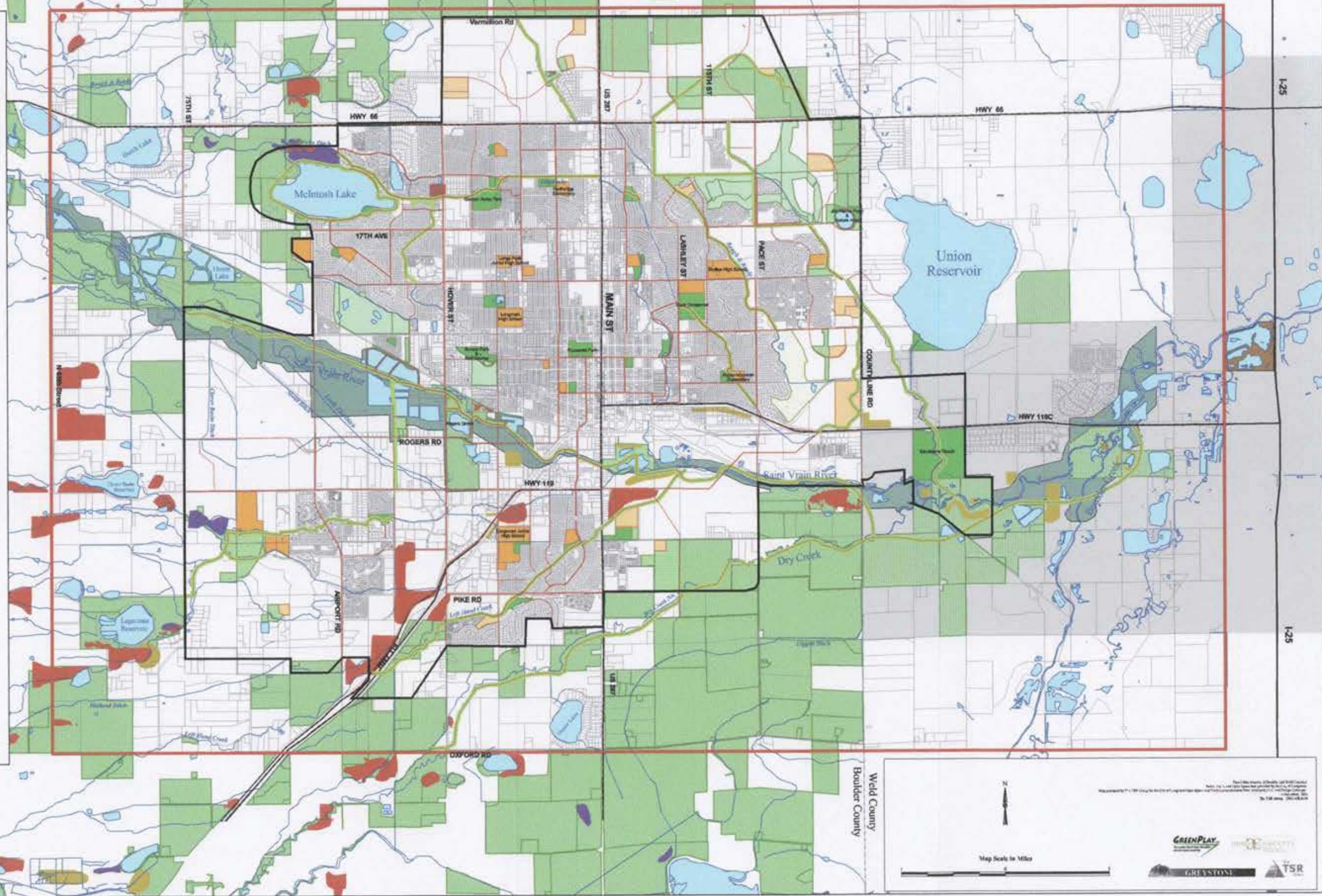
- ##### Longmont Trails (With On-Street Bikeways), Greenways
- Existing
 - Proposed
 - Primary Greenway

- Surface Waters
- Surface Waters

- Parcels

- ##### CDOT Centerline
- Interstate
 - Principal Arterial
 - Minor Arterial

- County Line



Weld County
Boulder County



Map Scale in Miles



GREENPLAY

GREYSTONE

GREYSTONE

TSR

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City of Longmont

Longmont Colorado

Open Space and Trails Comprehensive Plan

Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse

Map Legend

Habitat Conservation Plan - Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse

- Mouse Management Area
- Potential Linkage
- Potential Restoration, Contiguous
- Suitable Contiguous Habitat

- Study Area Boundary
- Longmont Planning Area Boundary
- I-25 Mixed Use Development Area

- Parks
- Proposed
 - Existing

- Additional Recreation Lands
- County & Municipal Open Space
 - Greenway
 - Private Golf Course
 - Public Golf Course
 - Longmont Open Space

- St. Vrain Greenway
- Barbour Ponds State Park

- Public Schools
- Proposed
 - Existing

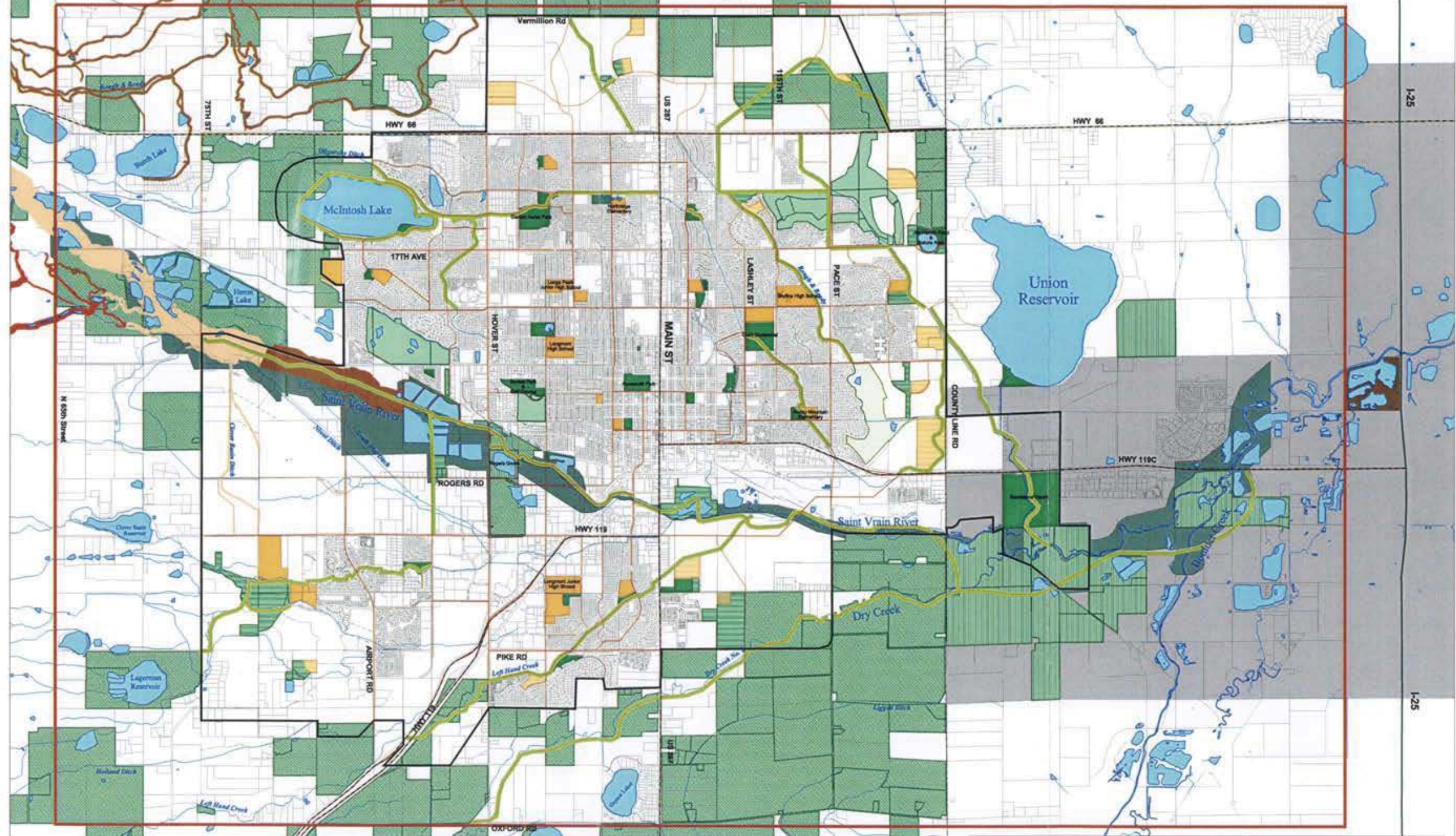
Longmont Trails (With On-Street Bikeways), Greenways

- Existing
- Proposed
- Primary Greenway

- Surface Waters
- Surface Waters
- Parcels

- CDOT Centerline
- Interstate
 - Principal Arterial
 - Minor Arterial

- County Line



Weld County
Boulder County



Map Scale in Miles



Special Area Inventory of Boulder and Weld Counties
Map produced for the TRS Group for the City of Longmont Open Space and Trails Comprehensive Plan
Map Date: 10/15/2014
The TRS Group - 2014 010 001





City of Longmont

Longmont Colorado

Open Space and Trails Comprehensive Plan

Public Visions & Desires for Open Space & Trail Planning

Map Legend

Open Space & Trail Public Visions Frequency of Public Input

- High - 3,408 Acres
St. Vrain Greenway
- Medium - 12,620 Acres
Buffering; Boulder Creek Corridor; Union Reservoir Views; Existing Open Space Contiguity; Select Parcels
- Low - 135 Acres
Water Body Buffers and East end of St. Vrain
- Generalized Trail Suggestions
- Study Area Boundary
- Longmont Planning Area Boundary
- I-25 Mixed Use Development Area

Parks

- Proposed
 - Existing
- Additional Recreation Lands
- County & Municipal Open Space
 - Greenway
 - Private Golf Course
 - Public Golf Course
 - Longmont Open Space

- St. Vrain Greenway
- Barbour Ponds State Park

Public Schools

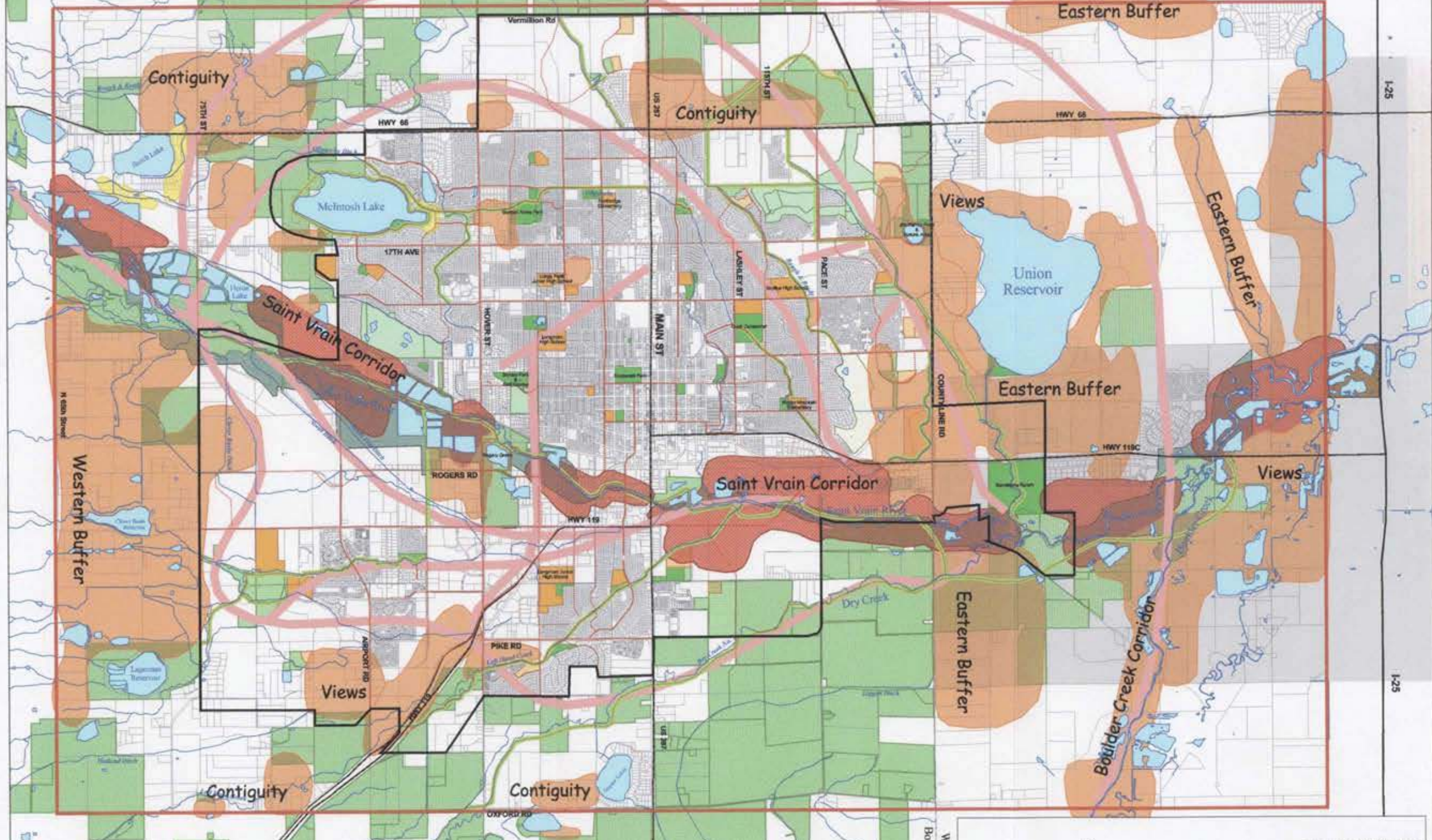
Longmont Trails (With On-Street Bikeways), Greenways

- Proposed
- Existing
- Existing
- Proposed
- Primary Greenway
- Surface Waters
- Surface Waters
- Parcels

CDOT Centerline

- Interstate
- Principal Arterial
- Minor Arterial

County Line



Map Disclaimer

"Valoring" data featured on this map is conceptual and schematic in nature. Data was captured from maps enhanced by public participants that attended the City of Longmont Open Space public meeting/open house, 12 September, 2009. It is not intended to accurately represent any current or future acquisition plans being undertaken by the City of Longmont. These "broad brush" visions may include or cross parcels that are under various stages of acquisition/development. Acquisition would be dependent upon existing and planned landuse not detailed on this map. Parcels may, therefore, be unavailable.

Weld County
Boulder County

Map Scale: 1 in = 1 Mile

GREENPLAY
GREYSTONE
TSR



Weighted Value Overlay Analysis

City of Longmont

Longmont Colorado

Open Space and Trails Comprehensive Plan



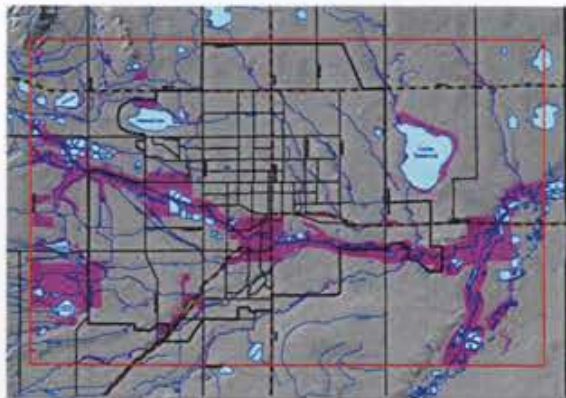
Low Impact Recreation
Multiple Data Sources and Studies Combined to Detail Extents.
Selected Data Contains Weighted Values.
Graded Weighted Values not Detailed in this View.



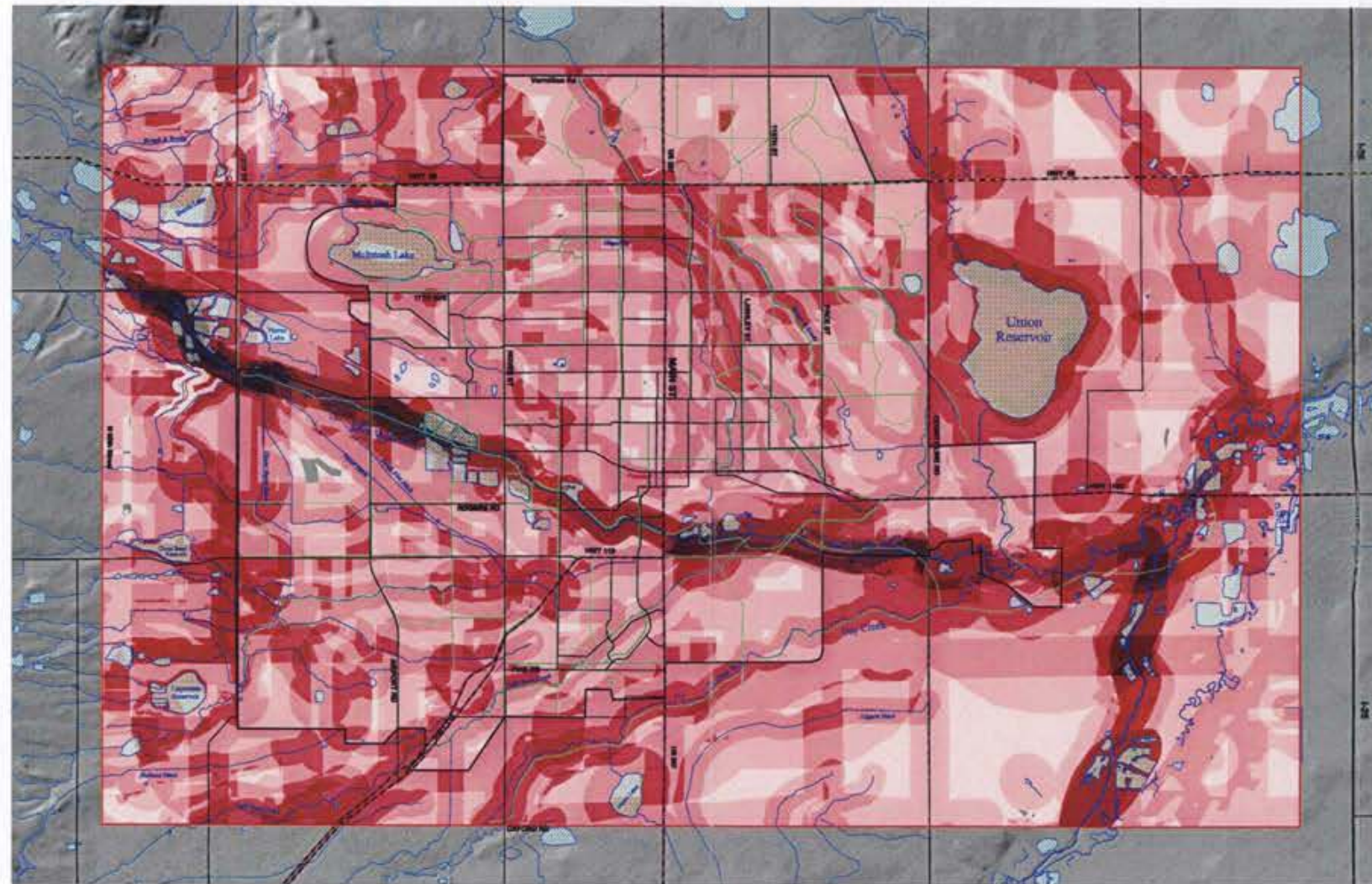
Nationally Significant Agricultural Lands
Source Data Collected from Boulder & Weld Counties.
Single Value Assigned - 150 (High)



Surface Water Buffer Displayed to Detail a Varied Buffer Distance
of 1/4 Mile (Small & Channelled Waterways)
to 1/4 Mile (Larger Waterways, Lakes & Ponds).
Single Value Assigned - 150 (High)



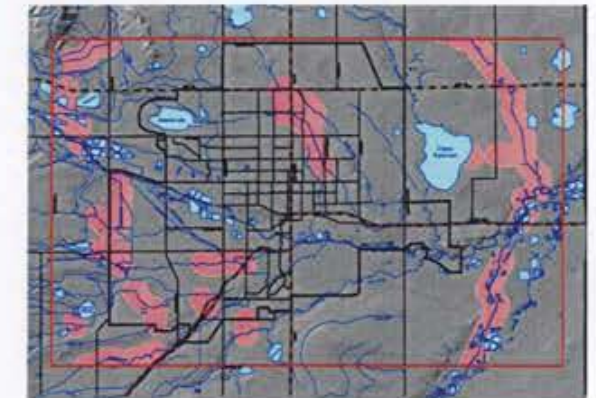
Wildlife and Plant Ecology
Multiple Data Sources and Studies Combined to Detail Extents.
Selected Data Contains Weighted Values Ranging from 50 (Low) to 150 (High).
Graded Weighted Values not Detailed in this View.



Sum of Weighted Analysis
Created in ESRI ArcView 3.2 Through Multiple Union
Processing of Data Viewed in Adjacent Maps.
Higher Values / Darker Reds Indicate Areas Where
Overlapping Weighted Values Concentrated.



"Sum of Weighted Analysis" Map
Scale in Miles



Trail Linkages Displayed to Detail Linkage Corridors Generated by
Buffering Potential Trail System "Links" with a 1/4 Mile Buffer.
Links Were Intended to Connect Existing Parks, Trails and Open Space
as Well as Supplement General Flow and Accessibility.
Single Value Assigned - 150 (High)



Urban Shaping Buffers and Corridors Were Generated to
Detail a One Mile External Shaping Buffer of the Existing Planning Area Boundary.
Also Detailed is the Inclusion of a Corridor Along the Saint Vrain River
as well as a 1/2 Mile Buffer Along the East Shore of Union Reservoir.
Single Value Assigned - 150 (High)



View Corridors of Trails and Roads Were Generated to
Detail Potential View Corridors. Existing and Proposed Trails as well as
Selected Roads Entering Longmont were Buffered 1000' Outer Side of Their Centerline.
Single Value Assigned - 150 (High)

- Study Area Boundary
- Planning Area Boundary
- Surface Waters
- Surface Waters
- Longmont Trails (With On-Street Bikeways)
 - Existing
 - Proposed
- Road Centerlines
 - Interstate
 - Principal Arterial
 - Minor Arterial
 - Other

Appendix C: Survey Report

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City of Longmont Open Space Citizen Survey Results *April 2018*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

-  METHODOLOGY & SELECTED FINDINGS
-  DEMOGRAPHICS
-  CURRENT USAGE
-  VALUES AND VISION
-  FINANCIAL CHOICES/FEES
-  COMMUNICATION
-  SUGGESTIONS



METHODOLOGY & SELECTED FINDINGS



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study was to gather public feedback on open spaces, nature areas, and trails owned, managed, and maintained by Longmont's Open Space program.

This survey research effort and subsequent analysis were designed to assist the city in updating their master plan to reflect the community's open space needs.

METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted using three primary methods:

- 1) A mailed survey to a random sample of Longmont residents (referred to as the “Invite” survey throughout the report).
- 2) An online invitation-only survey accessed through a password-protected website as an additional option for those residents who received the initial Invite survey.
- 3) An “Open Link” online survey for members of the public who were not part of the invitation sample. Multiple means for promotion were used including internal lists and social media.

The primary list source used for the mailing was purchased from Melissa Data Corp., a leading provider of data with emphasis on U.S., Canadian, and international address and phone verification as well as postal software. Use of the Melissa Data list also includes renters in the sample who are frequently missed in other list sources such as utility billing lists.



METHODOLOGY

Approximately 4,300 surveys were mailed to a random sampling of Longmont residents in February 2018. The final sample size for this statistically valid survey was 629, resulting in a margin of error of approximately +/- 3.9 percentage points calculated for questions at 50% response. The open link survey received an additional 312 responses.

The analysis herein primarily focuses on responses from the invitation survey. However, invitation sample results are compared to those from the open link sample throughout the report. Furthermore, results were segmented and analyzed by other key demographic variables, such as respondent age. Those results are presented in cases where meaningful differences were observed.

For the total invitation sample size of 629, margin of error is +/- 3.9 percent calculated for questions at 50% response (if the response for a particular question is "50%"—the standard way to generalize margin of error is to state the larger margin, which occurs for responses at 50%). Note that the margin of error is different for every single question response on the survey depending on the resultant sample sizes, proportion of responses, and number of answer categories for each question. Comparison of differences in the data between various segments, therefore, should take into consideration these factors. As a general comment, it is sometimes more appropriate to focus attention on the general trends and patterns in the data rather than on the individual percentages.



WEIGHTING THE DATA

The underlying data were weighted by age and ethnicity to ensure appropriate representation of Longmont residents across different demographic cohorts in the sample.



Using U.S. Census Data, the age and ethnic distribution of the survey sample were adjusted to more closely match the population profile of Longmont.



Due to variable response rates by some segments of the population, the underlying results, while weighted to best match the overall demographics of residents, may not be completely representative of some sub-groups of the Longmont population.



TOP 10 FINDINGS

1

Respondents are generally quite familiar with the Open Space areas within the city. Thirty-five percent of invitation respondents are “very” familiar and 62% are “somewhat” familiar. Only 3% of respondents from were “not at all” familiar.

2

In addition, respondents are frequent users of open space trails and nature areas in and around Longmont. A majority of invitation respondents visited at least one area/trail in the prior year (91%). Respondents visit these areas over 60 times a year on average (i.e., a little more than once a week).

3

Respondents are equally like to access open space properties by walking/biking as by taking a motor vehicle. And given that most respondents can get to the property they visit most often in 20 minutes or less (95%), results highlight that respondents don’t need to drive to access open space.

4

Acquisition of open space areas is of high priority to the community. It was most selected as the area that would increase respondents’ appreciation of Open Space and 51% of invitation respondents identified needing more resources toward acquisition when accounting for future population growth.

5

But when asked how they would distribute resources, invitation **respondents allocated the most toward managing/maintaining current Open Space properties (40%),** on average, followed by acquiring new open space properties (32%), and developing amenities on current properties (29%).



TOP 10 FINDINGS

6

The most valuable and prioritized function of Open Spaces in Longmont is protecting nature areas from development. Preserving wildlife habitat and protecting rivers, creeks, riparian corridors, and wetlands were also highly prioritized.

7

Invitation respondents most favor a balance between land preservation/protection and outdoor recreation. In contrast, open link respondents were much more likely to prioritize land preservation/protection as an emphasis the City of Longmont should pursue.

8

The existence of Open Space, Nature Areas, and trails is very important to respondents. Invitation respondents provided a rating of 4.5 out of 5.0 (and open link respondents an average of 4.8). However, average ratings of needs being met by these were lower, at around 3.7.

9

Communication appears to be an area for improvement for Longmont, with 31% of invitation respondents stated the effectiveness of communication is “not effective”. Only 5% stated communication was “very effective”. Email, city website, and at the Open Space locations are preferred channels.

10

Most respondents favor a renewal of the Open Space tax at its current level. Seventy-four percent of invitation respondents would support a renewal. About three in five would support an increase in the tax for expanded amenities and services (58%).



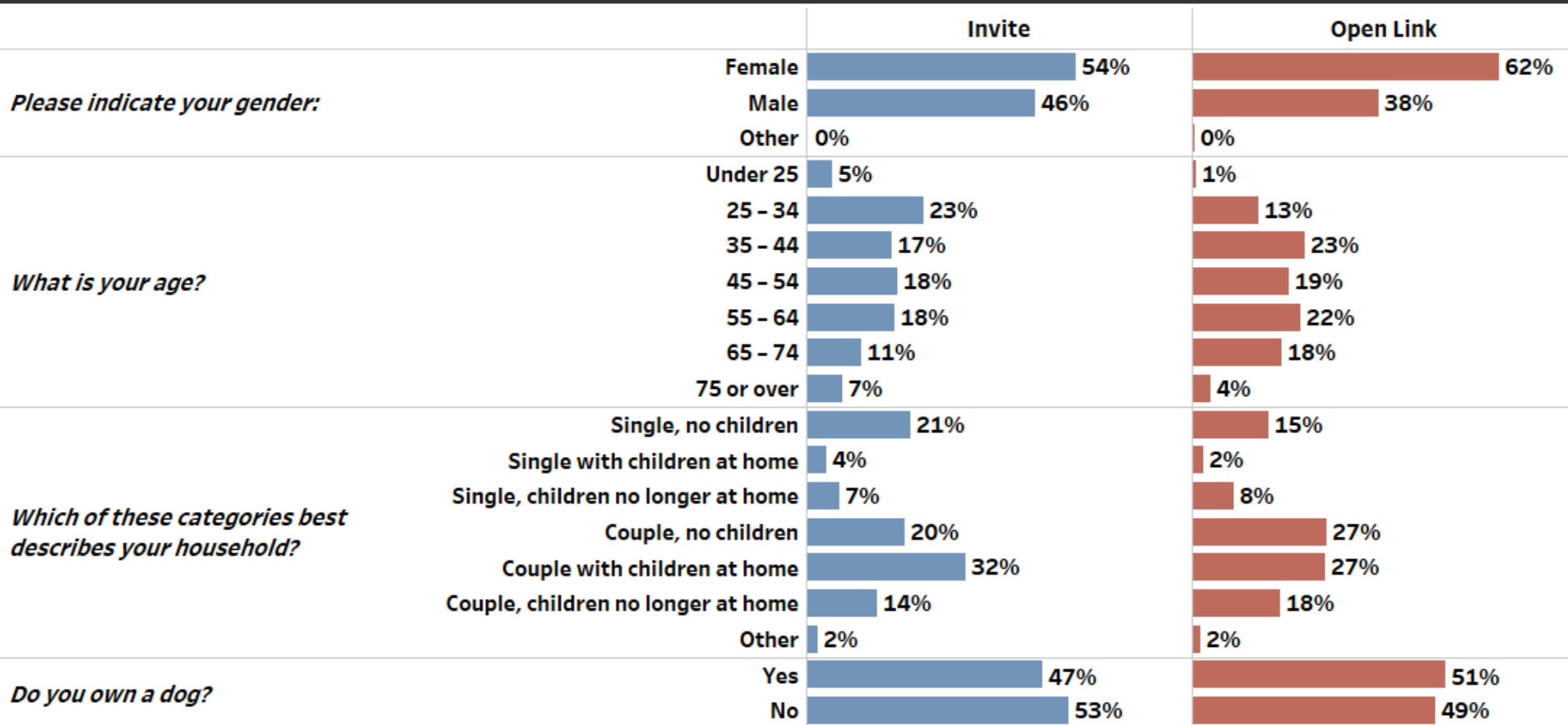
DEMOGRAPHICS



DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The invitation sample had a relatively balanced female/male distribution (54% vs. 46%). Forty-five percent of invitation respondents are under the age of 45 with 55% above. Just over one-third of invitation sample respondents have children living at home (36%), 41% are singles or couples without children, and 21% are empty-nesters. Just under half of invitation respondents own a dog (47%). The open link sample had a generally similar profile but skewed more female, somewhat older, and was less likely to have children at home.

City of Longmont Open Space | Demographics



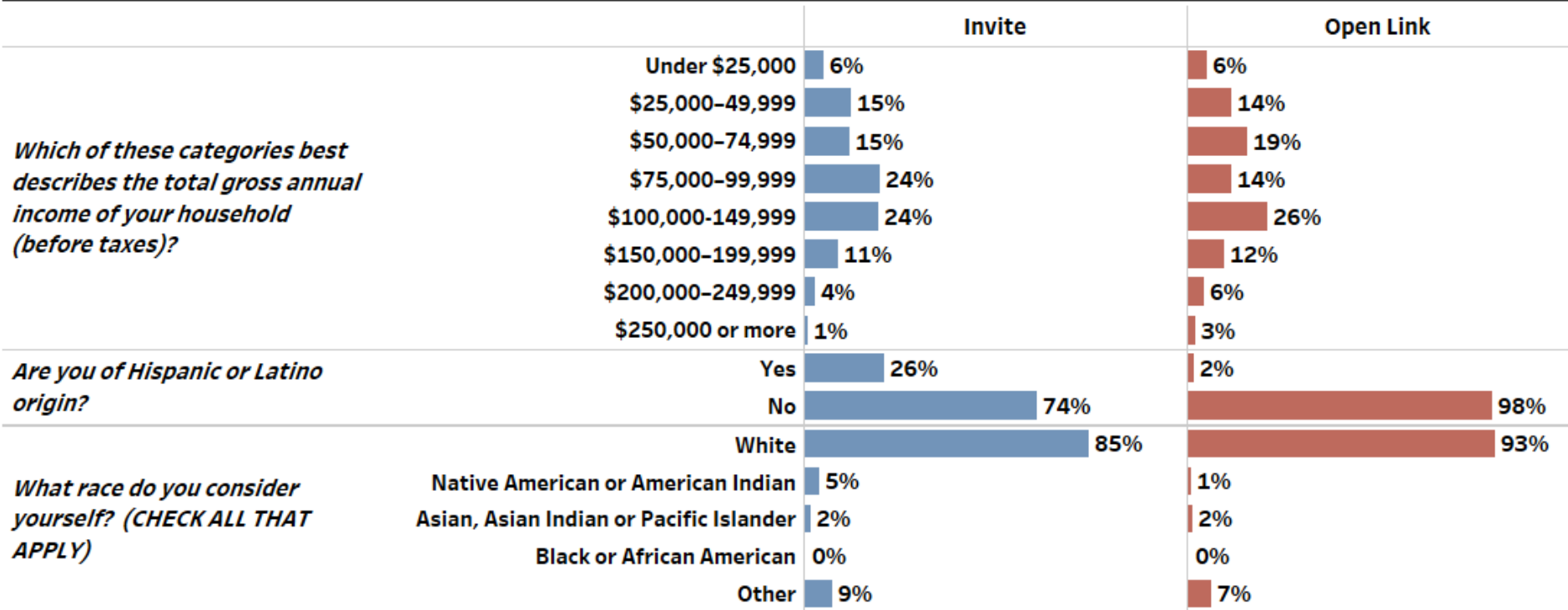
Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay



DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Thirty-six percent of invitation respondent households earn under \$75,000 annually, 24% earn \$75K-\$99K and 40% over \$100k. Eighty-five percent of invitation respondents are White, 5% Native American/American Indian, 2% Asian, and 9% “other” races. Twenty-six percent of respondents are of Hispanic/Latino origin. In contrast, the open link sample had a larger proportion of households that are high-income (47% earning over \$100k), White (93%), and non-Hispanic (98%).

City of Longmont Open Space | Demographics



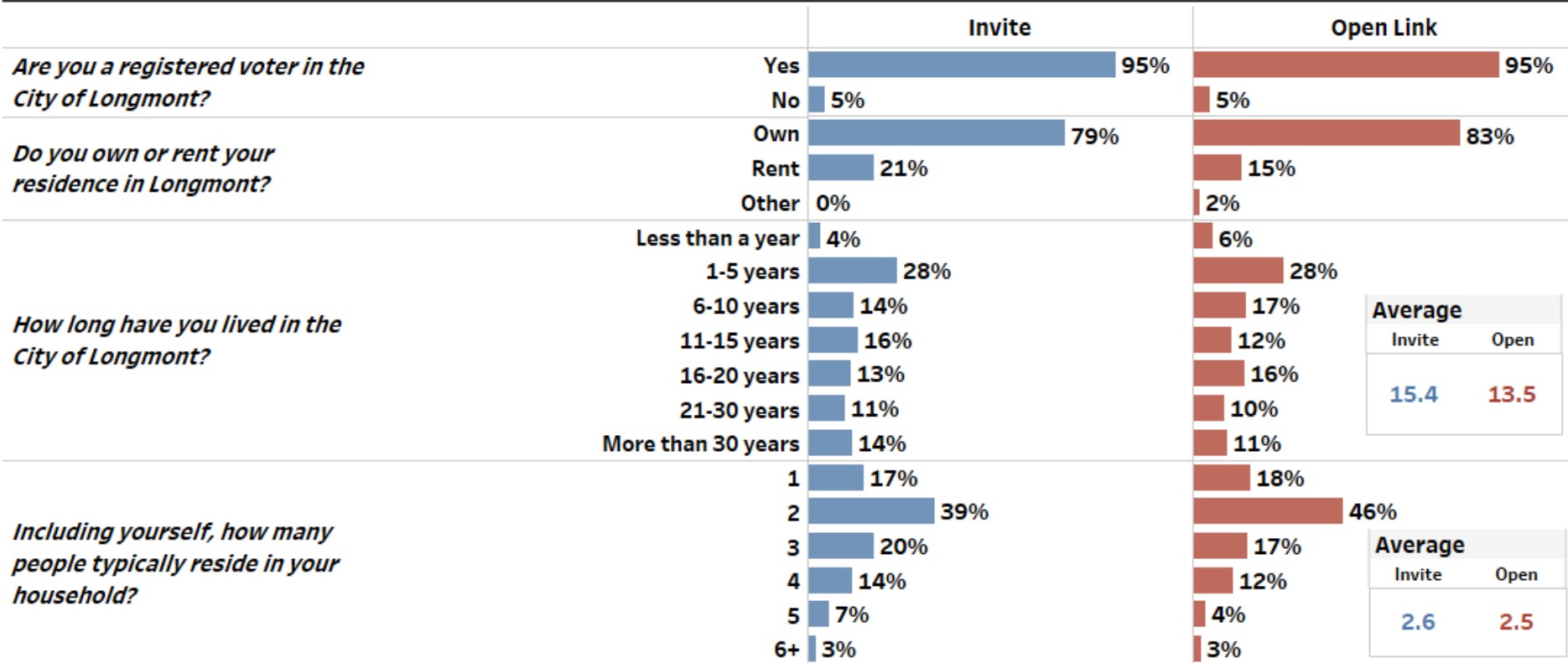
Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay



RESIDENTIAL PROFILE

The majority of respondents are registered voters (95% for both samples). Seventy-nine percent of invitation respondents own their residence and 21% rent. On average, invitation respondents have lived in Longmont for over 15 years. Open link respondents have a similar residential profile, but with a slightly lower average length of residency (13.5 years) and a higher proportion of people that own their residence (83%).

City of Longmont Open Space | Demographics



Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay



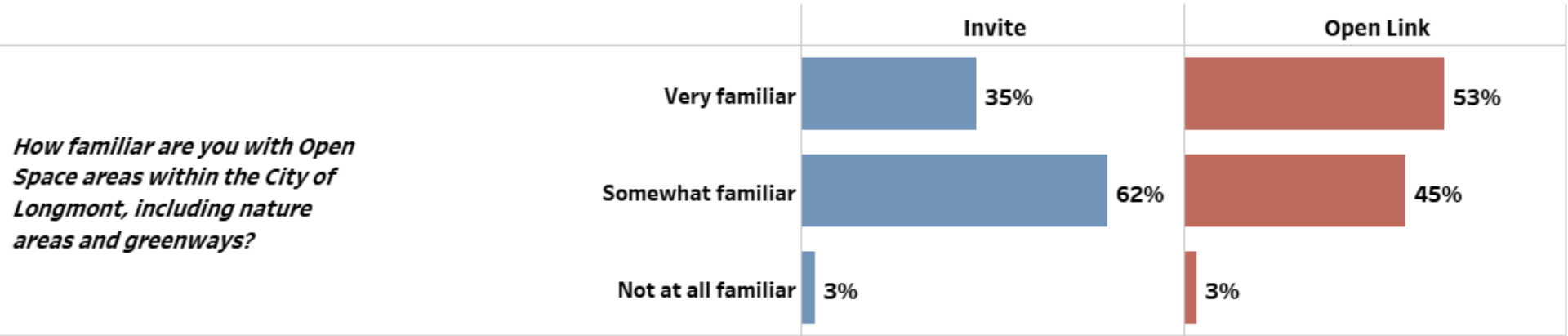
CURRENT USAGE



FAMILIARITY WITH OPEN SPACE AREAS

A majority of respondents in both samples are at least somewhat familiar with Open Spaces areas within the City of Longmont (97% each). Thirty-five percent of invitation respondents are “very” familiar and 62% are “somewhat” familiar. Only 3% of respondents in each sample were “not at all” familiar. Open link respondents were more likely to be “very” familiar with Open Space areas (53%).

City of Longmont Open Space | Demographics



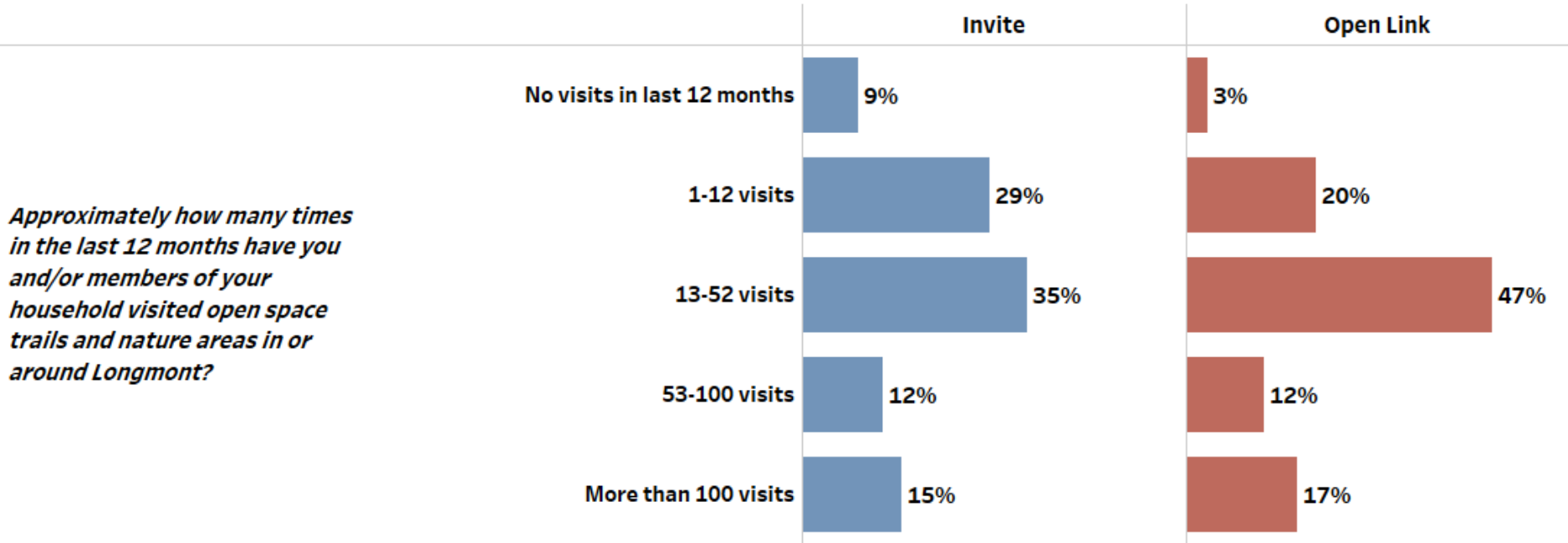
Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay



USE OF OPEN SPACE/NATURE AREAS

Ninety-one percent of invitation respondents visited an open space trail or nature area in or around Longmont at least once in the past 12 months. The average number of visits in the past 12 months was 62.1 for invitation respondents. Open link respondents are more frequent visitors, reporting an average of 69 visits in the past 12 months and 97% having visited an open space trail or nature areas in the past year.

City of Longmont Open Space | Current Usage



Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

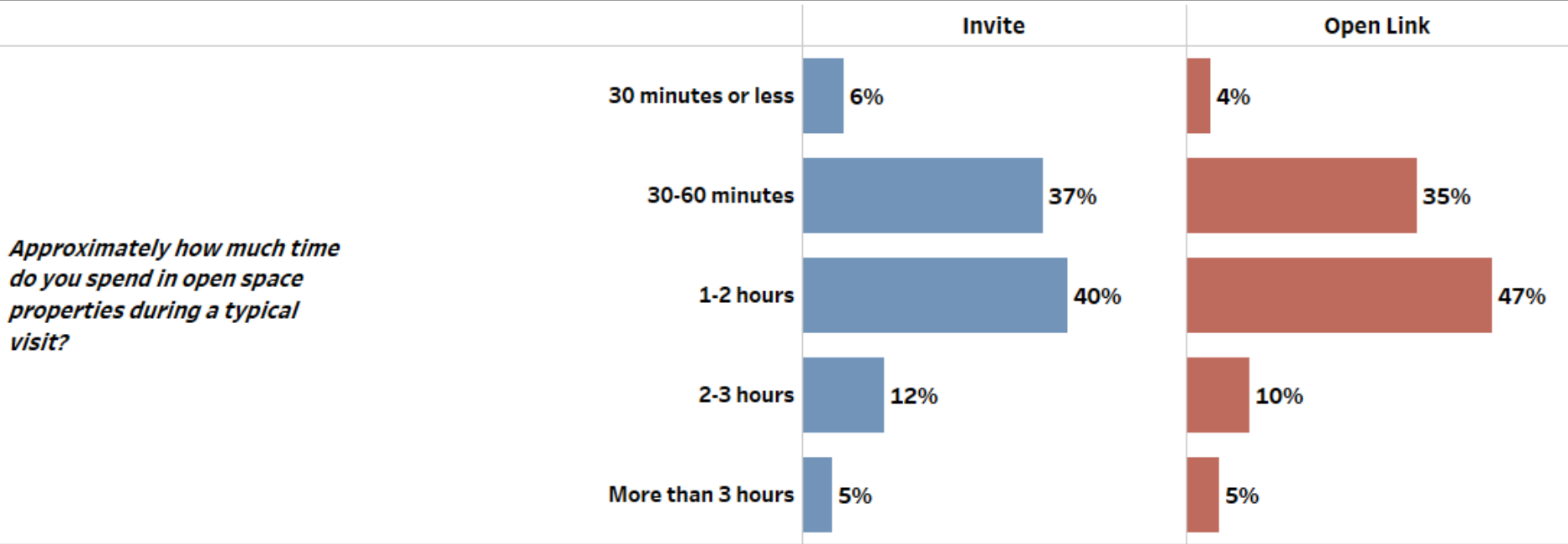
Average	Invite	Open Link
	62.1	69.0



TIME SPENT IN OPEN SPACE/NATURE AREAS

During a typical visit to an open space property, invitation respondents spend an average of 1.8 hours. Seventeen percent spend more than 2 hours on a typical visit. Open link respondents reported spending notably more time on average (2.8 hours).

City of Longmont Open Space | Current Usage



Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

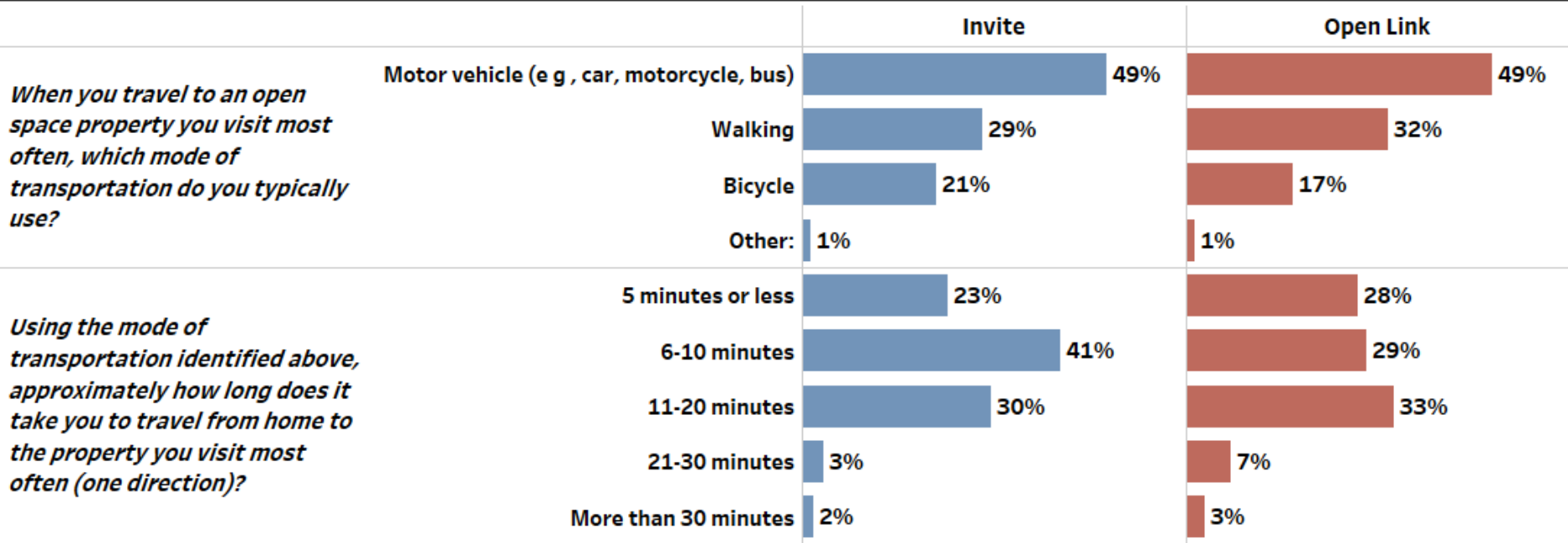
Average Hours	
Invite	Open Link
1.8	2.8



TRANSPORT TO OPEN SPACE/NATURE AREAS

Aside from the one percent of respondents that reported using “Other” transportation, respondents are evenly split as to whether they use a motor vehicle or human power (walk/ride a bicycle) to get to the open space property that they visit most often. It takes invitation respondents an average of 12 minutes to travel from their home to the property that they visit most often.

City of Longmont Open Space | Current Usage



Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

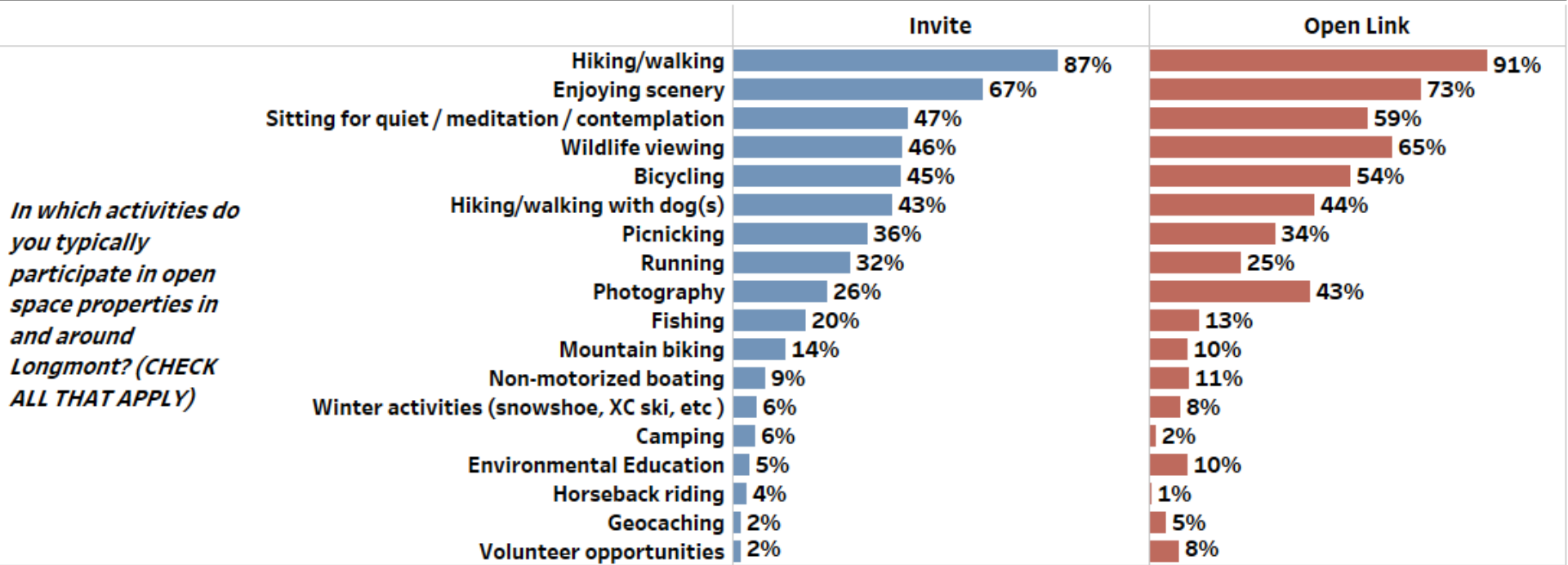
Average Minutes	Invite	Open Link
	11.9	12.9



ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

The most popular activity in which respondents participate in open space properties in and around Longmont is hiking/walking (87% of invitation respondents). Enjoying scenery is the next-most popular activity (67%). Quiet meditation/contemplation, wildlife viewing, bicycling, and walking/hiking with dogs are other common activities (43%-47%). The activity profile of open link respondents is generally similar, although they were much more likely to report engaging in wildlife viewing (65%) and photography (43%).

City of Longmont Open Space | Current Usage



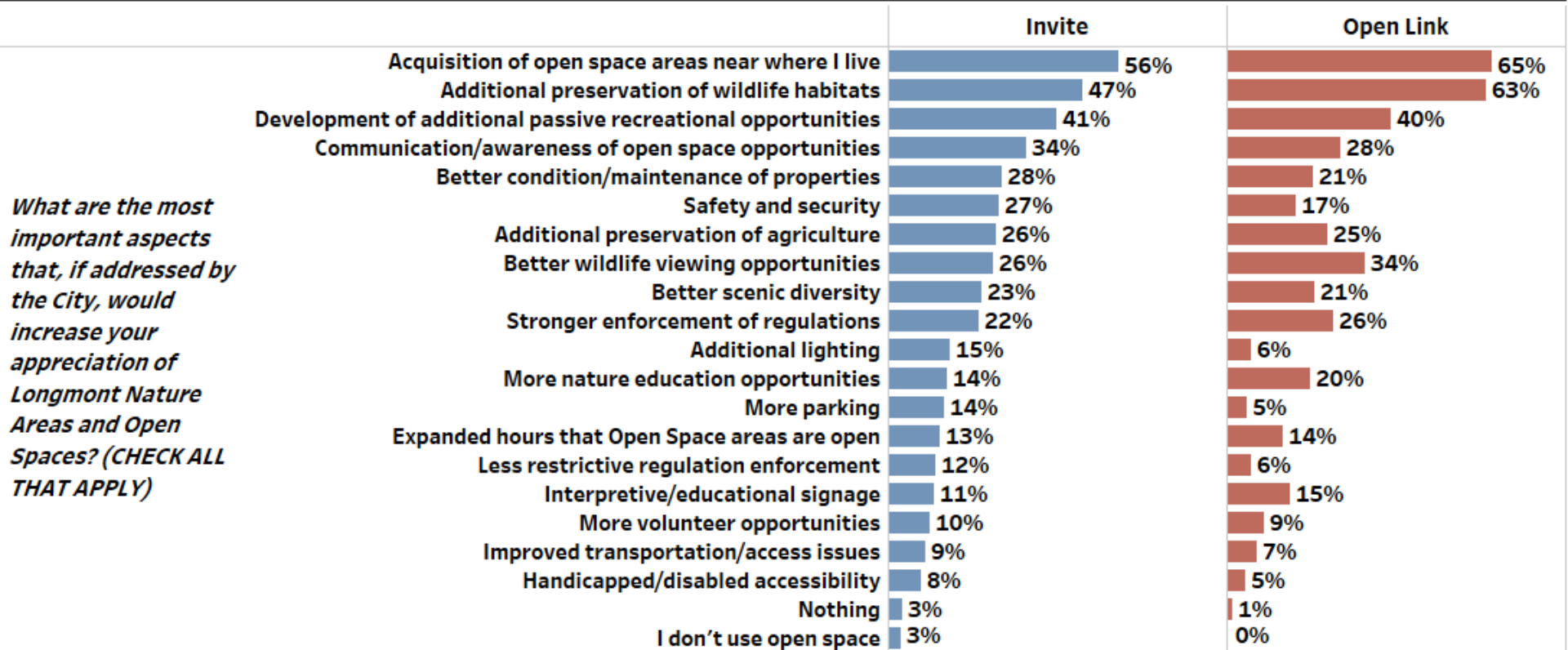
Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay



ASPECTS TO ADDRESS

The three most important areas that would increase respondents' appreciation of Longmont Nature Areas and Open Spaces include "acquisition of Open Space areas near where I live" (56%), "additional preservation of wildlife habitats" (47%), and "development of additional passive recreation opportunities" (41%). Open link respondents selected the same items as their top three choices.

City of Longmont Open Space | Current Usage



Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay



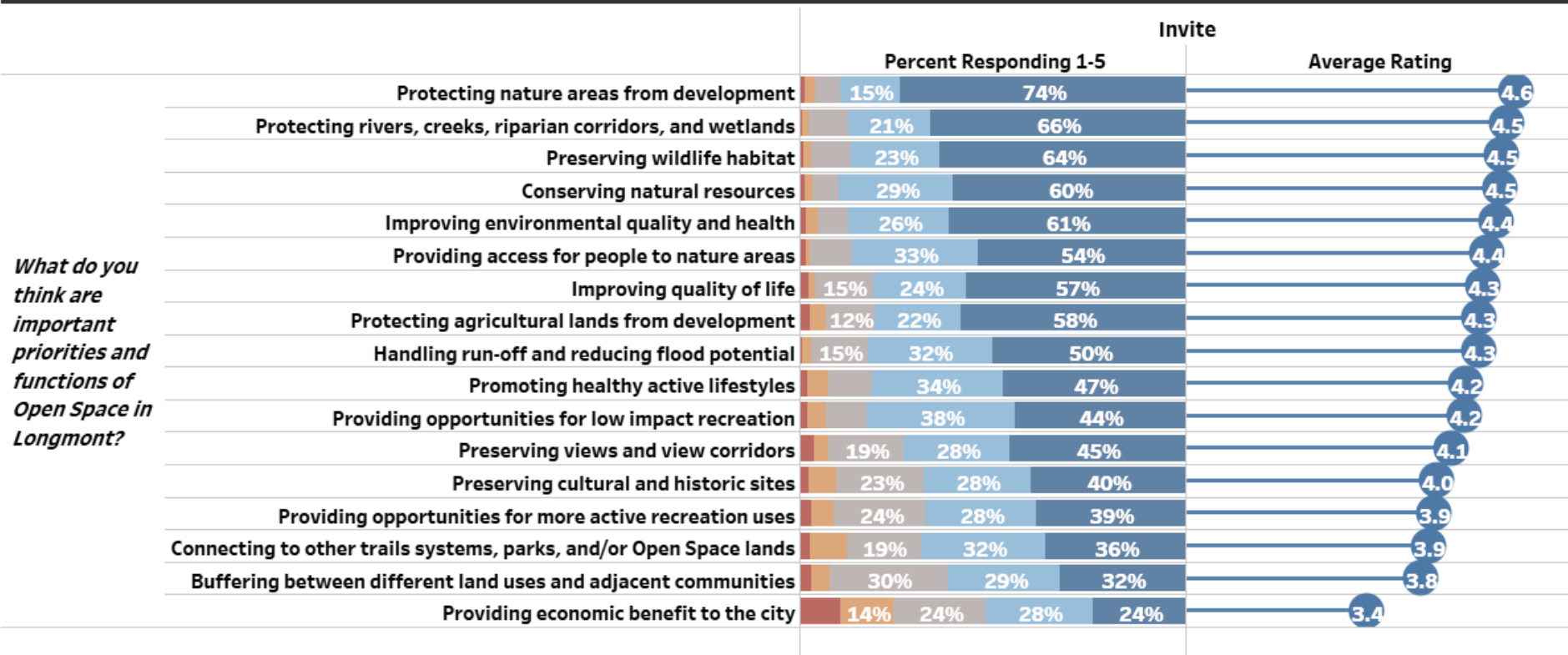
VALUES AND VISION



PRIORITIES AND FUNCTIONS OF OPEN SPACE

When invitation respondents were asked how important existing facilities are to their household, “protecting nature areas from development” (4.6 average), “protecting rivers, creeks, riparian corridors, and wetlands” (4.5), “preserving wildlife habitat” (4.5), and “conserving natural resources” (4.5) rose to the top.

City of Longmont Open Space | Values and Vision



Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

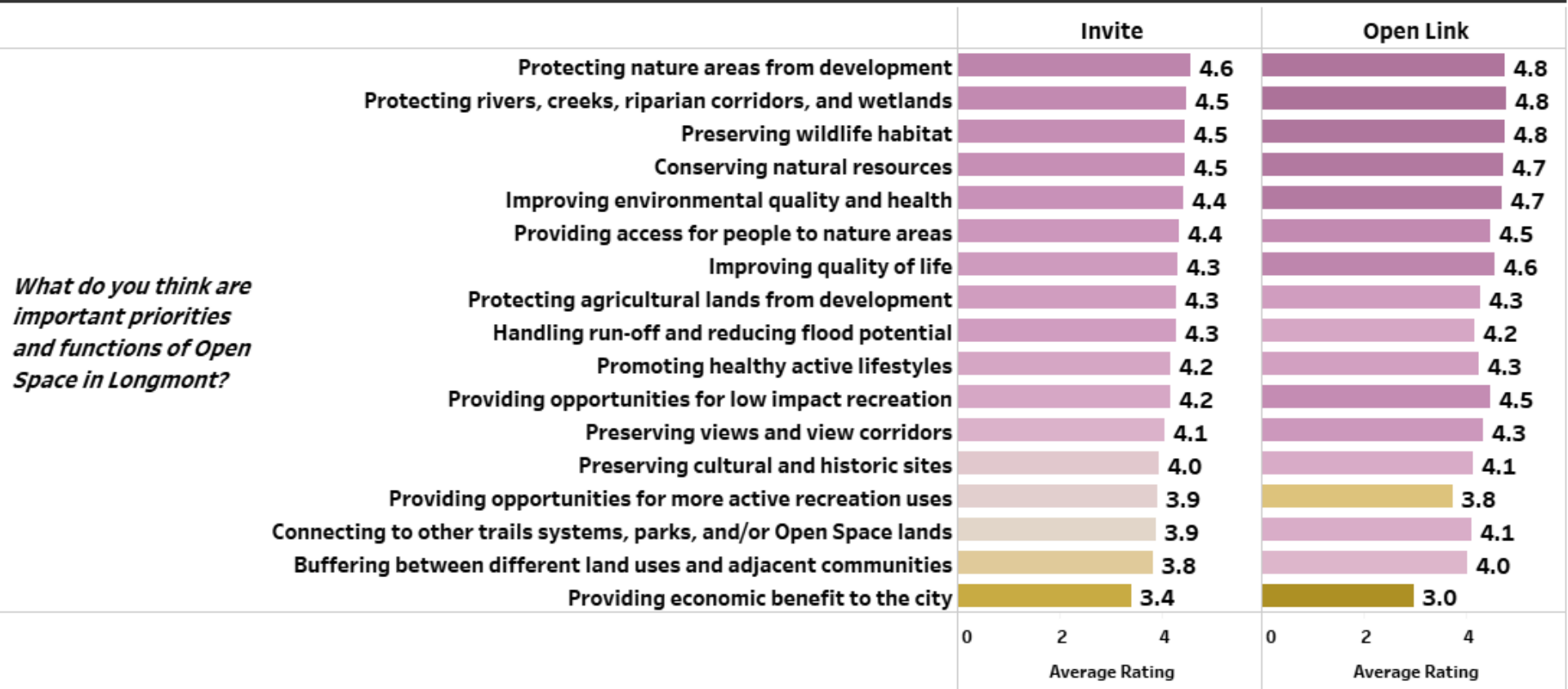
1 - Not At All Important 2 3 4 5 - Very Important



PRIORITIES AND FUNCTIONS OF OPEN SPACE

Open link respondents place equal or higher importance on almost all priorities and functions of Open Space in Longmont. They were notably more likely to place important on “improving quality of life” (4.3 vs. 4.6) and “providing opportunities for low impact recreation” (4.2 vs. 4.5).

City of Longmont Open Space | Values and Vision

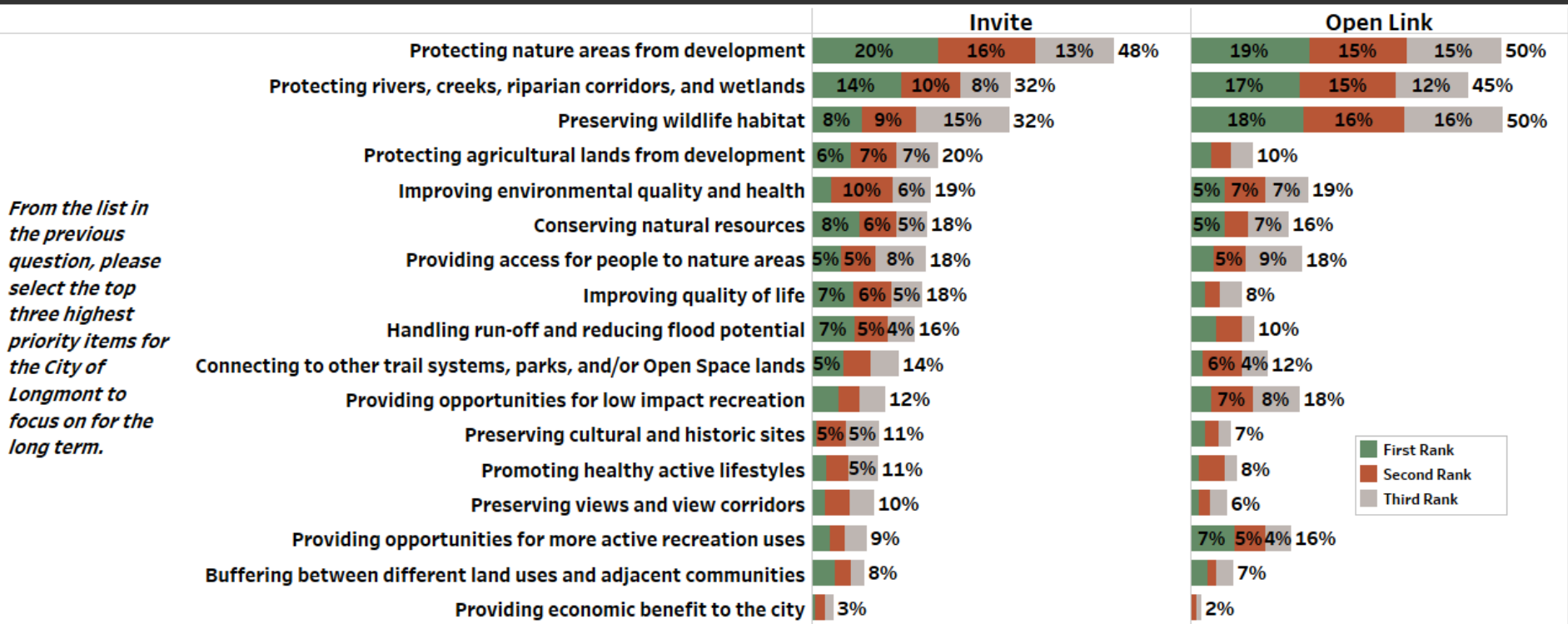


Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

THREE HIGHEST PRIORITIES FOR LONG TERM

Respondents were asked to identify their top three highest priority items for Longmont. Both sample sets clearly favored “protecting nature areas from development,” as well as “protecting rivers, creeks, riparian corridors, and wetlands” and “preserving wildlife habitat.” One in five invitation respondents (20%) selected “protecting nature areas from development” as their first rank priority.

City of Longmont Open Space | Values and Vision



Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay



LAND PRESERVATION VS. OUTDOOR RECREATION

Forty-four percent of invitation respondents reported wanting to see equal balance placed on land preservation/protection and outdoor recreation in natural settings. Open link respondents were much more polarized in their views with 54% wanting emphasis on land preservation/protection (responding 1 or 2) and 28% on outdoor recreation in natural settings (responding 4 or 5).

City of Longmont Open Space | Values and Vision

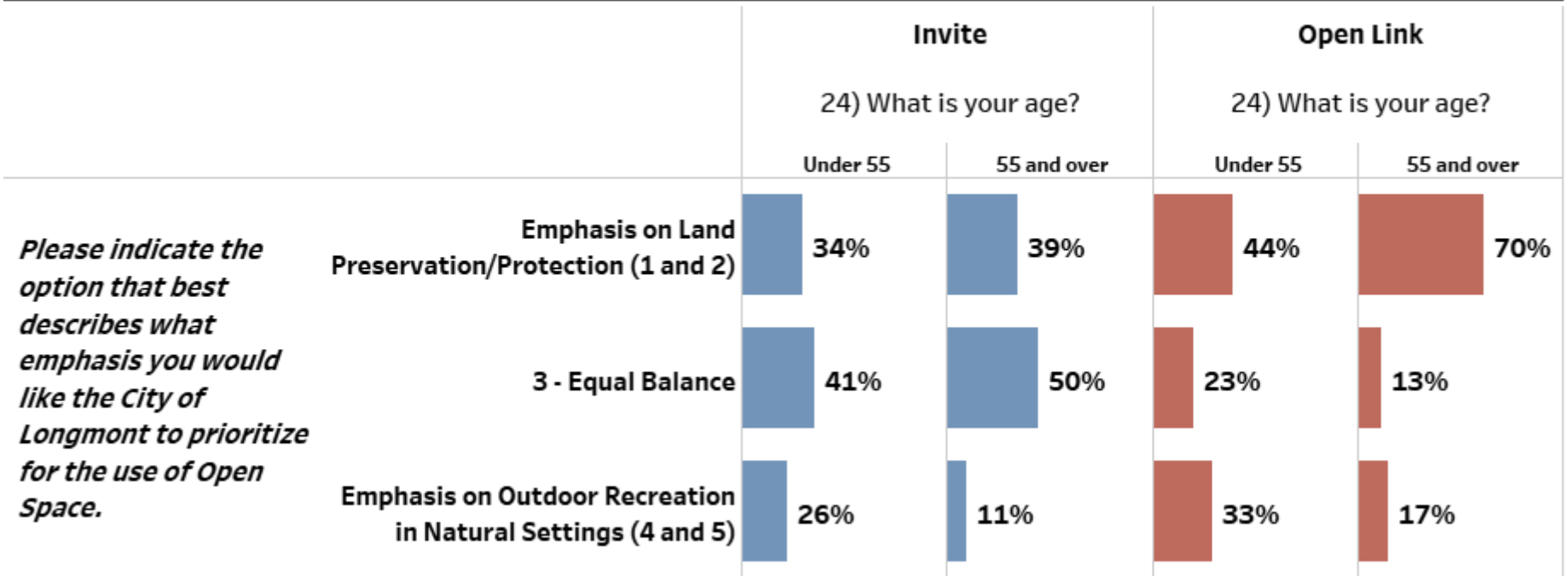
		Invite Percent Responding 1-5	Open Link Percent Responding 1-5
<i>Please indicate the option that best describes what emphasis you would like the City of Longmont to prioritize for the use of Open Space.</i>	1 - Land Preservation/Protection - Strong Emphasis	18%	48%
	2 - Land Preservation/Protection - Slight Emphasis	18%	6%
	3 - Equal Balance	44%	19%
	4 - Outdoor Recreation in Natural Settings - Slight Emphasis	12%	7%
	5 - Outdoor Recreation in Natural Settings - Strong Emphasis	9%	21%

Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

LAND PRESERVATION VS. OUTDOOR RECREATION

When broken down by age, invitation sample responses differ somewhat and open link responses differ significantly. For both samples, respondents under 55 place more emphasis on outdoor recreation than those over 55. Seventy percent of open link respondents over 55 would like emphasis placed on land preservation/protection.

City of Longmont Open Space | Values and Vision



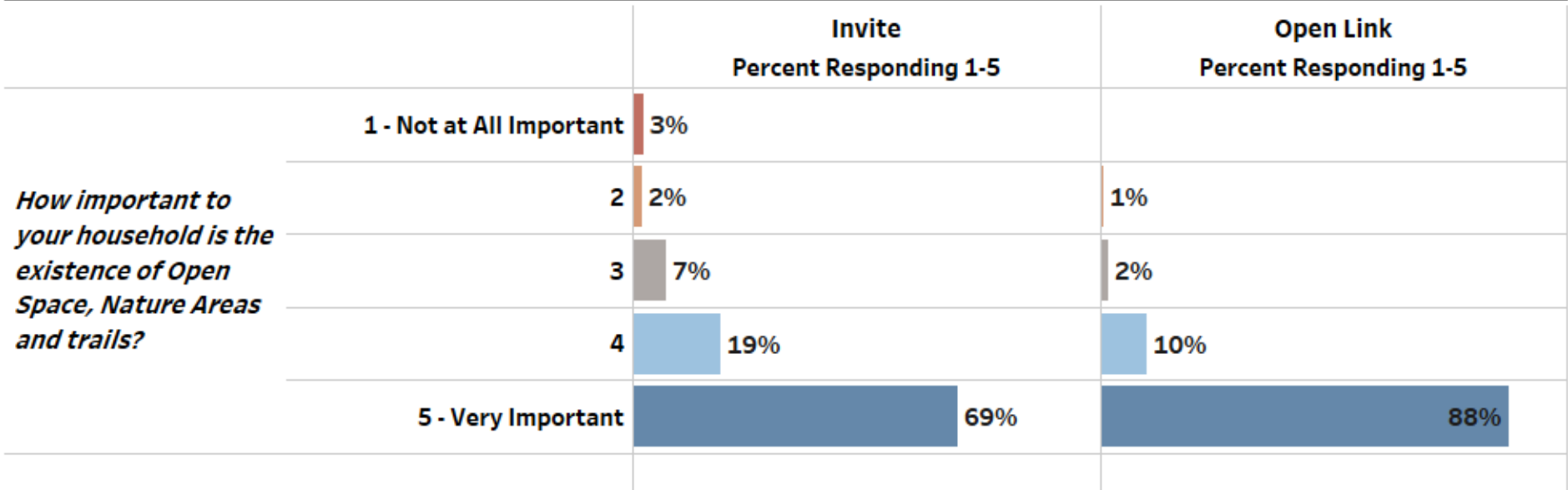
Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay



IMPORTANCE OF OPEN SPACE/NATURE AREAS

The vast majority of respondents (88% of invitation and 98% of open link) indicated that the existence of Open Space, Nature Areas, and trails are important or very important. Just 3% of invitation respondents and no open link respondents gave a rating “1- Not at All Important.”

City of Longmont Open Space | Values and Vision

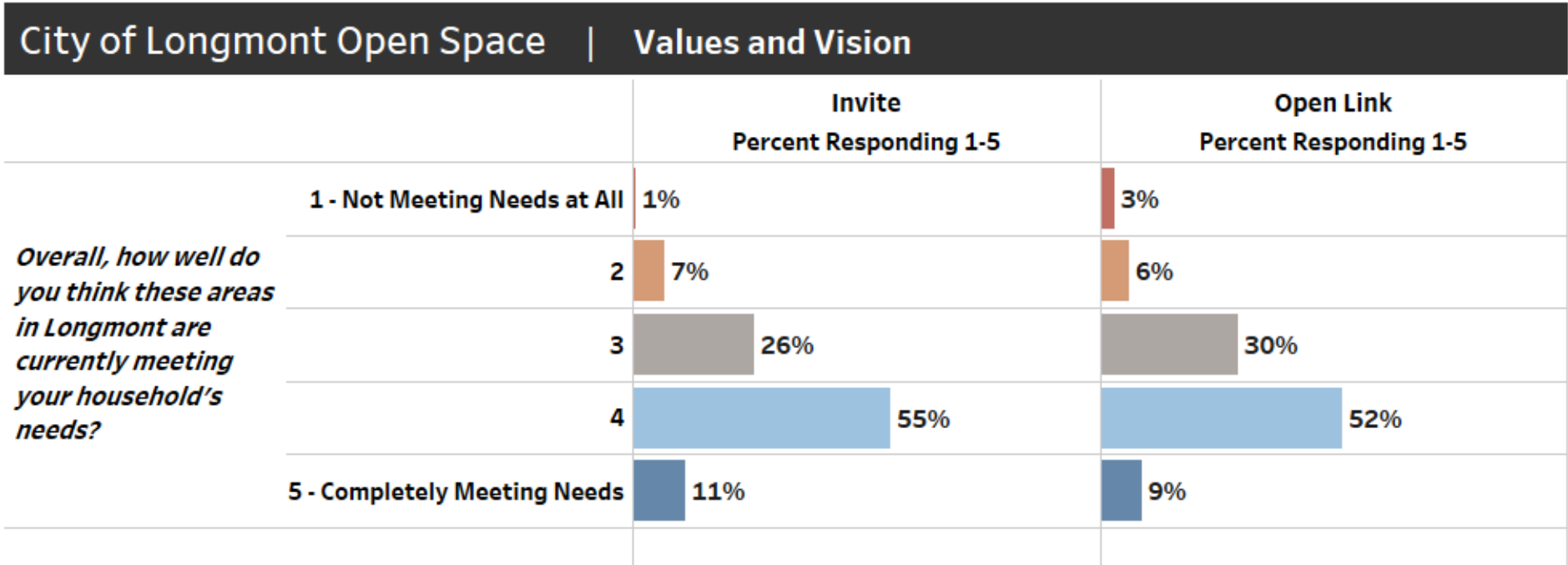


Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay



LEVEL OF NEEDS MET BY EXISTING FACILITIES

Overall, needs are mostly being met, with two-thirds of invitation respondents responding “4” or “5,” where 5 means “Completely Meeting Needs.” Open link respondents were slightly less likely to report having their needs met, with 61% responding “4” or “5.”



Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

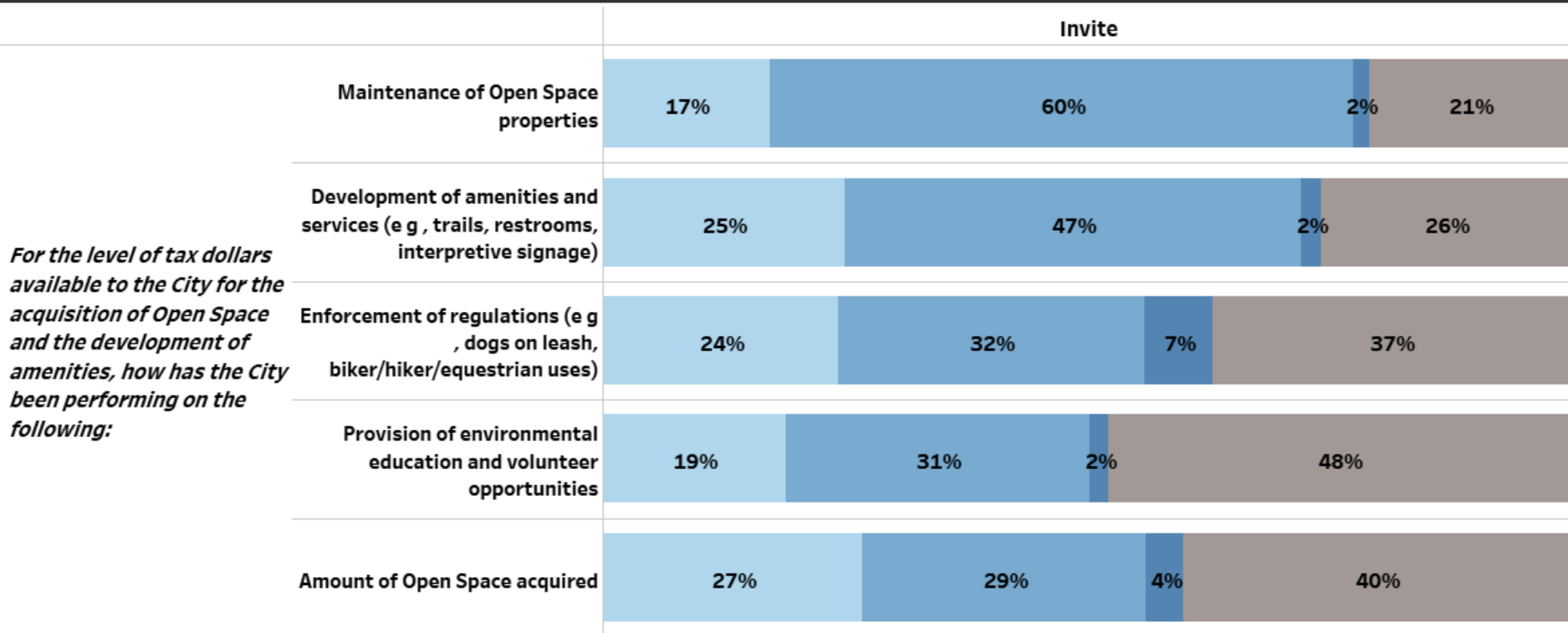


FINANCIAL CHOICES/FEES

\$ ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

For the level of tax dollars available, invitation respondents gave “maintenance of Open Space properties” the highest proportion of “2 - Just right” (60%) ratings. “Amount of Open Space acquired” had the highest percentage of “Too Little/Not enough” (27%). Respondents were least knowledgeable about the provision of environmental education and volunteer opportunities (48% responded “Don’t Know”).

City of Longmont Open Space | Financial Choices/Future Priorities



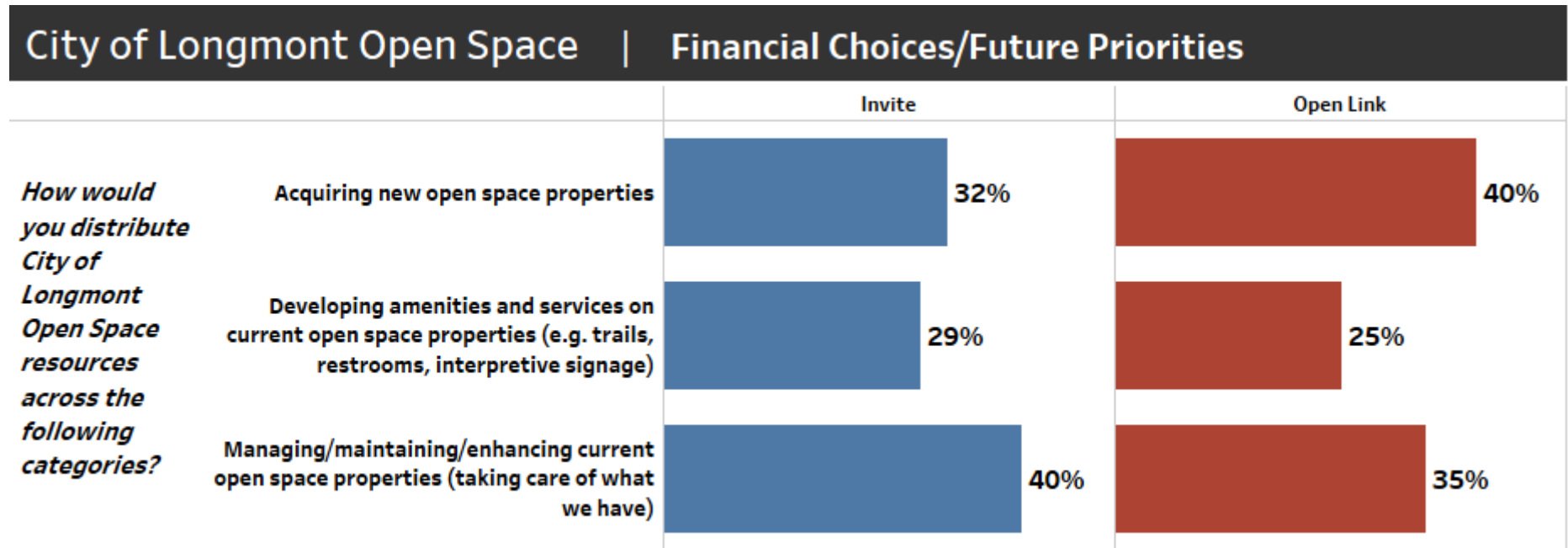
For the level of tax dollars available to the City for the acquisition of Open Space and the development of amenities, how has the City been performing on the following:

Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

1 - Too Little/Not Enough 2 - Just Right 3 - Too Much Don't Know

DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAM RESOURCES

Respondents were asked how they would distribute resources across three categories. Invitation respondents allocated the highest average percentage of budget toward managing/maintaining/enhancing current Open Space properties (40%), while open link respondents allocated the most resources on average to acquiring new open space properties (40%). For both samples, “developing amenities and services on current Open Space properties” received the smallest share of resources on average.

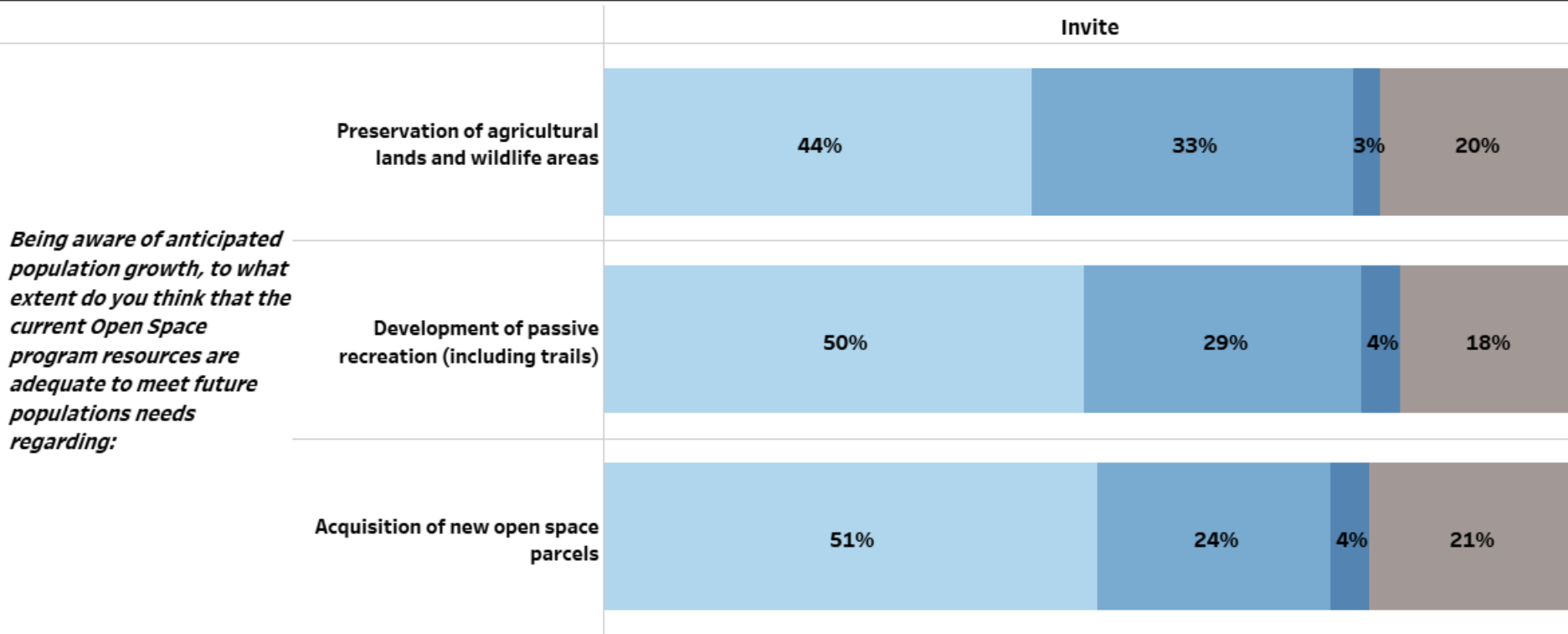


Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

\$ ADEQUACY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES

For each category of program resources, invitation respondents indicate that more is needed to account for future population growth. Roughly half said that the development of passive recreation (50%) and acquisition of new open space parcels (51%) has received too little/not enough resources. The preservation of agricultural lands and wildlife areas had a higher share of respondents indicating it was “just right” (33%), but still received a higher share reporting it wasn’t enough (44%).

City of Longmont Open Space | Financial Choices/Future Priorities



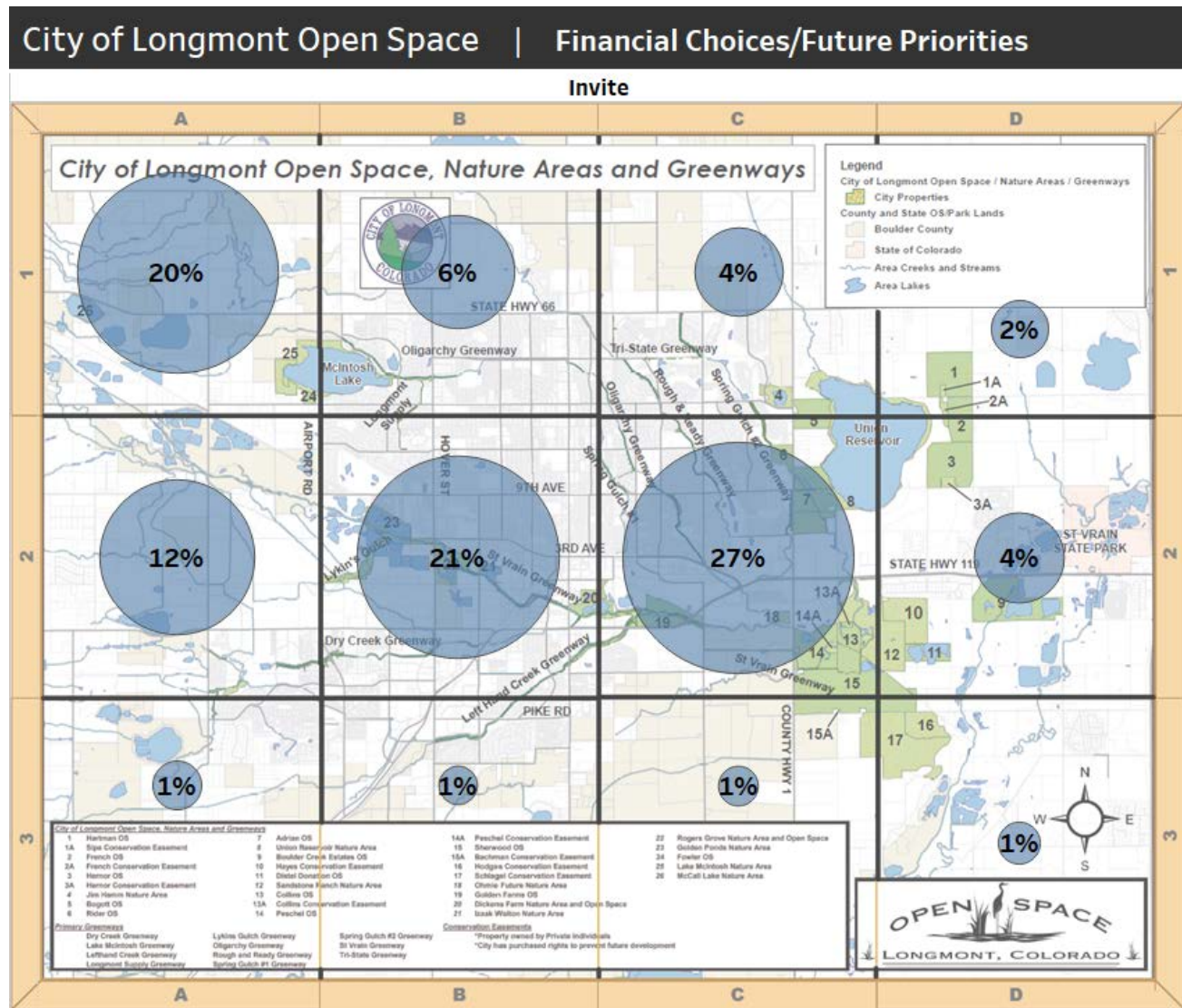
Being aware of anticipated population growth, to what extent do you think that the current Open Space program resources are adequate to meet future populations needs regarding:

Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

1 - Too Little/Not Enough 2 - Just Right 3 - Too Much Don't Know

\$ LAND ACQUISITION

Respondents were asked to identify the portion of the map where they would most like to see Open Space land acquired. As shown, the area to the SW of Union Reservoir had the highest share of responses (27%), followed by around the St. Vrain Greenway (21%), and west of McIntosh Lake (20%).

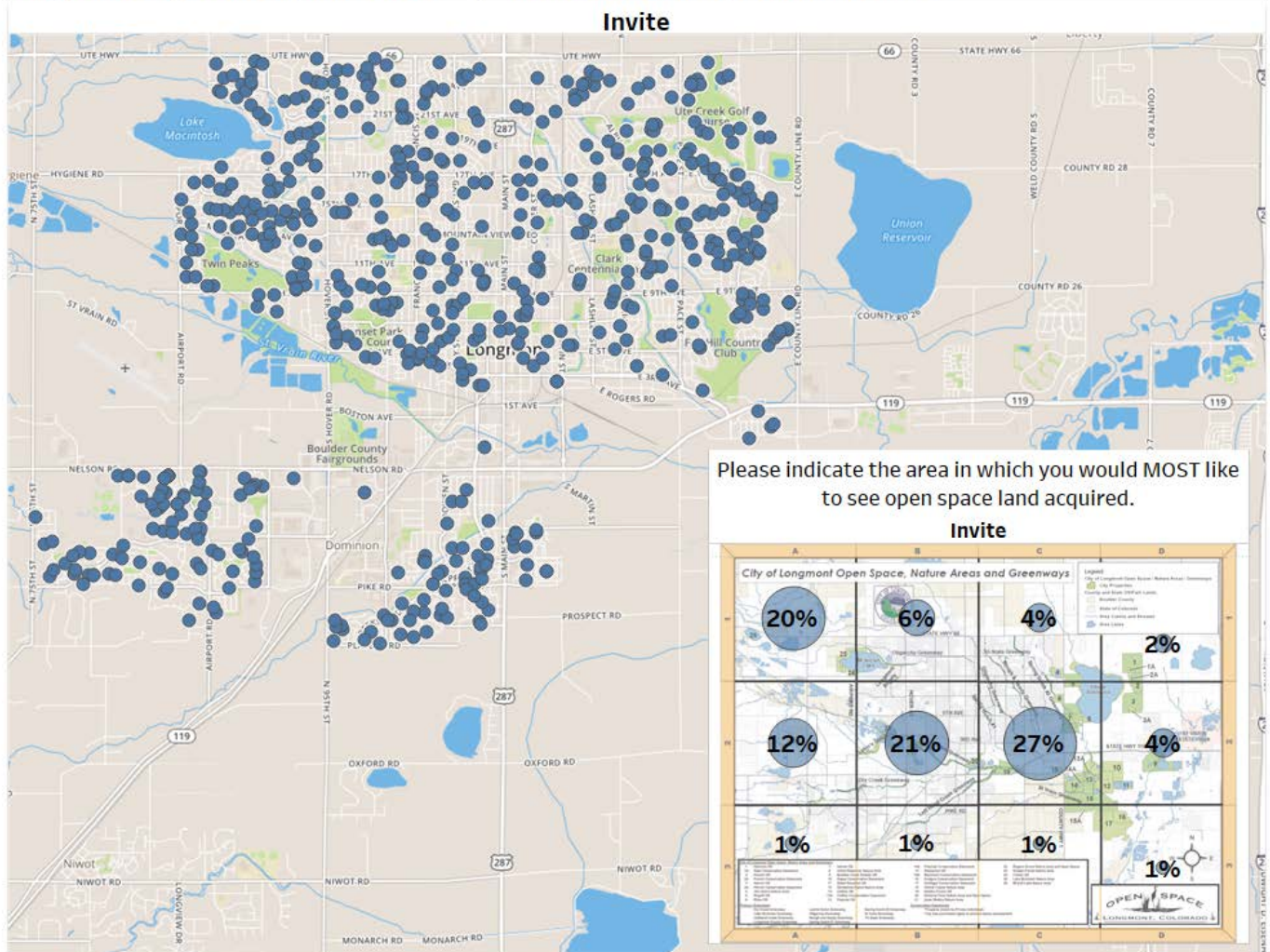


Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

\$ LAND ACQUISITION

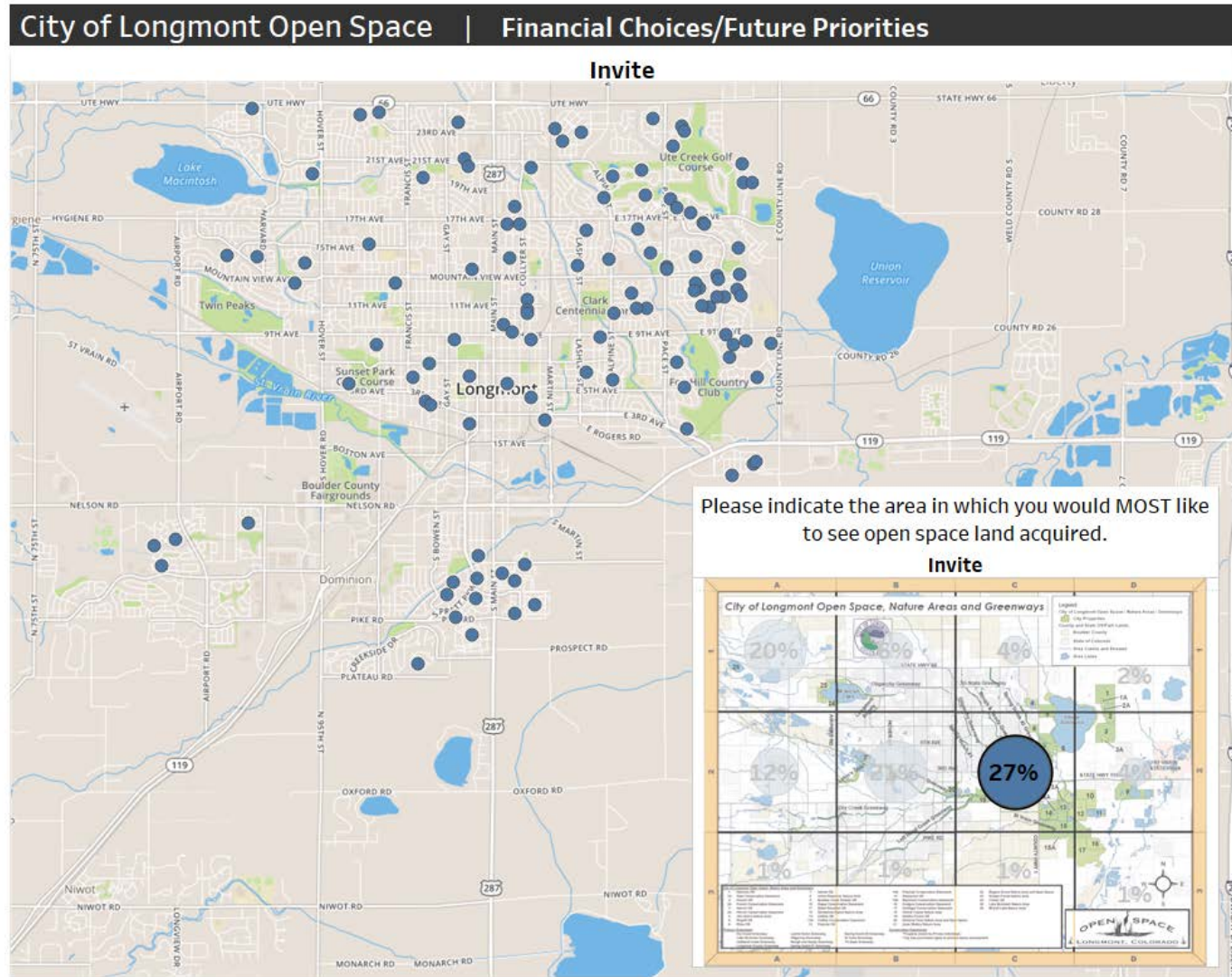
Even though a notable cluster of invitation respondents live in the southern part of the city, these locations did not receive overwhelming support when it comes to future open space land acquisition.

City of Longmont Open Space | Financial Choices/Future Priorities



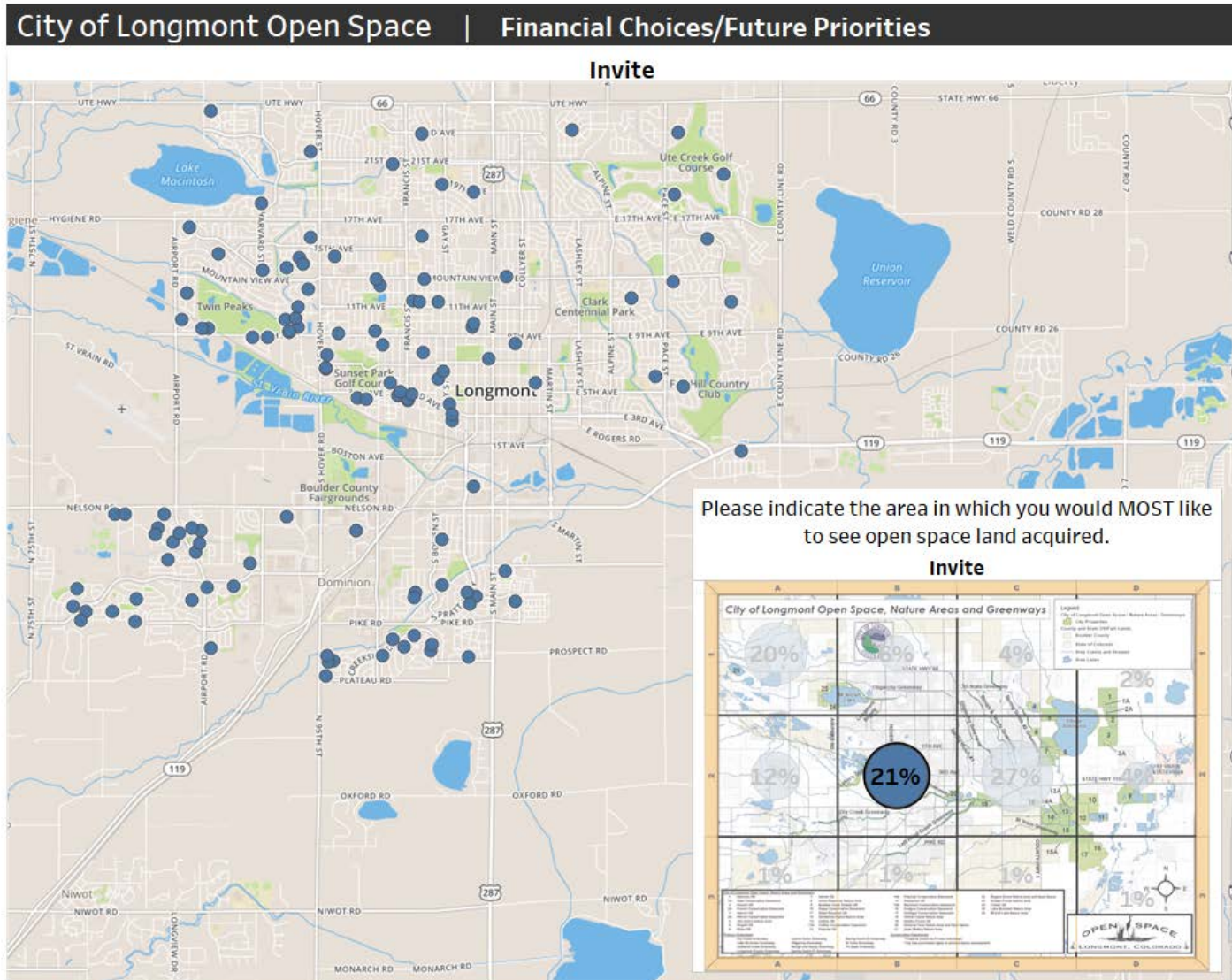
\$ LAND ACQUISITION

The map to the right shows where respondents who selected the area to the SW of Union Reservoir are distributed throughout the city. As shown, these respondents are located throughout the city, although there are a number of households located near the area selected.



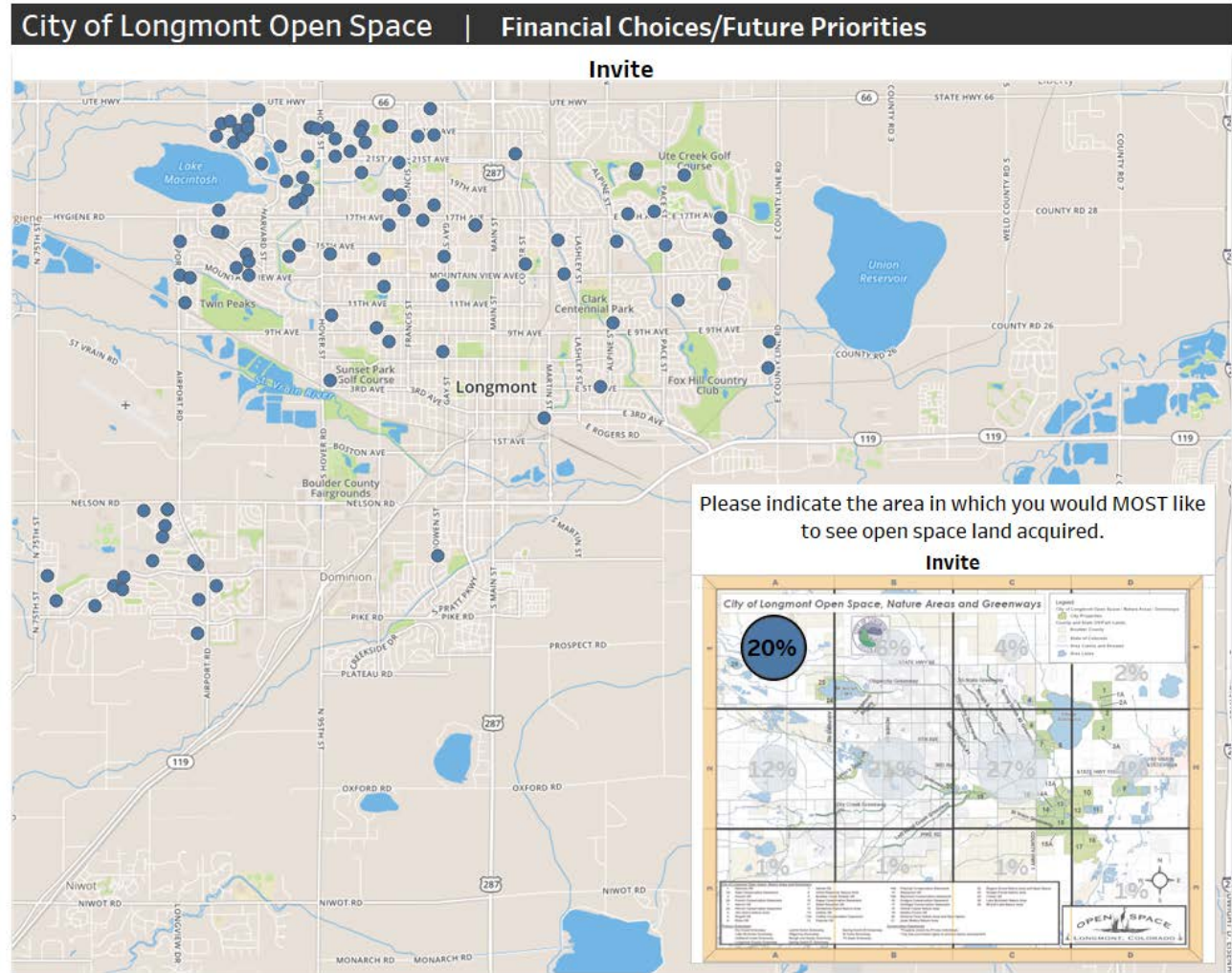
\$ LAND ACQUISITION

The map to the right highlights that respondents who favor acquisition near the St. Vrain Greenway are also located throughout the community, although they are slightly more likely to live more west in Longmont than those who preferred the area around Union Reservoir.



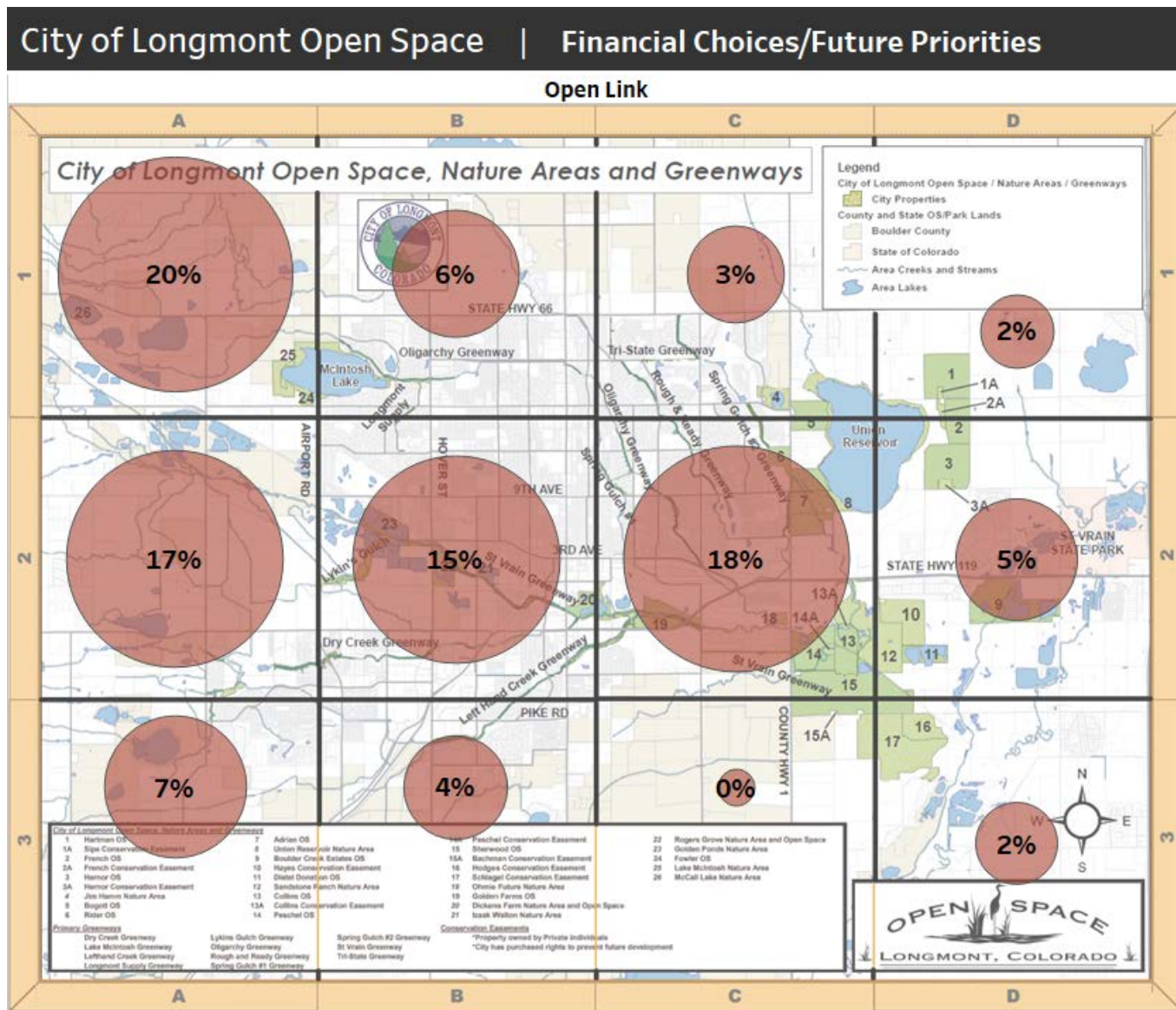
\$ LAND ACQUISITION

Similarly, respondents with preference for land acquisition around McIntosh Lake live all around Longmont, although these respondents are more likely to live around the Lake than those who selected other areas.



\$ LAND ACQUISITION

Open Link respondents had generally similar preferences, although a notable share also selected the area west of the St. Vrain Greenway (17%).

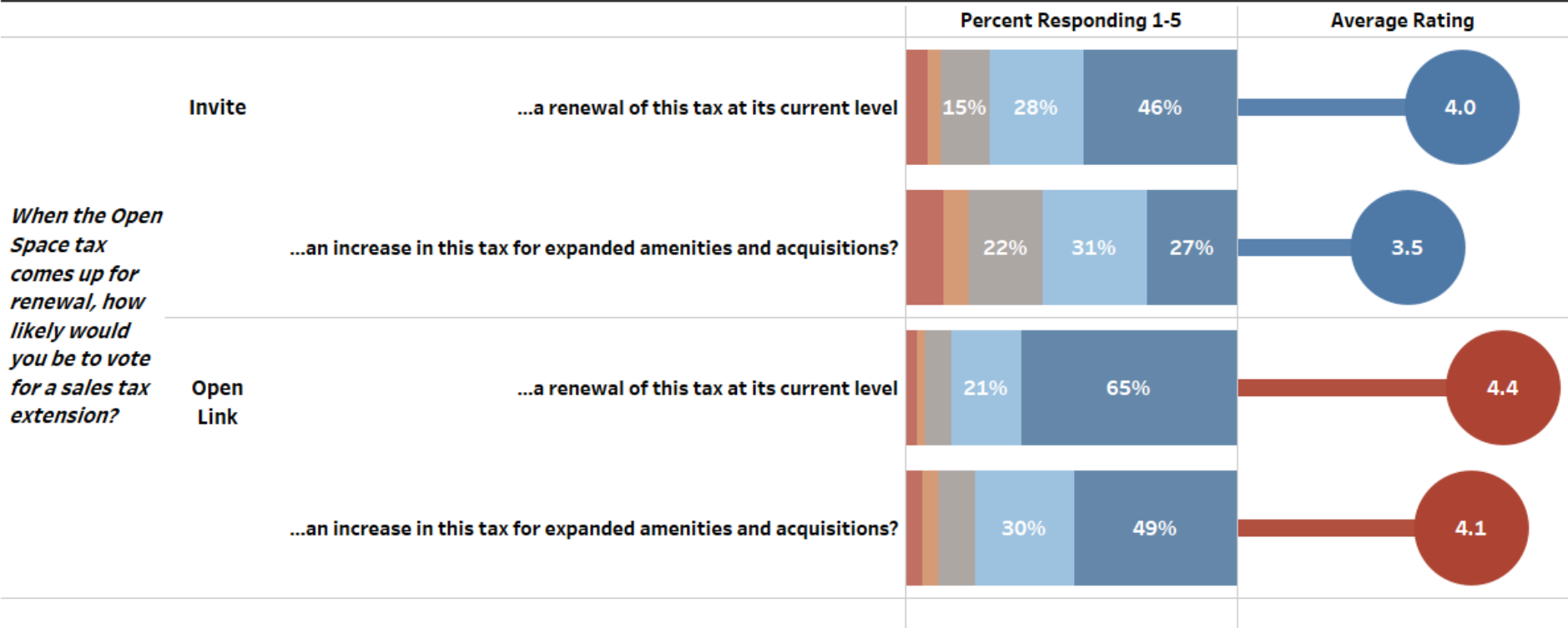


Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

\$ SALES TAX EXTENSION

Overall, respondents were supportive of a sales tax extension with nearly three quarters of invitation respondents expressing support for a renewal of the tax at its current level (74%). Both invitation and open link respondents were more supportive of a renewal of this tax at its current level than an increase in this tax for expanded amenities and acquisitions.

City of Longmont Open Space | Financial Choices/Future Priorities



Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay

■ 1 - Definitely Not Support
 ■ 2 - Probably Not Support
 ■ 3 - Neutral
 ■ 4 - Probably Support
 ■ 5 - Definitely Support

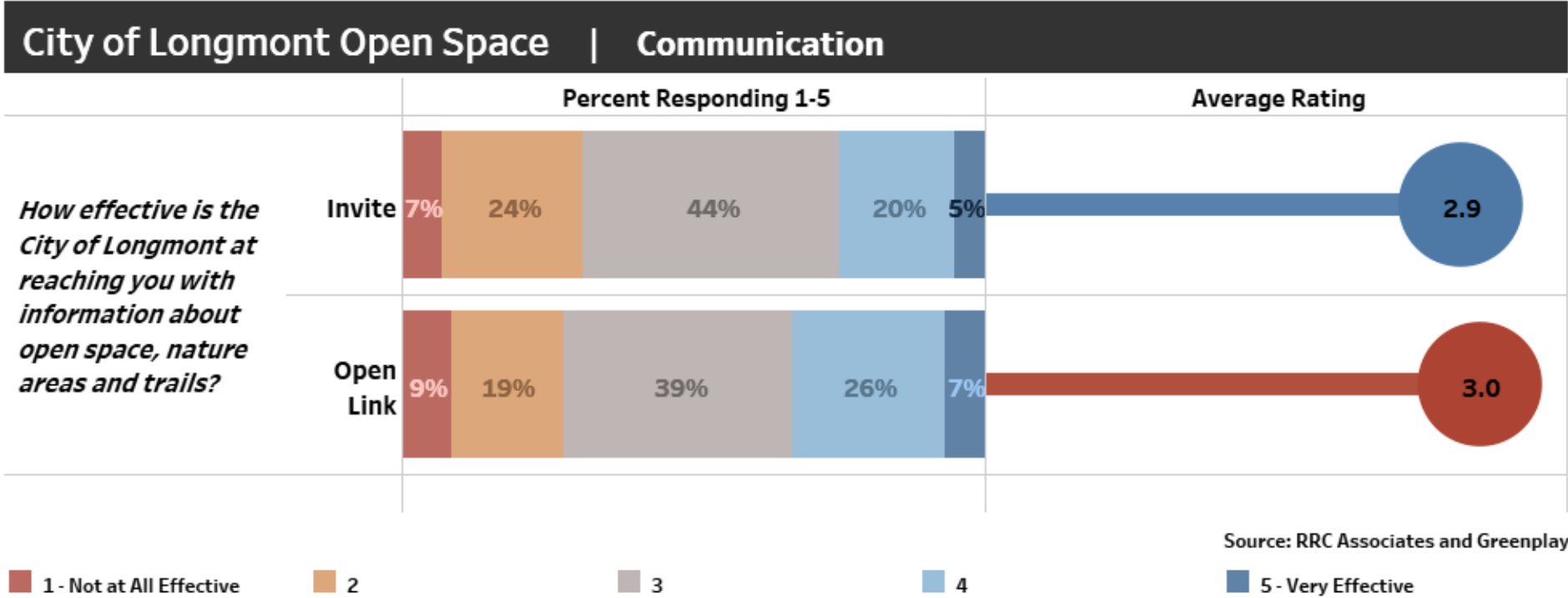


COMMUNICATION



EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNICATION EFFORTS

Communication effectiveness was rated on a scale of 1 = "Not at all Effective" to 5 = "Very Effective." On average, invitation respondents rated effectiveness 2.9 out of 5.0. Among invitation respondents, 31% rated communication as not effective (providing a rating of 1 or 2). Open link respondents were slightly more positive (average rating 3.0), but responses from both groups highlight some room for improvement.

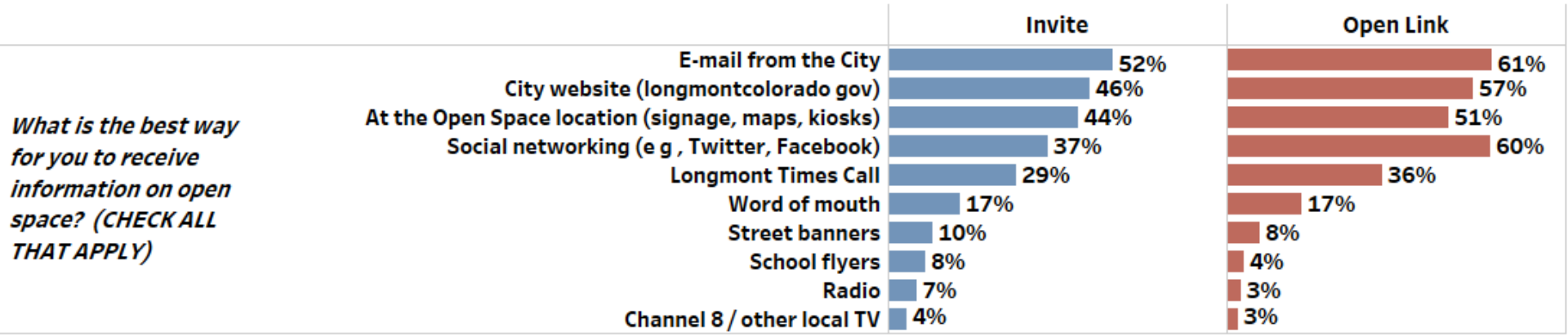




BEST WAY TO RECEIVE INFORMATION

Invitation respondents indicated email from the city (52%), City website (46%), and at the Open Space location (44%) as the best ways to receive information. The least preferred ways to receive information include Channel 8 / other local TV (4%), Radio (7%), and school flyers (8%). Open link respondents were more likely to prefer receiving information via social networking sites (60% vs. 37%).

City of Longmont Open Space | Communication



What is the best way for you to receive information on open space? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

Source: RRC Associates and Greenplay



SUGGESTIONS



ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

At the end of the survey, respondents were given the opportunity to provide any additional comments or suggestions about parks and recreation facilities and programs in Longmont. Themes that came up frequently throughout the survey were: increased focus on maintaining current properties before expanding, desire for more trails and connections between trails, desire for acquisition/preservation of open spaces to thwart future development, and safety concerns, among other topics. Many used the opportunity to praise the City for their work managing these areas. A selection of verbatim invitation responses is shown below. The full listing of responses is provided in the appendix.

Would like to have more open space or parks areas downtown, don't have to be perfectly groomed like a typical park. St. Vrain River corridor has tremendous potential, wasted now with salvage yards and industrial sites bordering it.

We have just moved here. One of the reasons is the recreation opportunities.

Overall, we think Longmont is fortunate to have such wonderful open space and opportunities to explore nature.

Use tax dollars to maintain and improve the properties currently owned. There are public needs more important than new acquisition (roads!).

Thanks for past and present FORESIGHT!

I am age 93 and thankful for our good water and natural beauty and my nice apt on Main St 3rd fl with a wonderful sky and mountain view! I do think our nice parks are valuable and any wholesome areas for children and families.

In my opinion, all of you are doing a great job for natural resources

In long run, a goodly amount of open space makes Longmont a more enjoyable/desirable place to live, leading to higher land values, more business in mall/downtown



ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

The below word cloud highlights the most popular words used when describing additional comments/suggestions. “Parks”, “need”, “bike”, and “lanes” rise to the top as the most commonly used words.



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Appendix D: Open-ended Comments from Survey

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Appendix: Open-Ended Comments

CITY OF LONGMONT OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN SURVEY

Table of Contents

What is the best way for you to receive information on open space? (website, other)..	1
What are the names of the three open space properties identified on the map that you visit most frequently?	3
In which activities do you typically participate in open space properties in and around Longmont? (other)	12
What are the most important aspects that, if addressed by the City, would increase your appreciation of Longmont Nature Areas and Open Spaces? (other)	13
Please provide any additional comments you would like to share with us regarding open space in the City of Longmont.	14

What is the best way for you to receive information on open space? (website, other)

Survey	Best Information Source (website)
Invite	longmontobserver.org
Open Link	Nextdoor.com
Open Link	Reddit Longmont page

Survey	Best Information Source (other)
Invite	an insert with utility bill
Invite	bill insert
Invite	Boulder Camera
Invite	brochures, maps
Invite	City bill
Invite	City electric bill flyer
Invite	City Line
Invite	City Line
Invite	City Line
Invite	City Line
Invite	City Line
Invite	City Line newsletter
Invite	City mail such as this survey
Invite	City newsletter
Invite	City newsletter with utilities bill
Invite	City newsletter with utility bills
Invite	City of Longmont utility billing newsletter
Invite	Daily Camera, City Line newsletter and newspaper
Invite	Direct mail
Invite	Exploring
Invite	Fliers
Invite	fliers in City of Longmont bills
Invite	Hard copy, mail to restaurants
Invite	In my bill
Invite	in the water bill
Invite	informational postcards in mail
Invite	Insert in utility bill; The Longmont Recreation pamphlet
Invite	just include it with the yearly water quality report that is mailed to every address, since riparian areas are key for maintating water quality
Invite	Longmont Rec Center seasonal booklet/brochure
Invite	Longmont Utilities Bill
Invite	mail
Invite	Mail
Invite	Mail
Invite	Mail

City of Longmont Open Space Master Plan Survey

Survey	Best Information Source (other)
Invite	Mail
Invite	Mail
Invite	Mail
Invite	Mail
Invite	Mail/newsletter
Invite	Mailers promoting use/events
Invite	Mailings
Invite	Meetings like NGLA
Invite	monthly newsletter from city
Invite	Newsletter in the utility bill
Invite	Nextdoor Website
Invite	Notifications posted at Rec Center and Senior Center
Invite	Once a year mailing with utility bill
Invite	Phone
Invite	resident flyers
Invite	Seasonal newsletter
Invite	should be up to person to find out
Invite	targeted online ads based on IP address
Invite	US Mail
Invite	USPS
Invite	Utility bill
Invite	Utility bill
Invite	utility bill insert
Invite	Utility bill insert
Invite	utility bill newsletter
Invite	Utility bills
Invite	utility insert
Invite	Utility newsletter
Invite	with utility bill brochure
Invite	written communication
Open Link	City newsletter that comes with the utility bills
Open Link	Direct mail
Open Link	Direct mail
Open Link	Direct mail
Open Link	Enclosures in monthly electric bills
Open Link	events, open houses
Open Link	Mailings
Open Link	Monthly newsletter w/utility bill
Open Link	post at library and rec centers
Open Link	Websites where we can find out when the City Council is going against the wishes of the voters and selling our open space to developers (Pike and Hwy 42/Hover, for example).

What are the names of the three open space properties identified on the map that you visit most frequently?

Survey	Kids	Age	#1	#2	#3
Invite	Yes	Under 25	Sandstone Ranch Nature Area	Union Reservoir Nature Area	Dickens Farm Nature Area
Invite	Yes	25-34	Golden Ponds	Rogers Grove	McIntosh Lake
Invite	Yes	25-34	Lake McIntosh	McCall Lake Nature Area	Sanstone Ranch
Invite	Yes	25-34	Lykin' Gulch	McIntosh Lake	McCall Lake Nature Area
Invite	Yes	25-34	McIntosh Lake	Jim Hamm Nature Area	Golden Ponds
Invite	Yes	25-34	McIntosh Lake	Dry Creek Greenway	Left Hand Creek Greenway
Invite	Yes	25-34	McIntosh Lake	Golden Ponds	Rogers Grove
Invite	Yes	25-34	McIntosh Lake	Union Reservoir	St Vrain Greenway
Invite	Yes	25-34	McIntosh Lake	Sandstone Ranch	Union Reservoir
Invite	Yes	35-44	Dry Creek Greenway	Izaak Walton Nature Area	McIntosh Lake
Invite	Yes	35-44	Dry Creek Greenway	Golden Pond	Rogers Grove
Invite	Yes	35-44	Dry Creek Greenway	Lykins Gultch	St Vrain Greenway
Invite	Yes	35-44	Dry Creek Greenway	McIntosh Lake	Union Reservoir
Invite	Yes	35-44	Fowler Open Space	Mcintosh Lake	Golden Ponds
Invite	Yes	35-44	Golden Ponds	McIntosh Lake	Loomiller Park
Invite	Yes	35-44	Golden Ponds	Union Reservoir Natural Area	Oligarchy Greenway
Invite	Yes	35-44	Golden Ponds Nature Area	McIntosh Lake Nature Area	Rogers Grove Nature Area
Invite	Yes	35-44	Greenway by the Rec Center	Golden ponds	McIntosh Lake
Invite	Yes	35-44	Izaak Walton	Lake Macintosh	Jim Hamm
Invite	Yes	35-44	Jim Hamm	Golden Ponds	McIntosh Lake
Invite	Yes	35-44	Jim hamm nature area	Rider os	Spring gulch #2 greenway
Invite	Yes	35-44	Lake McIntosh	Rogers Grove	Golden Ponds
Invite	Yes	35-44	Lake McIntosh	Golden Ponds	Sandstone Ranch
Invite	Yes	35-44	Lake McIntosh	Union Reservoir	Sandstone Ranch
Invite	Yes	35-44	Left Hand Creek Greenway	McIntosh Lake	Izaak Walton Nature Area
Invite	Yes	35-44	McIntosh	Union Reservoir	Schools
Invite	Yes	35-44	McIntosh Lake	Dry Creek Greenway	Sandstone
Invite	Yes	35-44	Mcintosh Lake	Fowler OS	Union Reservoir
Invite	Yes	35-44	McIntosh Nature Area	Golden Ponds	Sandstone

City of Longmont Open Space Master Plan Survey

Survey	Kids	Age	#1	#2	#3
Invite	Yes	35-44	Micintosh Lake area	Rogers Grove, Golden ponds, etc. via bike	Union Reservoir area for fishing and bird watching
Invite	Yes	35-44	Oligarchy Greenway	McIntosh Lake	Rough and Ready Greenway
Invite	Yes	35-44	Rogers Grove	Golden Ponds	Izaak Walton
Invite	Yes	35-44	Rogers Grove	Golden Ponds	McIntosh Lake
Invite	Yes	35-44	Rogers Grove Nature Area	Lake McIntosh	Lykin's Gulch
Invite	Yes	35-44	Rough and Ready	McIntosh Lake	Jim Hamm
Invite	Yes	35-44	Sandstone Ranch	McIntosh Lake	Golden Ponds
Invite	Yes	35-44	St Vrain Greenway	McIntosh Lake	Rogers Grove
Invite	Yes	35-44	St. Vrain Greenway	Lake McIntosh Nature Area	Rogers Grove Nature Area and Open Space
Invite	Yes	35-44	Union Reservoir	Lake Macintosh	Golden Ponds
Invite	Yes	45-54	Dry Creek Greenway	Lykins Gulch	McIntosh
Invite	Yes	45-54	Dry Creek Greenway	Rogers Grove	McIntosh Lake
Invite	Yes	45-54	Dry Creek Greenway	Left Hand Creek Greenway	Sandstone Ranch
Invite	Yes	45-54	Dry Creek Greenway	Lykins Gulch	St Vrain Greenway
Invite	Yes	45-54	Fowler Open Space	Rogers Grove	Collins
Invite	Yes	45-54	Golden Ponds	Jim Hamm	Izaak Walton
Invite	Yes	45-54	Golden Ponds	Rogers Grove	McIntosh Lake
Invite	Yes	45-54	golden ponds	lake mcintosh	rogers grove
Invite	Yes	45-54	Jim Hamm	Rogers Grove	Sandstone
Invite	Yes	45-54	Jim Hamm	Lake McIntosh	Spring Gulch Greenway
Invite	Yes	45-54	Lake McIntosh	Fowler OS	Golden Ponds
Invite	Yes	45-54	Lake McIntosh	Union	Lykins
Invite	Yes	45-54	Left Hand Creek Greenway	McIntosh Lake	Golden Ponds
Invite	Yes	45-54	left hand creek greenway	st vrain greenway	lykin's gulch
Invite	Yes	45-54	Left Hand Greenway	Golden Ponds	Lykins Gulch
Invite	Yes	45-54	McIntosh Lake	Rogers Grove	Izaak Walton
Invite	Yes	45-54	McIntosh Lake	Union Res	St. Vrain Greenway
Invite	Yes	45-54	McIntosh Nature Area	Rogers Grove	Golden Ponds
Invite	Yes	45-54	Pella Crossing	Lykins Gulch	McIntosh Lake
Invite	Yes	45-54	Rabbit Mountain	McIntosh Lake	Union Reservoir
Invite	Yes	45-54	Rogers Grove	Izaak Walton	Dicken Farm
Invite	Yes	45-54	Rogers Grove	Fowler	Golden Ponds
Invite	Yes	45-54	Rogers Grove	St Vrain Greenway	Izaak Walton
Invite	Yes	45-54	Sherwood	Lake McIntosh	Rogers Grove

City of Longmont Open Space Master Plan Survey

Survey	Kids	Age	#1	#2	#3
Invite	Yes	45-54	Spring Gulch Greenway / Rider OS	Left Hand Creek Greenway	Jim Hamm Nature Area
Invite	Yes	45-54	st vrain greenway	union res	lake macintosh
Invite	Yes	45-54	St Vrain State Park area	St Vrain Greenway area	McIntosh Lake area
Invite	Yes	45-54	St. Vrain Greenway	MacIntosh Lake	Dry Creek Greenway
Invite	Yes	45-54	St. Vrain Greenway	Union Res	McIntosh Lake
Invite	Yes	45-54	St. Vrain Greenway-Dickens	McIntosh Lake	Golden Farms
Invite	Yes	55-64	Dry Creek Greenway	St. Vrain Greenway	Left Hand Creek Greenway
Invite	Yes	55-64	Dry Creek Greenway	Lykin's Gulch	St Vrain Greenway
Invite	Yes	55-64	Golden Ponds	Rogers Grove	Adrian Open Space
Invite	Yes	55-64	McIntosh Area	Union Reservoir	Sandstone
Invite	Yes	55-64	McIntosh Lake	Union Reservoir	Sandstone Ranch
Invite	Yes	55-64	Rider	Jim Hamm Nature Area	Sandstone
Invite	Yes	55-64	Rogers Grove	Golden Ponds	Izaak Walton
Invite	Yes	55-64	Rogers Grove	Golden Pond	Union Res.
Invite	Yes	65-74	McIntosh Lake	McCall Lake Nature Area	Izaak Walton
Invite	Yes	65-74	Rough and Ready	St. Vrain	Spring Gulch #2
Invite	Yes		Lefthand Creek Greenway	Fowler OS	McCall Lake Nature Area
Invite	No	Under 25	Golden Farms	Sandstone Ranch	Union Reservoir
Invite	No	Under 25	McIntosh Lake	Union Reservoir	Lefthand Greenway
Invite	No	Under 25	Rogers Grove	McIntosh Lake	Longmont Dog Park #1
Invite	No	25-34	Button Rock Preserve	St. Vrain Greenway	Sandstone Ranch
Invite	No	25-34	Dry Creek Greenway	Golden Ponds	Lefthand Greenway
Invite	No	25-34	Fowler	Union Reservoir	Dickens Farm
Invite	No	25-34	Golden Farms	Dickens Farm	Rogers Grove
Invite	No	25-34	Golden Ponds	Rogers Grove	Izaak Walkton Nature Area
Invite	No	25-34	Jim Hamm Nature Area	Lake McIntosh Nature Area	Spring Gulch #2 Greenway
Invite	No	25-34	Lykins Gulch/Golden Ponds	St. Vrain Greenway	McIntosh Lake
Invite	No	25-34	McIntosh Lake	Rogers Grove	St Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	25-34	McIntosh Lake Greenway	St Vrain Greenway	Rogers Grove Nature Area
Invite	No	25-34	St vrain greenway	Left hand creek greenway	Golden ponds
Invite	No	25-34	St Vrain Greenway	Left Hand Creek Greenway	McIntosh Lake
Invite	No	25-34	St Vrain Greenways	Left Hand Creek Greenway	Tri-State Greenway

City of Longmont Open Space Master Plan Survey

Survey	Kids	Age	#1	#2	#3
Invite	No	35-44	Golden Farms	Dickens Farms and Open Space	Izaak Walton
Invite	No	35-44	Golden Farms	Dickens Farm	Union Reservoir
Invite	No	35-44	Golden Ponds	McIntosh Nature Area	Jim Hamm Nature Area
Invite	No	35-44	Golden Ponds Nature Area	Golden Farms OS	McCall Lake Nature Area
Invite	No	35-44	Izaak Walton	Rogers Grove	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	35-44	McIntosh	Oligarchy Greenway	Union Res.
Invite	No	35-44	Rogers Grove	Golden Ponds	Jim Hamm
Invite	No	35-44	Rogers Grove Nature Area and Open Space	Jim Hamm Nature Area	Bogott OS
Invite	No	35-44	St Vrain Greenway	McIntosh Lake	Left Hand Creek Greenway
Invite	No	35-44	St. Vrain Greenway	Lefthand Greenway	MacIntosh Lake
Invite	No	35-44	St. Vrain Greenway	Lykins Gulch	McIntosh
Invite	No	35-44	Union Reservoir	Jim Hamm	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	35-44	Union Reservoir	Spring Gulch Greenway	Tri-State Greenway
Invite	No	45-54	Bike path	McIntosh Lake	Union Reservoir
Invite	No	45-54	Dry Creek Greenway	Union Res Nature Area	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	45-54	Golden Farms	Golden Ponds	Dickens Farm
Invite	No	45-54	Golden Ponds	Isaac Walton	Lake MacIntosh
Invite	No	45-54	Golden Ponds	Lake McIntosh	Rogers Grove
Invite	No	45-54	Golden Ponds	McIntosh	Rogers Grove
Invite	No	45-54	Lake McIntosh	Fowler	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	45-54	Lake McIntosh	Dry Creek Greenway	St Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	45-54	Lake McIntosh	Golden Pond	Union Reservoir
Invite	No	45-54	Lake McIntosh Nature Area	Union Reservoir Nature Area	Golden Ponds Nature Area
Invite	No	45-54	Left hand creek greenway	St Vrain greenway	McIntosh Lake
Invite	No	45-54	Left Hand Greenway	Dry Creek Greenway	Lake Macintosh Nature Area
Invite	No	45-54	MacIntosh	Rogers Grove	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	45-54	Mcintosh lake	Golden ponds	Pella Crossing
Invite	No	45-54	McIntosh Lake	Union Reservoir	Roger's Grove
Invite	No	45-54	Rogers Grove	Gold Pond	Lake McIntosh
Invite	No	45-54	Rogers Grove	Golden Ponds	McIntosh Lake
Invite	No	45-54	Sandstone Ranch	Golden Ponds	Lake McIntosh
Invite	No	45-54	Spring gulch #2 greenway	Jim Ham nature area	McIntosh
Invite	No	45-54	St Vrain Greenway	Lefthand Greenway	Jim Hamm Nature Area
Invite	No	45-54	St Vrain Greenway	Lykins Gulch	Left Hand Greenway
Invite	No	45-54	Union Reservoir	McIntosh Lake	Pella Ponds

City of Longmont Open Space Master Plan Survey

Survey	Kids	Age	#1	#2	#3
Invite	No	45-54	Union Reservoir	McIntosh Lake	St Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	55-64	Boulder Creek Estates	Lake McIntosh	Rogers Grove
Invite	No	55-64	Fowler	Lake McIntosh	Rogers Grove
Invite	No	55-64	Golden Farms	Isaac Walton	Rogers Grove
Invite	No	55-64	Golden Ponds	Rogers	McCall
Invite	No	55-64	Golden Ponds	Dry Creek	McIntosh
Invite	No	55-64	Golden Ponds	Rogers Grove	McIntosh Lake
Invite	No	55-64	Golden Ponds	St. Vrain Greenway	McIntosh Lake
Invite	No	55-64	Golden Ponds	St Vrain Greenway	McIntosh Lake
Invite	No	55-64	Golden Ponds	Izaak Walton	Rogers
Invite	No	55-64	Golden Ponds	Pella Crossing	Rogers Grove
Invite	No	55-64	Golden Ponds	Izaak Walton Nature Area	Rogers Grove
Invite	No	55-64	Golden Ponds	McIntosh Lake	Rogers Grove
Invite	No	55-64	Golden Ponds	Sandstone Ranch	St Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	55-64	Izaak Waldon	Rogers Grove	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	55-64	Jim Hamm	Sandstone	Rogers Grove
Invite	No	55-64	Jim Hamm Nature	McIntosh Lake	St. Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	55-64	Lake McIntosh	Oligarchy Geenway	St Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	55-64	Lake McIntosh	Lykins Gulch	St. Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	55-64	Left Hand Creek Greenway	St Vrain Greenway	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	55-64	Left Hand Creek Greenway	St Vrain Greenway	Lykins Gulch
Invite	No	55-64	Left Hand Creek Greenway	St Vrain Greenway	Sandstone Ranch
Invite	No	55-64	Lykins Gulch	Pella Crossing	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	55-64	McIntosh Lake	Union Res	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	55-64	Mcintosh Lake	Dry Creek Greenway	Lykin's Gulch
Invite	No	55-64	McIntosh Lake	Golden Ponds	Rogers Grove
Invite	No	55-64	McIntosh Lake	Golden Ponds	Sandstone Ranch
Invite	No	55-64	McIntosh Lake	Golden Ponds	Sandstone Ranch
Invite	No	55-64	McIntosh Lake	Golden Ponds	St Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	55-64	McIntosh Lake	Union Res	St. Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	55-64	McIntosh Nature Area	Fowler Open Space	Golden Ponds Nature Area
Invite	No	55-64	McIntosh Nature Area	Rogers Grove	Izaak Walton
Invite	No	55-64	McIntosh Nature Area	Fowler Open Space	Peschel Open Space
Invite	No	55-64	Rogers Grove	Izaak Walton	McIntosh
Invite	No	55-64	Rogers Grove	Golden Ponds	Sandstone Ranch
Invite	No	55-64	Roosevelt Park	McIntosh Lake	Thompson Park
Invite	No	55-64	Rough and Ready Greenway	Tri-State Greenway	St Vrain Greenway

City of Longmont Open Space Master Plan Survey

Survey	Kids	Age	#1	#2	#3
Invite	No	55-64	St Vrain Greenway	McIntosh Lake	Left Hand Creek Greenway
Invite	No	55-64	St Vrain Greenway	Rabbit Mountain	Roger's Grove
Invite	No	55-64	St. Vrain Greenway	Left Hand Creek Greenway	Dry Creek Greenway
Invite	No	55-64	Union Res	St. Vrain Greenway	Lykins Gulch
Invite	No	55-64	Union Res	Hamm Nature Area	McIntosh Lake
Invite	No	55-64	Union Reservoir	Golden Ponds	Dickens Farm
Invite	No	55-64	Union Reservoir	St Vrain Greenway	Estes Park
Invite	No	55-64	Union Reservoir	McIntosh Lake	St Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	55-64	Union Reservoir Area	Sandstone Ranch	Dickens Farm Area
Invite	No	65-74	Dry Creek Greenway	Golden Ponds	Left Hand Creek Greenway
Invite	No	65-74	Dry Creek Greenway	St Vrain Greenway	McIntosh Lake
Invite	No	65-74	Dry Creek Greenway	McIntosh Lake	Union Reservoir
Invite	No	65-74	Golden Farms OS	Fowler OS	Adrian OS
Invite	No	65-74	Golden Ponds	Union Reservoir	Lake McIntosh
Invite	No	65-74	Golden Ponds	Rogers Grover	Lk. McIntosh
Invite	No	65-74	Golden Ponds	Pella Ponds	McIntosh Lake
Invite	No	65-74	Golden Ponds	McIntosh Lake	Rogers Grove
Invite	No	65-74	Golden Ponds	Sandstone	Rogers Grove
Invite	No	65-74	Golden Ponds	McIntosh Lake	Rogers Grove
Invite	No	65-74	Golden Ponds	Fowler	Sandstone
Invite	No	65-74	Golden Ponds	Rogers Grove	Sandstone Ranch
Invite	No	65-74	Golden Ponds	Rogers Grove	Sandstone Ranch
Invite	No	65-74	Golden Ponds	Lykin's Gulch	St Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	65-74	Golden Ponds - Lotsa goose poop	Lake McIntosh	Fairgrounds area
Invite	No	65-74	Izaak Walton	Rogers Grove	McIntosh Lake
Invite	No	65-74	Jim Hamm Nature Area	Bogott Open Space	Fowler Open Space
Invite	No	65-74	Jim Hamm Nature Area	Collins Open Space	Sherwood Open Space
Invite	No	65-74	Jim Hamm Nature Area	Spring Gulch #2 Greenway	St.Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	65-74	Jim Hamm Park	Union Res.	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	65-74	Lake McIntosh	Rogers Grove	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	65-74	Lake McIntosh	Hamm Park	Sandstone Ranch
Invite	No	65-74	Lake McIntosh Nature Area	Golden Ponds Nature Area	Rogers Grove Nature Area and Open Space
Invite	No	65-74	Lake McIntosh Open Space	Fowler Open Space	Rogers Grove
Invite	No	65-74	Left Hand Creek Greenway	St Vrain	Dry Creek Greenway

City of Longmont Open Space Master Plan Survey

Survey	Kids	Age	#1	#2	#3
Invite	No	65-74	Left hand Creek Greenway	St Vrain Greenway	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	65-74	Left Hand Creek Greenway	St Vrain Greenway	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	65-74	Left Hand Greenway	St Vrain Greenway	Spring Gulch
Invite	No	65-74	McIntosh	St Vrain Greenway	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	65-74	McIntosh	Lykins Gulch	St. Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	65-74	McIntosh Lake	Fowler OS	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	65-74	McIntosh Lake	Fowler Open Space	Golden Ponds Nature Area
Invite	No	65-74	McIntosh Lake	Golden Ponds	Izaak Walton
Invite	No	65-74	McIntosh Lake	Rogers Grove	Izaak Walton
Invite	No	65-74	McIntosh Lake	Golden Ponds	Rogers Grove
Invite	No	65-74	McIntosh Lake	Union Reservoir	St Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	65-74	McIntosh Lake	Oligarchy Greenway	St Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	65-74	McIntosh Lake	Lykins Gulch	St Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	65-74	McIntosh Lake	Union Reservoir	St Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	65-74	McIntosh Lake	St. Vrain Greenway	Union Reservoir
Invite	No	65-74	McIntosh Lake	St Vrain Greenway	Union Reservoir
Invite	No	65-74	Rabbit Mountain	Ralph Rice Reservoir Road	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	65-74	Rider Open Space	Hayes Conservation Easement	Rogers Grove
Invite	No	65-74	Roger Grove Nature Area	Golden Ponds Nature Area	Golden Farms Open Space
Invite	No	65-74	Rogers Grove	Fowler Open Space	Lake McIntosh
Invite	No	65-74	Rogers Grove Nature Area	Golden Ponds Nature Area	Sandstone Ranch
Invite	No	65-74	Rough and Ready Greenway	Fowler Open Space	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	65-74	Rough and Ready Greenway	Jim Hamm Nature Area	St Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	65-74	Rough and Ready Greenway	Sandstone Ranch area	St Vrain Greenway-west area
Invite	No	65-74	Ruff and Ready	Jim Hamm	ST. Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	65-74	Ryder OS	Sandstone Ranch	Jim Hamm
Invite	No	65-74	Sandstone Ranch	Golden Farms	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	65-74	Sandstone Ranch	Golden Ponds	McIntosh Lake
Invite	No	65-74	Spring Gulch	Union Reservoir	St Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	65-74	Spring Gulch #2		McIntosh Lake
Invite	No	65-74	St Vrain	McIntosh Lake	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	65-74	St. Vrain Greenway	Dry Creek Greenway	McIntosh Lake
Invite	No	65-74	St. Vrain Greenway	Lefthand Creek Greenway	Rough and Ready Greenway

City of Longmont Open Space Master Plan Survey

Survey	Kids	Age	#1	#2	#3
Invite	No	65-74	St. Vrain Greenway	McIntosh Lake	Union Reservoir
Invite	No	65-74	Union Res.	St. Vrain Greenway	McIntosh
Invite	No	65-74	Union Reservoir	McIntosh Lake	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	65-74	Union Reservoir	Golden Ponds	Rogers Grove
Invite	No	75+	Dry Creek Greenway	Lykin's Gulch	McIntosh Lake
Invite	No	75+	Golden Ponds	Rogers Grove	Dickens Farm
Invite	No	75+	Golden Ponds	St. Vrain Greenway	McIntosh Lake
Invite	No	75+	Golden Ponds	McIntosh Lake	Oligarchy Greenway
Invite	No	75+	Golden Ponds	McIntosh Lake	Palla Crossing
Invite	No	75+	Golden Ponds	Jim Hamm Nature Area	Rogers Grove
Invite	No	75+	Golden Ponds	McIntosh Lake	Twin Peaks Golf Course
Invite	No	75+	Lake McIntosh	Fowler OS	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	75+	Left Hand Creek Greenway	Lykins Gulch	St. Vrain Greenway
Invite	No	75+	McCall Lake	Lake McIntosh	Golden Ponds
Invite	No	75+	McIntosh	Rogers Grove	Sandstone
Invite	No	75+	McIntosh Lake	St Vrain Greenway	Oligarchy Greenway
Invite	No	75+	McIntosh Lake	Golden Ponds	Union Reservoir
Invite	No	75+	Rogers Grove	McIntosh Lake	McCall Lake
Invite	No	75+	St Vrain Greenway	Rogers Grove	Lake McIntosh
Invite	No	75+	St Vrain Greenway	Oligarchy Greenway	McIntosh Lake
Invite	No	75+	St. Vrain Greenway	Lykins Gulch	Oligarchy Greenway
Invite	No	75+	Willow Park	Dry Creek Greenway	Lykin's Gulch
Invite	No		McIntosh Lake	Golden Ponds	Jim Hamm
Invite	No		Rogers Grove	Izaak Walton Nature Area	Golden Farms
Invite		45-54	Rough and Ready Greenway	Lake McIntosh Nature Area	Jim Hamm Nature Area
Invite		55-64	Lake McIntosh	Union Res1	various
Invite		55-64	Lefthand Creek Greenway	St. Vrain Greenway	Dry Creek Greenway
Invite		65-74	McIntosh Lake	McCall Lake	Rogers Grove
Invite		75+	McIntosh Lake	St Vrain	Golden Ponds
Invite		75+	Union Reservoir	Sandstone Ranch	Jim Hamm Nature Area
Invite			Golden Ponds	McIntosh Lake	Bike trail- St Vrain Greenway
Invite			Golden Ponds	Rogers Grove	Izaak Walton
Invite			Isaac Walton	Golden Ponds	Lake Macintosh
Invite			Jim Hamm	Spring Gulch #2	Sandstone
Invite			Oligarchy Greenway	McIntosh Lake	St Vrain Greenway
Invite			Union Reservoir	Izaak Walton Pond	Jim Hamm
Open Link	Yes	25-34	Lake mcintosh	Golden ponds	Left hand creek greenway

City of Longmont Open Space Master Plan Survey

Survey	Kids	Age	#1	#2	#3
Open Link	Yes	25-34	Roger's Grove	McIntosh	Union Reservoir
Open Link	Yes	25-34	Sandstone ranch	St vrain greenway	Lake McIntosh
Open Link	Yes	35-44	Izaak Walton	Rogers Grove	Lake McIntosh
Open Link	Yes	35-44	Rogers Grove Nature Area	Golden Ponds Nature Area	Lake McIntosh Nature Area
Open Link	Yes	35-44	St Vrain Greenway	Sandstone Ranch	Union Reservoir
Open Link	Yes	35-44	Union Reservoir	Dry Creek Greenway	Left Hand Creek Greenway
Open Link	Yes	45-54	Dry Creek Greenway	Open Sky Loop/Lagerman	McIntosh Lake
Open Link	Yes	45-54	Golden Ponds	Jim Hamm	Izaak Walton
Open Link	Yes	45-54	Golden Ponds	Greenway trail (for biking)	Roger's Grove
Open Link	Yes	45-54	Sandstone Ranch	St Vrain Greenway	Peschel OS
Open Link	Yes	45-54	St. Vrain Greenway / Lykins Gulch	Sandstone Ranch Nature Area	Lefthand Creek Greenway
Open Link	Yes	65-74	Hamm Nature Preserve	Pella Crossing	McIntosh Lake
Open Link	No	25-34	McIntosh Lake	Left Hand Creek Greenway	St Vrain Greenway
Open Link	No	25-34	Rodgers grove	Union reservoir	Greenway
Open Link	No	25-34	Saint Vrain Greenway	Union Reservoir	Rogers Grove
Open Link	No	25-34	Sugar Mill Area	Ken Pratt/ St Vrain River area	Fox Hill area
Open Link	No	35-44	left hand creek greenway	st vrain greenway	macintosh lake
Open Link	No	35-44	Left hand creek greenway	Lake Macintosh	Union reservoir
Open Link	No	35-44	Sandstone Ranch Nature Area	Union Reservoir Nature Area	St. Vrain Greenway
Open Link	No	45-54	Golden ponds	Rogers grove	Lake McIntosh
Open Link	No	45-54	Lakemcintosh	union reservoir	st. vrain greenway
Open Link	No	45-54	Left Hand Creek Greenway	St. Vrain Greenway	Lake McIntosh Nature Area
Open Link	No	45-54	Lefthand Creek Trailway	Open Sky Loop at Lagerman Res	McIntosh Lake
Open Link	No	45-54	St Vrain Greenway	Golden Ponds	Sandstone Ranch
Open Link	No	45-54	St Vrain Greenway	MacIntosh Lake	Union Reservoir
Open Link	No	55-64	Dry Creek	St Vrain Greenway	McIntosh
Open Link	No	55-64	Golden Ponds	McIntosh Lake	Sandstone Ranch
Open Link	No	55-64	Golden Ponds	Issac Walton	Sandstone Ranch
Open Link	No	55-64	Jim Hamm Nature Reserve	McIntosh Lake	Golden Ponds
Open Link	No	55-64	Left hand Greenway	St. Vrain greenway	McIntosh
Open Link	No	55-64	macintosh	jim hamm	st vrain corridor

City of Longmont Open Space Master Plan Survey

Survey	Kids	Age	#1	#2	#3
Open Link	No	55-64	sandstone	McCintosh	McCall
Open Link	No	55-64	Sandstone	Saint Vrain Greenway	Roger's Grove
Open Link	No	55-64	st vrain greenway	st vrain state park	union reservoir
Open Link	No	55-64	walking along St. Vrain Greenway	Golden Ponds	Lefthand west of Hover
Open Link	No	65-74	Blue Skies	Peschel	Golden Ponds/Rogers Grove
Open Link	No	65-74	Golden Ponds	Lake McIntosh	Sandstone Ranch
Open Link	No	65-74	Golden Ponds Nature Area	Sandstone Ranch Nature Area	Rogers Grove Nature Area and Open Space
Open Link	No	65-74	lake mcintosh	union reservoir	sandstone ranch
Open Link	No	65-74	McIntosh Lake	Golden Ponds	St. Vrain Greenway/Lefthand Greenway
Open Link		65-74	Rogers Grove	Golden Ponds	Union Reservoir
Open Link			Union	McIntosh	Sandstone

In which activities do you typically participate in open space properties in and around Longmont? (other)

Survey	Activities in Open Space (other)
Invite	birding
Invite	Birding
Invite	Drawing, writing
Invite	Earth Based Worship
Invite	Fishing with kids
Invite	Forest Management
Invite	kayaking
Invite	kayaking
Invite	Kayaking
Invite	Kayaking, Paddle Boarding
Invite	Library
Invite	Paddle Boarding
Invite	Paddleboard
Invite	Paddleboarding
Invite	painting
Invite	parks for kids
Invite	Pick up trash
Invite	Playground
Invite	skateboarding
Invite	swimmin/playing in creek
Invite	young children

Survey	Activities in Open Space (other)
Open Link	Paddle board
Open Link	paddleboard, rollerblade
Open Link	throwing rocks in the river and exploring the woods
Open Link	Worrying about the invasion of fracking development because City of Longmont is not protecting the peoples' right to a clean, healthy and safe environment

What are the most important aspects that, if addressed by the City, would increase your appreciation of Longmont Nature Areas and Open Spaces? (other)

Survey	What Would Increase Appreciation of Open Space (other)
Invite	Better connections
Invite	bike path connections away from automobile traffic
Invite	Buffer between here and Boulder; continued repair of area damaged by flood
Invite	City is doing well
Invite	connect bike paths from CR1 to St. Vrain Greenway
Invite	connecting trails
Invite	Do not allow overnight camping.
Invite	dog poop composting
Invite	Fly drone
Invite	How wide trail is
Invite	Hunting, kayaking
Invite	I think we have done a good job
Invite	Less homelessness
Invite	less lighting
Invite	Linking of trail systems
Invite	More bathrooms
Invite	more bathrooms open year-round
Invite	more connected trails
Invite	More dog parks
Invite	More garbage cans for dog waste
Invite	More mature trees for shade on trails
Invite	More mountain biking trails
Invite	More raw nature, less paths
Invite	More running areas
Invite	more trails are wonderful
Invite	More trails, bike park
Invite	more trash cans for dog waste
Invite	no GMOs on open space
Invite	Paths to the mountains
Invite	Please stop building residential areas with no aesthetic values.
Invite	Reduction of artificial light to better facilitate star gazing
Invite	Trails that easily connect to each other

Survey	What Would Increase Appreciation of Open Space (other)
Invite	We never know enough!
Open Link	Better off street bike access
Open Link	I purposely avoid Union Res and St Vrain State park due to fees
Open Link	No destructive development activities such as fracking

Please provide any additional comments you would like to share with us regarding open space in the City of Longmont.

Survey	Kids	Age	Additional Comments
Invite	Yes	Under 25	#1 thing city should do is have better condition and maintenance of properties!!!
Invite	Yes	25-34	I'd love to see greater promotion of the cycling path around Longmont. It's only the city's bike map, but that's all I've seen as far as promotion of it. Also, better trail connection to Lyons!
Invite	Yes	25-34	More dog parks, please as well as outdoor recreation
Invite	Yes	25-34	More soft surface or natural surface trails
Invite	Yes	25-34	Would love to see more nature education opportunities for my child (2.5 yrs old)
Invite	Yes	35-44	I didn't realize they could frack on open space. I would like increased efforts to prevent fracking on open spaces I'm helping pay for.
Invite	Yes	35-44	I would like more mountain biking trails
Invite	Yes	35-44	I would love to see a youth waterfowl hunting program established on some the OS land along the eastern edge of the city.
Invite	Yes	35-44	I'd love to see a trail connecting Lake McIntosh to 'downtown' Hygiene. That would be a great way for families living in the Lake Shore neighborhoods to get to school by walking/biking, as well as support those businesses and farms. Weld County properties could be a priority for acquisition since they probably don't have an Open Space program. A city the size of Longmont deserves more resources for an Open Space program.
Invite	Yes	35-44	More bike trails. There's no good way to take my family with kids downtown from Southmore Park that I know of.
Invite	Yes	35-44	My family moved to Longmont because of the amount of open space, but with the increase in high density development on the west side of the town, it is really feeling encroached and minimal. (Not enough protection for wildlife and natural processes.
Invite	Yes	35-44	Open space should be a #1 priority to acquire before it's all taken by developers. The view and access to nature are what make Longmont Longmont!
Invite	Yes	35-44	The largest issue we see is the lack of connection between trails systems or connections that were impacted by the flood not being restored.
Invite	Yes	35-44	The St Vrain Greenway is overrun by vagrants. I would NOT let kids run ahead of me while on a hike.

City of Longmont Open Space Master Plan Survey

Survey	Kids	Age	Additional Comments
Invite	Yes	35-44	We need more trails for mountain biking to help avoid user conflict with assive users and increase recreation opportunites and revenue
Invite	Yes	35-44	While disappearing agricultural land is natural during population expansion and urban sprawl, it can be managed and limited. While marginal land may be better used, not all is marginal. It is nice to see fields and crop lands mixed in with development versus just all townhome, condos, or housing communities. Riparian areas are huge to control floods, maintain nutrient input, maintain water quality, provide habitat for fish, etc. Not to mention they look nice while riding a bike or walking through. With increased urban sprawl it will be necessary to identify key open space areas to allow for local wildlife to still thrive. Connecting these open spaces should be considered as well versus just having lot's of isolated small open space areas. While there are no deer directly in longmont (maybe there would be if proper corridors to front range established?), i'm sure prarie dogs, fox, coyotes, and other wildlife would benefit from connections versus being pancaked on the road. Connections also allow for enjoyment as a whole, 'The tour of Longmont' on a bike. Stop by some breweries, fish, eat, watch nature and enjoy the scenery with out being on the road! Thus connecting and developing, while protecting wildlife, lands, and natural resources will also increase economic standing. Mainly by local access and people using them to get to places they enjoy. E.g. fishing license fees, gardening clinics, nature walks, getting to breweries and restaurants on bike, and getting to shopping. Increased development and population growth will continue to place stress on wildlife and natural areas. We don't have to just let development run rampid, it can be planned and controlled to mitigate impacts while allowing for growth. If agricultural lands and green belts and wildlife habitat aren't preserved and expanded with development then it is my belief that Longmont will loose it's current charm. Where it is a city, but has access to the above within minutes of a bike or car drive. This mix will allow for opportunities for future generations to be more open minded and educated versus just being a city person or a country person. I like Longmont, why I chose to live here, I will be keeping a close eye on things over the next 5-10 years and hopefully my connection with the city will grow stronger.
Invite	Yes	35-44	Will there be a new rec center by this open space opportunity?
Invite	Yes	45-54	Bike corridors that seperate cars and bikes are great. I always thought my kids were gong to get run over.
Invite	Yes	45-54	Clean up the open space access. Too many homeless amps as well as drug addicts and thier trash, bottles, and needles make the greenways and open space not safe!
Invite	Yes	45-54	I think Longmont is doing a great job with our open spaces. Thank you!
Invite	Yes	45-54	I would like to see the City acquire as many open space properties as possible so that the lands are owned by the public and not private developers. Public lands are for everyone and they help build a strong sense of community.

City of Longmont Open Space Master Plan Survey

Survey	Kids	Age	Additional Comments
Invite	Yes	45-54	In conjunction with county build St Vrain Trail to Lyons. Longmont's part can be acquiring property west of Golden Ponds towards Pella Crossing.
Invite	Yes	45-54	It's taking too long for trails and bridges damaged by the flood to get fixed. The Sand Ranch trail has been closed for way too long. It's time to open it
Invite	Yes	45-54	Open space, recreation, communication
Invite	Yes	45-54	Repair existing trails and riverbeds affected by 2013 flood. We noticed homeless people camping under Sunset Street and Ken Pratt Blvd overpasses last year
Invite	Yes	45-54	The open space and greenways need to be cleaned up. Way too many homeless camping on the properties. There are also junkies w/ their needles, bottles, and other trash left lying about. this is a huge safety concern and needs to be addressed immediately before we spend more tax dollars on additional purchases of open space.
Invite	Yes	45-54	There is an opportunity and deficit of open space on the west side of town. Acquisition of open space west of Airport Road in A1/A2 quadrants would match the growth in this area and protect our open space for the future.
Invite	Yes	45-54	There needs to be better vigilance and enforcement of permanent camping along the St. Vrain greenway. I have seen a huge increase over the past few years. Last summer I saw (and reported) 8-10 permanent campsites where people lived through out the summer months. They built structures, made elaborate shelters with tarps and tents, built fires, altered the landscape for access and created a lot of waste in both garbage and abandoned gear. I have hauled out large contractor bags full of garbage, rotting food, soiled clothing, pillows and blankets as well as needles and other drug paraphernalia. These campsites kept wildlife out of the areas. I was even confronted once by someone in a campsite for 'trespassing' near his tent.
Invite	Yes	45-54	There was recent talk of development of the Rider OS. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN!!! That open area is much needed in a dense neighborhood like that, and we do not need nor want additional housing or otherwise constructed in that area. Too much housing high density housing is being constructed around Longmont, I would be all for purchasing more land for the sole purpose of preventing further development and developing into recreational areas instead. Would like to see stepped up enforcement of camping bans along the St Vrain Greenway.
Invite	Yes	45-54	We are lucky to have some nice open space. It's important to make that a priority vs. developing. Open Space is paid for by everyone so should be accessible to all (fewer regulations).
Invite	Yes	55-64	Don't let fracking take our open space...family, friends, and neighbors are terrified this will take away our open space, downgrade our property values, and create unsafe environment that devastates our community and compromises our safety of property and personal safety.

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Survey	Kids	Age	Additional Comments
Invite	Yes	55-64	Some of this money needed to maintain residential streets where there's high traffic - fill in and fix broken sidewalks and holes that cause parking danger.
Invite	Yes	55-64	Thanks for rebuilding the St. Vrain Greenway.
Invite	Yes	55-64	The banning of GMO on city owned Ag land is very important to us! Especially to kids! Please become a bee-friendly city and ban pesticide use in open space!
Invite	Yes	55-64	Would like to see more connectivity of trails so no use of a road is required, underpass on 119 would be nice.
Invite	Yes	55-64	Would love to see less aggressive growth and more focus on preserving the true beauty of Longmont....including the air space!
Invite	Yes		I really enjoy the opportunities that Longmont provides regarding outdoor activities. My only hope is that more open space is acquired on the West side of town.
Invite	No	Under 25	Bathrooms be open more during the year
Invite	No	Under 25	Overall, parks and nature areas are wonderful
Invite	No	Under 25	The development of land along rivers is both dangerous and distractive. Natural habitat is being altered drastically. We need less people, and more camping spots. Union is the only real local place we have. Keep it open.
Invite	No	25-34	Buy the rest of the ponds in Golden Ponds, monitor for pulling out underdeveloped fish.
Invite	No	25-34	I think there's enough parking but wondering if it's monitored with cameras for safety purposes? Also, more lighting would be nice, but only if noninvasive and dim to blend in with the environment.
Invite	No	25-34	I visit the Button Rock Preserve property and am blown away that only one individual is being tasked with the management and enforcement duties for the property. Every time I go up there he is picking up dog poop. For such an amazing property, with such a significant value to our ecosystem services and water supply, it is a shame that the City under staffs it. The Ranger needs more resources at his disposal, and the City needs to start focusing on the management and maintenance of properties forests and water resources.
Invite	No	25-34	It would be nice to see the St. Vrain Greenway continue west from Airport Rd.
Invite	No	25-34	So far so good!
Invite	No	25-34	Very nice job!
Invite	No	25-34	While not part of the map, I do use boulder county open space almost every weekday (at Lagerman preserve) and I do appreciate the that city/community paths connect right to it. Some of these questions were difficult to answer because I needed to consider that places are still being worked because of the flood and that did influence some of my answers. The open space in Longmont is incredibly valuable to me as a resident, and overall I enjoy the effort and progress that is being made in open space areas every year.

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Survey	Kids	Age	Additional Comments
Invite	No	35-44	As an avid fisherman and outdoor enthusiast, it's troubling that I often see drug use and obvious sales of drugs happening when I visit the open spaces around Longmont. I often don't feel safe at our open spaces due to the illicit activities I regularly see at them and the lack of law enforcement presence.
Invite	No	35-44	Before the flood we were behind a lot of Front Range cities in openspace, now we are farther behind. Every city has a bike park or some mountain bike trails, even Erie, but not us.
Invite	No	35-44	I don't feel there was enough information provided to accurately respond to questions 10 and 11. Any lighting in use should be dark sky compliant. Light pollution disrupts wildlife!
Invite	No	35-44	Please don't sell it all off to megarich developers. Thanks!
Invite	No	35-44	The greenways we have are a great start but I am continually frustrated with them abruptly ending and flushing you onto a road. It would be great if there was a network of trails that connect with one another. Also, can someone please build a shoulder or sidewalk on county line road between 119 and quicksilver. I bike on county line road to get to the greenway and feel like I am going to get hit by a car any day now. Thanks.
Invite	No	35-44	The growth of Longmont has been getting worrison. It shouldn't take 15 min to go 3 miles - I feel open spaces here are in a similar path to being overcrowded and underserved by communities.
Invite	No	45-54	I do wish the city would take more responsibility in preventing fires
Invite	No	45-54	Longmont does a great job maintaining Open Space. As the Front Range continues to grow, please preserve, protect, and grow Open Space and farms as development increased. It's so beautiful here, once developed, it's gone.
Invite	No	45-54	Looking at the map, the west side areas have less outdoor opportunities that are city owned and maintained than the east
Invite	No	45-54	More restrooms at Lake McIntosh
Invite	No	45-54	Mow and maintain the greenways, clean debris from the ditches when the water is low and they are easier to clear
Invite	No	45-54	none at this time
Invite	No	45-54	Please fix Sandstone Ranch.
Invite	No	45-54	Some open space is good; we passed that 5 years ago and have created a monster that needs to be fed!! County and city should sell some of the land and should be responsible in how much they pay for open space
Invite	No	45-54	Thanks for seeking input on this!
Invite	No	45-54	Thanks for your hard work!
Invite	No	45-54	The most valuable development would be to extend the St Vrain Greenway west to Lyons.
Invite	No	55-64	All housing should have green space for families to go outside on foot or by bicycles. This is a development issue.
Invite	No	55-64	Alta Park was e-vamped a couple of years ago with covered area and park benches, but no update of swings, slides, nothing for children
Invite	No	55-64	Do not sell open space for development, please.

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Survey	Kids	Age	Additional Comments
Invite	No	55-64	Don't really use any of it! But would really like to see the scenic views kept!
Invite	No	55-64	I believe Longmont does a great job with open space but more enforcement of current codes is required. TOO MANY dogs off leash.
Invite	No	55-64	I continue to find living in Longmont rewarding in terms of nature and wild life environments. However, I have come to believe that Boulder county does not mix well with water (September 2013). Presently, our winter season has produced very little water for the county and I fear of a severe dry season about to begin. Therefore, it does appear we are heading into an unpleasant warm season for lack of water. Of course, I pray that mother nature can always repair itself in ways that governments can not foresee thus I remain opposed to the Windy Gap Project.
Invite	No	55-64	I do not think there is many, if any other, cities that do as much for all of us in open space activities. I am proud of Longmont, that's why I have lived here 48 years.
Invite	No	55-64	I have stopped going to open space because of the lack of respect of others using the trails. Bikes go zooming by without warning, scaring my dog. The same is true for many runners who just cut too close without warning. In addition, there are dogs off leash. I do enjoy nature and would like to use the trails more. I opt to go further away from my home to county lands where there are fewer people that are better behaved.
Invite	No	55-64	I love walking around McIntosh Lake
Invite	No	55-64	I prefer open space, but when I see some land being bruised by heavy machinery (earth moving equipment) gives me a bad feeling about over crowded population growth
Invite	No	55-64	I would like to ride my bike and Ebike on more and longer paths away from automobiles. I am enjoying the wonderful paths we already have.
Invite	No	55-64	I'm very grateful that we have a commitment to Open Space. It's important to me that it not be LANDSCAPED, but be allowed to be as natural as possible. I'm thinking of St Vrain Greenway near Martin St as it nears completion.
Invite	No	55-64	Keep views of Meeker and Longs Peak visible. Limit housing and commerical building- we're big enough.
Invite	No	55-64	Keeping Longmont moving forwards in the future compatible with Mother Nature!
Invite	No	55-64	Let's follow Boulder's lead - Open Space is what makes this a great place to live.
Invite	No	55-64	Longmont's Union Lake could use more attention. Golden Ponds and McIntosh are so great.
Invite	No	55-64	Make what we already have better. Don't buy something I can't walk on or use.
Invite	No	55-64	Not sure how to accomplish this- but more trails off the St Vrain trail that is off road and goes north/south. Please complete damage from flood at Golden Ponds and trail near Izaak Walton.
Invite	No	55-64	Nothing to comment on at this time.

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Survey	Kids	Age	Additional Comments
Invite	No	55-64	Overall I feel the City of Longmont is doing a very good job. I'm proud to make Longmont my home.
Invite	No	55-64	Please acquire as much space as you can as a means to combat fracking
Invite	No	55-64	Please keep wildlife, trees, plants along St. Vrain River.
Invite	No	55-64	The city has done a good job with planning and developing recreational areas. Continuing with that process should benefit the city immensely.
Invite	No	55-64	The priority I would have that is not listed is repair of area wiped out by flood- I know this is ongoing
Invite	No	55-64	The trail around the north, west, and southwest sides of McIntosh Lake (including the dam) need to be crowned, more gravelled, and have better drainage to be less muddy when it rains and snows. Thanks.
Invite	No	55-64	There are many more OS areas than I realized- would like to know if some are accesible. Will check out city website but some social media info would be good.
Invite	No	55-64	Use tax dollars to maintain and improve the properties currently owned. There are public needs more important than new acquisition (roads!).
Invite	No	55-64	We have a good amount of open space. It is maintained really poorly.
Invite	No	55-64	We need enforcement prescence in all open space, less cement (passive solar), simple road base paths that were the functional standard for decades. Ordinance and laws are worthless without enforcements.
Invite	No	65-74	Acquire more open space and maintain it well
Invite	No	65-74	All dogs should be required to wear diapers.
Invite	No	65-74	Available parking locations should be indicated on the open space maps, such as in this flyer and newspaper
Invite	No	65-74	Boating, skiing, fishing, water sports- not shut these activities off everytime the City buys something. It's like Boulder, CO open wpace where only 10-20% paying people use it.
Invite	No	65-74	Do not sell Ryder Property on County Line to a developer.
Invite	No	65-74	Drastically need lighting at Izaak Walton Park. VERY dark by building in evening where classes being held. In winter months you can barely see to walk from building to parking lot. If icy, it's a major falling hazard. I've called Rec Dept but nothing done.
Invite	No	65-74	Encircle Union Reservoir with open space and trail buffer eastern sprawl
Invite	No	65-74	finish trails damaged by Fall 2013 storm
Invite	No	65-74	Grow we must, but do it with thought and care for the land, water, and environment. Let's preserve our western view and try to keep traffic congestion to a minimum.
Invite	No	65-74	Having lived here for 30+ years, I've seen the rapid growth of Longmont and fear what additional growth will do to our beautiful community. Therefore I think it's critical that we preserve and protect as much open space as possible.
Invite	No	65-74	I fear that Longmont is rapidly becoming another Boulder. Town needs to curtail new development immediately and focus on preserving what little open space still exist in town. Open space acquisition should have trails

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Survey	Kids	Age	Additional Comments
			that people can walk, run and ride on. Should not be posted as park property the general public cannot enter, which is what Boulder does.
Invite	No	65-74	If possible, increase open space, not additional parking for existing property.
Invite	No	65-74	If you are going to sell or trade open space areas, i want a refund of my tax dollars. Do not assume you can build apartments on it or sell it.
Invite	No	65-74	Keep up the good work. Give us more!
Invite	No	65-74	Maintain and open the restrooms in the parks and trails all year
Invite	No	65-74	More dog parks - if this applies - and more enforcement of dog park rules/regulations.
Invite	No	65-74	My health keeps me from enjoying the outdoors, if it is cold, hot, windy, etc., I can't breathe, even when wearing oxygen.
Invite	No	65-74	Open space enjoyment is dramatically reduced by homeless camping, trash, and drug use
Invite	No	65-74	Open space is crucial to a healthy, well-balanced city. Thank you city of Longmont!
Invite	No	65-74	Overall, we think Longmont is fortunate to have such wonderful open space and opportunities to explore nature.
Invite	No	65-74	Preservation of the land is like Thoreau, extremely important
Invite	No	65-74	The mowing at Rough and Ready trail should cut closer to the canal, mowing down more of the tall and unsightly weeds
Invite	No	65-74	The open space makes Longmont an exceptional place that provides a high quality of life. Acquiring more open space within the city would ensure that.
Invite	No	65-74	The trail around the St Vrain side of the first pond hasn't been repaired since the flood. It really should be restored. I walk almost daily at Golden Ponds.
Invite	No	65-74	Union Reservoir is a jewel but needs to be cleaned up- plant grass, plant trees, etc.
Invite	No	65-74	We have too much open space now. This is not Boulder!
Invite	No	65-74	We value every bit of open space there is and don't know how much control the city has over creating more bird and other wildlife habitat - please try to stop oil and gas production on open space near Quail (rec center). Love the new trails at Lagerman - perhaps those are County.
Invite	No	65-74	With the development going on in Longmont, I don't know if there will be any open space left to purchase!
Invite	No	75+	1) Open Space areas need more trees for shade to make walking more pleasurable. 2) Benches or other seating
Invite	No	75+	Get out of open space. Develop parks.
Invite	No	75+	I agree that dogs should be kept from nature areas!
Invite	No	75+	I am 83 years old and have Parkinson's Disease. I use a walker but still drive around town.
Invite	No	75+	I wish for Longmont development to be constrained rather than sprawling incursion into open space

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Survey	Kids	Age	Additional Comments
Invite	No	75+	Keep the river frontages for nature, wildlife and walking trails, not for economic development or commercial recreation
Invite	No	75+	Keep up the great work! We never know enough!
Invite	No	75+	Longmont has already bought way too much open land. Takes land off tax roles and we have to pay the shortfall. Longmont always want more money. No only do you take tax revenue off the tax roles then you ask form more money to purchase more open land. This is a circle, when does it stop? We are way past the stopping point.
Invite	No	75+	Maintain the canale long CR1- it's full of gargage! Who would want to enjoy Union Reservoir knowing it's full of garbage?
Invite	No	75+	More fishing areas; less restrictive fishing areas
Invite	No	75+	No fracking near Union Reservoir. Actually, a total ban on fracking.
Invite	No	75+	Please keep the dogs for running in the open space; keep a place for dogs along away from the general public. Thanks.
Invite	No	75+	prohibit dogs and horses
Invite	No	75+	Put info on city website, but remind us to look at it and other media (social media, Times Call, radio, etc.)
Invite	No	75+	Thanks for past and present FORESIGHT!
Invite	No	75+	There are probably more important ways to spend our money. How about affordable housing? People already can't afford to live here.
Invite		45-54	An east-west off-road bike path would be appreciated.
Invite		55-64	Stop development, leave open land, homes/farms with acreage. Do not develop and don't make more houses. Slow the growth.
Invite		75+	In my opinion, all of you are doing a great job for natural resources
Invite		75+	There has been talk by the City, they would consider selling a parcel purchased with Open Space funds ot be developed as low-income housing. That should never be considered.
Invite			Golden Ponds and Rogers Grove need a few more benches; Golden Pond needs the loop re-opened (where the pig farm was). No open space should have spaces that are 'hiddenfrom view for safety/security reasons. It's always nice to see a City of Longmont vehicle
Invite			I am age 93 and thankful for our good water and natural beauty and my nice apt on Main St 3rd fl with a wonderful sky and mountain view! I do think our nice parks are valuable and any wholesome areas for children and families.
Invite			If Longmont puts open space tax increase on ballot, please don't do it in conjunction with another increase from BoCo. There's only so much in taxes I can pay for open space and BoCo is not as considerate towards Longmont as other parts of the county closer to the City of Boulder.
Invite			Love our open space!
Open Link	Yes	35-44	Safe connectivity to the open spaces from 9th Ave and Pace to encourage less driving to get to spaces. Several open spaces are close by but difficult to access safely (away from increasing motor vehicle traffic) with small children and pets aside from driving to destination.

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Survey	Kids	Age	Additional Comments
Open Link	Yes	35-44	The greenway trails and open space areas in Longmont are great quality of life feature for the city. Increasing open space areas and improved access are definitely needed as Longmont continues to grow and I feel will be greatly appreciated by future residents of the city much like Boulder's OSMP are. Living in the SW side of Longmont, one improvement would be improving non-motorized access from the Dry Creek Greenway to St Vrain Greenway and Left Hand Creek Greenway.
Open Link	Yes	45-54	Buffer zones and undeveloped riparian corridors are top of our list. Thank you for aggressively pursuing strategies for funding / acquiring / protecting these. We are behind you!
Open Link	Yes	45-54	We need to keep fracking and other mining out of our open space.
Open Link	Yes	65-74	Please do not allow development to adversely effect wildlife, views and our water. I am really concerned about pollution of water in the Union Reservoir due to fracking that is scheduled. We would love to see a safe way to cross over 119 on a bike from County Line Road. Would be so nice to enter those bike trails on the other side of 119 and Sandstone safely. Also when you look at our income we are retired...might be a question or slot to add to your survey. We also feel all the open space sites we have visited at very well maintained! Thanks
Open Link	No	25-34	Dogs being leashed is extremely important to me if the area isn't specifically off leash.
Open Link	No	25-34	I'm specifically concerned about the preservation and quality of life of the prairie dogs that live in the open space areas such as the Longmont Sugar Mill area near my home. There is a wildlife chain that is supported by the preservation of these innocent animals that I personally witness every day as I drive by on Ken Pratt. I see hawks, eagles, and many other predatory animals who's way of life is directly affected by the care and preservation of these open spaces that are home to prairie dogs all over Colorado. This affects our environment which affects us and if that is not enough to pay attention to this important issue of preserving these open spaces alongside the prairie dogs that have lived on them forever, maybe it'll be enough to know that as a Longmont resident living on Fox Hill I will be standing up for this at any Longmont council meeting I can attend while teaming up with a group of people who are also for this cause. Thank you for your time and support.
Open Link	No	25-34	More protected biking and walking trails between all of the natural areas and boulder county open spaces. Work to open more of the boulder county properties to passive rec. Also, include the budget in the questions about budget.
Open Link	No	35-44	I'd love to see a decently sized dog park within the left hand creek greenway and pike road area. Currently dog parks are mostly focused in the more northern parts of town.
Open Link	No	35-44	In 2012, a master contract and operator's agreement between the city and Cub Creek Energy's partner firm TOP Operating Company established guidelines for oil and gas operations on city-owned property near the reservoir. Cub Creek anticipates well pad construction near the reservoir

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Survey	Kids	Age	Additional Comments
			to start in mid-2018, according to documents submitted to the city. I am appalled that the City of Longmont has agreed to allow fracking in the area of open space lands and a popular recreation site. This shows that the City of Longmont does not care about health, safety and protecting our environment. Regardless of state law, I am very disappointed that the City of Longmont itself does not respect the voters' decision to ban fracking in Longmont. SHAME ON YOU!
Open Link	No	35-44	It would be really great to add a dog park around the left hand creek greenway and pike road area. It would be nice to have one in the neighborhood and not have to drive to get to one.
Open Link	No	45-54	I travel to Boulder 20 times for every one time I use Longmont open space so that I can be in the mountains, gaining elevation, not looking at them from 25 miles away. Is there anywhere in Longmont where hiking trails can have some elevation, or be against the foothills, or at least closer to them? Also, I don't consider Union Res or St Vrain State park 'open space', as they require admission fees, and there's enough other places to go without having to pay. I already pay taxes for open space.
Open Link	No	45-54	I've lived in Boulder County since 1976. I am horrified that our government leaders are allowing our open space to be fracked. This is my number 1 concern right now and I support all resources necessary to protect our land/ecosystem. PLEASE stand up and say no to these unjust laws that tell us we can't make our own decisions. Open space and environmental protection are among my very top values living in Longmont. To spend the money we have, for all these years, on open space, only to have a heavy polluting industry come in and inject the land with toxic chemicals, release methane and benzene among others into the air, contaminate ground water, compromise/destroy wildlife habitat, not to mention be a huge eye and ear sore on these lands, is absolutely criminal. I'm an everyday plain Jane, not an activist... but I'm about to become one. And so are many many people I talk to about this. Join with We The People who voted against this catastrophe and help us fight to change these totally outdated and irrelevant laws. Please. Thanks for listening. Best, Jen
Open Link	No	45-54	Our household would like to see a priority placed on protect prairie dog habitat as that is support of many other wildlife species that depend on prairie dog colonies for both habitat and food. We are loosing this species too quickly to development and we will loose raptors and other species that are more valued. Prairie dogs are a native, keystone species that is being destroyed due to our lust for land and human-centric land uses. Wildlife is a dwindling natural capital and should be appreciated for its intrinsic value. If the City of Longmont does not up its investment in healthy prairie dog colonies the wide spread collapse of wild life in our community will follow. This is a fact shared with me by city employees. We are teetering on massive collapse of wildlife in our area due to negligent strategies for enhancing wild places and buffers to allow species to have adequate space to live long into the future.

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Survey	Kids	Age	Additional Comments
Open Link	No	45-54	Please don't lump agriculture land in with wildlife/open space land. AG land is NOT open space for wildlife or people. It is AG land. We have too much AG land now and not enough protected wildlands actually for wildlife not people.
Open Link	No	55-64	1. Please do not allow any more 'Art in Public Places' in the city's greenways and natural area. Natural areas are for preservation of nature, not as a canvas to destroy the natural environment. 2. Install and complete a trail system to Lyons and St. Vrain State Park.
Open Link	No	55-64	1. Language in OS ordinance needs to include and emphasize preservation of wildlife and habitat; specifically including language protecting wildlife corridors. 2. Language in OS ordinance strengthening importance of maintaining & protecting our 150 foot Riparian setback from encroaching development 3. More education/interpretive signage along trails informing public/users about rich heritage & wildlife (i.e. prairie dogs & agriculture at McIntosh)
Open Link	No	55-64	Absolutely NO FRACKING ON ANY OF OUR OPEN SPACE PROPERTIES! This is a public trust where we've paid our hard earned dollars to purchase this land. It is not an allowable use of the land.
Open Link	No	55-64	Acquire land to protect and improve water quality and quantity.
Open Link	No	55-64	Although we have lived in Longmont only a short while, we've long admired and enjoyed the overall livability of Longmont and are happy to call it our home now. Open space provides huge benefits for quality of life issues and are essential to the environment. We're very fortunate to live here.
Open Link	No	55-64	Balance is an important factor with such significant growth
Open Link	No	55-64	I think that several of your questions are subject to multiple interpretations. For example: 'preserving economic benefits' could be anything from strip mining to the enhanced property values of living in a community that values wild areas. And 'views and view corridors could be from public or private properties.
Open Link	No	55-64	Limit development and lighting in open space. no access for humans from sunset to sunrise
Open Link	No	55-64	Please preserve wildlife and their habitats including the local prairie do populations. Thank you.
Open Link	No	55-64	You need to divide agricultural lands from wildlife areas in your questions. Agricultural land is not important to me
Open Link	No	65-74	First priority should be repairs from flood to areas 12, 13, 14 & 15. As a heart patient that uses an e-bike for exercise, modify regulations to allow use of e-bikes on trails with set speed limits for ALL bicycles, conventional and e-bikes. Many conventional bike riders are going way too fast causing far more of a hazard that elderly folks on e-bikes.
Open Link	No	65-74	I think the city is doing an OK job by can be improved.I would like to see more open area than affordable housing.
Open Link	No	65-74	I walk from Izzak Walton west to the Hover overpass because it is scenic and pleasant. Walking east from Issak Walton is very dreary because the greenway goes through an industrial area which is unpleasant to walk

City of Longmont Open Space Master Plan Survey

Survey	Kids	Age	Additional Comments
			through. I certainly would not want to see any commercial development along the St Vrain. Having clear areas to walk speaks to the soul. Industrial areas certainly do not.
Open Link	No	65-74	use of unpaved trail material versus concrete
Open Link	No	65-74	We need to be preserving expanses of native grasslands. These areas should never be mowed during bird nesting times and then, mowed only for the purpose of maintaining it as grassland. We need better education of what it means to be part of a prairie.
Open Link	No	65-74	We should leave most areas to grow wild for pollinators, wildlife, and soil regeneration. No use of toxic herbicides or pesticides on any city or open space land. Ban GMO crops. Prevent oil and gas fracking or drilling as much as possible by buying mineral rights under open space, fighting Oil & Gas industries, and having the strongest regulations possible. Surround us with protected natural habitats and provide them within the city as well.
Open Link	No	65-74	Wildlife and passive activities are most vital. Do NOT increase mountain bike use. Open space should be peaceful and quiet for personal renewal. Also, please enforce dog poop pickup. I am tired of seeing dog poop everywhere.
Open Link	No	75+	More actual wild area preserved are important to me, less focus on agricultural lands. Preserve prairie dog habitat!
Open Link		65-74	Spend open space funds only on projects that comply with the open space criteria that voters approved. Do not spend open space funds on urban arterial landscaping, as was done with the Martin Street Extension. Wildlife surveys should be done to get baseline information at wildlife habitat areas in Longmont, such as the St. Vrain Creek corridor and Union Reservoir. The city should do an open space acquisition in Boulder County for the purpose of using the open space property as a prairie dog relocation receiving site. The City should acquire wildlife habitat adjacent to the 150 foot riparian conservation buffer as open space or as a land dedication in an annexation agreement. The purpose of doing this is to protect important wildlife habitat, including prairie dog habitat, located outside the 150 foot buffer but contiguous with habitat within the buffer zone. Bald Eagles and other raptors nesting or perching in trees on the St. Vrain Creek corridor and other streams are negatively impacted when nearby prairie dog colonies on private land are poisoned. Preservation of prairie dog habitat near riparian areas should be a city priority. Prohibit the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and GMOs on agricultural open space. Prohibit lethal control of prairie dogs on open space agricultural land. The prairie dogs should be removed with non-lethal methods. No artificial lighting on greenways, open space trails, or in natural areas. Find a way to keep oil and gas development out of Union Reservoir, open space properties and natural areas.
	No	45-54	There is way too much emphasis on purchasing additional ag. properties on the east side. Open Space needs to work to open currently owned properties to the public. Specifically, Boulder Creek Estates. Additional

City of Longmont Open Space Master Plan Survey

Survey	Kids	Age	Additional Comments
			acquisitions near Golden Ponds - spent gravel pits west of Hover and connect to St. Vrain Greenway need to be priority. Stop spending huge sums of money on ag property. Finish trail connections from Lyons to St. Vrain St. Park.

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Appendix E: Benchmarking Matrix

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City of Longmont Benchmarking Report

Limits of Comparative Data

Benchmarking is an important tool that allows the comparison of certain attributes of the City of Longmont's management of Open Space with other similar communities and agencies. For this plan, benchmarking data was collected from the following, comparable areas: City of Boulder, City of Broomfield, City of Fort Collins, City of Lafayette, Larimer County, City of Louisville, City of Loveland, and Town of Windsor; determined to be comparable to City of Longmont in some way.

It is difficult to find exact comparable organizations because each has its own unique identity, its own way of conducting business, and differences in what populations it serves. It is important to keep in mind that while many park and recreation organizations serve primarily their own residents, others serve a large proportion of non-residents.

Organizations typically don't break down the expenditures of parks, trails, facilities, and maintenance the same way. They also vary in terms of how they organize their departments and budgets, and field and facility usage varies by agency. It should also be noted that some of the information sent is incomplete. This being said, the benchmarking information presented here should be used as a catalyst for City of Longmont to continue to research best practices for more specific areas when they are needed. Analysis on certain portions of the collected data is provided below.

Overview

The communities were chosen primarily due to the perceived similarities with City of Longmont.

Requested benchmarking data includes:

- Population characteristics
- Department/Program Structure
- Development of Open Space Program/Department
- Sources of tax funding
- Total annual expense budget
- % of total dollars used for Acquisition
- % of total dollars used for management and maintenance
- % of total dollars used for trail development
- Number of Acres
- Miles of Trails
- Percent of Open Space Land Used for Conservation
- Percent of Open Space Land Used for Agriculture
- Percent of Open Space Land Open to the Public/Used for Recreation
- Total Annual Revenues not including tax dollars
- Types of recreation allowed on open space
- Programs offered on Open Space
- Definition of Passive Recreation
- Types of Passive Recreation Activities
- Number of Dedicated Full-Time Employee
- Number of dedicated Part-Time / Seasonal employee hours funded on an Annual Basis

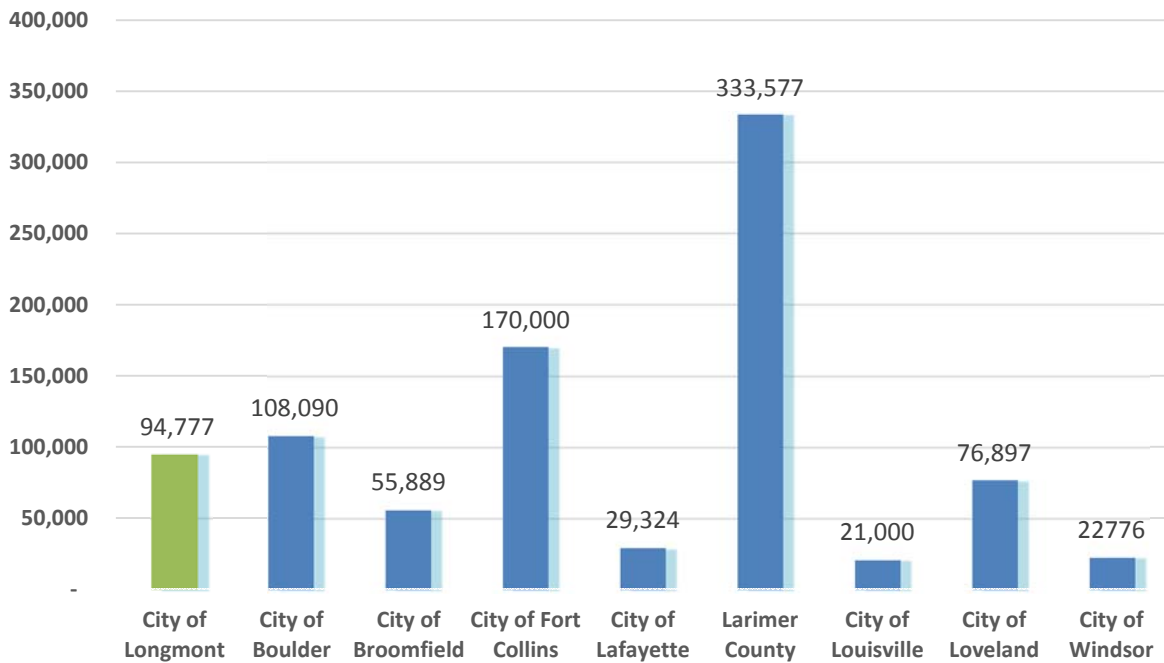
- Status of Ranger Program
- Ranger Authority to Enforce Laws
- Ranger Commissions to Issue Violations

Benchmarking data looks to weigh pertinent data along with comparing against a “per thousand” population calculation in some cases in order to compare “apples to apples” within the various categories. Analysis of selected categories follows:

Population

Out of the nine different areas compared, eight are city municipalities and only one is a county, Larimer. As seen in Figure 1, Larimer County had the highest population at 333,577. Knowing the population of the area helps to better understand their Open Space Program structure, acreage, budget, revenue, and other relevant details.

Figure 1: Population Totals



Structure

Each Open Space Program is structured differently, as indicated in Figure 2. Some municipalities, such as Boulder and Broomfield have its own Open Space Department. The Director of these programs typically report to the City Manager. Cities such as Fort Collins, Lafayette, Louisville, Loveland, and Windsor have Open Space Programs that fall under related departments, such as Parks and Recreation and Community Services. City of Longmont and Larimer County fall under Natural Resources Division, which is part of the Public Works Department.

Figure 2: Department/Program Structure



Funding

The formation of Open Space Programs in these Colorado areas varied from 1967 to 2018. The timeline of Passed Sales Tax Initiatives is shown in Figure 3. However, responses indicate that there were other measures that helped to create Open Space Programs. For instance, City of Boulder unofficially started their program in the early 1900's through small purchases of land in the mountain backdrop, but it wasn't until 1967, when the sales tax was passed, that the program was official. For Collins describes a similar story, with the department starting in 1954 with construction of four large reservoirs that were managed for boating, camping, fishing, and other recreational opportunities. The first open space sales tax was a 6 month tax in 1982 to purchase Horsetooth Mountain. It wasn't until 1995 that another tax measure was passed called the "Help Preserve Open Spaces" sales tax which added funding.

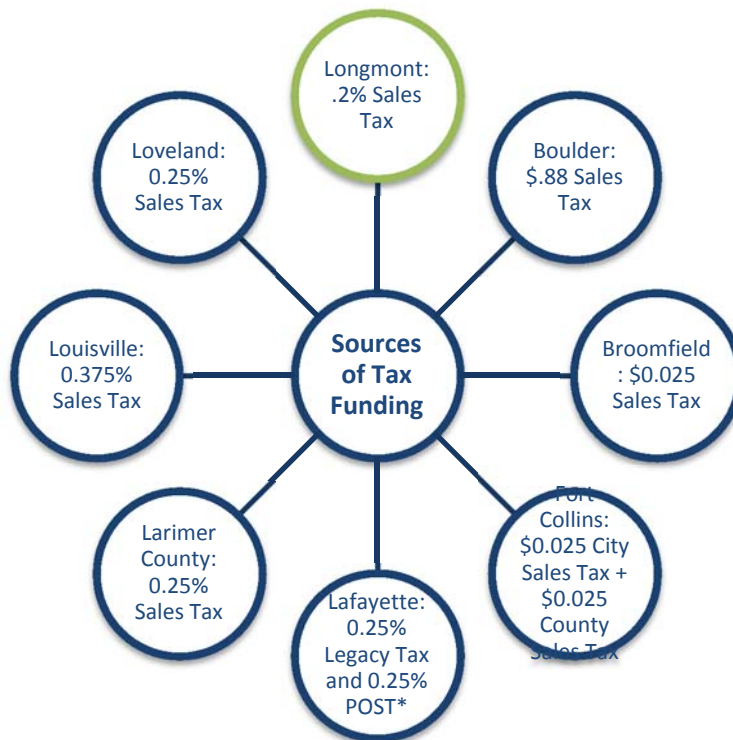
Broomfield was an area that passed the Open Space Sales Tax in 1994, but did not hire their first Open Space Director until 2000. Similarly, Louisville passed an Open Space sales tax in 1994; a citizen advisory board was initiated by City Council in 2000; and the first dedicated employee specifically for Open Space was hired in 2006. Windsor is the most recent area to create their Open Space Program. In 2018, the Open Space and Trails was separated from the Parks Maintenance Operations. The Town Board approved this structure because of the community's desire for more trails.

Figure 3: Open Space Sales Tax Initiative Passed



An overview of tax funding is listed in Figure 4. This is a broad overview, as it is not reasonable to list all types of funding and their history in this section alone. Sales Tax was noted as the most common source of funding for Open Space Programs, with some municipalities had other types of funding. Two-thirds of Fort Collins funding comes from a city sales tax, with one-third from a portion of the County’s \$.025 county sales tax. Windsor has funding through the Larimer County Open Space Tax, Conservation Trust Fund, and the General Fund. Lafayette has a legacy tax for land acquisition and maintenance; with a POST (Parks, Open Space and Trails) which is 0.25% for Open Space maintenance, enhancements, and preservation. Some municipalities have sales tax funding which may vary from year to year. City of Boulder has a tax funding structure that is currently .88 sales tax in 2018, planning to be reduced to .77 in 2019, and reduced again to .62 in 2020.

Figure 4: Sources for Tax Funding



Budget

The total annual expense budget reported is listed in Figure 4 below. The numbers vary greatly; Broomfield had the lowest annual budget, less than \$400,000, while City of Boulder had a budget over \$35,000,000. City of Longmont was slightly below the combined average at just over \$4,000,000. Windsor was not included because the budget was still in development.

Figure 5: Total Annual Expense Budget

Location	Total Annual Expense Budget	Total Annual Revenues not including tax dollars
City of Broomfield	\$373,308	\$1,500
City of Lafayette	\$654,868	\$12,800
City of Louisville	\$3,189,779	N/A
City of Longmont	\$4,056,387	\$55,000
City of Loveland	4,337,734	\$145,582
City of Fort Collins	\$13,000,000	\$500,000
Larimer County	\$17,500,000	\$23,568,000
City of Boulder	\$35,013,389	\$5,696,410

When asked about the allocation of percent total dollars for acquisition, management, maintenance, and trails, answers varied greatly. City of Broomfield noted that the number changes so much from year to year (from about \$122,000 in 2017 to ~\$433,000 in 2018) that the percentages aren't meaningful to compare. Other agencies also echoed this as well; City of Longmont allocated 25 percent of total dollars towards management and maintenance in 2018, but only spent 12.6 percent of the budget towards that category in 2017.

Figure 6: Allocation of Percent Total Dollars

Location	Acquisition	Management & Maintenance	Trail Development
City of Boulder	22%	24%	18%
City of Broomfield	-	-	-
City of Fort Collins	40%	57%	3%
City of Lafayette	50%	50%	7%
Larimer County	76%	24%	-

City of Longmont	-	25%	17%
City of Louisville	-	41%	17%
City of Loveland	69%	21%	10%
Town of Windsor	-	8%	-

Land

The following data in Figure 7 and 8 represent the number of acres and trail miles for each area. Many agencies went onto describe additional details related to trail types of acreage classification; this information can be found in the appendix to this document.

Figure 7: Number of Acres

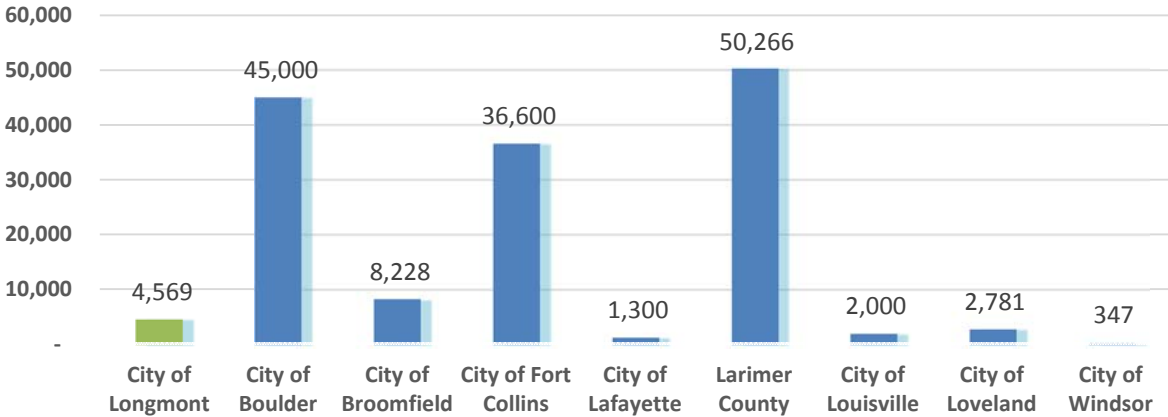
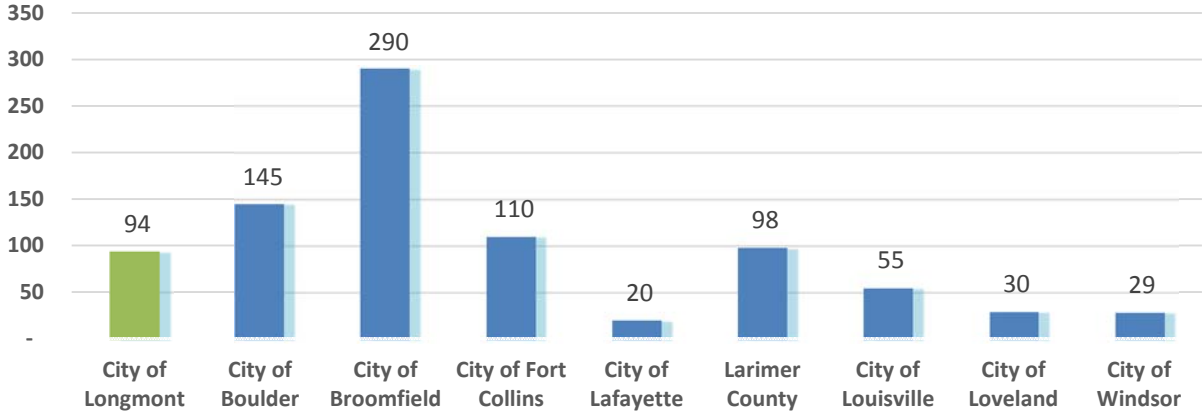


Figure 8: Miles of Trails



Usage

Agencies responded to the question of land usage as seen in Figure 9. Many of these numbers reflect various ways of managing conservation easements and agricultural lands. Some agriculture land was dually managed for public use; conservation easements were generally not open to the public. Not all responses below equal 100 percent, most likely due to different interpretations of the questions.

Figure 9: Open Space Land Use

Location	% of Open Space Land Used for Conservation	% of Open Space Land Used for Agriculture	% of Open Space Land Open to the Public/Recreation
Longmont	29%	29%	40%
Boulder	100%	33%	85%
Broomfield	4.4%	6.7%	92%
Fort Collins	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lafayette	80%*	20%	80%
Larimer County	96%	4%	47%
Louisville	100%	65%	35%
Loveland	40%	32%	28%
Windsor	62%	25%	12%

*Lafayette noted that 80-100% of Open Space Land was for conservation use

Recreation

Figure 10 is a compiled list of Open Space Programs that are offered from the agencies. When asked about the types of recreation allowed on Open Space, passive recreation was mentioned most. Activities such as hiking, biking, fishing, equestrian, climbing, wildlife viewing are all examples of passive recreation. Every agency has a unique definition of passive recreation. A few key phrases that were listed by agencies are as follows (a full list can be found in the appendix).

“Non-motorized outdoor recreation that: requires minimal development on the recreational site; Provides educational, health and well-being, restorative, and

pleasurable opportunities to the public; Preserves wildlife and the natural ecosystem of the area” (Loveland)

“We use the words: Appropriate and Compatible – we do not have a definition” (Fort Collins)

“Recreational activities that leave a minimal impact on the environment” (Lafayette)

“Open Space areas are parcels intentionally protected from development and set aside for unstructured recreation and the appreciation of natural surroundings. They may contain trailheads and trails, fishing facilities, wildlife viewing, aresa, and other facilities that support uses compatible with site resources and conditions. Please see the attached matrix that shows in more detail allowed and potential uses depending on the site from our OS and T Master Plan.” (Broomfield)

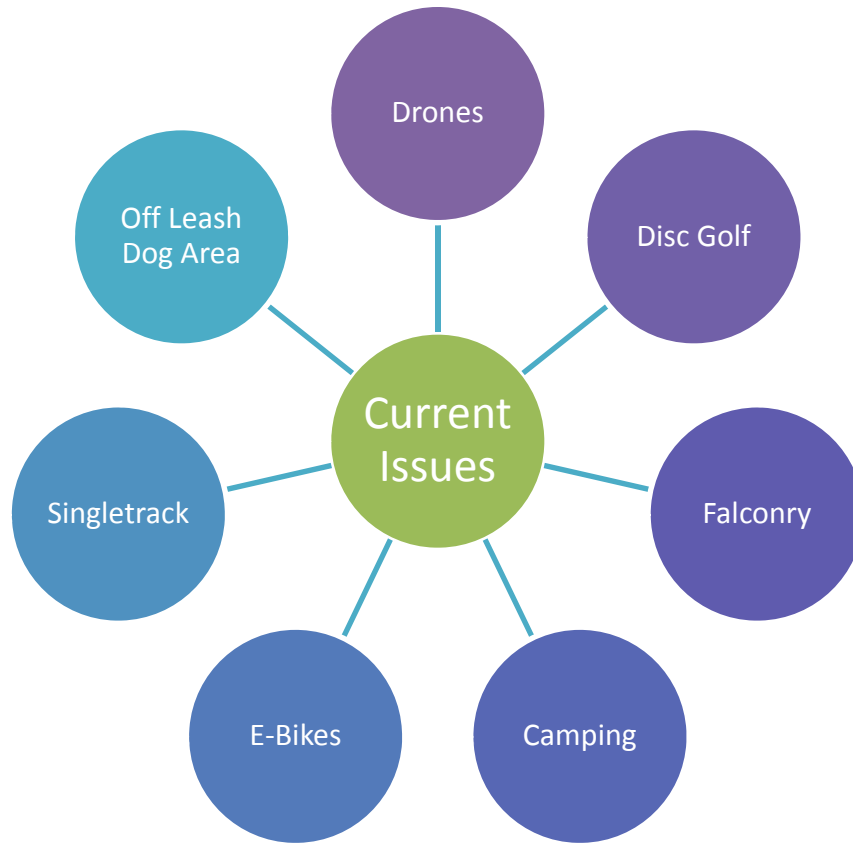
Figure 10: Programs Offered on Open Space



Agencies were then asked to identify any activities that struggle to meet the passive recreation definition in their area. Drones, Disc Golf, and E-Bikes activities that were listed most. Fort Collins noted that there was a lot of effort put into their Master Plan and Management Plans over the last 25 years which helped to clarify appropriate and compatible recreation. This effort has helps to alleviate

pressure for inappropriate recreation. In their own words, “Twenty five years of strong defense has proven effective.” Similarly, Larimer County stated that they have a clear mission to deliver activities conducive to the natural environment, which helps to direct responsible recreation management.

Figure 11: Current Issues Facing Open Space Recreation Use



Staff

Regarding the structure of an organization’s staff, it is helpful to look at the number of full time (FT) and part-time (PT) employees that are funded. Figure 12 shows the number of dedicated FT employees as well as the number of dedicated PT/seasonal employee hours funded on an annual basis.

Figure 12: Number of Employees and Funded Hours

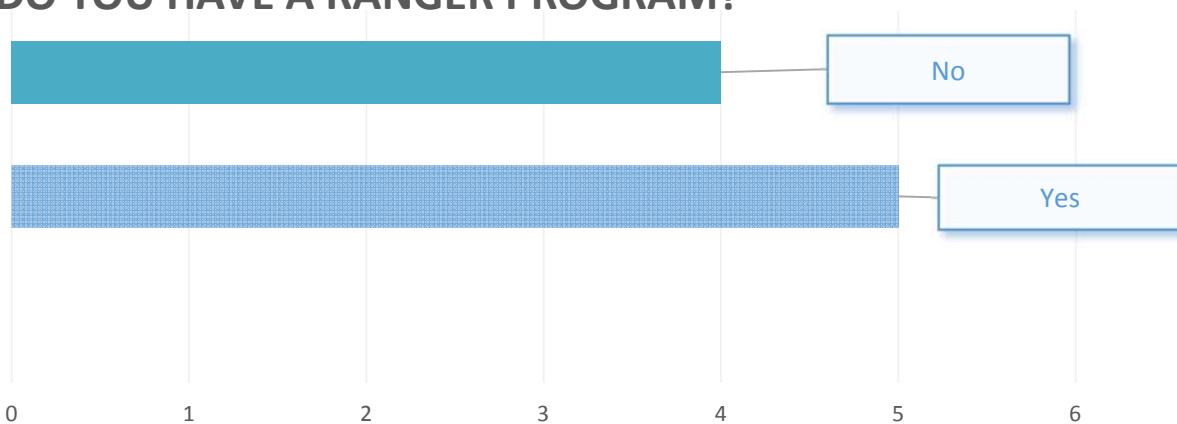
Location	Number of Dedicated FT Employees	Number of Dedicated PT/Seasonal Employee Hours Funded/Yr
Longmont	2.38	4,680
Boulder	128	45,000

Broomfield	3	0
Fort Collins	31.95	21.93*
Lafayette	2	866
Larimer County	44	130
Louisville	5	2,080
Loveland	4.875	3,120
Windsor	1	1,020

*Fort Collins listed that this number does not include 7.5 Volunteer FTE's

Ranger Program

DO YOU HAVE A RANGER PROGRAM?



No Ranger Program	Yes - Ranger Program	Authority to Enforce Laws?	Commissions to Issue Violations Tickets
<i>Broomfield</i>	Longmont	✓	Limited Commission (granted by City Manager)
<i>Lafayette</i>	Boulder	✓	Limited Commission (granted by City Manager) See attachment
<i>Loveland</i>	Fort Collins	✓	Limited Commission (granted by Police Chief)
<i>Windsor</i>	Larimer County	✓	Full Commissions (for Full Time Ranger Staff)
	Louisville	✓	Limited Commissions (granted by Police Chief)

Colorado Open Space Agency/Program	Population	Department/Program Structure	How did the Open Space Program/Department start? When did it start?	What are the sources of tax funding?	Total Annual Expense Budget	% of Total Dollars used for Acquisition	% of Total Dollars used for Management & Maintenance	% of Total Dollars Used for Trail Development	No. of Acres	Miles of Trails	% of Open Space Land Used for Conservation	% of Open Space Land Used for Agriculture	% of Open Space Land Open to the Public/Used for Recreation	Total Annual Revenues not including tax dollars	Types of Recreation Allowed on Open Space	Programs Offered on Open Space	Do you have a working definition of "passive recreation"? Please share	Do you struggle with what activities meet the passive recreation definition? (e.g. disc golf or archery) Please identify the activities and the status of your definition.	No. of Dedicated FT Employees	No. of Dedicated FT/seasonal Employee hours funded on an annual basis	Do you have a ranger program?	Do rangers have the authority to enforce rules and laws?	Do rangers have either limited or full commissions to issue violations tickets?
Longmont	62,777	Open Space is under Natural Resources Division within the Department of Public Works and Natural Resources	Open Space Sales Tax Initiative was passed by citizens in November of 2000.	Open Space Sales Tax of .2%	\$ 4,056,807.00	budgeted in 2018 - \$200,000 but currently working on a value of \$1,100,000 to be approved in 2018	21% in 2018 22.6% in 2017	21%	1,568.62	51.72mi	20%	20%	4%	\$51,000 for Agricultural Leases	Passive Recreation - hiking, wildlife viewing, biking on trails, fishing	Limited Environmental Education offered on Boulder Ranch Visitor Center	Passive recreation that requires minimal development on the recreational site. Provides educational, health and well-being, recreational, and other recreational opportunities. Requires minimal development on the recreational site. Provides educational, health and well-being, recreational, and other recreational opportunities. Requires minimal development on the recreational site. Provides educational, health and well-being, recreational, and other recreational opportunities.	None we struggle!!!	1.05	4885 hrs/year	Yes	Yes to enforce Parks Rules and Regulations	Limited Commission granted by City Manager
Boulder (City)	108,000	Open Space and Trails is in the Department of Public Works and Natural Resources	Officially started in the early 2000's through small purchases of land in the mountain foothills. The City passed a sales tax in 1987 starting the program to acquire and maintain Open Space land	88 sales tax, reduced to .77 on Jan 1, 2016, and reduced to .62 on Jan 1, 2020	\$ 21,011,899.00		21.19%	21.64%	41,000.00	145.00	100%	33%	80%	\$,696,430.00	Passive Recreation - hiking, wildlife viewing, biking on trails, fishing, equestrian, climbing	OSMP and the Inks, Meadow Mount, Goshute Shires, etc. events, etc.	Passive recreation is defined as non-motorized activities that • Offer recreational, educational, and/or therapeutic benefits • Require an appreciation and understanding of Open Space Land Management Policy and its purposes • Do not significantly impact natural, cultural, scientific, or agricultural values • Occur in an Open Space and Mountain Park setting, which is an integral part of the experience • Require only minimal facilities and services directly related to safety and increasing passive recreational impacts • Are compatible with other passive recreational activities	Yes - See attachment	128	about 45,000 hrs/year	Yes	Yes	See attachment
Broomfield	10,688	Open Space and Trails is in the Department of Public Works and Natural Resources. The Director of OS and T reports to the City Manager.	Open Space Sales Tax was passed by citizens in 1994. First Open Space Division created in 2000.	Open Space Sales Tax of a .1% level	The administrative budget for the OS and T department is \$173,308 for 2020.	This number varies greatly year year as a percentage is not all that helpful. It can range from	The Broomfield General Fund pays for almost all maintenance. The cost is \$25k to \$25k to \$25k.	This also varies greatly. For example, 2020- \$110,000, 2021 \$5,313,416, 2022 \$419,000	8,228 acres total open lands that include public and private parks, open space, open lands, conservation easements, and the Boulder Open Space and Trails Department. 200 (includes 100 miles of trail) 1,403 miles of trail and attached (attached).	Conservation Easement lands comprise 370 acres or a 4.6%.	80% or more of 1% including conservation easement land that is privately owned in agricultural use.	32%. Some of our agricultural parcels also have public trails.	Revenues are very minor - about \$1,500 in a farming lease. Broomfield also has the OS and T Sales and the Tax for our program. Our administrative budget comes out of the general fund.	Passive Recreation - hiking/biking, wildlife viewing, fishing	Ball Fishing Derby, Broomfield Trail Maintenance, Other Trails for Recreation, Community Walk, Biking Events, Broomfield 100 Summer Challenge.	This is not really a definition of passive recreation but when the combination of the open space definition and the trails will give you a good idea of passive recreation. Open Space areas are generally intentionally protected from development and set aside for recreational, educational, and/or therapeutic purposes. Trails are generally intended for walking, jogging, and other activities that support community growth, health, and well-being. Trails are also intended to provide a more direct and potential view of the natural resources and scenic views of the area from our OS and T Master Plan.	We will be starting a master plan in the near future and it is anticipated that at that time, there may be some new uses that are requested to be open space. Broomfield's definition of open space is general (broadly) only passive recreation. Single track, off leash dog area, down, are some examples of uses that may arise.	1	0	No	N/A	N/A	
City of Aurora (to be merged)																							
Fort Collins	170,000	Natural Areas Department is in the Community Services - Service Area	Full of 1992 - Voters approved a Citizen Initiated .1% City Sales Tax to fund the Natural Areas Program as described in the Natural Areas Policy Plan adopted in the fall of 1992.	2011 - .1% City Sales Tax & .1% a portion of the County's .1% City Sales Tax	\$1,000,000	Approximately 40% - varies slightly year by year	17% spent on all things not Land Conservation and for Public Improvement Capital, including Recreation, Department Management, Rangers, Field Services, Restoration	Currently 2%	Manage 56,000 acres on 50,000 miles of trail	100 miles of trail	Doesn't really have this data and not sure exactly what you mean?	Doesn't really have this data and not sure exactly what you mean?	Doesn't really have this data and not sure exactly what you mean?	\$200,000	Hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, fishing, non-motorized boating, rock climbing, horseback riding	200 Education Programs offered in 2017. total over 12,000 people. Programs are tailored mostly by volunteers and some staff	We use the words - Appropriate and Compatible. We do not have a definition.	We really struggle with it though. There was a lot of effort put into our Master Plan and Management Plans over the last 25 years that spell out what is appropriate and compatible recreation. We don't give a lot of pressure for inappropriate recreation. Although occasionally we are asked to provide some inappropriate recreation activities. Twenty five years of doing define has proven effective.	11.95 Permanent FTE's	21.93 Hourly FTE's and 7.5 Volunteer FTE's	Yes	Yes, Natural Areas and Parks Regulations	Limited Commission by the Police Chief
Lafayette	29,122	Open Space is under the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department	Citizens passed an Open Space Initiative in 1995	Legacy Tax 0.25% for land acquisition and maintenance and .0025% Parks, Open Space & Trails 0.25% for maintenance, enhancement and preservation	\$654,887.93	About 50%	About 50%	Varies but in 2017 it was 6.6%	1,300	20	80-100%	20%	80%	\$12,800 for Agricultural & Pastoral Leases	Hiking, Biking, passive recreation, wildlife viewing, educational outreach, volunteerism	Educational Outreach, Outdoor Classroom, - Active City, Nature Box	Recreation of activities that have a minimal impact on the environment, and require no equipment.		2	888 hrs/yr	No	N/A	N/A
Larimer County	131,474	Natural Resources Department is under the Public Works Division	Department started in 2004 with construction of 4 large reservoirs (Horseshoe, Carter, Homestead and Kalamath) and we have been working on land acquisition and development in 2015. First open space sales tax was 6.5 mil tax in 1995 to purchase Horseshoe Reservoir. Other sources of funding in addition	Phil's Preserve Open Space sales tax 27% (our department has many other sources of funding in addition)	The Open Space Sales Tax total annual expense budget is \$27.5 Mil	From 1996 to date, we lump our open space sales tax funds into acquisition and development at 70% (70% held in language there also this to range from 55-70%)	From 1996 to date, we lump our open space sales tax funds into acquisition and development at 70% (70% held in language there also this to range from 55-70%)	From 1996 to date, we lump our open space sales tax funds into acquisition and development at 70% (70% held in language there also this to range from 55-70%)	100,000 acres	5.5 mi	100% (80% primarily natural resources)	4% (primarily via CTA)	80%	Total Natural Resources Department revenue = \$20,500,000 from user fees/permits, open space sales tax, property tax for weed abatement, Grants and Intergovernmental partnerships, & charges for services/fees	Hiking, Biking, Horseback riding on designated trails, fishing, birding, designated camping, limited hunting	Educational programs led by volunteer rangers and a seasonal staff member	No	While these requests come up, we have clear criteria to deliver activities consistent to the natural environment and not those more commonly associated with golf or other open space	44 Courtroom code	130 (includes Aquatics, resource inspectors for Bunko on reservoirs, range, weed & CTR monitoring)	Yes, have rangers staff	Yes, full time rangers staff are paid certified, seasonal staff are not	Full time rangers staff have full commissions
Littleton	71,000	Open Space is a Division under the Parks & Recreation Department	Open Space sales tax first passed in 1994. Citizens advisory board was initiated by City Council in 2005. First dedicated trail program approved by City Council in 2008.	Open Space & Parks Sales Tax 0.17%	\$27.5 Mil	Varies from year to year	41%	3,000	32 miles in Open Space 22 miles Open Space + Parks	100% (80% primarily natural resources)	4% (primarily via CTA)	80%	None collected on properties owned by Littleton. Agricultural revenue collected by Boulder County on parcels owned properties.	Passive Recreation - hiking, wildlife viewing, biking on trails, fishing	Environmental education for park through 8th grade, guided trail walks and nature hikes, fishing programs (e.g. Laramie Canyon), night/ul moon hikes, Dog Day some events, history walks, fishing programs, stewardship programs, volunteer projects	Activities include: hiking, running, dog walking, biking, nature observation, group walks, guided trail walks, etc. On concrete trails, rock climbing, skateboarding, and non-motorized sports.	Does not include: disc golf, archery, and other activities that require equipment and are not consistent with the natural environment and not those more commonly associated with golf or other open space	1.0 Managers, 1 Nat Area Manager, 1 Manager	2000 hrs/year	Yes	Yes	Limited Commissions granted by the Chief of Police (Director of Public Enforcement Officer)	
Leadville	76,800	Open Lands & Trails is under Parks & Recreation Department	Larimer County Open Space Sales Tax Initiative was passed by citizens in 1996 and continued in 1999 and 2016	Portion of county-wide Open Space Sales Tax of 0.2%	\$137,794 (2021)	80%	21	20 (including other amenities for public access)	2361	40	80	12	28	140,000	Passive Recreation - hiking, wildlife viewing, biking on trails, fishing	Environmental education for park through 8th grade, guided trail walks and nature hikes, fishing programs (e.g. Laramie Canyon), night/ul moon hikes, Dog Day some events, history walks, fishing programs, stewardship programs, volunteer projects	Provides educational, health and well-being, recreational, and other recreational opportunities to the public. Provides wildlife and other natural resources of the area	Yes, Discs, disc golf, Archery, camping (all currently prohibited), e-bikes (currently allowed)	4.675	1320	No - Trained Volunteer that runs only	No	No

*Include Fee & CC and Nature Area

Appendix F: Sustainability Evaluation System Summary

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Sustainability Evaluation System Summary for the Open Space Master Plan

December, 2017

Cal Youngberg, Environmental Service Manager
Public Works & Natural Resources
City of Longmont



The City of Longmont has developed a Sustainability Evaluation System (SES) that the City's Sustainability Plan designates as the tool for evaluating and enhancing sustainability aspects of projects, plans, and programs. An evaluation of the draft Open Space Master Plan (OSMP) Update using the SES was completed in December 2017 by a review team made up of representatives of various City departments and the consultants for the plan, Greenplay and Design Concepts.

The SES has two modules. **Module 1** reviews sustainability categories and topics to determine which topics are applicable to the project, plan or program under review. The categories and topics are aligned with and support the goals and policies in the Sustainability Plan, as well as the Envision Longmont Multimodal and Comprehensive Plan. **Module 2** rates alternatives using the applicable topics in Module

1. The sustainability categories in the SES are:

- Best Practices (Organizational)**
- Best Practices (Assets and Infrastructure)**
- Best Practices (Financial)**
- Buildings and Infrastructure**
- Energy**
- Transportation**
- Community and Individual Well-being**
- Economic Vitality**
- Materials and Waste**
- Natural Environment**
- Water Resources**
- Water Quality**

There are numerous topics in each of the above categories that further define the sustainability features associated with the categories. The OSMP Update is a guidance document and does not address specific projects or alternatives, so only Module 1 was used for the review of this plan.

The review team identified which of the topics were applicable to the OSMP and comments were captured during the review and used to inform the development of sustainability recommendations. In addition, a numerical rating of 1 to 5 (low to high) was assigned to the categories based on the number of applicable topics in each category. The rating is not an indication to the degree the topics are being met, but rather it indicates how many topics within the category are applicable to the project, plan, or program. A lower rating for a category does not mean that it is unimportant, just that fewer topics in that category were found to be applicable to the project. If a topic was determined to be "not applicable" or "unknown" by the review team, the reasons were documented in the SES. Comments and observations from the review

team for topics deemed to be “applicable” were recorded in the SES to explain or provide context for how the topics were viewed by the team.

The following table lists the sustainability categories in the SES, a brief description of the topics in the categories, and a summary of the comments and recommendations from the review team related to the topics in each category.

SES Category/ [Applicability Rating]	Description of topics	Comments/Recommendations
Best Practices (Organizational) [5.0]	Alignment with other plans, partnerships, stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should discuss the opportunity for integrating the open space program with future code modifications, the development review process, and current or future City plans for trails and wildlife management. • The plan should identify partnerships with Boulder County, Weld County, surrounding governmental bodies, landowners, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), etc. that are needed or would be beneficial in achieving the goals of the OSMP.
Best Practices (Assets and Infrastructure) [4.3]	Maintenance, reliability, asset management, resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should discuss the resource constraints, both financial and physical, and land management considerations that need to be addressed to ensure that open space is adaptable to changes in future conditions (environmental, financial). • The plan should note that performance criteria need to be developed in order to monitor and evaluate if open space is meeting community goals and needs. • The plan should discuss the resources needed to deal with weed and erosion control, prevent deterioration, and manage the ongoing enhancement of open space to ensure the quality and reliability of open space assets. • The plan should mention that open space provides positive impacts on resiliency to environmental stressors, flooding, local climate effects, etc.
Best Practices (Financial) [5.0]	Funding, O&M cost recovery, rate impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should identify funding needs; Open Space sales tax, debt incurred by bonds and other City funding.
Buildings and Infrastructure [4.7]	Built environment, cultural/historic preservation, floodplain protection, site issues, wayfinding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should note that open space mitigates ambient light & noise and heat island effects, and can help offset the impacts of increased urban scale and massing (and effects of urbanization in general).

SES Category/ [Applicability Rating]	Description of topics	Comments/Recommendations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should address the role of open space in cultural and historic preservation. • The plan should address the impact of open space areas in the in terms of development footprint. • The plan should indicate how development of open space will be coordinated with planned infill/development projects. • The plan should identify any potential for implementation of Low Impact Development in open space-related facilities or enhancing infiltration by preserving undeveloped land.
Energy [3.8]	Energy efficiency, renewable and alternative energy, embodied energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance methods that use less energy and options for alternative energy, including renewables should be discussed or stated as goals of the plan. • The plan should identify any opportunities for using materials with less embodied energy in open space projects.
Transportation [2.5]	Transportation options, parking, effects on level of service, vehicle miles traveled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should identify possible future bus/shuttle access and regional trail connections with open space areas.
Community and Individual Well-being [4.5]	Art and culture, sense of community, environmental justice, hazard mitigation, food access and production, health & human services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should discuss any potential for incorporating Art In Public Places into open space and identification or recognition of cultural or agricultural resources & amenities. • A discussion of how open space could create crime problem areas and how education could be used to reduce the potential for criminal activity should be included. • The plan should mention that access to open space supports social equity and that urban open spaces provide for equitable access to nature and help protect air and water quality, which benefits everyone. • The plan could note that open space can support community identity, especially through the use of volunteers, which builds community stewardship. • The plan should reinforce that open space improves community health through environmental protection and provision of healthy recreational opportunities.
Economic Vitality [4.0]	Jobs, business development, affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should note that development and maintenance of open space assets can create jobs.

SES Category/ [Applicability Rating]	Description of topics	Comments/Recommendations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should identify opportunities for use of local materials and labor. • The plan should note that quality open space makes Longmont attractive for businesses, which could have a positive effect on economic resilience.
Materials and Waste [3.3]	Reuse/deconstruction, waste management, environmentally responsible materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should include stated goals of minimizing chemical use using recycled materials where possible. • The plan should identify opportunities for reducing waste from agricultural operations and reducing waste associated with public use.
Natural Environment [5.0]	Environmental quality, wildlife and habitat, floodplains, GHGs, climate adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open space inherently supports the topics in this category. The plan should include a method for evaluating and maximizing these topics during acquisition and maintenance of open space.
Water Resources [5.0]	Water efficiency, conservation and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should include a stated goal of managing water resources in accordance with the City's water efficiency and management plans.
Water Quality [5.0]	Watershed, pollutant control, stormwater management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open space goals are in support of reducing pollutants and protecting the watershed. The plan should include a method for evaluating and maximizing these topics during acquisition and maintenance of open space.

Appendix G: Public Input Summary

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Public Meeting #1 – February 22, 2018

The first public meeting in the update process was used as a general information gathering session; allowing members of the public to review and respond to the original 2002 Plan's Vision, Goals, and Recommendations and to the Open Space Program's operations (via a fact sheet/board of depicting expenditures, budget, land managed, etc.) and accomplishments during the previous 17 years.

During the meeting the community was presented with a summary of the previous plan and asked to respond via open comments, comment cards, sticky notes, and written/drawn feedback at stations set-up throughout the venue. The following are identified themes (using the existing open space criteria) captured during the workshop:

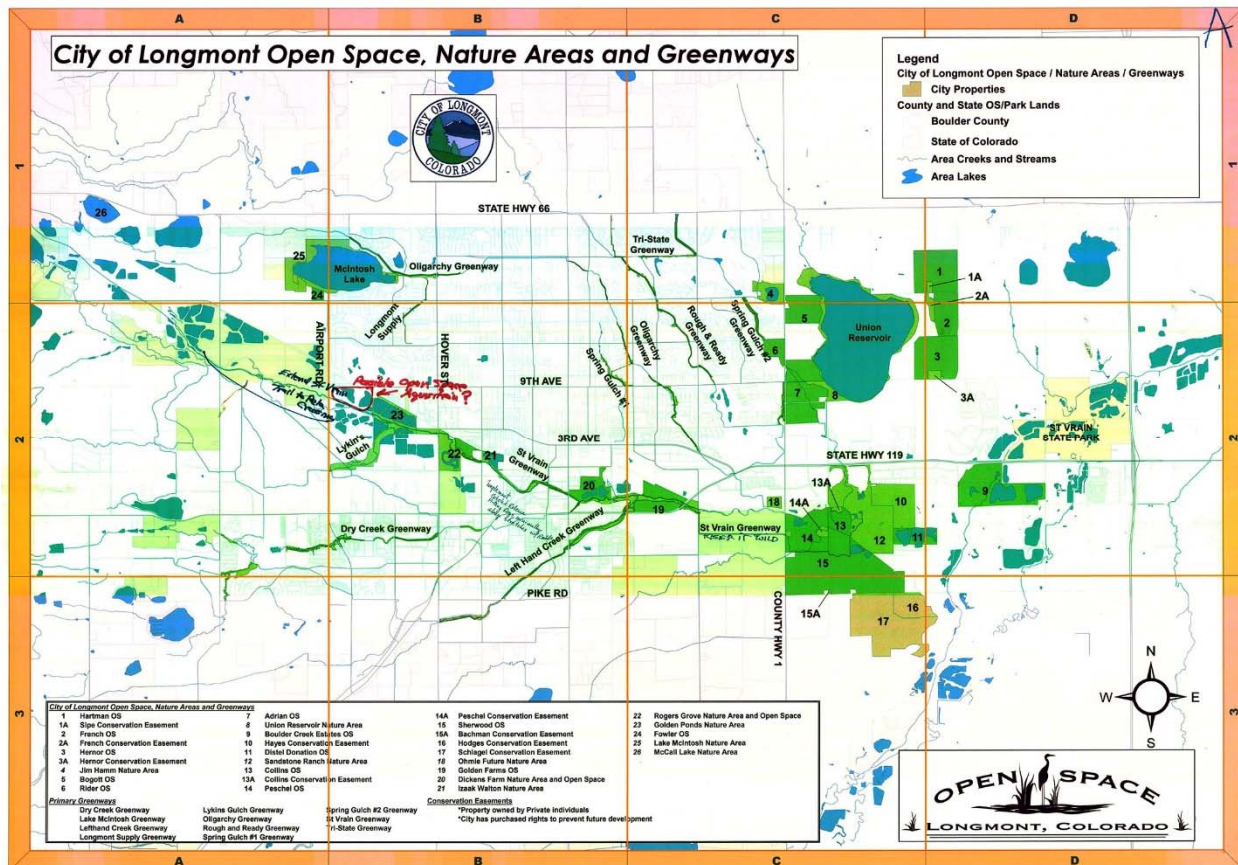
WORKSHOP 1 MAP EXERCISE

Assignment

Participants were invited to add comments, issues or suggestions to maps displayed on tables using markers.

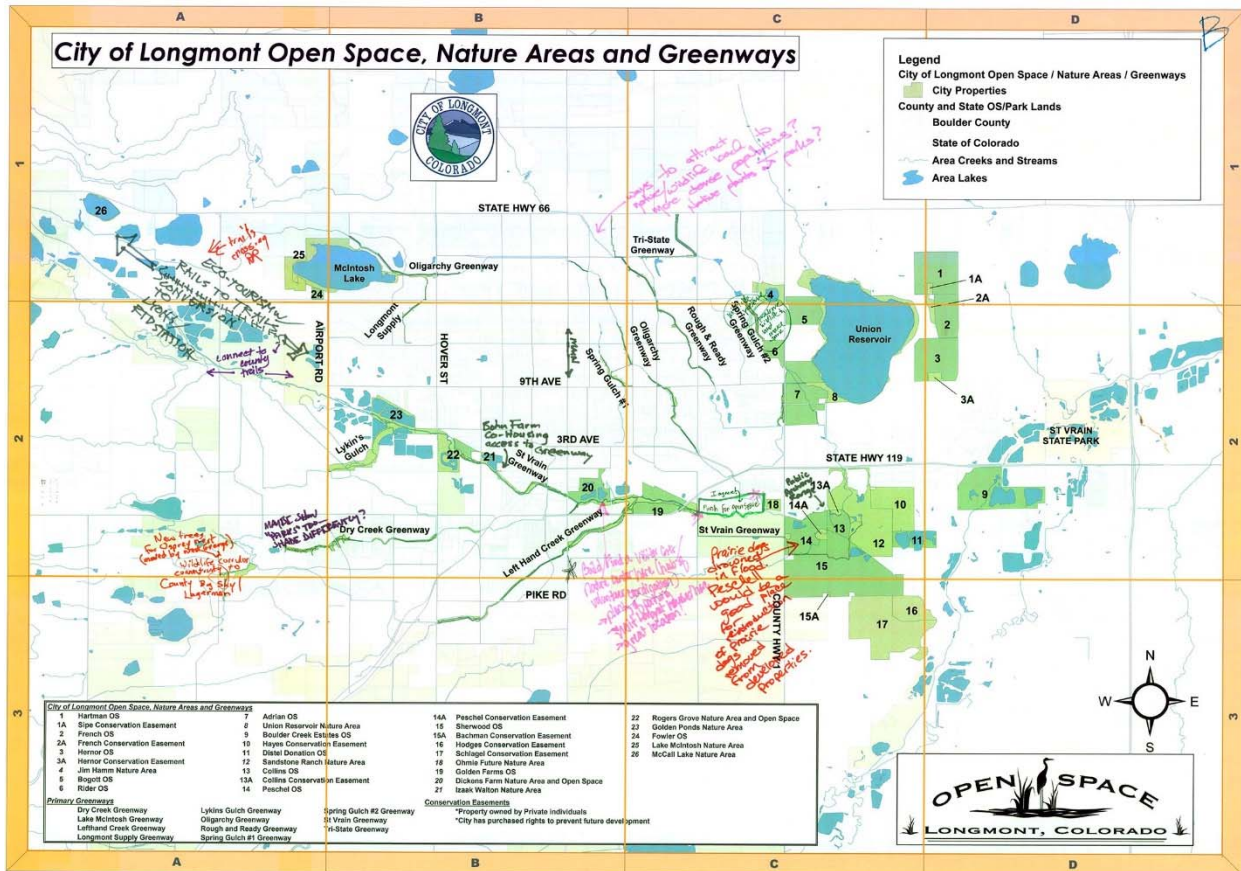
Following the meeting, all maps were reviewed, and comments recorded. Comments ranged from possible acquisition areas to desirable trail connections. Map comments were compiled and are shown in the appendix (Workshop 1 Mapping).

Table 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

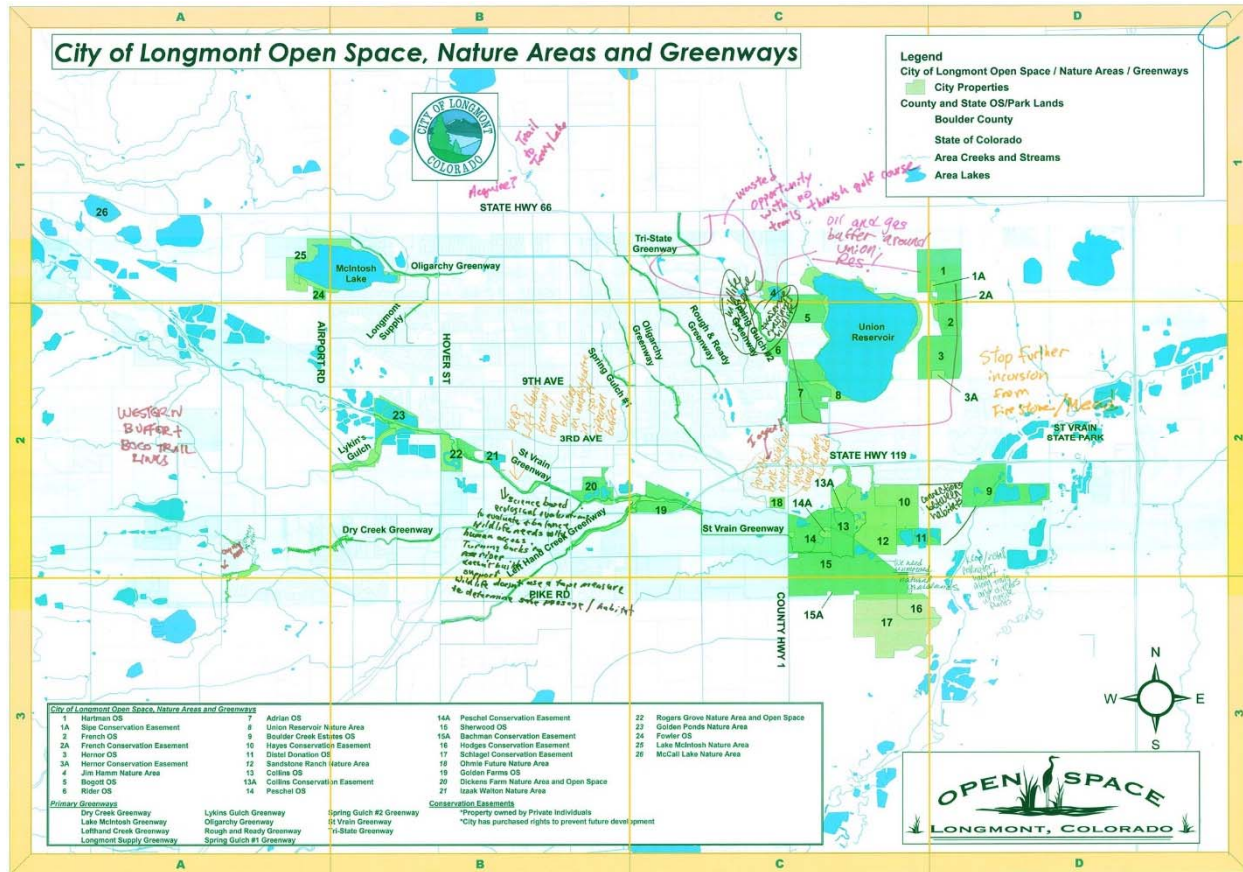
Table B:



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

Table 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

DOT-VOTING EXERCISE

Before participants left the meeting, they were given a limited number of “dots” to place on various pictures reflecting aspects of open space and trails. They were asked to vote with dots for those pictures that best represented their image for the future of the Open Space system.

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
 - 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

Public Meeting #2 – March 22, 2018

The second public meeting was intended to present the community with the initial feedback gathered during the initial public workshop and the initial survey results, with the intention of gathering feedback in regards to how to use the information gathered to influence and update the Open Space Plan.

Community members engaged in a similar process to the first workshop – presentation, discussion, and interactive stations.

Specific stations and discussions included:

- Direct questions regarding the definition of passive recreation in the community, the purpose of trails within open space, the influence this plan plays in the overall conversation of oil and gas development in the community, and discussion regarding the current tax program.
- Brainstorming and potential updates to 2002 Vision and Goals and Recommendations.

- Creating a new visioning map based on the 202 Vision Map and the current system.

The following is a summary of data collected:

Presentation/Open Discussion

Following a presentation of initial findings, the audience was asked to participate in an open discussion regarding four key opportunities. The following is a summary of the discussion that took place:

Funding

- City of Longmont comment – Initially did not have a formula for how funds are used in ordinance. Council informally directed 50%/50% acquisition and development; feel like currently have sufficient funding for maintenance
- Public comment – County has always been mostly acquisition (former Director of County Open Space)
- Public questions –
 - “How do other agencies balance use of funds?”
 - “How are acquisitions in Longmont prioritized?”
- City of Longmont comment – Have not used the Tier I, II, III acquisition recommended in 2002 plan, because haven’t had to compare site by site. However, have used the criteria content of that information on an informal basis to evaluate. Currently have 8 sites being considered.
- Public comment – (from experience) – City should continue the current funding and focus on acquisition. The next two decades are critical for acquisition; the need for maintenance and management funding is minimal short-term. If properties are not protected now, they will be gone. Need to protect (and plan for) the future now.
- Public comment – Need to buffer from Frederick, Firestone, Mead. “How much land is there to acquire?”
- City of Longmont comment – 500-600 acres are reasonable for acquisition (with partners) with the \$9.5M Longmont has (Button rock is 35 acres).
- Public comment – Pursue an increase in funding within this planning period.

Passive Recreation Definition

- Minimal development on sites – single picnic tables, not disc golf, interactive with the water – single use tubing.
- Definition needs a qualifier, like “limited” to the rules of engagement examples.
- Add “non-polluting” to any water (CD comment: I think they misunderstood “no rules of engagement; coordination scheduling.” I believe we meant none OR “NO” access to the river (Union Reservoir is OK).
- Wildlife viewing in areas that doesn’t impact critical habitat
- No remote-control motorboats; no disc golf; if archery - only is designated, managed area, nature play – it depends

Oil and Gas

- City of Longmont comment – With some acquisitions mineral rights are already severed; working toward minimal surface disruption
- Public comment – Water setback at 300ft is not enough.
- Public comment – Royalties or revenues from mineral rights should come back to OS, not get lost in the general fund.

Trails

- Public comment – Yes, update language in the plan. It is not adequate. Linkages and trails are only part of the picture.
- City of Longmont comment– Vision board (station within the workshop) has more specific trail language.
- Public comment – There needs to be linkages from Town Center and from neighborhoods to Open Space; fill missing links between schools and subdivisions; work with Streets to influence this type of connection – at best share costs; multi-modal funds should be used for these kinds of connections. Multiple objectives call for multiple funding sources; OS funds may have been raided over the years to fill in gaps. That may have been Ok then, but is not now.
- Public comment – Intention should be to have OS and trails equitable through all socio-economic areas.
- Public comment– Strategies in the Comp Plan are broad, but public spent quite a bit of time to recently update the OS language in the Comp Plan – Check this language, and incorporate into the update.

Finance/Info/Open Comment Station

At this station, the public was presented with multiple quick facts about the Department (acreage, budget, acquisitions, etc) and were asked to leave open comments regarding the Open Space Program.

Acquisitions

- Prioritize more money towards acquisitions.

Budget/funding

- Reserve funds for unsold parcels that come to market post 2028.
- “Royalty” on open space dedicated to open space.

Tax

- We should re-up the open space tax. If we don’t acquire new properties now, (then) we’ll be “land-locked” and will be stuck with the properties we have only.
- Make the tax permanent. +2

Policy/management

- Passive Recreation should be enjoying the open/natural area as is. There shouldn’t be anything brought and left by visitors. (So no family reunions with catered food.) No disc golf or archery.
- Open space should include the idea of linkages between properties for wildlife corridors.

Recommendations Station

At this station, the public was presented with the previous plans recommendations and asked to comment to update the language, prioritize/rank each recommendation, and to write new recommendations.

Existing Recommendations

Open Space Parcel Acquisitions

- 1) +1 on Tier I
+1 on Tier II
⊗ on Tier III #3 +1 on Tier III #4
? on Tier III #5

Management Issues

Org and Ops – Staffing and Admin

- 2) Highlighted. “YES” +1

Policy Development – Low Impact Recreation

- 1) Comment card – Low Impact = Passive? Same? If so, add “education to low impact/passive activities.

Policy Development – Dog Management

- 1) “comprehensive effort to address the issue of dog management...”
 - Cooperation should be sought with Animal Control Units from both the City and the Counties.” +1

Policy Development – Long Range Management and Maintenance Costs

- 1) Highlight on “Longmont I able to determine its own costs... determine an operating budget.”

Updating the Plan

- Comment card – Update sooner than every 15 years. 5 to 10 years perhaps due to how rapidly development is progressing and pop(ulation is) increasing. +2
- Comment card – Planning costs money. Update as needed.

New Recommendations

Acquisitions

- Increase percentage of allocation to 80% acquisition and 20% management. +2
- Preserve and acquire open space by extending the tax. +2
- Look for opportunities to work with neighboring communities and Weld County to acquire and preserve open space. +4

Budget/funding

- Money from the oil and gas royalties need to go back to the Open Space Program. +1

Tax

- Increase the Open Space sales tax and extend sooner than 2028 +4
- Increase Open Space Tax, now, in 2018.

Policy/management

- Keep passive recreation passive with the foundational principle being preservation. +2
- How about a Science Mobile that would provide monthly environmental programs for all ages at various City Open Space areas? Staffed by a naturalist who would develop educational programs.
- Develop policy and decision process that ensures St Vrain Greenway and other open space acquisitions do not allow for unfair subsidies for developers. +1

- DISAGREEMENT: By not allowing oil and gas production facilities on Open Space you push all the oil and gas production on someone else.
- Require oil and gas to be 1000' from bod(ies) of water. 150' or more set back from rivers, lakes with development. No variances. +1
- Build safe trail connections to local businesses, pools, other park, (and) neighborhoods. Make trails accessible to everyone. +1
- More interpretive signage and more rule signage (ex. make it more obvious where dogs aren't allowed – Peschel). +2
- Add “education” to the definition of “passive rec.”
- Functions of open space listed in ordinance and comp plan. Include explicit statement about equitable distribution of trails, linkages, nature areas among different socio-economic segments of the community.
- Language in ordinance needs to include emphasis on preservation and protecting wildlife habit(at) and corridors. +3

Development

- Create linkages with aging populations or people with disabilities in mind.
- Ensure people in the center of town can safely access greenways by bike/on foot. +1

Programs/use

- (Establish) volunteer program to help maintain open space.
- (Establish) Volunteer naturalist program to help with restoration, management, and education. (Like the City and County of Boulder.)

Visioning Station

At this station, the public was presented with the goals and vision from the previous plan. They were asked to brainstorm ideas and key word/phrases that could be used to update the goals and vision of the Department.

Identity

- Longmont identity preserved (buffering) +2
- Beautification of natural areas with native plantings, especially in gateway areas, brighten up with color; signage for greenways at gateways to the City or other key areas like the St. Vrain Greenway; mile markers to key areas.
- Used by everybody – diversity, inclusivity, outreach to vulnerable populations, access and awareness +1; statement on inclusivity and diversity needed; outreach to underserved and vulnerable communities +1
- Accessible trails for people with disabilities

Preservation

- Protection for our future
- Preserving our natural environment, habitat preservation
- Emphasis on preservation of urban wildlife and wildlife movement corridor

Funding

- Acquire now before it is gone +1; acquire, acquire, acquire; acquisition 1st

- We haven't yet reached the point of moving from acquisition to maintenance. We must purchase more open space now or we will be locked in +4
- Don't raid OS funds to do hard surface trails or connectors +2
- Reserve funds for (holdout) unsold parcels that may become available in the future
- OS Allocation – 75% Acquisition/25% Open Space and Trails (no sidewalk, urban trails) +2
- Develop a much more aggressive funding stream (sales tax) for open space acquisition in short/near term; "open" space will be gone soon.

Connectivity

- Connectivity +5
- Connections throughout the county by trails away from traffic and noise (like European model of being able to cross country by country by bike)
- One connected parks and open space system with activities appropriate to each; integrated with school locations; integrated with multi-modal plan
- Community connections -neighborhoods to open space
- Concrete /wooden trails have one big advantage: they don't expand with wear!

Programming/Education

- Attracting kids to nature; joint programming with School District +1
- Include education about natural resources/public awareness in the goals

Passive Recreation

Water access

- Swimming hole/kayak area +1; would like to see some access to swimming and/or tubing
- Surface water non-motorized use – like Union Reservoir – rental of water craft (kayaks, paddle boards (touch of commercial). Qualifier: maybe not appropriate on Open Space but in parks, or run by Parks and Recreation.) +4
- Water access should be subordinate to (aquatic) wildlife preservation +3; protected reaches if any water access is permitted
- Water body setback of 300 feet doesn't seem to be enough

General access

- Longmont has great parks, keep OS different than parks +2
- Don't do disc golf or archery or other more organized recreation with rules of play +2
- Archery (BYO Bow) should be limited to stationery targets, with physical backstops, and defined walkways for retrieving arrows. Non-consumptive use of surrounding land. +1

VISIONING EXERCISE

Assignment

Using markers, once again participants were invited to add comments, issues or suggestions to maps this time with focus on vision for future Open Space acquisition, trail connections, or other related comments. Using "+1" or "I agree" comments, priorities for general areas were calculated. Following the meeting the comments were tabulated and the following "heat map" was produced. The darker areas represent areas of higher priority based on workshop attendees. Rankings ranged from one vote to 6 votes for proposed areas.

The following vision map represents data collected during this exercise.

