

Bluestem Prairie Open Space Management Plan



*Community Workshop
December 8, 2015*

Opening and Project Background

- Introductions – City staff and consulting team
- Background – Why is this plan needed?



Opening and Project Background

Definitions

- Master Plan vs. Management Plan
- TOPS Ordinance/restrictions
- Conservation easement/restrictions



Opening and Project Background

Project Givens

- City is responsible for management; all elements of the plan must conform with rules and regulations
- Subject to requirements of TOPS Ordinance
- Respect terms of existing easements and conservation easement
- Implementation will occur as funding allows
- Public encouraged to develop the plan; all voices are equal
- Recommended plan requires Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approval

See handout for specific language

Opening and Project Background

Public Involvement Process Steps

November 4, 2105

Step #1: Identify issues: learn about existing conditions on the property and identify Task Force issues and concerns



December 8, 2015

Step #2: Refine issues: discuss and evaluate possible management approaches

We are here



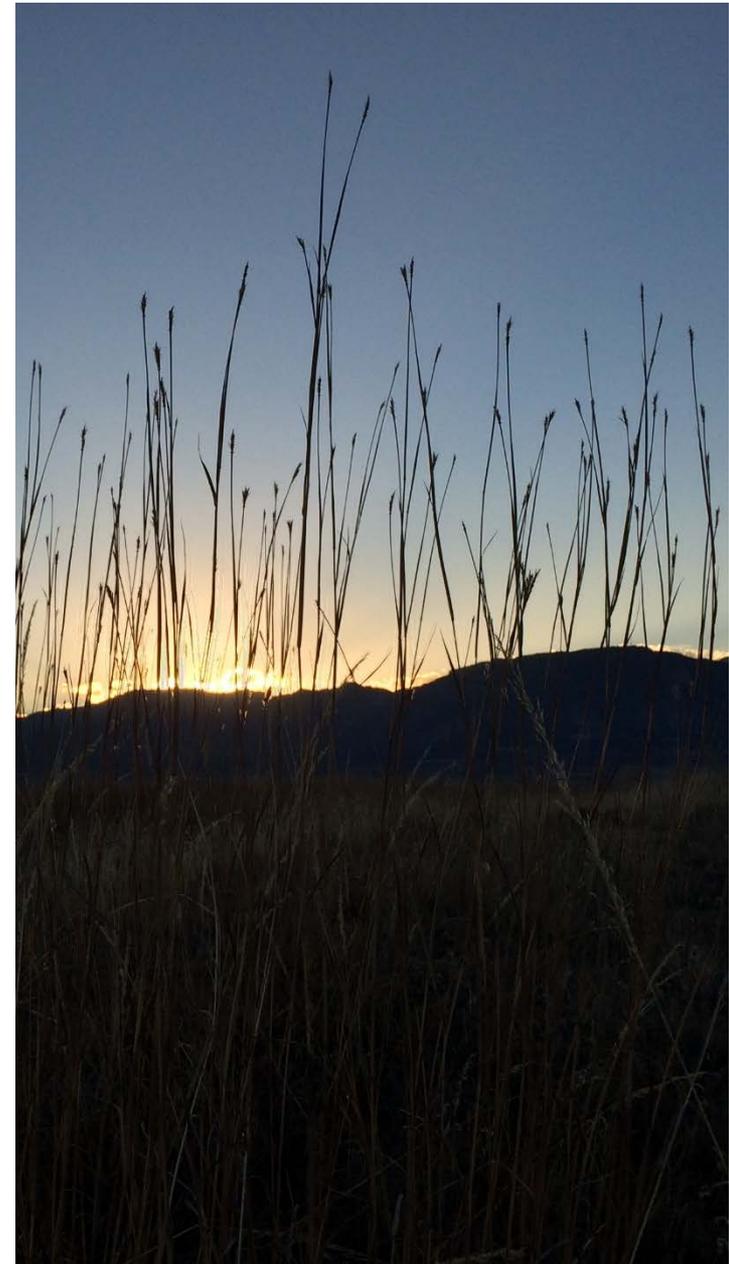
January 2016

Step #3: Draft Management Plan available for review

Community Workshop

Tonight's Agenda

1. Opening and background
2. What we've learned so far
3. Preliminary management strategies
4. Questions and feedback to strategies
5. Wrap-up/Next Steps



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Meeting Ground Rules

- ✓ Say what you think
- ✓ Make sure that everyone has an equal chance to voice his or her perspective
- ✓ Listen carefully and with respect to the opinions and beliefs of others
- ✓ Please hold questions until the end of the presentation

Community Workshop

What we've learned *so far*

Based on:

- Interviews with stakeholders
- On-site technical analysis of existing conditions
- Task Force review of and additions to the preliminary issues list

Community Workshop

What we've learned *so far*

Management issue categories

- ✓ **Vegetation**
- ✓ **Wildlife**
- ✓ **Structures and Infrastructure**
- ✓ **Visitor Use**

Preliminary Management Recommendations

Natural Resources - Vegetation

Noxious Weed Management

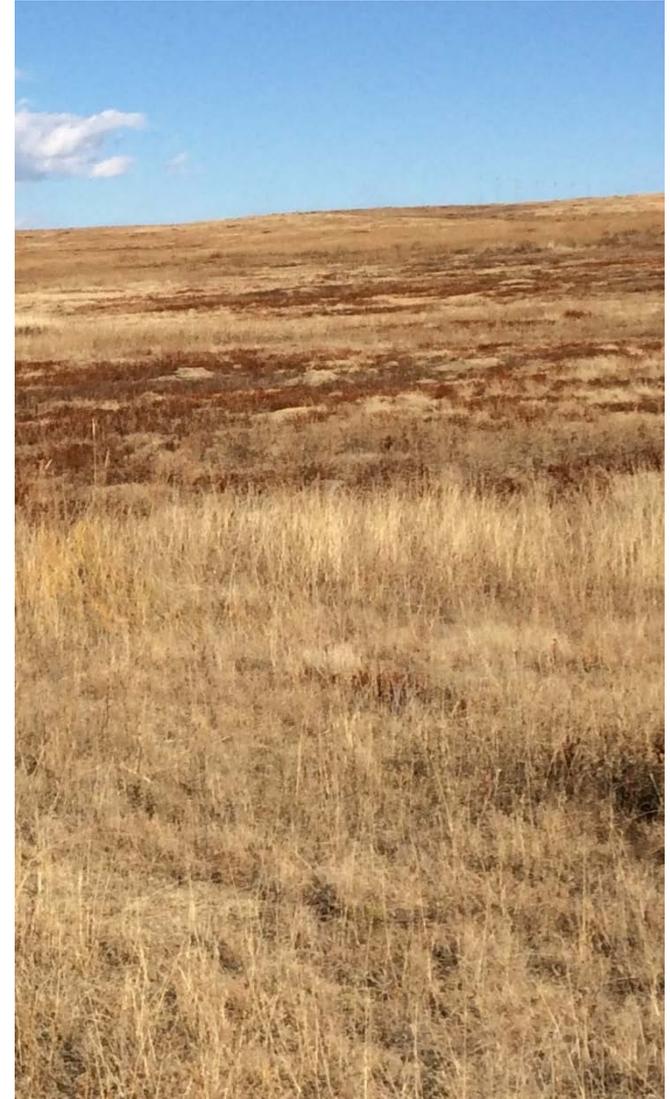
- Complete annual inventory and mapping
- Complete a noxious weed management plan
- Focus immediate weed management on disturbance vectors
 - Trail, trailhead, roads, fence lines, near agricultural buildings
 - Integrate practices to minimize new infestations
- Integrate management practices with other site activities

Preliminary Management Recommendations

Natural Resources - Vegetation

Grassland Management

- Monitor adjacent land use practices
- Conduct outreach activities
- Prescribed burning not an option
- Potential for mowing in discrete areas



Preliminary Management Recommendations

Natural Resources - Wildlife

Wildlife Habitat Protection

- Avoid disturbance during breeding season for grassland birds
- Affirm and enforce existing no-dog regulations
- Monitor and track the size and density of occupied black-tailed prairie dog habitat

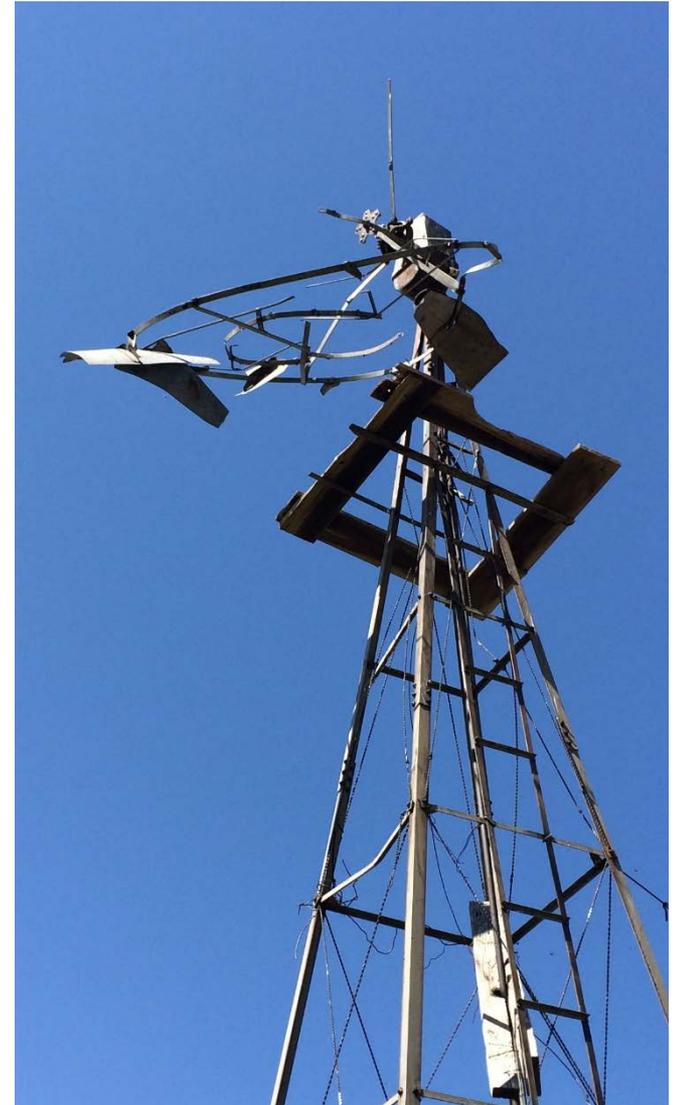


Preliminary Management Recommendations

Structures and Infrastructure

Visitor Experience

- Remove windmill
- Remove former agricultural structures
- Maintain all fencing to deter trespass

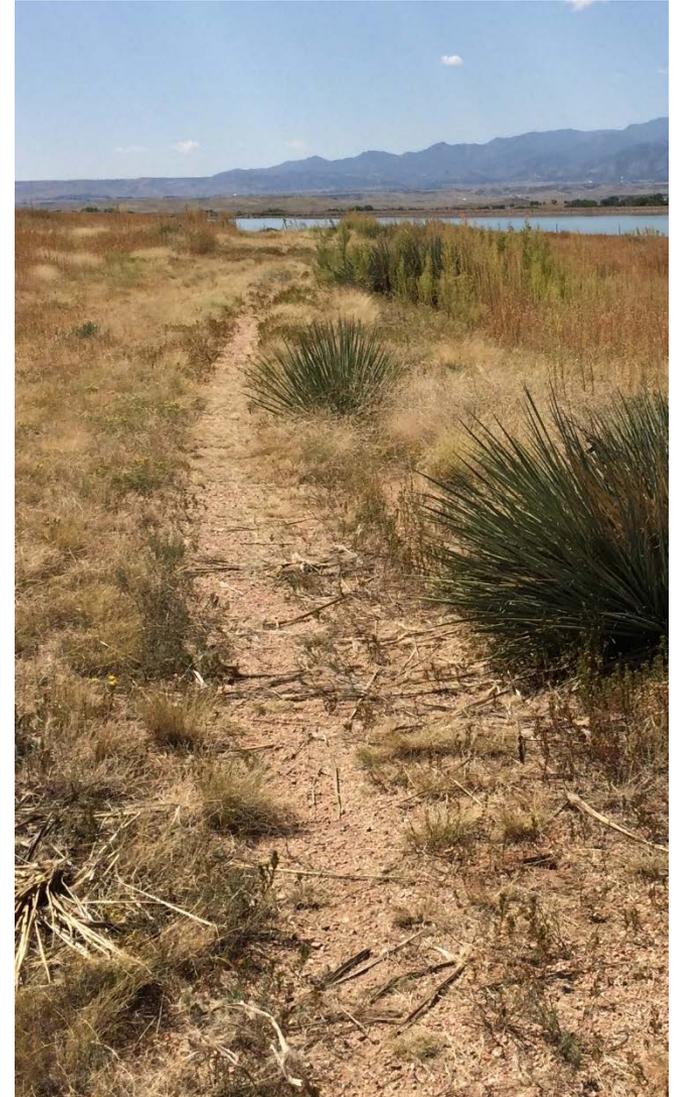


Preliminary Management Recommendations

Visitor Use - Trails

Trail Maintenance and Management

- Replace and consolidate signage at trailhead
- Replace or remove interpretive signage along trail
- Consider extending trail in northwest corner



Group Response to the Strategies

1. Do you have questions about any of the preliminary strategies?
2. Is anything missing that you think is important to include?
3. Do you have any comments about any of the strategies?

Next Steps

- Please fill out your individual response form
- Look for results from tonight's meeting on the City website
- Please be sure to sign in tonight for email updates about review of the Draft Plan

Thank you for your participation!