

University Park Open Space Management Plans  
Community Workshop  
December 8, 2105

Discussion Comments and Questions by Issue Category

*Do you have any questions about any of the preliminary management strategies presented and discussed tonight? Is anything missing that you believe is important to include? Do you have any comments about any of the strategies?*

**Vegetation Management**

- What changed to cause the increase in noxious weeds in University Park?
- Do you leave cut trees down on the ground?
- The pond is “glutted” with plants and silt. Might be from too much fertilizer used nearby.

**Visitor Experience**

- I think the point of open space is to keep it natural. I’m against signs.
- Agree it should be kept natural, but many people don’t know where they are. It is not clear.
- It is not clear which are official main trails and which are social trails.
- I think the trails are clearly marked.
- Exploring is a way to learn.
- Aware of the Ute Indian prayer (culturally modified) trees – do we know where those are? Consider visitor use issues.
- Consider issues regarding visitor use of hoodoos as well. They become party sites with litter.
- Neat and unique place because of the trails that are there. Concerned about closure of really nice trails for one trail.
- Different trails were created because people went to interesting places.
- Could you use footbridges on trails with erosion (from this year’s heavy rains) to keep them open?
- Erosion issue near Eagle Rock. What are the plans to work on this?
- Would like to see circular trails maintained.
- Keep trails that connect to UCCS and Pulpit Rock.
- What is the purpose of the realignment of the trail to UCCS?
- Taking the underpass trail to the Greenway Trail is very dangerous. Cars not yielding to cyclists is an issue.
- I think cars are pretty good about yielding to cyclists.
- Who is going to make the decision on which social trails to close? Will users get to weigh in? What is the time frame for doing a master plan?
- What funding does Austin Bluffs Open Space get?
- What is the intent regarding dogs?
- Keep it accessible to bikes
- Need to keep the trails in University Park. People bought houses to be near the trails. It’s the number one reason I bought my house. Leave the trails as is.
- May not need to do more than get the trails back to the way they were before the unusual and significant rain event(s) this year.

- Want to see a master plan done. Have noticed increased use and new trails coming off the hills. Don't want trails every 5 feet.
- Erosion was occurring before this year.

### **Wildlife Management**

- Have you seen any specific types of ground nesting birds?

## **Verbatim Individual Response Form Responses**

*Do you have any comments about any of the preliminary management strategies for the University Park Open Space property presented and discussed tonight?*

### **Vegetation**

- Agree with the ordering of priorities for noxious weed management.
- Agree with the vegetation and plan to cut back on casual social trails that was addressed by the presenter.

### **Visitor Experience**

- We enjoy hikers, bikers, even equestrian horses but City-sponsored big (large) events are not the purpose of an open space – they should use a City park, where wider trails, signage and erosion is managed for event use.
- Maybe need to remove some City pipes laying around unused and half-buried, but broken or rusted.
- Dogs are not a problem in this open space. Many of these “social trails” are animal trails – animals like trails. Deer, bears, coyotes, porcupine, bobcats, rabbits, squirrels, martin, occasional mountain lions – all use these trails. Let's make sure that we don't make this an issue that doesn't exist.
- Think homeowners in the area need education on noxious weeds. Would like to see some signage for major trails in University Park
- Concern on any signage, besides at perimeter trailheads.
- I'm not confident one bit that this issue of “social trails” is a concern. The so-called “social trails” are the nicest, least-used trails in this open space.
- Did not address truck trails from City vehicles; these erode and become wider over time.
- What is the maximum width City designates for our main designated trails? They have become quite wide in this open space.

### **Wildlife Management**

- Whenever possible, please leave downed trees and brush for wildlife.

### **Other**

- This open space is one of the nicest spots in the city – I've lived here for 15 years and it is as nice today as it was in 2001. I'm extremely concerned that this management plan will be a “solution” in search of a “problem.” Most of the officials represented at this meeting will virtually never use this

open space. I understand the government tendency to assert control. I get it. Please don't make it worse for the people who really do use it.

- Did not mention who is leading and is our contact for further input and feedback on the Plan.
- Good overview. Timeline would have been helpful. Thanks for information.
- We would be happy to walk/bike with anyone in that space to show how it is used. (*Contact information provided and forwarded to City staff*)