

Stratton Open Space Management Plan
Community Workshop
November 10, 2105

Verbatim Individual Comments by Issue Category

Do you have any comments about any of the preliminary management strategies presented and discussed tonight?

Dogs

- I don't have a problem with off-leash dogs in the fenced area but a few vocal dog owners should not stop enforcement of off-leash regulations that many other users who are not motivated to complain, benefit from and support.
- In terms of dog use, I think it's an issue but would be hard to change the mindset of dog owners and resources should be spent on other areas to benefit the open space. So, let's get along with one another. Bikers, hikers, dog owners, etc.
- We oppose the off-leash area at the South Suburban Reservoir. The leash law should be enforced. I live across from Stratton Open Space, but do not walk in the area because I am intimidated by the dogs off-leash. Having the Reservoir open to dogs increased the impact on the trails and lack of parking in the designated parking areas.
- South Suburban has become an amazing dog swimming resource that wasn't even in anyone's awareness in the original master planning process. If that is going to change, it should be part of a master plan, not just a management plan. I am in favor of dogs off-leash at South Suburban Reservoir.
- As a runner and mountain biker, I enjoy the trails at Stratton Open Space almost every day of the week. I am concerned about off-leash dogs and their possible danger to others.
- I am a mountain biker and the only problem I have ever had has been with off-leash dogs not under control of their owners.
- Keep the Reservoir open to dogs, please! (I happily pick up other's waste). Receptacles for waste are good!
- Dog "monitoring" and "evaluation" programs are very vague. Dogs are a real source of conflict. CSU's decision to allow off-leash dogs is in violation and should stop as both a technical and apparently ethical matter. Increasing dog-leash enforcement, education, consequences, etc. is sorely under-emphasized. A vast, silent majority desires strong leash-law enforcement but fears the backlash from aggressive dog-off-leash practitioners.
- Keep the Reservoir an off-leash area for dogs!! I take my dogs there every day.
- Leave Reservoir an off-leash area.
- Pursue CSU/City designation of the Reservoir as an approved off-leash dog area. This is a unique and valuable resource in the city and needs to be made official.
- The dogs are not a problem – the owners are (no control of dogs) – not picking up the feces.
- Dogs off-leash are an abomination – enforce the ordinance! Do not allow dogs in the South Suburban Reservoir!

Forest Health Management

- Thank you for your consideration of the nesting songbirds when removing trees.
- Respect the habitation of birds (cutting of trees).

Signage

- Signage at intersections should include directions to major features. The Sharpie-d directions are actually useful. The official signs should include information like La Veta Trailhead this-a-way and Ridgeway Trailhead that-a-way. Reservoir is another feature to have signs give direction to. Trailheads are the most important ones to have signs to point to. Very useful. Need signs to help people distinguish from social trails or more signs at real intersections. We find it difficult to navigate in there because we cannot tell some very well-established social trails from system trails.
- Trail signage upgrades should include caution advisories about bikes and courtesy reminders to bikers to respect all users and to ride in control. I'm a regular Chutes mountain biker and I get run off the trail frequently by high-speed downhillers who cannot stop from upcoming traffic or pedestrians.
- Could you provide website contact information at the trailheads so people can leave comments and concerns?
- Yes to way-finding signage! I still get off-course. I am one who appreciates the vandal's comments.
- City website to register problems (trails, etc.) ([per] Melissa)
- Hurrah for trail signage possibilities! I get asked so often for directions (mostly to the Reservoir!) because signage is confusing and/or absent.

Trail Management

- I like the idea of closing some of the redundant social trails. However, this needs to be done with a lot of input from regular users so work done would less likely be undone.
- Trails from La Veta to Reservoir need serious erosion control/re-building. (The trail that heads into the large meadow). Do new extremely fat bikes/tires with studs cause damage that needs to be addressed? They ride in all kinds of bad weather.
- The trail due north of dog Reservoir that has high humps to control erosion – can that be re-routed or de-humped?
- Accelerate damage repair on trails.

Vegetation Management

- Noxious weeds are a huge problem in the open space. They need more than just monitoring.
- Regarding noxious weeds, do you plan to spray? If so, please avoid spraying during nesting season.

Visitor Experience

- Please strongly consider keeping the man who does a lot of vandalizing on the property off permanently!! Any work that gets done by the Friends group gets undone immediately by this man.
- More discussions need to happen between bikers and hikers, with and without dogs.

- Would like La Veta restroom to be open more often.
- Keep open space as wild as possible!
- Manage mountain bike/hiker conflicts on lower trails, parking-to-Reservoir, etc. Maybe designate a specific trail from one parking lot for bikes and other hiking-only.
- Parking! Striping and handicapped parking need to be renewed and made obvious.
- This is a multi-use area and mostly works well as such. Only so much can be done outside of the realm of personal responsibility, courtesy, and cooperation.
- Please keep area in its natural state as much as possible.

Other

- I believe that the high priorities are working on maintenance of the property.
- Good first steps! Keep going.
- I work at Cheyenne Mt. High School and would be happy to help publicize information about the Management Plan and future meetings. (*Contact information provided and forwarded to the City*)
- Being a regular user over the last 20+ years (17 years as an open space), I see little maintenance or park staff presence in the open space. A lack of maintenance seems to lead to more degradation (i.e. weeds, erosion, social trails).
- The direction of the preliminary strategies is decent/OK.

Additional comments submitted to the City via email

I could not find an area to make a comment on the Stratton Open Space project, so here goes:

1. Make the Chutes trail bikers-only. Let them be as stupid, or "adventurous", as they please without risking the health of walkers.
2. Make SOS a "no leashes required" area for dogs. It is, de facto, one already and folks who walk/ride there deal with it. As an alternative, you can start a program similar to the Boulder Voice and Sight Tag program.
3. Fine the idiots who bag dog waste and then toss the bag on the trails....as opposed to putting all in the garbage cans at the trailheads. All they are doing is leaving a bag full of crap on the trail instead of leaving the waste to decompose naturally.

Thank you.