



Stratton Open Space Management Plan

*Community Workshop #2
November 10, 2015*

Opening & Project Background

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



Opening & Project Background

Definitions

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



Opening & 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
- Recommendations related to CSU reservoir must be consistent with existing codes, rules, and regulations.
- CSU will continue to access land and water at South Suburban Reservoir
- Public encouraged to develop the plan; all voices are equal
- Recommended plan will be approved by the P&R Advisory Board

See handout for specific language

Opening & Project Background

Public Involvement Process Steps

October 20, 2015

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



November 10, 2015

Step #2: Review, discuss and evaluate possible management approaches

We are here



January 12, 2016

Step #3: Review and respond to a Draft Management Plan

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



Community Workshop

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
- ✓ Be open to compromise
- ✓ Please hold questions until the end of the presentation

Adopted at the Oct. 20 Community Workshop

Community Workshop

What we've learned *so far*

Based on:

- Interviews with stakeholders
- On-site technical analysis of existing conditions
- October 20 workshop participants' review of and additions to the preliminary issues list

Community Workshop

What we've learned *so far*

Management issues that need to be addressed:

- ✓ Vegetation management
- ✓ Forest health management
- ✓ Dog management
- ✓ Signage
- ✓ Trail management
- ✓ Visitor experience

Preliminary Management Recommendations

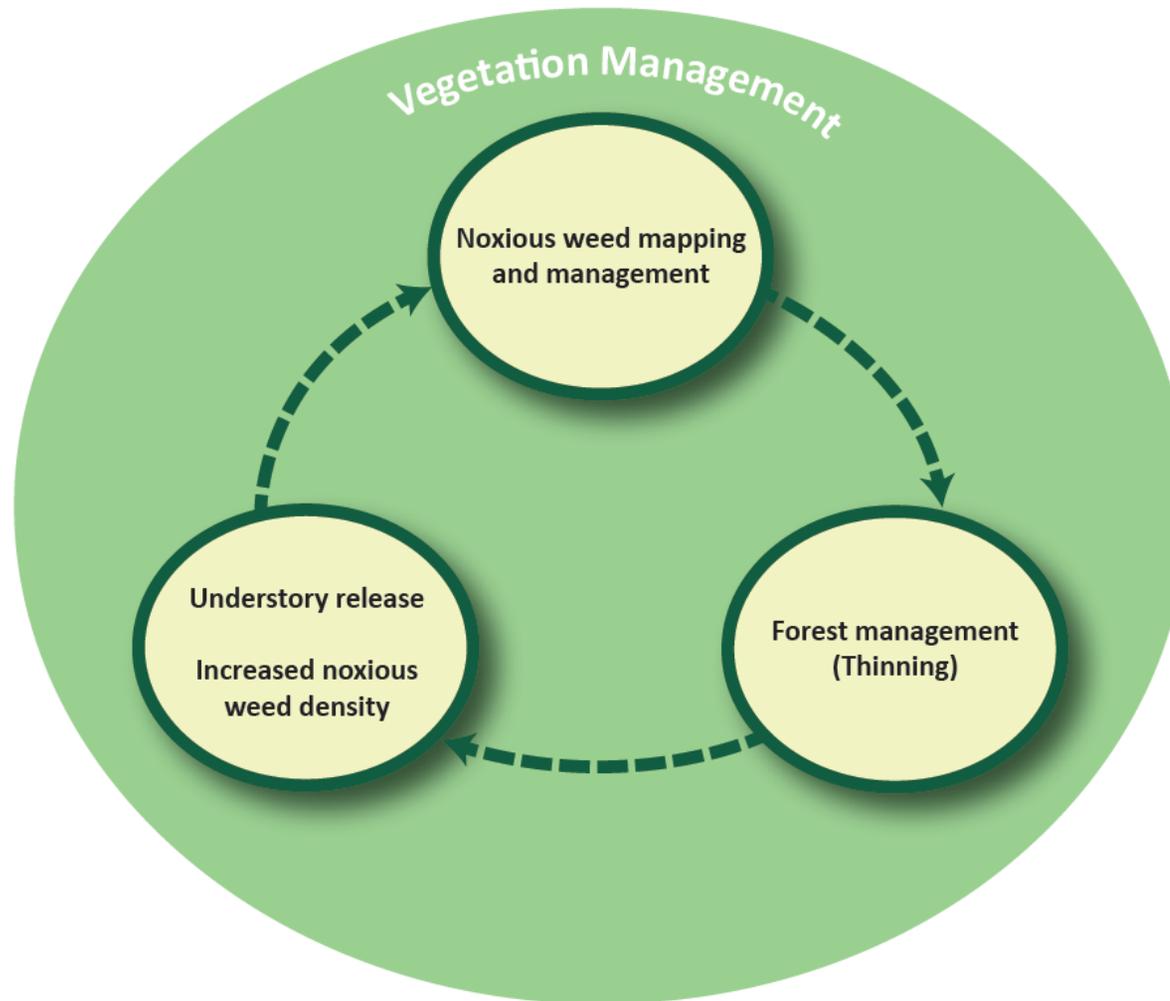
Natural Resources - Vegetation

Weed Management

- Remove all Russian olive
- Annual weed mapping, inventory, and management plan
- Focus immediate weed management on disturbance vectors
 - Trails, trailheads, roads, fence lines, forest mgmt areas
 - Integrate practices to minimize new infestations
- Coordinate weed management and forest management efforts

Preliminary Management Recommendations

Natural Resources - Vegetation

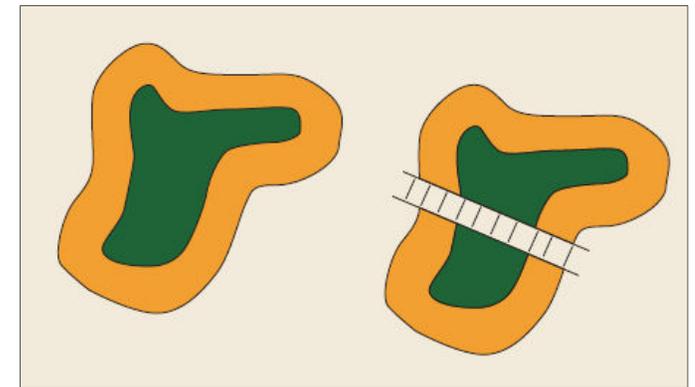


Preliminary Management Recommendations

Natural Resources - Wildlife

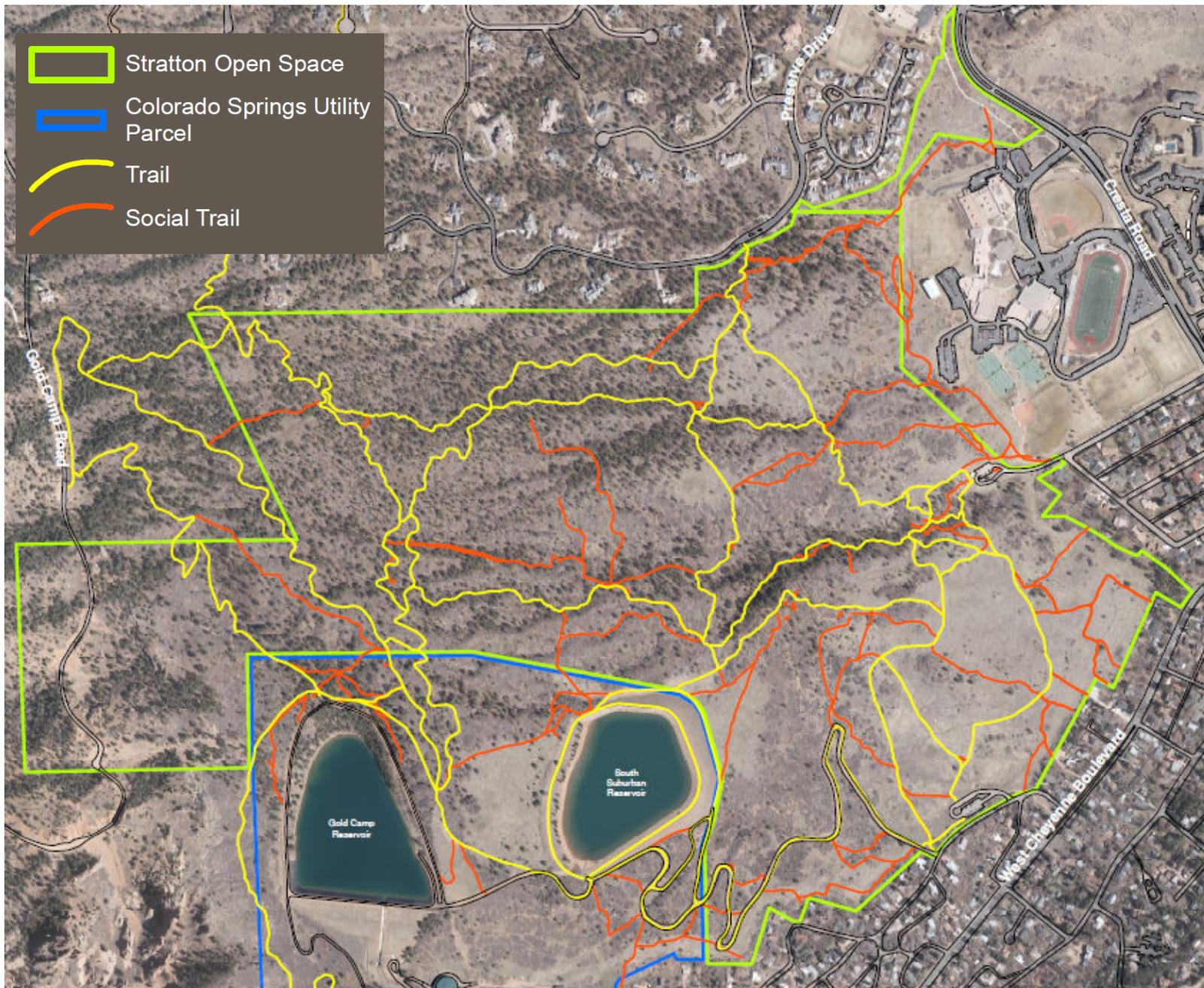
Wildlife Habitat Protection

- Avoid disturbance/tree removal during songbird breeding season
- Affirm and enforce existing off-leash dog regulations
- Close and manage social trails to reduce habitat fragmentation



Habitat fragmentation example







Stratton Open Space Management Plan



Preliminary Management Recommendations

Visitor Use - General

Signage and Wayfinding

- Improve and replace trailhead signs and wayfinding
- Use trail signage to minimize user conflict
 - Multi-use access, two-way traffic, and yielding
 - Suggested routes to avoid congested trails
- Establish trail signage standards to include trail name, direction, and distances
- Place trail system maps at trailheads
- Identify locations for system maps and benches



Preliminary Management Recommendations

Visitor Use - Trails

Trail Maintenance and Management

- Implement ongoing trail maintenance efforts throughout the property, emphasizing:
 - Erosion and hazard areas, braiding trails, and developing social trails
- Reroute system trails to eliminate unsustainable alignments
- Close unsustainable and redundant trails
 - Prior to closures, evaluate social, system and reroute options to determine the sustainable alignment
 - Install fencing to enforce closures until vegetation re-establishes



Preliminary Management Recommendations

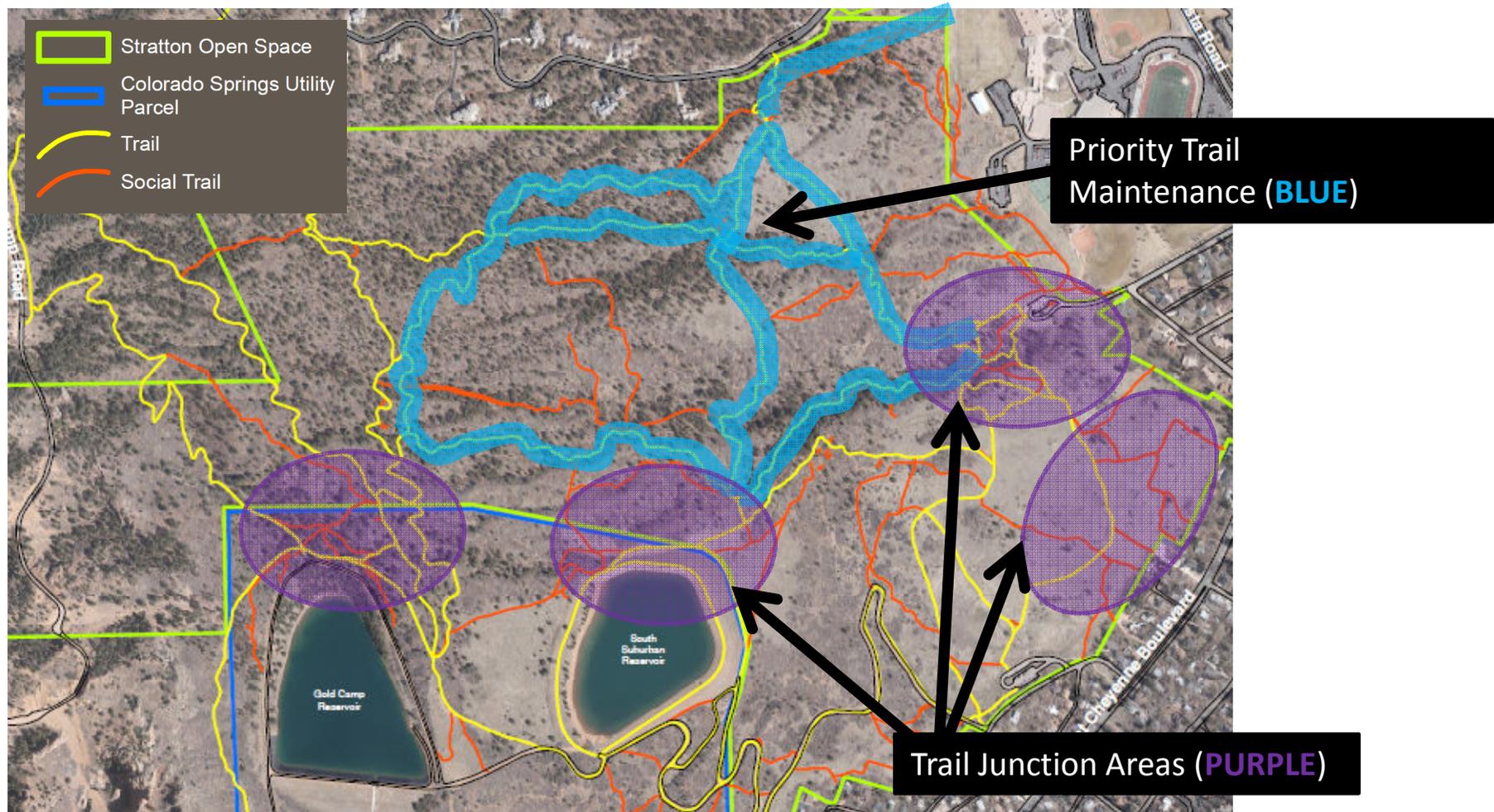
Visitor Use - Trails

Trail Maintenance and Management

- Establish a trail system *master plan* to address:
 - System and non-system trails
 - Trail realignments and closures
 - Possible new trails
 - Trailheads and neighborhood connections
 - Trail standards
 - Wayfinding signage
- Emphasize near-term efforts in specific locations (*following slides*)

Preliminary Management Recommendations

Visitor Use – Trails – *Near-term recommendations*



Preliminary Management Recommendations

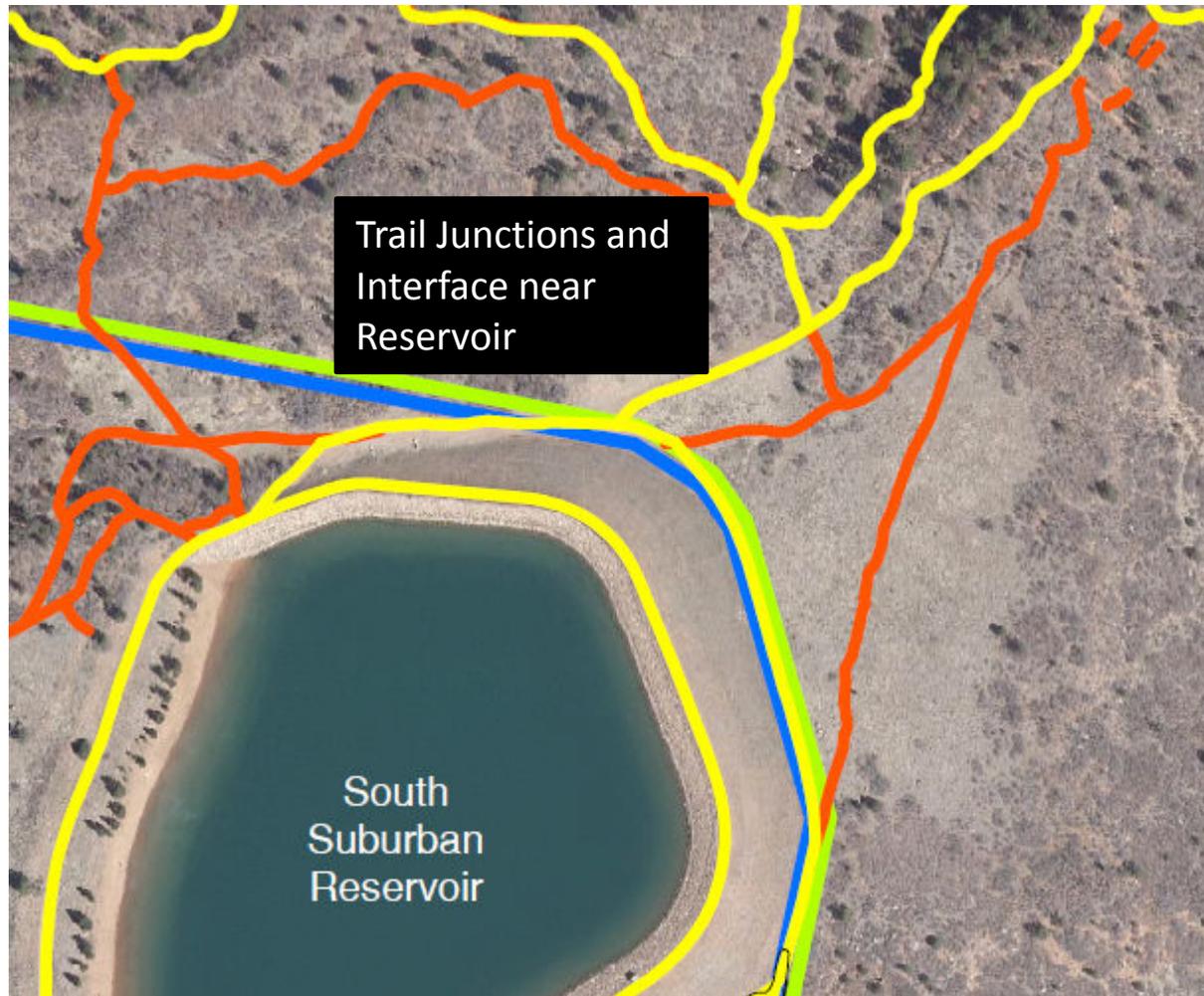
Visitor Use – Trails – *Near-term recommendations*



Redundant Trails from Trailhead

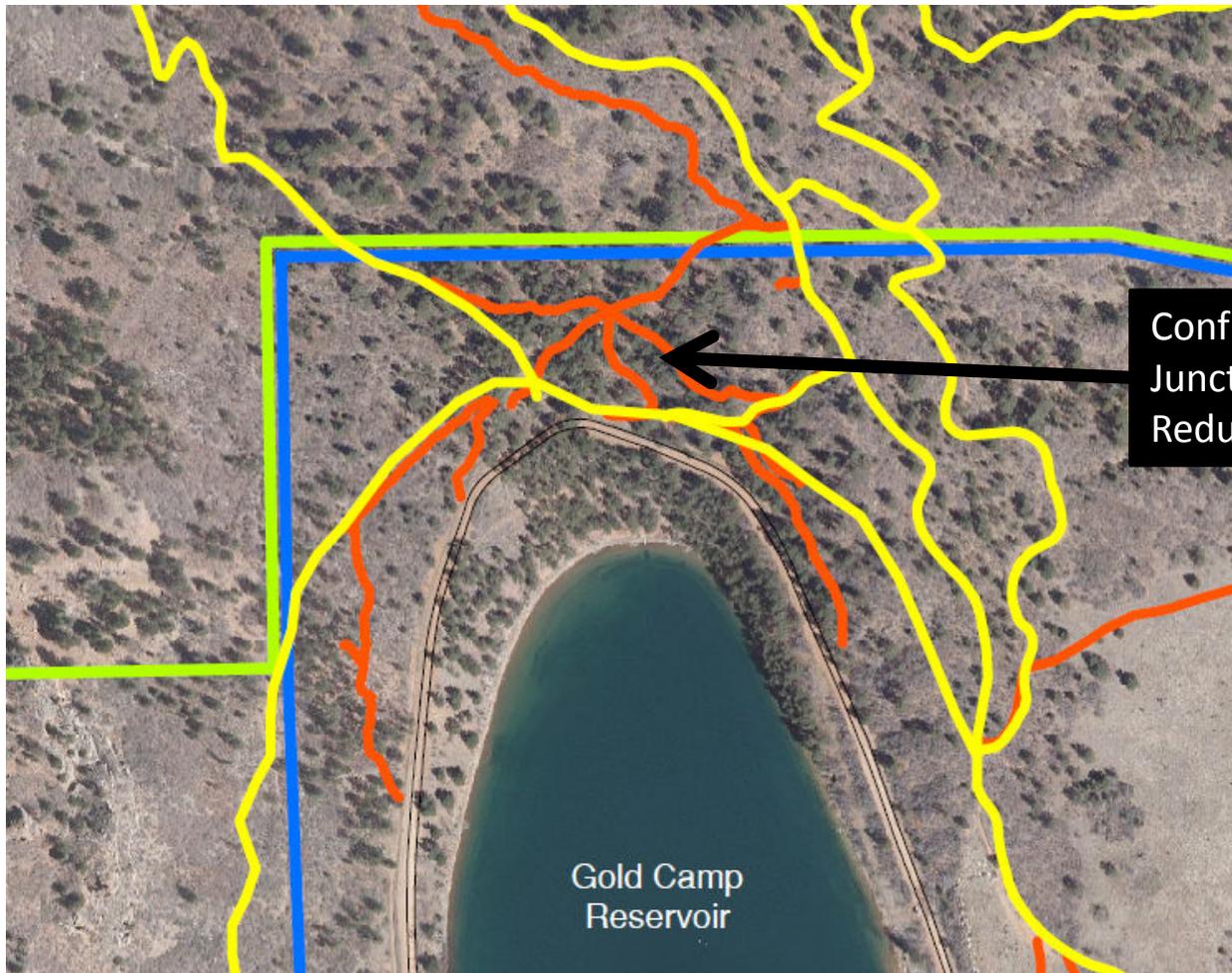
Preliminary Management Recommendations

Visitor Use – Trails – *Near-term recommendations*



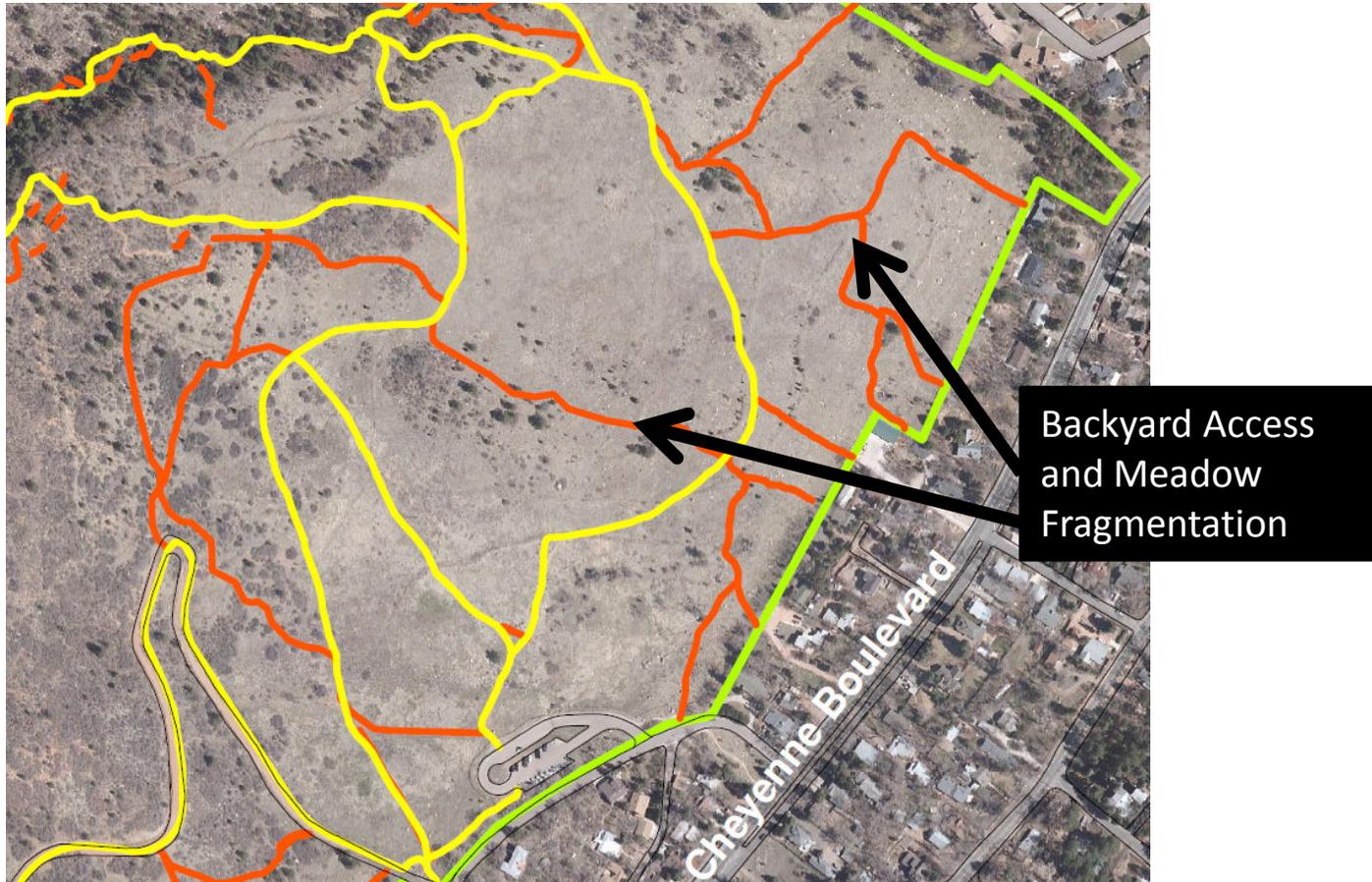
Preliminary Management Recommendations

Visitor Use – Trails – *Near-term recommendations*



Preliminary Management Recommendations

Visitor Use – Trails – *Near-term recommendations*



Preliminary Management Recommendations

Visitor Use – Dog Management

Dog Management in South Suburban Reservoir

- Off-leash dog use is occurring within the fence of South Suburban Reservoir
- CSU is responsible for meeting operational needs, including water quality protection and safety considerations
- Off-leash dogs are prohibited on Stratton Open Space land, per city ordinance



Preliminary Management Recommendations

Visitor Use – Dog Management

Dog Management in South Suburban Reservoir

- Clearly demarcate the boundary between the on-leash and off-leash area
 - Install clear signs identifying boundaries and permitted/prohibited uses
 - Install double gates to clarify the on-leash/off-leash boundary
- Install and maintain trash receptacles at the reservoir to manage dog waste
- Monitor and track visitor feedback regarding off-leash dog use at the reservoir and on adjacent open space land
- Annually evaluate status of dog use and the effectiveness of management efforts
- Develop a operation plan to clearly define management roles and responsibilities
 - This management plan and off-leash use of the reservoir will proceed concurrently to allow for proper approval process

Preliminary Management Recommendations

Visitor Use – Dog Management

Dog Management in Stratton Open Space

- Actively affirm dog leash regulations on the open space:
 - Signage – regulatory and interpretive
 - Staff presence and outreach
 - Enforcement
- Clearly sign and demarcate South Suburban Reservoir access points and regulations
- Place and maintain additional trash/dog waste receptacles at trailheads



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 (address on your agenda)
- Next meeting: 6 p.m. Tuesday, January 12, same place
- Please be sure to sign in tonight if you would like to receive email updates

Thank you for your participation!