

# Executive Summary

## INTRODUCTION

The Open Space, Parks, Recreation and Trails (OSPRT) Plan is a 20-year policy document intended to serve as a road map for Broomfield staff, elected officials, advisory committees, and the community to guide decisions about Open Space, Parks, recreation, and trails. The goal of the OSPRT Plan is to ensure that Broomfield's vision of the community is carried forward into the future and to promote a strong sense of unity, pride, and identity. It includes an analysis of Broomfield's current and future needs for Open Space, Parks, recreation, and trail facilities. The plan also outlines specific implementation strategies that will assist in achieving the community's goals to acquire additional Open Lands and trails, preserve natural resources, and enhance existing spaces and facilities.

Citizens may also look to the OSPRT Plan for guidance regarding the goals and commitments aimed at ensuring a sustainable future for Broomfield. The Plan is meant to be reviewed and amended to remain current with changing conditions within and outside Broomfield and is intended to be flexible as Broomfield continues to change and develop over the next 20 years.

## BROOMFIELD'S ROAD MAP

### AS A ROAD MAP, THE OSPRT PLAN PROVIDES:

- Goals and Objectives which are intended to provide measurable indicators of progress in realizing the vision of the OSPRT Plan.
- Inventory of Broomfield's existing OSPRT resources and analysis of current and future needs for Open Space, Parks, recreation facilities and trails, derived from community trends in utilization, results of a community needs assessment survey, and analysis of comparable communities.
- Land acquisition criteria to assist Broomfield officials in identifying opportunities for suitable Open Space and Park sites for acquisition or protection.
- A physical plan identifying potential Open Space, Parks, and trails improvements to be completed as the community grows.
- Design standards for Parks and trails that identify the types of amenities to be included in these facilities to balance quality, long-term maintenance and environmental sustainability.
- Guidelines for management and maintenance of community Open Space, Parks, recreation facilities, and trails.
- Specific implementation strategies for achieving the goals outlined in the Plan.

## THE PLANNING PROCESS

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach was a part of the planning process from start to finish. Public engagement included 819 survey responses, 6 focus group meetings, 18 pop up events and other outreach efforts that were analyzed and summarized and utilized as a central guide in the planning process.

### PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The Plan Development occurred concurrently with the Inventory and Analysis stage of the project. Draft plan content and documents were prepared and reviewed with Broomfield Staff, Council, Joint Advisory Committee Members, and others throughout the planning process. This ensured that all elements of the OSPRT Plan were as complete and comprehensive as possible.

### VISION AND GOALS

The Community Vision, Goals, Principles, and performance measures were refined based on the 2005 OSPRT Plan, 2016 Comprehensive Plan, Community Input Summary, and other information. A Mission Statement was also created as a part of the OSPRT Plan process.

### PLAN ADOPTION

After adoption by City Council this will serve as a policy document to help guide the vision of Broomfield's OSPRT over the next 20 years.

### INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

A multitude of existing plans, documents, and data were reviewed and analyzed as a part of the planning process. Community demographics, growth projections, natural resources, existing conditions and facilities, Park locations, various design standards and guidelines, polices, current code standards, budget, and other elements were included as a part of the inventory and analysis stage and ultimately, the needs assessment. Recommendations were developed based on the needs assessment with action items to implement them.

### COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

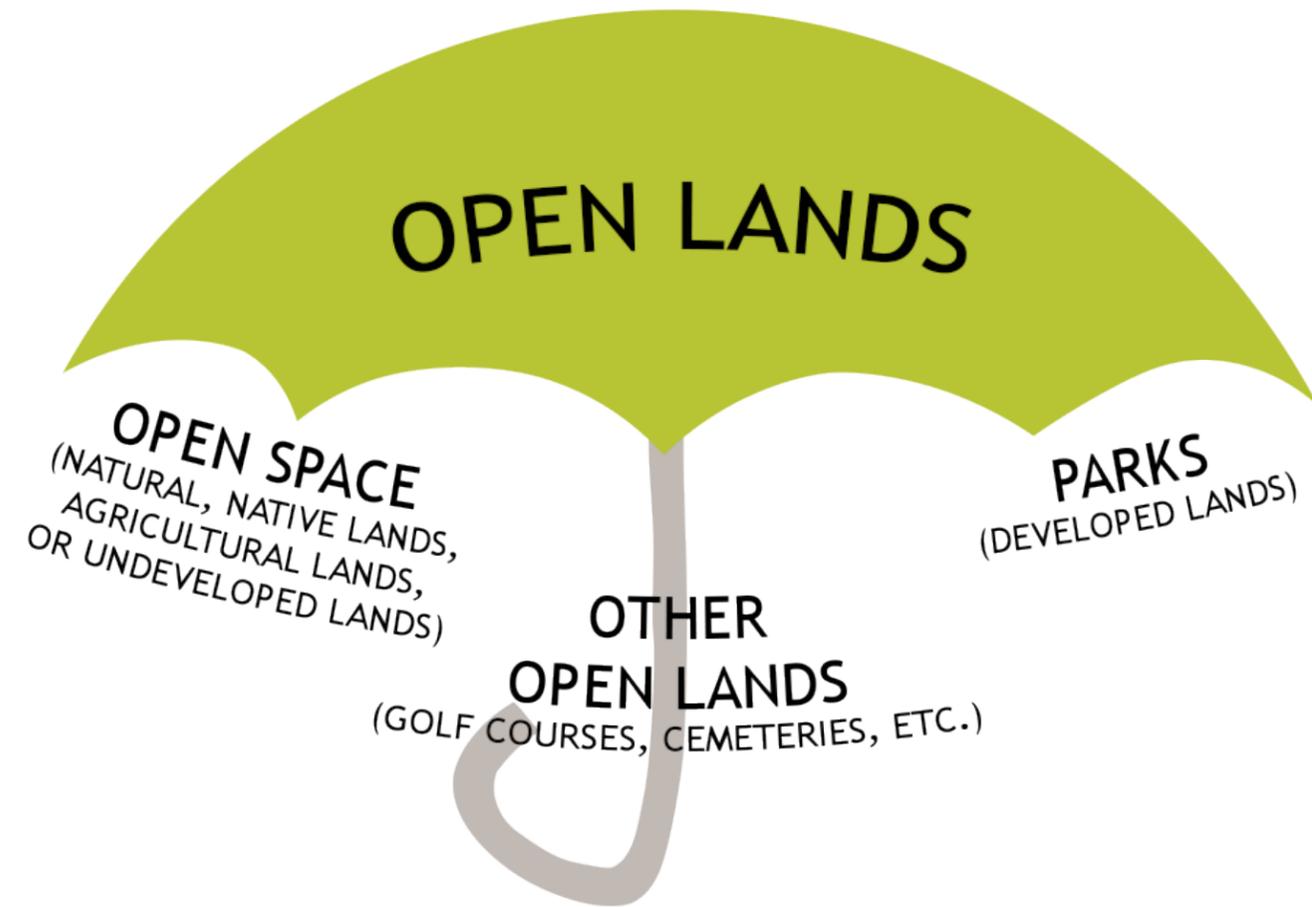
The OSPRT Plan is the result of sustained effort over a 2-year period that included the Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee (OSTAC), the Parks, Recreation and Senior Services Advisory Committee (PRSSAC), public engagement survey results and comments, City Council comments, and research and analysis by City staff and consultants.

Both OSTAC and PRSSAC continuously reviewed the recommendations for the OSPRT Plan while the plan was being developed. The review included topics relating to the survey, community outreach efforts, mission statement, goals, Open Lands objectives, Park standards, trail standards and missing links, land acquisition, and other elements.

## OPEN LANDS DEFINED

Open Lands are defined as public and private lands acquired or preserved in the public interest for Parks and Open Space uses. They serve a variety of functions, including conserving and protecting natural, cultural, historic, agricultural, and scenic resources; providing opportunities for recreation; and shaping the pattern of growth and development.

“Open Lands” is an umbrella concept that encompasses three key designations: Parks and Recreation Areas, Open Space, and Other Open Lands.



## *Parks and Recreation Areas*

Parks and Recreation areas are the most intensely developed and used types of Open Lands. They may contain open turf areas that may or may not be irrigated for passive recreation, active recreation playing fields, hard courts, picnic areas, restroom facilities, and other improvements.

## *Open Space*

Open Space means a parcel of land intentionally protected from development and/or set aside for unstructured, passive recreation and the appreciation of natural surroundings. Open Space may contain but is not limited to trailheads and trails, water bodies, wetlands, wildlife viewing areas, agricultural lands, fishing facilities, and other facilities that support uses compatible with site resources and conditions. Open Space is deemed to be in use for a public purpose.

## *Other Open Lands*

Other Open Lands may exhibit qualities of Open Space or Parks. Other Open Lands do not fit precisely into either the definition of Parks or Open Space. Examples of Other Open Lands include areas such as golf courses, cemeteries, landscaped trail corridors, or landscaped areas that are not necessarily a formal Park or Open Space.

Mission Statement:

“A Plan for the

*Heart* and *Soul*

of Broomfield”

The Vision

This OSPRT Plan will preserve and enhance those special places that are the heart and soul of Broomfield. The Heart is represented by Parks and other civic spaces that bring Broomfield together as a community. The Soul is represented by the Open Spaces and trails that provide contemplation and appreciation, whether viewed from afar, experienced close at hand, or near to home.

The Heart and Soul of Broomfield provides a strong sense of unity, pride, and identity. They should be enhanced, preserved, and celebrated.

*Goal 1:*

CREATE CONNECTED PUBLIC SPACES

*Goal 2:*

ESTABLISH A STRONG COMMUNITY IMAGE AND IDENTITY

*Goal 3:*

ENSURE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF FACILITIES

*Goal 4:*

DEVELOP A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO MEETING FUTURE NEEDS

*Goal 5:*

MAINTAIN SOUND STEWARDSHIP OF OPEN LANDS

## SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The goal of the community outreach efforts was to gain a better understanding of the unique wants and needs of the community to ensure that all of the diverse perspectives of Broomfield residents are represented within the OSPRT Plan. This community input and feedback was used to inform the technical analysis of the OSPRT Plan. Outreach efforts included:

- Community Survey (819 responses)
- Focus Groups (6 with different stakeholder groups)
- Open House “Pop-Up” Events (18)
- Additional Outreach Efforts:  
*Informational Tables at Recreation Centers, the Community Assistance Center, and Library, Three Senior Lunches with hard copies of surveys, Laminated QR Codes placed at over 30 locations including trailheads and playgrounds, Utility Bill Statement encouraging residents to take the survey, 3,000 Postcards mailed to residents, Postcard fliers placed at Child Watch, City and County Building, and Recreation Center front desks, Digital Signage at Recreation Centers, Library, Invent HQ, Health and Human Services and City Building, Partner Newsletters, Stakeholder Group Engagement, Standard Communications: Instagram, Facebook, Broomfield Enterprise (Local Newspaper) etc., Email Signature on Open Space and Trails Staff, and Telephone Hotline.*

### SURVEY KEY TAKEAWAYS

- OSPRT are primarily used for recreation, physical and mental wellness, and to appreciate Broomfield’s natural beauty; they are less commonly used for commuting or getting around the community although there is a desire to use the trails more frequently for transportation purposes as trail connectivity improves.
- Broomfield’s Parks and Open Space are viewed as being more accessible than both trails and recreation centers.
- A top priority is the overall maintenance of walking/biking surfaces, Open Spaces, Parks and recreation areas.
- Survey respondents overwhelmingly state that OSPRT directly contribute to their mental and physical wellbeing, especially through the use of trails, Open Space and Parks.

## ACHIEVING 40% OPEN LANDS

The goal of these efforts is to provide continuous, connected Parks and Open Space throughout the community benefiting wildlife, enhancing recreational experiences, and increasing Broomfield’s walkability and quality of life.

Broomfield’s primary objective is to provide 40% of Broomfield’s planning area as Open Lands. This includes public or private Open Space, Parks, or Other Open Lands.

Broomfield currently has 8,607 acres of Open Lands. This is approximately 36% of the total Planning Area.

The balance between the 9,555 and 8,607 acres is 948 acres. When pending and approved public land dedications are deducted from the 948 acres, the remaining Open Lands needed to meet the 40% Open Lands Objective is 759 acres.

The 40% Open Lands objective may be met in three primary ways:

### LAND ACQUISITION

One primary method that may be used to achieve the 40% Open Lands objective is land acquisition by purchase. Broomfield may acquire properties that are best suited for future Open Lands. Acquisition is based on several factors, including criteria related to Open Space suitability, Park suitability, and feasibility.

### PUBLIC LAND DEDICATION

Requiring Public Land Dedication (PLD) for new residential development is another primary method that may be used to achieve the 40% Open Lands objective. Continuing to require land dedication as a part of residential development or redevelopment ensures that these Open Lands are accessible to the overall community and the new residents.

### OTHER SOURCES

A variety of other sources including grants such as the Great Outdoor Colorado Grants, partnerships with other governments, and PLD Cash-In-Lieu received during the planning process are used to achieve the 40% Open Lands objective.

## SURVEY THEMES

### Access

What would help improve access to Broomfield OSPRT?  
Are there enough facilities nearby your home?

- MORE TRAILS
- IMPROVED CONNECTIVITY AMONG TRAILS
- MORE SIGNAGE, IMPROVED WAYFINDING, OR EDUCATIONAL MAPS
- MORE OPEN SPACE
- INCREASED PARKING NEAR TRAILHEADS
- LOWER RECREATION CENTER FEES/NO FEES
- BETTER MAINTENANCE
- MORE/BETTER PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS
- IMPROVED WAYFINDING OR EDUCATIONAL MAPS
- IMPROVE SAFETY AT CROSSWALKS WHERE TRAILS INTERSECT ROADS

### Safety and Welcomeness

What would make you feel more welcome?

- INCREASED SIGNAGE
- REDUCED HOMELESSNESS AND ENCAMPMENTS
- IMPROVED RECREATION CENTER CUSTOMER SERVICE TO FEEL MORE WELCOME
- INCREASED SAFETY OR THE FEELING OF BEING SAFE
- MAINTENANCE OF OSPRT
- LEASH ENFORCEMENT OF OFF-LEASH DOGS
- BETTER/INCREASED LIGHTING ON TRAILS, BIKEWAYS AND CROSSWALKS
- PATROLS/INCREASED AUTHORITY PRESENCE
- (TIE): FEWER COYOTES; CYCLIST PEDESTRIAN SAFETY; CLEANLINESS/TRASH BINS

### Trail System Use

What would help you use the trail system more?

- TRAIL CONNECTIVITY
- INCREASED INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
- HAVING ACCESS TO TRAIL MAPS
- CONNECTIONS TO DESTINATIONS (E.G. SHOPPING, CITY CENTER, PARKS, ETC.)
- ADDING SHADE THROUGH SHADE STRUCTURES AND TREE PLANTING
- INCREASED NUMBER OF TRAILS
- TRAIL CONDITION/WEATHER MAINTENANCE
- SAFETY
- WAYFINDING
- SAFER STREET CROSSINGS

### What is Missing?

What is Broomfield missing in its OSPRT?

- INCREASED SHADE/SUN COVER WITH LANDSCAPING, PAVILIONS, OR STRUCTURES
- MORE OPEN SPACE
- SIGNAGE
- NOTHING
- NIGHTTIME LIGHTING ON TRAILS, BIKEWAYS AND CROSSWALKS
- MORE TRAILS
- TRAIL CONNECTIVITY
- TRAIL MAPS ON SITE/TRAILHEADS
- SAFETY INCLUDING PATROLS OR POLICE PRESENCE OR SECURITY
- MORE PERMANENT PUBLIC RESTROOMS
- MORE TRASH CANS

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Based on the future needs of Broomfield, several recommendations for land acquisition, Parks and recreation facilities, Open Space, trails, sustainable management, and maintenance guidelines have been determined. Action Items help clearly outline the steps needed to make the recommendations come to fruition.

A series of Action Items have been prepared as a part of the OSPRT Planning process. These Action Items provide clear steps forward with objectives, details, responsible departments, a status, and timeline to help achieve the goals of the OSPRT Plan. The six Action Item categories are listed below.

### 1.0: LAND ACQUISITION AND DEDICATION

### 2.0: PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

### 3.0: OPEN SPACE

### 4.0: TRAILS

### 5.0: MUNICIPAL CODE REVISIONS AND POLICIES

### 6.0: MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

The specific Action Items that fall within each of these categories can be found in Chapter 5.

## MUNICIPAL CODE REVISIONS

Codifying particular elements that relate to the OSPRT Plan will help ensure the success of achieving the OSPRT Plan goals and objectives. The code amendment recommendations will help solidify Broomfield's vision for Open Space, Parks, recreation, and trails.

### Planned Unit Development Review Standards and Site Plan Review Standards

Broomfield's municipal code Section 17-38-120 and 17-38-220 include requirements for Planned Unit Development (PUD) Applications. These sections should be updated to establish regulatory criteria for PUD Applications that would require proposed plans to respond to these topics in support of the OSPRT Plan. They include:

- Future needs for OSPRT facilities
- Adherence to Park design standards and trail standards
- Plan to provide for stormwater conveyance that addresses water quality
- Protection of significant natural features, riparian corridors, ridgelines, existing trees, native vegetation, habitat areas and wildlife.

The OSPRT Plan would be used to provide more details on the topic areas. See provisions in Chapter 7.

### Public Land Dedication (PLD)

Updated Public Land Dedication provisions are proposed to be codified. Revisions also address income aligned housing projects to incentivize this type of housing while also ensuring equitable locations of Open Space, Parks, and trails for residents that are served by this type of housing. See proposed provisions in Chapter 8.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The Open Space and Trails Department and the Parks, Recreation, and Senior Services Department use a variety of mechanisms to fund capital investment, including CCOB funds, the public land dedication cash-in-lieu that developers provide when the required actual dedicated Open Space or Park land is not provided, and grants.

### Funding Sources

#### Government Funds

- Open Space and Park Sales and Use Tax Fund
- Conservation Trust Fund
- Sales and Use Tax Capital Improvement Fund
- Services Expansion Fee Fund

#### Public Land Dedications and Cash-in-Lieu

#### Grants

#### Key Future Capital Projects

#### Non-Traditional Funding Sources

### Future Budget Implications

As the CCOB continues to grow and eventually reaches build out, it has opportunities to seek additional Open Space and Park land to meet its 40% Open Lands objective. CCOB will also have the opportunity to evaluate how best to thoughtfully and responsibly continue developing the trail system including signage, conducting wildlife management, investing in recreation and senior services infrastructure, expanding recreation services, and providing maintenance to meet the demands of a growing population.

#### Land Acquisition Costs

#### Open Space and Park Enhancement/Amenity Costs

#### Trail Development Costs

#### Maintenance and Operations/Administration Needs

## Key Future Capital Projects

Recognizing that funding for capital projects is constantly evolving, the Open Space and Trails Department and Parks, Recreation, and Senior Services Department each developed lists of key projects to consider for potential funding in the coming years.

### PARKS, RECREATION, AND SENIOR SERVICES

- Phase IV renovation of the Bay
- Renovation of the Norm Smith Service Center
- Anthem Community Park Build Out
- Paul Derda Recreation Center Pool Boiler Repairs
- Paul Derda Recreation Center Roof Replacement
- Paul Derda Recreation Center Hardscape Replacement
- Irrigation Replacement In Skystone
- Annual Playground Replacement
- Annual Tree Replacement Program
- Interlocken Playground, Restroom, Shelter Replacement
- Replacement of Senior Service Passenger Vehicles
- Annual Fitness Equipment Replacement Program
- LED Lighting Upgrades
- Master Plan for the Eagl Point Property

### OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS

- Open Space Land Acquisition
- Update of the Public Land Dedication Ordinance
- Harmer Open Space Management Plan
- Kabert Open Lands Management Plan
- Davis and Nordstrom Open Space Management Plan
- Huron Open Space Management Plan
- Metzger Farmhouse Design Analysis to Allow for Public Use
- Open Space Native Grasslands Restoration at various Open Space sites such as Great Western Open Space, The Field Open Space, and Wottge Open Space
- Habitat Enhancements to Plaster Reservoir Open Space
- Ongoing Wildlife Research
- Rock Creek to Brainard Drive Trail and Potential Underpass/Trailhead Parking (part of the Rock Creek Regional Trail)
- Flatiron Crossing to Storage Tek Drive/96th Street Trail (part of the Rock Creek Regional Trail)
- Wildgrass at Northwest Parkway Underpass Retro-fit and Trail Connection to Rock and Coal Creek Regional Trails
- Extension of the Broomfield Trail from Lowell Blvd. to Spruce Meadows along Community Ditch
- Implementation of the Raptor Management Plan
- Implementation of the OSPRT Plan Action Items

# OSPRT PLAN SUMMARY MAP

Based on the recommendations of the OSPRT Plan, an OSPRT Plan Summary Map has been developed. This map shows existing Open Space, Parks, and Other Open Lands; the completed trail system; key restoration/habitat enhancement sites; and opportunities for future Open Space and Parks acquisition by purchase or public land dedication. The purpose of this map is to highlight some of the key concepts from the OSPRT analysis but is not intended to be a complete and comprehensive summary of all OSPRT Plan recommendations. The OSPRT Plan Summary Map is a high altitude look at the findings identified during the planning process. The specific maps related to land acquisitions, trails, etc. should be reviewed in tandem with the OSPRT Plan Summary Map.

## FUTURE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE AREAS

-  Future City/County Wide or Community Park Location
-  Future Neighborhood Park Location
-  Future Open Space Area

## CANDIDATE AREAS FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION/HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

- A** The Field Open Space
- B** Broomfield County Commons
- C** Great Western Reservoir
- D** Quail Creek Drainage
- E** Metzger Farm
- F** Markel Open Space
- G** Wottge Open Space

## FUTURE COMPLETED TRAIL NETWORK

-  US 36 BIKEWAY (COMPLETED)
-  REGIONAL TRAILS
-  BROOMFIELD TRAIL
-  NORTH BROOMFIELD LOOP TRAIL
-  LAKE LINK TRAIL (COMPLETED)
-  NORTHWEST PARKWAY TRAIL
-  SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY LOOP TRAIL
-  BASELINE NEIGHBORHOOD TRAIL
-  ALL OTHER EXISTING TRAILS

Note that the future Open Space, Parks, trails, and candidate areas for restoration locations are conceptual in nature only. They are meant to demonstrate the location intent.

