

LARIMER COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.,

Bison Room, Natural Resources Administrative Office, 1800 S. County Rd 31, Loveland, CO

The mission of the Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Department is to establish, protect, and manage significant regional parks and open lands, providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities and stewardship of natural resource values. We are committed to fostering a sense of community and appreciation for the natural and agricultural heritage of Larimer County for present and future generations.

PAB Members in Attendance:

Chris Klaas	X	Mark DeGregorio	X	Stephanie Van Dyken	X
Deborah Shulman		Nick Clark		Steve Ambrose	X
Frank Gillespie	X	Rob Harris	X	Steve Johnson, Commissioner	
John Gaffney		Ron Kainer	X		
John Tipton	X	Russell Fruits			

NR Staff in Attendance:

Gary Buffington	X	Ken Brink	X	Mark Caughlan	X
Dan Rieves		Kim Butler	X		

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

GENERAL INFORMATION by Gary – 5:33

- Natural Resource Events for this month: See website <http://www.larimer.org/naturalresources>.
- To sign up for Parks Advisory Board minutes go to <http://larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm> put in your email and click 'subscribe', then check "Parks Advisory Board" box.
- Open Space updates:
 - The Devil's Backbone parking lot reconfiguration (adding about 35 spaces) is complete and open to the public. We are also attempting to add an additional trail to separate bikers from the hikers.
 - The Lions Open Space parking area and trailhead will close on February 22 for bank stabilization work along the Poudre River. It re-opened this week. The Pleasant Valley Trail will remain open but will be temporarily rerouted away from the river.
 - The Colorado Front Range Trail/Poudre River Trail Segment was recognized by the Governor as one of his 16 for 16 projects. This designation helps raise the Poudre River Trail's profile, assists with grant funding and may be useful in our negotiations with CDOT to get the trail across I-25.
 - Colorado's application for National Disaster Relief Competition funds was denied. A new Poudre River/I-25 Bridge and trail underpass were listed as a project priority in the application.
 - A new fish passage structure was installed on the Poudre River at the Fossil Creek Reservoir diversion structure. It is considered a model for a new structure downstream at River Bluffs.
 - Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado project at Hermit Park will take place Oct.14-16 to build approximately 1 mile of trail for the HPOS master plan implementation.

LARIMER COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

DISCUSSION ITEMS – 5:36pm

- HT Information Center Complex construction photo tour (powerpoint) – Mark – 5:36pm
 - It is truly for the entire region.
 - We are in the process of hiring an 11 month staff to run the front desk.
 - Construction due to be completed June 17, hoping to be open to the public July 5
- Multipurpose Ranger Model, LC Sheriff's Department Partnership – Ken – 5:44 pm
 - Ken passed around copies of the NR Organizational Chart
 - We operate with a very lean staffing model.
 - We're going through a program review with the LC Sheriff's Department. We have partnered in the past to have the Sheriff's deputy's help in patrolling the parks.
 - Sheriff Smith asked a group to start meeting and make sure our patrol program is all in order preemptively. They've been meeting for 3 months and have identified key areas to compare NR policies with the Sheriff's Department. They are finding that our policies are either as or more conservative than those of the Sheriff's Department. We are pretty close to having a memorandum of understanding in which we agree that it's in the public's best interest for the NR rangers to work together with the Sheriff's Department.
 - We do a tremendous amount of medical emergency responses, trail, park, water patrol, and visitor education. We also take those services backcountry.
 - Day to day operations in the parks are really run by 9 rangers and seasonal staff.
 - All of our rangers are POST certified and have their WFRs. We have very high standards.
 - We have some FEMA funding coming in to do some great training for our staff such as new rescue techniques, fire safety, etc.
 - Robert – how many seasonal staff do you have? Ken – about 30 seasonal staff per park
 - What are the key aspects of training for a seasonal? Mark – We put on Ranger Excellence School which is a week-long training, along with on-the-job training.
- Parks Master Plan Update – Ken – 6:07pm
 - We're leaning toward a vendor, but haven't made a final decision. In the next couple of week, we should have a decision.
 - We have \$140,000 total to update the Master Plan. We're working in conjunction with the Ranch because we feel that we have many users/visitors in common.
 - There will be 3 groups involved: a core team, a steering committee, and a stakeholder group.
 - Stephanie – what do you see the PAB's involvement as? Ken - potentially as a sounding board when we have updates or need input to the plan. Gary – At the end of the process, the PAB needs to give their recommendation to the Commissioners on whether or not to accept the Master Plan.
 - The PAB started with the 2007 compilation of the last Parks Master Plan.
- HT Information Center and Maintenance Complex Funding Sources - Information Item – Gary – 6:12pm
 - Please see the Powerpoint attached
 - The final projected cost for the Horsetooth Area Information Center and Maintenance Complex is \$5,480,243
 - This project was in the Master Plan in 2007.
 - The life expectancy for this new building is projected to be 30-40 years.
 - Mark – Is there a penalty in place for construction finishing late? Gary – There is, but it's pretty small, \$100-200/day-ish. Mark – We are a reasonable amount behind (a couple of weeks).
 - The Park Reserve is made up of visitor fees, concession fees, special event fees, etc.
 - In 2014 and 2015, we have been \$400-600,000 over our revenue budget.
 - We took 3 of our major funding sources and split the cost in thirds.

LARIMER COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

- Plan on 73 people in total working in these buildings on a daily basis during the recreation season
- The one Master Plan project that's left that will probably roll into the next Master Plan is the Carter Lake South Shore development.
- Gary to PAB – How do you feel about the funding sources? We're spending a lot of money on open space in the next 3-6 months. We're going to take a year off and catch up on our dollars. No comment from attendees.
- Frank – Did the Farm at Berthoud come out of the open space tax? Gary – yes
- Solid Waste Loan – Gary
 - Please see the Powerpoint attached
 - As you might recall we borrowed \$1.2 from Solid Waste about 6 years ago.
 - 2/3 of that has been repaid
 - Gary requested to roll the prior loan into the new loan so that we would have additional funds to begin the new 10 year Master Plan.
 - We close on the Malchow property Thursday.
 - The interest on the loan from Solid Waste is 0.6%
 - We have opportunities to spend almost \$13 million in Open Spaces over the next several months in conjunction with several partners.
 - Mark – Where could dollars for Parks come from within the Help Preserve Open Spaces Sales Tax? Gary – Most likely from the Operations/Improvements and Flexible for Either Use sections.
 - Mark – Will the Flex Unallocated (portion of the tax) be a year-to-year decision? Gary – Yes
 - We have a huge partnership with Fort Collins, and now Loveland is really getting on board as well.

ACTION ITEMS: None

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

Park District updates and Parks Master Plan Implementation Progress report – Dan Rieves, Carter Lake District Manager; and Mark Caughlan, Horsetooth District Manager

- **Carter Lake Updates**
 - Carter Lake was about ¾ full on their campsites last weekend.
 - ANS inspections began April 1
 - Working on ramping up to full staffing
 - Carter Lake's water level is almost full
 - The CBT was shut down for about 2 weeks for maintenance on the tunnel
 - They always leave about a half foot down for catastrophic weather.
 - The Pinewood project is about 99% finished.
 - Dan is spending a lot of time researching the South Shore project.
 - We're doing a lot of annual training for the full time ranger staff last week and this.

Board and Staff comments: None

- **Horsetooth Updates**
 - Also ramping up and hiring seasonals
 - Boat training is next week
 - We've had some water leaks, as a lot of our systems are old. We need to start doing some upgrades over the next couple of years.
 - Inlet Bay opened April 1. The marina opens April 15.

LARIMER COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

- The rangers wear a lot of hats and do an enormous amount to help the maintenance to get the park open and ready for our guests.
- We're losing 2 maintenance staff, so we are trying to hire for those positions.
- Everything is moving right along considering all of the challenges we're having.

Board and Staff comments: None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Buffington, Director – 6:45pm

Ken: Grand Lake Clarity Issue

- We went down to the Colorado Water Quality Control Board and testified on our position on the Grand Lake Clarity issue. The CWQCB had decided that there should be a numerical measurement to tell the clarity of the water. They told us that in 1941, they could see the Secchi disk 9 meters down.
- The Granby residents are guaranteed by Senate Rule 80 that the water quality in Granby Lake would not be affected by the CBT project.
- There is really no scientific basis for the clarity number, so it's very hard to really know what this "clarity" number should be. This is also not something that the federal government tracks. So their suggestion was to do away with the numeric standard.
- The decision was made that instead of having a clarity standard, there will be clarity goals.
- In Ken's opinion, that means that the parties involved will be encouraged to work together and use different techniques to make the water quality in Grand Lake as good as it can be without damaging the partners.
- The Bureau is going to begin a NEPA process to make sure everyone has input and they are examining strong data. In Ken's opinion, Larimer County did not have this opportunity in the past. This can take years to be completed.
- Robert – In the past, they've done a "no pumping in August" strategy because that's when the algae is highest, are they still going to do that? Ken – We will wait and see, we are very concerned when they stop deliveries.
- Steve – What are the proposed actions? Ken – I'm not sure, aside from researching what they can do to improve the situation right now.

Ken: Sea Planes

- We just found out there's a bill going to committee tomorrow that has to do with landing sea planes on reservoirs and we're considering having Mark (Caughlan) go down to testify.
- What does the PAB think?
 - Robert – Our lakes are so busy already, I don't know how you would safely do that.
 - Ken – Apparently there are only 7 pilots in Colorado who are certified and have the equipment to do this. And there's a statute in the voting record that this is illegal, and the pilots are upset and feel that they are not welcome.
 - Steve – Has spent a long time in float planes. Be aware it takes a very long time for sea planes to land and take off.
 - Others brought up different examples of busy lakes that allow them to land.
 - Mark – Right now, there's a 0.25 mile ceiling on Horsetooth Reservoir from the FAA.
- Ken relayed that he has been told that the feds are not going to allow it, so it probably will not be an issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

LARIMER COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

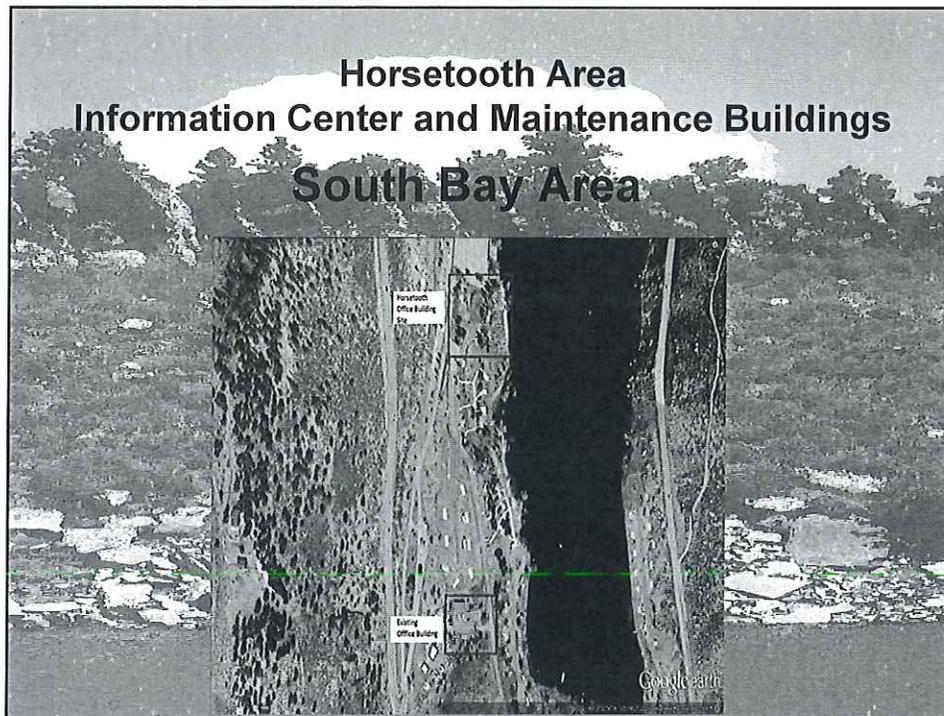
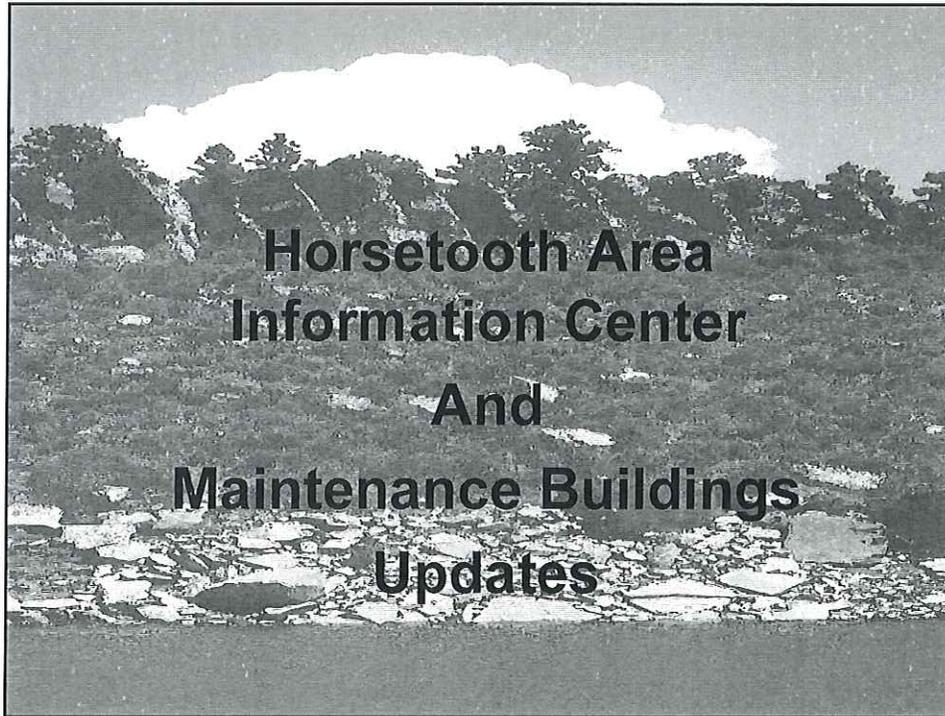
Kimberly Butler

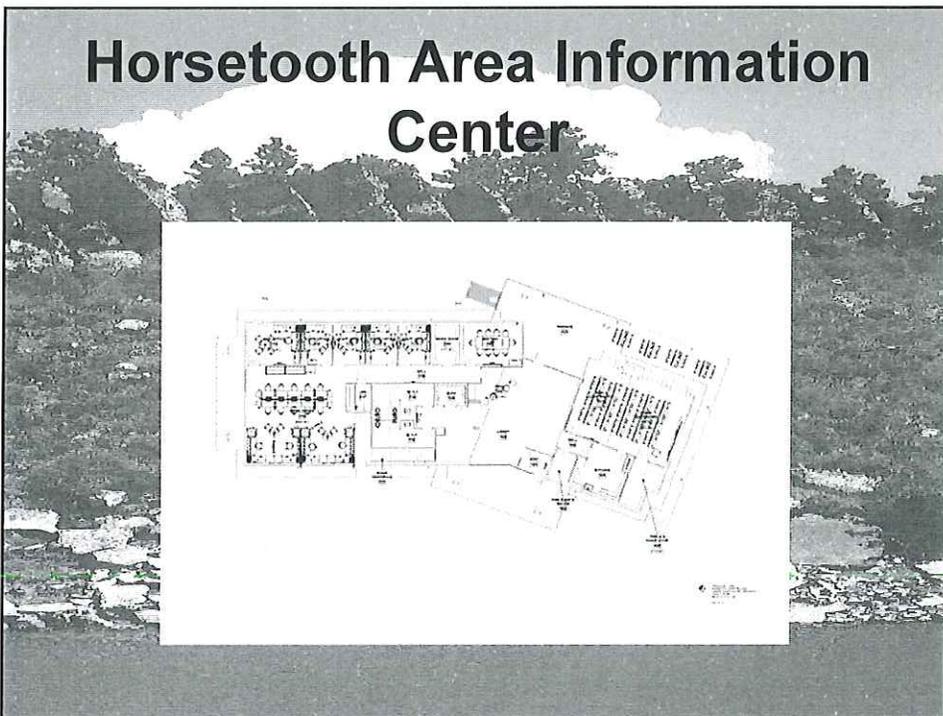
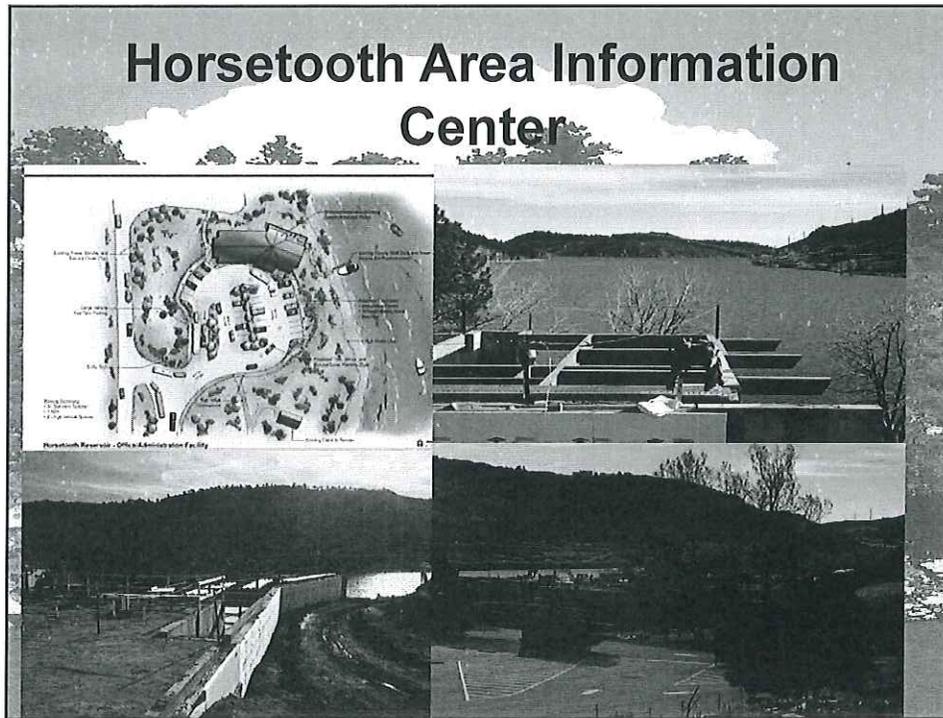
APPROVED:

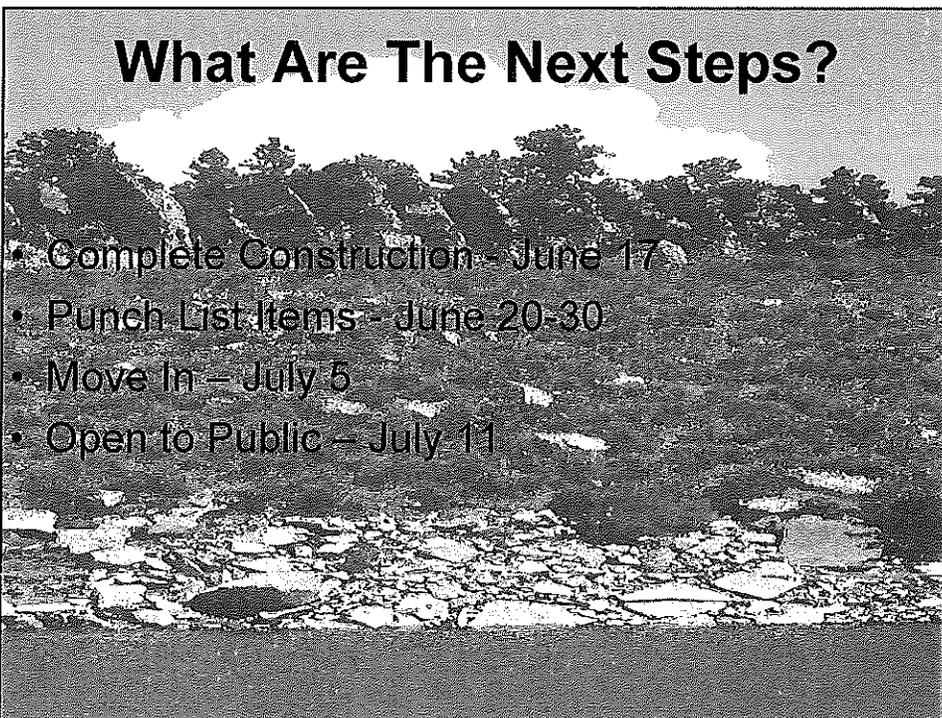
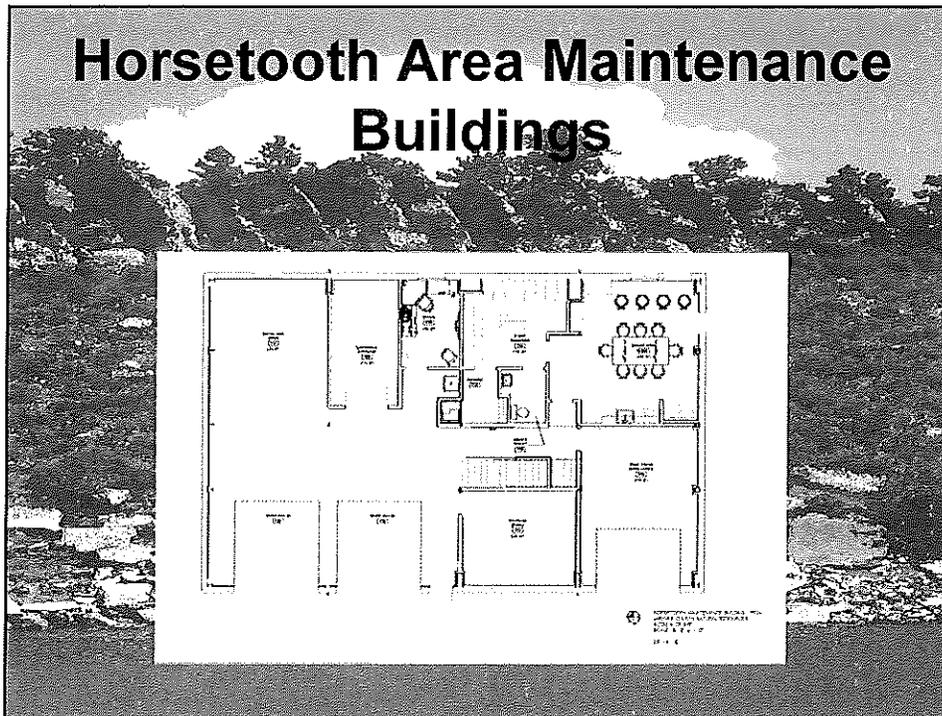
Robert Harris, Vice Chair

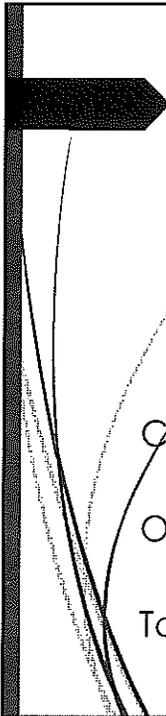
Next regular meeting [if needed]: May 10, 2016
Boyd Lake Room, Larimer County Courthouse
Office Building, 200 W. Oak, Ft. Collins, CO

Public can view agenda and minutes at
http://larimer.org/boards/minutes/parks_advisory_board.cfm



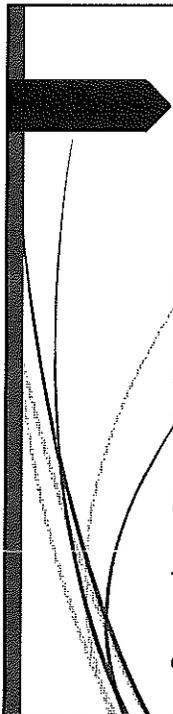






Horsetooth Information Center & Maintenance Complex Projected Cost

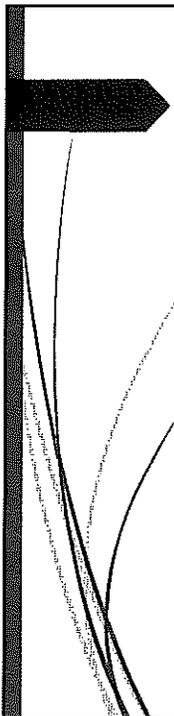
	<u>Information Center</u>	<u>Maintenance Building</u>	<u>Total</u>
Construction Budget	2,981,575	1,164,739	4,146,314
Owners Budget	<u>934,628</u>	<u>399,301</u>	<u>1,333,929</u>
Total Project Budget	3,916,203	1,564,040	5,480,243



Horsetooth Information Center & Maintenance Complex Gross Square Footage

Information Center	8,526 GSF
Maintenance Complex - main floor	3,313 GSF
Mezzanine & Equipment Platform	1,210 GSF
Maintenance Storage	<u>1,966 GSF</u>
Total Gross Square Footage	15,015 GSF

Gross Square Footage (GSF) includes the exterior walls



Horsetooth Information Center & Maintenance Complex Funding Sources

Parks Reserve	1,760,594
Lottery	1,760,593
Sales Tax	1,760,594
BOR	<u>198,462</u>
Total	5,480,243



Horsetooth Information Center & Maintenance Complex Employee/Position Listing

Natural Resource Manager
Senior Ranger
Rangers (2)
Maintenance Technicians (3)
Resource Specialist
Trail Crew Supervisor
Seasonal Staff
Trail Crew, Maintenance, Rangers (25)
Gate Attendance and Campground Host (17)
Aquatic Nuisance Species Boat Inspectors (16)
Information Specialist

Loan Agreement between Natural Resources and Solid Waste

Additional Funds are Needed

- Natural Resources has the opportunity to acquire critical open space properties
- Properties are available now and meet prioritization goals
- Landowners are motivated
- The next Ten Year Parks Master Plan will be finalized this year

Why Borrow Internally

- The cost of borrowing internally is less expensive
- The loan will not impair the purpose of the Solid Waste Fund
- The Open Lands Fund is anticipated to have sufficient resources to repay the loan with interest over the next ten years

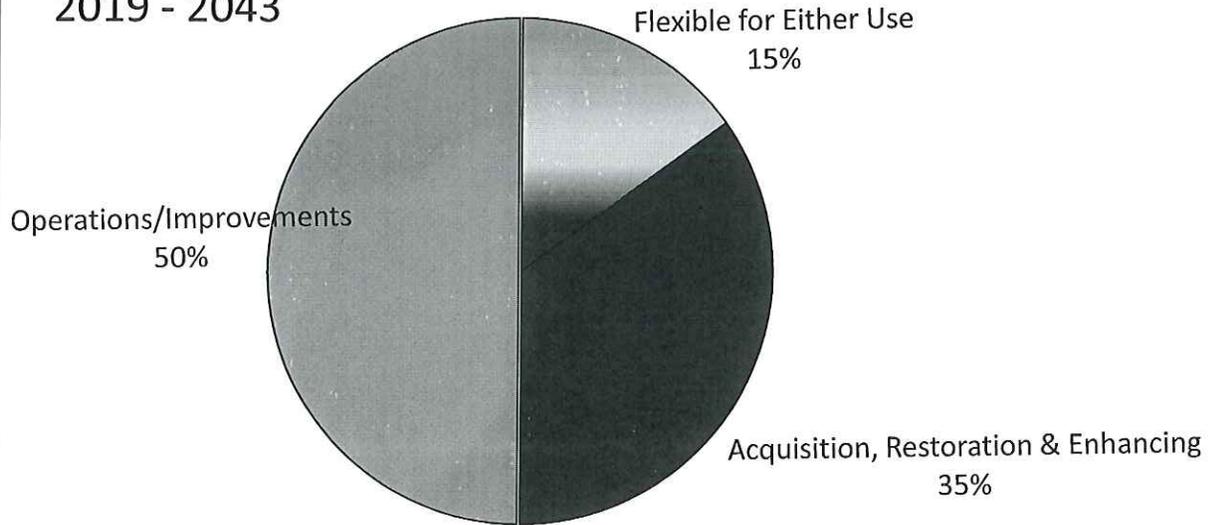
Terms of the Loan

- Eight Million
 - \$ 7,584,827 new funds
 - \$ 415,173 rolled over from prior parks program loan
- The transfer will happen before April, 2016
- First three years (2016-2018) - interest only
- The following seven years
 - A principal payment of \$ 1,142,857
 - Plus interest
- Interest - average yield on the County's pooled investment
- Payment due dates are December 31, annually

Help Preserve Open Spaces Sales Tax Extension

Ballot Allocation

2019 - 2043



Help Preserve Open Spaces Sales Tax Extension

Projected Allocations

2019-2025

