

September 2013



Friends Interested  
**FIDOS**  
 Dogs and Open Space

### August/September 2013 Summary

Few but serious issues this month are

**Green Tag** - OSMP's proposed Green Tag changes will go before Council on Tuesday,

**Flood** - All Open Space trails are closed.  
Possible Volunteer Opportunities

**Council elections** are due in 2 months.

### Quick Links

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### Green Tag Program

This Tuesday, Sep 17th, City Council will hear the first reading of the proposed ordinance changes to the Green Tag Program. These changes can be found [AT THIS LINK](#) starting on page 227 (a challenge to find).

We believe these changes are far too costly and extreme. The majority of dog guardians are being punished with these punitive and extreme changes because of the violations of a few. This is simply unfair.

Please write to City Council at [council@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:council@bouldercolorado.gov) to express your opposition to these proposals. If you are able, please come to the Council meeting at Council Chambers and speak.

Below are some items that you may include in your email. [We include a letter template at the end of this newsletter to cut and paste covering the issues.](#)

- 1) The proposed Green Tag Program changes are far too costly, with a price tag of greater than 3/4 of a million dollars (\$734,000 for implementation and \$135,000 ongoing) -- and that's just for a small

minority of violators. **OSMP needs to start over.**

- 2) You should not face loss of your Green Tag for a single offense of your dog chasing a squirrel into a tree. No other user group faces loss of Open Space privileges for any offenses, let alone a single offense.

Green tags should only be forfeited for a single strike of an egregious offense, where physical harm or death result.

- 3) Two violations of your dog being walked off-leash in a leash only area or in a Seasonal Leashing area will result in the loss of your dog's Green Tag. So if another family member is caught twice with your dog off leash in a leash-only area, your dog will lose his

Green Tag. And you too will lose the privilege of walking off leash with your dog, even though you did nothing wrong.

**The scapegoating of dog owners by OSMP needs to stop.**

- 4) The proposed changes are extreme, complex, and excessively punitive. The need for a 27 page document just to walk your dog

off leash is a shining example of how excessively complex and bureaucratic the proposed changes to the GT Program have become.

The intent of this program in the past was to provide straightforward guidelines to allow you to walk your dog under V&S control.

- 5) Public input, direction from OSBT and even Council has been disregarded as OSMP has crafted their proposals.

- 6) Almost 700 people have signed a petition opposing the proposed GT program changes, which will be presented to Council.

We absolutely understand that after the flood you may not be able to attend the Council Meeting. If you can't attend the meeting in person you may express your concerns to the Council by emailing:

council@bouldercolorado.gov"

(\*Remember all correspondence to City Council is considered public record\*)

Council meetings are routinely broadcast on [Channel 8 available at this link.](#)

## Trail Closures due to Flood

**All Open Space Trails are closed by law** due to the flood, some are in pretty bad shape. FIDOS will be participating in volunteer activities to help with trail reconstruction, once we have guidance from OSMP.

If you would be interested in helping repair your local trail let us know at "info@fidus.org" with your email and preferred trail, (or any trail) and we'll keep you informed of any activity on a separate email list.

**Please stay off the Open Space at the moment.**

## 2013 Election

FIDOS is currently vetting electoral candidates for their support for V&S access to the Open Space and will be doing a door to door lit drop for the "dog-friendly" candidates. We'll keep you informed of progress. You could really help by giving 2-3 hours of your time to make a difference in this election.

In addition Boulder Blue Line traditionally organizes a Q&A for candidates in Boulder Elections. FIDOS was invited to participate by submitting questions for consideration. Keep an eye out for candidates support for Voice and Sight!

## SUGGESTED LETTER TEMPLATE

Dear City Council Members:

OSMP's proposed changes to the Green Tag Program are far too costly and extreme. The majority of dog guardians are being punished with these extreme changes because of the violations of a few. This is simply unfair. OSMP needs to start over with a package that is focused on education and positive reinforcement, rather than punishment with the threat of user privilege loss.

First, the proposed Green Tag Program changes are too costly. With a price tag of greater than 3/4 of a million dollars to attempt to gain control over a small minority of violators, OSMP clearly needs to start over.

The proposed changes are excessively punitive. Dog guardians should not face loss of their Green Tag for a single offense of their dog merely chasing a squirrel into a tree. No other user group faces loss of Open Space privileges for any offenses, let alone a single minor offense.

In addition, the proposed Green Tag changes punish the innocent. Two

violations of your dog being walked off-leash in a leash-only area or in a Seasonal Leashing area will result in the loss of your dog's Green Tag. So if another family member is caught twice with your dog off leash in a leash-only area, your dog will lose his Green Tag. And you too will lose the privilege of walking off leash with your dog, even though you did nothing wrong.

The scapegoating of dog guardians by OSMP needs to stop. Please reject the proposed Green Tag Program changes. The intent of the Green Tag Program in the past was to provide straightforward guidelines to allow you to walk your dog under Voice and Sight control. We need a Green Tag Program that promotes these principles.

Respectfully,

Your Name

## Helping FIDOS

Its surprising how much V&S activity is going on the Boulder and the County which FIDOS members try to cover.

If you'd like to help out, but cant make long term commitments, we are pulling together a list of volunteer activities which simply involve turning up. For example, organizing a social event or attending an OSBT or Council Meeting and reporting back. (These meetings may seem dry, but when you have some skin in the game, such as preserving V&S access, they can be fascinating).

Let FIDOS know if you are interested in these ad-hoc activities and we'll put you on the mailing list.



## FIDOS Meetings, Membership and Feedback

Members of FIDOS include a wide cross section of the Boulder Community, the common factor being an interest in enjoying and protecting the the Open Space, accompanied by our dogs. Many supporters are in fact "between dogs", but value meeting others with their dogs on the trail.

In order to retain and expand this access we each need to be "good stewards" of the lands around us and keep an eye on whats going on on the trails as well as in the meeting rooms.

Let us know if you have any ideas or observations on the direction of FIDOS. New perspectives on V&S are always valuable in developing our arguments.

FIDOS meets on the first Monday of each month, 7pm at the Outlook Hotel, Boulder. The agenda is always published in advance to make sure we hit all the issues. If anyone would like to address the group let us know in advance (mail here) and we'll make time in the schedule.

Sincerely,

[Newsletter Team](#)

Friends Interested in Dogs and Open Space

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