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## FIDOS Appeal for Donations

FIDOS is a volunteer powered organization working to maintain access to the Boulder Open Space for visitors wishing to enjoy nature with their dogs off leash. We rely on donations to fund such items as this newsletter, website hosting and fees to remain in good legal standing with the state and other legal entities.

Costs are minimal but they do exist, and our funds are now running low. If you feel that FIDOS has value when we monitor city staff and work to maintain Voice and Sight access to the Open Space, we hope you will consider making a donation to help us continue.

*FIDOS is a 501c4 organization. Donations are not tax deductible.*

[Donate](#)

**DONATE to FIDOS thru Paypal**

## 2016 in Review and 2017

In the the first part of 2016 FIDOS was heavily involved in the plans for the **North Trail Study Area (TSA)**, coordinating our position with the other recreation groups in Boulder to achieve access to the new Joder property for visitors with their V&S tagged dogs. We achieved V&S On Corridor access on the Joder Interim Trail, and also on the Lefthand Trail north of Boulder Valley Ranch, and on a new loop trail to be constructed west of Wonderlan Lake.

The next two projects on the schedule were originally the **EAST TSA** and the revision of the **Visitor Master Plan** but both of these were moved out till 2017, giving us a pretty quiet fall and winter.

2017 has these two challenges to be faced.

The **Visitor Master Plan** of 2005 first introduced the "Green Tag" program for Boulder's dog guardians. It also introduced the Habitat Conservation Area designation, where Voice & Sight trails located in these areas were re-designated as on-leash trails as the default standard. Then, with the 2014 Green Tag Program revisions, Open Space visitors who wanted to walk with their off leash dogs were subject to increased participation fees and increased penalties for violations. As hikers with off leash dogs are the only Open Space stakeholders who must pay to enjoy their favorite activity, FIDOS plans to participate in the Visitor Master Plan revision to improve access and to prevent any further restriction creep.



The **East Trail Study Area** will address access to such areas as Dry Creek, the Bobolink Trail, the East Boulder Trail the area round the Powder Cave and the field containing the "Drone flight area" off Cherry Vale. [There is a map of the areas at this link.](#)

We see a number of dangers to V&S access in this TSA, but also some opportunities to significantly enhance the outdoor experience for all, including dog owners. We will keep you informed on progress in this project.

## Trail closure report



You may remember that late last year OSMP staff attempted to close a number of valuable trails in the Open Space by erecting signs and barriers.

The "Leave No Trace" organization released a report in released in October 2016. While it is very heavy on metrics and charts, the main conclusion is that if you try to close a trail which is frequently used by residents, they will push back and ignore the signage, whereas someone visiting a new area and coming across a sign, are more likely to respect the instruction. Makes sense really. People in general will try and obey rules, but if something of value is taken from them, in this case a

favorite trail, they will press back.

We believe it is extremely important for visitors to the Open Space, with and without dogs, to have access to a variety of paths to an area to disperse the impact of large numbers of visitors, whereas staff seem to be focused on closing trails and concentrating people in smaller areas.

## CU South - watching.....

CU South is a highly valued location in Boulder for all parts of the community. FIDOS appreciates the fact that the University has permitted visitors with their off leash dogs to access the site.



We are monitoring the meetings between the city staff, residents and CU closely, and participating in the various meetings to work to a fair outcome in which the interests of all groups are are respected.

There was an interesting article in the Camera recently which gives an indication of the number of groups participating or monitoring this process. [Link to the Camera article here](#)

The official city website with links to maps and schedules can be found at:

<https://bouldercolorado.gov/bvcp/cu-south>

## 2017 OS Tag Renewals



The OSMP department's tags to allow Voice and Sight access to the Open Space are available from the city, information at:

<https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/vs-tag-registration>

## Helping FIDOS

It's surprising how much V&S activity is going on in the City of Boulder and in Boulder County which FIDOS members try to cover.

If you'd like to help out but can't 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 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 what is happening 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 board meetings take place monthly. 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 and we'll make time in the schedule.

Sincerely,

Newsletter Team

Friends Interested in Dogs and Open Space

[Join our Mailing List!](#)