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New Study on Dogs in the Open Space



The never ending study of dog owners on Boulders Open Space continues in 2016 with another study by the "Leave No Trace" group. This time the goal is to:

"..... understand how much dog waste is left behind and if there is any difference between leashed and unleashed areas."

[More information is at the DC article at this link.](#)

"Leave no Trace" is due to release a report in August on their attempts to close trails in Dry Creek, Bobolink and in the western hills which we are awaiting with interest.

The North Trail Study Area

The Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) approved OSMP's [North TSA Draft Plan](#), with some minor amendments, at the March 9th OSBT meeting. FIDOS is happy to report that the North TSA Draft Plan includes some new Voice & Sight trails for dogs.

Thanks all who have supported these efforts with emails and attendance at North TSA study sessions.

1) The Left Hand Trail, north of Boulder Valley Ranch, will change from an On-Leash Trail to a Voice & Sight On Corridor Trail. Since the Left Hand Trail runs through an area that is designated as No Dog (from the OSMP Visitor Master Plan), the Voice & Sight On Corridor designation is the only Voice & Sight option available, although it's generally reserved for trails in Habitat Conservation Areas. The Voice & Sight On-Corridor designation allows dogs to be off leash, under Voice & Sight control, within 20 feet of either side of the trail.

2) The Joder Interim Trail ([first part of this old video](#)) at Joder Ranch will change from On Leash to Voice & Sight On Corridor. This trail runs through a Habitat Conservation Area, where the only Voice & Sight option available is On Corridor.

3) A new loop trail west of Wonderland Lake, as well as the Old Kiln Trail (currently On Leash), will be designated as Voice & Sight On Corridor. Since these trails are located in an On Leash Area as per the Visitor Master Plan, again the Voice & Sight On Corridor designation is the only Voice & Sight option available.

4) The Papini Trail, on the Mesa south of Boulder Valley Ranch, will become an officially designated trail that will allow Voice & Sight On Corridor access.

The amended North TSA Draft Plan will next go before City Council for a study session at the end of May. It is anticipated that in June, City Council will further discuss and ultimately accept the plan, with the possibility of modifications.

Although FIDOS hopes these new Voice & Sight trails are part of the final approved package, we must still await the deliberations and approval of City Council.

OSMP Trail Closures

Its the mud season and a number of trails, particularly in the southern area, are occasionally closed. There is an interactive map at:

["http://gisweb.bouldercolorado.gov/osmptrails/"](http://gisweb.bouldercolorado.gov/osmptrails/)

which identifies the trail closures and could save you a wasted trip if you check before leaving home.

Puttin' on the Leash for the Boulder Human Soc.

The Annual Fund Raiser for the Boulder Humane Society is on April 16. More details at:

[Boulder Humane Soc - Puttin' on the leash 2016](#)

To end with - a Local Working Dog



Visitors to Dry Creek over the past few weeks may have run into the dog in the picture guarding his flock of goats.

Its always a great thing to see a dog doing what he was bred to do, and off duty he is very easy going. Of course, if there are goats in the field, even accidentally, and he's "on duty" the responsible

response is to keep your dog under extra control away from the goats and avoid any possible conflict.

Coincidentally we came across a recent video (in German) of these dogs working with sheep in the country of Georgia at this link - [Shepherd dog video](#).

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.

[Join our 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 in the Alfalfa's Community room at 7pm on the 2nd Monday of each month. 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.

NOTE: Please do not use Alfalfas Parking lot to attend the meeting. The private Council Parking lot across the street can be used after 5pm in the evenings.

Sincerely,

Newsletter Team

Friends Interested in Dogs and Open Space