



Friends Interested
FIDOS
 Dogs and Open Space

Jan 2015 - a belated Happy New Year!!

Quick Links

There are a couple of items of interest this month. The New Year brought in the new V&S program which seems to be getting off to a quiet start. The number of participants is lower than projected but will probably increase, details below. We'll be watching its progress.

The North Trail Study Area (NTSA) is scheduled but has not yet started so we'll cover that later, but the status of the Joder Property in North Boulder is being considered. We will be able to watch the discussions on the new TV Broadcast of the OSBT meetings. Again, the details and timings are below.

Finally there are a couple of additions to the FIDOS Website which may be of interest. We have uploaded and made available all the back issues of the FIDOS Newsletter to 1998, added a more detailed calendar of the years meetings and activities and fixed a problem with the donations button. Details are below.

[Green Tag Becomes Blue](#)

[Monitoring Blue Tag Roll out](#)

[NBoulder Trails - Joder](#)

[TV Guide - OSBT Meeting](#)

[Donations via Paypal](#)

[FIDOS Newsletter Archive](#)

[Boards and Commissions](#)

[Around Town - Update on the Gunbarrel Park Poison Meatball Incident](#)

[Helping FIDOS](#)

[About FIDOS](#)

Green Tag becomes Blue

On January 1st the Green Tag program became the "Blue Tag" Program. The "one time only" payment for the Green Tag was cancelled and existing GT owners were **not** grandfathered into the program. Everyone now has to attend a class and then buy their new Blue Tag.

There will also be annual renewal fees, and the tag color will change each year

As of 1st January, 5,177 people had attended the free Voice and Sight Education Class but only 2,064 people had paid and registered in the V&S Program.



Staff had budgeted for 17,000 participants. The agency hired staff, advertised, purchased materials, put up signs etc etc. Ideally, no unexpected fees or changes will result from this over-budgeting.

Monitoring the Blue Tag roll out

We are interested in hearing of the experiences of the V&S community with the city staff during the roll out.

If you would like to record your experience with the rangers, good or bad, let us know at ["info@fidus.org"](mailto:info@fidus.org) making sure you have the name of the ranger and the trail you are on.

North Boulder Trails - Joder Ranch

The recently acquired [Joder Ranch property](#) (nice pic and history at the link, there is a [video tour at this link](#)), with its long history of recreational use, has the potential to provide new recreation opportunities in the North Boulder area. FIDOS has been requesting a Voice & Sight loop trail on the property, and will continue to do so.

At the December Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) meeting, OSMP received approval to open a single trail across the north end of the Joder property, prior to the North Trail Study Area.

This north Joder trail will be open to mountain bikes, equestrians, hikers, and dogs on leash. The Joder property currently has a Habitat Conservation Area (HCA) designation, and dogs on leash is the default designation in HCAs.

Even though there are several more existing trails on the Joder property, the opening of these trails will now have to wait until the North TSA. FIDOS and the equestrian community were pushing for more existing trails on the Joder property to be opened prior to the North TSA, but OSMP insisted that this was not possible. The North TSA process, unfortunately, could easily take one to two years to complete.

In addition, at the December OSBT meeting, OSMP received approval to permit mountain bikes on an existing trail on the Buckingham property. This Buckingham Trail connects the north Joder Trail to Olde Stage Road. It had previously been closed to mountain bikes, but open to Voice & Sight access for dogs. This Buckingham Trail will remain with Voice & Sight access for dogs, thanks to FIDOS' efforts in preventing OSMP from changing the designation to on leash for dogs.

The mountain bike community was pleased with the outcome of the OSBT meeting, as they will now have a new way to access Heil Ranch from this north Joder and Buckingham trail connection to Olde Stage Road, prior to the North TSA.

The equestrian community was disappointed with the outcome. They will have no easy way to access the north Joder trail, as there is no current parking for horse trailers. The equestrians were also concerned that by the time the North TSA is completed, and more trails and horse trailer parking are finally opened, mountain bikes will be well established on the north Joder trail, making it user unfriendly for equestrians.

FIDOS was pleased that the Buckingham Trail will remain with Voice & Sight access. FIDOS will continue to promote a Voice & Sight loop trail on the Joder property throughout the North TSA process.

A final bright note of the OSBT meeting was a motion that passed stating that during the North TSA, Joder's land management designation (HCA vs Natural Area) should be evaluated. Per the Visitor Master Plan, the Joder property more closely fits the characteristics of a Natural Area than an HCA. The default designation of Natural Area trails is Voice & Sight for dogs, which would be a potential positive outcome for dogs and dog guardians.

FIDOS Newsletter Archive on line

FIDOS was formed in 1994. The first newsletters were printed on paper and mailed but in 1998 our first email newsletter was sent out. We have collected all the newsletters we have available and uploaded them to the website at www.fidos.org under "News and Events" - "Newsletter Archive". There is a [direct link here](#) to the section.

Reading the old newsletters over the 15 years we see the common theme of more proposed restriction, and push back from the V&S community. It just reminds us that if you we have a freedom, we have to be careful about protecting it.

Donations via Paypal

Some supporters reported that they were unable to make Paypal donations to FIDOS before Christmas as the link was broken. Sorry about that, we had applied a security update to the website which broke the link to Paypal. All should now be working. **We should note that donations to FIDOS, while not tax deductible, are always welcome [via the website](#).**

While we are on the subject of the internet you may have seen in the news that the [Longmont Humane Society website had been hacked](#).

The FIDOS website is occasionally attacked, much more so in 2014 than in the past, but so far we have been lucky. While we have security software in place, we only keep publicly available information on the website. Functions such as donations are handled by Paypal which we link through to, and mailing lists, such as this newsletter are also off saved separately.

OSBT Meetings on Line TV Guide

The Open Space Board of Trustees meeting is now going to be streamed live at 6pm Wednesday 14th January. The link to the Channel 6 site is at

<https://bouldercolorado.gov/channel8/city-council-video-player-and-archive>

We don't expect anything controversial on the agenda this month, and it should be a quick meeting.

The Published agenda is:

6:00 I. Approval of Minutes

6:05 II. Public Participation for Items Not on the Agenda

6:15 III. Matters from Staff

- **Voice & Sight Tag Program Update**
- Status report on Left Hand Trail improvements
- Status report on Skunk Canyon Trail alignment
- Status report on Gregory Canyon step repair
- FEMA Update
- Opening of US36 underpass/South Boulder Creek Trail
- **Update on Joder property next steps**

7:30 IV. Matters from the Board

- Election of Board Secretary

7:40 V. Consideration of a motion to approve the purchase of 5 acres of land and all mineral rights located at 38474 Boulder Canyon Dr. from the Bonnie L. Schnell Revocable Trust for \$400,000 for Open Space and Mountain Parks purposes and an additional \$20,000 is recommended to be authorized from the acquisition budget for deconstruction and recycling of the existing house. Consideration of a motion to recommend that this parcel be included as part of the Western Mountain Parks

Habitat Conservation Area.*
8:10 VI. Adjournment
*Public Participation

END

Boulder Boards and Commissions

Boulder is looking for volunteers for various boards and commissions to help running the city, Applications are available from 2 January to February 12. A link to the city website is at:

<https://bouldercolorado.gov/boards-commissions>.

If you are in a position to spend a few hours a month helping to run and influence matters in the city which are important to you why, not consider standing.

Around Town - Update on the Gunbarrel Park Poison Meatball Incident

You may recall back in April of this year, someone left a batch of rat poisoned laced meatballs in Buckingham Park in the Gunbarrel neighborhood of Boulder County. Three dogs were poisoned and thankfully all three survived and are now back to normal.

While the heinous act was terrible, the ground swell of support from the community was tremendous. Friends of the Park came together and raised \$4,000 in reward money and another \$4,500 in pledges if the culprit was caught. With each passing day, the likelihood of catching the culprit diminishes and so the decision has been made to donate the cash reward money to the following charities: Longmont Humane Society, Boulder Humane Society and the Wounded Warrior Project.

Friends of Buckingham Park wishes to thank all the people and all of the corporate sponsors who came out to show their support.

Thank you!

Friends of Buckingham Park
On behalf of Gybz, Amos and Henry

Month Year

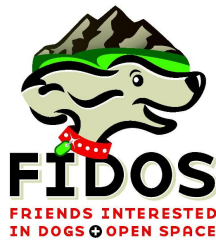
Vol 1, Issue 1

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 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

[Join our Mailing List!](#)

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to info@fidos.org by newsletter@fidos.org |

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Friends Interested in Dogs and Open Space | PO Box 17181 | Boulder | CO | 80305