



Friends Interested
FIDOS
Dogs and Open Space

It's Now or Never

On April 1 in City Council chambers the fate of our beloved Voice & Sight (off-leash) program will be determined.

That evening, council members will hear the second and likely final reading of the proposed changes, or as the office of Open Space and Mountain Parks calls them - "enhancements", to the entire Green Tag (GT) program.

Our opponents begrudge access to those of us who prefer to enjoy Open Space while walking with our dogs. Our critics have rallied their troops and flooded council members with letters and emails urging them to fully implement the OSMP plan in its current form. No doubt these emails bear claims of canine mayhem on Open Space, of dogs preying upon wildlife, and knocking over the infirm and the young. If the anti-dog lobby gets their way with OSMP's plan, this will not be the end of the topic. More restrictions and more loss of access will surely follow.

It is time for you to act!

We need YOU and your dog walking friends and neighbors to take action now by emailing city council at

council@bouldercolorado.gov

and attending the April 1st meeting in person.

Consider speaking out on behalf of the GT program in its current form. You will have only two minutes to address Council and you needn't be a polished speaker; just speak from the heart about

what the program means to you. Even if you're unwilling to speak please attend the meeting as a member of the audience. Wear your dog's leash over your shoulder or around your neck so that everyone in chambers that evening will know your affiliation and why you're there.

The prior City Council tasked OSMP with reviewing the program, but OSMP staff has since hijacked this issue and pursued its own agenda.

Former Mayor Susan Osborne has noted and objected to OSMP's actions when, as a member of the former Council, she submitted the following comment to OSMP:

Emphatically, we did not expect a whole new raft of dog training rules and restrictions. It concerns me that instead of focusing on making a sustainable, funded program, dog/anti-dog politics are being stirred up for no good reason. It really is counter to the direction from council and is an unnecessary ""can of worms"" that osmp staff has decided to open.

This overreach is not the fault of the current City Council. It is the agenda of OSMP staff prodded by the Boulder anti-dog lobby. The proposed scrapping of the current GT program is, however, now in the hands of current council members.

FIDOS' board members have tirelessly refuted the bogus claims of the elitists that want you with your dog off of Open Space. We have done our best to work within the system and are grateful to the many current council members who have been willing to meet with us and consider our organization's much more straightforward (and limited) recommended revisions. Now is the time for you to act to preserve off-leash hiking with your dog.

If you only once take a stand for your fair share of access to Boulder's Open Space, this is the time to do so. If you've taken action in the past we thank you and urge you to join the fight again. Much is at stake here and what we risk losing in this struggle, if lost, will likely never be regained.

Monitor the [City Council website](#) for the eventual posting of the

agenda for the April 1 meeting. The board members of FIDOS thank you for your attention and support.

Month Year

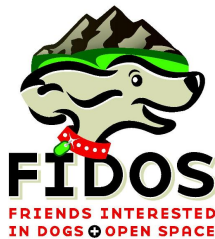
Vol 1, Issue 1

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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12/21/2014

An Appeal from the Board of FIDOS



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