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Why FIDOS - A reminder.



[FIDOS](#) (Friends Interested in Dogs & Open Space) is a non-profit, Boulder, Colorado based organization created in 1994 by dog-owners who were concerned about access to Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks.

Throughout the US there is continuous pressure to reduce access by visitors with dogs to nature. For example, there is an ongoing fight in the San Francisco Bay area where there are massive

restrictions proposed.

There is a discussion at "[THIS LINK](#)" concerning visitors with dogs under Voice and Sight Control in the Bay area. At around 25 minutes they discuss **Boulder's V&S program**.

Apparently the National Park Service believes the Boulder Tag Program doesn't work. FIDOS is working to understand their concerns and will keep you informed.

North Trail Study Area (NTSA) - Status

The North Trail Study Area (NTSA) process is moving forward and closer to completion. City Council is scheduled to discuss the [North TSA Draft Plan](#) at a study session on May 24th.

There will be no public input allowed at this initial study session though public input is welcome at the official Council meeting on the NTSA, scheduled for June 7th.

This draft plan covers recommended changes to the northern OSMP properties, including:

Boulder Valley Ranch,
Joder Ranch,
East and West Beech, and
Wonderland Lake.



FIDOS has been involved with this process since the beginning and is pleased that the North TSA Draft Plan includes some new Voice & Sight trails for dogs. We thank everyone who has supported the additional Voice & Sight trails with your emails and study session attendance.

The new Voice & Sight trails outlined in the Draft Plan include the following.

- 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.

FIDOS and the other recreation groups support the overall NTSA Draft Plan which was approved by the Open Space Board of

Trustees on March 9th.

FIDOS encourages emails to the City Council at (council@bouldercolorado.gov) prior to the study session or the June 7th meeting, to express your support for the North TSA Draft Plan.

Trail Work at Dry Creek - 4th June



On **National Trails Day, June 4 2016**, OSMP is organizing a work project at [Dry Creek](#), East of Boulder, to repair the trails damaged in the 2013 flood. There are still 15 volunteer slots out of 40 available.

Dry Creek is very a highly valued area to the V&S Community. If you'd like to give a hand [you can sign up at this link](#).

They are talking of closing a "Social Trail". FIDOS has checked and its just the first short cut before the bridge so we think its OK. The major trails they previously tried to close will not be changed.

Upcoming Issues

While we have been focused on the NTSA for the past year or so there are other upcoming projects which will affect Voice and Sight Access in Boulder's Open Space.

- East Trail Study Area
- Visitor Master Plan
- Trial Trail Closures
- "Leave no Trace" Study of dogs on OS



Hopefully we can stay ahead of these and other issues and maintain access to the Open Space for visitors with our dogs.

To end with - Dogs in a UK National Park

FIDOS is always on the look out for how other



areas handle the issues of visitors with dogs in nature.

We came across the website for the **South Downs National Park** in England, a 1,600 Square Kilometer (617 Square Miles) Park. For comparison, Boulder's

45,000 acres of Open Space is 70 Square Miles.

The website is at the link:

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/responsible-dog-walkers-welcome-here/>

The videos of visitors with their dogs are pretty interesting, there is a sample above.

Their detailed Guide for Dog Walkers is at this link:

[Guide for Dog Walkers](#)

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 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 (mail here) and we'll make time in the schedule.

Sincerely,

Newsletter Team

Friends Interested in Dogs and Open Space