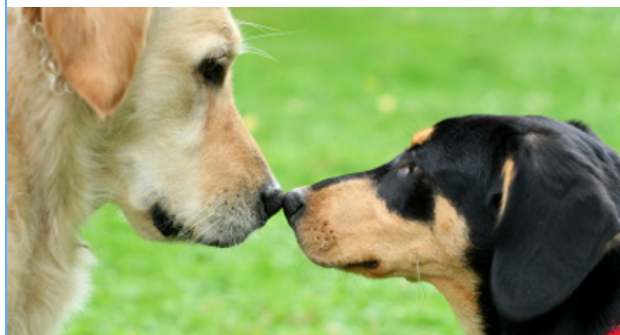


June 2013



Friends Interested
FIDOS
Dogs and Open Space

June 2013 Summary

Few things going on this month.

- The updated proposals on the Green Tag program from OSMP were released on June 14th.
- There is a proposal to modify the taxes supporting OSMP.
- Some local residents have established a new group "Boulder for a Reasonable Open Space" website at "www.b4ros.com"
- The Regional Mountain Trails program is moving forward and has been soliciting public input.
- New fences at East Boulder Dog Park.

More details below.

Green Tag Program

The modified proposals for the Green Tag Program were released last Friday for Councils review, though they are not expected to be discussed at the meeting on the 18th.

After a superficial review we see some inconsistencies both within the document and with previous guidelines which we are bringing to Councils attention

The full package is available [at this link](#). The V&S information is on page 204 out of the 260 page package.

Quick Links

[Green Tag Program](#)

[Open Space Tax Renewal](#)

[b4ros.com](#)

[Regional Mountain Trails](#)

[East Boulder Dog Park](#)

[Coyotes and Snakes](#)

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Council meetings are routinely broadcast on [Channel 8 available at this link](#), but as mentioned above, we do not expect V&S to be on the agenda on the 18th.

Open Space Tax Proposal

FIDOS has received a number of emails concerning Councilperson KC Becker's proposal to re-dedicate only the 0.15% sales tax to fund Open Space on the upcoming ballot.

Ms. Becker proposes a ballot item that the prior 0.33% Open Space sales tax be re-allocated to fund the Transportation Dept. and the General Fund.

Many departments that are vital to the functioning of the city face an increasing shortfall between revenues and expenditures. These departments include our transportation system (bike paths, bus system, complete streets and street network), Police Department, Fire Department, and Library & Arts.

These departments would be given priority if the tax is re-dedicated.

As Clay Evans describes in his recent Open Space overfunding article, ([Link to Daily Camera here](#)), if both sales taxes are re-dedicated to Open Space, the money generated would be **10 times more** than what OSMP needs for its "**wish list**".

From the Evans article:

*"...city departments offer three budgets when going before council, a "fiscally constrained" plan, an "action" plan and a "vision" plan. Since the economic collapse of 2008, most departments have run on the first, most conservative plan, and the second might be considered the "business as usual" plan. The third is better thought of as a kind of "**wish list**" -- if we had all the money we wanted, here's what we would do".*

FIDOS believes that protecting Open Space is important, but such over reach in the funding request suggests OSMP management has become detached from the day to day concerns of Boulder residents.

FIDOS supports Ms Becker's proposal as being a compromise between the need to protect the Open Space, and addressing some major concerns in funding service deficiencies in Boulder.

If you have thoughts on this subject, input to the council may be submitted [at this link](#) (council@bouldercolorado.gov) before the meeting on Tuesday 18th.

Boulder for Reasonable Open Space

You may have seen stickers and fliers for a group "Boulder for Reasonable Open Space" (www.b4ros.com) posted recently. This group is concerned with access to the Open Space and not associated with FIDOS however we have similar goals at the moment.

FIDOS's position is that we need to work with the city and county to create a mutually respectful environment in which all can enjoy Boulders Open Space, with and without dogs. This is sometimes a frustrating task as there is continual pressure to increase restrictions on visitors with dogs. A recent example was the attempted effort by OSMP to make Upper Chapman leashed despite Councils agreement that it should be V&S.

Whether you support a moderate or more militant approach, its important that those who want to enjoy the Open Space with our dogs remain informed and vigilant.

FIDOS welcomes and encourages everyone to get engaged as they best can.

Regional Mountain Trails

This is a multi agency initiative to establish a network of hiking and biking trails in the Boulder area. FIDOS encourages and is monitoring this program to try and minimise and V&S restrictions which may be proposed.

Details and ongoing status are available [at this link](#)

East Boulder Dog Park

Visitors to the East Boulder Dog Park will see a substantial fence erected, separating the water from the dog park. There is a gate in the middle of the fence which allows access but on a couple of occasions visitors to the park have assumed because the gate is closed the water is off limits.

Also while there are EIGHT signs side by side, reminding you where to leave poop bags, there is no sign informing that the water is accessible.

The water is accessible and **its OK to open the gate for your dog**, though you may want to close it to prevent other dogs coming through.

Coyotes and Rattlesnakes

As the grass and underbrush grows during the summer we need to be aware that coyotes will be taking advantage of the additional cover when hunting,

and small dogs are considered prey in the Open Space. There has been accounts in the past couple of years of dogs being snatched off the trail.

If you have a small dog, better to keep it closer in areas of dense underbrush.

In addition, rattle snakes are common on some trails, sometimes just beyond the grass line, particularly in the mornings.

Apparently it can cost \$1300 to treat a dog after a rattlesnake bite and that assumes you can get to the vet in time. Fortunately these trail heads now have warning signs.

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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