

Eagle Vista Natural Area

Management Plan
February 2024



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Appendix D USFWS Letter of Concurrence regarding Golden Eagle Nest

Appendix E Public Comment Summary on Final Draft Plan 2024

Eagle Vista Natural Area Management Plan

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This plan was presented to the Loveland Open Lands and Trails Advisory Commission (OLTAC) on February 14, 2024. OLTAC recommended approval of this management plan by the Parks and Recreation Director.



Kara Kish

Parks and Recreation Director

Introduction

The Eagle Vista Natural Area (EVNA) consists of 185 acres located west and south of the intersection of Southwest 28th Street and South Taft Avenue (Figure 1). Owned and managed by the City of Loveland, the property serves as important wildlife habitat as well as a natural area buffer. The namesake “eagle” highlights the existing golden eagle nest on the property, and “vista” refers to the views of the Front Range to the west. The property was acquired by the City of Loveland in January of 2016 with partner funding from Larimer County and the Town of Berthoud.

Purpose and Objectives of the Plan

This management plan will provide the City of Loveland with a framework for management and stewardship of the property. This plan provides both broad guidance and specific resource recommendations to achieve the following objectives:

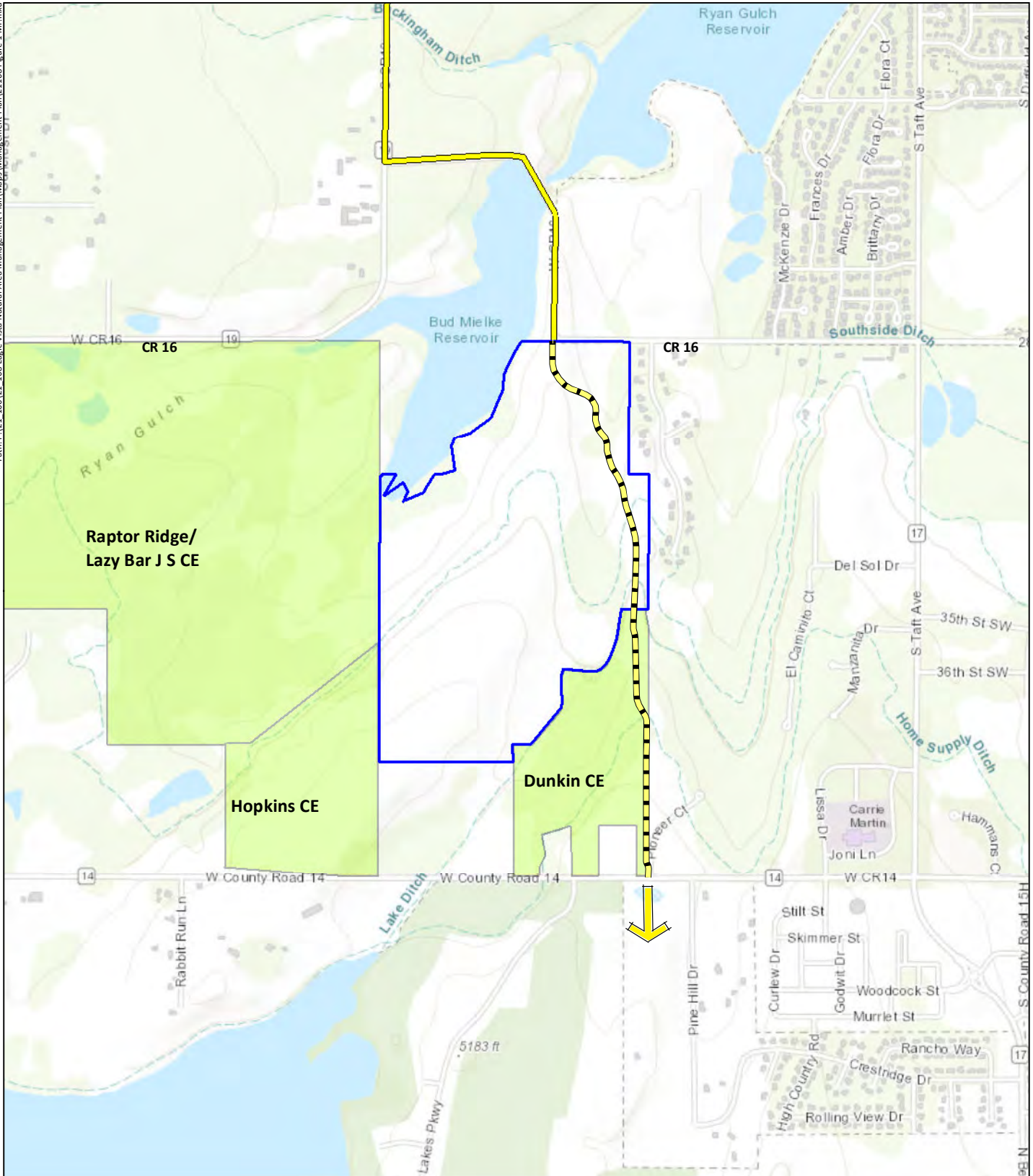
- Protect and enhance the golden eagle nesting habitat for the long term.
- Improve native grassland and riparian habitat conditions.
- Promote natural ecosystem processes and functions.
- Accommodate a regional trail connection through the property.

Planning Process

The City of Loveland hired ERO Resources Corporation (ERO) to develop the management plan and lead the public and agency involvement. The management plan process included the following phases:

1. **Analysis and Assessment:** ERO met with City staff and reviewed data and information on the property, including information about the resident golden eagles. ERO also conducted an assessment to determine the existing conditions on the property and identify property issues and opportunities.
2. **Draft Management Recommendations:** Based on the analysis of existing information and the information learned during the property assessment, ERO created draft property management recommendations for City staff and the City of Loveland Open Lands Advisory Commission to review.
3. **Outreach:** The planning team conducted partner and stakeholder outreach, held one community meeting, met in the field with residents of Spring Mountain Ranch and other adjacent properties, and sought comments on the draft management recommendations in 2021 and 2022. In addition, City staff reviewed outreach feedback and assessed alternatives and solutions to the draft recommendations.
4. **Final Management Plan:** The planning team then documented the results of the analysis and assessment, reviewed and evaluated comments from the outreach phase, and incorporated the

final management plan recommendations into this management plan. Recommended changes to the Final Draft primarily required adjustments to the alignment of the regional trail. Due diligence of these proposed recommendations required additional wetland studies, numerous discussions with landowners and negotiations with adjacent property owners to strategically align the trail for mutual benefit.



Eagle Vista Natural Area Management Plan

Section 34, T5N, R69W; 6th PM





UTM NAD 83: Zone 13N; 490535mE, 4467498mN

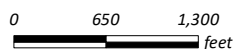
Longitude 105.111469°W, Latitude 40.357994°N

USGS Berthoud, CO Quadrangle

Larmier County, Colorado

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

-  Colorado Front Range Trail
-  Proposed Colorado Front Range Trail
-  Eagle Vista Natural Area
-  Conservation Easement



**Figure 1
Vicinity Map**

Prepared for: City of Loveland
File: 21168 Figure 1.MP.mxd [dlH]
December 22, 2023



Land Use History

Historical land use of EVNA was primarily livestock grazing until the City purchased the property in 2016. Livestock grazing was then halted between 2017 and 2018 and resumed in limited areas in 2019. Livestock grazing is currently permitted in certain areas on the property year-round that do not cause a disturbance to the golden eagle nesting.

Public and Agency Involvement

The planning team, which included staff of the Open Lands and Trail division of the City of Loveland and ERO Resources Corporation, consulted with the following through the planning process:

- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- City of Loveland Open Lands and Trails Advisory Commission
- Adjacent landowners
- Foothills Audubon Club
- Front Range Nesting Bald Eagle Studies

One community meeting was held on November 8, 2021, at Thompson School District Administration Building in Loveland. Presentation boards from the community meeting were posted on the city's website and public comments were also collected through email. A neighborhood meeting was also held with residents of the adjacent Spring Mountain Ranch neighborhood. The neighbors walked with staff on a proposed trail alignment to better visualize and discuss trail considerations. A summary of comments and public feedback can be found in Appendix C. Below is a summary of the resource issues, questions and considerations brought forward during the public processes on this plan.



Community meeting

Wildlife and Habitat

Generally, most commenters supported preservation of the golden eagle nest and the resident eagles. There were comments expressed concerning impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat from the proposed trail alignment. The most common concern regarding wildlife was in relation to the golden eagle nest located on the property, with most such commenters wanting the trail to avoid falling within the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) 0.5-mile recommended buffer. Representatives from the Foothills Audubon Society attended many OLTAC meetings over the two-year study period, demanding the exclusion of the regional trail within the recommended buffer area. Other commenters felt the trail could be placed closer to the nest and further away from the subdivision. One solution mentioned was seasonal closures during the golden eagle nesting period.

Some responders thought dogs should be prohibited on the trail but others wanted the opportunity to walk their dogs on the trail through the site. Most commenters were in favor of an “on-leash” policy but recognized that enforcement of this rule may be difficult. Comments about dogs on the trail also related to the impacts on the golden eagle nest and other wildlife on the property.

Adjacent neighbors voiced concerns with the possibility of prairie dog migration from the property toward private properties in the Spring Mountain Ranch subdivision.

Commenters were also in support of the proposed cottonwood tree replacement and grassland restoration efforts.

Recreation and Access

Commenters expressed varying ideas for the trail alignment. Some wanted the trail to follow the ridgeline close to the subdivision, while others were in favor of moving the trail alignment as far away from the subdivision as possible. A common comment related to the trail surface. Some feedback supported a gravel trail instead of a paved trail. Other commenters voiced concerns about bike usage on the trail, suggesting that bikes should be prohibited on the trail to minimize disturbance to wildlife and for safety reasons.

Residents adjacent to the project location were worried about visitor traffic through the nearby subdivisions and on the county road. Access to the Eagle Vista property outside the proposed trail alignment was also a common concern. The neighbors in Spring Mountain Ranch generally were not interested in having an access point from their neighborhood to the trail.

Safety

Some commenters discussed the issues around safety that a new public area could bring. With this area being a public open space, many commenters were concerned with the potential for people experiencing homelessness to stay on the property overnight. Other concerns around trash and general cleanliness of the facilities were mentioned. Several suggestions included having hours of operation from sunrise to sunset. One commenter brought up the concern about the potential for grass fires on the property. They suggested mitigation efforts to reduce fire hazards.

General Impacts

Some commenters discussed general concerns about the impact of a new trail and additional trail visitors (parking, crowding, noise, etc.) on the overall environmental and demographic character of the City of Loveland.

Issues, questions, and considerations received during the public input processes are addressed in the Management Strategies and Management Implementation section below.

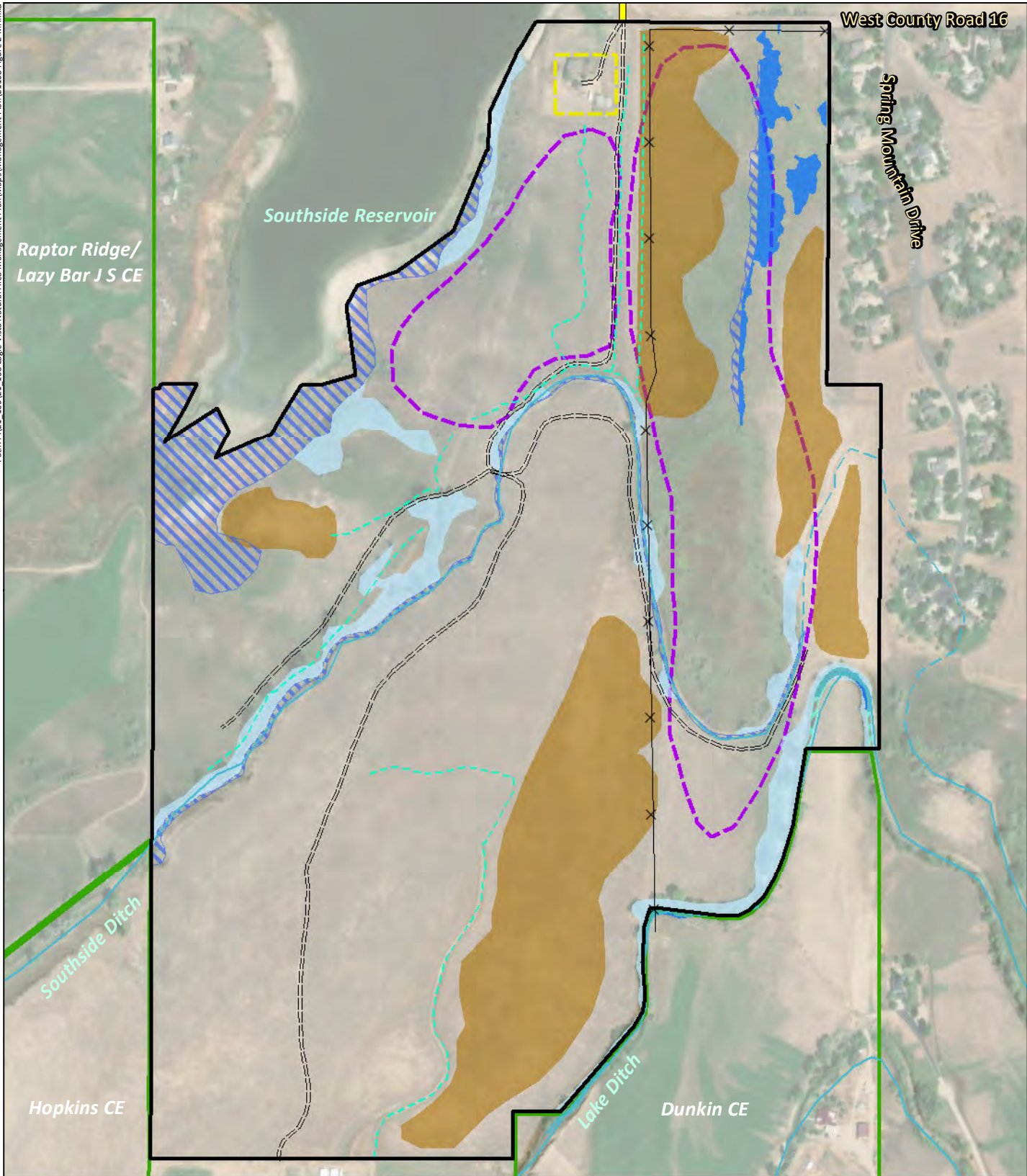
Existing Conditions

Overview

The property consists of 185 acres located west and south of the intersection of 28th Street SW and South Taft Avenue in southwest Loveland. The property is bounded by West County Road 16/28th Street SW to the north, the privately-owned Raptor Ridge/Lazy J Bar S and Hopkins conservation easements (held by the City) to the west and southwest, respectively, two private parcels to the south (the eastern being Dunkin Conservation Easement held by the City), and the Spring Mountain Ranch subdivision and other private parcels to the east. Southside Reservoir is located along the northwest boundary of Eagle Vista. The Southside Ditch flows across the middle of the property from west to east, and the Lake Ditch flows along the southeastern border of the property (Figure 2). Water features are located on the property. The property is currently not annexed or zoned by the City. Larimer County zoning for the three parcels that make up the property are Rural Residential (RR2).

Most of the property is undeveloped grasslands. Due to years of inactivity and no active weed management, many areas of the site have invasive species, poor soil and limited native vegetation. There is one developed area, a private residence leased out by the City, in the northwest portion of the property. Several informal maintenance roads bisect the property as well as several irrigation laterals.

The City of Loveland owns approximately 30% of the shares of Southside Reservoir, but Open Lands and Trails will not pursue public access to the reservoir at this time, in order to help preserve wildlife in and around the reservoir. The Reservoir is rated 6 out of 10 for overall habitat in the City's "Natural Areas Sites" (2008) inventory report.



Eagle Vista Natural Area Management Plan

- Eagle Vista Natural Area
- Existing Structures
- 21168_Two-Track_Road
- Fence
- Ditch
- Ditch (Below ground)
- Ditch Lateral
- Delineated Ordinary High Water Mark
- Potential Ordinary High Water Mark
- Delineated Wetland
- Potential Wetland
- Riparian
- Leased Grazing Area
- Conservation Easement
- Prairie Dog Colony
- World Hillshade

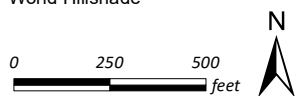


Figure 2
Existing Conditions

Prepared for: City of Loveland
File: 21168 Figure 2 MP.mxd [dlH]
December 22, 2023



Visual Resources

The property is predominantly undeveloped, except for the leased residence in the northwest corner. The visual landscape of the property in the foreground is characterized by rolling, open grasslands, with taller woody vegetation including plains cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), and peachleaf willow (*Salix amygdaloides*) along the Southside and Lake Ditches. A small ridge traverses the property from the southwestern corner of the property to the northeast and then north to the northern portion of the property. This ridge obstructs most middle and background views from the southeastern portion of the property. Middle and background views of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains are visible from the north and northeastern portions of the property.

Natural Resources

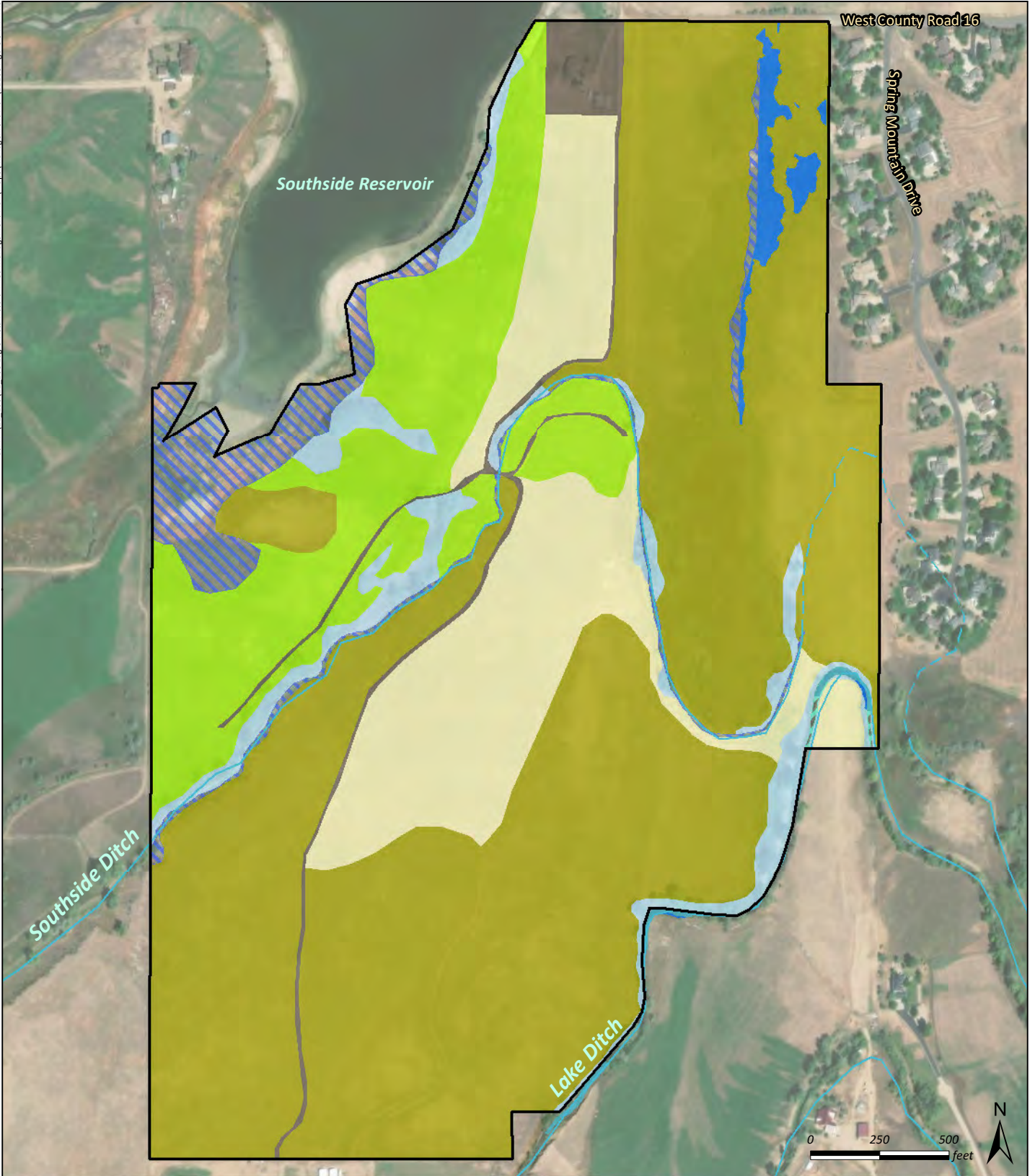
Seven general habitat types were defined in the property, including open water, wetland, riparian, non-native tall grassland, mixed upland, disturbed grassland, and disturbed/developed (Figure 3). Habitat types and their associated plant species are summarized below. Appendix A contains a list of plant species observed in the property.

Open Water

Open water habitats are found in the Southside and Lake Ditches. Both ditches consist of intermittent channels with flows present during the growing season (April through October). The Lake Ditch flows along the southeastern border of the property, and the Southside Ditch flows across the middle of the property. The Southside Ditch is piped underground in the eastern portion of the property (Figure 3). During the August 2021 site visit, the Lake Ditch was wider and had more flow than the Southside Ditch.

Wetlands

There are many wetlands on the property. Depressional and slope wetlands in the northeast portion of the property are likely fed by seepage from the Southside Ditch and runoff from higher areas on and adjacent to the property. As such, these wetlands are novel and would likely not exist if flow in the Lake Ditch and irrigation in the surrounding landscape ceased. Wetlands in the northern portion of the complex are patchy with areas characterized by a seasonally or temporarily high water table. Wetlands along the eastern border of the complex are developing and characterized by intermittent patches of upland grass. Groundwater is shallower in the southern portion of the wetland complex and gets deeper moving north.



Eagle Vista Natural Area Management Plan

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Eagle Vista Natural Area | Potential Wetland |
| Ditch | Riparian |
| Ditch (Below ground) | Non-Native Tall Grassland |
| Delineated Ordinary High Water Mark | Mixed Upland |
| Potential Ordinary High Water Mark | Disturbed Grassland |
| Delineated Wetland | Disturbed/Developed |

Figure 3 Vegetation

Prepared for: City of Loveland
File: 21168 Figure 3 MP.mxd [dlh]
December 21, 2023



Vegetation in the southern portion of the wetland to the north of the Lake Ditch is dominated by swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), common threesquare (*Schoenoplectus pungens*), and Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*). Plant species richness increases in the northern half of this wetland complex, but vegetation communities are patchier. Wetter areas are dominated by common spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris*), various sedges (*Carex* sp.), common threesquare, roundfruit rush (*Juncus compressus*), and foxtail barley (*Hordeum jubatum*). More mesic areas are characterized by showy milkweed, common threesquare, tall fescue (*Schedonorus arundinaceus*), and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). Tall wheatgrass (*Thinopyrum ponticum*) dominates the transition area from the wetland to the surrounding uplands. Russian olive trees are scattered throughout the northern wetland complex and surrounding upland areas. Riverine wetlands along the ditches are patchy on terraces and toe slopes. Vegetation associated with the ditches includes cattail (*Typha* sp.) and softstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*) in the wetter areas and reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*), smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), and various sedges in more mesic areas. Woody species in the ditch wetlands include plains cottonwood, Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*), Russian olive, and fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*). Wetland vegetation along Southside Reservoir is dominated by cattail and peachleaf willow. Hairy willow-herb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), a Colorado List A noxious weed, is present along with Canada thistle, a Colorado List B species.

Riparian

Woody vegetation in the riparian areas consists primarily of plains cottonwood, Russian olive, and peachleaf willow and occurs adjacent to the reservoir and ditches. Subdominant woody species include boxelder (*Acer negundo*) and Siberian elm. The understory varies in this habitat across the property. In the western portion, smooth brome is dominant and whitetop (*Lepidium draba*; List B species) is subdominant in the understory, while on the edge of the wetland complex in the northeastern portion, showy milkweed, smooth brome, sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*), reed canarygrass, Canada thistle, goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.), and Indian hemp (*Apocynum cannabinum*) characterize the understory.

Non-native Tall Grassland

This community type is mainly a monoculture of smooth brome. Subdominant plant species include field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*; List B species), and whitetop (List B species).

Mixed Upland

This community is less disturbed than surrounding areas and is characterized by a mix of woody sub-shrubs, grasses, and forbs. Woody species include broom snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), prairie sagewort (*Artemisia frigida*), and wild tarragon (*Artemisia*



Non-native tall grassland

dracunculus). Grasses include crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*), Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), smooth brome, and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*; List C species). Dominant forbs in this habitat type include slimflower scurfpea (*Psoralea tenuiflora*), hairy goldenaster (*Heterotheca villosa*), curly dock (*Rumex* spp.), field bindweed (List C species), yellow salsify (*Tragopogon dubius*), musk thistle (List B species), and western ragweed (*Ambrosia psilostachya*). Patches of yucca (*Yucca glauca*) are rare in this habitat type.

Disturbed Grassland

Areas disturbed by prairie dog colonies and grazing are prevalent throughout the property. Vegetation cover is low, and vegetation composition is dominated by non-native plants species including cheatgrass (List C species), field bindweed (List C species), Canada thistle (List B species), and smooth brome. Subdominant species include curly dock, goosefoot (*Chenopodium* spp.), prickly Russian thistle (*Kali tragus*), buffalo-bur (*Solanum rostratum*), and snow-on-the-mountain (*Euphorbia marginata*).

Disturbed/Developed

In the northern portion of the property, an existing house with several sheds represents the only developed land. Residential development along Spring Mountain Drive borders the property to the east.



Disturbed grassland

Wildlife

Raptors

An active golden eagle nest is located near the western edge of the property by the riparian area along the Southside Ditch. Use of the nest by golden eagles has been well-documented by the City since 2018, but the nest is believed to have been active since the mid-1970s based on communication with previous owners of the Raptor Ridge/Lazy J Bar Conservation Easement property (City of Loveland 2021). The eagles have been documented at or near the nest site year-round. The riparian areas along the Southside Ditch, the Lake Ditch, and the southeastern property line with the Dunkin Conservation Easement property contain perch and sentry trees regularly used by the eagles (City of Loveland 2021). Prairie dog colonies on the property and on adjacent parcels, as well as other small mammals, provide prey for the eagles.

CPW recommends raptor nest buffer zones and seasonal restrictions for active nests. For golden eagle nests, the recommended buffer includes no surface occupancy (beyond that which historically occurred in the area) within 0.25 mile (1,320 feet, 400 meters) of active nests. The seasonal restriction includes no

permitted, authorized, or human encroachment activities within 0.5 mile (2,640 feet, 800 meters) of active golden eagle nests from December 15 through July 15. In addition, golden eagles and their nests are protected by the U.S. Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Act, under the purview of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Golden eagle nest monitoring data from the City indicates that incubation at the nest typically begins in late February and lasts for about a month. The eaglets typically fledge at the end of June but have been observed at the nest and in the vicinity one year or more after fledging. Two eaglets hatched in the nest in 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022; only one hatched in 2020. While two eaglets hatched in 2019, 2021, and 2022, only one survived those seasons. During the 2023 nesting season, incubation was not confirmed, although behavior indicated possible incubation on several occasions in late February and early March. Incubation was discontinued each time for unknown reasons and no eaglets hatched or fledged in 2023 (Table 1; City of Loveland 2023).

Table 1. City of Loveland golden eagle monitoring data results

Year	Incubation Onset	First Hatch	Number Hatched	Fledged Date	Number Fledged
2018	28 February	10 April	2	27 June	2
2019	27 February	8 April	2	20 June	1
2020	27 February	10 April	1	30 June	1
2021	25 February	11 April	2	23 June	1
2022	26 February	9 April	2	27 June	1
2023	NA	NA	0	NA	0

Source: City of Loveland 2023.

Observations and data collected by the City of Loveland also identified several perch and sentry trees on EVNA, as well as hunting use areas on the property.

Observations and data collected by the Foothills Audubon Club (FAC) and the Front Range Nesting Bald Eagle Studies (FRNBES) from June 2019 through August 2021 and provided to the City of Loveland are consistent with the City’s observations (FAC and FRNBES 2021). The FAC and the FRNBES observation data also identified 18 perches in the vicinity of the nest tree (FAC and FRNBES 2021). However, due to the observation location, not all perches south and east of the nest tree were visible, and additional perches for the eagles could exist on the property.

Federally Listed Species

Federally threatened and endangered species are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Significant adverse effects on a federally listed species or its habitat require consultation with the USFWS under Section 7 or 10 of the Endangered Species Act. The property contains, or is located near, potential habitat for the federally listed species in Table 2.

Table 2. Federally threatened, endangered, and candidate species potentially found on the property

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*	Habitat	Habitat Present or Potential to Be Affected by Project?
Mammals				
Canada lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	T	Climax boreal forest with a dense understory of thickets and windfalls	No
Preble's meadow jumping mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i>	T	Shrub riparian/wet meadows below 7,600 feet in elevation	No
Birds				
Eastern black rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	T	Shallow wetlands and wet meadows	No
Piping plover**	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	T	Sandy lakeshore beaches and river sandbars typically on the eastern plains	No
Whooping crane**	<i>Grus americana</i>	E	Mudflats around reservoirs and in agricultural areas	No
Fish				
Greenback cutthroat trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarki stomias</i>	T	Cold, clear, gravel headwater streams and mountain lakes; only known occurrence in Bear Creek in El Paso County	No
Pallid sturgeon**	<i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i>	E	Large, turbid, free-flowing rivers with a strong current and gravel or sandy substrate	No habitat and no depletions anticipated
Plants				
Ute ladies'-tresses orchid	<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	T	Moist to wet alluvial meadows, floodplains of perennial streams, and around springs and lakes below 6,500 feet in elevation	No
Western prairie fringed orchid**	<i>Platanthera praeclara</i>	T	Moist to wet prairies and meadows	No habitat and no depletions anticipated

*T = Federally Threatened Species, E = Federally Endangered Species; C – Candidate for Federal Listing.

**Water depletions in the South Platte River may affect the species and/or critical habitat in downstream reaches in other counties or states.

Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2021.

CPW-Tracked Wildlife Species and Colorado State Wildlife Action Plan

CPW tracks several species that are regionally important for big game hunting and overall conservation, including sensitive or seasonal activity areas for several species. The property contains activity areas mapped by CPW for a variety of species (CPW 2021). These species and their seasonal activity areas are described in Table 3.

Table 3. CPW-tracked wildlife species potentially found on the property

Common Name	Scientific Name	CPW Seasonal Activity Area Present
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Overall range
Black bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	Overall range
Black-tailed prairie dog	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	Overall range Resident population area
Elk	<i>Cervus canadensis</i>	Overall range Winter range Resident population area Summer range
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Winter range Foraging area
Great blue heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Foraging area
Mountain lion	<i>Puma concolor</i>	Overall range Peripheral range Human conflict area
Mule deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	Overall range Winter range
Olive-backed pocket mouse	<i>Perognathus fasciatus</i>	Overall range
Preble’s meadow jumping mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i>	Overall range
White pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	Overall range
White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	Overall range
White-tailed jackrabbit	<i>Lepus townsendii</i>	Overall range

Source: CPW 2021.

Four active prairie dog colonies are located on the property (Figure 2).

The Colorado State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) was developed by CPW to identify and document wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in the state, assess threats, and develop conservation actions for those species and habitats. SGCN do not require protection via federal or state listing regulation under the SWAP, although some of the SGCN are also listed or protected by other statutes. The SWAP prioritizes 55 of those species into Tier 1 SGCN (CPW 2015).

The property lacks suitable habitat for the majority of the SGCN listed as Tier 1 in the SWAP; however, potential habitat for three species occurs within the property: burrowing owl, golden eagle, and olive-backed pocket mouse (Table 4).

Table 4. Tier 1 SGCN with potential habitat in the property.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Classification	Habitat	Habitat Present or Potential to Be Affected?
Brown-capped rosy finch	<i>Leucosticte australis</i>	Bird	High altitudes in Rocky Mountains, alpine areas, nest in cliffs and other rocky ledges	No
Burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Bird	Grasslands with vegetation less than 4 inches high and a relatively large proportion of bare ground; usually associated with prairie dog colonies	Yes
Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Bird	Open mountains, foothills, plains, open country	Yes
Fringed myotis	<i>Myotis thsanodes</i>	Mammal	Oak, pinyon, juniper woodlands, ponderosa pine forest at moderate elevations (below 7,500 feet); the Western Slope, along the foothills of the Front Range, and the mesas of the southeast	No
Little brown myotis	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Mammal	Woodlands, caves, and in or under buildings and bridges in urban areas	No
Olive-backed pocket mouse	<i>Perognathus fasciatus</i>	Mammal	Arid and semi-arid upland grasslands and prairies that contain loose soils	Yes

Source: CPW 2015.

Only one of the six SGCN with potential habitat in the property (golden eagle) was observed during the 2021 site visits.

Golden Eagle Buffer Consultations

The construction of the proposed regional trail on the land owned by the City at Eagle Vista, or on the adjacent privately-owned Dunkin Conservation Easement, which contains an easement for a public trail, would require that the trail encroach on the outer edge of the recommended 0.5-mile CPW golden eagle

nest buffer area. In order to minimize the impact of that encroachment, the City consulted with CPW and the USFWS to propose a trail alignment that would minimize impacts on the golden eagles. The City presented its proposed trail alignment utilizing the land and easements it has secured, and USFWS did not recommend that the City of Loveland apply for an eagle incidental take permit for this project. so long as the City constructs the trail with no visual sight to the nest, uses landscaping and trees to create natural barriers between the trail and nest, fences the trail corridor to maintain a physical barrier, and conducts construction and restoration work between July 16 and December 14 annually to further minimize disturbance to the eagles (Appendix D).

Water and Mineral Rights

The city holds 6 shares of the Southside Ditch, 6 shares of the Southside Extension, and 6 shares of the Southside Reservoir. The irrigation shares have been leased for the last several years to the lease on the property.

The mineral rights are partially severed as described in a Deed dated July 13, 1960, however, a mineable resource report from CTL Thompson Incorporated dated December 30, 2015, concludes that mineral production would be unlikely.

Management Strategies

This section describes the management considerations and strategies for the property, followed by an implementation plan.

To meet the plan objectives, the City plans to construct a 1.1-mile concrete trail segment along the eastern portion of EVNA and through the adjacent Dunkin Conservation Easement, and a trailhead at the northern end of EVNA (Figure 4). The city also intends to protect the existing golden eagle nest and habitat on the property and conduct upland and riparian restoration activities. These activities not only will improve currently degraded areas but in the long term will promote more diverse vegetation communities and wildlife habitat. Best management practices will be followed and promoted with neighboring property owners.

Golden Eagle Nest and Habitat Protection

Management Considerations

The golden eagle nest has been active on the property for nearly 50 years. Protection of the nest and nesting activity is a top priority for the City. Strategies that discourage human presence near the nest and known perch locations, protect the nest, and improve habitat characteristics on the property are needed. Issues to consider include trail access similar to historical use and disturbances on the property, potential seasonal closures, infrastructure placement, cottonwood recruitment, prairie dog management, upland vegetation restoration, and ongoing monitoring.



Golden eagle

Golden eagles are opportunistic predators and feed on a variety of prey. Increasing the diversity of small and medium-sized mammals and reptiles on the property will help support a diversity of wildlife and prey for the resident golden eagles. Grassland restoration will also help support a diversity of wildlife on the property and prey for the resident golden eagles. Much of the restoration on the property falls within the recommended golden eagle buffer area and will require strategically planning projects in the non-nesting season to make restoration improvements that would avoid impacts on nesting activity. In addition to the 185 acres owned by the City of Loveland, there are a variety of opportunities for the golden eagles to prey in this region beyond the borders of the Eagle Vista property.

Four active prairie dog colonies were observed on the property during the 2021 site visits (Figure 2). The City will develop strategies to identify, monitor, and manage sustainable prairie dog populations, while balancing the needs of the resident golden eagles and rangeland and vegetation restoration. This could include identifying thresholds that may warrant relocation or elimination of individuals or colonies.

Golden Eagle Habitat Management Strategies

- Where possible with the existing land constraints, the City should locate the public trail outside of CPW’s recommended 0.5-mile seasonal disturbance buffer. Where feasible, the proposed trail alignment should be located with no visual line of sight to the nest from the trail or other public amenities.
 - Portions of the trail alignment included in this plan fall within the CPW recommended 0.5-mile encroachment buffer, but consultation with USFWS indicated with a formal letter that they “do not recommend that the City of Loveland apply for an eagle incidental take permit for this project,” assuming the City implements its proposed mitigation measures, including a trail alignment with no direct views to the nest, additional vegetation and small game habitat, fencing, and operational strategies to minimize human and wildlife conflicts (Appendix D).
 - Following the initial public meeting for the management plan in 2021, the city actively explored finding and securing a trail alignment that would move the trail corridor as far as feasible away from the golden eagle nest and, where feasible, outside of the recommended 0.5-mile buffer. After months of site visits and discussions with adjacent landowners, the city secured an alternative trail alignment mostly outside of the recommended buffer. The new, proposed trail alignment reduced the total length of trail from 1.2 miles to 1.1 miles, with the portion that falls within the nest buffer reduced from 4,400 feet to 2,100 feet. The proposed alignment moved the closest point of the trail to 2,400 feet (0.46 mile) away from the nest, compared with 1,700 feet (0.32 mile) for the original alignment. The proposed trail alignment includes 2,900 feet on EVNA and 2,700 feet through the Dunkin Conservation Easement (Figure 4).
- Conduct all work on the EVNA property and Dunkin Conservation Easement property (Figure 1) within 0.5 mile of the nest between July 16 and December 14 to minimize disturbance of the eagles.
- Locate all surface occupancy (beyond that which historically occurred in the area) outside of CPW’s recommended 0.25-mile nest buffer.
- Continue golden eagle nest monitoring year-round, following currently established protocols.
- Identify and implement actions to increase the diversity of small and medium-sized mammals and reptiles on the property, such as the installation of wood or rock piles near riparian or mesic areas, to provide prey for golden eagles and other predators.

- Monitor and evaluate the health of the mature cottonwood trees on site that support the golden eagle environment. The nest tree was assessed in 2021 to determine its age, condition, and health.



Golden eagle nest tree

- Preliminary findings indicate that the nest tree is quite healthy, with good evidence that much of the tree is still living (showing buds for next year's growth).
 - A cursory assessment of adjacent trees indicated that there are potential replacement trees and/or suitable locations for potential placement of a nesting platform should the current tree decay or die.
- Assess the long-term water security of both the Southside and Lake ditches. Flowing water in both ditches is vital to support the existing trees and recruitment of new trees.
 - Assess and map all prairie dog colonies on the property and develop a management plan that supports grassland restoration efforts on the property.
 - Annually evaluate the prairie dog colonies' size, location, and nearby grassland condition regularly to track trends and identify issues.
 - Based on City policy and public/neighbor input, determine a threshold for when prairie dog management activities will occur. Factors to consider include the optimal colony size needed to sustain resident golden eagles, grassland condition, and the preferred or selected grassland restoration techniques.



Prairie dog burrow on property

- If prairie dog control measures are needed, consider removal for use in a black-footed ferret recovery program or raptor rehabilitation program.
- Focus restoration efforts on former, degraded agricultural areas to increase wildlife and native plant species on the property.
- Nearly 700 acres of adjacent conserved lands to the south and east of Eagle Vista also serve as valuable habitat for both the eagles and prairie dogs. Continue to work with the Town of Berthoud and Larimer County to conserve additional lands in this region, which will additionally serve the needs of the eagles and other wildlife in the area.

Visitor Management and Education

Management Considerations

The property provides a key link for a regional trail between Loveland and Berthoud as part of the Colorado Front Range Trail, a multipurpose trail from Wyoming to New Mexico along the Front Range (CPW 2022). Loveland's development of this regional trail needs to connect with Berthoud's planned trails along County Road 14, consistent with their 2022 Berthoud Trails Master Plan. Additionally, the City would like to support existing and future recreation trail demand in the area. Planned residential development of the Water's Edge subdivision on the north side of West County Road 16/28th Street SW will likely increase future demand for recreation in the area. Consideration of appropriate public access and use of the EVNA property, as well as current and future recreation demand, while balancing protection of the golden eagle nest and habitat, are needed. The location of a trailhead and parking area at the north end of EVNA is expected to minimize impacts on nearby existing residents while providing adequate visitor amenities. No public access or amenities are recommended outside the proposed trailhead/parking/overlook area and the regional trail corridor.

Management Strategies

- Locate the trail alignment as far from the nest location as practicable to minimize impacts on nesting golden eagles while balancing impacts on adjacent residences and wetland impacts (Figure 4).
- Align the trail so that there is no view or very limited view of the eagle nest along the trail. Utilize fencing, trees, and landscaping to prohibit the public from approaching the eagle nest buffer while also taking into consideration neighbors, topography, and existing vegetation.
- Locate a trailhead across from the proposed western access of the Water's Edge subdivision, in the northwest portion of the property, to minimize unsafe traffic patterns.
- Locate the parking, trailhead, overlook and trail on the existing maintenance road and developed areas.
- Install visitor amenities including restrooms (vault toilets), trash receptacles, shade structures, picnic tables, benches, and interpretive and wayfinding signs where appropriate.

- Assess the future addition of a small loop trail from the proposed trailhead location to an overlook area near the existing residence to capitalize on views of the reservoir, foothills and Front Range.
- Conduct further analysis of the projected trailhead use to determine the appropriate parking area size.
- Prohibit access to the South Side Reservoir as public use is not allowed.
- Take measures to confine users to the overlook and trail corridor areas to protect the natural resources.
- Allow leashed dogs only. Provide fencing to assure dogs are contained to the trail corridor and don't impact wildlife.
- Design and build the trail to the City's design standard for regional trails, which is paved concrete, 10-foot wide, and serves as a recreation and transportation trail. Bikes will be allowed.
- Consider adding a soft-surface trail adjacent to the regional paved trail and within the same corridor.
- Utilize lighting, security cameras, locks, and designated hours of operation to address safety while maintaining compliance with City and County development standards.
- Work with adjacent development and City of Loveland on new stop light to be installed at 28th Street SW and Taft Avenue to address concerns with traffic. The project will follow all City and County development standards including public access.
- Work with the Larimer County Sheriff's Department and Loveland Police Department on enforcement of regulations and criminal behaviors.
- Design and install interpretive signage and education about golden eagles but do not promote the location or viewing of the eagle nest.

Rangeland and Vegetation Restoration

Management Considerations

A portion of the property is leased for grazing a small herd of cattle (Figure 2). Ongoing agricultural use on the property is consistent with the City's stewardship and heritage goals but may conflict with potential restoration efforts. Consideration of these topics is needed to determine appropriate and effective management recommendations for short- and long-term agricultural use and stewardship, including grazing, ditch management, and fencing. Consideration of ongoing and long-term management and utilization of water rights on the property is also needed.

Prioritizing non-native and noxious weed management efforts is needed. Identifying and eradicating non-native and noxious weed species that threaten the survival of the desired vegetation communities is recommended. Resources can then be used to contain existing infestations and prevent new ones. Generally, addressing smaller infestations of highly invasive species is recommended rather than larger infestations of species that are easier to control.

The City will consider strategies to promote ongoing health and recruitment of riparian habitat, including cottonwood trees along the ditches. Several wetland and riparian areas adjacent to existing ditches provide valuable habitat for wildlife and are important to preserve but may conflict with vegetation management expectations of ditch owners. Coordination with the ditch companies is needed.

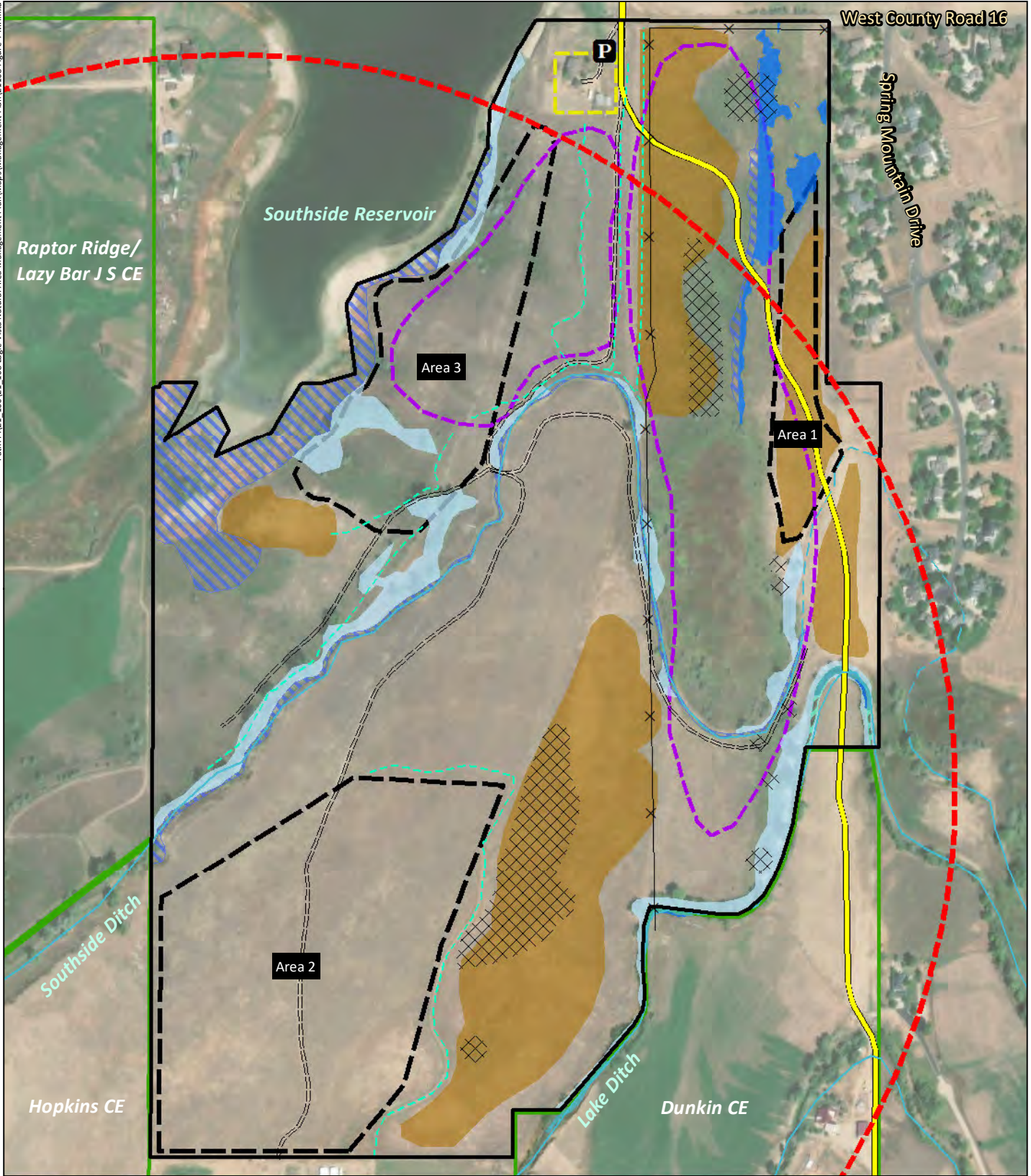
Removal and control of invasive Russian olive trees is also recommended, along with restoration of native wetland and understory species.

Consistent with the management of other open land properties, develop a fire mitigation plan to provide fire breaks and practices that protect property, life, and wildfire damage.

The City will develop strategies for targeted upland restoration that are practical, effective, and compatible with grazing, wildlife, and recreation management strategies. Successful restoration depends on a variety of factors, including precipitation, soil condition, soil seedbank composition, and available funds and resources to complete the restoration. Restoration should be adapted to changing conditions on the property. For example, if irrigation in an area is not feasible, the timeline for seeding may need to be adjusted during periods of drought. Reseeded areas in grassland ecosystems have long recovery timeframes and require long-term management to control non-native species and promote native, diverse plant communities.

Management Strategies

- Focus restoration efforts on degraded areas to eventually increase wildlife and native plant species diversity on the property. Three potential restoration areas were identified during the site assessment and are shown on Figure 4. These areas are categorized as degraded areas with either low or high vegetation cover.
 - Area I – This area is degraded due to grazing and prairie dog activity and is characterized by low, non-native vegetation. It is located north of the Lake and Southside ditches along the eastern boundary of the property. Vegetation is dominated by non-native species including bindweed and musk thistle. This area could be irrigated following native seeding due to proximity to the ditches if shares are owned by the city.



Eagle Vista Natural Area Management Plan

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Eagle Vista Natural Area | Proposed Parking Area | Delineated Ordinary High Water Mark |
| Existing Structures | Proposed Colorado Front Range Trail | Potential Ordinary High Water Mark |
| Golden Eagle Nest Buffer | Restoration Area | Delineated Wetland |
| Two-Track Road | Leased Grazing Area | Potential Wetland |
| Fence | Conservation Easement | Riparian |
| Ditch | Prairie Dog Colony | |
| Ditch (Below ground) | Noxious Weeds | |
| Ditch Lateral | | |

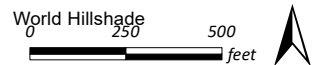


Figure 4
Management Issues
and Recommendations

Prepared for: City of Loveland
 File: 21168 Figure 4 MP.mxd [dlH]
 December 22, 2023



- Area II – This area is in the southwest portion of the property and is degraded due to past grazing, agriculture, and prairie dog colonies. Vegetation is dominated by non-native species including crested wheatgrass, cheatgrass and smooth brome.
- Area III – This area is west of the Southside ditch and is dominated by smooth brome.
- Depending on the vegetation cover, restoration efforts could include a mix of the following activities in the potential restoration areas (Figure 4). Restoration could include active or passive activities. Use of smaller pilot restoration test sites within the restoration areas is recommended for active restoration activities before widespread use.

Active Restoration Activities	Passive Restoration Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Test soil to determine nutrient and organic matter levels as well as the composition of the soil seedbank. ○ Prepare the site by one of three methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Burning – Prior to seeding, rotationally burn the area to increase plant patch diversity. Additionally, this action could be considered independently of seeding to mimic the natural disturbance regime for grasslands. ○ Mowing – Mow all vegetation before undesired species reach maturity height and set seed to reduce competition with native warm-season grasses and limit seed dispersal. ○ Mechanical – Disk, plow, or till the soil in the late fall or winter to reduce compaction from historic agricultural uses and release the soil seed bank. Recommended only if the existing seed bank is mostly native, as disturbance will also release non-native species that could outcompete natives and call for additional treatments. ○ Consider using amendments during soil preparation or cover crops, such as clover or annual grasses, to help improve soil health and control non-native species. ○ Irrigate seeded areas, when possible, to aid in seed germination and seedling survival. Straw can be used to retain moisture on seeded and planted areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Livestock grazing rotation. ○ Restrict prairie dog activity. ○ Implement non-native and noxious weed control using chemical, mechanical, and manual techniques as appropriate for the weed species. ○ Apply a native seed mix (see Appendix B for the recommended seed mix). ○ Conduct annual noxious weed and native vegetation monitoring for at least three years.

- Research and consider use of City-owned shares in each ditch to support existing cottonwood trees, for future cottonwood regeneration, or for restoration irrigation.
- If possible, utilize irrigation water on-site to establish native vegetation.
- Identify a viable cottonwood maintenance and regeneration plan for the property.
- Remove and control invasive Russian olive trees and implement restoration with native wetland and understory species.
- Implement an adaptive management restoration strategy to allow the City to use a variety of activities to address changing conditions such as drought, non-native or noxious weed infestations, and prairie dog activity.
- Evaluate livestock grazing rotation to allow for restoration efforts and eliminate conflicts between public use of the site and restoration efforts. Any temporary cessation of livestock grazing shall be reintroduced in the future after the re-establishment of native vegetation as a part of an ongoing grassland management methodology.

Management Plan Implementation

Implementing this management plan will require identification and prioritization of management strategies to accomplish the plan objectives. These prioritized management strategies should continue to be reviewed on an annual basis to determine yearly programming given departmental budget and staff constraints.

Implementation of the management plan also needs to factor in impacts that the golden eagle restrictions will have on construction and the timing of management strategies. Due to the short window to conduct work on the property within 0.5 mile of the nest, implementation of more passive restoration and land management strategies is recommended within 0.5 mile of the nest during the first few years. Monitoring of the eagles' behavior and reactions to these strategies will dictate whether more active restoration and land management strategies should be implemented.

Table 5 displays the management strategies and the preliminary prioritization rank.

Timing recommendations are defined as follows:

- Short-term actions – should be initiated or completed within 1 year.
- Long-term actions – should be initiated or completed within 5 years.
- Ongoing actions – should be completed on an ongoing, annual basis indefinitely.

Priority recommendations are defined as follows:

- High-priority actions – should be accomplished first. These management strategies are considered extremely important to the conservation of EVNA. High-priority actions are directly related to the accomplishment of other resource objectives and goals.
- Medium-priority actions – considered important but not urgent and meet a combination of other resource objectives.
- Low-priority actions – important but not critical to resource protection needs. Low-priority management actions do not have to be completed in the immediate future.

Table 5. Summary of management strategies for Eagle Vista Natural Area

Management Strategy	Timing	Priority
<i>Golden Eagle Nest and Habitat Protection</i>		
Improvements, maintenance, and construction on the EVNA property and Dunkin CE property (Figure 1) within 0.5 mile of the nest will occur between July 16 and December 14 to minimize disturbance of the eagles.	Ongoing	High
Continue golden eagle nest monitoring year-round.	Ongoing	High
Evaluate actions to increase the diversity of small and medium sized mammals and reptiles on the property, such as the installation of wood or rock piles near riparian or mesic areas.	Long-term	Medium
Assess the long-term water security of both the Southside and Lake ditches. Flowing water in both ditches is vital to support the existing trees and recruitment of new trees.	Ongoing	Medium
Identify the threshold for when prairie dog management activities will occur. Factors to consider include the optimal colony size needed to sustain resident golden eagles, grassland condition and the preferred or selected grassland restoration techniques.	Ongoing	Medium
Assess and map all prairie dog colonies on the property and develop a management plan that supports grassland restoration efforts on the property.	Ongoing	Medium
Annually evaluate the prairie dog colonies’ size, location, and nearby grassland condition to track trends and identify issues.	Ongoing	Medium
If prairie dog control measures are needed, consider removal for use in the black-footed ferret recovery program or raptor rehabilitation programs.	Ongoing	Low
Focus restoration efforts on former, degraded agricultural areas to increase wildlife and native plant species on the property.	Ongoing	Medium
Continue to work with Berthoud and Larimer County to conserve additional lands in this region, which will additionally serve the needs of the eagles and other wildlife in the area.	Ongoing	Low

Visitor Management and Education		
Locate final trail alignment as far from the nest location as practicable to minimize impacts on nesting golden eagles while balancing impacts on adjacent residences and wetlands.	Short-term	High
Finalize trailhead location and design across from the proposed western access of the Water's Edge subdivision to minimize unsafe vehicular movements. Conduct further analysis of the projected trailhead use to determine the appropriate parking area size.	Short-term	High
Install visitor amenities including restrooms (vault toilets), trash receptacles, shade structures, picnic tables, benches, and interpretive and wayfinding signs where appropriate.	Long-term	High
Design future addition of a small loop trail from the proposed trailhead location to an overlook area near the existing residence to highlight scenic views from this area.	Long-term	Low
Rangeland and Vegetation Restoration		
Focus restoration efforts on former, degraded areas to eventually increase wildlife and native plant species diversity on the property. Three potential restoration areas were identified during the site visits.	Long-term	High
Restoration could include active or passive activities. Use of smaller pilot restoration test sites within the restoration areas is recommended for the active restoration activities before widespread use.	Long-term	High
Research and consider the use of City-owned shares in each ditch for future cottonwood regeneration or restoration irrigation.	On-going-term	Medium
Develop a viable cottonwood regeneration plan for the property.	Long-term	Medium
Implement an adaptive management restoration strategy to allow the City to use a variety of activities to address changing conditions such as drought, non-native or noxious weed infestations, and prairie dog activity or livestock grazing.	Ongoing	High
Implement best management practices for fire mitigation on the site	Long-term	Medium

References

- Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). 2015. State Wildlife Action Plan.
https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/WildlifeSpecies/SWAP/CO_SWAP_FrontMatter_and_Chapter1.pdf
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). 2021. CPW All Species Activity Mapping Data.
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- Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). 2022. Colorado Front Range Trail.
<https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/TrailsCFRT.aspx>.
- Foothills Audubon Club (FAC) and Front Range Nesting Bald Eagle Studies (FRNBES). 2021. Golden Eagle Data Package prepared for Loveland Open Lands Advisory Commission.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2021. Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC).
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>

Appendix A – Plant Species Observed at EVNA

Scientific Name	Family	Common Name	Native Status (USDA)*	Noxious Weed
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Aceraceae	Boxelder	N	N/A
<i>Agropyron cristatum</i>	Poaceae	Crested wheatgrass	NN	N/A
<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	Apocynaceae	Indian hemp	N	N/A
<i>Artemisia dracunculus</i>	Asteraceae	Tarragon	N	N/A
<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i>	Asteraceae	Western ragweed	N	N/A
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Swamp milkweed	N	N/A
<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Showy milkweed	N	N/A
<i>Artemisia frigida</i>	Asteraceae	Prairie sagewort	N	N/A
<i>Bromus inermis</i>	Poaceae	Smooth brome	NN	N/A
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Poaceae	Cheatgrass	NN	List C
<i>Carex</i> sp.	Cyperaceae	Sedge	N	N/A
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Asteraceae	Musk thistle	NN	List B
<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	Asteraceae	Diffuse knapweed	NN	List B
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	Amaranthaceae	Goosefoot		N/A
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Asteraceae	Canada thistle	NN	List B
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Convolvulaceae	Field bindweed	NN	List C
<i>Croton texensis</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Texas croton	N	N/A
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	Cyperaceae	Common spikerush	N	N/A
<i>Elymus trachycaulus</i>	Poaceae	Slender wheatgrass	N	N/A
<i>Epilobium cilatum</i>	Onagraceae	Fringed willow-herb	N	N/A
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Onagraceae	Hairy willow-herb	NN	List A
<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	Asteraceae	Rubber rabbitbrush	N	N/A
<i>Euphorbia marginata</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Snow-on-the-mountain	N	N/A
<i>Glycyrrhiza lepidota</i>	Fabaceae	Wild licorice	N	N/A
<i>Grindelia squarrosa</i>	Asteraceae	Curlytop gumweed	N	N/A
<i>Heliomeris multiflora</i>	Asteraceae	Showy goldeneye	N	N/A

City of Loveland
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Scientific Name	Family	Common Name	Native Status (USDA)*	Noxious Weed
<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>	Asteraceae	Hairy goldenaster	N	N/A
<i>Hordeum jubatum</i>	Poaceae	Foxtail barley	N	N/A
<i>Juncus balticus</i>	Juncaceae	Baltic rush	N	N/A
<i>Juncus compressus</i>	Juncaceae	Roundfruit rush	N	N/A
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Brassicaceae	Whitetop	NN	List B
<i>Lycopus americanus</i>	Lamiaceae	American water horehound	N	N/A
<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>	Asteraceae	Broom snakeweed	N	N/A
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Fabaceae	Black medic	NN	N/A
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Fabaceae	Alfalfa	NN	N/A
<i>Melilotus albus</i>	Fabaceae	Honey clover	NN	N/A
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Fabaceae	Sweet clover	NN	N/A
<i>Morus alba</i>	Moraceae	Common mulberry	NN	N/A
<i>Oenothera curtiflora</i>	Onagraceae	Velvetweed	N	N/A
<i>Oenothera villosa</i>	Onagraceae	Hairy evening primrose	N	N/A
<i>Panicum capillare</i>	Poaceae	Witchgrass	N	N/A
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Poaceae	Switchgrass	N	N/A
<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	Polygonaceae	Water smartweed	N	N/A
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Salicaceae	Plains cottonwood	N	N/A
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Poaceae	Reed canarygrass	N	N/A
<i>Pediomelum tenuiflorum</i>	Fabaceae	Slimflower scurfpea	N	N/A
<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	Anacardiaceae	Skunkbrush	N	N/A
<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	Rosaceae	Woods' rose	N	N/A
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	Polygonaceae	Dock		N/A
<i>Solanum rostratum</i>	Solanaceae	Buffalo-bur	N	N/A
<i>Salsola tragus</i>	Amaranthaceae	Prickly Russian thistle	NN	N/A
<i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i>	Cyperaceae	Threesquare	N	N/A

City of Loveland
 Eagle Vista Natural Area Management Plan

Scientific Name	Family	Common Name	Native Status (USDA)*	Noxious Weed
<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	Cyperaceae	Softstem bulrush	N	N/A
<i>Solidago</i> sp.	Asteraceae	Goldenrod	N	N/A
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Asteraceae	Spiny sowthistle	NN	N/A
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Poaceae	Indiangrass	N	N/A
<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	Poaceae	Prairie cordgrass	N	N/A
<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	Malvaceae	Scarlet globemallow	N	N/A
<i>Thinopyrum ponticum</i>	Poaceae	Tall wheatgrass	NN	N/A
<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	Asteraceae	Yellow salsify	NN	N/A
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Typhaceae	Broadleaf cattail	N	N/A
<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Ulmaceae	Siberian elm	NN	N/A
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Asteraceae	Cocklebur	N	N/A
<i>Yucca glauca</i>	Agavaceae	Yucca	N	N/A

*N = Native, NN = Non-native.

Appendix B – Recommended Native Seed Mix

Recommended native species for restoration seed mix.*

Common Name	Scientific Name
Grasses	
Blue grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>
Buffalo grass	<i>Bouteloua dactyloides</i>
Sideoats grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>
Three-awn	<i>Aristida purpurea</i>
June grass	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>
Western wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>
Alkali sacaton	<i>Sporobolus airoides</i>
Sand dropseed	<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>
Needle-and-thread	<i>Hesperostipa comata</i>
Taller grasses for mesic areas or sandy soils	
Little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>
Indiangrass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>
Prairie sandreed	<i>Calamovilfa longifolia</i>
Forbs	
Rocky Mountain penstemon	<i>Penstemon strictus</i>
Dotted blazing star	<i>Liatris punctata</i>
Slimflower scurfpea	<i>Psoralea tenuiflora</i>
Scarlet globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>
Woody species	
Soapweed yucca	<i>Yucca glauca</i>
Broom snakeweed	<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>
Prairie sagewort	<i>Artemisia frigida</i>
Sandsage	<i>Artemisia filifolia</i>
Four-winged saltbush	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>
Rubber rabbitbrush	<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>

*Proportions of species should be set for site goals. However, blue grama and buffalo grass typically account for 70 to 90 percent of shortgrass prairie species (by weight).

Appendix C – Public Comment Summary on Initial Draft Plan 2021

One community meeting was held on November 8, 2021, at Thompson School District Administrative Building in Loveland. Public comments on the plan were also collected through email. Below is a summary of comments and public feedback regarding resource issues, questions and considerations brought by forward during the public processes on this plan.

Wildlife and Habitat

Golden Eagle:

- Protect the golden eagle nest by honoring recommend ½ mile setback for no disturbance.
- Minimize all disturbance and disallow any public access within ½ mile of the eagle nest.
- No construction during the nesting season- January to July.
- Consider Closing the site/public trail during the nesting season or at least in April and May when disturbance is most critical to hatching.
- Create a blind so public can watch the nest.
- Don't promote the nest location or provide a viewing area.
- Will there be interpretive signage and education about the golden eagles?

Prairie Dogs:

- Leave the prairie dogs in place as the eagles rely on them as a food source.
- Move the prairie dogs so they don't encroach on Spring Mountain resident's yards.
- Keep prairie dogs out of the trail corridor.
- Neighbors would like prairie dogs approaching their yards controlled.
- Prairie Dogs carry disease and there are too many so they should be controlled or moved.
- Don't push prairie dogs east onto Spring Mountain Ranch property.

Other Wildlife Considerations:

- Location of trail might impact seasonal wildlife- like winter elk.
- Enhance landscape to support birds and small wildlife (rabbits, squirrels, mice, etc...)
- What impact will a trail have on wildlife on this site?
- Do not allow dogs or if you do, make them be on leash to minimize conflicts with wildlife and between trail users.
- Dogs on-leash should be strictly enforced.

Vegetation Management:

- Cottonwood trees on-site should be protected, and additional trees planted.
- Restore the native vegetation on this site, including shrubs and plants to support wildlife.
- Please follow modified pollinator-friendly protocol.
- Keep the ditches on this site running to support trees and vegetation along the ditch banks.
- Leave dead trees for raptor perches.
- Eliminate grazing to allow for better native vegetation.
- Commenters were in support of cottonwood tree replacement and grassland restoration efforts.
- Restrict the areas where prairie dogs are maintained to allow native species to re-establish throughout the site.

- Do not bisect the existing wetlands. Keep wetlands contiguous for eagle habitat and forging.

Agricultural and Water:

- Utilize the irrigation water to re-establish native vegetation.
- Discontinue grazing as it creates conflicts with the prairie dogs, the eagles and new trail.
- Allow grazing to control weeds and vegetation.
- Run ditch water to provide water to the riparian corridors.
- Don't want grazing to pressure the prairie dogs.
- Is there really enough room to allow grazing on the site with public trails?
- Would eliminating grazing increase wildlife including the deer population?

Recreation and Access

Trail:

- Do not design the trail within the ½ mile USFWS buffer. Keep trails as far as possible from eagle nest.
- Keep trail on east edge of property to distance from golden eagle nest.
- Put the trail in the middle of the property or to the west to distance from residential.
- Neighbors want as much distance from their homes and the trail. Do not want to see the trail. "Neighbors should be stakeholders."
- Keep the trail all soft-surface.
- Can you offer a soft-surface trail option next to the paved trail?
- Spring Mountain Ranch sub-division is not interested in having a direct connection to the trail.
- Can you build a soft-surface trail adjacent to the paved trail to match the integrity of the area?
- Could the trail be move to the east side of the Spring Mountain Ranch sub-division?

Trailhead and Parking:

- Please limit the size of the parking lot.
- Is a parking lot even necessary?
- Will the parking lot have lighting, locked at night, and have security cameras?
- Good signage on County Road 16 to direct traffic.
- Could the parking area be on County Road 14 rather than County Road 16?
- How will over-flow parking be handled?
- Do not like the location of the proposed parking and trailhead.
- Why do you need to put a restroom at the trailhead?
- Put the parking where the other structures are on the NW corner.
- Put the parking lot lower than the horizon to keep the existing viewshed.
- Please have a public over-look area since the views are so spectacular from the west side of the property.

Lighting, Security, and Noise:

- Will the parking area and trails have lighting?
- We are worried about security for your neighborhood. There will be more opportunities for crime in our area.

- Can the site be closed for any activity after dark?
- What about fire potential?
- If trail is too close, neighbors worry of invasion of privacy.
- Close restroom at night.
- Noise will increase.
- Can lighting be wildlife and neighbor friendly?
- How will you keep homeless encampments from the site? There is a worry by neighbors that crime may increase in this area.

Barriers, fencing and Control of Access:

- Neighbors would like fencing to separate the trail use from their development.
- Neighbors would like to approve the fencing.
- Make sure fencing is wildlife friendly
- Leave existing Barbed Wire fence along HOA in place to give double barrier between trail and sub-division.
- Use berms and natural barriers where possible
- Fence the trail corridor

Scenic Overlook:

- There are incredible views from the west side of this site that should be shared with the public.
- Can there be benches, scope or other things to make the overlook attractive?
- Can this area be secured to prevent unwanted behavior at night?

Traffic:

New public open lands site will cause more traffic on County Road 16

Operations:

- Limit where the public can be on the site outside the trail corridor.
- Can the trail be limited to walkers only?
- On-leash Dogs Only please. Need strong leash law enforcement.
- Will horses be allowed on the trail?
- Limit hours of operation from sunrise to sunset. No after dark activity.
- The trail will need to have speed limits.
- The eagles and wildlife on-site will need to continue to be monitored to minimize the impacts that public access will have on wildlife.
- Can the public use the reservoir?
- How will you keep citizens off the reservoir?
- Who do we report concerns or site problems to? Who does law enforcement?
- Who will do cleaning, trash and keep the site maintained? Need covered trash cans. Historically, a lot of trash, couches, etc... ends up at the turn around on County Road 16.

Appendix D – USFWS Letters of Concurrence regarding Golden Eagle Nest

From: [Reeves, Julie](#)
To: [Debbie Eley](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: City of Loveland - Eagle Vista Natural Area Golden Eagle Nest
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 6:48:26 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Outlook-5qx5ider](#)


Hi, Debbie,

Thank you for reaching out and describing the updates to the Eagle Vista Natural Area trail project. I understand that the proposed trail now has the alignment reduced from 1.2 miles to 1.1 miles, with the distance that falls within the nest buffer reduced from 4,400 feet to 2,100 feet. Also, that the new proposed alignment moved the closest point of the trail to 2,400 feet (0.46 mile) away from the nest, compared with 1,700 feet (0.32 mile) for the original alignment. The Service appreciates the continued inclusion of these avoidance and minimization measures, and continues to believe that disturbance take is not likely to occur in response to this project. Therefore, with the updated alignment, we continue to not recommend that the City of Loveland apply for an eagle incidental take permit for this project.

Thanks!

~~~~~

Julie Proell Reeves (she/her)  
Grasslands Biologist, Eastern Team  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Ecological Services Office  
134 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, CO 80228  
[Julie\\_Reeves@fws.gov](mailto:Julie_Reeves@fws.gov)

 A thing is right when it tends toward the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community; it is wrong when it tends otherwise. ~Aldo Leopold

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**From:** Debbie Eley <Debbie.Eley@cityofloveland.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 5:07 PM  
**To:** Reeves, Julie <Julie\_Reeves@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: City of Loveland - Eagle Vista Natural Area Golden Eagle Nest

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Hi Julie,

As I mentioned in my previous email, I am writing to request an updated review of a City of

Loveland project. Please find attached and below information about a golden eagle nest on Loveland's Eagle Vista Natural Area (EVNA), where the city plans to build a trail to connect Loveland and Berthoud, as part of the Colorado Front Range Trail. The trail alignment previously proposed was approved by FWS, and the project is summarized below in Liisa Niva's email and outlined in more detail in the attached memo. Liisa's email below includes FWS conditional approval based on the avoidance and minimization and conservation measures described in the memo. Liisa also noted that the Service does not think that disturbance take is likely to occur in response to this project and did not recommend that the City of Loveland apply for an eagle incidental take permit for this project. Figures 1 and 2 attached show the previous trail alignment identified in 2021 that was approved by FWS.

Since 2022, the city has actively explored finding and securing an alternative trail alignment that would move the trail corridor as far as feasible away from the golden eagle nest, to further minimize disturbance to the eagle nest. Numerous meetings, discussions, and site visits with neighboring landowners, officials from Larimer County and the Town of Berthoud were held to search for alternatives. Recently, the property owner of the Dunkin Conservation Easement agreed to a trail alignment that is further from the golden eagle nest and encroaches less on the eagles' habitat (Revised Trail 2023 map attached). You may notice that the buffer area circle has been adjusted slightly on the 2023 map. This accounts for a more accurate location of the active eagle nest, documented by GPS and ground-truthing during the non-nesting season.

Comparing the two trail corridors (2023 vs 2021), the new alignment reduced the total length of trail from 1.2 miles to 1.1 miles, with the distance that falls within the nest buffer reduced from 4,400 feet to 2,100 feet. The new proposed alignment moved the closest point of the trail to 2,400 feet (0.46 mile) away from the nest, compared with 1,700 feet (0.32 mile) for the original alignment.

Although not required, since FWS approval has been given previously, we are requesting an updated review to further confirm FWS's stance that disturbance take is not likely to occur in response to this project, and an eagle incidental take permit is not recommended for this project. Taking into consideration that the revised trail alignment is located further from the nest and for a shorter distance through the 0.5-mile buffer. The minimization and conservation measures outlined in the original proposal will still be included in the plan.

Please let me know if you have questions about the revised project or trail alignment, or if any additional information is needed. We appreciate your review of this information and look forward to your response.

Thank you,

Debbie Eley  
Resource Specialist  
[Open Lands & Trails](#)  
Parks & Recreation Department  
City of Loveland  
970.962.2725 (O)  
500 E. Third St., Suite 200  
Loveland, CO 80537

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Since 2022, the city has actively explored finding and securing an alternative trail alignment that would move the trail corridor as far as feasible away from the golden eagle nest, to further minimize disturbance to the eagle nest. Numerous meetings, discussions, and site visits with neighboring landowners, officials from Larimer County and the Town of Berthoud were held to search for alternatives. Recently, the property owner of the Dunkin Conservation Easement agreed to a trail alignment that is further from the golden eagle nest and encroaches less on the eagles' habitat (Revised Trail 2023 map attached). You may notice that the buffer area circle has been adjusted slightly on the 2023 map. This accounts for a more accurate location of the active eagle nest, documented by GPS and ground-truthing during the non-nesting season.

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Although not required, since FWS approval has been given previously, we are requesting an updated review to further confirm FWS's stance that disturbance take is not likely to occur in response to this project, and an eagle incidental take permit is not recommended for this project. Taking into consideration that the revised trail alignment is located further from the nest and for a shorter distance through the 0.5-mile buffer. The minimization and conservation measures outlined in the original proposal will still be included in the plan.

Please let me know if you have questions about the revised project or trail alignment, or if any additional information is needed. We appreciate your review of this information and look forward to your response.

Thank you,

Debbie Eley  
Resource Specialist  
[Open Lands & Trails](#)  
Parks & Recreation Department  
City of Loveland  
970.962.2725 (O)  
500 E. Third St., Suite 200  
Loveland, CO 80537

**From:** Niva, Liisa M  
**Sent:** Friday, March 18, 2022 4:43 PM  
**To:** Marilyn Hilgenberg <Marilyn.Hilgenberg@cityofloveland.org>; Debbie Eley <Debbie.Eley@cityofloveland.org>  
**Cc:** bmangle@eroresources.com; afowler@eroresources.com; Salamack, Kristin A <kristin\_salamack@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] City of Loveland - Eagle Vista Natural Area Golden Eagle Nest

Hello Marilyn Hilgenberg and Debbie Eley,

We received an email on October 29, 2021 from Aliina Fowler with ERO Resources (ERO) on behalf of the City of Loveland (the City), regarding a golden eagle nest in proximity to proposed trail construction in the Eagle Vista Natural Area (EVNA) in Loveland, Colorado. The golden eagle nest is located in a cottonwood tree along the Southside Ditch and is approximately 0.3 mile at its closest distance to the proposed trail. Use of the nest by golden eagles has been documented by the City since 2018; however, adjacent property owners have indicated the eagle nest has been active since the mid-1970s. The eagles have been documented at or near the nest site year-round. Monitoring data from the City indicates that two eaglets hatched in the nest in 2018, 2019, and 2021 while only one hatched in 2020. While two eaglets hatched in 2019 and 2021 only one survived to fledge in those seasons.

The proposed project would construct a 1.2-mile trail segment along the western and southern portions of the EVNA, and a trailhead at the northern end of the property. The proposed trail alignment is located as far as possible from the existing golden eagle nest along the east boundary of the property. All proposed recreation facilities will be located out of the viewshed of the nest. Due to the topography of the property, the nest is not visible from any point along the proposed trail alignment. Visual screening (e.g., vegetation and/or fencing) will be added to sections of the trail near eagle use areas (perch and sentry trees) to further restrict views from the eagle nest to the recreation trail. Aside from the trail corridor, EVNA will be closed to public use and natural or man-made barriers will be installed along the proposed trail alignment to keep trail visitors and pets from leaving the trail corridor. The City will also post signs periodically along the trail educating visitors about the property closure and sensitive habitat areas. The City would conduct construction and restoration work with the ½-mile buffer of the eagle nest between July 16 and December 14 to further minimize disturbance to the eagles.

The City also plans to conduct grassland and riparian restoration activities within EVNA which

would enhance habitat for the golden eagles and potential prey species. The City will further evaluate actions that may increase the diversity of small and medium-sized mammals and reptiles which would increase prey availability on the property.

Given that the City of Loveland will commit to the avoidance and minimization and conservation measures described above and that the recreation trail does not occur within the viewshed of the golden eagle nest, the Service does not think that disturbance take is likely to occur in response to this project. Hence, we do not recommend that the City of Loveland apply for an eagle incidental take permit for this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Project,  
Liisa

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Liisa M. Hernández Niva (she/her/hers - [what's this?](#))

Eastern Colorado Supervisor || Colorado Ecological Services Field Office || U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

I live and work in the ancestral lands of the Ute, Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Očhéthi Šakówiŋ (Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota) Tribes.

**Appendix E – Public Comment Summary on Final Draft Plan 2024**

| Comment Topic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Golden Eagle protection:</b><br/>                     0.5-mi nest buffer is not sufficient for protecting nesting eagles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Disturbance is not avoided with this buffer, due to use of other areas for foraging and nest protection</li> <li>○ Disturbance can directly impact nest productivity by reducing foraging efficiency, increasing energy expenditure, and reducing ability to provide food for mate or nestlings.</li> <li>○ Protect buffer around all foraging areas – prairie dog colonies are directly impacted by proposed trail alignment.</li> <li>○ Line of sight standard is inappropriate – eagles can see long distances when flying.</li> <li>○ Protect cottonwood trees near trail also – eagles use them for sentry/nest defense/perching/hunting.</li> </ul> <p>Minimize parking lot, picnic area, overlook, lighting, nature trail and other amenities, and keep out of view of nest and feeding areas.</p> <p>Consider GIS viewshed analysis for nest and feeding areas.</p> <p>Complete construction and other improvements during non-nesting periods for the golden eagle. Monitor golden eagle behavior during construction to evaluate any disturbance.</p> <p>Activity on properties adjacent to the nest (e.g., Eagle Vista, Raptor Ridge CE) – educate and minimize activity during nesting season.</p> | <p>The revised trail alignment has been moved near the east property line, away from the eagle nest. This alternative is designed to limit impacts and balance the goals of conservation and recreation to the extent feasible. USFWS has reviewed the revised alignment and indicated that they do not recommend a take permit for the project, assuming that the City implements its proposed mitigation measures. Page 19.</p> <p>Visitor amenities will be sized appropriately and located in the area of the existing residential and agricultural structures, continuing current use of this area. Screening will continue to separate use areas from the nest site. “Downlighting” will be used to minimize impacts. Pages 21-22.</p> <p>The trail alignment is located outside line of sight of the nest as much as possible. A viewshed analysis will be considered as a tool during the design process. Page 21.</p> <p>Construction and maintenance will be timed to occur between July 16 and December 14, outside the nesting season for golden eagles. These dates may be adjusted slightly as needed for annual variability in nesting dates, based on monitoring. Page 19 and Appendix D.</p> <p>The City will continue to work with neighboring landowners to promote best management practices, with the mutual goals of conservation and recreation. Page 18-19.</p> |



| <b>Comment Topic</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Response</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Golden Eagle protection (continued):</b><br/> Visual buffer/landscaping would be impractical – berm or vegetation cost prohibitive, require time to install and watering to maintain.</p>                                                                                                                     | <p>Alternatives for visual buffers and landscaping will be evaluated during the design process, with consideration of effectiveness, cost, and maintenance requirements.</p>                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <p><b>Concrete trail</b><br/> Impacts of construction (noise, construction vehicles, concrete trucks) on golden eagle reproduction and use of nest, and other wildlife. Suggest natural-surface trail to minimize impacts on eagles and wildlife. Propose seasonal closures during eagle mating and incubation.</p> | <p>As a segment of the North Front Range MPO trail network and the Colorado Front Range Trail that provides state-wide connectivity, a concrete trail will decrease maintenance and replacement costs in the future, vs. natural surface trails, thus reducing impacts to the nest over time. Seasonal closures may be considered if deemed necessary.</p> |
| <p><b>Pedestrian use</b> only to minimize impacts on wildlife habitat. Bicycle use is inconsistent with purpose of wildlife habitat. Will e-bikes be allowed?</p>                                                                                                                                                   | <p>As a segment of the North Front Range MPO trail network and the Colorado Front Range Trail, the trail will provide multi-use access for all abilities. Loveland trails currently allow Type I and II e-bikes; similar rules will apply to Eagle Vista.</p>                                                                                              |
| <p><b>Trails on CR 16 and CR 19</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements planned?</li> <li>• Trail adjacent to CR 19 or on expanded shoulder?</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                       | <p>The project will follow all City and County development standards including public access. Page 22.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p><b>Protection for raptors and migratory birds</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow <i>Nationwide Standard Conservation Measures</i> (FWS 2015)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                     | <p>The City will follow and comply with all required standards.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p><b>Fencing</b> between trail and buffer to prohibit access into eagle buffer creates a wildlife barrier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider alternatives – rangers, education, seasonal restrictions for dogs</li> </ul>                                                                       | <p>Fencing will be designed using CPW recommendations, which will allow wildlife passage while preventing human and dog access. Signage will also be posted.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p><b>Fencing</b> between private property and Eagle Vista</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>Fencing, trees and landscaping will take into consideration neighbors, topography and existing vegetation. Page 21.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p><b>Trail placement</b> to reduce visibility to neighbors, within restrictions of golden eagle buffer setback and topography.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>The City will follow the proposed alignment shown on Figure 4 as closely as feasible when “field fitting” and will work with neighboring landowners to locate the trail in areas to minimize visibility, provide berms or appropriate screening. Page 21.</p>                                                                                           |

| <b>Comment Topic</b>                                                                                | <b>Response</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Operating hours</b> – daylight hours only for safety and wildlife.                               | Daylight hours are planned – dawn to dusk access. Parking area/trailhead access and restrooms will be locked after hours. Similar to other Loveland open lands sites, security cameras, automatic gates and locks will be used to enforce closures and address safety. Page 22.                                                                 |
| <b>Wildfire</b> concerns, smoking.                                                                  | A fire mitigation plan will be developed to provide fire breaks and practices that protect property, life, and wildlife damage. Page 23. Smoking is prohibited on City of Loveland open lands and trails.                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>South Side Reservoir</b> – no public access.                                                     | Fencing and signage will be used to prevent access to closed areas. Page 21.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Agricultural use for cattle grazing</b> – continue use.                                          | Rotational grazing will be evaluated and considered as a passive restoration activity for management purposes. Page 25.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Vault toilets (odor)</b> – City water and sewer will be available with Water’s Edge development. | Vault toilets are used throughout the open lands and trails system to allow for year-round use. The City standard includes an automatic solar fan system for ventilation.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Leave property alone for wildlife use.                                                              | The property was purchased with public funding for the purpose of conservation and recreation, including the Front Range Trail connection. This plan provides for resource conservation by limiting use of the property to the perimeter areas, and using setbacks, habitat restoration, and other mitigation measures for wildlife protection. |