



**Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
AGENDA**

October 22, 2020
6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Suggested Timetable

Call to Order

6:30 Approval of the August 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes
ACTION REQUESTED: Minutes Approval

Presentations

6:35 Study Session on Gross Reservoir & Dam Expansion Docket SI-20-0003
ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only
PRESENTER: Jeff Moline, Resource Planning Manager

7:35 Open Space-Related Midterm Updates to the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan
ACTION REQUESTED: Recommendation to Planning Commission and BOCC
PRESENTER: Jeff Moline, Resource Planning Manager

7:55 Director's Update

8:00 Adjourn

DRAFT

**Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
MINUTES**

August 27, 2020
6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by James Krug

Members:

Heather Williams
James Krug
Jenn Archuleta
Paula Fitzgerald
Steven Meyrich
Trace Baker
Ann Obenchain
Scott Miller -- **Excused**

Staff:

Eric Lane
Jeff Moline
Renata Frye
Vivienne Jannatpour
Nik Brockman
Sarah Andrews
Sarah Heerhartz
John Queen
Kevin Grady
Raquel Robles

Approval of the June 25, 2020 Meeting Minutes

ACTION REQUESTED: Minutes Approval

ACTION: Baker moved approval of item. Williams seconded the motion.

VOTE: **AYES:** Williams, Krug, Fitzgerald, Baker, Obenchain; **ABSTAIN:** Jenn Archuleta; **EXCUSED:** Scott Miller

Presentations

Niwot Ditch Diversion Project

ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only

PRESENTER: Sarah Heerhartz, Planner II, Jeff Moline, Planning Manager

Attachment: Aug 27 Minutes Draft (4156 : Approval of the August 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes)

Left Hand Outdoor Challenge 2019-2020 Season

ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only

PRESENTER: Sarah Andrews (Caribou Ranch Resident Ranger), John Queen (Hall Ranch Resident Ranger), Kevin Grady (Heil Ranch Resident Ranger), Avery Scheuch (LHOC Mentor), & Raquel Robles (Resource Management Admin Tech)

Director's Update

Before we get into the “fun” stuff, I want to address the vandalism and destruction of public property that happened last week. As you may know from the newspaper, someone entered two separate open space properties last week and vandalized our vehicles and equipment related to prairie dog removal and management. We are cooperating with the Boulder County Sheriff's Office and intend to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law.

We can only assume this was intended as a protest to the county's prairie dog management operations, but there is no way to know. That's unfortunate because the county's prairie dog policy was extensively researched and developed through a public process incorporating community input. The policy is designed to protect and support prairie dogs as an important keystone species of the prairie as well as control populations when necessary to support agricultural operations. BCPOS carries out the community's desire to balance support for both functioning grassland ecosystems and productive irrigated agriculture.

And as a simple reminder to everyone, we accept all public input on the Prairie Dog Habitat Element of the Grasslands & Shrubland Management Policy throughout the year and at an annual stakeholder meeting held each winter. Information about the policy and these meetings is posted at boco.org/PrairieDogs.”

Also, in the not “fun” category, Kira Pasquesi has resigned from POSAC because her residence changed to a place outside the county, which disqualifies her from service. The Board of County Commissioners is now reviewing candidates (23 applicants) and I believe they will be interviewing several very soon. I hope to have a new member first join you for the September or October POSAC hearings.

In the FUN department:

Before the public meeting commenced, someone asked about the Betasso Resident Ranger position. I'm pleased to inform you that we've selected Juan Ocampo for the position. Specifically, we announced this position as a bilingual ranger, and we look forward to all of the new opportunities that having a bilingual park ranger on our team will bring. Juan was part of our team in 2019 as a seasonal park ranger and moved to Westminster in the fall as a full-time ranger at Stanley Lake. Juan gained a tremendous amount of experience at Stanley Lake working with a very diverse group of visitors in an urban setting. Juan has also been working with Cal-Wood Education Center developing a recreation guide for Spanish-speaking families that outlines the types of outdoor experiences, parks, and trails that are available along the Front Range. I'm very pleased that we've taken advantage of a vacancy in our ranger group to add this capacity, as I think we'll be better able to serve the Latinx community and enhance our cultural responsiveness and inclusion practices.

In July, Mad Agriculture and Blake Cooper held the first of three field tours for the GE tenants and they looked at grain grown organically by Dave Asbury on the north side of Longmont and another set of grain trials that Dan Lisco has grown on the south-west side of Longmont.

Last week, we acquired eight shares of the Goodhue Ditch which is a priority ditch for the Ag Resources Division.

This summer, we started initial construction of the Toll Trail near Nederland. Our Project Management & Design, Trails, and Forestry staff have been working together to get things going. We'll be hiring a contractor to help construct the trail in 2021 and perhaps 2022 depending on speed of progress.

The Reservoirs Project which you toured last month is now substantially complete, which is a big milestone in any construction process. Around the corner, we've begun construction on the Reach 3 Phase 2 project. This project will serve many needs including protecting water diversion infrastructure that provides some of Longmont's water supply, creating a fish passage for native fish, preserving Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse habitat, and (my favorite) removing invasive trees!

Because of COVID-19 and the importance of adhering to public health safety standards, we postponed the 2020 Land Conservation Award ceremony until next spring. And while I think I announced the winners at a previous POSAC meeting, it surely doesn't hurt to recognize the award winners again:

Land Conservation Award to **Paul Lev-Ary** for a donation of land to expand the Anne U. White trailhead.

Environmental Stewardship Award to **Diane and Lowell Dodge** for implementing an ecological enhancement plan on their 40-acre property.

Volunteer Awards will be presented to **Rob Alexander** for outstanding contribution as a member of the Extension Advisory Board, a volunteer for 4-H, and contributor to numerous Extension workshops and events; and **Gedeon LaFarge** for outstanding contribution as member of the Volunteer Ranger Corps and service as an Outdoor Challenge teen mentor.

And finally, this is a YouTube video about POS working with Northern Water on an elk crossing on their Feeder Canal. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JKxVPaMXmU&feature=youtu.be>

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:53 p.m.



Parks & Open Space

5201 St. Vrain Road • Longmont, Colorado 80503
303-678-6200 • POSinfo@bouldercounty.org
www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org

PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, October 22, 2020

Location: Virtual Meeting

TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
FROM/PRESENTER:	Jeff Moline, Resource Planning Manager
AGENDA ITEM:	Study Session on Gross Reservoir & Dam Expansion Docket SI-20-0003
ACTION REQUESTED:	Information Only

On September 21, Denver Water submitted an application to Boulder County for the expansion of Gross Dam and Reservoir. The county will review this proposal in accordance with the Areas and Activities of State Interest (1041) portion of the Land Use Code. This section of the code requires that both Boulder County Parks & Open Space and POSAC review and discuss the application for both open space and environmental resource impacts. BCPOS staff will submit these review comments to Boulder County Community Planning and Permitting (CPP) department as a local referral agency.

Process Background

As delineated in the Land Use Code, the 1041 process details 19 specific purposes and intents of the regulation along with extensive submittal requirements as well as numerous referral requirements. The regulations also define the process timelines; the deadline for comments from referral agencies has been extended to Nov. 13. This is a large project and has an attendant amount of application materials, over 16,000 pages. At this time, POS staff is still developing referral comments for submittal to CPP) by the November deadline.

At the Oct. 22 POSAC study session, staff will present information about the application, open space and environmental impacts the staff have reviewed and assessed, and any comments prepared at that time. Staff intends to be a resource for POSAC members to help identify the key issues pertaining to your review and listen to your comments about those issues. Staff will then include those comments in its referral response to CPP. Staff's review will concentrate on impacts to open space and environmental resources identified in the BCCP.

As a reminder, there are many state and local referral agencies who will be reviewing the application along with other county departments. For example, the Public Health department will be studying sections on air and water quality while the Public Works department will be evaluating road and traffic impacts.

Written Public Comment for CPP

Importantly, the docket is already open for public comment on the [CPP Gross Reservoir web page](#) and will remain open even after the Nov. 13 referral deadline. While the county strongly encourages community members to submit comments by the November deadline, public comments will be accepted during the entire duration of the review process and any

Attachment: Gross Reservoir (4157 : Study Session on Gross Reservoir & Dam Expansion Docket SI-20-0003)

related public hearings, and may be submitted by sending emails to grossreservoir@bouldercounty.org. Written comments will be included in staff recommendation packets that are forwarded to the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners. Community members will also have the opportunity to speak during the public comment portion of the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners public hearings. The full application is on the [CPP Gross Reservoir web page](#).

Project Background

In the application materials, Denver Water explains why it feels it is necessary to modify and expand Gross Reservoir. It also explains how it has considered other alternatives to the project and selected this proposal as its preferred choice. Denver Water has been working to gain federal and state approvals for the project and the county has previously provided comments about the project during those earlier stages and processes. The 1041 regulations represent the local land use process Denver Water needs to conduct in order to start the project.

The proposal to expand the dam and reservoir would allow Denver Water to store an additional 77,000 acre-feet total of water by increasing the dam height by approximately 131 feet, the dam length by approximately 790 feet, and the spillway elevation by approximately 126 feet. The project also includes quarry operations to obtain aggregate required for construction, the construction of a temporary concrete batch/production plant and an aggregate processing plant. In order to address construction traffic impacts, Denver Water has proposed permanent road improvements to Gross Dam Road from State Highway 72 to the Gross Reservoir and temporary road improvements to FS35 (Winiger Ridge Road) and FS 97 (Lazy Z Road) along with the relocation of the Miramonte Multi-Use Trail. Denver Water, the City and County of Denver, and the U.S. Forest Service own and manage the site which is zoned Forestry.

The 1041 application for the Gross Reservoir and Dam project includes a review and discussion about environmental impacts related to the construction of the dam and increased inundation of the reservoir, but also of both upstream and downstream impacts along South Boulder Creek. Because the project includes an increased supply of water into the creek above the reservoir as well as streamflow changes downstream of the dam, especially to the South Boulder Reservoir where Denver Water then conveys water out of the creek and into its raw water delivery system for the Moffat Water Treatment Plant, the proposal examines those impacts as well.

At the time of the POSAC meeting, staff will have conducted a preliminary review of the application and will provide a presentation highlighting the staff's findings at that point in the process. Staff recommends that POSAC prepare for the study session by reviewing [Article 8, Location & Extent Areas & Activities of State Interest \(1041\)](#) of the County's Land Use Code; Denver Water's [Cover Letter](#) for the application; and the [1041 application](#) itself.



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PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, October 22, 2020

Location: Virtual Meeting

TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
FROM/PRESENTER:	Jeff Moline, Resource Planning Manager
AGENDA ITEM:	Open Space-Related Midterm Updates to the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan
ACTION REQUESTED:	Recommendation to the Planning Commission and BOCC

Background

The Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan (BVCP) guides land use decisions in the Boulder Valley through its policies and maps. The City of Boulder and Boulder County schedule major updates to the plan every 10 years with the last major update adopted in 2017. Midterm updates focus on minor and less substantive topics and occur as needed between the major updates. The city and county are amid a midterm update that is scheduled to conclude in 2020. For this update, the City of Boulder has taken the opportunity to make minor additions or clarifications to respond to changed circumstances and evolving community needs and priorities. The proposed revision of the BVCP that pertains to POSAC is the updated draft Land Use Map reflecting Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) and Boulder City Council-approved acquisitions and disposals from the last update (2017) to the present.

Under the provisions of an [Intergovernmental Agreement \(IGA\)](#) between the city and county signed in 2017, the two parties agreed to terms to extend the partnership of working on the BVCP for thirty more years. Per Exhibit B of the IGA, POSAC is required to review and make recommendations on open space-related changes to the BVCP. POSAC plays an advisory role to the four decision-making bodies who ultimately approve the BVCP, especially the Boulder County Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners (in addition to the city’s planning board and city council).

Discussion

Proposed changes to the BVCP Land Use Map relating to city Open Space and Mountain Parks lands. The 2017 [BVCP Land Use Map](#) depicts the desired land use pattern in the Boulder Valley. Proposed updates to the land use map are shown in Attachment A. Staff is requesting that POSAC recommend land use map updates to the county Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners that reflect recently completed open space transactions by the city—such as acquisitions and disposals since the last BVCP update—to correctly show current land use status. Boulder County Parks & Open Space has not made any changes to its land holdings in the Boulder Valley since the approve of the last BVCP.

Newly Acquired Open Space—Proposed Designation of Open Space Acquired (OS-A) and Open Space Development Rights (OS-DR). The City of Boulder acquired 592 acres of open space in fee since the last BVCP update. BCPOS staff is requesting that POSAC recommend OS-A designations for those properties so listed in Attachment B. Approximately 1.15 acres

Attachment: BVCP Midterm Update (4158 : Open Space-Related Midterm Updates to the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan)

of open space were acquired through a conservation easement. BCPOS staff is requesting that POSAC recommend an OS-DR designation for this property. All of the properties listed in Attachment B have been acquired with the authorization of the OSBT and Boulder City Council.

Property Disposal: Remove Open Space Designation of OS-A. Portions of properties totaling 5.6 acres were disposed of in the interval between the previous BVCP update and now, listed in Attachment B. Portions of the Coleman and Suitts Trust properties totaling about five acres, and including three residences and several outbuildings, were disposed of after OSBT and Boulder City Council approval because they were in Area II of the BVCP and identified by city and county staff as being more appropriate for annexation and development. They were not consistent with the needs of the city and the purposes of open space. The 0.58 acres on the St. Walburga Abbey property were part of a complex land exchange approved by OSBT and city council that resulted in a net benefit to OSMP. All disposals listed in Attachment B have been approved by the OSBT and city council in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the City of Boulder Charter.

Public requests

In addition to the above proposed updates, the midterm update process includes a public request process for proposed map and policy amendments. Of the public requests received, the following two were relevant to the open space programs but were determined to be out of scope for this midterm update process as described in more detail below. The first request was for a comprehensive evaluation of the Open Space, Park, and Public land use designations to correct errors and ensure that these designations are consistently applied throughout the Boulder Valley. Staff agreed that this request has merit, but that this work will require significant staff resources in multiple departments and would likely entail extensive community engagement. While this effort is not within the scope of the midterm update, staff recommended this effort to be completed in the next major update to the comprehensive plan. The application also requested changing the range of colors used on the BVCP Land Use Map for Open Space (Acquired), Open Space (Development Rights), and Open Space (Other) to improve readability. For the recommended final land use map to be approved in the midterm update, city and county staff will work to evaluate options for improved differentiation of these categories. The City of Boulder Planning Board and Boulder City Council supported OSMP staff's recommendation that this effort is not undertaken as part of the midterm update but will be completed in the next major update to the comprehensive plan.

There was a request for land use category amendments from Public (PUB) to Open Space and Low Density Residential (LR) to Open Space at 6500 Twin Lakes Road, 0 Kalua Road, and 6655 Twin Lakes Road, and that these properties be managed as part of a greater Twin Lakes open space area. The City of Boulder Planning Board and Boulder City Council supported city staff's recommendation that these requests do not receive further consideration during this midterm update because further analysis and decision-making regarding these parcels is complex and would require significant city and county staff resources. Further analysis and consideration of changing this land use in Area II which is designated for development in the comprehensive plan to open space is complex due to issues such as compensation, future management, and the desire and merits of acquisition for open space purposes. Because this represents a significant policy change and is a substantial

work effort requiring substantial city and county resources in multiple departments, it is not within the scope of the midterm update.

During the last major BVCP update, an extensive public process occurred around land use amendments to the Twin Lakes properties (both from the public and staff). Ultimately, no changes were approved by all four bodies and the existing land use designations stayed the same. Neither the county nor city found the sites to meet their respective criteria for open space acquisition for broader community benefit, nor did the current owners wish to sell the developable property to the neighbors for preservation.

Next Steps

The POSAC recommendation will be carried forward as part of the BVCP update approval process to the four-body review process including the City of Boulder Planning Board, Boulder City Council, and Boulder County Board of Commissioners and Planning Commission. The process is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2020.

Public Process

The city Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) received a written update on this BVCP midterm update on July 8, 2020. They reviewed and approved these additions and revisions on August 12, 2020.

Staff Recommendation

BCPOS recommends that POSAC recommend the adoption of the open space-related changes to the BVCP Land Use Map. Specifically, the addition of 592 acres of OS-A and 1.15 acres OS-DR to the map due to recent acquisitions, and the removal of 5.6 acres of OS-A for lands that the city has disposed of from their open space program.

ATTACHMENTS:

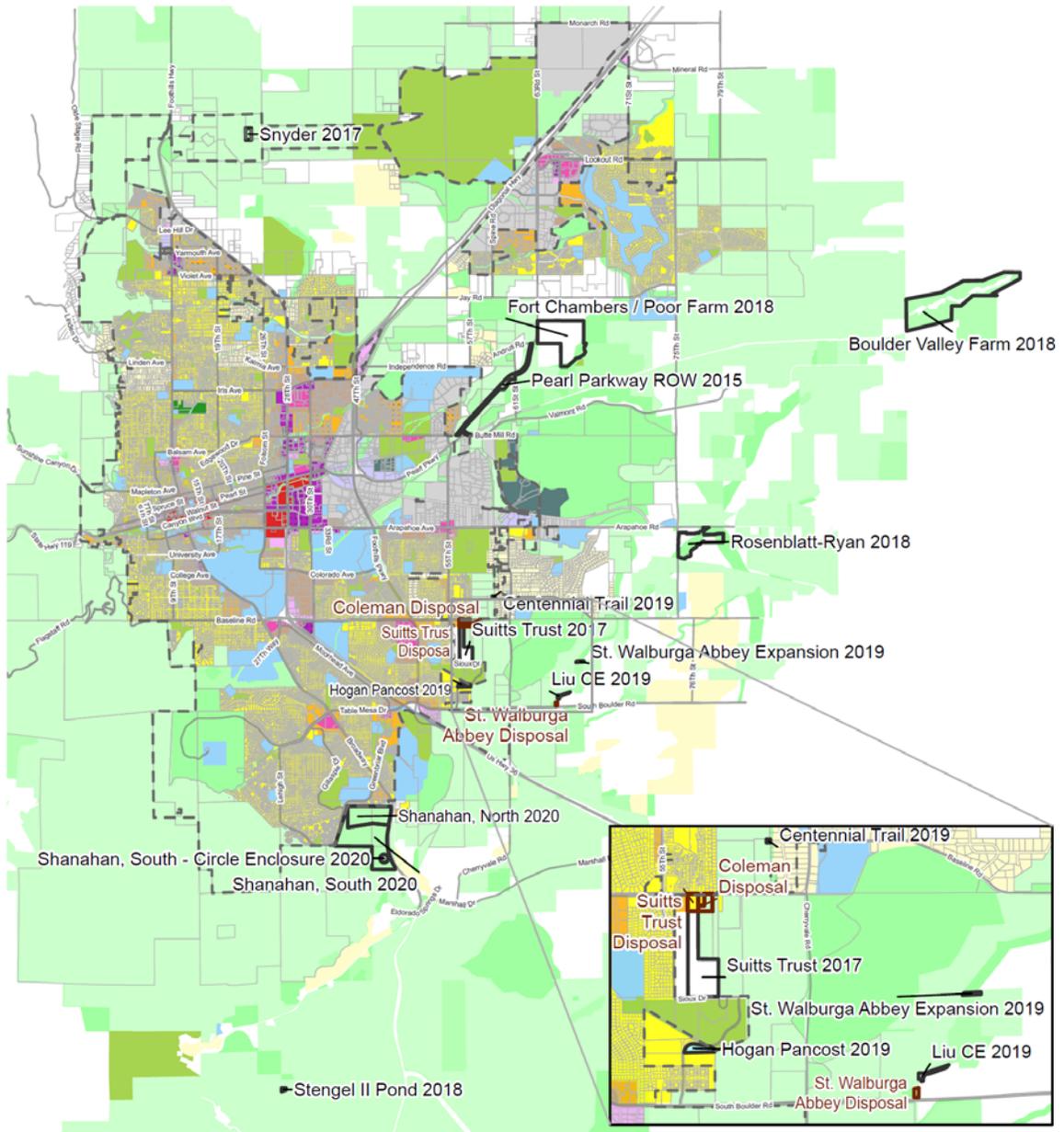
- Attachment A: Proposed Open Space-related Changes to BVCP Land Use Map
- Attachment B: List of proposed Open Space-related changes to BVCP Land Use Map

POSAC Action Requested

Recommendation to the Boulder County Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners for approval of the open space-related midterm updates to the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan, as described above and as further described by staff at the POSAC meeting.

Suggested motion language: I move approval of the open space-related midterm updates to the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan project as staff has described.

Attachment A: Proposed Open Space-related Changes to BVCP Land Use Map



OSMP Land Use Changes	Mixed Density Residential	General Industrial	Open Space, Other
Acquisitions	High Density Residential	Light Industrial	Other
Disposals	Business	Performance Industrial	Agricultural
Land Use	Community Business	Mixed Use	Park, Urban and Other
Residential	General Business	Mixed Use Business	Public
Very Low Density Residential	Service Commercial	Mixed Use Industrial	Environmental Preservation
Low Density Residential	Transitional Business	Mixed Use Residential	City Limits
Manufactured Housing	Regional Business	Open Space and Mountain Parks	
Medium Density Residential	Industrial	Open Space, Acquired	
Community Industrial	Community Industrial	Open Space, Development Rights	

Attachment: BVCP Midterm Update (4158 : Open Space-Related Midterm Updates to the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan)

Attachment B: List of Proposed Open Space-related Changes to BVCP Land Use Map

Newly Acquired Open Space—Proposed Designation of Open Space Acquired (OS-A) and Open Space Development Rights (OS-DR)				
Property Name	Year Closed	Acres	Current LU	Proposed LU
Boulder Valley Farm	2018	191.5	OS-DR and None	OS-A
Centennial Trail	2019	0.19	OS-A and OS-O	OS-A
Fort Chambers / Poor Farm	2018	113.26	OS-O and None	OS-A
Hogan Pancost	2019	2.73	EP	OS-A
Liu CE	2019	1.15	None	OS-DR
Pearl Parkway ROW	2015	25.79	None	OS-A
Rosenblatt-Ryan	2018	49.21	OS-O and None	OS-A
Shanahan, North	2020	60.08	OS-DR	OS-A
Shanahan, South - Circle Enclosure	2020	3.99	OS-DR	OS-A
Shanahan, South	2020	114.31	OS-DR	OS-A
Snyder	2017	5.26	OS-O	OS-A
Stengel II Pond	2018	1	OS-DR	OS-A
St. Walburga Abbey Expansion	2019	0.57	OS-DR	OS-A
Suitts Trust	2017	24.75	LR and None	OS-A

LU = Land Use; OS-O = Open Space Other; OS-A = Open Space Acquired; OS-DR = Open Space Development Rights; EP = Environmental Preservation; LR = Low Density Residential; CE = Conservation Easement

Property Disposal: Remove Open Space Designation of OS-A				
Property Name	Year Disposed	Acres	Current LU	Proposed LU
Coleman Disposal	2020	2.55	OS-A	LR
St. Walburga Abbey Disposal	2019	0.58	OS-A	None
Suitts Trust Disposal	2020	2.45	LR and None	LR

LU = Land Use; OS-A = Open Space Acquired; LR = Low Density Residential