

**Appendix C**  
**Relevant Goals and Policies of the**  
**Boulder County Comprehensive Plan**

**Comprehensive Plan Goals**

The goals of particular relevance to Betasso Preserve deal with Environmental Management, Parks and Open Space, Public Involvement, Cultural Resources, and Sustainability. These include:

**Environmental Management**

- B.1 Unique or distinctive natural features and ecosystems, and cultural features and sites should be conserved and preserved in recognition of the irreplaceable character of such resources and their importance to the quality of life in Boulder County. Natural resources should be managed in a manner, which is consistent with sound conservation practices and ecological principals.
- B.2 Air, water and noise pollution; inappropriate development in natural hazard areas; and overall environmental degradation should be reduced as much as possible or eliminated in order to prevent potential harm to life, health and property.
- B.3 Critical wildlife habitats should be conserved and preserved in order to avoid the depletion of wildlife and to perpetuate and encourage a diversity of species in the County.
- B.4 Significant natural communities, including significant riparian communities and rare plant sites, should be conserved and preserved to retain living examples of natural ecosystems, furnish a baseline of ecological processes and function, and enhance and maintain the biodiversity of the region.
- B.5 Wetlands, which are important to maintaining the overall balance of ecological systems, should be conserved.
- B.9 Riparian ecosystems, which are important plant communities, wildlife habitat and movement corridors, shall be protected.

**Parks and Open Space**

- C.1 Provision should be made for open space to protect and enhance the quality of life and enjoyment of the environment.

- C.3 Open space shall be used as a means of preserving the rural character of the unincorporated county and as a means of protecting from development those areas which have significant environmental, scenic or cultural value.

Public Involvement

- H.1 The county shall encourage public participation in the making of decisions by public and quasi-public bodies which significantly affect citizens.

Cultural Resources

- K.1 Every effort shall be made to identify and protect historic sites which meet national, state, or local criteria for historic designation from destruction or harmful alteration.

**County-Wide Elements**

The following policies are from specific County-Wide Elements from the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan and are of particular relevance to Betasso Preserve. These include:

Natural Hazards Element

Erosion

- NH 3.01 Erosion from development and other land use activities should be minimized, and disturbed or exposed areas should be promptly restored to a stable, natural, and/or vegetated condition using native plants and natural material.

Wildfire

- NH 5.01 The county recognizes the wildland urban interface as an area particularly at risk to wildland fires or wildfires.

- NH 5.02 Fire should be recognized as a natural and/or human-caused occurrence with certain benefits to the ecosystem. The county should strive towards balancing the natural processes of the ecosystem with development concerns so that residents may co-exist in a fire-dependent ecosystem.

- NH 5.06 Accepted methods of forest land ecosystem management should be used to reduce all severe wildfire hazard areas to a low or moderate rating, particularly in those areas inhabited with human development as defined by WHIMS.

- NH 5.07 The county should encourage private and public landowners to manage their forests to preserve the forests' ecosystem processes by developing and maintaining a diversity of species, ages, and stand densities to serve as a natural deterrent to pest and fire outbreaks. The county should implement measures to guard against the danger of fire in developments within and adjacent to

forests or grasslands.

- NH 5.08 The county should continue to work in partnership with the local fire protection districts and departments in improving fire protection services to address the increasing concerns of wildfire and the increase in development in the mountainous areas of the county.

### Environmental Resources Element

#### Natural Areas Policies

- ER 2.07 The county shall identify and work to assure the preservation of critical wildlife habitats, Natural Areas, environmental conservation areas and significant agricultural land.
- ER 2.08 The county shall use its open space program as one means of achieving its environmental resources and cultural preservation goals.

#### Riparian Areas

- ER 6.01 The county will work with appropriate management agencies and property owners to protect and restore riparian areas.
- ER 6.02 The county shall work toward minimizing human impacts to riparian ecosystems from development, roads, and trails.
- ER 6.03 The county will work with appropriate entities to ensure suitable minimum and maximum stream flows that maintain channel morphology, support hydrologically connected wetlands and perpetuate species, both plant and animal, dependent on riparian ecosystems.
- ER 6.05 Management of riparian areas shall encourage use or mimicry of natural processes, maintenance or reintroduction of native species, restoration of degraded plant communities, elimination of undesirable exotic species, minimizing human impacts, and development of long-term ecological monitoring programs.

### Open Space Element

Open space is defined in the Open Space Element as:

*Those lands referred to in the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan, as being intentionally left free from future development, and in which it has been determined that it is, or may in the future be, within the public interest to acquire an interest in order to assure their protection. (BCCP, Open Space Element, p. 2)*

In addition, passive recreation is defined as:

*Outdoor activities that create opportunities for independence, closeness to nature, and a high degree of interaction with the natural environment and which requires no organization, rules of play, facilities, or the installation of equipment, other than those which may be necessary to protect the natural environment. (BCCP, Open Space Element, p. 2)*

The functions of open space are:

- *Urban shaping between or around municipalities or community service areas, and buffer zones between residential and non-residential development;*
- *Preservation of: critical ecosystems; natural areas; scenic vistas and areas; fish and wildlife habitats; natural resources and landmarks; outdoor recreation areas; cultural, historic, and archaeological areas; linkages and trails; access to public lakes, streams and other useable open space lands; and scenic and stream or highway corridors;*
- *Conservation of natural resources, including but not limited to forest lands, range lands, agricultural lands, aquifer recharge areas and surface water;*
- *Protection of designated areas of environmental concern, generally in multiple ownership, where several different preservation methods (including other governmental bodies' participation or private ownership) may need to be utilized; these lands will not be considered for control by the county open space program provided sufficient evidence exists that these lands are to be preserved in a natural state.*

#### Resource Management

OS 2.01        The county shall identify and work to assure the preservation of Environmental Conservation Areas, critical wildlife habitats and corridors, Natural Areas, Natural Landmarks, significant areas identified in the Boulder Valley Natural Ecosystems Map, historic and archaeological sites, and significant agricultural land.

OS 2.02        Significant natural communities, rare plant sites, wetlands, and other important stands of vegetation, such as willow carrs, should be conserved and preserved.

OS 2.03        The county shall provide management plans and the means for the implementation of said plans for all open space areas that have been acquired by or dedicated to the county.

OS 2.03.01    The foremost management objectives of individual open space

lands shall follow directly from the purposes for which the land was acquired.

- OS 2.03.02 Management of county open space lands shall consider the regional context of ecosystems and adjacent land uses.
- OS 2.03.03 Management of individual open space lands, including those under agricultural leases, shall follow good stewardship practices and other techniques that protect and preserve natural and cultural resources.
- OS 2.04 The county, through its Parks and Open Space Department, shall provide appropriate educational services for the public which increase public awareness of the county's irreplaceable and renewable resources and the management techniques appropriate for their protection, preservation, and conservation.
  - OS 2.04.01 The Parks and Open Space Department shall cooperate with schools and non-profit organizations in the county to provide environmental education activities which increase awareness, understanding, appreciation, and support for stewardship of the natural and cultural resources on open space.
  - OS 2.04.02 The Parks and Open Space Department shall seek to meet the needs of diverse populations in the county by providing information and programming to accommodate special groups such as disabled persons, young people, senior citizens, and Spanish-speaking citizens.
  - OS 2.04.03 The Parks and Open Space Department shall develop and disseminate information through publications, exhibits, and other media on the uniqueness, importance, and appropriate stewardship and management of open space areas in the county.
  - OS 2.04.04 The Parks and Open Space Department shall utilize trained volunteers, cooperating groups, and private individuals to assist in the delivery of environmental education and interpretive services.
- OS 2.05 The county, through its Weed Management Program, shall discourage the introduction of exotic or undesirable plants and shall work to eradicate existing infestations through the use of Integrated Weed Management throughout the county on private and public lands.

### Scenic Area and Open Corridor Protection

- OS 3.01 Where necessary to protect water resources and/or riparian habitat the county shall ensure, to the extent possible, that areas adjacent to water bodies, functional irrigation ditches and natural water course areas shall remain free from development (except designated aggregate resource areas). The county may preserve these open corridor areas by means of appropriate dedication during the development process, reasonable conditions imposed through the development process, or by acquisition.
- OS 3.02 Where appropriate the county shall continue to acquire parcels of land or right-of-way easements to provide linkages between public lands.
- OS 3.04 Areas that are considered as valuable scenic vistas and Natural Landmarks shall be preserved as much as possible in their natural state.

### Recreational Use

- OS 4.02 Except as the county may establish a regional park, such as the Boulder County Fairgrounds, or others similar facilities, the county will provide only a minimum level of maintenance or development on park land (consistent with policy OS 2.03).
- OS 4.03 Recreational use of county open space land may be permitted where such use is consistent with the management plan for the property and does not adversely impact natural and cultural resources or other management objectives of the property.
- OS 4.03.01 Recreational use shall be passive, including but not limited to hiking, photography or nature studies, and, if specifically designated, bicycling, horseback riding, or fishing. Only limited development and maintenance of facilities will be provided.
- OS 4.03.02 Accessibility for special populations such as disabled persons, young people, senior citizens, and Spanish-speaking people shall be addressed on a system-wide basis.
- OS 4.04 Requests for special uses or events on county open space shall be evaluated for their impacts to natural and cultural resources as well as other management objectives and maintenance considerations.
- OS 4.05 Any development of regional county facilities or of county park or open space land shall be based on a plan approved by the County Commissioners after review by the Parks and Open Space

Advisory Committee.

Trails

- OS 6.01 Trails and trailheads shall be planned, designed, and constructed to avoid or minimize the degradation of natural and cultural resources, especially riparian areas and associated wildlife habitats.
- OS 6.02 Adverse effects on private lands shall be minimized insofar as possible by trail and trailhead placement, posting of rules and signs against trespassing, installation of containing fences where critical, and any other appropriate measures.
- OS 6.04 Trails shall provide for pedestrian, equestrian, bicycle, and/or other non-motorized uses, where each is warranted. Incompatible uses shall be appropriately separated.
- OS 6.08 Trails constructed by the county Parks and Open Space Department shall be soft-surface except where necessary to prevent erosion and/or other resource damage.

Public Decision Making

- OS 8.03 In developing management plans for open space areas, Parks and Open Space staff shall solicit public participation of interested individuals, community organizations, adjacent landowners and the Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee. Plans shall be reviewed by the Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee, including public comment, and recommended for adoption after public hearing by the Board of County Commissioners.
- OS 8.04 Significant changes to overall management direction or techniques shall be presented to the Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee and/or the Board of County Commissioners, with opportunity for public comment before a decision is made.

Cultural Resource Element

- CR 1.02 Significant archaeological and historic sites and structures acquired by the county both in unincorporated and incorporated areas, shall be documented, protected, preserved, and where appropriate restored.
- CR 1.02.1 After acquisition, an inventory of cultural resources on the property shall be undertaken and the historic significance of each resource shall be determined.

- CR 1.02.2 Resources that meet the criteria for local landmark, or State or National Register status should be nominated for such status by the County.

Sustainability Element (adopted May 16, 2007)

*“Sustainability” means the use, development and protection of all our resources in a manner that does not deplete them while enabling the residents of Boulder County to meet their current needs and maintain a fulfilling quality of life without compromising or foregoing the ability of and opportunity for future residents to do the same.*

*In this context, “resources” includes the land, air and water along with the inherent value of the natural resources, biodiversity, and life-supporting functions associated with them; energy and materials for development and habitation; the essential rural, low-density character of the unincorporated county; the special historic, cultural and geographic composition of distinct rural communities within the county; the diversity of economic activities and opportunities available to individuals; and the people who live within and continue to shape our developed and natural environment. (BCCP, Sustainability Element, p. 5)*

Sustainability Element Goals

1. The county recognizes and accepts that weighing individual wants and needs with those of the larger public and society is a complex but essential responsibility of government. Implementing the Comprehensive Plan involves the need to balance competing goals and policies in cases where they cannot be harmonized. With that understanding in mind, Boulder County’s land use management tools and practices should be designed to promote decisions and actions supporting outcomes that are consistent with the principles of sustainability.
3. Sustainability actions or programs undertaken by the county should address the following factors:
  - The origins or causes of wasteful resource practices as well as the harmful effects of such practices;
  - The interrelationship of systems and forces that dictate how resources are used, and;
  - The social constituencies and partners that should be involved in and served by sustainability efforts.
6. The preservation and viability of the increasingly precious resources of open and rural lands, whether devoted to agriculture, forestry, open space, or plant and wildlife habitat, as well as the sustainability of uses that provide for the long-term preservation of such lands, should be fostered and promoted through innovative regulatory and acquisition programs,

public-private partnerships, and public education, outreach and participation.

10. The county's rich and varied natural features, scenic vistas, ecosystems, and biodiversity should be protected from further intrusion, disruption, consumption and fragmentation.