

## ATTACHMENT E

Summary of initiatives to increase organic production on county open space

## Initiatives to Promote Organic Crops on Boulder County Open Space

Boulder County Parks and Open Space has a goal of 10% organic crops on county land by 2012. The following is a summary of initiatives currently underway to reach our goal:

- Boulder County incorporates an incentive for organic production into agricultural lease bids. The incentive is a 50% reduction in lease rate for three years, plus a lease of five years in place of the standard three years. This year we awarded two bids for a total of 73 acres to organic hay producers.
- Boulder County leases four properties, totaling about 480 acres, to Boulder County's largest organic farmer. This farmer previously leased land from owners who are selling for development.
- To address the large acreage obstacle, Boulder County is working to encourage farming on small acreage parcels. We developed a "model lease" that a group can use to form a Growers Association. Last year we leased our first small parcel "market farm" at Oxford and the Diagonal. We have leases with three more market farms this year: a 15-acre Growers Association farm in Gunbarrel (Jay Road and Spine), a 10-acre Growers Association farm in Niwot (Monarch Rd. and the Diagonal), and a 4-acre market farm to Olin Farms in Longmont (S. Hover Rd. and the Diagonal). We put out a bid in July on a 5th property at 95th and Pike south of Longmont.
- Boulder County pays for educational outreach from CSU Extension in Boulder County (Building Farmers Program, Sustainable Ag Conferences, On Farm research, field days, technical support, etc.)
- Boulder County partners with the Natural Resources Conservation Service on a number of projects, including applying for grant funds for organic conversion incentives.
- In 2007, Boulder County, along with partners Louisville and Lafayette, built a community garden at the Harney-Lastoka Open Space property.