

**South Table Mountain Park  
Listening Log Summary  
May 17, 2007**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Comments Summary *</b>	<b>Staff Response</b>
<p><b><u>Access</u></b></p> <p>Neighborhood Access</p> <p><b><u>Parking</u></b></p> <p>National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)</p>	<p>Spread out and minimize impacts by providing access from 3-4 locations.</p> <p>The community wants park access to be neighborhood friendly.</p> <p>Parking areas are acceptable but should be kept away from neighborhoods/homes.</p> <p>The NREL area (including Denver West) is a favored location for parking because it is away from most neighborhoods.</p>	<p>Providing access from numerous locations will help disperse use and minimize overall impacts. Centralized neighborhood access points will be considered.</p> <p>Every attempt will be made to create or keep centralized neighborhood access points.</p> <p>Open Space will pursue this idea to the extent possible.</p> <p>Denver West (office park component) will be explored further as a shared parking opportunity. The NREL site is problematic in that NREL has expansion plans and security concerns that are not conducive to shared parking at or near the visitors center. There is however, an existing trail easement on NREL property that connects to the Pleasant View Community Park adjacent to the south. Access is from Old Golden Road through Camp George West.</p>

\* Comments received at 10/24/06 and 4/11/07 (noted in red) Open House, meetings with neighborhood groups, and emails/comment cards.

<b><u>Parking continued</u></b>		
<p>Quaker Street</p>	<p>Quaker Street could be utilized to provide a location to the north that is centrally located and isolated from the majority of homes.</p>	<p>Parking could possibly be developed along Quaker St. at the north end of the Chippewa parcel.</p>
<p>Existing Neighborhood Parking Areas</p>	<p>Parking at Chippewa should remain open without major changes.</p> <p>Parking improvements needed along Golden Hills Road (Chippewa). This area gets heavy use as an access route to the south side of the mountain.</p> <p>Access from Rimrock Drive (water tank) should remain and could be hiker only to help limit the number of cars that park along Rimrock Drive.</p> <p>No off street parking at Lookout View Court because there is no room.</p>	<p>This is a possibility. Parking at this location may depend on other options as noted above.</p> <p>Need to consider neighborhood concerns in this area. Parking north of Golden Hills Road off of Quaker St. is a possibility.</p> <p>Rimrock Drive is within the City of Golden. So far, they are open to the possibility of on-street parking. Hiker only trail access will need to be evaluated within the context of the entire trail plan.</p> <p>Staff agrees that the Lookout View Court location is very problematic for parking. A formalized walk-in access point is a good possibility.</p>

<p><b><u>Parking continued</u></b></p> <p>Existing Neighborhood Parking Areas</p>	<p>Applewood Neighbors generally oppose development of parking facilities and public access points, for example Old Quarry Rd., Cactus Cr., Elderberry Rd. and West 26<sup>th</sup> Ave.</p>	<p>Existing Public Access at Old Quarry (Foothills Cr) is anticipated to remain. Parking is to be established at Pleasant View Park.</p>
<p><b><u>Park Development</u></b></p> <p>Signage</p> <p>Trash</p> <p>Restrooms</p>	<p>Mostly supportive of Open Space providing the appropriate level of park facilities needed to support public use.</p> <p>Signage that is found on other Open Space Parks is needed including trail use rules.</p> <p>Kiosks that depict the entire trail system with rules and regulations.</p> <p>Trash receptacles and poop bags for dogs are needed.</p> <p>Comments both for and against restrooms.</p>	<p>Park improvements are to support the current and anticipated park users.</p> <p>New and improved signage will be included.</p> <p>The new Open Space Kiosk designs will be featured at the primary parking areas.</p> <p>Exact locations to be determined. These will be provided.</p> <p>Typically, a permanent restroom facility is provided at primary parking areas.</p>

<u>Trail Development</u>		
<p>New Trails</p>	<p>Develop trail in the north easement down to the Golf Course.</p> <p>Visual impacts of new trails on the slopes should be minimized.</p> <p>Consolidate trails to help preserve vegetation. Existing social trails could be used to form a loop around the mesa edge with a few across rim to rim.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to have trails to the small pond on top. (former Coors property)</p>	<p>There is evidence of regular use along the overhead utility line and it does make a good loop opportunity. This connection would likely require acquisition or an easement on the private property on the north side.</p> <p>Typically trails are most visible during and shortly after construction. Once established, the visual element is minimal.</p> <p>Use of existing trails and roads is a primary consideration in trail placement. When slopes or other factors preclude their use, other alignments are considered and reclamation of the disturbed area is attempted. Loop trails are also preferred.</p> <p>This will be considered.</p>
<p>Welch Ditch</p>	<p>Some want access to all of Welch Ditch while others favor only using the lower segment (south of Old Quarry Rd) as a connector to parking areas.</p>	<p>The upper (north of Old Quarry Rd.) ditch segment is on private property and is viewed as more of a long-term possibility. The lower segment is more of a short-term possibility with much less right-of-way acquisition needed.</p>

<p>Reclamation of Social Trails</p>	<p>Concern over social trails and erosion near Lookout View Court.</p>	<p>Staff shares this concern and will be considering social trails for closure and reclamation.</p>
<p><b><u>Trail Development continued</u></b></p>	<p>The old road to the top located on the NE should remain open. Erosion has not been significant since recent improvements were made.</p> <p>East area north of the condos is a problem. Consider keeping some open to bikes for jumps, banks, etc.</p>	<p>The grade on this road is significantly higher than current best practices would prescribe for a trail. The road is deeply concave and merits closure, <b>however Open Space will consider all options before making a final decision.</b></p> <p>A bicycle terrain or challenge course is not currently being considered. This area has numerous fall line social trails that are contributing to significant erosion and visual scars.</p>
<p>City of Golden Trails</p>	<p>Open Space should work with the City of Golden to provide hiking access via the Lubahn Trail.</p> <p>There should be restrictions on mountain bikes using the Lubahn Trail. They have damaged the steep and narrow trail and visibility is limited because of the vegetation.</p> <p><b>Mountain bike access should be allowed on the Lubahn trail.</b></p>	<p>There have been very positive discussions with Golden staff. More coordination will follow.</p> <p>There have been no detailed discussions on use restrictions for this trail which is managed by the City of Golden.</p> <p><b>As mentioned above, Open Space will coordinate with Golden on the Lubahn Trail connection.</b></p>

<p><b><u>Trail Users</u></b></p> <p>Multi-Use</p>	<p>Most think that the Mesa should be accessible to hikers and runners, bikers and equestrians.</p> <p>There is concern on how mountain bikes are managed in relation to other users.</p>	<p>Multi-use is our current practice.</p> <p>Open Space will continue to work with trail user groups on conflict issues.</p>
<p><b><u>Trail Users continued</u></b></p> <p>Separation of Users</p> <p>No Motorized Use</p>	<p>Although most comments favor multi-use, there appears to be a common desire to have bikes on separate trails.</p> <p>Some prefer that bikes stay off the Mesa or they be allowed only on the Welch Ditch.</p> <p>No motorized uses should be allowed except for electric wheelchairs.</p> <p>Motorcycle ramps that have recently appeared should be removed.</p>	<p>Separating users requires more trails and results in more disturbance so Open Space favors multi-use without separation. We will consider all options.</p> <p>Multi-use is our current practice. A considerable amount of the Welch Ditch is on private property.</p> <p>Motorized uses are prohibited on Open Space Parks.</p> <p>Ramps and other forms of “terrain courses” are not being considered and are subject to removal.</p>

<p>Dogs on-leash</p>	<p>Consider designating large unfenced areas such as the former Coors property for voice/sight command off leash areas for dogs.</p> <p>No dog parks and have the trails be dog on leash.</p>	<p>Staff will review Natural Resource inventories and evaluate possible adverse impacts of dogs off leash.</p> <p>This is the customary practice for Open Space parks.</p>
<p><b><u>Natural Resources</u></b></p> <p>Inventories (vegetation and wildlife)</p>	<p>Should be completed before planning begins to prevent impact to sensitive wildlife and botanical resources.</p> <p>Protect and set aside habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>Concern about recent absence of Prairie Falcons that have historically nested (since 1969) in the southwestern exposure of Castle Rock (private property), due to rock climbing and other increased human activity.</p>	<p>Staff is conducting a vegetation community mapping (baseline) effort that should be concluded this summer. The results will be evaluated to help determine management objectives.</p> <p>Once vegetation is identified the habitat can be protected. Cliff raptor nests have been mapped and will be monitored beginning this year.</p> <p>Open Space will be monitoring cliff raptor nesting sites. Seasonal trail closures are possible on Open Space property. The City of Golden will be made aware of this concern since it does involve the Lubahn Trail.</p>

<p>Noxious Weeds</p>	<p>Leafy Spurge is creeping up the south slopes. Need to get rid of this invasive weed.</p> <p>New trails on the southeast side have brought in many weeds such as thistle. Would like to see this managed.</p>	<p>Approximately two thirds of the Coors property has been mapped. Herbicide applications will begin to control noxious weeds this year.</p> <p>Problem areas containing noxious weeds will be addressed.</p>
<p>Restoration</p>	<p>Restore native grasses such as short grass prairie to historical landscape.</p> <p>Some favor bringing water to the mesa for the wildlife and others do not, feeling it is an unnatural idea.</p>	<p>Given the existing disturbance at STM, restoration will be a long-term strategy, not short-term.</p> <p>Staff will include this idea for further consideration as part of the inventory and evaluation process.</p>

<p><b><u>Private property</u></b></p>	<p>Actively pursue acquisition of the entire mesa for protection and preservation.</p> <p>Marking private property where social trails cross through would help define boundaries better.</p> <p>Respect private property rights by staying off of vacant land that is privately owned.</p> <p>Adjacent to Old Quarry Road, park users frequently trespass as a shortcut to reach Elderberry Road.</p>	<p>JCOS is actively pursuing acquisition of the mesa.</p> <p>Open Space will be fencing off adjacent private parcels that are currently not fenced in 2007.</p> <p>Agreed!</p> <p>Open Space Staff are working with the landowner on this concern.</p>
<p><b><u>NTM &amp; STM Coordinated Plan</u></b></p>	<p>The planning for NTM &amp; STM should be considered together as one park.</p>	<p>Open Space Staff coordinates planning of the parks on a system wide basis. The parks are managed individually as separate units. Although these two parks are not being considered as one park there has been management considerations, advantages and benefits taken into account for both plans as they proceed separately.</p>
<p><b><u>Other</u></b></p>	<p>Have meetings for individual areas (Homeowners Association and other groups) and regular updates, meetings and input until 2008.</p>	<p>Open Space Staff had met with a number of Homeowners Associations and interested groups since the public Open House meeting last October. Additional meetings will be held at least through mid 2007. An update draft Park Management Plan (PMP) is anticipated in the summer of 2007.</p>

