Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 9:00 AM
Council Chambers - Eagle Town Hall
200 Broadway Eagle, CO 81631

This agenda, meetings, and information about the Committee can be viewed at www.Townofeagle.org.

OSRAC MEETING ACCESS INFORMATION

This will be an in-person meeting with access via Microsoft Teams. First-time users of Microsoft Teams will need to download the free app before joining the meeting.

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9:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

9:05 a.m. PUBLIC COMMENT

9:10 a.m. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

9:15 a.m. DISCUSSION/ BUSINESS ITEMS

9:15 a.m. (20 min) Open Space Interpretive Signage Project Update

9:35 a.m. (20 min) Open Space Riparian Enhancements Update

9:55 a.m. (20 min) Spring Open Space Projects Update

10:15 a.m. (10 min) New Business/ Future Agenda items

10:25 a.m. ADJOURN

Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee
Unapproved Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 9:00 AM
Council Chambers - Eagle Town Hall
200 Broadway Eagle, CO 81631

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9:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Call to Order at:

Roll Call:

Committee members present: Roger Mitchell, Phil Kirkman, Ernest Saeger, Erinn Hoban, Anna Nakea, and Jessica Foulis joined briefly at the end.

Committee members absent: Jessica Foulis, Lizzy Owens and Chris Kehoe

Staff Present: Brian Lieberman, OST Manager; Ryan Goebel, IT Manager; and Melissa Daruna, Assistant Town Manager

Town Council Present: Ellen Bodenheimer

9:05 a.m. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

9:10 a.m. APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

MOTION to approve the JANUARY OSRAC meeting minutes by Kirkman and second by Nakea. Motion passed with a vote of 5 in favor (Mitchell, Saeger, Nakea, Kirkman, and Hoban) and 0 opposed.

9:15 a.m. DISCUSSION/ BUSINESS ITEMS

2024 Open Space Management Plan Priorities and Work Plan Presentation

- Staff presented the Open Space Management Plan 2024 Work Plan to the Committee. The Work Plan details the priority projects and operation strategies for achieving goals identified in the Management Plans for the 2024 calendar year.
- The Work Plans include a budget for the overarching categories from the Management Plans. They also include the source of funding and partnerships to accomplish goals.
- The department hopes to receive grant funding for noxious weed treatments and contributions from the Eagle Ranch Wildlife Committee for signage projects.
- Staff are utilizing the natural resource data and recommendations in the Management Plans to evaluate and adjust general program operations- all with the goal of accomplishing objectives identified in the Management Plans.
- The Committee discussed the Work Plans and asked the staff questions.
- The Committee accepted public comment.
- Staff will keep the Committee updated on progress for the Work Plans.
- Staff will use the Management Plans and the Work Plans to inform the 2025 budget.

Respect the Wild Update

- Nicky Asselin, Development Manager for the Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance (VVMTA), presented an update on the Respect the Wild Campaign for winter 2023-2024.
- Nicky presented the goals of the program, data collected so far this winter, staff time associated with the campaign, and accomplishments so far.
- A VVMTA staff person has been averaging 20 hours per week at Eagle Trailheads providing education on responsible recreation. At times, the staff person has been joined by volunteers.
    - The focus has been on the Haymaker trail. There were questions about whether some time should be spent on the Eagle Ranch Golf Course.
- The Committee discussed the campaign and asked questions.

New Business/ Future Agenda Items

- None.

10:20 a.m. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION to move into Executive Session to consider the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of real, personal or other property as it relates to open space pursuant to C.R.S.§ 24-6-402(4)(a) and (E) by Saeger and second by Nakea. Motion passed with a vote of 5 in favor (Mitchell, Saeger, Nakea, Kirkman, and Hoban) and 0 opposed.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session by Saeger and seconded by Foulis. Motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor (Mitchell, Saeger, Nakea, Kirkman, Foulis, and Hoban) and 0 opposed.

MOTION to recommend that the Town of Eagle pursue an acquisition of a private parcel in West Eagle for open space in partnership with Eagle County Open Space and other potential funding partners by Saeger and second by Hoban. The motion passed with 4 votes in favor (Mitchell, Saeger, Kirkman, and Hoban) and 0 votes opposed.

11:00 a.m. ADJOURN

MOTION to ADJOURN at 11:04 by Saeger and second by Mitchell. Motion passed with a vote of 4 in favor (Mitchell, Saeger, Kirkman, and Hoban) and 0 opposed.

To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: March 5, 2024

Agenda Item: Open Space Interpretive Signage Project Update

REQUEST: None – update.

BACKGROUND: The Town of Eagle Open Space and Trails department plans to install interpretive wildlife/ecosystem educational signs along the Brush Creek paved path and other select locations in open space properties this summer. The goal of the signage is to focus on wildlife, local ecosystems, open space, and how we can coexist and reduce our impact on local wildlife. The signage will be in both English and Spanish, and it will focus on graphics and pictures to reduce text.

Some of the signage will specifically focus on education for winter recreation. It will provide the *why* behind seasonal wildlife closures, the need to reduce disturbance to wildlife in winter, and other wildlife related information. These signs will be installed at known conflict areas such as the Haymaker trail and trailhead, the Dog Park, the Brush Creek Pavilion, the soccer field, and community gardens.

In addition, a trailhead kiosk sign will also be installed near the fishing-is-fun pond. It will include a map, details about the interpretive signs, and information on the fishing pond.

Walking Mountains was contracted to develop the signage content, and we are working with a local photographer and illustrator for pictures and graphics.

Most of the planning and content for the signs have been finalized. The Town has selected a fabricator to construct and install the signs. Installation is anticipated by August 2024.

ANALYSIS AND STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT: A key recommendation from the 2022 Open Space and Trails Master plan was to invest in new interpretive signage in Town Open Space that provides educational material about local wildlife. This included information about how to mitigate impacts on wildlife while recreating, the importance of keeping distance from wildlife (particularly in winter), the need to keep dogs on a leash, and the significance of respecting seasonal wildlife closures.

In addition, both the 2022 Open Space and Trails Master Plan and the 2021 Elevate Eagle Comp Plan identify the need to develop educational material and signage in Spanish on open space properties. All text will be bilingual for the new signs.

COMMUNITY INPUT: The impetus for this project was community input from the 2022 Open Space and Trails Master Plan.

BUDGET/ STAFF IMPACT: This is a Capital Improvement Project funded by the Town's Open Space Fund with a contribution from the Eagle Ranch Wildlife Committee. Staff time for this project is high.

Interpretive Signage Project Budget		
3/1/2024		
Phase	**Item**	**Budget**
1	Project Visioning/into	$5,375.00
2	Content/ design	$23,295.00
2	Walking Mountains	$3,000.00
2	Spanish Translation	$1,500.00
2	Photographs	$1,500.00
2	Illustrations	$2,000.00
3	Fabrication and insulation	$50,000.00
	Contingency	$9,000.00
TOTAL		$95,670.00
Funding Sources		
Town of Eagle OS Fund	$70,670.00	
Eagle Ranch Wildlife	$25,000.00	
Total	$95,670.00	

RECOMMEND ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION: None.

ATTACHMENTS: Three draft panels are included below. These are drafts and are subject to change. Also, the Spanish has not been translated yet. We used Google Translate to get an understanding of the space on the signs. Once the panels are finalized, they will be translated by a local translator.

Haymaker Trail

You are entering vital habitat for deer and elk so please stay on the trail and respect all wildlife. This trail crosses severe winter range, meaning that it is space for elk and deer to go when there is extreme winter weather. This gives them the best hope of finding food, conserving energy, and giving birth in the spring.

Respect wildlife by giving them space and leashing your dog!

Está ingresando a un hábitat vital para los ciervos y los alces, así que permanezca en el sendero y respete toda la vida silvestre. Este sendero cruza una zona invernal severa, lo que significa que hay espacio para que los alces y ciervos vayan cuando hay un clima invernal extremo. Esto les da la mejor esperanza de encontrar alimento, conservar energía y dar a luz en primavera.

¡Respeta la vida silvestre dándoles espacio y atando a tu perro!

After gestating for 8.5 months, cow elk give birth to their young in the spring. Newborn calves weigh about 30 pounds, but quickly put on weight. Cows need a steady supply of food to produce milk to feed their young. They return to the same areas year after year in search of food and safety for their calves.

Protective Parents

When humans are too close to an elk it can cause a great deal of stress to the animal and reduce the overall survival of calves. Respect seasonal trail closures, they are an important tool for wildlife conservation.

Give us space!

Durante la primavera, después de una gestación de unos 250 días, las vacas dan a luz a sus crías. Los terneros recién nacidos pesan alrededor de 30 libras pero rápidamente aumentan de peso.

Para facilitar el rápido crecimiento de los terneros, las vacas necesitan un suministro constante de alimentos para producir leche para alimentar a sus crías. Las manadas de alces regresan a las mismas zonas año tras año en busca de alimento y para evitar otros animales.

Cuando un alce percibe una amenaza,puede causar mucho estrés al nimal y reducir la supervivencia general de los terneros.

¡Danos espacio!

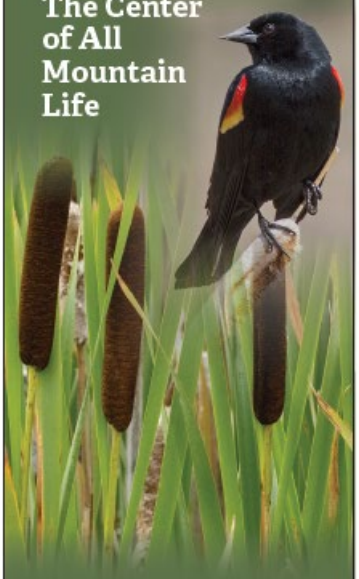
The habitat created by a stream is larger than the waterway itself.

The land surrounding a stream, the riparian zone, is vital for wildlife survival, despite being only 3% of Colorado's land area. Eagle's lower elevation riparian areas have warmer temperatures and easier access to food and water which makes them particularly important for sustaining wildlife through the winter.

Stay on Trails!

Human activities can increase erosion and deposits sediment into creeks. Keeping the native vegetation alive around the riparian areas helps stabilize soils and keeps the whole ecosystem healthier.

The Center of All Mountain Life



El hábitat creado por un arroyo es más grande que el propio curso de agua.

La tierra que rodea un arroyo, la zona ribereña, es vital para la supervivencia de la vida silvestre, a pesar de representar solo el 3% de la superficie terrestre de Colorado. Las áreas ribereñas de menor elevación de Eagle tienen temperaturas más cálidas y un acceso más fácil a alimentos y agua, lo que las hace particularmente importantes para el sustento de la vida silvestre durante el invierno.

¡Manténgase en los senderos!

Las actividades humanas pueden aumentar la erosión y depositar sedimentos en los arroyos. Mantener viva la vegetación nativa alrededor de las áreas ribereñas ayuda a estabilizar los suelos y mantiene todo el ecosistema más saludable.

To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: March 5, 2024

Agenda Item: Open Space Riparian Enhancements Update

REQUEST: None- Update.

BACKGROUND: The 2023 Open Space Management Plans (Management Plans) identified impaired resources within Town owned Open Space properties. One such area that was identified is the corridor along lower Brush Creek between its upper and lower intersections with Sylvan Lake Road.

Staff budgeted $80,000 for a restoration project for 2024. This funding can be used to complete a smaller-scale restoration project this year or to start planning to complete a larger-scale restoration project in the coming years.

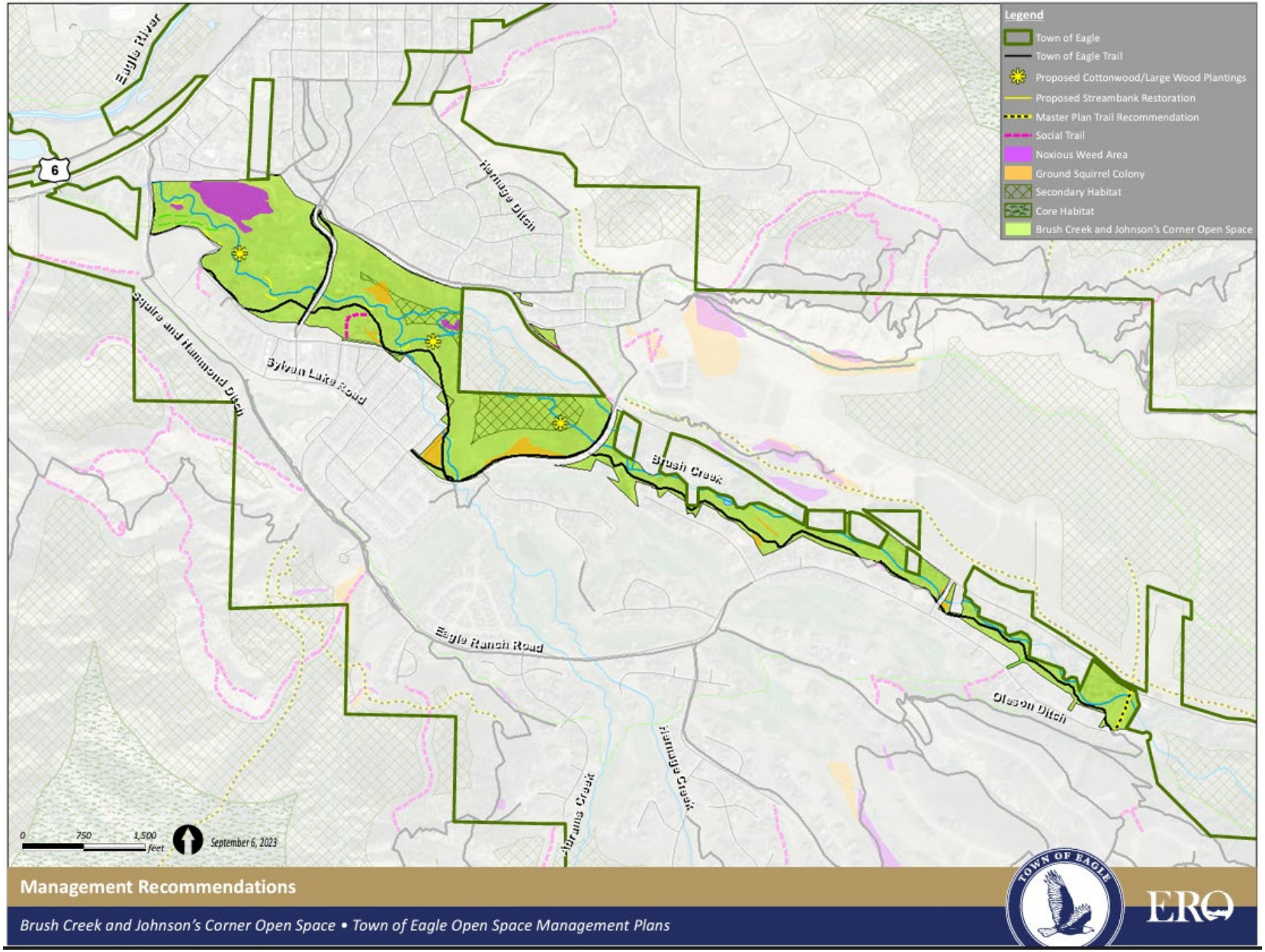
Staff are developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for design, permitting, and construction services to address the impaired resources along Brush Creek identified in the Management Plans. Staff plans to release the RFP in the coming weeks and get started on the project this field season.

COMMUNITY INPUT/ STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT: Both the 2022 Open Space and Trails Master Plan and the Management Plans placed a high emphasis on the need to invest resources to improve impaired or degraded areas of Town open space. The Community and Stakeholders strongly supported these projects.

BUDGET/ STAFF IMPACT: Staff budgeted $80,000 for a restoration project for 2024. This funding can be used to complete a smaller-scale restoration project this year or to start planning to complete a larger-scale restoration project in the coming years. Additional funding has been budgeted in upcoming years to finish a larger restoration project or start a new smaller project. Staff time is expected to be high.

RECOMMEND ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION: None.

ATTACHMENTS: The Open Space Management Plans can be viewed on the Town's website at this link: https://www.townofeagle.org/1014/Open-Space-Management-Plans. A map from the Johnson's Corner and Brush Creek Management Plan addressing this project is included below. This project will address cottonwood/large wood plantings and streambank restoration.



Management Recommendations

Brush Creek and Johnson's Corner Open Space • Town of Eagle Open Space Management Plans

TOWN OF EAGLE

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To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: March 5, 2024

Agenda Item: Spring Open Space Maintenance Projects Update

REQUEST: None – Update.

BACKGROUND: Staff will present trail and open space maintenance projects scheduled for spring/early summer 2024. The projects will be accomplished using labor from the Town of Eagle staff, volunteers, and Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance's (VVMTA) Trail Conservation Crew (TCC). This list of projects is in addition to regular maintenance for noxious weeds, pest control, fuel mitigation, and other ongoing open space operational projects.

BUDGET/ STAFF IMPACT: Staff have budgeted to pay for crew time from the TCC and to purchase needed supplies for maintenance projects. Staff time will be high during the spring and summer to accomplish these projects.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT / STANDARDS ACHIEVED: The 2022 Open Space and Trails Master Plan indicated strong support for maintenance of the existing trail system and open space projects.

RECOMMEND ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION: None.

ATTACHMENTS: List of spring/ early summer 2024 open space and trail projects:

- Trail Maintenance
    - Early season sweep to address any damage from winter on trails
    - Haymaker trail work
        - Benching on the outbound trail just west of the seasonal closure gate
        - Fix the broken pipe near the seasonal closure gate
        - Possible ADA accessibility modifications
        - Badger holes
    - Pool and Ice
        - Fix tree gap
        - Improving turns
        - Drainage
    - Extra credit
        - Vegetation trimming

        - Badger holes
    - Riddle and Mayer Gulch
        - Vegetation trimming
        - Sight line work
        - Drainage
    - Catwalk
        - Drainage and braiding
    - Dead Cow
        - Minor re-routes
- Signage
    - Trailhead Kiosk Signs
        - Make an “Open Space and Trails notice” board for the empty side of all kiosks.
        - Look into purchasing bulk dibond and cutting it to size.
    - Install new interpretive signage in open space
    - 2-way traffic signs for Mayer Gulch
- Dog Park
    - Mowing
- Bike Park
    - Signage
    - Entrance development
    - Interaction with Haymaker trail
    - Resurfacing cracked riding surfaces
    - General maintenance
- Seasonal Closure Gates
    - Install new closure gates on Mayer Gulch at the intersection with the bike path