



Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 9:00 AM
Council Chambers - Eagle Town Hall
200 Broadway Eagle, CO 81631

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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 (Non-Agenda Items; 3-Minute Limit Please)

9:10 a.m. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9:13 a.m. APPROVAL OF THE MAY MINUTES

9:15 a.m. DISCUSSION / BUSINESS ITEMS

9:15 a.m. (15 min) Manager Update

9:30 a.m. (45 min) Trail Marker and Wayfinding

10:15 a.m. (30 min) Phase 2 Trail Proposal

10:45 a.m. FUTURE BUSINESS ITEMS

11:00 a.m. ADJOURN



Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
Unapproved Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May5, 2026, at 9:00 AM
Council Chambers - Eagle Town Hall
200 Broadway Eagle, CO 81631

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OSRAC MEETING ACCESS INFORMATION

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

- Members present: Ernest Sager, Jessica Foulis, Roger Mitchell, Phillip Kirkman, Chris Cohen, Ryan Gilmer (online).
- Members absent: Dan Lambert, Chris Kehoe
- Town Council Representative: Brian Woods, Mayor
- Staff Present: Alex Smiley, Open Space and Trails Manager

9:05 a.m. PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items; 3-Minute Limit Please)

- None

9:10 a.m. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Motion: Chris Cohen
- Second: Jessica Foulis
- Vote: Passed unanimously

9:13 a.m. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH MINUTES

- Motion: Roger Mitchell
- Second: Chris Cohen
- Vote: Passed unanimously

9:15 a.m. DISCUSSION / BUSINESS ITEMS

9:15 a.m. (15 min) Manager Update

- Trail opening
- Fence updates
- Arbor Day
- Monitoring
- Volunteers
- New seasonal staff

9:25 a.m. (60 min) Trail Proposal – Phase 2 Trail Proposal

- Comments and questions from the committee:
 - Road Gulch Flow/Connector - Concerns about expanding zone of influence and wildlife impacts.
 - No stated concerns about Haymaker uphill.
 - Firebox and Dead Cow trail comments about ensuring decommissioning occurs.
 - Hermit 1 Trail(s) - Concerns about zone of influence, wildlife use, and habitat fragmentation.
 - Abrams Gulch reroute - General support for this reroute.
 - Worlds Greatest Downhill Alt - Potentially a good user experience alignment, but some concern about habitat impacts.
 - School House Kill Bill Connector - Concerns about alignment on BLM and impact to core habitat polygon vs original alignment on TOE land. Encouraged neighborhood trail connections and potential control allowances if on TOE land.
 - Funding allocation and use - Comments about funding for decommissioning and possibly focusing on trails closer to TOE. Feedback on how to contract or structure contracting of trail related work.
- Request for written feedback from CPW, possibly a site visit.
- Comments about future trail planning

10:25 a.m. FUTURE BUSINESS ITEMS

- Additional discussion on HTC Trail Proposals
- Concerns about camping on Bellyache Road, East Hardscrabble SRMA
- Possible information on water temperatures and levels in fisheries.

10:30 a.m. ADJOURN

- Motion: Ernest Seager
- Second: Jessica Foulis
- Vote: Passed unanimously



To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee

From: Alex Smiley, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: July 2, 2026

Agenda Item: Trail Markers and Wayfinding

Request

Staff requests that the Committee discuss trail markers and wayfinding across the Town's open space and trail system and provide high-level feedback on how future signage and wayfinding improvements should be prioritized.

Background

The Town's open space and trail system includes a variety of trail markers, directional signs, kiosks, regulatory signs, and entry signs that have been installed over many years. As a result, the current system is inconsistent in appearance, condition, materials, messaging, and usefulness.

Wayfinding is not just a visual or branding issue. Clear and consistent signage can improve visitor experience, reduce confusion, support responsible recreation, reinforce seasonal closures and regulations, improve emergency response, and reduce the creation of unauthorized routes caused by uncertainty at trail intersections or access points.

Analysis

Staff has started an [inventory of existing trail markers and wayfinding signs](#) across the Town's open space and surrounding areas. The inventory includes sign locations, photos, general condition, and notes about sign types.

Initial observations from the inventory indicate that many existing signs are faded, damaged, inconsistent, or more complicated than necessary. Staff is interested in moving toward a simpler and more consistent trail marker system focused primarily on clear trail identification.

For most locations, staff believes a basic sign with the trail name may be sufficient. Where needed, signs could include one additional piece of information, such as allowed uses, property ownership, or a small regulatory notice. More detailed information, such as maps, mileage, route descriptions, or broader visitor orientation, may be better suited for trailhead kiosks or larger entry points rather than individual trail markers.

Funding Considerations

The Town has allocated \$15,000 in 2026 for trail marker and wayfinding work and has earmarked an additional \$90,000 for future implementation. While these funds provide an opportunity to make meaningful improvements, there is not yet a clear direction on how they should be prioritized.

Staff is seeking OSRAC's input on how to prioritize spending before developing a more detailed implementation plan.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Trail marker and wayfinding improvements align with the Town's goals of maintaining quality of life, supporting responsible recreation, and improving sustainable management of open space and trails.

A clearer and more consistent trail marker system supports OSRAC's mission by helping residents and visitors better understand and responsibly use the Town's open space and trail system. Simple, consistent signage can improve user experience, clarify allowed uses, support seasonal closures and regulations, reduce confusion at trail access points, and help minimize unauthorized trail creation or resource impacts.

This work also supports the 2022 Open Space and Trails Master Plan's broader direction to provide an accessible trail system. A standardized sign system would also help staff manage maintenance, replacement, and future budgeting more efficiently.

Recommended Action

Staff recommends that OSRAC provide high-level feedback on the Town's trail marker and wayfinding inventory and offer guidance on how future improvements should be prioritized.

Discussion questions include:

- How should the Town prioritize use of the \$15,000 allocated in 2026 and the additional \$90,000 earmarked for future implementation?
- What specific locations or sign types should be prioritized first?
- What level of information is essential for most trail signs?
- Does OSRAC support a simple trail marker approach focused primarily on trail names, with limited additional information where needed?
- Should Town wayfinding funds be used only on Town-managed lands, or should the Town consider contributing to signage improvements on BLM or County-managed lands where those improvements support a more consistent and understandable trail system for Eagle-area users?

Attachments: [Sign inventory map](#)



Town Reflections on HTC Trail Proposal and Next Steps

The Town recognizes that the HTC trail proposal is currently moving through BLM's review process and that BLM is the decision-making authority for proposed trail alignments on BLM-managed lands. The Town's role is not to replace or prejudge BLM's NEPA analysis, but to provide local planning, management, and community-based input that may help inform that process.

The Town also recognizes that HTC has engaged in a lengthy planning effort and has consistently sought feedback from partner agencies and local stakeholders throughout the development of this proposal. The current proposal builds from prior regional and local trail planning efforts, including the Town's adopted planning documents, which identify the importance of trail connectivity, sustainable trail design, resource protection, and continued site-specific review.

The Town also understands that all recreation has impacts and that, cumulatively, those impacts can affect wildlife population in our valley. At the same time, public access to open space and trails is an important community value. Balancing those tradeoffs is at the heart of responsible open space management, and it is a responsibility the Town takes seriously. With that in mind, OSRAC's initial review focused on where the proposal may improve existing trail conditions, connectivity, or sustainability, and where proposed new alignments may raise additional wildlife, habitat, or fragmentation concerns. OSRAC's initial reflections are summarized below:

- Road Gulch Flow/Connector
 - OSRAC expressed concern about potential expansion of the recreation zone of influence and associated wildlife impacts.
- Haymaker Uphill
 - OSRAC did not identify specific concerns with this proposed alignment at this stage.
- Firebox and Dead Cow Reroutes

- OSRAC expressed general support for reroutes intended to reduce runoff, erosion, and sedimentation impacts, particularly where existing trail conditions are contributing to drainage or stream-related concerns.
 - OSRAC emphasized that support for these reroutes should be tied to clear decommissioning and restoration of replaced trail segments.
- Hermit 1 Trail(s)
 - OSRAC expressed concern about potential expansion of the recreation zone of influence, wildlife use, and habitat fragmentation.
- Abrams Gulch Reroute
 - OSRAC expressed general support for this reroute.
- World's Greatest Downhill Alternative
 - OSRAC recognized that the alignment may provide a positive user experience but also identified concerns regarding potential habitat impacts.
- School House / Kill Bill Connector
 - OSRAC expressed concern about the proposed alignment on BLM land and potential impacts to core habitat areas compared to earlier concepts located on Town-owned land.
 - OSRAC encouraged further consideration of neighborhood trail connections and noted that an alignment on Town-owned land may provide greater opportunity for local management, control, and adaptive response if concerns arise.

At a broader level, OSRAC's review suggests that proposed reroutes or improvements intended to address erosion, drainage, stream impacts, sustainability, or existing management issues may be more supportable, provided that replaced routes are fully decommissioned and restored. Proposed new trail alignments that expand recreation into less-disturbed habitat, increase fragmentation, or affect wildlife use areas require more careful review.

The Town encourages BLM to give substantial weight to comments and analysis provided by CPW and other qualified wildlife professionals during the NEPA process, particularly regarding cumulative recreation impacts, wildlife movement, seasonal habitat use, habitat fragmentation, and wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities. The Town also encourages

BLM to evaluate the proposal at both the individual trail-segment level and the broader landscape level.

The Town supports continued regional coordination among BLM, CPW, Eagle County, OSRAC, HTC, VVMTA, and the Town to discuss recreation growth, wildlife habitat, cumulative impacts, trail connectivity, and long-term management. A broader regional roundtable may be valuable, but the Town also recognizes the need to provide timely comments within BLM's active review process.

Additional Town Position / Management Considerations

In addition to the trail-specific reflections identified through OSRAC's review, the Town would like to emphasize several broader management considerations that should be incorporated into any future trail approval, implementation, or partnership process.

- Closure and Restoration of Decommissioned and Social Trails
 - The Town wishes to see legitimate and well-documented efforts to close and restore decommissioned trail segments, replaced alignments, and unauthorized/social trails.
 - Support for new or rerouted trail segments should be directly tied to clear decommissioning expectations, restoration standards, monitoring, and long-term compliance.
 - Decommissioning should not be treated as an informal or secondary component of the project; it should be a core project deliverable.
- Balanced Funding for Construction, Restoration
 - The Town is willing to consider financial participation, within the amount allocated by Council, for construction of additional sustainable trail mileage, restoration of unsustainable or unauthorized trail segments, and long-term maintenance needs.
 - The Town's preference is that project funding support trail development, resource repair, and long-term stewardship in a balanced manner.
 - Any Town financial contribution should be tied to a clear scope of work, identified responsibilities, measurable outcomes, and a shared understanding of ongoing maintenance obligations.

- Long-term maintenance should include routine trail upkeep, drainage maintenance, monitoring of restored/decommissioned routes, signage, and response to unauthorized trail creation or recurring resource damage.
- Regional Partnership Initiative / Broader Process
 - The Town is willing to participate in a Regional Partnership Initiative or similar regional planning process for this or future trail proposals, as determined appropriate by the land manager with jurisdiction over the land where the proposal is located.
 - The Town supports broader regional coordination among land managers, wildlife agencies, local governments, trail organizations, conservation partners, and user groups.
 - The Town does not seek to replace the authority of the underlying land manager, but is willing to participate constructively where regional coordination would improve planning, decision-making, and long-term management.
- Social Trail Inventory and Management
 - The Town supports a broader inventory and management plan for the existing network of social and unauthorized trails throughout the SRMA.
 - The Town believes that any discussion of new trail mileage should also include a clear understanding of existing unauthorized use, opportunities for consolidation, and priorities for restoration.
 - A social trail inventory would help identify where formalization, closure, rerouting, restoration, signage, or enforcement may be appropriate.
 - This work could also help ensure that future trail planning is based on the full existing recreation footprint, not only on officially designated trail mileage.
- Broader User Needs
 - The Town is supportive of trail planning that addresses the needs of a wider variety of users, not only mountain bikers.
 - Future planning should consider pedestrian users, trail runners, hikers, equestrians, wildlife watchers, families, youth users, adaptive users, and other non-motorized recreation interests.

- The Town recognizes the importance of mountain biking to Eagle's recreation identity and economy, but also supports a balanced trail system that provides diverse experiences and reduces user conflict.
- The Town encourages BLM and regional partners to consider how trail planning can provide connectivity, access, sustainability, and user experience benefits across multiple recreation groups.

Overall, the Town supports a process that links sustainable trail construction with meaningful restoration, social trail management, wildlife/resource protection, and broader regional coordination. The Town's intent is to provide constructive local input while deferring final analysis and decision-making on BLM-managed lands to BLM's NEPA process and the appropriate subject matter experts.