



Littleton Open Space & Parks Task Force

November 20, 2018 Update

The six-person Open Space & Parks Task Force is underway in its process to develop its recommendations for project evaluation criteria. The report written by the original task force in 2013-2014 is the foundation of the task force's work. Today's task force is comprised of the following individuals:

- Debbie Brinkman, Mayor
- Keith Reester, Public Works Director for the City of Littleton
- Mike Braaten, Deputy Executive Director, South Suburban Parks and Recreation
- Hillary Merritt, Senior Project Manager, The Trust for Public Land
- Bill Nagle, Littleton business owner
- Josh Tenneson, Grants Manager for Arapahoe County Open Spaces

Will Singleton of Singleton Strategies is facilitating the members through six planned meetings.

At its meeting on November 1st, the task force discussed the 2014 report and how conditions have changed. The members concluded that the original report focused almost exclusively on open space acquisition. Today, demands for funding should consider the following:

- Parks – which includes green space, hard scape and developed areas, access and connectivity
- Trails – which includes the potential of new trails, upgrading existing trails and connecting to local and regional trails
- Open space – acquisition of available land

The meeting also brought out a list of relevant studies that should be used as a basis for determining new criteria and a potential trove of recommended projects. The plans include: the SSPR Master Plan; Littleton Parks, Recreation & Trail Master Plan; Arapahoe County Bike/Ped Master Plan; the South Platte Working Group Charrette Report; the East/West Connectivity Study; the High Line Canal Framework Plan; and the Hudson Gardens Master Plan.

As the group continues to meet through January, it will develop recommendations on how to adapt project criteria to reflect a broader set of objectives, highlight what is significant about the reports and how they might be interpreted to help prioritize possible projects, and develop strategies for maximizing the impact of Littleton's funding through leveraging funding from other sources.

The intent is to present the findings of the Littleton Open Space & Parks Task Force in a report and presentation to the Littleton City Council at the end of January 2019.