

Public Comment
April and May City Trail Open House
April 21, 2008 and May 19, 2008

Attendance: 20 (April)
58 (May)
Handouts collected: 20 (April)
69 (May)

1. Trail system Name:

Buffalo/Johnson County Trail System (1 total)
Clear Creek Trail System: (21 total)
Need a more inclusive name (1 total)
Buffalo Area Trail System (2 total)
Clear Creek Mountain Bike Trail System (1 total)

- No trail should be named after elected persons (alive or dead). Paul and Nancy Barfield
- I would like to see our trail system given a broader name than Clear Creek Trail System. I think something like “The Greater Buffalo Area Trails System” provides “buy in” from a larger group of people (ie. those not necessarily living in the city, but living in the area.) Also it allows us to establish trails that might not connect at the present time to the existing trails. An example of this might be the Pipeline Trail out by the new water tank. To me, Clear Creek Trail is an established trail in the Greater Area Trails System. Lois Petersen
- Buffalo Area Trails System would reflect a future-looking approach to anticipating the participation by a county trails entity. When the system expands to include a trail along French Creek Road to Bud Love, for example, Clear Creek Trail System doesn't fit. Keep looking forward! Anticipate the expansion to and inclusion of the county. Susan Theune
- I believe Clear Creek Trail System is fairly descriptive of the current system. However, the Trails Plan is intended to be forward-looking and provide guidance for the future. In the purpose statement,

coordination with county, state, and federal entities is mentioned. Incorporating Clear Creek Trail System into a region-wide network is also alluded to. Providing a name such as Greater Buffalo Area Trails would broaden the areas that could be included by the name. I think this would do three things: 1) help bridge the city/county conflicts by making it an area-wide system (maybe encouraging the county to support the trails plan), 2) it would mesh well with the idea of a statewide trail system, and 3) by making it more inclusive rather than a trail-specific system, we could enhance our position when seeking money through grants or highway monies. Frank Pratt

2. Individual trail names:

- OK with Board recommendation: (19 total)
- With these names at least you know where they are if one has lived here a long time and even new people could find with little fuss in and around Buffalo
- Need to do a wrap around trail on the south side of Clear Creek – drawing included
- I like the regional area naming, so trails are more identifiable and easy to locate (more for residents than visitors) but works for all
- Need to have winter trail names: reference to Greenbelt)
- Greenbelt is an area not a trail name
- Mountain Plains Heritage Park Trails
- Change William J Mentock to C.C. Mountain Bike Trail
- Klondike Hill: bicycle lane. Steve Hannan
- William J. Mentock is a high priority trail access that should be retained even though a vocal minority of residents have expressed their opposition. Steve Hannan
- Consider adding Trail to William J. Mentock. Steve Harmon
- Clear Creek Trail System: great name
- William J. Mentock should be named for some historical, prominent person. If a connection could be made to early pioneers who constructed the power plant or the ditches or the ditch for logs to go to the old sawmill—would be more appropriate.
- Turkey Lane access: good name; Old Power Plant Loop: good name; Cold Springs access: good name or Jake's Trail—Jake walked this trail for past 10 years (on 2 comment forms)
- Turkey Lane access, Old Power Plant Loop, McNeese access, Cold Springs access/Jake's trail: good names

- I think what you are now referring to as Greenbelt Trail is just part of Clear Creek Trail, so let's just call it by what it is – Clear Creek Trail and if you need more specifics to describe that section, it's the section of CCT along the greenbelt. Tiny additions to the main trail should not be given new trail names, but just called accesses – ie Klondike Access, Cedar Access. If established trails such the Klondike Trail become connected to the Clear Creek Trail they can be named something like Klondike Trail Spur or Loop. But a bunch of tiny access routes or small sections of an established trail getting new trail names seems more than confusing to me. McNeese trailhead? Where's that? Lois Petersen
- Greenbelt is an area. Rather than a "zillion" names for each section of trail (some are exceedingly short), use just a trail name and THE access on maps and kiosks. Lots of names and figures are confusing to tourists and new trails users. Locals know the trails and don't need all the minutia. Susan Theune
- I believe naming portions of the trail takes away from the idea of an integrated trail system falling under a common purpose and plan. Multiple names for the basically the same pathway makes it appear that the trail system has been created in bits and pieces. The idea of naming the access points is a good idea as it provides a reference point for entering or exiting the system. People can plan on meeting at an access point and be confident they will get together. If multiple names are to be used, I would recommend that a named segment be at least 1.75 mi (3k) long and have definite start and end points. Loops could also be named, but again I would recommend the loop be at least 1.75 mi. long before being found worthy of a name. Frank Pratt

3. Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Buffalo Master Trails Plan is to maintain and expand a non-motorized, multi-use trail system at the foot of the Bighorn Mountains, for the enjoyment of the residents and visitors of Buffalo, Wyoming.

- Good
- Enable people to bike safely to and from work—make a “greener” city by having a well planned trail system
- I like
- Sounds good
- OK

- Leave as is
- Think of another word for enjoyment
- Right on!!
- Sounds good
- I agree
- **Keep it**
- **Fine**
- **The trail plan should make a provision to have trails taken out of the system if the trail shows it is not in the best interest of the community around it**
- **I am not sure I understand the term “multi-use.” Is it defined somewhere? Does it need to be? Does multi-use mean pedestrian, horse, camel? Are bicycles included? Can I bow hunt, rifle hunt, grow my garden, dig holes in the trail?**
- **Short and sweet. I would like to see the word healthful added before enjoyment, but can live without that change as long as community health and/or fitness is emphasized in the Trail Purpose section. Lois Petersen**
- **Nice! Succinct. Frank Pratt**

4. Trail Benefits

Rank your top 5 choices: 1 being the most important and 5 being the least

1-50

2-40

3-30

4-20

5-10

Strengthen community: **230**

Protect natural resources: **940**

Promote safe and secure environments for recreation: **700**

Support economic development and improve the local economy: **160**

Preserve and highlight cultural and historical resources: **220**

Provide and expand recreational experiences: **770**

Provide educational opportunities: **160**

Increase cultural unity: **90**

Improve health and well-being in the community (lower community health care costs):**430**

Quality of Life: **780**

Improve transportation by providing non-motorized choices for residents and visitors: **380**

Strengthen “regional destination” identity and attract tourists: **270**

Decrease air pollution: **110**

5. Trail Classifications

Primary Hard Surface

- Good
- OK
- Trail Board Recomm.
- As per Trail Board Recommendations
- Yes; stop removing rocks from the Turkey Lane section—leave it natural, less rocks=higher bike speeds. This section should be natural and rugged or remove rocks from parking area to Castle only.
- Yes
- It is very nice to have a choice of trail surfaces. So many parts can be accessible to all ages and abilities.
- Agree
- These portray potential conditions. At this time I am significantly concerned about the William J. Mentock portion of the trail. This is unique part of the present or future system that probably cannot be duplicated. I would suggest that the trail surface be as close to its present form as possible. Gravel, sand or other hard surface improvements would significantly reduce the ambiance of this trail. I also believe that continuing work needs done on this part of the trail to deal with erosion. One needs a lot of water bars and other erosion control. That need is going to increase as it is used more.

Secondary Hard Surface

- These surfaces and specs would be great for bike riding. Joyce Gammon
- Good
- OK
- Trail Board Recomm.
- As per Trail Board Recommendations

Primary Soft Surface

- Good
- OK
- Trail Board Recomm.
- Mountain Biking and Hunting access
- As per Trail Board Recommendations

Secondary Soft Surface

- Preferred choice
- Good
- OK
- Can we bring the 24” width to 18”?
- As per Trail Board Recommendations
- This should be the primary trail type with areas of Primary Soft and Unsurfaced as topo warrants. Jim Verplande

Unsurfaced

- 2nd best choice, maintenance might be an issue
- The wrap around Upper Clear Creek could be an unsurfaced rough trail—just keep people off Upper Clear Creek road. A wrap around trail would be a huge benefit for Buffalo.
- Good
- OK
- Same as (*) 6” surface only
- Unsurfaced trails should be smaller than 24”, less is more (12-18” max)
- In natural areas
- On turkey Lane access west (on 2 comment forms)

6. Trail Standards

- Clearly signed, well maintained, safe environment
- Design a bike specific trail, timing/times specific per activity, extend the trail
- Must make sure all trails are kept clean and user friendly and safe
- I enjoy the different surface treatments on the different types of trails, allowing for varied use as long as each is maintained meeting its own needs
- OK (on 4 comment forms)

- Do not improve beyond secondary soft surface
- Must allow for variable creations and kinds of users
- Plowing the snow really helps
- Same as recommended by the board
- Unsurfaced should be primitive and smaller, “less is more”
- Trails should reflect the use and topography. Jim Verplande
- Should preserve Clear Creek from I-90/E Hwy 16 intersection all the way through town to the west side of town. As businesses come in along the creek, they tend to degrade the creek. It is important to preserve the entire length not just the part in town, and then there would be a good trail in both directions.
- No horseback riding on trail---it’s still being done
- Trails should keep in mind the land they cross. They should not interfere with the purpose—not all vacant land is meant to be a subdivision. Agricultural lands are affected by people and dogs, horses, and activities associated with those.
- I would like to see more waste stations and trash cans
- Clean: trash free, dog excrement free, creek trash-free, responsible dog owners to pick up after their pets
- Don’t over-regulate or over-maintain. As a mountain biker, I like some challenge on the upper trail at Mosier Gulch. Todd Millhouse
- Leave the trails alone from Turkey Lane west. Please! Naomi Parkin
- Be careful not to make trail standards so high, it becomes too limiting. For instance, I think there should be more latitude on grades on soft surface and unsurfaced dirt trails. 8% grade is too limiting and is not always appropriate for trails that are meant to attract a variety of walkers. Not |ALL trails need to be stroller/wheelchair friendly. There are city’s streets with a steeper grade than 8% which are used regularly, yet people living on those streets walk them daily. Steeper grades for short stretches also provide an opportunity for people to vary the degree of intensity on their walks. Lois Petersen
- Be sure that trail standards are flexible enough to include non- urban trails. A Pipeline Trail, for example, could never meet the 8% grade standard. (It is doubtful that parts of the Eva Knepper Trail meet that standard or ever will.) Susan Theune
- I agree with the need for trail standards, but I hesitate to support the idea of “one standard applies everywhere”. As part establishing a new trail, it should be determined who would be using it and where it was in relation to business, high use areas, etc. Also the surfacing should be taken into consideration. Trails in low density residential areas

should not be held to the same standards as a trail through high density areas or commercial areas of the city. Being able to walk a varied trail with different grades provides for exercise and variety in pace. I read somewhere that on unsurfaced trails a grade of up to 20% for short segments, 200 ft. or so, is acceptable. Another example, curve radii on trails used for strollers and multi-use purposes should be very different than a hiking trail. Frank Pratt

7. Rule on Dogs

Trail Board recommendations:

- *Keep current leash laws (dogs must be on a leash in City parks and on trails); add language that dogs need to be under control within City limits.*
 - *Keep Veteran's Home request of "No Dogs" on the Veteran's Home property.*
 - *No dogs in Mountain Plains Heritage Park wildlife area*
 - *Consider off-leash areas at the Mountain Plains Heritage Park and at the spillway at the end of William J. Mentock trail as authorized by City Council.*
-
- Require they clean up after their dog or leave them at home, on leash.
Joyce Gammon
 - On leash-City, No Dogs-Veterans Home, No Dogs-Adjacent to Private Land, Off leash only where no livestock or conflict with joggers, bikers, etc.
 - Enforce current leash laws, okay with the rest
 - On leash at all times
 - No to No Dogs on VA land, why no dogs on VA land?
 - Sounds good
 - Agree with the Trail Board
 - OK (on 2 comment forms)
 - Agree and City should think about a dog park where dog owners can run dogs off leash
 - Include in trail system a bicycle officer to enforce the above recommendations
 - Keep "no dogs" for Veteran's Home property as the cattle will get spooked and stressed
 - Right on

- Clean up after your dog!
- Yes
- All trails should be by leash only, there should be no trails closed to leashed dogs. Jim Verplande
- Provide dog poop disposal bags and receptacles at all trail heads; Identify some dog park areas within the City limits i.e. the area east of the labyrinth (Fetterman and Carrington) Steve Harmon
- There are 2 problems I have with dog owners: 1. same folks think they're above leash laws 2. Same folks will not pick up after their dogs; I fell that if one can see the pile, even if its 2 feet onto the verge, pick it up.
- Keep the current dogs on leash for park section and allow dogs on leash in the Veteran's Home property; Allow dogs off leash from "castle" to spillway—provided they are under voice control
- Dogs under control is very important. Veteran's Area is often violated.
- Rules and regulations are good---however unless they are enforced, they do no good. I recognize the problem of who is to do the enforcement. Example of problem is unleashed dogs in a "leash needed area" who run at walkers and runners. Possible problem of getting bitten.
- Keep all except dogs permitted in wildlife area only if on leash
- Keep current leash laws; Recommend allowing dogs on leash but insist and enforce leash requirements and cleaning up dog feces. People ignore the no dogs required on this section and also the leash and clean up requirement for the rest of the trail system, would like to see allowing dogs on vet property on leash and assurance of cleaning up after them with ordinance that's enforced at least to some degree (has anyone ever been fined for having dogs on vet home property/); consider dogs off leash from Mosier Gulch up to spillway at end of Mentock trail (off leash but under control within City)
- Would like to see policing of leash laws currently in effect; what about the dog feces—who picks it up?
- I would like to see the Veteran's Home allow dogs on leash; we also need more area where dogs can be off leash; leash law should allow dogs off leash if under voice control
- More areas to have dogs off leash
- I am a mountain biker and my dad is a runner. We both like to take our dogs on the Turkey Land to Mosier Gulch Trail. I believe in using common sense and courtesy when it comes to allowing dogs to

- use the trail without a leash. I have biked the trail since its beginning and have never had any problems. I don't want to see this privilege last. Todd Millhouse
- Dogs need to be on leashes within City limits; keep Veteran's Home request; Turkey Lane trail west up river shouldn't have leash laws for dogs. Greenbelt to the Veteran's Home could remain leash law. WE walk the trail everyday—clear off dog messes if we see them, never have been threatened by a dog Naomi Parkin
 - No leash required on Turkey Lane and West up mountain trails
 - Allow dogs on Veteran's Home property, consider off-leash areas at Mountain Plains and spillway; why not allow dogs on leashes in the Mountain Plains wildlife area? Paul and Nancy Barfield
 - Mountain Plains Heritage Park presently allows for dogs on leashes in the wildlife area and that seems to work fine. I would like dogs to be off leash in the cabin section and on leash in the wildlife area. Also, should the Heritage Park trails be incorporated into an AVA sanctioned walk, as I hope it will be in the near future, that would give AVA walkers an opportunity to take their dogs on at least one of the AVA walks we offer here. Clear Creek's AVA trail doesn't allow for dogs due to the close proximity of livestock in the Vet Home area, although I would like to see that looked at as well. I would prefer dogs on leashes be allowed if possible, or at least when livestock is not using that area. Lois Petersen
 - Currently, there is a sign on the SE entrance to the Wildlife Area that indicates that dogs are allowed on leash. Keep that the same. Off-leash area in the rest of the park is good. This is one of the few areas close to town that folks use for their dogs. A dog-station is necessary along with a trash can. Folks will use the trash can because they don't want to drive with dog-poop in their cars. Susan Theune
 - I like “dogs under control” language. Maybe a statement about being considerate pet owners—considerate to others using the trails—by voluntarily removing dog poop (probably a more scientific term!) from trails. I'm not advocating for more dog stations—just consideration by pet owners—I am a pet owner. Susan Palmerlee

8. Other:

- Would love to see more mountain biking opportunities expanded. Joyce Gammon
- Nice set-up and presentation of materials.

- Consider a new foot and bicycle path on the west side of Klondike Street. Also require the state land grazing lease (Spiering) to move the fence he constructed on the county road right of way so the trail is not tightly wedged against either the fence or Klondike Drive. Steve Hannan
- I support reconfiguring the Mentock trail as a multi-use trail with appropriate sight lines for safety and erosion control as necessary. Steve Hannan
- Thanks for the opportunity to comment on this excellent trail system Steve Hannan
- Klondike Hill—should place a white stripe along the trail on the east side to keep people in vehicles from driving too far on the right side (On 2 comment forms)
- Clear Creek Trail System: Fine/ This is the way it is known to all now!
- Clear cutting from Turkey Lane to Cold Springs and further is extreme—destroying natural environment Naomi Parkin
- At Power plant up river: leash law for dogs is pretty ridiculous since Greenbelt (Klondike) trail is leash law already Naomi Parkin
- No leash law from Turkey Lane access west past Cold Springs; keep no dogs in Veteran's Home; I have walked the trail for 20 years and have never had a confrontation with unfriendly dogs.
- My comment relate to Turkey Lane and Bill Mentock Trail; 1. I would like to see this trail connect to the Veteran's Home Trail; 2. Some on Turkey Lane are upset with increased traffic (a) define increase, do you mean 10 vehicles per hr X 6 hrs per day? I don't believe roads have a limit on the number of vehicles. (b) bicycles, are people not courteous? They should say passing on the left when coming up behind you. (c) Do we need to promote trail etiquette? (d) Partying in the parking lot, are people breaking the law such as underage drinking? If so did the complaining party call law enforcement? 3. Trail issues, (a) horses on trail, if you can identify the offender notify law enforcement. (b) Noxious weeds, GPS location, notify weed and pest, give name of species. (c) Graffiti on old power plant, my suggestion tear it down. Mary Fowlkes, 9 Turkey Lane, Buffalo
- Bike lanes: I like the idea of having bike lanes along main streets where there are no parked cars in the way. I do not support the idea of putting bike lanes along residential streets because it will be either hazardous for bikers to weave in and out around parked cars or the city will have to outlaw parked cars along one side of the street. The

- loss of street parking for residents is not a popular idea. On a very large residential street such as Carrington, it might be possible to have both street parking AND a dedicated bike lane without hazard, but not on narrower streets. Lois Petersen
- Consider organizing a Friends of MPHP. Their task would be to keep the dog-station filled with bags, monitor usage and dog-poop and trail conditions and report to the MPHP Board. That board advocates for that trail system. Susan Theune
 - Multi-use trails are essential. By-in from as many groups as possible provides necessary support. However, at the same time, users may not be able to use designated trails during "mud season". Temporarily closing trails is an OK thing to do to preserve trails. A commitment will be needed for law enforcement assistance and education regarding good etiquette. Susan Theune
 - Research wetland precautions for trails in wetland areas. Bruce Hepp
 - An aside – having heard some of the concerns raised by residents living out by Turkey Lane, I would like to add my two cents based on my personal observations. I love the trail that connects Turkey Lane and Mosier Gulch and use it as often as possible. I have never had an unpleasant encounter with a biker along the trail. Moreover, I have walked on many multiuse trails elsewhere and have found that trail etiquette, when taught and posted, works wonders. The rule is, keep right except to pass. Faster traffic (joggers, roller bladers, bikers, etc.) pass on the left after simply saying, “Passing on the left.” If there are problems at the Turkey Lane parking area at times, I have never witnessed them nor has the friend I know who lives in the trailer park on Turkey Lane. Still, if the residents of that area are having trouble with litter and parking congestion on their road, coupled with lack of help by the city or county in maintaining that road, then that problem should be addressed either by moving the main trail head to another location or by providing more parking, maintenance and security for that lot. My husband and I have encountered paint ballers but have also never had trouble with them, although I admit they made me nervous. I would prefer to see them re-situated away from the trail and the old Power Plant just because it’s such a neat building and I’d rather see it be restored. Still, I think they need some place to use paint ball guns for entertainment. Lois Petersen
 - I have heard some differing opinions about whether trails should be designated as hiking, biking, or multi-use trails. I would like to see the trail system designated as multi-use, non-motorized so that people

can use it year-round in a variety of ways. I have lived in large cities where the trails were multi-use and there didn't seem to be any more problems than would arise on trails with a single use designation. Walkers, runners, skiers, bikers, and commuters all can benefit from well-planned trails. Signage explaining trail courtesy at access points is a good idea. I use the Mosier Gulch/Turkey Lane section of the trail and have met bikers on several occasions. I have found them to be courteous and willing to give the right-of-way to hikers. Even the paintball enthusiasts have been courteous and thoughtful of hikers through the old waterworks – if they would only be as thoughtful of historical structures. Frank Pratt

9. Trail purpose: *The Buffalo Master Trails Plan serves as a guidance document to the staff and governing body of the City of Buffalo for the City of Buffalo's Clear Creek Trail System.*

The Clear Creek Trail System is a multiple-use, non-motorized trail network that connects Buffalo's neighborhoods and commercial passages to the natural, recreational, cultural, historic and scenic resources in and around Buffalo, Wyoming. The Clear Creek Trail System prioritizes alternative transportation methods, healthy lifestyles, and a high quality of life for area residents.

The Clear Creek Trail System serves as a critical component to Buffalo's city-wide transportation network, allowing residents and visitors trail connections to both natural and urban settings while contributing to the preservation of Buffalo's small-town character.

The Master Trails Plan assists the staff and governing body of the City of Buffalo to insure that both current and future trail segments of the Clear Creek Trail System constitute well-planned, adequately maintained, standardized trail linkages that serve a functional route for non-motorized transportation, offer excellent recreational opportunities to users, and further contribute to Buffalo's economic vibrancy.

The Master Trails Plan incorporates and supports the goals outlined in Buffalo's 2007 Comprehensive Plan and affirms the Wyoming State Trail System's (SCORP) goals, insuring coordination with the County, State and Federal entities as opportunities arise to incorporate the Clear Creek Trail System into a region-wide, non-motorized trail network.

- I agree. Paul and Nancy Barfield
- Purpose is clearly defined. Mayor Mike Johnson

- There is not access for Turkey Lane and would be a fire hazard. WE live there that is not okay with us. You want to go through our properties. That's not okay. There is plenty of access at the Old Check Station, move it there. The City already owns that land. It is easier to see right from the highway and could be easier to patrol and get access to. WE have people on our property fishing and trespassing now and increased use would be worse. Turkey lane is a dead-end road, with not through access—very dangerous. Two cars cannot safely pass on Turkey Lane.
- The trail system needs to incorporate the landowners' privacy and personal use of their property in the plan. Agricultural land should not be invaded by dogs or off-trail users who trespass. Some kind of vegetative identification should be used before any more brush is cut down. Native species should not be removed if they are non-invasive. As well, invasive species brought in by trail need to be identified and removed by a appropriate measures that do not cause harm to the desired native species. Alternative transportation methods implies motorized If you mean horses, the trail system probably is not meant to have trail riders in groups of twenty to be using it, how do you limit the possible overuse if it is allowed. It would be hard to police more people and more uses which we know will come at some point. Do you plan to have rangers like the Forest Service has to limit the number of people in groups or to have people apply for permits to use the trail system?
- Possible additions include: sustainable design (built in a manner that requires little to no maintenance); diversity: 1.0 Introduction (draft pg 8, last sentence) “standardized trail linkage”—in standardizing the trails—you are not targeting a diverse population—the current system has gravel, paved, and single track portions meeting more people's individual needs. Universal access—not completely necessary on the entire trail system—like not all bathrooms stalls have to be accessible not all trails in the system do—just one stall per bathroom. Please keep some areas with unsurfaced trails. Heather Dawson
- Diversity of the trail system should be one of its greatest assets. As it is laid out currently, there are paved, graveled, and single track sections within the system. I personally value the experience that single-track trail provides with regards to a more natural experience. Paved and gravel trails have their place for those who need the easier access that those surfaces provide. Maintaining a balance of surface types within the trail system should be a critical component of the

- master plan. Sections of the trail that are currently single-track should be left as they are. Jeff Shideman
- Looks good except that it seems from your use of the title, “Clear Creek Trails System”, that you have already settled on that being the name. I still think something broader would be better for the reasons stated above. Lois Petersen
 - The purpose statement looks good. I would like to see the term “recreation” included in the purpose statement. I believe many people use the trails for recreational purposes. Possible wording: Offering alternative transportation methods, encouraging healthy lifestyles, providing recreational opportunities and contributing to a high quality of life are priorities of the Clear Creek Trail System. Frank Pratt

10. Trail logo: Trail Board Recommendation: Update the current logo, keep Buffalo as the primary feature of the new logo, possibly include mountains and water/creek; include Clear Creek Trail System and Buffalo, Wyoming on the logo.

- Keep Buffalo as primary logo—prefer the name of Buffalo Trails System. Include if possible mountains and water. Mayor Mike Johnson
- I like the existing logo. It fits the trail system well. Deane Bjerke
- I support the current logo with whatever updates are needed. Good, recognizable logo—no need to change. Peggy Bjerke
- The Bison logo is great the way it is. However, with plans for an area-wide trail system, the name should reflect all of Buffalo. Then, each section of trail could be named to reflect its location, i.e. “clear creek trail.” I’m pleased to see that you already had this in mind. Jeff Shideman
- Yes, I like the current logo. Paul and Nancy Barfield
- I like the Buffalo fine and think it would look even better with Greater Buffalo Area Trails instead of Clear Creek Trail System written on it. Lois Petersen
- Current logo Ok with Buffalo Area Trails System on it. Simply NEVER refer to the trails by the acronym. Nobody I know refers to the current name as CCTS! Susan Theune
- Keep the Buffalo! I would like to see mountains, and possibly a creek, included in the logo. The Big Horn Mountains are associated

with Buffalo and the area touts the Big Horns as a tourist opportunity. I believe the inclusion of mountains on the logo would provide a visual connection that would encourage use of the trails. Frank Pratt

11. Trail Improvements: *Trail Board Recommendations:*

A. Sign

Recommendations:

- A. Replace distance markers; Use existing posts and use brown sign board rather than 2 inch lumber. Also, add distance markers at intersections and points of interest.
- B. Add Trailhead kiosks: There will be a design workshop to design trailhead kiosk signs and all other signs.
 1. William J. Mentock (Turkey Lane) trailhead
 2. Upper Clear Creek Road access (funded with grant money)
 3. Eva Knepper Commanche access trailhead (*TBD*)
 4. Shiloh trailhead (funded with Project money)
 5. Veteran's Home Pasture (East access) trailhead
 6. Veteran's Home Pasture (West access) trailhead
 7. William J. Mentock (Mosier Gulch) trailhead
 8. Main Street trailhead on bridge
 9. Greenbelt (Klondike access) trailhead
 10. McNeese trailhead (Highway 16) trailhead (smaller version)
 11. Greenbelt (Cedar access) trailhead
 12. Centennial trail (Bypass Road) trailhead
 13. Centennial trail (Lobban) trailhead
 13. Washington Park trailhead
 15. Mountain Plains Heritage Park trailhead
- C. Add Informational signs:
 1. At intersection of Fetterman and Main (Small sign)
 2. Sign to Highway 16 E Parking Area (on Old Power Plant Loop Trail)
 3. Directional Sign at Shiloh easement walkway (Funded with Project money)
 4. Directional sign to identify McNeese trail exit
 5. Sign on Hwy 16 pointing to Veteran's Home Pasture
 6. New Sign on Hwy 16 William J. Mentock Trail or Continuation of Clear Creek Trail System
 7. Stay Right on Turkey Lane for walkers and bikers
 8. Directional Signs on Trail Street: pointing to Main Street and Centennial Trail
 9. Add private property signs at end of Veteran's Home Pasture
- D. Historic Interpretative Signs
 1. Centennial Trail
Recommendation: Keep current signs and replace as a unit at a later date. Include historic photos and drawings on future signs.
- E. Recommend Pedestrian Crossing Signs: (Address in Safe Routes to School Plan)
South Bypass Highway on Centennial Trail
Lobban Street
Main Street at Fetterman
Burritt Street
Klondike Street
Cedar Street at Fort Street and Fetterman Street

B. Benches

Recommendation: Preference of Composite material to wood

1. Old Power Plant Loop Trail Recommendation: Place a bench at the Aspen grove, Trail Board project
2. Eva Knepper Recommendation: Identify a location for bench placement.
3. Place a bench at the Shiloh Pond, Trail Board project

C. Garbage Cans

Recommendation:

1. Place a garbage can at the Bridge/South side of Upper Clear Creek Access on a trial basis. Trail Board responsibility; Potential for involving a Friends Group for maintenance.

D. Picnic Tables

Recommendation: None at this time.

E. Parking Lots

Recommendations:

Maintain Turkey Lane Parking Lot at 6 spaces; **add sign language encouraging use of parking lots on Highway 16. Add hours of operation and prohibit on-street parking language to sign.**

Continue to research parking lot on the Bypass for use of Centennial Trail; contact property owner and County for a right of way. WYDOT project is slated for October 2008---potential for working with contractor for donated labor on new parking area and trail.

Upgrade parking area at Upper Clear Creek Access

F. Culverts

Recommendations:

Recommend adding (2) culverts at (.1 and .3 mile markers) on the Greenbelt (Cedar Access)

Recommend adding (2) culverts at Eva Knepper Trail

G. Dog Waste Stations

Recommendation: Add a dog waste station on Lobban Avenue.

Recommendation: Add a dog waste station at Harmony Lane. Project

Recommendation: Add a dog waste station at Upper Clear Creek Access

Recommendation: Add a dog waste station at Mtn Plains Heritage Park parking lot

Recommendation: Add a station at Mosier Gulch

Recommendation: Add a station at Turkey Lane trailhead

*Research biodegradable bags

H. ADA accessible improvements

Recommendations:

Schedule a field visit to verify ADA accessibility from Centennial to Greenbelt

Curb at Western Avenue (West Fetterman Street Access)

Improve Washington Park Trail North—designed ADA

Improve Centennial Trail—designed ADA

I. Lights

Recommendation:

Consult with Rocky Mountain Power to improve power lines on Centennial Trail.

J. Restrooms

Recommendations:

Lend support for a public restroom downtown.

Work with City Parks department on restroom in Washington Park

K. Old Power Plant Building

Recommendations:

1. Consult with a structural engineer to determine how to best stabilize the structure, possibly remove the roof

2. Clean the site

3. Install a motion-heat activated, hidden camera (\$400.00), included in Trail Budget Request

4. Install a new sign; Possible project for a volunteer Historic Preservation group

5. Address paintball with a metal sign

L. Access points

Recommendation: Create a plan/design for Cold Springs Access

M. Gates, barriers, fences

Recommendations:

Add (2) animal control structures on William J. Mentock Trail, at 2.6 miles. There are 2 undeveloped access points with no animal control structures though the fence. Horse riders access the trail at these points.

Add an animal control structure at the McNeese Access There is a gap in the Highway 16 fence that allows horses as well as people access.

Add a fence at the Shiloh Trail new parking lot. Project \$

N. Klondike Hill

Recommend adding a stripe to Klondike Hill

O. Surface type recommendation:

Recommend asphalt at Centennial Trail through town to the Greenbelt.

XVII. Eva Knepper Trail recommendations:

Level the bridge and place a handrail (see map for location); currently there is a 17% drop in grade.

Consult with County and improve the trail access at Cemetery Road, may require fill.

At the bridge fix the exposed mat—requires: trail widening, level trail, insert a retaining wall, and gravel/sand.

Fix slide slope and re- sand and add a crown (see map for location).

Place a handrail at Commanche trailhead or re-design, needs a level exit/entrance access point

Place a handrail at Delaware trailhead or re-design, needs a level exit/entrance access point

Add gravel on berm of irrigation ditch this will prevent erosion and identify trail.

Consult with the ditch company: fix current trash grate on culvert or consider adding a railing.

Add two (2) culverts (see map)
 Fix the steep grade (currently 29%) by side-hilling or moving downhill
 Trail is eroded out in several places—needs to be rebuilt
 South Fullerton—no landing—too steep
 Recommended signage:
 Recommendation: Designate Fullerton as parking area.
 Recommendation: A new destination sign to be placed at the Delaware Trailhead.
 Recommendation: A new destination sign to be placed at the Cemetery Road Recommend a Trailhead kiosk at Commanche.

Eva Knepper Recommendation: Work towards creating a Sustainable Trail.

To be determined: Recommend Friends of Eva Knepper go through city trail approval process or accept the trail with conditions.

P. Other Improvements: (Wish list)

Build a stairway down to Clear Creek for people to water their dogs at the Greenbelt/Veteran’s Home fenceline
 Plant shade trees for the two benches at the Cedar Street duck pond, work with Tree Board (*consult with Lake DeSmet Conservation for donation of trees.*)
 Build a bridge and expand loop trail over the pond overflow at Cedar Street duck pond
 Work with City Parks Department to move “Cobra light” at southeast side of Steel Pony Truss Bridge to the southwest corner
 Support Downtown Development Plan

New Regulations:

Parking lots hours for trail use
 Leash policy
 Prohibit horseback use of trails
 Paintball is not a permissible use within 500 feet of the trail
 Hunting will be addressed in a separate ordinance.

- Hunting along the Clear Creek trail (Greenbelt) makes me very nervous. Don’t think steps down to the creek at the Veteran’s Home Fenceline are necessary. Would like access to the Veteran’s Home part of the trail for walkers with dogs during the winter when there are no cattle on the property. It’s a wonderful 5-mile round trip. I certainly hope shade trees will be planted at the Greenbelt pond by the benches and that the Russian olive destruction will be replaced with something. Paul and Nancy Barfield
- East parking lots—Turkey Lane; add gates close parking lot 10 pm-6 am, use county sheriff/city police to open and close (already out on patrol, no added cost).
- Paintball and hunting are important to me as a parent of young children. I don’t think horses need to be prohibited from trails, unless it’s a matter of picking up what they left behind. Any efforts Buffalo can use to further draw attention to the trails and increase use are good ones.
- Add “Stay right” for walkers and bikers on all signs. Add more “no dogs” signs at Veteran’s Home. Consider restrooms at Vet’s Home and Turkey Lane. Motion camera at Old Power plant is great idea. It all looks great. Perhaps co-operation to develop even further to the west? Connect to the Forest Service trail system so you could

- backpack from the city? Any interest in developing trails earlier than development? If you build it-they will come. Eric Van Auren
- There is no need to update or further restrict the leash law on the Mentock section of trail. I enjoy trail running and mountain biking with my dog on this section. I've always had a leash with me and made a point to control my dog when meeting others on the trail. In my experience that has been the norm with the other dog owners I have met on the trail. Personal responsibility and self-policing by trail users will be more acceptable to me than an unenforceable "leash law." Law enforcement (PD and SO) have better things to do than crack down on those who let their dogs off-leash on trail outside of city-limits. Jeff Shideman
 - Restrooms – would like to see a port-a-potty installed near the parking area of Mountain Plains Heritage Park as well as a dog waste station. Old Power Plant – Approve some other place for paint ball enthusiasts to go. Lois Petersen
 - I am a big proponent of fewer regs. rather than more—some of my comments may not apply if there are particular or legal reasons for some of the regulations—dog waster stations: my experience on other trails is that (particularly on running trails) people drop the baggies by the trail and don't pick them up on their return—definitely not as much of a problem on a non-loop trail—still, someone has to collect bags from garbage and empty—Mountain plains—good spot for a one, Mosier Gulch—ok but maybe not necessary—Turkey Lane would not put one up. Maybe suggesting consideration and voluntary removal from trail. What is the purpose for hours for parking lots? There must be a reason for a camera at the Old Power Plant? I missed seeing that at the meeting, must be for vandalism and historic preservation? Seems extreme. Susan Palmerlee

12. Trail sign standard: *Recommendation:*

All signs in the Clear Creek Trail System require the approval of the Buffalo Trail Board. All signs will be ordered by the Buffalo Trail Board.

- Good idea. There needs to be order and regulation of the process.
- Great idea. Signage should indicate multi-use trail usage. You may need to include some info regarding YAK encounters as they tend to make there way to the spillway.

- Is this paid for by WYO funds or??
- This is fine. Paul and Nancy Barfield

13. Trail maintenance: *Recommendation:*

The Clear Creek Trail System is only possible if trail users recognize that this is the community's trail and takes care of it as such.

Buffalo Trail Board Trail Maintenance

There are four (4) Trail Board work days: Set dates at January Trail Board meeting. Sponsor annual trail event.

All maintenance requires trail board approval.

The following are regular maintenance items. Additional Trail projects will be added.

April, May, June, October

Once a month:

Fill Dog Baggit Stations: *Centennial, Greenbelt, Shiloh, Upper Clear Creek Access*
 Litter Control on all trails/Report vandalism
 Report downed trees

April

Collect loose garbage/Major litter control on all trails
 Minor Trim trees and Brush: All Trails
 Empty 9 bird houses and record use
 Line trim Old Power Plant Loop Trail: (until 2010)

May

Fertilize Evergreen trees on the Centennial Trail
 Inventory and maintain signs on all trails
 Inventory and maintain improvements (benches, bridges, fences, gates, etc)
Paint hoof-prints on sidewalks or streets
 Inspect and tighten bolts on all improvements
 Line trim Old Power Plant Loop Trail: (until 2010)
 Fill out requests to Public Works for sand maintenance

June

Spray weeds: Mentock, Centennial
 Repair trail erosion on Greenbelt
 Repair trail/soil erosion on Veteran's Home Pasture
 Line trim William J. Mentock Trail
 Repair erosion on William J. Mentock Trail
 Line trim Old Power Plant Loop Trail: (until 2010)

October

Collect loose garbage/Major litter control on all trails
 Minor Trim trees and Brush: All Trails

City of Buffalo Trail Maintenance

Convenient Litter control/loose garbage

Mow along trailheads: *Centennial Trail, West Fetterman Access, Washington Park Trail, Washington Park Trail North, Greenbelt, Upper Clear Creek Access*

Line Trim around improvements: *Centennial Trail, Washington Park Trail, Washington Park Trail North, Greenbelt, Upper Clear Creek Access, Shiloh*

Snow removal: *Centennial Trail, Trail Street, West Fetterman Access, Washington Park Trail, Washington Park Trail North, Greenbelt, Upper Clear Creek Access*

Major tree/brush trimming every 5-7 years: *All trails*

Roll asphalt twice a year: assuming new surface

Fill requests from Trail Board for sand maintenance

Empty garbage cans: *Centennial Trail, West Fetterman Street Access, Greenbelt, Veteran's Home Pasture, Veteran's Lane*

- No independent work by the Trail Board. Members should be allowed only scheduled trail work days. 3 week notice given so public can be involved.
- Sounds like a good plan to me!
- All of the work items are excellent and done in a timely fashion to complete the year's trail care!
- Be sure to identify noxious weeds—do not let overspray kill native species. The brush cutting on Mentock trail has been somewhat extensive. It appears as all brush was cut regardless of being desirable or undesirable. Please try to keep some unique natives. Cydney and John Long

14. City New Trail Approval Process: *Recommendation:*

City of Buffalo New Trail Approval Process

Any proposed construction on existing trails requires a Trail Board recommendation and City Council approval.

New trail proposals require a letter of support from the trail jurisdiction if the city or county is not the sponsoring entity.

Landowners within 300 feet of new trail construction will be required to be contacted by the trail sponsor.

All trails in the Clear Creek Trail System must be on a City or County easement.

No trail will be considered unless 100% of adjacent property owners agree to the easement.

Optional: Pre-application meeting with Buffalo Trail Board at a regularly scheduled meeting
(Prior to development and construction)

Optional: Trail Documentation meeting at a regularly scheduled meeting

Optional: Trail Design meeting at a regularly scheduled meeting

(Trail Design meeting will involve City Planning Department)

Optional: Schedule sight-visits during trail construction

Submit City of Buffalo Trail Approval Application

Buffalo Trail Board Recommendation

Planning Commission

City Council

City of Buffalo New Trail Approval Application

Date: _____

Name of organization: _____

Name of spokesperson: _____

Position in organization: _____

Phone/email of spokesperson: _____

Location of trail: _____

Tentative Development Timeline:

Identify the following:

Existing vegetation: _____

Existing soils: _____

Surrounding topography: _____

Adjacent or intersecting streams: _____

Significant natural features: _____

Allowed Trail Use: _____

Identify existing or proposed trail improvements:

Trail Improvement	Proposed	Existing
Sign/s: (Kiosk, Distance Markers, Informational, Directional)		
Bench/es:		
Garbage Can/s:		
Picnic Table/s:		
Parking Lot/s:		
Culvert/s or waterbars:		
Dog waste station/s:		
Bridge/s:		
Access road/s:		
Easement/s:		
Historic feature/s:		
Wildlife:		
Livestock:		
Gates/barriers/fences:		

Short-term maintenance plan:

Long-term maintenance plan:

To be completed by Buffalo Trail Board:

Trail Classification: _____
Width: _____
Surface: _____
Grade: _____
Radius: _____
Sight Distance: _____
Easement Width: _____
Side Slope: _____
Vertical Clearance: _____
Horizontal Clearance: _____
Cross Slope: _____
Sub-surface Material Depth: _____

The Buffalo Trail Board recommends: Approval/Denial

- Good plan—a longer approval process is better than a shorter one because it reduces the chances of errors. Very specific and well-organized application.
- I believe that great difficulty will exist in developing a trail system if every easement requires 100% adjacent property owners approval. Some people will just not go along with anything. What does “adjacent” mean? 50 feet from the trail, 100 feet, ½ mile? The good of the community will not be served by letting a few people stop progress. Bill Dooley
- If you place picnic tables and garbage cans you need to also provide a public restroom at certain areas! More signs of all kinds. Maintain Turkey lane parking area. Placement of Corps of Engineers Bridge. Need informational signs. Keep horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs off the trail.
- The trail plan should have a method of delisting trails if the landowners, city, or county deems the trail undesirable. Increase use or “improvements” are not always welcome. I would like to see consultation of the local landowners before more people or increased usage is formed. It would be nice to be able to limit usage in some areas. Note: The rule on “no dogs” on the Mentock trail has not been adhered to. It is not even mentioned on the “Rule on Dogs.” It is posted at the trailhead as “dogs on leashed.” I understand it was no to

- have dogs at all as published in the trails brochure. Who will police the current recommendations let alone any future limitations.
- Current contact with landowners for new trail construction should be improved. 100% of property owners 100% agree to the easement.
 - The requirements for establishing a new trail appear to be more stringent in some ways than putting in a new sub-division. Two proposals particularly stand out: 1) contacting any landowner within 300 feet of a proposed trail is more stringent than the requirement for putting in a subdivision which has a bigger footprint than a trail would have on an adjacent neighborhood. 2) requiring 100% approval of adjacent property owners is also more stringent than developers of subdivisions face. If an easement already exists, then the use of that easement should be determined by the entity holding that easement rather than an individual owning property abutting the easement. What happens to trails that are proposed in residential areas where homes are being bought and sold? Can a proposed trail be put on hold, or negated, by the sale of a home? A pre-application meeting should be a requirement of any entity wishing to establish a trail. A bit of pre-planning saves time and frustration down the road. Frank Pratt

15. Revised Master Trail Map:

- Insist that the trail west of Old Highway 87 be removed and the trail connection transferred to Bethel Road. Virginia and Kelly McBride
- Great additions—however some proposed areas are not feasible given private property and conservation easements. How recent are the aerial photos? Move Turkey lane parking lot along Highway 16. Heather Dawson
- Move parking lot up Highway 16 where old Check Station location was. Remove trail from Turkey Lane to new parking lot. Rob Lueders
- Trail pops out on Main Street and directs people north, by passing the bulk of Main Street—could a loop be added or directional signs for the south end of Main Street!
- It is very helpful and beneficial to be able to see a plan for trails in this community. Even if the proposed routes are not possible to develop at this time due to their location relative to private land holdings, having a plan in place should those open areas turn into housing developments in the future helps assure that those moving into those new developments will have access to the trail system. It will also

help developers to meet their responsibility to design their plats in coordination with a trail plan. Also, I appreciate the effort to plan looped trails that allow users to travel in a circle rather than straight out and back on the same route. The Master Trails Map needs to include the Wildlife Area trails of Mountain Plains Heritage Park. I did not see the trails in that section outlined on your map, yet they provide not only good walking but access to signage pertinent to railroad history and the wildlife of this part of the country. Not to be missed. I would like to see Eva Knepper Trail not only part of the city trail system, but also connected to Klondike Trail, which should in turn connect with Clear Creek Trail. I would also like to see the Pipeline Trail developed as a city trail. Lois Petersen

- Being able to see a map of what may be the trail system for the area is a big help in planning development for the area. Even if development of the proposed trails is several years in the future, the city has taken a step in the right direction in dealing with developers. It will require developers to include amenities that will help link residential areas of the community. Responsible development is supposedly one of the requirements placed on developers by the city. The Planning Commission is to look at how the new sub-division impacts existing neighborhoods as well as the greater Buffalo community. I would like to see the Heritage Park trails included as part of the Master Trails Plan. Connecting Fort Street with French Creek Road via a trail following the new waterline easement would benefit alternative travel from the north and northwest areas being developed. I know there has been some local interest already expressed about having this as a trail. Frank Pratt

16. Do you feel that a Master Trail Plan is important? Why or why not?

- It is important because with time the level of volunteer work will change depending upon the individuals involved. With a plan, regular care and planning can outlast individuals.
- Yes, a plan is important in order to prioritize what is to be done and in what order it should be done.
- Very important. Protect from developers.
- Yes, provides some continuity and gives the Board some direction and guidelines for future development.

- No I do not; I feel that more of a need is to provide a “walking path” to the new schools. There is not even a sidewalk for the High Schoolers to walk on. Additionally, there is plenty of work around town as far as streets, etc. that money needs to be spent on. We have existing walking trails to be used, spend it on the core of this community! The existing trails that you already have are not maintained now how do you think you will be able to focus on that much more. The existing trail on Turkey lane now goes right past the water treatment plant. Let someone throw something in there are you would be affecting the wealth of this whole community. There is not law enforcement patrol on Turkey lane trail now! If a child is ever adducted they are gone over the mountains immediately. Also, there are many youngsters getting on and off the bus at the Turkey lane entrance dangerous with all the traffic for one and dangerous for kids all the way around. Buffalo sits at the foot of the mountains the way it is where there are passages to natural, recreational, cultural, historic, and scenic resources, healthy lifestyles and a high quality of life. Turkey Lane is owned by us and we don’t want the liability of someone hurt. Your mission statement should read: Maintain and patrol existing paths before worry about anymore.
- No, don’t have enough people to support it all and no one smart enough to operate.
- Yes, guides efforts and provides public understanding of objectives and opportunity for input.
- Awesome concepts. It would be wonderful to have more connectivity east-west and north-south. This would help alleviate perceptions of too much traffic or parking issues, e.g. Turkey Lane. Extension along reek past vet’s home would be most welcome. There will always be complainers but the answer should be “how” not “cannot do.” Please keep up the good work.
- Of course! If in 10, 20, 30 years there is no Master Plan anyone who comes along can do as they see fit.
- Yes! It needs to be well-planned. Maybe modeled after some Forest Service or BLM plans where EIS are presented. We all know there will be more people in the future—look how many more people there are in the last five years using trails. Where is it all headed?
- It is a good idea with great intentions—I like having more trails—but keep it diverse! Not all gravel or paved or single track—different trails for different purposes.

- Definitely. Without a vision that is based upon public input, long term management of area trails becomes disorganized and unproductive.
- Yes—hopefully it will allow the Trail Board to add and maintain trails by applying for grants with a professional approach. Also it is very important as a tool to make developers grant easements for future trails. By having the master plan the Trail Board can plan for the future growth that will inevitably happen in and around Buffalo.
- Trails benefit for a lot of reasons, health, keep users off roadways, nation-wide they enhance value to area they are in.
- Yes. Need it in place for existing trails and future proposed expansion.
- A Master Plan is essential. Haphazard development is not a good thing and that is what happens when thought and input is not provided. The future is now: there is no time like the present. Master plans provide objectives and guidelines so that wheels do not need to be reinvented. Simply put: no plan-no implementation; no implementation, no trails (or parks or anything else!). Susan Theune
- Yes—it is a major enhancement to the Town of Buffalo, both in terms of needs of today's residents and as an important feature for future development. Susan Palmerlee