CITY OF LARAMIE
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
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CITY OF LARAMIE
PARKS, TRAILS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA

MEETING DATE: December 10, 2014
TIME: 11:30 am
LOCATION: Recreation Center large conference room – 920 Boulder Drive

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes from the December 3, 2014 meeting.

Motion by_____, seconded by_____, that the consent agenda be approved and that each specific action on the consent agenda be approved as indicated. (Items listed on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed above. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Committee Member or citizen so requests, in which case the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered on the regular agenda.)

Regular Agenda:

1. Consideration of the Northeast Laramie Greenbelt – Connect regional shortgrass prairie and open space proposal.

2. Consideration to direct staff to revise and amend the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan with all of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee's recommended changes for final comment and review by the public and the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee.

New business:

1. Public Comments

Next Meeting Date: January/February 2015 TBA

CITY OF LARAMIE
PARKS, TRAILS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 3, 2014
Minutes of Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Amy Williamson, Dan McCoy, Dave Hammond, Evan O'Toole, Joe Lord, Mike Moeller
MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Amber Travsky, Bill Gribb, Vicki Henry, Peggy McCrackin
CITY OF LARAMIE STAFF PRESENT: Paul Harrison, Parks & Recreation Director; Derek Teini, Senior Planner; David Schott, Parks Manager; Audem Gonzales, Assistant Planner; Mel Owen, Administrative Assistant
GUESTS: Thane McKinsey, Thaddeus Mast, Kimberly Starkey, John Nutter, Fred McLaughlin, Marius Favret, Sue Favret, Scott Quillinan, Keith Seebart, Carol Frost, Suzanne Lewis, Bern Hinckley, Louise Smithson, Doug Petersen, Stephen Williams, Becky Riley, Don Prehoda, Dan McCrackin, David Gertsch (County Planner)

The regular meeting was called to order by Chair Dave Hammond at 11:34 a.m.

Consent Agenda:
1) **Approval of the minutes from the November 19, 2014 meeting.**
2) **Acknowledge receipt of the email comments from Thane McKinsey.**

Motion by Williamson, second by Moeller, that the consent agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Regular Agenda:

1) **Presentation by the steering committee members for the Northeast Laramie Greenbelt – connect regional shortgrass prairie and open space.**
John Nutter, a representative from the Neighborhood Open Space Steering Committee created by citizens of the Alta Vista/Indian Hills neighborhood, gave a presentation of the group's proposal concerning designating open space in the neighborhood. The Committee was provided with a revised handout from the group outlining the proposal. Nutter recognized the neighborhood members in attendance supporting the proposal. Nutter noted that the Master Plan has indicated that Service Area 7, which their neighborhood resides in, is currently underserved in terms of dedicated park land. The steering committee noted the neighborhood's strong preference for an open space designation of any future park and recreational areas. The neighborhood group's proposal concerning future open space designations included four main points:
    1. The 7.4 acre "Kiowa extension" parcel which the City owns, directly adjacent to Kiowa Park, should be designated as open space.
    2. The City should acquire "Outlot A" a 16.6 acre parcel adjacent to the Kiowa extension and designate it as open space.
    3. The City should explore acquiring additional property contiguous to Outlot A for enlarging the open space area.
    4. The open space area should then be connected to the City's system of trails, pathways and greenbelt areas.

Nutter also extended an invitation to all present for a tour of the shortgrass prairie area that the open space proposal concerns. The tour will occur on Saturday, December 6th at 2pm. The group also noted that when the Committee previously considered designating open space in the neighborhood the discussion centered around a 20 acre open space parcel. The group has discovered in researching potential grant options for assistance in funding the proposal, that the minimum acreage designation in many cases is 25 acres. In light of this, the group respectfully requested the Committee consider the acreage of open space be increased to a minimum of 25 acres.

The Committee requested that staff conduct additional research on the group's proposal and include more information on the feasibility of the project. Staff noted they would also update the

map of the neighborhood, incorporating the most recent changes the Committee has made to the Kiowa extension parcel and Outlot A. An exhibit would also be created modeling the neighborhood group's proposal for the Committee to review further.

Motion by Williamson, second by Lord to table consideration of the open space proposal until the next meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

2) **Consideration of options/alternatives for the proposed map symbols outside of the city limits, within the extra-territorial one-mile buffer.**
The Committee reviewed exhibits created from the Committee's suggestions on how to display areas within the extra-territorial one-mile buffer. Public comments were solicited after the presentation of the exhibit options.

Terri Jones addressed the Committee and noted that she requests there be no shading of any kind on private property.

Kimberly Starkey addressed the Committee and stated she commends staff and the Committee for working with the earlier neighborhood group on their proposal. Starkey stated that was the way to conduct such efforts - by engaging the property owners directly. Starkey noted that a direct engagement has not been undertaken for property owners within the extra-territorial one-mile buffer. Starkey also referenced the petition signed by nearly 300 people requesting the removal of all shading and icons from the maps within the Master Plan. She noted this petition had been previously delivered to the Committee and that the signatories were due some respect and consideration from the Committee.

Bern Hinckley addressed the Committee and expressed dismay at the options presented since the options do not retain the original vision of the plan. Hinckley had previously suggested that trespassing concerns be mitigated by clearly depicting land that is currently private property but that the icons and symbols representing the Committee's future planning vision should all be retained. He noted that different groups and coalitions will have different perspectives on long term planning and that any plan will never be universally embraced. In light of this, the Committee should look to the survey that was conducting showing a strong commitment to parks and recreational facilities and planning from the Laramie community. Hinckley stated the Committee should retain their original version and by doing so the master plan process remains transparent.

Starkey addressed the Committee noting the following properties which have icons or symbols placed on them and it is likely the owners have not been contacted: -the hatch marks south of Riverside Drive on map C1 is located on private property –the crosshatch, the #2 symbol and the playlot are all on private property on map A –the large playlot is on private property on map B. Starkey also stated that county residents do not need to justify why they do not want text, shading or symbols on the maps – it is their private property and so they have the right to decide what they do and do not want on these lands.

Jones addressed the Committee and stated that the shading on private property indicates a taking of said property and as such all shading must come off the maps. The line designating the one mile boundary is good but there should be no shading on the maps depicting county lands.

The Committee noted that shading to indicate private property is often done on maps of different varieties, including BLM maps; the Committee's request to shade the maps to indicate private property was done in response to concerns raised over trespassing.

Starkey addressed the Committee and stated that marking areas as private property does no one any favors. The county is not interested in being a part of the plan and so they do not want any markings, symbols, or gray shading on the maps. Starkey stated that the City of Laramie are not the ones who must educate people about public and private land.

Motion by McCoy, second by Williamson, to adopt Option A with the amendment that the shaded areas be identified as private property *within the extra-territorial zone* in the legend of master plan maps. Motion carried 5-1.

New Business

1) **Public Comments**
   None.

2) **Next Meeting Date:**
   December 10, 2014

Meeting adjourned at 12:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Hathaway, Parks & Recreation Director

for Mel Owen
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation - City of Laramie

Northeast Laramie Greenbelt-Connect

Neighborhood shortgrass prairie open space

A proposal to the City of Laramie from citizens of the Alta Vista/ Indian Hills Neighborhood

Steering Committee:

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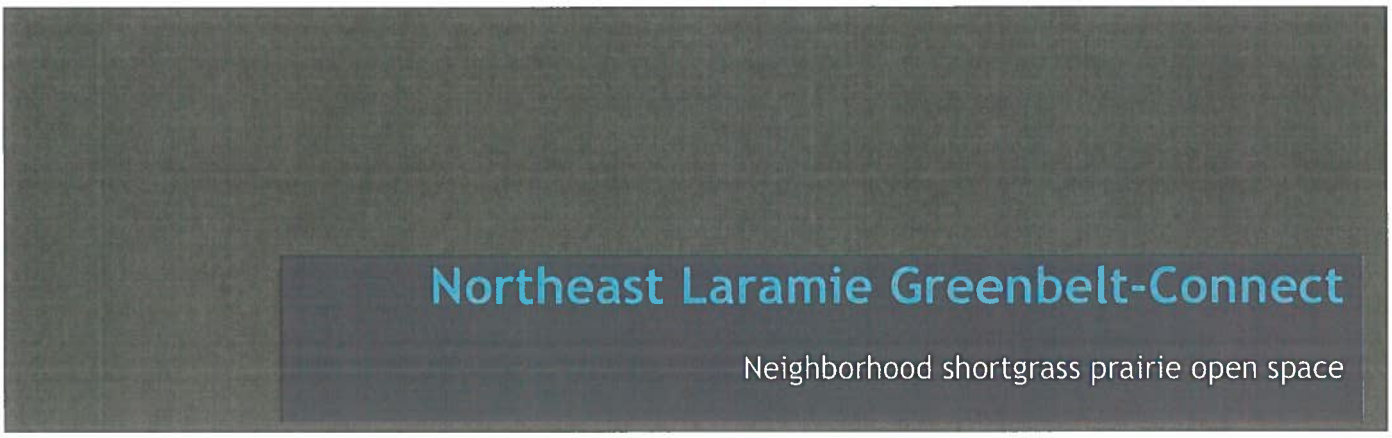
John Nutter	nutter@uwyo.edu
Marius & Sue Favret	suemar729@gmail.com
Heather Fleming	hfleming@uwyo.edu
Carol Frost	frost@uwyo.edu
Eric Nye	nye@uwyo.edu
Rebecca Riley	BeckyR@uwyo.edu
Lorraine Saulino-Klein	lsaulinoklein@hotmail.com
Steve Smutko	steve.smutko@uwyo.edu
Elizabeth Traver	traver@uwyo.edu

1 December 2014



The Current Opportunity

In February 2014, the City of Laramie acquired a 7.4 acre parcel adjacent to Kiowa Park in northeast Laramie.

At the same time the city reserved the right, through February 2016, to purchase an additional 16.6 acres of undeveloped land ("Outlot A") located immediately north of the 7.4 acre parcel. The city has encouraged interested citizens to develop a proposal for this potential expansion.

The Alta Vista/Indian Hills neighborhood recognizes an unparalleled opportunity to provide much needed community open space in northeastern Laramie, and a chance to connect this space with the Laramie Greenbelt trail system. Hence, we propose a three-part project:

Northeast Laramie Greenbelt-Connect

Part 1: Acquire Outlot A and create Northeast Laramie shortgrass prairie open space

Part 1 involves:

1. The city will preserve the 7.4 acres adjacent to Kiowa Park as open space, and acquire Outlot A (16.6 acres) as additional, contiguous open space.

2. Together these parcels comprise contiguous open space of 24 acres, large enough to be eligible for open space preservation grant support. The neighborhood will lead or assist in grant applications.

3. The city will develop the parcels as a neighborhood open space that preserves and interprets the native shortgrass steppe of eastern Laramie. This project complements the riparian ecology of the Laramie River segment of the city greenbelt.

Part 2: Extend shortgrass prairie open space

The second part of the project extends the open space northward to Northview Drive.

1. Acquisition for open space of the land north of Outlot A ("Part 2 open space extension" on map) makes good use of land with exposed bedrock that could be difficult to develop.

2. No roads should cross the open space.

As defined in the proposed City of Laramie Parks & Recreation Master Plan, open space may include trails, benches, and "maintenance of Laramie's unique identity, geology or topography." The Northeast Laramie shortgrass prairie open space could feature:

1. Loop trails for walking, bicycling, and skiing that in the long term will connect to the city greenbelt trail system.

2. A nature trail with benches and interpretive signs on:

    a. Geology (on ridge looking east)
    b. Laramie's groundwater sources (on ridge)
    c. History of Warren Livestock Company
    d. Botany of native shortgrass prairie
    e. Invasive species
    f. Native wildlife (pronghorn, badgers, deer, fox, etc.)
    g. Laramie plains weather systems (looking west, source of prevailing winds)

3. An observation site: a place with benches and sky map signs, where residents can set up personal telescopes.

4. A natural amphitheater for school groups and city parks and recreation activities.

Part 3: Connect with the city greenbelt trail system

The third part of the project provides connections to the Laramie Greenbelt trails:

1. Extend a trail east from the intersection of Inca Drive and Northview Drive to 45th Street, then south via 45th Street to Crow Drive to complete this section of the Laramie Greenbelt along the city boundary. It will connect the Laramie Greenbelt to the Jacoby Trail planned by the City of Laramie and the University of Wyoming to the south, and to the Cirrus Sky trail segment via Northview Drive to the west.

2. A portion of this trail east from Inca Drive will follow the northern boundary of the open space,

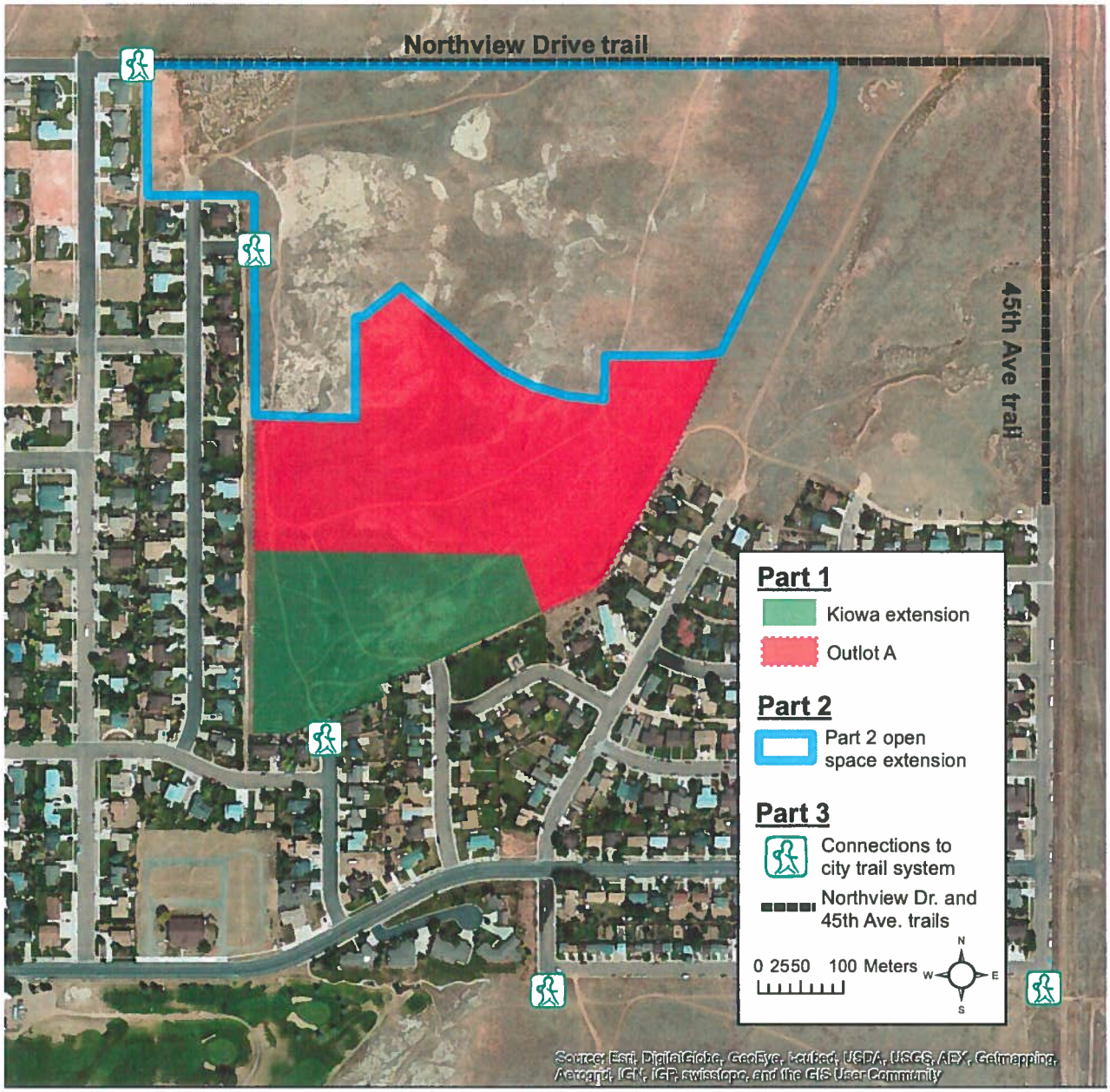
thus providing access to the open space from the Laramie Greenbelt.

3. A trailhead at the north end of Arapaho Drive provides access to trails within the open space and will allow travel through it to the Laramie Greenbelt trail along the open space's northern boundary.

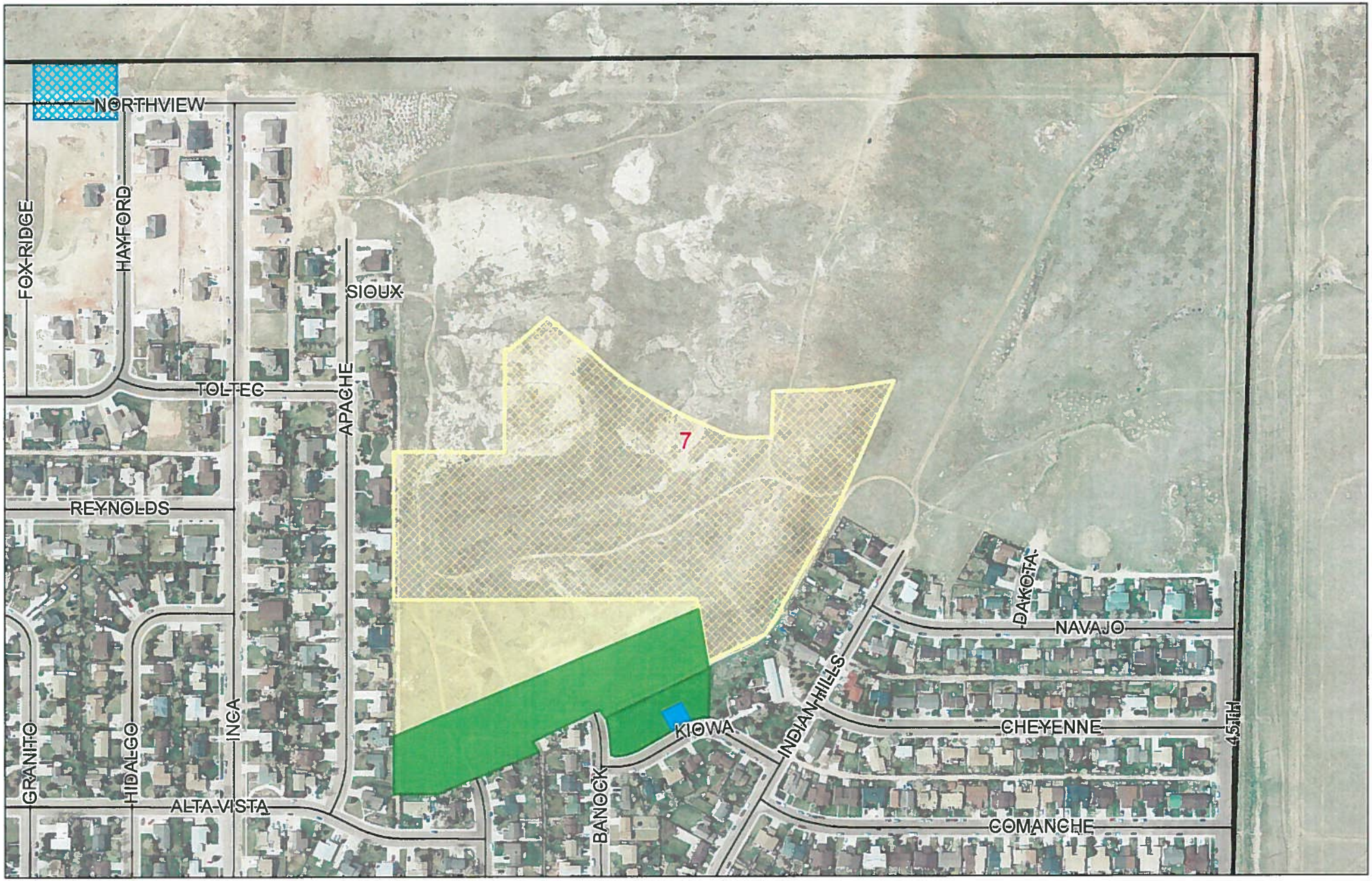
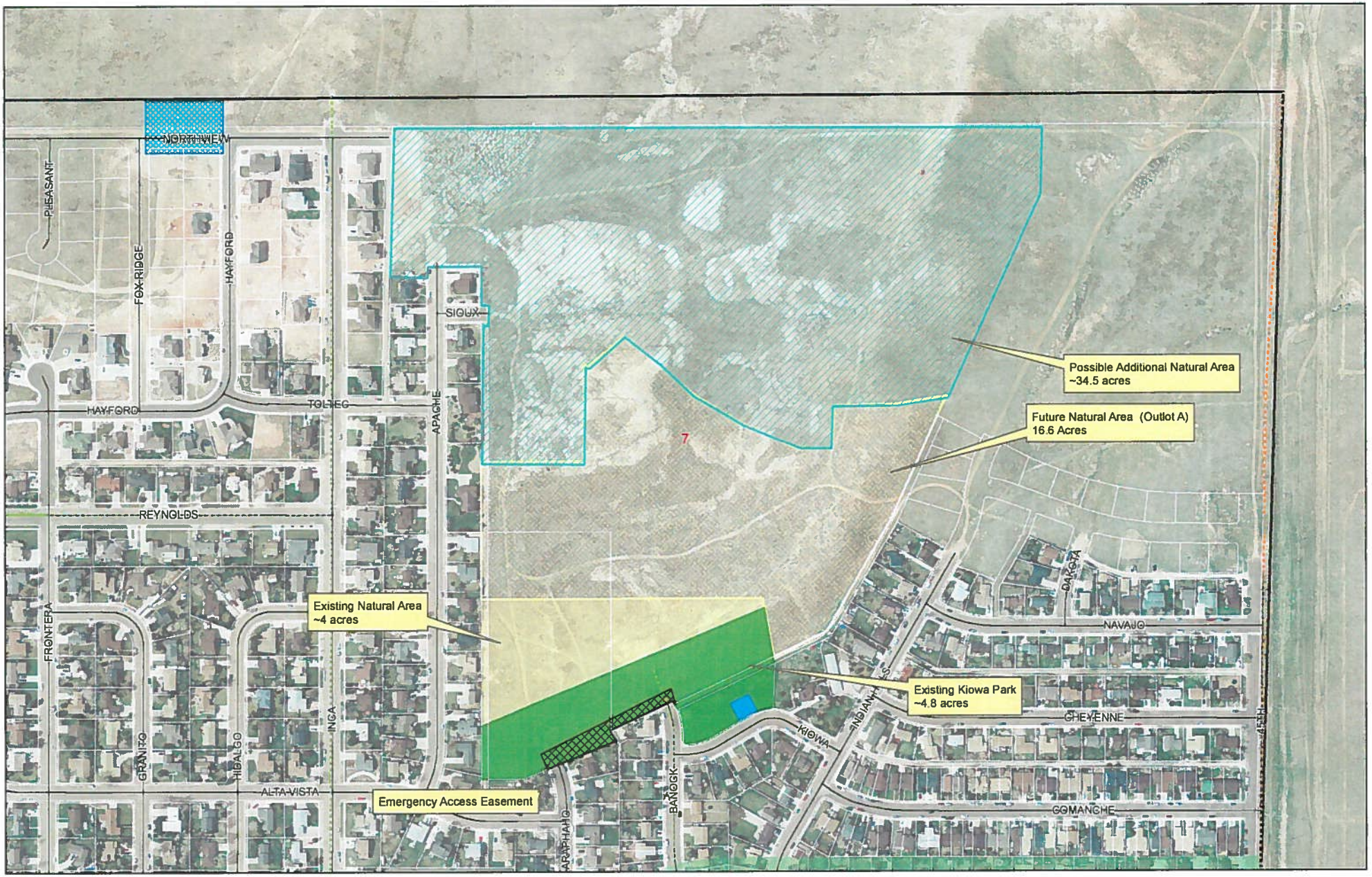
4. Trailheads on the west side of the open space at the intersections of Sioux and Apache Drives, and Northview and Inca Drives, connect the open space to the Laramie Greenbelt trail system.

5. Map boards will help orient walkers, runners, and cyclists to the Laramie Greenbelt trail system and open space trailheads.

Northeast Laramie Greenbelt-Connect



KIOWA PARK AS DRAFTED IN PLAN



KIOWA PARK AS PROPOSED BY NEIGHBORHOOD CITIZENS