Appendix B: Open Space Objectives and Strategies

The following objective and strategy recommendations were developed as part of the 2005 *Open Space and Trails Master Plan*. These objectives and strategies were not updated in detail during the PROST process, and are provided as a reference with only minor substantive changes for LOSAC, City staff, and the public. The criteria and definitions follow this list of recommendations.

Goals, objectives, and strategies are the philosophical core of the Master Plan, providing specific guidance that will assist the City of Lafayette as it develops a high-quality network of open space and trails. Goals were outlined in the Introduction, and are re-stated below along with more specific objectives and strategies for their implementation. These elements are defined as follows:

- Goal: A descriptive statement of desired future conditions for a particular topic.
- Objective: A concise statement of what the City wants to achieve for a particular resource or issue.
- Strategy: A specific action, technique, or tool that should be used to meet objectives.

Goal 1: Habitat Conservation

Preserve and enhance significant natural areas and wildlife habitat, as well as the ecological integrity of the greater Lafayette region, while applying a strategic approach to open space conservation.

Objective 1.1 Open Space conservation

Preserve and protect lands that benefit wildlife and represent the open space values of the greater Lafayette community.

- 1.1.1. Use the open space ranking model described to identify high-priority areas for conservation.
- 1.1.2. Complete a continuous network of open space that includes conservation areas, buffer areas, and trail corridors identified in the Open Space Recommendations.
- 1.1.3. Continue to consider the open space criteria that are presented in the Open Space Ranking Model to target and conserve open space.
- 1.1.4. Continue to target open space acquisitions in a way that is consistent with guidelines and objectives of the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- 1.1.5. Where appropriate, incorporate areas within the 100-year floodplain of Rock Creek and Coal Creek into the open space system.
- 1.1.6. Consider the long-term conservation of agricultural lands surrounding Lafayette that are currently protected by Intergovernmental Agreements.

Objective 1.2. Inter-jurisdictional Collaboration

Collaborate with Boulder County, the City and County of Broomfield, and the Cities of Louisville and Erie on the conservation and management of open space areas of mutual interest.

Strategies:

- 1.2.1. Maintain frequent contact with open space staff from nearby jurisdictions to coordinate open space needs and identify partnership opportunities.
- 1.2.2. Identify opportunities to collaborate with public or private entities, such as other jurisdictions or a land trust, to identify creative solutions to complex open space conservation arrangements.

Objective 1.3. Land Dedication

Work closely with the Lafayette Planning Department to coordinate land dedication requirements that will enhance the overall network of open space and trails.

Strategies:

- 1.3.1. Continue to work with the Planning Department to review development proposals and make recommendations on the appropriateness and location of open space dedications.
- 1.3.2. Work with the Planning Department to review development proposals for mixed use areas to capitalize on opportunities to conserve appropriate open space areas and trail corridors.
- 1.3.3. Avoid pursuing the dedication of lands to open space that are not suitable for open space or cannot be managed as part of an integrated open space system.

Objective 1.4. Conservation Tools

Consider ways to pursue open space acquisitions using a variety of tools, including fee title purchases, conservation easements, trail easements, bargain sales, reserved life estates, and others.

- 1.4.1. Consider a wide range of conservation strategies to maximize the value of open space conservation opportunities.
- 1.4.2. Continue to build a collaborative relationship with Boulder County Open Space, neighboring jurisdictions, land developers, and others to identify and help implement creative conservation strategies.
- 1.4.3. Increase the use of third-party representatives to initiate, broker, or complete pen space transactions on behalf of the city. This may include county open space staff, non-profit conservation organizations, or private consultants who specialize in conservation transactions.

Goal 2: Open Space Management

Provide an effective and balanced approach to open space management that protects and enhances environmental values.

Objective 2.1. Weed management

Develop and implement a comprehensive weed management strategy for open space areas and trails.

Strategies:

- 2.1.1. Continue to implement the weed suppression and eradication objectives laid out in the Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan.
- 2.1.2. Update the Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan on a regular basis to reflect changing conditions.
- 2.1.3. Continue to fund weed management contracts.
- 2.1.4. Continue visual and photo-monitoring of weed infestations to document the success or failure of weed suppression and eradication efforts.
- 2.1.5. Update weed surveys on open space land every five years.
- 2.1.6. Eradicate new weed infestations quickly to keep them from spreading and to help minimize the expense of long-term weed management.
- 2.1.7. Meet with maintenance staff annually to identify weed management issues and improve weed management practices.
- 2.1.8. Encourage maintenance staff to minimize the spread of weeds by washing mowers and vehicles between working in infested and non-infested areas.
- 2.1.9. Coordinate weed management efforts with ecological restoration and revegetation efforts described in Objective 2.6.
- 2.1.10. Work with Boulder County to develop and distribute education and outreach materials to inform the public about the importance of weed management on open space.

Objective 2.2. Agricultural Stewardship

Develop a strategy for the management and long-term stewardship of agricultural lands in the open space system.

- 2.2.1. Work with Boulder County Parks and Open Space staff to evaluate the long-term sustainability of agricultural production of existing open space lands or lands that are proposed for acquisition.
- 2.2.2. Work with City Council to consider amending the City Charter to authorize agricultural leases of open space land owned by the City of Lafayette.
- 2.2.3. Identify existing and proposed agricultural open space lands that are not suitable for production. Consider restoring those areas to native grasslands.
- 2.2.4. If agricultural open space is used at all for recreation, design and develop trails and other facilities in a manner that does not interfere with agricultural operations or compromise public safety.
- 2.2.5. Do not allow grazing or livestock use of open space lands, unless it is allowed as part of a conservation agreement or used individually for specific stewardship purposes (such as weed control).

Objective 2.3. Wildlife Management

Develop a strategy for the management of prairie dogs, coyotes, or other wildlife species that create public or management concerns on open space lands.

Strategies:

- 2.3.1. Complete a Wildlife Management Plan that provides guidelines for dealing with specific wildlife conflicts (e.g., prairie dogs, coyotes) as well as general guidelines for the management and protection of a variety of wildlife species.
- 2.3.2. Update the current prairie dog policy and management strategies to reflect current conditions and preferred methods.

Objective 2.4. Wildlife Preserve Designation

Establish a wildlife preserve designation for portions of open space lands that provide high-quality, rare, or otherwise sensitive wildlife habitat.

Strategies:

- 2.4.1. Identify and designate certain portions of open space lands as Wildlife Preserves. Areas of existing or proposed open space that are suitable for this designation include Greenlee Reservoir, the Coal Creek corridor, Coal Creek/Rock Creek confluence area, east wetland complex, Old Town Pond, and the outdoor classroom wetland complex.
- 2.4.2. Minimize human disturbance of Wildlife Preserves.
- 2.4.3. Prohibit through trails and other facilities in Wildlife Preserves. Spur trails into these areas may be appropriate for wildlife observation and educational opportunities.
- 2.4.4. Aggressively close and revegetate all social trails through Wildlife Preserves.

Objective 2.5. Riparian Habitat Preservation

Protect the quality, continuity, and ecological integrity of riparian habitat areas in Lafayette.

Strategies:

- 2.5.1. Pursue open space acquisitions that protect riparian habitat areas.
- 2.5.2. Locate trails and facilities, to the extent practicable, outside of riparian habitat areas and protect large patches of contiguous habitat areas.
- 2.5.3. Minimize trail crossings to avoid fragmenting habitat. However, a single trail crossing is preferable to a trail that runs through the riparian area for a long distance.
- 2.5.4. Design trails to provide reasonable opportunities to view or access riparian areas or streams to limit the proliferation of social trails.
- 2.5.5. Focus weed management (Objective 2.1) and ecological restoration (Objective 2.6) efforts on riparian areas to protect and enhance the scenic and wildlife habitat values.

Objective 2.6. Ecological Restoration and Enhancement

Identify and implement opportunities to restore and enhance native plant communities on open space lands.

- 2.6.1. Develop an annual list of prioritized habitat enhancement and restoration projects on open space lands.
- 2.6.2. Identify opportunities to protect and restore native shortgrass prairie on open space lands.
- 2.6.3. Work with the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District to identify opportunities for drop structures, wetland plantings, or other measures to raise the water table in riparian areas, stabilize streambanks, and improve water quality on Rock Creek, Coal Creek, and Bullhead Gulch.
- 2.6.4. Identify and remove unnecessary culverts or stream crossings and restore those areas to a native riparian community.
- 2.6.5. Revegetate using native grassland and riparian species to the greatest extent possible. In some cases, non-invasive non-native annual species may be appropriate in the early stages of grassland restoration.
- 2.6.6. Meet annually with open space maintenance staff to coordinate and facilitate habitat enhancement and restoration projects.
- 2.6.7. Employ weed management (Objective 2.1) and agricultural stewardship (Objective 2.2) to identify agricultural lands to be restored to native prairie.

Goal 3. Open Space Recreation

Provide, where appropriate, high-quality outdoor recreation and trail opportunities that are consistent with the values of open space lands, provide high quality access between open space, parks, and community destinations, and minimize adverse impacts to the environment.

Objective 3.1. Trail System

Develop a multi-tiered trail network on open space lands and throughout the city that provides reasonable, environmentally sensitive access to open space resources and community destinations.

Strategies:

- 3.1.1. Continue to use the recommendations of the Trails Vision and subsequent city-wide multi-modal transportation plan to complete a multi-tiered trails system.
- 3.1.2. Design trails in a manner that avoids fragmenting or impacting riparian habitat or other environmentally sensitive areas, as directed in Objective 2.5, *Riparian Habitat Protection*.
- 3.1.3. Design trails with a reasonable buffer when adjacent to residential neighborhoods.
- 3.1.4. Design trails to minimize impacts on the existing landscape. This can be done by following the existing contours of the land and avoiding native, mature vegetation.
- 3.1.5. Utilize sustainable trail materials and construction techniques to minimize erosion and maintenance.
- 3.1.6. Design road crossings in a manner that is safe for trail users, using signalized intersections or below-grade crossings to the greatest extent possible.

Objective 3.2. On-Street Bicycle Facilities

Work with the Public Works Department to develop a network of safe and efficient on-street bicycle facilities that complement the off-street trail system.

Strategies:

- 3.2.1. Develop a multi-modal transportation plan that includes detailed recommendations for on street bicycle facilities.
- 3.2.2. Design all on street bicycle facilities in accordance with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 1999 edition.
- 3.2.3. Work with adjacent communities to design and develop consistent and continuous on street bicycle facilities beyond Lafayette's city limits.

Objective 3.3. Trailheads

Develop additional trailhead facilities to provide access to and information about Lafayette's open space and trail system.

- 3.3.1. Utilize existing parking areas wherever possible for use as a trailhead. An example is the existing parking lot at Exempla Medical Center near the Rock Creek Trail.
- 3.3.2. Establish new trailhead facilities at the Great Park, Flagg Park, and Thomas Open Space.

Objective 3.4. Facility Maintenance

Maintain open space facilities, including trails and trailheads to ensure user safety and long-term viability.

Strategies:

- 3.4.1 All trails should be cleared of vegetation or other obstacles that are located within the zone of clearance.
- 3.4.2 Periodic maintenance may require temporary trail closures. Adequate signage and potential trail detours are helpful in conveying information to the public and keeping user safety in mind.
- 3.4.3 Concrete trails should be periodically swept and plowed of snow. Any cracked or damaged concrete should be replaced as soon as possible. The shoulders should be periodically mowed.
- 3.4.4 Crusher fines trails should be periodically fine graded to smooth out any ruts or irregularities. Weed control is often unnecessary if the trails receive significant use but may be required on some trails. Crusher fines trails should be inspected regularly for signs of erosion. Erosion should be repaired as soon as practically possible. In areas of consistent erosion, products such as "stabilizer" can be added to help prevent further erosion or segments of the trail can be replaced with concrete when practical.

Objective 3.5. Dogs on Open Space

Maintain existing dog restrictions on open space lands while supporting creative strategies and facilities that will allow dog owners to enjoy appropriate open space lands without infringing on the enjoyment of others or degrading wildlife habitat.

Strategies:

- 3.5.1 In accordance with existing policy, enforce leash requirements for all open space and trails.
- 3.5.2 Restrict all dogs, including leashed dogs, from designated Wildlife Preserves.
- 3.5.3 Support the Parks Department in the development of additional dog parks at appropriate locations throughout the City.
- 3.5.4 Provide plastic bags and trash receptacles at all prominent trail access points.
- 3.5.5 Develop signage and outreach to educate dog owners about dog use policies, and the environmental impacts of dogs in sensitive areas.
- 3.5.6 Work with the Police Department and Animal Control to maintain a presence on open space trails, educate visitors about on-leash regulations, and take enforcement action when necessary.

Objective 3.6. Permitted Open Space and Trail Uses

Public use of open space and trails should continue to be limited to non-motorized, passive uses.

- 3.6.1. Continue to allow appropriate public uses, including pedestrian use and bicycle use on all open space and trails that are open to public use.
- 3.6.2. Consider new open space and trail uses as they arise, continue to allow those that are appropriate and prohibit those that cause excessive resource or facility damage or unnecessary user conflicts
- 3.6.3. Use a variety of means, including signs, enforcement, and outreach to manage prohibited uses of open space and trails.
- 3.6.4. Monitor equestrian use along the portions of the Rock Creek and Coal Creek trails where it is permitted, and evaluate such use on an annual basis.

- 3.6.5. Designate and sign areas that are closed to public use because of management needs (agriculture) or natural resource protection.
- 3.6.6. Any exceptions to system-wide use policies (such as equestrian use) should be clearly signed and demarcated.

Objective 3.7. Off-Trail Use of Open Space

Allow reasonable off-trail use of open space while designing trails and other facilities to minimize the need for open space users to leave designated trails.

Strategies:

- 3.7.1 Design and develop a trail system that provides reasonable, formalized access to viewpoints, streams, and other features to minimize off-trail use and social trails.
- 3.7.2 Restrict off-trail access in Wildlife Preserves or other environmentally sensitive areas through signage and, if necessary, fencing.
- 3.7.3 Monitor open space areas for increases in social trails or damage from off-trail use.
- 3.7.4 Close and revegetate problematic social trails or damaged areas through signage, physical obstructions (such as rocks and tree limbs), or if necessary, fencing.
- 3.7.5 Maintain an awareness of organized off-trail users (such as geocaching groups) and if possible, work with those users to minimize impacts to open space resources.

Objective 3.8. Education and Outreach

Increase the awareness and appreciation of the environment, its natural systems, and open space resources through the education and outreach guidance outlined in the Education and Outreach Master Plan.

Strategies:

- 5.1.1 Continue to update and implement the recommendations of the Education and Outreach Master Plan.
- 5.1.2 Develop interpretive kiosks along trails to educate trail users about the ecology of wildlife preserves, the purpose of certain use restrictions, the history of Lafayette, and the greater open space and trails system.

Objective 3.9. Historical Interpretation

Increase the awareness of historical sites and structures within the City's open space system.

- 3.9.1 Designate a LOSAC representative to work with the Lafayette Historic Preservation Board to identify historical sites and interpretation opportunities on open space lands.
- 3.9.2 Incorporate historical sites and context into future revisions of the Education and Outreach Master Plan (see Objective 3.8).
- 3.9.3 Work with the Historic Preservation Board to design and construct interpretive signs and kiosks at key locations to represent the living history of Lafayette.
- 3.9.4 Consider opportunities to accommodate the relocation of historic structures on open space land.

Goal 4: Open Space and Trail Administration

Administer the open space and trails program in a manner that is effective, efficient, and responsive to the ever-changing management needs of open space and trails.

Objective 4.1. Open Space Funding

Develop and use financial resources for open space and trails in a manner that is efficient and equitable and balances the open space needs of the community with the ability to generate municipal revenues.

Strategies:

- 4.1.1 Prepare an annual open space budget and a capital improvement plan and program to fund open space facilities, maintenance, and programs.
- 4.1.2 Coordinate open space and trail acquisitions, development, and redevelopment with available funding programs.
- 4.1.3 Maintain reserve funds for maintenance and expansion of open space and trails projects.
- 4.1.4 Evaluate future taxes based upon expected zoning, future development and associated revenues.
- 4.1.5 Dedicate a portion of the existing open space sales tax to issue revenue bonds against the income stream.
- 4.1.6 Actively seek state, federal, and local grants for open space acquisition and trail/facility development.
- 4.1.7 Strategically employ a variety of conservation tools and partnerships to improve the efficiency and value of open space conservation (see Objectives 1.1 1.4).
- 4.1.8 Regularly monitor and review open space tax revenue and expenditures.
- 4.1.9 Stress the financial value to residents and the city of open space preservation.
- 4.1.10 Establish programs to secure donations and contributions.
- 4.1.11 Establish open space and trail sponsorship or adoption programs.

Objective 4.2. Open Space Staffing

Designate and fund an appropriate level of open space staffing infrastructure to facilitate on-going development and sound management of the growing open space and trails system.

Strategies:

- 4.2.1 Create and fund an Open Space Coordinator or similar staff position to support and implement open space and trails programs in Lafayette.
- 4.2.2 Evaluate open space and trail maintenance capacity as the system grows.
- 4.2.3 Work with open space maintenance staff and other City departments to improve the maintenance of existing open space and trails.

Objective 4.3. Intra-Governmental Cooperation

Support ongoing cooperation between Parks, Open Space and Golf, LOSAC, and other City departments to foster support for the open space program and efficiency in open space and trail implementation and management.

Strategies:

- 4.3.1 Periodically brief other city departments about the open space and trails system, its status, issues, and implementation goals.
- 4.3.2 Work with other city departments to identify shared project goals and partnership opportunities.
- 4.3.3 Identify opportunities for the sharing and updating of open space data and information, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS) with other city departments.

Goal 5: Open Space and Trail Management

Develop, manage, and maintain the City's open space and trails in a manner that is sensitive to and respectful of adjacent landowners, land uses, and communities.

Objective 5.1. Good Neighbor Approach

Manage existing open space lands and pursue additional open space land in a manner that is cognizant and respectful of the privacy and rights of neighboring landowners.

Strategies:

- 5.1.1 Create and maintain a record of citizen complaints and concerns and their resolution.
- 5.1.2 Respond to or address citizen complaints in a timely and consistent manner.
- 5.1.3 Initiate periodic meetings with neighborhood groups that are in close proximity of open space areas to identify issues and solicit feedback on current open space and trail management and future system expansions.

Objective 5.2. Encroachment

Work with Lafayette citizens, maintenance staff, and other city departments to reduce encroachment onto open space lands.

Strategies:

- 5.2.1 Remove and document encroachment problems as they arise.
- 5.2.2 Track areas where encroachment is a recurring problem.
- 5.2.3 Conduct outreach activities (such as flyers, newsletters, or targeted mailings) to inform citizens about encroachment issues and its enforcement.
- 5.2.4 Work with the Lafayette Police Department and Code Enforcement Division to help them understand encroachment issues and to develop a protocol for enforcement.

Objective 5.3. Security

Design and manage trail and other open space facilities in a manner that protects the safety and security of open space users and adjacent landowners.

- 5.3.1. Design and implement an interconnected trail system that will improve and increase the public use and presence in the system.
- 5.3.2. Locate and implement trails in a manner that does not leave trail users stranded in an unsafe area.
- 5.3.3. To the extent possible, locate trails and other facilities a reasonable distance from private property.

- 5.3.4. Design trails to have appropriate sight distances and visual access to improve security for trail users and adjacent property owners.
- 5.3.5. Consider the placement of security lighting at trailhead and road crossings.
- 5.3.6. Ensure that the Lafayette Police Department and other law enforcement officials are familiar with the open space and trails system, as well as potential problem areas.
- 5.3.7. Enforce prohibitions of motorized use on trails.
- 5.3.8. Track all reports of suspicious behavior, personal attacks, or property damage and share that information with the Police Department.
- 5.3.9. In problem or remote areas, consider the installation of emergency call boxes.

Objective 5.4. Wildlife Conflicts

Cooperate with adjacent landowners and trail users to minimize wildlife conflicts.

- 5.4.1. Protect an interconnected network of wildlife habitat areas to help reduce the occurrence of wildlife conflicts.
- 5.4.2. Educate residents on how to coexist with wildlife and how to modify habitats to reduce possible conflicts.
- 5.4.3. Create and maintain a record of wildlife-related landowner complaints, and evaluate whether the City can assist addressing those complaints.
- 5.4.4. Identify and manage recurring wildlife conflict issues on open space land.
- 5.4.5. Establish and maintain a working relationship between open space staff and the Boulder County Cooperative Extension Service.
- 5.4.6. Provide information to help landowners manage and reduce wildlife conflicts on their property. If appropriate, refer them to the Boulder County Cooperative Extension Service.

Open Space Ranking Criteria

The following criteria were used to evaluate potential open space areas in 2012 for the Lafayette Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan.

Resource-Based Criteria

Vegetation

The health and diversity of native vegetation communities are the foundation for many other open space values, including wildlife habitat, aesthetics, and the conservation of sensitive plant communities.

- Extent, condition, structure, and diversity of native vegetation communities.
- Extent of noxious weed infestations.
- Rare or sensitive plant communities.
- High score example Diverse, multi-tiered riparian complex and adjacent upland (area C) received a high score.
- Low score example The degraded, weedy, and developed pasture (area F) received a low score.
- Multiplier = 2

Wetland or Riparian

While wetland and riparian habitat areas comprise a small proportion of the land base, they are critical to the survival of many wildlife species. Wetlands and riparian areas are also critical in preserving water quality and other open space values.

- Relative abundance of wetland or riparian areas.
- Species and structural diversity.
- Overall condition and health of wetland or riparian areas.
- High score example Area P contains a large, contiguous wetland complex and received a high score.
- Low score example Area H contains limited riparian or wetland habitat and received a low score.
- Multiplier = 3

Wildlife Habitat/Corridor

Many wildlife species depend on a diverse, interconnected network of habitat that provides sufficient shelter, food, and protection. Some species have very specific habitat needs, such as large trees for some raptor species.

- Quality, diversity, and continuity of habitat.
- Protection from real or perceived threats.
- Proximity to food sources.
- Connections to other habitat areas.
- High score example Area C contains diverse and robust wildlife habitat and is contiguous to other habitat areas, giving it a high score.
- Low score example Area N contains agricultural land and minimal wildlife habitat and was given a low score.
- Multiplier = 3

Connectivity/Continuity

Higher priority open space areas are often those that contribute to an overall open space "network." Preserving the continuity of open space lands enhances their value for other resources, such as recreation, visual aesthetics, wildlife habitat, and community buffers.

- Adjacency to existing open space areas.
- Missing links between open space areas.
- High score example Area F is contiguous to other open space areas, and was given a high score.
- Low score example Area H is isolated from the rest of the system and was given a low score.
- Multiplier = 3

Community Buffer

As Front Range communities continue to grow, it is increasingly important to preserve the areas that lie between them to provide a discernible break between communities and to preserve and enhance a "sense of place" within each community.

- Open lands adjacent to the City's development limit.
- Provides a buffer between existing neighborhoods and other land uses.
- Provides a visible buffer between Lafayette and adjacent cities.
- High score example Area L provides a distinct buffer between Lafayette and Erie and was given a high score.
- Low score example Area F does not provide a community buffer and was given a low score.
- Multiplier = 3

Visual Quality

Many areas in and around Lafayette provide striking views of the Flatirons and Front Range Mountains as well as views of the Coal Creek basin. Other areas are also aesthetically pleasant to look upon. Open space lands can both protect and contribute to the quality of views and aesthetics in and around Lafayette.

- Open views of mountains, agricultural land, or riparian corridors (outward).
- Pleasurable or interesting natural aesthetic within the area (inward).
- High score example Area C is an attractive and interesting area that preserves striking views between Highway 287 and the Flatirons and was given a high score.
- Low score example No potential open space areas were found to have low visual quality.
- Multiplier = 2

Agricultural Value

Working farmlands in and around Lafayette are an important component of the City's history and identity and are also important in maintaining long-term stewardship of the land. Conservation of agricultural lands as open space is one way to preserve the productivity and character of working farmlands.

- Size and location of agricultural fields.
- Proximity to or isolation from other farming operations.
- Proximity to or protection from conflicting land uses.
- Feasibility of long-term stewardship.
- High score example Area E includes a large expanse of contiguous working lands that are in production and was given a high score.
- Low score example Area B is not suitable for agriculture and was given a low score.
- Multiplier = 1

Historical Value

There are several areas within the City that provide physical reminders of its history. These reminders can be historic structures, or perhaps a long-abandoned tailings pile at the site of a historic coal mine. Incorporating these areas into open space provides an opportunity to preserve and interpret Lafayette's historical landscape.

- Historical structures or documented historic sites.
- Sites that represent a historical figure or period.
- Railroad grades, tailings piles, and other physical evidence of the past.
- High score example Area D contains remnants of former coal mines and was given a high score.
- Low score example Area R had no evidence of historical significance and was given a low score.
- Multiplier = 1

Topographic/Geologic Significance

The natural landforms of Lafayette give it a particular character and significance for the people who call it home. These landforms can be regionally significant or may be landmarks for individuals.

- Predominant ridgelines or hilltops.
- Significant drainage basins, stream corridors, and drainage ways.
- Unique topographic features.
- High score example Area C contains sloping hillsides and the Coal Creek corridor and was given a high score.
- Low score example Area J is relatively uniform with the surrounding area and was given a low score.
- Multiplier = 1

Recreation or Trail Potential

One of the primary benefits of open space is its recreational value to the community. Recreational use of open space provides opportunities for residents to relax, learn, exercise, and contemplate in a natural setting. Open space areas also present opportunities for key trail connections or new trail experiences.

- Potential for trail connections or new trails.
- Proximity to existing facilities.
- Feasibility of recreational use.
- High score example Area F could support trail connections and integration with adjacent open space uses, and was given a high score.
- Low score Area D is not appropriate for recreational use and was given a low score.
- Multiplier = 2

Site Condition

Ecological restoration and enhancement includes activities such as reestablishing native grasslands or reconstructing stream channels. Developed or damaged sites may require significant rehabilitation to establish natural vegetation. While these practices may be an important component of open space management, it can be costly and is sometimes difficult to see the expected results. In general, it is preferable to emphasize conservation of existing, high-quality areas over areas that will require significant restoration or rehabilitation. Therefore, it is important to consider the existing condition of potential open space areas and the need for ecological restoration or rehabilitation.

- Level of existing disturbance.
- Structure and condition of habitat.
- Presence or condition of native plant communities.
- Areas ranked high (3) have little or no need for restoration, while areas ranked low (1) may require restoration to improve ecological and aesthetic values.
- High score example Area P has little need for any ecological restoration and received a high score.
- Low score example Area F is highly disturbed and would be very difficult to restore to native habitat, so it received a low score.
- Multiplier = 1

Education Potential

Open space areas provide an opportunity for children and adults to learn more about the natural world and their community's role within it. This can be in the form of both structured and unstructured education programs.

- Proximity to schools, neighborhoods, senior centers, or public amenities.
- Accessible features that can provide educational value.
- Separation from other open space uses.
- High score example Area O offers accessible nature observation/interpretation opportunities adjacent to neighborhoods and was given a high score.
- Low score Area H does not have any apparent education potential and was given a low score.
- Multiplier = 2

Land Use Context Criteria

Relative Size

In general, larger open space acquisitions are more effective and efficient than multiple smaller acquisitions. This criteria, however, is given a low multiplier because in some cases a relatively small area can possess important resources for conservation.

- Size relative to other open space areas.
- High score example Area M is a very large and contiguous area and was given a high score.
- Low score example Area F is relatively small and was given a low score.
- Multiplier = 1

Floodplain

The 100-year floodplain is defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to guide where development should or should not occur. Lafayette has existing policies regulating development within the 100-year floodplain, primarily to prevent the loss of life and/or property in the event of a flood. Incidentally, the 100-year floodplain also contains much of the critical riparian habitat along Coal Creek and Rock Creek.

- Ranked by a relative portion of the area that is within the 100-year floodplain.
- Areas within the floodplain are scored lower, since the potential for development may be reduced.
- High score example Area I is located entirely outside of the floodplain, therefore it was given a high score.
- Low score example Area A is located in the Coal Creek floodplain, therefore it was given a low score.
- Multiplier = 1

Regional Plan Compatibility

Open space conservation priorities are stronger when they are compatible with regional and neighboring plans and agreements. This may include open space priorities from other jurisdictions, regional trail corridors, or regional Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) to help steer long-term growth and development. From an open space conservation perspective areas that are also conservation priorities for other entities, or are subject to existing IGAs would be given a higher priority.

- Areas with no compatibility with other plans or IGAs were given a low score.
- Areas that are included in IGAs and/or other conservation or trail plans were given a high score.
- High score example Area L is covered by an IGA, so it was given a high score.
- Low score Area J is not included in an IGA or regional plan, so it was given a low score.
- Multiplier = 1

Comprehensive Plan

The 2003 City of Lafayette Comprehensive Plan identified several areas for potential open space acquisition. Areas that conform to the Comprehensive Plan's recommendations were given a higher score.

- Areas were ranked high (3), medium (2), or low (1) based on the amount of the area (if any) that conforms to the Comprehensive Plan recommendations.
- High score example Area F is identified in the Comprehensive Plan, so it was given a high score.
- Low score example Area R is not recommended for open space in the Comprehensive Plan, so it was given a low score.
- Multiplier = 2

Compatibility with Neighbors

The acquisition of additional open space parcels should consider the overall context of the community and surrounding land uses, so that the stewardship of the open space area is not impaired by physical or ecological encroachments. Likewise, an open space area may complement adjacent land uses.

- Adjacency to other public spaces (such as parks, schools, or other open space)
- Adjacency to intensive land uses such as industrial areas
- Potential for encroachment of weeds or debris
- High score example Area C is adjacent to other open space areas, so it received a high score.
- Low score example Area I is dominated by low-density residences and agricultural fields, so it received a low score.
- Multiplier = 2

City Limits

While the City is not restricted from pursuing open space outside of its City Limits, it is an important factor in determining the process to be followed and the partnerships to pursue in acquiring open space.

- Areas within the Lafayette city limits were given a high score
- Areas within the planning areas boundary (per the Comprehensive Plan) were given a moderate score
- Areas outside of these boundaries were given a low score
- High score example Area C is entirely within the city limits and was given a high score.
- Low score example Area H is outside of the city limits and planning area and was given a low score.
- Multiplier =1

Potential Open Space Analysis - 2013

Lafayette Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan

Laidyette Paiks,	Vegetation	Wetland or Riparian	Wildlife Habitat/Co.	Connectivity/Conting	Community Buffer	Visual Quality	Agricultural Value		Topographic/Geologi	Recreation or Trail	tion.	Education Potential	RESOURCE SCORE		Floodplain	Regional Plan		Compatibility with	City Limits/Planning	LAND USE SCORE	TOTAL SCORE	Rank
multiplier*	2	3	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	2	1	2		1	1	1	2	2	1			
Aroa																						
Area	-	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	40	2	1	0	2	2	2	17	CC	-
A	2	1	1	3	3	3	3	2	1	2	3	1	49	2	1	0	3	3	2	17	66	6
В	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	3	1	3	1	61	3	2	1	3	3	3	21	82	1
С	2	1	2	3	3	2	3	3	1	1	2	1	48	3	2	3	1	3	2	18	66	7
D	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	3	1	55	3	2	3	1	3	2	18	73	3
E	0	0	1	3	1	2	2	1	0	3	1	3	35	1	3	0	3	3	2	18	53	10
F	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	3	2	1	43	1	3	0	0	2	3	11	54	9
G	2	1	2	2	1	3	1	1	2	3	2	0	40	2	3	0	0	1	2	9	49	
н	1	0	1	1	2	2	3	0	0	2	2	0	27	2	3	0	0	1	1	8	35	
1	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	2	3	0	34	2	3	0	0	2	2	11	45	
J	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	3	2	2	64	3	3	3	0	2	2	15	79	2
К	2	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	1	3	2	3	50	2	3	0	3	2	2	17	67	5
L	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	1	2	1	3	2	55	3	1	1	3	2	2	17	72	4
M	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	36	2	3	0	1	2	2	13	49	
N	2	1	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	3	2	1	48	2	1	0	0	3	3	12	60	8

Ranking system:

Absent: 0
Low: 1
Moderate: 2
High: 3

