Hand out from Kurt Huffman regarding signs on District property
Priority Based Budgeting
Centennial Water and Sanitation District Water Efficiency Plan
Centennial Trail Crossing on the Highline Canal
Prairie Dog Management & Formal Proposal from homeowners in the Wildcat Ridge neighborhood
Monument Wall Locations
LED light memo with Q&A
June 22, 2016 Addendum No. 1

Hand out from Kurt Huffman regarding signs on District property
Campaign signs may be displayed 24 hours per day beginning 90 days before the election. All signs must be removed within two weeks after the election. There is no limit to the number of signs per candidate or ballot issue. All signs must be placed on private property. In commercial areas, the maximum size of a sign is sixty-four (64) square feet if single-sided (thirty-two (32) square feet per side if double-sided) with a maximum height of fifteen (15) feet, and the sign must be set back a minimum of five (5) feet from the property line. In residential areas, the maximum size of a sign is six (6) square feet if single-sided (three (3) square feet per side if double-sided) and the sign must be set back a minimum of five (5) feet from the property line. Lawn signs are allowed.
2901  Intent

To promote the public health, safety and general welfare through reasonable, consistent, and non-discriminatory regulations for the installation and maintenance of signs. This Section is intended to preserve free speech, expression, and content neutrality while balancing the need to regulate the secondary effects of signs, particularly those that may adversely impact scenic views; safety for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians; and the interests of the public. These regulations are intended to ensure that signs are not overwhelming; and are not a distraction or impediment due to brightness, movement, size, or height; and do not create a hazard.

The County recognizes that signs are a necessary means of visual communication for public convenience and way-finding; and businesses, services, and other activities have the right to identify themselves by using signs that are accessory and incidental to the uses on the premises where the signs are located.

This Section is not intended to regulate government signs.

The County has the authority to regulate signs under the United States Constitution, the State Constitution, and the Statutes of the State of Colorado.

To the extent any provision of the sign standards can be read in a manner that makes such provision legally invalid, such interpretation is unintended and the provision shall be interpreted only in a manner that is legally compliant. If any provision is or becomes legally unenforceable, then such provision shall be deemed stricken and all remaining provisions shall be enforced as if the offensive provision did not exist.

2902  General Requirements

2902.01 All signs located in the unincorporated portion of Douglas County, except those required by this Resolution for the posting of a public notice, shall be required to comply with all applicable requirements for zoning districts in which the sign permit is issued, unless otherwise provided for in this Section.

2902.02 Signs permitted within a PD - Planned Development District shall be governed by this Section and determined by the zone district to which a planning area and the uses established therein most closely conform, except when a separate development guide has been adopted by the Board that incorporates separate guidelines for signage.

2902.03 Signs otherwise in compliance with this Section may be erected in a public right-of-way only with approval from the public agency that has control over the right-of-way, and shall be exempt from sign permit requirements. Regulation of any sign in the public right-of-way is the responsibility of the public agency that has control over the right-of-way.
HIGHLANDS RANCH PLANNED DEVELOPMENT GUIDE SUMMARY

Combined Version of Amendments 1 - 73

As of October 2015
SECTION XV - SIGNS

A. Purpose of Application. The purpose of this Section is to establish standards for the erection and use of signs within Highlands Ranch.

The following standards, including locational limitations, shall apply to all signs within Highlands Ranch. Such signs shall also be subject to the State Roadside Advertising Regulations and the standards adopted by Douglas County with respect to structural safety, materials and design.

B. General Standards. The following standards shall apply to signs in all Planning Areas. Some additional sign regulations exist for Planning Area 71 as noted in Section VII-A.

1. No sign exceeding 6 square feet in surface area shall be erected, constructed, or placed on any building, structure or lot unless a permit therefore has been issued. No such permit shall be issued unless the proposed sign complies with the standards of this Section and such further standards as may be adopted by the Board after recommendation by the Planning Commission with respect to structural safety, materials and design. The sign permit fee shall be established by the Board.

2. All signs erected in any public right-of-way by a public agency authorized to control traffic shall be exempt from the provisions of this section.

3. a. Signs located at arterial highway intersections and entries identifying Highlands Ranch and its population which are integral parts of an entry treatment utilizing landscaping, masonry, or other materials to define and provide an aesthetically pleasing entry are permitted, provided that no such entry treatment shall hinder motorist visibility. The total surface area of all signs at such entry shall not exceed 200 square feet, the surface area of any one such sign shall not exceed 100 square feet, and no such sign shall project higher than 20 feet above ground.

b. One double-faced or two single-faced signs identifying Highlands Ranch are permitted along and visible from C-470 between each interchange, provided no such sign shall exceed 150 square feet per sign face nor project higher than 15 feet above ground.

4. The following directional signs for the aid of those traveling within Highlands Ranch are permitted:

a. Temporary signs directing the public to various model complexes, sales offices, leasing offices, and community facilities are permitted for up to five years, provided such signs do not exceed 150 square feet in surface area per sign face nor project higher than 15 feet above ground level.

b. Permanent signs directing the public to emergency and community facilities and residential and nonresidential sales offices, using words or maps, provided such signs do not exceed 100 square feet in surface area each nor project higher than 10 feet at ground level.
5. Signs informing of special community events are permitted in each Planning Area, provided such signs are erected or displayed no earlier than 2 weeks preceding the event and are removed no later than 2 days subsequent to the event.

6. Temporary signs informing prospective community residents of land uses being constructed or to be constructed in the future; or identifying project name, owner, architect, engineer, construction company, etc. are permitted for up to 5 years after erection, provided that no such sign shall exceed 100 square feet in surface area nor shall project 10 feet above ground, and all such signs shall be uniform in color, size and materials throughout Highlands Ranch and consistent with its architectural theme.

7. Two temporary signs, lighted or unlighted, accessory to each model, complex, sales office, leasing office and model dwelling unit from which only new homes, residential lots and new nonresidential properties are sold or leased, are permitted while such office is being used for purposes, provided such signs shall not exceed 35 square feet each in surface area, and shall indicate only the name of the project or projects available for sale or lease.

8. The following signs are prohibited in Highlands Ranch:
   a. Any portable sign located on one or more wheels.
   b. Any revolving beacon, fountain, flashing, and rotating sign, and any other sign with any type of movement or intermittent lighting effect.
   c. Any flag, banner, or other device designed to wave, flap, rotate, or otherwise move with the wind, excluding therefrom any flag or emblem of any government or governmental agency or of any civil, charitable, religious, or fraternal organization.
   d. Any sign for the purposes of advertising of products or services available elsewhere than on the lot or project where such sign is situated.
   e. Any sign attached to a building which:
      1) Projects perpendicular to the building, except as provided in Section XV.D.2., below.
      2) Is parallel with a wall of the building but projects more than 18 inches from the wall.
      3) Extends above the roof line or above the top of the parapet of the front wall, whichever is higher.
   
   f. Any sign which hinders the visibility of traffic control devises or directional signs.
   g. Any sign painted upon the exterior of a building.

9. The surface area of any sign shall be calculated in accordance with the following standards.
   a. The structure and bracing of a sign shall be omitted from the calculation unless such structure or bracing is made part of the message or face of the sign.
b. The surface area of any sign which has two or more display faces shall include the area all faces.

c. The surface area of any sign with a backing or background that is part of the overall sign display shall be calculated by determining the sum of the areas of each square, rectangle triangle, circle, and portion of a circle, or any combination thereof, which creates the smallest single continuous perimeter enclosing the outer limits of the display surface or face of the sign, including all nonstructural frames, backing faceplates, trim and other component parts not used solely for structural safety.

d. The surface area of any sign with a backing or background that is part of the overall sign display shall be calculated by determining the sum of the areas of each square, rectangle triangle, circle, and portion of a circle, or any combination thereof, which creates the smallest single continuous perimeter enclosing the outer limits of each word, figure, picture or other representation, including all nonstructural frames, faceplates, trim and other component parts not used solely for structural safety.

e. The surface area of any sign having parts both with and without backing or background shall be calculated by determining the sum total of the areas of each square, rectangle, triangle, circle and portion of a circle, or any combination thereof, which creates the smallest single continuous perimeter enclosing the outer limits of, (1) the display surface or face of the sign, including all nonstructural frames, backing or background, and (2) each word, figure, picture or other representation, including all nonstructural frames, faceplates, trim and other component parts not used solely for structural safety, for parts thereof having no backing or background.

10. Signs and sign structures shall be maintained at all times in a state of reasonably good repair, with all braces, bolts, clips, supporting frame and fastenings reasonably free from deterioration, insect infestation, rot, rust or loosening. Signs shall be able to withstand anticipated wind pressures for the area in which they are located. The County Building Inspector shall have the authority to order the repair, alteration, or removal of a sign or sign structure which constitutes a hazard to life or property, and in the event that such a sign has not been repaired, altered or removed to remedy such a hazard within 30 days after written notification from such Inspector, the County shall have the authority to so repair, alter or remove such sign or sign structure at the expense of the owner of the lot upon which such sign is located.

11. Signage shall not be required to meet the minimum setback requirements of the zone district in which it is located, but shall not impair visibility for traffic movement. Signage along County Line Road and U.S. 85 shall have a minimum setback of 30 feet measured from County Line Road and U.S. 85 right-of-way line.

C. Residential Signs. In all Residential Planning areas, the following signs are permitted subject to the following standards:

1. One sign identifying each dwelling unit is permitted, provided the surface area of such sign does not exceed 3 square feet.
2. One FOR SALE or FOR RENT sign is permitted for each dwelling unit, provided such sign is unlighted and the surface area does not exceed 6 square feet.

3. One sign identifying each public or quasi-public use is permitted per project entry, provided the surface area of such sign or signs does not exceed 36 square feet per sign face.

4. Two signs or one double-faced sign identifying each residential project is permitted per project entry, provided the surface area of such sign or signs does not exceed 36 square feet per sign face.

5. Temporary signs advertising the sale or rental of land or dwelling units under construction or to be constructed are permitted for up to five years, provided that not more than 2 such signs are located adjacent to each street abutting the subdivision, each sign is unlighted, the surface area of each such sign does not exceed 100 square feet per sign face, and each sign does not exceed 12 feet in height.

6. One sign identifying each home occupation is permitted, provided such sign shall be unlighted, shall be affixed to the front wall or placed in a front window of the principal building, and does not exceed 3 square feet in surface area.

D. Nonresidential Area Signs. In Nonresidential Areas, the following signs are permitted subject to the following standards:

1. For each principal use, one free-standing sign that does not project higher than 15 feet above the ground and one wall-mounted sign attached parallel to and within 18 inches of the wall of the principal building is permitted for each building face. No such sign shall exceed 200 square feet in surface area.

2. One additional sign identifying each principal use is permitted provided such sign shall be unlighted; shall be affixed to the front wall or door, suspended from and overhang, or placed in a front window of the principal building; and does not exceed 6 square feet in area.

3. For each business, a maximum of 3 window signs if the building face at the main entrance of the business is equal to or less than 50 lineal feet in length, a maximum of 6 window signs if the building face at the main entrance of the business is greater than 50 lineal feet and equal to or less than 300 lineal feet in length, or 6 window signs plus one additional window sign per additional 50 lineal feet in excess of 300 lineal feet of building face at the main entrance of the business. Each window sign shall not exceed 6 square feet in area. For the purposes of this subsection any nonresidential building, or individual unit within a nonresidential building, shall be considered a business.

4. Within a Community Activity Center or Corridor Activity Center, 4 double-faced or single-faced signs identifying the Center, lighted or unlighted, are permitted provided such signs shall be low-silhouette signs, shall not project higher than 10 feet above ground, and shall not exceed 150 square feet in surface area per display face.
5. Within each Civic Center, Town Center and Industrial Park Planning Area, 4 double-faced or single-face signs identifying the Civic Center, Town Center or Industrial Park, lighted or unlighted, are permitted provided such signs shall be low-silhouette signs, shall not project higher than 10 feet above ground, and shall not exceed 150 square feet each in surface area per display face.

6. Within each Shop-N-Ride, 1 double-faced or single-faced sign identifying the Shop-N-Ride, lighted or unlighted, is permitted provided such sign shall be a low-silhouette sign, shall not project higher than 10 feet above ground, and shall not exceed 100 square feet of surface area per display face.

7. Temporary signs advertising the sale or rental of land, dwelling units, or nonresidential space are permitted, provided that not more than 2 such signs are located adjacent to each street abutting the project, each sign is unlighted, the surface area of each sign does not exceed 100 square feet per sign face, and each sign does not exceed 12 feet in height.

8. Within a nonresidential project containing from two to ten buildings, or lots, one sign identifying the buildings, lots and building tenants within the complex is permitted per entry provided such sign shall not exceed 100 square feet an such sign shall not project higher than 10 feet above ground. For nonresidential projects containing more than 10 buildings or lots, such sign shall not exceed 200 square feet and such sign shall not project higher than 10 feet above the ground.

E. **Automobile Service Station Signs**. Auto mobile service station signs are permitted subject to the following standards:

1. One identification sign, lighted or unlighted, is permitted for each automobile service station street frontage, provided such sign shall not project higher than 10 feet above ground, and shall not exceed 50 square feet in surface area.

2. Other signs or displays may be permitted with a total aggregate sign area not to exceed 200 square feet.
These residential guidelines have been prepared by the Architectural Committee and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Highlands Ranch Community Association. The Architectural Committee reserves the right to add to or modify these guidelines at its discretion. Please check with the Architectural Committee to be certain that you have the latest edition.
B. Materials: Slats should be no larger than 40mm, 2" aluminum (PVC is not allowed). Housing units should be no larger than 10" square and mounted in the soffit whenever possible.

C. Colors must match the existing house. Housing units on stucco or brick veneer must match exterior finish color. Samples of curtain color shall be submitted for Architectural Committee approval.

D. Housing, track (or cable) and mechanism must be concealed behind trim to blend with the home. Window, trim style and shape must be maintained. Details must be submitted with the application.

E. Homeowners wishing to install shutters on any primary or secondary egress window or door that is required for egress shall check with authorities for compliance with all applicable building and fire codes.

2.71 Siding. If you wish to replace the current siding with the same material and color, Architectural Committee approval is not required. If you plan to change the color or material, Architectural Committee approval is required. Submittal should include a sample of material and color. Architectural Committee consideration will be given to consistency in each neighborhood and the style of the home. Garage door may be required to be painted to match new siding in color.

2.72 Signs and/or Advertising Devices.

A. For Sale or Lease: One (1) temporary sign advertising the property for sale or lease, which is ground mounted, no more than four (4) feet high, and no more than two (2) feet by three (3) feet in dimension, and which is conservative in color and style, may be installed on the property without Architectural Committee approval. No handwritten signs are allowed. Signs shall not be illuminated and shall not be attached to any structure. (i.e., deck, fencing, etc.). See Section 9.9 of the Community Declaration, Restrictions on Signs and Advertising Devices.

B. Temporary Trade Signs: A temporary trade sign pertaining to, but not limited to, contractors, landscapers, painters and roofers, may only be displayed while work is in progress, or not to exceed thirty (30) days, whichever is less. This signage must meet the specifications set forth in paragraph 2.72 (A) above.

C. Political Signs: Political signs may be displayed on a homeowner's property or in a window no earlier than 45 days before and no later than seven days after an election day. The maximum size of political signs is 36 inches by 48 inches. Signs may be displayed in the front or side yard or in a window, which is visible from the street. The number of signs is limited to one sign per political office or ballot issue that is contested in the pending election.

D. "No Trespassing" signs: Are allowed if posted on a fence or on a gate and are no larger than 4" high by 8" long. No more than 2 per yard.

E. Beware of Dog/Dog Warning Signs: Are allowed if posted on a fence or gate and are no larger than 4" high by 8" long. No more than 2 per yard.

F. Security Notification Signs: Are allowed if placed in the front of the residence. No more than 2 per yard.

No other signage shall be permitted without Committee approval.

2.73 Skylights. Committee approval is not required if each unit is three (3) feet by five (5) feet or smaller, and if there will be three (3) or less per single roof slope.
Temporary Sign Rules

The Metro District is responsible for maintaining attractive, uniform landscapes throughout Highlands Ranch. Temporary sign placement guidelines help preserve the quality of these landscapes, and assure that signs do not become a nuisance or a dangerous distraction along roads and at intersections.

The goal is to reduce sign clutter on arterial landscapes while allowing residents the opportunity to advertise private and community events through the use of temporary signs. These rules apply to all properties managed by Highlands Ranch Metro District and the adjacent road rights-of-way. Temporary signs are any and all signs that are not permanently installed.

These Rules are in addition to sign rules contained in the Highlands Ranch Development Guide and the Douglas County Sign Code.

Temporary Sign Categories:

1. **Non Commercial** – Temporary signs for community/private citizen events are permitted so long as they comply with these Rules.

2. **Commercial Temporary Signs** - Advertising the sales of goods and services by businesses, are prohibited on property managed by the District and adjacent rights-of-way.

Placement of ALL temporary signs must comply with the following Rules:

1. All temporary signs may be placed on landscaped areas or near sidewalks as long as they are not compromising the safety of pedestrians or motorists. Temporary signs of any kind are prohibited on medians.

2. Temporary signs cannot be placed within 150 feet of road intersections of four lanes to four lanes, and four lanes to six lanes.

3. All temporary signs must be free standing. Signs cannot be staked into the ground or attached to trees, light poles, traffic signals and signs, utility boxes, fences or other fixed objects.

4. Any sign which compromises public safety, is damaging or has the potential to damage public property is not permitted.

5. Temporary signs shall be maintained in a state of good repair, and free from deterioration at all times. Any sign that is damaged, tattered, faded, or worn may be removed by the District.
6. Temporary signs in parks and open space are prohibited except for signs that are associated with a permitted event and are approved as part of the event permitting process. Examples of temporary signs that are associated with a permitted park event could include; event schedule, directional signs, sponsors signs, parking signs etc.

Duration of Placement:

1. For one day events, temporary signs may be placed the day before the event and must be removed the day after the event before sunset.

2. For multi-day events, temporary signs may be placed the day before the start of the event and must be removed the day after the event before sunset. In no case may any temporary signs be placed for more than five (5) total days for the same event regardless of the length of the event.

3. For the purposes of these rules, elections are considered multi-day events that begin on the day that ballots are mailed and end on the day of the election.

Sizes of Signs are Limited to the Following:

A maximum of 2 feet by 3 feet.

Enforcement of Sign Rules

The District may remove and dispose of any signs that violate these Rules. Any person or group that violates these Rules may be prohibited from placing signs on District property and/or from using the Community Sign board in the future.

All Highlands Ranch Metro District Rules are enforceable as authorized in Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) 18-9-117.
C.R.S. 1-13-113

COLORADO REVISED STATUTES

*** This document reflects changes current through all laws passed at the First Regular Session of the Sixty-Ninth General Assembly of the State of Colorado (2013) ***

TITLE 1. ELECTIONS
GENERAL, PRIMARY, AND CONGRESSIONAL VACANCY ELECTIONS
ARTICLE 13. ELECTION OFFENSES
PART 1. OFFENSES - GENERAL PROVISIONS

C.R.S. 1-13-113 (2013)

1-13-113. Interference with distribution of election material

During the period beginning forty-five days before and ending four days after any election, any person who prevents, hinders, or interferes with the lawful distribution of any card, pamphlet, circular, poster, handbill, yard sign, or other written material relating to any candidate for election for any office or relating to any issue that is to be submitted to the electors in any election, or any person who removes, defaces, or destroys any lawfully placed billboard, sign, or written material from any premises to which it was delivered, commits a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than seven hundred fifty dollars. Any person found guilty of removing, defacing, or destroying any billboard, sign, or written material shall pay the cost of replacement. The owner of the premises, an authorized agent of the owner, or any person charged with enforcement of any state law, ordinance, or regulation may remove any billboard, sign, or written material without penalty when placed without permission or authorization of the owner of such premises, or in violation of state law or county or municipal ordinance or regulation, or which is in place at any time other than during the period beginning forty-five days before and ending four days after any election.
Priority Based Budgeting
an introduction and overview for
Highlands Ranch, Colorado

May 31st 2016
Who is Looking through the “New Lens” - Nationally
Fiscal Health: Precursor to Priority Based Budgeting

- Incorporate Economic Analysis and Long-Term Planning into Decision Making
- "Spend Within Our Means"
- Establish and Maintain Reserves
- Transparent About the “True Cost of Doing Business”
- Understand Variances (Budget vs. Actual)
Let’s Look through a Different Lens!
Start with “Why”

What
Every organization on the planet knows WHAT they do. These are Products they sell or the services they offer.

How
Some Organizations know HOW they do it. These are things that make them special or set them apart from their competition.

Why
Very few Organizations know WHY they do what they do. WHY is not about making money. That’s a result. It’s a purpose, cause or belief. It’s the very reason your organization exists.
STEPS to SUCCESS – Priority Based Budgeting

1. Determine Results
   • “What are we in business to do?”

2. Clarify Result Definitions
   • “What do those Results mean to us?”

3. Identify Programs and Services
   • “What exactly do we do & what does it cost”?

4. Value Programs Based on Results
   • “What is of the highest importance?”

5. Allocate Resources Based on Priorities
   • “What can we “see” differently?”
Determine Results
City of Grand Island, Nebraska

Community Results
- Used to Differentiate Programs Offered to the Community
- Not All Programs Achieve these Results
- Programs that Achieve Many Results, with a High Degree of Influence, Achieve Highly in Prioritization (demonstrate high degree of relevance)

Governance Results
- Used to Differentiate Programs Designed to Support Governance
Step 2: Clarify Result Definitions

Result Maps

City of Boulder, CO

Results

- Accessible & Connected Community
- Economically Vital Community
- Healthy Environment & Community
- Inclusive & Socially Thriving Community
- Safe Community
City of Chandler, Arizona

SAFE COMMUNITY

Protects the Community by justly enforcing the law, promptly responding to calls for service and being prepared for all emergency situations

Ensures regulatory compliance in order to protect property, the environment and the lives of its residents and visitors

Provides safe traffic flow, safe roads and a well-maintained transportation system

Fosters a feeling of personal safety through a visible and approachable presence that ensures proactive prevention and responds to community concerns

Offers a variety of safe activities and safety education to engage with youth and families

Ensures regulatory compliance in order to protect property, the environment and the lives of its residents and visitors
**Town of Christiansburg, Virginia**

**GOOD GOVERNANCE**
(Sound Financial Entity)

- Provides assurance of regulatory and policy compliance to minimize and mitigate risk
- Protects and prudently manages its financial, human, physical and technology resources
- Enables and enhances transparency, accountability, integrity, efficiency and innovation in all operations
- Responsive, accessible and courteous to its customers
- Attracts, motivates and develops a high-quality workforce, dedicated to public service
- Supports decision-making with timely and accurate short-term and long-range analysis

**Supports decision-making with timely and accurate short-term and long-range analysis**
Step 3: Identify “Programs” within Departments/Divisions

- Departments develop their own “program” inventories
- Comprehensive list of “what we do”
- Comparing relative value of programs, not relative value of departments

**Goldilocks & the Three Bears: Not too big, not too small, just right!**
- TOO BIG = Departments/Divisions
- TOO SMALL = Tasks
- JUST RIGHT = Measure relative size based on costs/people associated with program to more discretely demonstrate how resources are used

### CITY OF BOULDER, COLORADO
Department Program Inventory
Monday, July 26, 2010

**Directions:** For all of the programs and services in your department, identify the program name. When completed, please e-mail the Program Inventory back to Jim Reasor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund No.</th>
<th>Department Providing Program</th>
<th>Program Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>010</td>
<td>Community Planning &amp; Sustainability</td>
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<td>Business Partnerships and Sponsorships</td>
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<td>Climate Adaptation Planning</td>
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City of Boulder, Colorado
Step 4: Score Programs against Results & Attributes

**City of Boulder’s Results**
- Accessible & Connected Community
- Economically Vital Community
- Healthy Environment & Community
- Inclusive & Socially Thriving Community
- Safe Community

**Basic Program Attributes**
- Mandated to Provide the Program
- Reliance on the City to Provide the Program
- Cost Recovery of the Program
- Change in Demand for the Program
- Portion of the Community Served by the Program
- *And/or any other criteria that is relevant to your community*
Identify “Value” of Program Based on their Influence on Results

### Individual Department Program Scorecard

**Thursday, January 28, 2010**

**Directions:** For all the programs in your department, please rate how these programs score in the four Basic Attributes and they influence the City’s ability to achieve its Priority Results. When completed, please email the Program Scorecard back to maria.dabe@sanjose.ca.gov

### Basic Program Attributes

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Enter Score Below</th>
<th>Enter Score Below</th>
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<tr>
<td>Office of Economic Development</td>
<td>Cultural Planning, Policy and Initiatives/Arts</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of Economic Development</td>
<td>Public Art Project Management</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Economic Development</td>
<td>Public Art Master Plan Implementation and Management</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Evaluation Criteria

- **Mandated to Provide Program**
  - 0-4 Scale
    - (4-State/Federal Mandate; 2-Charter; 1-Ordinance/Resolution; 0-No Mandate)
- **Cost Recovery of Program**
  - 0-4 Scale
    - 0: Demand increasingly; 1: Demand not increasing; 2: Demand not decreasing; 3: Demand not significantly decreasing; 4: Demand significantly decreasing
- **Change in Demand for Service**
  - 0-4 Scale
    - (4-Only City can provide service; 3-Only public entities can provide service; 2-Other entities can provide service; 0-No service)
- **Reliance on City to Provide Service**
  - Safe City
  - Prosperous Economy
  - Green, Sustainable City
  - Attractive, Vibrant Community
  - Reliable, Well-Maintained Infrastructure

**On a scale of 0 to 4 points, 0 = program has no influence on achieving the Result; 1 = program has some influence, though minimal; 2 = program influences the Result; 3 = program has a strong influence on the Result; 4 = program is essential to achieving the Result**
Defining Quartile Groupings

Quartile 1: 88 Programs
Quartile 2: 116 Programs
Quartile 3: 110 Programs
Quartile 4: 54 Programs

Key:
Programs are grouped into Quartiles (not ranked, one versus the other). Quartiles are defined using standard deviation.
Thank You!

CENTER FOR PRIORITY BASED BUDGETING
Using a Unique Lens to Focus Community Resources on Results

Chris Fabian, Co-Founder
cfabian@pbbcenter.org
Centennial Water & Sanitation District
Water Efficiency Plan
2016 Update
Water Efficiency Plan Requirements

- Water Conservation Act of 2004
  - Requires water providers to develop, implement and monitor a plan to encourage water efficiency
- Current plan approved in 2009
- Update of plan required every 7 years
  - Due in 2016
Water Efficiency Plan Components

- Profile of Existing Water Supply System
- Past and Future Water Demands
- Water Efficiency Goals
- Evaluation and Selection of Water Conservation Activities
- Implementation and Monitoring Plans
Water Efficiency Goals

- Reduce build-out demand by 700 af/yr
- Implement activities that target high water users
- Implement publicly accepted activities
- Maintain average system loss below 6%
- Implement a cost-effective program that achieves targeted water savings
Evaluation of Water Efficiency Activities

- Four Step Process
  1. Assessment of former and current activities
  2. Identification of potential activities
  3. Qualitative screening of current and potential activities
  4. Quantitative evaluation of activities
Continuing Activities

- Irrigation Audits
- Rain Sensor Rebates
- Garden in a Box
  - Discounted xeriscape gardens
- K-12 Education
  - Water Ambassadors through SMWSA
- Community Education
  - Bill Stuffers, Flyers, Website…
Proposed New Activities

- Focus Group & Customer Survey
  - Identify attitudes, motivations and concerns surrounding water efficiency
  - Use information to target efficiency efforts
  - Provides an opportunity to increase awareness about water efficiency
Proposed New Activities

- Non-Residential Indoor Audits/Surveys
  - Identify potential activities and technologies to reduce water use
  - Target customers who exceed water budget
- Xeriscape Demonstration Gardens
  - Provide example of water efficient landscape materials
  - Partner with local entities
  - Can bolster other programs such as turf replacement
Proposed New Activities

- Landscape and Fixture Specifications with Conservation Tap Fees
  - Specifications for landscape design and installation that promote efficiency
  - Specifications for new construction using water efficient fixtures
  - Provide discounted water acquisition tap fees for participating new and retrofit development
Proposed New Activities

- Landscape Contractor Training and Certification
  - Require persons maintaining non-residential properties to be certified
  - Use existing certification programs
  - Currently working with SMWSA to implement regional program
Proposed New Activities

- High-Efficiency Nozzle Rebates
  - Incentive to replace older standard irrigation nozzles with high-efficiency models
  - Residential and Non-Residential
  - Target high water users and monitor water use results
Proposed New Activities

- Turf Replacement Rebates
  - Target large residential lots who exceed water budget
  - Target areas identified by HRMD for conversion
  - Tied with reduced outdoor water budget to maintain savings
Proposed New Activities

- Non-Residential Smart Controller Rebates
  - Automatically adjust irrigation amounts to match weather
  - Would require participation in training seminar
  - Evaluate change to annual water budget
Next Steps

- 60 Day Public Review Period
  - Plan is available on CWSD website
  - Public comment period at June Board Meeting (June 27)
  - Written comments accepted until July 13
- Adopt and Submit to CWCB
  - Adopt at July board meeting
  - Submit to CWCB for approval
CENTENNIAL TRAIL CROSSING ON THE HIGH LINE CANAL
History

1974 Denver Water culvert constructed

1986 Denver Water license agreement to CDOT to construct and maintain 1.95 miles of the C-470 Centennial Trail on High Line Canal property

1999 Denver Water issues 25 year recreation license agreement to District to maintain the HLC Trail and adjacent trees. This includes the 1.95 miles of the C-470 Centennial Trail

1999 Denver Water, CDOT and District Intergovernmental Agreement
District to maintain CDOT’s Centennial Trail between Quebec Street and Santa Fe Drive. Annual funding from CDOT

2007 CDOT terminates maintenance agreement

2010 CDOT replaces significant sections of the Centennial Trail from I-70 to I-25

Present District continues to maintain High Line Canal Trail including the portion with the Centennial Trail under the Denver Water agreement
Centennial Trail Crossing

- Crossing part of Dad Clark Gulch drainage
- Drainage for 30% of Highlands Ranch
- Flows into McLellan Reservoir
Centennial Trail Crossing

**June 2015**
- Spring storm causes partial collapse of culvert pipe under the trail
- Trail remained intact and open to public
- Denver Water and CDOT notified
- CDOT engineers perform preliminary evaluation

**June 2016**
- Storm event collapses culvert completely and undermines trail
- Denver Water and CDOT notified
- Denver Water, CDOT and HRMD meet to discuss ownership and repairs
- CDOT approved to “fast track” repairs
- Trail users detoured to County Line Road during construction
Construction Timeline

- Crossing design completed – June 16th
- Bid posting – June 17th
- Bid opening – June 22nd
- Construction starts – June 27th
- Construction to be completed – Mid August
CDOT Request

- District to maintain culvert in the future
Centennial Trail Crossing

Questions
&
Comments
Colony maintenance notification (June 16, 2016)

Prairie dog populations in East Big Dry Creek (west) and Northridge currently exceed carrying capacity. After July 15, the Metro District will reduce prairie dog populations in these two colony sites in an effort to:

- minimize health or safety hazards
- manage natural areas for species and ecosystem diversity
- maintain healthy prairie dog colonies
- minimize damage to public and private property
- minimize possibilities for future conflicts between prairie dogs and humans

There are four active prairie dog sites in Metro District owned open space areas. Many of these colonies are adjacent to residential homes, parks, and trails and are considered “fragmented” sites. These fragmented sites:

- Limit expansion opportunities which contribute to overpopulation of prairie dog colonies
- Cause over grazing of short grass prairie
- Create close contact with humans, and damage to private property

The Metro District is committed to manage open space as healthy natural systems by maintaining a rich diversity of native plants and animals. Conservation and management of native wildlife populations through habitat management is crucial to this challenge.

In accordance with the Metro District’s Black-tailed Prairie Dog Conservation Plan, prairie dog populations will be conserved with the following objectives:

- Minimize health or safety hazards
- Manage natural areas for species and ecosystem diversity
- Maintain healthy prairie dog colonies
- Minimize damage to public and private property
- Minimize possibilities for future conflicts between prairie dogs and humans

Process

Open Space staff formally survey and assess prairie dog colonies maintained in Metro District open space areas annually. Each survey includes three separate visual animal counts with binoculars at a non-threatening distance from the colony. The counts are then averaged to determine population densities. Staff also monitor the areas for the presence or absence of burrowing owls in prairie dog colonies.
In addition to counting prairie dogs, open space staff observe the seven criteria as outlined in the Prairie Dog Conservation Plan. Staff assess the general health of the colony, the colony size in acres, destruction of private property, human health and safety hazards, noxious weed invasions, and general vegetative health including types of ground cover, planned development of the site, and passive management objectives. Combinations of these factors are considered when determining the need to remove prairie dogs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colony Site</th>
<th>Colony Acres</th>
<th>Est. Pop/Ac.</th>
<th>Burrows 50' H, 30' T</th>
<th>Bare Ground</th>
<th>Native Grasses</th>
<th>Weeds</th>
<th>Native Forbes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Big Dry (west)</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>20,14</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Big Dry (east)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0,25</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Big Dry (north)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0,0</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dad Clark at Northridge</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0,10</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prairie dog sites**

In August 2010, the Metro District Board of Directors designated the following four sites as suitable habitat for prairie dogs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colony Site</th>
<th>Pop.</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Pop./ac</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E. Big Dry- West</td>
<td>587</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Big Dry- East</td>
<td>356.2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Big Dry- North</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colony Site</th>
<th>Pop.</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Pop./ac</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dad Clark at Northridge</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prairie dog colonies on Metro District owned open space areas are monitored on an ongoing basis and annually surveyed. Burrows, associated burrows and prairie dogs will be removed as outlined in the Black-tailed Prairie Dog Conservation Plan, Section III. Colony sites will be maintained so as to not exceed carrying capacity.

**Contact**
For further information, please contact:
Scott Nelson  
*Open Space and Park Ranger Supervisor*  
720-240-5924

OR

Nick Adamson  
*Natural Resource Manager*  
720-240-5917

*Updated June 2016*
Black-tailed Prairie Dog Conservation Plan

Approved 08/31/2010, Metro District Board of Directors
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Black-tailed Prairie Dog Conservation Plan

Residents of Highlands Ranch—and most Coloradans—love wildlife and enjoy having opportunities to see nature close at hand. Highlands Ranch, with its integral system of natural areas and nearby 8,200-acre Conservation Area, residents are well situated to view wildlife such as songbirds and hawks, deer and elk, rabbits, and several colonies of prairie dogs.

Black-tailed prairie dogs are most commonly found in the upland natural areas of Highlands Ranch. They are a keystone species as their burrows provide homes for many other species of wildlife and they are a food source for many predators.

Having prairie dogs living close to where many people live and work can present challenges—for both animals and people. If residents are going to be able to continue seeing prairie dogs and the other wildlife species that depend on them, and if conflicts with people are to be reduced, then prairie dogs must be carefully managed. This management process hopes to enhance and maintain ecological diversity in natural areas and will help shift the distribution of prairie dogs towns, so that they only remain in suitable areas.

This plan was created as a guide to conserving prairie dogs while maintaining healthy ecosystems that provide for a multitude of wildlife in Highlands Ranch. The plan also details steps that the Highlands Ranch Metro District will take to conserve prairie dogs and work to reduce conflicts with people.

SECTION 1 Prairie Dogs: A key species facing declining numbers

Black-tailed prairie dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) are native to the Great Plains of North America and are considered an important species in the natural short grass prairie ecosystems. They are considered an integral part of the food chain for predators such as coyotes, foxes, raptors, and the endangered black-footed ferret. Prairie dog burrows often provide homes for burrowing owls, cottontail rabbits, rattlesnakes, and tiger salamanders, to name a few.

Over the past several decades, however, the number of prairie dogs has declined as their habitat has been displaced by development and agriculture.

With the development of houses, roads, and parks in Highlands Ranch, natural areas have become fragmented, including those that are home to prairie dogs. Not all of these remnant natural areas are large enough or otherwise suitable for sustaining prairie dogs. This plan outlines steps to reduce human/animal conflicts, while maintaining prairie dogs on suitable sites that sustain species and ecological diversity. Over time colonies on sites that are poorly suited will be shifted to more suitable sites and all colonies will be carefully managed.

Approved 8/31/2010, Metro District Board of Directors
Page 3
The following outlines the differences between prairie dog colonies in urban settings such as Highlands Ranch, and more rural settings with contiguous ecosystems.

**Urban/Suburban Settings, Fragmented Ecosystems**

Prairie dogs live in small, narrow and fragmented habitat blocks, surrounded by development, which often results in:

- Insufficient predators, such as coyotes, hawks, and eagles, to keep in balance expanding numbers of prairie dogs.
- Few nearby areas for expanding populations to colonize, leading to populations exceeding carrying capacity of the land.
- Degradation of natural resources.
- Less contribution to other wildlife from prairie dog burrows.
- Close contact with humans and damage to private and public property often requires management.
- Urban colony sites provide education and viewing opportunities for many species of wildlife.

**Rural Settings, Contiguous Ecosystems**

Prairie dogs live in large, contiguous prairie ecosystems free of most barriers, which may result in:

- Sufficient predators to control prairie dog populations.
- Adequate area for natural dispersal, helping keep carrying capacities in check.
- Increased plant diversity.
- Burrows and natural changes to landscape by prairie dogs having beneficial role in a natural prairie ecosystem.
- Limited contact with humans and minimal destruction of private property, management is dependent on land use designation.
SECTION 2  Open Space Management Goals: Managing healthy naturals systems

The Highlands Ranch open space system integrates natural open space areas, trail corridors and wildlife corridors within the larger community. While providing suitable habitat for many species of wildlife, most of these natural areas also function as part of the urban drainage system, helping to reduce the risk of flooding.

The primary overall goals of the Metro District in managing the open space are:

1. To manage designated open space areas as natural systems, encouraging and enhancing healthy balanced ecosystems.

2. To manage outdoor recreation activities that occurs in open space to ensure that they are safe, enjoyable, and have minimal impact on natural resources.

3. To manage open space as a storm drainage system to prevent erosion, control runoff and enhance riparian/wetland areas.

Detailed information about the Metro District Open Space Vision, Goals and Strategic Actions can be reviewed in Highlands Ranch Outdoors, located on the Metro District’s web site at www.highlandsranch.org.

SECTION 3  Prairie Dog Conservation Guidelines

In accordance with the Metro District Open Space management goals, prairie dog populations will be conserved with the following objectives:

- minimize health or safety hazards
- manage natural areas for species and ecosystem diversity
- maintain healthy prairie dog colonies
- minimize damage to public and private property
- minimize possibilities for future conflicts between prairie dogs and humans
Managing a Prairie Dog Colony

The following guidelines will be used to determine when it is appropriate to manage a given situation. Combinations of these factors will always be considered when determining the need to manage prairie dogs.

1. Prairie dog population exceeds carrying capacity and/or results in destruction of natural resources
   
   When there is 20% bare ground within a colony’s boundary, this indicates the carrying capacity within that specific geographic area may have been met or exceeded. If the population exceeds 50 prairie dogs per hectare (20 per acre), this is also a good indicator that the carrying capacity may have been exceeded in an area (Seery 1997). Site-specific analysis will determine if natural resources are being destroyed.
   
   When prairie dog populations exceed carrying capacities, the prairie dogs are subjected to increased stress. The lack of predators, high levels of outdoor recreation use of open space, and conflicts with adjacent residential and commercial properties, dictate that prairie dog populations (located in suitable sites as defined in Section 4), be best managed at 80% or less of the carrying capacity for that specific site.

2. Sustaining private and landscaped property and trail buffer zones
   
   Burrows and prairie dogs located within 50 feet of private property or landscapes areas, within six feet of trails, and associated burrows displaying above ground evidence of habit trails leading to private property or trails, will be routinely removed as an ongoing management activity, using the most cost effective means available, without public notification.

3. Human Health Hazard
   
   Prairie dog colonies will be closely monitored by Metro District Open Space staff for evidence of plague or other communicable disease. If any evidence is noted, it will be reported to the Tri-County Health Department, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

4. Noxious weed invasion of prairie dog towns
   
   Prairie dog colonies, which can present ideal conditions for noxious weed growth, will be inventoried, monitored and treated on a regular basis to minimize noxious weed invasion. Mowing, trimming, removal of weeds and other mechanical control methods will be the primary means of eradicating noxious weeds in and around prairie dog towns. Use of herbicides will be considered on a case-by-case basis after consulting with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the Douglas County Weed Inspector. The District’s Integrated Pest Management Plan can be viewed on the Metro District’s web site at [www.highlandsranch.org](http://www.highlandsranch.org).
5. **Planned Development**

Removing or relocating a prairie dog colony from Metro District’s properties, when deemed necessary by staff, may occur up to one year before an area is developed or slated for any construction activity including trails, parks, and utility improvements. Where there is a high risk that the area will be re-inhabited by nearby colonies, the colony will be removed as late as possible before construction. Where risk of re-colonization is low, early removal of the colony is preferred.

6. **Passive Management**

Increased natural predation of prairie dogs will be promoted by enhancing natural diversity by developing a seed mix of taller grasses for areas in and adjacent to prairie dog colonies, and by enhancing wildlife corridors and riparian areas where feasible. Predation by raptors will be encouraged by planting trees in wetter areas and installing artificial perch sites where needed. Natural barriers made of earthen berms planted with tall grasses and shrubs will be used as barriers where appropriate and sustainable. Staff will discourage human and pet contacts with prairie dogs through educational contacts, appropriate signage and by incorporating this topic into the District’s Outdoor Education Program.

**Property Acceptance**

Using the criteria outlined in this section, properties being conveyed to the Metro District will be evaluated and designated as suitable or unsuitable (see Section 4) for meeting the Metro District’s long-term goals for prairie dog conservation.

If a site is designated as unsuitable, prairie dogs inhabiting that site must be removed before that property is accepted by the Metro District and the cost of their removal may be paid by the landowner or developer to the Metro District, who will carry it out.

If the landowner will be carrying out the removal, the District will work with the landowner to determine the most appropriate means of removal, to obtain required permits, and to identify possible relocation sites. All costs incurred with prairie dog removal (e.g., public meetings, trapping, fumigation, permits, etc.) will be the responsibility of the landowner or developer.
Management Action Protocol

As outlined in the Guidelines for Managing a Prairie Dog Colony; to encourage natural predation of prairie dogs, the Metro District will continue to create features such as natural barriers, artificial raptor perches, tree plantings for future raptor perches, and other plantings to provide additional cover for predators.

At times prairie dog towns will need to be managed to fulfill the goals and objectives described in Sections 2 and 3 of this plan. When managing a prairie dog colony’s population, the following protocol and options will be used:

1. Relocation or removal of prairie dogs will not occur during the birthing, nursing, and early rearing period from March through May. Relocation or removal of 10 or fewer prairie dogs will be scrutinized closely to determine if it is prudent to relocate the animals. This provision reflects both the lower survival associated with small relocations and the disproportionate administrative and fiscal burden for the District and CDOW in relation to the ecological and societal benefit.

2. If relocation to a designated release site on the Metro District Open Space is not practical due to insufficient capacity or unsuitability of available sites, the District shall make a reasonable effort to identify appropriate and cost affective release sites.

3. The Metro District Open Space staff will determine the method of capture in a given situation based on past methods used on that colony, budgetary constraints, and time of year, weather conditions, and geographic and topographic conditions of the colony. Efforts to use live trapping will be considered exhausted if they have been unsuccessful for a five-day period.

Burrow Flushing - To insure funds allocated for prairie dog management are spent in a cost effective manner, the Metro District will burrow flush up to two times in any area. If after the first burrow flush at least 50% of the animals targeted for relocation are not captured, a second flush will not be conducted. If burrow flushing efforts fail to capture the targeted number of animals to manage a colony, lethal control may be used to bring a colony within the carrying capacity of the land.
4. Wild to wild relocation is the preferred option in all cases except when the plague or other communicable disease is present. Reasonable attempts to arrange a wild to wild relocation must be explored before other options are utilized. Prairie dogs may be relocated only if the following provisions as outlined in the Colorado Division of Wildlife’s Wild to Wild permit and CRS 35-7-203 are met:

- Suitable recipient site
- Contact CDOW District Wildlife Manager
- Agreement with donor and recipient
- Plague is not known
- County Commissioner approvals
- Letter of “non-objection” from FDA
- CDOW biological and social impact evaluation
- Appropriate permits
- Donor and recipient sites dusted as required by regulations

(The complete Wild to Wild Relocation Permit can be viewed at http://wildlife.state.co.us)

5. Delivery to Conservation Programs

When it is appropriate to manage a site, but relocation sites are not available, the Metro District will consider other environmentally sound options as recommended by the CDOW and other agencies. Options include removing prairie dogs and giving them to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Black-footed Ferret Conservation Center in support of the Black-footed Ferret Recovery Program. The second option would be to deliver prairie dogs to a Raptor Rehabilitation Program.

In both of these options, prairie dogs would be euthanized and used as a food source for raptors and Black-footed Ferrets. For more information on these programs to save these endangered and protected species see http://www.blackfootedferret.org/who.html or http://www.usaref.org/Rehab.htm. Some of the protocols and options include:

a) Wild to Black-footed Ferret Program

- Research to identify possible relocation sites
- Contact CDOW District Wildlife Manager
- Plague is not known
- Coordinate with USFWS quarantine facilities
- Appropriate permits from the CDOW
- Donor sites dusted as required by regulations
- Live delivery of prairie dogs and euthanized at conservation site
b) Wild to Raptor Program

- Research to identify possible relocation sites
- Contact CDOW District Wildlife Manager
- Plague is not known
- Letter of “non-objection” from FDA
- Appropriate permits from the CDOW
- Donor sites dusted if required by regulations*
- Prairie dogs euthanized on-site and delivered frozen

*Raptor programs will not accept dusted animals.

6. Lethal Control

The District may retain the services of a professional exterminator to eradicate all or part of a prairie dog colony on District owned property. Acceptable methods are limited to the use of fumigants and poison baits approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

7. Public Notification

Before taking action to manage prairie dog populations within colonies, the Metro District will post the planned management activities on its website www.highlandsranch.org. This posting will occur annually, if there are planned management activities that year, at least 30 days before implementation. The District will also provide public notification when required by other regulatory agencies or by law. As cited in recommendation #1 above, notification is not required to sustain buffer zones unless required by other regulatory agencies or by law. When operating within the policies and guidelines identified in the PDCP this will be the only public notification provided. If there are activities that are outside the current parameters outlined in the PDCP the Metro District Board of Directors will determine the proper public notification for that activity.

8. Control of Prairie Dogs That Disperse onto Land Not Owned by the District

The Metro District may exterminate without public notice, prairie dogs that disperse from the District’s land onto adjacent or nearby land only with permission of the property owner and pursuant to a written request by the property owner.

Property owners have a responsibility to protect their property from prairie dogs by erecting and maintaining barriers on their fence in accordance with the covenants of the Highlands Ranch Community Association (HRCA). The District will not perform this service if the property owner has not taken appropriate action to protect their property from prairie dogs. Lethal control shall be limited to use of fumigants and poison baits approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The property owner will be responsible for destroying any burrows on their property.
9. Control of Prairie Dogs That Disperse onto Public Land

When prairie dogs disperse out of a managed colony to a new site on public land the Metro
District will evaluate that site using the suitability index in Section 4. Factors in Section 3
such as human health and safety will also be considered. If the new site is determined to be
unsuitable for a new colony, the Metro District may remove, relocate or exterminate those
prairie dogs per the management action protocol. If there is an immediate human health or
safety risk, public notification may occur after removal, as part of the following year’s fact
sheet.

10. Human Health Hazards

On a regular basis the Metro District Open Space staff will monitor prairie dog colonies for
possible presence of the plague or other communicable disease. If there is any indication of
disease within a prairie dog colony, subsequent steps will be coordinated through the Tri-
County Health Department. Further management actions dealing with the affected area will
only be done after consulting with the Colorado Department of Public Health and
Environment and notifying the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

The Metro District, working with the Tri-County Health Department, will post signs
notifying trail and area users that the prairie dog colony may be infected with a disease and
notify residents adjacent to the colony in writing discouraging all human and pet contact with
prairie dogs in the area. For more information on infectious diseases visit Tri-County Health
Department’s web site at: www.tchd.org.

SECTION 4 Long-Term Management Areas for Prairie Dogs: Using a Suitability Index

This Suitability Index was developed in partnership with the Colorado Division of Wildlife to
establish criteria for designating and maintaining more appropriate, long-term prairie dog habitat
areas within the open space in urban environments. Areas that meet these criteria should help
sustain healthy prairie dog colonies and minimize conflicts. Whether prairie dogs are currently
present or not, is not a factor in determining the suitability of an area as a long-term management
site. Carrying capacity of a given prairie dog colony site is based on: the general health of the
colony, the site size in acres, ability of the colony to expand, available herbaceous vegetation,
percent of bare ground, minimal infestation of aggressive non-native species. The Metro
District’s goal is to maintain prairie dog colonies at an appropriate carrying capacity of the land.

The following are the criteria included in the suitability index:

- GEOGRAPHY: The land area should be enclosed by substantial natural or human
introduced barriers, such as drainage corridors, steep slopes or embankments, and densely
vegetated areas such as tall grass, tree stands, or heavy brush. To reduce conflicts with
private property owners, barriers should create a buffer between a prairie dog site and any
private property. Prairie dog colony areas, however, should allow for natural dispersal of
animals within the colony. Large circular areas are best for dispersal. Narrow rectangular
areas are generally considered as poor habitat sites. The colony area should be located
away from trail systems to reduce conflicts with trail users and pets. In an urban
environment, destruction of private property, human health and safety hazards are also
considered.

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• **TOPOGRAPHY:** Slopes less than 10% are better suited for sustaining prairie dog colonies.

• **VEGETATION:** Herbaceous cover from 30% to 90% is considered optimal in Clippinger’s 1989 model for black-tailed prairie dog habitat. To provide optimal winter nutrition, vegetation should consist of perennial grasses, rather than annual weeds or grasses. Optimal vegetation height for prairie dog habitat is between 2 and 10 inches (Clippinger 1989). To maintain the viability of prairie dogs and other wildlife species in natural areas, while minimizing human conflict, and soil erosion, prairie dog sites should be managed to have:

  - 80% ground cover to minimize soil loss from water and wind.
  - Weed populations less than 50% of the total vegetative cover (aggressive non-native species are to be minimized)
  - Perennial grasses maintained greater than, or equal to, 50% of the site

Ideally, land with a healthy stand of short grasses as outlined above, can support about 16 to 20 prairie dogs per acre.

• **SOIL:** Soil structure is important to the success or failure of a relocation effort. Sand content of the soil should be less than 70% (Clippinger 1989).

• **PREDATOR POPULATIONS:** Controlling prairie dog populations can help prevent habitat destruction and may subsequently prevent prairie dogs from looking elsewhere for food sources. Prairie dog colonies should be maintained in areas where natural predation from foxes, coyotes, hawks, and snakes is encouraged. Predator habitat may include perch sites for raptors or wildlife corridors consisting of steep embankments or heavily vegetated areas for coyotes, foxes and other predators.

**SECTION 5  Community Participation/Education**

1. The Metro District Open Space and Park Ranger staff is committed to educating and involving the community on prairie dog management issues through mailings, signs, informational literature, and public meetings. Park Rangers will include prairie dogs as a wildlife topic in local school resource related educational programs through the District’s Outdoor Education Program.

2. Park Rangers and Park Hosts will be trained to offer residents interpretive information about the value of prairie dogs in natural areas, and in proper actions to be taken when sick or injured animals are identified. Volunteers may be trained to help monitor prairie dog colonies and to assist Open Space staff as appropriate in Wild to Wild relocations when approved by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Volunteers may participate in these activities only when they have been trained in precautionary measures of handling prairie dogs, live catch procedures, overview of diseases that can be transmitted during these procedures, disease symptom recognition, and release site preparation.

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SECTION 6 Monitoring and Evaluation

The Metro District Open Space staff will evaluate this Conservation Plan annually. The staff will maintain current inventories of prairie dog colonies, dimensions of each colony site, population and burrow counts, management objectives, and recommend management actions for individual colonies. Colony sites and populations will be inventoried and evaluated twice annually.

If the status of the Black-tailed prairie dog is changed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this plan will be modified accordingly.

SECTION 7 Prairie Dog Colony Sites

a) Areas designated as suitable in 2010

- East Big Dry Creek – East and North

![Map of East Big Dry Creek with designated areas]

- Unsuitable for Prairie Dogs
- Suitable for Prairie Dogs

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• Northridge – Dad Clark Gulch
b) **Areas designated unsuitable for Prairie Dogs in 2008:**
The following sites have been designated as unsuitable habitat for Prairie Dogs, as identified in Section 4 of this plan. Prairie Dogs in these areas will be completely removed and routinely monitored. Prairie Dogs that relocate back into these areas will be removed using any method, without public notification, as part of the ongoing and routine management of these areas.

- Spring Gulch Natural Area from Hyacinth Road to Stone Mountain Drive

- Management Approach, Spring Gulch, Stone Mountain Drive to Weathersfield Way - Staff will remove prairie dogs and burrows, reclaim/reseed area, and manage weeds. Over the next five years, staff will: re-establish grasses and vegetation, analyze impact of storm flows from upstream development, assess need for channel stabilization improvements, and determine wildlife habitat suitability.
c) Areas Designated as unsuitable in 2010:

- Vista Trail – East of White Pelican Way

- Marcy Gulch – Sand Cherry Way
• Spring Gulch – Woodrose Court

• Big Dry Creek at Big Dry Creek Park
References


Montana Natural Heritage Program. 2000. Prairie Dog Colony Observation Form
Prairie Dog Information Sites

Colorado Division of Wildlife: Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Relocation Facts
This is a question and answer site relating to the Black-tailed Prairie dog. From this site you can access additional information.
http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/SpeciesOfConcern/Mammals/BlacktailedPrairieDog/btprairiedogpg3.htm

Colorado Division of Wildlife: Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Overview
http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/SpeciesOfConcern/Mammals/BlacktailedPrairieDog/btPrairieDog.htm

Prairie Dog Management Plans: Cities of Lafayette, Boulder, Broomfield and Ft. Collins. Note the differences in contiguous vs. fragmented habitats in each of these agency plans.
www.ci.boulder.co.us/openspace/publications/plans/grassland-pdog.pdf
http://www.ci.broomfield.co.us/openspace/P_Dog_Policy-8-15-03%20GW%20acres.pdf

Roe Ecological Services – Roe Ecological Services are a private for profit organization. These procedures are for information only and have not been adopted by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Recommended Prairie dog relocation guidelines:

Analysis of the role of the Black-tailed Prairie Dog as a Keystone Species.

Habitat Fragmentation Information: State of Wisconsin, Department of Administration, Division of Energy, Environmental Research Program, Final Report, June 2004,
www.focusonenergy.com
Hi Terry,

During a visit to the site of the East Big Dry Creek West prairie dog colony with Carrie Ward, Nick and Scott, Carrie indicated that we as residents situated adjacent to the prairie dog colony should submit a "Formal Proposal" to the HRMD Board of Directors regarding changes we would like to see to the colony, and more specifically, changes to the current HRMD Prairie Dog Conservation Plan.

Attached to this email is our Proposal. Can you please submit this to the Board? Is this proposal format sufficient for submittal, or is anything else needed for submittal? Can you please let us know that you have submitted this to the Board? Also, when able, let us know what the process is moving forward and timing, as we plan to attend and address the Board at the upcoming meeting on June 28th.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter, and please respond if there is anything further we need to do regarding submittal of this Proposal to the Board.

-Paul Hoffey
Formal Proposal
Submitted to the Highlands Ranch Metro District
Board of Directors
20 June 2016

Proposal: We, as homeowners of the Wildcat Ridge neighborhood that directly adjoin the East Big Dry Creek (West) prairie dog colony, request that the Highlands Ranch Metro District (the “District”) Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Conservation Plan (approved by HRMD Board of Directors 31 August 2010) (the “Conservation Plan”) be amended such that the designation of the East Big Dry Creek (West) prairie dog colony is changed from “suitable” to “unsuitable” to support a prairie dog colony and, as such, is “unsuitable” for meeting the District’s long-term goals for prairie dog conservation.

The reasons for this requested change to the Conservation Plan are as follows:

- Over the past 3 to 4 years (and possibly longer), surveys conducted by the District have indicated that the population of prairie dogs within the colony has exceeded its carrying capacity. The district has counted 26, 19, and 26 prairie dogs per acre over the previous 4 years (no survey conducted in 2014). The Conservation Plan (page 12) states that 16 to 20 prairie dogs per acre is the typical carrying capacity; thus, there is a chronic over-population problem within the colony. This has resulted in the destruction of vegetation and natural resources throughout the colony by over-feeding, and destruction of the District’s open space. For colonies that are over-populated and where vegetation is denuded, such as the East Big Dry Creek (West) colony, the Conservation Plan (page 6) states that the colony should be “best managed at 80% or less of the carrying capacity for that specific site”. Thus, the prairie dog population at East Big Dry Creek (West) should be managed at numbers closer to 13 to 16 prairie dogs per acre. The current management of the colony by the District has been unsuccessful in maintaining the colony population to levels at 80% or less of its carrying capacity, as suggested in the District’s Conservation Plan.

- The colony has reached its maximum extent of natural expansion and now directly abuts residential properties on two sides. The Conservation Plan (page 11) states that prairie dog colonies should be bordered by natural barriers to “reduce conflicts with private property owners” and that colonies should be allowed to disperse naturally. There are no natural barriers between the active colony and the residential properties that abut the colony. Prairie dogs are continually observed on private properties as they seek new food sources beyond the limits of the colony. Prairie dogs have climbed over fences to access the back yards of residences, have been observed in basement window wells of homes, and have crossed paved roads in the neighborhood to seek new food sources. According to the Prairie Dog Coalition Handbook (2002), prairie dog colonies are healthy when the colonies are allowed to expand into new areas. There simply is no more physical room within the open space for the East Big Dry Creek (West) colony to expand. There are geographic and spatial limitations (that cannot be changed) that prevent the colony from expanding any farther; thus, the colony’s long-term health and vitality are in jeopardy.

- During 9 months out of the year (non-Spring time), the vegetation across the colony becomes denuded to the point that bare ground exists over the majority of the open space, resulting in nuisance dust conditions which directly impacts adjoining residential properties. The denuded conditions of the East Big Dry Creek (West) colony, due to prairie dog over-population and lack of
ground cover, are having a direct adverse impact on the adjoining residential properties and the quality of life of residents. Not only do residents experience nuisance dust conditions, but also the negative visual aesthetics of an open space where the natural resources are being destroyed by an over-populated prairie dog colony. The Conservation Plan states that 80% ground cover should be maintained to “minimize soil loss from water and wind”. This ground cover goal is not being achieved by the District.

- The Conservation Plan (page 12) states that prairie dog colonies should be maintained in areas where natural predation is encouraged. There are insufficient numbers of natural predators within the open space to maintain the colony population at levels below its carrying capacity. This results in greater efforts and expense by District staff to continually control and maintain the population. In recent years, we have observed only one coyote and only one or two hawks in the open space, which seems inadequate to control the prairie dog population naturally. There are nearly 600 prairie dogs counted within the West colony, and several hundred more in the adjoining (East and North) colonies. Natural predation alone cannot be expected to control the population of the colony.

- Because of over-population and crowding, and lack of food source, the prairie dog colony has expanded onto slopes greater than 10%, which is unnatural, and which the Conservation Plan (page 12) states is not suited for sustaining prairie dog colonies. Burrowing on slopes results in increased soil erosion and sedimentation of creeks. These conditions are counter to the objectives of the Conservation Plan.

There are four (4) distinct prairie dog colonies in Highlands Ranch that are currently deemed in the Conservation Plan as suitable habitat for prairie dogs that are maintained by the District (Northridge-Dad Clark and the Big East Dry Creek East, West, and North colonies). Only the East Big Dry Creek (West) colony directly abuts private residential properties. The other 3 designated prairie dog colonies do not directly abut residential properties. By requesting this proposed change to the Conservation Plan, and the resulting removal of the East Big Dry Creek (West) colony, there will still be 3 remaining, active, managed, and healthy prairie dog colonies in Highlands Ranch. These remaining colonies will have no direct impact on residential properties, as none of these 3 colonies abut residential properties.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed change to the Conservation Plan.

Paul B. Hoffey  
Resident at 6859 Lionshead Parkway  
(303) 792-7352

Attachment: Materials presented to the HRMD Board of Directors on 31 May 2016
Prairie dog colonies are not static. As colonies grow and deplete the resources on one site, they disperse to other sites and establish new colonies.

Without a means of dispersing and migrating, the growing number of individuals will denude the area and face starvation.

There are two “designated” prairie dog colonies in Highlands Ranch that are being managed by the Metro District.

1) Northridge – Dad Clark
2) East Big Dry Creek

The Northridge colony appears healthy and well-managed.

Conversely, the East Big Dry Creek colony is over-populated, the natural resources are being denuded, and the colony has reached its maximum extent of natural dispersal. A change in management practices appears warranted.
Areas Designated as "Suitable" for Prairie Dogs in 2010 Conservation Plan

Legend
- North Central Region
- Northeast Region
- Northwest Region
- South Central Region
- Southeast Region
- Southwest Region
- West Central Region

Director Name
- Vicky Starkey
- Nancy Smith
- Jim Worley
- Carolyn Schierholz
- Allen Dreher
- Renee Anderson
- Rick Owens

Highlands Ranch Metro District
Director Regions December 2014

East Big Dry Creek

PLAZA DR
AICO DIX
REOR
RESERVE
HIGHLANDS RANCH
BROADWAY PARK
WILDCAT RESERVE
80. SPAFFORD Drive
BLVD.
QUEENS
HLS000
Recent Photographs of Northridge – Dad Clark
Prairie Dog Colony
Northridge-Dad Clark Prairie Dog Community

- Wide open with room for natural dispersal
- Area not denuded - healthy vegetation
- Not over-populated
- Not boxed-in by homes
- Healthy community
Recent Photographs of
East Big Dry Creek
Prairie Dog Colony
Active prairie dog burrows within 50 feet of residences. Note stressed vegetation and diminishing ground cover. Creates nuisance dust conditions.
Active prairie dog burrows within 50 feet of residences. Note stressed vegetation and diminishing ground cover. Creates nuisance dust conditions.
Healthy native shubbery and ground cover

Vegetation destroyed by prairie dogs. Ground cover non-existent
Active prairie dog burrows on hill slope. Not natural for prairie dogs to burrow on slopes >6%. Indication of over-population and lack of natural dispersal space on level ground to the south.
Colony is "boxed-in" by homes. No room for natural dispersal. Food food source dwindles and colony becomes over-populated. Note lack of vegetation. Unhealthy conditions for colony.
Resident had installed tarp along fence to keep prairie dogs out of backyard.

Prairie dogs crossing water course (unnatural) and moving up slope (also unnatural) due to over-population and lack of food source within colony.
Public access trail through prairie dog colony. Note proximity of burrows to trail and general devastation of area.
Public access trail through denuded area. Note burrows on trail that present a safety concern. Note person walking dogs through colony - health threat to person and pets from feces and fleas.
Due to over-population and lack of food source, colony is running out of flat ground and has expanded down creek bank, which is not natural. Increased potential for soil erosion and sedimentation of creek.
Monument Wall Locations

Monument Map

Legend
- monument walls (5)
- median monument walls (2)
- small monument wall (1)
Existing Monuments

Median Monument Wall
• Broadway (1)
• University (1)

Monument Wall
• Broadway @ County Line (2)
• University @ County Line (1)
• Quebec @ County Line (1)
• South Quebec (1)

Small Monument Wall
• Timberline (1)
Median Monument Wall

NEW FLAT CUT OUT LETTERS AND LOGO FOR EXISTING 5FDisplays. SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity: 2</th>
<th>MANUFACTURE AND INSTALL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/8&quot; 208080 Dark Bronze stud mounted flush to existing stone display</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2&quot; 208080 Aluminium mounted flush to aluminium backer panel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ART SUPERIMPOSED ON PHOTO, SHOWN AT APPROXIMATE RELATIVE SIZE
Monument Wall

HIGHLANDS RANCH

New flat cut out letters and logo for existing sign displays. Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"

Quantity: 5, manufacture and install.

1. 1/8" aluminum panel painted MP 313 Dark Bronze stud mounted flush to existing stone display
2. 1/2" aluminum painted MP 41342SP Brushed Aluminum mounted flush to aluminum backer panel

New display installed

Art superimposed on photo, shown at approximate relative size
Monument Wall (Small-Timberline)
To: HRMD Board Members

From: Forrest Dykstra  

Date: June 22, 2016

Subject: Arterial LED Streetlights

After a lengthy evaluation and pilot process, Xcel Energy is now offering an LED option for arterial roadway lighting to its customers. LED technology offers significant energy savings, lower maintenance costs and considerably longer life cycles for the luminaires. This process involved evaluating the LED fixtures, the costs, and rate changes. As a result of the process, Xcel Energy developed standards color temperature and light trespass for the LED roadway lighting.

In order to determine the best lighting system for municipal roadways, Xcel conducted a pilot program in three cities within its 10 state service area. This study tested lights of various spectrums and obtained feedback from public safety organizations in the pilot program areas.

The selected color temperature was based on experience with existing lighting fixtures including LEDs in their system, feedback from the pilot projects and trying to match natural light. The recommended new fixtures meet or exceed International Dark Sky Association guidelines and cutoff requirements as defined by the Illumination Engineering Society.

The attached standard summarizes the process and the resulting recommendation and requirements for LED roadway lighting.
The Company has a standard nominal Correlated Color Temperature (CCT) rating of 4000 Kelvin (K) for LED roadway lighting. A rating of 4000 K is the equivalent color temperature of moonlight, a naturally occurring light source that humans have adapted to for millennia. Beyond the natural moonlight temperatures, the decision to standardize at 4000 K was also driven by our experience with the various color temperatures of existing light fixtures on our system, including LEDs, and the feedback we received from several peer utilities with large scale deployment of the technology. The Company seeks to maximize the benefits of LED lighting without compromising efficacy. We selected 4000 K as the nominal CCT rating for the three LED streetlighting pilot projects we conducted across our service territory. We received only positive feedback from residents and public officials in each of the pilot areas.

Also, 4000 K CCT rating is lower than the kelvin temperature of Induction and Metal Halide Lights that are widely deployed across Denver. The Induction lights deployed in downtown Denver are rated 4100 K and the Metal Halide luminaires are 4200 K nominal.

Additionally, the specification requirements on the fixtures we will install with this rate option meet or exceed the International Dark Sky Association’s (IDA) Fixture Seal of Approval guidelines. All LED fixtures approved by the Company for this offering will meet the full cutoff requirements as defined by the Illumination Engineering Society’s Backlight, Uplight and Glare ratings luminaire classification system. The proposed side-mounted roadway applications will have an Uplight rating of zero. This means that zero percent of the fixture lumens will be directed between the 90 and 180 degrees vertical with zero degrees at the nadir. The result is decreased light trespass and minimal upward light emitted, contributing to darker skies.

Preparer: Abbey Sebaggala
Title: Distribution Standards Engineer
Department: Electric Distribution Standards