



## Blodgett OS Master Plan Stakeholder Comments

Themes from community feedback on the [2 alternatives](#) shown Aug 22:

### 1. Trail aspects

- a. Both alternatives show concepts preserving the Fenceline trail as a single direction MTB DH trail, which is a widely supported existing trail. We understand that as part of this master plan, some changes will be made on city property to address sustainability concerns, and that the character of this trail as a long uphill and a long uninterrupted DH with technical trail features, will be maintained. Thank you. **Additional community discussion will be required** outside of this master plan process, to develop the detailed design and construction guidelines for DH-only trails which have specific requirements that are desired by riders.
- b. Both trail system concept alternatives rely to a significant extent on existing non-designated USFS trails, notably including the existing Fenceline and Blodgett summit trails. We understand that this city master plan will not automatically oblige any trail construction or reroute action on the part of the USFS, and that conversations about this will continue into the future. We also understand that the USFS has **committed to not closing or changing** non-designated trails in this area, before suitable alternative routes are implemented. This commitment should be documented in the city's master plan. Thank you USFS for the ongoing partnership in this area.
- c. Both alternatives show additional dedicated use trails for downhill MTB- a highly positive aspect of the plan that will reduce user conflicts and improve experiences for all trail users. Such trails are supported by the 2014 Parks System Master Plan, and Blodgett is an ideal OS in which to implement them.
- d. Both concepts also show some shared use trails, including new N-S through connections. Either concept will improve access throughout Blodgett and are well suited for situations where high speed MTB use has a low chance of creating trail conflicts.
- e. Alternative 2 shows a trail system with more connections and dedicated use options, including a hiking-only and a designated uphill-only trail, that will improve trail users' experiences. It also shows a more direct DH route with fewer turns that will be attractive for users. These concepts are strongly supported by MTB users. We understand that the map shows trail corridor concepts and that they haven't yet been designed for sustainability and integration as a functioning trail network. Several turns shown in this concept would be likely to be shortcut if built exactly as shown.
- f. Both alternatives show the Chamberlain and Park to Peak trail, which are crucial aspects of this plan that are in keeping with the 2014 Parks System Master Plan. Either designation of the Chamberlain (high, to the west, or lower to the east) is an exciting addition, and a preference for one or the other will depend on user preference.
- g. Both alternatives show closure of the Red Squirrel trail, an existing steep trail that is loved by some users. What alternatives to closure of this trail were considered?

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2. Conservation aspects
  - a. Both alternatives include substantial, thoughtful habitat areas and corridors that will support wildlife. This concept is supported by the public - Thank you. Considering the location of this popular space, with a large urban interface and significant existing use, both alternatives offer improvements that support our community's conservation values. Both options contain valuable new designated wildlife areas in the phase 3, southern acquisition area that support a wildlife corridor compatible with the Park to Peak trail.
  - b. We encourage monitoring and continual improvement of management practices for wildlife including bighorn sheep habitat. Although this sheep herd appears to be well adapted to recreation and industrial use in this area, we understand that additional study may reveal a need for actions to support the herd, including the possibility of seasonal closures for lambing. We request open community dialog as additional management policies are considered.
3. Access, trailheads and parking aspects
  - a. We believe that the most important access consideration is good trail connectivity to adjacent properties, enabling users to visit Blodgett by trail. We suggest for future discussion that these regional trail connection considerations and their relationship to trailheads be clearly identified.
  - b. All future trailhead and parking considerations should enable access for public transportation, which may improve throughout our Parks system and our city in the future. Improved public transportation will provide better access for many city residents who currently find it challenging to get to our Park amenities.
  - c. All parking and trailhead discussions should take careful consideration of local residents' needs and preferences. All policies related to parking and public street access should be done in collaboration with our city's Streets department.
  - d. The development of a new quarry parking lot and trailhead is strongly supported and creates a major improvement for access. Expansion and development of the Orchard Valley parking lot trailhead appears to offer benefits in security and safety.
4. Public process
  - a. We appreciate this master plan process and the opportunity for public input. A crucial aspect of the plan development is broad community and stakeholder engagement. We appreciate and applaud the ongoing work that enables effective public input and will continue to encourage community participation.
  - b. We recognize the importance of partnership with the USFS on this project, even in the face of the constraints that exist on USFS action. The commitment by our ranger district to avoid closure of existing non-designated trails in this area, before alternative routes are implemented, is critical for the public's use of the multi-agency Blodgett area. We encourage ongoing collaboration and creative thinking by the city of COS, USFS, and all stakeholders on the management of Blodgett OS, into the future after this city master planning process is completed and approved.