

**Fitch, Abby**

---

**From:** Curt & Linda Taipale <cotaipale@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2024 8:01 AM  
**To:** Public Comment; Curt & Linda Taipale  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on July 8th Westminster City Council Meeting Agenda Item 10.C

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

---

Hello,

I wish to comment on agenda item 10.C regarding the adding of a new section 13-1-17 (Establishing Special Regulations for the Westminster Hills Open Space). I live in Arvada and frequent the Westminster Hills Open Space (WHOS) Off-Leash Dog Park. Sometimes my wife and I ride our mountain bikes from Arvada on the Greenway Trail and other times we drive over and walk our dog.

1. As a bicyclist, the WHOS portion of the Greenway Trail near the parking lot is generally quite busy with dogs running about, so I support the Westy Dog Park Guardians recommendation of redirecting bicycle traffic to the southern and western edges of the WHOS Off-Leash Dog Park. I encourage the City Council to consider directing staff to work on achieving this recommendation.

2. As a frequent dog walker, I support maintaining the existing area for off-leash dog walking. I notice that the 13-1-17 Special Regulations specifically exclude the "Sisters of the New Covenant" property from the proposed WHOS Off-Leash Dog Park. By excluding this parcel, a walking trail that loops around the southwest portion of the WHOS Off-Leash Dog Park is cut off and apparently no longer available for walking dogs. The meeting package explains that the conservation easement "established greater use restrictions than originally understood." Yet the conservation easement "calls for preservation and protection of the conservation values specific to natural habitat, open space scenic view preservation, passive outdoor recreation and education, and trail connections." I note that this is an existing trail in the WHOS Off-Leash Dog Park and the conservation easement identifies trail connections as an inherent value worthy of protection. Consequently, I think it makes sense to maintain access

to this existing trail and not exclude this portion of the Sisters of the New Covenant parcel from the WHOS Off-Leash Dog Park. Accordingly, I do not support removing the Sisters of the New Covenant parcel (25.5 acre) from the proposed WHOS Off-Leash Dog Park.

3. I support excluding dogs from the western portion of the WHOS property. Often in the winter I have seen an elk herd in this area and I think it is important to not have dogs running loose in this area.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Curtis Taipale