

## Fitch, Abby

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**From:** Dan Koss <dankoss@me.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 5, 2024 9:11 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Cc:** McNally, Nancy; Nurmela, Sarah; DeMott, David; Ireland, Kristine; Carmelia, Claire; Hott, Amber; Ezeadi, Obi; Opie, Barbara; Herrera-Mishler, Tomas; Reale, Joe; Freitag, Mark  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] WHOS ordinance change July 8

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Westminster City Council,

The PRL Vision Plan presented at the July 1 study session contains a statistically valid survey which shows (page 111) that only 17.9% of Westminster residents use a dog park. It also says (page 83) that 90% of residents want the city to restore natural areas. Why does the proposed WHOS ordinance (page 145 of the July 8 meeting packet) contain no mandate for protection or preservation of the land? Why are you continuing to insist on removing more than 10% of our protected open space? Renaming WHOS a “natural area” does absolutely nothing to protect or preserve it and the suggested area management plan has no authority, defined outcomes or deadlines.

This ordinance completely contradicts every scientific authority that has contacted your staff. They have said repeatedly that off leash dogs are not compatible with protecting open space. Paying the proposed \$400,000 per year to reseed and clean the area, only to turn it over to be trampled and peed on yet again by dogs every year, is a complete waste of taxpayer money and PRL effort. By shrinking (not removing) the off-leash area you will dramatically reduce taxpayer costs and restoration time. This proposed ordinance still excludes many residents, leashed dogs, and wildlife who are not comfortable using the space in the presence of off leash dogs. An area management plan attempting to provide “the safety of both dogs and people” (page 143) will not change that.

Proposal option 4 (page 138) suggests city council can still direct staff to identify a reduced off-leash area. Please listen to the 90% of residents who want this open space protected, and direct staff to reduce the off leash area.

Thanks,  
Dan Koss - Countryside resident