

Comments from February 22 meeting, phone and email since meeting.

Discussion of funding structure for the park

Discussion of separated vs combined trails. Potential for single track in the park. Lots of factors to take into account and a wider community discussion is likely needed.

Cross country skiing and challenges posed by fat tire bikes that use the hiker trails after a snow.

Low lying areas on bike trail between 14th and Old Cheney

Keeping trails mowed and branches trimmed back.

Trail Rules: IMBA and Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance examples

Discuss Old Rock Island railroad alignment – Train wreck bridge, connection to Densmore Park, bridge over Salt Creek, future trail alignment.

Upgrade trashcans to prevent animals from getting in

Parking lot access allowing vehicles into park

Develop a sign plan that includes wayfinding signage by location and type, locational signage to help users provide location in times of emergency, and interpretive signage at appropriate stations.

Review the trail layout and make recommendations for bridge replacement priorities.

Bike/Horse bridge about 2 miles north of 14th Street parking lot, and small creek crossing just north of that.

Horse/Bike low water crossing just west of 14th Street parking lot

Discuss the Fitness Loop and replacement of equipment if funding was available.

Wilderness Day Camp Octagon Building – This building is in poor repair and doesn't meet the standards for a storm shelter. It is also prone to vandalism. Consider major remodeling, or possibly relocation of this structure.

Recommendation to contact Steve Rolfsmeier regarding forest management. Bob Henrickson was kind enough to make this contact and shared the following from Steve: I favor management strategies that maximize biodiversity. Managing some areas within the park with fire seems appropriate, particularly if there seems to be a chance of regenerating the oak/hickory component. My objections have been to the “one-size fits all approach” I've sensed from some people over the years, the one size being running fire through everything to bring back an imagined oak savannah that probably never existed there. Fire can be devastating to a number of organisms, including mosses and insects, and should only be used in areas in which it is likely to result in increased diversity. If you hope to restore oak canopy you will have to remove the hackberry (Homestead Monument faces similar issues).

Hopefully they can be shown that replacing a stand of one type of tree with a variety of trees is better for all the organisms in the park in the long run.”

Mapping Exercise from February 22 meeting

1. Yellow – Replace the Wilderness South Bridge, north of Saltillo Road, to reconnect the trails
2. Red – Protect water quality from non-point source pollution. There is bad road runoff in this area. Identify and clean up the tributaries
3. Green – Bur Oak/Hickory restoration area
4. Green – Important natural area for rare spring wildflowers
5. Red – Create a community safe access from the Rock Island Trail into Wilderness Park
6. Red – Red Oaks on the Prairie Bowman property should be acquired and restored
7. Green – Bur Oak/Hickory restoration area
8. Green – Saltillo and Epworth telephone bridges
9. Green – creek crossings
10. Green – creek crossings
11. Green – Bur Oak/Hickory restoration area
12. Yellow – Create opportunities for education and outreach here (sandstone prairie)
13. Red – evaluate and incorporate new fitness loop – maintain – incorporate education