

Town Council Project Update

February 7, 2017



Open Lands Plan Project Update

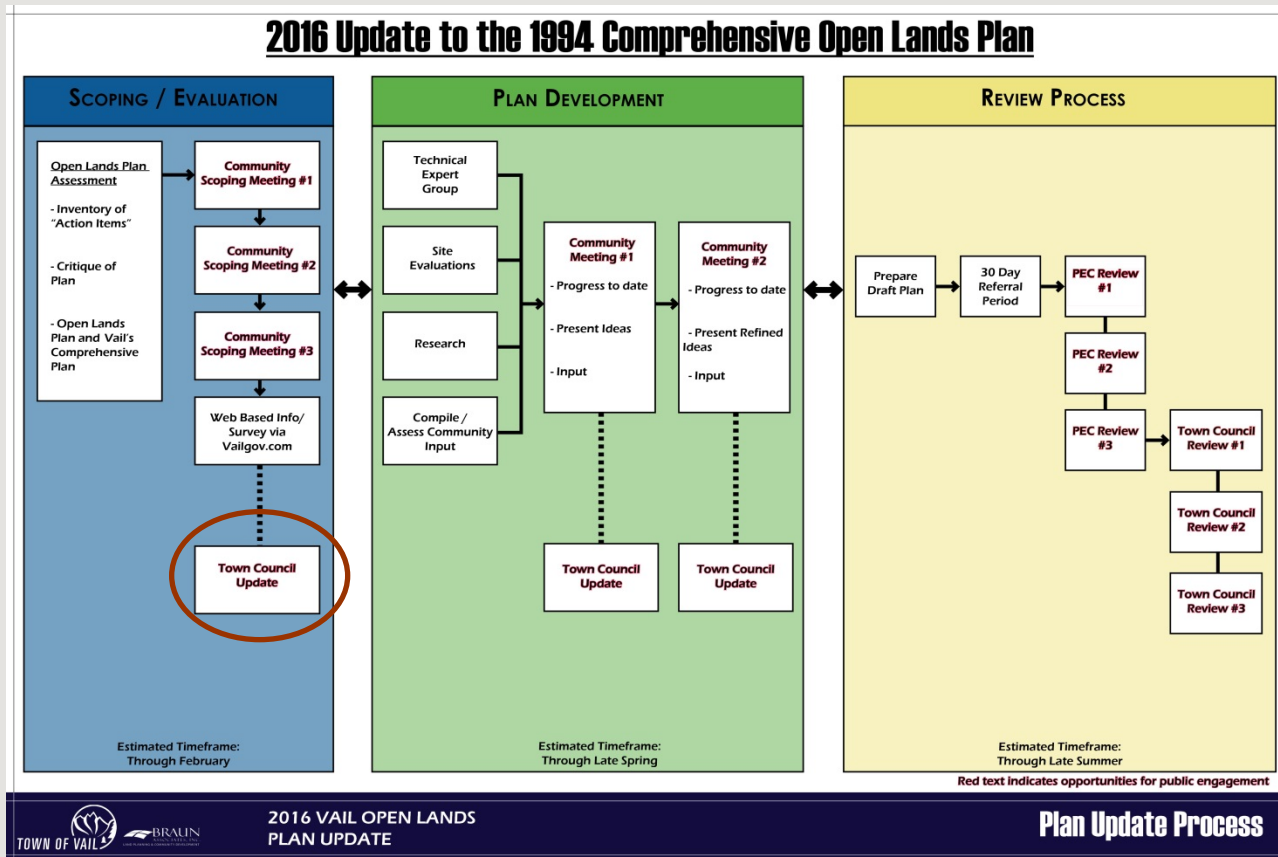
1. Summary of community scoping meetings
2. Next Steps
 - Research and analysis
 - Form Technical Expert Group
3. Upcoming Community Meeting(s)
4. Project Schedule

Open Lands Plan Project Update

Need to update the Plan

Purpose of Update

Where we are in the process



COMMUNITY SCOPING MEETINGS

Purpose of meetings – to share information about the existing Plan and to hear what is on people's mind.

- 3 meetings held in December and January
- +/-75 participants
- “Open house” format
- 11 “Prompts” or questions – 4 on land acquisitions, 3 on trails, 4 on use of town lands
- 58 written and 18 on-line responses
- Nature of input What we heard

COMMUNITY SCOPING MEETINGS

- Strong agreement that Town's previous land purchases have benefitted community
- More support for recreation/open space preservation acquisitions than for land development acquisitions (particularly for housing development)
- Near unanimous support for acquisitions of land to protect environmentally sensitive lands and to create neighborhood buffers
- Mixed comments on Town acquiring developed land
- Multiple comments that housing is best done by re-developing land as opposed to the development of open lands
- Near unanimous opposition to land exchanges with USFS
- Consensus that trails provide benefit to community, mixed comments on need for more trails
- Qualified support for trail system that links neighborhoods

COMMUNITY SCOPING MEETINGS

- Environmental and wildlife considerations were most common response as factors to consider in development of new trails
- No displeasure was expressed for Town's existing facilities
- Range of ideas for new facilities included community/rec center, disc golf course, swimming pool, employee housing, performing arts center, parking, convention center.
- Support for addressing housing in Plan update was evenly split (38% yes and 41% no).
- Use of lands for housing prompted very passionate responses
- Protection of Gore Creek and efforts to improve water quality of Gore Creek had strongest support (of all other topics)

NEXT STEPS

Research and Analysis

- Compare input from community scoping meetings to goals and objectives of current Plan
- Evaluate unfinished land acquisitions relative to input from community scoping meetings
- Evaluate unfinished trail development relative to input from community scoping meetings
- Inventory all TOV lands

NEXT STEPS

Technical Expert Group

- Role of Group
- How Group will be engaged in process
- Participants:
 - Vail Recreation District
 - Vail Resorts
 - ERWSD
 - US Forest Service
 - Colorado Parks and Wildlife
 - CDOT
 - Eagle Valley Land Trust
 - Eagle River Watershed Council
 - Eagle County Open Space
 - ECO/Trails
 - Others TBD

UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Meeting #1

- Provide background on existing Plan and need for update
- Review work done to date
- “Test” goals and objectives of existing Plan, identify refinements, etc.
- Evaluate unfinished land acquisitions, are they valid today?
- Evaluate unfinished trail development, are they valid today?

Meeting #2

- Focus on potential for new land or trail initiatives
- Focus on new topics Plan can address (i.e. Gore Creek access)
- Focus on Plan priorities and new parameters/guidance

PROJECT SCHEDULE

2016 Update to the 1994 Comprehensive Open Lands Plan

