

Town Council Project Update #2

March 21, 2017



Open Lands Plan Project Update #2

1. Summary of Community Meeting #1
2. Current Work Program
3. Community Meeting #2
4. Project Schedule

Why the Update

The OLP is 22 years old

Plan Accomplishments

Things have changed since '94

- Population growth
- Growth in summer visitation
- Gore Creek listed as *Impaired*
- Housing challenges
- Development of regional recreation facilities
- Increase in types of trail use

What else has changed that affect OLP decisions?

COMMUNITY MEETING #1

February 23rd

Purpose of meeting

- +/-50 participants
- Presentations on 3 main elements of Plan:
 - Action Plan/Land Acquisitions
 - Trails
 - Use of Town Lands
- Provided questions/prompts to facilitate discussions
- Small group discussions
- Groups reports



Action Plan/Land Acquisitions

Protection of sensitive environmental resources

What are we evaluating

- Defining parameters for “sensitive environmental resources”
- Bio-diversity
- Potential land acquisitions to further environmental protection

What we heard

- Continued acquisition of lands for protection/preservation should be top priority
- Maintenance/management of open space lands should be top priority
- Gore Creek, Gore Creek, Gore Creek, stormwater runoff
- Wildlife habitats and movement corridors
- Lot next to Middle Bench of Donovan Park
- Manage lands for bio-diversity

Action Plan/Land Acquisitions

Housing

What we are evaluating

- Suitability of housing on town-owned lands
- Role of undeveloped privately owned lands

The questions we are asking

- Given the new housing plan, what role does housing play in OLP?
- Under what circumstances is housing on town lands appropriate?

What we heard

- Housing is best addressed by private sector
- OK for Plan to addressing housing only to acquire lands that do not have value for environmental protection
- RETT land purchases Not for housing

Action Plan/Land Acquisitions

USFS lands

What we are evaluating

- Future evaluation by Town Council

The questions we are asking

- Are there any circumstances under which you would support a land exchange?

What we heard

- No support for USFS land exchange to develop lands
- Only support for USFS land exchange would be to:
 - Preempt land exchange by others
 - Facilitate trail/trailhead improvements
 - Acquire land the TOV could better manage



Trails

Trails in General/User Groups

The questions we are asking

- Who should Vail's trail system target/what types of trails benefit community?
- Ideas for reducing user group conflicts?
- How can interface with Vail Resort or Eagle County trails help address community needs

What we heard

- Improve existing trails, signage, maintenance, accessibility
- Trail use, user conflicts
- Trail opportunities on Vail Mountain
- Complete recreation paths through town
- Inventory existing trails, define opportunities and needs

Wildlife and Environmental Considerations

What we are evaluating

- Input from USFS and Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Need for additional consultants
- Defining standards (trail width and grades, impacts on vegetation and terrain, erosion control, etc.)
- Parameters for wildlife and environmental impacts

The questions we are asking

- What specific wildlife or environmental considerations should be evaluated with any new trails?

What we heard

- Dogs
- Wildlife education/outreach, trail “hosts”, role of bike shops, etc.
- Understand wildlife/environmental goals and impacts

Neighborhood Connectors

'94 Open Lands Plan

Concept Plan identifies series of connecting trails that link neighborhoods throughout town

Town of Vail

Comprehensive Open Lands Plan

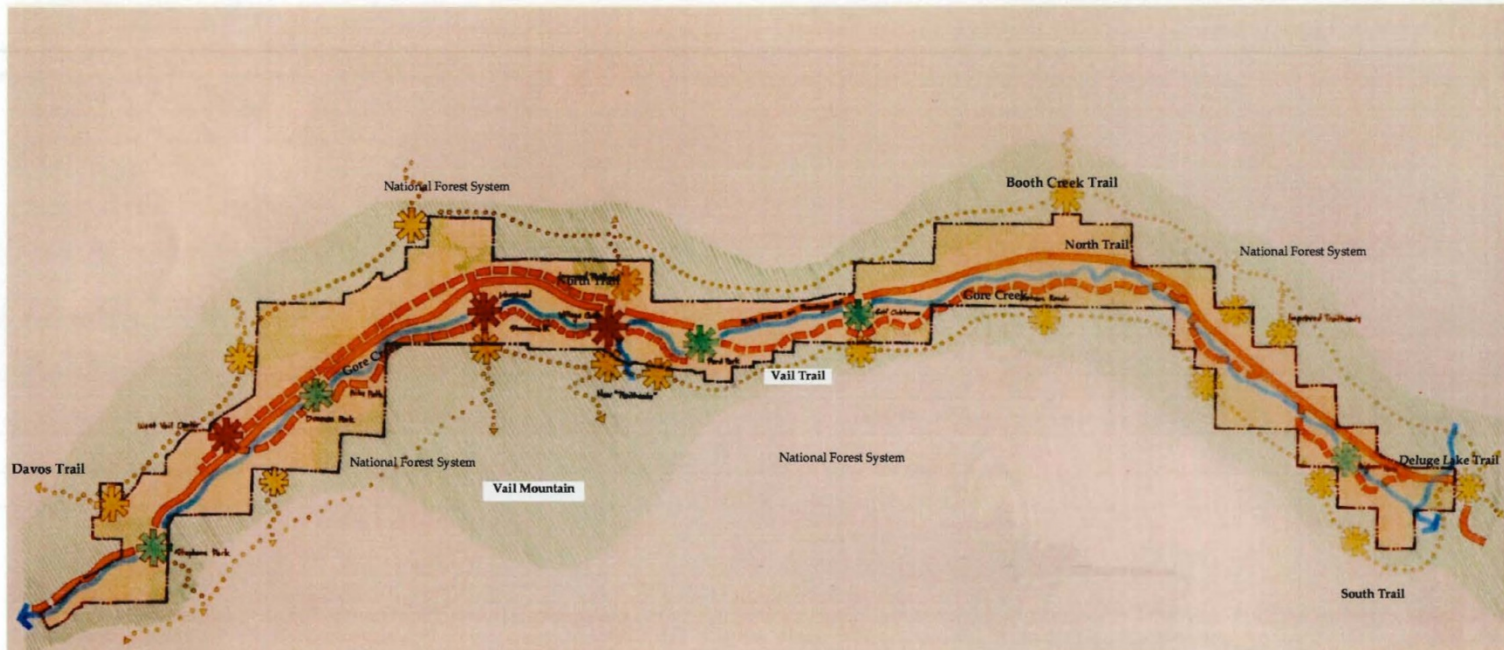


Exhibit 3
Concept Plan

Neighborhood Connectors

What we are evaluating

- Discussing feasibility with USFS and CPW
- Neighborhood trail connection points, types, alignments, etc.

The questions we are asking

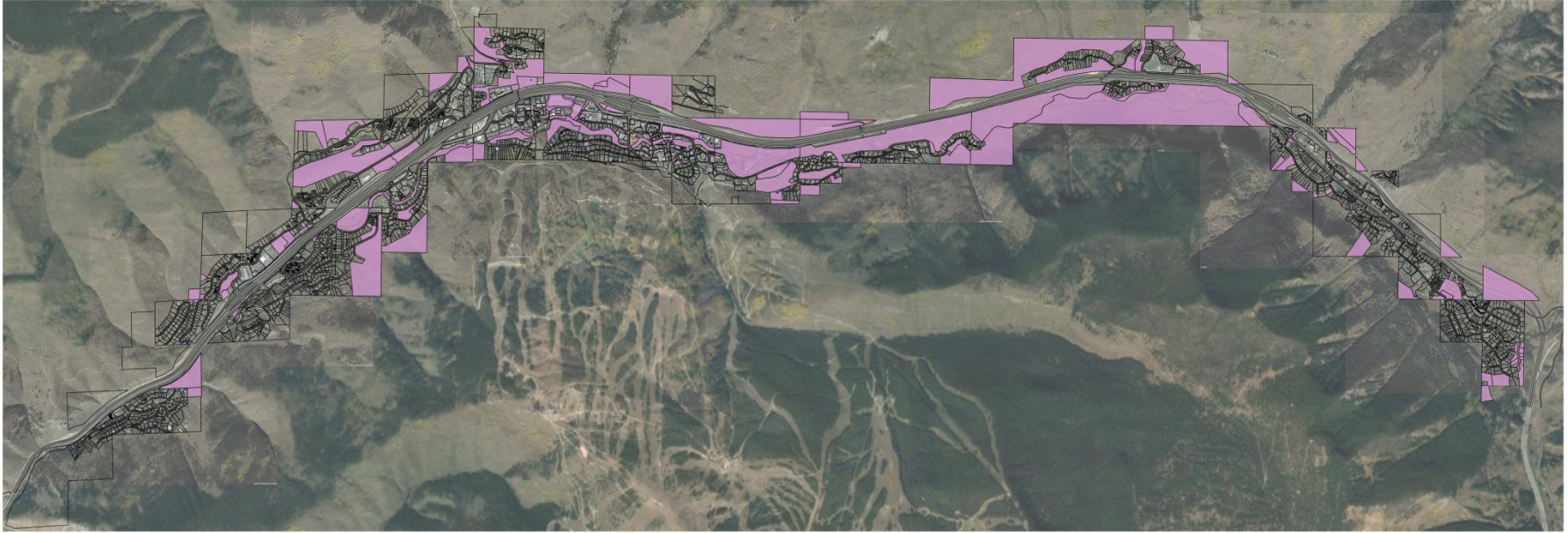
- What else should we be considering with this idea?
- Where are neighborhood trails needed? What informal trails exist?

What we heard

- Better understand feasibility of concept
- Define wildlife/environmental impacts
- Address informal social trails
- Easements

Use of Town Lands

Recommendations of Use of Town Lands



TOWN OWNED - PARCELS

Use of Town Lands

Recommendations of Use of Town Lands



TOWN OWNED PARCELS EXCLUDING:

- DEVELOPED LANDS
- PARKS / GOLF COURSE
- "OPEN SPACE DESIGNATED LANDS"
- ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINT LANDS

Use of Town Lands

Lands Purchased with RETT

Transfer Tax Ordinance adopted in 1979

- 1% tax on land sales to purchase lands for “*for parks, recreation, open space*”

Amended in 1987

- No increase to tax amount without approval of voters
- RETT funds may only be spent within Town of Vail
- RETT funds to “be used for the improvements”

Amended in 1992/2006

- Tax proceeds within 1 mile of Town boundary
- Added recreation paths to uses funded by RETT
- Added “sustainable environmental practices” to uses funded by RETT



Use of Town Lands

Open Space Designation

What we are evaluating

Potential role of Eagle Valley Land Trust and Eagle County Open Space

The questions we are asking

Should this Plan update evaluate additional parcels for Designated Open Space? If so, suggestions?

What we heard

- Middle Bench of Donovan – apply Open Space Designation
- Role of land trust
- Use of RETT lands
- Evaluate RETT lands/Open Space Designation

Use of Town Lands

Need for “Public Facilities” or “Civic/Public Facilities”

What we are evaluating

- 160 Town-owned parcels – existing use, development feasibility
- Town future needs - snow dump, solar farm, parks, community gardens

The questions we are asking

What future/unanticipated needs may require land?

What land does Town own that could accommodate future needs?

What we heard

- Put discussion of conference center to bed
- Performing arts, pool, ice rink

WORK PROGRAM

Action Items/Land Acquisition

- Evaluate 51 Action Items/recommendations from '94 Plan
- Define “sensitive environmental resource”, evaluate bio-diversity
- ID potential for new Action Items to further environmental goals, re: Gore Creek/Wildlife
- Evaluation of all Town-owned lands, re: housing/public uses
- Evaluation of USFS lands

Technical Experts/Other Resources

- CPW
- USFS
- ERWSD
- Eagle River Watershed Council

WORK PROGRAM

Trails

- Alternatives for addressing user conflicts
- Define design parameters for trails
- Assess environmental/wildlife impacts
- Comprehensive plan of existing trails and types of trails
- Evaluation of other trail improvements from '94 Plan
- Feasibility of Concept Plan – neighborhood connectors

Technical Experts/Other Resources

- CPW
- USFS
- VR
- ECO Trails

WORK PROGRAM

Use of Town Lands

- Evaluate RETT purchases/Open Space Designations
- Evaluate/inventory all Town-owned lands
- Open space protection techniques
- Future town needs/suitability of available lands
- Management of Town open space
- Wildfire

Technical Experts/Other Resources

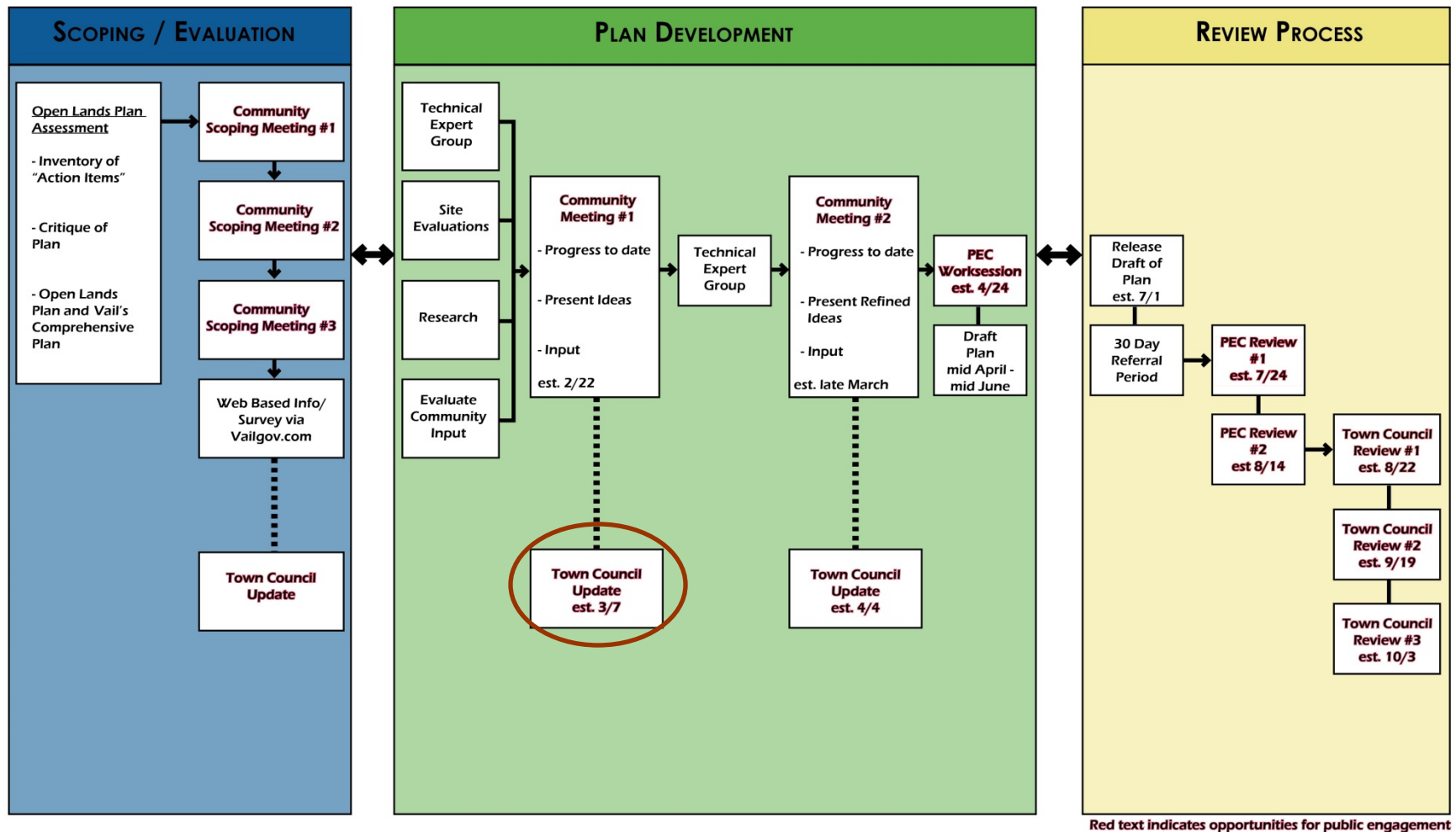
- Eagle Valley Land Trust
- Town Departments
- VRD

Community Meeting #2

- Address questions/comments from Meeting #1
- Present research and analysis
- Present ideas for potential refinements to Plan

PROJECT SCHEDULE

2016 Update to the 1994 Comprehensive Open Lands Plan





NEXT STEPS

End of presentation