

WESTMINSTER HILLS OPEN SPACE COMMUNITY ADVISORY TEAM

ABOUT THE TEAM

The Westminster Hills Open Space (WHOS) Community Advisory Team (CAT) will advise the City of Westminster in assessing the draft WHOS Management Plan and help identify solutions to preserve and protect this beloved space. The CAT will be comprised of a diverse group of residents representing various community interests and professional backgrounds, plus technical experts and representatives of the City's Parks, Recreation, Libraries, and Open Space Advisory Board (PRLOSAB). Appointed by the Director of Parks, Recreation and Libraries (PRL), the CAT will assist in evaluating potential management options and land-use strategies for WHOS and its off-leash dog area. Their goal is to advise and support staff's development of a sustainable and equitable land-use plan for the future of WHOS.

BACKGROUND

WHOS has seen a significant increase in use since the initial designation of a small off-leash area in 2000. With subsequent expansion to 400 acres WHOS' popularity grew, reaching over one million visits annually. This has led to the proliferation of informal social trails that has degraded the site's biodiversity and ecology. Despite expanding parking 6 times, illegal parking has become common, presenting public safety issues for pedestrians, motorists, and the surrounding community. As part of the City's commitment to open space stewardship, the 2014 Open Space Stewardship Plan identified WHOS as a priority area for an Area Master Plan. Following an assessment by an independent, third-party environmental firm, a recommendation aligned with City Code that called for reducing off-leash use to a smaller area was proposed to enable restoration and preservation of the remaining natural landscape. This recommendation has generated diverse community reactions, prompting the formation of the CAT.

ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION

PRL is seeking applications from Westminster residents with diverse interests and backgrounds, including:

- Westminster Hills Open Space neighborhood representatives (e.g., Countryside, Meadow View, Walnut Grove, Crown Pointe, Village at Walnut Grove, etc.)
- Off-leash dog guardian
- Natural resource protection and enjoyment advocate
- Bicycling advocate
- Westminster community at-large representative

A representative from Jefferson County Parks and Open Space will also be included on the team as well as representatives of the City's Parks, Recreation, Libraries, and Open Space Advisory Board (PRLOSAB). The PRL Director will select the final team members to ensure a balanced and diverse group bringing a variety of perspectives and experiences to the table.

TIME COMMITMENT

Over the next three months, the CAT will have up to five scheduled meetings. Out of respect for each CAT member's busy schedule, the meetings will be scheduled for the evening and limited to 1.5 hours. The CAT will meet every other Wednesday from March 20 to May 1, from 6-7:30 p.m. for professionally facilitated discussions. Along with reviewing materials and information provided beforehand, members of the CAT are expected to attend all four meetings.



**APPLICATIONS
DUE MARCH 11**

**Submit your application at
www.westminsterco.gov/whos**

**LEARN MORE & APPLY:
WWW.WESTMINSTERCO.GOV/WHOS**



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Parks, Recreation & Libraries