

BOULDER WEIGHS SPECIAL MEETING ON ANEMONE HILL MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL (DAILY CAMERA)

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Open space staff to reveal alternative recommendations

Boulder officials are expected to unveil a range of recommendations Tuesday night for opening up additional city open space property to mountain biking.

The City Council is scheduled to call for a special meeting on Oct. 25 to consider the options for building a mountain bike trail on Anemone Hill. Open space officials also will present new options for mountain bike access in the area.

In March, the council upheld a ban on mountain biking in the vast majority of the West Trail Study Area -- the 11,250-acre swath of open space west of Broadway that stretches from Linden Avenue south to Eldorado Springs Drive.

But city leaders left open the possibility of a new bike loop or trail within the Anemone Hill area, and, in August, the Open Space Board of Trustees voted to recommend a new multi-use trail on Anemone Hill.

The board's recommendation included some stipulations, including deferring connecting trails to the Boulder Creek Path and the Fourmile Canyon area.

Jason Vogel, president of the Boulder Mountainbike Alliance, called the idea of a new trail on Anemone Hill an "important recreation opportunity."

"The Open Space Board of Trustees made a very carefully considered recommendation," he said. "I think it's a great starting point for the council to deliberate."

Vogel said supporters of mountain bike access on city open space lands likely would show up en masse at the Oct. 25 meeting, which he said is a chance for the two sides to reconcile after the contentious debate over the West Trail Study Area.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for council to sort of open their arms and show that we're all part of the same community... while still protecting the resource," he said.

Mike Patton, Boulder's director of open space and mountain parks, said the open space staff plans to present its own set of recommendations.

"The board's recommendation is one among many options that is available to (the council)," he said.

Patton declined to say what those recommendations are ahead of Tuesday's meeting, but he suggested that they would differ from those of the open space trustees.

By Heath Urie, Camera Staff Writer

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