

MEMORANDUM

TO: Open Space Board of Trustees

FROM: Dan Burke, Director, Open Space and Mountain Parks
Kacey French, Planning and Design Senior Manager
Katie Knapp, Principal Planner

DATE: March 8, 2023

SUBJECT: Written Information: Fort Chambers / Poor Farm Site Management Plan Update

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a written update for the development of a Fort Chambers / Poor Farm (FCPF) property Management Plan ([Fort Chambers / Poor Farm Management Plan | City of Boulder \(bouldercolorado.gov\)](#)).

Context

The Fort Chambers / Poor Farm property is located west of North 63rd Street and south of Jay Road (an area map is included as **Attachment A**). The property is important to Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) and the community due to its history and association with the Sand Creek Massacre and the land's significant ecological and agricultural resources.

City staff are working on a government-to-government basis with the three Sovereign Tribal Nations affected by the Sand Creek Massacre (the Cheyenne and Arapaho, the Northern Arapaho and the Northern Cheyenne) to receive and incorporate their meaningful input into the development of a management plan for the property. The Site Management Plan will be used to guide ongoing land management and uses associated with the property.

Background

The 110-acre property was purchased in 2018 due to its ability to fulfill many OSMP Charter purposes. The previous Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) update included:

- A meeting summary from discussions with Arapaho and Cheyenne Tribal Leaders and Representatives
- Preliminary site inventory information

Previous updates to the board and council are available at the following links:

[03.14.18 OSBT Packet \(bouldercolorado.gov\)](#)

[03.10.21 OSBT Packet \(bouldercolorado.gov\)](#)

[02.22.22 Council Memo \(bouldercolorado.gov\)](#)

[09.14.22 OSBT Packet \(bouldercolorado.gov\)](#)

Site Management Plan Update

Government to Government Tribal Partnership

The city is continuing government-to-government discussions with the federally recognized American Indian Tribes affected by the Sand Creek Massacre: the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, the Northern Arapahoe Tribe, and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. It is recognized that this management plan will take time since Tribal Representatives and Tribal Nations consult with many federal, state, and local agencies across the county. Current work includes:

- **City/Tribal Nation collaboration agreement.** City staff and Tribal Representatives are working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines the process, roles and responsibilities for this Site Management Plan collaboration. A draft MOU has been prepared and is currently being reviewed by Tribal Representatives.
- **Inventory / sharing information.** Staff conducted extensive research and compiled historic information for the Inventory Report. Tribal Representatives reviewed draft report information prior to inclusion in the Inventory Report.
- **The Sand Creek Massacre Exhibition:** OSMP staff and Tribal Representatives attended the Nov. 19, 2022, opening of History Colorado's [Sand Creek Massacre Exhibition](#) in Denver, CO. This exhibit shares histories from Arapaho and Cheyenne descendants of the massacre's survivors and was created in partnership with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe, the Northern Arapaho Tribe and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

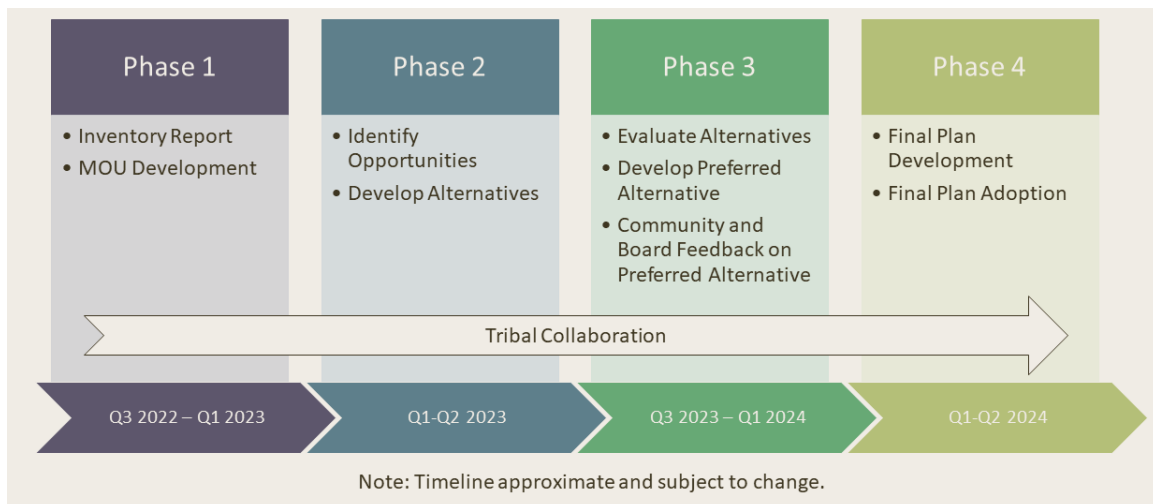
Inventory and Assessment

Staff have compiled inventory work to inform the site planning process and will be releasing an Inventory Report in the upcoming days. It will soon be highlighted on the [project webpage](#).

This site has a deep history and many significant resources. To reach a broad spectrum of stakeholders and interested community members, the Inventory Report was created with Arc-Experience, an interactive platform that is accessible on different types of devices (i.e.: computers, phones, tablets). This is a new platform, intended to build a shared understanding of the sites values by providing information in an accessible, easy to understand, and visually appealing way.

Staff encourages the OSBT to look through the inventory report to learn more about the site, and view the maps, pictures and information included. For context, resources are also provided to understand the broader history and the ties to the Sand Creek Massacre, which is sacred to the Cheyenne and Arapaho people. We are committed to working with our Tribal partners to learn how to share information about their history and the massacre. The inventory report provides information specific to Fort Chambers and it is intentional that the full story of the Sand Creek Massacre is not included. There are many resources provided to learn more, including the new [Sand Creek Massacre Exhibition](#) at History Colorado in Denver.

This inventory report will feed into the next phase of the project, where site opportunities are identified, and different site alternatives are developed and assessed. The site planning process includes the following phases:



Next Steps

In the upcoming months, OSMP staff will:

- work with the Tribal Representatives to receive their feedback and finalize the MOU that outlines continued collaboration on this site planning effort.
- begin developing site management plan alternatives for tribal input. Tribal Representatives expressed their preference to comment and provide feedback on staff-developed management plan concepts.
- provide updates to the [project webpage](#) as appropriate.

Staff will continue to collaborate with the tribes on the development and evaluation of site plan alternatives. It is anticipated that staff will provide an update to the board on the site plan alternative process later in 2023.

Attachments

Attachment A: Area Map

