



STUDY SESSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Members of City Council

FROM: Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde, City Manager
Pam Davis, Assistant City Manager
Dan Burke, Director, Open Space and Mountain Parks
Phillip Yates, Senior Communications Program Manager
Katie Knapp, Principal Planner, Open Space and Mountain Parks
Aimee Kane, Equity Officer

DATE: March 9, 2023

SUBJECT: Study Session for March 9, 2023
Tribal Nation Consultation and Engagement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this document is to provide the Boulder City Council an overview of ongoing city consultation and engagement with federally recognized American Indian Tribal Nations, including several ongoing city-Tribal Nation projects and an upcoming consultation on **Wednesday, March 15**, and **Thursday, March 16**. For quick reference, please review page numbers below for specific memo sections:

- Ongoing Consultation and Engagement with Tribal Nations, **Page 2**
- Tribal Sovereignty, **Page 4**
- City Tribal Consultation and Engagement Practices, **Page 5**
- Policies and Plans that Help Guide Consultations, **Page 7**
- Existing City-Tribal Nation Memorandums of Understanding, **Page 8**
- Proposed City-Tribal Nation Memorandum of Understanding, **Page 9**
- Recent City of Boulder Consultations, **Page 10**
- 2023 Consultation, **Page 11**
- Completed City-Tribal Nation Projects, **Page 12**

The City of Boulder [acknowledges the city](#) is on the ancestral homelands and unceded territory of Indigenous Peoples who have traversed, lived in and stewarded lands in the Boulder Valley since time immemorial. Those Indigenous Nations include the: Di De'I (Apache), Hinono'eiteen (Arapaho), Tsistsistas (Cheyenne), Nʉmʉnʉʉ (Comanche), Kiowa, Čariks i Čariks (Pawnee), Sosonih (Shoshone), Oc'eti S'akowin (Sioux) and Nʉuchiu (Ute).

The city recognizes that Indigenous knowledge, oral histories, and languages – handed down through generations over thousands of years – have shaped profound cultural and spiritual connections with Boulder-area lands and ecosystems and that those connections are sustained and celebrated to this day. City staff look forward to ongoing consultations and engagement with

Tribal Nations to build and sustain long-term relationships and discuss future collaborative opportunities.

ONGOING CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH TRIBAL NATIONS

The city's ongoing work and partnership with Tribal Nations is led by the City Manager's Office. An interdisciplinary team of staff members meets monthly to help plan and discuss upcoming consultations and engagement with Tribal Nations. Staff from the City Manager's Office, Open Space and Mountain Parks, Communications and Engagement, the City Attorney's Office, Housing and Human Services and the city's Racial Equity Team participate in those meetings. City staff are thankful for guidance from Tribal Representatives and assistance from the [Keystone Policy Center](#) and [Living Heritage Anthropology](#) in planning and hosting consultations.

Currently, city staff are working on several consultation and engagement projects with Tribal Representatives:

- **March 15-March 16, 2023 Consultation.** The consultation is currently focused on continuing development of an updated Memorandum of Understanding (see below) as newly elected leaders of Tribal Governments – along with newly appointed Representatives – may need updates on this ongoing work. The consultation also will provide Tribal Representatives site visits to city-managed open space land of interest to continue building relationships with Tribal Representatives and help guide future conversations with Tribal Nations.

Staff anticipate that the opening of the consultation will be recorded to help inform community members of ongoing city work with Tribal Nations. Staff also will ask Tribal Representatives to provide a joint statement for the community at the end of the consultation.

- **Proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).** The proposed MOU consolidates past City-Tribal Nation MOUs and includes several additions and updates. It seeks to set a foundation for future City-Tribal Nation collaboration, and ongoing consultation and discussions regarding city-managed open space land. Council will likely be asked to consider a staff recommendation regarding executing the MOU later in 2023. More information about the proposed MOU is on *page 8* of this memo.
- **The Fort Chambers – Poor Farm Property Management Plan.** City staff appreciate listening and learning from Arapaho and Cheyenne Representatives who have been providing input for a management plan for the land, which has a direct community connection to the Sand Creek Massacre. We look forward to continuing to listen and learn from the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, the Northern Arapaho Tribe, and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe as part of ongoing efforts to guide the future of the Fort Chambers – Poor Farm property and reinterpret a highly inaccurate and problematic marker on the property.

In early March, the city anticipates releasing an inventory report intended to inform the development of a site management plan for the property in alignment with city [open space purposes](#) and guidance from the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, the Northern Arapaho Tribe and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. Please visit the [project webpage](#) to learn more.

- **Tribal Nation Ethnographic-Education Report.** City of Boulder staff recognizes that interpretation and educational information describing its history is dominated by American-European perspectives and fails to adequately include Indigenous perspectives. The planned report will be informed by in-person interviews with Tribal Representatives, and the project team is inviting American Indian Tribal Nations to share stories they want to tell and help communicate their enduring cultural, spiritual and historical connections to the Boulder Valley. The report will help the city and Tribal Nations develop education and interpretation materials that provide accurate, truthful Indigenous Peoples’ stories – both past and present. The report is also intended to help city staff learn more about special areas or types of places of importance to Tribal Nations and help guide future conversations with Tribal Nations. City staff have received permission from Tribal Representatives to release a final report, after approval by Tribal Representatives, in early 2026.
- **Education/Interpretative Signs on Open Space.** Open Space and Mountain Parks and city Communication and Engagement staff are receiving guidance on how to address dated Indigenous-related education/interpretative signs on the city’s Open Space and Mountain Parks system. Recently, city staff received guidance to remove signs in The Peoples’ Crossing area and a sign along Boulder Creek just south of The Peoples’ Crossing given its location near a remaining Settler’s Park inscription (see below). Tribal Representatives suggested their removal given their age, content inaccuracies and the exclusion of Indigenous cultural and spiritual perspectives in their creation. The city anticipates that the ethnographic report and ongoing discussions with Tribal Representatives regarding signs will help city staff build a broader education and interpretative approach across city open space.
- **Settler’s Park Inscription.** The City of Boulder renamed Settlers’ Park to The Peoples’ Crossing in 2021 to help fulfill the city’s Indigenous Peoples Day Resolution. While The Peoples’ Crossing name is now reflected on OSMP signs and throughout city trail and trailhead webpages, online maps and trail apps, a Settler’s Park inscription on a concrete underpass tunnel structure that connects Eben G. Fine Park and The Peoples’ Crossing area remains. Recently, city staff received guidance from Tribal Representatives to remove the Settler’s Park inscription and replace it with The Peoples’ Crossing name. City staff have begun initial efforts to replace the inscription, which will require approval from the Colorado Department of Transportation.
- **2024 Private and Public Events.** Tribal Representatives have provided recommendations for how the city can support events that recognize Tribal Nations’ enduring connections to the Boulder area and celebrate the recent renaming of Settler’s Park in west Boulder to The Peoples’ Crossing. These events are tentatively planned to occur before, after or during a March 2024 consultation. The city anticipates providing updates about these events in fall 2023.
- **Potential Renaming.** As part of ongoing staff learning from Tribal Representatives, staff is receiving feedback that may lead to proposals to rename select open space trails and trailheads to continue fulfilling the Indigenous Peoples Resolution and provide more opportunities for open space visitors to learn Indigenous perspectives and histories.
- **Cultural Resource Management.** City of Boulder staff, from time to time, discuss sensitive cultural resource topics with Tribal Representatives. Staff do not publicly disclose the nature of those conversations to protect cultural resources that may be on

city-managed lands, help support Tribal Nations’ desires in long-term cultural resource protection, honor existing agreements the city has with Tribal Nations and fulfill agreements with the State of Colorado.

The City of Boulder’s Human Relations Commission and Office of Arts and Culture also support community programs and events as part of Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations. In 2016, the Human Relations Commission and community members drafted the [Indigenous Peoples Day Resolution](#) (Resolution No. 1190), which was presented at the Aug. 2, 2016, Boulder City Council meeting and adopted by the City of Boulder.” It declared the second Monday of October of each year to be Indigenous Peoples Day. It also directed staff to receive guidance from Tribal Nations to rename Settler’s Park and begin long-term work to recognize and celebrate Indigenous Peoples in public places and programming. City staff thank Tribal Representatives for participating in [2022 Boulder Indigenous Peoples Day events](#).

While the City of Boulder has a framework for consultation with federally recognized American Indian Tribal Nations, city staff also recognize the importance of collaborating with local Indigenous communities and organizations in the Boulder area. Current Tribal consultation does not preclude the city from conducting similar collaboration processes with local Indigenous communities and organizations, and staff recognizes the need to work with regional partners to establish broader, community-wide Indigenous collaboration practices.

TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

Sovereignty for Native peoples has existed since time immemorial, pre-dating the U.S. Constitution.¹ Federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Nations are sovereign governments and their special relationship with the United States is recognized under the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, Executive Orders and court decisions. The special legal status of Tribal Governments requires that official relations with federal agencies must be conducted on a government-to-government basis.

City staff recognize the importance of respecting and honoring Tribal sovereignty and self-determination and conduct ongoing [government-to-government consultations](#) with Tribal Representatives appointed by federally recognized Tribal Nations that have consulted with the city since the late 1990s, share Memorandums of Understanding with the city and have historic connections to the Boulder Valley. The city invites Tribal Representatives from the following Tribal Nations to ongoing consultations:

- [Apache Tribe of Oklahoma](#)
- [Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes](#)
- [Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe](#)
- [Comanche Nation of Oklahoma](#)
- [Eastern Shoshone Tribe](#)
- [Jicarilla Apache Nation](#)
- [Kiowa Tribe](#)
- [Northern Arapaho Tribe](#)
- [Northern Cheyenne Tribe](#)
- [Oglala Sioux Tribe](#)
- [Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma](#)
- [Rosebud Sioux Tribe](#)
- [Southern Ute Indian Tribe](#)
- [Standing Rock Sioux Tribe](#)
- [Ute Mountain Ute Tribe](#)
- [Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation](#)

The city’s current consultation framework with Tribal Nations is based on:

¹ Hanschu, Chantalle. *State-Tribal Consultation Guide: An Introduction for Colorado State Agencies to Conducting Formal Consultations with Federally Recognized American Indian Tribes*. (Denver, CO, 2014), 5, <https://bit.ly/state-tribal-consultation-guide>

- Tribal Sovereignty and the importance of conducting government-to-government consultations.
- Guidance and desires provided by Tribal Representatives during past and ongoing consultations.
- Existing Memorandums of Understandings with Tribal Nations, which were developed in the late 1990s and early 2000s.
- Federal and [State of Colorado](#) consultation best practices and guidelines.

CITY CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT PRACTICES

City staff recognize we are still learning how to conduct meaningful consultation and engagement with Tribal Nations. We currently follow these broad strategies in our ongoing collaboration with Tribal Nations:

- **Respect Tribal Sovereignty.** The City of Boulder recognizes and respects Tribal Sovereignty, which has existed for Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial, pre-dating the U.S. Constitution. Tribal Sovereignty is also codified in the U.S. Constitution, Supreme Court cases, and other Federal laws, regulations, and policies. We appreciate the opportunity to listen and learn from Representatives designated by elected leaders of Tribal Nations that have consulted with the city in the past, share agreements with the city and have historic connections to Colorado.
- **Build and sustain long-term relationships with Tribal Nations.** City staff appreciate the opportunity to receive their guidance on land stewardship, cultural resource preservation, Indigenous ceremonial needs, and Indigenous education and interpretation on city-managed land and look forward to discussing future collaborative opportunities. When planning consultations and meetings, staff recognize the value of hosting in-person consultations and conducting site visits to help staff build relationships with Tribal Representatives.
- **Learn Tribal Nations' future consultation priorities.** City staff plan to engage Tribal Representatives in ongoing conversations to identify types of projects that may affect Tribal interests, learn types of places and areas that hold cultural and spiritual significance for Tribal Nations, and understand what types of future collaboration may be most meaningful for Tribal Nations.
- **Strive for meaningful outcomes.** Consultations provide Tribal Nations and the city the opportunity to co-design and implement projects that can set a foundation for future collaborative opportunities, such as understanding Tribal Nations' desired, long-term relationship with city-managed public land.
- **Understand the importance of collaborating with local Indigenous communities and organizations in the Boulder area.** Current Tribal consultation efforts require significant staff time and resources. However, it does not preclude the city from conducting similar collaboration processes with local Indigenous communities and organizations, and staff recognizes the need to work with regional partners to establish broader, community-wide Indigenous collaboration practices.

- **Recognize Tribal Representatives are busy consulting a wide range of projects across the country.** Ongoing projects with Tribal Nations can take time to plan, initiate and implement. City staff seek to understand and consider ceremonies, Tribal elections, and fieldwork seasons when scheduling consultation and engagement conversations.
- **Fulfill commitments in existing Memorandums of Understanding, plans and policies.** City staff recognize the importance of honoring city-Tribal Nation Memorandums of Understanding, discussions at past consultations and numerous plans and policies, including the Indigenous Peoples Day Resolution, the city staff land acknowledgment, the Racial Equity Plan, the Open Space and Mountain Parks Master Plan and the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan.
- **Recognize change takes time:** Budgets, staffing, workplans, current city policies and local, state and federal laws may pose difficulties in instituting new efforts, projects and policies.
- **Protect sensitive information.** Staff remind community members that respecting and protecting sensitive Indigenous Traditional Knowledge is critical to ongoing consultation with Tribal Nations. As a standard practice, city staff do not provide information regarding the location of sensitive Indigenous cultural resources. When conducting consultations and projects with Tribal Nations, we seek to ask Tribal Representatives' position on the confidentiality of information prior to documenting information or taking possession of materials Tribal Nations may consider sensitive. We also recognize that sensitive data may need to be withheld from the city in order to protect culturally sensitive information.
- **Improve consultation practices and share institutional knowledge among staff.** Staff seek to incorporate lessons learned and guidance from Tribal Representatives and consultants to improve our engagement and consultation practices and build long-term institutional knowledge of consultation practices across the city. We encourage city staff to read about federal tribal consultation practices – such as the Biden Administration’s work to develop [uniform standards for tribal consultation](#) – and to take [online training programs](#) to learn more about federal tribal consultation practices.

Currently, city consultation and engagement conversations with Tribal Nations occur through:

- **Annual Consultations.** Since 2019, the city has invited Tribal Representatives to an annual consultation in either March or April. While those consultations are intended to be in-person events, COVID-19 has forced the city to host several online consultations with Tribal Representatives. Consultations are generally organized to address and make progress on topics raised at previous city-Tribal Nation consultations and meetings. The city also provides updates about current city-Tribal Nation work, recognizing newly elected Tribal Government leaders may appoint new Representatives to attend consultations. As a standard practice, the city invites Tribal Representatives to provide feedback on proposed consultation items and to suggest topics that could be added to consultation agendas.

- **Working Group Meetings.** The city invites designated Tribal Representatives to participate in *working group meetings* to collaborate on ongoing projects with the city. These meetings have been instrumental in helping the city to receive guidance for its planned ethnographic-education report.
- **Consultation for Specific City-Tribal Nation Projects.** The city may also conduct separate project consultations with specific Tribal Nations. For example, the city is seeking the guidance of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, the Northern Arapaho Tribe and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe for the long-term management of the OSMP-managed [Fort Chambers Poor Farm property](#), which has a direct, local connection to [the Sand Creek Massacre](#).
- **Delegated Federal Consultation.** There may be limited situations where the city may conduct tribal consultations on behalf of a federal agency. The city is seeking additional clarity on consultation requirements for projects with federal involvement.

As common with government-to-government consultations, annual City-Tribal consultations are typically closed sessions in order to facilitate conversations among city staff, Tribal Representatives and elected and appointed community leaders. Those conversations may include sensitive topics.

POLICIES AND PLANS THAT HELP GUIDE CONSULTATIONS

City consultation practices and collaborative work with American Indian Tribal Nations are also guided by:

- [Four agreements the city shares with Tribal Nations.](#) These agreements, which focus on city open space, were initially developed in the late 1990s and early 2000s.
- [Government-to-government consultations](#) with Tribal Nations and statements developed at the end of the consultations ([2019](#), [2021](#), [March 2022](#), [September 2022](#)).
- The city’s [2016 Indigenous Peoples Day Resolution](#). In 2016, the Human Relations Commission and community members developed the Indigenous Peoples Day Resolution (Resolution No. 1190), which was presented at the Aug. 2, 2016, City Council meeting and adopted by the Council. The resolution led to the recent renaming of Settler’s Park to The Peoples’ Crossing and also directs the city to “correct omissions of the Native American presence in public places, resources and cultural programming.” In addition, the resolution directs city staff to implement “accurate curricula relevant to the traditions, history and current issues of Indigenous People inclusive of and as part of our shared history.”
- The city’s [Racial Equity Plan](#). The plan seeks to normalize and operationalize the understanding of institutional and structural racism among people who work for or represent the city, including city staff, City Council, Boards and Commissions, and ongoing program volunteers.
- A city [staff land acknowledgment](#) based on the city’s [Indigenous Peoples Day Resolution](#) and further developed with guidance and input from American Indian Tribal Nations and the Boulder community.

- The [Open Space and Mountain Parks \(OSMP\) Master Plan](#), which directs the department to “support citywide efforts to work in partnership with federally recognized American Indian Tribal Nations and other city departments through formal government-to-government Consultations to help support American Indian Tribes and Indigenous Peoples’ connections to their ancestral homelands.”
- The [Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan](#), which states that the city follows a government-to-government consultation process with Tribal Nations. The plan also recognizes that meaningful engagement with Tribal Nations needs to also happen at a regional level.
- Federal ([Clinton](#), [G.W. Bush](#), [Obama](#), and [Biden](#)), [state of Colorado](#) and federal Tribal consultation [guidelines and manuals](#).

EXISTING CITY-TRIBAL NATION MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING

Consultations initially began because of issues related to the construction of a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) building in the 1990s. These conversations resulted in a 1998 Memorandum of Agreement between the federal government and Tribal Nations.

That agreement, among other things, protected part of the property from development and allowed members of federally recognized Tribal Nations to conduct ceremonies at the site. The city also assumed responsibility for overseeing a conservation easement designed to protect the undeveloped portions of the NIST property.

After 1998, the city continued to consult with Tribal Nations independently. Those consultations led to four *current* MOUs the city shares with Tribal Nations:

- [1999 Memorandum of Understanding-A](#). The City and American Indian Tribal Nations agreed to create a spiritual, moral and policy partnership to protect the land south of Boulder.
- [1999 Memorandum of Understanding-B](#). The City and Tribal Nations agreed to obtain approval for a city-administered utility easement for an area in south Boulder and to provide for a tribal monitor during then-proposed, ground-disturbing work. The city also agreed to provide reasonable fire protection services for permitted tribal cultural use of a protected area during fire bans.
- [2002 Memorandum of Understanding](#). The 2002 MOU provides the critical foundation for the proposed MOU, which has been discussed at city consultations in 2019, 2021 and 2022. The 2002 MOU outlined several city-Tribal Nation agreements regarding cultural resource consultations, Tribal Nation notification of funerary objects and human remains and ceremonial access requiring temporary structures and/or fire.
- [Amendment to 2002 MOU](#): The city and Tribal Nations agreed to update the procedures related to ceremonies involving fire and temporary structures – such as tipis and sweat lodges – on Valmont Butte east of Boulder.

PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH TRIBAL NATIONS

A proposed, updated city-Tribal Nation MOU is being developed that seeks to set a foundation for future collaboration with Tribal Nations and help ensure ongoing city-Tribal Nation consultation and input primarily regarding Open Space and Mountain Parks land.

The proposed MOU, which seeks to consolidate and supersede past agreements with Tribal Nations and focuses on city open space, is based on conversations at city-Tribal Nation consultations in 2019, 2021 and 2022, and city-Tribal Nation working group meetings in 2019. The proposed MOU, which is nearing agreement among the parties, acknowledges that:

- Tribal Nations have had a historic presence on city lands, including on city Open Space and Mountain Parks land – since time immemorial.
- The city has benefited and continues to benefit directly from the colonization of Indigenous lands and from removal policies that violated human rights.
- Indigenous knowledge, oral histories, and languages handed down through generations over thousands of years have shaped profound cultural and spiritual connections with Boulder-area lands and ecosystems and that those connections are sustained and celebrated to this day.
- Tribal Representatives have a unique capacity to gather information and convey advice concerning land management, cultural resources management, ceremonial needs and Indigenous education and interpretation.
- The city seeks to continue a partnership with Tribal Nations to ensure ongoing consultation and collaborative discussions regarding city-owned open space land and help protect any cultural resources that may exist on city open space land.

As part of the proposed MOU, the city and Tribal Nations agree to:

- Work together to uphold and support open space purposes in the city charter.
- Provide other federally recognized Tribal Nations not party to the MOU an opportunity to join the MOU and participate in ongoing consultations to provide guidance regarding land management, cultural resource preservation, ceremonial access, and Indigenous education and interpretation.
- Commit the city to continuing ongoing consultation and supporting Tribal Nation input regarding city-owned open space land.
- Invite Tribal Nations to participate in ongoing consultation and guidance on cultural resources on city open space land to avoid significant impacts, and identify areas where projects and activities may require Tribal notification.
- Require the city to notify Tribal Nations of inadvertent exposure or disturbance of Native American human remains, objects of cultural significance or patrimony, or funerary objects.
- Continue an approval process for Tribal Nation ceremonial access as outlined in 2002 and 2004 City-Tribal Nation agreements that require fire and temporary structures.

- Require the city to explore the possibility of a dedicated, permanent site on city land for sacred ceremonies.
- Identify city land that can be used for the limited harvesting of plants for personal use by Tribal Members, such as medicinal and ceremonial practices, utilizing a process that will be the subject of a future consultation.
- Commit the city and Tribal Nations to collaborate on education and interpretation materials that provide accurate, truthful Indigenous Peoples' stories, both past and present, through educational and interpretative materials.
- Provide Tribal Nations and the city opportunities to review the MOU and propose new amendments.

RECENT CITY OF BOULDER TRIBAL CONSULTATIONS

While the city held regular consultations in the late 1990s and early 2000s, consultations between the city and Tribal Nations paused in the mid-2000s. The city's adoption of the Indigenous Peoples Day Resolution in 2016, which directed the city to receive input from Tribal Nations to rename Settler's Park, and staff's desire to re-establish relationships with Tribal Nations led the city to host a consultation with American Indian Tribes in Boulder in March 2019.

The city recognizes the benefits the consultation process has in deepening relationships with Tribal Nations and understands it needs to sustain ongoing consultations and build staff institutional knowledge of consultation practices in the future.

Since 2019, the city has held several consultations with federally recognized American Indian Tribal Nations. All of the consultations have included conversations regarding past Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) and the desire to develop and execute an updated MOU.

- **March 16-17, 2019 Consultation:** The consultation ended with the city and Tribal Representatives determining that current agreements, initially adopted in the late 1990s and early 2000s, needed to be updated. There was also agreement that a working group should be established to draft agreement updates that would be discussed at a March 2020 Consultation meeting. The March 2020 Consultation, unfortunately, was postponed because of COVID-19. [Read the final statement from the consultation.](#)
- **2019 Working Group Meetings:** The city hosted several meetings with Tribal Representatives between May and August 2019 to discuss and suggest changes to the four agreements the city shares with American Indian Tribal Nations. Discussions during those working meetings helped shape the proposed, updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- **Feb. 18, 2021:** City staff held an informal conference call with Tribal Representatives to hear their preference for formal government-to-government consultations with the city during 2021. During the meeting, city staff and Tribal Nations agreed to conduct an online consultation in April 2021 to discuss an updated MOU, a final renaming recommendation for Settler's Park and a proposed land acknowledgment.

- **April 7, 2021:** Tribal Representatives discussed city-tribal agreements and renamed Settler’s Park in west Boulder to The Peoples’ Crossing. Staff and Tribal Representatives also agreed to establish a city-Tribal Nation working group to help develop education and interpretation materials, and Tribal Representatives provided guidance on a draft land acknowledgment. [Read final statement from the consultation.](#)
- **March 2022:** City staff and Tribal Representatives continued discussions regarding the proposed city-Tribal Nation MOU. [Read the final statement from the consultation.](#)
- **September 2022:** City staff and Tribal Representatives again continued discussing the proposed updated MOU, which consolidates past agreements and includes several additions and updates. The city also invited guidance on events to recognize Tribal Nations’ enduring connections to the Boulder area and celebrate the recent renaming of Settler’s Park in west Boulder to The Peoples’ Crossing area. Staff also provided updates on a planned ethnographic report that will be developed with Tribal Nations. [Read the final statement from the consultation.](#)

2023 CITY TRIBAL CONSULTATION

The March 15-16 consultation is currently focused on the proposed updated MOU and providing Tribal Representative site visits to city-managed open space land to help provide a foundation for future conversations and projects with Tribal Nations. Staff anticipate recording the opening of the consultation to provide the community updates about ongoing work with Tribal Nations; however, most of the consultation will be closed to the public as conversations may include sensitive topics, such as the location of Native American cultural resources.

The city recognizes the public interest in citywide consultations with American Indian Tribes, and staff will seek permission from Tribal Representatives to develop a joint city-tribal statement at the end of the consultation. The city has proposed the following main items for the 2023 consultation:

- **Visiting City Open Space and Mountain Parks-managed locations.** Based on guidance city staff received at the 2019 consultation, staff plan to conduct several field trips to open space areas of interest. Staff planned to conduct site visits during the March 2020 consultation, which was unfortunately canceled because of COVID-19. Staff are planning these site visits to help provide a foundation for future consultations and conversations with Tribal Representatives, such as in-person interviews for a planned ethnographic-education report the city is planning in partnership with Tribal Nations. The site visits also will help staff learn how we can best work with Tribal Representatives to protect cultural resources on lands that have importance to Tribal Nations.
- **Providing updates on city-Tribal Nation projects.** Staff will provide current information on projects the city is conducting with Tribal Nations. Those include the proposed updated Memorandum of Understanding, the Fort Chambers – Poor Farm project, the planned ethnographic-education report, ongoing education and interpretative collaboration with Tribal Nations, and 2024 private and public events.

COMPLETED CITY-TRIBAL NATION PROJECTS

The City of Boulder has completed two projects with the support and guidance of Tribal Representatives:

- **[Renaming of Settlers' Park to The Peoples' Crossing](#)**. In 2021, Representatives from American Indian Tribal Nations collaborated with the city to develop the new name to help fulfill the **[Indigenous Peoples Day Resolution](#)**. The Peoples' Crossing name honors the area as a crossroads for Indigenous Peoples who have traversed and lived in the mountains and plains of the Boulder area since time immemorial. "The People" or "Our People" is how many American Indian Tribal Nations refer to themselves in their native languages. The usage of "Peoples" is also meant to be inclusive of all people who have lived in the Boulder area.

Trailhead and trail signs in the area reflect The Peoples' Crossing name. The name is reflected on OSMP signs in the area and throughout city trail and trailhead webpages. The name also appears on Google Maps, Apple Maps and other trail apps. City staff met in early February with Tribal Representatives regarding how to address a remaining Settlers' Park inscription and received guidance to remove the "Settler' Park" inscription and replace it with "The Peoples' Crossing."

- **[Staff land acknowledgment](#)**. City staff sought the guidance of American Indian Tribal Nations and the Boulder community to develop a city staff land acknowledgment. The acknowledgment encourages the city and its staff to reckon honestly with the legacy of American-European colonization of Indigenous lands and a history of removal policies that violated human rights and broke government treaties. It also seeks to inspire community education and help initiate community-wide work to help support Indigenous Nations and Indigenous communities and organizations in the Boulder area.

Read the **[full land acknowledgment online](#)**. Staff recognize the acknowledgment may change over the years as city staff and the Boulder community continue to learn about and address the intergenerational trauma caused by the violent colonization of Indigenous lands.