



**TOWN OF COLUMBINE VALLEY
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEETING**

October 11, 2022
6:30PM

A G E N D A

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Review and Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting - January 11, 2022
- III. Comments from the Public
Each speaker will be limited to three minutes. The Planning and Zoning Commission is not authorized by the Colorado Open Meetings Law to discuss, comment, or act at the meeting on any issue raised by public comment. The Chair may refer the matter to the Town staff for immediate comment or to obtain additional information and report back to the Commission as appropriate.
- IV. Development Updates – Brent Kaslon
- V. Public Hearing: Town of Columbine Valley Master Plan Trails Addendum
 - a. Introduction and Hearing Procedure - Sandy Graham
 - b. Authority to Proceed - Lee Schiller
 - c. Staff Report - Brent Kaslon
 - d. Comments from Homeowner Associations
 - e. Comments from the Public
 - f. Planning Commission Questions
 - g. Close Public Hearing
- VI. Planning Commission Discussion and Action
- VII. Adjourn

Town of Columbine Valley 2020 Master Plan – Trail Addendum 2022

What is the 2020 Master Plan?

The master plan is a document prepared for the Town of Columbine Valley to guide future growth and development. The 2020 Master Plan was the first update since 2007, and the plan reflects resident feedback collected in 2019. Resident input was sought through online and paper surveys, in-person questionnaires, and open houses. Staff and the Planning & Zoning Commission then prepared the draft plan.

The 2020 Master Plan created vision and mission statements to guide the direction of the Town for the next decade.

Master Plan Vision: “To remain a friendly, attractive, safe and desirable community – in a fast-growing metro area – through thoughtful development and civic policies.”

Master Plan Mission: “To preserve our small-town heritage and quality of life by providing high-quality public services and giving citizens a voice in shaping the town’s future.”

The plan reaffirms the traditional values that have long characterized Columbine Valley while recognizing that the Town has grown and changed, which brings new challenges and opportunities. The master plan updated included chapters on land use goals; parks and open space; trails and connections; roadways and transportation; floodplain management; and lastly programs, services, and utilities.

2022 - Trails Addendum Summary

During our public engagement process in the 2020 Master Plan, many residents expressed a desire for more trails in Town and better connections to existing trails. The current master plan recommendations include:

- Create safe connections from Columbine Valley to schools and regional trails.
- Expand the Wild Plum trail system to connect subdivisions and improve the off-street experience.
- Preserve unofficial Town trails.
- Investigate better access to the Mary Carter Greenway and South Platte Park, avoiding Bowles Avenue.
- Work with partners to improve trail access to Downtown Littleton, the South Platte River, regional trails, and adjacent parks.
- Acquire existing underutilized open space in Town to create an internal trail corridor.

To further develop a plan that incorporates the desires of the community, staff along with a formalized trails committee created an addendum to the master plan that formulates an implementation strategy for the development of these trails and connections. This committee met during the first quarter of 2022 for a total of three meetings to discuss and the possibilities for a trail system within the Town of Columbine Valley. Proposals for creating connections within Town limits were identified, discussed, and finalized in concept. These proposals include the Platte Canyon Road sidewalk, new trail connections, and changes to the existing infrastructure as improvements are made to create a loop “trail” within the Town limits of Columbine Valley.

Consensus was gained by all the members of the committee that the proposals included in the addendum to the master plan were feasible but would also add to the betterment of the Town. Careful consideration of the needs of the community and the concerns made by Columbine Country Club comments were addressed. These proposals were presented in concept and were also endorsed in concept by the Club Executive Board.

This committee consisted of a Town of Columbine Valley Trustee, the Planning Commission Chair, two residents of the Town at-large, a Columbine Country Club Representative, the Town Planner, and the Town Administrator.



Town of

Columbine Valley

Colorado

Master Plan 2020

Trails Addendum 2022

Acknowledgments

Committee Members:

- Kathy Boyle - Trustee
- Sandy Graham - Planning Commission Chair
- Tony Gorski - Columbine Country Club Representative
- Marti Cardi - Community Member
- Kimberly Danielson - Community Member
- JD McCrumb - Town Administrator

Staff:

- Brent Kaslon - Town Planner
- Kristen Ruberg - Associate - Valerian LLC
- Becca Randolph - Landscape Designer - Valerian LLC

Columbine Valley Trails Addendum

Purpose

In 2019, the Town completed a rigorous Master Planning effort that presented a comprehensive vision for moving Columbine Valley into the next decade. During the public engagement process, some residents expressed a desire for trails within the Town of Columbine Valley. Thus the Master Plan included the goals of expanding the trail system within the Town limits as much as possible and improving off-street movement of pedestrians, bicycles, and golf carts. This plan is an addendum to the 2020 Town of Columbine Valley Master Plan.

Background

The existing pedestrian and bicycle modalities mix off-street pathways and streets. Off-street pathways are found only in a few spots including dedicated trails in the Wild Plum neighborhood, the Burning Tree drainage connection to Fairway Lane, and maintenance paths through the Drainageway D corridor in the Willowcroft and Brookhaven neighborhoods. The town also has a few sidewalk connections along Hunter Run Lane, Platte Canyon Road, and Bowles Avenue. Most pedestrians use the streets when walking through Town considering the Town does not have an identified trail system. The current configuration requires an “out and back” route that is caused by the lack of connection between the streets and pathways through Town. An out and back trip is identified as starting at a certain spot, reaching a goal or end of a street, turning back around, and reversing down the same path that was originally taken.



Columbine Valley Residents using multi-modal streets for walking. (Photo courtesy of Jay Neese)

Trails Addendum

A Board of Trustees-appointed citizen working group has identified a composite system that could be implemented using both existing infrastructure and new connections or linkages with the goal of creating a “loop” system within the Town boundaries. This loop system would include both off-street

and on-street pedestrian and bicycle movement modalities. These different proposed action items are discussed and illustrated on the following pages. The loop system could then be supplemented by other segments including a Brookhaven Extension, a Watson Lane connection, a Burning Tree/Polo Meadows Extension, and a Platte River Extension. These extensions would help to connect the remaining neighborhoods not directly adjacent to the primary loop as identified in the supplemental map. Street striping would also be added to select streets to delineate the on-street trail system as identified in the supplemental maps and separate pedestrians and bicyclists from vehicular traffic.

Many of the proposals in this plan involve constraints both identified and unidentified such as existing easements, ownership hurdles, and stakeholder feedback gathering. As each proposal moves forward, the Town would seek input from residents and stakeholders and look for solutions to constraints.

Lastly, funding the proposed linkage program will be considered. Staff is prepared to explore the use of grants through jurisdictions including Arapahoe County and the Colorado Department of Transportation and funding that may include but is not limited to the Mile High Flood District and South Suburban Parks and Recreation District.

The identified missing links in the system have been delineated as the following proposals. An implementation plan is listed at the end of this document that discusses timing for each of the proposals.

Proposal A - Platte Canyon Road Sidewalk from Village Court to the Ponds Circle Pedestrian Light

While taking public comment for the Master Plan in 2019, the Town learned that children were using the intersection of Village Court and Platte Canyon Road to get to Wilder Elementary. Pedestrians also are crossing Platte Canyon Road to access the Columbine Trail on the west side of the highway. This is an unsignalized crossing that is highly dangerous and needs mitigation. Staff is working on the feasibility of extending the sidewalk that currently runs from Fairway Lane to the Ponds Circle signal to create a safer alternative to crossing Platte Canyon Road. The trails committee considers this a priority for action.

Proposal B - Dutch Creek Connection from Fairway Lane at Platte Canyon Road to Fairway Lane on the south side of Dutch Creek

Currently, pedestrians, bicyclists, and golf carts from the south side of Town (Old Town, Burning Tree, Polo Meadows, and Wild Plum) must loop around Fairway Lane or cross through the golf course to get to the club, pool, or anywhere on the north side of Columbine Valley. This proposed connection would use the open space along Dutch Creek to create a trail from the south side of the creek to the north side of the creek linking the north side of Fairway Lane to south side of Fairway Lane. The surrounding area would be kept largely in a natural state to align with the use as a drainageway and serve as more of a passive-use park. This trail would provide a safer route to school for southern neighborhoods as well as a safer route to the club that does not require using the cart paths that could interrupt golf play.

Proposal C - Brookhaven Trail Connection from Brookhaven Trail to Brookhaven Lane

This connection would finish the maintenance pathway from Brookhaven open space, connecting Watson Lane and the rest of Columbine Valley. This could bring pedestrian, bicycle and golf cart use off Brookhaven Lane, thus improving safety. This project would also add a soft surface secondary trail through the open space with added benches and plantings.

Proposal D - Watson Lane Connection

The current connection between Watson Lane and Brookhaven Trail is designated only for residents in those two neighborhoods. Opening this connection to everyone would help to serve the larger Town of Columbine Valley community by creating new routes to Bowles, but could also serve the larger Watson Lane Sub-Area if or when it is ever redeveloped.

Proposal E - Formalize the South Platte Levee Trail Loop at Fairway Lane and Wild Plum

This connection is currently being used as an unauthorized trail along the South Platte River levee along an old gravel maintenance path. This connection would allow for the formalization of the path with crusher fines and better access from Wild Plum Lane instead of through the cart path on hole #13 at the intersection into Wild Plum. This South Segment would create a loop away from the line of play in the naturalized area east of Hole #13 of the Columbine Country Club. This trail would also establish the only spot in the Town to experience the South Platte River.

Proposal F - Formalize the South Platte Levee Trail from South Platte Loop Trail (Proposal E) to Driver Lane

Continuing the South Platte River extension loop in Proposal E, this trail would follow the existing Columbine County Club maintenance path, pass the maintenance facility, and connect to Driver Lane. There would also be a connection created north of the tee boxes at #14 near the maintenance facility to Driver Lane, helping to complete a loop system.

Proposal G - Striping of the Streets to be used as Trails

As streets are resurfaced as a part of the Capital Improvements Program, the streets that are identified to be used as trails may be redesigned to remove the steep crowns and re-striped to show the areas in which pedestrians and bicyclists are to use the streets. This striping will be used to help create a safe environment for the users, help identify the loop, and to make vehicle drivers aware that these streets are to be shared.

Proposal H - Fairway Lane - Dutch Creek Bridge

The existing bridge on Fairway Lane that crosses over Dutch Creek, just south of the Columbine Country Club Clubhouse, has been identified as a pinch point for pedestrians, bicyclists, golf cart and passenger vehicles. The proposal will investigate the use of the turfgrass shoulder area for the separation of pedestrians and bicyclists from the golf cart and passenger vehicles on Fairway Lane.

These proposals are also shown on the maps in the appendix of this document.

Maps included:

- Map A - Existing Trail System
- Map B - Comprehensive Trail Map
- Map C - Identified Linkage Program
- Map D - Nevada Ditch Locator

Implementation

Implementation of this trail master plan is likely to take many years and there is not currently a formal strategy for each of the proposals to be completed. The plan is intended to be a working guide for the future as opportunities may be presented to the Town with funding partners or as other needed infrastructure improvements are completed. The Trail Committee recommends Proposal A as the top priority due to the current safety concerns at Platte Canyon Road. The Committee then recommends to continue down the list of proposals for Proposal B, C, and E. Proposal D would be on a development timeline, as properties sell and redevelop in the future. Proposal F would be an on-going coordination effort with the Columbine County Club, The Town of Columbine Valley and Corps of Engineers as easements are renewed. Proposal G will be ongoing as streets are updated. Prior to any completion or construction of any of these projects, the Board of Trustees shall be presented with the project for approval in coordination with any stakeholders.

Nevada Ditch

The Trail Committee acknowledges that the addendum does not cover every potential trail in the Town, and urges the Town to periodically identify additional ways to encourage walking and bicycling as the years pass. One potential addition to the trail system could be the Nevada Ditch. The ditch is omitted from this addendum because first, it is not necessary for completion of the loop system and second, its future has not been determined. The ditch's ownership, water flow, and stormwater management are just a few of the variables that must be determined before it could be considered as an amenity to the trail system.

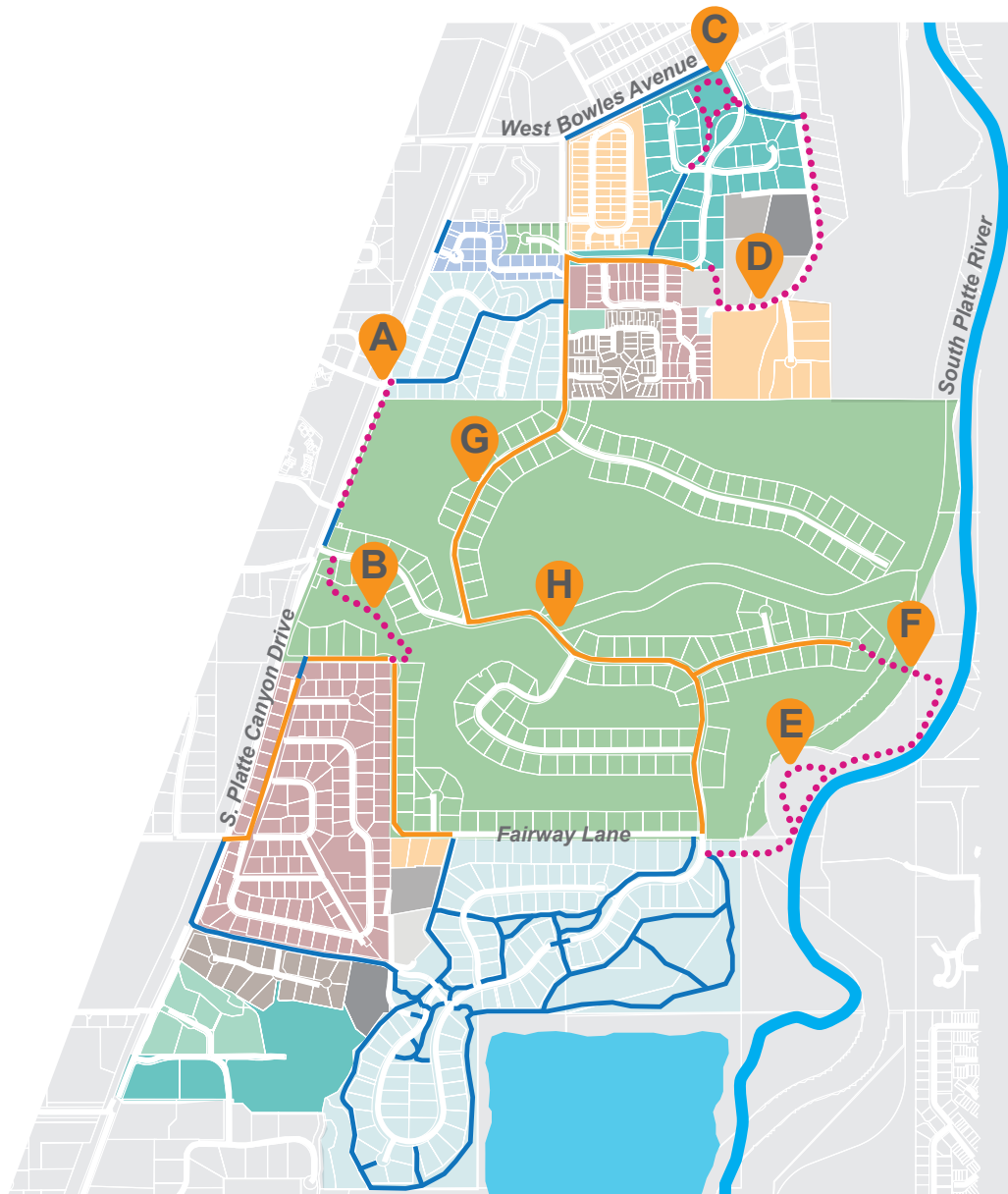
Map A – Existing Trails Within Columbine Valley



Legend

- Existing Trails (On-Street and Off-Street)
- Existing Trails (Private)
- Outside Town of Columbine Valley Limits

Map B – Identified Linkage Program



Legend

- Existing Trails
- ⋯ Potential Trails
- On-Street Trail Striping Proposal
- A Identified Linkage Proposals
- Outside Town of Columbine Valley Limits

- A Platte Canyon Road Sidewalk
- B Dutch Creek Trail Connection
- C Brookhaven Trail Connection
- D Watson Lane Connection
- E South Platte River Loop Trail
- F South Platte River Trail Connection to Driver Lane
- G Striping of Streets as Trails
- H Fairway Lane/Dutch Creek Bridge

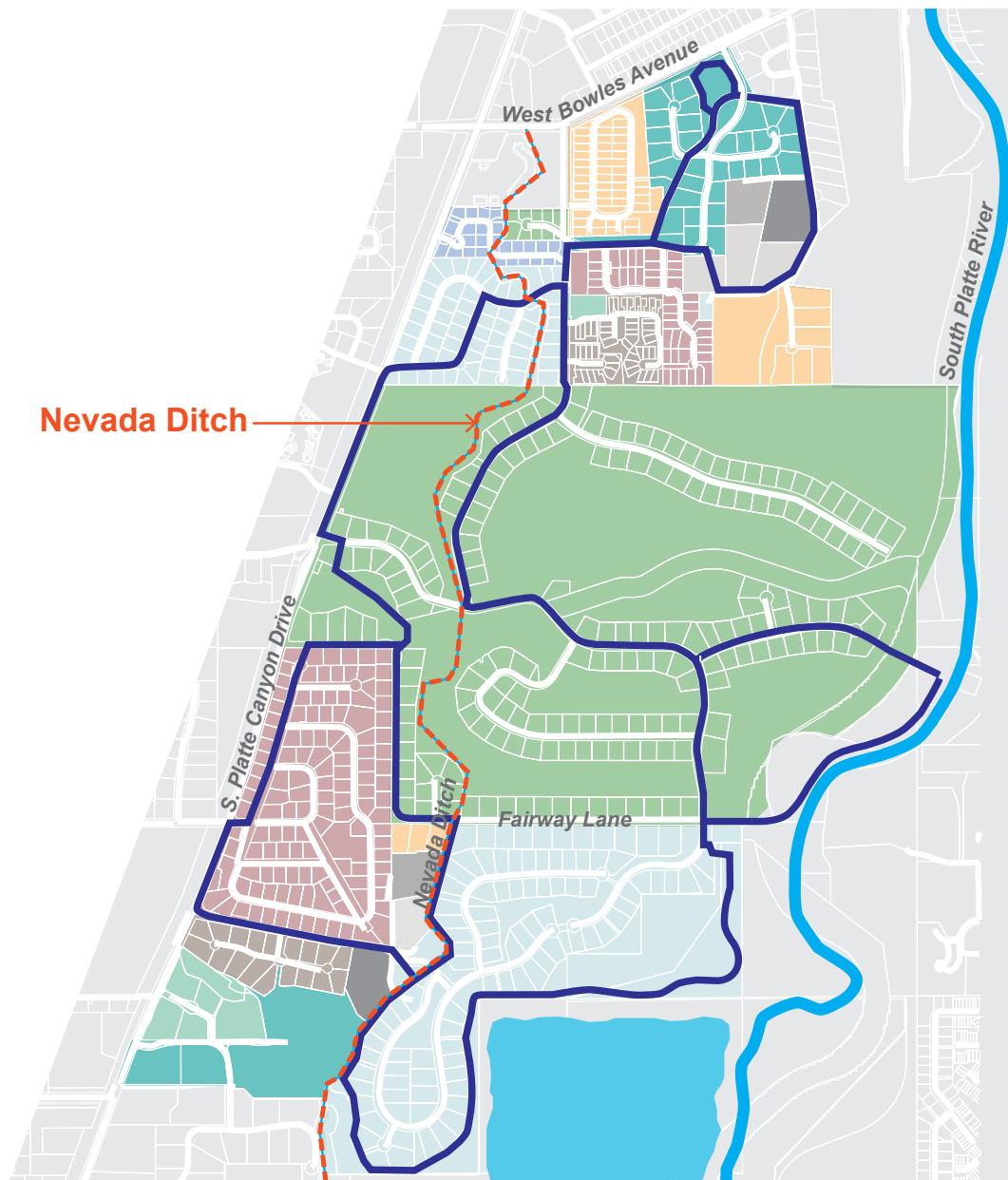
Map C – Comprehensive Trail System



Legend

	Primary Loop		Watson Lane Extension
	Burning Tree / Polo Extension		Platte River Extension
	Brookhaven Extension		Outside Town of Columbine Valley Limits

Map D – Nevada Ditch Locator



Legend

- Proposed Trail System
- Nevada Ditch
- Outside Town of Columbine Valley Limits