PROPERTY DISPOSITION

Policy 19.2 in the Parks and Open Space Master Plan provides general direction as to disposition of property acquired for open space uses. This policy states as follows:

19.2 Generally, property purchased for open space shall not be disposed of or converted to another use except in extraordinary circumstances with the approval of city council. The open space fund shall be reimbursed for the value of any property disposed of or converted to other uses in accordance with city policy.

In addition to this policy, guidelines have been established to provide more detailed guidance for when disposition of open space is appropriate, and how such disposition should be handled.

- In certain cases it may be necessary to acquire a total property when only a portion of the property is desired for open space purposes. In such cases, and when identified prior to acquisition, the city may dispose of the undesired portion of the parcel and upon city council approval shall reimburse the Open Space fund by the higher of the sale price of the undesired portion or the original pro-rata cost of the undesired portion.

- If a property originally acquired for open space is converted to another public use, such as a park, the Open Space fund shall be reimbursed for the value of the converted property at the time of its conversion or original cost, whichever is higher.

RESOURCE DISPOSITION

Policy 21.1 in the Parks and Open Space Master Plan provides general direction as to disposition of historic, archeological and ethnographic resources on open space lands. This policy states as follows:

21.1 The park and open space system should recognize, respond to, protect, and incorporate the city of Thornton’s unique historic, archeological, ethnographic, and cultural resources. Candidates for preservation include:

- Working farms and irrigation ditches
- Sites containing archeological and ethnographic artifacts
- Sites with buildings or artifacts that are on, or qualify for, the State or National Register of Historic Places

In addition to this policy, guidelines have been established to provide more detailed guidance for how to address these resources.

- Archeological resources shall be left undisturbed unless removal is justified for protection.

- Historic areas, structures or landscapes shall be preserved in their present condition, or restored to their status of historic significance, if the preserved or restored condition allows satisfactory maintenance and use within the financial resources of the city.

- Cultural resources not identified as having local, state or national significance may be permitted to deteriorate naturally, unless their removal is necessary for public safety or to restore them to their natural condition.