

Wildlife Management Request

Location: Quail Campus - Addendum

Species: Black Tailed Prairie Dog

Count: Estimated at 47 during a site visit on April 29, 2011.

Date: May 4, 2011

In accordance with the Wildlife Management Plan, Chapter 4, staff has prepared this report for executive review in order to identify a specific active management operation.

Background:

Chronology of Research or Relocation Efforts

This is an addendum to the Wildlife Management Request that was submitted and approved in the spring of 2009. That request has been attached. This addendum is to extend the existing barrier to the east, to the City's eastern boundary line, which is approximately 110 ft. and then continue that barrier along our eastern boundary in a northern fashion, 50ft. Prairie dogs south of the barrier and east of the recreation center to our eastern boundary line will be removed. Once removed, this area will be managed as a "Remove" management category. Additionally all tree wells on the site will be treated and removed for the purpose of overall tree health. Passive relocation was successful in the area from keeping the Prairie dogs from encroaching on the irrigated turf grass of the Recreation Center. Since the fall of 2010 those volunteer efforts have ceased. Local neighbors have complained to the City regarding Prairie dog encroachment onto their HOA property from the Recreation Center site.

WMP References:

According to the Wildlife Management Plan the order of priority for removal of prairie dogs from City lands should be as follows:

- Preferred Option – Relocation, if the number to be removed is greater than 25 animals and a suitable release site has been identified, approved by the Colorado Division of Wildlife while giving the public and City Council adequate notice.

- Second Option – Removal for donation to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service black-footed ferret recovery program or raptor rehabilitation program OR extermination within the burrows. The choice among these

two should be based on criteria such as urgency, cost, and the express need for euthanized animals for ferret recovery or raptor rehabilitation programs.

Options:

1. Trap and Relocation of these dogs is not feasible due to the lack of relocation sites in Boulder County.
2. Donation to a raptor rehabilitation program after June 1 is a feasible option and recommended by the Wildlife Management plan and staff. This option utilizes the resource for the recovery of injured birds of prey. It is anticipated that the cost for such a trapping will be approximately \$5,000 to \$7,500 based upon past experience.

Euthanization in the burrow is a recommended option after an attempt to trap the existing prairie dogs from this area to insure that this particular area is free of prairie dogs.

Prior to any removal or extermination, a Burrowing Owl Survey will be conducted by City staff on this site. The cost to install additional prairie dog barrier will only be that of labor to install and additional 100-150 ft of barrier. The barrier itself is 3 ft solid cedar fencing which was removed from the Airport site in the spring of 2010.

Additional Considerations:

Once the prairie dogs have been moved or removed from the south of the barrier and east of the recreation center to the City's property boundary, the management category for this site will change to "Remove", any area west and north of the barrier will continue to be Actively Manage / Exclude. Ongoing removal around the facilities will be necessary should prairie dogs migrate into this area.

Staff Recommendation (pre / post management)

After reviewing the WMP, staff recommends:

Trapping and donation of the dogs to a local raptor rehabilitation center according to the Wildlife Management Plan would be staff's recommendation and would commence shortly after June 1, 2011. Costs for these services would be paid for out of the Wildlife Management funds, followed by the final installation of the barrier by Operations staff. The trapping services would be bid prior to action. Just to clarify activities, any burrows not closed during the trapping or relocation would need to be euthanized to ensure 100% removal from the area. Both of these methods adhere to the WMP.

Going forward after the construction of the barrier, City staff or designee will be responsible for providing any further management of prairie dogs in this area to maintain designated areas as a "Remove" site, free of Prairie dogs that might migrate into the buffer area surrounding the facilities.

City Manager: _____ Date: _____

Approval / Comments:

[See attached map:](#)



