

# WESTMINSTER HILLS OPEN SPACE COMMUNITY ADVISORY TEAM

## ABOUT THE TEAM

The Westminster Hills Open Space (WHOS) Community Advisory Team (CAT) is comprised of eight community members, two Parks, Recreation, Libraries and Open Space Advisory Board (PRLOSAB) members, a Jefferson County Open Space representative, and Mayor Nancy McNally as the Council Liaison. The team will work closely with the Director of Parks, Recreation and Libraries (PRL) Tomás Herrera-Mishler on key policy discussions related to the off-leash area at WHOS. The group will be focused on developing a path forward that balances the need to protect and preserve the open space for the community to enjoy, including the size, location, rules and amenities of an off-leash dog area.

## MEMBERS

**Wayne East** – Parks, Recreation, Libraries, and Open Space Advisory Board Representative

**Tonya Yost** – Parks, Recreation, Libraries, and Open Space Advisory Board Representative

**Mary Ann Bonnell** – Jefferson County Open Space Representative

**Robby Baker** – Community Member

**John Carpenter** – Community Member

**Andrew Guthrie** – Community Member

**Bill Janowsky** – Community Member

**Erin Kendall** – Community Member

**Melissa Koss** – Community Member

**Tanya O’Conner** – Community Member

**Bethany Yaffe** – Community Member

**Mayor Nancy McNally** – City of Westminster Council Liaison (non-voting)

**Tomás Herrera-Mishler** – Parks, Recreation and Libraries Director (non-voting)

**Ashley Edinger** – Facilitator (non-voting)

## MEMBER BIOS

### **Wayne East – Parks, Recreation, Libraries, and Open Space Advisory Board Representative**

Wayne is a 41-year resident of Westminster. He holds a BS in Wildlife Biology and a Master of Public Administration (MPA). Wayne has over 25 years of experience in natural resources programs and organization management. Wayne has volunteered for the City of Westminster’s Parks, Recreation, Libraries, and Open Space Advisory Board for 9 years, having served as Co-Chair and Chair of the board.

### **Tonya Yost - Parks, Recreation, Libraries, and Open Space Advisory Board Representative**

Tonya is an attorney working in the loan due diligence and servicing oversight fields. A Westminster resident for the last 15 years, she lives just steps from the Westminster Hills Open Space – Dog Park, where she regularly exercises with her Border Collie, Mae. Her desire to be an active participant in protecting and preserving the open spaces in Westminster led her to join the PROSLAB advisory board in 2019 and she also recently joined Westminster’s Municipal Courthouse Project CAT. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, camping, and exploring the many trails in Westminster. She looks forward to collaborating with the other members of the WHOS CAT to find a sustainable solution for the spectacular area that will meet the needs of all users, inhabitants, and ardent fans.



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## **Mary Ann Bonnell – Jefferson County Open Space Representative**

Mary Ann is a Park Ranger and the Visitor Services and Natural Resources Director for Jefferson County Open Space. Mary Ann holds a degree in Biology from the University of Colorado. Mary Ann's work focuses on supporting the teams charged with protecting park and natural resources and includes heritage stewardship, natural resources, park rangers, park maintenance, recreation management and volunteer Land Steward and Vintage Telescope Operator coordination.

## **Robby Baker – Community Member**

Robby started life in Wyoming and moved to the big city in the 1960. His interest in outdoor activities came early, starting rock climbing in early 70's. Previously, he instructed a climbing class with the City of Greenwood Village. As a kid he was always riding his bike and started mountain biking in the early 90's. He'd much rather be outdoors instead of indoors.

## **John Carpenter – Community Member**

John Carpenter boasts a 35-year career in municipal development. He served as Westminster's Community Development Director for 26 years (1990-2016), following a nine-year tenure with Thornton, CO, where he held economic development and planning director positions. Carpenter holds a degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and an MBA from the University of Colorado.

## **Andrew Guthrie – Community Member**

Andrew Guthrie has been a Westminster resident since 1998, living in Countryside since 2006. As a member of the Westy Dog Park Guardians, Andrew is focused on finding management solutions in partnership with the City for our beloved Westminster Hills. Outside the park, Andrew is the Executive Director of the FoolProof Foundation, a non-profit teaching critical thinking through financial wellness.

## **Bill Janowsky – Community Member**

Bill has been a Westminster resident since June of 2002 having first lived in Countryside and now in Sunstream community. He has been an active user of the dog park for the past 22 years and has witnessed all of the changes from its original smaller off-leash footprint to its current 400 acre of off-leash area of enjoyment for our furry friends and neighbors. He has been a professional fish and wildlife biologist for the 24 years and prior to that was a wetland scientist for 8 years with another federal agency. In his current position as a fish biologist, he has lots of experience dealing with and mitigating adverse impacts to natural habitats from all types of recreational uses that occur on public lands. He is hopeful that his experience and background will be an asset to the WHOS CAT team and will be able to reach a solution that allows all of us Westminster residents to continue to enjoy our off-leash dog park in Westminster.

## **Erin Kendall – Community Member**

Erin is excited to serve on the Community Advisory Team. She enjoys spending time in Westminster's open spaces and parks for recreation, wildlife watching, and to spend time outside with my dog. She has a background in wildlife biology, and has been visiting WHOs for over 12 years, and is passionate about the complexity of balancing outdoor recreation with habitat conservation.

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**[WWW.WESTMINSTERCO.GOV/WHOS](http://WWW.WESTMINSTERCO.GOV/WHOS)**



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## **Melissa Koss – Community Member**

Melissa was raised in Ft Collins and has lived with her family in Westminster's Countryside neighborhood for 8 years. She's an avid hiker and photographer & makes a tasty key lime cake. Prior to running her insurance small business (15 yrs now), she was a community mediator and conflict educator. She, her husband Dan, and their daughter love live music, dark chocolate & exploring ALL the nature.

## **Tanya O'Conner – Community Member**

Tanya O'Connor is a Colorado native and has lived in the Countryside neighborhood for 29 years (one block from the parking area on Simms). She likes to take daily run/walks in and near the WHOS area. Tanya is passionate about wildlife preservation and through the years has witnessed both positive and negative impacts to the WHOS area. She is excited to work with others on the Community Advisory Team.

## **Bethany Yaffe – Community Member**

Bethany is a licensed Professional Engineer and a certified Envision Sustainability Professional. With a Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering and Science from the Colorado School of Mines, her professional role has primarily focused on water treatment and distribution, but she also has experience in remediation. She enjoys the outdoors and has spent over six years visiting the Westminster Hills Open Space while training for trail races and letting her Border Collie mix, Aspen, "herd" balls and frisbees.

## **Ashley Edinger - Facilitator**

Ashley Edinger currently serves as the Senior Director of Institute and Strategic Supports with Rocky Mountain Partnership. In this role, she has the incredible opportunity to oversee RMP's Institute (a.k.a. training and development arm) and Civic Influencer (youth engagement) program, data and information insights and analytics, policy and advocacy, team climate and culture, and RMP's affiliation with StriveTogether. She also manages RMP's high-impact project focused on increasing early cradle to career success.

Ashley is a CQ® Certified Facilitator (Cultural Intelligence, Developing CQ, and CQ Your Bias) through the Cultural Intelligence Center, and is trained in Results Count®, Results-Based Accountability™, Continuous Improvement, and Adaptive Leadership. She currently serves on several data and policy committees across the state, including: AC-REP Business Advocacy and Public Policy Committee (BAPP), Economic Development Council of Colorado (EDCC) Data Committee, EDCC Public Policy Committee, Education and Workforce Policy Coalition (Colorado Succeeds), and the Statewide Opioid Data Workgroup.

Ashley is originally from Greeley, Colorado and a first-generation college graduate with a degree in Socio-legal Studies and Political Science, with minors in Leadership Studies, Psychology, and Urban Studies from the University of Denver. Her experience before landing at RMP includes coaching youth in community organizing, volunteer engagement and management, nonpartisan voter engagement, and higher education support for incoming first-year students and students engaging in undergraduate research.

Outside of her role at RMP, you can find her playing clarinet with Mile High Freedom Bands, spectating musicals and plays, volunteering as a judge for high school speech and debate tournaments, hanging out with her cat Toothless, or exploring the beauty of Colorado and all it has to offer.

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