

BOARD OF TRUSTEES WORKSHOP

5:30 PM - 6:15 PM

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BOTANICAL GARDEN PROPOSAL

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM/PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGE STUDY

6:15 PM - 6:50 PM

TOWN OF LYONS

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018

SHIRLEY F. JOHNSON COUNCIL CHAMBER
LYONS TOWN HALL, 432 5TH AVENUE, LYONS, COLORADO

I. Rocky Mountain Botanical Garden Proposal

I.1. Presentation And Request

I.1.a. Rocky Mountain Botanical Garden Proposal

Documents:

[ROCKY MOUNTAIN BOTANIC GARDEN PROPOSAL.PDF](#)

I.1.a.i. Botanical Garden Map

Documents:

[BOTANICAL GARDEN MAP.PDF](#)

I.1.a.i.1. Board Feedback

I.1.a.ii. Staff Feedback

II. Transportation Improvement Program/ Planning And Environmental Linkage Study

II.1. Presentation By Felsburg, Hold & Ullevig

II.1.a. Staff Input

II.1.a.i. Board Questions And Feedback

“The Town of Lyons will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities. Persons needing accommodations or special assistance should contact the Town at hr@townoflyons.com as soon as possible, but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.”

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BOTANIC GARDEN

Proposal: to create a botanic garden for the community of Lyons, and visitors from Colorado and beyond. The garden will feature only native plants that grow in the foothills surrounding Lyons, as well as plants from the mountains above us, grasslands to the east, and the southwest part of Colorado.

Our mission is to foster an understanding and appreciation of our native plants and wildlife, and to create a place where visitors of all ages can enjoy the peace and beauty of the natural world.

This will be an educational display garden, with individual plant signs identifying these hardy plants adapted to our soils and climate. The garden will be open to the public dawn to dusk year-round, with 5-foot wide main pathways that are wheelchair accessible, and a few narrower paths for exploring. The beds will reflect the diverse environments in Colorado, with a natural look.

There are botanic gardens all around the world, but none in Boulder County. The closest botanic gardens are in Denver, Fort Collins, and Estes Park. The foothills environment of Lyons, where the mountains meet the prairie grasslands, is an exceptional setting for a botanic garden.

Visitors will be able to discover native plants that will do well in their yards, with little watering or special needs, as well as to learn the names of Colorado plants that they see while out hiking.

Location

We propose to use the mobile home park site for our garden, (1.26 acres), and start the garden on the lower 2/3 of the property (.8 acres) closest to the Bohn Park entrance. The higher 1/3 of the property near Highway 7 will be maintained in native wildland vegetation until such time when funding and volunteers are available to expand the botanic garden. When the town builds the arboretum, the botanic garden will be just across the road, so residents and other visitors can tour both.

Funding

We will continue our annual plant sale every May, both to raise money and to share plants that do well in the Lyons area. We will apply for a 501(c)3 for our group, so that we can apply for grants. We would also like to have occasional classes in the summer, on topics such as garden design, pruning, local flowers or birds, etc. Once the garden is built, we will suggest donations of \$1 or \$2 per person per visit. We request that the town provide a lockable donation box similar to the one the Town has along 2nd Ave. by Bohn Park.

Fencing

We will have post and rail fencing, with an open gate at the entrance. The Town installed a post and rail fence on the river side, and we would like to request that the Town build another on the alley side to mark the right-of-way boundary.

Trees

We plan to remove Green Ash and Siberian Elm trees, and replace them with native trees. In the spring, we will identify the tree species present, and get permission from the town for replacements.

Water

We request Town permission to use the existing water tap on the site, and to have the town rate rather than residential rate. This water is necessary for the initial establishment of plants in times of significant drought. The native plants, once established, will need minimal or no watering.

Insurance

We request the Botanic Gardens be included under the park insurance of the Town, as it is on Town land. The garden will become a Town public asset and will create no additional areas of danger ~~ no climbing, swimming, etc.

Design

A dry laid flagstone patio, 30 feet by 30 feet, will be installed at the entrance (near the 4th Ave entrance to Bohn Park). We will install a table and several benches on the perimeter of the patio and along the path, and understand that they will need to be tethered. The garden beds will be no more than 6 inches high, using local rocks in between the plants and scattered along the edges. The main 5-foot wide flat path of compacted crushed rock will meander through the different botanical zones. A few small flagstone stepping stone side paths will be added for exploring a little deeper into certain planting areas. The beds will be mulched to conserve water and keep the soil from eroding. No herbicides or chemical pesticides will be used in the gardens.

Maintenance

We will maintain the garden ourselves with volunteer labor.

Parking

We request the Town create about 7 parking spots with restrictive signage (visitors with limited mobility, Botanic Gardens or Arboretum visitors or volunteers) on the side of the roadway coming off of 4th Ave towards the west entrance of Bohn Park. The parking would reduce the need for visitors to park in the residential neighborhood on Prospect St or 4th Ave.

Trash

We request the Town provide a Town maintained bear-proof trash receptacle near the entrance to the Botanic Garden and Bohn Park. This would also serve visitors of the arboretum.

Visitors

When the Botanic Gardens is operational, we expect approximately 10 to 20 visitors per day, with seasonal highs and lows. Most local residents will be walking or biking, and out-of-town folks will be driving and parking. Several residents have told us that they plan to visit the garden once every season, to see what is in bloom or turning color at each seasonal change.

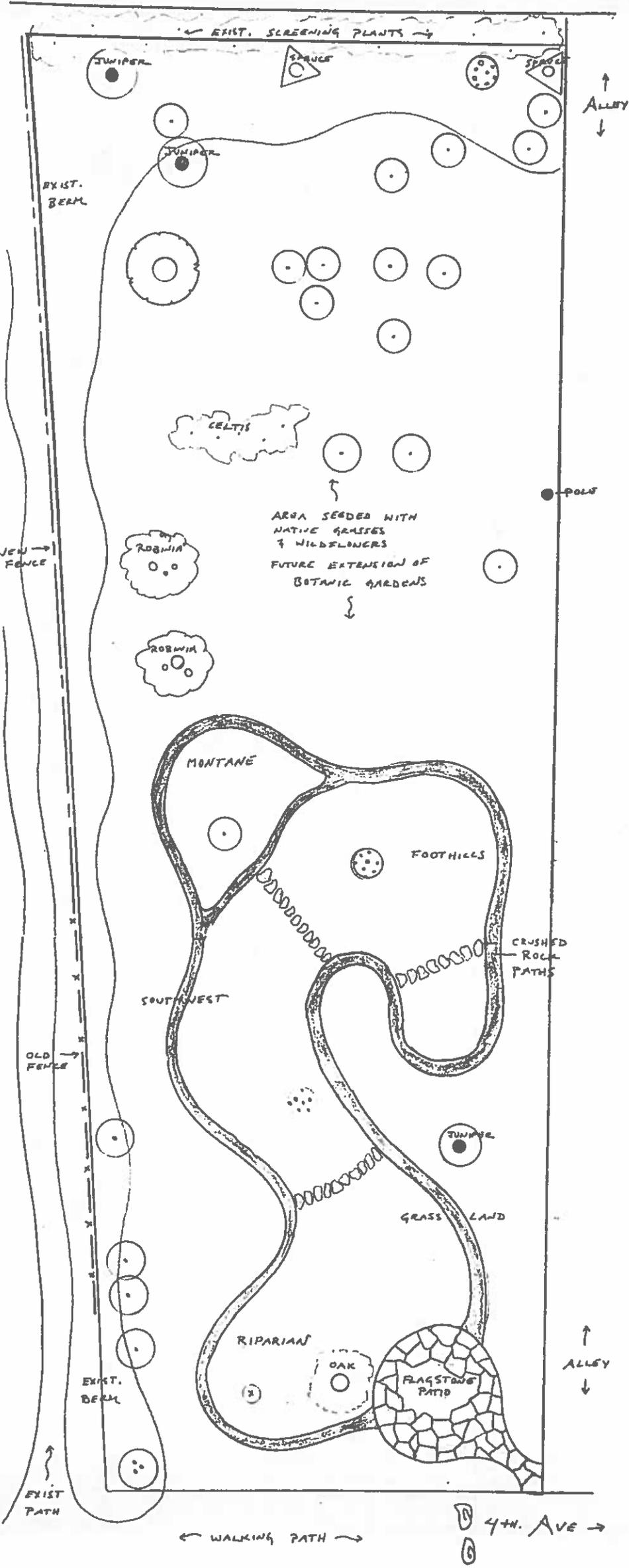
Garden Shed

Because there can be no structures in the flood-way on the site, we will ask the neighbors about putting our tool shed at the back of their property. If that does not work out, we request space on the town right-of-way (not the buy-out property) for the shed.

Signage

We will have small 3" X 5" signs on stakes next to individual plants, for identification, and larger signs, possibly engraved stone, in each zone. We will also have a larger sign by the entrance with our name: Rocky Mountain Botanic Gardens.

← 3 AVE →



ROCKY MTN BOTANIC GARDE

1.26 Acres

Main paths 5 feet wide
permeable surface
wheelchair accessible

Patio ← flagstone 30 ft x 30 ft
benches around edges

Post and rail fence

Native plants in these local zone
Montane
Foothills
Riparian
Grassland / Prairie
Southwest

Plants will have 3" x 5" identifier
signs, with stakes

Requested donation will be \$1- $\frac{1}{2}$
per person per visit

The garden will be open to the
public dawn to dusk.

Annual plant sale every May

Educational display gardens,
with a natural look

Location is near the proposed
Arboretum and Bohn Park

This will be the only botanic
garden in Boulder County

Occasional classes: garden des'g
plant ID, local birds, pruning

All surfaces permeable

← WALKING PATH →

4th. AVE →

Scale:
1" = 20'