

TO: Mayor Rogin and Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: Victoria Simonsen, Town Administrator
DATE: May 12, 2022
ITEM: Administrator's Report

ORDINANCE
 MOTION / RESOLUTION
 INFORMATION

Street Sweeping: Semi-annual street sweeping occurred townwide the week of May 2nd.

CEMEX Tour: The Board of Trustees and two staff members attended a presentation and tour of the CEMEX plant and mining operations. This was an educational and informative get together with the plant manager, environmental manager and CSR Specialist. The meeting was well-timed as the following announcement came out simultaneously:

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)



For Immediate Release
5/4/2022

Media Contact
Vivienne Jannatpour, (303) 678-6277

CEMEX Applies to Extend Mining Permit on Dowe Flats Property East of Lyons

Boulder County Parks & Open Space has co-signed CEMEX's proposal in light of long-term community benefits.

Boulder County, Colo. - On May 2 CEMEX applied to the Boulder County Community Planning and Permitting department (CPP) for a special use permit to extend mining for an additional 15 years on the Dowe Flats property located east of Lyons and north of SH 66. CEMEX's current rock mining permit expires later this year, so CEMEX is required to obtain a new permit for mining to continue. The county has a legal option to purchase the Dowe Flats property for open space, therefore, county consent is required for CEMEX's

application to be processed. For this reason, Boulder County Parks & Open Space Director Therese Glowacki has co-signed the application.

CEMEX's proposal includes closure of its cement plant located south of SH 66 on the same date as the end of mining at Dowe Flats -- Dec. 31, 2037. Without this concession, CEMEX could have operated its cement plant indefinitely even after the mine closes. CEMEX's proposal also includes reductions to existing option-to-purchase prices, and the grant of additional open space purchase options. This means the county will have the future right to acquire a total of approximately 974 acres of open space in the area surrounding Dowe Flats north of SH 66 at no additional cost.

In addition, the proposal includes a new option for the county to purchase and preserve approximately 830 acres of land south of SH 66 surrounding the cement plant site as open space. A trail easement would be established along St. Vrain Creek for future use as part of a regional Lyons to Longmont trail. The county would also receive increased rental payments for county-owned buffer land surrounding the Dowe Flats mine. Reclamation of the mine site would take place during the three years following completion of mining and closure of the cement plant and would include removal of the SH 66 conveyor "tube" overpass and all other structures from the mine site.

"These concessions would set a firm end date for cement plant operations and allow the county to preserve 1,804 additional acres of open space at a significantly reduced cost. For these reasons, CEMEX's request to extend mining for 15 years merits consideration," Glowacki said. "Now it's time for the public to weigh in on the proposal."

The community benefits and the extension of mining are conditioned upon the Board of County Commissioners' ultimate approval of CEMEX's mining extension application.

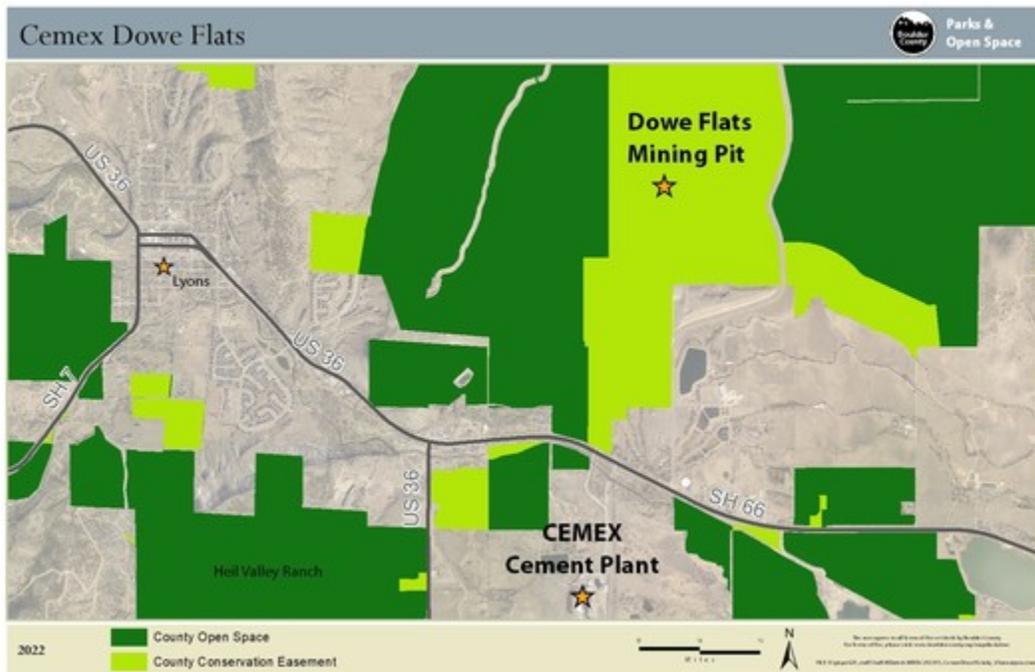
"It will be up to the Board of County Commissioners to decide if the proposed mining extension meets the requirements of the county's land use regulations," Glowacki said.

Public Hearings

Now that the application has been received, Boulder County's Community Planning & Permitting department will review it for completeness and, if it is determined to be complete, referral comments will be requested and a public hearing date will be set before the Boulder County [Planning Commission](#), where public comment will be accepted. The Planning Commission reviews all development applications in unincorporated Boulder County and advises the county commissioners on those applications.

After the Planning Commission hearing and recommendation, CPP will set another public hearing before the [Board of County Commissioners](#), where additional public testimony will be taken, and the commissioners will make their decision.

For additional information and to review the application, please go to the CPP webpage [Planning Application Docket SU-22-0003](#).



Local Government Day: The third grade classes of Lyons Elementary are visiting town hall on Friday, May 13 for their annual Local Government field trip. The students are educating on the services provided by a local government, how they are funded, hands-on activities, budgeting and voting on services to provide. It is always an exciting, fun-filled day for all!

COVID Update: *Boulder County Public Health aligns with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) COVID community levels](#), which are updated and published every Thursday evening. At the time of this report’s release, Boulder County was trending toward the medium [community level](#), indicating that the risk of COVID infection is increasing in our community. If Boulder moves into the medium level on Thursday, May 12th, BCPH will send an update on Friday, May 13th. To ensure that the most accurate and up-to-date information available is captured and shared in our weekly reports, and in keeping with our commitment to provide the highest level of clarity and transparency, BCPH is adjusting the release of the weekly COVID surveillance update to Fridays going forward.*

- **CDC Tracker updates:** [COVID-19 Community Levels](#): **High Medium Low**
 - Based on case numbers, hospital beds in use, hospital admissions
 - CDC advises communities use [Community Levels](#) to determine the impact of COVID-19 on communities and recommended actions

- Healthcare facilities are advised to continue to use [Transmission Levels](#) to follow CDC's infection prevention and control recommendations for healthcare settings
- **Boulder County COVID-19 Community Level: (for communities) (as of 5/5/22)**
 - **LOW: 194.97 cases/100,000 (<200) 7-day cumulative incidence rate, 3.5/100,000 (<10) COVID-19 new hospital admissions, 1% (<10%) staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients**
- **Boulder County COVID-19 Transmission Level: (for healthcare settings only)**
 - **HIGH: 194.97/100,000 (>100/100,000 per CDC as of 4/21) 7-day cumulative incidence rate**
- **Interpretation:**
 - Case rates and hospitalizations are rising in Boulder County; the rates of severe illness, hospitalization, and death remain low.
 - The current stress on our healthcare system is **LOW**, determined by the number of cases, new hospital admissions and the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients
 - Healthcare settings will follow CDC guidelines according to **HIGH Transmission Levels**
- **Of note**
 - PHO 20-38 requires patients, residents, visitors, and staff, regardless of vaccination status, to mask in the following settings during **Medium** or **High** community levels:
 - Shelters, prisons, jails, community corrections programs and facilities
 - Emergency medical and other non-residential health care settings
 - New omicron subvariant BA.2.12.1 ~25% more transmissible than BA.2, no evidence increased severity, increased immune escape compared to BA.1, 37% US, 26% Region 8 (CDPHE 5/6/22)
 - As immunity from vaccines and prior infection begins to fade, families and especially high risk individuals should ensure they are up to date on their vaccinations, including boosters
 - Uncertainties include timing and characteristics of future variants, waning immunity, as well as the timing and target population for future vaccine doses and availability of therapeutics
- **Testing positivity:** On average, 1005 PCR tests were conducted per day in the past week. Test positivity has increased to 7.57%. (To be aligned with CDPHE, the percent positivity is calculated by using data from the Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) system, which does not include all labs testing for COVID-19 and does not include home test kits).
- **Hospitalizations:** As of 5/6/22, 8 people were hospitalized with COVID-19 related illness in Boulder County hospitals compared to 4 last week. **Pediatric hospitalizations:** As of 5/6/2022, the four Children's Hospitals (RPTC, Colorado South, Colorado Springs, Colorado North Campus) have 17 confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations (50% ages 0-4).
- **Deaths:** Boulder County has had a total of 390 deaths. Boulder County has had 132 deaths since May 1, 2021. Among the deaths since May 1st, 2021, the average was 72 years of age for the unvaccinated and 83 years of age for the vaccinated. Since May 2021, 53 or 40% of deaths were among those associated with long-term care facilities.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- **Cases by Age Groups:** In the last seven days, 7-day average cumulative case rate per 100,000 increased among all age groups. The 7-day cumulative case rate per 100,000 is highest among 75+ and 35-44 yos. Case numbers are highest among 23-44 yos.

VACCINATIONS

- **Vaccinations among all Boulder County residents:** Over 275,000 Boulder County residents have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose (87.8% of eligible population/84.1% of total population) and over 254,500 Boulder County residents are fully vaccinated (81.2% of eligible population/77.8% of total population).
- **Boosters:** 59% of Boulder County residents have received a booster.
- **Percent of persons not fully vaccinated (partial or unvaccinated) in Boulder County:** Boulder County has approximately 327,000 residents according to the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) estimate. 254,500 people are fully vaccinated, leaving about 72,500 not fully vaccinated. Among those not fully vaccinated, 13,600 are ineligible (ages 0 to 4) and 21,000 have received a partial dose. The remaining 38,000 people are eligible and unvaccinated. Approximately 72,500 Boulder County residents are not fully vaccinated because of their age or another reason. This represents just over 22% of the overall population.
- **Benefits of vaccines:** According to latest estimates from CDPHE (5/6), those who are boosted are 0.9 times less likely to be infected with COVID-19 as an unvaccinated person, 2 times less likely to be hospitalized, and 7.8 times less likely to die compared to people who are unvaccinated. However these estimates do not account for people who do not test or are using at-home tests. An unvaccinated individual is twice as likely to be reinfected with COVID-19 and three times more likely to be hospitalized with a reinfection compared to people who are fully vaccinated and boosted.