

2024 Town of Lyons Municipal Open Space and Trails Requests

Boulder County Parks and Open Space

Each year the County invites the communities of Boulder County to submit requests for open space and trail projects, per Resolution 93-174, paragraph 10:

"THAT the Board of County Commissioners will annually consult the City Councils and Town Boards of the municipalities within Boulder County to assure that open space preservation and trail projects identified by municipalities are considered in setting county open space acquisition and trail development priorities for the following year."

Included (attached) are the 2023 summary and status reports for the 2023 open space and trail requests, details about the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Capital Improvement Projects, and responses to requests. Lyons information can be found on pages 23-25. The deadline to submit is April 30, 2024. The following is a list of criteria listed as part of the process:

Please ensure that requests meet the following criteria:

- Request has been approved by your advisory board and/or city council/town board.*
- Requests falls within the county (i.e. rural preserve area) rather than within your municipal influence area.*

Trail requests:

Boulder County is most likely to partner on trails that meet these criteria:

- Trail project must be ready to implement in the next two years (complete by end of 2025). Please limit your requests to your top 3 priorities in the next two years. You may append an additional list of priorities for a five-ten year planning horizon.*
- Trail must connect to county open space trails or be part of identified regional trail priorities, such as the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan or your community trail master plan.*
- Trail plan has been vetted through a planning process that includes input from members of the public and other interested parties.*

Open Space requests: Through the efforts of all of our open space programs, we have preserved a lot of open space in Boulder County. What significant parcels remain in your area in order to consider the job done? Do any trail proposals require property acquisition?

- Please list properties numbered in order of priority.*
- Please include the owner's name, street address, acreage, parcel ID and account number (from the Assessor's Office).*
- Please attach a map.*
- Include any additional information that may be relevant, such as timing of acquisition, how the property fits in with municipal or county plans, approximate cost, cost sharing, etc.*

In addition to exploring partnerships on open space acquisitions and trail projects, Boulder County has offered Lyons the opportunity to continue to engage in ways that support mutual goals through technical support, visiting with advisory boards and/or councils, or providing other resources. The staff has been in contact with Boulder County staff to request ongoing discussions and possible partnerships on trail connection through the Martin Parcel from Bohn

Park to CR69, continued conversations on alignments from Lyons to Hall Ranch, as well as the Apple Valley Buy Out properties.

The following is a list of 2024 Open Space and Trails Requests that are based on those submitted in past years, master planning and flood recovery efforts, and previous public processes. They were reviewed at the Lyons Parks and Recreation Commission regular meeting in March and April as well as by staff.

2024 Municipal Open Space and Trails Requests

Boulder County Parks and Open Space

Town of Lyons

Trail Requests

- 1) **Martin Parcel Trail** - Access from Bohn Park from East across Martin Parcel to CR69 using available road ROW. Town requesting to work with the county on the next steps including verifying the survey, alignment of access to CR69, design, permitting, and possible construction assistance.
- 2) **Lyons St. Vrain Corridor Trail Extension** - from McConnell Drive east to the junction of HWY 36/66. Future regional connections to St. Vrain Greenway to the east of Hwy 36 from Longmont, Lyons to Boulder connection - North Foothills Bikeway Project, and future regional connections to Hall Ranch and Rabbit Mountain Open Space. Working with regional partners to ensure the underpass and connections at HWY 36 are constructed and safe for use. The Town has been in contact and is working with Boulder County on funding requirements for project which has a deadline for the final bid of July 1, 2023. The Town is currently engaged with consultants and has 90% design plans under review in order to go to bid by July.
- 3) **Lyons to Hall Ranch Connector Trail**
In 2021 the Town requested that Boulder County Parks and Open Space staff revisit the decision from the previous public process from the mid-2000s that had excluded the potential of Corona Hill as a potential connection from Lyons to the Hall Ranch Trailhead area. The previous public process identified a connection utilizing Old South St. Vrain Road as the cornerstone of the connection between the town and Hall Ranch.

The flood of 2013 changed many of the key components of the previous conceptual plan, including the connection from the backside of Bohn Park to Old South St. Vrain along HWY 7 and potential connections over the river and crossing HWY 7 again to enter Hall Ranch.

In June of 2022, Boulder County Parks and Open Space staff submitted the re-assessment to Lyons staff which concluded "Based on the re-assessment of existing resources at Corona Hill, Parks & Open Space has determined that the closure on Corona Hill is still warranted, and a new trail is not feasible. Parks & Open Space,

however, will continue working with the town of Lyons on a suitable, sustainable, environmentally sound trail connection between Lyons and Hall Ranch where feasible." The Town would like to schedule the proposed site visit to review the assessment for Corona Hill and discuss potential alternatives, including potential alternative connections to Hall Ranch from Lyons and finding a suitable sustainable alternate connection.

(Please see 2023 County Comments)

- 4) **St. Vrain Greenway Trail** - From Longmont to Lyons (see County comments)
- 5) **Lyons to Boulder Trail** - North Foothills Bikeway Project (see County comments)
- 6) **Steamboat Mountain Open Space Public Access/Trail(s)** - Connection from Lyons

Open Space Requests

- 1) **Boulder County Flood Acquisition Properties** - Apple Valley or near Lyons – The Town started a public process to further explore which of these 10 parcels may have benefit for various purposes and possible requests for transfer several years ago. Further information and discussion are needed. The county is willing to continue to work with Lyons on the most appropriate ownership and management framework should the Town be interested.

(Please see 2023 County comments)