



Martin Parcel Vision and Recommendations Statement

September 25th, 2017

Appreciating that one of the main draws to the Town of Lyons is anchored in our unique natural setting, Lyons' Ecology Advisory Board has a focus on preserving and enriching the diverse lands and rivers that are a backbone to our economy. The Martin Parcel land has high ecological value as it provides a critical connective component including unique high river bench habitats, protective wildlife vegetative canopy corridors, and floodplain connectivity with the river. The values of vegetative corridors enrich wildlife and avian movement between the river and uplands/foothills.

This parcel is the last remaining thin thread of connectivity to upriver South St Vrain wildlife habitats. It enhances the riparian corridor from Bohn Park to Boulder County Open Space at the old Andesite Mine, and onward to the larger mountain forest. Additionally, this parcel fits into the economic vision of providing wildlife viewing opportunities and open space experiences (hiking, solitude, development buffering, etc.). Wildlife observation points and walks are economic draws for our community. Audubon counts from prior years show over 100 bird species utilize this area's river/shrub/wooded habitats on an annual basis.

The Board supports keeping the parcel in a natural state as this will also keep maintenance cost down. We encourage use of the parcel through a limited developed trail system that ties into Bohn Park and perhaps connects into the South St. Vrain neighborhood (recommending the trail is closed dusk to dawn for wildlife movement). This parcel is comprised of alluvial soils and high water table. The soils and associated high groundwater table with seasonal flooding can enhance grasses and other native plantings but are generally not suitable structurally for building. Ideally it should be managed to provide an unencumbered corridor of native trees and understory shrubs for bird habitat and migration.

No motorized vehicles and no parking on the parcel are important. Economic development and parking should occur in town and not on the outskirts for which traffic will only pass through town; people should walk from town or Bohn Park to access the parcel. We support no development on the parcel (e.g., buildings, shelters, picnic tables) and no fires or overnight camping; these would fragment and degrade habitat values. Pet access should be limited. Fencing should be minimal. We encourage the restoration of ecological functions, such as wetlands and diversity of vegetation to promote wildlife activity.

The Ecology Advisory Board's vision is to provide a healthy river ecosystem and an unfragmented upland and riparian corridor; thereby contributing to the Lyons' Walking Arboretum and promoting both recreational fishing and bird watching - activities that have a high economic benefit for the local economy.

Ecology Advisory Board Members: Steve Simms (Chair), Garima Fairfax, David Batts, Fay Marshall, Kurt Carlson, Greg Lowell, and Jerry Jacka