

Town of Lyons

Annual Report for Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2023 and 2024 Budget



Containing reports from Town departments, boards and commissions, affiliated districts and other Lyons-area organizations covering the period January 1 to December 31, 2023, as well as plans for fiscal year 2024.

Elected Town Officials

Trustees (terms expire April 2024)

Hollie Rogin, Mayor
Jocelyn Farrell, Mayor Pro Tem
Glen Delman
Greg Oetting
Paula Williams
Tanya Mercer-Daty
Ted Elson

Town Staff and Departments

Note: Links to departments, information, and forms available at: <https://www.townoflyons.com>

Administration and Elections

Victoria Simonsen, Town Administrator	303-823-6622, ext. 19
Dolores Vasquez, Town Clerk	303-823-6622, ext. 12
Maria Marquez-Rubio, Deputy Town Clerk	303-823-6622, ext. 21
Brandi Johnson, Utility Billing	303-823-6622, ext. 11
Liz Harrison, Front Desk	303-823-6622 ext. 10

Parks and Public Works

Dave Cosgrove, Director	303-823-6622, ext. 20
Justin Nittman, Public Works Lead	303-823-6622, ext. 27
Lisa Ramsey, Parks and Recreation Coordinator	303-823-6622, ext. 30

Utilities and Engineering

Aaron Caplan, Director	303-823-6622, ext. 42
Justin Doles, Town Engineer / Project Manager	303-823-6622, ext. 47
Doug Mattingley, Code Compliance Officer	303-823-6622, ext. 13
Lance Stromberg, Permit Tech/Admin Assistant	303-823-6622, ext. 33

Community Development

Andrew Bowen, Lead Planner	303-823-6622, ext. 25
Alexander Painter, Planner II	303-823-6622, ext. 22

Community Relations and Programs

Kim Mitchell, Director & Main Street Manager	303-823-6622, ext. 35
Kristen Bruckner, Arts and Culture Coordinator	303-823-6622, ext. 66
Special Events Coordinator	303-823-6622, ext. 35
Visitor Center	303-823-6622, ext. 26

Finance

Cassandra Eyestone, Director	303-823-6622, ext. 17
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Flood Recovery

Tracy Sanders, Lead	303-823-6622, ext. 48
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Lyons Town Hall Address:

432 5th Avenue
Lyons, CO 80540

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 49
Lyons, CO 80540

Dedication of the Annual Report

To the Lyons Clarifier Community Mosaic Project and Priscilla Cohan

In 2004, a group of Lyons residents imagined a dramatic re-purposing of the Town's concrete, former sewage treatment plant. Today, the Clarifier Community Mosaic is one of Lyons iconic artworks. It reflects the efforts of hundreds of people who used their talents to form a vibrant mosaic tableau made of discarded dishes, handmade tiles, and other common items.

Priscilla Cohan, the project director, along with Cathy Rivers, coordinator, co-facilitated the Lyons Clarifier Community Mosaic Project from its inception through its completion and dedication in September 2015.

Sadly, Priscilla passed away on October 16, 2023, after her courageous battle with T Cell Lymphoma.

Priscilla was kind, gentle, inclusive and prolifically creative. She walked softly with quiet confidence. Priscilla had a robust curiosity and applied her resourceful skills to this community-minded project. In typical Priscilla style, she was not boastful, nor did she seek the limelight. Instead, she helped gather and support over 200 volunteers of all ages, including Lyons elementary and high school students, community elders and passersby, to place more than 60,000 mosaic pieces of different shapes and sizes onto the Clarifier. Her tireless commitment endured for over 11 years during the project's surface application and continued for 8 more years as she contributed landscape improvement, signage and maintenance suggestions. A multi-talented artist and dedicated do-it-yourself-er, Priscilla would also toss on her work boots, mask and sandblast the structure to clean it properly, in order for the mosaic creation to take hold.



The Clarifier structure was the Town's wastewater/sewer plant, decommissioned in 1974 after a more modern structure was built nearby. It was born from a vision that created collaborative community public art from the concrete ruin of a former wastewater treatment tank. The Clarifier Community Mosaic came into being through thousands of hours of citizen engagement, resulting in a monumental tribute to the power of cooperation, harmony, healing and peace. The mosaic sculpture honors our common humanity and is a generous expression of love for our community and our deep interconnectedness to all life on Earth.

Priscilla worked with Cathy to get the Clarifier designated as an International Peace Site in 2022. They worked with the Lyons Arts and Humanities Commission (LAHC) and the Town of

Lyons, creating the content and sourcing funding for permanent signage which recognizes the many volunteer hours and magnitude of this community effort. The interpretive sign, placed in 2023, recognizes our connection to the Native people who were the original inhabitants of the lands upon which the Clarifier Community Mosaic sits.

The circular structure of the Clarifier tank inspired the narrative theme - the cycle of nature and the rhythm of the seasons. Each of the four seasons is represented by a sandstone tree, oriented by the four directions. Local Lyons sandstone was incorporated into the mosaic by placing the pieces vertically, creating the four trees which represent each season. Priscilla envisioned the style of the trees with their on-edge sandstone configuration. A walk clockwise around the structure reveals intervals of the year aligned with the signs of the zodiac, local birds and seasonally changing leaves. Vertically, the mosaic begins at the bottom with the Lyons landscape, moving upward through daylight to night sky on the upper rim. Many donated items came with a personal story, all woven into layers of mosaic storytelling.

When Lyons suffered a 500-year flood event in September 2013, work was halted temporarily on the project, as many residents, including Priscilla worked to recover, some raising and rebuilding their homes to protect against future flooding. When work resumed on the Clarifier, she continued there, while still renovating her home.

In November 2022, Priscilla applied to an open position with the Town of Lyons, as the Arts and Cultural Services Coordinator. It was a perfect fit for this nearly 30-year resident to share in the arts, history and culture of her small, resilient and art-rich community she helped create.

The Clarifier Community Mosaic is emblematic of Priscilla's passion, dedication, years of fundraising, grit and effort. It stands now, a beautiful remembrance of Priscilla and monument to the positive, enduring impact that residents can have on their community.

For a more information, photos and a complete list of the numerous contributors, funders, volunteers and supporters please visit <https://www.townoflyons.com/400/Clarifier-Community-Mosaic>

Mayor's message

Dear Community,

Thank you.

In 2023, the Town of Lyons celebrated big milestones and had some rewarding conversations. We commemorated the 10th anniversary of the 2013 flood and, thanks to the hard work of so very many people, finished flood recovery! It seems like the entire community gathered for the meaningful and touching commemoration events last September, headed by the dedicated and extremely hard-working Trustee Tanya Daty and Town Administrator Victoria Simonsen.

The Board of Trustees adopted the Lyons Thrive! Comprehensive Plan, the ten-year vision for Lyons that was informed by a record amount of community input. This Plan is the guiding document for Lyons for the next decade, and from the Board side, the effort was led by Mayor Pro Tem Jocelyn Farrell.

Lyons Valley Townhomes, a.k.a. Summit Housing, received certificates of occupancy and opened its 40 front doors to friends and neighbors, new and old. This milestone was made possible by the hard work of the Summit Housing Group, multiple Boards of Trustees, and state agencies over six years. It's a testament to what can be accomplished when we work hard, find innovative solutions to challenges, and stay the course for a common vision.

These highlights are wonderful, but what's most important is *you*. At its heart, our community is composed of caring, dedicated, talented people who show up, work hard, and really know how to have fun. In this report, you'll see information from our dedicated volunteer Boards and Commissions, our community partners, and others. Lyons wouldn't be Lyons without them, and Lyons certainly wouldn't be Lyons without *you*. Thank you so much for being a part of this community.

All the best,

Hollie Rogin
Mayor, Town of Lyons

Table of Contents

<i>2023 Town Administrator's Report</i>	6
<i>Finance Director's Report</i>	9
<i>Town Clerk's Report</i>	12
<i>Lyons Municipal Court 2023 Report</i>	14
<i>Flood Recovery Report</i>	15
<i>Department of Parks and Public Works</i>	17
<i>Community Development</i>	29
<i>Utilities and Engineering Department</i>	32
<i>Code Compliance</i>	36
<i>Community Programs and Relations Department</i>	38
<i>Legal</i>	41
<i>Lyons Urban Renewal Authority</i>	42
<i>Planning Community and Development Commission</i>	45
<i>Boulder County Sheriff's Office Annual Report 2023 (Lyons)</i>	47
<i>Lyons Fire Protection District 2023 Report</i>	59
<i>Lyons Regional Library District</i>	66
<i>Board of Adjustments</i>	73
<i>Lyons Main Street and Economic Vitality Commission</i>	74
<i>Ecology Advisory Board</i>	76
<i>Historic Preservation Commission 2023 Report</i>	78
<i>Housing and Human Resources Commission 2023 Report</i>	80
<i>Parks and Recreation Commission</i>	82
<i>Sustainable Futures Commission</i>	88
<i>Utilities and Engineering Board</i>	91
<i>Rocky Mountain Botanic Gardens 2022 Report</i>	93
<i>Redstone Museum/Lyons Historical Society</i>	100
<i>Lyons Arts and Humanities Commission Annual Report 2023</i>	104
<i>Lyons Lions Club</i>	107
<i>LEAF, Lyons Emergency & Assistance Fund</i>	109
<i>Lyons Community Foundation</i>	111

2023 Town Administrator's Report

Victoria Simonsen, Town Administrator

The Town of Lyons is a statutory town organized with six trustees and one mayor who are elected at large by the voters to set legislative and financial policies for operating the town government. Trustees are elected for two-year terms. A town administrator is appointed to implement the policies, manage personnel, and oversee daily operations. The town government is made up of several departments including finance and the clerk's office, parks and public works, utilities and engineering, community development, as well as community relations and communications. The town continued to have a part-time position dedicated to flood recovery grant reporting in 2023.

In addition to paid staff, the town has a sophisticated boards and commissions structure that supports the Board of Trustees in their research and recommendations, with both a Board liaison and staff liaison assigned to each group. These committees are advisory (except for Planning and Community Development and the Board of Adjustments) and are made up of resident and non-resident volunteers. Most groups are made of seven members. The agendas and minutes of each of these boards and commissions are available online on the Town of Lyons home page.

Currently, the boards and commissions are as follows (their reports can be found elsewhere in this Annual Report):

- Planning and Community Development Commission
- Board of Adjustments
- Budget and Audit Advisory Committee
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Utilities and Engineering Board
- Ecology Advisory Board
- Sustainable Futures Commission
- Housing and Human Services Commission
- Economic Vitality Commission
- Lyons Arts and Humanities Commission
- Student Advisory Committee
- Historic Preservation Commission

There are two subcommittees/task forces of the Board: The Revolving Loan Fund Committee which actively administers loan applications to the business community and the Staff / Board Relations Committee which did not meet in 2023.

The trustees also serve as the Lyons Urban Renewal Authority, along with representatives from Boulder County, St. Vrain Valley School District, Lyons Fire Protection District, and one member at large. They meet regularly to consider the business of the Urban Renewal Authority (See URA update in this report). Their minutes can be found online or at the town hall.

In addition to these roles, the Board members also serve as the Lyons Liquor Licensing Authority and the Lyons Marijuana Licensing Authority. These meet, as required by law, to review applications and actions regarding these two areas of authority. See the town clerk's report for more details.

Affordable housing was a primary goal of the Board of Trustees in 2023. The Colorado Legislature introduced and passed affordable housing strategies to incentivize more attainable housing to be built throughout the state. The town completed a third-party Housing Needs

Assessment identifying the challenges and opportunities to diversify housing in our community. The town opted into Proposition 123, committing to ten additional affordable units over the next three years. The community saw the completion of Summit Housing Group's development called Lyons Valley Townhomes. It offers 40 affordable rental housing units. In addition, Lyons Lookout redeveloped the property at 317 Evans into nine rent-restricted units to provide seven one-bedroom units and two, three-bedroom units in a safe, affordable setting.

Increasing interest rates prevented several developments from moving forward, including the Moss Rock hotel development planned for Main Street and 4th Avenue and the Eastern Corridor plans. The Board of Trustees saw flat sales tax revenue compared to the previous year, even with a retail marijuana sales tax increase. Spirit Hound Distillers completed an expansion of their tasting facilities as well as purchased Clark's Hardware for additional production space.

Natural disasters continue to top the headlines in 2023, including significant earthquakes in the Middle East, flash flooding in Libya, and the worst natural disaster (wildfire) in Hawaii's history. The United States saw over 25 weather and climate disasters totaling over 25 billion dollars in damages. The world saw its hottest year on record. The town hosted the Ten-Year Flood Commemoration Event with a multitude of events, presentations, and gatherings to reflect on the 2013 flood and its impacts. The town adopted a five-year Hazard Mitigation Plan and the 2023 International Fire Code.

Climate change remains at the forefront of daily life here in Lyons. Wildfire occurrences are no longer seasonal, but rather a reality year-round now. The Lyons Fire Protection District and the town of Lyons are partnering on grants and tree limb drop-off events. The Lefthand Fire District is scheduled to conduct controlled burns to reduce the amount of fuel in more natural areas. "Operation Mighty Goats" continued their mission in 2023 and scheduled again in 2024 using a hired goat herd to help alleviate weeds, grasses, and other combustible materials in difficult-to-maintain areas of town. Additional tree removal was also implemented in town to reduce wildfire spread.

The town settled its legal action (via mediation) with Honeywell, TetraTech, Filanc, and Frachetti regarding the wastewater plant not performing as agreed upon. The town received a settlement to pay for the major improvements needed to upgrade the plant. These improvements will be made in 2024.

Capital Projects included installing ambient lighting to the 300 and 400 blocks of Main Street through a Revitalizing Main Street grant; the Broadway Avenue transportation project included the addition of 51 parking stalls, a multi-modal path, and lane adjustments aimed to slow traffic. The landscaping will be completed in early 2024. The town hired a firm to conduct a sidewalk assessment and a wayfinding study of the community, as well. A salt/sand storage building was erected at the public works facility. The town made significant pavement and signage improvements in 2023 – specifics can be found in the Parks and Public Works section of this report. The St. Vrain Trail extension continued in the design phase in 2023 with financial assistance from Boulder County.

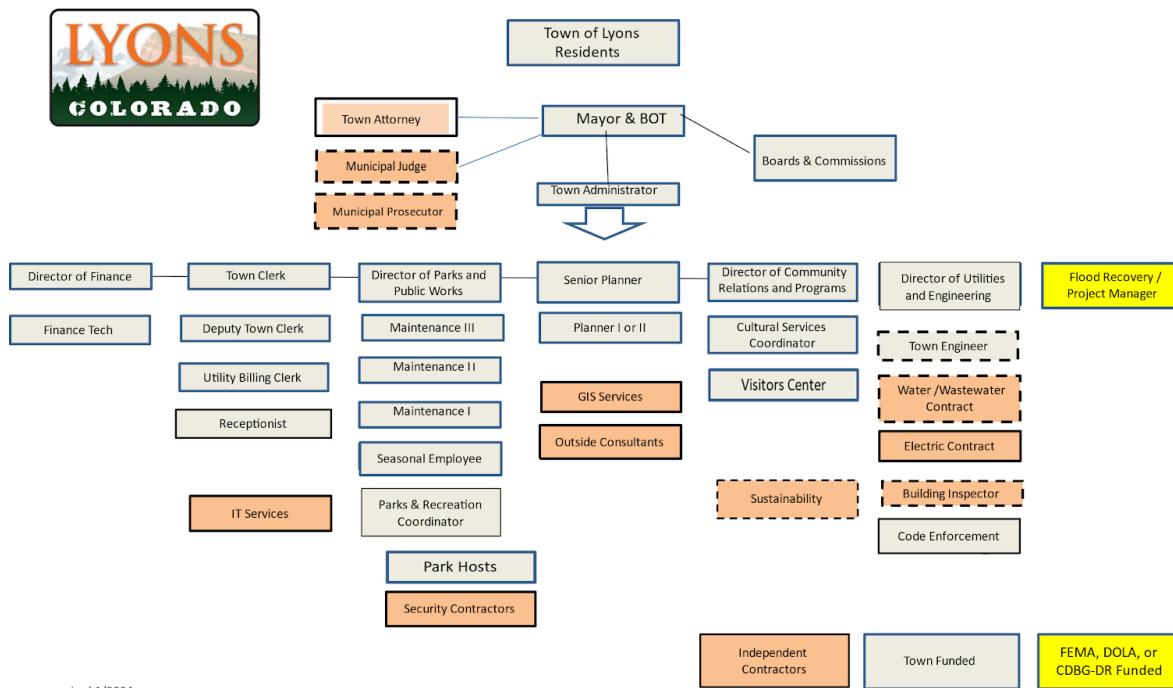
In the area of utilities, the town initiated the card reading system for bulk water customers, now allowing access to potable water 24/7. The electric main line on the 400 block of Broadway Avenue was undergrounded in conjunction with the multimodal project. The decommissioned water tank on Apple Valley was advertised and sold in 2023.

Legislatively, the Board of Trustees updated numerous codes including those related to:

- Adoption of the 2021 International Fire Code
- Increasing the Retail Marijuana Tax to 5%

- Allowing up to 25 kWh of Customer Owned Solar Generation
- Updated Municipal Court Fees and Fines
- Adoption of the 2018 International Building Codes
- Rezoning of the Martin Parcel to Parks and Open Space
- Amending Park Hours
- Adoption of the 2023 National Electric Code
- Adjustment of Wastewater Fees
- Eliminating the Base Charge for the Town's Bulk Water Station

The community remains resilient amid wars occurring in Ukraine and the Gaza Strip, high-interest rates, and continued high housing costs. The most recent U.S. Census data shows that Lyons' population is currently 2,261 with a total of 4,710 in the Lyons area. The median household income is now \$132,398 compared to the national rate of \$74,755. The median home value is down slightly from last year but still double the national average. The Front Range is exploding in population and housing, while the town is trying to manage growth and development in a very thoughtful, sustainable fashion. The balance of affordability and maintaining our small-business sector is proving to be a significant challenge.



BACK

Finance Director's Report

Cassandra Eyestone, Finance Director

The Town of Lyons provides customary municipal services to its residents and businesses. These services include water, sanitation, stormwater, and electric utilities; street maintenance; law enforcement; park facilities; recreational and cultural activities; public improvements; building inspections; business and occupation licensing; land use planning; municipal court services; and general administrative services.

Sources of revenue for the Town include residential and commercial property taxes, sales taxes, charges for services, and other additional revenues. Additional revenues include licenses and permits, grants/revenue from other governments, court fines and rental income. Revenue and expenditure projections for the various funds are based on historical trends, various economic and inflation forecasts, rate changes, and known changes in operations.

Finance Highlights

Revenue: Charges for services account for approximately 53% (\$4,103,000) of the Town's revenue. Much of this revenue (\$3,417,000) is related to the electric, water, and wastewater user charges. This revenue can only be used to fund their respective expenses and cannot be used for general town use.

Taxes make up 39% (\$3,038,400) of overall Town revenue. Sales tax collections have steadily increased over the past years but are starting to reach a plateau. The 2023 end of the year projections were developed based on current collection trends with revenue expected to be approximately 1.9% (\$34,600) lower than the original 2023 budget estimates. The 2024 budget includes a 1.8% (\$31,200) increase in sales tax revenue from the 2023 year-end projections. This increase is related to the Town's removal of the sales tax vendor fee which allowed retail business to retain 3.33% of sales tax revenue collected each month. With the current economic uncertainty sales tax revenue will continue to be closely monitored by staff and adjustments will be suggested, if necessary.

The Boulder County Assessor's Office does a reassessment of all properties every two years. The approved mill levy is 19.522 mills which would produce \$1,260,706 in property tax revenue based on the preliminary certification of valuation by the Boulder County Assessor's Office. Since the Town has not de-bruced property tax with respect to TABOR, Colorado Statute restricts the Town's property tax revenue to a 5.5% increase over the prior year. This reduces property tax revenue to \$904,228 with a mill levy of 15.137 mills, giving taxpayers a temporary tax credit of 4.385 mills. This is based on the preliminary assessment from the Boulder County Assessor.

Department Operating Budgets: The 2024 budget includes an 8.6% increase in overall salaries and benefits attributed to a cost of living/CPI increase, competitive wage needs, and estimated increases in healthcare costs. A salary study was conducted and compared the Town's current salary ranges with neighboring communities. Although many staff were determined to be in line with the proposed salary range averages, there were some positions that were determined to need a larger increase to put them at the minimum of the average salary ranges.

Budgeted full-time equivalents (FTEs) are not increasing in 2024. A full-time code compliance position is being updated to a part-time position once the vacancy is filled.

Overall, service expenses will decrease by approximately 2.7% (\$111,000) in 2024, with the majority being related to legal fees that are no longer needed in the Water and Wastewater Fund.

Capital Improvements: In 2021, a Capital Project Fund was created to set aside funding for much-needed street maintenance projects. The 2024 budget includes a \$150,000 transfer from the General Fund to continue providing funding for identified projects.

Capital projects and purchases planned for 2024 include: Sidewalk installation and/or replacements, additional camera and WIFI upgrades, electronic records management, Depot building irrigation, electric undergrounding, defect corrections to the wastewater treatment plant, and replacement of a utility/landscape trailer.

Fund Summaries

The Town has a total of five operating funds all of which have a 2024 projected fund balance/reserve of more than three months of operating expenditures. Additionally, four funds are projected to utilize prior year fund balances. By utilizing fund balances, it helps fund one-time expenses such as capital projects and purchases.

General Fund: The total 2024 General Fund revenues, including transfers in for allocated costs, are projected to see a 4.8% (\$152,500) increase over the 2023 original budget. The increase is attributed to property tax, lodging tax, municipal court fines, and interest income. Sales and property tax revenue account for 67.8% of the revenue in the General Fund. General Fund operating expenses are projected to increase 9.1% (\$254,700) from the 2023 budget with \$127,800 of that increase attributed to service costs. This includes a \$88,240 increase in the Boulder County Sheriff's budget for the Town.

Parks and Recreation Fund: Revenues in the Parks and Recreation Fund are projected to see a 4.4% (\$47,700) increase over the 2023 budget. Additional fee adjustments are also being considered to help cover increases in operational costs. Overall operating expenses in this fund are projected to increase 5.1% (\$56,500) from the 2023 original budget. Much of this increase is related to personnel salary increases and adjustments in current staff fund allocations based on workload.

Electric Fund: The 2023 year has shown a decrease in overall electric revenue. To be conservative, the 2024 revenue budget assumes the same usage patterns as 2023. 2024 operating expenses are expected to increase by 3.0% (\$41,800) from the 2023 original budget. This increase is related to professional services for two studies. The studies were requested by the Utilities and Engineering Board and are for time of use and LED streetlights. Additionally, the 2019 refunding bonds were paid off in 2023 which will free up funds to be used toward capital projects in future years.

Water/Wastewater Fund: The 2024 water revenue is projected to be relatively the same as the 2023 budget with a slight increase in pipe water revenue due to the new card reader system. The wastewater revenue is also relatively flat with a slight increase for 2024. Currently, per the Town's municipal code, any wastewater flat rate or standard monthly service charge per unit shall be adjusted by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) on January 1 of each year. The Board of Trustees will consider if they would like to pursue this increase in 2024, however, the 2024 budget does not include an increased amount. Operating expenses in this fund are projected to be 15.8% (\$263,400) lower than the 2023 budget. Of this amount, \$100,000 is due to Longmont's water service connection fees for the Summit Housing project in 2023 which offsetting revenue was received in 2021. The remainder of the change is due to increased legal fees that were budgeted in 2023.

Stormwater Fund: This fund has enabled the Town to start flushing storm drains and will continue each year in a different location of town. Operational costs in the Stormwater Fund are relatively the same when compared to the 2023 budget. The Town applied for a stormwater design grant in 2023 and set aside \$110,000 in funding for the potential match for this grant. Should this grant not be awarded, other avenues will be pursued. Identified stormwater projects are expected to cost over \$24 million dollars and researching outside funding continues to be a priority of Town staff to help fund these much-needed projects.

Conservation Trust Fund: The State of Colorado distributes lottery funds to the Town on a quarterly basis which are to be used for park-related expenses. In 2024, the Town's distribution is projected to be \$31,000 with no expenses planned for the year.

Grants Fund: This fund was created following the 2013 flood and is primarily used to manage flood expenses. While most of the expenditures are for capital projects, some outside-funded staffing and operational expenses are included as well. With the last of the flood projects being completed in 2023, the Grant Fund will have minimal expenses budgeted for 2024. Unspent grant project revenue and expenditures from 2023 will roll over into the 2024 amended budget after the first of the year. This rollover will include the remainder of the flood advance payback to the State. This is estimated to be approximately \$5.0 million in 2024, most of which will come from FEMA project close-out revenue.

Conclusion

The Town enters 2024 with little projected sales tax growth, however, additional Town revenues contribute to an overall increased projection. Fund balances, on a modified accrual basis, are healthy with a 3-month operating reserve in each of the applicable funds. As flood recovery efforts have come to an end, the Town will continue to focus on non-flood related capital projects and improvements. Prioritization of capital projects and utilization of outside funding sources will continue to be an important part of the Town's budgeting process.

2024 Budget

The Town of Lyons 2024 budget is available online at:

<https://www.townoflyons.com/2024budget>

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Town Clerk's Report

Dolores M. Vasquez, CMC

The Town Clerk's office serves as the "hub" of information for the residents of the Town. The Clerk is the official keeper of all records for the Town, some duties of the Town Clerk include:

- Board of Trustees – document and facilitate all Board of Trustees meetings. Assist in drafting agendas, distributing packets, and publicizing all public hearings. The Clerk attends all meetings and takes minutes for posterity.
- Elections – conducts municipal elections, which are held every two years (even years) for the offices of Mayor and the Board of Trustees. Also, conducts Special Elections and will coordinate with Boulder County on off-years if needed. All election results are reported to Boulder County. We are holding our Regular Municipal Election on April 2, 2024, please go to <http://www.govotecolorado.gov/> to register to vote or update your voter status. This is a mail ballot elections and ballots will be mailed to all registered voters on March 11, 2024.
- All CORA requests (requests by the public for information) are handled through the Clerk's office.
- Liquor Licensing – Lyons currently has 16 active liquor licenses, and the Town issued over 30 Special Event permits in 2023. All licensed businesses must comply with local and state laws.
- Marijuana licenses – Lyons has three active retail marijuana licenses. We issued our first Medical & Retail MIPS (Marijuana Infused Products) license in 2023. We work closely with business owners to make sure we are all in compliance with the ever-changing state regulations.
- Records Management – Retain all pertinent official town records including ordinances, resolutions, minutes, maps, permits and any historical data. (These records have increased exponentially since the 2013 flood.)
- CIRSA is the Town's insurance provider; handles all town-owned buildings, workers compensation, and any claims filed against the town.
- Human Resources – advertising open positions with the town, onboarding/offboarding employees, safety meetings, CIRSA compliance and handling employee issues as needed.
- Municipal Court - The Boulder County Sheriff issues tickets that are processed through the Town of Lyons Municipal Court. Municipal Court is held once a month, on the third Thursday of each month.

The "front office" portion of Town Hall also:

- Issues dog licenses; these are due in May, and we have a promotion the month of April for "discount dog days." Proof of rabies vaccination is required, and all dogs must be on a leash.
- Issues parking passes for LaVern Johnson Park and Bohn Park.
- Administers bulk water sales - a service to our surrounding neighbors who are not on municipal water and local construction companies as well. This year we were able to

bring this service online with credit card capabilities, and we now offer access to pipe water 24/7.

- Notarizes documents; there are four notaries on staff.
Process the Town's water, sewer, and electric utility billings. We handle new accounts, rentals and final billings for properties that have sold.
- Assist the walk-in public with everything from, "where is Estes Park?" to "Has my phone been turned in here today?"

My Staff:

My Deputy Town Clerk, Maria Marquez-Rubio, was appointed in November 2022 and has excelled in this position. She has done an exceptional job and is a vital member of my team.

Brandi Johnson is the Utility Billing Clerk; she joined the Town in 2019 and strives for excellent customer service and accuracy.

Liz Harrison is our new front office administrative assistant. We are excited to have her join our team and look forward to a great working relationship.

We are always cross-training and reorganizing duties in my department to better serve the needs of our residents. We are a small but mighty crew here at Town Hall. My door is always open, so please drop by at any time if there is something we can help with.

My team and I are looking forward to a busy and productive 2024!

BACK

Lyons Municipal Court 2023 Report

The Lyons Municipal Court convenes monthly at Lyons Town Hall to adjudicate violations and summons handed out within the Town of Lyons. Court is held the third Thursday of every month at 9:30 a.m. Judge Kristin Brown and Prosecuting Attorney Jacob Starkovich serve the court, and Deputy Town Clerk Maria Marquez-Rubio serves as the Court Clerk.

The following table shows the cases handled by the court in 2023, their disposition and the fines and court costs paid:

Code	Description	Count	Amount
APBM	Pay by mail	25	\$300.00
BENCH	Bench Warrant Issued	1	\$500.00
CSF	Community Service Fee	4	\$105.00
DEF	Default judgement Fine Amount	71	\$1590.00
DEFER	Deferred Sentence	4	\$0.00
FINE	Fine amount	541	\$68,630.00
DISM	Dismissed	132	\$180.00
NSF	NSF Fee	1	20
PBM	Plea by Mail Conviction	64	3060
PIC	Plea in Court	4	120
Total fines		847	\$74,505.00
Surcharges			
COST	Court costs	135	\$3960.00
DEF1	Default judgement fee	11	\$305.00
Total surcharges		146	\$4,265.00
Third Party			
VR	Victim Restitution	3	\$1302.47
Total VR		3	\$1302.47
Grand Total		996	\$80,072.47

BACK

Flood Recovery Report

Tracy Sanders, Flood Recovery Projects Manager

The Town of Lyons experienced a 500-year flood event in September 2013 leaving much of the Town infrastructure of water, sewer, electric, roads and bridges destroyed. In addition, many homes were flooded causing substantial damage. The Town has received more than \$70 million of grant funding from insurance, federal, state and local agencies to help with recovery efforts for public infrastructure and some assistance to homes in the floodway to either elevate or sell their property at pre-flood value (buyouts/acquisitions).

Over the last nine years the Town has managed over \$70 million, 72 projects and 106 grants.

The Town is now in the final stretch of recovery efforts. Construction of all recovery projects were completed in 2022.

However, the work is not done. The Town will be working with State and Federal agencies to complete final closeout of projects and release all final payments and matching funds. Staff will be working complete reconciliations of funding and required documentation over the next year.

Projects Completed

It's important to note that closing out the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) projects takes 1-4 years to complete. FEMA has closed only 5 of the 33 FEMA funding projects. Town staff is working closely with the state (Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management) and FEMA on closing the remaining FEMA-funded projects and receiving final reimbursements. There is one State funded Disaster Emergency Fund (DEF) grant that the Town is waiting for final reimbursement.

Funds Spent to Date and How Funds are Spent

All Flood Recovery grants, with the exception of some very small allocations, are a reimbursement process; that is, the Town has to pay for the services and construction up front then request reimbursement from the granting agency.

The state was very generous in advancing the Town \$9.5 million to assist with cash flowing for these projects. To date the Town has paid back \$4.4 million of the \$9.5 million.

It is also important for the community to understand that with the FEMA funding (\$35 million of the \$70 million) 75 percent was funded by FEMA; 22.5 percent was funded by the state and the Town is responsible for the remaining 2.5 percent. The Town was able to obtain other funding to cover their share; however, this cannot be collected until FEMA has completed their closeout. All other projects make final payment once the project is closed and usually the match is also completed shortly after.

Closeouts and Possible “Clawbacks”

The closing-out includes final reconciliation with the accounting system, final reimbursements, and making sure all documentation of grant funds and project files are in order in the case of an audit by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) or other agencies years later. Each funding source has a different schedule for auditing; sometimes it is based on the date the grant is closed or when the program or disaster is closed. There will be a varying schedule of potential audits. The staff is working to put together a spreadsheet to track audit windows for each grant issued.

With any audit there is a chance that a funding agency can determine that funding may not be eligible for various reasons; for example, the work was not within scope, or the work was not

reasonable or necessary or perhaps procurement was not followed fully. There are many reasons “clawbacks” can happen. Town staff has worked very closely with the state and all funding agencies to help ensure that any clawbacks are low risk; however, nothing is a guarantee. The Town has been setting aside funding for any shortfall of recovery work that was not covered by a grant and for any potential clawback requests.

Another thing to note is that with the FEMA grant the funding was granted to the state and the Town is a sub-grantee. If there is clawback, the OIG will make a recommendation to FEMA who will then request it from the state. The state can dispute any request and the state can turn around and ask the Town for the clawback/refund. The state has been working very closely with FEMA during the closeout process to help minimize any clawback concerns. All other grants received were granted directly to the Town.

Further, it is the goal of the flood recovery team to close out all grants, pay back the state advance and wrap up all documentation so that is ready for any potential future audits as soon as possible. However, the process is slow as FEMA has a large queue of projects that need to be reviewed and closed from the entire disaster. The Town is continuing regular communications with FEMA and State to keep the close our process going.

BACK

Department of Parks and Public Works

Dave Cosgrove, Director

This department handles all aspects of the Town of Lyons parks and public works.

Parks

The Town of Lyons Department of Parks and Public Works is responsible for operating and maintaining community and neighborhood parks, open space, trails and associated recreational amenities.

This includes all recreational and athletic facilities, buildings and structures, river corridors through town parks, greenways, and associated rights-of-way adjacent to trails and parks. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the operation and maintenance of all park facilities and equipment, turf management, snow removal, athletic facility operations and maintenance, irrigation system maintenance and repair, landscaping, seeding/fertilization, weed mitigation, forestry, trash pickup, and a wide variety of capital improvement projects.

Operations and maintenance are currently provided by the department for approximately 90 acres of developed/in-development community and neighborhood parkland, nearly 100 acres of open space, over 6 miles of trails, and approximately 30 acres of newly acquired flood buyout properties. Staff coordinates with recreation and special events staff to reserve, schedule and implement operations as needed for events, recreational programming and regular park usage.

Of note, in 2023 Lyons received a \$50 thousand Regional Air Quality grant to purchase new electric mowers (photo, right) for use in the parks.



A breakdown of major Town parkland and associated facilities/amenities is as follows:

Sandstone Park (1.5 acres) - Located in the heart of Lyons, Sandstone Park is the home to the Lyons Visitor Center, the Raul Vasquez Community Stage, and several picnic areas. Live musical and cultural performances are scheduled throughout the year on Raul Vasquez Community Stage such as the Summer Concert Series.

The Lyons Visitor Center (open mid-April to October) provides visitor services including restrooms, maps, guidebooks, and local/regional information. The Center's staff is

knowledgeable and friendly. Parks and Public Works staff provides maintenance for the visitor center and the park itself.



2023 Expanded Raul Vasquez Community Stage during the 2013 Flood Anniversary

Bohn Park (53.5 acres) – At the confluence of the North and South St. Vrain Creeks, Bohn Park has been recognized by the Colorado Lottery for creative use of funds. The park was destroyed in the 2013 flood and reconstructed finalized in 2020. Phase I was completed in 2017 and Phase II was completed in early fall of 2020. Bohn Park facilities include:

Two softball/baseball fields (Vasquez & Bohn fields)	Off-leash dog area w/shelter and trails (10 acres)
Skate park w/ half-pipe (pictured above)	River fishing access, including ADA access
Multiuse sport court (tennis, basketball, pickleball)	River access w/ in-stream structures
Multiuse fields/soccer field	Parking (paid kiosks), special event parking
Playground	2 restroom facilities/storage units
Dirt jump bike skills park w/ shelter	Trails/pedestrian bridges
Picnic gathering grounds (available for rent)	Inlet/pumphouse for irrigation
Picnic areas w/ tables & grills	Public art

LaVern M. Johnson Park (18 acres) - Bounded on three sides by the North St. Vrain Creek and sandstone cliffs, LaVern M. Johnson Park is approximately 18 acres in size and offers an abundance of facilities recognized by the Colorado Lottery for excellence in the use in lottery proceeds. Facilities include:

19 RV sites with full hook-ups, 4 dry RV camping sites	2 park host RV sites
20 tent sites w/ tables and grills	Multiple picnic areas w/ tables and grills
Two playgrounds w/ climbing boulders, zipline, climbing nets and other features	Multiuse field
Cornhole court	Sand volleyball court
Plaza/ice rink (winter)	Zero depth splash pad
Stream play feature	Whitewater park – kayak/tubing features
Swimming hole	Multiuse trails/pedestrian bridge
Haines habitat island	3 shelters (avail. for rent): St. Vrain, Quarry, WPA
2 restrooms; one with pay showers	Fishing/river access
Parking areas (paid through kiosks)	Lyons Ditch diversion/head gate, pumphouse for irrigation

Camping is available year-round in LaVern M. Johnson Park. Park hosts assist with various maintenance within the park and with assisting campers, including collecting fees for both camping and parking which generate considerable revenue for the department. The Park Host program has proven to be quite successful and very pivotal to the Lyons Park system.

Lyons Valley River Park/Corridor Trail (16.5 acres) - Fully completed in the Spring of 2020 following the 2013 flood, Lyons Valley River Park is becoming one of Lyons finest passive recreation areas. The original area was dedicated to the town with the development of Lyons Valley Park subdivision and consists of two ponds. The lower pond is available for flatwater recreation activities with access points. The upper (smaller) pond is strictly for habitat and is off-limits to recreational access. Amenities include multi-use trials, scenic overlook, wetland restoration, flood mitigation efforts and kayak masts for programs and events.

This area provides vital wildlife habitat along the St. Vrain River. Linking with the St. Vrain River Trail (Colorado Lottery Starburst Award, 1996) from Bohn Park to the west and the Corridor Trial to the north, these paths will be



critical links to the east and eventually to the St. Vrain Greenway (Longmont) and the 36/66 junction underpass. The Corridor Trail along the right-of-way frontage that parallels Highway 36/66 from McConnell Drive to the Black Bear Hole has several existing planters, irrigation and associated landscaping that is the responsibility of the Parks and Public Works Department.

Lyons Whitewater Park-Black Bear Hole-October/November Hole

Lyons Whitewater Park - The Lyons Whitewater Park in LaVern M. Johnson Park is a quarter-mile stretch with eight features from beginner to intermediate level that kayakers, tubers and fishermen from the community and surrounding region have all come to enjoy. This facility is heavily utilized in the summer.

Black Bear Hole - Just off Highway 36/66 and across from Lyons Quilting there are two kayak play features that have historically been used as home to Lyons Outdoor Games and avid kayakers from around the region. The first feature has been dubbed the Black Bear Hole and is considered to be a beginner to intermediate spot. Approximately thirty yards downstream is the second hole, named the A-hole (after Lyons resident Arn Hayden, who played a part in its inception). This feature is more advanced and often sees kayakers from around the state practicing more advanced tricks. The area incorporates a picnic area and is a frequent stop along Lyons Corridor Trail for hikers and bikers. In 2022 improvements were made to the Black Bear Hole area through funding made available through Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) including, improvements and formalizing the parking lot and adding paid parking, improvements to the riverbanks on the upstream side and around the pedestrian bridge (at right), replacement of the bridge decking, trail and landscape improvements including irrigation, and new fencing and site amenities.



St. Vrain Corridor Trailhead at 2nd Avenue - East of 2nd Avenue adjacent to Bohn Park, improvements were made to formalize a parking area, restroom and trailhead through funding made available by a grant awarded by GOCO in 2022. This area now consists of 115 parking spaces with paid parking kiosk, restroom facility with drinking fountain, trail and landscape improvements including irrigation, storm and other drainage improvements, and new fencing and site amenities.

October Hole/November Hole - Further downstream in Lyons Valley River Park are the reconstructed October and November holes.

These kayaking features are unique along the Front Range in that they can be utilized by river recreationalists into the months of October/November due to typical seasonal releases from the Carter Canal inlet just upstream from the features. Located off of Highway 36/66 near the "Welcome to Lyons" sign, these features offer easy access to the St. Vrain and also include gathering areas established with large boulders along the banks, similar to the other features completed upstream through flood recovery efforts.

Regular maintenance of these features is performed when needed in the fall/early winter or late winter/early spring, when the water flow is low, access to the river is more easily achievable and the least risk/damage to the river and habitat will occur. The necessary permits are applied for and obtained prior to work being done. Work performed on structures is completed when it is

deemed that there is a hazard, risk or that they or not functioning properly. River restoration and bank stabilization are priorities for the department.

Community volunteer river cleanup days are scheduled in the spring and summer to help keep the river areas free of trash and other debris after the spring run off season. In 2022, the Lyons Parks and Recreation Commission, and a group of local resident groups all performed river cleanup efforts.

Steamboat Valley Playground - Located on the Steamboat Valley Open Space Parcel and built in-part with money supplied through the subdivision improvement agreement for the housing development, this neighborhood park is cared for by the department.

Trails - Lyons has worked diligently to link existing trail systems both in town and to surrounding open spaces. Currently, the Parks department maintains over 6 miles of trails and performs regular maintenance in the spring/fall or in areas as needed according to standards. Additional local and regional trail connections continue to be a priority for the department and the citizen advisory Parks and Recreation Commission. Upcoming projects being considered that will allow for better connectivity are in and around the Black Bear Hole, a trailhead near the 2nd Ave. public parking area, the St. Vrain Corridor Trail connection to US 36 for eventual connection to the Longmont St. Vrain Greenway Trail. The department submits requests to Boulder County Parks and Open Space each year on potential partnership requests for local and regional trail opportunities. An example includes the completed Picture Rock/Heil Ranch connection. Others include a proposed connection to Hall Ranch (currently being assessed by Boulder County via a link on the west side of 36 via Corona Hill), Rabbit Mountain, the St. Vrain Greenway Trail east to Longmont, the Lyons to Boulder Trail and access to Steamboat Mountain. An updated trails plan can be found in the 2016 Parks Flood Recovery Planning Process available online at the Town website.

In 2021, Parks and Public works staff worked with Can'd Aid on volunteer projects to add and improve trails in Bohn Park and in the Stone Canyon Neighborhood.

Lyons Open Space Parcels (approximately 100 acres) - The Town of Lyons Department of Parks and Public Works currently oversees management of numerous open space parcels.

Of the town's complete parkland inventory, approximately 105 acres are dedicated as open space. Examples of such properties are Stone Canyon Open Space, Lyons Valley Greenbelt, Sierra Roja/Steamboat Valley, Russell Subdivision/Tebo (Longs Peak) and Eagle Canyon. Maintenance including mowing, trash/debris removal, noxious weed mitigation and monitoring for code violation are common in these areas.



The town contracted with a local service to graze goats on the Longs Peak open space (see photo) to reduce noxious weeds and fire-prone vegetation.

Martin Parcel Buyout Parcel (9 Acres) - This parcel is located west of Bohn Park, adjacent to the skate park and Bohn Field, and is a flood recovery buyout parcel recently transferred to the Town by Boulder County. A public process and conceptual plan have been developed (see, 2017 Land Use and Management Plan for Deed Restricted Buy Out Properties (DrBOP).

Town of Lyons Flood Buyout Parcels (20 Acres) - Following the flood of 2013 the Town of Lyons acquired 27 former residential properties with federal funding, equaling nearly 20 acres, located mainly in the confluence of the St. Vrain in Lyons. Initial funds from the buy-out program were used to remove structures and mitigate impacts against future flooding. These “buy-out” properties are earmarked as open space or recreational properties in perpetuity. The 2017 DrBOP (Deed Restricted Buyout Properties) Plan for these properties can be found of the Town of Lyons website.

In 2023, a 2013 flood memorial site (left) was constructed on one of the DrBOP parcels in the Confluence neighborhood.

The plan conceptualizes these lands as natural open space areas and wildlife habitat with opportunities for outdoor enjoyment and social interaction. Several have been identified as eligible for the “Neighborhood Lot Licensure Program,” a licensure program allowing individual or group “adoption” of certain lots for approved purposes.



St. Vrain Valley School District Facilities – Currently, the Town of Lyons and the St. Vrain Valley School District have a joint use agreement in place. When appropriate, increased scheduling and maintenance responsibilities are allotted for by the department. Scheduling and maintenance of the Bohn multi-purpose field and high school baseball and softball fields is done when needed for league play. The town also has use of the elementary school gym, playground areas, track and other facilities through the district scheduler when allowed. This arrangement is positive for both parties, allowing for additional facilities through this partnership that it would otherwise not be available.

Public Works

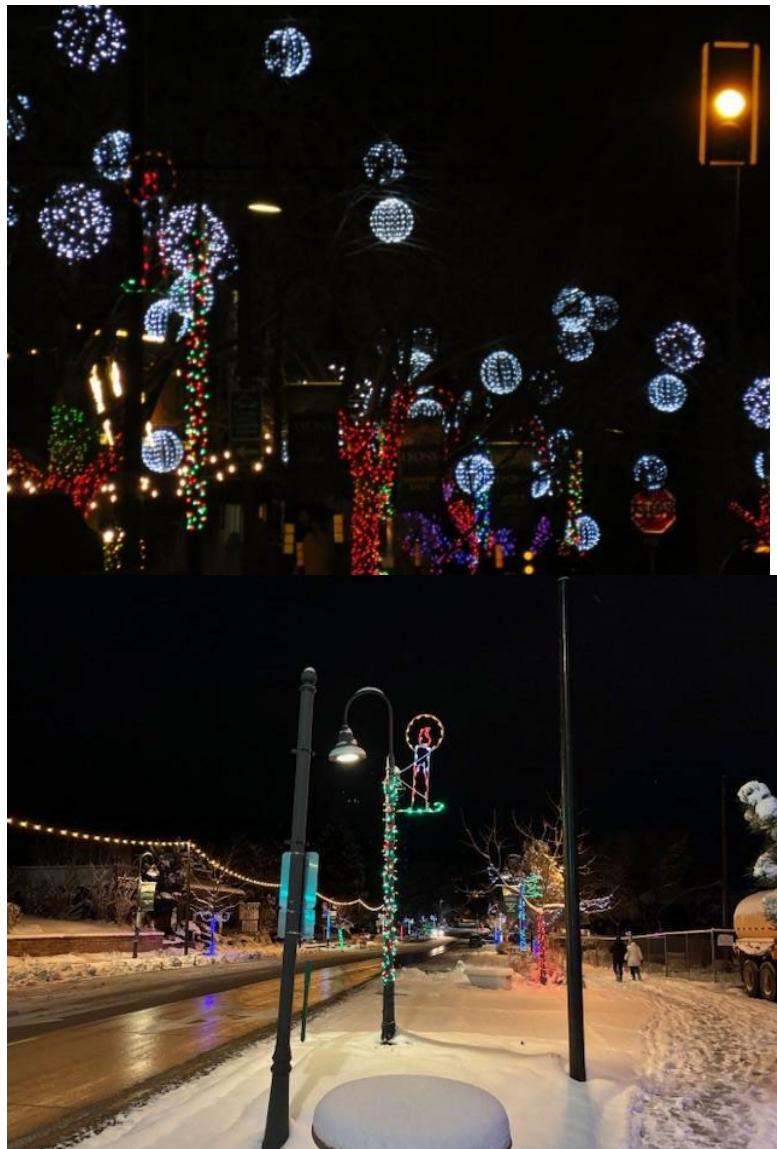
The Department of Parks and Public Works is also responsible for a wide range of duties associated with the operations and maintenance of town-owned infrastructure, facilities and properties. This includes nearly 9 miles of paved roadway and associated rights of way, numerous alleys, drainages, utility easements, out lots and other Town-owned properties, facilities and structures. Major duties include, but are not limited to:

- Street, alley, sidewalk, curb/gutter and right of way maintenance including plowing, street sweeping, grading, road repair (potholes, crack/slurry sealing, patching) and capital improvements

- Water, sewer, electric and storm drainage monitoring and repair in conjunction with the utility department and contractors-including coordination of regular services such as regular flushing, camera/jetting, and servicing of systems-Town pressure reducing valves, pump stations and other facilities
- Fire hydrant mapping, servicing and repair-flow testing
- Facility inspection and maintenance (seasonal and other)-HVAC, water, irrigation, fountains, backflow, filters, etc.
- Fleet and equipment management and maintenance
- Responding to community complaints and service requests
- Easement and out lot monitoring and maintenance
- Utility locates-Colorado 811 response as required
- Monthly utility reads/re-reads and shut-offs for utility billing
- Coordination/programming of utility meter installation
- Off-hour on-call service calls
- Trash removal
- Mowing and landscape of rights of way
- Tree trimming and removal along rights of way/utility trimming
- Maintenance and coordination of Town ditch inlets, head gates and vaults
- Street signage installation and repair
- Street lighting maintenance and repair
- Banners, flags and holiday lighting
- Assisting with installation and repair of public art
- Road and other closures-flagging certifications
- Coordination with outside contractors
- Ordering and maintaining Town inventory
- Safety inspections and trainings
- Required certifications and trainings

Additional Facilities Maintained (or assisted) by Parks and Public Works:

- Lyons Depot building/grounds
- Town Hall and plaza
- Parks and Public Works shop (adjacent to Town Hall)
- Parks and Public Works facilities, buildings and storage yard
- Lyons Wastewater Treatment plant/grounds
- Lyons high-pressure pump/water station/grounds
- Apple Valley water tank
- Tank hill
- 2nd Avenue parking area and recycling center
- 3rd and Railroad public parking
- Bus Stops



2023 Main Street Lighting Project

Staff and Facility

Currently, the Parks and PW's Department consists of the Director, two Parks and Public Works Maintenance III's, and three Parks and Public Works Maintenance I's. Two additional full-time maintenance I positions have been budgeted for 2024, as well as four seasonal positions for peak-season summer help. Our staff works directly with the Parks and Recreation Coordinator, Lisa Ramsey, on scheduling and coordination of programming, facilities, and oversight of Park Hosts in town parks. Crystal White, Parks Attendant, works in the parks on a regular basis assisting the Town and the public with a variety of seasonal tasks. The Department also provides logistical support for Town special events. In addition, Parks and Public Works staff coordinates with the Utility Director/billing department on a variety of utility related needs.

In 2020, the department moved to a new facility located at 4687 Ute Highway (photo below) – the former site of the decommissioned Longmont water treatment plant. The new facility replaces the pre-flood facility located near the WWTP off of 2nd Avenue.



The Parks and Public Works Department works with several different volunteer groups and non-profits on various projects throughout the year. Whether it is for recreation, special events or maintenance projects, the department routinely coordinates with active community members to achieve departmental goals. These groups include Lyons Weed Posse, Lyons Volunteers, Lyons Garden Club, Rocky Mountain Botanic Gardens, CAN'D Aid Foundation, Lyons Middle Senior High School and Lyons Elementary School, and many others.

2023 Highlights

In 2023, the Parks and Public Works Department, in addition to its regular duties, completed or assisted with the following projects:

- Broadway Street Improvement Project (ongoing, see photo)
- Raul Vasquez Community Stage in Sandstone Park expansion and storage
- Construction of Parks and Public Works Salt/Sand Storage Facility
- Writing and Receipt of \$50K Grant to Regional Air Quality Council for two new electric mowers to decommission existing gas-powered equipment
- Main Street Lighting Improvement Project- installation of tree wrap lighting and festoon lighting on Main Street
- 2023 Pavement Rehabilitation, painting and signage upgrades-Repaving of McConnell Dr., Welch Ct. and Dr. and Eagle Canyon Circle and Dr. Chip and Fog Seal of Steamboat Valley Dr. and Vasquez Rd. and Ct., and Eagle Valley Dr., Osprey Lane, Peregrine Lane and



Falcon Lane. School Zones were updated at both the Elementary and Middle/Senior High Schools with new crosswalks and other safety measures added including signage, ADA ramps and other safety improvements.

- Fire Mitigation including working with Left Hand Fire/Lyons Fire on clearing approximately 1.5 acres along the Eastern and Northern borders of the Martin Parcel, bringing in goats to graze on Town Open Space above Longs Peak Drive clearing approximately 4 acres of potentially dangerous ladder fuels, offering a curbside limb pick-up and limb drop -off events.
- Construction of the Flood Anniversary Confluence Gathering Circle
- Town Hall Improvements-replacement of doors, restroom improvements and painting
- Street Signage replacements/installations-Phase I
- Completed landscape and other warranty items for GOCO 2nd Ave Trailhead and Black Bear Improvement Project

2024 Budget Priorities/Upcoming Projects

- 2nd Ave. Trailhead Dry Camping Installation/Improvements
- Bohn Multi-Use Sport Court Resurfacing/Restriping
- Parks and Public Works New Backhoe lease
- Installation of new river safety signage at takeout points and warning near Highland Diversion
- Town Parks and Facilities security cameras-Request For Proposal
- RAQC Grant-Funding to replace gas-powered lawn equipment with electric
- Street Signage Replacement-Phase II
- Fire Mitigation-goats, mowing and tree trimming
- Broadway Streetscape Improvement Project (Landscaping and Completion)
- Sandstone Park irrigation main line re-route/replacement
- St. Vrain Trailhead Extension Project
- Sidewalk Assessments/Replacements as prioritized
- Dog Park/Bike Park Fencing Repairs



2023 Pavement Rehabilitation and Improvement Project

Principal Guiding Documents:

The Parks and Public Works Department is guided in its work by the following Town of Lyons documents. All of these documents are available on the Town's home page.

- Lyons Recovery Action Plan (2014)
- 2016 Parks Flood Recovery Plan
- 2008 Parks, Open Space & Trails Master Plan Update/Bohn Park Master Plan
- 2000 Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) Master Plan
- Land Use and Management Plan for Deed Restricted Buy-Out Properties (2017)
- Town of Lyons Comprehensive Plan (2022)
- Sustainable River Corridor Action Plan
- Town of Lyons Weed Management Plan (revised 2020)
- Town of Lyons CIP Plans
- Town of Lyons Code Book
- Town of Lyons Design Standards
- Town of Lyons Pavement Conditions/Assessment
- Town of Lyons Storm Drainage Study/Assessment
- St. Vrain Watershed

BACK

Community Development

Alexander Painter – Planner II

While striving to seamlessly guide new development and evaluate existing conditions, the Town of Lyons' Community Development Department (CDD) seeks to help residents, businesses, and landowners plan and develop for an improved future, simultaneously ensuring that existing and potential development comply with the Lyons Municipal Code. The health, safety, and well-being of all stakeholders -- local residents, landowners, businesses, and visitors alike -- are paramount considerations as we balance development progress and ambition with the protection of our natural resources and surrounding ambient beauty.



The department offers a broad range of services. These services include planning and zoning, current development, code compliance, historic preservation, and long-range strategic planning. Several licensing programs are also handled by this department, such as short-term rentals, deed-restricted buyout property (DRBOP) neighborhood lot licenses, and encroachment licenses.

The department interfaces closely with other Town departments, such as Building, Engineering, Utilities, and Parks & Public Works. The Planning & Community Development Commission (PCDC), Board of Adjustments, and Historic Preservation Commission also all coordinate with the department.

2023 Report

Even though the coronavirus has continued to impact our typical processes, CDD has transitioned services to continue to serve the community. CDD successfully hosted public meetings virtually and in person, allowing applicants to move forward with proposals and residents to continue to participate in public processes and provide feedback.

Comprehensive Plan

The 2023 Lyons Thrive Comprehensive Plan was ratified in February 2023.

We began by update existing Town goals and policies to align with the community's vision for the future, evaluating community priorities and preferences for addressing major issues and opportunities. This was done through the creation of a project website, social media posts, newspaper articles, email blasts, and targeted stakeholder meetings.

Land Use

The department assisted in many land use processes, including:

Development Reviews

- The 2023 Lyons Thrive Comprehensive Plan was reviewed and ratified February 2023.
- 109 County rd. (the Martin Parcel) was annexed into the Town of Lyons and zoned Parks and Open Space (POS).

- 244 Evans Detached ADU was reviewed by Town staff then approved by the Planning and Community Development Commission (PCDC) and the Board of Trustees (BoT).
- Text Amendment made to 16-10-70 Accessory Dwelling Units, Detached ADUs changed from a conditional use to an administrative review. Winter 2023-24.
- 317 Evans Street was approved via a Major Development Review process during the winter of 2022-23.
- DRBOP Plan was reviewed by the PCDC and BoT for a text amendment to allow a large orchard instead of a small orchard for 124 4th Ave.
- Town of Lyons Housing Assessment/Plan was contracted out by Bohannan Huston in the beginning of 2023 and will be completed in early winter 2024.

Conditional Use Reviews

- Planet Bluegrass Expansion - an application was reviewed to includes onsite camping and improvements to their facilities and operations, the Conditional Use Application was reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees.
- A new detached Accessory Dwelling Unit (detached) was approved.
- Mud Hut received a Conditional Use approval for Drive Up Window in the B-Zone District.

Rezoning

- 109 County rd. (the Martin Parcel) annexed and zoned as Parks and Open Space (POS).

Zoning Code Text Amendments:

- 16-10-70 Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) code was amended to replace detached ADUs from a conditional use review to an administrative review. Winter 2023-24

Licenses - CDD issued 20 short-term rental licenses, 2 DRBOP neighborhood lot licenses, and 2 sign permits in 2023.

Planning & Community Development Commission Interaction

Throughout 2023, the PCDC fulfilled the critical role of advisory board to the Board of Trustees on development issues with the review of a variety of land use applications while ensuring that the Comprehensive Plan was being implemented in those applications.

The PCDC also supported CDD in many ways; for example, PCDC formed a number of subcommittees that included staff representatives to focus on several issues, these included: Development Review Process Subcommittee, Design Guidelines Subcommittee, and Comprehensive Plan Update Subcommittee.

Development Review Process Subcommittee - Through multiple workshops, research, and feedback from the community, the PCDC found the consensus was that Site and Development Plan Review process was unclear to applicants and began an effort to modify the existing code. Adopted by the Board of Trustees.

Design Guidelines Subcommittee - The PCDC began 2021 with the review of the Town's Commercial and Mixed-use Design Standards and Guidelines (DDSG). Through multiple workshops, research, and feedback from the community, the PCDC determined it was

necessary to update the Lyons Municipal Code to create more efficient and effective design guidelines. Adopted by the Board of Trustees.

Staffing Changes

The CDD underwent significant staffing changes in 2023. Lead Planner, David Kimmett left the Town of Lyons in October leaving Planner II, Alexander Painter as the only Planner for the Town. The Town hired a new Senior Planner in January 2024.

2024 Outlook

The Town expects 2024 to be a critical year for CDD involvement in Town progress. From rezoning to alley naming to water use to annexations to Boulder County Intergovernmental Agreements to affordable housing to trail extensions to East St. Vrain redevelopment (aka, Eastern Corridor) to regional collaboration, the sky is the limit.

The department intends to continue to self-evaluate applicable codes and processes to improve efficiency, accuracy, adherence to Town aspirations as voiced by the Lyons Thrive!

Comprehensive Plan, streamlining development rubrics while keeping our eyes fixed on the betterment of the community.

Geographic Information Systems

The Town is currently and continues to update the Towns G.I.S. system to be more accurate and up to date. With a new senior planner on board, we hope to get more involved with ArcGIS as a primary data repository.

Historical Preservation

The HPC, along with staff, have been working together with the State Historic Preservation Office and the network of CLGs across Colorado to open avenues of funding for rehabilitating historic buildings and give the Town and its residents greater access to the expertise of Historic Preservation.

The HPC, along with staff are in the process of trying to add markers for historic properties and sites in the Towns GIS for residents and tourist.

Housing

A multi-faceted approach toward engendering a land use dynamic enabling current and future residents to make Lyons their home will commence. Affordable housing has swiftly become the number one land use issue facing not just Lyons, not just Boulder County, not just Colorado, but America as a whole. Every tool in the planner's panoply must be at the ready to help in preventing a situation where Lyons becomes a paradise for only the well-off.

Transportation

Be it VisionZero safety (a nationwide safety program that aims to make automobile-pedestrian/bike deaths and injuries zero), trail connections, or the overall use of the right-of-way, transportation should be people-centric and will grow into a focus for Town development and redevelopment.

Water

Water use in the semi-arid West is mission critical: we must become better stewards of this resource, and Lyons can do its part to optimize our water use paradigm, thereby ensuring the vitality of this non-renewable resource

BACK

Utilities and Engineering Department

Aaron Caplan, Director

The Utilities and Engineering department manages the four town utilities: electric, water, wastewater, and stormwater. We coordinate with the Town's electrical contractor, water and wastewater contractor, treated water provider and state regulatory agencies. We are involved in many of the capital improvement projects and maintaining a 5-year capital improvements plan.

Some of the day-to-day operations include:

- Develop and write ordinances to update Lyons municipal code.
- Develop contracts and write resolutions to present contracts to the Trustees.
- Put together requests for proposals, review and select the best proposal.
- Oversee the contractors that operate our utilities.
- Additional purchasing of supplies and materials; three quotes required.
- Work with the rest of Town staff on utility concerns.
- Review and recommend utility trends and rates.
- Monitor day-to-day operations of Town facilities.
- Interact with residents and businesses on their concerns, town concerns and new projects.
- Act as liaison to the Utility & Engineering Board.

2023 Actions

The largest project for the utilities and engineering department in 2023 was the installation of new infrastructure for the 24 single family and 4 multifamily homes built along Carter Dr. This included new roads, water, sewer and electric lines and stormwater infrastructure.

Electric Utility:

In our ongoing effort to underground the electric lines block by block we began the work to get the 400 block of Broadway lines undergrounded. The conduit has been installed. One of the two communications companies has finished removing its lines from these utility poles. As 2024



begins we are working to get our electric lines installed in the conduit and waiting for the second communication company to remove its lines along this block

We also proposed and had passed a modification to the Lyons Municipal Code that will help get more individual service lines undergrounded. The new code states “An owner of an existing electric connection may request that their service be increased to a higher amp service, a larger service connection wire, to move their existing service line, or to add additional service lines for an Accessory Dwelling Unit. Such request shall require that the owner underground their service line at their expense from the transformer to the service panel.”

Water Utility:

Using American Rescue Plan Act funds the Town fulfilled one of the obligations it made to Longmont in 2013 after the flood. We installed back-flow prevention at our pump station facility where water transfers from Longmont to Lyons. This prevents the possible backflow of water from Lyon's water system into Longmont's water system.

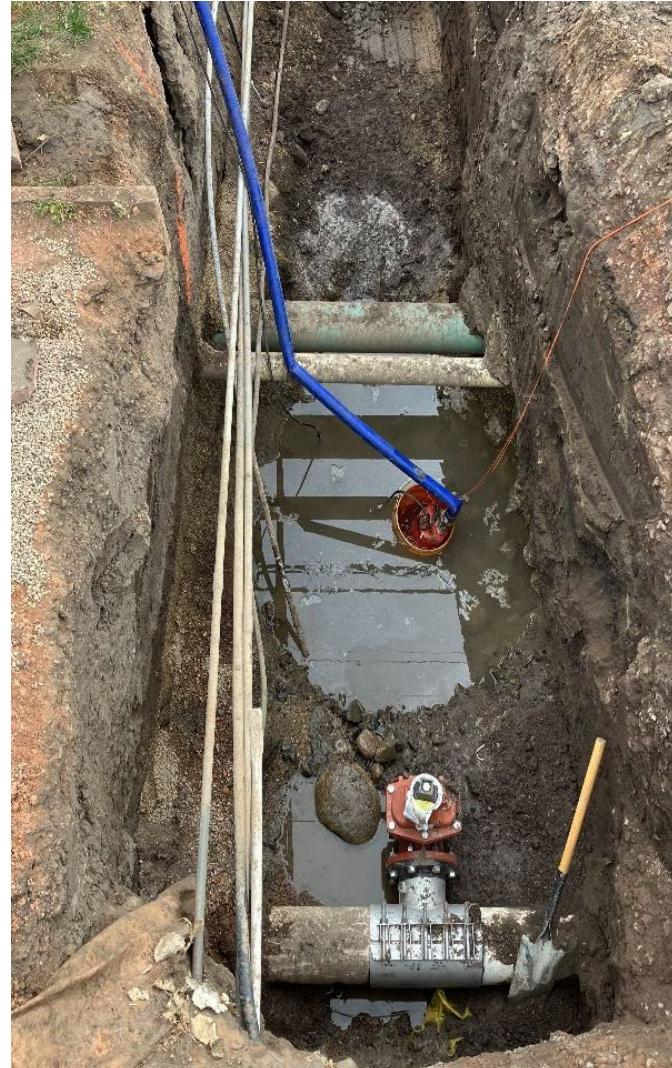
We installed an automated water dispenser to replace the old manual system that required a person to come into Town Hall and get a key to use the water dispenser. The new system allows the public to set up an account ahead of time or use a credit card and obtain treated water at any time.

Wastewater Utility:

One of the biggest developments in 2023 for Lyon's utilities was the settlement of the litigation over the wastewater treatment facility that was built in 2015. After many years the Town is now moving forward and has requested proposals from wastewater engineers to advise the Town on our best options for the future of its wastewater, called a Wastewater Utility Plan or WUP.

Stormwater Utility:

The Town applied for a large federal grant to help cover the cost of design to install stormwater pipe along 2nd and 3rd Avenues from Main St. north to their respective ends. Our project was not selected for funding. Further discussions with the Board of Trustees and the Utility and Engineering Board determined that the Town should move forward some of the smaller options to mitigate stormwater along 2nd and 3rd Avenue with curb and gutter. In an effort to integrate capital improvement plans the road in the area selected will also be rebuilt.



2024 Plans

The stormwater and road improvement along North 2nd and 3rd are one of the priorities for 2024. We also hope to underground the electric lines along the 300 block of Broadway. We still have a couple of large pressure reducing valves in the water system to replace, a project we had hoped to have done in 2023.

The new requirements by the Environmental Protection Agency to document the material of every water service line in the country and to remove any that contain lead is well underway in Lyons. With the help of our building department, we have been able to rule out over 3/4th of the Towns water service connections from being a concern for lead based on date of construction. We have found and been awarded the assistance of a consultant for the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment who is now working with us to finalize our water service line inventory.

Water rights

Last year's annual report included information on the Town's water agreement with Longmont and how we obtain the rights to raw water for Longmont to treat and supply to Lyons. Water Rights are a complicated subject. The following are some additional high-level details to help build upon last year's information.

One form of water right that is accessible from several locations along the Front Range is shares in a project called the Colorado Big Thompson Project (C-BT). The C-BT Project collects, stores and delivers more than 200,000 acre-feet of supplemental water each year, moving water from the west slope of Colorado to northeastern Colorado.

In 2019 Lyons and Longmont amended our agreement to also include shares of Lake McIntosh Reservoir Company water for projects that met certain qualifications, primarily affordable housing or commercial/economic development projects.

As of October 2023, Lyons holds 727 shares of C-BT water and has been required to dedicate 709 of them to Longmont.

Lyons holds 64 shares of Lake McIntosh Reservoir Company water and is currently dedicating 56.3 shares to Longmont.

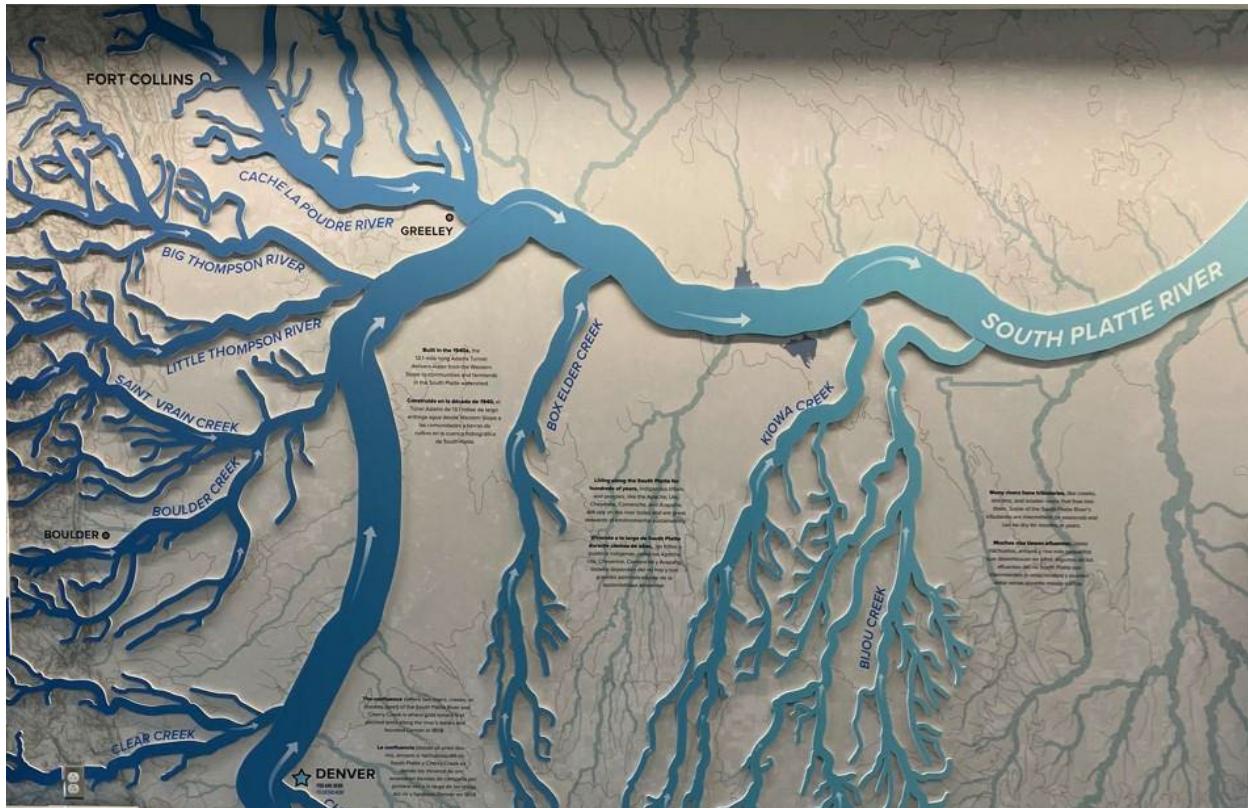
Lyons does also have water rights from the St. Vrain Creek with its Lyons Pipeline Decree. Water rights of this nature give varying amounts of water each year depending on how much water is in the St. Vrain Creek and how much water others with higher priority rights use.

Over the last five years Lyons has used a total of between 300 to 330 acre-feet of water per year. The following figures show how much of that water came from our Pipeline Decree over those five years.

2023	56 acre-feet	(18% of total used)
2022	10 acre-feet	(3% of total used)
2021	58 acre-feet	(17% of total used)
2020	151 acre-feet	(41% of total used)
2019	156 acre-feet	(48% of total used)
2018	165 acre-feet	(52% of total used)

The remaining water we use comes from our C-BT and Lake McIntosh shares. One item to note is that the water from the Pipeline Decree and from Lake McIntosh is local coming from the St. Vrain Creek. The C-BT water is water piped over from the Colorado River.

Of interest, the accompanying map shows the South Platte Watershed and how it rises in and flows through the most populous parts of Colorado. The watershed is inadequate to supply the demands of this region; therefore, shares from the Colorado-Big Thompson Project are integral to supporting Lyons, Longmont and other Front Range communities.



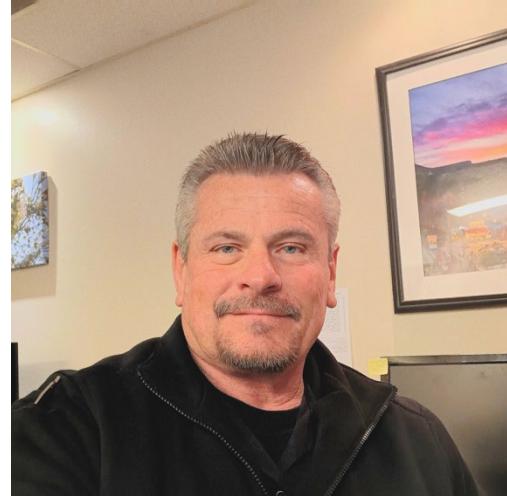
BACK

Code Compliance

Doug Mattingley, Code Compliance Official

Lyons residents have consistently expressed that clean, well-maintained neighborhoods, commercial districts and manufacturing areas are a priority. Maintaining these areas has proven to increase tax revenue, property values, safety of our residents and visitors, provide a higher standard of living and promote community pride.

The Code Compliance Official's role plays an important part in educating the public, evaluating private properties and commercial districts, and occasionally assisting the Town with posting Stop Work Orders for individuals working without a permit. Code Compliance respond to citizen complaints and observed violations and assists other town departments with code and zoning violations including the Planning, Parks & Recreation departments.



I was hired by The Town of Lyons in December 2023. I am excited to get started as the Town's Code Compliance Official. My prior experience includes 14 years in law enforcement and served as Code Enforcement Officer with the Johnstown Police Department. I am also a retired Firefighter/EMT with Front Range Fire Protection District and Los Angeles County Fire Department as a Firefighter/Paramedic in the 1980's during the civil unrest and rioting in 1992.

I was happy to return home to my birthplace in Colorado where I continue to serve with pride and professionalism.

2023 Public Safety Issues

In Lyons, the position of Code Compliance Official has many responsibilities such as inspections, compliance and enforcement of general nuisances, answering citizen complaints to zoning and business licensing. Taking a proactive approach in the preservation of life and property as well as being committed to maintaining the beautification of the community through public safety and education.

During my first month in this position, I have visited with business owners and residents of the Lyons community and listening to some of their concerns, many of them have expressed these concerns from dogs running at large or unleashed dogs to abandoned or inoperable vehicles on the roadways or public right of ways which can ultimately make a town extremely unsightly and can sometimes decrease the value of homes and property in the community.

Plans for 2024

My immediate plans for 2024 is to listen to the community, make a plan by investigating the problem areas first and then get started by taking action to curb and correct some of these nuisances. I am a strong believer of educating people before enforcement action. If I gain voluntary compliance by correcting the issue first, there is no need for further action and saves violators unnecessary time and money.

All dogs residing in Town must be licensed within 30 days of residency, It is important to get your animals vaccinated and licensed with the Town and it's a safe way to get your pet back home safely. Nobody wants to pay a fine or have their pet impounded at the shelter.

Snow & Ice removal from sidewalks. This season I will be focusing on snow and ice collecting on the sidewalks in residential neighborhoods and business districts within The Town. It is the responsibility of each home or business owner to remove snow and ice from their sidewalks and adjacent to their property within 24 hours after the end of each snowfall. By doing so, this ensures a safe path for children walking to school and pedestrian foot traffic.

Weed control. I will also concentrate on the upcoming weed season by preventing, controlling and eradicating noxious weeds per state law. Weed control is a responsibility of each home or business owner to ensure that weeds are cut to the ground and kept cut. Unkempt weeds also spell disaster during the summer months and fire season.

I have also been appointed the ADA (American Disability Act) Coordinator for The Town of Lyons, I will oversee and coordinate efforts of the government entity to comply with Title II by investigating any complaints that arise and communicate with the proper agency or agencies for compliance with Title II.

My objective is the safety and well-being of Lyons residents and visitors as well as the preservation of a safe and beautiful community.

Should you have any questions, complaints or concerns regarding Code Compliance and Enforcement, please contact:

Doug Mattingley
(303) 823-6622

dmattingley@townoflyons.com

BACK

Community Programs and Relations Department

2023 Year in Review

Kim Mitchell, Director of Communications and Community Relations

The Community Programs and Relations Staff works with both residents and businesses on town-wide initiatives including economic vitality, special events, public art, sustainability, outreach, and communications. The department employs three staff members as well as two seasonal workers for the Visitor's Center during the busier summer months.

Notable activities of the **Community Programs and Relations Department** in 2023 included:

Sustainability

- EcoPass program continued in 2023 for the RTD system.
- Lyons Flyer – This is a commuter bus service that has two daily morning routes to Boulder from Lyons and two daily afternoon/evening routes from Boulder back to Lyons. This public transportation service is contracted by Boulder County and reimbursed to the County by RTD, since Lyons no longer has the RTD, Y-bus service.
- zTrip transportation program – This taxi voucher program provides alternative transportation services to residents of Lyons to go to Longmont, 7 days a week and to Boulder during the hours that there is no other public transportation option.
- Hosted a limb pickup and two limb drop-offs to events reduce waste diversion, keeping organic matter out of the waste stream.
- Partnered with Boulder County Sustainability Department for grant funding support for consulting expertise regarding electrification, town solar garden and input regarding time of use rate structure for utilities.

Economic Vitality

- Downtown flowers and beautification providing flowers/landscape along Main Street, High Streets, eastern entry to town and along the corridor to the historic downtown.
- Coordinated with Lyons Arts and Humanities to help with installation of 14 public art sculptures along the corridor and within the town.
- Advocated for support of shopping locally with monthly advertising campaign in the Redstone Review.
- Provided articles regarding local businesses, neighborhood entrepreneurship as well as the importance of supporting local businesses.
- Worked with local business owner and CDOT regarding lease of public right of way for outdoor dining and permitting.
- Provided advertorial and editorial materials for the Colorado National Parks Planner – a print and online publication reaching those planning a trip to the National Park. Hosted the author in Lyons.
- Partnered with Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) and Boulder County Economic Vitality for grant funding of \$29K towards comprehensive wayfinding strategy and plan.
- Social Media campaign year-long to highlight outdoor amenities, recreational opportunities, restaurants, retail, services and event in Lyons.

- Worked with local agency and local media to share new business openings and events in Lyons.
- Revolving Loan Fund – managed 13 current loans and awarded 6 new loans in 2023.
- Planet Bluegrass leased LaVern Johnson Park for both RockyGrass and Folks Festival. The leases provided \$39,900 in revenue to the Town for 9 days of leased use.
- Camping revenue in LaVern Johnson Park for 2023 was nearly \$289,000.
- Parking revenue for 2023 was nearly \$148,000 combined for Bohn and LaVern Johnson Parks and Black Bear Hole.

Special Events:

- Produced three successful Winter Wonderland Concerts from January 2023 through March 2023 with local musicians. Local non-profits were able to fundraise at the events with baked goods and hot beverages.
- Old Man Winter Run and Bike Rally returned to Lyons for its 9th year and moved to Bohn Park, to accommodate increased participants and a sunnier location. The winter run and ride which introduces riders and runners to Lyons.
- Lucky Lyons Inaugural Run was held in Bohn Park in early March with a 5K and 10K race.
- Ride the Rockies had a scheduled rest stop in Lyons at Bohn Park on the final day of a six-day ride through Colorado.
- Pride Month was celebrated in June at a Sandstone Park event with a proclamation issued by the BOT. A crosswalk with the BIPOC Pride flag was painted by local youth adjacent to the library, which is very supportive.
- Summer Concert Series returned with 8 concerts outdoors in Sandstone Park.
- Venus de Miles Bicycle Ride was held in late August with the start and finish at Bohn Park.
- Summer Artisan Market, with 38 vendors, was held in early September at Bohn Park to celebrate the summer season and welcome the autumn season.
- Lyons Halloween Spooktacular was held in October with events and a modified parade route in Bohn Park.
- Rave to the Grave – a LEAF Benefit – was held in October at LaVern Johnson Park.
- Inaugural Tree Lighting Celebration was held in Sandstone Park on the Friday, after Thanksgiving. It was well attended with nearly 120 visitors and the Daily Camera included a photographer and reporter for the inaugural event. Looking forward to a new tradition in Lyons.
- The Parade of Lights and Lyons Holiday Artisan Market in December were well-attended. The Artisan Market had nearly 60 vendors and a waiting list of 15 additional requests. The Parade of Lights had 38 entries and the weather cooperated.
- Ice Skating Rink was available for events and concerts during early winter.

Outreach & Communications

- Monthly utility bill newsletter – sent monthly with utility bill via mail and online utility billing to keep residents informed on important town matters and special events. All utility bill newsletters may be found online as well
<https://www.townoflyons.com/Archive.aspx?AMID=38>
- Weekly and as-needed e-blasts to the community regarding projects/events/issues in Lyons
- Articles for inclusion in regional and local media
- Special event notification
- Submitted grant to Boulder County together with Lyons Fire Protection District for a \$50K grant to update the CWPP.
- Monthly articles in Redstone Review covering community topics – economic development, health and welfare, special events and more
- Celebrated and promoted Lyons history during Historic Preservation Month.
- All BOT meetings (regularly scheduled and special meetings) are posted online
<http://www.townoflyons.com/livestream>.
- All Town e-blasts sent may be found online as well at
<http://www.townoflyons.com/list.aspx?PRVMSG=247>

BACK

Legal

The Town of Lyons Town Attorney is Brandon Dittman of the law firm of Wilson Williams Fellman Dittman. The Town Attorney provides legal advice to the Town of Lyons Board of Trustees, town administrator, departments, boards, commissions, and agencies of the Town. The Town Attorney cannot provide legal advice to private citizens.

The Town Attorney is responsible for preparing or reviewing resolutions, ordinances, and legal instruments, providing legal opinions, and representing the Town in litigation and administrative proceedings. The Town Attorney supports the Board of Trustees in preparation and implementation of new legislation and in recommending changes in the Town Code to ensure it is up to date. The goal of the Town Attorney is to assist the Board of Trustees and Town staff in creative problem-solving and ensuring the actions of the Town are compliance with state, federal, and local law.

All traffic and criminal misdemeanor offenses committed within the Town, including criminal violations of Town ordinances, are prosecuted by Jacob Starkovich of Starkovich Law, LLC. The Town Attorney, or their designee, prosecutes civil violations of the Town ordinances.

In 2023, the Town Attorney assisted the Board in updates of the Town's building and fire codes, adoption of updates to the Town's short-term rental ordinance, updates to the Town's policies for net metering, affordable housing efforts, and numerous updates to the Town's municipal code. The Town Attorney was also heavily involved in the management of the Town's grant-funded projects and day-to-day operations of the Town.

In 2023, the Town Attorney helped to settle litigation concerning Honeywell International's design and construction of the Town's wastewater treatment plant. The Honeywell litigation had been ongoing since 2018. In exchange for settling against Honeywell and the various other parties involved in the design and construction of the wastewater treatment plant, the Town received compensation which the Town intends to use to make repairs and upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant.

BACK

Lyons Urban Renewal Authority

Background

In 2013, the Town of Lyons staff and the Board of Trustees began researching the prospect of creating an urban renewal authority (URA). Shortly before the final two public hearings, the Town was inundated by the flood, and the project was temporarily set aside to focus on recovery. Town officials once again pursued the establishment of a URA in the succeeding years. As required by Colorado Revised Statute (CRS) § 31-25-104(a), the Town received a petition from 25 registered electors of the Town, stating that there is a need for a URA. Upon the filing of the petition, a public hearing was held on December 21, 2015, and shortly after that, the Lyons Board of Trustees approved the creation of a URA in Resolution 2015-146.

A consultant found that one or more slum or blighted areas existed in the town. The BOT then appointed themselves as commissioners of the Lyons URA for the purpose of revitalizing blighted areas.

URA definition

The goal of an Urban Renewal Area is to revitalize a region that requires additional intervention in order to remedy blight, restore economic vitality and improve safety. Understanding that redeveloping existing areas is much more expensive and difficult than new development, Colorado has empowered local authorities with certain tools, including tax increment financing (TIF), to offset costs and encourage investment by the private sector in urban renewal areas. Without urban renewal, developers lack the incentive to tackle the challenges associated with infill redevelopment or environmentally complicated sites and would instead have the incentive to continue to direct growth to the fringes of communities, where development is cheaper and easier, which would add to the problem of sprawl.

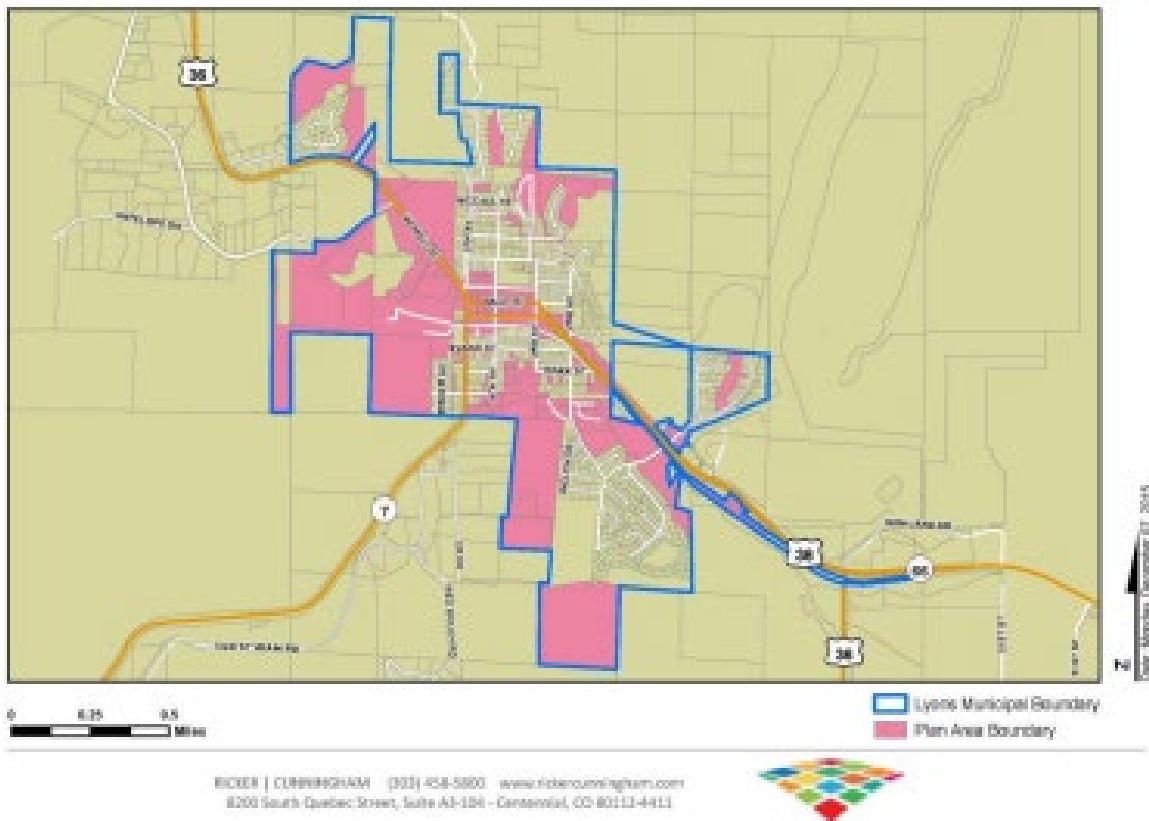
The principal goals of the Lyons Urban Renewal Plan are to help provide important services to the area, attract private investment, utilize underdeveloped land, and leverage public investment to provide necessary public infrastructure to serve the subject area, all for the purpose of remedying and preventing blight.

“Blight” is the legal term given to a piece of property when four of the eleven criteria outlined in the Colorado Revised Statute § 31-25-103(2). are met. These factors range from deteriorated or dilapidated buildings to flood damage, to title problems, and collectively must be considered to be a threat to the health, safety, peace or welfare of a community, in order for a finding of “blight” to be made.

While few areas in Lyons would probably be considered truly “blighted” by most people’s standards, if four of the eleven factors are met under the statute, the law considers the property to be “blighted.” Additionally, under the Colorado statute, a determination of blight is based upon an area “as a whole” and not an individual property basis. Thus, it is possible that a property could not have any of the blight factors present, but still be within the urban renewal area designated as blighted because factors are present on surrounding properties.

The Lyons Urban Renewal Authority is intended to promote uses for the primary benefit of the Town and community at-large and encourage investment and reinvestment in the URA. These goals would be accomplished by affording maximum opportunity for development and redevelopment of the subject area by private enterprise, particularly through the use of tax increment financing.

LYONS, COLORADO Plan Area Boundary



LURA Progress and 2024 Outlook

The Lyons URA is made up of the current Board of Trustees, the Town Administrator, and representatives from the St. Vrain Valley School District, Boulder County, the Lyons Fire Protection District, and a previous LURA member.

The LURA is considering adopting an Eastern Corridor Urban Renewal Plan. This would be in addition to the existing Downtown Urban Renewal Plan, which was the original URP plan as established in 2016. The Lyons Board of Trustees must approve any new URA plan.

The Town of Lyons provided additional revenue to LURA in the 2016-2020 budget years to help cover expenses, including consultant and attorney's fees, transferring funds from the Town's General fund. This transfer has not been necessary since 2020 and tax increment revenue has been able to cover expenses.

The Board has entered into two TIF reimbursement agreements to date. One agreement was with the St. Vrain Market to assist with a business improvement project and the other was Moss Rock Development to provide funding for the construction of a boutique hotel on Main Street. The Board also elected to utilize \$40,000 in TIF revenue to contribute towards the US 36 / Broadway Avenue improvement projects which benefit the LURA businesses. This project is under construction and continuing into 2024.

The Boulder County Assessor's preliminary assessment of value states that the increment valuation will be \$327,252 for the 2023 tax year. The 2024 revenue collected based on the increment will be approximately \$36,670. This calculation of value from the County Assessor is the difference between the 2023 base values and the 2024 updated values.

The 2024 budget includes URA expenses for County treasurer's fees, attorney fees, and charges for Town of Lyons staff time spent on LURA activities.

[BACK](#)

Planning Community and Development Commission

The Planning Community and Development Commission (PCDC) reviews development requests, zoning change requests, and other related land proposals for future orderly growth and development of the Town of Lyons, as outlined in the Municipal Code.

In doing so, we hold public hearings, making every effort to reach a consensus with all parties, and submit an advisory recommendation to the Lyons Board of Trustees (BOT). Our commission operates under Colorado state statute (§ 31-23-202) and serves by appointment from the mayor.

Why Do We Plan?

Planning is a basic function and power of local government in Colorado. Unlike some other states, Colorado does not have a statewide land use plan. Master plans and land use regulations such as zoning, building codes, design standards and sign codes are, for the most part, locally designated. The PCDC and the BOT prepare plans to preserve the public health, safety and welfare for all Lyons residents and neighbors. Effective planning ensures the orderly development of land within our jurisdiction.

The PCDC plans with the following emphasis:

- To protect the public and preserve quality of life.
- To develop community vision and achieve goals.
- To protect private property rights.
- To encourage/continue economic development.
- To facilitate decision-making on land use.

All Colorado municipalities, via the PCDC, are required by state statute to maintain the following planning documents:

[Comprehensive Plan](#) (C.R.S. 30-28-106 and 31-23-206).

[Three Mile Plan](#) (C.R.S. 31-12-105)

2023 PCDC Activities and Accomplishments

During 2023 the PCDC focused on:

- Adoption of the Lyons Thrive Comprehensive Plan and implementation of strategies from the Plan, particularly housing.
- Developing an understanding of, and developing comments related to the upcoming negotiation of the BOCO-Lyons IGA.
- Education of Commissioners, particularly new commissioners, about issues and processes of the Town to be prepared to address improvements.

Housing

- Passed Resolution recommending the conditional use for a detached dwelling unit (ADU) at 244 Evans Street.
- Subcommittees explored ways to update or improve requirements for ADUs and STRs. Action was taken to improve the process for ADU review, making it a quicker, lower cost administrative review process rather than a conditional review process. The PCDC would still be involved if there is an appeal of the administrative review.

- Supported the Housing Needs Assessment and Planning Recommendations by Huston Inc. (BHI), a national multidisciplinary engineering-planning firm as our DOLA- funded IHOP housing needs assessment consultant.

Other

- PCDC Resolution 2023-01, Recommending Adoption of The Lyons Thrive Comprehensive Plan
- Recommended annexation of Martin Parcel buyout property and recommended to zone it Parks and Open Space.
- Recommended amendment of The 2017 “Land Use And Management Plan For Deed Restricted Buy-Out Properties (DRBOP)” to accommodate an orchard use for the DRBOP property at 124 4th Avenue.
- Initiated Commissioner education and discussion about the Lyons-Boulder County IGA to prepare for providing comments to the BOT.
- Joint Meeting with BOT to discuss value of annexation.
- Discussion related to national trends on Minimal Lot Size and the impact on housing.
- Development of comments and recommendations for the BOT related to the Boulder County-Lyons IGA.
- Changed the standard meeting time to 6:30 p.m.

PCDC Members:

Neal Evers – Chair

Amy Schwartz – Vice Chair

Barney Dreistadt

Deborah Scott

David Hamrick

Dehru Cromer

Megan Kram

Joycelyn Farrell - Board of Trustees Liaison

Alexander Painter - Planner

BACK

Boulder County Sheriff's Office Annual Report 2023 (Lyons)

2023 was another great year for the Town of Lyons despite a slight uptick in property crime and calls for services, although not as significant as other communities in Boulder County or the state. The Town approved an additional four Flock cameras, bringing the total to six, scheduled for installation in early 2024. These cameras play a crucial role in aiding law enforcement in swiftly identifying and apprehending suspects, as demonstrated by their effectiveness in solving crimes in 2023. The initiative aims to boost public safety in Lyons and the broader community. Moreover, these cameras contribute to identifying traffic patterns and volume. The busiest weekend of 2023 was July 29-30, coinciding with the Rocky Grass Festival, where approximately 43,410 vehicles entered and exited the Town.



The Boulder County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) continues to improve its crime stat program, aiding in identifying calls, crime patterns, and traffic-related incidents. Stats are presented to the Board of Trustees bi-weekly. This report later compares the 2023 BCSO calls for service compared to 2022 in the Town of Lyons.

In 2023, the main focus was community policing, extra patrols/foot patrols in the parks and downtown areas, and traffic enforcement – crucial priorities for small towns like Lyons. Extra patrol/foot patrols had the highest call volume at 584, followed by 571 traffic stops and 233 medical/fire/rescue calls. Total calls for service increased by around 288 from 2022, totaling 2521 calls for service in 2023 compared to 2233 calls for service in 2022.

Ticket numbers in 2023 increased by approximately 121, totaling 566, compared to 2022, with 445 tickets. Property crimes saw a slight rise, reaching 101 in 2023, up from 90 in 2022. Person crimes increased to about 102 in 2023, compared to 67 in 2022. Medical, fire, and rescue calls rose to 233 in 2023, from 173 in 2022. Alcohol and drug-related calls increased by about 50%, totaling eight in 2023, compared to four in 2022. Miscellaneous calls for service increased slightly to 582 in 2023, up from 578 in 2022. Animal complaint calls decreased to 92 in 2023, down from 111 in 2022. Traffic-related complaints dropped significantly to 692 in 2023, from 771 in 2022, covering traffic stops, traffic complaints, possible DUI drivers, road hazards, property damage, and other traffic-related calls. Civil-related calls remained steady, with 58 in 2023 and 57 in 2022, while weapon-related calls increased to nine in 2023, compared to six in 2022.

The BCSO obtained a grant to acquire catalytic converter etching kits made available to residents of Boulder County and the Town of Lyons. Nearly 150 kits were distributed to locals in the Town of Lyons.

The Town of Lyons deputies are dedicated to making a positive daily impact by addressing quality of life issues, promoting public safety, delivering quality service to our communities, utilizing effective problem-solving methods, and fostering strong relationships—all while upholding the BCSO mission statement and values.

Boulder County Sheriff's Office Mission Statement and Values:

"We provide efficient, effective, public safety services to the residents and visitors of Boulder County. We deliver these services with character, competence, and open communication."

Values:

- We value human life.
- We value the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Colorado. We value the system of laws that govern us.
- We value the communities we serve. We believe the purpose of our organization is to serve our communities, keep the peace, keep them safe, and work with them to solve problems.
- We value the person. We value the diversity among all individuals. We will treat everyone with courtesy, respect and dignity.
- We value organizational excellence. We value an environment in which individuals strive as a team for superior professional performance focused on achieving our organizational mission and goals.
- We value the strength of personal character in our employees. We value open, honest communicators who display high moral and ethical conduct, integrity, adaptability and sound judgment.

Traffic Accidents:

In 2023, Lyons experienced 28 traffic-related accidents, marking an increase of 10 from the 18 accidents in 2022. One accident resulted in minor injuries to a hit-and-run suspect under the influence of alcohol, who rolled their vehicle off the roadway. Two accidents were alcohol-related, while the majority resulted from carelessness or distractions. Broadway and Main Street remained the primary areas for these incidents.

Most accidents were minor, resulting in minor property damage. Despite the Sheriff's Office maintaining extra duty traffic enforcement for the Town, the total hours worked in 2023 were fewer than in 2022, contributing to a slight decrease in traffic stops (571 in 2023 compared to 645 in 2022). Extra duty traffic enforcement remains a focus for 2024 due to the increase in accidents and traffic complaints in both town and county areas.

There were about seven hit-and-run accidents in 2023. Flock cameras helped identify two suspects, leading to deputies contacting and ticketing them. Some accidents occurred on private property and parking lots. The primary traffic violations charged against at-fault drivers were careless driving, failure to yield the right of way, and unsafe backing.

Goals and Ambitions for 2024:

The Sheriff's Office is committed to improving public safety through increased traffic enforcement, community engagement, foot patrols, problem-solving, and addressing quality of life issues to maintain a safe town. Emphasis is on preserving the unique small-town atmosphere to keep the Town safe and desirable for residents and visitors alike.

Collaborating with the Boulder County Co-Responders, efforts are ongoing to reintroduce a full-time Co-Responder to the Town. Goals include reducing property crimes with additional Flock cameras, technology for better suspect identification and apprehension, and community education on enhancing awareness. Despite staffing challenges, the Sheriff's Office aims to persist in recruiting and retaining high-quality deputies, facilitating increased staffing levels to provide more dedicated time for deputies to spend in the Town. Building trust and fostering strong community relationships remain top priorities. We urge the Town to promptly report any crimes or issues to the Sheriff's Office, regardless of size. Timely reporting enables us to address and resolve matters swiftly, contributing to the overall improvement of the Town.

Assigned Town Deputies for 2024:

The most significant change in the assignment of deputies to the Town includes Deputy Jason Ryan. A long-time night shift deputy for the Town, he will remain on night shift but is relocating to the busier southern part of Boulder County, where he can better utilize his K9 partners. This transition is a notable loss for the Town, given Jason's extensive experience over nearly five years of service to Lyons. However, he will occasionally fill in for the assigned Lyons deputy on his shift.

Deputy Tony Garcia, with over 30 years of law enforcement experience, joined the Sheriff's Office in 2021 and served as one of the dayshift deputies in the Town. Tony moved to an agency closer to his home in mid-2023.

Deputy Ken Rosales retired from the Sheriff's Office in November 2023 after 22 years of service with the Sheriff's Office. In recent years, he served as one of the Sheriff's Office School Resource Officers (SROs), catering to elementary schools countywide, including Lyons Elementary.

Sergeant Cody Sears will continue as the Lyons Police Chief for the second year.

A letter from Sergeant Cody Sears:

This past year serving as the Police Chief for the Town of Lyons has been a remarkable experience filled with continuous learning. It's the most honorable position I've held in my 15-year tenure with the Sheriff's Office. Building relationships with the Town has been a highlight of my career. With its incredible and caring community, Lyons is a special place I proudly call home. Serving a community where my family and friends spend much time is a dream come true.

Lyons is an exceptionally unique small-town community filled with exceptional people, unlike any place I've encountered in my travels around the country. The breathtaking landscape further enhances the Town's beauty, making it a truly remarkable place. I look forward to continuing as the Police Chief for several more years, aiming to complete the full five years in this specialty position. Despite law enforcement's challenges nationwide, the Boulder County Sheriff's Office is fortunate to have incredible support in Lyons, where the majority stand by and care about their law enforcement and first responders.

I express gratitude to the town residents and community for their unwavering support and trust in our deputies. Entering 2024, my commitment is to enhance public safety, awareness, and education, reduce crime, increase traffic enforcement and safety, address quality of life issues, build relationships, and make the Town of Lyons a safer and more enjoyable community for locals and visitors. I encourage the community to contact me or the Sheriff's Office anytime for any reason. Our deputies and I are committed to improving the Town; your input is invaluable. Your communication and assistance are essential for us to contribute to resolving any issues you or someone else may be dealing with. While we may not be able to solve every problem, we are committed to exhausting every resource available to help you.

Sergeant Cody Sears's contact information:

Email: wsears@bouldercounty.gov

Desk number: 303-441-1713

Non-Emergency Dispatch Number: 303-441-4444

2024 Town of Lyons BCSO Staffing Lineup:



Sergeant Cody Sears - Cody, a 15-year Boulder County Sheriff's Office veteran, has a diverse background working in the courts, jail, patrol, and as a detective. Currently in his second year as the Town of Lyons Police Chief, Cody also brings a decade of experience as a Tactical Team Leader on the Boulder County Sheriff's Office SWAT team. A Longmont native and a four-year U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Cody is enthusiastic about continuing his service to the Town of Lyons and is unwavering in his commitment to enhancing community safety. His regular work hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8 am to 6:30 pm.

Deputy Jessica Yates- Jessica, a four-year veteran with the Boulder County Sheriff's Office, is a Boulder County native, spending most of her life in Longmont. Before her law enforcement career, she dedicated 15 years to the dental field. In 2023, Jessica served the community of Lyons during the second half of the year, and she is excited about continuing her service in 2024. Jessica works day shift on the first side of the week, from Sunday through every other Wednesday from 6 am to 6 pm.



Deputy Jeremy Thompson- Jeremy, a three-year veteran with the Boulder County Sheriff's Office, brings a unique background, having worked full-time in the music business as a music composer, sound designer, voice actor, and educator before transitioning to law enforcement. Jeremy is a tactical operator on the Boulder County Sheriff's Office SWAT team, a defensive tactics instructor, and a Field Training Officer. Jeremy spent the latter part of 2023 contributing to the Lyons community and is excited to continue serving the Town of Lyons again in 2024. Jeremy works day shift on the second half of the week, working every other Wednesday through Saturday, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Deputy Trevor Schimel- Trevor has been with the Boulder County Sheriff's Office for one year. Trevor has ten years of experience working in corrections, is a US Army veteran, and is the father of two boys. Trevor loves being able to help make a difference in the community and is very excited to serve the Town of Lyons. Trevor works night shift on the first half of the week, every other Saturday through Tuesday, 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Deputy Erik Kowitz- Erik has been with the Boulder County Sheriff's Office for just over two years. Erik is an FTO and works night shift on the back side of the week, Wednesday through every other Saturday, 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Erik is excited to serve the Town of Lyons for another year.



Deputy Mitch Rosebrough "Rosey"- Rosey, a 20-year Boulder County Sheriff's Office veteran, has an illustrious career spanning various roles such as working in the jail, patrol, K9 handler, FTO, and firearms instructor. He has served as the School Resource Officer for five years; he primarily works at Lyons Middle/Senior School but also assists at Lyons Elementary and Hygiene Elementary. He also helps out with calls in town. He's dedicated to his job, schools, particularly the kids, and the Lyons community, and he loves what he does. Rosey has been one of the Lyons High School football coaches for the past five years. Additionally, he organizes the annual Lyons community barbecue for the first Lyons home football game and National Night Out in August. Rosey works during the day, Monday-Friday when school is in session.



The tables below break up the 2521 total calls for service in the Town of Lyons in 2023 into various call types. They compare with the 2233 total calls for service in 2022.

Property Crimes	2022	2023
Auto Theft	4	3
Burglary	4	2
Criminal Mischief	27	29

Criminal Trespass	8	7
Fraud	15	14
Theft	12	19
Trespassing	20	27
Grand Total	90	101

Person Crimes	2022	2023
Assault	6	7
Disturbance	21	31
Domestic Violence	10	20
Harassment	20	27
Indecent Exposure	2	2
Reckless Endangerment	1	3
Restraining Order	2	7
Sex Assault	5	5
Grand Total	67	102

Traffic / Accident Calls	2022	2023
Driving Under Influence	20	19
Hazard	12	11
Hit and Run	11	9
Injury/Rollover Accident	9	4
Property Damage Acc	35	26
Veh Repo/Private Tow	3	0
Traffic	35	46
Traffic Stop	645	571
Unknown Injury Accident	1	6
Grand Total	771	692

Animal Complaint Calls	2022	2023
Animal Complaint	111	92
Grand Total	111	92

Fire/Medical/Rescue Calls	2022	2023
Medical Calls	93	119
Commercial Fire Alarm	13	23
Residential Fire Alarm	4	10
Fire Assist	33	50
Illegal/Unattend Campfire	1	1
Fire Non-Structure	3	3
Fire Odors Inside	4	3
Fire Odors Outside	5	5
Fireworks Complaints	3	9
Smoke Report	5	2
Structure/Smoke Inside	4	2
Rescue No Amb Access	1	0
Water Rescue	4	6

Suicidal Person/Attempt	3	7
Grand Total	176	240

Extra / Foot Patrols	2022	2023
Extra Patrol	14	16
Field-Initiated Patrol	342	568
Grand Total	356	584

Civil Calls	2022	2023
Civil Eviction	1	0
Civil Mental Health	1	0
Civil Protection Order	6	1
Civil Service	27	25
Civil Issue	22	32
Grand Total	57	58

Weapon Calls	2022	2023
Shots Heard	4	4
Weapon	2	5
Grand Total	6	9

Drug / Alcohol Calls	2022	2023
Drunk Person	1	0
Liquor Law Violations	2	5
Drug Violation	1	3
Grand Total	4	8

Miscellaneous / Other Calls	2022	2023
Panic/Duress/Hold up	0	2
Intrusion alarm	20	24
Assist	70	79
Attempt to Locate	3	4
Child Issue	6	15
Code Enforcement	2	5
Follow-Up	207	162
Found Property	6	8
911 Hang up	8	10
Information	16	22
Littering	2	1
Loitering	4	0
Lost Property	11	11
Missing Person	7	11

Noise	17	20
Other Agency Assist	12	10
Abandoned/Parking	39	33
Pedestrian Contact	16	22
Public Works Request	17	14
Soliciting Complaint	0	3
Safe to Tell	17	53
Suspicious	52	43
Unknown	2	2
Warrant Attempt/Arrest	3	3
Welfare Check	58	78
Grand Total	595	635

2022 Total Calls		2023 Total Calls	
Grand Total	2233	Grand Total	2521

2023 Traffic Accident Locations	Total
100 McConnell Dr	1
200 Main St	1
228 Main St	1
300 Railroad Ave	1
349 Main St	1
4065 Ute Hwy	1
4100 Ute Hwy	2
4196 Ute Hwy	1
4201 Ute Hwy	1
4206 Ute Hwy	1
4th Ave/Broadway	1
500 Main St	1
500 W Main St	1
5134 Ute Hwy	1
5th Ave/Broadway	1
5th Ave/Main St	1
Broadway St/2nd Ave	1
Ewald Ave/Prospect St	1
High St/4th Ave	1
Hwy 36/Broadway	1
Main St/Park St	1
Main St/St Vrain Dr	1
McConnell St/Ute Hwy	2
Park Ave/2nd Ave	1
St Vrain Dr/Eagle Canyon	1
Ute Hwy/Stone Canyon Dr	1
Grand Total	28

2022 Traffic Accident Locations	Total
100 Main St	1
100 McConnell Dr	1
112 Main St	1
15000 N St Vrain	1
19661 N St Vrain Dr	1
226 Main St	1
2nd Ave/Broadway	1
3rd Ave/Broadway	1
3rd Ave/Main St	1
4100 Ute Hwy	1
4196 Ute Hwy	1
4206 Ute Hwy	1
500 Main St	2
5th Ave/Broadway	2
5th Ave/Prospect	1
Ute Hwy/McConnell Dr	1
Grand Total	18

2023 DUI Arrests	Total
Fri Oct 06 2023 07:07am	1
Mon Jun 26 2023 03:55am	1
Sat Aug 05 2023 08:51am	1
Sat Oct 14 2023 17:49pm	1
Sun Oct 29 2023 06:23am	1
Thu Sep 14 2023 18:01pm	1
Tue March 14 2023 05:27am	1
Grand Total	7

2022 DUI Arrests	Total
Fri Mar 25 2022 01:04am	1
Mon Dec 19 2022 01:51am	1
Tue Mar 01 2022 11:22am	1
Wed Mar 02 2022 23:21pm	1
Wed Mar 23 2022 02:26am	1
Grand Total	5

2023 Calls Per Day of Week	Total
Sunday	365
Monday	361
Tuesday	316
Wednesday	337
Thursday	362

Friday	443
Saturday	337
Grand Total	2521

2023 Calls Per Month	Total
January	150
February	219
March	195
April	168
May	279
June	283
July	287
August	279
September	204
October	142
November	153
December	162
Grand Total	2521

2023 Tickets	Total
C 1101 Speeding (5-9 Mph) Over Posted Limit	35
L10-2-20 Obstructing Police Officer/Firefighter	1
L10-4-100 Theft (Less Than \$500)	2
L10-4-70(a) Abandonment Of Motor Vehicle On Public/Prvt Prop	1
L10-5-90 Menacing	1
L10-8-20(a) Possession Of Marijuana >1Oz	1
L10-8-20(b) Possession/Consumption Of Marijuana In Public	1
L11-4-50(e)(5) Park Rules: No Alcohol (First Offense)	1
L7-6-100(a) Vicious Dog At Large	5
L7-6-100(b) Unlawful for Vicious Dog To Chase or Attack Person/Domestic/Wild Animal	1
L7-6-50 Dog At Large	7
L7-6-60 Damage To Property By Dog	1
LMTC 1006 Wrong Way On One-Way Alley	1
LMTC 1007(1)(a) Changed Lanes When Unsafe	3
LMTC 1007(1)(a) Failed To Drive Within Designated Lane	2
LMTC 1007(1)(d) Changed Lanes Where Prohibited	1
LMTC 1008(1) Following Too Closely	1
LMTC 1101 Speeding (10-19 Mph) Over Posted Limit	372
LMTC 1101 Speeding (1-4 Mph) Over Posted Limit	12
LMTC 1101 Speeding (20-24 Mph) Over Posted Limit	82
LMTC 1101 Speeding (25+ Mph) Over Posted Limit	3
LMTC 1211(1) Unsafe Backing From Parking Area	1

LMTC 1402(2)(a) Careless Driving	10
LMTC 1409(3) Operator Failed To Provide Evidence Of Insurance	3
LMTC 202(1) Drove Defective/Unsafe Vehicle	2
LMTC 237 Safety Belt Required	2
LMTC 603 Disregarded Traffic Control Device	5
LMTC 608(1) Failure To Use Turn Signal	2
LMTC 701(1) Fail To Yield Row At Intersection	2
LMTC 703(3) Fail To Yield Row At Stop Sign	1
LMTC 807 Fail To Use Due Care For Pedestrian	1
LMTC 8-4-10(a)(6) Parking Prohibited: Living/Camping in Vehicles (First Offense)	1
LMTC 903 Failure To Signal For Turn	1
N/A	1
Grand Total	566

2022 Tickets	
BCMTC 1101(1) Speeding 10-19 Over Posted Limit	1
C 1402(2)(a) Careless Driving	8
L7-6-100(a) Vicious Dog At Large	2
L7-6-50 Dog At Large	4
LMTC 1007(1)(a) Changed Lanes When Unsafe	2
LMTC 1007(1)(a) Failed To Drive In A Single Lane (Weaving)	1
LMTC 1101 Speeding (10-19 Mph) Over Posted Limit	343
LMTC 1101 Speeding (20-24 Mph) Over Posted Limit	63
LMTC 1101 Speeding (25+ Mph) Over Posted Limit	5
LMTC 1101 Speeding (5-9 Mph) Over Posted Limit	4
LMTC 1204(1)(k) Parked Where Prohibited By Sign	1
LMTC 1409(3) Operator Failed To Provide Evidence Of Insurance	5
LMTC 202(1) Drove Defective/Unsafe Vehicle	1
LMTC 603 Disregarded Traffic Control Device	2
LMTC 802(1) Fail To Yield Row To Pedestrian	1
LMTC 802(5) Fail To Yield Row To Pedestrian At Walk Signal	2
Grand Total	445

[BACK](#)

Lyons Fire Protection District 2023 Report

Lyons Fire Protection District



2023 Annual Report



In memory of...

Lyons suffered the loss of one of our Captains, Gregory Schrodt, this year. Captain Schrodt served the District for more than a decade, and had become a fixture in the community. He will be missed dearly.



Through leadership, professionalism, dedication, integrity and training, the Lyons Fire Protection District strives to protect the lives and property of the people of Lyons during any time of need. This is accomplished by responding safely and quickly with trained, skilled and motivated members. We continue aggressively to prevent the need for emergency response through public relations, fire prevention and education. We also strive to protect and preserve the health and wellness of our membership, their families and the community...anytime, any need!.

Letter from the Chief

2023 was an eventful year for Lyons Fire, and we are forging ahead with big plans in 2024 as well. I want to thank our staff, especially our Administrative personnel Ella and Liz for their behind the scenes work that keeps the ship running smoothly. Early in 2023 we brought on a Deputy Fire Chief to manage our personnel, training and operational readiness. LFPD put a new type I fire engine in service, hosted some acquired structure training at a donated property in town, and held our annual pancake breakfast. The District also saw the hiring of our first round of single role paramedics, who have greatly improved the level of emergency medical care we can provide to citizens and visitors of Lyons. We learned late in the year of the departure of Fire Chief Pete Zick, who was offered a position with a neighboring agency and saw the appointment of yours truly, Rob Stumpf, to Fire Chief in mid-December. 2024 looks to be a stellar year for us, and we plan to put a transport ambulance in service in Lyons which will drastically reduce the response times for people in need of critical care. I am looking forward to continuing to serve the men and women of Lyons Fire, as they serve the community in and around this great little town!

Rob Stumpf, Fire Chief

Fire Chief Rob Stumpf



Assistant Chief & Fire Marshal

Steve Pischke



Administrative Assistant

Ella Koertgen



District Overview

The Lyons Fire Protection District is a combination fire department consisting of both paid and volunteer members. The District covers almost 70 square miles that includes the Town of Lyons and portions of Boulder and Larimer Counties. A little more than 6,200 residents live in the District which has been largely designated as being in a wildland urban interface setting. The District has two fire stations, located at 251 Broadway and 1250 County Rd. 37e. The District has a full time staff of 8 (Fire Chief, Admin Assistant, three Captains, and three Firefighter/Driver Operators). Staffing is supplemented by a cadre of 15 part-time Firefighter/EMT/Paramedics, and eight volunteer Firefighters. LFPD provides a range of emergency response services including fire suppression, extrication, rope rescue, emergency medical care, and hazardous materials response. The District also has a robust wildland fire division that deploys resources locally and nationally.

Notable Accomplishments 2023

- ◆ New Deputy Fire Chief
- ◆ New Rosenbauer Fire Engine
- ◆ Single-Role Paramedics
- ◆ Increased staffing

2023 by the numbers

Training

Our firefighters and paramedics spent over 600 hours in training in 2023.

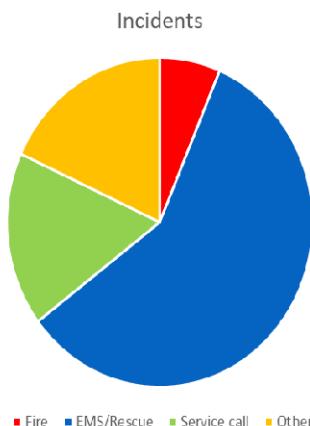
Live Fire: 100+ hrs

Extrication: 40+ hrs

EMS : 100+ hrs

Special Ops: 100+ hrs

Incident mgmt: 60+ hrs



Total calls for service: 377 (5% increase from 2022)

Fires: 24

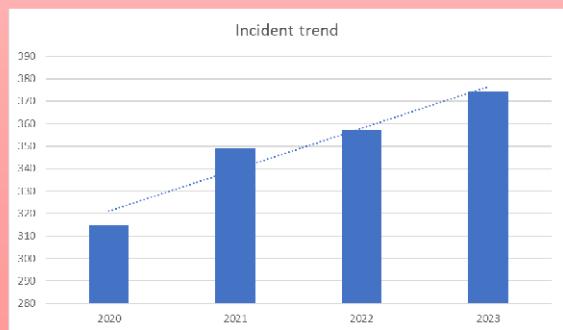
EMS/Rescue: 218

Service call: 64

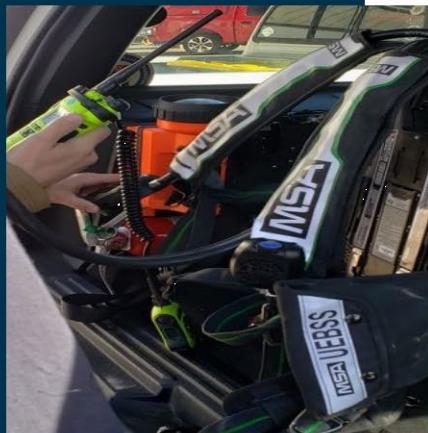
Other: 68

Aid given to other departments: 33

Aid received from other departments: 16



Notable news...



New portable radios thanks to a federal grant



New fire engine !!



Donating fire equipment to firefighters from Mexico



Live fire training

Deployments

LFPD regularly sends resources out to assist other communities during wildfire season....



Parachute CO

Yosemite CA

Craig CO

Weaverville CA

Crescent City, CA

Gunnison, CO

Grand Junction, CO

Granby, CO



Our citizen elected Board of Directors is :

President Paul Davidovich

Vice President Keith Spencer

Secretary Bryan Roberts

Treasurer Chris Cope

Director Dave Roth



Lyons Fire Protection District

251 Broadway St PO Box 695

Lyons CO 80540

303.823.6611

www.lyonsfir.org

BACK

Lyons Regional Library District

The Lyons Regional Library District serves as a hub and catalyst for a vibrant, informed, connected, and engaged community where everyone thrives. Together, we provide equitable access to resources, education, and experiences to empower individuals and enrich the Lyons community.



2023 Year in Review

2023 was another year of great growth and continued service to the community for the Lyons Regional Library District. We expanded our staff, added the perspective of new Board members, and enjoyed many wonderful collaborations throughout the year.

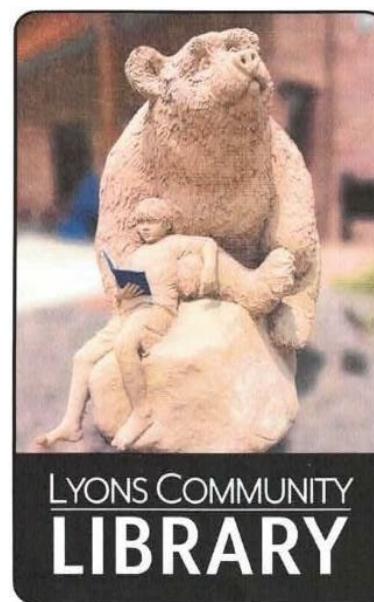
We maintained and grew a number of important partnerships including those with the newly formed children's theater company, The Watershed Center, and the Town of Lyons, especially the Arts and Humanities Commission with whom we hosted a years' worth of quarterly art shows. These included Coco Gordon's *Zeroing In, Expanding Out*; Linda Dole Backup's *The Heart of the Matter*; Birdi Smock's *Birdi-Eye Views*; and a joint show featuring Carol Groves and Ruth Wilson. We also teamed up with the Town and Vitalant to serve as the site for four blood drives throughout the year.

The District rolled out a new strategic plan during 2023 focusing on four main goals to guide our next three years. From outer reaching to more internally focused, those goals are:

- Make the Library a valued resource for all community members.
- Offer legendary customer service.
- Make the Library a great place to work; and
- Advance alignment among the Library, Board, and Community.

We designed new library cards to continue more cohesive branding efforts.

We curated a significant number of offerings to teens and adults and enjoyed many beneficial new relationships. We were certainly energized by our year informing, connecting, and engaging with our amazingly supportive community.



Programs and Access

For the first time since the pandemic-related closures, we feel as though we offered a truly complete year of programs, events, and services in response to community interests and needs.

Programs and activities for children (babies through tweens) included weekly story times and crafts, age-appropriate book discussions including the continuation of a tween-focused book club, monthly LEGO Club, monthly Pokémon Club, various wildlife-centered presentations, a 4-week knitting class sponsored by the Friends, Free Comic Book Day festivities, and the introduction of TonieBoxes, a screen-free, digital listening experience for children 3 and older.

We remain especially proud of the connection we made with an enthusiastic group of local teens when we formed our first Teen Advisory Group (TAG) in the fall of 2021. The TAG meets twice monthly and allows teens an opportunity to make collection and space recommendations,

to help design programs and events, and earn volunteer hours. Youth Services Librarian, Becki Loughlin, in close collaboration with the teens, planned various laser tag events, a taste test challenge, movie nights, a seminar on college application strategies, a Halloween party, and a white elephant gift exchange. In a show of appreciation, the TAG kids held a summer bake sale with proceeds benefiting the Friends who supplied them with plenty of pizza during the year.

Throughout the year we invited families to gather for a host of programs and events. We donned purple, green, and gold and marched around the Library to kick off Mardi Gras, celebrated both math and baked goods for Pi Day, coordinated After Dark in the Park astronomy walks, and kept things cool when we transformed the Community Room into a Winter Wonderland. We also distributed solar eclipse glasses and hosted our 2nd annual Halloween pet photo contest with the winner determined by the TAG.

We were pleased to offer a fully packed Summer Reading Program, theme: All Together, Now! For our youngest patrons we hosted a stuffie sleepover, storytime with a firefighter and an opportunity to explore a fire engine, and preschool yoga. Older kiddos enjoyed the return of Nintendo Switch days, a Boba and Brushes sip 'n' paint, and an exciting carnival-like afternoon in Sandstone Park featuring Mr. Kneel. Teens planned a Live Action Role Play event, made beaded jewelry, and beat the summer heat with a water party. Adults got in on the Summer Reading action with a slide show and field trip to learn about dragonflies, and a film night in partnership with the Lyons International Film Festival. 2022's SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) cohort also hosted a screening of *This is [Not] Who We Are* with a Q&A with the film's director, Katrina Miller. In all, 117 participants of all ages completed the summer reading challenge.

While early literacy and youth programming is always a major focus of any public library, Director Kara Bauman is particularly proud of the many community connections made in the past year through the direct programming of Vicky Reinold, Adult Programming and Communications Librarian, and upon Vicky's departure from the library, that of newcomer Jerilyn Patterson.

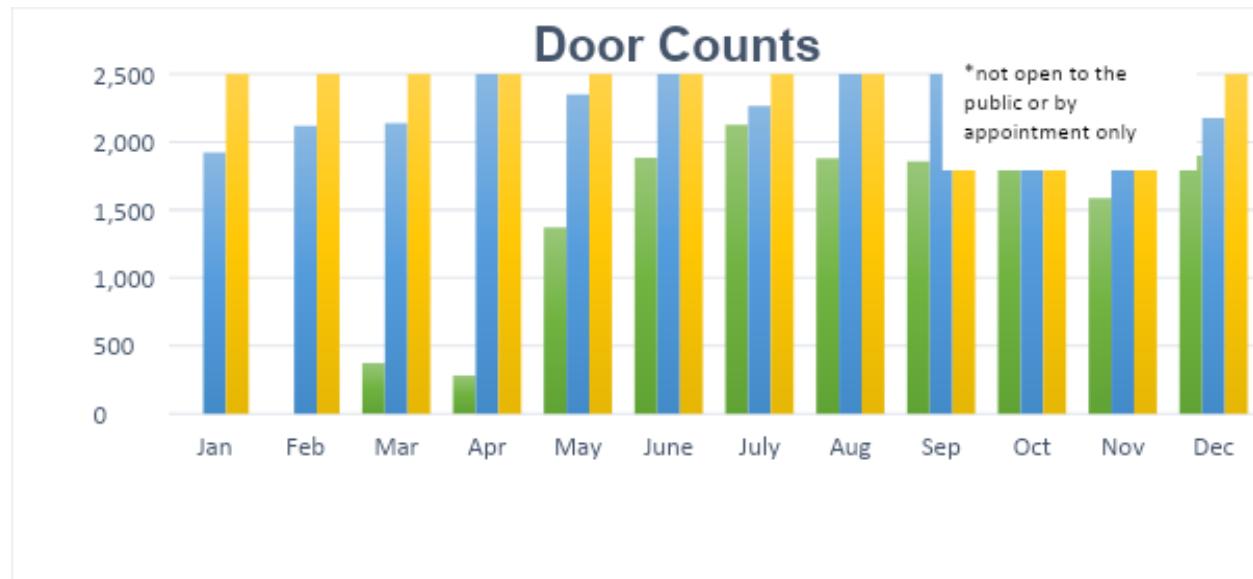


As the purpose of Library programming is to bring the community together by offering opportunities for creativity, engagement, and learning, who better to present those programs than our own neighbors? In 2022 Vicky implemented a brilliant solution for connecting and sharing all the talent in our community when she devised a local Call for Presenters. That initiative continued in 2023 and led to an intergenerational Artists in Conversation series featuring working artists Sally King and April Tierney, a *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain* workshop facilitated by Anita Miller, and the launch of Bread & Poetry hosted by Elizabeth Marglin. In December, we also jumped at the chance to run with a patron's suggestion to gather a cadre of local musical talent and host a benefit for LEAF that raised over \$2,000 and collected 214 pounds of food.

Other programs and events for adults throughout the year included two book clubs: Busy Readers and Pints & Pages—a new collaboration with The Rock Garden; writing support offered through Word Wednesdays and the resurrection of National Novel Writing Month activities; monthly sessions of our longest-running program, Art 4 Art Artist Trading Cards; various technology instruction sessions; introduction to and crafts created with the Library's Cricut machine (with sessions now bookable online); continued seasonal exploration of the *Sacred Feminine* oracle deck; an inspection of Wild and Soulful Aging; a screening of *Elemental* which explores our relationship with wildfires, and the introduction of Open Studios.



During 2023, we welcomed over 37,000 visitors through our doors; nearly 25 percent more than in 2022.



Circulation and Downloads

We continue as a strong consortial member of the AspenCat union catalog which provides easy access to more than 1.7 million items by linking us to 160 other small and rural libraries across Colorado. While our users enjoy thrice-weekly deliveries of items from outside our library, we are also proud to share our collection throughout the state, sending over 3,300 items throughout the year.

We showcased our professional prowess when we helped pilot Prospector integration with our ILS (integrated library system, provided via AspenCat) in the fall of 2021. Prospector is a regional catalog of over 50 academic, public, and special libraries in Colorado and Wyoming. Through Prospector, we have access to more than 34 million books, DVDs, CDs, journals, government documents, electronic resources, and other materials. With a single search, patrons can identify and borrow materials from these vast collections and have them delivered. Thanks to our willingness to test that integration, over 100 AspenCat libraries were able to join Prospector in 2023.

Among our carefully curated in-house collection, materials provided via AspenCat, and now Prospector, we enjoyed a physical circulation of nearly 50,000 items in 2023. The value of those items, had they been purchased by our borrowers, amounts to a whopping \$187,942! The power of a public library is far-reaching in terms of resources provided, money saved, and even a reduced environmental impact based on sharing and reusing.

While our patrons continue to engage with print materials, they haven't slowed in their downloading of digital materials since the pandemic. After years of averaging around 500 downloads a year, users downloaded over 5,500 ebooks and eaudiobooks in 2023, an increase of nearly 50 percent over 2022.

We were also delighted to continue a cultural pass program to complement our long-running provision of State Parks passes. We offer free passes to the Fiske Planetarium, the Longmont Museum, and the WOW! Children's Museum with the inclusion of new passes planned.

Technology and Facilities

In 2023, we offered over 4,200 in-house computer sessions, an increase of over 50 percent from 2022. From inside and outside the Library we had nearly 13,000 hits to our Wi-Fi. We also enjoyed sharing our information, resources, meeting room booking system, etc. through over 17,000 individual website visits.

Once again, we extend our thanks to the Lyons Garden Club for planting a selection of bulbs and annuals in our front planter boxes. The planter boxes provide lovely color and help us dissuade skateboarders while also helping create a visual reminder to visitors of the step down to the main sidewalk.

In addition, we were pleased to become the new home for the visiting Zink Chairs brought to Town by the He(arts) of Lyons program and displaced by the December 2022 fire on Main Street.

The Lyons Garden Club also helped us revamp our Children's Garden by lending members for an ad hoc committee. Others involved include those from the Friends—who provided substantial financial support—and the Rocky Mountain Botanic Gardens. Together with Youth Services Librarian Becki Loughlin, they made over the sandbox, added seating for caregivers and children alike, created raised-bed planters brimming with an array of native plants, and constructed an enchanting new fort built by local contractor Warren Musselman.



As both the American Library Association and the Colorado Association of Libraries recognize the power of libraries as advocates for sustainable environmental change and stewardship, we are proud to be a leading example of sustainability efforts in the field with our 100+% offsetting solar array. In our second full year of solar production, we produced over 41 MWh; that energy could charge 3.54 million cell phones, is equivalent to planting nearly 500 trees, and amounts to a CO2 reduction of 29.3 tons.

We experienced a bit of a rocky start with the functionality of the electric vehicle charger installed in our parking lot at the end of 2022, but throughout 2023 we were able to offer up 282 KWhs of charging. We look forward to even greater usage in 2024.

A notable addition to the grounds was the installation of seasonal shade sails along the west side of the building. The large sails were designed by Mountain States Awning of Loveland and installation was provided by local contractor Charlie Gau. The sails certainly provide a much-needed temperature respite for those gathering on the patio and even cover the Children's Garden making that space considerably more pleasant for our young visitors.

During the 2023 calendar year alone, we served as the meeting and gathering space for well over 1,000 individual reservations. The Community Room and Effie Banta Conference Room are both available for after-hours use, and we have one Study Room available for use during operating hours.

Revenue and Expenditures

Senate Bill 22-238 offered a temporary reduction in property tax assessment rates but allowed us to receive backfill funds meaning our overall revenue remained steady with property tax revenue received from Boulder and Larimer Counties at \$578,525 in 2023. The District is facing another temporary reduction in revenue moving into 2024 as the result of SB23B-001.

Additional Specific Ownership Tax revenue for 2023 came in at nearly \$29,000. Special Ownership Tax is imposed on cars, trucks, trailers, mobile homes, and special mobile machinery and is based on the value of each vehicle and paid each year that vehicle is registered.

The District was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the State of Colorado's Department of Education for the purchase of materials for youth. Wide Spaces Community Initiative, a program of the Library, was awarded \$2,500 by the Community Foundation of Boulder County and another \$3,000 from the Lyons Community Foundation for their important work in hosting a Pride event in Sandstone Park and sponsorship of the SEED Program. The Friends of the Library kicked in funding throughout the year for various programs including a knitting class, quite a lot of pizza for our hungry teens, and the Children's Garden project. We also received a \$400 safety grant from our insurance broker to purchase a small wheelchair ramp for the west patio.

We paid total debt service amount of \$86,819 in 2023. The District contracted with auditing firm McMahon and Associates of Avon, Colorado in 2021 and received another clean audit from the firm in 2023.

Board, Support, Staff

Board of Trustees

Gil Sparks, President
Large

Bill Palmer, Past President
Elizabeth Lennert, Secretary
Erin Biesiada, Treasurer

Agnes Rey-Giraud, Member-at-

Leslie Reynolds, Member-at-Large
Smita Skrivanek, Member-at-Large

In 2023 the Library Board welcomed to its ranks long-time Lyons resident Leslie Reynolds, Agnes Rey-Giraud, representing the far east district boundary, and Smita Skrivanek, representing Larimer County. All Board members belong to the Colorado Association of Libraries and the Lyons Chamber of Commerce. At the close of 2023, the Board bid farewell to Bill Palmer, who had served the Board since September 2019 and the Building Committee well before then. We sincerely appreciate the time and expertise Bill lent to the building project as well as general District governance.

Friends of the Lyons Regional Library

Patty McNichol, President
Large

Ellen Hine, Vice President
Sara Erikson, Secretary
Christina Wells, Treasurer

Katherine Gregory, Member-at-

Donna Guest, Member-at-Large
Kate Kerr, Member-at-Large
Andrea Marshall, Member-at-Large

Monica McGuckin, Member-at-Large

The Friends of the Lyons Regional Library is a nonprofit organization of volunteers supporting the library by fostering public awareness, sharing enthusiasm for learning, and enhancing the library's service to the community. The Friends manage our ongoing used book sale and donation processes and are appreciated for their enthusiastic support of programming efforts that would otherwise fall outside our regular operating budget. During 2023 the Friends hosted or sponsored several successful events such as a Silent Film Night, their popular virtual trivia, and David Neil's mountain lion presentation. The Friends held their Annual Business Meeting at Spirit Hound Distillery in November and welcomed new board members Pam Browning, Peter Cowdery-Corvan, and Rudy Pucel, whose terms will begin in 2024.

Lyons Regional Library District Foundation

Connie Eyster, President
Leigh Williams, Treasurer

Staff

Kara Bauman, Director

Becky Loughlin, Youth Service Librarian

Jerilyn Patterson, Adult Programming Librarian

Sarah Lawson, Technology Coordinator

Hannah Ogden, Communications and Marketing Coordinator

Jenny Abernathy, Library Associate

Muezetta Cromer, Library Associate

Carolyn Vierthaler, Library Associate

Ashley Worst, Library Associate

Recognizing the importance of enhanced communication efforts as well as the great luck to have a well-suited candidate already on staff, we promoted Hannah Ogden to the position of Communications and Marketing Coordinator. We then hired on former bookseller Jerilyn Patterson to deftly take over adult programming. The additions of Lyons local Muezetta Cromer and Ashley Worst, who brings wide customer service experience gained in other libraries, completed our staff in later 2023.

Staff engage in continuing education opportunities and participate in a number of professional organizations. Staff are active members of the Colorado Association of Libraries, participating in the



CALCON Planning Committee, Legislative Committee, Intellectual Freedom Committee, Sustainability Interest Group, Teen Service Committee, and Adult Services Interest Group. Staff attended various professional development opportunities throughout the year including Graphic Design for Librarians, Building a Social Media Strategy, Marketing 101, the ColorBrave Framework for Caregivers, and learned tips for serving dyslexic patrons. Sarah Lawson is currently working with various state-wide agencies to achieve website accessibility compliance before a July 1, 2024 deadline.

Outside CAL and various Director-centered groups, Director Bauman serves on the Continuing Education Committee of the Association of Rural and Small Libraries. She was also tapped to contribute to the rewriting and updating of the Colorado library standards set to be rolled out in early 2024 and served as a peer reviewer for the national Libraries Transform Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities grant offered by the American Library Association that disbursed more than \$7 million dollars for facility upgrades, services, and programs to better serve people with disabilities.

[**BACK**](#)

Board of Adjustments

The Board of Adjustments (BOA) is a quasi-judicial Town of Lyons board with a narrow set of responsibilities strictly determined by the Municipal Code.

Although the BOA has several roles, the most typical purpose of the BOA is to hold hearings on variance applications. A "variance application" is a request by a landowner for an exception to the building code. For example, if an individual wanted to build a shed on their property, there are laws and regulations governing where the shed could be built, such as the minimum distance between the shed and the edge of the property line or between the shed and any adjacent streets. If complying with those rules would cause a hardship, the individual could request a "variance" or exception to those rules.

When an application for a variance is submitted to the Town, a hearing on the application is held before the BOA. After hearing testimony from interested parties, the BOA makes a ruling on the variance application.

The BOA appeals application can be found on the Town of Lyons website under the Board of Appeals heading.

The BOA does not act on policy matters or take any action unless a need for a hearing arises under the Municipal Code.

On average, the BOA meets two to three times a year.

Currently, the BOA has five members, with Connie Eyster serving as the Chair. The Board can have as many as seven members. Members are appointed to the BOA by the Board of Trustees from time to time. All members of the BOA must have lived within the Town limits for at least one year prior to appointment.

Members:

Connie Eyster - Chair

Joe Soma

Greg Ucker

Bill VanLeeuwen

Jim Kerr

open seat

open - Staff Liaison

open - Board of Trustees Liaison

BACK

Lyons Main Street and Economic Vitality Commission

The Main Street Program and approach is to strengthen small local business with promotional activities, design, organization and economic vitality, engaging businesses in the community to keep Lyons' commercial business district vibrant. The volunteer members of the Economic Vitality Commission (EVC) operate as the Lyons Main Street Board to implement the Main Street program and principles.

The Economic Vitality Commission is a requirement of Lyons Municipal Code, Section 2-8-130, and was established to act as an advisory committee to the Board of Trustees and exercise the powers granted by the Town.

The Colorado Main Street Program offers support for community-led downtown revitalization. Lyons is a member of the State's Colorado Main Street Program and is a Main Street America™ Coordinating Program. As a part of the Main Street Program, Lyons is connected to 26 other Main Street Communities within Colorado. Many of these are like Lyons, small towns that face similar challenges and opportunities, and the Main Street Program provides each community with opportunities to share local successes and ideas. This collaboration plays an important role in tackling challenges for our business community and discovering ways to better promote and activate downtown.

2023 Accomplishments

Support Small, Locally Owned Businesses with a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). The RLF executed 6 additional loans in FY 2023 to support the growth of our local, independently owned small businesses. Each application is reviewed by members of the revolving loan fund committee, which is made up of local volunteers with financial acumen and several who also serve on the EVC. The RLF committee reviews and approves and/or denies loans. The EVC continues to work with the Chamber of Commerce, staff and local media to promote the Revolving Loan Fund to new and existing businesses. Either the EVC or staff write an article for the local newspaper outlining the program and how to best utilize the very low interest program for small businesses located in the Lyons Primary Planning Area.

Comprehensive Wayfinding Planning and Strategy with Grant Support from the Colorado Tourism Office. The Lyons Economic Vitality Commission worked with the consulting firm to finalize design concepts for a comprehensive wayfinding program. The overall goal of the wayfinding program is to help visitors to stay longer, to explore, to experience and to discover Lyons, with easier directional information about our historic downtown, commercial business corridor, cultural amenities and how to access the multitude of recreational and outdoor opportunities that are found in Lyons. With the current roadway improvements in town along US-36 eastbound (Broadway), which include adding 45-50 on street public parking spaces, pedestrian activation and a multi modal trail, the Lyons wayfinding planning and strategy will be a long term and lasting improvement to enhance our overall economic strength and vitality year-round.

Continue to Grow and Support Social Media Outreach and Campaign. Continue to cultivate and curate a successful social media campaign to highlight our talented, local artists, musicians, small businesses, offerings and recreational and outdoor amenities. Promote local events on a year-round basis to support local businesses and encourage visitation to Lyons in the off-season to visitors and residents. Highlight seasonal outdoor and recreational activities.

Coordination and Placement of Ambient Festoon Lighting in Commercial Downtown Corridor Worked with CDOT and Revitalizing Main St grant to add ambient lighting along

historic Main St from 3rd Ave to 5th Ave. The presence of additional string lighting and ambient lighting has positively impacted local businesses, with stronger pedestrian connectivity, encouraging visitors to spend more time in Lyons, which supports our small, local businesses.

2024 Goals

1. Continued work to build a thriving, year-round economy.
2. Enhance social media efforts to be year-round; highlight activities & exploration in Lyons.
3. Reinforce the role of downtown as a destination for residents and visitors.
4. Continue to enhance the appearance, functionality, and safety of Lyons' gateways and public spaces.
5. Build upon Lyons' reputation as a destination for outdoor recreation, arts and culture, and heritage tourism. Participate in advertising and media opportunities and partnerships to enhance awareness of Lyons as a destination-worthy visit and to explore outdoor activities, arts, culture and more.

Members:

Paul Dreyer – Chairperson
Erin Foudy
Eric Lennert
Tiffany Martindale
Asa Firestone
Grace Barrett
Connie McGuire
Kim Mitchell, Staff Liaison/Main Street Manager
Trustee Tanya Daty, Board Liaison

BACK

Ecology Advisory Board

The Town of Lyons Ecology Advisory Board is an all-volunteer board that advises Town staff and the Board of Trustees on matters pertaining to ecology, environmental health and development issues within the town and its surroundings. The EAB weighs in on work related to river restoration and river health, park redevelopment and maintenance, commercial and residential development plans, wildfire preparedness and mitigation, and protection of the wild lands and open space in and around the town and its primary planning area, which extends beyond the current Town line.

2023 Efforts

In 2023, the EAB addressed the following issues:

Boulder County's revised Integrated Weed Management Plan - Due to the controversy that arose with BCPOS' aerial herbicide spraying of Hall Ranch Open Space on the Town of Lyons border (and in other locations on their open space properties), the County revised their weed management practices. The Board of Trustees asked the EAB to weigh in on the new plan and recommendations were made. The new plan has not yet been finalized by Boulder County Commissioners.

Rights of Nature – The EAB was made aware a couple years back of a movement to assign “rights” to rivers flowing through communities. These rights asserted that rivers (and nature, in general) had certain rights to be free of pollution, development damages, restriction of flow that damages the ecosystem, etc. There are communities worldwide and in Colorado (Nederland, for example) who have adopted such rights. The EAB heard from Gary Wockner, Save the Colorado, who spearheads the effort in Colorado, then voted to advance the concept to the Board of Trustees. The Trustees heard Wockner’s presentation, had concerns about the legal aspects of it and bounced it back to the EAB for revision. The EAB revised the resolution (striking the rights aspect) and successfully convinced the Board to accept a resolution that puts the St. Vrain River in the forefront of any decisions the Town makes.

Weed management – The EAB continued to support Lyons weed management and its discontinuance of synthetic herbicides on Town land. Working with the Town’s public works director, the EAB has looked into a steam weed machine for possible purchase and use on Town park areas. The machine uses steam to kill weeds on pathways, trails, picnic sites, etc.

Support for local schools – The EAB participated in the May 16 Confluence Event at the Lyons Middle/Senior High School. The event showcases Lyons Elementary and LMSHS students’ environmental projects. The EAB supports and offers advice to students on their yearly projects.

Community garden – Early in 2023, the EAB continued a search for a possible community garden site and sponsors to lead the effort. Lyons previously had a very active community garden by the current bike track on Bohn Park, but the 2013 flood destroyed it. The thought was that one of the buyout properties would be a logical site. After two years of effort, the EAB could not find a citizen group to take on the garden idea and so curtailed the effort.

Summit Housing violation - In 2022, it was discovered that the excavating subcontractor for Summit was dumping blasting spoils and fill on the adjacent property owned by Loukenon. What was once a viable wildlife meadow (and one of the EAB’s targeted ecologically important areas) was destroyed. The issue was reported to Boulder County (the parcel is County jurisdiction) and Summit was found in violation of both changing the grading of the land without permit and dumping in the floodplain. A restoration order was made and while the materials have been

removed, there has been no restoration plantings done. The EAB will continue to monitor this situation.

Highland Ditch Company “sweeping” – Every winter from generally January through March the Highland Ditch Company “sweeps” the St. Vrain River, diverting the entire flow of the river from its diversion dam off McConnell Drive down its major ditch to Lake Mead. The result is a dry river that disrupts the ecological functioning of the river to the detriment of fish, insect life and the riparian corridor. The EAB is seeking to establish some minimum flow – a small amount of water allowed to flow past the dam to benefit the downriver ecosystem. The EAB has discussed this with the St. Vrain and Lefthand Water Conservancy District to explore ways to allow this to happen.

Revise and Update the Sustainable River Corridor Action Plan - this plan had been adopted by the Town after the 2013 flood and dealt primarily with flood restoration, all of which has been completed. It now needs almost a complete rewrite and adoption by the Town. Work on this in 2023 was minimal, but it's hoped to get back on track in 2024.

2024 Plans

The EAB will focus on the following issues in 2024:

Community outreach – The EAB hopes to restart its twice-a-year community outreach events. These events are typically films and/or presentations on ecology-related local subjects.

Noxious weed management and support – continue to explore ways to assist community and Town in control of weeds.

Wildfire mitigation – The EAB will keep abreast of mitigation plans within Lyons, ensuring a balance is struck between mitigation and ecology.

Review of development plans – All development plans for the Town are required to be passed through the EAB for a review of possible environmental concerns.

Sustainable River Corridor Action Plan – Renew update of this document that provides guidance on responsible river corridor development and use.

Tree Board and Arbor Day work – Continue longtime work as the official Lyons Tree Board advising on community forest and arboretum health. Work to promote and support Arbor Day, Lyons tree ordinances and the Lyons Walking Arboretum.

Funding and Members

The EAB receives no town funding; all expenditures come from grants.

Current EAB members are:

Greg Lowell, chair

Bob Brakenridge, vice chair
(vacant), second vice chair

Steve Simms

Kurt Carlson

Carse Pustmueller

David Batts

Ted Elson, Board of Trustees liaison

The EAB meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Lyons Library. The agenda is posted on the Town website at least 24 hours prior; the public is always welcome.

[**BACK**](#)

Historic Preservation Commission 2023 Report

Role of Commission

The Historic Preservation Commission was established to act as an advisory committee to the Board of Trustees and exercise the powers granted as explained below.

The Historic Preservation Commission shall have no more than seven voting members and any number of appointed or non-voting members.

The powers and duties of the Historic Preservation Commission are as follows:

- Encourage and cultivate good stewardship and pride in owners of historic properties in the Town.
- Help property owners voluntarily preserve their historic landmarks.
- Promote heritage tourism.
- Create and maintain a registry of designated properties.
- Identify incentives available through the historic designation process.
- Collaborate with the PCDC and Economic Vitality Commission on historic preservation matters.
- Leverage technology, social media, and marketing to make a digital map of Lyons highlighting historic sites within Lyons.

2023 Accomplishments

- Was awarded a \$25,000 grant from History Colorado for a Historic Context Survey.
- Kicked off the survey project with hired consultants.
- Drafted and implemented a new Land Acknowledgement for the Commission:

In recognition of the social justice values that the town of Lyons upholds and models to our community, we acknowledge that we are located on the traditional land of the

- *Hinono'eino ("inuna-eyna")/Arapaho*
- *Tsitsistas ("tsi-tsi-stahs")/Cheyenne*
- *Nuuchi-u ("new-chew") Ute*

Further, we recognize the 48 contemporary tribal nations that are historically tied to the lands that make up the state of Colorado.

We call upon the Ancestors and Living Elders who retain the sacred insights of this earth and how to care for it.

We respect the red sandstone foothills of the Front Range and the mighty river leading to the majestic western mountains.

We respect the native plants and strive to help them thrive.

We respect the animals who co-exist with us.

May we understand our history in our efforts to heal the traumas of the past and present and to activate steps to manifest reparations now and into the future.

- Updated the Sandstone and HPC-expanded Historic Walking Tours.

- Drafted a new outline and format for sharing HPC Resources and began updates of HPC Resources on the TOL Website.

Board Training

The Lyons HPC has undergone training in historic designation, and at least one member of the Lyons HPC will attend the Saving Places Conference organized by History Colorado for required annual training in Q1.

2024 Goals (preliminary)

- Complete our first CLG evaluation with History Colorado (occurs every 4 years). (**Supports Town of Lyons Comprehensive Plan.**)
- Complete the GIS Tour project with Historical Markers for public use. (Supports Board of Trustees Goal: **Strengthen Economic Sustainability, Enhancing Main Street/Downtown Appeal.**)
- Complete HPC website enhancements to memorialize the Historic Context Survey works and other past projects.
- Complete the operational design of a local historic designation program that would be recognized at the State level making property owners eligible for a variety of benefits, including noteworthy tax credits for renovations on their historic property. (Supports Board of Trustees Goal: **Strengthen Economic Sustainability, Enhancing Main Street/Downtown Appeal.**)
- Complete the operational design for review and approval of renovation projects on designated properties. (Supports BOT Goal: **Strengthen Economic Sustainability, Enhancing Main Street/Downtown Appeal.**)
- Launch historic designation program for property owners. (Supports BOT Goal: **Strengthen Economic Sustainability, Enhancing Main Street/Downtown Appeal.**)
- Complete a local designation using a Town-owned property as a pilot. (Supports BOT Goal: **Strengthen Economic Sustainability, Enhancing Main Street/Downtown Appeal.**)
- Establish a plan to build out the Town's cultural resources related to the findings in the Historic Context Survey. (**Supports Town of Lyons Comprehensive Plan.**)

Members

Sarah Lorang (chairperson)
 Brianna Hoyt (vice-chair)
 David Hamrick
 Lori Kran
 Paula Stone-Williams, BOT Liaison
 Kristen Bruckner, Staff Liaison

[BACK](#)

Housing and Human Resources Commission 2023 Report

Mission: The mission of the Lyons Housing & Human Services Commission, as established in the Lyons Recovery Action Plan, is to provide coordination and communication with various private, non-profit, and county entities in an effort to assess and fill the gaps in human service provision and identify unmet needs in the Lyons and greater Lyons (80540) area.

2023 Activities/Accomplishments/Issues

- **Housing Lyons Valley Townhomes** - HHSC has been involved with this project all year. Town of Lyons staff started in late 2022 to compose a list of community members who had lost their housing during the 2013 flood. In February and March HHSC hosted two informational meetings with the property manager, advertising via posters, E-Blast and Lyons Happenings Facebook page as well as word-of-mouth. We compiled a list of folks who requested help with completing the application. One week before the application process opened, HHSC in conjunction with Property Manager, facilitated applications for Lyons community members at the Lyons Regional Library. Publicity included direct emails, E-Blast, etc. Over that 6-day period over 40 households submitted applications. **An additional need came to light during this process: 30 additional residents indicated a need for a one-bedroom apartment.** Applications continued to be accepted at Town Hall as well as via website and in-person to Highland Property Management in Longmont. In August HHSC contacted LVT applicants who qualified and shared their new addresses (as provided by Property Manager). Construction schedule has seriously impacted move-in process.
- **Preserving what affordable housing is available** - HHSC was approached by a resident of 224 Seward, a trailer park, one of the 20 residents who were concerned that the park was on the market, and they might be displaced. HHSC member met with Town Planner David Kimmet and several residents to discuss options. Kimmet contacted several housing organizations, including Thistle which helps residents buy the land. Unfortunately, all but one of the residents are renters, so that is not an option. Town of Lyons Trustees have been made aware that Prop 123 might be a resource as this would preserve affordable housing. The owners are open to options.
- **Responding to Community Needs** - Provided guidance and resource ideas to an interested community member who wants to establish a women's wellness group focused on menopause.

Researched what nutritional services are available to children during the summer. The Middle/Senior High School offers a summer school, sports, and remedial instruction all of which offer a lunch program. School administration indicated that they would further investigate the need. HHSC made them aware of the bag lunches offered for pick up at four schools through St. Vrain School District during the summer.

Continued to explore health care services, either on-site or outreach. Contacted Salud about an outreach presence; that is not something they can support at this time. LEAF is open to having some type of health care available when they move into their new quarters in 2024. Welcomed a full-time dental practice to Lyons.

Explored resources for foot care services. Boulder County Visiting Nursing Services holds foot care clinics in Boulder and Louisville. Appointments are 2 -3 months out; services are available to all Boulder County residents.

- **Responding to Town of Lyons requests for involvement**

Prioritized Comprehensive Plan Goals for HHSC (HN – 1c, HN 2a, HW1a, HW1f)

Provided representation on the PCDC ad hoc committee meetings on Accessory Dwelling Units.

Members attended the monthly work group for Housing Futures/ Housing Needs Assessment, providing input.

- **Pride Month** - We celebrated again this year.
- **Vulnerable citizens list** - Members contacted the last four folks to provide information re: evacuation, Lyons Help Guide. This list is no longer maintained or in use.
- **Member update** - The HHSC has a strong group of dedicated volunteers. Regan Bullers and Cherie Maureaux have moved off the board. Rhonda Vandenbos is a new member, and we will welcome Megan Kram in January 2024. We have two empty positions. We wrote an article for the Redstone Review regarding our activities and needs.

Plans for 2024

Housing

- Continue to facilitate move-ins to Lyons Valley Townhomes.
- Continue to encourage Town of Lyons involvement in preserving what affordable housing we currently have.
- Provide input on the recommendations of the Housing Future/Housing Assessment report.

Mental Health

- HHSC will support and publicize the mental health services available.
- HHSC will learn about mental health services available in Boulder County and make the community aware of them.
- Continue to respond to Community Inquiries and Needs,

The Housing and Human Services Commission meets on the second Monday of each month from 4:30 - 6 p.m. Meetings are held in the Effie Banta conference room at the Lyons Community Library, and a Zoom link is available as well. The public is always welcome to attend. There are currently two vacancies on the commission; interested residents can apply through the Town of Lyons website or inquiring at Town Hall.

HHS members:

Kay Sparks, Chair

Claudia Kean, Vice-Chair

Julie Jacobs, scribe

Rhonda Vandenbos

Megan Kram

Tanya Daty (Board of Trustees liaison)

Lisa Ramsey (Town staff)

BACK

Parks and Recreation Commission



The Town of Lyons Park and Recreation Commission is a group of volunteer citizens who advise the Board of Trustees on all matters pertaining to the operation, maintenance, improvement and development of the Town's parks and recreation programs and facilities. Its existence is required under Municipal Code, Section 2-8-150.

The commission receives input from the Town of Lyons Parks Department and acts as liaison between the public and Trustees, and researches and suggests funding sources, including grants, to support and improve parks programs. But it's not just the Town's parks that are the commission's concern; they also act on matters related to pedestrian, equestrian, bicycle, recreation and trails systems, including sidewalks.

The commission's work took on added importance in the wake of the 2013 flood. While the Town parks' footprints have not expanded, the look and feel of all three major parks have changed drastically. Thanks to Federal flood recovery funds, LaVern Johnson Park (formerly Meadow Park), Bohn Park and the new Lyons River Park bear only slight resemblance to their pre-flood look.

Upcoming projects include continuing the SRTS plan to expand sidewalk, crosswalk and walkability through town directing pedestrian and bike traffic to school, the St. Vrain Corridor Trail connection to US 36 for eventual connection to the Longmont St. Vrain Greenway Trail and a possible change in code allowing paid overnight camping in the Black Bear Hole parking lot.

The department submits requests to Boulder County Parks and Open Space each year on potential partnership requests for local and regional trail opportunities. An example includes the completed Picture Rock/Heil Ranch connection. Others include a proposed connection to Hall Ranch (currently being assessed by Boulder County via a link on the west side of 36 via Corona Hill), Rabbit Mountain, the St. Vrain Greenway Trail east to Longmont, the Lyons to Boulder Trail and access to Steamboat Mountain. An updated trails plan can be found in the 2016 Parks Flood Recovery Planning Process available online at the Town website.

Parks and Recreation Areas

Sandstone Park (1.5 acres) - Located in the heart of Lyons, Sandstone Park is the home to the Lyons Visitor Center, the Raul Vasquez Community Stage, and several picnic areas. Live musical and cultural performances are scheduled throughout the year on Raul Vasquez Community Stage such as the Summer Concert Series.

The Lyons Visitor Center (open mid-April to October) provides visitor services including restrooms, maps, guidebooks, and local/regional information. The Center's staff is knowledgeable and friendly. Parks and Public Works staff provides maintenance for the visitor center and the park itself.

Bohn Park (53.5 acres) – At the confluence of the North and South St. Vrain Creeks, Bohn Park has been recognized by the Colorado Lottery for creative use of funds. The park was destroyed in the 2013 flood and reconstructed finalized in 2020. Phase I was completed in 2017 and Phase II was completed in early fall of 2020. Bohn Park facilities include:

2 softball/baseball fields (Vasquez & Bohn fields)	Off-leash dog area w/shelter and trails (10 acres)
Skate park w/ half-pipe (pictured above)	River fishing access, including ADA access
Multiuse sport court (tennis, basketball, pickleball)	River access w/ in-stream structures
Multiuse fields/soccer field	Parking (paid through kiosks), special event parking
Playground	2 restroom facilities/storage units
Dirt jump bike skills park w/ shelter	Trails/pedestrian bridges
Picnic gathering grounds (available for rent)	Inlet/pump house for irrigation
Picnic areas w/ tables & grills	Public art

Lyons Valley River Park/Corridor Trail (16.5 acres) - Fully completed in the Spring of 2020 following the 2013 flood, Lyons Valley River Park is becoming one of Lyons finest passive recreation areas. The original area was dedicated to the town with the development of Lyons Valley Park subdivision and consists of two ponds. The lower pond is available for flatwater recreation activities with access points. The upper (smaller) pond is strictly for habitat and off limits to recreational access. Amenities include multi-use trails, scenic overlook, wetland restoration, flood mitigation efforts and kayak masts for programs and events.

This area provides vital wildlife habitat along the St. Vrain River. Linking with the St. Vrain River Trail (Colorado Lottery Starburst Award, 1996) from Bohn Park to the west and the Corridor Trail to the north, these paths will be critical links to the east and eventually to the St. Vrain Greenway (Longmont) and the 36/66 junction underpass. The Corridor Trail along the right-of-way frontage that parallels Highway 36/66 from McConnell Drive to the Black Bear Hole has several existing planters, irrigation and associated landscaping that is the responsibility of the Parks and Public Works Department.

Lyons Whitewater Park-Black Bear Hole-October/November Hole

Lyons Whitewater Park - The Lyons Whitewater Park in LaVern M. Johnson Park is a quarter mile stretch with eight features from beginner to intermediate level that kayakers, tubers and fishermen from the community and surrounding region have all come to enjoy. This facility is heavily utilized in the summer.

Black Bear Hole - Just off Highway 36/66 and across from Lyons Quilting there are two kayak play features that have historically been used as home to Lyons Outdoor Games and avid kayakers from around the region. The first feature has been dubbed the Black Bear Hole and is considered to be a beginner to intermediate spot. Approximately thirty yards downstream is the second hole, named the A-hole (after Lyons resident Arn Hayden who played a part in its inception). This feature is more advanced and often sees kayakers from around the state practicing more advanced tricks. The area incorporates a picnic area and is a frequent stop along Lyons Corridor Trail for hikers and bikers. In 2022 improvements were made to the Black Bear Hole area through funding made available through Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) including, improvements and formalizing the parking lot and adding paid parking, improvements to the riverbanks on the upstream side and around the pedestrian bridge, replacement of the bridge decking, trail and landscape improvements including irrigation, and new fencing and site amenities.

St. Vrain Corridor Trailhead at 2nd Avenue - East of 2nd Avenue adjacent to Bohn Park, improvements were made to formalize a parking area, restroom and trailhead through funding made available by a grant awarded by GOCO in 2022. This area now consists of 115 parking spaces with paid parking kiosk, restroom facility with drinking fountain, trail and landscape improvements including irrigation, storm and other drainage improvements, and new fencing and site amenities.

October Hole/November Hole - Farther downstream in Lyons Valley River Park are the reconstructed October and November holes. These kayaking features are unique along the Front Range in that they can be utilized by river recreationalists into the months of October/November due to typical seasonal releases from the Carter Canal inlet just upstream from the features. Located off of Highway 36/66 near the "Welcome to Lyons" sign, these features offer easy access to the St. Vrain and also include gathering areas established with large boulders along the banks, similar to the other features completed upstream through flood recovery efforts.

Regular maintenance of these features is performed when needed in the fall/early winter or late winter/early spring, when the water flow is low, access to the river is more easily achievable and the least risk/damage to the river and habitat will occur. The necessary permits are applied for

and obtained prior to work being done. Work performed on structures is completed when it is deemed that there is a hazard, risk or that they are not functioning properly. River restoration and bank stabilization are priorities for the department.

Community volunteer river cleanup days are scheduled in the spring and summer to help keep the river areas free of trash and other debris after the spring run off season. In 2022, the Lyons Parks and Recreation Commission, and a group of local resident groups all performed river cleanup efforts.

Steamboat Valley Playground - Located on the Steamboat Valley Open Space Parcel and built in-part with money supplied through the subdivision improvement agreement for the housing development, this neighborhood park is cared for by the department.

Trails - Lyons has worked diligently to link existing trail systems both in town and to surrounding open spaces. Currently, the Parks department maintains over 6 miles of trails and performs regular maintenance in the spring/fall or in areas as needed according to standards. Additional local and regional trail connections continue to be a priority for the department and the citizen advisory Parks and Recreation Commission. Upcoming projects being considered that will allow for better connectivity are in and around the Black Bear Hole, a trailhead near the 2nd Ave. public parking area, the St. Vrain Corridor Trail connection to US 36 for eventual connection to the Longmont St. Vrain Greenway Trail. The department submits requests to Boulder County Parks and Open Space each year on potential partnership requests for local and regional trail opportunities. An example includes the completed Picture Rock/Heil Ranch connection. Others include a proposed connection to Hall Ranch (currently being assessed by Boulder County via a link on the west side of 36 via Corona Hill), Rabbit Mountain, the St. Vrain Greenway Trail east to Longmont, the Lyons to Boulder Trail and access to Steamboat Mountain. An updated trails plan can be found in the 2016 Parks Flood Recovery Planning Process available online at the Town website.

In 2021, Parks and Public works staff worked with Can'd Aid on volunteer projects to add and improve trails in Bohn Park and in the Stone Canyon Neighborhood.

Lyons Open Space Parcels (approximately 100 acres) - The Town of Lyons Department of Parks and Public Works currently oversees management of numerous open space parcels. Of the town's complete parkland inventory, approximately 105 acres are dedicated as open space. Examples of such properties are Stone Canyon Open Space, Lyons Valley Greenbelt, Sierra Roja/Steamboat Valley, Russell Subdivision/Tebo (Longs Peak) and Eagle Canyon. Maintenance including mowing, trash/debris removal, noxious weed mitigation and monitoring for code violation are common in these areas.

Martin Parcel Buyout Parcel (9 Acres) - This parcel is located west of Bohn Park, adjacent to the skate park and Bohn Field, and is a flood recovery buyout parcel recently transferred to the Town by Boulder County. A public process and conceptual plan have been developed (see, 2017 Land Use and Management Plan for Deed Restricted Buy Out Properties (DrBOP).

Town of Lyons Flood Buyout Parcels (20 Acres) - Following the flood of 2013 the Town of Lyons acquired 27 former residential properties with federal funding, equaling nearly 20 acres, located mainly in the confluence of the St. Vrain in Lyons. Initial funds from the buy-out program were used to remove structures and mitigate impacts against future flooding. These "buy-out"

properties are earmarked as open space or recreational properties in perpetuity. The 2017 DrBOP (Deed Restricted Buyout Properties) Plan for these properties can be found on the Town of Lyons website. The plan conceptualizes these lands as natural open space areas and wildlife habitat with opportunities for outdoor enjoyment and social interaction. Several have been identified as eligible for the “Neighborhood Lot Licensure Program,” a licensure program allowing individual or group “adoption” of certain lots for approved purposes.

St. Vrain Valley School District Facilities – Currently, the Town of Lyons and the St. Vrain Valley School District have a joint use agreement in place. When appropriate, increased scheduling and maintenance responsibilities are allotted for by the department. Scheduling and maintenance of the Bohn multi-purpose field and high school baseball and softball fields is done when needed for league play. The town also has use of the elementary school gym, playground areas, track and other facilities through the district scheduler when allowed. This arrangement is positive for both parties, allowing for additional facilities through this partnership that it would otherwise not be available.

Notable activities of the PRC in 2023 were:

- Goat fire mitigation – a herd of goats were contracted to graze on open space to cut down of wildfire fuels
- Proposed connection to Hall Ranch (currently being assessed by Boulder County via a link on the west side of 36 via Corona Hill), Rabbit Mountain, the St. Vrain Greenway Trail east to Longmont, the Lyons to Boulder Trail and access to Steamboat Mountain. An updated trails plan can be found in the 2016 Parks Flood Recovery Planning Process available online at the Town website.
- Pursued funding for adding lights to softball fields.
- Pursued funding for adding paint to create additional pickleball playing space on the current court.
- Subcommittee for International Night Sky Compliance in parks and made a recommendation to the BOT on feasibility.
- Completed the second “dark sky” night sponsored by the town during a celestial event and camping event.
- Increase pedestrian connectivity and pursue the Eastern Corridor trail as a priority.
- Continue advising the town and assisting with safe routes to school pedestrian improvements; discussion and approval of Parks funds if needed.
- Continue to review park budgets, operations and long-term maintenance needs.
- Sponsor volunteer events.

Plans for 2024:

- St Vrain Trail Extension planning
- Complete Martin Parcel Fire mitigation.
- Pursue funding for adding a secondary sports court adjacent to the existing sports court in Bohn Park. (Bohn Park Sport Court improvements/upgrades - new backboards, pads, nets, screening)
- Pursue funding for adding lights to softball fields.
- Continue a “dark sky” night sponsored by the town during a celestial event and pursue Dark Sky Community certification.

- Increase pedestrian connectivity and pursue the Eastern Corridor trail as a priority.
- Continue advising the town and assisting safe routes to school pedestrian improvements.
- Continue to review park budgets, operations and long-term maintenance needs.
- Sponsor volunteer cleanup events.
- Continue discussion on Lyons- Hall connector trail.

The PRC meets on the second Monday each month at The Lyons Regional Library. The public is always invited to attend the meetings and can find the schedule of meetings and links on the Town website under "Agendas."

Members

Yelena Hughes, Chair
Tom Delker, Vice Chair
Randy Pollard
Jennifer Kovarik
Sandra Haber
Julia Herz
Glen Delman, BOT liaison
Dave Cosgrove, Public Works and Park Director

BACK

Sustainable Futures Commission

The Sustainable Futures Commission (SFC) was established to advise the Board of Trustees on matters relating to sustainable practices and policies and to support and improve the environmental stewardship of the Town and its citizens. The SFC strives to inspire, motivate, and lead the community towards a future that is increasingly resilient and locally sustainable by prioritizing the reduction of human impact on environmental systems.

2023 Activities/Accomplishments/Issues

Notable 2023 activities for the SFC are:

- Met with Utilities and Engineering Board (UEB) and Tierra Resources (energy consultants retained with Boulder County Sustainability grant funding) regarding their Lyons energy consulting study. The key findings/recommendations from the completed study include:
 - Town should implement TOU (time of use) rate structure to incentivize off peak use of electricity and reduce demand peaks.
 - 60% of residents would likely see lower electric bills.
 - Town cost to make software changes would be recouped in less than 4 years.
 - Town purchase of a storage battery (without an attached solar installation) would not be cost effective.
 - Town advised to ensure future Level 3 charger rates recoup all electricity & maintenance costs.
- SFC recommended to the BOT to join the Solar United Neighbors (SUN) program. It was approved and SUN has provided information about the program that the Town has communicated to residents. Those who have been approved for solar panel installation will have the projects completed in 2024.
- Supported the Lyons Climate Action group and their key focus to stop aerial spraying of pesticides on Boulder County Open Space, especially near town limits.
- Members of the SFC and UEB visited NREL on August 1 and reported back to the BOT. Derived from the meeting, NREL' key suggestions to Lyons are:
 - Upgrade municipal vehicles to electric as possible.
 - Implement time-of-use electrical rate structure.
 - Strive to triple Town electrical capacity by 2030.
 - Plan ahead/plan smart for electrification to meet Town future power needs driven by heat pump HVAC systems, induction appliances, home and public EV.
 - Implement the latest codes for solar interconnection standards.
- NREL not only has state-of-the-art technologies for renewable energy, they have a mission to partner with and support towns and cities across the country with energy transitions planning, technical assistance, capacity building, workforce development, and more. SFC plans to further explore the possibilities of a partnership.
- Reviewed the Air Quality Control Regulation 29 proposal summary provided by CC4CA. SFC agreed to recommend adoption of the more aggressive version accompanied by a

request that the legislature provide funding/matching grants to help offset initial investment costs to municipalities and commercial companies.

- Agreed to re-evaluate Pay as You Throw (PAYT) program for Lyons. The consensus is that the “single hauler” requirement was the most divisive aspect of the previous approach and can be left out of the new program. Mayor Rogin suggested we make this a focus item for 2024, include it in our goals, and make BOT aware of our intent to revisit.
- Reviewed the Lyons Comprehensive Plan and identified actions that SFC needs to take the lead on or partner on. Also reviewed the Lyons Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (LESAP) from 2019. These results are being used to develop priorities for setting SFC goals for 2024 and beyond.
- Discussed hosting a sustainable film series to help move the Town towards sustainability. This would be very useful way to educate and inspire community sustainability towards reducing energy usage and more.
- SFC representation via regular attendance at RCAB (Resource Conservation Advisory Board of Boulder County) and CC4CA (Colorado Communities for Climate Action) meetings and support for Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE) program and the Lyons Solar Garden.

Plans for 2024

In 2024, the SFC plans the following activities.

- A top goal for the SFC for the Town of Lyons going forward is elimination of fossil fuel combustion and electrification of the community, based on the 2022 Climate Emergency Declaration by the Lyons Board of Trustees.
- Determining goals going forward based on LESAP for the following categories:
 - Electrification strategy (in cooperation with NREL)
 - Electrification code enhancements
 - Buildings and energy
 - Water
 - Transportation
 - Waste
 - Communications and outreach
 - Categories may be added as needed
- SFC to review team templates at February SFC meeting and present 2024 goals to BOT in February or March. Key driver is to demonstrate the critical need for a Town sustainability coordinator and grant writer in order to achieve sustainability goals.

The SFC will also:

- Seek and encourage citizen participation in Lyons sustainability, climate action plans, and solution development.
- Support diversion and recycle events, to include recycling, hazardous waste drop-off, and other recycling options.
- Support slash/limb/leaf collection to divert organic yard materials for compost and support wildfire fuel mitigation efforts.

- Continue exploring inclusion of Lyons Student Advisory Council members involvement in the SFC.
- SFC will continue regular attendance at RCAB (Resource Conservation Advisory Board of Boulder County) and CC4CA (Colorado Communities for Climate Action) meetings and support for Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE) program and the Lyons Solar Garden.

Members

SFC members include the following individuals.

Edward Kean, chair
Kara Bauman, vice chair
Dawn Weller, secretary
Jeff Christy
David DeCoster
Fred Annexstein
Kathy Carroll

BOT liaison: Ted Elson
Town liaison: Director Kim Mitchell

BACK

Utilities and Engineering Board

The Lyons Utilities and Engineering Board (UEB) is an advisory committee to the Board of Trustees and works with the Utilities and Engineering Director to review and make recommendations to the Town regarding utility rates, capital projects and other matters related to the Town utilities and engineering projects. See Municipal Code Sec. 2-8-190 for details.

2023 Activities/Accomplishments/Issues

Notable activities of the UEB in 2023 were:

- Monitored the financials of the Town's utility funds to ensure they are solvent. The wastewater portion of the water and wastewater fund was initially the primary concern but with the positive resolution of the Honeywell lawsuit money is now available for upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant.
- Continued pursuing development of a solar farm and storage facility to be built in Lyons. Supported staff in obtaining a two-year extension of the million-dollar grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs which now extended out through July 2025. The National Research and Engineering Lab (NREL) provided Lyons a grant to support Berkeley National Labs help in restructuring a new Request for Proposal that is expected to be released in early 2024.
- Recommended that BOT support a contractor grant proposal to install and operate new class 3 electric vehicle fast chargers along Railroad Avenue at Sandstone park. The contractor was awarded the grant, and the plan is to replace the two Class 2 chargers operated by the town and add six additional for a total of eight Class 3 charger spots.
- Supported a change to the bulk water rate structure bringing it more in line with other neighboring jurisdictions by eliminating the monthly base fee and increasing the water rate. Many of the bulk water customers only need bulk water during dry periods of the year. The monthly base fees were incentivizing them to obtain bulk water from other utilities further away.
- Supported the sale of the obsolete water tank property in Apple Valley. Also supporting the sale of the old water treatment plant property no longer being used.
- Reviewed time of use and battery storage analyses being conducted by Tierra Resources under a sustainability contract. While the battery storage analysis did not show a pay back the transition to time of use rates is expected to break even after 4 years after which there will be annual savings.
- Supported the increase the maximum size of residential solar from 10KW to 25KW. Also supported Lyons joining the Boulder County solar co-op offering Lyons residents the advantage of bulk pricing.
- Recommended that the BOT not delay redoing roadwork on north 2nd and 3rd avenues to include curb and gutters. The work has been delayed while waiting for extensive expensive stormwater improvements. It is expected gutters should provide additional stormwater relief although not for a 100-year storm.

Plans for 2024

- Continue to review and comment on Utility Financials and fund balances.
- Continue supporting the Lyons Solar Farm and storage project.
- Transition to 100-percent renewable electric energy through the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) green energy program. MEAN is Lyons' wholesale electric supplier. It is expected that 2024 will be the year that MEAN will add enough new renewable projects so Lyons can go 100 percent renewable.
- Establish residential street lighting standards and develop a plan to upgrade to LED residential street lighting.
- Review Wastewater Treatment Plant issues and work with town staff on upgrade program.
- Make recommendations on the adequacy and monitoring of grease traps in local businesses.
- Review stormwater system master planning and budget for high priority projects.
- Review and make recommendations on the town GIS for improved planning and project execution.
- Support the transition to time of use residential and commercial electric rates. Support development of a new demand rate pricing for the new class 3 EV charge stations planned on Railroad Avenue.

Meeting dates

The UEB generally meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. in person in the Town board room and virtually using Zoom. Note that the second meeting of month is generally canceled because of conflicts with quarterly MEAN meetings. Meeting agenda with Zoom link is posted on the Town's website at least 24 hours prior to each meeting. The public are always welcome and encouraged to attend.

Members:

Jim Kerr - Chair

Chris Meline - Vice Chair

Chris Cope – Vice Vice Chair

Jane Allo

Lee Hall

Gina Hardin

Open Position

BOT liaison: Greg Oetting

Staff liaison: Aaron Caplan

BACK

Rocky Mountain Botanic Gardens 2022 Report

Jessie Berta-Thompson & Garima Fairfax



In its fourth growing season, the garden is blooming bigger and better. Photo by Cathy Rivers.

The Garden

The Rocky Mountain Botanic Gardens (RMBG) in Lyons is a public garden of Colorado native plants, created and cared for by volunteers. It's designed as an educational display garden, with signs identifying each species, intended to help visitors discover new plants for their gardens and learn about wild plants they might see trailside. Broadly speaking, these plants are hardy, adapted to local soils and climate, have low water requirements, and support pollinators. The garden is divided into five zones reflecting distinct Colorado ecosystems – the prairie grasslands, riparian, montane, southwest, and foothills. Lyons, situated at the confluence of two rivers and where the mountains meet the plains, is uniquely suited to hosting diverse Colorado plants. 2023 was our 4th growing season, and the garden is filling in nicely, becoming a valued destination for the Lyons community and visitors from near and far.

The RMBG is run as a 501(c)(3) registered nonprofit (EIN 83-1572868) with a volunteer board of directors. The RMBG's mission is to foster an understanding and an appreciation of our Rocky Mountain native plants and wildlife and to create a place where Lyons locals and all

visitors to the garden of all ages can learn and enjoy the peace and beauty of the natural world. Before the 2013 flood, the site was a neighborhood, the Foothills Mobile Home Park. Now, the land is owned by the Town of Lyons under strict flood plain restrictions and leased by the RMBG at no cost. Under the lease terms, we agree to maintain the site as a public garden in good condition and to purchase liability insurance, which we've continued to do. Gardening at the site started in December 2018.

The garden is located near the corner of 4th Ave. and Prospect St., on the path to Bohn Park. Parking is available on nearby streets. We ask that dogs and bikes remain outside the gardens and that visitors stick to the paths. The RMBG is open to the public daily from dawn to dusk, except when snow obscures the path.



Sulfur flower (*Eriogonum umbellatum*), a drought-tolerant little beauty that grows wild around Lyons and at the RMBG. Photo by Zach Berta-Thompson.

Volunteers

Our garden thrives thanks to the many volunteers planting, weeding, mulching, tidying, and doing everything else needed to care for a garden. In 2023, our volunteers worked a dazzling 1,470 hours in the garden. We host regular volunteer sessions, 9-11 AM on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays, from April to October, weather permitting (plus occasional nice days in the winter, organized over email). The fixed schedule accommodates occasional drop-ins and newcomers

along with the main crew of regulars for a fun and open community experience. All are welcome, and we find tasks to accommodate the abilities of all. This year we also hosted, for the second time, a volunteer outing from the enthusiastic staff of Enveda Biosciences, a Boulder research company that searches for new medical treatments in plants.

Our regular community volunteers in the garden (a million thanks!) this year included: Linda Talley, Emily Walker, Peggy Story, Cathy Rivers, Carter Christenson, Zach Berta-Thompson, Eileen Yelverton, Sharon Denton, Sharon O'Brien, Pete Devine, Karen Bonde, Rudy Pucel, Mary Legan, Sandy Banta, Easton Shriner, Tom Schmidt, and Mike Newell.

The following people served as our volunteer board of directors in 2023: Garima Fairfax (President), Kris Todd (Vice President), Anthea Rice (Vice President), Betzy Ekstam (Secretary), and Jessie Berta-Thompson (Treasurer).

Partnerships

- *Town of Lyons* – We are very grateful for the support of the Town of Lyons. They provide the land beneath our plants and help the RMBG in many other ways, too. This year, they sold us water at municipal rates, pruned trees, and helped to publicize RMBG events.
- *Lyons Ecology Advisory Board* – The Ecology Board was instrumental in helping establish the RMBG. This year, we worked together distributing noxious weed education pamphlets, paid for by a Lyons Community Foundation grant to the Ecology Board and shared at the Little Free Library at the RMBG.
- *The Lyons Arts and Humanities Commission* – This year the gardens continued hosting two beautiful large wood sculptures by Boulder-based artist Renata Hromadkova (treeskyecoart.com), through the LAHC's outdoor public art program. Visitors love them, especially littles ones interested in climbing.
- *Red Canyon Art* – This longtime Lyons' Main St. business (www.redcanyonart.com/) has kindly continued selling (and explaining) RMBG T-shirts. This contributes to fundraising and visibility, helping people discover the RMBG, a tucked-away gem, while they shop downtown.
- *Harlequin's Gardens & Wholesale Nursery* – This Boulder nursery specializing in native plants (harlequinsgardens.com/) is our primary source for plants and an invaluable resource for learning to care for them. Our volunteers collaborate to grow hard-to-find or high-priority species for the gardens, and we share seeds collected at the gardens with them.

Funding

The Gardens are supported through donations, fundraisers, and grants. Individual community members and garden visitors gave a generous \$2,604 this past year. We also raised money through our annual May Plant Sale and a smaller Fall Open House (plant sale and tour) in September, as well as sales of t-shirts and tote bags outside of events, including at Red Canyon Arts. We are very grateful to have benefitted from one of the Lyons Farmette's Farm Dinners (www.lyonsfarmette.com), which support a different local nonprofit each week. In early 2023, we received a grant from the Colorado Garden Foundation for \$2,000 to pay for plants to fill in gaps in the garden and for educational signs about plants and pollinators. A large corporate gift of \$3000 from CEMEX was used to buy plants and plant signs. In addition to plants and signs (the heart of our botanic gardens), our expenses this year included insurance, website administration, accounting fees, informational postcards to help people find the garden, garden & irrigations supplies, and water. We are deeply grateful to all who contributed to the Gardens in

2023. For those interested in adding their support, donations can be sent to Rocky Mountain Botanic Gardens, P.O. Box 613, Lyons, CO 80540.



Rainbow viewed from the garden in fall. Photo by Zach Berta-Thompson.

Notable Accomplishments in 2023

The gardens looked better than ever in 2023, with established plants leaping to new heights and new plants joining them in abundance. Our volunteers planted 1,023 plants from nurseries, belonging to 172 different species, including 72 species new to the garden (e.g., Southwestern white pine, Blackfoot daisy, and roundleaf hawthorn). This brings the total number of species represented at the garden to around 245. To achieve this expansion of diversity, we shopped at many nurseries and grew custom plants at Harlequin's Wholesale Nursery (a collaboration started in 2022), like the delicate purple three-awn grass. Some of the newly planted species are cacti, which promise a rainbow of colorful blooms in future years, purchased from the experts at Ethical Desert, a mail-order nursery in Pueblo, CO. Our volunteers also dug up and relocated several hundred more plants around the garden, filling in gaps with enthusiastic seedlings and runners (prairie sage and black-eyed susans, especially).

It was an unusually wet spring, saving us considerably on watering. The extra rain gave most plants a strong start for the year and lent the overall look of the garden a fresh lushness. Visitor favorites this year included goldenglow, Rocky Mountain beeplant, and sneezeweed. It was also a rich year for insects. This was unfortunate for the fireweed, with every leaf nibbled to lacy stubs, but otherwise the insects brought new color, activity, and delight to the garden.

The Southwest zone of the garden, featuring plants of the dry and desert habitats of southern and western Colorado, got a major revamp in the form of 4 truckloads of pink-gray pea gravel.

One wheelbarrow at a time, our volunteers covered a considerable area of the garden with this rock. Using pea gravel as a top layer, instead of the wood chip mulch covering the rest of the beds, allows us to demonstrate a popular xeriscaping strategy that gives a dramatic look and works wonders for plants that require full drainage, more accurately recreating desert conditions. Some plants will reseed more readily in this substrate, as well. With the exception of newly planted or very young plants, this Southwest garden required no watering this year.

In other projects, from May-March, we stocked a bin at the Lyons Community Library Seed Bank with seeds collected at the garden, towards our goal of making native plants more accessible to the Lyons community. In total people took 205 of our homemade little seed packets belonging to 27 different species of Colorado native plants grown at the RMBG. Thanks to a Lyons Community Foundation grant, local graphic designer Patricia Appelfeller made us a beautiful informational postcard with a map to help people find the gardens, distributed at events, venues in Lyons, and at Harlequin's Nursery in Boulder. Our annual May Plant Sale was a very successful gathering of our wonderful supporters new and old, spreading more native plants and the knowledge to care for them throughout the community while raising money for the garden's operations. The Little Free Library in front of the garden had a lively turnover of gardening and nature materials. This first shelf of this resource is stocked with booklets and brochures on weeds, native plant gardening, and the Spanish names of our plants. The second shelf is kept full of second-hand nature books donated by community members, garden director Garima Fairfax, and a garden-savvy Longmont library volunteer.



A young garden volunteer assists Garden Director Garima Fairfax in watering a swamp milkweed with plump pods. Photo by Cathy Rivers.

As the garden grows in beauty and visibility, the use of the gardens as a community event space is rising. In 2023, we hosted our first wedding and two concerts organized by the nonprofit Float of Haven Nature Studios that uses battery-powered equipment to enable live music that connects listeners to nature in wilder venues. In recognition of our Colorado Garden Foundation grant, the program's executive director Jim Fricke came out for a tour to admire plantings new and old. As in past years, we hosted several organized group tours, including the Longmont Hoe and Hope garden club, the Wild Ones Front Range Chapter, a group of Boulder Master Gardeners specializing in pests (and also very excited about beneficial insects) and the Tri-Lakes Garden Club. We were grateful to be included in the Lyons Garden Club tour day, which provided a chance to connect with more wonderful Lyons gardeners.

Plans for 2024

In 2024, we plan to continue planting, adding more species and filling in gaps especially in the montane zone, which still has bare patches and spots saved for hard-to-source mountain favorites. So far, as of early January, we have pre-orders in at 6 different nurseries. We plan to continue our collaboration with Harlequin's Wholesale Nursery, growing custom species with a combination of our volunteers and their professional greenhouses and staff. Our volunteers will continue to prune, weed, wrangle deer-proof cages, and do all that's needed to care for the garden. New volunteers are always very welcome – there is plenty of learning and fun while we get our hands dirty, and a pleasant chatty break with snacks under the ash tree.

A favorite with visitors this year was the very late blooming (September-October) deep blue-purple bottle gentian (right). Photo by Jessie Berta-Thompson.

A major new project for the gardens in 2024 will be installing soaker hose irrigation for our trees and shrubs, thanks to a generous grant from the Colorado Garden Foundations.

Currently the 1.26-acre garden is hand-watered, a colossal effort. We hope the new system will make the garden easier to water and improve water use efficiency.

We will hold our big annual native plant sale in late May, and most likely a Fall Open House, too. Increasingly, we've gotten some plants to sell from the garden itself, by collecting little seedlings from the paths and nurturing them to planting size in nursery pots (anise hyssop and Mexican hat flowers were particularly popular), and we'll continue digging plants to share next year. We will also make garden-collected seed available for free at the Lyons Community Library's seed bank, through late winter and spring.





Mature milkweed humming with pollinators lines one path. Photo By Zach Berta-Thompson

Towards our educational goals, we look forward to hosting more tours, stocking the Little Free Library, revamping our website to include more garden history and flower pictures (many thanks to Easton Shriner & Zach Berta-Thompson), and creating more brochures and signs for the garden. Please see our website www.rmbg.org for more information and contact Garima Fairfax (garima@rmbg.org) with inquiries for events or tours. Most importantly, we hope the Lyons community & visitors from afar continue to enjoy the gardens in the coming year.

BACK

Redstone Museum/Lyons Historical Society

Monique Sawyer-Lang, Collections Manager

The Lyon Historical Society (LHS) was started in 1973 by Dorothy Paxton and led the campaign to purchase the 1885 Lyons Depot building which currently serves as the Lyons Police Substation. In 1976, Director LaVern Johnson and the LHS saved the town's original two-story sandstone school from the wrecker's ball.

A three-way lease, between St. Vrain Valley School District (SVVSD), who owns the building, the Town of Lyons (TOL), and LHS allowed for the creation of the Lyons Redstone Museum, preserving this cultural and historic structure with its 6100 square feet of exhibition, archive, and program space. The Redstone Museum's collection includes objects, photographs, documents, and displays that reflect Lyons area history. The museum opened to the public in November of 1979 and will celebrate its 45th year of operation in 2024.



Since 1973, the LHS has played an active role in the recognition and preservation of Lyons history including creation of the Lyons Historic District in April 1980, recognizing 15 historically significant sandstone buildings in the Lyons area. Between 2006 and 2014 the museum underwent a major renovation that included: the roof and cupola, painting, insulation, and repair of cracked mortar in the authentic historic style. Ongoing building repair and maintenance are covered by grants and individual donations. In 2018 the TOL, the SVVSD, and the LHS partnered in the repair and upgrading of the fire suppression system.

LaVern Johnson, Director of the Museum for over 46 years, passed away at the age of 94 on May 14, 2022. As the town matriarch she was a tireless crusader, fierce advocate, passionate historian, and preservationist for the Lyons Historical Society and Lyons Redstone Museum.

Jerry Johnson, LaVern's son, has taken over as Director of the Lyons Historical Society and serves as the board President/Treasurer. In 2023 the Lyons Historical Society welcomed the following new board members: Julie Van Domelen, David Brininstool, Emily Walker, and Priscilla Cohan (since deceased).

Financial

The Redstone Museum leases the building from the SVVSD for \$1 a year; the contract is renewed every ten years. The SVVSD is responsible for the landscaping and lawn care and pays for one-third of improvements and large repairs. The TOL awards an annual grant to pay employees to operate the museum on May weekends and daily June through September, as well as scanning, filing, and cataloguing during the off-season. The Town also pays for one-third of large improvements and repairs, with the rest up to the LHS who raise funds from museum gift shop sales, donations, and grants from other sources. Grants received in 2023: Town of Lyons, Blue Mountain Foundation, Lyons Community Foundation, and Scientific Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).

In 2023 the LHS officially registered with the Colorado Gives Foundation, a platform which allows for on-line donations to nonprofits year-round. Additionally, the LHS registered with Square, resulting in increased sales at the gift shop and the annual Artisan Fair booths.

2023 Accomplishments

In 2023 the museum recorded 1,624 visitors; this includes summer season visitors and those who came by appointment over the winter when the museum was closed. Appointments comprised of persons doing family research, members of the Lyons Historic Preservation Commission, as well as those wanting to donate items to the museum. Visitation numbers for 2023 increased over 2022 levels.

Educational collaboration with Lyons Elementary School continued in the 2022-2023 school year. Students participated in hands-on learning museum activities tied to St. Vrain Valley school curriculum. Lyons 4th grade students have become involved on a more in-depth level functioning as Museum Stewards and work on a year-long project creating educational components geared toward visiting children. In May 2023, the 4th grade students installed a scavenger hunt at the museum and created an educational Lyons history trunk to be used at the elementary school.

The museum participated in several events in 2023, kicking off the season by participating in Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month in May sponsored by the Boulder County Heritage Roundtable.

History Day at the Lyons Redstone Museum was held on June 24 and included an update on museum activities and remarks from Victoria Simonson with the TOL, Priscilla Cohan from the Historic Preservation Commission and Cathleen Chrystal Decoster from the Lyons Arts and

Humanities Commission. Pioneer Family Certificates were presented to Lyons High School graduating Seniors Cambria Burton and Anna Felt (Austin Family); Pierce Eddy and Brooklyn Enny (Boone Family); and Kylee Roberts and Ragan Roberts. Activities that day included Pioneer Games, The Mighty, Mighty Camera Obscura, and a Museum Open House highlighting the work of the 4th Grade Museum Stewards.

The LHS collaborated with the TOL in remembrance of the September 2013 flood. They loaned objects for presentations and exhibits at Sandstone Park, Town Hall and the library. The Museum sponsored a screening at the library of Cat Russell's documentary ***Fundamentals of the Flood***. Additionally, the museum created a digital exhibit of archived photographs, videos, and stories from the flood which is now part of the permanent flood exhibit.

The Museum had a booth at the Summer Artisan Market held September 9 in Bohn Park and at the Holiday Artisan Market held December 2-3. This was an opportunity to sell museum souvenirs and books on Lyons history as well as an opportunity to promote the museum's virtual offerings including the Lyons Historic District Walking tour, the Lyons Cemetery Walking Tour, and the Forty Years/Forty Artifacts and Colt Family Wedding Attire Exhibits.

During the year, in addition to greeting visitors, preparing print and social media publications, grant writing, general maintenance of the interior of the building, assisting with research requests, and other daily duties museum personnel continued making progress on two long term projects. First, staff has been working on scanning the museum's collection of the *Lyons Recorder* and *Redstone Review* newspapers. The newspapers are digitally searchable, which is efficient for research and contributes to the preservation of the original newspaper.

The second long-term project is the transfer of over 40 years of paper accession and collection records into the Past Perfect computer database. This greatly increases the ability of the staff to know what the museum has in its collection which in turn increases the ability to answer research questions, to disseminate Lyons history through multiple platforms, and to create accurate and engaging exhibits, displays, programs, and activities. The Past Perfect record expands on the original paper record by including photographs, measurements, and enhanced descriptions and histories of the items in the museum's collections.

Every year the museum accepts, based on the tenets of its mission statement, items, documents, and photographs into its collection. During 2023 the museum accepted and cataloged 30 collections consisting of 155 items. Also, the LHS actively collects modern items that contribute to Lyons' history such as the school yearbooks, the TOL Annual Report, and items relating to current Town events.

The museum's public outreach includes a website, Facebook, and Instagram pages and the creation of an annual brochure that is distributed around town and mailed locally. The museum also contributes a popular monthly article to the Redstone Review touching on various aspects of Lyons' history. The Lyons Historic District Walking Tour is available to the public through the free CLIO app and our Cemetery Tour, and two virtual exhibits are available free to the public through virmuze.com.

2024 Plans

For the upcoming year our plans include the continued research and design of a new exhibit on the history of the Lyons quarries, public programs tied to our *History Talks* lecture series and, work on upgrading existing exhibits.

Contact:

Lyons Historical Society
Address: Box 9, Lyons, Co. 80540

Museum phone: 303.823.5271
E-mail: redstonehistory@gmail.com

[BACK](#)

Lyons Arts and Humanities Commission Annual Report 2023



The Lyons Community Clarifier Mosaic Project

The mission of the Lyons Arts & Humanities Commission (LAHC) is to beautify the streets and locales within Lyons, promote local artists, and educate the viewing public on artistic inspirations and procedures. According to the non-profit group, Americans for the Arts, artistic endeavors are good for local businesses, help to drive tourism and boost the local economy. The LAHC works closely with Town staff, the Board of Trustees, and a variety of community partners and funding sources to expand the role of arts and humanities within the community.

These partnerships and cultural resources include the following programs:

Creative Outlets recruits and pays artists to decorate utility boxes throughout Lyons. To date, though 2023, there have been six utility boxes painted throughout the Town.

The **HeARTs of Lyons** program offers a rotating collection of outdoor public sculptures that are displayed throughout the town, including some works by local sculpture artists. This public art collection generally has a two-year contract with the artist for public placement. However, there are a few legacy pieces which are a permanent part of the collection. The LAHC also helps to facilitate permanent public art displays, such as the Bell of Renewal, installed in Bohn Park on the seventh anniversary of the 2013 flood. More recently, the LAHC and the Board of Trustees helped to support a Town Hall Mural, along the western wall of Town Hall facing the courtyard

and plaza. This mural was installed in September 2022 and was created by a local Lyons artist, who is world-renowned. Also new in 2023 was an approved professional services contract with a professional artistic curator to grow the public arts program in Lyons.

Town Hall and Lyons Regional Library – Quarterly Art Shows Four times per year the local artistic community in Lyons brings their artwork to Town Hall for a regional art show. In addition, the LAHC works with one or two solo artists to curate and hang the artist's work at the Lyons Regional Library. The community is invited to attend the quarterly opening and meet the artists to support local art.

Library - The Lyons Regional Library was a department of the Town of Lyons until 2015, when a library district was approved by the voters and formed. In August 2019, construction was completed on a new library building, which has become an important part of the Lyons community. The LAHC partners with the Lyons Regional Library for town-wide art shows, as well as local community theatre.

Music - Musicians are integral to Lyons' creative spirit and energy. Lyons hosts large music festivals, including Rocky Grass and the Rocky Mountain Folks Festival, which draw artists and attendees from all over the nation and beyond. More locally, there are smaller music series, hosted outside with the Winter Wonderland Music Series and the Sandstone Summer Concert Series.

Creative District Status - In 2022, interested members of the community of Lyons began the exploration process to become a certified Colorado Creative District through the Colorado Office of Economic Development and Trade. The State temporarily paused the program and new applications in 2023. Should the program begin accepting community creative districts again in the near future, the LAHC will assist to help form a creative district in Lyons, which would increase visibility at the state level.

Scientific and Cultural Facilities District - The Scientific and Cultural Facilities District covers seven counties in the Denver metropolitan area and charges one penny on every \$10 in sales tax. A portion of these funds are allocated to Boulder County's Cultural Council, which distributes funds through annual grants.

Lyons Community Theatre - Locally produced community theatre made its debut in Lyons in the last year and has been well received in Lyons. The LAHC has supported community theatre with outreach, expertise and donations to help expand the programming.

Ute Sculpture – In 2023, a new sculpture, titled ***Trail of Treaties***, created by Native American and Ute Nation artist, Oreland Joe, Sr. was installed on a stone plinth in LaVern Johnson Park. This is a permanent legacy piece to recognize the ancestral paths in our area that were used by the Ute people.

The LAHC also has a fundraising budget which is supported by grants from the Lyons Community Foundation, local business sponsorship and local art sales, as well as donations from those who support the arts.

In 2023, the LAHC and the Town of Lyons lost a wonderful, gifted and talented ceramic artist, Priscilla Cohan. Priscilla, along with Cathy Rivers spearheaded the Lyons Community Clarifier Mosaic Project from its inception in 2004 through its completion with final landscaping and an interpretive sign placed in 2022. Sadly, Priscilla passed away on October 16, 2023.

Priscilla was kind, gentle, artistic and walked softly with quiet confidence. She had a robust curiosity and was creatively resourceful with this community project. In typical Priscilla style, she was not boastful, nor did she seek the limelight. Instead, she gathered and supported over 200

volunteers of all ages, from elementary school to seniors in the community to place more than 60,000 different shapes and sizes of mosaic tiles onto the clarifier. Priscilla's tireless commitment endured for over 11 years during the project and continued for 7 more years as she championed landscape improvements and signage to recognize all the volunteer hours and the magnitude of community effort and engagement.

In November 2022, Priscilla applied to an open position with the Town of Lyons, as our Arts and Cultural Services Coordinator. It was a perfect fit for this nearly 30-year resident to share in the arts, history and culture of her small, resilient and creative community. On behalf of the LAHC, we recognize Priscilla Cohan and her amazing gift of the Clarifier Community Mosaic for the community of Lyons.

Members:

Claudia Paterno – Chairperson
Anita Miller
Lauren Click
Gil Sparks
John King
Kristin Barnes
Jacob Leeuwenburgh
Kim Mitchell, Staff Liaison
Mayor Hollie Rogin, Board Liaison

BACK

Lyons Lions Club

For the 77th straight year, the Lyons Lions Club - the oldest surviving community service organization in Lyons - organized and participated in a wide range of events and projects to benefit the Lyons community. Listed below are the 2023 events. More events and projects are planned for 2024.

Ongoing local Lions Club activities have been the following:

1. Sponsoring a charitable golf tournament each August - the club's sole fundraising activity of the year, which provides scholarships for Lyons Senior High graduates.
2. Collecting used eyeglasses for repurposing to help those who cannot afford their own glasses.
3. Providing monetary support for local residents who need help paying for eyeglasses.
4. Contributing to the Lions Club International's longstanding eye bank and seeing eye dog efforts. (Vision care has long been a Lions Club focus.)
5. Sponsoring the local Leos Club youth service organization to maintain Lyons' traditions of community service.
6. Highway 7 roadside clean-up efforts twice a year, in conjunction with the Leos.
7. Helping local schools, including water safety courses at the elementary school level and sponsoring athletic teams at Lyons High School.
8. Supporting holiday food distribution drives.
9. Providing occasional financial help or memorial donations when special circumstances of need are brought to the Club's attention.

The Club would like to give special thanks to the sponsors who make its annual charity golf tournament such a success: Event sponsor Cemex, Ace sponsors: Lumber Liquors; Eagle sponsors: Laura Levy/Coldwell Banker, BMO Bank, and Forked Pine Consulting; Birdie sponsors Bud Depot, Pine View Properties and Hurdles Jewelry; and Leos putting contest sponsor Atlas Flooring.

The Lyons Lions have also participated for years in tree planting projects at several area locations. In April 2024, the Club (along with other volunteers from the community) will be involved in planting trees at the Lyons Cemetery to replace trees lost to drought and disease over the years.

The Lions Club meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, September through May, at local restaurants. It includes both male and female members and both visitors and new members are welcome.

Club officers for 2023 were president Jerry Tabor, vice president Randy Pollard, secretary Scott Leiding and treasurer Lon Clark. Club member Phil Aumiller chaired the annual golf tournament committee.

The local Lions Club is affiliated with Lions International, an organization whose mission is to "empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace

and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.” There are more than 1.4 million Lions Club members worldwide.

Lyons Leos Youth Service Club

Begin after the 2013 flood and continuing to thrive, the Lyons Leos Club is a youth community service club sponsored by the Lyons Lions Club and Lions International.

The local Leos Club has about 31 members and participated in the following community service projects, among others, in 2023:

1. Assisted with Lyons Elementary School bingo night.
2. Assisted with the Lyons Community Foundation/LEAF Hootenanny event.
3. Participated with the Lions Club in Highway 7 cleanup efforts.
4. Did maintenance work on local trails.
5. Ran the putting contest at the Lions Club’s annual charity golf tournament.
6. Helped set up and take down the Lyons Artisan Market.

The Leos club president for 2023-24 is Sage Wynja. Community organizations who may need assistance from the enthusiastic, active Leos group can contact the Leos through adult sponsor Abby Wynja or through any Lions Club officer or member.

BACK

LEAF, Lyons Emergency & Assistance Fund



1 LYONS COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

- 242 unduplicated people served
- 1772 food pantry visits (6% increase over '22)
- 58,814 pounds of food distributed

good food & healthy community every week



2 LYONS MEAL ON WHEELS



- 21 unique clients
- 2003 meals delivered
- 18 dedicated drivers

hot meals & warm hellos



3 BASIC NEEDS & RESOURCE MATCHING

- 117 people served
- \$10,495 in Basic Needs grants provided
- Increased case management

a stabilizing support in our community



4 MENTAL WELLNESS & ADDICTION RECOVERY



- 144 individuals served (47% increase over '22)
- 349 individual therapy sessions
- 58 group therapy sessions (207% increase over '22)
- 222 hours crisis intervention (73% increase over '22)
- 360 hours work in the community
- 202 hours case management, assessments, referrals
- Introduced youth services & expanded addiction work

mental health services for people who can't access or afford care elsewhere



5 LYONS VOLUNTEERS

- 14 projects
- 43 "Weed Posse" deployments

making Lyons more safe & beautiful



**LEAF OFFERS THE HUMAN SERVICES & BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH SAFETY NET FOR PEOPLE IN NEED
IN THE GREATER LYONS AREA**

www.leaflyons.org



The 2023 Results Are In: LEAF Grows Healthy Community

In our small community, 280 people volunteered with LEAF for a total of 6027.5 hours last year. These are all-time high levels of participation! Co-powered by 301 donors and partners, our teams delivered so much good. In fact, our people directly served 29.7% of our local population through LEAF's five human services and behavioral health programs.

And coming in 2024: Our own property, a community hub for Lyons! Let's make sure everyone can thrive in Lyons, with plenty of caring, support, healing, opportunities, and community-building. Together, we'll do all of this and more.

Thank you for Growing Healthy Community with LEAF. You matter so much!

With the highest regard,
Lory Barton
Executive Director

2024 Board of Directors

Regan Bullers, Chair	Dan Farrell, Vice Chair
Karen Schwenn, Treasurer	Sandy Banta, Secretary
Debbie Brannan	Ty Hammes
David Hamrick	Kim Hinzy
Skye McDonald	Robyn Sloan
Genevieve Thomas	Doug Zimmerman
Kelly Zimmerman	

Volunteer & Staff Leadership

Cindy Grundmeier, Monique Sawyer-Lang, Nancy Reckling & Debbie Tabor, Lyons Community Food Pantry
Pam Browning, Lyons Meals on Wheels
Cherie Maureaux, LPC, Mental Wellness & Addiction Recovery Program Director
Megan Kram, LCSW, LAC, Mental Health Therapist
Mark Browning, Jbn Corson-Rikert, Barney Dreistadt, Lyons Volunteers
Karen Kay Thompson, Development & Program Associate
Theresa Brighton, Operations & Outreach Manager



BACK

Lyons Community Foundation



Lyons Community Foundation

Serving the Greater Lyons Area

A FUND OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
BOULDER COUNTY

We exist to improve the quality of life, build a culture of giving, and create positive change in the greater Lyons area.

LCF was established in 2007 when several area residents saw the need for a locally based philanthropy and began the hard work of setting up the Lyons Community Foundation. John Burke, Gary LaFever, Rick England among others were key in laying this groundwork. Connie Eyster and Christy Crosser were the first Advisory Board co-chairs. LCF was established under the umbrella of the Community Foundation of Boulder County and remains one of their funds.

The reasons for having a local-based nonprofit included the ability to address the unique needs of a small and diverse community. There are projects that otherwise could not occur given the budget and constraints of a small town. Also, it gives local businesses and individuals a go-to centralized resource to help and enhance their community.

LCF serves as a resource for unplanned and emergency community needs. For example, in 2023, LCF contributed \$5,000 to LEAF's Main Street fire recovery efforts.

LCF also provided some seed funding in 2022 toward the formation of the Lyons Creative District.

LCF's Response to 2013 Flood: "Rebuild Lyons" campaign

In no time was the need for a local foundation more critical than during the flood. Because LCF existed, the "Rebuild Lyons One life at Time" grant program was able to spring into action, awarding over \$1 million to local residents and businesses when they needed it most. Funds were given out within three months of the flood to address critical needs.

LCF's Response to COVID-19: Lyons Share Fund

In the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis, the Lyons Community Foundation launched "The Lyons Share - a small business economic relief fund" in partnership with the St. Vrain Market. The fund, seeded with proceeds from the market and matched by LCF, was designed to help local businesses survive the impact of COVID-19's forced business closures. With the added donations from the Town of Lyons and area residents, the Lyons Share Fund provided \$43,000 to local businesses in 2020.

Community Support Grants in 2023

As a community foundation, LCF's main purpose is to raise money to support a diverse range of projects and populations in order to improve the quality of life, build a culture of giving and encourage positive change in the greater Lyons area. By offering a centralized source for fundraising, nonprofits can focus on their projects. Thanks to LCF's Community Support Grants, local non-profits received \$50,000 in community support grants to put towards 24 separate projects which focus on four key areas: Human Services, Community Connectivity, Local Ecology and Youth Investment

Human Services:

Town of Lyons

Lyons Senior Programs - \$1,200

Lyons Emergency & Assistance Fund (LEAF)

Lyons Community Food Pantry - \$5,000

Lyons Meals on Wheels - \$5,000

Basic Needs and Resource Matching - \$3,750

Mental Wellness & Addiction Recovery - \$2,500

Lyons Volunteers - \$1,000

Lyons Fire Fund

DEA-compliant drug safes to support Paramedic Advanced Life Support - \$3,000

Community Connectivity:

Town of Lyons

Sandstone Summer Concert Series - \$4,000

Winter Wonderland Concert Series - \$1,800

Parade of Lights - \$2,227

Lyons Arts & Humanities Commission

Creative Outlets - \$1,250

heARTS of Lyons - \$2,000

Lyons Historical Society dba Lyons Redstone Museum

Exhibit enhancement and operational expenses- \$2800

Lyons Community Theater - \$2500

Local Ecology:

Town of Lyons Ecology Advisory Board

Astronomy and Nocturnal Birds Experience for Lyons Students - \$500

Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Rehabilitating orphaned, injured, and sick wildlife- \$2,000

Simply Bee Conservation

Lyons Community Pollinator Pathways Project - \$1,000

Lyons Community Farm Project - \$2,000

Youth Investment:

Lyons Elementary School

Robotics - \$1,177

Garden - \$546

Lyons Backer Football Club, LTD. - \$1,000

St. Vrain Valley Schools Education Foundation

Teacher Innovation Grants - \$2,000

Lyons Middle/Senior High School

Computer Replacement Project - \$750

Lions' Booster Club After-Prom Event - \$1,000

In all, \$21,450 was awarded in the category of Human Services, \$16,577 in the category of Community Connectivity, \$5,500 in the category of Local Ecology, and \$6,473 in the category of Youth Investment.

College Scholarships in 2023

Thanks to LCF's donors, seven local graduating high school seniors received scholarships of \$5,000 each to attend a post-secondary institution. The \$35,000 given out this year was the most given in a single year since LCF was founded. In all, LCF has given out \$107,000 in scholarships since 2009.

In 2023, two new scholarships were established, and will be awarded to students starting in 2024:

1. The Zoe Chase Memorial Scholarship. This \$2,000-\$2,500 scholarship honors the memory of lifelong Lyons resident Zoe Claire Chase. The recipient of this scholarship must be a graduating senior from Lyons Senior High School, with an interest in helping people and a passion for education.
2. LCF's Community in Harmony Scholarship, sponsored by Planet Bluegrass. This \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded to a local student (homeschool students are welcome to apply) planning to attend either a 4-year-college or a trade school.

LCF's Plans for 2024

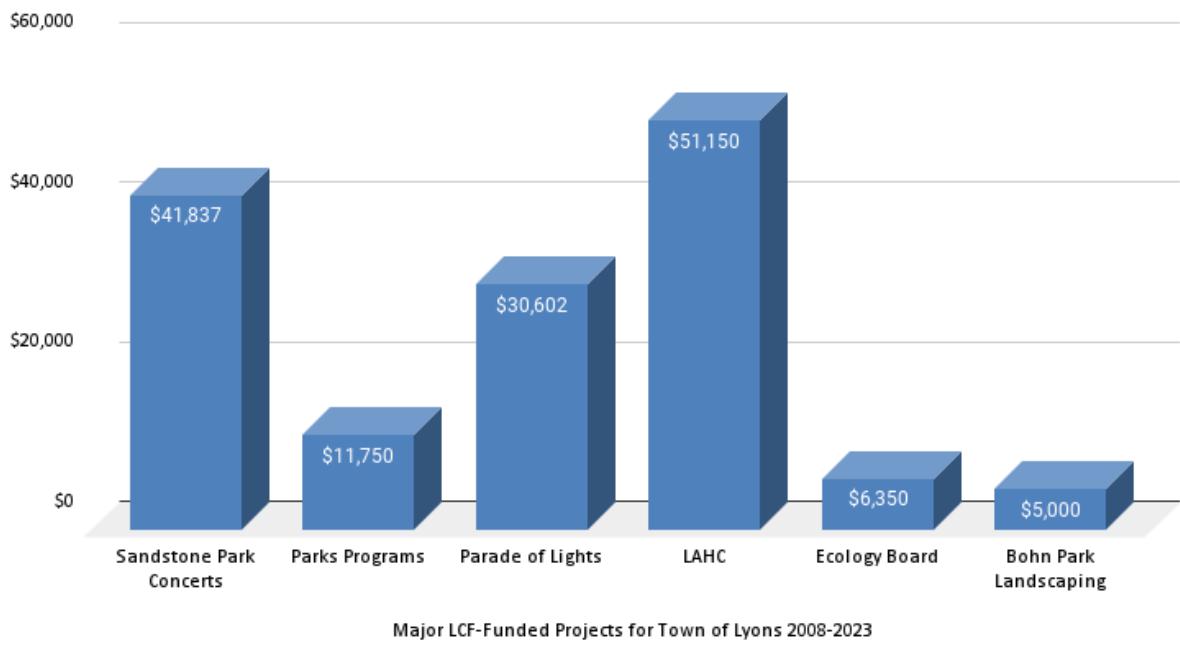
Thanks to the community's ongoing support, and the generous donors who took part in our matching grant campaign, the Lyons Community Foundation had a very successful 2023.

In 2024, the LCF Advisory Board plans to continue to grow our fundraising so that we can put ever more support back into the community through our grants and scholarships. We will once again partner with LEAF to bring our family-friendly Hootenanny to River Bend on Sunday, August 25th. Also, LCF will continue to partner with the Town of Lyons by participating in the Winter Wonderland Concert Series, the Sandstone Concert Series, and the Parade of Lights.

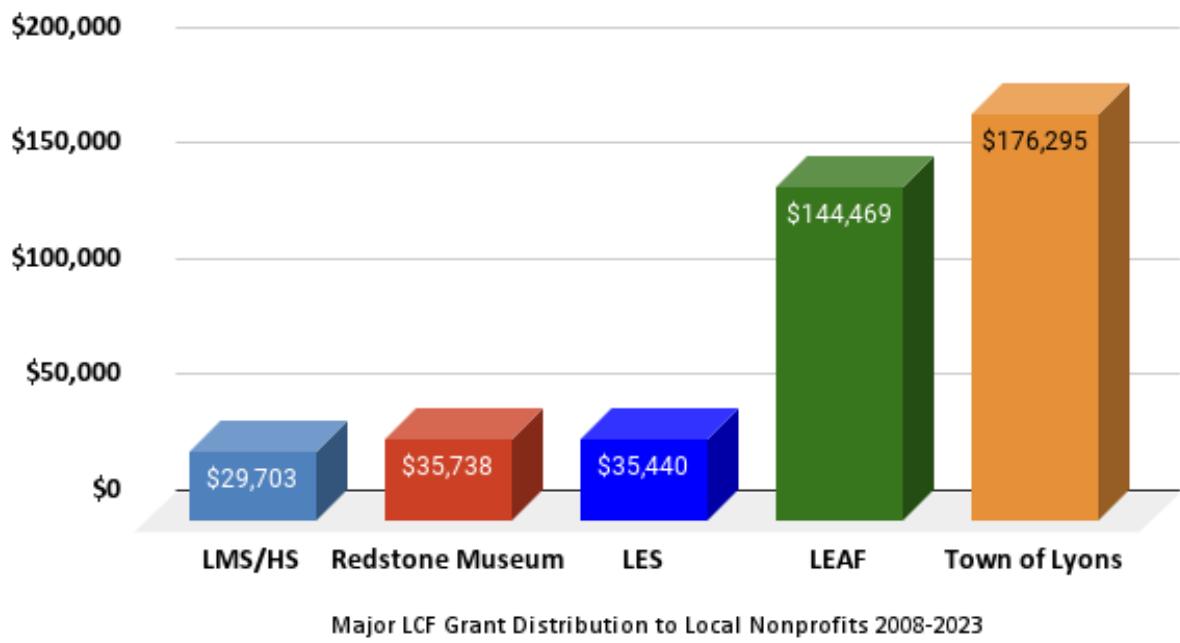
Community members are encouraged to get involved with the Lyons Community Foundation. Opportunities include volunteering, becoming a member of the Advisory Board, and providing financial support. At LCF, we call our monthly donors Community Builders, because building community is at the very heart of our mission. Information about volunteering and donating can be found at <http://www.lyonscf.org>.

The charts that follow here show the 2023 distribution of LCF funds and the historical distribution of funds over the period 2008-2023.

Major LCF-Funded Projects for Town of Lyons 2008-2023



Major LCF Grant Distribution to Local Nonprofits 2008-2023



[BACK](#)