



Parks & Open Space

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Boulder County's Management of Flood-Buyout Properties

Dear Interested Party:

Boulder County acquired properties that were heavily damaged during the September 2013 Flood from landowners who wanted to sell their damaged property. The funding came from two sources: Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR). The acquisition process began in 2015 and continued through 2017. Approximately 47 landowners participated in the program. As required by the buyout funding grant programs, all of the existing structures were demolished on the buyout properties to return the land to its natural state. In September of 2018, the Boulder County Commissioners assigned management responsibility for the properties to either the county's Transportation Department for road rights-of-way or to the Parks & Open Space Department for open space.

Short-Term

Since 11 buyout properties are within the Lyons planning area, the county and the Town of Lyons are in discussions on which properties for which the town would like to take ownership and responsibility. Lyons is still in its planning stages and has not yet requested any of the 11 properties, and so there is no fixed timeline for any transfers to occur. Parks & Open Space is stewarding the open space properties to conserve and protect natural resources during the process of determining long term management.

Please contact one of these agencies with management questions:

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Trespassing, burglary, loitering, camping, request for increased patrols, etc.	Boulder County Sheriff's Department Emergencies: 911 Non-emergencies: 303-441-4444
Concerns about current management of buyout properties	Boulder County Parks & Open Space Leah Rothbaum, 303-678-6265
Future management of buyout properties (and get on a list for notices of public meetings regarding future management)	Boulder County Parks & Open Space Jeff Moline, 303-678-6270

Long-Term Management

The Parks & Open Space Department will decide which properties may be best managed by the county, a neighbor, or a homeowner's association. Federal regulations require these properties to remain undeveloped in the future. Those purchased with CDBG-DR funds can be sold to private parties subject to deed restrictions after five years. Properties acquired with HMGP funds cannot be sold to private parties, but can be leased for purposes compatible with open space uses.