

FLOOD RECOVERY RESOURCE GUIDE

Summer 2016



Successes in Flood Recovery Efforts

Home Access Program - Rebuilding Bridges after the 2013 Flood

Two Boulder County residents living on James Canyon Drive awoke one morning to learn that their vehicle bridge serving their home had been completely destroyed by flooding. After being rescued by helicopter from their property, the couple returned weeks later to learn that there was no way to reach their home - which itself had been undamaged by the Flood.

The couple built a temporary timber footbridge so that they could live at their property throughout the recovery process, but the long walk from the road to their house made everyday activities very difficult. They desperately wanted to restore their property—and their way of life—to its pre-flood condition as much as possible.

In 2015 the couple received a Home Access grant to cover all engineering, modeling, design, and construction, and the couple finally cut the ribbon on their new bridge in March 2016. These folks were happy to be able to drive to their property for the first time in more than two years.

Since the program launched in 2014, Home Access has funded \$3.5M in awards to households across Boulder County (as of April 2016), with more awards and projects beginning in the coming months. To date, 33 households have received awards for bridge, road, and driveway repairs. The first three bridges completed construction in the early spring of 2016, while 18 additional projects are currently in the design or bidding **Continued on page 2**



A photo of the destroyed bridge in the first winter after the 2013 Flood.



A photo from the ribbon cutting celebration more than 2 years after the bridge was destroyed.



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phase. Staff anticipate project design and construction for future projects will continue through the winter of 2017-2018.

THE APPLICATION PERIOD FOR CDBG-DR FUNDS HAS ENDED.

Private Access Compliance

More than 250 properties were identified as having flood-affected accesses following the 2013 Flood. While nearly one-half (123) of those properties now have accesses that have been restored and are in compliance with county regulations, there are still many bridges, culverts, and driveways that are in need of repair or rebuilding. Boulder County continues the flood recovery process which includes ensuring residents have safe access to their homes that do not increase flood risk to their properties or to neighboring properties. Soon after the flood, Flood Recovery Access Permits were issued to provide temporary access to properties. Now that most challenges to achieving permanent access have been resolved, it is possible to move toward permanent solutions. The Flood Rebuilding and Permit Information Center (FRPIC) staff is available to assist property owners in identifying appropriate resources and solutions, and are available to help navigate the permitting process. The county is committed to ensuring that permanent accesses are installed which will minimize flood-risk in the future. Managing recovery efforts in a way that minimizes flood risk will result in more resilient communities that are better equipped for the next flood that occurs.

Private access compliance is the process by which properties with repaired or restored flood-damaged access are reviewed to determine if all relevant permits have been obtained. Property owners who have not obtained the necessary permits will be required to do so. If you have not obtained the necessary permits for your access (or are unsure if you have), please contact the Flood Rebuilding and Permit Information Center at 303-441-1705.

Flood Rebuilding & Permit Information Center

FRPIC is housed within the Flood Recovery Center

If you haven't yet visited the FRPIC, please come in! The Flood Rebuilding & Permit Information Center is staffed by experts in floodplain regulations, transportation, on-site wastewater (septic) systems, planning and building codes.

Where: Rembrandt Yard, at 1301 Spruce Street in Boulder (across from the Boulderado Hotel)

What: Resources for unincorporated Boulder County residents impacted by the 2013 Flood

Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday

Contact: floodrecovery@bouldercounty.org or 303-441-1705

Some questions that may be addressed at the FRPIC include:

- What are the floodplain/floodway regulations and how do they affect my property?
- Do I need to have a structural engineer to inspect the safety of my home?
- My private residential bridge/culvert/driveway was destroyed by the flood. How do I obtain a permanent permit for repairs?
- My property was affected by the flood but I don't know what impact it had to my septic system. How do I know if the system is still working properly?
- What steps are necessary to repair/rebuild my home?

Permits will be needed for the following:

- Minor flood repairs and restoration.
- Repairing or rebuilding private roads, driveways, culverts and bridges.
- Work in the floodplain.
- Residents who did work before or after the flood event.
- To repair or rebuild severely damaged or destroyed structures.

Creek Recovery & Restoration

Boulder County's Creek Recovery and Restoration (CRR) Program is continuing the long-term watershed recovery effort by seeking funding for flood risk reduction and stream restoration projects, overseeing project implementation, and continuing to partner and coordinate with watershed coalitions and residents in the community. Repairing streams is a critical component for Boulder County's flood recovery efforts. Stream restoration projects will improve the flow capacity and stability of the watershed, which will help protect property and infrastructure during future flood events. In addition, the restoration projects will repair riparian habitat.

Stream Restoration Design

Boulder County has received grant funds to complete stream restoration designs on certain Parks and Open Space lands and creeks that are close to planned reconstruction of flood-damaged county roads and bridges. We have completed, or are in the process of completing, stream restoration designs for areas adjacent to planned road reconstruction including Fourmile Canyon Creek, Fourmile Creek, Gold Run, James Creek and Little James Creek. In addition, stream restoration designs are in progress for the South St. Vrain along the Hall Ranch/Hall Meadows area and the breaches that occurred on the St. Vrain, known as Breaches 1-9. These design projects are primarily on Boulder County Parks and Open Space property in addition to a small number of private lands that are located adjacent to open space.

Project Implementation

Projects headed by the Transportation Department will be implemented in conjunction with post-flood road repairs. Construction on many projects is expected to begin in spring 2017.

Left Hand Creek

As Central Federal Lands (CFL) continues road reconstruction of Lefthand Canyon Drive, adjacent areas of Left Hand Creek will be restored as well. CFL is working with stakeholders in the watershed to develop the design plans and move into restoration activities. After road reconstruction is complete, Boulder County will complete a revegetation project.

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

The National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has allocated \$27.7 million for watershed restoration projects in Boulder County through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP). All EWP projects must:

- Reduce threats to lives and property
- Be economically, environmentally, and socially defensible
- Be designed and implemented according to sound technical standards
- Conserve natural resources

Boulder County plans to act as the local sponsor for 11 EWP projects listed in the table. Visit www.ColoradoEWP.com for more details.

Watershed Coalitions

The coalitions are focused on capacity building, project identification and implementation, fundraising, and public engagement. Boulder County continues to participate in the coalitions, coordinate projects with coalition member organizations, and collaborate on funding strategies. Residents are encouraged to get involved in these organizations:

- Little Thompson River- Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition - www.ltwr.org
- St. Vrain Creek- St. Vrain Creek Coalition - www.stvraincreekcoalition.org
- Left Hand Creek- Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group - www.lwog.org
- Fourmile Creek- Fourmile Creek Watershed Coalition - www.fourmilewatershed.org/
- Coal Creek- Coal Creek Canyon Watershed Partnership - www.cccwp.org

For more information, please visit www.BoulderCountyCreekPlan.org or contact Stacey Proctor at sproctor@bouldercounty.org or 303-441-1107.

Watershed	Project
Fourmile Creek	Poorman
Fourmile Creek	Gold Run
Fourmile Canyon Creek	Wagon Wheel Gap Road
Left Hand Creek	James Creek
Left Hand Creek	Beilins Hock
St. Vrain Creek	Btw Lyons & Longmont
St. Vrain Creek	S. St. Vrain 1 (Hall)
St. Vrain Creek	S. St. Vrain 2 (Triangle)

Floodplain Remapping

In response to the 2013 Flood, the State of Colorado initiated the Colorado Hazard Mapping Program (CHAMP) to produce updated regulatory floodplain maps. The remapping will include changes caused by the flood as well as the latest available topographic, hydrologic, and hydraulic information. The new floodplain maps will more accurately predict flood risk for specific properties than current maps can predict, and will benefit both Boulder County and the county's landowners.

Boulder County is supporting this initiative and intends to use the new maps for regulatory purposes shortly after their release. The draft maps will be released in two phases:

Phase 1:

Scheduled for release in fall 2016, covers the North St. Vrain River, Middle St. Vrain River, South St. Vrain River, Main St. Vrain River, Coal Creek, Boulder Creek, South Boulder Creek, Twomile Canyon Creek, Dry Creek, New Dry Creek Ditch and the Little Thompson River.

Phase 2:

Scheduled for release in fall 2017, covers Fourmile Creek, Fourmile Canyon Creek, Gold Run, Left Hand Creek, James Creek, and Geer Creek.

The new floodplain maps will more accurately predict the possible 1% annual large flood (the so called "100-year" event) and may result in different regulatory and insurance requirements for some property owners. Visit the website www.BoCoFloodplainRemapping.com and sign up for regular newsletters for updated information.

Community meetings will be scheduled to view and comment on the maps once they are released. For more information, contact floodplainregmapscomment@bouldercounty.org or 303-441-4843.

North St. Vrain Creek Restoration Project

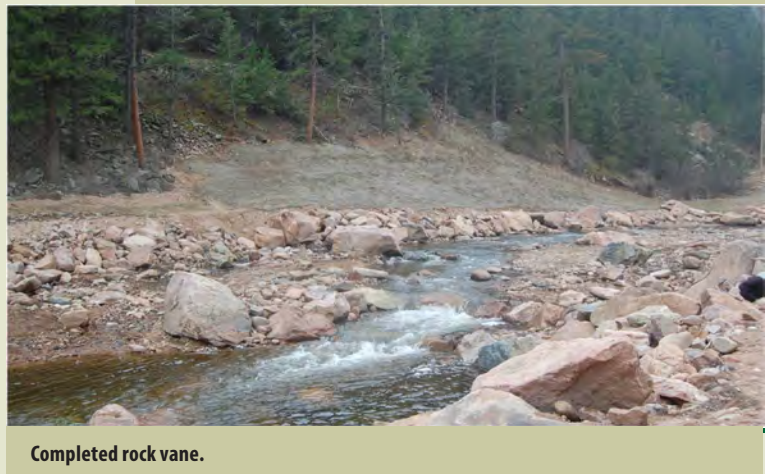
In partnership with the City of Longmont, Boulder County has restored a 1,800 foot section of North St. Vrain Creek below the Button Rock Dam. The restoration project focused on stabilizing the creek and improving the aquatic environment by creating a low flow channel and wetland bench. In addition, there is a focus on revegetating the adjacent stream banks. The project was completed in spring 2016.



Excavating a low flow channel on the North St. Vrain Creek.



Excavator installing rock vane.



Completed rock vane.

Financial Assistance for Individuals



As part of the response to the devastating 2013 Flood, Boulder County was awarded Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recover (CDBG-DR) funds from the federal government. The funding was supplied to help eligible households who needed financial assistance with:

- Housing rehabilitation: repair of flood damages and code deficiencies to interior and exterior
- Private access: roads, bridges and culverts, including those shared by several homes
- Well repair or replacement
- Temporary rental assistance
- Down payment assistance
- Clearance and demolition: removal of unsound or abandoned structures such as houses, modular homes, sheds, barns, garages, slabs or foundations and septic systems; and
- Reimbursement for flood-related repairs that occurred within one year of the flood.

In addition, the State of Colorado awarded funding to assist homeowners with repair and replacement of onsite wastewater systems (septic tanks and leach fields), including connection to municipal utilities.

THE APPLICATION PERIOD FOR CDBG-DR FUNDS HAS ENDED.

Consumer Protection



The District Attorney's Consumer Protection Division is committed to making every effort to ensure that survivors of the 2013 Flood are not victimized by unscrupulous contractors trying to take advantage of your vulnerable situation. The DA's staff is available to help research the reputation of any prospective contractor. Information is available online at www.bouldercounty.org/da, or 303-441-3700.

Sandbag Pickup

Empty sandbags will be available for pickup by individuals at Boulder County Road Maintenance, 5201 Saint Vrain Road (Bldg 5) in Longmont during working hours (7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday thru Thursday) and will be limited to 300 bags for each address. Residents will need to verify their address with a driver's license when they pick them up.

Filled sandbags will be available at anytime and will be located at the west entrance outside the fenced area and will be signed "Filled Sandbags."

Please note that supplies are limited and availability may vary. Residents may call 303-441-3962 for quantity estimates.

CDBG-DR by the Numbers

Assistance for flood-affected residents

The federal government Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded three rounds of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to the State of Colorado. The State made the first round of funds available for local governments in September 2014. This first round was only available for certain recovery programs. A second round of CDBG-DR funds was approved in the summer of 2015 with the third round available this year.

Below is just some of the data reflecting the assistance given to flood survivors as of summer 2016.



528

Total applications submitted for all programs



52

Completed

46

Active

Home Rehab Projects



20

Completed

26

Active

Temporary Rental Assistance



4.6M

Home Rehab

450K

Temporary Rental Assistance

Total Funds Awarded

Home Buyout Program

Since the program launched in 2014, the Buyout program has spent approximately \$7M purchasing flood-impacted properties in Boulder County (as of April 2016), with more closings scheduled in the coming months. The first 19 properties completed the buyout process between fall 2015 and spring of 2016, while 30 additional projects are currently in the application or assessment phase. Staff anticipates application and finalization for future acquisitions will continue through the summer of 2016.

THE APPLICATION PERIOD FOR FUNDS HAS ENDED.

Recovery on Parks & Open Space property

Boulder County-owned Parks and Open Space (POS) properties suffered extensive creek-related damages. POS Creek teams have been working on creek recovery in and around Boulder County-owned properties. Preliminary design for two major creek restoration projects is funded by the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds for 2016:

- Restoration of the South St. Vrain Creek upstream alliance (includes Hall Meadows at Hall Ranch)
- Creek restoration and breach repair on open space lands along St. Vrain Creek between Hwy. 36 and Hygiene Rd.

If you have questions about Boulder County's POS Creek Recovery efforts, contact Jeff Moline, Resource Planning Manager, at jmoline@bouldercounty.org, or call 303-678-6270.



Breaches between the Wally Toeys and Cottonwood March ponds at Walden Ponds Open Space have been repaired and the area is reopened to the public.

Transportation Flood Recovery Updates

Public Roads & Bridges

From 2013 to 2015, the Transportation Department completed more than \$50 million of repair and replacement work on area roads, bridges, trails, and culverts. For 2016 through 2018, the department is anticipating spending more than \$90 million to complete what's remaining in the queue for planned flood recovery operations. The department's spending will double in anticipation of completing some of the largest projects in the county's history, including:

- Upper and Lower Fourmile Canyon Drive
- Gold Run
- Logan Mill Bridge
- James Canyon Drive
- Old St. Vrain Road over South St. Vrain River
- Wagonwheel Gap Road

These are not all of the remaining projects, as there are roughly 20 smaller projects either in-the-works or just finishing up the design phase and moving towards construction.

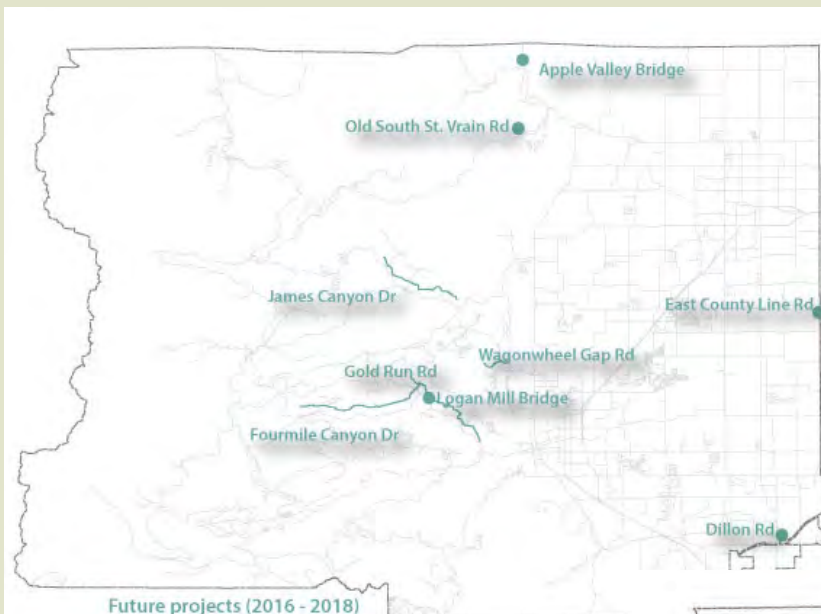
Ongoing Maintenance of Temporary Roads & Structures

Boulder County's Transportation Maintenance Division continues to take care of all roads, bridges and culverts that are still classified as "temporary" and are awaiting permanent flood recovery-related repairs. Maintenance supervisors are routinely inspecting all temporary infrastructure to ensure that repairs are scheduled and completed in a timely manner. Maintenance crews will work diligently to ensure that roads are safely navigable by both motor vehicles and cyclists. Please contact the Maintenance Division at 303-441-3962 or use the online "Road Service Request" form at www.BoulderCounty.org/roads to let us know about problem areas and unsafe travel conditions on county roads.

Comments, Questions & Schedules

Several project-specific webpages have been created to provide design and construction information on future projects. Visit www.BoulderCounty.org/roads to view the site information. The sites are home to all project drawings, both preliminary and final, and are a good place to find information on construction schedules and impacts after work begins. Online comment forms and other methods for contacting Boulder County Transportation are also available.

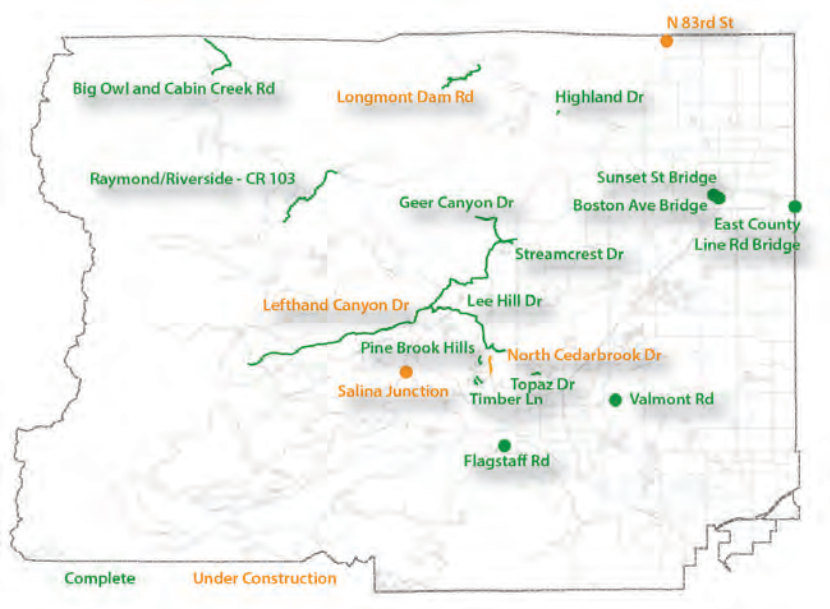
Transportation Flood Recovery Cont.



Work on Dillon Road is ongoing. The project is included in the work plan outlined in the map to the left.



Work on Salina Junction has been in full swing. The project is still in the construction phase, as can be seen in the map to the right.



Geer Canyon Drive now has a completed road and a new completed set of culverts as of this spring.



All-Hazards Preparedness

Know the Risks:

Severe thunderstorms causing intense rainfall can quickly develop, which may create flash floods. Monsoons in the summer will bring steady and consistent rains that may have periods of high intensity. This can pose a higher risk of flash flooding when combined with ground saturation. The risk of wildfire will increase as monsoon season passes, green grasses dry out, humidity drops and combine with high temperatures and steady winds. **Boulder County has had a major wildfire in every month of the year except December.** Remain vigilant and pay attention to changing weather conditions.

Stay Informed:

Sign up to receive free emergency alerts on home, work, and cell phones, and text messages/email. Visit www.boco911alert.com to register your phone number(s) and/or email address(es).

Preparing Makes Sense:

Take the time now to plan for how you will take care of yourself and your family during an emergency. You may need to take action before an “official” warning is issued. Planning ahead can help you:

- Take steps to minimize the effects of

a disaster

- Reduce fear and anxiety by knowing what to do
- Be self-sufficient for three to five days, if first responders can't reach you immediately

Family Emergency Plan:

Planning before a disaster can help your family evacuate faster, as well as help family members who may be separated meet at the same location.

- Have an out-of-state contact for everyone to call and check in. Local phone connections can be unreliable in emergencies.
- Have at least one, preferably two, safe (higher ground) meeting locations for family members.
- Practice moving to your safe locations, choose different routes to get there.
- Make sure family members (and neighbors) know your plans for communication, and the safe meeting location.

A complete guide on Post-Flood Community Preparedness, as well as an updated All-Hazards Preparedness Guide, can be found online, at www.BoulderOEM.com.



Contacts

Flood Recovery Manager

Garry Sanfaçon, 720-564-2642

gsanfacon@bouldercounty.org

Creek Recovery & Restoration

Stacey Proctor, 303-441-1107

ccpteammailbox@bouldercounty.org

Home Access

Kate Williams, 720-564-2237

kwilliams@bouldercounty.org

Emergency Preparedness

Boulder Office of Emergency Management

303-441-3390 or www.BoulderOEM.com

Flood Rebuilding & Permit Information Center

303-441-1705 or floodrecovery@bouldercounty.org

Home Buyout Program

Greg Jackson, 303-441-4837

gjackson@bouldercounty.org

CDBG-DR Support

Jaimie Portelle, 720-564-2294

jportelle@bouldercounty.org

Floodplain Remapping

303-441-4843

floodplainregsmcomment@bouldercounty.org

www.BoCoFloodplainRemapping.org

Flood Insurance, www.floodsmart.gov

Property Assessment & Tax Questions

For assessment questions, 303-441-3530

For tax questions, 303-441-3520

assessor@bouldercounty.org

Public Health

For mold, septic or well water information, 303-441-1564

Road Maintenance/Construction

Main office, 303-441-3900

Road Maintenance, 303-441-3962

transportation@bouldercounty.org

Resilience

Boulder County is committed to working toward a more resilient community that enhances our ability to manage and adapt to change (both abrupt and gradual) in social, economic, physical, and natural systems.

The county is a founding member of BoCo Strong which is a countywide resilience initiative. BoCo Strong defines resilience as: *The capability to anticipate risk, limit impact, and bounce forward rapidly by adapting and learning in the face of disruptive shocks and stresses.*

Our vision for the community is that by 2025 Boulder County communities will have access to the resources and connections needed to allow all residents to adapt and thrive in the face of stressors.

For more information about BoCo Strong, please visit www.BoCoStrong.org.

Boulder County Flood Recovery Center

Address: Rembrandt Yard, 1301 Spruce St., Boulder CO 80302

Phone: 303-441-1609 | Email: karrington@bouldercounty.org

Visit www.BoulderCountyFlood.org for more information