



Comprehensive Creek Planning Initiative

February 26, 2015

Watershed Recovery



Emergency
Response



Immediate
Threat
Assessment and
Mitigation



Long-Term
Vision

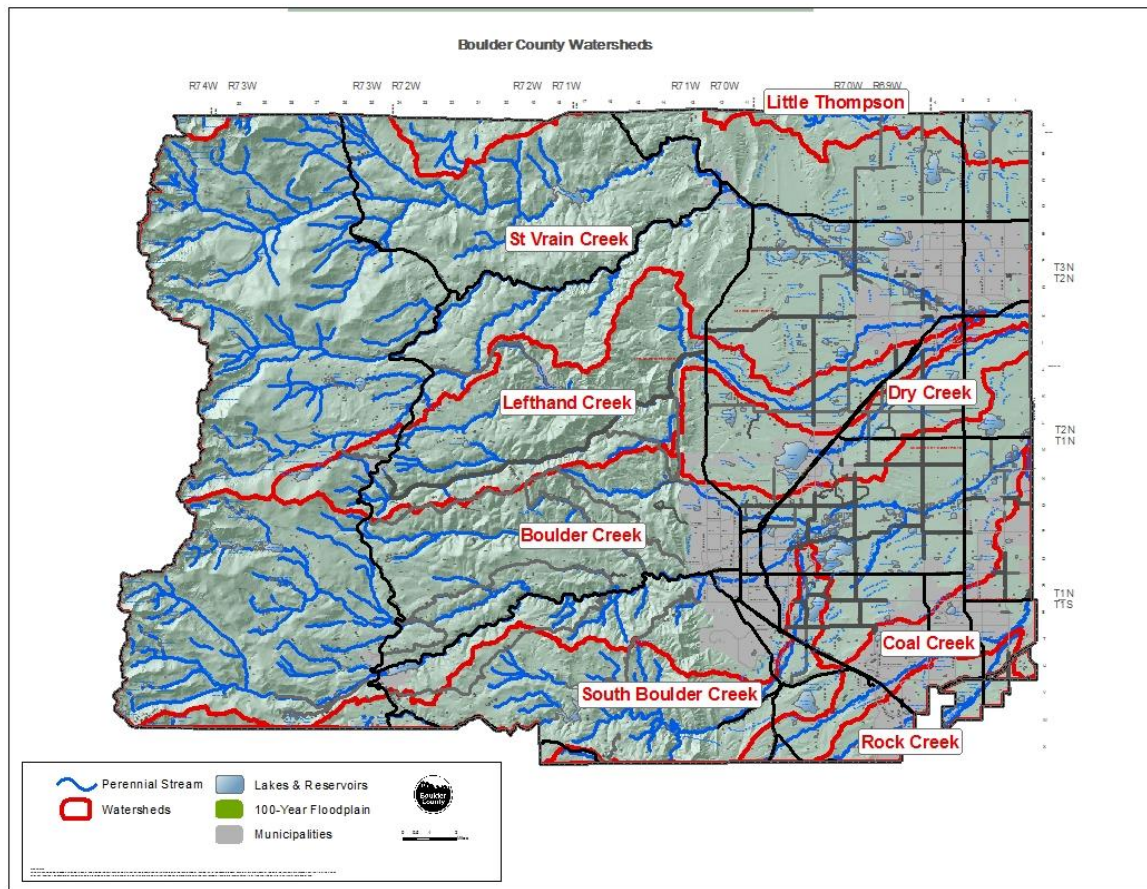
Watershed
Master Plans



Future Creek
Projects

Funding and
Implementation

Boulder County Watersheds



Comprehensive Creek Planning Initiative

- Initiated to ensure county-wide view of creek recovery and restoration
- Began with community meetings to identify needs
- Moved to high-hazard debris removal and mitigation projects
- Prepared for and transitioned to watershed-level master planning process
- Five master plans complete in December 2014
 - Lower Boulder Creek (UDFCD), Fourmile Canyon Creek in 2015



Long-Term
Vision

Watershed
Master Plans

Watershed Master Plans

- Little Thompson River
- St. Vrain Creek
- Left Hand Creek
- Fourmile Creek
- Upper Coal Creek

Plan Adoption

- Completed plans announced through website, press releases, and direct communications
- Plans presented to County decision-makers
 - Board of County Commissioners, January 12
 - Boulder County Planning Commission, January 20
 - Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC), January 21

Plan Adoption

- Board of County Commissioners, February 26
- Staff Presentation
 - Use of Master Plans
 - POSAC and Planning Commission Feedback
 - Implementation
- Public Hearing
- BOCC decision on County adoption of plans



Long-Term Recovery

Plan Contents

- Ecological, geomorphic, and flood risk evaluations of watershed conditions
 - Project maps and descriptions
 - Conceptual designs
 - Project prioritization
 - Flood hazard studies needs
 - Cost estimates
 - Documentation of coalition and public engagement process
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Long-Term Recovery

Plan Use

- Framework for recovery actions
 - Informed by scientific data
 - Watershed-level analysis
 - Multijurisdictional and community support
- Project Implementation guidance
 - Next steps of further planning, design
 - Jurisdictional approvals necessary



Long-Term
Recovery

Plan Use

- Funding tool
- Communication and organizing tool
- Guide for allocation of county resources (staff direction, work plans, etc.)
- Information for county land use review process



Long-Term Recovery

Post-Master Plan Coalitions

Little Thompson

- Landowner model with external fiscal agent

St. Vrain

- Interim Committee responsible for recruiting Advisory Council, Board consists of Advisory Council members

Left Hand

- Left Hand Watershed Oversight Group (LWOG) to serve as watershed coalition, with board expansion

Fourmile

- Fire District pursuing proposal to house and develop coalition

Upper Coal Creek

- Coal Creek Canyon Watershed Partnership, with The Environmental Group as fiscal agent
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Long-Term Recovery

Project Implementation

- Planning Commission and POSAC feedback
- Themes
 - Cost of watershed recovery
 - Funding availability
 - County approach and resource commitment
 - Project challenges



Long-Term Recovery

Funding

- Cost estimate is \$70-80 million for high priority projects throughout unincorporated Boulder County
- Projects that reduce flood risk to life, property and infrastructure due to post-flood conditions
- Cost estimate for projects located on County POS lands or associated with county transportation infrastructure is approximately \$40 million



Long-Term Recovery

Funding

- CDBG-DR is primary source of funding currently
- January applications submitted by Boulder County, cities and towns, and Coalitions
 - Coalition applications for watershed coordinators
 - Most planning applications (up to 30% project design) from local communities



Long-Term Recovery

Funding

- March applications to be submitted by Boulder County, cities and towns, and Coalitions
 - Funding of \$300,000 per watershed
 - County to have 7-12 applications
 - From DOLA: “...for one or two demonstration projects to allow coalitions to show citizens that work was moving forward.”
- Funding sources expected to expand, diversify over time

Plan Adoption

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners adopt the watershed master plans for the Little Thompson River, St. Vrain Creek, Left Hand Creek, Fourmile Creek, and Upper Coal Creek.

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Julie McKay

Phone: 720-564-2662

Email: jmckay@bouldercounty.org

Website: www.BoulderCountyCreekPlan.org