



Open House for East Boulder Creek Southwest Side Trailhead

East Boulder Creek Site Management Plan for Prairie Run Open Space

January 18, 2024

Open House Objective: Attendees can learn more about alternatives for the location of the southwest trailhead and are encouraged to provide their input through the processes outlined below.

East Boulder Creek (EBC) Site Management Plan Overview

Boulder County Parks & Open Space released a proposed management plan for the 1,377-acre East Boulder Creek site. The plan proposes significant restoration, the preservation of habitat, and 5 miles of trail that connect neighborhoods to the Coal Creek trail and facilitate the connection to the future Boulder to Erie Regional Trail (BERT). Once the plan is adopted at a public meeting, it will guide management actions at the site and open to the public in two phases. See boco.org/eastbouldercreek for more information.

About the Southwest Trailhead

The southwest trailhead will include an initial parking lot for 25 cars, ADA parking, horse trailer parking, a restroom, and a kiosk. If needed, the plan allows for the potential to expand to a 50-car parking lot maximum capacity with an approximate 300 feet x 600 feet footprint. The expected average daily trips are estimated around 164 if constructed to the maximum capacity. The trailhead is unpaved, will include cameras for parking and safety, an automatic gate that closes after park hours, and no lighting.

Upcoming Meetings and Public Comment

Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing

On Thursday, January 25th at 9:30 a.m., the Board of County Commissioners will meet to review the plan, listen to public feedback, and vote on adoption of the plan. The meeting will be in a hybrid format where attendees can join virtually through Zoom or attend in-person. Learn more about this meeting at boco.org/eastbouldercreek

Prior to the BOCC meeting, members of the public are welcome to provide written public comment to be shared with the commissioners at boco.org/EBCMPcomment. Comments are due by noon on Wednesday, January 24th.

Are you a Neighbor to EBC?

Neighbors are invited to provide feedback about the location for the southwest trailhead of the proposed East Boulder Creek Site. Each household within 1,500 feet of the EBC site was mailed a unique code that must be entered below to take the survey. Only one survey can be submitted per household. Staff is available today to help you take the survey.

The deadline to take the survey is Sunday, Jan. 21, at 11:59 p.m.

Southwest Trailhead Location Analysis for East Boulder Creek¹

	Location A: US Highway 287	Location B: 109th Street <i>(Proposed Location in Plan)</i>		Location C: Near Jasper Road and the Wise Homestead Museum	Location D: N 119th Street
Trailhead Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessed from east side of US Hwy 287. • High traffic speeds and volumes on Hwy 287 will require major road construction to accommodate a trailhead. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construction includes widening to construct a north/south deceleration lane. ○ Extensive coordination and permitting will be necessary through CDOT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessed from west side of 109th Street. • Alterations (widening, paving) would not be required. • Jasper Rd. was requested by members of the public as an alternative access route. If selected, utilities will need to be relocated and a ditch crossing must be constructed, increasing permitting/approval time and construction costs. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location C would require an elevated access road (approx. 650 linear feet in length) heading north from Jasper Rd. • This road would need to be designed around the existing oil and gas infrastructure, above the sub-irrigated agricultural field, and require elevation due to the high water table. • Widening the road for a turn lane could be required per Town of Erie Public Works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessed from the west side of 119th Street, roughly 3/4 mile north of Jasper Road. • Widening the road for a turn lane could be required per Town of Erie Public Works
Public Access Road Conditions	<p>Highway 287:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60-mph speed limit • ~27,000 average annual daily trips² (highest traffic volume of roads in this area) • Asphalt road surfacing 	<p><i>Access off 109th St:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30-mph speed limit • ~90-110 average annual daily trips² (lowest traffic volume of roads in the area) • Gravel road 	<p><i>Access off Jasper Rd:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50-mph speed limit • ~1,700 average annual daily trips² • Asphalt road surfacing 	<p>Jasper Road:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35-mph speed limit • Average annual daily trips is unknown • Asphalt road surfacing 	<p>119th Street:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40-mph speed limit • Average annual daily trips is unknown • Asphalt road surfacing
Visitor & Neighborhood Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to Hwy 287 makes ranger patrols quick and easy to fit into their daily schedules. • Unlikely location for unwelcome activity due to visibility from Hwy 287. • Rangers and visitors will have clear views of the trailhead from the road. • High traffic speeds on Hwy 287 could risk visitor safety. • This potential trailhead has not been considered in the US 287 Vision Zero Safety & Mobility Study³ and could create additional safety issues for travels along Hwy 287. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to Hwy 287 makes ranger patrols quick and easy to fit into their daily schedules. • Unlikely location for unwelcome activity due to visibility from Hwy 287. • Rangers and visitors will have clear views of the trailhead from the road. • Low speed limit along 109th St. facilitates safe access to the trail system and is away from major highways and collector streets. • Reduced potential for conflict associated with the active oil and gas wells nearer to US Hwy 287. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trailhead location is set back behind the Wise Homestead Museum and does not allow observation of the trailhead from the roadway. • Rangers and visitors could potentially not have a clear view of trailhead from the road. • Speed limit of 35 mph • Reduced potential for conflict associated with active oil & gas wells on the property (no wells are adjacent) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rangers and visitors will have clear views of the trailhead from the road. • Adjacent homes are very close to the proposed parking area. • Location provides a trailhead far from significant daily travel routes. Patrols of the area maybe reduced/limited by rangers due to location. • Reduced potential for conflict associated with active oil & gas wells on the property (no wells are adjacent)

Southwest Trailhead Location Analysis for East Boulder Creek¹

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Cost, Permitting, & Maintenance⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permitting required with CDOT, FEMA, CPP, and State of CO. This location will necessitate extensive permitting and major road construction, significantly increasing the project costs and extending the project timeline by a minimum of 1-4 years. <p>Approx. Cost: \$1.6M</p> <p>Maintenance: \$\$\$\$</p>	<p><i>Access off 109th St:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permitting required through CPP, PW, and State of CO. Permitting timeframe: 12-18 months <p>Approx. Cost: \$279K</p> <p>Maintenance: \$</p>	<p><i>Access off Jasper Rd:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permitting required through CPP, PW, State of CO, and possibly FEMA. Ditch company review/ approval of ditch crossing Permits/ approvals of utility relocations Permitting timeframe: 2 -3 years <p>Approx. Cost: \$1.35M - \$1.5M (If utilities are relocated)</p> <p>Maintenance: \$\$</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permitting required through CPP, State of CO, and Town of Erie Public Works Permitting timeframe: 12-18 months <p>Approx. Cost: \$767K-857K or \$1.84M-1.94M (increased cost if Town of Erie requires road widening)</p> <p>Maintenance: \$\$</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permitting required through CPP, State of CO, and Town of Erie Public Works Permitting timeframe: 12-18 months <p>Approx. Cost: \$744K-794K or \$1.81M-1.86M (increased cost if Town of Erie requires road widening)</p> <p>Maintenance: \$\$</p>
Trailhead Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitates a future connection to the planned Boulder to Erie Regional Trail (BERT) and future trails designated in the US 287 Vision Zero Safety & Mobility Study³. Transit Connections: Existing bus stop at Jasper and Hwy 287 on south side of the road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitates a future connection to the planned Boulder to Erie Regional Trail (BERT) and future trails designated in the US 287 Vision Zero Safety & Mobility Study³ Transit Connections: Existing bus stop at Jasper and Hwy 287 on south side of the road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitates a future connection to the planned Boulder to Erie Regional Trail (BERT). Transit Connections: Nearest bus stop is approx. 1 mile away at Jasper and Hwy 287. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This location does not facilitate access to the Boulder to Erie Regional Trail (BERT). Transit Connections: Nearest bus stop is approx. 2 miles away at Jasper and Hwy 287. 	

Southwest Trailhead Location Analysis for East Boulder Creek¹

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Floodplain Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of the trailhead would likely impact the 100-year floodplain and result in additional permitting needs. Deceleration lane could affect the floodway, which would require additional permitting and costs (estimated in Cost, Permitting & Maintenance row above) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction would likely impact the 100-year floodplain and result in additional permitting needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not within 100-year and 500-year floodplains. Soil conditions vary widely throughout this site, including some areas of wet conditions (high water table) that will increase construction and maintenance costs. Trailhead would need to be elevated off ground levels to mitigate for high ground water and surrounding flood irrigation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not within 100-year and 500-year floodplains. Located within irrigated agricultural land, requiring elevation of the trailhead and access road.
Wildlife Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located within a raptor nest buffer and could potentially require consultation with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not fall within any raptor nest buffers or sensitive wildlife habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not fall within any raptor nest buffers or sensitive wildlife habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not fall within any raptor nest buffers or sensitive wildlife habitats.
Agriculture Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts to agriculture operations are limited as the trailhead and trail are along the perimeter of the pasture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts to agriculture operations are limited as the trailhead and trail are along the perimeter of the pasture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considered an agriculturally historic agricultural important area. This location would significantly impact the highest-producing alfalfa field in Boulder County. Agricultural tenant has concerns about vandalism and trespassing on their operations. The current method of flood irrigation would need to be changed to a pump system. Approx. cost \$250K-350K (included in totals above). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located in the middle of irrigated agricultural land, requiring elevation of the trailhead and access road. Irrigation of the field would need to be changed to a pump system. Approx. cost: \$250K-300K (included in totals above).
Neighbor Proximity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This location does not have immediate residential properties adjacent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three residential properties located across the street from this location. If selected, the trailhead will be sited as carefully as possible to minimize impacts to the neighbors' direct viewsheds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjacent to the backyards of two residential properties and the Wise Homestead Museum (owned by the Erie Historical Society). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediately adjacent to one residential property and across the street from six residential properties. Due to the density of the homes across the street, it would be more challenging to locate the lot out of neighbors direct viewsheds.
Ownership	Boulder County Parks & Open Space	Boulder County Parks & Open Space	Boulder County Parks & Open Space and Town of Erie <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Erie would have to support a modification to the conservation easement and the join Wise Open Space Management plan (2007) on this property to allow for the trailhead. 	Boulder County Parks & Open Space

Southwest Trailhead Location Analysis for East Boulder Creek¹

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Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the existing oil and gas facility must be maintained. • Off-street parking would not be available in cases of parking reaching full capacity or the parking area being closed. • Location offers a trail experience to members of the community that may not travel off of significant/familiar roadways. • Provides a location for first responders to complete paperwork that provides quick and safe access to calls along Hwy 287 and east Boulder County. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a western termination point to the EBC site and proposed trails. Without a trailhead here, people would likely park along the sides of the road on 109th St. As a public road, street parking cannot be prohibited. • 109th Street provides ample, safe offroad parking should the parking area reach capacity or should the parking area be closed. • Provides a location for first responders to complete paperwork that provides quick and safe access to calls along Hwy 287 and east Boulder County. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comp plan designation: Open Space/Agricultural Preservation & Urban Buffer is referenced in the conservation easement (CE) held by Erie and prohibits the development of a trailhead (see above). • Location provides a scenic and remote-feeling trailhead experience that can be enjoyable for visitors. • Jasper Rd is narrow and does not provide off-street parking for trailhead closures and overflow parking with capacity is reached. • Proximity to the Wise homestead museum would likely mean that BCPOS rangers become defacto security for property where they do not have jurisdiction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx. 1 mile away from the proposed Kenosha Rd. trailhead that serves the northeast section of the property. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This would result in two trailheads with extensive infrastructure in relatively close proximity, which is not a best practice of BCPOS. • Near an existing, active oil and gas road; use of this road for trailhead purposes is unknown. It's possible we'll need to build our own entry and trailhead access road, creating two parallel roads. • Proposed trails heading directly west of this location would dead end on the west side of 109th St., resulting in public on street parking at 109th. As a public road, street parking cannot be prohibited. • 119th Street is narrow and does not provide off street parking for trailhead closures and overflow parking when capacity is reached.

Table Footnotes:

¹Attendees of the most recent public site visit requested an alternative on a nearby Town of Erie open space property. This location is not included in this survey. However, staff is working with the Town of Erie to understand the feasibility of this location and will report the results at the upcoming Board of County Commissioners public hearing.

²Average Annual Daily Traffic counts acquired from Boulder County's Vehicle Traffic Counts online mapping service: <https://bouldercounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Compare/index.html?appid=820cc2109948489285ed45a95b925af6>

³ The US 287 Vision Zero Safety & Mobility Study is available online at: <https://assets.bouldercounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/us-287-vision-zero-safety-mobility-study-and-appendices.pdf>

⁴ Boulder County Public Works and Parks & Open Space Project Management and Design workgroup were consulted to inform permitting and cost estimates.
Acronyms: CDOT: Colorado Department of Transportation, FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency, CPP: Boulder County Community Planning & Permitting, PW: Boulder County Public Works

East Boulder Creek Possible Trailhead Locations



2024 A - D Trailhead Options

- *** Proposed Kenosha Trailhead
- Town of Erie Trails
- East Boulder Creek
- Town of Erie Green Space

Conceptual Trails

East Boulder Creek

- Accessible
- Soft Surface

Other

- Town of Erie Proposed Trails
- Boulder-Erie Regional Trails (BERT)

Hydrology

- Perennial Stream
- Main Ditch
- Wetland/Riparian
- Perennial Lake/Reservoir
- Intermittent Lake/Reservoir

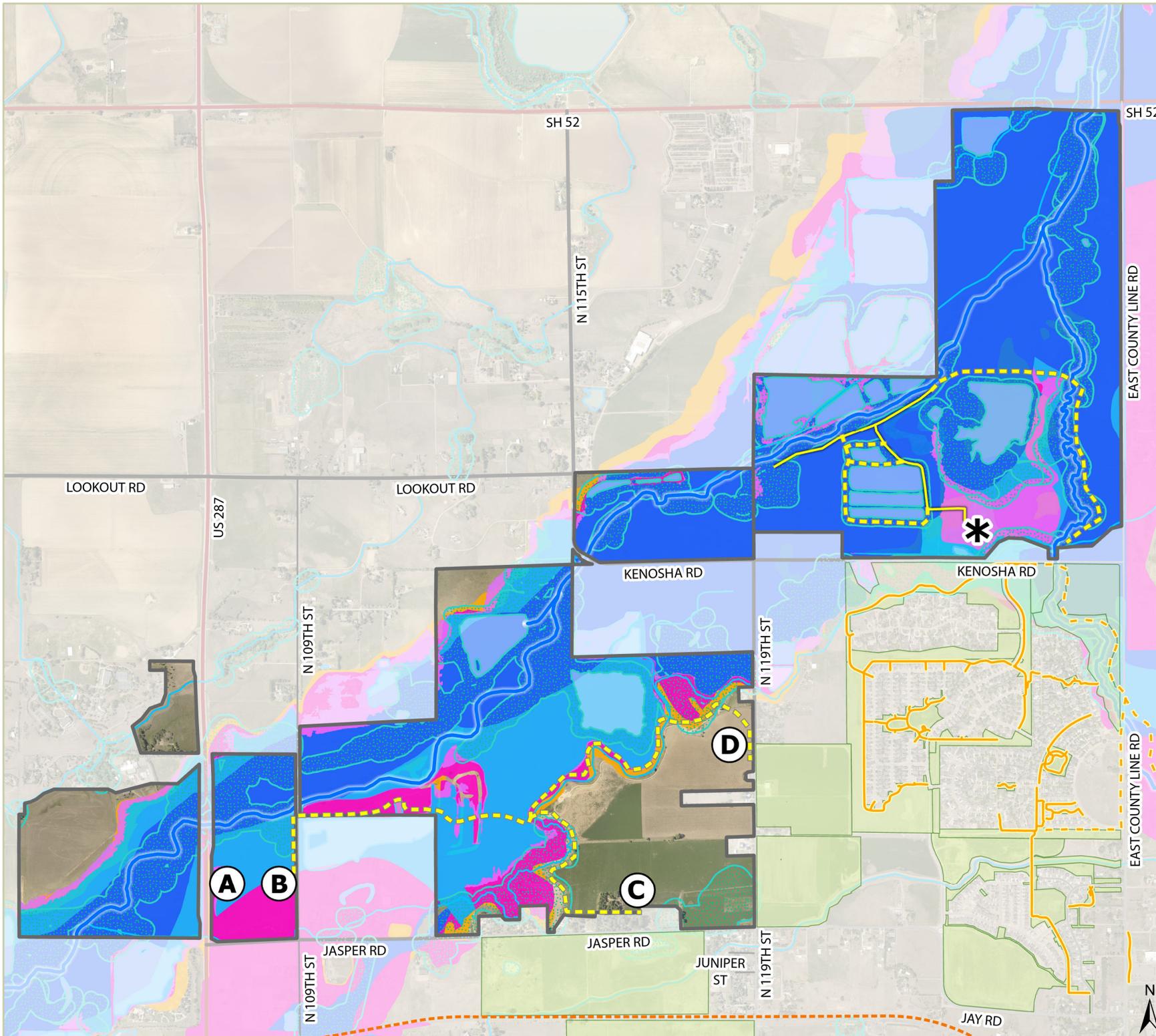
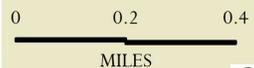
Flood Risk Zones

CO Hazard Mapping Program

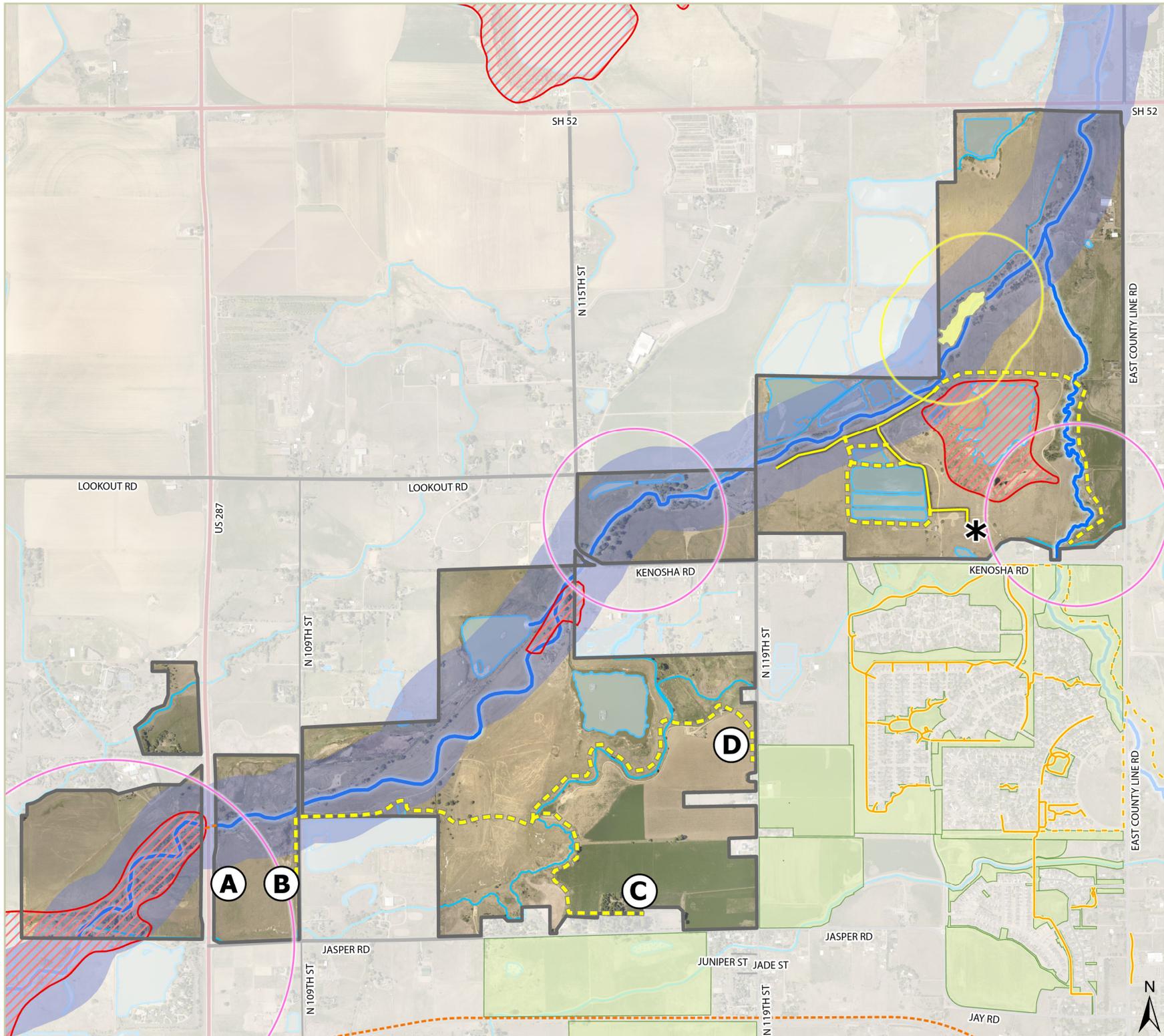
- Floodway
- 100-Year Floodplain (Zones AE, A, AO, AH)
- 500-Year Floodplain (Zone X500)

FEMA

- 100-Year Floodplain (Zones AE, A, AO, AH)
- 500-Year Floodplain (Zone X500)



East Boulder Creek Possible Trailhead Locations with Wildlife



2024

- (A) - (D)** Trailhead Options
- *** Proposed Kenosha Trailhead
- Boulder Area Trails (BAT)
- East Boulder Creek
- Town of Erie Green Space
- Critical Wildlife Habitat (BCCP)
- PMUM Zone 4 (BCCP)
- Active Heronry
- Active Heronry Buffer
- Raptor Nest Buffer

Conceptual Trails

East Boulder Creek

- Accessible
- Soft Surface

Other

- Town of Erie Proposed Trail
- Boulder-Erie Regional Trails (BERT)

Hydrology

- Perennial Stream
- Main Ditch
- Perennial Lake/Reservoir
- Intermittent Lake/Reservoir

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MILES

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