



TOWN OF WELLINGTON

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BOXELDER CREEK REGIONAL STORMWATER PROJECT

After years of discussion, research, and master planning, the Town of Wellington together with Larimer County the City of Fort Collins, is beginning to address stormwater and flood hazard issues in the Boxelder Creek Watershed.

What's the Problem?

The Boxelder Creek Watershed has a long history of flooding resulting in crop loss, overtopped roads, washed out bridges, delay in emergency service response, impact to utilities, etc.

More than 5,000 acres of land in the Boxelder Watershed is designated as floodplain by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Within the floodplain, local governments are required to limit what residents, farmers, and businesses can do with their properties and structures. This impacts property values, and can require costly flood insurance for some. Within the Town of Wellington there are two designated floodplains. Boxelder Creek is generally contained within the banks of the creek, but a tributary, Coal Creek, flows through the older portions of Town, with approximately 220 residential properties and numerous commercial properties impacted by the floodplain.

Addressing the Need

In 2006, a Stormwater Master Plan for Boxelder Creek and its tributaries was completed and adopted by the Town. The plan addresses floodplain issues from County Road 70 south to where floodwaters from Boxelder Creek join the Cache La Poudre River. (See map on other side.) The Master Plan is available for review at Town Hall or can be viewed on the Town's website www.townofwellington.com.

The Master Plan identifies a series of improvements to minimize flooding hazards and enhance drainage in the area. The first phase of proposed projects are in the Wellington area and includes adding floodwater capacity to an existing water storage facility (Clark Reservoir), construction of a new stormwater detention facility (called Edson), and improvements to convey floodwater to these facilities.

Proposed Boxelder Regional Stormwater Authority

In order to collectively plan, design, fund, and maintain these improvements, the three governments are working to form the Boxelder Regional Stormwater Authority. The Authority would be created by intergovernmental agreement among Larimer County, the City of Fort Collins, and the Town of Wellington. It would serve as the governmental mechanism to implement the Boxelder Master Plan. It is anticipated a decision on Authority formation will be made in June 2008.

Funding Potential Projects

Project funding would come from state and federal grants (one federal application has already been submitted) as well as local dollars (sometimes called 'local match'). The Town of Wellington local match will likely come from stormwater fees charged to residents and businesses and included in the monthly utility billing, impact fees on new development and/or local grants or loans. Specific funding options are being studied now and information will be conveyed for public review and discussion as soon as it is available. Opportunities for comments will exist, and a decision on funding is expected in late 2008.

Timeline and What's Next

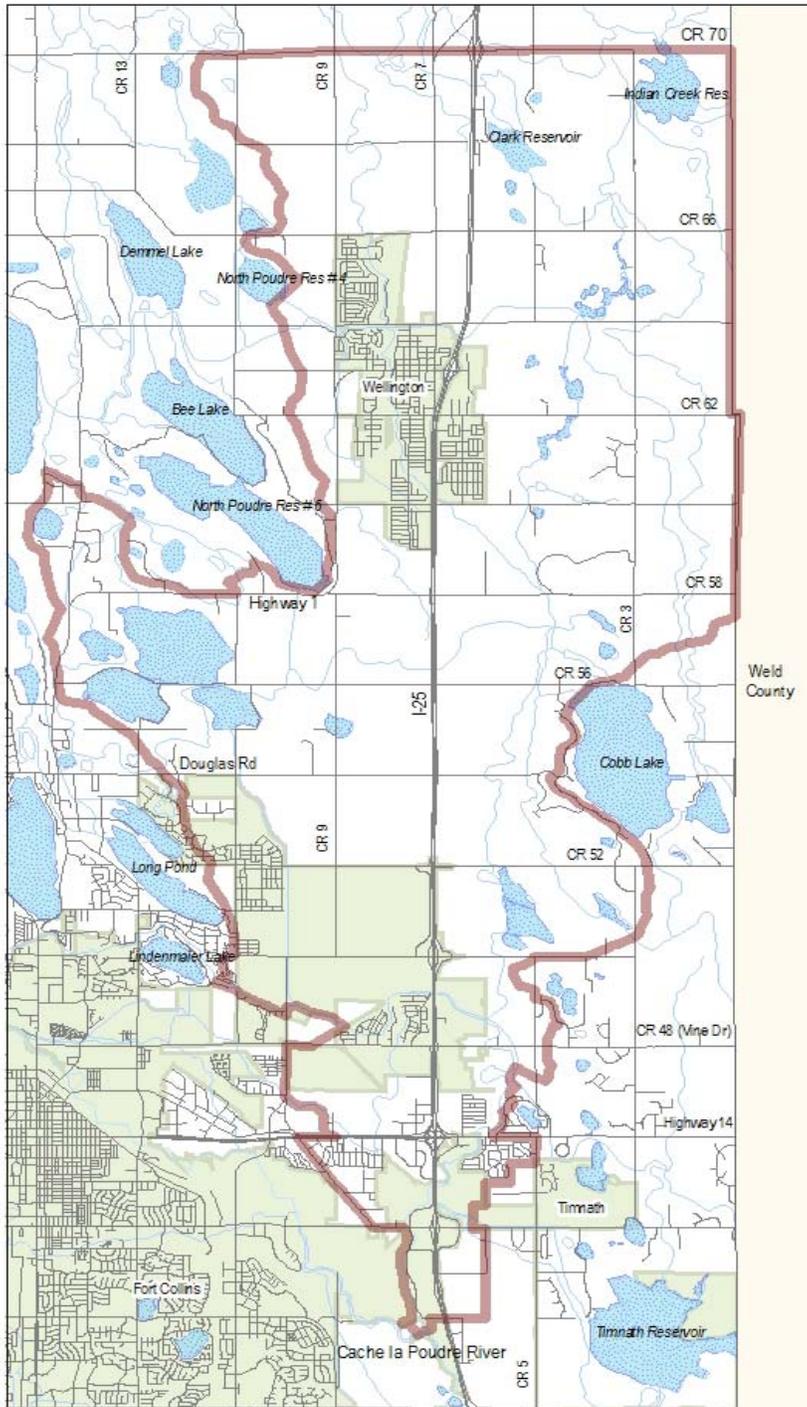
- May 2008: Award announcement for a \$3 million national FEMA grant. If awarded, this grant would help finance the proposed expansion of Clark Reservoir.
- June 2008: The local governments may form a joint Stormwater Authority to oversee implementation of the Boxelder Master Plan.
- Fall 2008: Determination of local funding options and public input on projects and funding
- End 2008: Finalization of local funding
- Late 2009: Earliest construction start

What This Means to You

Short Term: As more information becomes available about project and funding specifics, we will share that with you. We welcome your comments and questions at any time, and look forward to a public dialogue this fall that will aid in working out project funding, planning, design, and construction details.

Long Term: Completion of these projects means that all area residents will be safer and less at risk of experiencing overtopped roads, compromised utilities, emergency service access issues, and loss of business services due to flooding. If your property is currently in the floodplain, these projects may result in your property being removed from the floodplain, or the threat of flooding may be reduced.

Proposed Boxelder Stormwater Authority Service Area



Legend

-  Proposed Stormwater Authority Service Area
-  Incorporated areas