

Subject: Complete the Wonderland Creek / White Rock Ditch flood mitigation in 2014
From: Jim Dimmick (jim@jimdimmick.com)

Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2013 4:37 PM

Kings Ridge Area HOAs and Interested Parties,

After a lot of work and research, I have emailed my feedback (attached below) to the City of Boulder concerning the cause of the extensive flooding in the Kings Ridge area. The email is addressed to the City Manager and Boulder City Council because funding decisions are made at the top. With a CC to other relevant parties (the Wonderland Creek Improvement Project Manager, the Greenways Coordinator, the Water Utilities Division, the Water Resources Advisory Board, the Water District Commissioner, and a Boulder White Rock Ditch company officer).

But in this hectic time with all kinds of requests going to the City of Boulder, one email won't mean much. I am sending this to all the homeowners in our HOA. And I would appreciate it if you send it to all the homeowners in your HOA.

I have told my story. I would encourage everyone who receives this email to tell their own story (with their own photos if they have them). To have the maximum effect, please use the same Subject: "Complete the Wonderland Creek / White Rock Ditch flood mitigation in 2014". And use the same To: list and same CC: list.

Hopefully with enough emails we will be able to the City's attention and actually get the Wonderland Creek flood waters out of the White Rock ditch.

Thanks,
Jim Dimmick
Noble Park 2 HOA President
4882 Kings Ridge Blvd
303-250-1072
jim@jimdimmick.com

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Jim Dimmick <jim@jimdimmick.com>
To: Jane Brautigam <brautigamj@bouldercolorado.gov>; Boulder City Council <council@bouldercolorado.gov>
Cc: Kurt Bauer <bauerk@bouldercolorado.gov>; Annie Noble <noblea@bouldercolorado.gov>; Water Utilities Division <utb@bouldercolorado.gov>; Water Resources Advisory Board <wrab@bouldercolorado.gov>; Bob Carlson <bob.carlson@state.co.us>; Dan Grant <drgnlg@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2013 4:23 PM
Subject: Complete the Wonderland Creek / White Rock Ditch flood mitigation in 2014

Jane Brautigam and the Boulder City Council,

In recent coverage of the Boulder area flood in the Daily Camera, it was stated that the City of Boulder wanted feedback on citizen's personal experience during the flood. This is my feedback.

Having lived in Boulder since 1969, I was well aware of the danger of floods. When my wife and I went to buy a house in 2006 at 4882 Kings Ridge Blvd in Boulder, I carefully checked out the City of Boulder Flood Hazard map for the Kings Ridge area. In Attachment 1 you can see that the upper section of Kings Ridge is well away from (and higher than) the Wonderland Creek 100 year and 500 year flood zones. I assumed our house was safe and we did not need flood insurance.

Unfortunately that City of Boulder Flood Hazard map does not match reality. Due to historical water rights all of

Wonderland Creek is diverted into the Boulder White Rock Ditch just west of the Foothills Parkway and there is almost no flow in Wonderland Creek on the east side of Foothills Parkway at any time. During the peak of the flood, I was too busy defending my basement to walk the Kings Ridge area. But based on the reports from the neighborhood, the results of putting all Wonderland Creek flood water into the Boulder White Rock Ditch is shown approximately in Attachment 2 (areas where the water was flowing on the surface). The ditch had far more water than it could carry and it overflowed into the whole area around the ditch. Kings Ridge Blvd, Sentinel Drive, MacIntosh Place and Hopkins Place became rivers (see Attachment 3). In the Kings Ridge river, water was flowing east and south down both sides of the median at a depth higher than the curbs and into the front yards. This heavy influx of surface water added to the already rising ground water level in the whole area and probably contributed to the sewer backup on the east side of Kings Ridge through infiltration into the sewer pipes.

Sadly this overflow of flood waters from the Boulder White Rock Ditch is not a surprise. Since 2010 and probably earlier, the City has known that diverting all of Wonderland Creek into the Boulder White Rock Ditch was a flood hazard for the Kings Ridge area. But the City of Boulder Flood Hazard map has never been updated to show that flood hazard. Even though there is legal jargon on the Boulder Flood Hazard web page disclaiming any liability for the data, it seems like negligent behavior on the part of the City to not update the maps to reflect a known serious flood hazard in the Kings Ridge area. Anyone who has bought a house in this area since 2010 should have had a realistic flood hazard map to assess their risk before purchasing a house and in deciding if they needed flood insurance. It seems like the Boulder White Rock Ditch company was also negligent since they were aware of the flood hazard from their ditch and never had the City of Boulder update the flood hazard map.

To fix this problem, the City created the Wonder Creek Improvement Project. The first public meeting for this project was August 31, 2010. The primary reason given for the project was flood control. By keeping flood waters in Wonderland Creek rather than the Boulder White Rock Ditch the flood hazard in the whole Kings Ridge area would be greatly reduced. And having more water flowing in Wonderland Creek under Foothills Parkway will also reduce the flooding on the West side of Foothills Parkway. At the time it was projected that it would be completed by 2012. In the Greenways Advisory Committee Agenda (May 2, 2011), it was stated that there were no unfunded needs and Wonderland Creek from Foothills to 30th St. was granted \$2M in federal funds (2012-2014). When I checked in May, 2011 it was stated that the project would be started in 2012 and completed in 2013. When I checked in May, 2013 it was stated that the project would be started in 2014 and completed in 2015. Currently on the web site it states "construction is anticipated for 2015".

Completing the Wonderland Creek / White Rock ditch flood mitigation by Foothills Parkway is not an emergency like repairing lost roads in Boulder County. But it is also a project that can not be deferred year after year as in has been since 2010. It would be convenient if it really was a "100 year flood" and we could put it on our calendars for Sept. 2113. But we all know the actual meaning of 100 year flood is that there is a 1% chance of it happening each year. In other words, the probability of another flood in 2014 is the same as it was this year. And some climate scientists believe that the impact of global warming is messing up the jet stream which could make the stalled weather pattern that contributed to this flood more likely going forward ("Wild Weather Tied to Unusual Jet Stream Activity" NPR 9/25/13).

So what happens now? If the \$2M from our dysfunctional federal government is deferred or sequestered or diverted, then what happens to the Wonderland Creek Improvement project? I challenge the City of Boulder to find a way to get it done in 2014. Delay the bells and whistles which add to the cost – the bikeway path under the railroad, etc. – and focus on the flood mitigation. The estimate for the Wonderland Creek / White Rock ditch flood mitigation by Foothills Parkway is only \$1.5M (Wonderland Creek Greenways Improvement Project CEAP, Sept. 2010). The citizens of Boulder approved Ballot Item 2A in Nov. 2011 which had \$49M in capital improvements and not all of it has been spent yet. And why not ask the Boulder White Rock Ditch company to contribute some funding to solve a problem related to their ditch.

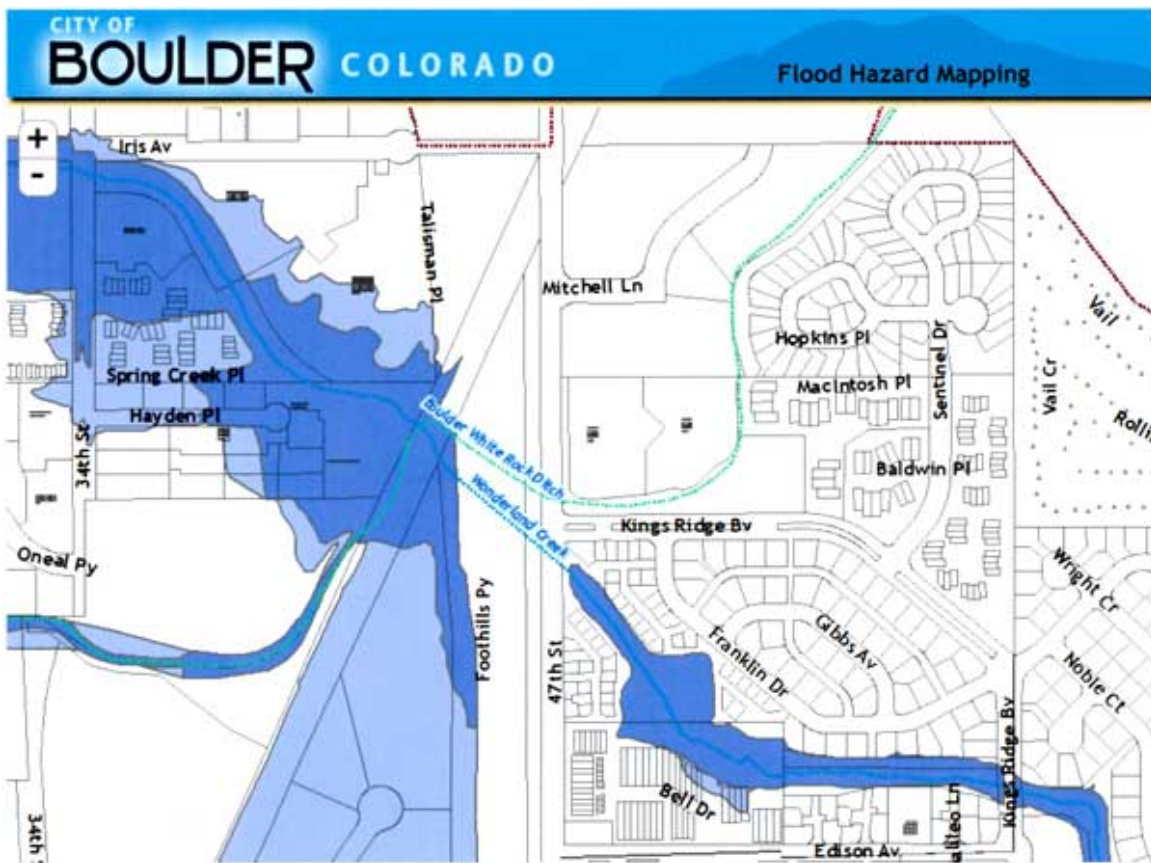
Bottom Line: Please find a way to complete the Wonderland Creek / White Rock ditch flood mitigation by Foothills Parkway in 2014. And in the meantime, update the City of Boulder Flood Hazard maps to show what actually exists today.

This has been my personal feedback. I will invite others in this Kings Ridge neighborhood to share their stories with you as well.

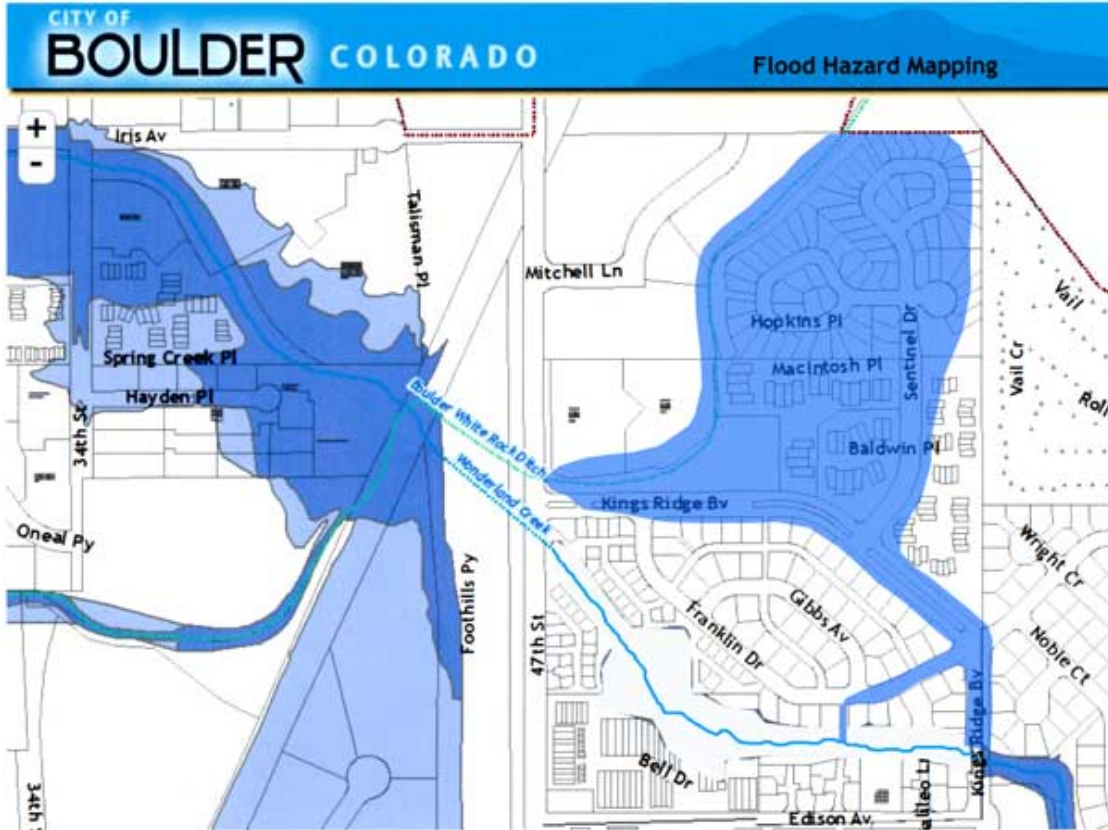
Thank you,
Jim Dimmick
Noble Park 2 HOA President
4882 Kings Ridge Blvd, Boulder
303-250-1072
jim@jimdimmick.com

P.S. If you ever want to observe the Boulder White Rock ditch overflowing onto Kings Ridge, you don't need to wait for the next 100 year flood. In the late spring, when the ditch is filled to capacity with snow melt runoff, if there is a solid rain storm in the Wonderland Creek area then the Boulder White Rock ditch spills water over the top and some of it runs down the Kings Ridge curb. This happened last May.

Attachment 1



Attachment 2



Attachment 3

