



Recovering Loveland's lost canyon gem

Viestenz-Smith park rebuilds, with Nature guiding the new plan

Light rain fell on the early morning of Sept. 13, 2013, when Fort Collins-Loveland Airport Director Jason Licon and a pilot lifted off for a helicopter tour of the flooding Big Thompson River.

Their video and still photo excursion began at Interstate 25, where the river poured across the closed highway and submerged cars in the median. Upstream they flew, with pictures demonstrating how the river had cut Loveland in two, severing all north-south road links.

Businesses along U.S. 287 were inundated. Fast-flowing water swept over streets, parks, sports fields and open spaces. Further west, Sylvan Dale Ranch was ravaged, the river a quarter-mile wide as it ripped apart the lodge, cabins and tore away the landscape.

The mission took them into the canyon, over the destroyed U.S. Highway 34 roadway in the Narrows and past the wreckage of the Cedar Cove community, where two residents had died in the floodwaters.

Then the helicopter circled Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park, the iconic canyon-glen retreat that had been the venue for countless weddings, family reunions, graduation parties and quiet



Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park was wiped away by the Big Thompson River on Sept. 12-13, 2013, as this photo taken by Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport Director Jason Licon shows. Licon flew the canyon by helicopter on a photo mission the morning of Sept. 13. **Below**, two months prior to the flood, Parks and Recreation Department planner Bill Wildenberg photographed a visitor walking his dog in the park that featured sidewalks and lawns that made it appear as an urban park dropped into a mountain setting.

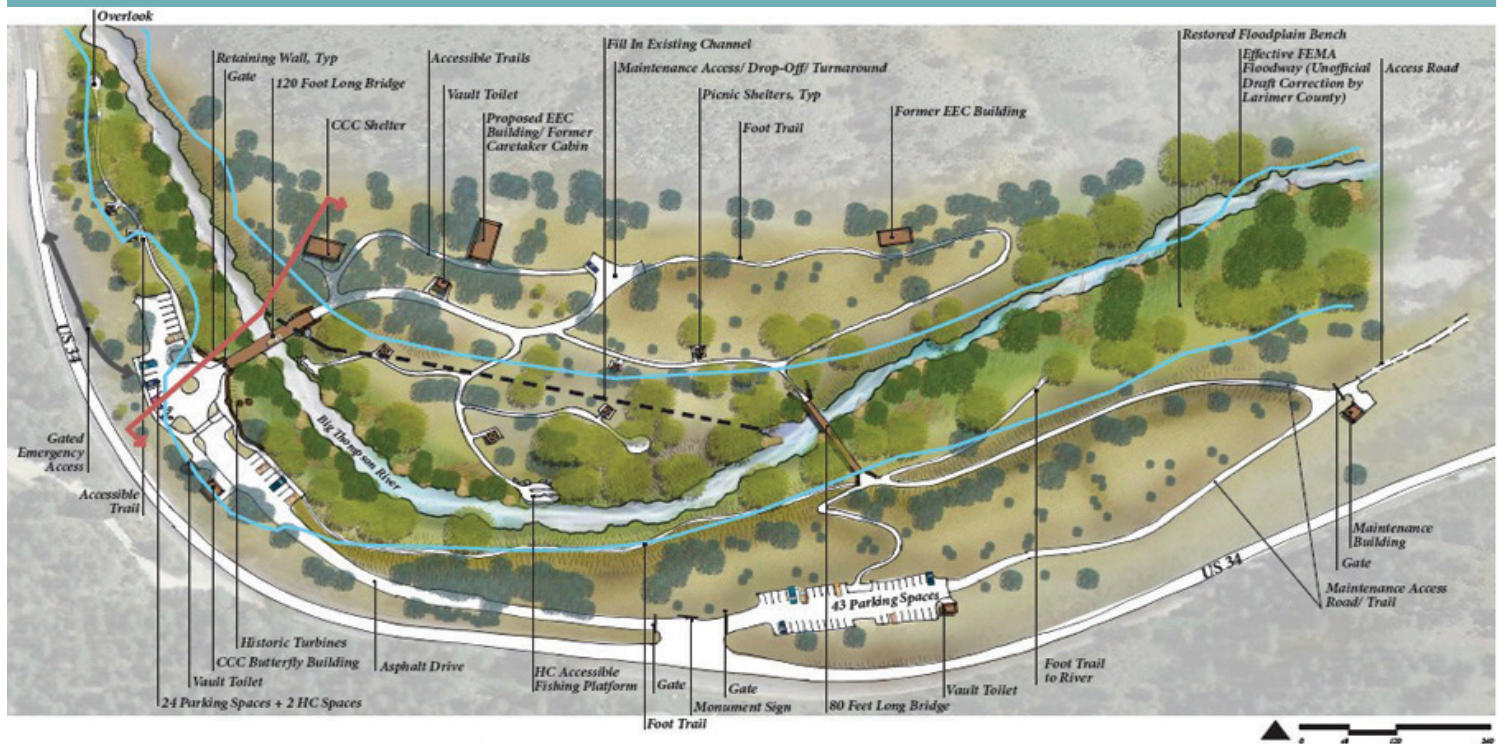
picnics.

Nearly all the Loveland park's features were wiped away, including the memorials to some among the 144 victims of a prior flood in 1976 that also destroyed most of the park.

Of all the havoc wreaked by the September 2013 flood, the saddest loss for many Loveland residents as well as those in a broader region was Viestenz-Smith.

"Everybody knows it," Loveland senior park planner Janet Meisel-Burns said. "Everyone has a story (see **VSMP** page 2)





VSMP (from page 1) to tell about an event there, and how wonderful it was.”

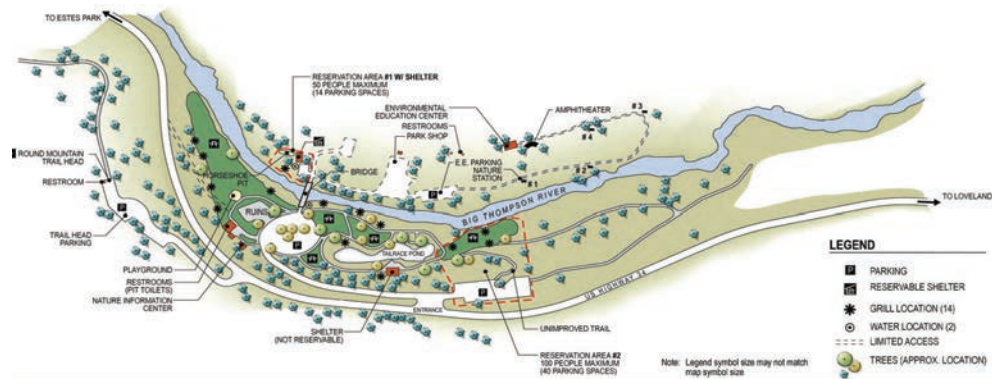
That past-tense verb – “was” – has to stay in the minds of Lovelanders as plans move ahead to resurrect Viestenz-Smith. When the park reopens again, likely in 2017, it will not appear as it did before, as an urban park with tree-lined walks, flower beds and lawns.

But the Big Thompson River will be its centerpiece, as always, and the river will determine Viestenz-Smith’s new structure.

In both major floods, 1976 and 2013, the Big Thompson swung out of its channel in the north-center of the park, and ate its way southward toward U.S. 34. In 2013 the river scoured away the park’s landscaping and all of the topsoil that supported it, leaving a barren, boulder-strewn plain.

Plans developed by Meisel-Burns and consultants Logan Simpson Design and Tetra Tech are guided by the post-flood tagline, “let rivers be rivers,” that has been adopted for nearly all City flood recovery activity. In short it means work with nature

One of two concept designs (above) shows the Big Thompson River flowing where it did after the floods of 1976 and 2013, with the plan working with rather than against nature. The image of the pre-flood park (below) depicts the river well north of U.S. Highway 34 and the features of the park that included sidewalks, lawns, a pond and other structures that were swept away by the Big Thompson flood waters.



Pre-2013 Flood Conditions rather than against it.

“It would be irresponsible for us to try to replicate what was there,” Meisel-Burns said. “The new direction opens up new opportunities. It will be more native, more natural, but with the same accessibility.”

Each if the two alternatives expands picnic and fishing opportunities on the north bank of the river, out of the floodway, with the river flowing in its post-flood location. A pedestrian bridge, trail network and an Environmental

Education Center also are included.

FEMA has committed approximately \$2.5 million toward the reconstruction of the park, with insurance coverage adding another \$389,000.

Learn more online

More information, including full plans for the Viestenz-Smith redesign are online, along with a simple form for comment on the proposals through May 15. Go to cityofloveland.org/VSMP.

Residents invited to throw in final two cents as comp plan nears completion

Are you interested in how Loveland will grow in the coming years? How new neighborhoods will look and feel? Where new shopping and employment centers will be located? And how the heart of the city will be rejuvenated? Then please join us as the *Create Loveland* planning team rolls out the draft of the new community master plan at several upcoming events.

The draft plan contains policies and maps that will guide growth and development decisions for the next 10 years and beyond, with a focus on maintaining our high quality of life while remaining fiscally sound.

Because the plan will guide so many important decisions about where new neighborhoods, retail centers, and employment opportunities will be built, the planning team needs your

input.

The current draft encapsulates the input that was gathered during Community Choices month last February when the planning team talked with more than 1300 people about their priorities for Loveland's future. That input



was used to develop the content of the plan that will be presented next month.

Residents are invited to drop in any time during these open house events to share their thoughts on how we should go about achieving the

community's vision:

- 2-4 p.m. Thursday June 4 – The Coffee Tree, 210 E. 4th St.
- 5-7 p.m. Thursday June 11 – Fire Station 6, 4325 McWhinney Blvd.
- 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday June 28 – Loveland Farmer's Market, Fairgrounds Park, Pavilion 12
- 5-7 p.m., Wednesday June 10 – Van Buren Elementary, 1811 W. 15th St.

We will also post the draft plan online through Open City Hall, in early June. Visit *CreateLoveland.com* for a link to Open City Hall, leave comments, sign up for email updates and see the results of the Create Loveland Community Choices Month surveys.

For more information call Karl Barton, 962-2721, or email him at Karl.Barton@cityofloveland.org.

All new summer reading program helps young readers feel like super heros

The Loveland Library's 'hero'-themed summer reading program is taking off with lots of action-packed events and ways for participants to earn their superhero stripes.

This year's program is all new, interactive and online. Pre-readers, kids, teens and adults can log on from anywhere to earn points and collect virtual badges for reading, attending library events, and by doing things in the community such as volunteering, visiting a local park or trail, or celebrating at a downtown festival.

The Loveland Museum/Gallery and Farmer's Market will be giving out secret codes that can be entered online to earn points and special badges. Kids can earn more points by playing games and reading eBooks in their online accounts, and participants of all ages can earn

prizes throughout the summer.

Research shows that students who don't read over the summer lose up to three months of learning—a phenomenon known as 'summer slide.' Kids that continue to read gain skills and are more prepared to jump back into learning in the fall. The summer reading program



will help kids stay in tip-top, superhero learning shape. And adults can flex their reading muscles too.

Zoom into the library 1-4 p.m., Monday, June 1 for our Superhero kick-off party, featuring

storytelling, face-painting, a superhero photobooth and obstacle course, popcorn and more. On June 30, Night of Heroes at the Foote Lagoon will feature fire dancing and star gazing from 8:30-10:30 p.m. Then celebrate our community heroes, 2-5 p.m., July 31. Sit in a fire truck, pet a service animal and watch a puppet show about the hero in you.

Also new this summer, the Children's Department is hosting a drop-in maker lab featuring weekly activities for pre-readers and elementary-aged children including robots, drums, Legos, cardboard structures, trains, and catapults.

For more information on this summer's events, prizes, reading lists and badges, go to loveland.readsquared.com or contact Amber Holmes: amber.holmes@cityofloveland.org or 962-2797.

Adopt-a-Roadway program keeps roadsides clean

The City of Loveland Streets Division encourages local organizations and individuals to formally Adopt-A-Roadway for the purpose of protecting and improving Loveland's roadsides.

Local businesses, civic and professional organizations, environmental groups, academic institutions, homeowners' associations, 4-H, scout groups and individuals are encouraged to participate. Each organization must include a minimum of three people and an adult (18 years or older). The City will recognize adopting groups by providing signage for the adopted roadway. Groups will receive safety training, reflective safety vests, trash bags and other support.

It's easy to get started. Form an

Adopt-A-Roadway volunteer group and choose a designated representative for the adopting organization. Then choose a roadway to be formally adopted and meet with the City Adopt-A-Roadway Program Coordinator to go over paperwork and determine specific needs.

For more information, call 962-2529.



Garden tour & art show benefit youth gardeners

The 12th Annual Loveland Garden Tour & Art Show to benefit Loveland Youth Gardeners, will be held 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, June 20.

Six fabulous gardens will be showcased along with 'Art in the Garden'—a selection of exclusive artwork by local artisans. There will also be a silent auction of unique garden totem poles for outdoor living spaces, created by local and regional artists.

Tickets \$15, children 12 and under are free. For more information go to lovelandyouthgardeners.org or call 669-7182. Loveland Water and Power is a sponsor of this event.



Stop noxious Puncturevine before it stops you

If you ride a bicycle, you have probably been 'flatted' by the sharp burs of the Puncturevine weed. Also known as 'goathead,' this forb produces yellow flowers and grows in large, flat mats.

The City's Code Enforcement office urges residents to eradicate Puncturevine and other noxious weeds from areas around their home.

Digging and pulling when the ground is moist is one method. There are also several pre-emergence sprays and herbicides that are effective but persistence is needed as the weed is resilient.

For more information call 962-2792.

ONE DAY ONLY!

The Slightly Older Adult Players AND George Gray as Elvis!

Enjoy a show featuring the Slightly Older Adult Players (SOAP).

Monologues, songs, skits & jokes!

Afterwards, delight in a performance by George Gray as Elvis!

Delicious desserts will be served.

**Wednesday, June 17
1:30-3:30pm**



Cost: \$6, \$4 w/SAC
Must pre-register!

**Call 962-2783
for more info**

Chilson
Recreation Center

700 E 4th St, Loveland

Citizens' OPEN FORUM



3rd Thursday of each month, 1:30-3:30pm

- Focus is for SENIORS to discuss topics that are in the news both locally & worldwide
- Group will decide future subjects
- Topic Leader gets 20 minutes. Others get two 5 minute slots to air their views, hold the floor, & direct discussion
- Enjoy lively discussions & good humor about world topics

**Call 970-962-2783
w/questions**

FREE!

Ages 50+

Facilitator: Rich Hansen

Upcoming Dates

**June 18 • July 16
August 20**

Chilson
Recreation Center

700 E 4th St / Loveland, CO / 970-962-2783

City Update is a monthly publication of the City of Loveland. Residents receive City Update according to their utility billing cycle. Timeliness of the information may be affected by recipients' billing schedule. City Update is also available around the first of every month on the City's website at www.cityofloveland.org. Your comments are encouraged and welcomed at 962-2302, or Tom.Hacker@cityofloveland.org. The City of Loveland is committed to providing an equal opportunity for citizens and does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or gender. The City will make reasonable accommodations for citizens in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For more information, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator at 962-3319 or Bettie.Greenberg@cityofloveland.org.

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LWP Spotlight: McWhinney building with focus on nature and community

From time to time, Loveland Water and Power (LWP) will feature stories on local companies that incorporate conservation, energy efficiency and long-term environmental sustainability into their business practices. This LWP Customer Spotlight highlights the work that McWhinney is doing on their newest residential community, the Lakes at Centerra.

The Lakes at Centerra in east Loveland is being built with a focus on the natural environment and an emphasis on the inexorable connection between nature and community. The homes are being constructed with energy-efficiency upgrades and even the street lights in the neighborhood will use LED technology.

The development spans 275 acres of natural area including protected lakes, wetlands and miles of walking trails. The open spaces within the neighborhood are lined with native grasses and trees that

require much less irrigation water once established. These grasses will be irrigated with unprocessed water from nearby Houts Reservoir.

The storm drainage and detention system in the neighborhood is designed to minimize the use of piping. The system will flow drainage through the wetlands that naturally clean the runoff and create a healthy variety



of habitat for wildlife.

The High Plains Environmental Center (HPEC) is managing the installation and ongoing maintenance of all the native grass

and open space areas.

HPEC is a community outreach non-profit agency located near the Lake Club that provides leading edge examples of community design, land stewardship and hands-on educational programs for children and adults. HPEC's work has helped shape Centerra's natural wetlands and benefitted the surrounding wildlife and habitat.

The neighborhood was designed to closely link a new, highly-anticipated Thompson School District school that will provide a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) curriculum and include a close working relationship with HPEC. The Kindergarten through-8th grade school, scheduled to open in August 2016, is targeting LEED Gold status and will have geothermal heating and cooling systems. HPEC will share their outdoor classrooms, greenhouses and natural learning environments with the students.

Free 'Slow the Flow' inspections help residents save water and money

Loveland Water and Power is partnering with the Center for ReSource Conservation to put conservation into action this summer. If you have an in-ground sprinkler system for your lawn, you will save water and money by scheduling a no-cost, Slow the Flow water inspection.

Simply schedule an appointment to meet with a water conservation technician at your home. The service usually takes 90 minutes and involves a visual inspection, data collection and an in-depth evaluation. The technician will deliver a clear and actionable list of suggestions to reduce water use and runoff at your property while keeping landscapes and lawns healthy.

These assessments help households save an average of 5,000 gallons of water per outdoor watering season. Collectively, Slow the Flow helped Coloradoans save 12.5 million gallons of water last year. That's enough to fill about nineteen Olympic-sized swimming



pools.

To schedule a consultation, or for more information call 303-999-3824, email crc@conservationcenter.org or visit conservationcenter.org/slow-the-flow-2/indoor-water-use-consultation.



Loveland Water and Power's 2014 annual water quality Consumer Confidence Report, will be available on Loveland Water and Power's website at: cityofloveland.org/WaterQuality by June 30, 2015. If you have any questions or would like a hard copy of the Loveland Water Quality Report sent to you, please call 970-962-3000.

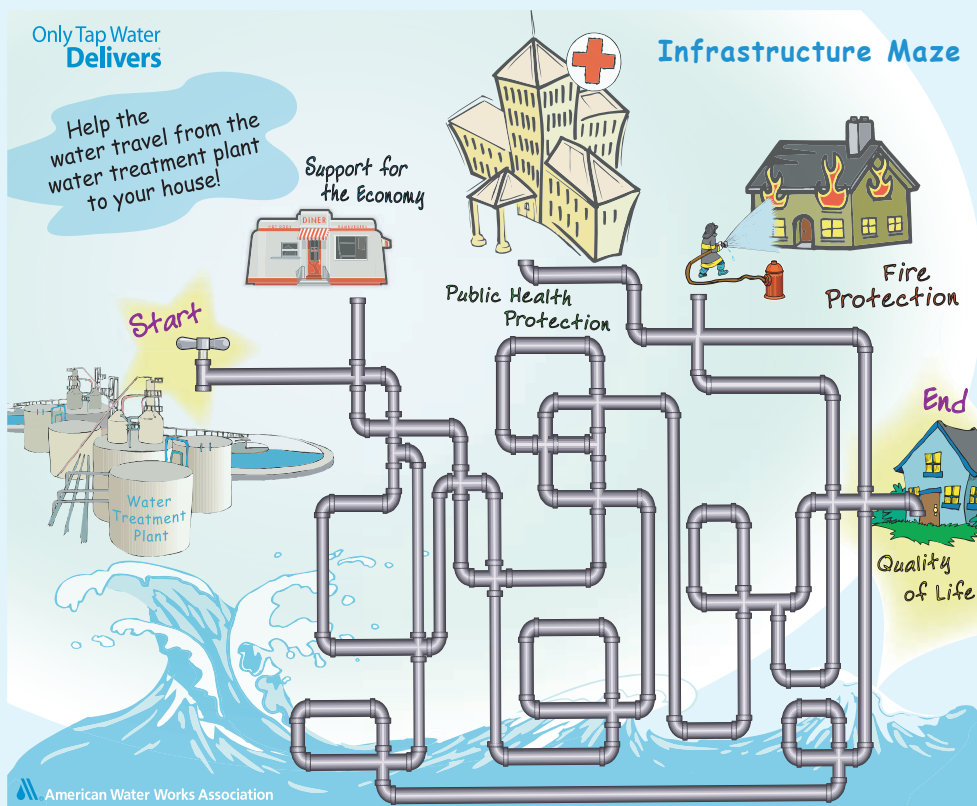
Celebrate a precious natural resource during Drinking Water Week May 3-9

Do you ever stop to think about how water gets to your tap and where it goes when you're done with it? Loveland's clean, safe and affordable water plays a vital role in public health and fire protection. It supports a thriving economy and enhances our overall quality of life.

To bring more attention to water, LWP encourages residents to learn more about our water and recognize its many benefits during Drinking Water Week.

To learn more about your water:

- Attend the Passport to Water and Power event – July 23
- Check out the Loveland Water and Power Water Quality Report online at cityofloveland.org/WaterQuality
- Find out about water projects, get water tips and learn about LWP programs at facebook.com/LovelandWaterandPower.



Platte River and juwi build solar energy facility

Platte River Power Authority and Boulder, Colo.-based juwi solar inc. (juwi) have signed an agreement to build a 22-megawatt solar energy facility near Wellington, Colo.

The project will employ tracking photovoltaic panels and may be expanded to 30 megawatts depending on the final site design.

The 185-acre site selected for the project is on Platte River's Rawhide Energy Station property north of Wellington. juwi will be responsible for developing, designing, building and operating the facility. The design phase will begin in early summer, followed by the construction and final completion of the project tentatively scheduled for late summer 2016. The facility will provide energy equivalent to the average annual

use of more than 7,000 homes in the communities Platte River serves.

juwi is a developer, engineering, procurement and construction contractor and operator of large-scale renewable energy generation facilities. juwi and its North American affiliates have developed and built more than 150 megawatts of operating solar projects.

"We are thrilled to be building our first utility-scale solar energy facility in our home state of Colorado," said Michael Martin, President and Chief Executive Officer of juwi. "Working with Platte River was especially enjoyable, given that it ran a competitive yet thoughtful solicitation process, which in turn will result in cost-effective energy for its constituents in the Front Range."

Call 811 before you dig

All sorts of utility lines, pipes and cables could be buried in your yard and could be damaged by even shallow digging, which could result in service interruptions to your neighborhood.

That's why every digging job from planting a bush to installing a fence should be preceded by a call to 811 to have utility lines marked.

Just tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you'll be doing. The affected local utilities will send a locator to your property free of charge. Then you'll know what's below and be able to dig safely.

Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

