

Outdoor Insights

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JEFFERSON COUNTY OPEN SPACE

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Extending the Van Bibber Creek Trail to Expand Recreation Opportunities



A future section of the Van Bibber Creek Trail, looking east from Easley Road

Extending the Van Bibber Creek Trail has been a long-standing objective of the Open Space program. The vision behind this goal is of Van Bibber Park visitors beginning and continuing longer trips here within an interconnected, regional trail system.

In 2009, this vision moved

closer to reality when the County purchased a 1.7-mile power line corridor between Indiana Street and the Fairmount Trail. Today the behind-the-scenes work of building

a multi-use, Open Space trail between the Fairmount Trail and Van Bibber Park is proceeding.

Open Space is in discussion with the companies that own ditches and canals that pass through the property to build bridges for foot, bike and possibly equestrian traffic.

Planners will then determine the best and safest ways for trail users to cross waterways and three roadways—Easley Road and Indiana and McIntyre Streets. Open Space is also reaching out to neighboring landowners to outline its plans and resolve encroachments on County property.

At a future public meeting, trail design will be discussed. Possible elements of the project and the trail surface, have not yet been determined. Construction may take place in phases, starting as early as 2013. For a regional trail map and more project information, please see page 2.

Jefferson County Open Space... *Enriching Life*

Founded by voters in 1972 as a land conservation organization, we preserve natural and cultural resources, provide a variety of quality outdoor recreation experiences and practice and promote sound environmental stewardship. We are funded with a one-half cent sales tax that has protected over 51,000 acres of land and created 29 regional parks and 210 miles of trails throughout Jefferson County.

Outdoor Insights

Outdoor Insights provides information on Jefferson County Open Space projects, programs and activities. For more information, contact Thea Rock, Manager of Public Information: trock@jeffco.us or (303) 271-5902.

Awaiting Extended Adventures

Nearby recreation opportunities are important to the Stolper family. "For our family's recreation, we rarely go out of Jefferson County," said Bob Stolper, father of five and co-owner with wife Kathy of Stolper Geologic, Inc., a reservoir rock analysis company in Arvada.

So why would he and his sons Patrick, 11, and Carson, 16, welcome an extended Van Bibber Creek Trail?

"Because we could ride to the skatepark," said Patrick, who anticipates biking with his skateboard in his backpack from the family's home in Northwest Arvada, through Van Bibber Park and on to Central Arvada. "Save gas."

What's appealing to Carson about getting to the BMX bike tracks near the Harold D. Lutz Sports Complex on two wheels is "being able to bike there, do some fun things and then be able to ride back."

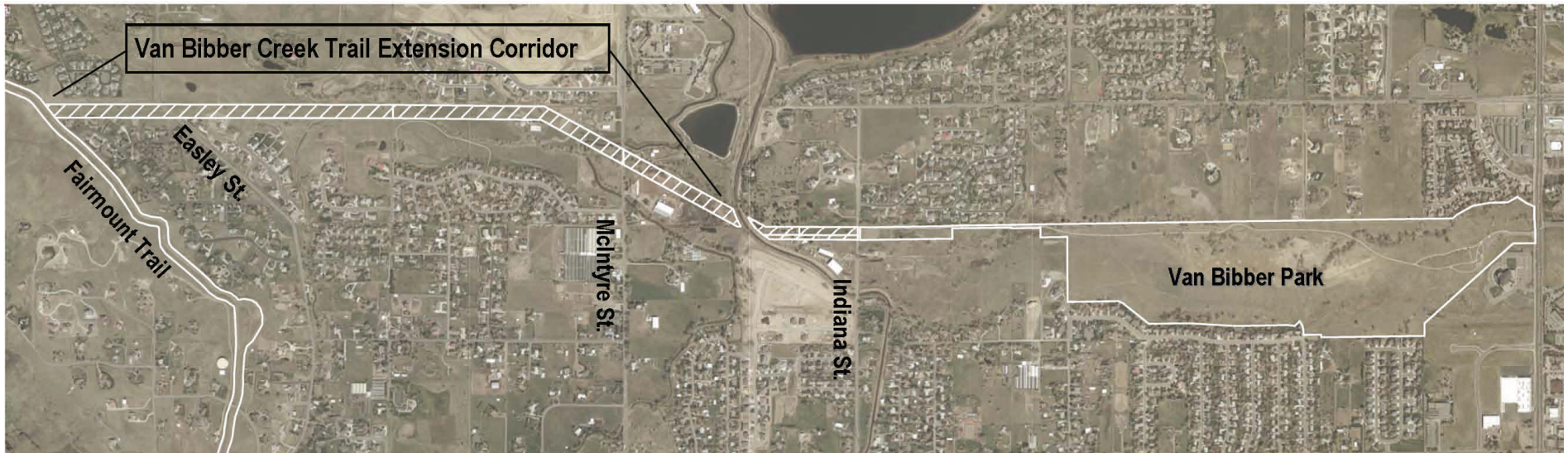


Carson, Bob and Patrick Stolper could cross Indiana Street to continue their journey home when the project is complete.

Bob looks forward to avoiding cars. "Besides the safety, I like to be able to look at the moun-

tains and enjoy the views," he said. "You get to see things you wouldn't see on the street."

Van Bibber Creek Trail Corridor (Following 2009 Land Acquisition)



Project Timeline

- 2009** Jefferson County purchases Xcel Energy corridor between Indiana Street and the County's Fairmount Trail. (Xcel reserves easement for power lines.)
- 2010** Open Space surveys land. Colorado School of Mines prepares recommendations for trail design.
- 2011-2012** Open Space to obtain rights to ditch and road crossings and seek to resolve encroachments by neighboring landowners. Planning and design goes forward, including a future public meeting to gather comments on the trail design.
- 2013-2014** First phase of trail construction expected to occur.

Major Regional and Open Space Trails

