

TOWN OF LYONS, COLORADO

RESOLUTION 2023-74

A RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN OF LYONS, COLORADO, IN SUPPORT OF PROTECTING THE NORTH AND SOUTH ST. VRAIN CREEK WATERSHEDS AND THEIR ASSOCIATED ECOSYSTEMS

WHEREAS, the Town of Lyons (the “Town”) is a Colorado statutory municipality empowered to enact resolutions; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this resolution is to establish a local policy to recognize and promote efforts to protect the environment and stimulate the health and welfare of residents; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources within the St. Vrain Creek watershed; recognize the interdependency between the Town’s economy and natural environment; and consider the potential environmental effects from the actions of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town is defined by the diverse natural world that surrounds it—including mountains, forests, meadows, wildlife, clean air, and nearby high peaks whose snowpack melts into tributary creeks and streams that flow into the North and South St. Vrain Creeks, and through the foothills and the Town; and

WHEREAS, the St. Vrain Creeks are the lifeblood for a large and diverse range of economic, recreational, and creative benefits and services to residents, businesses, and visitors of the Town; and

WHEREAS, The St. Vrain Creeks flow together into the Town, and their banks, riparian areas, and floodplains serve as a hub for cultural activities and gatherings, providing residents and visitors with immediate access to nature, fresh air and open space, floodplain soils for botanical gardens and food forests, targeted floodwater storage, and waterways to fish, hike, float, bike, and otherwise recreate; and

WHEREAS, Town residents understand that their own health and welfare are tied to the health and well-being of the St. Vrain Creeks; and

WHEREAS, the St. Vrain Creeks, their confluence within the Town limits, and their watersheds support a high diversity of resident and migratory plants, animals and fish species, including, but not limited to, native riparian vegetation; trout, other fish species and aquatic life; elk, mountain lion, bear, bobcat, beaver, red fox, hawks and other raptors including golden and bald eagles and other large and small terrestrial animal species, including the threatened Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse; and

WHEREAS, today the Town is facing new challenges for its relationship with the surrounding natural world and in particular, the St. Vrain Creeks. These include climate change, floods and droughts, land development, wildfire risk, various polluting activities, and a potentially diminishing connection to these natural areas of the Town as the region is further developed; and

WHEREAS, the Town seeks to be an advocate for the protection of the St. Vrain Creeks and is in support of clean and perennial water flow within town limits for current residents and future generations; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing recognition that protection of the creeks and watersheds is also essential in order to uphold human rights, including but not limited to clean water, economic development, and safe and attractive areas to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, the Town of Lyons Board of Trustees (the "Board") believes and hereby determines that it may best help protect the health, safety, and welfare of its current and future residents by recognizing the protection of St. Vrain Creeks and the Town's responsibility to act as a steward of nature and of these watersheds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF LYONS THAT:

Section 1. The above recitals are hereby incorporated by reference.

Section 2. The Board resolves that the St. Vrain Creek watersheds, including the plants, animals, and associated ecosystems, should be considered in all decisions that could impact them.

Section 3. The Board recognizes that the St. Vrain Creeks should possess, at minimum, the following fundamental conditions:

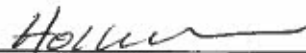
- a. A flow sufficient in quantity to support and maintain ecosystem health;
- b. A functioning channel and floodplain riverine ecosystem, including horizontal and longitudinal connectivity, areas for infiltration of precipitation and groundwater recharge, moving and depositing sediments, and the natural habitats for native plants and animals;
- c. That the watersheds feed and be fed by rainfall, snowmelt, and aquifers;
- d. That biodiversity is maintained; and
- e. That the predominantly free-flowing nature of the South St. Vrain Creek is maintained.

Section 4. The Board resolves that it intends to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to the environmental resources within the St. Vrain Creek watersheds by considering them in its decision-making.

Section 5. This resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

ADOPTED the 20TH DAY OF November 2023.

TOWN OF LYONS, COLORADO



Hollie Rogin, Mayor

ATTEST:



Dolores Vasquez, CMC – Town Clerk

