



# Twomile & Upper Goose Creek Open House Public Comments

**Date:** 10.17.13

**Meeting Location & Neighborhood:**

Municipal Building Lobby – Twomile & Upper Goose Creek

**Number of Attendees:** 96

**Staff in Attendance:**

Lesli Ellis	Dave Thacker	Chris Trice	Cindy Spence
Brett KenCairn	LaDonna Eubanks	Annie Noble	Melinda Melton
Rella Abernathy	Kurt Bauer	Randall Rutsch	Douglas Sullivan
Colette Crouse	Katie Knapp	Cris Jones	Jim Gery
Dean Paschall	Matt Wilmoth (Populus)	Bob Harberg	

**Purpose of Meeting**

The purpose of the open house was to provide an opportunity for the community to see flood extent information that the city has collected, weigh in about the impacts of the recent flooding, and provide comments about where they thought flood waters went in their neighborhood. This was also an opportunity for residents to speak with city staff to get information and assistance with flood recovery and find out the status of public facilities. In addition to the sign in station, there were stations providing the following information:

- Flood Recovery Information
- Flood Mapping Information  
(with approximate delineations of recent flooding for review and comment by residents)
- Impacts and status of Transportation Infrastructure
- OSMP Flood Recovery Progress (Opening of Trails and Lifting of Restrictions)
- Energy Smart Information

**Summary of Public Comments**

Many of the comments received regarded addresses being removed from or updates being made to the flood maps. The input provided some clarity to where the flood waters flowed. People raised questions regarding storm sewer and drain engineering for homes that had sewage flood into structures. Additionally, attendees would like to know when culverts will be

addressed, and they would like to see the city's future flood mitigation plans as soon as possible so that they can start making improvements to their properties.

**A link to the map-based summary will be added to this summary and BoulderFloodInfo.net when available. All address-specific comments provided at the meeting will be reflected on the map comments.**



## General Comments

- I am curious on how much weight this recent historical event will be given in developing new flood maps. Certainly, being we were totally dry, I'm expecting that we would not be in a new 100 year flood zone.
- A flash flood came down Iris, came through yards on the south side of Iris and crashed through our basement window and backyard ground floor doors, flooding the basement with 7 feet of water, mud and rocks, and the first floor with 1 foot of the same. The houses north and south of us have had substantial groundwater flooding, with one continuing to have water pouring in even as of today (10/17) and Foothill Elementary, which is not shown on your map as having any flooding, had flood damage in a reported 50% of its classrooms.

- I have photographs showing exactly where water went at Kalmia and 4<sup>th</sup>. (references to properties with flooding or lack thereof that will be in map summary). Thank you!
- The area of 13<sup>th</sup> between Iris and Hawthorn was not as “flooded” as blue lines suggest.
- **Culverts needed:**
  - What is the city going to do to prevent this from happening again? Kalmia, Juniper, Iris, and East Broadway all had water flooding downhill. Side walls on Kalmia and Juniper would help as well as consistent culvert maintenance.
  - Spring Valley Road was flooded from two directions and flooded our yard and basement. We want to install a culvert.
- **Sewer and Storm Drains:**
  - Why does Twomile Creek empty into a farmers ditch vs. storm sewer?
  - The City of Boulder failed to take into account sanitary sewers and storm drains overflowing and backing up into people’s homes. Replace sewer mains.
  - What will the city do for better flood mitigation on Twomile Creek from Linden to Iris? What will the city do so sewer will not back up into our houses? All our damage came from city sewer system.
  - At the corner of Jack Pine, the water flow was much more focused and channeled than in the flood map. The problems would have been much less serious if Twomile Creek had been kept clean and free of debris. Some of the culverts were also blocked so that the water made channels in back yards. The houses south of Juniper generally get more damage, and even a small wall or beam would probably have made a big difference.
- **Flood mitigation/changes:**
  - There was a 30’ wide river with a concrete streambed between Linden and Kalmia at 4<sup>th</sup> Street. 4<sup>th</sup> and Kalmia is in the crosshairs of that river. The flood eroded the SE corner of the intersection of the water headed directly for my basement and filled with 8’ of water. What does the city have planned for this intersection and how can I protect my property from any future flooding?
  - What kind of future flood mitigation is being done for the Linden, Kalmia and Juniper neighborhoods?
  - Miraculously, my house did not flood but only due to a dirt ravine on the bike path on 4<sup>th</sup> Street between Linden and Kalmia. Please ensure the water flow

from Linden to 4<sup>th</sup> Street will be blocked/redirected away from 4<sup>th</sup> in case of a future flood.

- What caused the “wall of water” that came from north of Juniper and west of Broadway and what is being done to prevent this in the future?
  - Silver Lake irrigation channels along Juniper need to be cleared of debris and reconstructed. Why was there no presentation on how the data collected will be used? Is there a timeline for repairing the damaged drainage system?
  - What are the city’s plans for redirecting flood water? Many of us are already planning for the next flood by changing our property... this could create a problem.
  - On the nights of the event, there was a small river of muddy water flowing west to east along Floral Drive. It rose and fell with the intensity of the rain and it was slightly deeper than the gutters along my property line.
- **General:**
    - Appreciated the cookies, but expected more of an informational presentation.
    - It is concerning that you seem to be underselling this event as a potential 50-year.
    - Boulder was extremely fortunate that the library overpass did not trap debris, which would have diverted flood flow into a densely populated area of downtown. This overpass should be removed (Boulder Public Library overpass over Boulder Creek).
    - 30 or so years of paying Goose Creek flood costs on my water bill seemed to provide no protection from serious flooding when Elder Ave overflowed its banks. Why is Elder an inadequate streambed?
    - Who is the city PM over the American West Contractor? I would like a timeframe for reconstruction around Twomile Creek?