

*A few people complained that this email strayed too far from our specific mission at Save Bear Creek Lake Park. I will maintain a tighter focus on our cause in future communications.*

Hello Park Friends,

Jefferson County has just released a draft of the Climate Action Plan. Public comments are due November 27. Here's a link to read the Plan and provide comment, should you be interested.

<https://www.jeffco.us/4410/Climate-Action-Plan>

I applaud the County's efforts to set measurable goals around sustainability, building climate resiliency and improving emergency preparedness and response.

I appreciate that Preserving the Natural Environment is a priority solution in the Ecosystems section of the Plan, which calls for "preserving, protecting, connecting and enhancing open space, forests and natural areas". The draft also notes the benefit of carbon sequestration provided by healthy forests, wetlands and riparian ecosystems.

The first goal of the Plan is to reduce GHG (Greenhouse Gas) emissions. I would also like the benefit of carbon sequestration to factor more prominently into the Plan. We must do two things: reduce GHG emissions AND sequester the carbon that is already in our atmosphere. Preserving riparian ecosystems in places like Bear Creek Lake Park can be part of this solution.

The Climate Action Plan includes a section on Water which calls for Water Conservation and Diverse and Resilient Water Supply. As we pursue resiliency in water supply, let's lead with conservation seek to minimize highly evaporative surface storage in places like Bear Creek Lake Park. Innovative storage solutions such as Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) offer less evaporative storage with fewer negative land use impacts. The forests, wetlands and riparian ecosystems that are at risk of inundation in BCLP absorb carbon. They are a small part of the solution.

Let's prioritize opportunities use water more efficiently and store it more sustainably as we build climate resiliency.

<https://www.jeffco.us/4410/Climate-Action-Plan>

Best,

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Katie Gill

Chair

Save Bear Creek Lake Park