

# CITY DITCH REACH 2A PROJECT AGREEMENTS

Brent Soderlin, Director of Public Works & Utilities

Ryan Germeroth, Deputy Director of Public Works & Utilities

Sara Dusenberry, Senior Planner

Stephanie Ellis, Engineer III, City of Englewood

MAY 5, 2026



# OVERVIEW

History of City Ditch

Project update by City of Englewood

Summary of Lee Gulch Flume

Overview of Project Agreements

Upcoming Public Meetings

Questions & Discussion

# CITY DITCH

- 26 mile irrigation canal
- Capitol Hydraulic Company constructed the ditch
- Began in 1861 in a location about 4 miles upstream
- Construction restarted in 1864 and was completed in 1867



# CITY DITCH

- Richard Little hired to survey the ditch
  - Resurveying found that the original start of the ditch was ineffective
- City Ditch allowed for greater development in the region
- Little opened the Rough and Ready Mill and founded Littleton
  - The mill utilized the abandoned 1861 ditch



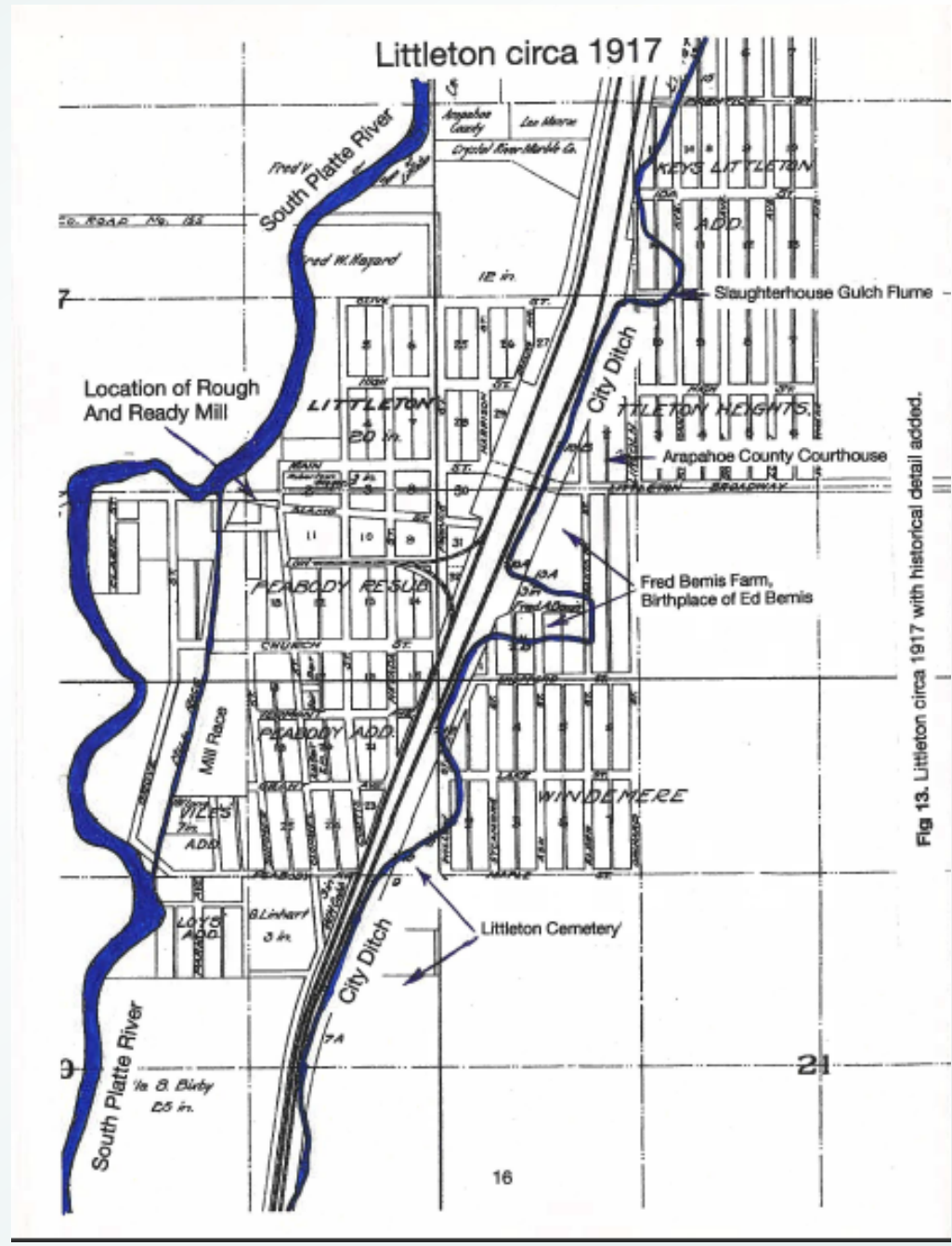


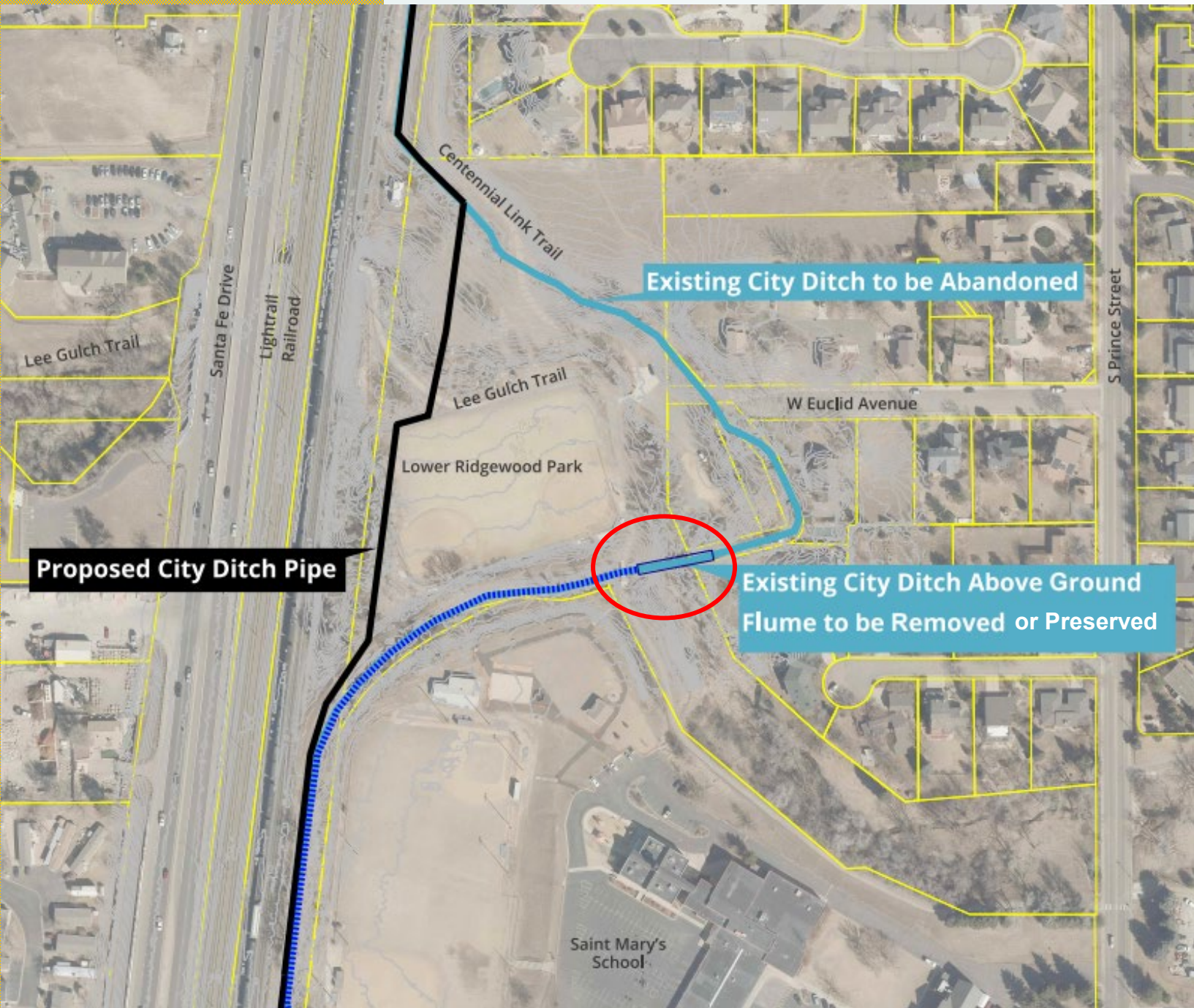
Fig 13. Littleton circa 1917 with historical detail added.

# LEE GULCH FLUME

- Flumes were used to “bridge” features like gulches or side streams
- Originally constructed from wood
- Current steel structure was likely built in the 1940s
- Located in Lower Ridgewood Park – west of Prince Street and north of Saint Mary’s Church



# Lee Gulch



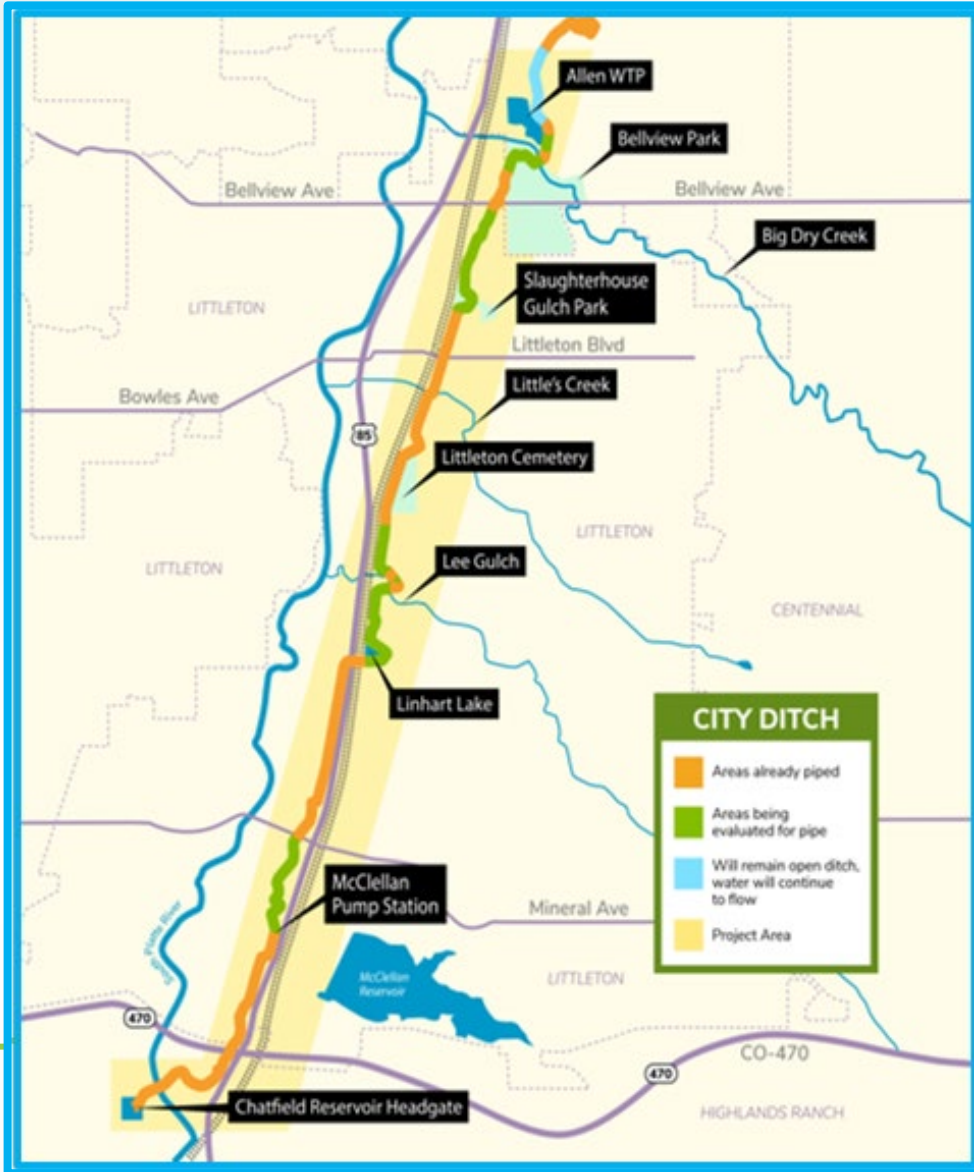
# What is City Ditch?

---

- 150-year-old ditch built to provide water to Denver Metro area
- Englewood owns/operates from Chatfield Reservoir to Harvard Gulch Park
- Englewood's primary raw water conveyance system
- Delivers water to other users in Littleton, Englewood and Denver



# Benefits of Piping City Ditch



- Four stretches to be piped (~2.5 miles)
- Benefits
  - Source Water Quality and Protection
    - Chatfield Reservoir is better quality than South Platte River at Union Ave.
    - Eliminate urban stormwater runoff into ditch
    - Contamination events: train derailment
  - Sustainability
  - Resiliency
  - Safety
  - Reduced capital investment

# Project Progress Since Spring 2025

Reach 3 Resident  
Communication  
and Public Meeting

All of Reach 3 Pipe  
Installed

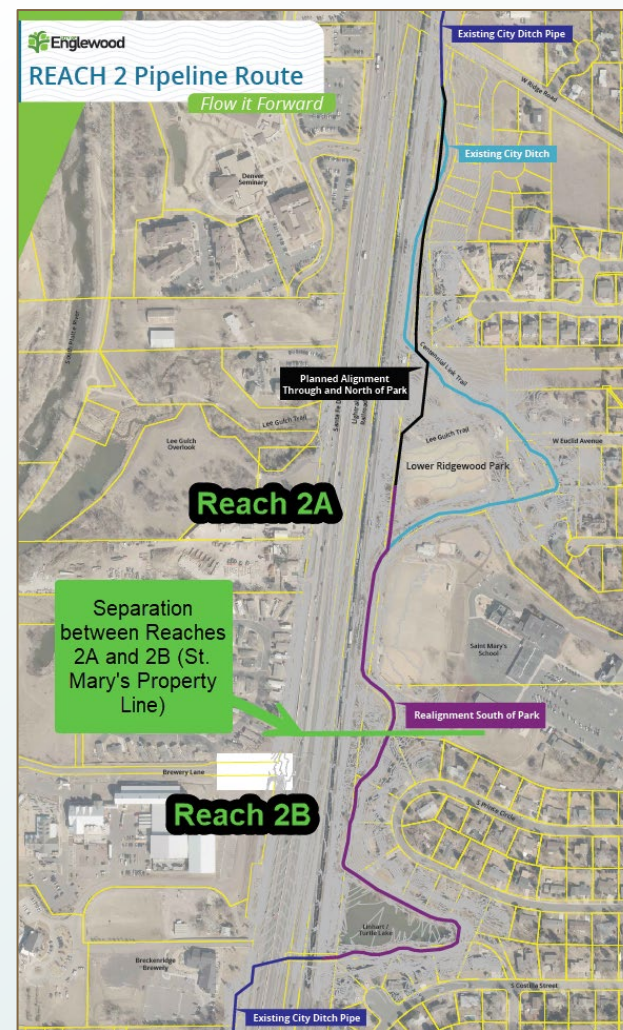
Reach 2 Redesign

Draft Reach 2  
Agreements



# Reach 2 Update and Next Steps

- Finalize redesign
  - Littleton coordination for stormwater
- Two phases for construction
- Littleton agreements
- Additional stakeholder communications
- Overall project completion goal 12/31/27



# SUMMARY OF FLUME ASSESSMENTS

## Lee Gulch

- Corroded / leaking deck
- Corroded steel supports
- Spalled / scaled concrete & missing anchors @ west abutment
- Exposed foundation @ Pier 5 (no undermining)
- Heavy vegetation growth



Scenario		Lee Gulch Flume		
		One time cost	Annual costs	Total 10-yr Cost
<b>Option 1</b>	Remove flume with Englewood project	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal
<b>Option 2a</b>	Stabilize in place only (no aesthetic repair)	\$19,500	\$10,000	\$119,500
<b>Option 2b</b>	Repair & maintain in place (fully functional)	\$300,400	\$21,200	\$512,400
<b>Option 3a</b>	Relocate one flume span only	\$219,200	\$2,300	\$242,200
<b>Option 3b</b>	Relocate truss only	\$455,800	\$4,600	\$501,800
<b>Option 3c</b>	Relocate full structure w/o abutments	\$597,500	\$13,800	\$735,500

# CONSIDERATIONS

- Some limited grant funding may be available to stabilize / restore
- Costs to repair to be fully functional and maintain in place are high
- Concerns around safety and ongoing restoration costs if left in place
- Costs to relocate flumes are even higher and not recommended
- Any relocated structure would need to be secured for safety

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

## 1. Preservation of the ditch and flume structure in place

- Experiencing the full structure and how it connected with the ditch provides a greater understanding of its function and allows interpretation to focus on both the structure's functionality and broader history within the city and region.

## 2. Saving only a piece of the flume structure in place

- Provides some opportunity to understand how the structure functioned, but the full picture is missing.
- The missing sections means there is more reliance on interpretation materials to tell "the story."

## 3. Saving a piece of the flume, not in its original location

- Provides an opportunity to tell the history, but the full impact and importance of the structure is greatly reduced.
- Removes the opportunity to create a historic park as an amenity for residents and visitors.

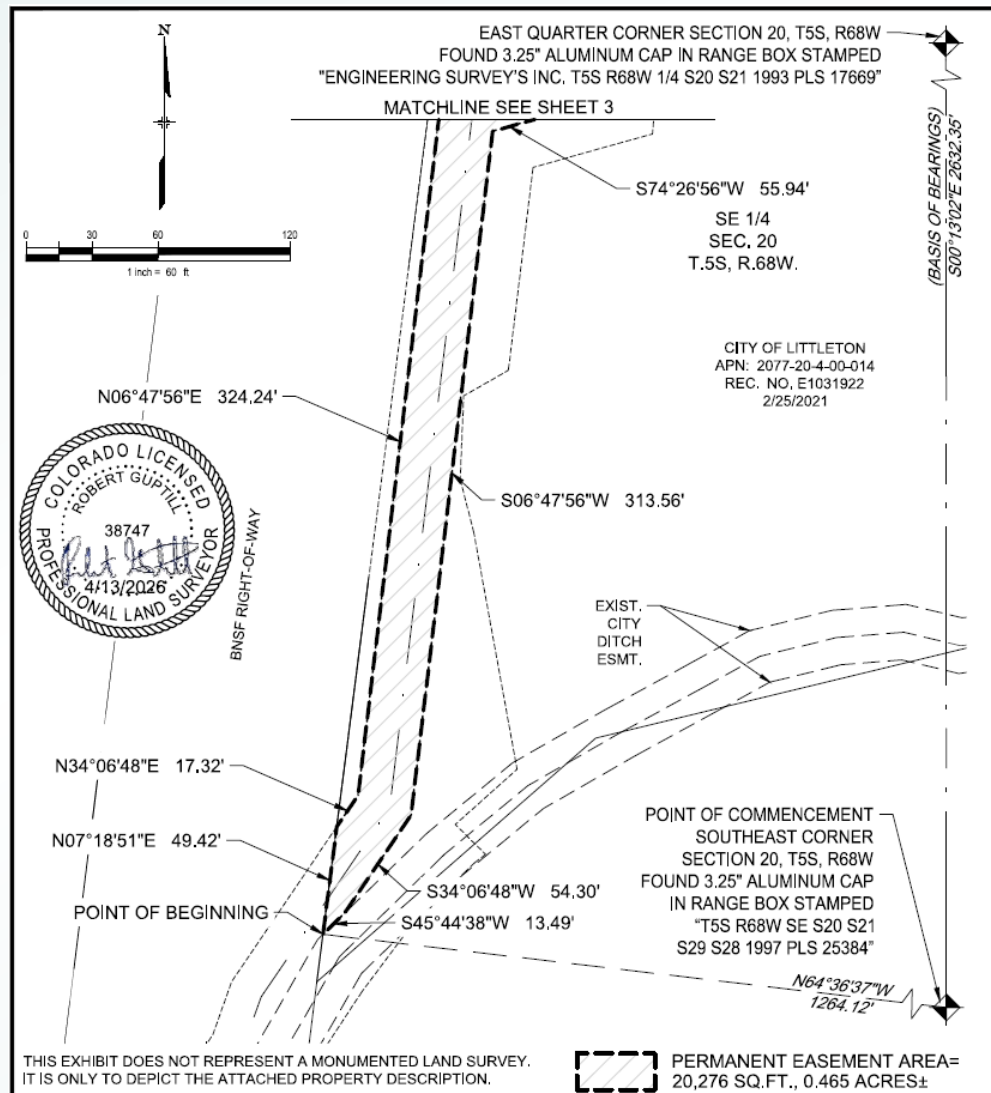
# HPC STUDY SESSION & RECOMMENDATION

- HPC met with staff from Littleton and Englewood on February 16, 2026 to discuss the history of the ditch and current project
- HPC noted they appreciated being involved in the discussion of this flume before we met with Council
- Final HPC recommendation is to keep the flume structure in place to allow for further planning to determine how best to preserve and celebrate City Ditch and the flume structure in Lower Ridgewood Park

# PROJECT AGREEMENTS

- Relinquishment and Grant of Permanent Easements
- Intergovernmental Agreement with Englewood
- Temporary Construction Easement
- Quit Claim Deed

# PERMANENT EASEMENT



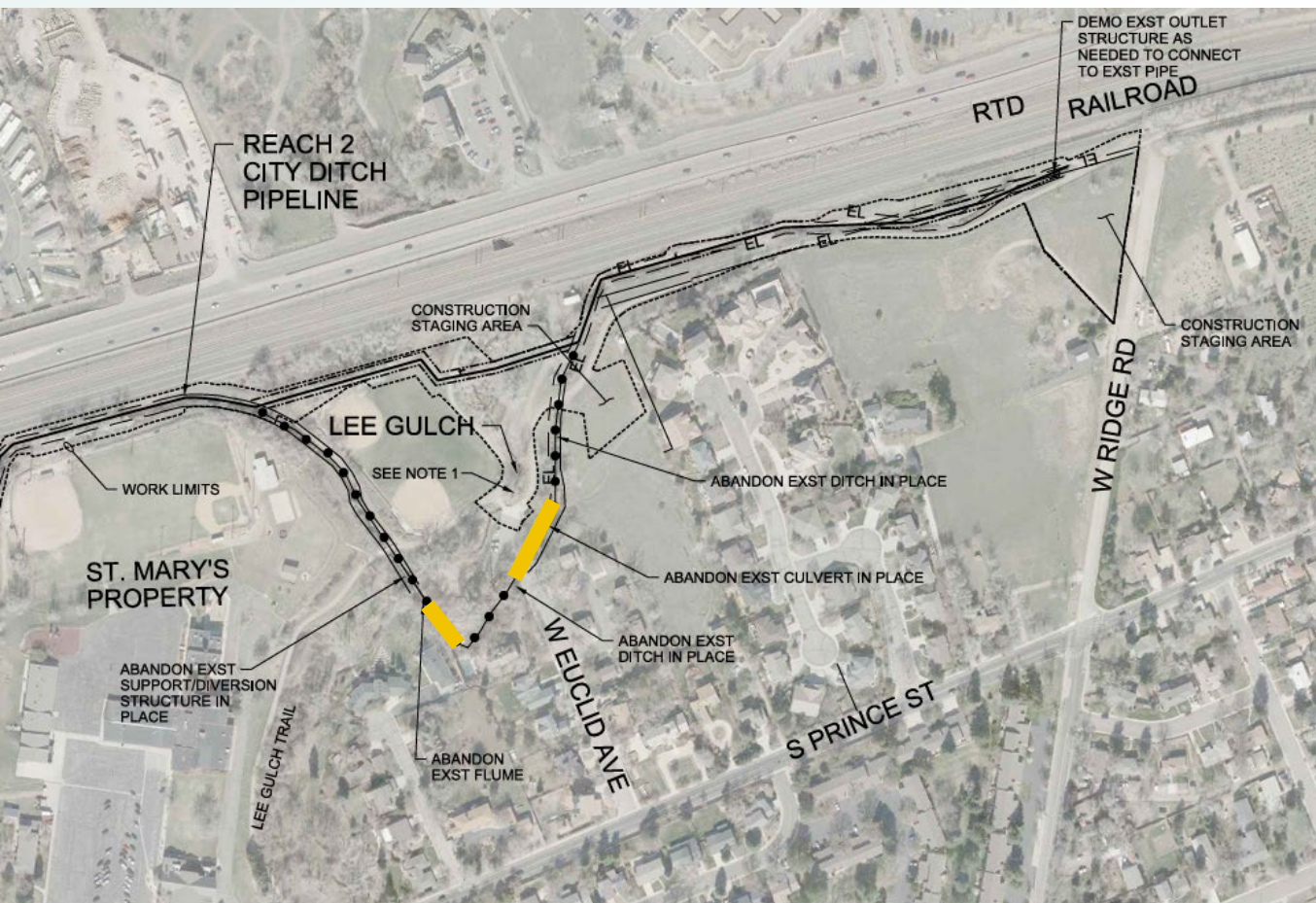
## Lower Ridgewood Park

- Relinquishes old easement
- Establishes new easement
- Designates allowed activities for Englewood & Littleton
- Specifies restoration requirements in new easement area

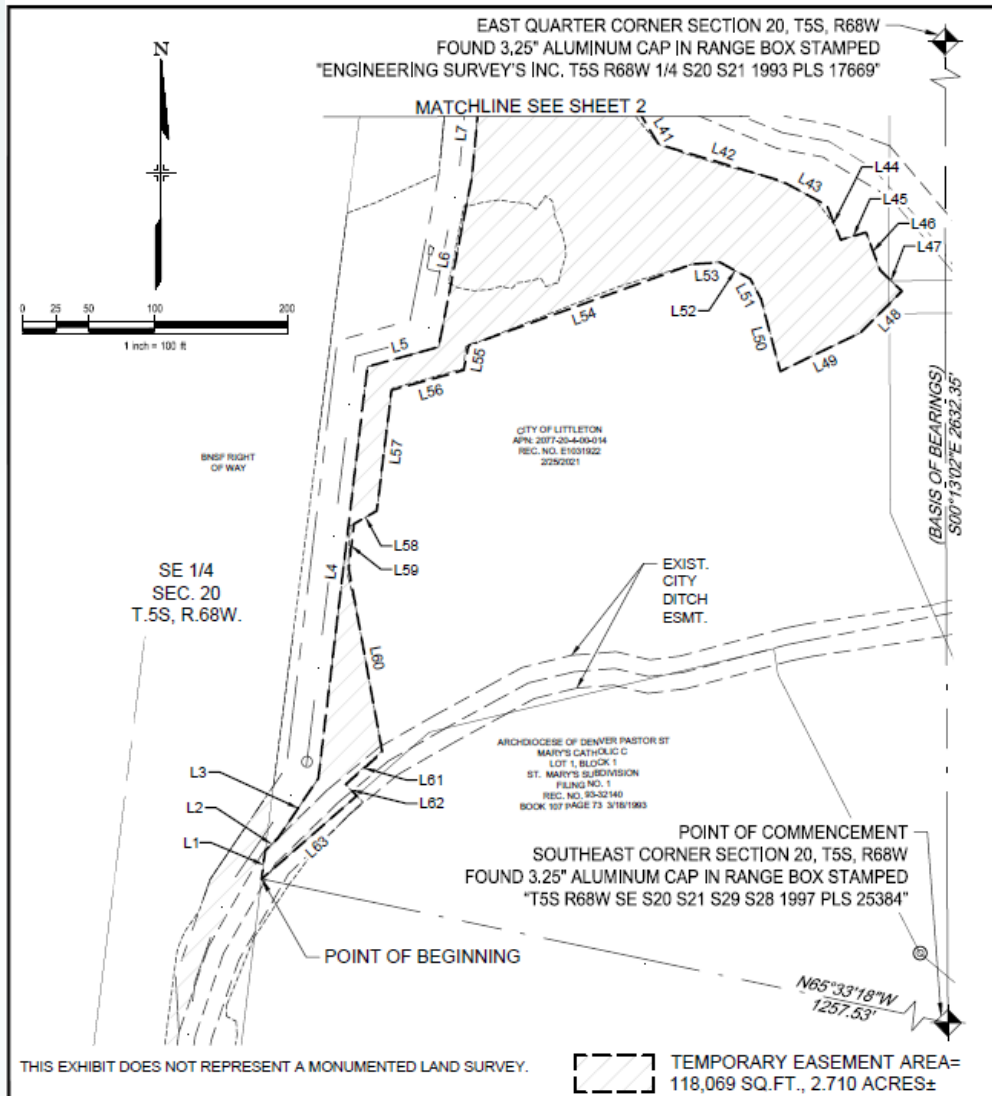
# INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

## Lower Ridgewood Park

- Effective during construction only
- Tree mitigation fee of \$60,250
- Flashfill abandoned pipes
- Preserve the flume in place or remove the remaining structure
- Work with Englewood to advance Reach 2B to construction by 10/1/27
- No reimbursement from Englewood for rehab or preservation



# TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT



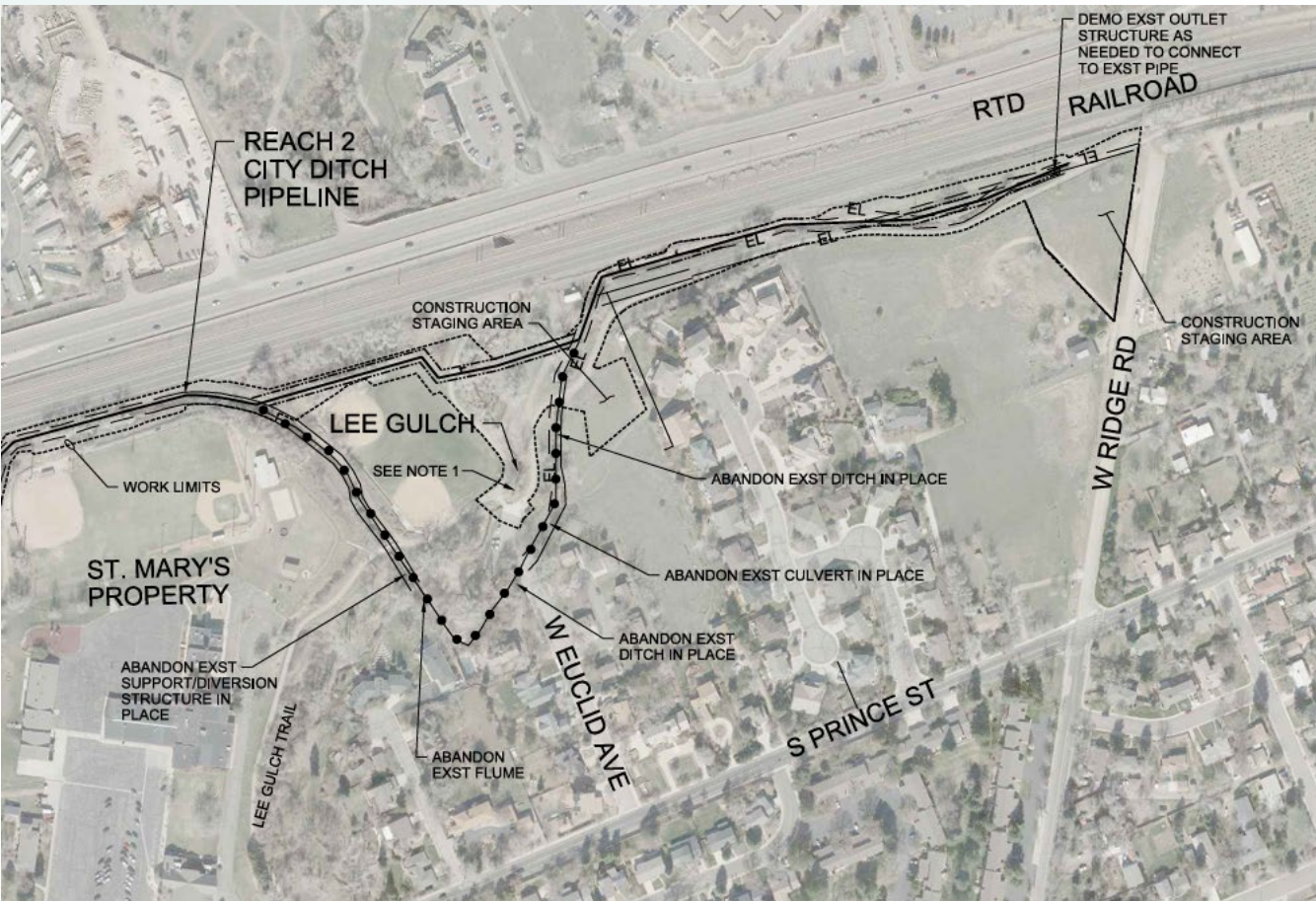
## Lower Ridgewood Park

- Effective during construction only
- Grants access permission
- Grants permission for staging
- Insurance requirements
- Surface restoration requirements

# QUIT CLAIM DEED

## Lower Ridgewood Park

- Records easement relinquishment
- Englewood releases all responsibilities of area to Littleton



# UPCOMING MILESTONES

- June 2<sup>nd</sup>: Agreement resolutions presented to Council
- Fall 2026: Construction starts on project in Reach 2A
- Fall / Winter 2026: Further discussion regarding preservation & commemoration of flume
- Late Fall 2026 / Early Winter 2027: Flume structure removal if removed with Englewood project or left in place for further assessment

# QUESTION FOR COUNCIL

- Does Council wish to fully fund the stabilization and preservation of the flume structure in Lower Ridgewood Park as recommended by the Historic Preservation Commission?