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Riverwalk purchase approved

After annexation, city to use 80 acres as reservoir

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After two unanimous votes by Fort Collins City Council, a \$5.8 million contract to buy half of the proposed Riverwalk project near Harmony Road and Interstate 25 was approved and an annexation process begun for the 260-acre plot.

Upon completion of the annexation process, the city intends to use about 80 acres of the land as a reservoir to be located south of the proposed Riverwalk project, which is a high-density mixture of com-

mercial and residential development.

The first reading of the annexation and rezoning ordinance for the land will occur Oct. 6 at the City Council meeting.

Dennis Bode, the city's water resource manager, said the reservoir will be used to help manage daily return flows into the Poudre River.

"Typically, we need to provide return flows to the river with the correct quantities, timing and location," Bode told the council Tuesday. "We may be

able to manage that so we're able to run (effluent) through town, capture it at the reservoir and later send it downstream to another user."

The reservoir will store between 1,500 and 2,000 acre-feet of water and will have trails connecting to other nearby natural areas, such as Eagle View and Arapaho Bend.

An acre-foot is enough water to meet the annual needs of two or three single-family homes.

As for the contract, \$5.5 million for the project will come from the water utility capital

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funds appropriated for the development of gravel pit water storage. The remaining \$300,000 will come from the Natural Areas Fund.

The city is purchasing the land from Jay Stoner, who owns the remaining 138 acres of land north of the would-be reservoir.

City staff assured the council there was no "quid pro quo" in the deal with Stoner.

"I've looked at the contract; I'm impressed with the contract and I think it is very protective of the city's interests," said council member Ben Manvel.

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