

## Proposal for year-round public toilet access in Ft. Collins

Currently, access to public water and toilet facilities in Fort Collins tends to be limited, with access to many public toilets and water fountains phased out during winter months or nighttime hours. These restrictions impact a variety of people in our community, such as:

- People experiencing homelessness
- Disabled residents who use buses to get to work, shopping, and other destinations
- Runners and cyclists
- Commuters and students who use buses or bike trails to get to work

This is an inconvenience for many residents, but imposes a particular hardship on those people experiencing homelessness. In addition, restricted access to public toilet facilities may increase the potential for unlawful deposit of bodily waste when facilities are closed. We the undersigned respectfully request that City Plan staff include in their scenario development exercise the following proposed solutions.

### Proposed solutions

- 1. Install a four-season water fountain and a Portland Loo<sup>1</sup> or similar public toilet at the Horsetooth MAX line stop.**

We recommend Portland Loos as they have been designed especially for public spaces and promise features that include:

- Graffiti-resistant finish
- Hand sanitizer inside unit plus separate wash station on outside
- Energy efficient LED lighting with motion sensors
- Unit powered by solar panels
- Freeze protection
- Maintenance hose bib for cleaning

Portland Loo recommends that their units be installed in highly visible locations that serve a variety of people such as commuters, shoppers, families/children and tourists as well as people experiencing homelessness. We recommend the Horsetooth stop for several reasons:

Residents experiencing homelessness visit the Salvation Army south of Horsetooth. Residents, including the disabled, use the MAX line to commute to work and to shops, restaurants and other businesses near the line.

CSU students use the MAX line to travel to classes, bars, restaurants and parking.

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<sup>1</sup> For details, see <http://theloo.biz>

Our research indicates that this location is a “hot spot” for unlawful deposit of bodily waste<sup>2</sup> (see attached figure).

It may allow police officers to engage in *positive policing* by directing people to the facility.

2. **Four-season water fountain near the Poudre Trail**

We propose a water fountain in the vicinity of either of the following locations:

Gustav-Swanson Park  
Lee Martinez Park

3. **Four-season water fountain near the Spring Creek Trail**

We propose an installation near either of the following locations:

Edora Park  
Spring Park

## Cost

|                                                           |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Portland Loo <sup>3</sup>                              |           |
| Unit cost                                                 | \$100,270 |
| Shipping                                                  | \$4,500   |
| Installation (est.)                                       | \$30,000  |
| Total                                                     | \$134,770 |
| Annual Custodial Cost (comparable to Oak Street facility) | \$8,,000  |
| 2. Estimated cost per water fountain <sup>4</sup>         |           |
| Unit cost                                                 | \$4,310   |
| Installation                                              | \$2,512   |
| Total                                                     | \$6,822   |
| Total for three stations                                  | \$20,466  |

## Possible objections

*What about the safety and cleanliness of these facilities?*

The Horsetooth MAX stop is a highly visible public space, which should help to mitigate antisocial behavior. Custodial services would be commensurate with those used at facilities such as the Oak Street toilets.

*Will this encourage drug use?*

It's important to understand that drug use will take place whether there are public restrooms or not. The administrator at the Salt Lake City installation reports neither an

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<sup>2</sup> Fort Collins Police Department statistics

<sup>3</sup> See quote provided by Portland Loo, dated July 27, 2018

<sup>4</sup> Estimates based on Elkay Outdoor ezH2O Bottle Filling Station installed April 2018 at Oak Street Park

increase nor decrease in perceived drug use. However, the Portland Loo has automatic lighting and louvers that permit essential privacy but by design it still allows an attendant or police officer to determine how many people are using the facility at a given time.

## Additional details

Portland Loo: <http://theloo.biz>

Elkay Fountains: <http://www.elkay.com/lk4400bf>

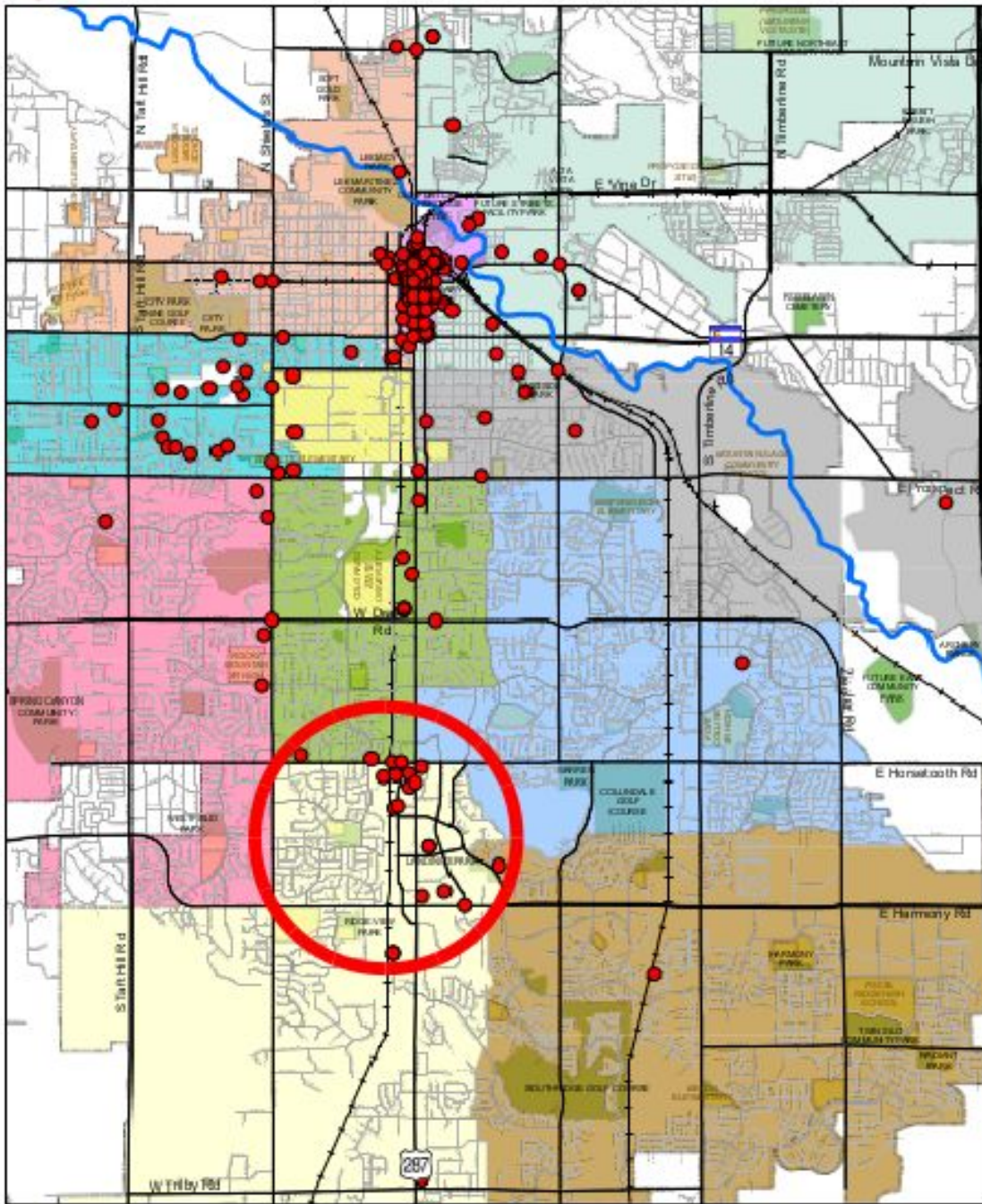
Portland Loo decreases public urination citations by 50% and cleaning efforts by 27% in San Antonio: [San Antonio Current, June 1017](#)

Cambridge, MA: [Boston Globe, Feb. 2018](#)





2013 - 2017  
● BODILY WASTE CITATIONS



Lori Frank, Crime Analyst  
5/18/18

Fort Collins Police Department map of bodily waste citations from 2013-2017 reveals a "hot spot" close to the MAX stop near the intersection of Horsetooth and Mason.