



# BROADBAND INITIATIVE

Elk Falls Ranch, Mountain View Lakes, Woodside and  
Staunton State Park



# Background

- The State of Colorado has funds available that can be obtained through a grant process to bring high speed internet (broadband) to rural communities.
- Broadband is defined as 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.
- The neighborhoods of *Elk Falls Ranch*, *Mountain View Lakes* and *Woodside* have partnered to apply for a Broadband Grant. Staunton State Park may have a role in the project as well.
- There are two grant cycles each year – July 15 and January 15. We plan to submit our grant **July 15, 2020**.
- Our desired technology is fiber optics such as Fiber-to-the-Premise (FTTP). As such, we have selected South Park Telephone to be our internet service provider partner in the grant. They can provide fiber technology and are familiar with the grant process.

# Benefits of Fiber Technology

- **More Bandwidth** - allows for substantially higher download and upload speeds – up to 1 Gbps without data limits (which far exceeds the minimum of 25 Mbps to be considered broadband)
- **Greater Reliability** – less susceptible to interruptions caused by inclement weather or user demand
- **Future Proof** –
  - *Fiber optic technology is considered the purest form for data transmission and provides the foundation to deliver advanced services into the future.*
  - *Unlike DSL or satellite, fiber optic technology can be easily updated as bandwidth requirements continue to increase*
- **Property Value** - Several studies have shown high speed internet increases home value between 3-6% and may even prevent losing an offer on your home for sale.
  - <https://www.fiberbroadband.org/blog/study-shows-home-values-up-3.1-with-access-to-fiber>
  - <https://www.computerworld.com/article/2941875/fiber-broadband-access-can-boost-home-values.html>

# Benefits of Participating Now

In addition to ultimately having fast, reliable, high quality internet, there are more benefits:

- **Reduced monthly rates** - The more residents we sign on early, the better the discounts.
- **Bargain rate to bring fiber to your home** - Residents who commit to the project by June 30, 2020. and commit to investing \$500.00 will not have to pay anything additional to bring fiber to their home (unless you have special requests). Residents who decide they want to tap in later could pay up to \$3,000.00 for installation depending on how far away they are from the main transport line.
- **You no longer need Satellite TV – That bill can be eliminated!** – With the ability to adequately use a streaming service, you can have access to thousands of channels vs. 200-300 channels from your satellite company.
- **Ready for the future** – Technology is moving fast. It is unlikely the internet service you use now will be able to accommodate the technology of the future. For example: big TVs that are being sold now are 4K and some 8K. You need 25 Mbps to recognize the benefits of a 4K TV. Fiber can adapt.

# What We Need From You

We don't want to lose out on this opportunity. If we don't do this for ourselves, no one will.

- **Complete interest survey** - <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07eguvqyuyk5ct2r51/start>
- **Contribute \$100 to fund the Engineering and Feasibility Study** which will answer questions like:
  - *Can the existing IREA poles support the fiber cable?*
  - *What is the path of least resistance?*
  - *Where will they need to bore under the road?*
  - *and ultimately cost of the project*
- We can't complete the grant without this study being conducted first.
- Estimated cost of the study is \$20,000. South Park Telephone (SPT) has committed to paying half or \$10,000. For SPT to make the investment, they need assurance from us that we are committed. We need to raise \$10,000 by **March 31st**. We are asking at least 100 residents to make a contribution of \$100 towards the study. This is non-refundable. It is simply a show of interest and good-will to move the project forward. (Since there are 600 dwellings between the three neighborhoods, this goal should be easily accomplished.)
  - **Use this Form to submit your contribution.** <http://285broadband.com/resources/documents/EFSC-Form-02-06-2020.pdf>
- **Sign a Commitment Agreement and pay a Commitment Fee of \$500 by June 30th** - This will be refunded, if we do not receive the grant. This is your fee to bring fiber to your home. We need at least 50% (or 300) of residents to commit. This will not be requested until after the Engineering and Feasibility Study
- **Conduct Speed Tests** - Once you've signed a Commitment Agreement we will ask you to complete a few speed tests so we can prove we are underserved. Instructions on this to come later.
- **Submit Letters of Support** - You can help us increase our chances of receiving the grant by submitting an online letter of support when we are closer to the grant submission date. Instructions on this to come later.

# How to stay informed

- Join our Facebook Private Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2441495086101499/>
  - *This site gives residents a forum to ask questions and conduct discussions. Project updates will be posted regularly.*
- Check our website – <http://www.285broadband.com/> for updates
  - *Thank you to Matt Fontaine of Woodside for developing and maintaining our website.*
- Watch for posted updates and meeting notices in your neighborhood
- Read e-mail
  - *E-mail is the most efficient method for us to communicate with you. If you are not receiving project emails and meeting notices from your neighborhood organizer, please let them know and send them your email.*
  - Diana Link – Mountain View Lakes – [dianalinkdvm@gmail.com](mailto:dianalinkdvm@gmail.com)
  - Mary Ruth Schoen – Woodside 2,3,4 – [maryruth.schoen@gmail.com](mailto:maryruth.schoen@gmail.com)
  - Lara Reinoehl - Woodside, 5,6 – [larareinoehl@Hotmail.com](mailto:larareinoehl@Hotmail.com)
  - Matt Fontaine - Woodside 1 – [matt@brasscreative.com](mailto:matt@brasscreative.com)
  - Bev Long - Elk Falls Ranch - [bevlong2555@gmail.com](mailto:bevlong2555@gmail.com)

# Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. Will the fiber cable be above or under ground?
  - A. SPT will use existing IREA poles and follow existing infrastructure whenever possible. If your existing service comes to your door underground, then SPT will follow that path.
- Q. What happens if we don't get the grant?
  - A. We will try again during the next grant cycle in January 2021.
- Q. What if one neighborhood out of the three can't make their 50% commitment?
  - A. The goal is to obtain 300 commitments. It doesn't matter if more commitments come from one neighborhood than another.
- Q. What will our monthly rates be?
  - A. It depends on how much Mbps you buy. Estimated cost for 25 Mbps is \$79.00/month. The more residents that commit to the project, the lower the rates will be.
- Q. What about including other neighborhoods such as Kings Valley?
  - A. No other neighborhoods will be included. It would be too much to manage and would slow the project down.
- Q. How long will all this take?
  - A. There is a 60 day comment period after the grant is submitted. So it won't be until September 2020 until we hear if we've been awarded the grant. After that, it is required by the grant that the project be completed within two years. (I know. It seems like a really long time. But remember time tends to pass by very quickly.)

# References

- State of Colorado Broadband Deployment Fund (Approves the grants)  
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora-broadband-fund/how-fund-works>
- South Park Telephone <https://www.southparktelephone.com>
- Broadband Initiative Webpage [www.285broadband.com](http://www.285broadband.com)
- Previous Grant Applications <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora-broadband-fund/apps-received>
- Form to submit contribution for Engineering and Feasibility Study  
<http://285broadband.com/resources/documents/EFSC-Form-02-06-2020.pdf>