



# Human Remains, Cultural Resources, and Paleontological Resources Inadvertent Discovery Plan

Jefferson County, Colorado



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CDM Smith, Inc  
Westminster Water 2025 Preliminary  
Design Project

# Human Remains, Cultural Resources, and Paleontological Resources Inadvertent Discovery Plan Jefferson County, Colorado

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**TYPE OF WORK**

Inadvertent Discovery Plan

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# Introduction

The City of Westminster (City) is considering construction of a new water treatment facility (WTF), the Westminster Water 2025 Preliminary Design Project (Project). The Project site is located on approximately 40 acres within the City of Westminster, Jefferson County, Colorado. AK Pioneer Consulting, LLC (AKPC) was contracted to develop this Human Remains, Cultural Resources, and Paleontological Resources Inadvertent Discovery Plan (Plan) to be followed if cultural resources, including human remains, are discovered during any ground-disturbing activities for the Project. The City and its contractors will take the following steps if inadvertent cultural resources, especially human remains or suspected human remains, are discovered during construction of the Project.

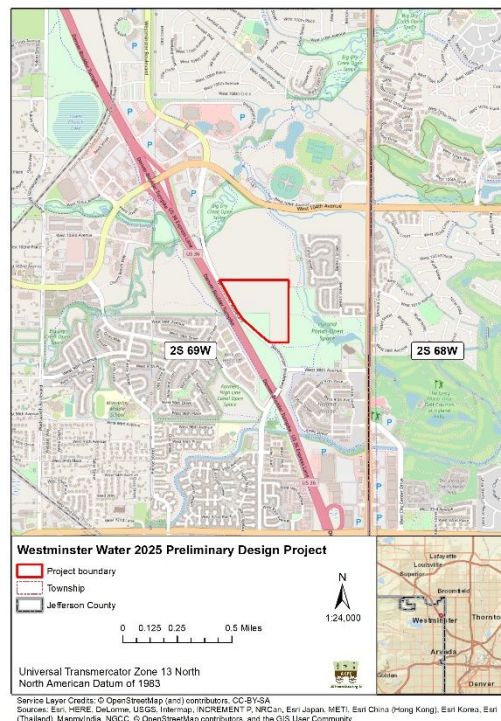
This Plan provides important information concerning the process to follow if human remains, pre-historic or historic artifacts or features, and/or fossils are encountered during ground-disturbing activities once construction commences. This Plan supports Colorado Revised Statutes (CRS) 24-80-401-411 (Part 4 – Historical, Prehistorical, and Archaeological Resources), Jefferson County’s goal to “balance development with the preservation and integration of significant historic resources (Jefferson County Comprehensive Master Plan), and the City’s goals “to identify, recognize and protect Westminster’s unique and irreplaceable historic and cultural heritage” (Section 6.7 CID-G-9 in the Westminster Comprehensive Plan, amended 2015).

The Project is approximately 0.4 miles south of Westminster City Park in Section 13, Township 2 South, Range 69 West on undeveloped private land and a small portion of City-owned land in abandoned agricultural fields. The proposed site is generally bound by Westminster Boulevard on the west, and Hylands Creek Open Space and Hylands Ponds Open Space to the east (Figure 1). West 104th Avenue is approximately 0.3 mile north of the Project.

## Discovery of Human Remains

The City and its contractors will enact the following procedures in the event human remains or suspected human remains are discovered:

- If suspected human remains are discovered, all ground-disturbing activities in the vicinity of the discovery will immediately stop.
- Any person who discovers suspected human skeletal remains, on any land, will immediately notify the coroner and the Sheriff of Jefferson County (Table 1).



**Figure 1. Westminster Water 2025 Preliminary Design Project Location.**

**Table 1. Points of Contact if Human Remains are Discovered.**

<b>Contact Agency</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
<b>Jefferson County Coroner</b>	800 Jefferson County Parkway Golden, CO 80419	303-271-6480
<b>Jefferson County Sheriff</b>	200 Jefferson County Parkway Golden, CO 80419	303-271-0211

- If possible, a 30-meter (100-foot) buffer will be created around the discovery and access restricted by installing temporary fencing.

The coroner will conduct an on-site inquiry within 48 hours of notification to attempt to determine whether such skeletal remains are human remains and to determine their forensic value. If the coroner is unable to make such determinations, the sheriff or the coroner will request a forensic anthropologist from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to assist in making such determinations.

If it is confirmed that the remains are human remains, but of no forensic value, the coroner will notify the state archaeologist of the discovery. The state archaeologist will recommend security measures for the site and will require the human remains be examined by a qualified archaeologist to determine whether the remains are more than 100 years old and to evaluate the integrity of their archaeological context before ground-disturbing activities can resume. Complete documentation of the archaeological context of the human remains will be accomplished in a timely manner by a qualified archaeologist.

If the on-site inquiry discloses that the human remains are Native American, the state archaeologist will notify the Commission of Indian Affairs (Commission). The remains will be disinterred unless the City, the state archaeologist, and the Chairman of the Commission or his/her designee unanimously agree to leave the remains in place. Disinterment shall be conducted carefully, respectfully, and in accordance with proper archaeological methods and by an archaeologist who holds the appropriate permit. In the event the remains are left in place, they will be covered over.

Without the City's express consent for an extension of time, disinterment will be accomplished no later than 10 consecutive days after the state archaeologist has received notification from the coroner. The archaeologist who conducts the disinterment will assume temporary custody of the human remains, for a period not to exceed one year from the date of disinterment, for the purpose of study and analysis. If a period in excess of one year is required to complete such study and analysis, the Commission shall hold a hearing and may, based upon its findings, grant an extension.

The cost of the disinterment, archaeological analysis, and physical anthropological study shall be borne by the state archaeologist except when the human remains are recovered from private lands. In the latter case, if no party can be identified who will bear the cost of such scientific study, the state archaeologist shall bear such costs.

## Discovery of Cultural Resources

There is potential for cultural resources to be discovered during ground-disturbing activities. These cultural resources may be pre-historic or historic artifacts or features. Artifacts that may be encountered include stone tools, ceramic vessels (possibly fragments), bottles, household items, etc. Features may also be encountered. Some examples of features are rock-lined hearths and foundation remnants. The City will enact the following procedures in the event cultural resources are discovered:

- If cultural resources are encountered, ground-disturbing activities in the vicinity of the discovery will stop and a permitted archaeologist will be contacted to record the discovery (Table 2).
- If possible, a 30-meter (100-foot) buffer will be created around the discovery and access restricted through installation of temporary fencing.
- If the discovery is determined to have potential National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) significance or to be of importance to interested Tribes, the City will notify the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) and work will not resume until the OAHP has reviewed the discovery and an avoidance or treatment plan is developed and implemented.
- If the discovery is not considered significant, then construction may resume. Documentation of the find will be filed with the OAHP.

**Table 2. Points of Contact if Cultural Resources are Discovered.**

Company/Agency	Contact	Address	Phone Number/Email
<b>AK Pioneer Consulting, LLC</b>	Amie Gray, permitted archaeologist, Principal Investigator	1768 Bluebird Drive, Bailey, CO 80421	303-579-6143/ akpioneerconsulting@gmail.com
<b>Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP)</b>	Rebecca Simon, Assistant State Archaeologist – for a list of permitted archaeologists	1200 Broadway, Denver, CO 80302	303-866-4671/ rebecca.simon@state.co.us

## Discovery of Paleontological Resources

Fossil remains may be encountered during ground-disturbing activities. Both fossilized animal and plant material are potential discoveries. The City will enact the following procedures in the event fossils are encountered:

- If paleontological resources are encountered, ground-disturbing activities will stop in the vicinity of the discovery and a permitted paleontologist will be contacted to record the discovery (Table 3).
- If possible, a 30-meter (100-foot) buffer will be created around the discovery and access restricted by installing temporary fencing.

**Table 3. Points of Contact if Paleontological Resources are Discovered.**

<b>Contact</b>	<b>Company/Agency</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Rebecca Simon, Assistant State Archaeologist – for a list of permitted paleontologists	Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP)	1200 Broadway, Denver, CO 80302	303-866-4671/ rebecca.simon@state.co.us

- Work may resume once the Paleontologist has reviewed the fossil encounter, and recorded and completed all work required.