

LOCATION CREATES THE LYONS LIFESTYLE

Thinking of moving your family or business to Lyons? Here's the way to look at what we offer. We're tucked into the foothills of Colorado's Rockies at 5,374 feet above sea level. That's a modest elevation by local standards. Nearby mountains break 14,000 feet. A few towns perch above 8,500. Yet, Lyons is every inch a mountain town, with a bit of Mayberry and some Northern Exposure thrown in.

We're at the edge of mountain wilderness. Surrounded by natural beauty. With more hours of sunshine than San Diego or Miami. Historic, uncrowded, artistic and funky. Out in the Middle of Everywhere.

Lyons is all these things – and a favorite day trip destination for shopping, festivals, art celebrations and for dinner, music lessons and concerts in the park. Visitors bring fishing rods and horses, bikes and hiking boots, children and dogs. Where else can they enjoy whitewater kayaking, fly fishing and inner tubing right in the middle of a residential and commercial district?

Some use our in-town network of riverside bike and jogging paths. Others begin at the edge of town to explore miles of mixed use trails in the spectacular terrain of Roosevelt National Forest and Boulder County Open Space. A few miles up the canyon (either canyon, we have two) they arrive at the Continental Divide, the spine of the North American continent. There – just minutes from Lyons – they visit Colorado's wilderness cathedral. Rocky Mountain National Park is 415 square miles of rock-ribbed splendor encompassing 60 mountains that soar to 12,000 feet or more.

Other day-trippers are attracted To the best music scene on Colorado's Front Range. Planet Bluegrass is the most visible hallmark of this activity, producing events with a nationwide following. But local Musicians, many nationally famous themselves, perform in their hometown year-round. So the music scene here is enriched during summer by luminaries like Greg Brown, Joan Baez, Kris Kristofferson Emmylou Harris, Arlo Guthrie and Norah Jones – and sustained throughout the rest of the year by our neighbors of near-equal rank.

Augmenting the musicians, and sometimes collaborating with them, are sculptors, painters and sandstone artisans of notable skill and reputation. Visual artists living in town and in the surrounding canyons provide year-round enrichment to the locals and showcase their work to regional crowds. And then there is Lyons' food. Art, music and outdoor adventure make for hungry visitors who then relax over a meal at one of our great restaurants. We locals constantly hear expressions of amazement that so many eating places with regional reputations are clustered in such a small town.

We get furry visitors, too. Mule deer wander into Lyons. Elk and bighorn sheep graze on the ridges above. Coyotes work the rabbit and prairie dog populations at the edges of town. Black bear occasionally visit a dumpster or bird feeder. Footprints in the snow let us know another mountain lion passed through. Eagles circle overhead. A pair annually raises a family in a cliffside nest in town, the only city-dwelling eagles in Colorado, according to state officials.

A magnet for day trippers and a stopover for wildlife, Lyons is also home to a community of writers, painters, world class athletes, creative shopkeepers, musicians, sculptors, entrepreneurs and pretty cool regular folks. All of us who live in this blessed place understand that access is the key to our lifestyle. Not only access to music, food, art and outdoor recreation.

Equally important – and truly exceptional – is our access to everyday amenities. You can find just about everything you need for life or play in a ten minute walk from town center: grocery store; two bike shops; Post Office; pharmacy; florist; general store; several gift shop galleries; a medical clinic; two banks; Montessori preschool; 1940s soda fountain; two coffee shops; eleven restaurants; dentist; town library and Town Hall; fitness center; auto mechanic; tire store; three churches; “The old swimming hole”; veterinarian; organic/health food store; three town parks; fire department; two used and rare book stores; a museum of local history; pinball emporium; three schools (primary, middle and high); hardware store; several antique shops; whitewater kayak course; motorcycle shop; children’s playground; quilt shop; art galleries; language school; two great trout streams; softball diamonds; sixteen buildings in the National Register of Historic Places!

Where else in 21st century America can we get all the tools for life and play, and so much more, just ten minutes from the center of town? On foot! And less than an hour from Denver, thirty minutes from Rocky Mountain National Park and a fifteen minute drive from Boulder or Longmont. With urban near, wilderness here and amenities minutes away, our little town at the mouth of two exquisite canyons offers everything we need for life and most of what we want for play. Lyons is much more than a favorite day rip destination for Front Range residents. For those lucky enough to live in Lyons, it is the source of a location-based lifestyle few Colorado towns can match!

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