

A New Home for the Justice Center

Three concepts for a better-located, more efficient justice facility, and a public garden in its place.

The Justice Center at 1777 6th Street is not scheduled to move. This brief proposes that the County and City study whether a new location would serve the courts better, and what the land could become if it did.

Today's building

- **Owner:** Boulder County.
- **Users:** the courts and the District Attorney's office, which recently added a two-story addition for 53 employees. City of Boulder Municipal Court staff also work there.
- **Location:** on Boulder Creek's flood corridor, between Canyon Blvd, 6th St and the Creek Path.

What the County gains

- A justice facility designed for today's courts, outside the flood corridor.
- Lower transport costs and risk if courts sit beside the jail.
- A share in a public asset: a garden expected to draw about 275,000 visits a year and an estimated \$13–31 million a year in local spending.

The point: the garden doesn't ask the County to give something up. It offers a path to a better-located justice facility, and turns the old site into a public asset for everyone.



What the 6th Street site could become: Boulder Botanical Gardens, with the conservatory, dome, lawn and stage beside the Creek Path.

Three concepts to study

RECOMMENDED CONCEPT

1. A consolidated justice campus at the County Jail, 3200 Airport Road

- **Courts already work there.** The jail has on-site courtroom facilities for arraignments and hearings.
- **Fewer daily transports.** About 86% of the jail's population is held before trial, so people move between jail and courtroom constantly. Courts next door save time, staff and risk.
- **The County is already investing there,** including the 252-bed Joe Pelle Center for alternative sentencing.



Concept renderings, watercolor and aerial: a consolidated justice campus beside the County Jail at 3200 Airport Road. Illustrative only; not a design.

2. The 28th Street corridor, near the County's new service hub

- The County bought 2525 28th St in late 2024 for \$14.2 million to consolidate Community Services, Public Health, Human Services and Housing.
- It sits near the Boulder Junction transit center and on several bus lines, easy for jurors, witnesses and the public to reach without a car.



Concept renderings, watercolor and aerial: a courthouse hub on the 28th Street corridor beside bus rapid transit. Illustrative only; not a design.

3. Municipal Court to the City's Western City Campus

- The City's new consolidated office campus at Broadway and Alpine opens in 2027 for about 600 employees.
- Moving Municipal Court functions there would shrink what a new County facility needs to hold.



Concept renderings, watercolor and aerial: Municipal Court functions at the Western City Campus, Broadway and Alpine. Illustrative only; not a design.

How a move could be paid for

The County has done this before. In 2025 it decided to sell its 17.5-acre North Broadway Complex, approving a \$26 million sale that November, and to consolidate services at the new 28th Street hub. The same approach could apply here: the value of the 6th Street land, transferred to the City for public use, becomes part of the funding for a modern justice facility.

THE ASK

Commission a joint City-County space-needs and relocation study for the Justice Center, with the garden as one option for the site.

Contact & press: Joe Pergolizzi · LetsGrowTheBoulderBG@gmail.com · Commissioners: commissioners@bouldercounty.gov

Sources: Milender White, Boulder County Justice Center Addition; City of Boulder, Western City Campus; Boulder County, History of the Jail; Boulder Reporting Lab, Oct 1, 2024; Boulder County, 28th Street Hub; Boulder County, North Broadway Complex sale, Nov 18, 2025; Boulder Botanical Gardens Visitor Report and Business Plan, October 2026.