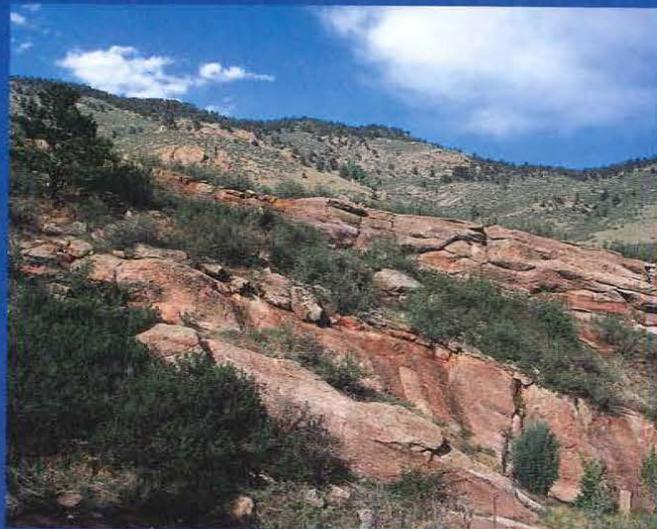
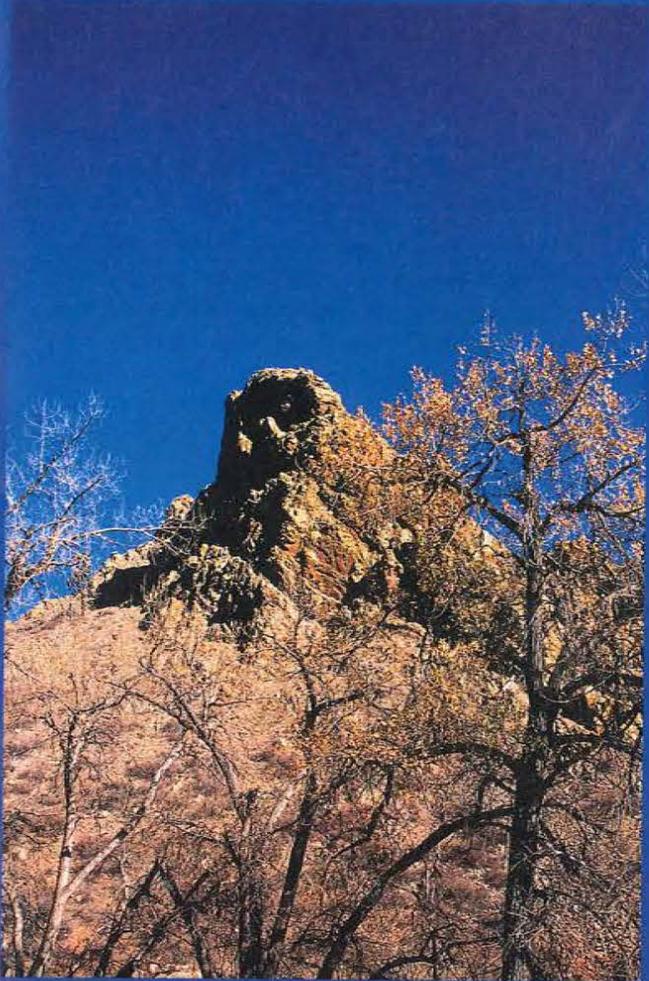


LARIMER COUNTY
OPEN LANDS PROGRAM
ANNUAL REPORT 2000

LARIMER COUNTY
PARKS & OPEN LANDS



A message from the chairman

Open Lands: Building a Legacy of Conservation and Environmental Stewardship

In November of 1999, the citizens of Larimer County provided the Open Lands Program with a resounding vote of support and additional resources for protecting open lands. We have just completed our first full year under the terms of the voter-approved extension and the results are impressive. The numbers tell part of the story—more than 3,200 acres protected in the year 2000. But the special significance of our accomplishments go far beyond the numbers.

- **Fossil Creek Reservoir:** In partnership with the City of Fort Collins, a long-standing vision of protecting this area was achieved. This 666-acre project protects key winter habitat for bald eagles, and will provide opportunities for hiking and other nature-oriented activities.
- **Eagle's Nest Ranch:** Straddling the North Fork of the Poudre River, this property provides critical riparian habitat and enhances access to a large block of the Roosevelt National Forest.
- **Enos Mills Homestead:** Enos Mills is acknowledged as the father of Rocky Mountain National Park. The historic homestead where he lived and worked and the surrounding 192 acres were preserved through a conservation easement. This project was accomplished through a partnership with the Estes Valley Land Trust.

Environmental stewardship is deeply ingrained as a goal in the mission of the Open Lands Program. During the past year, the program increased funding for resource management and took other steps to reinforce the importance of this goal. As more land is protected, more efforts will focus on resource management.

Another priority is preparation of a new Larimer County Open Lands Master Plan. At its core, this effort is designed to provide residents with an opportunity to help define priorities and guide further development of the Open Lands Program. The master plan will reflect public comments obtained through a series of workshops, a comprehensive opinion survey, and other outreach efforts. Look for additional opportunities to comment over the next few months.

Thanks for reviewing the annual report and taking the time to learn more about how your open lands funds are being used. Better still, get outside and take a first-hand look at the legacy we are creating together. Check out the Devil's Backbone, Horsetooth Mountain Park, Longview Farm, and the other areas that have been preserved through the Open Lands Program to help maintain the special character of Larimer County.

Since the Open Lands Program began in 1996, more than 12,000 acres have been protected by purchase or through conservation easements. Thanks to your support, the Open Lands Program will continue to build a legacy for which future residents of our county will be deeply grateful.



Tom Keith,
Chair, Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board

Mission Statement and Guiding Principles

of the Larimer County Open Lands Program

The Mission of the Open Lands Program is to preserve and provide significant open space, natural areas, wildlife habitat, parks and trails for present and future generations. These open lands provide opportunities for leisure, human renewal and protection of our natural and cultural diversity.

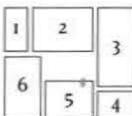
Open Lands Advisory Board

As a citizen advisory group, the Open Lands Board makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding open space, regional park and trail acquisitions. The membership of the board represents a balance in geography, population, and interest.



Standing, left to right: Merrill Kaufmann, Lori Jeffrey, Wendell Amos, Kerri Traynor*, John Heaton, Linda Stanley, Tom Shoemaker, Nancy Wallace, K-Lynn Cameron*, Milan Karspeck, Tom Keith, Larry Kendall. Sitting: Charlie Johnson*, Jerry White*, Meegan Flenniken*, Brian Hayes, Tom Bender**. Not pictured: Duane Pond, Lori Smith*, Charlie Gindler*

*Open Lands Staff
**Commissioner liaison



Cover:

1. Wildflowers, photo Scott Fraser
2. Rimrock Open Space
3. Red-tail Ridge Open Space, photo Scott Fraser
4. Great blue herons
5. Harper Conservation Easement, photo Scott Bacon
6. Eagle's Nest Open Space

A Big "Thank You" to All Open Lands Champions!

Since 1998, donations of property and cash from landowners and citizens total more than \$3.5 million—far exceeding any expectations!

Contributions by Champions of the Open Lands Program show they care deeply about open land preservation. Their concern is helping to establish a legacy of conservation in Northern Colorado.

The landowners have been helped through new far-sighted regulations that encourage conservation. The Colorado State Income Tax Credit laws provide important financial incentives for property owners to protect their land.

Donation Over \$500,000

(CE = Conservation Easement)

Paul Jonjak & Family (1999)	Blue Mountain Bison Ranch CE
Childers & Henning Families (1996)	Childers/Henning CE

\$300,000 - \$499,000

Curt & Jennifer Heckrodt (2000)	Red-tail Ridge Open Space
David & Susan Jessup (2000)	Sylvan Dale Ranch CE
Bob Ramsay (2000)	Ramsay-Shockey Open Space
Jack & Beth White (2000)	Rimrock Open Space

\$100,000 - \$299,000

Joe & Pat Harper (2000)	Harper CE
Jon & Susanne Stephens (2000)	Ryan Gulch CE
Rex Baker (1999)	Lily Lake Water & Recreation Rights
David & Susan Jessup (1999)	Sylvan Dale Ranch CE
Jeanne Roessler (1998)	Lily Lake Property

\$1,000 - \$99,000

Robert & Ann Avis (2000)	Eagle's Nest CE
Anonymous Donation (2000)	Future Project
Byron & Beverly Williams (1999)	Fossil Creek Regional Open Space
Trout Unlimited (1999)	Lily Lake Water & Recreation Rights
Tahosa Valley Assoc. (1999)	Lily Lake Water & Recreation Rights
First Choice Bank (1999)	Devil's Backbone Nature Trail
First National Bank (1999)	Devil's Backbone Nature Trail
Audra & Don Hughey (1998)	Horsetooth Mountain Park
Rocky Mountain Park Assoc. (1998)	Lily Lake Property
Stephanie Steppel-White (1997)	Coyote Ridge Natural Area
Martha Steinbach Estate (1996)	Childers/Henning CE
Loveland Wildlife Assoc. (1996)	Boyd Lake property

Donations Provide Important Parcels

Many landowners throughout Larimer County understand that their properties are part of the unique ecosystem that comprises the eastern boundary of the Rocky Mountains. During the past five years, several property owners who value the natural landscape have donated property to the Open Lands Program to assure preservation of important areas.

Thanks to willing landowners, the Open Lands Program can maximize dollars and fulfill the vision of protecting the special places of Larimer County.

Sylvan Dale Ranch

The eastern entrance to the Big Thompson Canyon is one of the most beautiful landscapes in Larimer County. Thousands of people view this area every year on their way to Rocky Mountain National Park. Now, thanks to landowners, nearly 800 acres at the mouth of the canyon will be preserved forever.

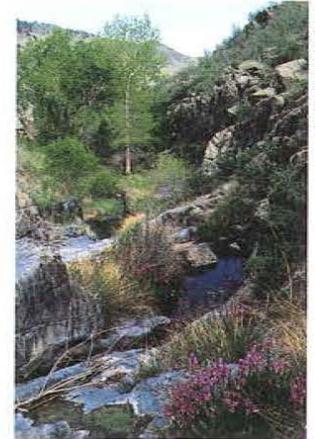
In 1999, the Open Lands Program acquired a 444-acre conservation easement from David and Susan Jessup, the owners of the Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch. The family donated an additional 150 acres of property in 2000, and will donate another 180 acres in 2001.

Harper Conservation Easement

With abundant wildlife and spectacular views that stretch from the eastern plains to the peaks of Rocky Mountain National Park, Joe and Pat Harper know they own one of the most unique and magnificent private parcels in Larimer County.

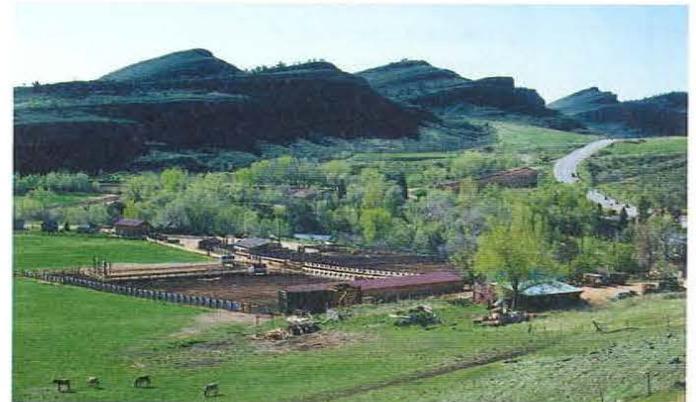
Wishing to keep the property pristine, the couple worked with the Open Lands Program to set up a preservation plan. The Open Lands Program was eager to protect the property for two reasons: it is within the Blue Mountain Watershed, a priority protection area; and it buffers the 4100-acre Blue Mountain Bison Ranch, which is already protected.

To protect this special place forever, the Harpers donated a conservation easement on their 240-acre parcel. To assure long-term monitoring, they provided endowment funds to the Larimer Land Trust.



A scenic ravine on the Harper property

Photo by Scott Bacon



A working landscape at Sylvan Dale Ranch

2000 Acquisitions

**lead agency on project*

Front Range Mountain Backdrop

Harper Conservation Easement

To protect wildlife, preserve expansive views, and preserve their property forever, the owners donated this 240-acre conservation easement.

Total Cost: \$0

*Partners: *Larimer County, Larimer Land Trust*

Sylvan Dale Conservation Easement (addition)

Important wildlife habitat for mule deer, bobcat, mountain lion, black bear, and coyote is now protected near the mouth of the Big Thompson Canyon thanks to a donation of 150 acres from Sylvan Dale Ranch.

Total Cost: \$0

*Partners: *Larimer County*

Rimrock Open Space (addition)

Nestled against the red cliffs south of Horsetooth Reservoir, this scenic acquisition includes a 180-acre conservation easement, and a 207-acre acquisition. Habitat for mule deer and elk, and perching and hunting grounds for raptors are protected. A regional trail connecting to Coyote Ridge is proposed which in turn, will connect with the Devil's Backbone trail.

Total Cost: \$1,396,360

Partners: Fort Collins

Larimer County Open Lands: \$1,296,360

Devil's Backbone Open Space (addition)

Twenty-nine acres were added to provide a buffer from nearby development, and protect scenic views in all directions. The Devil's Backbone is becoming one of the most popular hiking areas in the county.

Total Cost: \$130,500

Larimer County Open Lands: \$130,500

Red-tail Ridge Open Space

This 320-acre conservation project protects scenic views, wildlife habitat, and native vegetation in the foothills west of Berthoud. Near the Little Thompson River, it includes one of the largest populations of the rare plant—Bell's twinpod. A recreational trail is also proposed.

Total Cost: \$926,000

Partners: Larimer Land Trust, Berthoud, GOCO, Private

Larimer County Open Lands: \$286,500

Fort Collins/Loveland Corridor

Fossil Creek Regional Open Space (addition)

Several lakeside properties comprise what will become the 666-acre Fossil Creek Reservoir Regional Open Space. Waterfowl and raptor habitat is protected, and the preserve will provide unique opportunities for the public to observe a diversity of waterfowl and wildlife.

Total Cost: \$5,449,100

Partners: Fort Collins

Larimer County Open Lands: \$2,724,550

“For the past few years, the vision shared by the people of Larimer County has been coming together piece by piece. Like a complicated puzzle that requires one piece to connect with another, landscapes that were identified as important are being protected. In the years to come, as our goals (including protection of agricultural lands) are achieved, the Open Lands Program will be something for us all to be proud of.”

*Kathay Rennels,
Chair, Board of County Commissioners*

Dryland Wheat Farm

This 792-acre property provides an additional buffer between Fort Collins and Loveland. Dryland wheat production will continue as long as economically viable. Included is a trail corridor to link from Coyote Ridge Natural Area to Devil's Backbone.

Total Cost: \$3,139,000

*Partners: *Loveland, Fort Collins, GOCO
Larimer County Open Lands: \$437,881*

Loveland/Berthoud Corridor

Ryan Gulch conservation easement

Located in Ryan Gulch in the Berthoud/Loveland corridor, this scenic 326-acre property protects a diversity of plants, wetlands and wildlife, including songbirds and amphibians.

Total Cost: \$1,393,844

*Partners: *Loveland, Berthoud, GOCO
Larimer County Open Lands: \$200,000*

Laramie Foothills

Eagle's Nest Open Space

This 770-acre parcel straddles the North Fork of the Poudre River and is adjacent to Roosevelt National Forest and a 72-acre conservation easement donation. The property is prime habitat for large and small animals. A rock spire has supported a nesting pair of golden eagles for at least three decades.

Total Cost: \$2,093,456

*Partners: Landowner
Larimer County Open Lands: \$2,000,000*

Poudre River Valley

Lions Park

This 20-acre park, adjacent to the Poudre River in LaPorte will provide a future trailhead for the Poudre River Trail.

Total Cost: \$0

Estes Valley

Lily Lake Water & Recreation rights

Lily Lake and the properties surrounding it were purchased by the Estes Valley Land Trust and donated to Rocky Mountain National Park in 1999. Last year area conservation groups purchased the water and recreational rights to the lake. The area provides prime wildlife habitat.

Total Cost: \$315,000

*Partners: *Estes Valley Land Trust, NPS, RMNP, GOCO, Estes Park, Tahosa Valley Assoc., Trout Unlimited, Landowner*

Larimer County Open Lands: \$30,000

Enos Mills Conservation Easement

This 192-acre parcel was homesteaded in the 1880s by Enos Mills, the "Father of Rocky Mountain National Park." The property provides a buffer to RMNP, wildlife habitat, and significant wetlands.

Total Cost: \$335,000

Partners: Estes Valley Land Trust, Estes Park, Tahosa Valley Assoc., Rocky Mountain Nature Assoc.

Larimer County Open Lands: \$45,000

Homer Rouse Memorial Trail

Named for the former superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park and board member for the Estes Valley Land Trust and Larimer County Open Lands, this 1.5-mile trail links Fish Creek Road and Lily Lake.

Total Cost: \$40,000

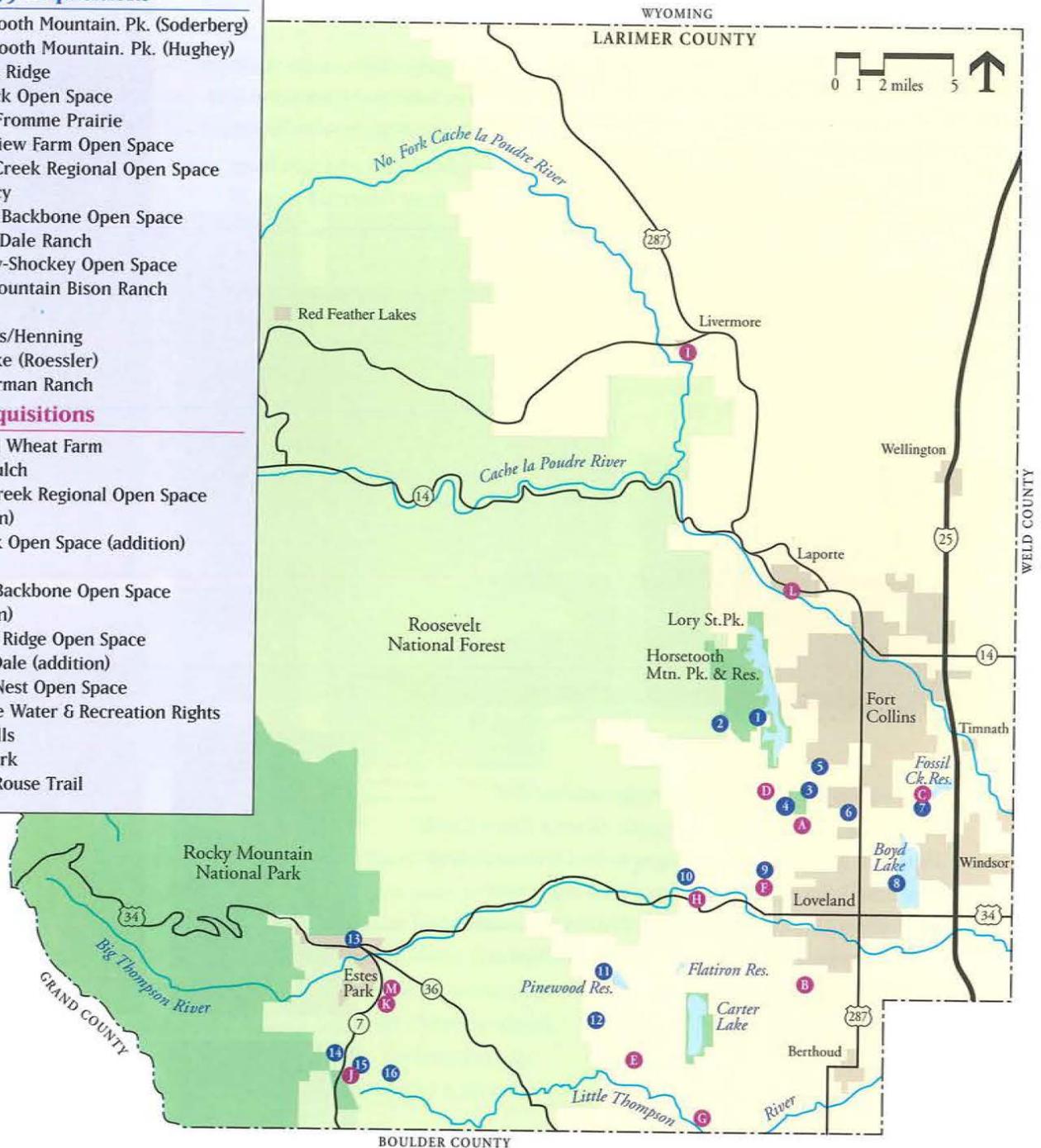
*Partners: *Estes Valley Land Trust, Estes Park, Estes Recreation & Parks District*
Larimer County Open Lands: \$10,000

1996-1999 Acquisitions

1. Horsetooth Mountain. Pk. (Soderberg)
2. Horsetooth Mountain. Pk. (Hughey)
3. Coyote Ridge
4. Rimrock Open Space
5. Cathy Fromme Prairie
6. Long View Farm Open Space
7. Fossil Creek Regional Open Space
8. Heinricy
9. Devil's Backbone Open Space
10. Sylvan Dale Ranch
11. Ramsay-Shockey Open Space
12. Blue Mountain Bison Ranch
13. Bickel
14. Childers/Henning
15. Lily Lake (Roessler)
16. Smitherman Ranch

2000 Acquisitions

- A. Dryland Wheat Farm
- B. Ryan Gulch
- C. Fossil Creek Regional Open Space (addition)
- D. Rimrock Open Space (addition)
- E. Harper
- F. Devil's Backbone Open Space (addition)
- G. Red-tail Ridge Open Space
- H. Sylvan Dale (addition)
- I. Eagle's Nest Open Space
- J. Lily Lake Water & Recreation Rights
- K. Enos Mills
- L. Lions Park
- M. Homer Rouse Trail



“ We are deeply appreciative of Larimer County’s interest in open lands, and for the new tools that enable farmers and ranchers who are cash poor and land rich to be able to preserve their lands for agriculture and ranching purposes without financial loss. ”

David & Susan Jessup, Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch

“ Permanent Open Space is an integral part of helping to maintain and enhance the quality of life that we all enjoy in Northern Colorado. ”

Chad McWhinney, McWhinney Enterprises



Fly fishermen



Eagle’s Nest Open Space



Rimrock Open Space

“ My 100 neighbors and I strongly support the leadership efforts of the Larimer County Open Lands Program to preserve open spaces in Larimer County. The Small Grants program provides important incentives to enlist private landowners as partners in preserving and managing open spaces at a minimal cost to the taxpayers. ”

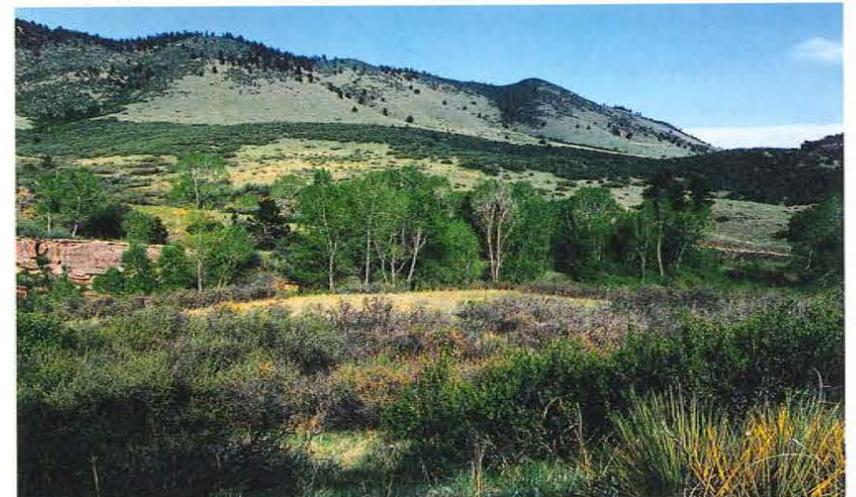
Bob Streeter, Small Grants Recipient



Indian paintbrush



Beaver



Rimrock Open Space

“ After all our hard work on Help Preserve Open Spaces, it’s deeply gratifying to witness the harvest of that grassroots campaign, with thousands of acres of open space protected! ”

Steve Fancher, Loveland Ready-Mix Concrete, Inc.



Bell's twinpod

“ We, as stewards of the land, cannot continue to permit unlimited development and the destruction of wildlife habitat if we expect other species to survive. Preservation of open space and biodiversity should be a primary goal of our generation. ”

Joe & Pat Harper, conservation easement donors



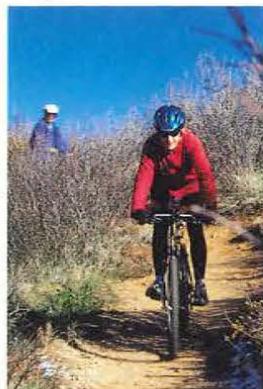
Wetland marsh, photo Scott Fraser



Hiking in the foothills

“ It's great to feel like you're in the mountains and actually be close to town. The trail (at the Devil's Backbone) is well maintained and a great place to run. ”

Lisa Spitz & friends, Loveland Roadrunners



Biking at Horsetooth Mountain Park, photo Scott Fraser



Devil's Backbone Open Space



Red-tail Ridge Open Space, photo Scott Fraser



Sailing at Carter Lake

“ Larimer County's Open Lands program made great strides this past year in fulfilling the citizens' vision for protecting the wide, open spaces of Larimer County. This was made possible by all those citizens who voted YES on the Help Preserve Open Spaces Initiative of 1999. Generations to come will thank the citizens of today for this legacy. ”

Linda Stanley, Help Preserve Open Spaces steering committee

“ The Devil's Backbone is one of the few good places left. I love the trail and use it two or three times per week! ”

Margie Williamson, Masonville

Stewardship is Critical in the Open Lands Program

Responsible land stewardship is a priority of the Larimer County Open Lands Program. Lands are actively managed for natural, cultural, scenic, and other resource values.

Money is earmarked from the Open Spaces Sales Tax to manage these lands now and into the future. According to our charter, 15 percent of program revenue is dedicated for long-term management. That provision is unlike many other capital improvement taxes, which do not include funding for future maintenance. The Open Lands Program has been both responsible and visionary in providing the money needed to design and implement management plans.



Commissioner Tom Bender discussing implementation of the Devil's Backbone management plan with Ranger Travis Rollins

Individual management plans are developed for each property. Each plan details needed improvements, includes specific management recommendations, and establishes a schedule for implementation. The focus of management and stewardship on Larimer County Open Lands properties is:

- promoting ecosystem sustainability;
- enhancing and protecting natural, cultural and scenic resource values; and,
- providing safe and enjoyable outdoor recreational activities.

Specific management activities include:

- control of non-native invasive weeds through an integrated pest-management plan;
- monitoring of vegetation and wildlife;
- maintaining trails;
- keeping trailheads clean and attractive;
- maintaining amenities such as restrooms, fences, signs, and benches; and,
- providing educational opportunities with on-site informational materials and through guided nature hikes.

The Open Lands Program is responsible for overseeing conservation efforts on more than 12,000 acres of property in Larimer County. Stewardship efforts are critical and we take that responsibility very seriously.

“Working with the Open Lands Program has been very worthwhile, and we’re happy our land is now part of the county’s legacy.”

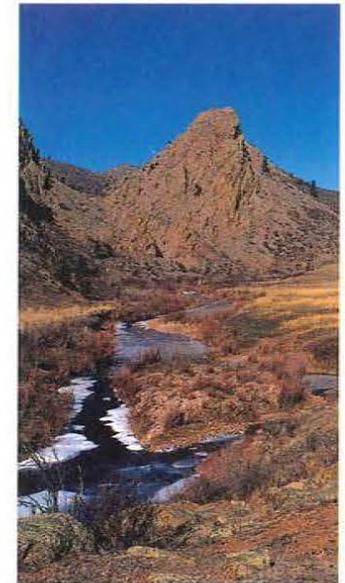
Beth & Jack White, Rimrock Ranch

Eagle's Nest Open Space

In the north end of the county, the area known as the Laramie Foothills remains largely undeveloped. Landscapes in this area are also unique and diverse, and for these reasons preserving open lands in this area is a priority.

Located in Livermore, the Eagle's Nest Open Space comprises a 770-acre acquisition and a 72-acre conservation easement donation. Its name is derived from a large rock outcrop spire that has supported a nesting pair of golden eagles for at least three decades. The diverse landscape provides breathtaking views of the North Fork of the Poudre, the Roosevelt National Forest, and the Laramie Foothills. The property is also home to an abundance of wildlife.

The property will be open to the public in 2004 after a management plan is developed and implemented, and facilities and trails are built. For a sneak preview of Eagle's Nest, sign up for a guided field trip this summer!



Eagle's Nest Rock—an historic nesting site for golden eagles

Your Tax Dollars at Work Throughout the Community

Every year, the Open Lands Program sets aside \$10,000 for the Small Grants Program.

The purpose is to encourage small projects that accomplish important conservation work. The grants are awarded to individuals or community groups who are working to improve their town or neighborhoods through projects or programs.

Since 1998, the Small Grants Program has awarded more than \$34,000 to 47 different projects.

Conservation projects have focused on improvement of wildlife habitat, riparian areas, and wetlands; and to fund environmental education programs. Here are descriptions of two great projects from last year.

Loveland Youth Gardeners

Just a small plot of land at B.F. Kitchen Elementary, the Loveland Youth Garden Project has a great impact on the entire Loveland community. Teens with disabilities or teens identified as "at risk" of dropping out of school, have tended the gardens for the past five summers, planting a variety of flowers, vegetables, and herbs.

The Loveland Youth Garden Project received \$1,500 from the Small Grants Program to develop a native plants and xeriscape garden. Volunteer Master Gardeners interact with the youths by teaching the principles of xeriscape gardening. Improving self-esteem is a major benefit of the program. The teens also are learning valuable environmental lessons—they've seen first-hand that some native plants help push out noxious and troublesome weeds.

The gardening project helps the community by teaching people about low-water alternatives for their own yards. And the project contributed 130 pounds of vegetables to Loveland's House of Neighborly Service, who distributed the food to those in need.

Trapper's Point Wildlife Area

Last year the members of the Trapper's Point Home Owners Association grew tired of looking at a weed-choked area on their property that was filled with noxious weeds, non-native grasses and broad leafed plants. So they decided to convert the 8-acre common area to viable wetland wildlife habitat.

The association received \$1,025 from the Larimer County Small Grants Program to fund a fully integrated program that eliminated the weeds, and restored the uplands to native grass, tree and shrub species. The restoration program also proved interesting and educational.

For advice, the homeowner's association (HOA) recruited expert help from the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Then they developed a plan.

First, the area was burned and the weeds and debris were sprayed and cleared. Next the area was plowed and the soil prepared for restoration of native plants, grasses, and wildflowers. The area was saturated with water for about two weeks, which prompted fast growth of wetland plants. Insect life followed and the new wetland quickly attracted a variety of migratory birds.

Trapper's Point HOA received another \$555 grant this year for its Phase II plan. The success of this project proves that with a little help, community groups can achieve great conservation goals.



The Trapper's Point HOA Wildlife Area serves as a model for native prairie and wetland restoration in private, large-lot subdivisions.



The teens who participate in the Loveland Youth Garden Project can be proud of their accomplishments. Last year, eleven students completed the program, winning eight ribbons at the County Fair—including six first place awards!

*“By the end of the summer,
our students had grown like
the seeds they planted.”*

Joanne Wride, Loveland Youth Garden

Cities Accomplish a Variety of Projects in 2000

The Help Preserve Open Space sales tax revenue is shared by Larimer County and six municipalities. Revenue sharing is an essential part of the program, which ensures that residents from throughout the county benefit from the Open Space sales tax. Shares are distributed based on population or sales tax generation, whichever is most beneficial to that town. Each town must use its share for open space, natural areas, regional parks, or trails.

Berthoud

In 2000, the town partnered with Larimer County, Great Outdoors Colorado, and the Larimer Land Trust to purchase the 320-acre Parrish Ranch in the foothills. The parcel is now called the Red-tail Ridge Open Space. Berthoud also continued its work on the Nielson Greenway recreation trail in town.

Estes Park

The town used its share to make the next-to-the-last payment for the lease/purchase of the Willows property. This land is located north of the municipal building and contains 4.3 acres of valuable riparian habitat. The town also partnered with the Estes Valley Land Trust and the Larimer County Open Lands Program to purchase a conservation easement on the Enos Mills Homestead property near Rocky Mountain National Park.

Fort Collins

Using its share of Open Space Program money and Building Community Choices funds, the city completed eight new acquisitions totaling 1,100 acres. In addition, contracts are in place for purchase of 857 acres to be acquired in 2001. The major areas of emphasis for Fort Collins continue to be the Poudre River and Fossil Creek Reservoir.

Two new natural areas along the Poudre River were opened to public use: Arapaho Bend Natural Area and Cottonwood Hollow Natural Area. An additional 80 acres of Coyote Ridge were seeded with native grasses and wildflowers in the ongoing effort to restore natural conditions to a previously farmed area. Two trail loops, one that is handicapped accessible, were also added. Work continued on a variety of enhancements—fencing, trails, parking lots, restoration, interpretive displays, etc.—at all the city's natural areas.

Loveland

Loveland's natural area inventory grew significantly in 2000 with the purchase a 792-acre dryland wheat farm in the Fort Collins-Loveland corridor, west of Wilson Avenue. Partnering on the project was Larimer County and Fort Collins. Also preserved was the Morey Wildlife Reserve along the Big Thompson River, and a 327-acre conservation easement at Ryan Gulch, southwest of Loveland. The Ryan Gulch property was protected thanks to a grant from Great Outdoors Colorado, and contributions from Berthoud, Larimer County, and the landowner.

Timnath

The town is saving its share for future partnership opportunities to create community separators with Windsor and Fort Collins. Timnath also plans to contribute to the Poudre River Trail System that will eventually link Fort Collins, Timnath, Windsor, and Greeley.

Wellington

The town is saving its share to leverage grant dollars from Great Outdoors Colorado to develop a natural area on land that was donated to the town.

Help Preserve Open Spaces Tax Revenues Benefit All Communities

Money to fund the Open Lands Programs comes from a 1/4 cent sales and use tax. The tax is not imposed on food.

The tax continues through 2018, and total revenue collected to date is over \$33 million. Distribution to incorporated areas is based on the highest yield of either population or sales tax generation.

*Annual Revenue Distribution of Open Space Tax Dollars**

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
Larimer County	2,259,975	2,485,421	2,707,553	3,067,810	3,294,869	13,815,628
Berthoud	71,154	80,969	87,574	101,539	110,862	452,098
Estes Park	161,905	178,198	193,453	224,779	222,608	980,943
Fort Collins	2,107,473	2,319,562	2,487,606	2,850,066	3,109,001	12,873,708
Loveland	847,210	932,139	1,003,872	1,146,823	1,234,060	5,164,104
Timnath	4,221	4,646	5,025	5,732	5,742	25,366
Wellington	29,848	32,520	40,557	47,494	53,444	203,863
Totals	5,481,786	6,033,455	6,525,640	7,444,243	8,030,585	33,515,709

* These figures are unaudited. Audit to be completed in mid 2001. Figures in this chart have been rounded when appropriate.

Inventory of Open Lands Acquisitions (through 2000)

Name	Acreage	Donation	Acquisition Cost	Larimer Co. Open Lands	Partnerships	Public Access	Comments
Fort Collins/Loveland Corridor							
Long View Farm	599.4		3,027,000	1,794,500	3 Partners	1,432,499	Future regional trail Managed by LC; Leased for dryland farming
Cathy Fromme Prairie	240.0		1,000,000	180,000	Fort Collins Larimer Co. Nat. Res.	580,000 240,000	Yes Managed by Fort Collins as part of the Fromme Prairie
Dryland Wheat Farm	792.0		3,139,000	437,881	Loveland Fort Collins GOCO	1,892,764 308,355 500,000	Future regional trail Managed by City of Loveland; Leased for dryland farming
Fossil Creek Res. Regional Open Space	666.0	19,650	5,449,100	2,724,550	Fort Collins	2,724,550	Future regional OS Part of the Fossil Creek Resource Management Area
Loveland/Berthoud Corridor							
Ryan Gulch Conservation Easement	*326.6	150,000	1,393,844	200,000	Loveland GOCO Berthoud	668,844 325,000 50,000	No Monitored by Loveland
Front Range Mountain Backdrop							
Coyote Ridge	839.3	21,500	1,864,000	523,583	Fort Collins	1,340,416	Yes Managed by Fort Collins
Rimrock Open Space	437.0/*273.6		1,962,240	1,862,240	Fort Collins	100,000	Yes, Future Trail Managed by Larimer County
Blue Mountain Bison Cons. Esmnt.	*4100.0	666,000	2,000,000	1,350,000	GOCO	650,000	No Part of Blue Mountain Cons. Project; Monitored by LC
Harper Conservation Easement	*240	295,000	0	0	—	—	No CE and endowment funds donated; Monitored by LLT
Devil's Backbone Open Space	423.9/*1.6		1,573,020	1,223,020	Stryker Short, Loveland	350,000	Yes Managed by Larimer County
Red-tail Ridge Open Space	320.0		926,000	286,500	4 partners	665,059	Future Regional Trail Managed by Larimer County
Sylvan Dale Conservation Easement	*594.5	548,750	446,250	271,250	Loveland, GOCO	175,000	Possible future trail connection Preserves viewshed at mouth of Big Thompson Canyon. Monitored by Larimer County
Laramie Foothills							
Eagle's Nest Open Space	770.0/*72	93,456	2,000,000	2,000,000	—	—	Future regional OS Managed by LC. Protects portion N. Fork Poudre River
Estes Valley							
Childers/Henning Conservation Esmnt.	*160.0	752,000	48,000	48,000	—	—	No Monitored by EVLT. Preserves Longs Peak viewshed
Smitherman Conservation Easement	*520.0		520,000	130,000	EVLT, GOCO	390,000	No Monitored by EVLT. Preserves pristine ponds & wetlands
Bickel	0.9		135,000	5,000	Estes Park	130,000	Yes Adjacent to Estes Municipal Center
Homer Rouse Memorial Trail	1.5 miles		40,000	10,000	Estes Park, EVLT, EVRPD	30,000	Yes, 2001 Managed by Estes Valley Recreation & Park District
Lakes Estes Trail	4 miles		232,500	100,000	4 Partners	132,500	Yes Managed by Estes Valley Recreation & Park District
Lion Gulch Trailhead			21,521	10,000	US Forest Service	11,521	Yes Managed by US Forest Service
Lily Lake/Roessler	18.2		400,000	40,000	GOCO, RMPA, Private	360,000	No Managed by Rocky Mountain National Park
Lily Lake Water and Recreation Rights	14 acre-ft.	236,000	315,000	30,000	6 Partners	285,000	Yes Managed by RMNP; water rights to maintain water levels.
Enos Mills Conservation Easement	*192		335,000	45,000	EVLT, Estes Park	290,000	Homestead Only Monitored by Estes Valley Land Trust
Poudre River Valley							
Lions Park	20.0		0	0	Larimer County Parks		Yes Future trailhead location along Poudre River Trail
Expansions to Regional Parks							
Ramsay-Shockey OS (Pinewood Res.)	177.0	325,000	0	0	—	—	Yes Managed by Larimer County
Soderberg/Hughey (HTMP)	383.5	31,000	739,000	589,000	GOCO	150,000	Yes Managed as part of Horsetooth Mountain Park
Heinricy (Boyd Lake State Park)	30.0		405,000	90,000	5 partners	315,000	Yes Regional Trail
Easement Acreage Total	6,480.0						
Easement & Fee Simple Acreage Total	12,198.0	\$3,138,356	\$27,971,475	\$13,950,524		\$14,096,508	

Properties managed by Larimer County Parks & Open Lands * Conservation Easement Acreage

Help Plan the Future of the Open Lands Program

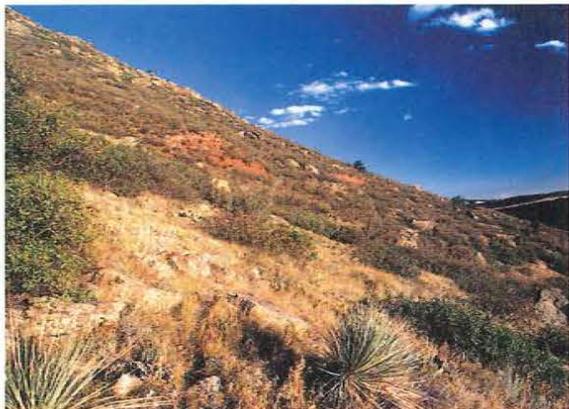
In 2000, a citizen-driven process was started in order to update the 1993 Open Lands Master Plan. The new plan will guide the Open Lands Program in Larimer County into the future. With lots of comment from residents in a variety of ways and through review of natural resource data, the Open Lands advisory board and County Commissioners will determine priorities for future land preservation efforts.

The new master plan is scheduled for completion in September 2001.

Opportunities for citizen participation throughout the planning process include:

- three sets of public meetings;
- a statistically-valid survey mailed to 2,000 Larimer County residents;
- newsletters that will track progress of the project;
- and an interactive web site that will provide information and the opportunity for public comment. The web site address is: www.co.larimer.co.us/parks/openlands.

The Open Lands Advisory Board is making every effort possible to involve citizens in the process. If you or your community group, organization, club, and/or committee would like to schedule a presentation of the master plan, contact the Open Lands office at (970) 679-4570.



Red-tail Ridge Open Space

Photo by Scott Fraser

New Trail Highlights the Blue Mountain Conservation Project

To provide Larimer County residents with more opportunities to hike through and observe the unique foothills environment, two new trails were opened last October in the Ramsay-Shockey Open Space. Located southwest of Loveland, the 177-acre area includes wetlands, archeological resources, and offers stunning views of Blue Mountain, Pinewood Reservoir, and surrounding valleys.

The Shoshone and Besant Point trails, which total four miles in length, loop through the Ramsay-Shockey Open Space and Pinewood Reservoir Regional Park. The Open Lands Program worked closely with ecology, wildlife, and archeological experts to assure minimal disturbance to the landscape. As constructed, the trails protect significant cultural resources, important wildlife habitat, and wetlands. A wheelchair-accessible boardwalk, constructed with recycled materials, spans two important wetland areas. The boardwalk protects the wetlands while allowing visitors to observe and learn about these special ecosystems.

Ramsay-Shockey is included in a larger vision of the Open Lands Program designed to protect thousands of acres as part of the Blue Mountain Conservation Project. In addition to the Ramsay-Shockey Open Space, lands currently protected in the Blue Mountain area include: Pinewood Reservoir Regional Park, and 4,100 acres of the Blue Mountain Bison Ranch, held in a conservation easement. Overall, this project protects significant natural and cultural resources of the area, while providing non-motorized recreational opportunities.



Scenic views from Ramsay-Shockey Open Space trails

Photo by David Clark



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