

LARIMER COUNTY OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD

The mission of Larimer County Department of Natural Resources is to establish, protect and manage significant regional parks and open lands providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities and stewardship of natural resource values. We are committed to fostering a sense of community and appreciation for the natural and agricultural heritage of Larimer County for present and future generations.

Date: May 28, 2020

Time: 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Webinar. Public registration:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xVBxZD49TwW7M425GeZpRw

Contact: Please contact Sidney at smichl@larimer.org or 970-619-4462 if you are unable to attend

AGENDA

Scheduled times are subject to change.

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
 - a. Addendum to the Regional Board Meeting minutes to include additional comments provided
 - b. Approval of April minutes
5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - a. Natural Resources events for this month: larimer.org/naturalresources.
 - b. To sign up for Open Lands Advisory Board updates, go to apps.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm, enter your email, click “Subscribe,” and check the “Open Lands Advisory Board” box.
6. UPDATES
 - a. Quarterly report – Q1 2020

- b. Director’s update on COVID – budget and office reopenings – Daylan
- c. E-bike update

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Approval of e-bike pilot project special permit/modification to regulations
- b. New Cache Crossing Agreement - Poudre River Trail – Charlie
- c. LCDNR Habitat Restoration Policy recommendation

9. OTHER BUSINESS

10. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: June 25, 2020 at the Larimer County Loveland Campus Building, 200 Peridot Avenue, Loveland, CO 80537, Poudre River Room

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a)) for discussion pertaining to the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real, personal or other property interest.

12. ADJOURN

Included in PDF:

- Agenda
- Sales Tax Revenue Distribution Report
- Q1 2020 Report
- New Cache Crossing Maps
- New Cache Crossing Agreement Final Review
- Habitat Restoration Policy

Attached Separately:

- Minutes of last meeting
- News articles

This meeting will be recorded and archived according to law. Votes require a quorum.

Public can view agenda and minutes at:

http://legacy.larimer.org/boards/minutes/openlands_advisory_board.cfm



OPEN SPACE SALES TAX ACTIVITY
February 2020 Distribution

REVENUES:

SALES TAX	\$	1,073,301.73
MV USE TAX	\$	79,146.13
BUILDING USE TAX	\$	83,117.56
INTEREST	\$	3,573.55
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	1,239,138.97

EXPENDITURES:

PERSONNEL & OPERATING	\$	4,259.16	\$	7,031.74
			\$	7,031.74
NET REVENUE:	\$	1,234,879.81		

% SALES TAX DISTRIBUTED TO INCORP. AREAS (USED AS A BASIS) 50%

DISTRIBUTION BASED ON POPULATION

2019 State of Colorado Statistics

	2017 <u>POPULATION</u>	<u>% OF INCORP AREA</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
FORT COLLINS	167,347	59.36	\$ 366,492.57
LOVELAND	77,226	27.39	\$ 169,126.16
ESTES PARK	6,301	2.23	\$ 13,799.29
BERTHOUD	7,632	2.71	\$ 16,714.20
WELLINGTON	9,894	3.51	\$ 21,668.02
WINDSOR	7,329	2.60	\$ 16,050.63
JOHNSTOWN	2,235	0.79	\$ 4,894.69
TIMNATH	3,970	1.41	\$ 8,694.36
TOTAL INCORP.	281,934	100.00	\$ 617,439.91

DISTRIBUTION BASED ON SALES TAX GENERATION

2019 Larimer County Statistics

	2018 <u>GENERATION</u>	<u>% OF INCORP AREA SALES TAX</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
FORT COLLINS	\$ 13,743,866	53.93	\$ 333,012.71
LOVELAND	\$ 7,720,582	30.29	\$ 187,034.37
ESTES PARK	\$ 1,539,645	6.04	\$ 37,298.56
BERTHOUD	\$ 263,974	1.04	\$ 6,394.87
WELLINGTON	\$ 232,991	0.91	\$ 5,644.31
WINDSOR	\$ 298,484	1.17	\$ 7,230.91
JOHNSTOWN	\$ 851,021	3.34	\$ 20,616.34
TIMNATH	\$ 836,707	3.28	\$ 20,269.58
TOTAL INCORP	\$ 25,487,271	100.00	\$ 617,501.65

DISTRIBUTION BASED ON HIGHEST YIELD TO INCORPORATED AREAS:

FORT COLLINS	\$ 366,492.57	53.41
LOVELAND	\$ 187,034.37	27.26
ESTES PARK	\$ 37,298.56	5.44
BERTHOUD	\$ 16,714.20	2.44
WELLINGTON	\$ 21,668.02	3.16
WINDSOR	\$ 16,050.63	2.34
JOHNSTOWN	\$ 20,616.34	3.00
TIMNATH	\$ 20,269.58	2.95
TOTAL INCORP	\$ 686,144.26	100.00

DISTRIBUTION FOR MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT:

		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>	<u>PAID TO DATE</u>
FORT COLLINS	\$ 329,795.28	\$ 656,908.87	\$ 85,616,223.41
LOVELAND	\$ 168,306.42	\$ 335,244.27	\$ 39,901,412.32
ESTES PARK	\$ 33,563.81	\$ 66,854.70	\$ 6,617,959.42
BERTHOUD	\$ 15,040.59	\$ 29,958.88	\$ 3,142,060.03
WELLINGTON	\$ 19,498.37	\$ 38,838.20	\$ 2,991,475.54
WINDSOR	\$ 14,443.46	\$ 28,769.47	\$ 1,695,910.02
JOHNSTOWN	\$ 18,552.00	\$ 36,953.15	\$ 1,136,071.69
TIMNATH	\$ 18,239.97	\$ 36,331.63	\$ 1,356,556.64
TOTAL INCORP	\$ 617,439.90	\$ 1,229,859.17	\$ 142,457,669.07
TOTAL UNINCORP	\$ 617,439.91	\$ 1,229,859.18	\$ 104,901,361.85
TOTAL	\$ 1,234,879.81	\$ 2,459,718.35	\$ 247,359,030.92
	\$ 0.00		

OPEN SPACE SALES TAX ACTIVITY
March 2020 Distribution

REVENUES:

SALES TAX	\$	1,003,299.12
MV USE TAX	\$	92,580.93
BUILDING USE TAX	\$	129,621.90
INTEREST	\$	2,212.35
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	1,227,714.30

EXPENDITURES:

PERSONNEL & OPERATING	\$	4,078.70	\$	11,110.44
			\$	11,110.44
NET REVENUE:	\$	1,223,635.60		

% SALES TAX DISTRIBUTED TO INCORP. AREAS (USED AS A BASIS) 50%

DISTRIBUTION BASED ON POPULATION

2019 State of Colorado Statistics

	2018 <u>POPULATION</u>	% OF INCORP <u>AREA</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
FORT COLLINS	167,347	59.36	\$ 363,155.47
LOVELAND	77,226	27.39	\$ 167,586.18
ESTES PARK	6,301	2.23	\$ 13,673.64
BERTHOUD	7,632	2.71	\$ 16,562.01
WELLINGTON	9,894	3.51	\$ 21,470.72
WINDSOR	7,329	2.60	\$ 15,904.48
JOHNSTOWN	2,235	0.79	\$ 4,850.12
TIMNATH	3,970	1.41	\$ 8,615.20
TOTAL INCORP.	281,934	100.00	\$ 611,817.80

DISTRIBUTION BASED ON SALES TAX GENERATION

2019 Larimer County Statistics

	2018 <u>GENERATION</u>	% OF INCORP <u>AREA SALES TAX</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
FORT COLLINS	\$ 13,743,866	53.93	\$ 329,980.46
LOVELAND	\$ 7,720,582	30.29	\$ 185,331.32
ESTES PARK	\$ 1,539,645	6.04	\$ 36,958.93
BERTHOUD	\$ 263,974	1.04	\$ 6,336.64
WELLINGTON	\$ 232,991	0.91	\$ 5,592.91
WINDSOR	\$ 298,484	1.17	\$ 7,165.07
JOHNSTOWN	\$ 851,021	3.34	\$ 20,428.62
TIMNATH	\$ 836,707	3.28	\$ 20,085.02
TOTAL INCORP	\$ 25,487,271	100.00	\$ 611,878.98

DISTRIBUTION BASED ON HIGHEST YIELD TO INCORPORATED AREAS:

FORT COLLINS	\$ 363,155.47	53.41
LOVELAND	\$ 185,331.32	27.26
ESTES PARK	\$ 36,958.93	5.44
BERTHOUD	\$ 16,562.01	2.44
WELLINGTON	\$ 21,470.72	3.16
WINDSOR	\$ 15,904.48	2.34
JOHNSTOWN	\$ 20,428.62	3.00
TIMNATH	\$ 20,085.02	2.95
TOTAL INCORP	\$ 679,896.57	100.00

DISTRIBUTION FOR MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT:

FORT COLLINS	\$	326,792.32
LOVELAND	\$	166,773.90
ESTES PARK	\$	33,258.20
BERTHOUD	\$	14,903.64
WELLINGTON	\$	19,320.83
WINDSOR	\$	14,311.94
JOHNSTOWN	\$	18,383.08
TIMNATH	\$	18,073.89
TOTAL INCORP	\$	<u>611,817.80</u>
TOTAL UNINCORP	\$	<u>611,817.80</u>
TOTAL	\$	<u><u>1,223,635.60</u></u>

\$ 0.01

YEAR TO DATE

PAID TO DATE

\$	983,701.19	\$	85,943,015.73
\$	502,018.17	\$	40,068,186.22
\$	100,112.90	\$	6,651,217.62
\$	44,862.52	\$	3,156,963.67
\$	58,159.03	\$	3,010,796.37
\$	43,081.41	\$	1,710,221.96
\$	55,336.23	\$	1,154,454.77
\$	54,405.52	\$	1,374,630.53
\$	<u>1,841,676.97</u>	\$	<u>143,069,486.87</u>
\$	<u>1,841,676.98</u>	\$	<u>105,513,179.65</u>
\$	<u><u>3,683,353.95</u></u>	\$	<u><u>248,582,666.52</u></u>



2020

Larimer County Natural Resources

QUARTERLY BOARD REPORT
1ST QUARTER (JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH)



Reservoir parks receive federal funds to improve aging infrastructure

Horsetooth and Carter Lake reservoirs represent the two largest and most heavily visited reservoirs in Larimer County, and in the top 10 statewide. The Department manages the reservoir parks through an agreement with the US Bureau of Reclamation to provide high quality outdoor recreation opportunities. Without significant improvements to their aging infrastructure, these areas will not be able to keep up with increased visitor demands.

The Department received approval and now awaits final documentation for a grant from the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) for \$7 million dollars with a \$3 million dollar match to reconfigure and pave existing parking lots to help ease traffic congestion, improve safety and capacity, and mitigate surface run-off. As noted by Jennifer Almstead, Department Fund Development Specialist, "This grant award rounds out a successful two-year funding streak for the Department, which overall has secured 6 different grants totaling over \$11 million dollars."



Federal grant will support reconfiguration and paving of existing parking lots to ease congestion, improve safety, and mitigate surface run-off.

Shoring up Eagle Campground at Carter Lake



Volunteers at work this January at Eagle Campground.

In January, volunteers assisted staff over four days to renovate 22 campsites in the upper Eagle Campground at Carter Lake. These campsites have not been renovated in years, and the 130 hours of volunteer help allowed maintenance staff to finish within a much shorter period. Renovation included installing erosion retaining walls on the uphill sides of campsites, while the downhill sides were shored up with rock walls to level the camping area. Crusher fines were applied and tamped down for a new surface.

Waterline and electrical upgrades coming to Horsetooth

Staff are working to make improvements to critical infrastructure at Horsetooth Reservoir. The plan to replace an aging waterline at Inlet Bay was completed this quarter with its work beginning this fall. The new waterline will improve drinking water reliability and reduce staff time needed for ongoing repairs. Horsetooth also plans to replace aging electrical pedestals in the most popular camping loops. "We want to show our visitors that we are investing their fees in improved services," said Visitor Services District Manager, Mark Caughlan.



Cabin road renovations at Hermit Park Open Space



This March, contractors began actively reconstructing and resurfacing 1.1 miles of roadway along the cabin loops at Hermit Park Open Space. Original to the 1970-80s, the roads have degraded over time with sections down to the bedrock. Big Thompson Maintenance crews were spending large amounts of time and money merely keeping the roads accessible. This project was identified and funded as part of the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) plan with total project costs in excess of \$371,000. "We are excited to make this investment to be able to repair and re-engineer these roads to our high standards; it will not only save time for our crews but will improve our visitors overall experience at Hermit Park Open Space," said Chris Fleming, Visitor Services District Manager. Completion of this project is estimated in mid-May.

Poudre River Trail garners additional support

During this quarter, the remaining trail easements and crossing agreements to complete the Larimer County section of the Poudre River Trail were nearly finalized. In addition, the county applied for another grant for \$400,000 to CDOT's multi-modal options fund (MMOF) to complement the previously awarded \$2 million GOCO grant and further leverage Department funds. The project was approved for funding and ranked #2 in the region. The section of the project between River Bluffs Open Space and Timnath will be designed in 2020 with anticipated construction in 2021. "We are excited to have the easements and funding in place to construct the County's final section north of River Bluffs Open Space, and complete the 45-mile regional Poudre River Trail," said Zac Wiebe, Planning and Resource Specialist.



Cyclists enjoying the Poudre River Trail.

New noxious weed mapped in upper Poudre Canyon

Last fall, common tansy, a State of Colorado designated noxious weed, was detected and mapped in the upper Cache La Poudre Canyon on private land. This newly discovered infestation was spotted by a grant funded Natural Resource Department land stewardship crew dedicated to the early detection and rapid response of noxious weeds. The common tansy infestation was treated, and staff will continue to monitor this year for any plants that were missed or new infestations that may have gone unnoticed.



Common tansy



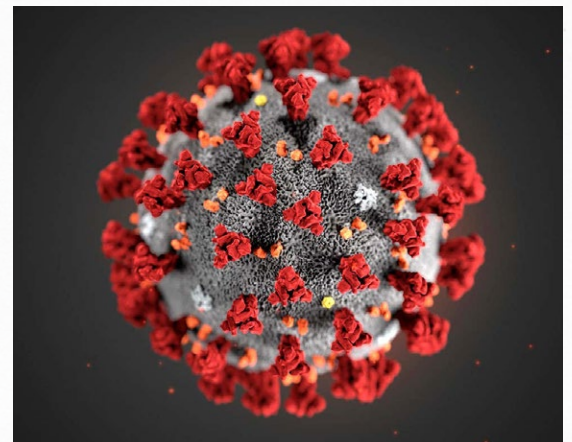
Senior Ranger Cindy Kirby and Ranger Chris Gardner

Courageous actions in face of rabid mountain lion

We are extremely proud of Senior Ranger Cindy Kirby and Ranger Trainee Chris Gardner for their courageous actions in keeping the community safe at the scene of a mountain lion attack on March 11 at Riverview RV Park in Loveland, near Hwy 34. The rabid mountain lion had attacked a construction worker, threatened residents, and attacked a Sheriff Deputy taking her to the ground. Ranger Gardner was able to kick the lion off the deputy, ending the attack. The rangers were successful in keeping the aggressive animal away from the campground, and eventually chased the lion to the east where it was euthanized.

COVID-19 Update

In mid-March, the COVID-19 pandemic began to cause significant disruption in Larimer County at all levels of our community. The Department began implementing its Continuity of Operations Plan in response to the pandemic with the top priority to sustain operations while keeping our public and staff safe in its midst. The implications of the pandemic on our community continues at press time, and the entirety of its impact is unknown. Despite this uncertainty, the Department continues to work together to balance its measured COVID-19 response and the unprecedented demands it has created.



Financial Summary

Larimer County Natural Resources Department has five primary revenue sources including Colorado lottery proceeds, the open spaces sales tax, user fees on open spaces properties, user fees on reservoir parks properties, and the weed district property tax. Below are the January 1 through

March 31 revenue summaries, annual and daily permit sales, and camping reservation nights compared to the same period the previous year. Notably, significant reduction in annual permit sales this quarter may be attributed to the community's response to the ongoing pandemic.

Year to Date Revenue (through March 31st 2020)

	2019	2020	% Change
Colorado Lottery	\$255,325	\$161,563	-37%
Open Spaces Sales Tax	\$530,614	\$612,419	+15%
Open Spaces Generated User Fees*	\$179,745	\$192,491	+7%
Reservoir Parks Generated User Fees*	\$861,203	\$1,031,263	+20%
Weed District Property Tax	\$272,830	\$326,172	+20%

*User fees include those for entrance, camping, special events, group use areas, and penalty assessments

Year to Date Number of Permit Sales (through March 31st 2020)

	2019	2020	% Change
Open Spaces			
Annual Permits	184	22	-88%
Daily Permits	6,035	6,386	+6%
Reservoir Parks			
Annual Permits	838	289	-66%
Daily Permits	4,388	5,900	+34%

Year to Date Camping Reservation Nights (through March 31st 2020)

	2019	2020	% Change
Open Spaces	9	5	-44%
Reservoir Parks	1,657	1,426	-14%

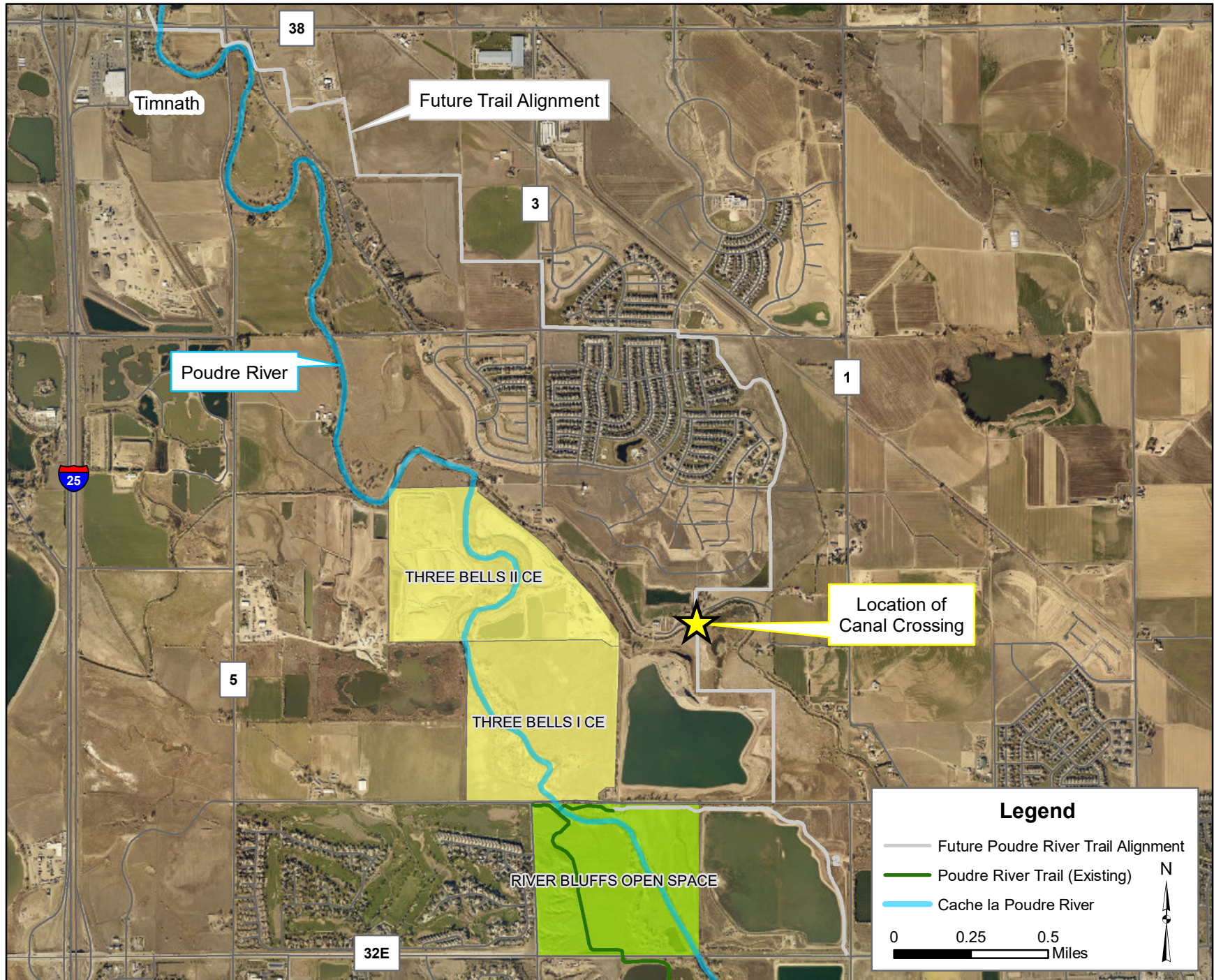


Larimer County
Department of Natural Resources
Quarterly Board Report
Published: April 2020

Connect With Us:
Larimer County Department of Natural Resources
1800 S. County Road 31
Loveland, CO 80537
(970) 619-4570
larimer.org/naturalresources



New Cache La Poudre Irrigating Company Poudre River Regional Trail





LARIMER COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
 200 WEST OAK, SUITE 3000
 POST OFFICE BOX 1190
 FORT COLLINS, COLORADO 80522-1190
 (970)498-5700
 (970)498-7986 FAX

LAND OWNER
 GRAVES, JOHN/
 BRENDA K

GREELEY
 CANAL NO. 2

12' WIDE CANAL ACCESS ROAD
 (ABC CLASS 5 SURFACING)

55 LF - PEDESTRIAN
 BRIDGE STRUCTURE W/
 CONCRETE DECK

10' WIDE
 CONCRETE TRAIL

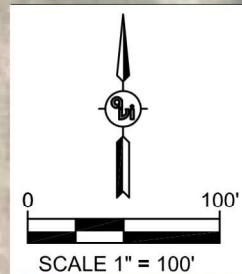
LAND OWNER
 GRAVES, JOHN/
 BRENDA K

SEC 12 T6N R68W

SEC 13 T6N R68W

LEGEND

- SECTION LINE
- QUARTER-SECTION LINE
- TRAIL CENTERLINE
- PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- TRAIL EASEMENT
- TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION LIMITS



**NEW CACHE LA POUFRE
 IRRIGATING COMPANY
 EXHIBIT A**
 SEC 12 T6N R68W, 6th P.M.,
 LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO
 PAGE 1 OF 2

New Cache La Poudre Irrigating Company Poudre River Regional Trail





Final Review
 May 28, 2020

The New Cache La Poudre Irrigation Company
 Crossing Agreement

Staff Johnson

Values (shown in bold):

Scenic	Significant Plants/Natural Communities	Agricultural
Buffer	Wildlife	Educational
Geological/Paleontological	Outdoor Recreational	
Wetlands	Historic/Archaeological	Other (see below)

Project Description:

Last year, the County closed on the Graves trail easement which is located southeast of the terminus of Three Bell Parkway (formally County Road 3) at the southern end of Timnath. The property is one-half mile north of River Bluffs Open Space and trailhead. The Greeley Canal #2 owned by the New Cache La Poudre Irrigation Company (New Cache) flows through the Graves property in an east/west direction. New Cache requires that the County enter into a Crossing Agreement to construct a pedestrian bridge across their canal. This bridge crossing is an essential component for the completion of the Poudre River Trail from Timnath to River Bluffs Open Space.

The Poudre River Trail has been a priority for the Department since first identified in the 2001 Open Lands Master Plan, with over \$2.65M from the county's share of open space sales tax funds invested to date in land conservation, trail easements and trail construction. Securing this crossing agreement is critical to complete the Poudre River Trail.

Priority Area:	Poudre River
Acreage:	N/A
Current Zoning:	N/A
Adjacent Zoning:	N/A
Water Rights:	N/A
Mineral Rights:	N/A
Fee Payments	Initial \$20,000 payment plus a \$1,200 annual payment

Potential Funding Amount	Description
Larimer County	100%



Evaluation Criteria

Values

Environmental/Ecological	N/A
Scenic/Aesthetic/Sense of Place	N/A
Outdoor Recreation	High
Historical/Archaeological	N/A
Agricultural	N/A
Geological/Paleontological	N/A
Information/Education	N/A
Context	N/A
Political Factors	N/A
Price	N/A

Partners:

Larimer County

Property Rights Involved:

Crossing Agreement to cross the Greeley #2 Canal with a bridge

Purchase Price: Initial \$20,000 payment plus a \$1,200 annual payment

Price Per Acre: N/A

Financial Terms: N/A

Funding Sources:

Larimer County Natural Resources acquisition fund

\$20,000 one time

Larimer County Natural Resources long term management fund

Amount

\$1,200 annually

Closing Date: After BOCC signature

Open Lands Advisory Board Recommendation: May 28, 2020

Board of County Commissioners Approval: June 2020

Habitat Restoration Policy

Purpose

This policy defines habitat restoration to meet eligibility and appropriate uses of the Help Preserve Open Space (HPOS) sales tax funds. This policy also defines and prioritizes the use of habitat restoration funds based on the following ranking:

- 1) Lands owned or managed by Larimer County Department of Natural Resources (LCDNR).
- 2) Conservation easements paid with HPOS sales tax funds and held by Larimer County.
- 3) Lands adjacent or connected to LCDNR owned or managed parks and open spaces, where restoration activities directly influence desired conservation outcomes in the LCDNR owned park or open space.

Background

Beginning in 2019, the HPOS sales tax extension specifies 35%, and up to 50%, of the tax to pay for land acquisition and for “restoring and enhancing native plant and animal communities and other habitat related restoration.”

LCDNR developed this policy to define and specify what is considered restoration in order to meet eligibility requirements for use of the HPOS funds.

Land Restoration Principles based on desired conservation outcomes were developed by LCDNR staff using ecological restoration guidelines, best management practices, and professional experience.

Policy

Habitat restoration projects must be aligned with the following four Land Restoration Principles to be eligible for HPOS funds:

1. Restoration projects will align with the HPOS ballot language.
2. Restoration projects will be fiscally responsible.
3. Restoration projects will be evaluated relative to desired conservation outcomes and existing property management plan goals to ensure that they contribute to improving ecological function.
4. Restoration projects will be designed to be self-sustaining once established with desired conditions based on predetermined project metrics.

Restoration projects will be eligible for Habitat Restoration Funds throughout project design, implementation, and adaptive management phases until the predetermined performance

criteria/project goals are accomplished. Once the goals have adequately been met, ongoing stewardship of the site will be paid for with funds (HPOS or other) earmarked for long-term management. Habitat Restoration Funds will not be used for restoration components of capital facility, infrastructure construction projects, or for landscaping improvements and maintenance. Habitat Restoration Funds will be used for projects where the primary focus is habitat restoration.

The Land Conservation, Planning and Resource Division Manager will approve completion of the project phase and beginning of the maintenance phase of any habitat restoration project. The final approval decision will be based on monitoring data, accomplishment of pre-determined project metrics, and staff recommendations.