

## LARIMER COUNTY PARKS 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:** July 7, 2020

**Time:** 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Zoom Webinar. Public registration:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_BzghzUYTbu8cV4kPHIGZg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BzghzUYTbu8cV4kPHIGZg)

**Contact:** Please contact Sidney at [smichl@larimer.org](mailto: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
5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - a. Natural Resource events for this month: See <http://www.larimer.org/naturalresources>.
  - b. To sign up for Parks Advisory Board minutes, go to <http://larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm>, enter your email, click 'Subscribe,' and then check the 'Parks Advisory Board' box.
6. UPDATES & REPORTS
  - a. Park District updates – Dan/Mark
  - b. 2019 Annual Report – Daylan

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Chimney Hollow IGA update/Recreation Lease

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Chimney Hollow IGA update/Recreation Lease recommendation to BOCC
- b. Board Election of Officers

9. U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION UPDATE

10. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Daylan Figgs

12. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: 8/4/2020, location TBD

13. 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.

14. ADJOURN

*Included in PDF:*

- Agenda
- Sales Tax Revenue Distribution Report
- 2019 Annual Report
- Chimney Hollow summary & maps

*Attached Separately:*

- Minutes of last meeting

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/parks\\_advisory\\_board.cfm](http://legacy.larimer.org/boards/minutes/parks_advisory_board.cfm)



**OPEN SPACE SALES TAX ACTIVITY**  
**April 2020 Distribution**

REVENUES:

SALES TAX	\$ 1,103,820.79
MV USE TAX	\$ 50,587.39
BUILDING USE TAX	\$ 108,534.48
INTEREST	\$ 1,400.62
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$ 1,264,343.28</u>

EXPENDITURES:

PERSONNEL & OPERATING	<u>\$ 4,401.85</u>	\$ 15,512.29
		\$ 15,512.29

NET REVENUE:	<u><u>\$ 1,259,941.43</u></u>
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% SALES TAX DISTRIBUTED TO INCORP. AREAS (USED AS A BASIS) 50%

**DISTRIBUTION BASED ON POPULATION**

2019 State of Colorado Statistics

	2018 POPULATION	% OF INCORP AREA	REVENUE
FORT COLLINS	167,347	59.36	\$ 373,930.46
LOVELAND	77,226	27.39	\$ 172,558.54
ESTES PARK	6,301	2.23	\$ 14,079.34
BERTHOUD	7,632	2.71	\$ 17,053.41
WELLINGTON	9,894	3.51	\$ 22,107.76
WINDSOR	7,329	2.60	\$ 16,376.37
JOHNSTOWN	2,235	0.79	\$ 4,994.02
TIMNATH	3,970	1.41	\$ 8,870.81
TOTAL INCORP.	<u>281,934</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>\$ 629,970.72</u>

**DISTRIBUTION BASED ON SALES TAX GENERATION**

2019 Larimer County Statistics

	2018 GENERATION	% OF INCORP AREA SALES TAX	REVENUE
FORT COLLINS	\$ 13,743,866	53.93	\$ 339,771.13
LOVELAND	\$ 7,720,582	30.29	\$ 190,830.19
ESTES PARK	\$ 1,539,645	6.04	\$ 38,055.52
BERTHOUD	\$ 263,974	1.04	\$ 6,524.65
WELLINGTON	\$ 232,991	0.91	\$ 5,758.86
WINDSOR	\$ 298,484	1.17	\$ 7,377.66
JOHNSTOWN	\$ 851,021	3.34	\$ 21,034.74
TIMNATH	\$ 836,707	3.28	\$ 20,680.95
TOTAL INCORP	<u>\$ 25,487,271</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>\$ 630,033.71</u>

**DISTRIBUTION BASED ON HIGHEST YIELD TO INCORPORATED AREAS:**

FORT COLLINS	\$ 373,930.46	53.41
LOVELAND	\$ 190,830.19	27.26
ESTES PARK	\$ 38,055.52	5.44
BERTHOUD	\$ 17,053.41	2.44
WELLINGTON	\$ 22,107.76	3.16
WINDSOR	\$ 16,376.37	2.34
JOHNSTOWN	\$ 21,034.74	3.00
TIMNATH	\$ 20,680.95	2.95
TOTAL INCORP	<u>\$ 700,069.41</u>	<u>100.00</u>

**DISTRIBUTION FOR MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT:**

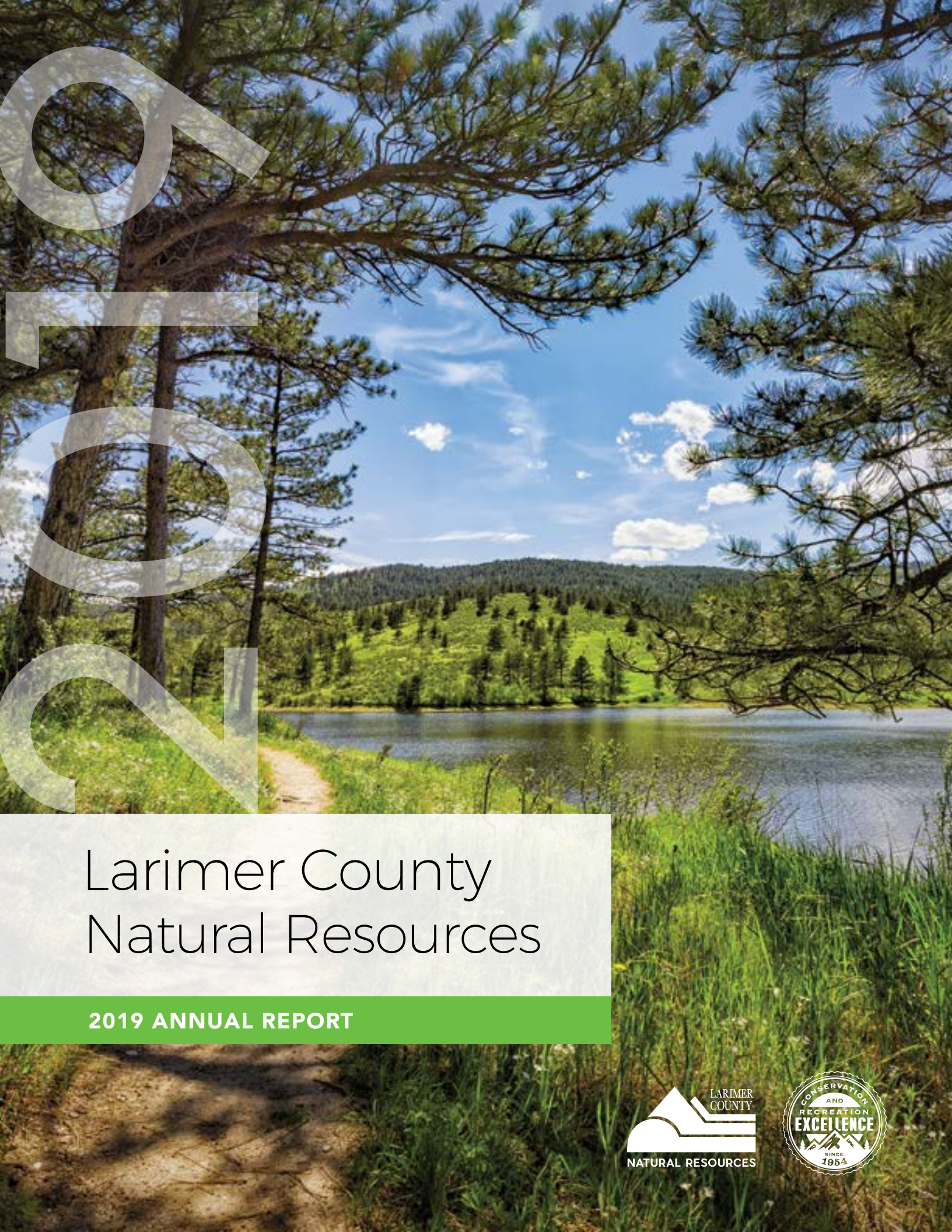
FORT COLLINS	\$	336,488.40
LOVELAND	\$	171,722.16
ESTES PARK	\$	34,244.98
BERTHOUD	\$	15,345.84
WELLINGTON	\$	19,894.09
WINDSOR	\$	14,736.59
JOHNSTOWN	\$	18,928.51
TIMNATH	\$	18,610.15
TOTAL INCORP	\$	629,970.72
TOTAL UNINCORP	\$	629,970.71
TOTAL	\$	1,259,941.43

\$ 0.01

**YEAR TO DATE****PAID TO DATE**

\$ 1,320,189.59	\$ 86,279,504.13
\$ 673,740.33	\$ 40,239,908.38
\$ 134,357.88	\$ 6,685,462.60
\$ 60,208.36	\$ 3,172,309.51
\$ 78,053.12	\$ 3,030,690.46
\$ 57,818.00	\$ 1,724,958.55
\$ 74,264.74	\$ 1,173,383.28
\$ 73,015.67	\$ 1,393,240.68
\$ 2,471,647.69	\$ 143,699,457.59
\$ 2,471,647.69	\$ 106,143,150.36
\$ 4,943,295.38	\$ 249,842,607.95





# Larimer County Natural Resources

**2019 ANNUAL REPORT**





# Thank You Citizen Advisory Boards

## Land Stewardship Advisory Board

Laura Booth  
Renee Galeano-Popp  
Ronald Harris  
Ernie Marx  
Richard McCulloch  
Gordon Nuttall (Vice Chair)  
Ed Redente (Chair)

## Open Lands Advisory Board

Rick Brent  
Jason Brothers  
K-Lynn Cameron  
Mark DeGregorio  
Bob Hewson  
Peter Kelly  
David Marvin (Vice Chair)  
Tom Shoemaker  
Linda Stanley  
Sherri Valentine  
Nancy Wallace (Chair)  
Ken Zornes

## Parks Advisory Board

Steve Ambrose  
Steven Amundson  
Russell Fruits (Chair)  
Robert Harris  
Daniela Lawler  
Kathy Maher  
Amanda Peters  
Michael Robinson  
Ruthie Rollins  
Deborah Shulman (Vice Chair)

Thank you to Larimer County  
Government Officials:

### Board of County Commissioners:

John Kefalas, Steve Johnson, Tom Donnelly

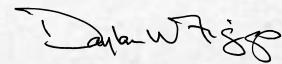
**County Manager:** Linda Hoffmann

**Community Planning, Infrastructure and  
Resources Director:** Laurie Kadrach

Cover photo: Pinewood Reservoir Trail,  
Photo © Jeanie Sumrall-Ajero

# An Invitation to Connect

Our shared successes demonstrated in this 2019 Annual Report would not be possible without the willingness of our regional partners, neighboring cities and towns, and members of the community to work side by side. Much gratitude goes to the efforts of our collective work that has been demonstrated this last year. Our team worked diligently to acquire, restore, and reconstruct critical areas of our landscape as well as to reinvest in our properties to improve visitor experience and access to recreation. I invite you to join us in our mission and connect with us. Your involvement will be vital as we address the needs of our growing community.



**Daylan Figgs**

Director, Department of Natural Resources

# Our Mission

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.



Eagle's Nest Open Space © Jeanie Sumrall-Ajero

# 2019 at a Glance



## Starburst

1 Starburst Award by Colorado Lottery for the Long View Trail, a 4.4 mile regional trail connecting Fort Collins and Loveland.



**55,000**

Acres conserved



**2 MILLION**  
Visitors at reservoir parks\*

**\$247M**

total revenue collected and distributed to date from the Help Preserve Open Spaces tax



**52,000**  
nights

camping under the stars

**55%**  
VISITORS



choose hiking as primary activity at Horsetooth Mountain Open Space followed by 21% dog walking and 19% wildlife viewing.\*



**383**

volunteers donated 20,405 hours of service, equivalent of 10 full-time employees



**14**  
Open Spaces\*\*



**4**  
Reservoir Parks

\*Data compiled during Visitor Use Study, Colorado State University, 2018 \*\*Includes Long View Farm and Big Thompson Parks (Glade, Narrows, Forks, and Sleepy Hollow).

Grant  
Award



### Long Awaited Connections

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) granted \$2 million to construct final sections of Poudre River Trail.

Audit  
Complete



### 20 Years of Financial Stewardship

Independent auditors, RubinBrown, issued no errors on financial management of sales tax initiative dollars accounting from 1997-2017.



# Improving Visitor Experience

When visitors pay a fee to visit a Larimer County park or open space, the money collected goes to support management and improvements on the properties. In 2019, fee increases allowed the Department to begin delivering improvements at our highly visited parks and open spaces to improve visitor experience.

## Highlights included:

- Major reconstruction was completed on the heavily used Horsetooth Rock Trail including rerouting portions, improving drainage, and installing steps on steep sections.
- The education pavilion at Horsetooth Reservoir got a jolt of life by adding electrical service to better support campground programs.
- Horsetooth Reservoir's Rotary Park, a heavily used day use parking lot, was repaired and resurfaced.
- Wildlife interactions are increasing as more visitors discover the outdoors. To mitigate this risk, staff installed wildlife resistant trash containers at Hermit Park, Carter Lake, and Horsetooth Reservoir. Additionally, bear boxes were added at all campgrounds in Hermit Park.
- Over \$9 million dollars of capital improvement projects were solidified in 2019 to begin first phases of work in 2020. These funds will be reinvested into our properties through projects that improve reservoir access, campground amenities, roads and other infrastructure that enhance recreational access, safety and security.





# Investing in Nature

Our work in 2019 reflects the Department's dedication to conserving key landscapes, providing safe and enjoyable public access, and stewarding natural resources.

## Highlights included:

- The final acquisitions of the Poudre River Trail and securing \$2M in Great Outdoors Colorado funding with City of Fort Collins, and towns of Timnath and Windsor to construct remaining portions.
- Finalizing key land acquisitions including an 800 acre inholding at Red Mountain Open Space, buffers to Forks Park, and the 162-acre Pittington Conservation Easement.



- Completing restoration of a three-quarter mile stretch of the Poudre River at River Bluffs Open Space. This project restored a previously channelized, non-functioning river by re-connecting it to the floodplain.



River Bluffs Open Space © Herb Saperstone



Soderberg restoration © Jeanie Sumrall-Ajero

- Stabilized and preserved four historic structures from the Herrington and Soderberg homesteads at Horsetooth Mountain Open Space with non-profit partner, HistoriCorps.
- To address weed management issues with a watershed approach, the Land Stewardship Program expanded to provide services to numerous agencies including U.S. Forest Service, local watershed agencies, and others.

# Connecting People to Nature

Special thanks to our volunteers who dedicate time and passion to our goals. Collaborations and volunteer time all leverage public funds. Your collective "lift" equals nearly ten full-time employees.

## Highlights included:



**20,405**  
Service hours

383 volunteers



**12**

**Trailhead outreach tables**

900+ community interactions



**40**

**Campground programs**

reaching 1,000 summer visitors



**1,000**  
Students

from 18 schools

inspiring environmental education



**5,175**

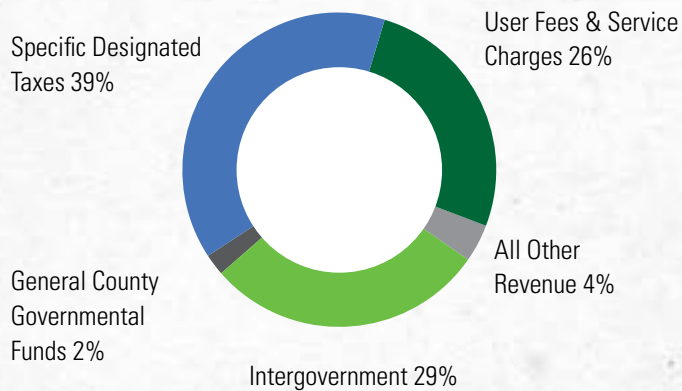
**Participants in 142 activities**

including guided hikes, field trips, outreach, events, and trainings

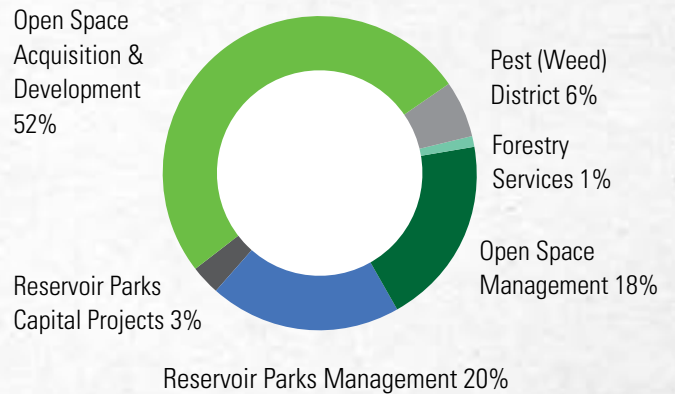
# Financial Summary

Revenues for Larimer County Department of Natural Resources are realized from a number of sources and totaled **\$20.2** million in 2019. Expenses for 2019 were **\$13.2** million.

## 2019 Revenues



## 2019 Expenses



*\*These figures are not audited. Audit will be completed in mid-2020. Figures in this chart have been rounded where appropriate.*

# Help Preserve Open Spaces Tax Revenues

Revenue from the 1/4-cent Help Preserve Open Spaces sales and use tax is shared among Larimer County and eight municipalities. The tax was extended in 2014 and sunsets in 2043. It is not imposed on food or prescription drugs. The total revenue collected to date is more than \$247 million. Distributions to municipalities are based upon the highest yield of either population or sales tax generation. This revenue sharing agreement ensures that residents throughout Larimer County receive benefits from the Help Preserve Open Spaces tax.

Total tax revenue collected in 2019 was 17,483,512. This graphic illustrates how the tax was distributed per entity in 2019.

## Larimer County

\$8,741,756

Estes Park  
\$460,943

Fort Collins  
\$4,764,122

Loveland  
\$2,430,918

Berthoud  
\$195,467

Wellington  
\$274,643

Timnath  
\$237,564

Windsor  
\$203,561

Johnstown  
\$174,537

### Connect With Us:

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



Larimer County  
Department of Natural Resources  
2019 Annual Report  
Published: May 2020

## **Chimney Hollow Summary**

In 2004, Larimer County (County) and Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Municipal Subdistrict (District), jointly purchased the 3,400-acre Chimney Hollow property from Hewlett Packard. The District acquired approximately 1,600 acres for the future Chimney Hollow Reservoir. Larimer County acquired the remaining 1,800 acres for a future county open space. At that time, as both the District and County were interested in having the County manage recreation at the future reservoir, an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) was developed to govern the process of planning and implementing the project.

That IGA, as extended, expires on August 3, 2020. One of the items in that IGA called for development of a recreation lease, governing how the County would use and manage the District property for public recreation. An updated IGA, recreation lease, and perpetual road access agreement have been drafted and are ready for execution.

### **Features of the reservoir construction project:**

- Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) will relocate the existing powerline, from the bottom of the Chimney Hollow valley to above high water line on the west side of the reservoir. An easement has been granted to the District for those portions of the powerline and access roads that will be on County property.
- A new road off of CR 18E for access to the top of the dam, to the recreation site, and to the new powerline towers will be built by the District.
- The dam will be an asphalt-core dam, with most of the materials coming from within the pool area, including a large quarry and batch plants for asphalt and concrete. The dam will be 355 feet tall and the reservoir surface area, when full, will be 740 acres. By comparison, Carter Lake has a surface area of 1,144 acres, when full.
- The Chimney Hollow conduit that will fill the reservoir, will be a 6' diameter, buried pipe, from the top of the Flatiron penstocks to the base of the dam (approx. 7,000'). Approximately 1,100 feet of the pipeline will be on County property, on an alignment south of the existing penstocks. An easement for this purpose is being developed.

### **Features of the recreation facilities:**

The recreation facilities have not been selected or designed yet, but will likely include:

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| • Day use only                                 | • Restrooms        |
| • Boat ramp – wakeless boats                   | • Trails           |
| • Hand launch access                           | • Entrance station |
| • Trailhead and reservoir access parking areas |                    |

### **Basics of the recreation lease:**

- The Lease will have a 25-year term, extendable for another 25 years. No fee for the Lease.
- The lease will be for management of recreation facilities on the District's property.
- The County, with input from the District, will develop a management plan for the site.

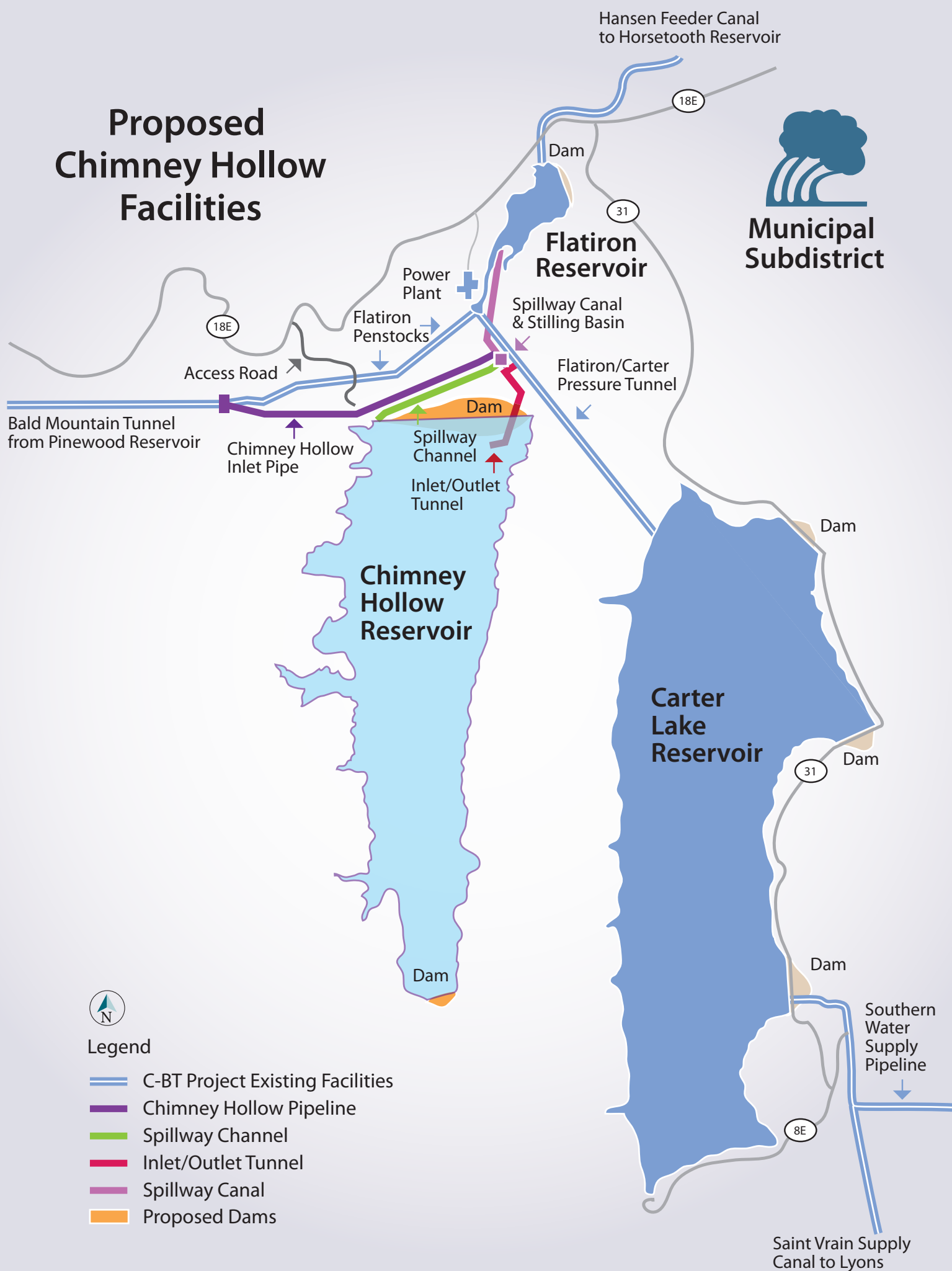


- The District will pay for, build and own the access road from CR18E to the recreation site. The County will pay for initial asphalt paving and will conduct, coordinate and pay for 75% (the District will pay 25%) of routine maintenance.
- The County has the right to collect and retain all revenue derived from leases, licenses, subcontracts, permits, user fees, or contracts which it issues or administers.
- The County will design, pay for, construct and operate the recreation facilities.
- No additional roads will be created on the Lease site by either party without consultation with the other party. Both parties will minimize disturbance of vegetation, soil, and rock outcroppings.
- The Lease provides for the optional use of concessionaires at the recreation site.
- The County will provide patrol/public safety services on the Lease property when the site is open to the public.
- The County will be available for hire to conduct vegetation management/weed control on the District's ownership.

**Timeline:**

The District and WAPA have halted all construction pending the outcome of a current lawsuit. Design of the dam and associated structures is complete, and a contractor has been hired. Construction is anticipated to commence this fall, provided the judge rules in the District's favor. It is anticipated that construction will take about 4 years, and another 2-3 years to fill the reservoir. The District and the County will jointly determine a date for opening of the recreation facilities to the public.

# Proposed Chimney Hollow Facilities



## Legend

- C-BT Project Existing Facilities
- Chimney Hollow Pipeline
- Spillway Channel
- Inlet/Outlet Tunnel
- Spillway Canal
- Proposed Dams

**Blue Mountain  
Conservation Area**

**Land Status**

- Conservation Easement
- Larimer County  
Parks & Open Spaces
- USFS
- Northern Water
- State of Colorado

**Other Features**

- Future Reservoir
- Lake
- Rivers
- Roads
- Trails

