# CLIMATE **Smart** Future *Ready*



www.larimer.gov/csfr

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### FOCUS AREAS

# CLIMATE **SMART** FUTURE *Ready*

Built Environment, Circular Economy, and Business and Jobs

> Connection Between Focus Areas

Natural Environment, Water, and Agriculture Mobility of People, Goods, and Services

### THE APPROACH



### What is the County's Approach and Role?

- Zoom out and look beyond local government boundaries to what is happening in our County and region
- Consider sustainable (environmental, economic, and social) needs and impacts
- Discover gaps and overlaps
- Nurture and enhance partnerships
- Align priorities as much as possible

### **Partners Making It Happen!!**

| North Front Range<br>Metropolitan<br>Planning<br>Organization | n Neutral Group<br>n s u l t i n g | Fort Collins                                |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| COLORADO STATE UNIVERS  | ITY CLIMATE INITIATIVE             |   |
| COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY                                     | SCONSERVATION                      | City of Loveland                            |
| POUDRE FOOD   | NUMBER OF STREET                   |   |
| Poudre Valley<br>Community Farms                              | Northern Colorado                  | DRIVE CLEAN                                 |
| Peaks to People<br>Water Fund                                 | <b>FOODSHED</b><br>PROJECT         | <b>COLORADO</b><br>a Clean Cities Coalition |
|   |                                    |   |

### LARIMER COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES







# LARIMER COUNTY CLIMATE STRATEGY

### Climate Smart Future Ready

- 9 key sectors (policy, transportation, business, connectivity, agriculture, water, energy/buildings, economy, & natural environment)
- Natural Environment Action: Coordinate across jurisdictions to conserve lands to enhance ecological connectivity and improve community ecosystem services.
- Natural landscapes contribute to climate goals by:
  - Storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere in healthy ecosystems.
  - Providing ecosystem services

### LARIMER COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES

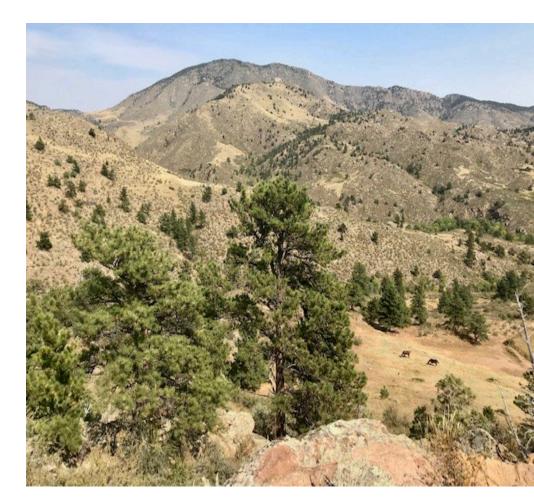


# BACKGROUND

Mission: Connect People, Nature & Place

Vision: Healthy Landscapes, Healthy People

- Manage 18 open spaces for nature-based public access
- Hold over 50 conservation easements

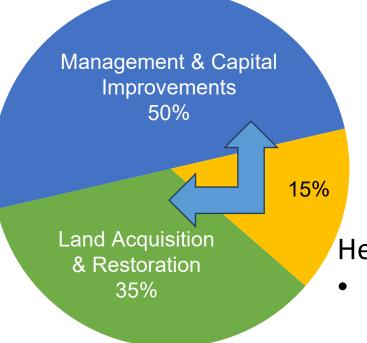


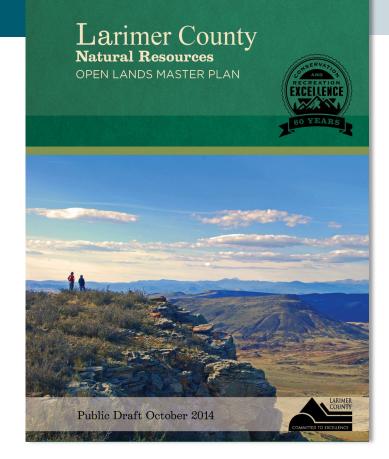
#### LARIMER COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES



### • Open Lands Master Plan

- Our Lands Our Future Survey
- Help Preserve Open Spaces
   ballot language





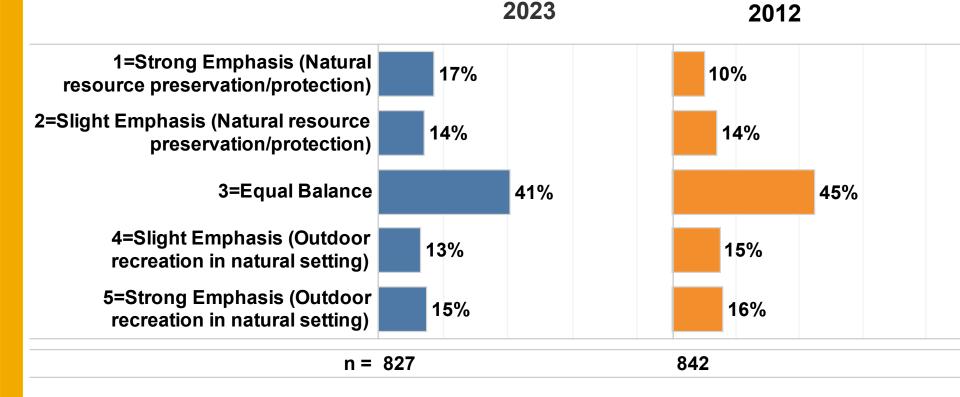
#### Help Preserve Open Space Sales Tax

 50% to Larimer County; 50% to municipalities

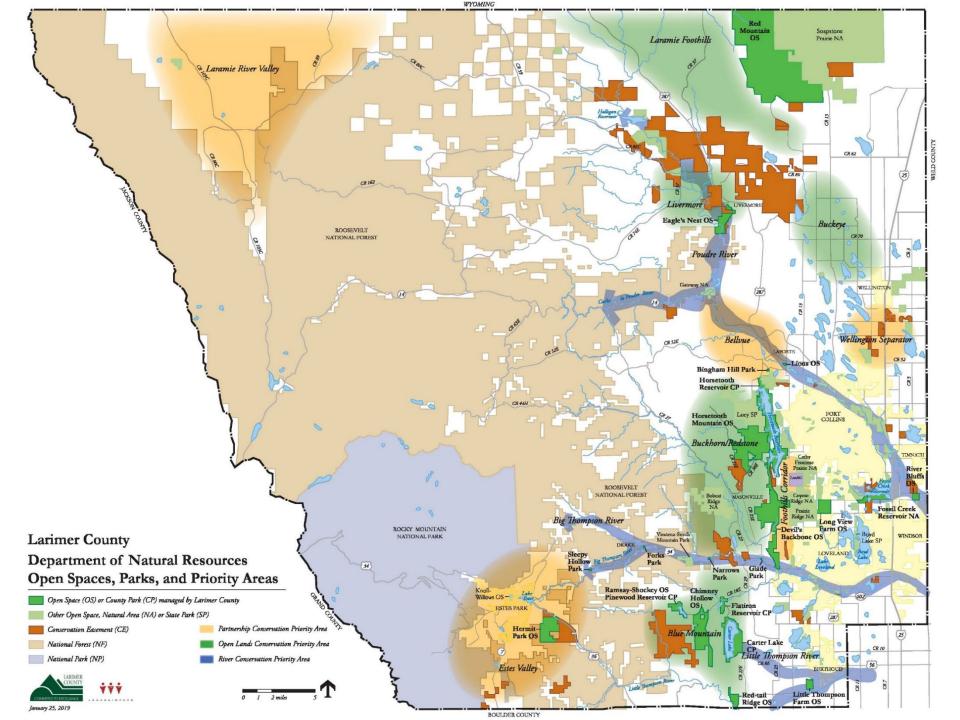
# LARIMER

# OUR LANDS – OUR FUTURE SURVEY

# Please indicate what emphasis you would like to see Larimer County and our cities and towns pursue



| Our              |   | Invite  |
|------------------|---|---------|
| Lands            | To protect lakes, rivers, streams, and preserve water quality   | \$14.69 |
| Our<br>Future    | For outdoor recreation opportunities (hiking, walking, biking, horse riding, climbing, boating, etc.) | \$12.97 |
| Survey           | To protect wildlife habitat and rare species  | \$12.04 |
| How              | Management and maintenance of current "Open space and trails" and facilities, trails, etc.            | \$10.94 |
| would<br>you     | To create greenways or paved trail corridors that connect communities and parks                       | \$10.58 |
| allocate         | Upgraded trailheads, trails, parking, restrooms, campgrounds, shelters, and information signs         | \$9.45  |
| \$100<br>dollars | For land restoration or habitat enhancement, such as weed management or river restoration             | \$7.66  |
| in               | To conserve working farms and ranches   | \$6.76  |
| public<br>funds? | To protect scenic views   | \$6.75  |
|                  | To conserve historic and archaeological sites in "Open spaces & trails"                               | \$3.83  |
|                  | Renovation of historic structures that allow for public benefit                                       | \$3.22  |
|                  | Buy new land       Other       Other  | \$1.11  |





# ACQUISITION STRATEGY

Analysis of key parcels within Master Plan priority areas

- 100 acres or larger
- High natural, community separator, agricultural, recreation, and/or scenic values

Approach

- Meet with partners on areas of shared interest
- Proactively call landowners/letter







# FUTURE GROWTH LEVEL OF SERVICE PER CAPITA

# 2018

# 2043



# TOOLS FOR LAND CONSERVATION

### Natural Resources Department

- Fee-simple Acquisitions
- Conservation Easements
- Trail Easements

### **Community Planning Department**

- Development Review
  - Restrictive Covenants
  - Buffers, Trail Easements
- Conservation Developments
- Rural Land Use Process



# LARIMER

### CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

### **Conservation Easement:**

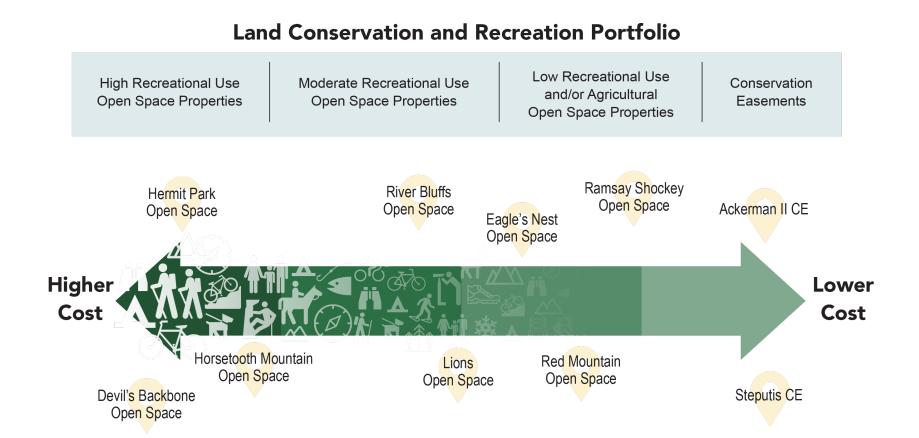
A legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land to protect its conservation values.



**Conservation Values:** Natural Resources, Wildlife Habitat, Recreation, Scenic Vistas, Buffers, Community Separators & Working Farms and Ranches



# SPECTRUM OF ACQUISITIONS & MGMT COST



In 2020, the average management cost per acre across all categories is \$138. Maintenance cost per mile of trail/year is \$1,500.



### 25-year financial model public access

#### Projected Opening User Fees

Chimney Hollow Open Space2027yesRural – low use/management cost2029yesUrban – high use/management cost2032yesUrban – high use/management cost2035yesUrban – high use/management cost2035yesyesyes2035yes

Acquiring but postponing public access on the each new open space saves ~\$1,000,000/yr



| 2982                                | 0.0                                  | 2000.0   | 3000.0                   | 4000.0                               | 5000.0                                | 6000.0    | 7000.0             | 8000.0    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| 99 <sup>57</sup> 1996               | Ŭ                                    | athy Fromme Prairie  | HTMO                     | HTMOS & Coyote Ridge                 | Ridge                                 |           |                    |           |
| 1991 1998 v                         |                                      | Long View Farm, Ramsay-Shockey<br>Devil's Backbone, HTMOS & RMNP additions         | msay-Sho<br>HTMOS &      | ckey<br>c RMNP ad                    | ditions                               |           |                    |           |
| 39° 200 25                          | DBB Add                              | ltions<br>Rimrock & Prairie Ridge  | airie Ridg               | 0                                    |                                       |           |                    |           |
| 00, <sup>5</sup> 00, <sup>5</sup> 0 |                                      | Fossil Creek Reservoir & Eagle's Nest<br>DBB & HTMOS additions                     | Reservoii<br>10S addit   | · & Eagle's                          | Nest                                  |           |                    |           |
| <sup>33</sup> 200 <sup>A</sup>      |                                      |  |                          | Red Mtn,                             | Red Mtn, Chimney Hollow, River Bluffs | Hollow, R | kiver Blu          | E C       |
| 205 206 2001                        |                                      | RMNP additions   | U amit D                 | Hammit Doub & Dad Mtn Addition       | Mto Addit                             |           | 1 <i>3,</i> 430 dC | 15,456 ac |
| 2008 2009 25                        |                                      |  |                          |                                      |                                       | ПОП       |                    |           |
| 2010 2011 201                       | ı I                                  |  |                          |                                      |                                       |           |                    |           |
| <sup>12</sup> 2013 2014             | Su                                   | inset Vista & DBB additions  | suo                      |                                      |                                       |           |                    |           |
| 2015 2016                           |                                      | ittle Thompson Farm  |                          |                                      |                                       |           |                    |           |
| 2011 2018                           |                                      | HTMOS & Coyote Ridge additions<br>Red Mtn & DBB additions                          | lge additic<br>additions | suc                                  |                                       |           |                    |           |
| 2019 20                             | Big T.                               | ig T. & Coyote Ridge Additions   | lditions                 |                                      |                                       |           |                    |           |
| 9 <sup>20</sup> 20 <sup>21</sup> 20 | Dakota                               | Red Mtn & HTMOS additions<br>Dakota Ridge & Big T. additions                       | OS additi<br>lditions    | suo                                  |                                       |           |                    |           |
| <sup>,22</sup> 2023 25              | Bobcat Ridge Add.                    | lge Add.   | Edge & B                 | Canyon Edge & Bobcat addition<br>Id. | ion                                   |           |                    |           |
| 0 <sup>24</sup> 2025                | Rocky Ridge &<br>Red-tail Ridge Add. | <ul> <li>Rocky Ridge &amp; Prairie Ridge Add</li> <li>d-tail Ridge Add.</li> </ul> | Kidge Ac                 | <del>.</del>                         |                                       |           |                    |           |
|                                     |                                      |  |                          |                                      |                                       |           |                    | —         |



# **CURRENT PORTFOLIO**

#### Baseline

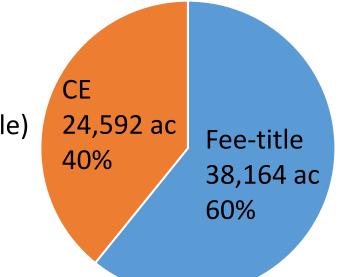
1996–2017: Conserved 50,000 acres (Larimer County with partners)

#### Goal

Conserve additional 24,000 acres by 2043. Total available acquisition funds \$129M (35% of HPOS tax)

#### Status 2018-2025 (to date):

- Added 12,756 ac = total 62,756 acres (53% of goal met in first 8 years)
- Acquisition funds spent = \$25M (20% of available)





# **Conserved or Restored Natural Landscapes**

**Ecosystem Services**: Benefits provided by ecosystems that make human life possible.

- Wildlife Habitat native plant species, pollinators, biodiversity
- Agricultural native vegetation can be leased for livestock grazing
- Soils rebuild soil structure, stability and resiliency; carbon storage
- Water conserved native ecosystems filter (water quality) and absorb water (reduce flood risk).
- Riparian/Wetlands flood attenuation, nutrient cycling, critical habitat (1% of land cover; 80% biodiversity in west)
- Value in ecosystem services of Larimer County conserved lands = \$24.9M/yr





### Questions and Discussion

