# 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 Metropolitan Planning Organization	n Neutral Group 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 Community Farms	Northern Colorado	DRIVE CLEAN
Peaks to People Water Fund	<b>FOODSHED</b> PROJECT	<b>COLORADO</b> 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

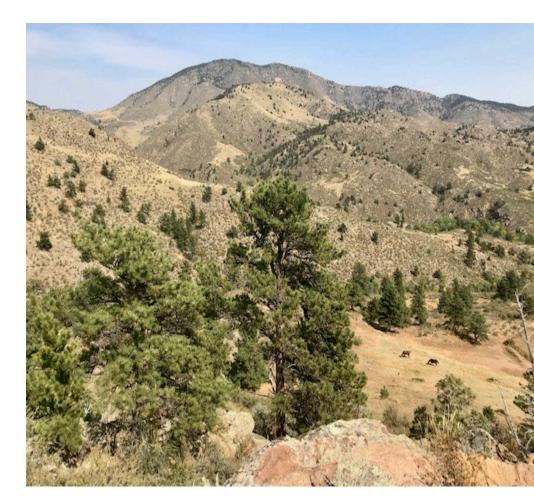


# BACKGROUND

Mission: Connect People, Nature & Place

Vision: Healthy Landscapes, Healthy People

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

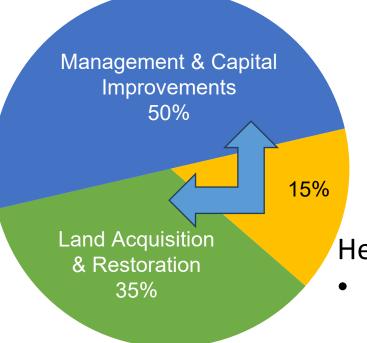


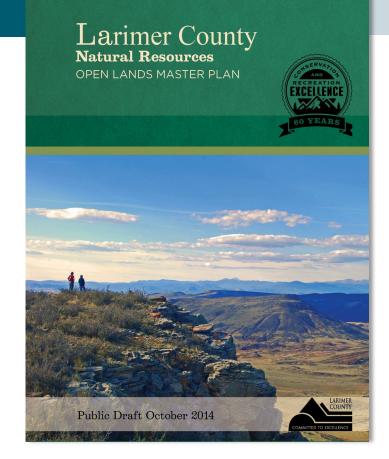
#### LARIMER COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES



### • Open Lands Master Plan

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





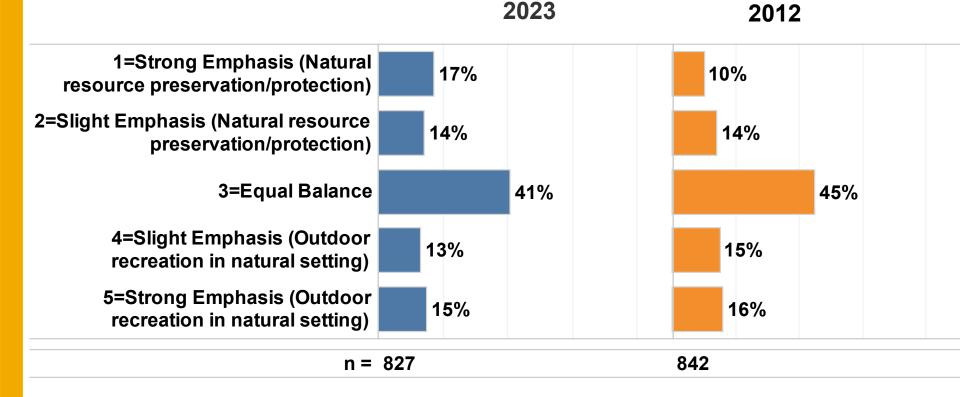
#### Help Preserve Open Space Sales Tax

 50% to Larimer County; 50% to municipalities

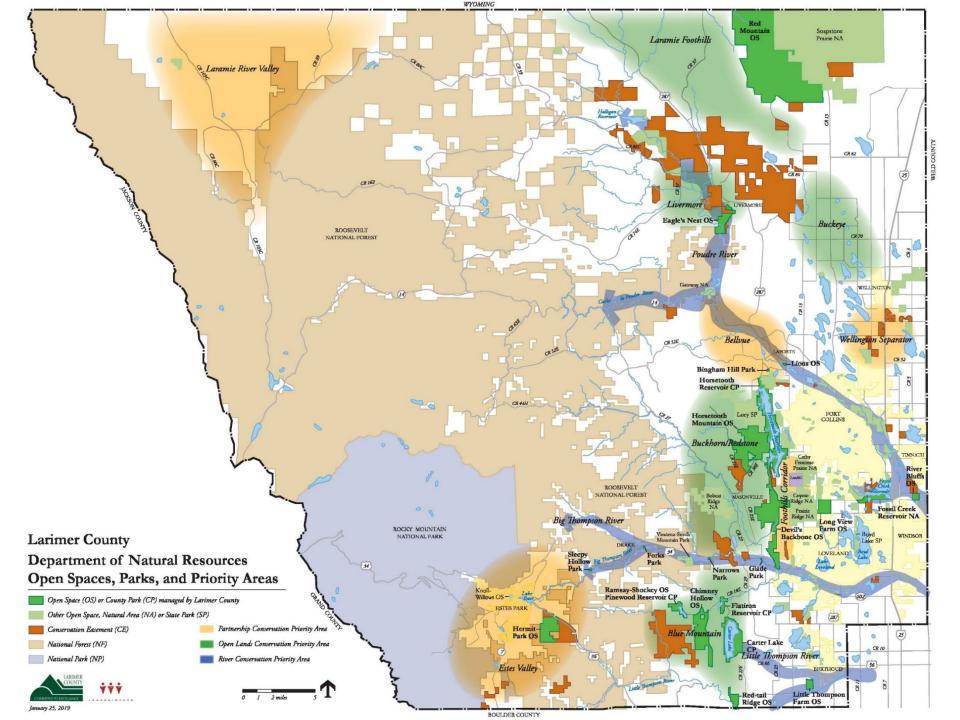
# LARIMER

# 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 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 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 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 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:**

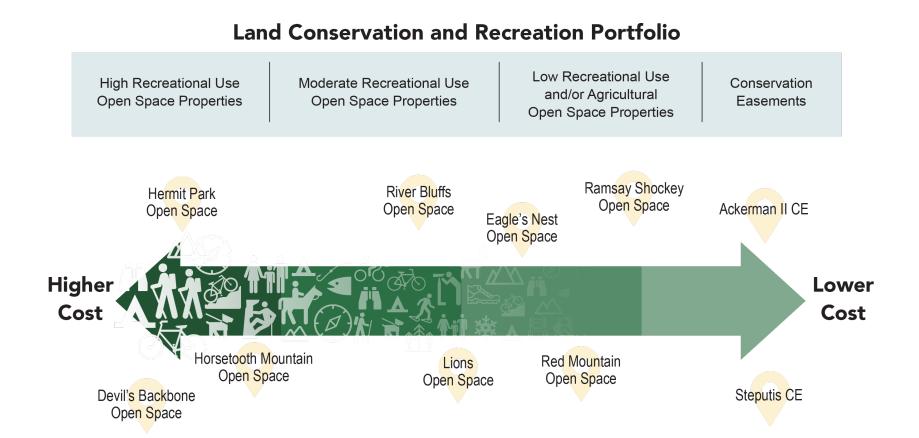
A legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land to protect its conservation values.



**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



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<sup>33</sup> 200 <sup>A</sup>				Red Mtn,	Red Mtn, Chimney Hollow, River Bluffs	Hollow, R	kiver Blu	E C
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0 <sup>24</sup> 2025	Rocky Ridge & Red-tail Ridge Add.	<ul> <li>Rocky Ridge &amp; Prairie Ridge Add</li> <li>d-tail Ridge Add.</li> </ul>	Kidge Ac	<del>.</del>				
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# **CURRENT PORTFOLIO**

#### Baseline

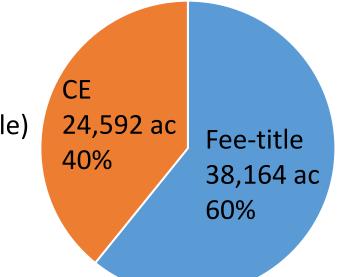
1996–2017: Conserved 50,000 acres (Larimer County with partners)

#### 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

