

# LARIMER COUNTY WATER MASTER PLAN

The *provisional* vision, goals, and objectives below have incorporated feedback from a Board of County Commissioners and Planning Commission work session held on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, two advisory group meetings held in January 2024, and input from five Larimer County Boards – the Environmental and Science Advisory Board, Agricultural Advisory Board, Equity Diversity and Inclusion Board, Open Lands Advisory Board, and the Parks Advisory Board. Though the vision, goals, and objectives below are mostly finalized, it is important they are subject to minor changes through to the end of the Water Master Plan project.

The initial draft and vision and goals produced on December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, included feedback from participants who attended the November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Vision and Goals public workshop, insights from the Larimer County Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners from a workshop on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, internal staff contributions, and initial discussion with the project’s advisory groups.

## VISION STATEMENT

"Larimer County, guided by a commitment to stewardship, is dedicated to safeguarding local and regional water systems, aligning future land use with available water resources, and helping to build resilient communities and ecosystems equipped to address future water challenges."

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### *Goal 1. Minimize the Threat to Watersheds from Hazards (i.e., floods, severe wildfires)*

Improve ecological conditions to enhance water quality, while increasing resilience focusing on the high-risk watersheds identified in the Water Master Plan.

- **Objective 1:** Identify grants, funding opportunities, and restoration help to improve the conditions of fire-scarred areas, while proactively helping to increase the ecological resilience of unburned forested areas.
- **Objective 2:** Collaborate with-local, state, and federal agencies, community organizations, education institutions, and other relevant stakeholders to incorporate risk mitigation strategies and actions into existing planning processes.
- **Objective 3:** Integrate water-related hazard mitigation strategies into ongoing and future planning processes, such as the Hazard Mitigation Plan, Climate Smart Plan, Comprehensive Plan, and Larimer County’s Land Use Code.

### *Goal 2: Communicate and Collaborate to Support Water Sustainability*

Strengthen communication, coordination, and collaboration among water-related organizations, stakeholders, and departments to improve the sustainability and resilience of our communities and their water resources.

- **Objective 1:** Establish relationships with partner organizations to enhance communication channels and foster collaboration.
- **Objective 2:** Create a communication strategy that enables effective collaboration and information sharing between Larimer County, municipalities, and water utility providers.

***Goal 3: Promote Water Literacy in Our Community***

Promote existing water education efforts available to Larimer County

- **Objective 1:** Create resources about watershed health, water provider boundaries, water sources and uses that are easily available for community use and understanding.
- **Objective 2:** Implement awareness campaigns through partnerships to promote drought preparedness, efficient water use, the importance of good water quality, and increase understanding of water-related risks.

***Goal 4: Align Land Use Planning with Water Resources***

Develop and implement programs or policies that support sustainable growth and development while ensuring water supply reliability and adequacy.

- **Objective 1:** Coordinate land use and zoning for unincorporated areas to reflect known information about water resources and availability in those areas.
- **Objective 2:** Address water affordability considerations alongside adequate water resources considerations. Implement equitable actions that address the diverse needs and challenges of different groups.
- **Objective 3:** Ensure the long-term viability of agricultural water resources in Larimer County through the promotion of efficiency and conservation methods, helping to identify alternatives in ‘buy and dry’ situations, and aiding in the establishment of water-sharing agreements between stakeholders.
- **Objective 4:** Incentivize the preservation and protection of the most agriculturally viable and ecologically important lands and water.
- **Objective 5:** Implement measures that minimize the transfer of water out of Larimer County to build local water resilience and improve instream flows.

***Goal 5: Enhance Water Efficiency and Conservation Measures***

Identify and enact opportunities for water conservation and increased water efficiency.

- **Objective 1:** Evaluate and update Land Use Codes and policy that pertain to water use in Larimer County, aiming to improve water efficiency indoors and outdoors while prioritizing affordability

and equitability. Reconcile policies and management approaches between Larimer County and local municipalities for better alignment and consistency.

- **Objective 2:** Establish partnerships with key stakeholders, such as municipalities, water utilities, agriculture, and relevant community organizations to broaden the reach of water efficient programs and incentives.