



PHOTO TAKEN AT LCDNR ADMIN OFFICE
LIZ MUNSTERTEIGER

Larimer County Natural Resources



QUARTERLY BOARD REPORT

Q1 2026

JANUARY · FEBRUARY · MARCH



COMPASS PRIORITY

PROACTIVE LAND CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT

Hermit Park improvements expand access, advance sustainability

Larimer County Department of Natural Resources completed several accessibility and sustainability improvements at Hermit Park Open Space in the first quarter of 2026, enhancing both visitor access and operational efficiency.

The office building was upgraded with ADA-compliant features, including new accessible parking, a concrete sidewalk, an access ramp, and an improved entry door, creating a more welcoming and functional space for all visitors.

At the group pavilion, staff replaced an aging diesel generator with a solar energy system, supporting a transition to cleaner, more sustainable operations.

These improvements reflect the Department's ongoing commitment to incorporating accessibility and sustainability into capital projects, helping ensure that public spaces remain inclusive, resilient, and aligned with long-term stewardship goals.





Rangers prioritize education, positive visitor interactions in 2025

In 2025, LCDNR Rangers and Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) teams continued prioritizing education, safety, and positive visitor experiences across our parks and open spaces.

Staff engaged in 27,577 public interactions, with 79% focused on education—helping visitors understand regulations, safety practices, and how to responsibly enjoy shared spaces. Enforcement remained a small but necessary part of this work, with just 1 in every 47 contacts resulting in a citation. This commitment is backed by ongoing training, including 2,339 hours for full-commission rangers and more than 5,500 hours for limited-commission staff. Rangers also responded to 82 water rescues, reinforcing their critical role in keeping the public safe.

ANS teams conducted 56,777 inspections and 1,242 decontaminations, successfully intercepting seven mussel-contaminated boats and protecting Larimer County's waterways through proactive prevention and public education.

Land stewardship manager earns regional award, brings decades of experience



The LCDNR Land Stewardship Program manages vegetation across county open spaces and Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs through integrated weed management, restoration projects, and noxious weed compliance and outreach.

In 2026, Kelly Pruitt joined as the Land Stewardship Program Manager, bringing 30 years of experience in vegetation management to Larimer County.

Recently named the Western Society of Weed Science 2026 Weed Manager of the Year, Kelly combines technical expertise in vegetation management with strong partnership-building skills. Her experience working with landowners and the public will help enhance the county's natural resources.

Kelly steps into this role following Casey Cisneros, who led the program for nearly 20 years and is now pursuing ecological consulting work. The Department is grateful for Casey's long-standing leadership and contributions to land stewardship in Larimer County.



Small grants program awards \$24,711 to support community projects

Larimer County Natural Resources awarded \$24,711 in 2026 Small Grants for Community Partnering funds to support seven community and neighborhood projects that connect people to the land. The selected projects reflect a range of local efforts focused on education, stewardship, and improving access to nature across Larimer County.

Since 1998, the program has reinvested a portion of the Help Preserve Open Spaces sales tax directly into the community, supporting 253 projects with a total of \$470,700 awarded to date. Funding is available to nonprofits, community organizations, homeowner associations, and K-12 schools for outdoor, community-based initiatives.

The 2025 grantees, projects, award amounts, and locations include:

Grantee	Project Name	Award Amount	Location
American Whitewater	Diversity Whitewater Community River Float	\$4,000	Poudre River
CSU Environmental Learning Center	Expanding Ute STEM Kit Outside the Classroom	\$3,750	Fort Collins
Estes Valley Recreation & Park District	Estes Valley Recreation & Park District Permaculture Program	\$3,594	Estes Park
Estes Park Middle School	Estes Park Trails and Parks Educational Signage Project	\$2,212	Estes Park
Northern Colorado Foodshed	Native Pollinator Habitat for Resilient Farms and Communities	\$3,215	Fort Collins / Loveland
St. Luke's Episcopal Church	St. Luke's Xeriscaping for Creation Care	\$4,000	Fort Collins
Trails at Vista Bonita Homeowners Association	Russian Olive Removal	\$4,000	Fort Collins

The Small Grants program supports projects that enhance natural landscapes, expand environmental education, improve access to nature, support local agriculture, and advance research on Larimer County’s open spaces.

Financial Summary

The Department of Natural Resources has five primary revenue sources including Colorado Lottery proceeds, the Help Preserve Open Spaces sales tax, user fees on open spaces, and reservoir parks, and the Weed District property tax.

YTD through 03/31/26 financial comparison for 2025 vs 2026 as of 04/14/26 (preliminary and unaudited).

Conservation Trust/Lottery

	2025	2026	% YOY CHANGE
REVENUE			
	246,439	271,940	10%
EXPENSE			
Prior year adjustment		(680)	

Open Spaces

	2025	2026	% YOY CHANGE
REVENUE			
Help Preserve Open Space Tax	777,371	713,684	
User Fees Revenue	293,110	364,832	
Service Charges Revenue	64,544	58,703	
Miscellaneous Revenue	--	--	
Grants/Partnerships	2,302,000	52,503	
<i>2025 - Livermore Conservation Project, Donated CE's (Legend Trail Ranch, Rim Rock Ranch), Fiduciary for Phemister Trail CSU grant, etc</i>			
Interest Revenue	193,886	224,152	
TOTAL	3,630,911	1,413,873	-61%
EXPENSE			
Personnel Expenses	328,237	344,828	
Operating Expenses	142,586	836,190	
TOTAL	470,823	1,181,018	151%
Countywide Indirects	43,998	46,841	-11%
Acquisitions/Projects	14,855,771	1,834,046	
<i>2025 - Redtail, Livermore, HP Shop, Poudre River Trail, Legend Trail Ranch donated CE, Rim Rock Ranch donated CE, etc</i>			

Reservoir Parks

	2025	2026	% YOY CHANGE
REVENUE			
User Fees Revenue	1,224,427	1,507,596	
Service Charges Revenue	45,198	31,240	
Grants/Partnerships	4,548	22,669	
General Fund	67,000	--	
Miscellaneous Revenue	61	--	
TOTAL	1,341,234	1,561,505	16%
EXPENSE			
Personnel Expenses	1,118,988	1,012,370	
Operating Expenses	442,207	195,338	
TOTAL	1,561,195	1,207,708	-23%
Countywide Indirects	128,324	136,557	6%
Projects	2,379	148,569	

Weed District/Enterprise

	2025	2026	% YOY CHANGE
REVENUE			
Property Taxes	461,984	491,552	
Service Charges Revenue	11,438	245	
General Fund	108,000	111,000	
Miscellaneous Revenue	--	--	
TOTAL	581,422	602,797	4%
EXPENSE			
Personnel Expenses	124,162	113,909	
Operating Expenses	48,341	162,438	
TOTAL	172,503	276,347	60%
Countywide Indirects	--	6,337	
<i>Indirect exemption for 2025</i>			



MISSION: We connect people, nature and place.

VISION: Healthy Landscapes, Healthy People.



PROACTIVE LAND
CONSERVATION
& MANAGEMENT



LIVING
OUR VALUES



NATURE-BASED
OPPORTUNITIES



SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS
& FINANCIAL STABILITY



QUARTERLY
BOARD
REPORT
PUBLISHED APRIL 2026

CONNECT WITH US

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