

NATURAL RESOURCES

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



Visitor Services / Open Lands / Weed Management & Forestry

Excellence in conservation and recreation since 1954

A message from the Director

It's why we live here!

Dear Larimer County visitors and citizens,

Have you ever wondered why you live in Larimer County? Maybe it's where your extended family resides or it's where your job is located. Many recent articles and news reports have discovered that outdoor recreational opportunities are a major contributing factor to why people decide to move into or stay in the cities and towns in Larimer County.

Yes, we are so blessed to live and play in these special outdoor places here! Let me encourage you to experience Larimer County's 18 parks and open spaces that are spread over more than 25,000 acres open to public use. Whether it's hiking to Kruger Rock within Hermit Park

Open Space or boating on Horsetooth Reservoir County Park, get outdoors because "it's why we live here"!

A special thank you to the professional staff and volunteers who continue to ensure your outdoor experience is safe and enjoyable, to your citizen advisory boards who continue to make sure that you have a voice and a choice, and to your elected Board of County Commissioners who continue to support your parks and open spaces even through these austere budgeting times.

Gary K. Buffington
Director, Dept. of Natural Resources

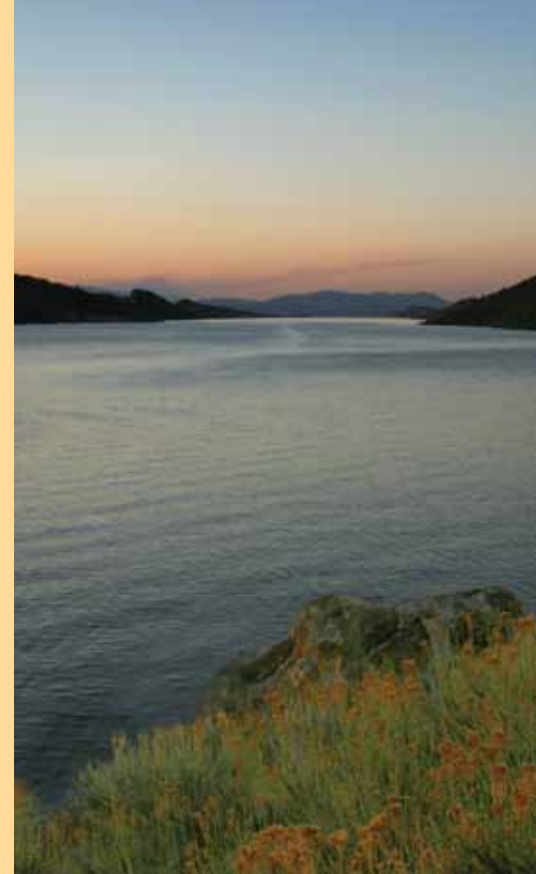


Photo: Kelley Savage

A Special Thanks to our Citizen Advisory Board Members



Photo: Charlie Johnson

Parks Advisory Board

Back, left to right: Barry Lewis; Dan Rieves*; Chris Fleming*; Tom Miller; Frank Gillespie; Mark De Gregorio; Russell Fruits; Forrest Orswell; Frank Cada; Chad LaChance. Front, left to right: Linda Knowlton; Gary Buffington*; Debra Wykoff*; Charlie Johnson*. Missing: Steve Schweitzer, Vickie Traxler. * = Staff



Photo: Charlie Johnson

Open Lands Advisory Board

Back, left to right: Peter Kast; Tom Donnelly, Commissioner; David Roy; Suzan Fritchel; Gary Buffington*; John Ericson; Kerri Rollins*; Mary Banken; Hugh McKean; Rob Novak*
Front, left to right: Charlie Johnson*; Jeffrey Boring*; Trudy Haines; Patricia Brennan; Lori Smith*; Nancy Wallace; Meegan Flenmiken*; Zac Wiebe*. Missing: Don Griffith; Jeff Hindman; Steve Vessey. * = Staff

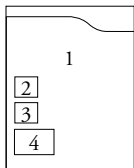


Photo: Tim D'Amato

Land Stewardship Advisory Board

Back, left to right: Ken Mathias, Bob Zimdabl, Matt Parker. Front, left to right: Chuck Miller, Ernie Marx, Carmen Weston, Duane Pond

"I value the opportunity to work with such a professional staff to address the ever-increasing threats and opportunities inherent in land stewardship. Contributing to the health of our landscape contributes to the health of our people and our economy." Matt Parker, Land Stewardship Advisory Board



- Cover:
1. River Bluffs Open Space, Photo: Walt Hubis
2. Chimney Hollow Open Space, Photo: Gregory Mayse
3. Flatiron Reservoir County Park, Photo: Sue Burke
4. Hermit Park Open Space, Photo: Nikki Whitney

Larimer County government officials

2010-2011 Board of County Commissioners:
Tom Donnelly, Steve Johnson, Lew Gaiter III
County Manager: Frank Lancaster
Public Works Director: Marc Engemoen

New Open Spaces & Quality of Life



Construction cost?
\$ 189,000

The new Blue Sky Trailhead provides access to trails from Horsetooth Mountain Open Space and Lory State Park to Coyote Ridge Natural Area and Devil's Backbone Open Space.

Photo: Mark Caughlan

Management cost?
\$ 5,400/year

The new River Bluffs Open Space provides additional access to the Poudre River and the Poudre River Trail, passing under Highway 392 and connecting over 22 miles of paved trail. *Photo: Sue Burke*



Seeing your kid's face light up while experiencing the outdoors?

Priceless!

Got kids? The Russ Crowder Area at the Devil's Backbone Open Space is for you! The 0.9 mile Morrison Loop lets you get close and personal with the bugs, rocks, and views and still make it back to the shelter for a picnic in less than an hour.

Photo: Christa Ahrens

New Paths

Happy Trails at Red Mountain Open Space

At Red Mountain Open Space, the K-Lynn Cameron Trail was completed in December of 2010. The kick-off to this beautiful trail began with K-Lynn's own volunteer day including her family and friends. A lot of hard work, sweat, and fun went into the event and everyone left with smiles and timeless memories.

This volunteer day added about three miles to complete the trails at Red Mountain Open Space.



After a successful day of trail building. Photo: Kym Wolf

Bridging Gaps Along the Poudre River Trail

A beautiful and historic area of the Poudre River is now publicly accessible through River Bluffs Open Space, Larimer County's newest open space. Larimer County constructed a 1/2-mile extension to the Poudre River Trail through River Bluffs, just north of State Highway 392 near Windsor. This concrete trail adds to the existing 22 miles of trail that meander through Windsor to Island Grove Park in Greeley.

River Bluffs is a unique destination: The trailhead provides rest areas, restrooms, and interpretative information. River access allows visitors to try their luck at fishing, let their dogs take a dip, or just sit and watch the river go by. Careful trail and trailhead design afford scenic views of the open space, intimate river contact, and protection of sensitive natural resources.



River Bluffs Open Space. Photo: Sue Burke

Yee haw! It's a Weed Roundup!

In 2010, the Larimer County Weed District co-founded ELSA (Estes Land Stewardship Area) along with concerned residents of the Estes Valley. ELSA provides education and increases awareness of the detrimental impacts from invasive species to the Estes Valley and Rocky Mountain National Park. At the annual "Weed Roundup," held at the recycle center in Estes Park, residents can bring bags of pulled weeds for identification and disposal. They receive refreshments and educational literature from ELSA volunteers and Weed District staff. Bring us your weeds and join the roundup on July 30, 2011!



Dropping weeds off at the Weed Roundup. Photo: Unknown

“What I am most proud of is that I’m working with a team that is preserving the natural history and cultural history of northern Colorado, for my children and future generations.”

John Bender, Trail Crew Worker

Preparation, Reaction, and the Uncontrollable

Often the most interesting aspects of life are those beyond our control. That's why Facebook followers to the WeatherChannel.com number over 200,000: uncontrollable weather is interesting. In 2010 we had much to prepare for, much to react to, and much of it was, well, beyond control.

With only three and a half months to prepare, we opened the Estes Park Campgrounds at Mary's Lake and East Portal in partnership with the Estes Valley Recreation and Park District. Our staff reacted with monumental effort to several unforeseen infrastructure failures, all the while maintaining keen attention to customer service. As we prepare for the 2011 recreation season, we are hoping it is not quite so interesting as 2010!



Estes Park Campground at East Portal. Photo: Sue Burke

High water levels were legendary at the reservoirs, and they affected the final phase of construction on the Horsetooth South Bay swim beach. All that glorious new beach was under water, and it stayed underwater for quite awhile! Disappointed beach visitors dealt with construction and a postage-stamp-sized beach into the early summer. The conclusion of the entire project, however, was not disappointing. A new swim beach, group pavilion, and outside showers will greet 2011 South Bay visitors. As well, 2011 will unveil a new swimming area on the reservoir's east side. We would be happy to react to high water levels again next year, but those, of course, are beyond our control.



"The Hitchin' Post" at Horsetooth Group Pavilion. Photo: Charlie Johnson



Group pavilion under construction at Horsetooth Reservoir. Photo: Gary Buffington



Horsetooth Reservoir County Park swim beach construction at high water. Photo: Gary Buffington

"I am writing to let you know that this campground is a real gem! I have been camping quite a bit here in Colorado and this campground is exceptional... It won't be long before word of mouth gets out about this place."

Diane Mullet, camper at Estes Park Campgrounds

In work, as in life, there are events that will test your preparation. The preparation and reaction of the people and systems of Larimer County to the Reservoir Ridge fire were amazing. Well done, Larimer County, you controlled what you could and we were proud to be a part of the response.



Air drops during Reservoir Ridge Fire. Photo: Dave Buck

It's Why We Live Here



Carter Lake County Park
Southwest of Loveland Photo: Dave Marvin



Flatiron Reservoir
Southwest of Loveland Photo: Sue Burke



Pleasant Valley Trail and Lions' Open Space
In Laporte Photo: Unknown



Devil's Backbone Open Space and Rimrock Open Space
West of Loveland Photo: Mark Clevenger



Hermit Park Open Space
East of Estes Park Photo: Charlie Johnson



Ramsay-Shockey Open Space
Next to Pinewood Reservoir Photo: Charlie Johnson



Eagle's Nest Open Space
South of Livermore Photo: Rick Price



Horsetooth Mountain Open Space
West of Loveland Photo: Rick Price



Red Mountain Open Space
Northern Larimer County Photo: Rich Ernst



Estes Park Campgrounds at Mary's Lake and East Portal Reservoir
Outside of Estes Park Photo: Sue Burke



Horsetooth Reservoir County Park
West of Fort Collins Photo: Harry Strbarsky



River Bluffs Open Space
West of Windsor Photo: Liz Meyer



Fossil Creek Reservoir Regional Open Space
South Fort Collins Photo: Rick Price



Pinewood Reservoir County Park
Southwest of Loveland Photo: Dave Marvin

Monthly events calendar:
www.larimer.org/naturalresources/parks_calendar.cfm
Subscribe to the monthly events flyer at
www.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm.
Select *Natural Resources Monthly Flyer*.

Bringing Up the Next Generation of Nature Lovers

Connecting kids and families to nature is a departmental priority. To instill a “sense of land stewardship” in the next generation, the Education Program provides school field trips, nature walks, and special request programs for groups.

In 2010, students from local school districts explored at Horsetooth Mountain, Eagle’s Nest, and Devil’s Backbone Open Spaces. The new Morrison Loop at Devil’s Backbone Open Space offered a short hike and hands-on activities at

the outdoor classroom. Kids modeled geologic processes and “dug” for fossils!

Guided nature hikes continued to get kids and adults outside. Volunteer naturalists encouraged kids’ innate curiosity and drive to explore. Topics ranged from eagles and elk to camping and fishing. Special request programs included fishing trips with Boy Scouts and nature walks with the Boys and Girls Club.

To find out more, call Rob at (970) 679-4561.



Success! Photo: Nancy Howard

<i>Recreation at a Glance</i>	Carter Lake County Park	Devil's Backbone Open Space	Eagle's Nest Open Space	Estes Park Campgrounds East Portal & Mary's Lake	Flatiron Reservoir County Park	Fossil Creek Reservoir Regional Open Space	Big Thompson County Parks	Hermit Park Open Space	Horsetooth Mountain Open Space	Horsetooth Reservoir County Park	Pinewood Reservoir County Park	Lions' Open Space & Pleasant Valley Trail	Ramsay-Shockey Open Space	Red Mountain Open Space	River Bluffs Open Space
Acres	2,100	2,670	755	50 ML 75 EP	247	843	31	1,362	2,711	3,900	427	20	177	14,980	161
Entrance Permit Required	●			●	●			●	●	●	●		●		
Camping Permit Req'd	●A			●	●A			●A		●A	●A				
Camper Cabins					●A			●A		●A					
Camping/Cabin Reservations	●			●	●			●		●	●				
Electrical Hookups	●			●	●					●					
Full Hookups				●						●					
Sanitary Dump Station	●			●				●		●					
Back Country Camping									●	●					
Miles of Trail	4	19.5	5			2A		5.5	29	1		2A	4A	8	1
Hiking Trails	●	●	●			●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●
Biking Trails												●		●	●
Horse Trails	●	●	●					●	●				●	●	
Mountain Biking Trails	●	●						●	●	●	●		●	●	
Leashed Dogs Allowed	●	●*	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
Boating	●									●	●				
Boat Ramp	●									●	●				
Marina	●									●					
Fishing	●		●		●A		●			●	●	●			●
Swimming Area, Beach, or Pool	●			● ML						●					
Picnic Area	●A	●			●A	●A	●A	●A	●A	●A	●A	●A	●A	●A	●A
Drinking Water	●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Restrooms	●A	●A	●A	●A	●A	●A	●A	●A	●A	●A	●A	●A	●A	●A	●A
Guided Nature Hikes		●	●					●	●				●	●	
Summer Campground Programs	●				●			●		●					

A – Meets Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines

* Dogs not allowed on Rimrock Trail

*“I have been coming here for over 15 years to camp and take pictures because it is so beautiful.”
Flatiron Reservoir visitor*



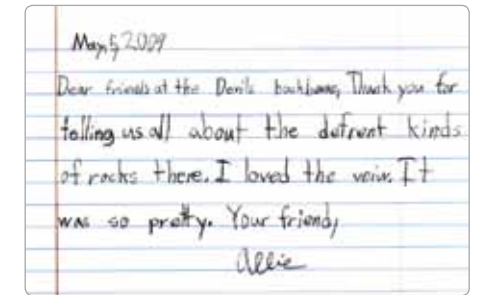
Flatiron Reservoir County Park. Photo: Rick Goltz



Bison at the Bison Visitor Center. Photo: CJ Collins



Devil's Backbone Open Space. Photo: Kelley Savage



Devil's Backbone Open Space. Photo: Charlie Johnson



Great-horned owl. Photo: Charlie Johnson



Hermit Park Open Space. Photo: Dave Marvin



Three Bell I Conservation Easement. Photo: Charlie Johnson

“Connecting youth and families to the outdoors is a new priority for GOCO, and something Larimer County already does really well.”

Lise Aangeenbrug, Executive Director, Great Outdoors Colorado

“I'm so excited about it (River Bluffs Open Space), I can't tell you. It's what we need.”

Darlene King, Windsor resident and bike rider



River Bluffs Open Space. Photo: Harry Sirbarsky



Horsetooth Reservoir County Park. Photo: Melissa English

“My Horsetooth ranger ride-a-long was one of the highlights of my first year as a Larimer County commissioner. The passion to serve, educate, and protect the public made me especially proud of not only the Horsetooth facility, but the public servants who work there as well!”
Lew Gaiter III, County Commissioner District 1



Horsetooth Reservoir County Park. Photo: Melissa English

REPORT TO THE CITIZENS

2010 Acquisitions and Improvements

Acquisitions

Three Bell I CE and Trail Easement

A key piece in connecting the Poudre River Trail, this 163-acre parcel also protects a bald eagle nest, high quality wetlands, and .6 miles of the Poudre River corridor from mining and extensive residential development.

Appraised Value:	\$ 1,197,000
Partners:	
Great Outdoors Colorado:	\$ 914,237
City of Fort Collins:	\$ 77,246
Town of Windsor:	\$ 120,000
Larimer County Open Lands:	\$ 85,517

Three Bell II CE and Trail Easement

Also a key piece in the Poudre River Trail corridor, this 175-acre parcel adjacent to Three Bell I includes ~0.9 miles of river corridor with excellent riparian values.

Appraised Value:	\$ 1,315,000
Partners:	
Landowner Donation:	\$ 254,524
City of Fort Collins:	\$ 626,885
Larimer County Open Lands:	\$ 433,591

C. Miller CE

Adjacent to already protected lands in the Laramie Foothills, this 105-acre conservation easement contributes to active farming and ranching.

Appraised Value	\$ 80,000
Partners:	
Landowner donation:	\$ 74,300
Larimer County Open Lands:	\$ 5,700

Improvements

Carter Lake County Park

Visitor Services Building at Eagle Campground

An amenity that has topped our visitor surveys as the biggest need to enhance their recreational experience

Construction to provide flush toilet and showers. Scheduled completion is Spring, 2011. Financials to be reported in 2011.

ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) Retrofits

Mandated by the Bureau of Reclamation

Fully compliant vault restrooms to replace three aging units at The Saddle area, South Shore and North Pines campgrounds; redesign of the south entrance kiosk.

Project Cost:	\$ 162,400
Partners:	
Bureau of Reclamation:	\$ 135,500
Conservation Trust Fund/Lottery:	\$ 26,500
Larimer County Dept. of Natural Resources:	\$ 400

Devil's Backbone Open Space Crowder Area – Morrison Trail

Designed and built to provide an educational geology loop and a natural surface wheelchair-accessible route.

Construction of an ~1.25 mile trail.

2010 Project Cost:	\$ 32,365
Partners:	
GOCO State Trails:	\$ 21,665
Crowder Family Donation:	\$ 5,700
Ann Dewey Memorial Fund:	\$ 5,000
Larimer County Dept. of Natural Resources:	\$ 0



River Bluffs Open Space Photo: Charlie Johnson



Red Mountain Open Space. Photo: Dale Erickson

Horsetooth Reservoir County Park

South Bay Swim Beach Remodel

More sandy beach for visitors, and a new event facility for weddings, reunions, and other group functions

New group event facility with 70'x30' group shelter with outdoor kitchen and ceremony site, outdoor shower, large lighted parking area, day use picnic sites, changing rooms and new flush restroom. Swim beach improvements include a larger sandy beach area and beach volleyball courts.

<i>Project Cost:</i>	\$ 1,118,200
<i>Partners</i>	
<i>Bureau of Reclamation:</i>	\$ 486,400
<i>Great Outdoors Colorado:</i>	\$ 165,600
<i>Conservation Trust Fund/Lottery</i>	\$ 51,700
<i>Larimer County Engineering Dept.</i>	
<i>Larimer County Dept. of</i>	
<i>Natural Resources:</i>	\$ 414,500

Sunrise Day Use Area

Large numbers of visitors like to swim at Horsetooth Reservoir

Construction of a new swimming area, with day-use picnic shelters.

<i>2010 Project Cost:</i>	\$ 281,800
<i>Partners:</i>	
<i>Bureau of Reclamation</i>	\$ 132,800
<i>Great Outdoors Colorado:</i>	\$ 149,000
<i>Larimer County Engineering Dept</i>	
<i>Larimer County Dept. of</i>	
<i>Natural Resources:</i>	\$ 0

Blue Sky Trailhead

Built to meet the high demands of this popular trail, and open sunrise to sunset

Construction of a new trailhead with drinking fountains, restroom, vehicle and horse trailer parking, and picnic shelter.

<i>2010 Project Cost:</i>	\$ 189,000
<i>Partners: Bureau of Reclamation:</i>	\$ 66,400
<i>Great Outdoors Colorado:</i>	\$ 41,950
<i>Private Donation:</i>	\$ 250
<i>Larimer County Open Lands:</i>	\$ 80,400

South Bay Outdoor Classroom

A place for campground programs and educational talks

Construction new outdoor classroom.

<i>2010 Project Cost:</i>	\$ 32,500
<i>Partners:</i>	
<i>Bureau of Reclamation:</i>	\$ 12,700
<i>Great Outdoors Colorado:</i>	\$ 19,800
<i>Larimer County Engineering Dept.</i>	
<i>Larimer County Dept. of</i>	
<i>Natural Resources:</i>	\$ 0

Red Mountain Open Space

Two new trails open to the public in early 2011

Construction of the final two trails (K-Lynn Cameron and Stone Circle trails). Educational signs installed along the Bent Rock Trail.

<i>2010 Project Cost:</i>	\$ 205,425
<i>Partners:</i>	
<i>Great Outdoors Colorado:</i>	\$ 79,175
	<i>(of \$ 340,000 awarded)</i>
<i>Cargill Inc.:</i>	\$ 1,000
<i>Larimer County Open Lands:</i>	\$ 125,250

River Bluffs Open Space

A pivotal link to the Poudre River Trail, Larimer and Weld Counties' longest regional trail system which will eventually connect cities and towns across the northern Front Range

Construction of concrete extension to regional Poudre River Trail, and new trailhead with restrooms, picnic area, kiosk, bike rack, and benches.

<i>Total Project Cost:</i>	\$ 757,384
<i>Partners:</i>	
<i>Great Outdoors Colorado:</i>	\$ 494,373
<i>Town of Windsor:</i>	\$ 13,806
<i>Friends of Larimer County Parks & Open Lands:</i>	\$ 700
<i>Larimer County Engineering Dept.</i>	
<i>Larimer County Open Lands:</i>	\$ 248,505

Open Space Tax Revenues Benefit All of Larimer County

The 1/4-cent *Help Preserve Open Spaces* (HPOS) sales and use tax revenue is shared with the County's eight municipalities. The tax continues through 2018, and is not imposed on food or prescription drugs. The total revenue collected to date is over \$114 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 the county receive benefits from the Open Space sales tax.

Annual Revenue Receipt of Open Space Tax Dollars*

	Larimer CO	Berthoud	Estes Park	Fort Collins	Johnstown	Loveland	Timnath	Wellington	Windsor
1996	2,259,975	71,154	161,905	2,107,473	–	847,210	4,221	29,848	–
1997	2,485,421	80,969	178,198	2,319,562	–	932,139	4,646	32,520	–
1998	2,707,553	87,574	193,453	2,487,606	–	1,003,872	5,025	40,557	–
1999	3,067,810	101,539	224,779	2,850,066	–	1,146,823	5,732	47,494	–
2000	3,294,869	110,862	222,608	3,109,001	–	1,234,060	5,742	53,444	–
2001	3,565,146	122,889	229,886	3,323,372	–	1,321,205	5,887	64,589	–
2002	3,527,084	124,139	218,802	3,235,748	–	1,304,378	5,599	67,642	–
2003	3,532,580	123,913	218,445	3,205,119	–	1,314,655	7,083	66,730	–
2004	3,750,211	126,810	234,908	3,374,671	9,457	1,405,098	11,480	75,185	17,416
2005	3,811,306	127,480	239,502	3,417,517	8,932	1,432,898	11,684	79,698	20,115
2006	4,033,795	136,930	250,110	3,599,786	11,965	1,506,477	13,196	77,782	13,379
2007	4,152,187	129,513	252,524	3,529,570	34,285	1,554,153	10,563	122,196	54,760
2008	3,956,426	120,359	240,167	3,189,107	38,772	1,470,884	9,121	122,125	55,744
2009	3,614,183	109,178	224,318	2,824,574	45,847	1,410,859	7,103	114,630	49,847
2010	3,920,058	118,288	244,384	3,058,106	55,501	1,558,011	6,746	123,466	59,200
Total	51,678,605	1,691,598	3,333,988	45,631,277	204,759	19,442,721	113,829	1,117,906	270,460

* These figures are unaudited. Audit to be completed in mid 2010. Figures in this chart have been rounded when appropriate.

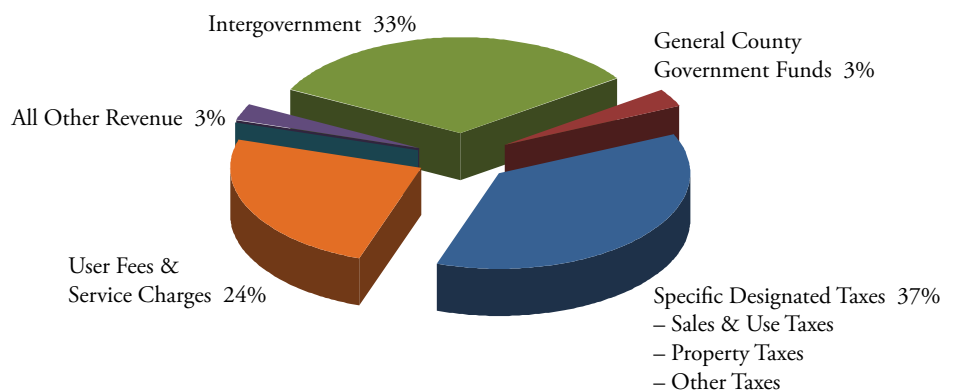
Summary of Finances

The Larimer County Department of Natural Resources includes the Parks Program, the Open Lands Program and the Weed & Forestry Program.

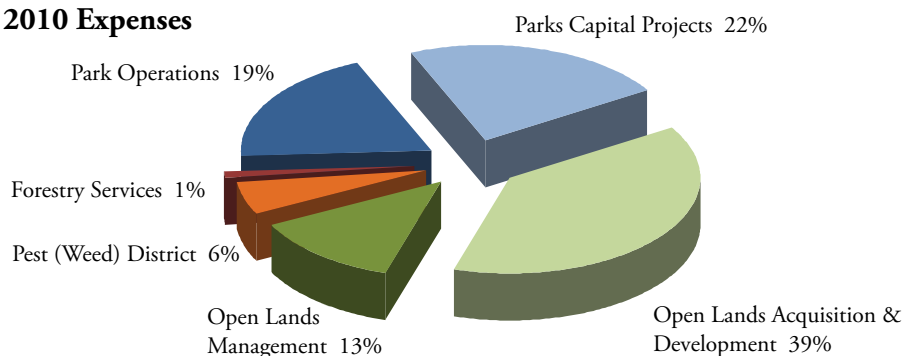
Revenues are realized from a number of sources and totaled \$11.8 million in 2010. Expenses for 2010 were \$11.4 million including a number of one-time capital development projects for both Parks and Open Lands.

Major capital projects in 2010 included development at Hermit Park Open Space, acquisition of conservation easements in the Buckeye area and Three Bell. Work has continued on development projects at Hermit Park Open Space, Poudre River Trail, Red Mountain Open Space, Horsetooth South Bay Campground – Shower Facility and Swim Beach Improvement. Development of the Blue Sky Trailhead and the Eagle Camper Services Building at Carter Lake County Park began.

2010 Revenues



2010 Expenses



These figures are unaudited. Audit to be completed in mid 2011.

“Larimer County’s parks and open spaces offer something for everyone, in large part thanks to the generous donation of funds as well as the time and talent of so many wonderful volunteers and a dedicated professional staff.”

Steve Johnson,
County Commissioner District 2



View from the Russ Crowder Area at Devil's Backbone Open Space. Photo: Charlie Johnson

Partnerships Prevail

Larimer County’s Open Lands Program continues to rely on partnerships and cash donations to conserve the special places in this county. The County has done an amazing job in spending the tax dollars citizen voters approved for open space, parks, and trails; and many of the remaining funds must be saved for the management of these places we love so much. However, the history of land donations, primarily via conservation easements, is a sentiment that has prevailed with willing land owners since the Program’s inception. We have numerous willing land owners to thank for continuing that tradition. Without these partnerships, our citizens would see a lot less open space and could lose the ‘sense of place’ connection to this beautiful county.

Major Donors of the Open Lands Program

Donation over \$1,000,000	Agilent Technologies (2007) David & Susan Jessup (1999-2005) Rob Cohen (2005)	Hermit Park Open Space Sylvan Dale Ranch CEs Cohen CE
\$500,000 to \$999,000	H.A. & Elaine Fonken (2002-2006) Jake Kauffman & Son, Inc. (2001) Paul Jonjak & Family (1999)	Fonken CE I–V Kauffman CE Blue Mountain Bison Ranch CE
\$300,000 to \$499,000	Curt & Jennifer Heckrodt (2000) Jack & Beth White (2000) Bob Ramsay (1999)	Red-tail Ridge Open Space Rimrock Open Space Ramsay-Shockey Open Space
\$100,000 to \$299,000	Timnath Farm Investments, LLC (2010) Jim & Beth Crowder (2009) Jim & Christy Bradley (2006, 2009) Eldon & Trulie Ackerman (2004-2005) Catherine Roberts (2004) Royce Hopkins (2004) The American Legion (2004) Dan Miller & Mary Beth Simon (2002-2003) Larry & Anne Peterson (2002) Patricia Block (2002) Dave Sitzman (2001) Grace Dunkin (2001) Joe & Pat Harper (2000) Jon & Susanne Stephens (2000)	Three Bell I CE Russ Crowder Area at Devil’s Backbone Open Space Bradley CE I, II Ackerman CE I, II Roberts CE Hopkins CE American Legion Open Space Miller-Simon CE I, II Peterson CE Block CE Kerbel Farm CE Ryan Gulch CE II Harper CE Ryan Gulch CE
\$5,000 to \$99,000	C. Miller & Family (2010) Roundup Riders of the Rockies, Inc. (2009) Miller-Simon-Bokovoy (2009) Advanced Micro Devices (2007) Anonymous Donor* (2007) Community Foundation of No. Colo.* (2007) Erion Foundation* (2007) Hewlett-Packard Corporation (2007) Mark D. Tabb & Julie Vida* (2007) McWhinney Foundation (2007) Microsoft Corporation* (2007) Haines & Colton Charitable Trust* (2007) Verigy Corporation (2007) Whole Foods Markets* (2007) Bryant & Patricia Miller (2006) Charles & Judith Siefke (2005) Southdown, Inc (2001) Miller, Left Hand, & Park Creek Ranches (2001) Robert & Ann Avis (2000) Byron & Beverly Williams (1999) Audra & Don Hughey (1998) Stephanie Steppel-White (1997)	C. Miller CE Red Mountain Open Space Miller-Simon-Bokovoy CE Hermit Park Open Space Hermit Park Open Space Hermit Park Open Space Hermit Park Open Space Hermit Park Open Space Hermit Park Open Space Hermit Park Open Space Hermit Park Open Space Hermit Park Open Space Hermit Park Open Space Hermit Park Open Space Hermit Park Open Space Hermit Park Open Space Hermit Park Open Space Hermit Park Open Space Miller CE Siefke CE Red-tail Ridge Open Space Buckeye Agricultural Partnership CE Eagle’s Nest CE Fossil Creek Reservoir Open Space Horsetooth Mountain Open Space Coyote Ridge Natural Area

2010 Donations

CE Conservation Easement

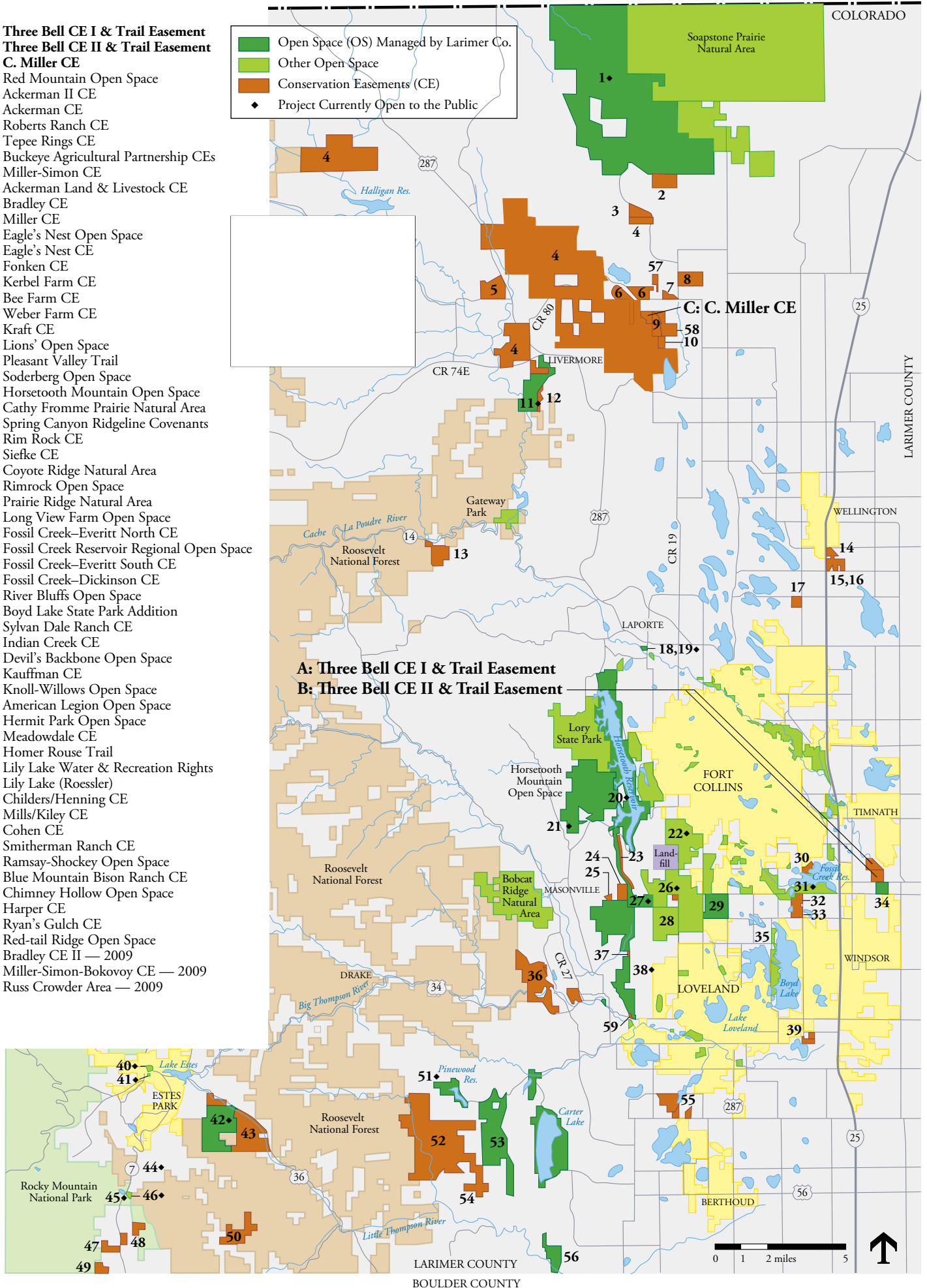
* Donation to Friends of Larimer County Parks and Open Lands towards a specific project

Acquisitions & Partnerships 1996-2010

WYOMING
COLORADO

- A Three Bell CE I & Trail Easement**
- B Three Bell CE II & Trail Easement**
- C C. Miller CE**
- 1 Red Mountain Open Space
- 2 Ackerman II CE
- 3 Ackerman CE
- 4 Roberts Ranch CE
- 5 Tepee Rings CE
- 6 Buckeye Agricultural Partnership CEs
- 7 Miller-Simon CE
- 8 Ackerman Land & Livestock CE
- 9 Bradley CE
- 10 Miller CE
- 11 Eagle's Nest Open Space
- 12 Eagle's Nest CE
- 13 Fonken CE
- 14 Kerbel Farm CE
- 15 Bee Farm CE
- 16 Weber Farm CE
- 17 Kraft CE
- 18 Lions' Open Space
- 19 Pleasant Valley Trail
- 20 Soderberg Open Space
- 21 Horsetooth Mountain Open Space
- 22 Cathy Fromme Prairie Natural Area
- 23 Spring Canyon Ridgeline Covenants
- 24 Rim Rock CE
- 25 Siefke CE
- 26 Coyote Ridge Natural Area
- 27 Rimrock Open Space
- 28 Prairie Ridge Natural Area
- 29 Long View Farm Open Space
- 30 Fossil Creek-Everitt North CE
- 31 Fossil Creek Reservoir Regional Open Space
- 32 Fossil Creek-Everitt South CE
- 33 Fossil Creek-Dickinson CE
- 34 River Bluffs Open Space
- 35 Boyd Lake State Park Addition
- 36 Sylvan Dale Ranch CE
- 37 Indian Creek CE
- 38 Devil's Backbone Open Space
- 39 Kauffman CE
- 40 Knoll-Willows Open Space
- 41 American Legion Open Space
- 42 Hermit Park Open Space
- 43 Meadowdale CE
- 44 Homer Rouse Trail
- 45 Lily Lake Water & Recreation Rights
- 46 Lily Lake (Roessler)
- 47 Childers/Henning CE
- 48 Mills/Kiley CE
- 49 Cohen CE
- 50 Smitherman Ranch CE
- 51 Ramsay-Shockey Open Space
- 52 Blue Mountain Bison Ranch CE
- 53 Chimney Hollow Open Space
- 54 Harper CE
- 55 Ryan's Gulch CE
- 56 Red-tail Ridge Open Space
- 57 Bradley CE II — 2009
- 58 Miller-Simon-Bokovoy CE — 2009
- 59 Russ Crowder Area — 2009

- Open Space (OS) Managed by Larimer Co.
- Other Open Space
- Conservation Easements (CE)
- Project Currently Open to the Public



A: Three Bell CE I & Trail Easement
B: Three Bell CE II & Trail Easement



Inventory of Open Lands Acquisitions

Name	Acreage	Acquisition Value	Larimer Co. Open Lands	Donation/Bargain Sale	Partnerships	Public Access	Comments
Laramie Foothills							
Red Mountain Open Space	14,968	13,700,800	4,535,400		3 Partners	9,165,400	Yes Monitored by Fort Collins
Eagle's Nest Open Space	755/*72	2,054,500	1,360,000	54,500	3 Partners	640,000	Yes LLT holds covenants
Teepee Rings CE	*504	170,000	69,000	100,000	LLT	1,000	No Monitored by LLT
Roberts Ranch CE Phase I	*4,960	3,000,000	200,000	109,000	3 Partners	2,691,000	No Monitored by TNC
Ackerman CEs I & II, L&L Co. I	*885	934,000	490,774	167,000	NRCS/FRPP	276,226	No
Buckeye/Waverly Ag Lands							
Buckeye CE	*494	197,853	28,000		TNC/LLT	169,853	No Monitored by LLT
Buckeye CE 3 & 4	*70	190,000	60,000	130,000			No
Bradley CE I & II	*467	295,000	31,975	120,000	GOCO	143,025	No
C. Miller CE	*105	80,000	5,725	10,000	GOCO	64,275	No
Miller-Simon-Bokovy	*70	70,000	4,438	65,562			No
Wellington Ag Lands							
Kerbel Farm CE	*83	197,498	98,749		Fort Collins	98,749	No
Bee Farm CE	*139	365,302	182,651		Fort Collins	182,651	No
Weber Farm CE	*69.1	198,138	99,069		Fort Collins	99,069	No
Kraft Farm CE	*130	460,000	460,000				No
Poudre River							
Fonken CE Phases 1-5	*245	650,000		650,000			No
Lions' Open Space	20						Yes 20-acre, 25 year lease
River Bluffs Open Space	161	1,920,000	720,000		GOCO	1,200,000	Yes 2010 Monitored by Greeley
Three Bell CE I & II	*338	2,512,000	519,108	254,524	3 Partners	1,738,368	Future Trail Fort Collins 50% owner
Fort Collins/Loveland Separator							
Long View Farm Open Space	599.4	3,027,000	1,594,500		3 Partners	1,432,500	Future Trail Leased for dryland farming
Cathy Fromme Prairie Natural Area	240	1,000,000	180,000		2 Partners	820,000	Yes Managed by Fort Collins
Prairie Ridge Natural Area	792	3,139,000	437,881		3 Partners	2,701,119	Future Trail Managed by Loveland
Fossil Creek Reservoir Open Space	843.5	7,988,750	3,744,550	19,650	Fort Collins	4,224,550	Yes Managed by Fort Collins
Coyote Ridge Natural Area	839.3	1,885,500	523,583	21,500	Fort Collins	1,340,417	Yes Managed by Fort Collins
Boyd Lake State Park Addition	30	405,000	90,000		5 Partners	315,000	Yes Managed by State Parks
Devil's Backbone to Horsetooth							
Horsetooth Mountain Open Space	***1,975						Yes Transferred to Open Lands
Rimrock Open Space	472/*274	2,362,240	2,262,240		Fort Collins	100,000	Yes
Siefke CE	*35	93,000		93,000			No
Soderberg Open Space (HTMOS)	114	460,000	460,000				Yes Managed as part of HTMOS
Devil's Backbone Open Space	2,209/*11.3	9,465,020	2,581,920	100,000	4 Partners	6,783,100	Yes
Hughey Open Space (HTMOS)	282	310,000	129,000	31,000	GOCO	150,000	Yes Managed as part of HTMOS
Culver Open Space (HTMOS)	287.9	1,500,000	975,000		FC/GOCO	525,000	No Monitored by Fort Collins
Big Thompson River							
Sylvan Dale CE	*1160.7	2,622,676	922,436	1,325,240	Loveland/GOCO	375,000	Potential
Block CE	*35	200,000	100,000	100,000	2 Partners		No
Kauffman CE	*73.55	800,000		800,000			Future Trail
Berthoud/Loveland Separator							
Ryan Gulch CE	*438	2,027,844	290,900	381,000	4 Partners	1,355,944	Future Trail Monitored by Loveland
Blue Mountain							
Ramsay-Shockey Open Space	177	325,000		325,000			Yes
Blue Mountain Bison Ranch CE	*4,100	2,666,000	1,350,000	666,000	GOCO	650,000	Guided Tours Monitored by LLT & LC
Chimney Hollow Open Space	1,847	3,842,000	2,892,000		GOCO	950,000	2016 Monitored by Loveland
Harper CE	*240	295,000		295,000			No Monitored by LLT
Little Thompson River							
Red-tail Ridge Open Space	**320	995,258	286,559	43,699	4 Partners	665,000	Future Trail Monitored by LLT/15 ac TE
Estes Valley							
Childers/Henning CE	*160	800,000		752,000	Private	48,000	No Monitored by EVLT
Hermit Park Open Space	1362	8,700,000	4,000,000	2,200,000	7+ Partners	2,500,000	Yes Monitored by EVLT
Cohen CE	*131	1,350,000	75,000	850,000	4 Partners	425,000	No Monitored by EVLT
Smitherman CE	*520	520,000	130,000		EVLT/GOCO	390,000	No Monitored by EVLT
Homer Rouse Memorial Trail	**	40,000	10,000		Estes Park	30,000	Yes Managed by EVRPD
Lake Estes Trail	**	232,500	100,000		4 Partners	132,500	Yes Managed by EVRPD
Lion Gulch Trailhead		21,521	10,000		USFS	11,521	Yes Managed by USFS
Lily Lake/Roessler	18.2	400,000	40,000		3 Partners	360,000	No Managed by RMNP
Lily Lake Water & Rec. Rights		551,000	45,000	236,000	6 Partners	270,000	Yes Managed by RMNP
Mills-Kiley CE	*192	335,000	45,000		EVLT/Estes Park	290,000	Limited Monitored by EVLT
Knoll-Willows Open Space	20	210,000	50,000		EVLT/Estes Park	160,000	Yes Monitored by EVLT
American Legion Open Space	1.6	200,000	25,000	125,000	EVLT/Estes Park	50,000	Limited Monitored by EVLT
Fee Simple Acreage Total	28,294						
CE Acreage Total	16,339						
Fee Simple & CE Acreage Total	44,633	85,814,400	32,215,458	10,074,675		43,524,267	

Managed or monitored by Larimer Co.	DBBOS	Devil's Backbone Open Space	FRPP	Farm Ranchland Protection Program	LLT	Legacy Land Trust
* Conservation Easement (CE)	EPk	Estes Park	HTMOS	Horsetooth Mountain Open Space	RMNP	Rocky Mountain Nat. Park
** Trail Easement (TE)	EVLT	Estes Valley Land Trust	GOCO	Great Outdoors Colorado	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
*** Purchased in 1982 by Sales Tax	EVRPD	Estes Valley Rec. & Park Dist.	LC	Larimer Co.	USFS	U.S. Forest Service
	FC	Fort Collins	NRCS	Nat. Res. Conservation Service		

Making a Difference

Ten Years of the Horsetooth Mountain Open Space Free Firewood Program

The program started in 2001 to remove wood from trees cut down during an ongoing forest health, timber-thinning project. Removing the wood reduces potential wildland fire fuel, improves the scenic aspect of Horsetooth Mountain Open Space, and provides firewood to Larimer County residents. Volunteer firewood collectors have been recruited every year since to remove the wood for their own use and to stack the limbs (slash) for burning.



Heading up to get firewood. Photo: Dale Erickson

Public Works Division
Marc Engemoen, Director

Engineering
Fleet
Natural Resources
Road and Bridge
Solid Waste
The Ranch



This NewPage paper has been chain-of-custody certified by three independent third party certification systems.

Recipe for Success!

In 2010, 61 families spent 757 hours cutting, collecting and hauling away 135 truck loads of wood for their own use!

Natural Resources Specialist Charlie Gindler is tasked with removing the wood and develops a plan.

Joe Trofka and Ted Sams, volunteer supervisors extraordinaire for several years have guided and overseen groups collecting firewood.

Photo: Charlie Johnson



Volunteer Coordinator CJ Cullins recruits volunteers and ASU (Alternative Sentencing Unit) groups to move the wood to accessible areas.

Charlie directs volunteers Joe and Ted who coordinate with him to guide and supervise the firewood collectors (a job previously done by Horsetooth District Rangers).

“We got firewood on the 7th and yesterday. This is such a good opportunity to help reduce our heating bills this winter. And, we got enough to help my family out too, they're so grateful. Thanks for coordinating and please let Joe and Ted know our appreciation for their hard work.” Thanks, Wendy

“The free firewood collection program gives the public a chance to give back to the county, and the county the opportunity to provide excellent services to the citizens. This is a tangible way for the County to show that these natural resources belong to us all.”

Tom Donnelly,
County Commissioner District 3

Student partnerships!

The Natural Resource class from Front Range Community College, one of several school groups, came out for field experience. Students put in 75 hours of work and moved tons of wood by hand out of the forest to accessible points along a road.



Jumping right in! Photo: Charles Gindler



Department of Natural Resources

1800 S. County Road 31
Loveland, Colorado 80537
970-679-4570

NATURAL RESOURCES

2006 - 2010 Five-Year Review

A look back

Adapting to the pulse of the public - that's a lot of what we do in the Department of Natural Resources. That pulse has made Larimer County's parks and open spaces very relevant in the last five years. We've worked hard to adapt effectively, provide recreation opportunities, and to be good stewards of resources while producing revenue and leveraging dollars.



Photo: Dave Marvin

Will it take more than one tank of gas?

The economic crises in the last few years left citizens with less cash in hand. "Stay-cations" and "1-tank Wonders" became popular as people looked for less expensive fun closer to home. Campers retrofitted old RV's rather than buying new. Families invested in fishing poles, worms, hiking boots, day packs, and 16' x 16' tents complete with rooms and blow-up beds, and headed to the hills. Capital improvement projects from the Parks Master Plan helped adapt to the demand: new marina, showerhouses, swimbeaches, and campsites.

2006: Campsites & Cabins - 294, 20,831 camping nights sold (14,307 reservation; 6,524 walk-in)
2010: Campsites & Cabins - 612, 38,357 camping nights sold (28,950 reservation; 9,307 walk-in)



Photo: Harry Strbarsky

Let's move to Colorado.....maybe Fort Collins?

Colorado's population has ballooned. From 2005 to 2010, Front Range population increased from ~3,900,000 to ~4,100,000*; Larimer County's increased from ~275,000 to ~300,000*. Northern Colorado has been touted nationally as a mecca for retirees and newcomers (e.g., *U.S. News and World Report*, *Money Magazine*). Increased population = increased visitation + increased demands + increased planning + increased development + increased visitor interaction. We've been discovered.

2006: 40,134 acres protected to date through the Help Preserve Open Spaces sales tax
2010: 44,633 acres protected to date through the Help Preserve Open Spaces sales tax



Photo: Unknown

My Bucket List -- maybe a triathalon?

Recreation trends changed dramatically in the last five years. Citizens loved to use the parks and open spaces for special events: marathons, triathalons, bike races, group hikes, education programs, etc. Reservable campsites were hot: Who wants to pack up all that gear and not have a guaranteed camping spot? And, showers - now that you're camping for a week, you want to shower and use flush toilets: 2006 shower houses - 0; 2010 shower houses - 4.

2006: 73 special events
2010: 108 special events



Photo: CJ Cullins

It's the right thing.

Kids in nature, the value of outdoor recreation, the solace of open spaces, saving the special places: Public consciousness has been raised about taking care of our planet and the importance of the outdoors to our human natures. Private and public partnerships brought the Russ Crowder Area and the outdoor classroom at Devil's Backbone Open Space into the public domain; demand for education programs increased; and private landowners protected land for subsequent generations.

2006: 15 school programs to 518 kids; 14 special request programs to 314 people; 41 campground programs; 64 guided hikes
2010: 17 school programs to 913 kids; 17 special request programs to 600 people; 60 campground programs; 70 guided hikes

*dola.colorado.gov/dlg/demog/pop_cnty_forecasts.html;dola.colorado.gov/dlg/demog/2010censusdata.html; larimer.org/compass/popgrowth_demographics.

Out of the blue . . .

. . . and unpredictable. An internal trend has been to absorb “changes of business” into the Department in response to a variety of external sources. Some of those have been:



Photo: Dave Lentz

2005: Mountain Pine Beetle – an invasion

Mountain pine beetles started to show their presence in Larimer County and the Laramie River Valley, crossing the Continental Divide. A 2006 aerial survey showed 3,100 acres impacted. By the 2010 aerial survey 510,000 acres had been impacted, with the heaviest north of the Big Thompson River. Two sort/collection yards were set up and run in 2008, 2009, and 2010 to assist citizens in moving infested trees from their properties.

2006: Of 100 calls requesting assistance from the County Forester, 24% were MPB related
2010: Of 273 calls requesting assistance from the County Forester, 72% were MPB related



Photo: Dave Marvin

2006: Hermit Park Open Space – a conservation bonanza and unforeseen opportunity

Agilent Technologies contacted the Department to discuss the sale of Hermit Park to keep the site open for public recreational opportunities and preserved for open space. After extensive work with many partners, it was purchased in February, 2007, and opened to the public in May, 2008, with 56 campsites, 15 camper cabins, a large group pavilion, and trails.

Improvement projects completed per Master Plan: Information Center, Hwy. 36 turn lane, main road re-work, old structure demolition, cabins up to code, Kruger Rock Trail, group pavilion parking lot & restroom, Bobcat campground renovation, fire mitigation, 5 new vault restrooms, campsites hardened and leveled, wetland rehabilitation

2008-2010: Visitation increase of over 100%

2009: Aquatic Nuisance Species – an unexpected requirement

To protect Colorado waters, state statute required inspections of every boat entering Horsetooth Reservoir and Carter Lake. Boating access and inspection hours were instituted and continue to be enforced.

2010: 29 ANS boat inspectors did 64,813 inspections



Photo: Mike Rossi



Photo: Kris Healy

2010: Estes Park Campgrounds – a revenue and expansion opportunity

In a successful partnership with the Estes Valley Recreation and Park District, the Department took on management of two campgrounds in the Estes Valley - 208 campsites (and a swimming pool!).

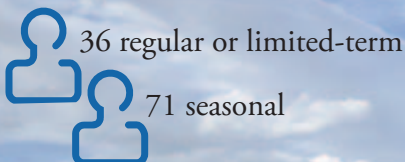
2010: Mary's Lake - 6,458 camping nights sold; East Portal - 4,761 camping nights sold

2010: Hits and Tweets and Fans – a new social trend

To meet the demand of younger demographics the Department stepped into Social Media. Successful Twitter and Facebook audiences continue to be developed. The Web/Social Media Team researched and then redesigned the departmental web site to reflect what visitors want. Pages are now more consistent and information is easier to find.

4/1/2010 - 4/1/2011 ~ 1,370,000 web hits; ~ 470,000 pdfs downloaded

July, 2006 Employees



July, 2010, Employees

