



Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025
Time: 5:00 – 6:30 PM
Location: Horsetooth Area Information Center, 4200 W. County Rd. 38E Fort Collins, CO 80526, Mountain Lion Room & Zoom Webinar

LAND STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

Vision
Healthy Landscapes, Healthy People

Mission
Connect People, Nature, and Place

Values
Pursue Excellence, Act with Integrity, Trust, & Respect, Focus on Collective Good, Commit to Staff Well-Being, Demonstrate Courageous Leadership

Public registration: https://larimer-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VfMcVLuCS9q_hjvKImXN8w

Contact: Please contact Andrea at weberan@larimer.org or 970-619-4462 if you are unable to attend.

Call to Order

Agenda Review

Review and Approval of Last Minutes

Information and Announcements

Natural Resources events for this month: <https://larimer.org/naturalresources>.

To sign up for Land Stewardship Advisory Board updates, go to <https://apps.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm>, enter your email, click “Subscribe,” and check the “Land Stewardship Advisory Board” box.

Updates/Discussion Items

[2024 DNR Annual Report](#)

2025 Quarter 1 and 2 Board Reports

- [1.](#) Quarter 1 Board Report
- [2.](#) Quarter 2 Board Report

Noxious Weed Citations per new legislation – Casey Cisneros

2025 Budget Update – Daylan Figgs

Action Items

Other Business

Next Meeting Scheduled Thursday, November 20th, 2025 @ Larimer County Horsetooth Area Information Center 4200 W. County Road 38E Fort Collins, CO 80526 - Mountain Lion Room & Zoom Webinar

Executive Session

Pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a)) for discussion pertaining to the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real, personal or other property interest.

Adjournment

Per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Larimer County will provide a reasonable accommodation to qualified individuals with a disability who need assistance. Services can be arranged with at least seven (7) business days' notice. Please email us at weberan@co.larimer.co.us, or call (970) 498-7719 or Relay Colorado 711. "Walk-in" requests for auxiliary aids and services will be honored to the extent possible but may be unavailable if advance notice is not provided.



Photo by Bob Buderman

2025

Larimer County Natural Resources

QUARTERLY BOARD REPORT
1ST QUARTER (JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH)



Landscape-scale conservation project Completed in Livermore Valley



Conservation easements in Livermore will protect lands with ecological value.



Larimer County's Department of Natural Resources recently completed efforts to conserve three contiguous ranches totaling 4,856 acres in Livermore, Colorado. The ranches are being conserved in partnership with the landowners via conservation easements, to permanently protect their intact, diverse native ecosystems and a 4-mile iconic viewshed.

For five generations, these ranches have been well-stewarded for sustainable livestock grazing and hay operations, supported by senior water rights that are tied to the conservation easements. The ranches are located

in Larimer County's Livermore Priority Conservation Area where significant land conservation efforts have already been completed by federal, state, county, city, and land trust partners. Conservation of these three ranches creates a contiguous landscape connection between over 100,000 acres of existing conserved lands. Partners in funding the conservation easements included the City of Fort Collins, Great Outdoors Colorado, The Nature Conservancy, a private individual donor, Gates Family Foundation and the Friends of Larimer County Parks and Open Lands.

Red-tail Ridge Open Space grows



In late January, Larimer County closed on the purchase of a 196-acre addition to Red-tail Ridge Open Space, located on the Larimer-Boulder county line. Located within the Little Thompson River and Blue Mountain conservation priority areas, the addition protects the viewshed west of Berthoud, provides a buffer to existing conserved lands and boasts a mix of wildlife habitats. In addition to the county's Help Preserve Open Spaces sales tax dollars, support came from the City of Loveland, the Town of Berthoud and a private individual donor.



The Red-tail Ridge Open Space addition protects the viewshed west of Berthoud.

Progress made on county climate goals



The EV charge station at the administrative offices near Flatiron Reservoir (left) and a new solar-powered RV dump station processing machine.



LCDNR has recently made significant progress towards countywide climate goals established in 2022. One countywide goal is to reduce county facility greenhouse gas emissions by 62% by 2030. Our department has contributed to those goals by installing solar power at the following facilities:

- Aquatic Nuisance Species shelter at Satanka Bay, on the north end of Horsetooth Reservoir
- Pavilion at Hermit Park Open Space (currently underway)
- RV dump stations at select campgrounds

We have also installed highly efficient LED lights throughout South Bay of Horsetooth Reservoir, and we are helping meet the countywide goal of installing electric vehicle (EV) chargers, specifically four electric vehicle (EV) DC fast chargers and four level 2 EV chargers on county property by 2025. With the help of the facilities department, we installed a level 2 EV charger at our main Administrative Office near Flatiron Reservoir and another at the Horsetooth Area Information Center.

Meadow hawkweed makes noxious weed list



A showy yellow perennial sunflower has found its way onto Larimer County’s noxious weed list.

Meadow hawkweed (*Hieracium caespitosum*), an exotic plant species that is highly invasive in other parts of the U.S. was identified in the Estes Valley in 2022. This plant was most likely brought into Larimer County on heavy equipment during Highway 7 road work. To mitigate the environmental and economic risk this plant poses to Larimer County, the Board of County Commissioners has mandated that it be eradicated. Starting in 2025, landowners who do not voluntarily manage this noxious weed on their property will receive notices of enforcement, which if unabated could lead to county staff managing it and charging the landowner for the cost of removal. Meadow hawkweed is identifiable as a 1-3 foot tall perennial with hairy leaves at the base of the plant and a cluster of yellow flowers. Please report any possible sightings at Larimer.org/weeds or by calling the Larimer County Land Stewardship office at (970) 498-5768.



The Board of County Commissioners has mandated that Meadow hawkweed be eradicated from the county.

New era for our shorelines



Maintenance crews work on the new docks at Horsetooth Reservoir



The Department of Natural Resources has begun upgrading the boat docks at Carter Lake and Horsetooth reservoirs. Staff carefully removed the outdated structures to allow for recycling the aluminum materials. The proceeds from that recycling effort went back into the green infrastructure budget, helping to support future sustainability projects.

The new boat docks arrived in December, and over the winter staff assembled the new structures, ensuring the docks would be ready to welcome boaters for the 2025 season. The new docks are safer, more durable, and built with longevity and user experience in mind.

Another successful year for the marina slip lottery Item 1.



The second successful year of the marina slip lottery finished in February with more than 400 entries from boat owners hoping to be randomly selected for a slip or mooring at Carter Lake or Horsetooth Reservoir.

LCDNR launched the annual lottery in 2024 to ensure an open process for rental reservation of slips and moorings. After a successful first year, the department conducted the same lottery by inviting boat owners to submit their names over two months. Staff then randomly selected finalists for the marinas to interview and vet. The process ensured a fair chance for all, with extra weight given to Larimer County residents. Approximately 60% of the finalists were Larimer County residents. This year, the marinas were able to offer 26 slips/moorings to the lottery.



The marina at Horsetooth Reservoir.
Photo by Aliy Louie.

Nature-based community projects benefit from DNR's small grants program



Kids learn about local nature through the American Adventure Sports Club.
Photo by Jeannie Sumrall-Ajero



Earlier this year, LCDNR announced \$30,863 in grants to be given to nature-based community projects as part of the 2025 Small Grants for Community Partnering program. Eight remarkable organizations received grant money for initiatives that connect people with nature. These include the American Adventure Sports Club, Colorado Youth Outdoors, Estes Valley Recreation and Park Foundation, Hispanic Women's Farming Project, Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, Fort Collins Montessori, Fossil Creek HOA, and Sproutin' Up. Their impactful projects range from creating vibrant educational gardens in schools and community spaces to managing invasive species, developing engaging live programming for a special nature exhibit, and offering outdoor experiences for underrepresented youth.

Financial Summary

Item 1.



Larimer County Department of Natural Resources has five primary revenue sources including Colorado Lottery proceeds, the Help Preserve Open Space Sales Tax, user fees on

open spaces, user fees on reservoir parks, and the weed district property tax. Below are the Jan. 1 through March 31 revenue summaries and operating expenses as compared to the same period the previous year.

Open Spaces

	2024	2025	
Revenue			
Help Preserve Open Space Tax	\$791,604	\$777,371	
User Fees Revenue	\$362,399	\$293,110	
Service Charges Revenue	\$73,845	\$64,544	
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$3,000	\$152,000	
Grants/Partnerships	\$7,146	\$2,150,000	
Interest Revenue	\$211,756	\$193,886	
Total	\$1,449,750	\$3,630,911	150%
Expense			
Personnel Expenses	\$399,355	\$328,237	
Operating Expenses	\$213,728	\$142,586	
Total	\$613,083	\$470,823	-23%
Countywide Indirects	\$53,830	\$43,998	-18%
Acquisitions/Projects	\$9,827	\$14,855,771	

Reservoir Parks

	2024	2025	
Revenue			
User Fees Revenue	\$1,618,168	\$1,224,427	
Service Charges Revenue	\$44,388	\$45,198	
Grants/Partnerships	-	\$2,548	
General Fund	\$33,520	\$67,000	
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$6,000	\$2,061	
Total	\$1,702,077	\$1,341,234	-21%
Expense			
Personnel Expenses	\$986,135	\$1,118,988	
Operating Expenses	\$518,921	\$442,207	
Total	\$1,505,057	\$1,561,195	4%
Countywide Indirects	\$131,028	\$128,324	-2%
Projects	\$43,044	\$2,379	

Conservation Trust - Lottery

	2024	2025	
Revenue			
Conservation Trust/Lottery	\$264,859	\$246,439	-7%

County Weed District & Enterprise

	2024	2025	
Revenue			
Property Taxes	\$448,485	\$461,984	
Service Charges Revenue	\$1,016	\$11,438	
General Fund	\$26,287	\$108,000	
Miscellaneous Revenue	-	-	
Total	\$475,789	\$581,422	22%
Significant Donation/Other Revenue			
Sale of Mulberry Building	516,386	-	
Expense			
Personnel Expenses	\$121,413	\$124,162	
Operating Expenses	\$39,629	\$48,341	
Total	\$161,041	\$172,503	7%
Countywide Indirects	\$5,855	-	-100%

* Note: Year-end financial information is currently under review and subject to final edits.



2022-2027 Strategic Plan

MISSION: We connect people, nature and place.

VISION: Healthy Landscapes, Healthy People.



Nature-Based Opportunities



Proactive Land Conservation & Management



Levels of Service



Regional Leadership



Sustainable Funding Strategy



Positive Work Culture



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Department of Natural Resources
Quarterly Board Report
Published: May 2025

Connect With Us:
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2025

Larimer County Natural Resources

QUARTERLY BOARD REPORT 2ND QUARTER (APRIL MAY JUNE)



Bay to Bay Trail provides desired connection at Horsetooth Reservoir



Scenic views are plentiful along the Bay to Bay Trail. Photo courtesy Brendan Bombaci.



The new Bay to Bay Trail at Horsetooth Reservoir opened on May 23, just in time for Memorial Day weekend. This 1.8-mile natural surface trail connects Inlet Bay to the South Bay swim beach, linking two popular areas. It offers hikers and bikers scenic views along a moderately challenging, two-foot-wide trail. Because of steep slopes, rocky terrain, and limited parking for horse trailers, the trail is only open to foot and bike traffic. Larimer County Natural Resources (LCNR) built the trail with help from the Larimer County Conservation Corps (LCCC) and volunteers. Funding was provided by LCNR, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Boating Officer of the Year



Travis Bernstein, Senior Ranger, achieved the highest recognition for boating law enforcement officers nationwide. He was named Colorado Boating Officer of the Year and received the same honor for the Western Region of the United States in May. Selected by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), Travis leads Larimer County's boating program with a strong commitment to public and staff safety on Colorado's waterways. His leadership, innovative training initiatives, and dedication to marine safety have set a high standard in boating law enforcement. Travis supervises both full-time and temporary staff, actively patrolling Larimer County's waters to ensure rescues, enforce boating regulations, and promote safety compliance.



Colorado Parks & Wildlife staff present Travis Bernstein (second from left) his Colorado Boating Officer of the Year Award alongside Steve Gibson, Visitor Services District Manager (far right).

Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) improvements moving full speed ahead



Road improvements have begun at Eagle Campground at Carter Lake.



In partnership with Central Federal Lands Highway Division (CFLHD), LCDNR has officially begun a large-scale, multi-year asphalt paving project at Carter Lake. Construction is underway at several locations including paving the main road within Eagle Campground and North Pines Campground. Parking and roadway improvements at Horsetooth Reservoir are planned to follow. The project budget exceeds \$15 million, which is funded primarily with two federal grants, as well as from LCDNR reserve funds. Diligent effort is being made to minimize the disturbance to visitors and project completion is expected in 2027.

15 years of Ranger Excellence School



Nearly 90 students attended the 15th annual Ranger Excellence School (RES) in Estes Park this May.

What began as a local training for Colorado rangers in 2010 has grown into a full conference, now drawing 80–100 participants from across the country, including states like Wisconsin, Missouri, and Nevada. This week-long event offers hands-on, relevant training for rangers and natural resource professionals. Students can customize their experience and earn certifications in specialized courses like Emergency Medical Responder, Mountain Biking, and Baton. Held at the Holiday Inn in Estes Park, RES offers easy access to Hermit Park Open Space for field exercises and scenario-based training in natural environments.



Scenario training is an integral component of RES providing vital in the field practice with peers and experienced leaders.

Poudre River Trail anticipates completion this year



Completion of Larimer County's segment of the Poudre River Trail is slated for later this year.



After decades of planning and collaborating with regional partners, Larimer County is poised to complete the Poudre River Trail this year! The full vision of the Poudre River Trail spans over 45 miles along the river corridor from LaPorte (northwest of Fort Collins) to Greeley with just under one mile remaining to be completed. In an exciting development

this summer, Larimer County got the final green light to move ahead with construction on its last segment, which is slated to begin this summer and fall. The region-wide vision has been made possible by many partners and numerous grants over the years, and Larimer County is honored to bring it to the finish line.

BARK rangers on the ground and water in Larimer County



In collaboration with the City of Fort Collins, LCDNR is excited to support the expansion of the Volunteer Ranger Assistant (VRA) program to include BARK rangers. Now on patrol throughout thirteen publicly accessible properties, BARK rangers bolster education in the field regarding dogs off leash or to those who leave waste bags behind, and the impact of dogs on wildlife safety. All of which, if left unchecked, have negative impacts on visitor experience and the environment. As ambassadors for responsible recreation, stewardship, and regulation compliance, BARK rangers uphold the foundation of the VRA program and expands our reach into the field, meeting visitors where they are.



BARK Rangers now on patrol! Photo courtesy Linda Evans.

Financial Summary



Larimer County Natural Resources Department has five primary revenue sources including Colorado Lottery proceeds, the Help Preserve Open Spaces Sales Tax, user fees on open

spaces, user fees on reservoir parks, and the weed district property tax. Below are the year-to-date revenue summaries and operating expenses as compared to the same period the previous year.

Open Spaces

	2024	2025	
Revenue			
Help Preserve Open Space Tax	\$3,470,638	\$3,626,991	
User Fees Revenue	\$801,796	\$726,511	
Service Charges Revenue	\$100,138	\$85,856	
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$5,385	\$3,039	
Grants/Partnerships	\$7,146	\$5,442,500	
Interest Revenue	\$551,044	\$467,148	
Total	\$4,936,146	\$10,352,046	110%
Expense			
Personnel Expenses	\$883,721	\$795,392	
Operating Expenses	\$985,456	\$394,019	
Total	\$1,869,177	\$1,189,411	-36%
Countywide Indirects	\$108,056	\$94,121	-13%
Acquisitions/Projects	\$10,316	\$16,569,029	

Reservoir Parks

	2024	2025	
Revenue			
User Fees Revenue	\$3,070,365	\$2,679,389	
Service Charges Revenue	\$142,103	\$103,055	
Grants/Partnerships	\$23,749	\$2,548	
General Fund	\$67,041	\$67,000	
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$8,250	\$2,065	
Total	\$3,311,508	\$2,854,057	-14%
Expense			
Personnel Expenses	\$2,341,918	\$2,539,904	
Operating Expenses	\$1,096,000	\$1,501,134	
Total	\$3,437,918	\$4,041,038	18%
Countywide Indirects	\$284,773	\$298,972	5%
Projects	\$102,194	\$37,174	

Conservation Trust - Lottery

	2024	2025	
Revenue			
Conservation Trust/Lottery	\$531,255	\$501,279	-6%

County Weed District & Enterprise

	2024	2025	
Revenue			
Property Taxes	\$1,025,653	\$1,012,297	
Service Charges Revenue	\$89,360	\$139,385	
General Fund	\$52,575	\$108,000	
Miscellaneous Revenue	—	—	
Total	\$1,167,588	\$1,259,682	8%
Significant Donation/Other Revenue			
Sale of Mulberry Building	\$516,386		
Expense			
Personnel Expenses	\$288,023	\$311,571	
Operating Expenses	\$252,985	\$175,153	
Total	\$541,008	\$486,724	-10%
Countywide Indirects	\$15,041	—	-100%

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2022-2027 Strategic Plan

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