

Who's Who in Land Conservation: Larimer County, Colorado

Local Government Agencies

Larimer County Open Lands Program (Department of Parks and Open Lands)

The mission of the Larimer County Open Lands Program is to preserve and provide significant open space, natural areas, wildlife habitat, and develop parks and trails for present and future generations. These open lands provide opportunities for leisure, human renewal and protection of our natural and cultural resources. Larimer County has been a partner in preserving over 40,000 acres of open lands through fee simple acquisition and conservation easements.

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City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program (Department of Natural Resources)

The City of Fort Collins, Department of Natural Resources, through its Natural Areas Program has conserved over 34,000 acres of natural areas and open lands. The Natural Areas Program currently manages 44 sites consisting of 29,940 acres of natural areas. Fort Collins updated its Land Conservation Plan in 2003, which identified three land conservation focus areas – regional, local and community separators. Fort Collins has recently conserved over 20,000 acres in the regional focus areas and is currently concentrating conservation efforts on the local and community separator focus

areas. Fort Collins regularly partners with Larimer County and other agencies on conservation projects.

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City of Loveland Natural Areas Program (Department of Parks and Recreation)

The City of Loveland Natural Areas Program's mission is to promote the community's goal to preserve significant open lands characterized by unique natural environments that comprise Loveland's natural heritage. Providing responsible management of those lands while also maximizing the use of tax dollars is a priority. To date the Natural Areas Division and the Parks and Recreation Department has preserved over 1,700 acres of land in and around Loveland. The City of Loveland recently adopted an Open Lands Plan in 2003 that prioritizes protection of a system of interconnected natural areas, viewsheds and agricultural lands, primarily within the City's Growth Management Area.

The Big Thompson River corridor remains at the core of the open lands system. The City of Loveland will also continue to partner with other entities such as Larimer County, City of Fort Collins, Colorado State Parks, and the Legacy Land Trust.

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Local Nonprofit Organizations

Estes Valley Land Trust

The Estes Valley Land Trust is committed to land conservation in the Estes Valley and surrounding area, and especially committed to the preservation of ranches, valleys, and streams adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park and the Arapahoe-Roosevelt National Forest. The geographic focus of EVLT is the Estes Valley, the Tahosa Valley, and the Glen Haven, Retreat areas. Since its inception in 1987, the EVLT has been comprised of a mostly-volunteer staff, with a recent addition of one part-time employee. The EVLT works very closely with Larimer County, the Town of Estes Park and with Rocky Mountain National Park.

EVLT has a total of 150 conservation easements protecting approximately 9,000 acres. Each EVLT project protects open space, scenic viewsheds, and critical wildlife habitat.

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Who's Who in Land Conservation: Larimer County, Colorado

Local Nonprofit Organizations, continued

Legacy Land Trust

The Legacy Land Trust facilitates the acquisition and preservation of local farm & ranch lands, environmentally sensitive areas, critical wildlife habitat, and other lands that are important for the enrichment of present and future generations. Founded in 1993, the Legacy Land Trust is a nonprofit conservation organization that works throughout Larimer, Jackson & Weld Counties. In partnership with over 60 private landowners and public open space agencies, the Land Trust has completed 109 conservation projects protecting over 38,000 acres of agricultural land, scenic views and ridgelines, wetlands and riparian areas, lands with historic and cultural values, and open space. Legacy Land Trust often works in cooperation with

other conservation groups, including the Larimer County Dept. of Natural Resources, the cities of Loveland and Fort Collins, Colorado Division of Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and The Nature Conservancy.

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Colorado Open Lands

Colorado Open Lands is a dynamic, results-oriented, statewide land trust whose mission is to preserve the significant open lands and diminishing natural heritage of Colorado through unique private and public partnerships, innovative land conservation techniques, and strategic leadership. Colorado Open Lands works cooperatively with all types of landowners, resulting in the permanent protection of 190,000 acres around Colorado, through 234 projects in 38 counties to date. Lands we have protected include agricultural land, scenic viewsheds, community buffers, watersheds, and wildlife habitat.

staff of eight with over 80 years of experience, Colorado Open Lands' primary office is in Lakewood. It also operates a satellite office in Berthoud in partnership with the Berthoud Land Conservation Fund, an agricultural preservation organization.

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In Larimer County, Colorado Open Lands has assisted with the protection of 1,427 acres to date, and focuses much of its work in the County through its Community Conservation Area in Berthoud. Led by a full-time

National Nonprofit Organizations

The Nature Conservancy in Colorado

The Nature Conservancy is a private, non-profit conservation organization. For more than 50 years, we've been preserving special places in the natural world. We work locally and in communities around the world to protect precious habitat and the plant and animal species it supports. We achieve results by working in collaboration with communities, partner organizations and people from all walks of life to "Protect Nature and Preserve Life." Through the support of over 1 million members, we've conserved more than 101 million acres worldwide. In Colorado, The Nature Conservancy has helped protect more than 600,000 acres of natural lands. Conservation efforts are focused on critical landscapes including the Laramie Foothills in northern Larimer County and the Western

High Plains in Weld County. In Larimer County, The Nature Conservancy owns 2,000 acres of land and has conserved 25,000 acres through conservation easements.

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