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Long View Trail Connects Fort Collins and Loveland, Grand Opening August 18

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Long View Trail Construction by Rod Cerknoey-Larimer County Natural Resources Volunteer



Jami McMannes

Fort Collins, CO - We're connected! Long View Trail is a 4.4 mile stretch of multipurpose recreational trail that connects Fort Collins to Loveland. The \$8 million Long View Corridor Trail project was done in partnership with the City of Fort Collins, City of Loveland, Larimer County, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), and Colorado Department of Transportation. The Grand Opening of Long View Trail is Saturday, August 18 from 8 - 11 a.m., with the ribbon cutting to take place at 10 a.m. at Sunset Vista Trailhead in Loveland.

Long View Trail runs along the east side of South Shields Street in Fort Collins and North Taft Avenue in Loveland. The trail provides a safe, non-motorized alternative to traveling between the two cities. The trail passes through three City of Fort Collins natural areas, one Larimer County open space, and one City of Loveland natural area. The five public spaces, which consist of agricultural lands and wildlife habitat, offer trail users sweeping views of the foothills and mountains.

The Grand Opening of Long View Trail will take place on Saturday, August 18 beginning at 8 a.m. Partner organizations will be set-up along the trail to provide information about the project, as well as provide giveaways and bike maintenance support. Dignitaries and partner organizations will gather at Sunset Vista Trailhead in Loveland at 10 a.m. to give a short presentation and cut the ribbon to open the trail.

For more information about the Long View Corridor Trail and the Grand Opening, visit <http://bit.ly/LongViewTrail>.

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LC acquires 800 acre ranch for \$2.25 M - BizWest

Thomas Clayton <claytonm@co.larimer.co.us>

Fri, Aug 24, 2018 at 1:57 PM

To: "Almstead, Jennifer" <almstefjw@co.larimer.co.us>, "Blomstrom, Todd" <tblomstrom@larimer.org>, "Brink, Kenneth" <kbrink@larimer.org>, "Buffington, Gary" <buffingk@co.larimer.co.us>, "Caughlan, Mark" <caughlmw@co.larimer.co.us>, "Ellison, Emmy" <EEllison@larimer.org>, "Fleming, Christine" <fleminc@co.larimer.co.us>, "Flenniken, Meegan" <flennim@co.larimer.co.us>, "Mayhew, Pamela" <mayhewpj@co.larimer.co.us>, "Parker-Renga, Teddy" <parkertp@co.larimer.co.us>, "Parks, Office" <parksoffice@co.larimer.co.us>, "Rieves, Dan" <rievesd@co.larimer.co.us>, "Rollins, Travis" <rollint@co.larimer.co.us>, "Steinbrecher, Kristofer" <steinbkl@co.larimer.co.us>, "Watson, Peggy" <pwatson@larimer.org>, "Wiebe, Zac" <wiebezm@co.larimer.co.us>

Larimer County acquires 800-acre ranch for \$2.25M

By Christopher Wood — August 23, 2018

FORT COLLINS — Larimer County has purchased an 800-acre ranch within the boundary of Red Mountain Open Space, which is owned by the county.

Larimer County acquired the ranch for \$2.25 million, using funds from the county's Help Preserve Open Spaces sales tax.

"Conserving this key parcel, which boasts significant ecological values, further stitches together lands purchased and conserved in a long-term partnership among Larimer County, Fort Collins and others in the Laramie Foothills," Meegan Flenniken, Land Conservation, Planning & Resource Program manager with the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources, said in a prepared statement.

Acquiring the 800-acre enclave ensures that Red Mountain can be managed as one continuous landscape, according to the press release. The property boasts habitat for deer, pronghorn, elk and other wildlife, known archaeological resources and opportunities for agriculture. Potential outdoor-recreation uses, including trails, will be determined during an upcoming management-plan update process for Red Mountain and adjacent Soapstone Prairie Natural Area, which is owned by Fort Collins.

In addition, the property contains Table Mountain, which dominates the scenic landscape. Larimer County decided to purchase the property when the price dropped and staff learned that potential buyers were looking at acquiring the ranch, with the possibility of subdividing it into 35-acre lots for development, the county said. The acquisition negates the possibility of houses flanking Table Mountain.

"Thank you to the voters who approved the open spaces sales tax," Flenniken said. "They made it possible to conserve this property, as well as many of our local signature open spaces."

Both Red Mountain and Soapstone Prairie are part of the larger Laramie Foothills Mountains-to-Plains Project, a partnership among multiple agencies and private landowners that has protected tens of thousands of acres in northern Larimer County. The acquisition of this 800-acre enclave continues this vision to conserve contiguous lands from the prairies to the foothills to the Rockies, Flenniken said.



Tom Clayton
Public Information Specialist

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NEWS TICKER [April 1, 2018] Candidate guide for 2018 Northern Colorado elections POLITICS

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HOME > OUTDOORS > Boat Ramp Hours at Horsetooth Reservoir, Carter Lake Change After Labor Day

Boat Ramp Hours at Horsetooth Reservoir, Carter Lake Change After Labor Day

September 2, 2018 Theresa Rose Outdoors 0



Boat ramp hours at Horsetooth Reservoir and Carter Lake will change after Labor Day

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Teddy Parker-Renga, Community Relations Specialist

LOVELAND, Colo. – Attention, boaters and anglers! Hours of operation will change for boat ramps at Horsetooth Reservoir and Carter Lake on Tuesday, Sept. 4.

The South Shore ramp at Carter Lake will close for the season, due in part to low water levels, and the Satanka ramp at Horsetooth Reservoir will have reduced hours on Fridays.

Hours of operation at boat ramps starting Sept. 4:

Horsetooth Reservoir County Park

- South Bay ramp: 6 a.m.-10 p.m., 7 days a week
- Inlet Bay ramp: 6 a.m.-10 p.m., 7 days a week
- Satanka ramp: 2 p.m.-10 p.m., Friday and 6 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday and Sunday

Carter Lake County Park

- North ramp: 6 a.m.-10 p.m., 7 days a week
- South Shore: Closed for season
- North Pines ramp: 6 a.m.-10 p.m., Thursday through Sunday and holidays

Boat ramps may close earlier than scheduled due to low water levels. For the up-to-date schedule of boat ramp hours, visit www.larimer.org/boating.

About Larimer County Department of Natural Resources

The Department of Natural Resources manages Larimer County's great outdoor places, including open spaces and magnificent water-based recreation areas, and fosters responsible land stewardship through weed management and healthy forest practices. To learn more, visit www.larimer.org/naturalresources.

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Opinion: Letters to the editor on fire pits; Hughes Stadium site

Coloradoan readers Published 7:00 a.m. MT Sept. 9, 2018



(Photo: Austin Humphreys/The Coloradoan)

Letters to the editor of up to 250 words may be sent to the Coloradoan at opinion@coloradoan.com or submitted online at <http://noconow.co/opinionsubmissions>. Submissions should include the writer's address and phone number.

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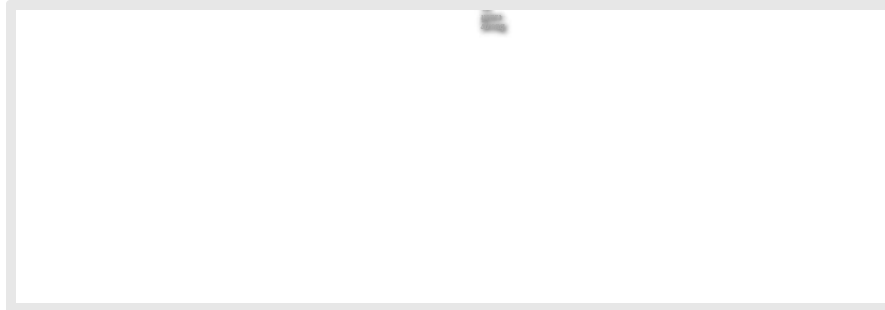
Recently, Larimer County heard potential buyers were looking at acquiring an 800-acre private ranch inside Red Mountain Open Space with the possibility of subdividing it into 35-acre lots for development.

This would have meant the chance of houses on the flanks of the iconic Table Mountain, which exists on the ranch and dominates the scenic landscape enjoyed by all who visit Red Mountain Open Space.

With this possibility – and the fact that the asking price for the ranch had dropped significantly – the county took action to purchase the ranch and negotiated the price down to \$2.25 million. The county bought the ranch in August.

With this inholding filled, Red Mountain and adjoining conserved lands can be managed as one continuous landscape, which will benefit plants, wildlife and people.

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The purchase of the private inholding was made possible thanks to you, the voters of Larimer County, who continually vote in favor of sales taxes to support local conservation and recreation.

Funds from the county's quarter-cent Help Preserve Open Spaces sales tax were used to buy the private ranch, protecting its innumerable conservation values and its important viewshed.

In 2014, Larimer County voters extended the Help Preserve Open Spaces sales tax by a whopping 82 percent approval. Back then, we heard that you care about local conservation and recreation and trust us to continue to deliver both.

Today, we're living up to that responsibility.

Gary Buffington, Larimer County Department of Natural Resources

Turn Hughes Stadium site into green space

My mother spoke a phrase on numerous occasions that has stayed with me all of my life.

"Take care of your corner of the world, and the world will take care of itself." I'm proud to have lived that phrase.

Colorado State University has never figured much in my efforts of being a part of a bigger and better community. For years, it was all about College Daze, barracks for dormitories, and university presidents who were archetypes of the distant ivory tower academic.

Enter President Tony Frank, who with vision, pull, and political acumen, transformed the CSU campus into something beautiful and wonderful. Focusing on green policies while undertaking the largest redevelopment of the physical plant of the university takes nerve, power, and passion.

It is time for Frank, and the Board of Governors, to back up Frank's vision of green development with no development. It is time for them to "take care of their own corner of the world."

The site of the former Hughes Stadium, touted for years as a breath-taking example of the beauty of the west, needs to not become another high-end subdivision (please spare all of us the bogus wringing of faux compassion about "affordable housing") but instead become a piece of the mosaic of the natural splendor of our region, preserved for generations to come.

Frank is smart – he has shown that. Is he smart enough to set aside this piece of land, owned by the citizens of Colorado, and allow the former Hughes Stadium footprint to become an open space that will provide for generations of Coloradans?

Or will he pretend that he has no choice but to be held hostage to the banality that selling out to the highest bidder for this priceless piece of real estate is the best choice?

It is simple to curry favor with the powerful – leaving a legacy for the seventh generation takes courage. Frank has proved to possess vision and tenacity – can he show us all that he has the courage to protect and preserve this unique natural area?

David Roy, Fort Collins

Campfires have no place in neighborhoods

In response to Bob Schaffer's column "Leave our backyard campfires alone" (Aug. 25.)

It's great to see economic analyses applied to neighborhood issues. But, the narrow definition of an externality that Schaffer describes is inappropriate.

An activity does not have to be "commercial" to generate externalities.

These firepits in urban back yards have proliferated to the point that they create both health and environmental injury requiring government intervention.

In other words, they generate externalities. Neighbors affected by backyard campfires bear both fiscal costs and non-market costs because of the smoke and particulate residue from these fires.

Schaffer writes that backyard campfires are part of our "western heritage." These may be a rural tradition, but I'm a fourth generation urban Coloradoan and my family never sat around a campfire, unless we were camping (and even then, rarely).

Campfires do not belong in city neighborhoods.

Michelle Haefele, Fort Collins

What does the chamber think about climate change?

Fort Collins Ara Chamber of Commerce CEO David May and chamber board member Ethan Gannett from Hewlett Packard Enterprises have written pieces expressing opposition to a resolution that calls upon the city of Fort Collins to adopt the goal of achieving 100 percent renewable electricity by 2030.

To support their position, they cite a paper from the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), the nation's premier science journal, which they believe demonstrates the infeasibility and unaffordability of achieving 100 percent renewable electricity. The article they cite critiques the work of Mark Jacobsen and co-authors from Stanford University, who propose that the entire U.S. energy sector can run on renewables by 2050-2055.

Unfortunately, in making this recommendation, May and Gannett seem to have conflated the terms "electricity" and "energy." Those aren't the same thing. By "energy sector" Jacobsen et al mean electricity, transportation, heating, cooling, industrial uses, etc. Everything. All of it. For the entire country.

The PNAS article cited by the chamber has nothing to do with the feasibility or affordability of the Fort Collins achieving 100 percent renewable electricity by 2030 while continuing to provide a reliable service to its business and residential customers.

Perhaps in its next opinion piece, representatives of the chamber could instead answer this question: What impacts do they believe climate change will have on our regional economy, our quality of life, and at what cost?

Clarifying the chamber's position on climate change would be more useful than citing journal articles irrelevant to local conditions.

Kevin Henry, Fort Collins

Preserve the open space around Hughes

I have been a resident of the Fort Collins area for 45 years, on and off, and I've seen the town grow from a sleepy college town and rural agricultural community to a bustling urbanized city.

During that time, the population of Fort Collins and its surrounding communities have more than quadrupled in size, and the student population of CSU has grown by more than 50 percent.

I've witnessed large tracts of agricultural and natural areas be swallowed up by what appears to me as urban sprawl, many times with blatant disregard to its endemic wildlife populations and/or the environment.

Even more disturbing is the incessant growth in recent years has seemed to be mostly focused on its profitability, ignoring the negative effects of this growth to the quality of life of Fort Collins' citizens.

It is, therefore, my belief that the huge tract of land that Hughes Stadium had until recently occupied should be viewed as another opportunity for CSU to use to promote its sustainability agenda, rather than sell it to the highest bidder.

Instead the land ought to be returned to open space, where recreational and wildlife appreciation opportunities will abound for the enjoyment of generations to come.

Brad Petschek, Fort Collins

Re-elect Irene Josey as treasurer

I enthusiastically support Irene Josey in her re-election bid to serve as your Larimer County treasurer. I was granted the privilege to serve as the Larimer County treasurer for 16 years; nearly all of which Irene served as my chief deputy treasurer.

Irene was hired as administrative support staff Jan. 6, 1986. She was my go-to employee when I had a difficult and/or complicated task.

Irene never disappointed with the work she produced. She was that rare employee that you could rely on for all manner of projects and tasks.

Due to a set of unfortunate circumstances, I found myself without a chief deputy treasurer. I left the position vacant for nearly two years to thoroughly weigh my options and select the perfect fit; I found my replacement in my office.

In 1988, I appointed Irene as chief deputy treasurer and never regretted the decision. Irene's incredible work ethic, skill and acumen allowed me to focus on my work.

Irene will continue to serve the fine citizens of Larimer County well, just as she did under my leadership. I urge you to vote for Irene Josey.

Chuck Woodward, Fort Collins

Editor's note: A letter supporting Josey also was sent by Bev Woodward.

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