

# Loveland Open Lands & Trails

## STRATEGIC PLAN

Update for  
Open Lands Advisory Commission  
November 11, 2020



# OUR PLAN TO MEET COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

## Loveland Open Lands & Trails Division Open Lands Advisory Commission

It is our pleasure to provide this Open Lands & Trails Strategic Plan to the Loveland community. The Plan shows our dedication to open lands and trails and our commitment to citizen expectations. The framework of the Plan sets forth our five strategic focus areas to meet the growing expectations of the Loveland community with regards to open lands and trails.

### Open Lands and Trails Strategic Focus Areas:

- Conservation
- Education
- Stewardship
- Recreation
- Health and Wellness

This Plan illustrates the Strategies, Priorities, and Key Initiatives within each Focus Area that are most critical for the Open Lands & Trails Division to support our Mission, and the Vision and Missions of the City and Parks & Recreation Department. This Divisional Strategic Plan will help prioritize our resources, ensuring Loveland remains “a vibrant community, surrounded by natural beauty, where you belong!”

Staff will use this guide to strategically address the Focus Areas and stay true to our mission through partnerships, collaboration, and community engagement.

# VISION, MISSION, VALUES

## **City of Loveland Vision:**

A vibrant community, surrounded by natural beauty, where you belong!

## **City of Loveland Mission:**

Achieving Loveland's community vision through innovation, dedication, and excellent service.

## **City of Loveland Values:**

Accountability, collaboration, innovation, integrity, transparency, courtesy & kindness, safety, quality & excellent service.

## **Parks & Recreation Department Vision:**

*To provide a sustainable system of diverse parks, trails, natural areas and facilities that connect people with the natural environment, support good health and offer outstanding community experiences while balancing recreation opportunities with the protection of natural and cultural resources.*

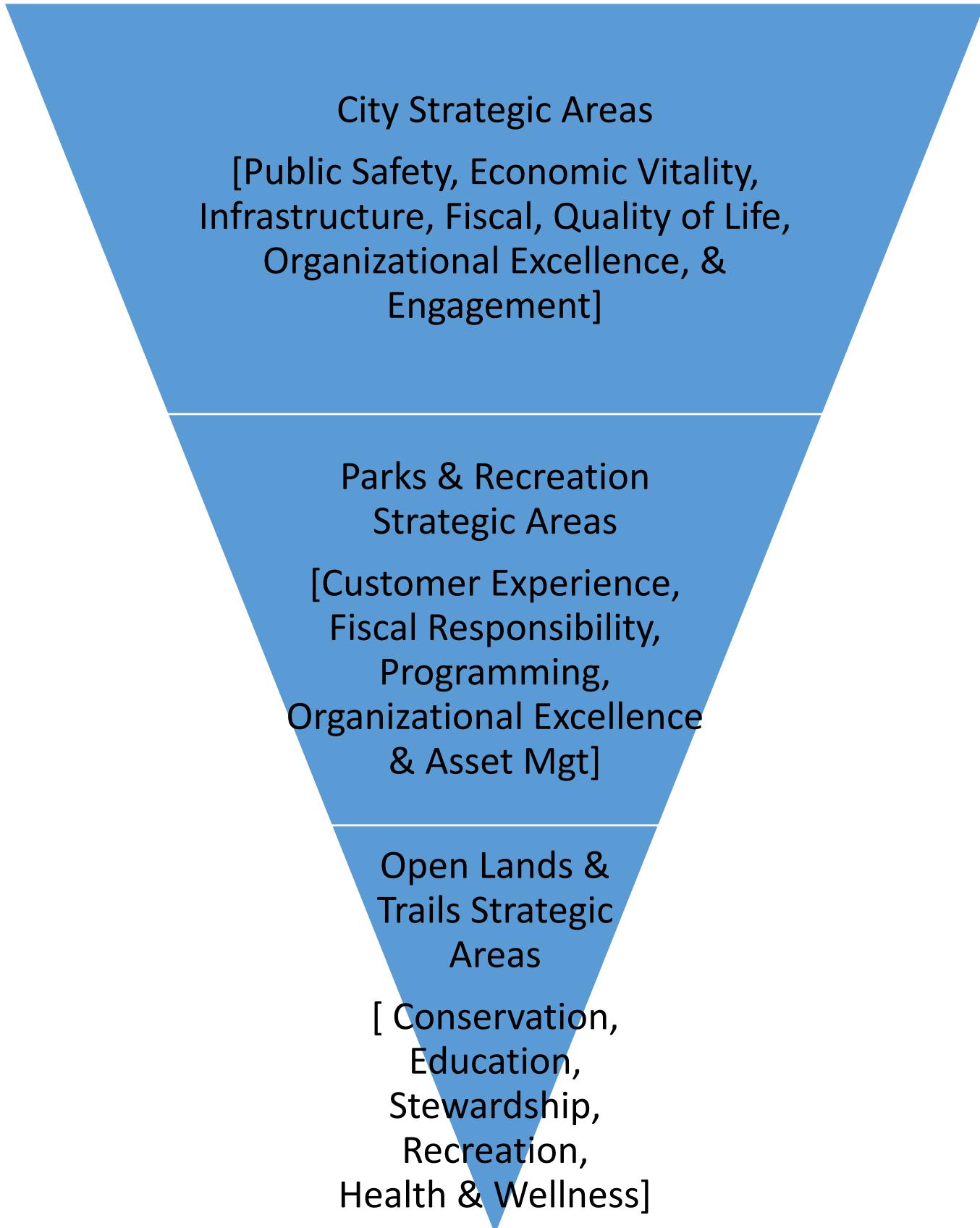
## **Parks & Recreation Department Mission:**

*To provide effective, efficient and high-quality leisure facilities, sites, services and programs for citizens of and visitors to the community. We embrace this mission through the three pillars of parks and recreation; conservation, health & wellness and social equity, to make a positive impact on the quality of life of Loveland's residents.*

# OPEN LANDS & TRAILS

## **Open Lands & Trails Mission:**

Identify, preserve, protect, connect and enhance open space, natural areas, trails, and wildlife habitat. To promote the enjoyment of outdoor activities while advancing environmental stewardship, environmental education and outdoor experiences.





# CONSERVATION

*Keeping lands natural for generations to come*

## Overview of Strategies, Priorities & Initiatives

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>STRATEGY 1</b> | Acquire Lands for connectivity, wildlife corridors, natural separators, community viewsheds, and recreation.  |
| <b>Priority A</b> | <b>River corridor properties and connectivity</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | East Big Thompson Properties and Connections<br><i>Update: Trail Corridor identified- Hwy 287 to I-25<br/>Completed East Big Thompson Management Plan</i>   |
| Key Initiative 2  | Secure Lease/Easement for Wild Natural Area<br><i>Update: On-hold pending Glade Road Traffic Signal</i>   |
| <b>Priority B</b> | <b>Foothills and West Loveland</b>  |
| Key Initiative 1  | Skyline Natural Area South End Properties<br><i>Update: TWB Secured Through Tax Lien<br/>Unsuccessful contract offer</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | Skyline Natural Area North End Easements<br><i>Update: Awaiting Installation of new City Water Tank<br/>Trail connection and trailhead contingent on residential development</i>  |
| Key Initiative 3  | Secure Easements for Future Connections at Northwest Loveland<br><i>Update: Secured additional trail easement south of Prairie Ridge<br/>Working with developments north of 43<sup>rd</sup> for sidewalk/trail/bike lanes<br/>Wilson Avenue Sidewalk/Trail under Construction</i> |
| <b>Priority C</b> | <b>Open space buffers, connectors and trail corridors are reserved</b>  |
| Key Initiative 1  | Kauffman Conservation Easement Transfer/East Big T Connections<br><i>Update: Kauffman CE Transferred from Larimer County to Loveland<br/>Coulson Maintenance Easement Secured &amp; Discussions<br/>Development Review of Concepts for Boyd Lake Avenue</i>                       |
| Key Initiative 2  | Finalize TWB acquisition<br><i>Update: TWB Secured Through Tax Lien</i>   |
| Key Initiative 3  | Trail Easement at I-25<br><i>Update: Engineering concept plans completed for trail corridor<br/>Negotiations underway with landowner<br/>Construction of CDOT's bridge over Big Thompson River underway</i>   |
| Key Initiative 4  | Franson and Hatfield access easements at Cottonwood Run<br><i>Update: Letter of easement request mailed to landowner. No response.</i>  |
| <b>STRATEGY 2</b> | <b>Restore Lands to Native Condition</b>  |
| <b>Priority A</b> | <b>Promote a healthy and sustainable Big Thompson River Corridor</b>  |
| Key Initiative 1  | Restoration of Medina's Crossing River Corridor<br><i>Update: Warranty Period/maintenance by Big Thompson Watershed Coalition.<br/>Spring &amp; Fall Volunteer Planting Projects thru WRV</i>   |
| Key Initiative 2  | Pursue Grant Funding for river improvements at Boise Bend<br><i>Update: River improvement design complete. Grant request unfunded<br/>Storm Water Project at Old St. Louis/Boise Bend underway<br/>Participation on BT Watershed Coalition Envisioning Project</i>                |
| Key Initiative 3  | CATS restoration training and project at Boise Bend<br><i>Update: Restoration Training and trail construction by WRV &amp; CATS<br/>Sawyer Work to remove 2013 Flood Woody Debris</i>   |

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Priority B</b> | <b>Plant native grasses and plants.</b>  |
| Key Initiative 1  | Restoration of Sunset Vista Natural Area<br><i>Update: Areas south of Louden Ditch planted with natives<br/>Sawyer work by CATS to removed dead tree material by homestead</i>   |
| Key Initiative 2  | Restoration of Medina's Crossing<br><i>Update: Wetland and upland plants added in addition to grant projects<br/>Weed warrior projects to protect new plantings.</i>   |
| Key Initiative 3  | Restoration of Prairie Ridge Trail Corridor & land adjacent to wetlands<br><i>Update: Trail corridor &amp; 2-tracks seeded with construction projects<br/>Area south of parking lot (14 acres) seeded with natives this fall<br/>Grant funding for wetland restoration project pursued</i> |
| <b>Priority C</b> | <b>Promote Healthy environments for wildlife</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Raptor Monitoring Program<br><i>Update: Successful Raptor monitoring program with training &amp; new volunteers.<br/>Addition of new Osprey Cam</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | Active Management of Wildlife Issues with CPW<br><i>Update: CPW active on sites and reviewed all new proposed public sites.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 3  | Hire Resource Assistant to assist with Wildlife Management/Research<br><i>Update: Collared Elk Research on Meadowbrook<br/>Managed Raptor Monitoring Progam<br/>Prairie Dog Research</i>   |
| <b>STRATEGY 2</b> | <b>Maintain lands to protect conserved values</b>  |
| <b>Priority A</b> | <b>Weed Management</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Manage of Invasive Species<br><i>Update: Proactive Weed Management Practices<br/>Week of Youth Corps to remove invasives from East Big Thompson</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | Experiment with new methods for weed control<br><i>Study area at Wild NA maintained during construction.</i>   |
| Key Initiative 3  | Use fire training to address appropriate weed areas<br><i>Update: 2019 fall practice burn at Boise Bend.<br/>2020 No projects planned with severe weather conditions.</i>  |
| <b>Priority B</b> | <b>Removal of debris, fencing and unused structures</b>  |
| Key Initiative 1  | Bonser Small Residential Structure removed.<br><i>Update: Smaller residential structure removed, garage remains<br/>Water spigot moved for potential future trailhead.</i>   |
| Key Initiative 2  | Removal of old fencing on various OL sites<br><i>Update: Fencing Material removed from Boedecker Bluff</i>   |
| <b>Priority C</b> | <b>Evaluate public use areas and restore areas affected by use</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Evaluate eroded areas and restore to more sustainable condition<br><i>Update: Areas fixed at Boise Bend, Front Range Trail, Oxbow, etc...</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | Revegetate social trails and block to protect areas under restoration<br><i>Update: Social trails revegetated at Meadowbrook, Boedecker &amp; VS.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 3  | Aggressive mangement and cleanup of Kings Crossing encamps<br><i>Update: Active removal of encampments by City Contractor.<br/>Dumpster and portalet added during cold COVID times<br/>Loveland Litter Control Volunteers performed weekly OL cleanups.</i>                                |

# EDUCATION

Provide the community with opportunities to learn about the natural environment and to be good stewards of natural resources

## Overview of Strategies, Priorities & Initiatives

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>STRATEGY 1</b> | Provide educational programs for youth to learn about the natural environment and stewardship   |
| <b>Priority A</b> | <b>Return of Viestenz-Smith Environmental Education</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Design and Fabricate Environmental Learning Stations<br><i>Update: Learning stations designed and installed.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | Design and Fabricate Historical & interpretive signage<br><i>Update: Designed and installed interpretive &amp; historical signage.</i>                                    |
| Key Initiative 3  | Update curriculum, equipment and facilities.<br><i>Update: Revamped EE cabin, equipment, resources and curriculum</i>   |
| <b>Priority B</b> | <b>Provide School Programs that match state-wide science curriculum</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Hire EE Instructor Position<br><i>Update: Hired position but due to COVID had to layoff intstructor</i>   |
| Key Initiative 2  | Recruit and train volunteers to meet programming needs<br><i>Update: CIG training/certification of 9 volunteers but limited programming</i>                               |
| Key Initiative 3  | Provide differential school programs at different sites.<br><i>Update: No School District programs were held due to COVID. A few small homeschool programs were held.</i> |
| <b>Priority C</b> | <b>Opportunities for Youth to Engage and learn about the outdoors</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | PEEPS (Preschool Environmental Education Program)<br><i>Update: Self-guided programs were held this summer and fall.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | CSI (Critter Scene Investigation)<br><i>Update: Small group sized program was offered this fall.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 3  | Outdoor Skills Programs (Orienteering, GPS, Fishing, etc....)<br><i>Update: Due to COVID- only a few limited programs were held.</i>                                      |
| <b>STRATEGY 2</b> | <b>Provide community environmental programs and opportunities</b>   |
| <b>Priority A</b> | <b>Offer new programs to encourage community outdoor engagement</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | New programming at Viestenz-Smith<br><i>Update: Several history tours and EE cabin open houses held, due to COVID.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | Community Programs (Dog Day, Stargazing, Orienteering, etc...)<br><i>Update: A couple self-guided or online programs held due to COVID.</i>                               |
| Key Initiative 3  | Citizen Science<br><i>Update: Raptor Monitoring Program</i>   |
| <b>Priority B</b> | <b>Avian monitoring and sharing of wildlife</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Raptor Montioring and Annual Community Bird Count<br><i>Update: Active raptor monitoring year &amp; bird counts held in January and May</i>                               |
| Key Initiative 2  | Wildlife, owl, kestrel and osprey cameras<br><i>Update: Successful live cams</i>  |
| Key Initiative 3  | Viewable Osprey platforms<br><i>Update: Osprey nests at Barnes Park, Medina's, and Boise Bend.</i>  |
| <b>Priority C</b> | <b>Use of kiosks and interpretive signage for environmental education</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Prairie Ridge Natural Area<br><i>Update: Kiosk installed. Interpretive signs designed but not installed.</i>  |

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Key Initiative 2  | Sunset Vista Natural Area<br><i>Update: Kiosk will be installed when soft-surface trail connected.</i>   |
| Key Initiative 3  | Boedecker Bluff Natural Area<br><i>Update: Kiosk installed. Interpretive sign designed but not installed.</i>  |
| <b>STRATEGY 3</b> | <b>Use stewardship to teach land preservation practices</b>  |
| <b>Priority A</b> | <b>Stewardship projects with youth opportunities</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Youth Corps, Front Range CC Science Students, Interns<br><i>Update: Youth Corps completed invasive removal work. Front Range CC performed limited work during the fall semester.</i>   |
| Key Initiative 2  | Include opportunities for youth to help with stewardship projects<br><i>Update: Eagle Scout installed 3 bike repair stations funded by a grant. Eagle Scout renovated EE learning stations at River's Edge. A few youth participated with trail building on National Trails Day.</i> |
| Key Initiative 3  | Provide projects for Alternative Sentencing Program<br><i>Update: No projects assigned this year due to court closures due to COVID.</i>   |
| <b>Priority B</b> | <b>Maximize resources by utilizing community volunteers</b>  |
| Key Initiative 1  | Never turn away a volunteer<br><i>Update: Used all available volunteers under COVID restrictions &amp; protocols. Re-introduction of Loveland Litter Control Volunteer Group this fall.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | Promote all volunteer opportunities on Offero and Social Media<br><i>Update: Active use of Offero and Social Media for communications</i>  |
| Key Initiative 3  | For each project, determine tasks that can be performed by volunteers<br><i>Update: Ongoing list of tasks, projects &amp; locations appropriate for volunteers.</i>  |
| <b>Priority C</b> | <b>Train, utilize and recognize volunteers</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Volunteer Open House to promote opportunities<br><i>Update: Very successful Volunteer Open House pre-COVID.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | Provide training for each volunteer type<br><i>Update: Training occurred in the beginning of year &amp; small trainings since</i>  |
| Key Initiative 3  | Recognize the efforts and commitment made by volunteers<br><i>Update: Year-end volunteer appreciation planned.</i>   |

## STEWARDSHIP

*Maintaining and improving our natural resources*

### Overview of Strategies, Priorities & Initiatives

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>STRATEGY 1</b> | <b>Manage lands to protect identified resources</b>  |
| <b>Priority A</b> | <b>Prepare Management and Master Plans</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Skyline Natural Area Management Plan<br><i>Update: Final Draft Plan posted for final community input/review</i>    |
| Key Initiative 2  | East Big Thompson River Management Plan<br><i>Update: Final Draft Plan posted for final community input/review</i> |
| Key Initiative 3  | Update of Department Master Plan<br><i>Update: Department Master Plan Update scheduled for 2021</i>                |
| <b>Priority B</b> | <b>Maintain lands, water and vegetation in its most natural state</b>  |
| Key Initiative 1  | Aggressive Weed Management<br><i>Update: Proactively addressed weed mgt. Developing Weed Plan by Site</i>          |

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Key Initiative 2  | Restoration of non-native or blighted areas<br><i>Update: Restoration of weeded and blighted areas at PR, OSL, Boedecker and Boise Bend.</i>   |
| Key Initiative 3  | Planting of native trees, shrubs and grasses<br><i>Update: Planting of trees, grasses, shrubs and native plants.</i>   |
| <b>Priority C</b> | <b>Sustainable design</b>  |
| Key Initiative 1  | Hazard tree removal<br><i>Update: Removal of several hazard trees at Boise Bend, Louden Ditch, Rec Trail and Morey.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | Designs Standard Manual and specifications<br><i>Update: Open Lands Components of P&amp;R Designs Standards Manual Complete</i>  |
| Key Initiative 3  | Strategic placement of trails to protect natural resource values<br><i>Update: Planning team evaluated placement of South Front Range, Willow Bend, Boise Bend, Skyline, East Big Thompson and Boedecker trails.</i> |
| <b>STRATEGY 2</b> | <b>Hire, train and retain qualified and share resources with other organizations</b>   |
| <b>Priority A</b> | <b>Collaboration with other conservation organizations</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Prairie Ridge Natural Area Enforcement by Larimer County<br><i>Update: Successful IGA with Larimer County for enforcement. No site incidents.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | Weed District IGA<br><i>Update: IGA provides efficiency on procurement of weed district services.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 3  | Quarterly meetings with Larimer County and Fort Collins to share<br><i>Update: Due to COVID, 3 meetings occurred rather than 4</i>   |
| <b>Priority B</b> | <b>Active participation in professional organizations, regional planning &amp; training opportunities</b>  |
| Key Initiative 1  | Attendance at COSA Annual Conference<br><i>Update: Annual Conference cancelled due to COVID. Virtually attended Keynote Presentation in October.</i>   |
| Key Initiative 2  | Participation in Northern Colorado Ped and Bike Collaborative<br><i>Update: Regular attendance with Collaborative resulting in regional planning and grant opportunities.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 3  | Continuing education for staff<br><i>Update: Each staff member given educational opportunities.</i>  |
| <b>Priority C</b> | <b>Right size the Division to manage and maintain sites &amp; programs</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Determine Work Plan for new Resource Technician<br><i>Update: Technician involved in many field projects and biology assessments. Led 2020 Raptor Monitoring Program. Refining job description &amp; duties.</i>     |
| Key Initiative 2  | Hire and train new FT Maintenance Worker and EE Instructor<br><i>Update: Successfully hired and trained Maintenance Worker. EE Instructor worked limited hours due to COVID.</i>                                     |
| <b>STRATEGY 3</b> | <b>Maximize available Financial Resources</b>  |
| <b>Priority A</b> | <b>Financial Resource Management</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Prepare and modify a 5 Year Financial Plan (Capital and Operational)<br><i>Update: Balanced 10 year plan approved with 2021 City Budget</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | Detail Budget Sheets for Capital Projects and Operational Decisions<br><i>Update: Detailed cost estimates prepared for each project.</i>   |
| Key Initiative 3  | Budget operational expenditures with each acquisition<br><i>Update: Operational Costs budgeted for each acquisition.</i>   |

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Priority B</b> | <b>Actively pursue grants, partnerships, donations and other revenue</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Apply for Open Lands, Trails, Restoration & Recreation Grants<br><i>Update: Actively pursued grants. Granted \$1.225M in trails grants.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | Partner with other organizations and donors to achieve our goals.<br><i>Update: Donations for open land projects &amp; maintenance vehicle. Solicited donations to assist with cost of new Osprey Cam. Rise Broadband donated WiFi services and equipment.</i> |
| Key Initiative 3  | Lease structures and lands to generate revenues.<br><i>Update: Leases generate revenue and used as a land management tool.</i>   |
| <b>Priority C</b> | <b>Maximize the use of volunteers</b>  |
| Key Initiative 1  | To offer provide educational programs<br><i>Update: Volunteers helped with programs but programming was limited by COVID.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | To perform stewardship projects (trails, weed warriors, trail hosts, clean)<br><i>Update: Volunteers helped with trails, weeds, educating, and debris clean-up</i>   |
| Key Initiative 3  | To be trail hosts to educate the public and monitor sites<br><i>Update: Trail hosts were critical with COVID increases in visitation.</i>  |

## RECREATION

*Opportunity to use trails and open land sites for active outdoor enjoyment*

| <b>Overview of Strategies, Priorities &amp; Initiatives</b> |   |
|---|---|
| <b>STRATEGY 1</b>   | <b>Provide quality outdoor sites for public access while protecting its natural resources</b>   |
| <b>Priority A</b>   | <b>Provide new soft-surface trails for public access.</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Prairie Ridge Natural Area<br><i>Update: 2.5 miles of trail opened in May with Virtual Grand Opening.</i>                             |
| Key Initiative 2  | Boedecker Bluff Natural Area<br><i>Update: 1 mile of trail opened May 18<sup>th</sup>.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 3  | Sunset Vista Natural Area<br><i>Update: 1 mile of trail under construction by volunteers.</i>   |
| Key Initiative 4  | Willow Bend Natural Area fishing pond and trail<br><i>Update: Fishing Dock installed. Public access on hold till the spring.</i>      |
| <b>Priority B</b>   | <b>Actively plan for future public access sites</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Skyline Natural Area<br><i>Update: Management Plan prepared. Working on associated easements, connections, acquisitions, etc..</i>    |
| Key Initiative 2  | Wild Natural Area<br><i>Update: On hold until grant funded traffic signal is installed at Glade in 2023</i>                           |
| Key Initiative 3  | Additional features at Willow Bend Natural Area<br><i>Update: Concept design for park and open lands underway by P&amp;R Planners</i> |
| <b>Priority C</b>   | <b>Develop recreational features on open lands and trails</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Nature Play Zone at Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park<br><i>Update: Nature Play area designed and installed.</i>                           |
| Key Initiative 2  | UC Health Grant Features at Old St Louis Natural Area<br><i>Update: Nature Play features designed and installed</i>                   |

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Key Initiative 3  | Viewing scope at Boedecker Bluff Natural Area<br><i>Update: Bench Installed. Scope to be installed with interpretive sign.</i>  |
| <b>STRATEGY 2</b> | <b>Diversity of Opportunities</b>   |
| Priority A        | Foothill trails   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Prairie Ridge Natural Area<br><i>Update: Prairie Ridge offers an ADA foothill trail experience. Gradual slopes make the site friendly for seniors, families and those with special needs.</i>         |
| Key Initiative 2  | Skyline Natural Area<br><i>Update: Trail not yet designed or constructed.</i>   |
| Priority B        | <b>Water/Fishing Opportunities</b>  |
| Key Initiative 1  | Boedecker Bluff<br><i>Update: New shoreline fishing opportunity</i>   |
| Key Initiative 2  | Willow Bend<br><i>Update: Fishing Dock installed but not yet opened to the public.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 3  | Old St Louis Natural Area<br><i>Update: With fall storm water project, a strip of river access will be available for river fishing.</i>   |
| Key Initiative 4  | Wild Natural Area<br><i>Update: Successful River restoration but site not yet open to public</i>  |
| <b>STRATEGY 3</b> | <b>Provide paved community recreational trails</b>  |
| Priority A        | <b>Complete missing linkages in recreation trail loop</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Trail from Sunset Vista parking lot to BNSF Railroad corridor<br><i>Update: Project has been bid and is under construction</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | Trail in BNSF RR Corridor and associated easements<br><i>Update: Easement complete, Application to PUC and BNSF in progress.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 3  | Developer-dependent trail through Copper Ridge development<br><i>Update: Developer trail completed to 57<sup>th</sup> Street</i>  |
| Key Initiative 4  | Ditch Company-dependent trail along Big Barnes Ditch at Namaqua Rd<br><i>Update: Approval by GLIC to construct paved trail.<br/>CDOT allowed underpass grant to be changed to construction grant.</i> |
| Priority B        | <b>New connector trails off of the Recreation Trail Loop</b>  |
| Key Initiative 1  | Centerra Trail<br><i>Update: \$1.225M in grant funding secured. Design and planning in progress.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | East Big Thompson River Trail<br><i>Update: Management Plan complete. Planning and trail corridors visioned.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 3  | South Front Range Trail to Berthoud<br><i>Update: Studying trail alternatives. Reviewed concepts with CPW.</i>  |
| Priority C        | <b>Regional Trail Connectivity</b>  |
| Key Initiative 1  | CDOT IGA - pedestrian underpass-new I-25/Big Thompson River Bridge<br><i>Update: CDOT IGA with Loveland amended to include trail underpass.</i>   |
| Key Initiative 2  | IGA with Johnstown to cost share I-25 trail underpass costs.<br><i>Update: IGA with Johnstown executed and funding received from Johnstown.</i>   |
| Key Initiative 3  | Easements at I-25 for trail corridor<br><i>Update: Engineering and negotiations underway.</i>   |

# HEALTH AND WELLNESS

*Engagement in the outdoors improves health and community wellness*

## Overview of Strategies, Priorities & Initiatives

| <b>STRATEGY 1</b> |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Priority A</b> | <b>Promote the mental and physical benefits of outdoor engagement</b>  |
| Key Initiative 1  | NRPA 10-minute walk standard<br><i>Update: Loveland meets standard of 10 minute walk to park or Open Lands. Will be reassessed and measured with Master Plan Update in 2021.</i>                 |
| Key Initiative 2  | Public Access to open land sites<br><i>Update: Access to 2 new sites added in 2020</i>   |
| Key Initiative 3  | Offer a wide variety of community programs<br><i>Update: New remote and self-guided programs added in 2020</i>   |
| <b>Priority B</b> | <b>Offering programming with promotes individual health and wellness</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Yoga at RENA, walking programs, Bike and Walk Month<br><i>Update: Majority of programming cancelled due to COVID. Bike to Work and Alternative Transportation month were recorded virtually.</i> |
| <b>Priority C</b> | <b>Social equity to all</b>  |
| Key Initiative 1  | Free programs for all ages<br><i>Update: No fees for any open lands programs or sites.</i>   |
| Key Initiative 2  | ADA Accommodations on Open Lands and Trails<br><i>Update: Final ADA improvement projects including trail re-construction.</i>  |
| <b>STRATEGY 2</b> |  |
| <b>Priority A</b> | <b>UC Health Foundation Grants</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Complete Intergenerational Grant for St. Louis Natural Area<br><i>Update: Grant report complete. Programming delayed due to COVID.</i>   |
| Key Initiative 2  | Pursue new outdoor recreation grants<br><i>Update: Successfully applied for bike repair stations (3) grant GOCO resiliency grant for Oxbow (Parking, restroom, draingage)</i>                    |
| Key Initiative 3  | Sponsorship for bike pumps along the Recreation Trail.<br><i>Update: Bike repair stations funded by grant &amp; installed by Eagle Scout</i>   |
| <b>Priority B</b> | <b>Community sponsored programs on Open Lands</b>  |
| Key Initiative 1  | Races on the receation trail and River's Edge Natural Area<br><i>Update: Accommodated 3 community and 3 High School races at RENA</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | Citizen Science Projects<br><i>Update: No projects due to COVID.</i>   |
| Key Initiative 3  | Community Stewardship Projects<br><i>Update: National Trails Day, Community Clean-Up, Weeds, Plantings, etc...</i>   |
| <b>Priority C</b> | <b>Inclusivity of all citizens</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Planning for All-Inclusive Features at Willow Bend Natural Area/Park<br><i>Update: Concept Plan underway for Willow Bend by planners.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | Construction of ADA accessible trails<br><i>Update: Accessible trail at Prairie Ridge &amp; accessible dock at Willow Bend.</i>  |
| <b>Priority D</b> | <b>Presentations to Senior Living Residents</b>  |
| Key Initiative 1  | Marisol Senior Living Community, Wexford, Chilson Senior Center<br><i>Update: No presentations due to COVID.</i>   |

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Priority E</b> | <b>Coordination and partnership with service organizations/schools</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Presentations to local service clubs<br><i>Update: Presentation to Rotary Club, Transportation Commission &amp; Johnstown</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | Winona Elementary programming at Old St Louis<br><i>Update: No programming due to COVID restrictions.</i>  |
| <b>Priority F</b> | <b>Promotion of Open Space Values</b>  |
| Key Initiative 1  | Videos of volunteers and sites<br><i>Update: Volunteer video and Prairie Ridge Videos prepared.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | Update of website and social media promotions<br><i>Update: New website platform launched by the City.</i>   |
| <b>STRATEGY 3</b> | <b>Provide a Safe Environment for open land and trail visitors</b>   |
| <b>Priority A</b> | <b>Partnerships and communication with Law Enforcement</b>   |
| Key Initiative 1  | Increase communications with Loveland PD on issues & enforcement<br><i>Update: Increased partnership and communications with PD.</i>   |
| Key Initiative 2  | Police bike patrol and involvement on OL & Trail sites.<br><i>Update: Active bike and trail patrols on the Recreation Trail &amp; RENA</i>   |
| Key Initiative 3  | Increased enforcement by Animal Control for dog leash & dog waste.<br><i>Update: Greater presence by Animal Control but still not issuing tickets. Have requested more forceful enforcements &amp; active dogs on leash campaign.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 4  | Presence and enforcement by Colorado Parks and Wildlife<br><i>Update: CPW regularly visits sites and issued some fishing tickets.</i>  |
| <b>Priority B</b> | <b>Communicate/educate on safe practices on Open Lands and Trails</b>  |
| Key Initiative 1  | Install kiosks throughout trail system to communicate information<br><i>Update: New trail kiosks being installed fall and winter.</i>  |
| Key Initiative 2  | Install trail etiquette signs along recreation trail<br><i>Update: Dozens of new etiquette signs have been installed along the trails.</i>   |
| Key Initiative 3  | Train and utilize trail hosts to educate users on best safety practices<br><i>Update: Trail hosts have been critical to providing feedback to staff and tracking visitor practices during COVID. Trail hosts were provided training and an information guide to help the with their tasks.</i> |

#### Conclusion:

This strategic plan set forth a framework of strategies and initiatives to meet community Open Lands and Trails demands and largely all initiatives were achieved in spite of COVID restrictions. This plan aligns with the City of Loveland and Loveland Parks and Recreation Strategic Plans to provide direction and clear communication regarding community goals.