

River's Edge Natural Area: study in resilience



Two years after flood, natural area recovers, reopens

Sept. 28, 2013, would have been a day to mark the culmination of the largest and most ambitious open space project in Loveland's history.

The River's Edge Natural Area, with its 155 acres of ponds, wetlands, meadows and trails, would have been officially presented to Loveland citizens as a showcase for the best that Nature can offer.

But Nature had intervened exactly two weeks prior in a cataclysmic way when the Big

This view westward from the east shore of Bass Pond, the largest of the five at River's Edge Natural Area, illustrates the area's unique status as an "urban oasis."

Thompson River, fed by five days of relentless mountain rain, scoured away the new natural area's manmade features and left waterways choked with silt and the landscape strewn with thousands of tons of upstream debris.

On Sept. 24, two years and 11 days after the 2013 Flood, the City's

residents will gather to celebrate recovery and the rebirth of River's Edge.

"It's probably the best example we have of what 'resilience' really means," said Debbie Eley, an open lands specialist with the Loveland Parks & Recreation Department who has invested much of her City career in the development of River's Edge. "Nature rebounds, and nowhere is that more evident than in this special and wonderful place."

The natural area is unique along Colorado's populous Front Range. It is an urban oasis, a seemingly vast natural landscape

Grand Reopening

At 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, join your neighbors and City officials, Loveland Parks & Recreation Department employees and the contractor, Territory Unlimited LLC, to celebrate the opening of River's Edge Natural Area.

RENA (from page 1)
hemmed in on all sides by
Loveland's residential
and commercial zones.

The landscape embodies all that
a natural area should be: Elk, deer,
coyotes and the occasional black bear
visit, dropping in on the resident
populations of herons, pelicans,
cormorants and mergansers. Warm-
and cold-water fisheries flourish in
the five ponds that cover most of the
River's Edge acreage.

Native vegetation has recovered
in most areas and, where it has not,
parks volunteers have nudged it
along by replanting native species.

While portions of River's Edge
were made available for hiking and
fishing more than a year ago, after
temporary safety-related repairs, its
core features have been off limits.
A parking lot was obliterated by the
flood. Fishing docks were swept
away. The area's compact picnic
pavilions were heavily damaged,
along with miles of trails and

walkways.

Reconstruction of those features
began last spring, with the \$800,000
rebuilding project paid for mostly
through FEMA reimbursements.
Smaller shares of the rebuilding
tab came through Colorado Parks
& Wildlife, lottery-funded Great
Outdoors Colorado and the Colorado
Office of Emergency Management.

River's Edge Natural Area also
"grew" during the two years since
the flood, from 155 to 162 acres, with
the purchases of smaller adjacent
properties.

One of those acquisitions, a
five-acre wedge on the natural area's
southwestern corner, provides trail
access from Loveland neighborhoods
in the vicinity of South Taft Avenue
and Carlisle Drive.

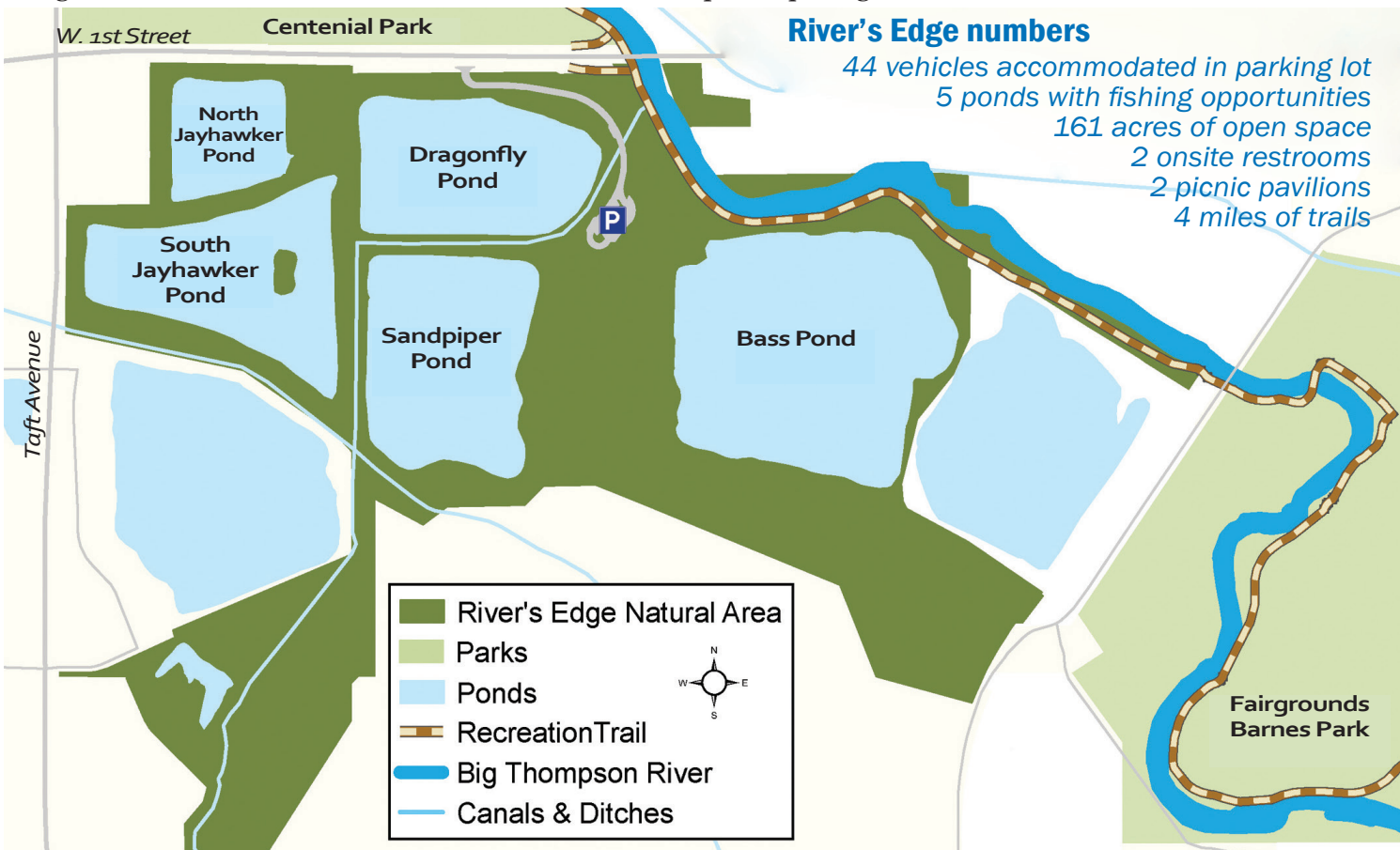
The City's \$889,000 purchase
of the open-lands portion of the
Hewlett-Packard holdings made
River's Edge a bargain by any
standard, with the price equating to

about \$7,000 per acre.

Residents who join in the Grand
Re-Opening celebration Sept. 24 will
find the parking lot, picnic pavilions,
a natural stone amphitheater and
other man-made features rebuilt,
but relocated to make them less
vulnerable to future floods.

Trails that wrap the ponds
provide access to fishing spots,
including a dock specifically designed
for people with disabilities on
the east shore of Dragonfly Pond
and improved access to popular
Jayhawker Pond.

River's Edge Natural Area's
main access is by a paved entry
road at 960 W. First Street, just east
of Taft Avenue. A short spur from
the Loveland Recreation Trail that
follows the Big Thompson River also
provides access for Rec Trail users.
Additional parking, a short distance
from River's Edge via the Recreation
Trail, is at Centennial Park on the
north side of First Street.



Rules for drivers, pedestrians at RRFBs

Colorado law is specific in safeguarding the rights of pedestrians. Red-and-yellow signs spell it out succinctly for drivers: "STATE LAW – YIELD to pedestrians in crosswalk."

But compliance rates with the law are lower than low. Fewer than one out of five drivers follow its letter, yielding to pedestrians who step into a marked crosswalk.

That is why Loveland has installed devices called Rectangular Rapid-Flash Beacons (RRFBs) in six locations around the city. The yellow, flashing LED lights are activated by pedestrians at the push of a button, alerting motorists with

attention-demanding light and color.

They work. Federal Highway Administration safety studies show that the rate at which drivers yield climbed from only 17 percent to a safer 81 percent.

In other words, four out of five drivers yield to crossing pedestrians at the beacons. That means drivers, and pedestrians and cyclists using the crossings, still have more work to do.

For drivers: Be alert, stop for pedestrians when the beacons flash, and proceed only when the crosswalk is clear.

For pedestrians: Be wary, and wait until all traffic stops before crossing. Do not assume pushing the button that starts the flashers will automatically stop traffic flow.

Three of Loveland's six RRFBs are at First Street intersections with Boise Avenue, Washington Avenue and Dotsero Drive. Another is on 22nd Street where the Recreation Trail crosses at Mehaffey Park, and two are located at roundabouts on Boyd Lake Avenue north of Eisenhower Boulevard.



SRTS bearing fruit

Since 2008 the City and school district have partnered to promote the Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS).

SRTS is designed to encourage kids and their families to use non-vehicular modes of transportation to get to and from school every day.

Benefits to children and adults alike are building a community of walking, biking or even rollerblading, sharing more time together, improving physical fitness, promoting vehicle and pedestrian safety, and reducing traffic congestion and as a result, improving air quality.

In 2010 the SRTS Task Force expanded its outreach, partnered with additional agencies, and is beginning to see the fruits of its labor.

According to Shelley Aschenbrenner, project engineer with the City's Public Works division, "It is helping. Overall we have seen an average decrease in personal vehicle trips of 4.3 percent and an increase in walking, biking and carpooling of 5.8 percent."

While these figures can't compare to statistics for alternative modes of transportation to school from decades ago, the SRTS team says they are significant and that they are headed in the right direction.

For more information go to cityofloveland.org/SRTS.

Drug Take-Back Day enables residents to dispose of unwanted drugs properly

Loveland Police will again partner with the Drug Enforcement Agency for Drug Take-Back Day, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday Sept. 26 in the parking lot of the Loveland Police Department (LPD) located at 810 E. Tenth St.

National Drug Take-Back Day provides an opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and over-the-counter medications to law enforcement officers for proper disposal.

Many Americans are not aware that medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly



susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse. This event aims to remove these potentially dangerous controlled substances from our nation's medicine cabinets to reduce the chance they are misused and dispose of them correctly.

The LPD will only accept medications during this scheduled event. Needles/sharps, mercury (thermometers), oxygen containers, chemotherapy/radioactive substances, pressurized canisters and/or illicit drugs will not be accepted.

Sign-up for household hazardous waste pick-up

Loveland's disabled and seniors can sign up for a door-to-door pick up of household hazardous waste products to be disposed of in an environmentally-responsible way.

Items for pick-up include adhesives, aerosols, hobby supplies, automotive products, batteries, cleaners, lubricants, paints, personal products, pesticides and other household chemicals.

For more information and a complete list of accepted materials go to cityofloveland.org/stormwater or call 962-2772.

Pick-ups will be limited to the first 40 residents who call and are planned for Thur., Oct. 1 and Fri., Oct. 2.

To sign up call 1-855-607-3452, choose option 3. Be prepared to leave a brief message, with your name, address and phone number.



Drive Electric Week

WHAT DO YOU DRIVE?

DRIVE. Sept. 12 & 13
Drive up to six different electric cars at two different locations

CHARGE. Sept. 15
Charge your workplace by attending a workplace charging workshop

SHARE. Sept. 12 to Sept. 20
Share the excitement #NoCoDrivesElectric & #NDEW2015

[#NoCoDrivesElectric](http://www.driveselectricnoco.org/DEW)

ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

The Chilson Challenge is a program designed to promote healthy habits! It is **FREE** & will run for the month of October.

**Wellness Talks & Drawings!
Earn a T-shirt! Get Fit!**

Register beginning September 8 in person or online.

Call 970-962-2FUN for more info!



Chilson
Recreation Center
700 E 4th St, Loveland

chilson
CHALLENGE

CityofLoveland.org/Chilson **2015**

Thank you!

...from the City of Loveland

**To the sponsors of the Business
Appreciation Breakfast held
September 9, 2015**



*We couldn't
have
done it with
out you!*



Annual Shred Event

Sat., Sept. 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
City of Loveland Recycling Center
400 N. Wilson Ave.

Residents with a current yard debris permit can safely shred sensitive documents free of charge. The cost to residents without a yard debris permit and county residents wishing to participate is \$5. Three bags or boxes per household please.

For more information call 962-2529 or visit cityofloveland.org/solidwaste.

SAT 10AM-4PM

SEPT 26th



2015 Family Safety & EMERGENCY Preparedness EXPO

FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**Fire Safety Trailer Tours
Educational Classes
Free Child ID Kits
Life and Fire Safety Information
Emergency Preparedness Supplies
Emergency Vehicles on Display
Win Valuable Raffle Prizes
Learn Life-Saving Tips**

Fun for the Whole Family!!



Thomas M. McKee 4H Building • The Ranch Events Complex
5280 Arena Circle, Loveland



City Update is a monthly publication of the City of Loveland. Residents receive City Update according to their utility billing cycle. Timeliness of the information may be affected by recipients' billing schedule. City Update is also available around the first of every month on the City's website at www.cityofloveland.org. Your comments are encouraged and welcomed at 962-2302, or Tom.Hacker@cityofloveland.org. The City of Loveland is committed to providing an equal opportunity for citizens and does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or gender. The City will make reasonable accommodations for citizens in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For more information, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator at 962-3319 or Bettie.Greenberg@cityofloveland.org.

Follow us on
Facebook,
Twitter
and
YouTube





Loveland Water and Power

PREPARE FOR A POWER OUTAGE.

In the very rare event that the power goes out, especially in cold weather, **do you know what to do to keep your family comfortable and safe?** As with any unforeseen event, advance planning can make a world of difference in your safety and comfort, no matter how long the outage.

YOUR GUIDE

TO POWER OUTAGE PREPARATION, CAUSES & RESTORATION

WHAT TO HAVE ON HAND...



LIGHT SOURCES

Several working flashlights and extra batteries (flashlights are much safer than candles and can even be handled by young children). A battery-powered camping lantern with extra batteries are useful.



COMMUNICATION

A battery-operated radio, a battery powered cell phone charger (cell phones lose their charge quickly) and if you have a land line remember cordless phones are useless during a power outages.



EMERGENCY FOOD

Foods that do not require cooking such as canned goods, cereals, crackers, cookies, shelf-safe milk (make sure you have a manual can opener) and bottled water for a variety of needs.



MEDICAL CONDITIONS

If you depend on electricity to power life support equipment, an outage can present a hardship. Consider buying a generator or make arrangements in advance to get to a facility that has backup generation. If you use oxygen, have full spare tanks or portable units with batteries.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A PROLONGED OUTAGE...

01

STAY WARM

Dress the family in warm clothing when temperatures are cold

02

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Make sure you have contingency plans for family members who rely on electric medical devices

03

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Check in on elderly neighbors to make sure they have what they need and are staying warm

04

PROTECT THE PIPES

For a prolonged outage, if the temperature in the house is dropping, run a trickle of water from faucets to keep pipes from freezing



STAY CONNECTED!

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION WITH UTILITY BILLING

It is very important that we have your correct phone number in order to provide you with accurate and timely information. Call **(970) 962-2111** to update or verify your phone number with our Utility Billing Department.

LETA - REVERSE 911

Sign up for reverse 911 calls for any type of emergency, not just a power outage. Register through Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority (LETA) at... **leta911.org** or call **(970) 962-2170**

NOTE: Not all emergencies and power outages are notified through LETA.



WHAT ARE THE MAIN CAUSES OF POWER OUTAGES IN LOVELAND?

No one likes it when the power goes out, especially Loveland Water and Power. Fortunately, due to Loveland's extremely high rate of uninterrupted power delivery (99.99%) an outage is a very rare occurrence. But that doesn't mean it can't happen.



Animals, usually squirrels, on overhead lines can cause a fault. Electric crews have installed guards to help prevent this type of outage.



Sometimes a vehicle hits an electric pole & causes the power lines create a short circuit. Or a collision may break a pole causing a power lines to drop to the ground.



When digging, an electric cable can be broken during construction projects or while planting trees in the backyard. **Call 811 before you dig!**



Transformers & other system equipment sometimes fail. This happens more frequently when the temperature is very cold or very hot.



When lightning strikes overhead electric lines or equipment, excess voltage may cause equipment to fail creating an outage.



Wind, snow and ice cause trees to fall on power lines creating an outage. Never touch or go near a power line on the ground.



Outages can be caused by trees growing into power lines.



Snow and ice accumulated on overhead power lines and equipment can cause lines to break.



OH NO, THE POWER IS OUT! WHAT NOW?

STEPS TO PROPERLY REPORT A POWER OUTAGE

Step 1: Check to see if others are without power. If you are the only one without electricity, check your circuit breaker panel or fuse box.

Step 2: If others are without power, call Loveland Water and Power. We recommend that you post the number near your electrical panel.

Step 3: Once you have reported an outage, know that crews are working on it. An occasional glitch could mean lights out for 30 seconds, three minutes, three hours or more.

MAIN SWITCHBOARD (NON-EMERGENCIES)

(970) 962-3000

EMERGENCIES POWER OUTAGES

(970) 663-1043

TO REPORT A LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY DIAL 911

KNOW YOUR POWER LINES!

If your service wire has been disconnected, check the equipment at your house. You may have to hire an electrician to repair the weatherhead or metermast before utility crews can reconnect service.

THE PROCESS OF POWER RESTORATION



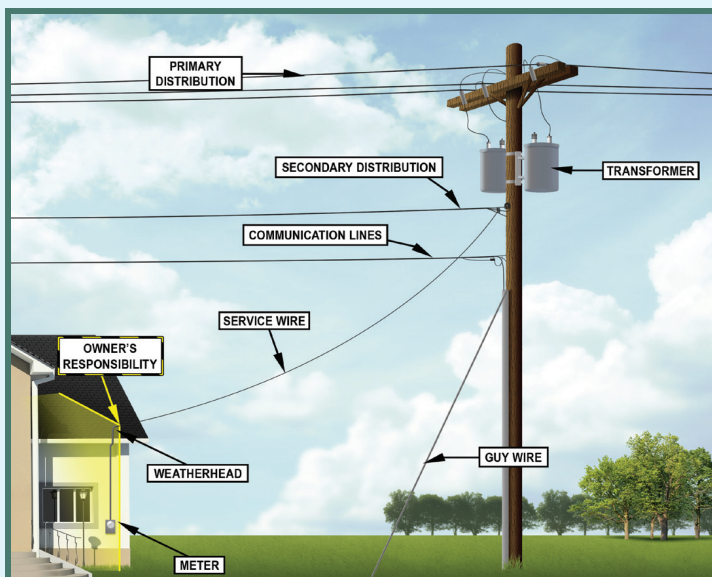
1. Crews wait until conditions are safe.

2. Transmission lines are inspected first.

3. Substations are inspected.

4. Primary and secondary lines are restored.

5. Critical infrastructures (hospitals, water and wastewater treatment facilities, etc.) give priority and then remaining grids are restored.



Outages often result from falling branches – especially during storms. Regular tree pruning can help customers avoid outages due to tree limbs. Keeping service wires clear of trees is the utility customer's responsibility.

To promote safety during tree trimming we will disconnect your service at no charge (during normal business hours).

CALL (970) 962-3581

during normal business hours at least 24 hours in advance



POWER OUTAGE DO'S

- Turn off appliances that were running before the outage. This protects the motor and makes it easier for restoration.
- Unplug your major appliances and electronics such as computers, TVs and stereos to protect them from a power surge that could occur when power is restored.
- Turn off the AC during hot weather.
- Be aware that a fireplace may pull more warm air from a house than it gives out.

POWER OUTAGE DONT'S



- Do not open your refrigerator or freezer door. (perishable food will usually be OK for hours if the cold air stays trapped)
- Do not use kerosene heaters, BBQ's of any kind in the house or garage as they can generate carbon monoxide gas and call illness.
- Do not go near downed power lines. If you see one, **DO CALL 911**

A FEW FINAL TIPS

Call emergency services only if you have a real emergency.

If you have to go out, drive carefully because traffic signals could also be out.

If traffic signals are not working treat all intersections as four-way stops.

For more information on power outages and power outage preparedness visit the Loveland Water and Power webpages at...

WWW.CITYOFLOVELAND.ORG/LWP