



# Exploring Loveland's natural "islands"



## New City natural areas and trails offer 'urban wild'

Few Loveland residents would know it, but the City has a slogan, a vision statement, developed more than 20 years ago as a conceptual guide for Loveland's future growth.

"A vibrant community, surrounded by natural beauty, where you belong."

Scores of community volunteers collaborated with staff members from across most City departments during that early 1990s "vision" process, and the group emerged with determination that the "natural beauty" component was central.

Nowhere is the principle more

**From a new trail** on the north shoulder of Mariana Butte at one of the City's newest natural areas, hikers can take in views of the snow-covered Mummy Range and Palisade Mountain.

evident than in recent work to acquire and preserve new City natural areas. The Parks and Recreation Department's Open Lands and Trails Division added hundreds of acres of open lands to the City's holdings during 2015, and is on track to acquire hundreds more this year adding to the more than 5,000 acres already set aside as City-owned protected open space.

Plenty of big thinking guided some of the new acquisitions. Larger parcels, some purchased in partnership with other regional entities, hold potential as important links in the development of future regional trail systems.

But thinking small is also a strategy, putting natural beauty easily within the reach of Loveland

neighborhoods.



**A Great Horned owl** watches over a brood after delivering a meal to their nest in a big cottonwood tree at Meadowbrook Natural Area, where City Open Lands and Trails Manager Marilyn Hilgenberg got this photo.

(see **Open space** page 2)



## Open space (from page 1)

"The foothills and the river corridor are priorities, goals that are set forth in our master plan," said Marilyn Hilgenberg, who this summer completes her first year as Open Lands and Trails manager. "But there are other opportunities in Loveland. We're trying to take advantage of those, in places in and around where we live. We're learning what we can do with little six- or seven-acre parcels. The goal is to provide snippets of the same opportunities larger tracts provide."

### 'Urban infill'

So-called "urban infill" real estate development is a land-use strategy that has taken hold nationwide as a measure to control sprawl and reinvigorate cities.

But "urban infill" natural areas? In Loveland, where topography and land availability present such opportunities, it makes sense.

The new Meadowbrook Natural Area is a prime example. It is a narrow, north-south oriented 26-acre greenway, north of U.S. 34 just east of Cascade Avenue and adjoining the La Quinta/Fountains hotel and event center.

While not exactly wild, and traversed by high-voltage overhead power lines, its wetlands and grassland provide a green "island" in the City and a pleasant walk through century-old cottonwoods, one of which provided a home for a family of Great Horned owls this spring.

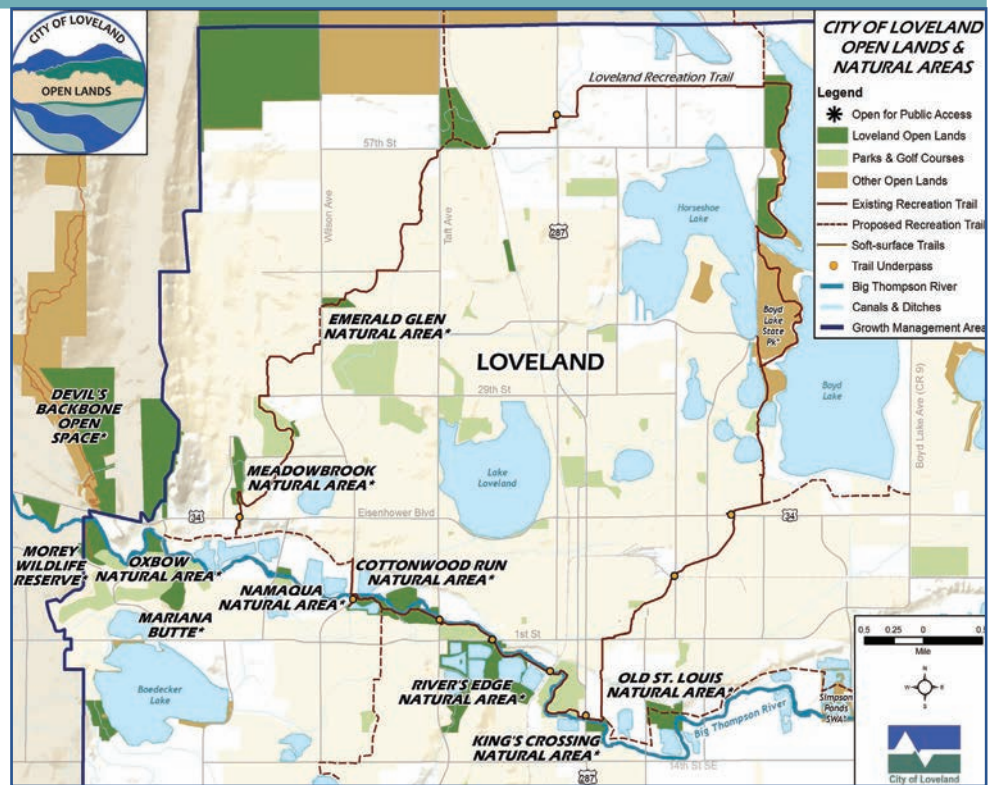
Another case is Mariana Butte. No, not the golf course. The butte. A new trail, just shy of a mile long, wraps the butte at the new Mariana Butte Natural Area and leads hikers

### Open space fund formula

City purchases of open space are paid for through the City's share of the Larimer County Open Space Fund, fed by a sales tax portion authorized by county taxpayers on repeated trips to the polls, and by Capital Expansion Fees paid mostly by real estate developers in the City, under the principle that growth must pay its own way.

More information:

[www.cityofloveland.org/OpenLands](http://www.cityofloveland.org/OpenLands)



**Public access to Loveland's** natural areas has expanded this spring, with new natural areas along the Big Thompson River and in west Loveland indicated on this map. Visit [www.cityofloveland.org/CityUpdate](http://www.cityofloveland.org/CityUpdate) to zoom in for a closer look.

into spots where neighborhoods and the golf course mostly disappear, leaving only views of foothill canyons and Front Range peaks clad in snow.

### CATS contribute

Most of the trail – more than half a mile – is the handiwork of a group called CATS. The Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders Society has worked on trail projects throughout the region since its founder, former Colorado Springs resident Bob Johnson, moved north to Fort Collins.

Six core CATS members, and a legion of community volunteers, worked on the project with end-of-day meals and drinks at the Wapiti Grill at the golf course clubhouse their compensation.

Their finished product, replete with intricate stone steps up steeper grades, replaced a "social trail" that had been blazed by residents but had led to serious erosion problems.

Strung like beads along the course of the Big Thompson River lie other small natural area enclaves, some open to public

access for the first time this spring.

The newest version of a Parks and Recreation Department's Open Lands map (above) indicates those that are open to the public. They include the Oxbow, Namaqua and Cottonwood Run natural areas in west Loveland, King's Crossing Natural Area just east of the Lincoln Avenue bridge over the Big Thompson, and the Old St. Louis Natural Area along the river east of St. Louis Avenue.

In the middle is Loveland's most talked-about natural area, River's Edge, where Berthoud resident Jamie Singer and his 9-year-old son Jason spent part of a late April Saturday fishing at Bass Pond. The natural area's 163 acres opened in September, two years after it was mostly washed away in the 2013 Flood.

"Loveland has really done some amazing things here," Singer said. "We're close enough that we can easily get here a couple of Saturdays a month, but I think we'd come here even if we lived further away. ...This City has really put something together that it can be proud of."

# The library's summer reading program makes reading rewarding for all ages

Get your mind and body in motion this summer with events, prizes, games and badges for all ages at Loveland Library's 2016 Summer Reading Program.

This year's theme is Health, Wellness & Sports and we've got lots of fun challenges, engaging presenters and awesome incentives.

The program will kick-off on June 1 with family activities from 3-6 p.m., a teens-only party from 5:30-7 p.m., and an evening of live Americana music with Bonnie Sims for the adults.

Back by popular demand, iMake (a drop-in library maker space for ages 0-10) will offer hands-on technology, crafts and play all summer long, while weekly elementary programming will

focus on science, sports and health activities.

Teens can get in the game with cosplay, gaming, tech and cooking programs while adults can exercise their minds with a robotics demo, tea party, relaxation program and citizen mapathon.

All ages can log points, earn digital badges and unlock games online. Best of all, reading isn't the



only way to participate. You can volunteer and experience things such as going to the Loveland Museum, attending a festival downtown, or visiting one of our local parks to earn points, badges, and prizes.

Kids can earn free books and yard signs that announce "A Reading Champion Lives Here," teens can earn coupons to local businesses and technology prizes, and adults can qualify to win one of two Kindle Readers.

Sign-up for Loveland Library's annual summer reading program beginning May 1 online at <http://loveland.readsquared.com>.

So what are you waiting for? On your mark, get set, *read!*

## One more reason to love summertime - the City's annual Farmers Market

The City of Loveland Farmers Market is actively seeking vendors for the annual farmers market that will be held every Sunday beginning June 26 at Fairgrounds Park in Loveland.



Flower, vegetable and grass-fed meat growers, wine-makers, salsa and sauce makers, chocolatiers, bakers, food trucks, musicians and other artisan food producers and crafters are encouraged to apply.

Applications can be found at [cityofloveland.org/farmersmarket](http://cityofloveland.org/farmersmarket).



2016 applications are due May 31.

For more information on being a vendor or other questions about the Farmers Market, call 962-2432.

## Register now for a variety of summer athletics through Parks and Rec

Kids and adults alike can stay active and have fun this summer by participating in a variety of athletic programs through the City of Loveland Parks and Recreation department.

### Something for everyone

Sports include group tennis lessons, private tennis lessons, CARA tennis team, gymnastics, lacrosse, outdoor basketball, soccer, T-ball, baseball and girls fast-pitch softball.

Adult athletic programs include lacrosse, tennis, grass volleyball and sand volleyball.

Register in person at the Chilson Recreation Center or online at [cityofloveland.org/webtrac](http://cityofloveland.org/webtrac).

For more information on Parks & Rec athletics programs call 962-2383 or go to [cityofloveland.org/leisuretimes](http://cityofloveland.org/leisuretimes).





## Fishing Derby June 4

The annual Loveland Police Fishing Derby will be held from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, June 4 at the Duck Pond in North Lake Park.

This event is for kids under the age of 15. All ages can fish after 3 p.m.

Colorado Youth Outdoors will teach participants how to clean and cook fish. The Loveland Fishing Club will handle registration, tackle, prize drawings and fishing tips. Colorado Parks and Wildlife will provide the fish and have clinics about fishing.

Registration is on the day of the derby before fishing. Registration areas are located at the parking lot of Loveland High School on the east side of the pond and Shelter #2 in North Lake Park on the west side of the pond.

For information call 962-2229 or go to [cityofloveland.org/FishingDerby](http://cityofloveland.org/FishingDerby).

## LYG Garden Tour June 18

The 13th annual Loveland Garden Tour & Art Show to benefit Loveland Youth Gardeners will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, June 18.

Six lakeside gardens in northeast Loveland will be showcased along with a selection of exclusive artwork by local artisans. There will also be a silent auction of up-cycled garden benches created by local artists.

Tickets \$15, children 12 and under free. For more information go to [LovelandYouthGardeners.org](http://LovelandYouthGardeners.org) or call 669-7182. Sponsored in-part by Loveland Water and Power.



**Loveland Youth Gardeners**  
Planting Seeds \* Growing Youth \* Nourishing Community  
[www.LovelandYouthGardeners.org](http://www.LovelandYouthGardeners.org)

## Annual LCNO is June 15

The thirteenth annual Loveland Community Night Out evening of block parties will be held from 6-10 p.m., Wednesday, June 15.

LCNO helps neighbors get to know each other better, and meet Loveland police officers, firefighters, EMS personnel, City Council members, City staff and the volunteers who work to keep Loveland a healthy and safe place to live.

This year, residents can show support for law enforcement and the reduction of crime and violence in their neighborhoods by putting a blue bulb in their porch or yard lights.

To host a block party go to [cityofloveland.org/EventPermits](http://cityofloveland.org/EventPermits).

For more information on the LCNO call the LPD's crime prevention officer at 962-2229.

## Vacation home checks

The Loveland Police department's Senior Police Volunteers can provide some peace of mind to residents who are going out of town by conducting free vacation home checks.

Inspections include checking doors and windows to make sure they're locked and stowing newspapers and fliers that have gathered on the property.

To request a vacation home check, call 962-2246 at least three days before planning to depart.



**PUBLIC WORKS  
ALWAYS THERE**

Public Works Day Celebration!  
May 17th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Fairgrounds Park

For more information visit our website at:  
[www.cityofloveland.org/publicworksdays](http://www.cityofloveland.org/publicworksdays)

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a vibrant community...  
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[cityofloveland.org/jobs](http://cityofloveland.org/jobs)

## The City of Loveland's Bike to Work Day is June 22



See the list of breakfast stations and other Bike to Work activities at [cityofloveland.org/biketowork](http://cityofloveland.org/biketowork)

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](http://www.cityofloveland.org). Your comments are encouraged and welcomed at 962-2302, or [Tom.Hacker@cityofloveland.org](mailto: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](mailto:Bettie.Greenberg@cityofloveland.org).

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## Walk for Water event raises awareness, funds to improve access to safe water

Every day, more than a billion people across the globe—mostly women and children—leave their homes to go collect water - water that's frequently unsanitary and unsafe for consumption.

This reality spurred the founding of Water Mission ([WaterMission.org](http://WaterMission.org)), a non-profit organization devoted to combating the global water crisis by raising awareness of the problem in countries that have ready access to potable water, and collecting donations that provide sustainable water treatment systems for struggling communities around the world.

To support the work of Water Mission, Hach ([Hach.com](http://Hach.com)), a Loveland-based company that designs and manufactures water quality analysis equipment, will host the 3rd Annual *Hach Walk for Water* from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 7 at Loveland High School, 920 W. 29th St. Proceeds from the event will go to help build water treatment systems for communities in the developing world that lack access to safe drinking water.

### Walkers experience hauling water

The Walk, which will be 3.75 miles around Lake Loveland, attempts to simulate the journey of people around the world who must collect water in buckets every day.

Walkers will start with an empty bucket and walk halfway around the lake, approximately 2 miles, to an untreated water source where they will fill their bucket. Carrying their full bucket, they finish the loop around the lake. Upon arriving back at the high school, walkers will have the opportunity to pour their untreated water into a treatment system - the



**Community members walked** with buckets in hand at last year's Hach Walk for Water event to raise awareness for the global water crisis and needed funds to combat it.

same type of system being donated through Water Mission, to witness first-hand the purification process taking place.

### Water Mission works to improve access to potable water around the world

Water Mission is a nonprofit engineering organization that provides sustainable, safe water and sanitation solutions for people in developing countries and disaster areas.

It has served 49 different countries on five different continents with local staff in Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia.

Their specially-designed water treatment systems can treat 10 gallons of water per minute from raw water sources such as rivers, lakes, springs, ponds or wells.

That translates to meeting the daily water needs (3-4 gallons per person per day) of between 150-200 people each hour the system is in operation.



**HACH WALK FOR WATER**  
**MAY 7, 2016**  
 LOVELAND HIGH SCHOOL, 9AM-1PM  
[HACHWALKFORWATER.ORG](http://HACHWALKFORWATER.ORG)

The walk starts and ends at Loveland High School.

Hach's 2016 goal is to raise \$60,000, which will provide two complete water treatment systems to communities in developing countries. Funds raised at the 2015 Walk were used to complete a water treatment system and provide hygiene education in a community in Kunya, Kenya.

Live music will be performed along the walk and activity/education stations designed to elevate awareness of global water challenges and the importance clean water plays in daily lives, will also be on-site.

Other booths will feature family-friendly activities such as face painting, bucket decorating and water-based educational games. All registered participants will receive a t-shirt and bucket.

Several activity stations will be hosted by Hach Walk for Water sponsors including Colorado State University and Hydro Construction.

Participants can register to do the walk and donate at [Hachwalkforwater.org](http://Hachwalkforwater.org).



## Save water and money this summer by getting an irrigation system inspection

Tired of watering your driveway instead of your lawn and the high water bills that follow?

LWP and the Center for ReSource Conservation are providing free irrigation system inspections to help reduce water waste and make sure your lawn is getting the water it needs.

A friendly and knowledgeable water conservation specialist will assess your sprinkler system's water usage and efficiency, and diagnose problems, fix what they can and offer suggestions on how

to fix larger issues.

Customers will receive a customized watering schedule



designed to keep the water bill low and the lawn healthy and lush throughout the growing season.

For more than 10 years, *Slow the Flow* has been helping area homeowners save money on their water bills.

Inspections last just about 90 minutes but can save customers thousands of gallons of water each year.

It's easy to schedule an appointment. Call 303-999-3824 or sign up at [conservationcenter.org/sprinkler](http://conservationcenter.org/sprinkler).

## Pack your bags for LWP's Passport to Power event

The annual Passport to Water and Power event invites Loveland residents to take a trip to their local municipal utility - Loveland Water and Power.

The event runs from 3:30-7 p.m. on Thursday, June 9 and will feature 25 different education/information stations designed to give customers a birds-eye view into how their municipal utility provides water and power to the

Loveland community 24/7.

All activities are kid-friendly and include equipment and safety demonstrations and educational displays.

The event is free and open to the public. Food trucks will be on-hand with food for purchase.

For more information visit [cityofloveland.org/Passport](http://cityofloveland.org/Passport) or call 962-3000.



## Want to know what's in or what's not in our water?

Each year Loveland Water and Power generates a water quality Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). This requirement is a large part of the right-to-know provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The report is designed to provide easy-to-understand information about Loveland's water including information on water sources as well as information about possible contaminants in the source water.



The CCR is also a great way to learn about the watershed, water treatment processes, bottled water and many other topics.

LWP works to make it easy for customers to be knowledgeable about water quality in general and about their drinking water specifically.

Copies of the CCR will be placed around town at City offices, at the library, police station and grocery stores.

It will also be available on the City of Loveland's website at [cityofloveland.org/WaterQuality](http://cityofloveland.org/WaterQuality) by June 30.

Customers who want a hardcopy of the report may call 962-3000.



## Refrigerator & Freezer Recycling



Double rebates through June 30, 2016. Get \$70 (normally \$35).

970-962-3000

[cityofloveland.org/rebates](http://cityofloveland.org/rebates)