

## **Closing trail loop opens door to more connected community**



Two City of Loveland residents test out the new section of the city's now complete, 21-mile Loveland Recreation Trail encircling the community.

City staff and officials gathered last month to celebrate a milestone that has been 30+ years in the making. The 21-mile fully-paved Loveland Recreation Trail that fully encircles the city is now complete, providing area residents with even more opportunities for recreation, connection, and safer passage around Loveland and beyond.

It all began in 1990 with a half-mile stretch of paved trail installed along the Big Thompson River adjacent to Centennial Park. That first milestone resulted from a group of enthusiastic and vocal citizens advocating for the trail as a valuable public amenity. Through hard work, planning and funding from the state lottery and federal and state grants, the dream of a safe, accessible, connected trail is now a reality.

"Finishing this last section of trail and presenting it to the community is just tremendously gratifying," said Marilyn Hilgenberg, open lands and trails manager for the City. "Our department vision is to provide recreation opportunities to residents in and where they live, regardless of age, physical ability, or anything else. There are no fees, no age requirements, and no barriers to anyone wanting to use the trail. It is ADA accessible and perfectly represents the kind of access we want to provide for all Loveland residents."

A recreation trail like this also provides economic benefits to the community. While some curious locals stopped to take in the festivities at the ribbon cutting last month, Hilgenberg noted that a bike group from out of town was also there. She anticipates that the finished loop will generate visits from out-of-towners who will not only walk or ride the loop, but shop, eat and stay overnight in Loveland, bringing outside dollars into the city. "That kind of synergy is what we call a quick win," said Hilgenberg. It's a multi-use trail with multiple benefits to the community."

While the recreation trail provides connectivity in and around the city, it also connects Loveland regionally to two trails – the Front Range Trail and the Long View Trail, that connect Loveland to Fort Collins' trail systems. Loveland's Parks and Recreation Department has also started planning two new 'regional spurs.' One will connect Loveland and Berthoud and the other will go east to Centerra.

"The trail system connects us in so many ways," added Hilgenberg.



**City officials, staff** and community members gathered last month to cut the ribbon, officially marking the completion of the city's 21-mile recreation trail and opening it up for the public's enjoyment.

#### **Get your Ticket to Trails Passport & win a prize!**

Pick up a Ticket to Trails Passport at the Parks & Recreation Office, 500 E. Third St. (or print a copy at home). Visit all seven trail sections of the 21-mile

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or Recreation	Shirdii Ma	an-fri   8:00A-4:30P	START:	END:

Loveland Recreation Trail loop and bring your ticket back to the Parks & Rec office to claim your prize! More information at **lovgov.org/trails** 

## Loveland Pulse hits boring milestone: 1 million feet!

Loveland Pulse, the City's community-owned, 100% fiber-optic internet network, is in year two of what is estimated to be a four-year construction process to pass each and every address in the city. The project is on schedule, on budget, and milestones are being achieved regularly. On June 28, 2021 (just 10 days after the first anniversary of residential service launch) the network construction team achieved a huge accomplishment: 1 million feet of boring in the city!

For an idea of that distance, it would be similar to boring a straight line between Loveland and the Great Sand Dunes National Park, which is southwest of Pueblo. Pulse's locally owned-and-operated partner, Colorado Boring - who you'll recognize out in the field in their big, beautiful yellow trucks -- is employing a lowimpact directional boring technique (as opposed to open trenching) to install conduit in utility easements and public-rights-of-way. That conduit will then house the fiber-optics that will allow pulses of light travelling over threads of glass to bring gigabit internet, phone, and (coming soon!) television to homes and businesses.

From the time you see boring teams and construction taking place in an area, until service becomes available, is approximately 6 - 9 months.

## Line and twine endanger wildlife

After discovering two dead baby birds in osprey nests due to twine and trash, natural area staff are asking for the public's help to keep fishing line and



other litter away from wildlife. Baling twine, fishing line, landscape mesh and plastic sheeting are often used as nesting materials, but baby birds can get entangled, causing injury and even death. Please pick up and pack out all trash and pick up after others if you can. Learn more: lovgov.org/nestcams. If you're interested in receiving communications about the project, and being emailed directly when construction is going to occur in your area, and later when service becomes available, please sign up to stay in touch at: LovelandPulse.com/EarlyInterest. If you have any questions, you can contact us by email at: Pulse@LovelandPulse.com, or by phone: 970-962-2111.



### **Online high school prepares learners**

The Loveland Public Library and Career Online High School join forces to help learners earn their diploma online. This free program prepares students for the workforce and post-secondary education by delivering innovative career-based education in a

supportive environment. Students will also complete skills courses that will help them prepare for the workplace or postsecondary programs. Learn more at lovlib.org/ services/adults/adult-literacy-learning.





City Update is a monthly publication of the City of Loveland. City Update is also available on the City's website at www.lovgov.org/cityupdate. Your comments are welcome. Please call (970) 962-2302, or email oce@cityofloveland.org. The City of Loveland is committed to providing equal opportunity 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 ADA. For questions, please call (970) 962-3319.

#### **UTILITY NEWS**

# PLEASE HELP ENSURE FIRE HYDRANTS ARE VISIBLE AND ACCESSIBLE!

## GUIDELINES FOR LANDSCAPE CARE AROUND FIRE HYDRANTS

#### **GUIDELINES FOR LANDSCAPING:**

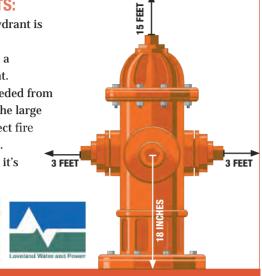
- Never paint a fire hydrant. Firefighter and Utility crews look for orange hydrants.
- Keep plants to a minimum, trim vegetation to maintain a 3 foot clearance or plant ground cover instead.
- Keep other landscape objects clear of fire hydrant.
- Do not plant any trees within 10 feet of the hydrant or any bushes within 5 feet of the hydrant.

#### **NEED MORE INFORMATION?**

Utilities Maintenance 970.962.3000

Fire Safety Concerns 970.962.2537

- **CLEARANCE AROUND HYDRANTS:**
- 3 feet of clearance all around the hydrant is needed.
- 15 feet of clearance is needed above a hydrant for maintenance equipment.
- 18 inches of vertical clearance is needed from the hydrant's base to the center of the large cap, to allow crews to quickly connect fire hoses and/or conduct maintenance.
- Shovel snow around the hydrant so it's visible and accessible to crews.
- 15 feet distance in front of or behind a hydrant when parking.



## WORKING ON YOUR SPRINKLER SYSTEM? DON'T FORGET YOUR LAWN SPRINKLER PERMIT.

If you are planning to install a new sprinkler system, repair, expand or modify your present sprinkler system, you must meet the requirements of the Loveland Municipal Code and the Colorado Cross-Connection laws. **PERMITS ARE FREE AND REOUIRED FOR ALL HOMEOWNERS AND CONTRACTORS.** 

Property owners may perform normal maintenance activities on their sprinkler systems including replacing sprinkler heads or repairing a leak without obtaining a permit.

To obtain a permit or for more information visit: lovelandwaterandpower.org/Backflow or call: (970) 962 3721

# Slow the Flow Solve your Sprinklers.

Maintain a beautiful landscape while saving water with a FREE sprinkler consultation!

ResourceCentral.org/sprinklers 303-999-3824 Sign up for your free consult today!





SPRINKLER CHECK-UP! \* Limited number of appointments available

FRF

#### **UTILITY NEWS**



visit us online... lovelandwaterandpower.org

## Efficiency Works<sup>™</sup>

Estes Park | Fort Collins | Longmont | Loveland

### Save energy, water and money with Efficiency Works Business

Efficiency Works Business helps your business identify and implement cost-effective energy efficiency upgrades for new or existing buildings.

#### New for summer! 50% rebate bonus and more ways to save water



50% bonus rebates for efficiency upgrades in the following categories: Food service, grocery, office and appliance, building envelope, cooling, VFDs and water. Projects must be completed and applications submitted by Nov. 15.

Expanded water rebates! Loveland Water and Power customers can now receive rebates on water efficiency products, including toilets, clothes washers, ice machines, dishwashers and more

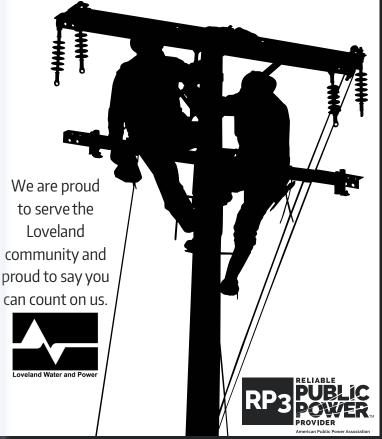
For more information, visit www.lovelandwaterandpower.org/EWB



## What does it mean when we say you can count on us?

It means we are among the best in the nation when it comes to: RELIABILITY, SAFETY, SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT and WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

As a result, we have received a Reliable Public Power Provider - or RP<sub>3</sub> designation from the American Public Power Association.



For more information visit PublicPower.org/RP3

## LEND A HELPING HAND TO YOUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED **HELPANEIGHBOR** IN DISTRESS (HAND) PROGRAM

**NEW! DONATE IN YOUR BILLING PORTAL!** myaccount.lovgov.org or by calling 970-962-2111



Administered by The House of Neighborly Service

Lovgov.org/HAND