

ORDINANCE NO. 033, 2026  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS  
APPROPRIATING PRIOR YEAR RESERVES IN THE NATURAL AREAS FUND FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF LAND CONSERVATION, VISITOR AMENITIES, RESTORATION  
AND OTHER RELATED NATURAL AREAS STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES NOT  
INCLUDED IN THE 2026 ADOPTED CITY BUDGET

A. The City is committed to preserving natural areas and providing educational, interpretive and appropriate recreational opportunities to the public.

B. Natural Areas programming implements open land conservation priorities identified in the City's Comprehensive Plan by purchasing conservation easement interests in key natural areas, community separators, or other open lands; providing stewardship for lands purchased; public engagement and educational programs; and developing trails and interpretive features and other amenities for public use.

C. The Natural Areas Department is funded primarily through the collection of City Open Space – Yes! Sales and use tax revenue, as well as revenues from the Larimer County Help Preserve Open Space sales and use tax, investment earnings, and other miscellaneous revenues deposited in the Natural Areas Fund.

D. This appropriation benefits public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Fort Collins and serves the public purpose to conserve land, restore and enhance wildlife habitat, improve visitor infrastructure, support community-led habitat projects, and advance ecological monitoring and stewardship in a manner that serves current and future generations of Fort Collins residents.

E. Article V, Section 9 of the City Charter permits the City Council, upon the recommendation of the City Manager, to make supplemental appropriations by ordinance at any time during the fiscal year from such revenues and funds for expenditure as may be available from reserves accumulated in prior years, notwithstanding that such reserves were not previously appropriated.

F. Article V, Section 11 of the City Charter requires all appropriations unexpended or unencumbered at the end of the fiscal year lapse to the applicable general or special revenue fund, except appropriations for capital projects and federal or state grants do not lapse until completion of the capital project or expiration of the respective grant.

G. The City Manager has recommended the appropriation described herein and determined that the funds to be appropriated are available and previously unappropriated from the Natural Areas Fund and that this appropriation will not cause the total amount appropriated in the Natural Areas Fund to exceed the current estimate of actual and anticipated revenues and all other funds to be received in this Fund during this fiscal year.

H. The City Manager has recommended the appropriation from prior year reserves in the Natural Areas Fund of a total of \$6,224,294 comprised of unspent and unencumbered appropriations from 2025 to be used for acquisition, construction, enhancement and maintenance of trail systems, wildlife habitat and other natural areas to benefit the residents of the City.

In light of the foregoing recitals, which the Council hereby makes and adopts as determinations and findings, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS that there is hereby appropriated from prior year reserves in the Natural Areas Fund the sum of SIX MILLION TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$6,224,294) to be expended in the Natural Areas Fund for acquisition, construction, enhancement and maintenance of trail systems, wildlife habitat and other natural areas to benefit the residents of the City.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading on April 7, 2026, and approved on second reading for final passage on April 21, 2026.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

Effective Date: May 1, 2026  
Approving Attorney: April Silva

Exhibit: None