

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Katie Donahue, Natural Areas Director
Julia Feder, Environmental Program Manager
Tawnya Ernst, Land Conservation Lead Specialist
Alynn Karnes, Land Conservation Specialist
Ted Hewitt, Assistant City Attorney

SUBJECT

Resolution 2023-104 Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement with Larimer County and the City of Loveland Regarding the Heaven's Door Ranch Conservation Project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to seek authorization to amend an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Larimer County and the City of Loveland for the Heaven's Door Ranch Conservation Project. The amendment will extend the timeframe to complete a conservation easement conveyance.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Natural Areas Department entered into an IGA with the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources and the City of Loveland Open Lands and Trails Department on November 17, 2022, to purchase a 1,547-acre property adjacent to the City's Foothills/Buckhorn/Redstone Priority Area. The Natural Areas Department and Loveland Open Lands and Trails contributed funds towards the acquisition and will co-hold a conservation easement on the property.

The joint conservation easement was anticipated to be conveyed to the City (Fort Collins) and the City of Loveland (Loveland) by the end of 2023. However, to recoup some of the initial purchase price of the property, the County has since applied for a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant. Grants will be awarded in March 2024. Should the County receive a GOCO award, language pertaining to GOCO's partial funding of the project will need to be included in the conservation easement.

An amendment to the IGA is needed to establish a new timeline for conveyance of the conservation easement to Fort Collins and Loveland. The deadline will be extended from December 31, 2023, to September 1, 2024.

The City is not seeking any reimbursement for its part (8% of total purchase price) in funding this acquisition due to the County covering 86% of the total purchase price. The conservation easement conveyance extension deadline proposed by Fort Collins, Loveland, and County staff is no later than September 1, 2024. This extension will allow for any potential GOCO language to be included in the conservation easement draft and time for agencies and their respective attorneys to perform a final review of the conservation easement deed.

The conservation easement ensures the area will never be developed and will be managed for its conservation values.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

No costs will be incurred by the City for this amendment.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

At its November 8, 2023, meeting, the Land Conservation and Stewardship Board (LCSB) voted unanimously to recommend that Council approve the amendment to the IGA with Larimer County and Loveland regarding the Heaven's Door Ranch Conservation Project.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution for Consideration
2. Intergovernmental Agreement
3. Vicinity Map
4. LCSB Minutes, November 8, 2023 (excerpt)