

ORDINANCE NO. 072, 2025  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS  
APPROPRIATING PRIOR YEAR RESERVES IN THE NATURAL  
AREAS FUND AND THE SALES AND USE TAX FUND FOR THE  
PURPOSE OF LAND CONSERVATION, VISITOR AMENITIES,  
RESTORATION AND OTHER RELATED NATURAL AREAS  
STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES NOT INCLUDED IN THE 2025  
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 citizens 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 such 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 appropriations described herein and determined that these appropriations are available and previously unappropriated from the Natural Areas Fund and the Sales and Use Tax Fund, as applicable, and that these appropriations will not cause the total amount appropriated in the Natural Areas Fund and the Sales and Use Tax Fund, as applicable, to exceed the current estimate of

actual and anticipated revenues and all other funds to be received in these funds 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 \$6,179,035, comprised of unspent and unencumbered appropriations from 2024 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.

I. Article V, Section 10 of the City Charter authorizes the City Council, upon recommendation by the City Manager, to transfer by ordinance any unexpended and unencumbered appropriated amount or portion thereof from one fund or capital project to another fund or capital project, provided that the purpose for which the transferred funds are to be expended remains unchanged, the purpose for which the funds were initially appropriated no longer exists, or the proposed transfer is from a fund or capital project in which the amount appropriated exceeds the amount needed to accomplish the purpose specified in the appropriation ordinance.

J. The City Manager has recommended the transfer of \$112,957 from the Sales and Use Tax Fund to the Natural Areas Fund and determined that the purpose for which the transferred funds are to be expended remains unchanged.

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 as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby appropriated from prior year reserves in the Natural Areas Fund the sum of SIX MILLION SIXTY-SIX THOUSAND SEVENTY-EIGHT DOLLARS (\$6,066,078) 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.

Section 2. There is hereby appropriated from prior year reserves in the Sales and Use Tax Fund for transfer to the Natural Areas Fund the sum of ONE HUNDRED TWELVE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$112,957) and appropriated therein 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 15, 2025, and approved on second reading for final passage on May 6, 2025.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

Effective Date: May 16, 2025  
Approving Attorney: April Silva