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## **Natural Areas – Administrative Policy Land Acquisition Partnership Guidelines**

### Background

As requested by City Council during the December 11, 2018 work session, staff developed criteria and associated guiding questions to address Council's suggestions related to external land conservation partnerships. The criteria and guiding questions will be utilized well in advance of formalizing a partnership. If staff believes the partnership to be justified based upon the criteria and guiding questions, a memo detailing staff's recommendation will be presented to Council prior to moving forward. Thus, if Council has any concerns they can be addressed well in advance of a potential transaction.

### Criteria

- The acquisition must align with the land conservation priorities set forth by the Council Adopted - City of Fort Collins 2014 Natural Areas Master Plan.
- Visitation must be free of charge if public access is allowed.
  - If access fees are proposed, a staff recommendation to move forward must be explained and justified in the report to council.
- The partner/s must have a positive track record of partnerships with the City and/or other organizations.
- The partnership must enhance the conservation protections of the project.
- The land conservation project must leverage the parties' resources in a manner that leads to additional land conservation by one, or both, parties.

### Guiding Questions

- Does the land conservation project align with the land conservation priorities set forth by the Council Adopted - City of Fort Collins 2014 Natural Areas Master Plan?
- Does the partner have a positive track record of partnership with the City and or other organizations?
- Is the project of mutual interest due to previous investments by the partners or due to its location?
- How will the land conservation project benefit citizens of Fort Collins?
- How can/should the land conservation project be funded?
  - Are there grants available to help fund the project?
  - Do the partners have the financial ability to participate?
- Will the financial partnership positively affect a grant application?
  - Which partner is best suited to apply for and manage the grant?
- Would the land conservation project be possible without the partnership?
  - If so, does the partnership leverage resources for additional conservation or partnership opportunities?
- If the property is purchased:
  - Which partner is best suited to manage the property?
- If the land is conserved with a conservation easement?
  - Which partner is best suited to hold and monitor the conservation easement?

**This Policy was Administratively Adopted by:**

**John Stokes**

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Stokes  
Date: 2019.11.12  
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**November 12 2019**

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John Stokes, Natural Areas Department Director

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Date