

ORDINANCE NO. 012, 2026
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
APPROPRIATING PRIOR YEAR RESERVES FOR RIVER RESTORATION AND
VISITOR USE IMPROVEMENTS AT ARAPAHO BEND NATURAL AREA AND
RELATED ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM

A. Arapaho Bend Natural Area is a biologically rich and culturally significant parcel that has been impacted by past infrastructure development, gravel mining, and degradation along the Cache la Poudre River.

B. Visitation at Arapaho Bend Natural Area has increased significantly over the past decade, creating impacts to natural resources and unsafe visitor conditions.

C. Natural Areas identified a river restoration project and visitor use improvement project at Arapaho Bend Natural Area as top priorities through its planning processes, and design and permitting for the projects began in 2025.

D. Construction of the projects is anticipated to begin in August 2026, which is one year earlier than anticipated in the 2025/2026 Budget, requiring an appropriation into the Natural Areas' 2026 budget.

E. Completing the projects in 2026 is expected to reduce overall project costs by avoiding inflation impacts.

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

G. Natural Areas programming implements open land conservation priorities identified in the City's Comprehensive Plan by purchasing conservation easement interests, providing stewardship for lands purchased, and developing trails and interpretive features for public use.

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

I. This appropriation benefits the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Fort Collins and serves the public purpose of restoring ecological function along the Cache la Poudre River, protecting natural resources, improving visitor safety and accessibility, and providing appropriate recreational and educational opportunities at Arapaho Bend Natural Area.

J. 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.

K. 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.

L. This Project involves construction estimated to cost more than \$250,000 and, as such, City Code Section 23-304 requires one percent of these appropriations to be transferred to the Cultural Services and Facilities Fund for a contribution to the Art in Public Places program ("APP Program").

M. The City has evaluated the components of the Arapaho Bend Natural Area project to determine which project expenses fall within the scope of the APP Program requirements under City Code Section 23-304.

N. Of the total project appropriation of \$4,900,000, an amount of \$300,000 is allocated for post-construction operations and maintenance activities, which are not construction-related capital improvement costs and therefore are not subject to the APP program requirements.

O. The remaining \$4,600,000 of the project appropriation consists of capital improvement costs subject to the APP program requirements, and one percent of that amount, or \$46,000, is required to be transferred to the Cultural Services and Facilities Fund for the APP program.

P. The amount to be contributed in this Ordinance will be \$46,000.

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 FOUR MILLION NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$4,900,000) to be expended in the Natural Areas Fund for river restoration and visitor use improvements at Arapaho Bend Natural Area.

Section 2. The unexpended and unencumbered appropriated amount of THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY (\$35,880) in the Natural Areas Fund is hereby authorized for transfer to the Cultural Services and Facilities Fund and appropriated and expended therein to fund art projects under the APP Program.

Section 3. The unexpended and unencumbered appropriated amount of NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED (\$9,200) in the Natural Areas Fund is hereby authorized for transfer to the Cultural Services and Facilities Fund and appropriated and expended therein for the operation costs of the APP Program.

Section 4. The unexpended and unencumbered appropriated amount of NINE HUNDRED TWENTY (\$920) in the Natural Areas Fund is hereby authorized for transfer to the Cultural Services and Facilities Fund and appropriated and expended therein for the maintenance costs of the APP Program.

Section 5. The determination of amounts to be transferred for the APP Program is based on a total project cost of \$4,600,000, in light of the fact that THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$300,000) of the funds appropriated in this Ordinance for the Project are ineligible for use in the APP Program due to their use for five years of post-construction operations and maintenance costs.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading on February 17, 2026, and approved on second reading for final passage on March 3, 2026.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Effective Date: March 13, 2026

Approving Attorney: April Silva

Exhibit: None