

ORDINANCE NO. 124, 2025  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS  
ADOPTING THE 2025 NATURAL AREAS STRATEGIC  
FRAMEWORK AS AN ELEMENT OF CITY PLAN AND AS AN  
UPDATE TO THE 2014 NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN

A. The voters of Fort Collins and Larimer County have dedicated sales and use tax revenues through the “Open Space Yes!” and “Help Preserve Open Space” initiatives to conserve and manage natural areas, agricultural lands, community separators, and scenic vistas.

B. The City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department (“NAD”) has conserved tens of thousands of acres and provided extensive public access, education, and stewardship services, supported primarily by these dedicated revenues.

C. In 2014, the City Council adopted the Natural Areas Master Plan as a component, or element, of City Plan in Resolution 2014-089, which served as a 10-year strategic document guiding the Department’s conservation and management efforts.

D. The NAD has developed the 2025 Natural Areas Strategic Framework, shown on Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference, to update the vision, values, and goals of the Department and the Natural Areas Master Plan and to serve as a systemwide planning guide for the next 10 to 20 years.

E. The Strategic Framework is grounded in ballot language, extensive community engagement, and alignment with broader City values and strategic priorities.

F. The Strategic Framework supports the City’s commitment to ecological stewardship, adaptive land management, community engagement, and public access to nature, while laying the foundation for action-oriented planning across management zones.

G. The Strategic Framework has been recommended for adoption by the Land Conservation and Stewardship Board, the Natural Resources Advisory Board, and the Water Commission following significant public and stakeholder engagement.

H. On July 17, 2025, the Planning and Zoning Commission considered the proposed Strategic Framework and voted to recommend adoption by a vote of 6-0.

I. The City Council finds that adoption of the 2025 Natural Areas Strategic Framework is in the best interests of the community and supports the long-term vision of thriving ecosystems and community connection.

J. The City Council further finds, in accordance with City Plan, that the existing City Plan is in need of this proposed amendment and that adoption of the 2025 Natural

Areas Strategic Framework will promote public welfare and is consistent with the vision, goals, principles, and policies of City Plan and the elements thereof.

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. The 2025 Natural Areas Strategic Framework, attached hereto as Exhibit A, is hereby adopted by the City Council of the City of Fort Collins and shall serve as the updated policy guide for the planning and management of the Natural Areas Department

Section 2. The 2025 Strategic Framework hereby replaces the 2014 Natural Areas Master Plan and is adopted as an element of City Plan, to be incorporated in the City's comprehensive planning framework.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading on July 15, 2025, and approved on second reading for final passage on August 19, 2025.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sr. Deputy City Clerk

Effective Date: August 29, 2025

Approving Attorney: April Silva

Exhibit: Exhibit A - 2025 Natural Areas Strategic Framework