

# Fort Collins City Council Work Session Agenda

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Council Information Center (CIC), 300 Laporte Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80521

**NOTE: New location for Council work sessions.**

## NOTICE:

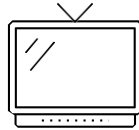
Work Sessions of the City Council are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month in the Council Information Center (CIC) of the 300 Building. Meetings are conducted in a hybrid format, however there is no public participation permitted in a work session.

City Council members may participate in this meeting via electronic means pursuant to their adopted policies and protocol.

## How to view this Meeting:



Meetings are open to the public and can be attended in person by anyone.



Meetings are televised live on Channels 14 & 881 on cable television.



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While work sessions do not include public comment, mail comments about any item on the agenda to [cityleaders@fcgov.com](mailto:cityleaders@fcgov.com)





# City Council Work Session Agenda

**March 26, 2024 at 6:00 PM**

Jeni Arndt, Mayor  
Emily Francis, District 6, Mayor Pro Tem  
Susan Gutowsky, District 1  
Julie Pignataro, District 2  
Tricia Canonico, District 3  
Melanie Potyondy, District 4  
Kelly Ohlson, District 5

Council Information Center (CIC)  
300 Laporte Avenue, Fort Collins

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Carrie Daggett  
City Attorney

Kelly DiMartino  
City Manager

Heather Walls  
Interim City Clerk

## **CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION 6:00 PM**

### **A) CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

### **B) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **1. Occupancy Ordinance Discussion.**

The purpose of work session is to seek Council feedback on next steps regarding the Occupancy Ordinance and the potential impacts/implementation of HB24-1007.

#### **2. Regional Wasteshed Update: Intergovernmental Agreement and Immediate Next Steps.**

The purpose of this item is to provide context for Councilmembers to discuss approaches to regional collaboration supporting the Council Priority to Accelerate Zero Waste Infrastructure and Policy, including a request from Larimer County to suspend an Intergovernmental Agreement.

#### **3. Urban Forest Strategic Plan Findings and Proposed Direction.**

The purpose of this item is to share the findings from the urban forest strategic planning effort and to seek feedback and support from Council.

### **C) ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **D) ADJOURNMENT**

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*A solicitud, la Ciudad de Fort Collins proporcionará servicios de acceso a idiomas para personas que no dominan el idioma inglés, o ayudas y servicios auxiliares para personas con discapacidad, para que puedan acceder a los servicios, programas y actividades de la Ciudad. Para asistencia, llame al 970.221.6515 (V/TDD: Marque 711 para Relay Colorado). Por favor proporcione aviso previo. Las solicitudes de interpretación en una reunión deben realizarse antes del mediodía del día anterior.*

March 26, 2024

# WORK SESSION AGENDA

## ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



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### STAFF

Sylvia Tatman-Burruss, Senior Project & Policy Manager  
Ginny Sawyer, Lead Project & Policy Manager

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### SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

**Occupancy Ordinance Discussion.**

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of work session is to seek Council feedback on next steps regarding the Occupancy Ordinance and the potential impacts/implementation of HB24-1007.

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### GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. What questions do Councilmembers have regarding the potential implementation of HB24-1007?
2. Are there any additional actions Councilmembers would like staff to pursue?

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### BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The City has had an adopted occupancy ordinance since 1963. The current version of the City's occupancy ordinance limits occupancy of residential dwellings to a family of any size plus one additional unrelated occupant, or to no more than three unrelated occupants. Active enforcement began in 2005 when violation of the Ordinance was classified as a civil infraction.

During recent Council discussions on occupancy Council requested staff to develop potential revisions to the existing ordinance and bring forward options by June 2024.

Direction included:

- Bring options to modify current occupancy limits
- Focus on non-binary options (not maintain/not eliminate)
- Remove of family definition
- Maintain neighborhood quality
- Identify "outlier" scenarios
- Research other communities

## **HB24-1007 Prohibit Residential Occupancy Limits**

At the start of the 2024 legislative session, the Colorado House of Representatives introduced a Bill that seeks to limit regulation of occupancy based “only on demonstrated health and safety standards, such as International Building Code standards, fire code regulations, or Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Wastewater and Water Quality standards.”

In addition, the bill states that, “A local government shall not limit the number of people who may live together in a single dwelling based on familial relationship.” The Bill states an effective date of July 1, 2024.

Staff has shifted the focus of occupancy revisions to understanding this Bill and any actions that may be required or desired by the City.

Currently, the City exempts all occupancy related language from the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) since to date we have had our own local standards. Should HB24-1007 pass, the City may want to amend our Building Code to include other parts of the IPMC.

### **Potential Options Considering HB24-1007 Language**

Staff has considered several options based on the language of the proposed bill. Options that have been considered include:

- Rely on existing Public Nuisance Ordinance
  - Removes family definition.
- Consider or develop regulation based on square footage and/or occupancy loads defined in the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC)
  - Removes family definition.
  - Provides mechanism for less intrusive enforcement.
  - Potential impact to families in small homes.
- Combination of codes and square footage requirements
  - Removes family definition.
  - Provides mechanism for enforcement.
  - Potential impact to families in smaller homes/larger families.

The staff team includes members from Building Services who would be responsible for enforcement in the above options as well as Neighborhood and Parking Services as we anticipate potential nuisance and/or parking concerns.

### **Engagement**

Staff has engaged in small, informal meetings with neighbors, ASCSU, and landlords to gather any thoughts, concerns and need for messaging if HB24-1007 were to pass. Within our limited conversations with landlords, they do not believe there would be any major increases in occupancy in Fort Collins within the coming year given that student leases for the start of the fall semester have already been signed.

## NEXT STEPS

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Staff will continue to track progress of HB24-1007. If it passes, the City can be prepared to utilized the already scheduled June 4, 2024, regular meeting to make any code adjustments. If it does not pass, staff will pick up previous work of local occupancy revisions and utilize the May 14, 2024, work session and the June 4, 2024, regular meeting for revision consideration and hearing.

## ATTACHMENTS

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1. HB24-1007 Bill Language (as of March 14, 2024)
2. Presentation

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REVISED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 24-0633.01 Caroline Martin x5902

**HOUSE BILL 24-1007**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Rutinel and Mabrey**, Bacon, Boesenecker, deGruy Kennedy, English, Epps, Froelich, Garcia, Hernandez, Jodeh, Kipp, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Marvin, Mauro, McCluskie, McCormick, Ortiz, Parenti, Ricks, Sirota, Velasco, Vigil, Weissman, Willford

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Exum and Gonzales**,

**House Committees**

Transportation, Housing & Local Government

**Senate Committees**

Local Government & Housing

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCY LIMITS.**

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill prohibits local governments from enacting or enforcing residential occupancy limits unless those limits are tied to a minimum square footage per person requirement that is necessary to regulate safety, health, and welfare.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 18, 2024

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
February 9, 2024

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
February 2, 2024

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 29-20-111 as follows:

**29-20-111. Local government residential occupancy limits - short title - legislative declaration - definition.** (1) THE SHORT TITLE OF THIS SECTION IS THE "HOME (HARMONIZING OCCUPANCY MEASURES EQUITABLY) ACT."

(2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT OCCUPANCY LIMITS AND THE INCREASED AVAILABILITY OF HOUSING ARE MATTERS OF MIXED STATEWIDE AND LOCAL CONCERN.

== ==

(3) A LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHALL NOT LIMIT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO MAY LIVE TOGETHER IN A SINGLE DWELLING BASED ON FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIP. LOCAL GOVERNMENTS RETAIN THE AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCY LIMITS BASED ONLY ON:

(a) DEMONSTRATED HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS, SUCH AS INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE STANDARDS, FIRE CODE REGULATIONS, OR COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT WASTEWATER AND WATER QUALITY STANDARDS; OR

(b) LOCAL, STATE, FEDERAL, OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM GUIDELINES.

(4) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "LOCAL GOVERNMENT" MEANS A HOME RULE OR STATUTORY CITY, HOME RULE OR STATUTORY COUNTY, TOWN, TERRITORIAL CHARTER CITY, OR CITY AND COUNTY.

**SECTION 2. Effective date.** This act takes effect July 1, 2024.

**SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate

- 1 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
- 2 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
- 3 institutions.





## Occupancy Discussion City Council Work Session

Ginny Sawyer and Sylvia Tatman-Burruss

1. What questions do Councilmembers have regarding the potential implementation of HB24-1007?
2. Are there any implementation actions Councilmembers would like staff to pursue?



**2023: Council Direction to consider occupancy modifications and bring options by July 2024**

**Staff focused on:**

- Non-binary options (not maintain/not eliminate)
- Removal of family definition
- Maintain neighborhood quality
- Identify “outlier” scenarios
- Research other communities

**January 2024: HB24-1007 introduced**



## Bill language:

The bill prohibits local governments from enacting or enforcing residential occupancy limits based on familial relationship while allowing local governments to implement residential occupancy limits based on demonstrated health and safety standards such as international building code standards, fire code regulations, or Colorado department of public health and environment wastewater and water quality standards.

- Bill has passed the house with modifications that removed occupancy based on square footage and with a July 1st compliance date.
- Currently in the Senate and expected to pass.

## Options:

- Rely on Nuisance Ordinance alone
- Consider or develop regulation based on square footage and/or occupancy loads defined in the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC)
- Combination of codes and square footage

## Considerations:

- Bill language
- Enforcement mechanisms
- Cost
- Unintended consequences:
  - Different housing types (mobile home, efficiency or studio apartments)
  - larger families at risk of being in violation

- Updated in 2022
- Regulates two types of nuisances:
  - Public Nuisance and Chronic Nuisance

A “**nuisance activity**” defined in the PNO includes 66 categories of various criminal and civil violations happening on the property that individually, or in combination, result in either a public nuisance or chronic nuisance property.

A “**public nuisance**” is more generally defined, while the definition of a “chronic nuisance property” is tied to a certain number of nuisance activities occurring on a property within a set period.



March 26, 2024

# WORK SESSION AGENDA

## ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



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### STAFF

Jacob Castillo, Sustainability Officer  
Amy King, Environmental Services Director  
Honore Depew, Climate Program Manager  
Caroline Mitchell, Waste Reduction and Recycling Lead Specialist

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### SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

**Regional Wasteshed Update: Intergovernmental Agreement and Immediate Next Steps.**

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to provide context for Councilmembers to discuss approaches to regional collaboration supporting the Council Priority to Accelerate Zero Waste Infrastructure and Policy, including a request from Larimer County to suspend an Intergovernmental Agreement.

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### GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. What feedback do Councilmembers have about whether to bring forward a Resolution placing the 2019 Intergovernmental Agreement into abeyance?
2. What are the areas of primary importance to Councilmembers as staff engage in finding regional solutions for missing infrastructure?
3. Do Councilmembers wish to hold a joint meeting with the Larimer County Board of Commissioners to discuss Regional Wasteshed collaboration?

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### BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

#### Connection with Adopted Goals and Council Priorities

Development of community-scale, regional diversion facilities, especially for construction and demolition (C&D) materials and food scraps, is needed to advance future policy initiatives to align with the following adopted plans and is essential to meeting the Council-adopted goal of zero waste by 2030:

- Our Climate Future Big Moves 2 (Zero Waste Neighborhoods) and 10 (Zero Waste Economy)
- City Plan Principle ENV 5: Create a Zero Waste System
- 2024-25 City Strategic Plan ENV 1 (presumed to be adopted March 19, 2024)
- City Council 2024-25 Priority: Accelerate Zero Waste Policies and Infrastructure



## Background

For many years, the City has prioritized efforts to become a zero-waste community. With the pending closure of the Larimer County Landfill in mid-2025, there are decision points in the near term that may move our community along the path toward our goals. The recent adoption of Council Priorities further emphasized the need for C&D diversion and recycling, and the diversion of food waste from landfills. City staff have been working with the Regional Wasteshed Coalition to facilitate the development of the needed infrastructure.

This Work Session item is intended to prompt a discussion between Councilmembers about the City's approach to Regional Wasteshed collaboration and the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). Work Sessions specific to the Council Priority to *Accelerate Zero Waste Policies and Infrastructure* are being planned throughout 2024 to discuss options and opportunities for City Council action after additional research has been conducted and further staff collaboration with Larimer County, per Council guidance.

## Regional Wasteshed Coalition and Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan

The Regional Wasteshed Coalition (the Coalition) was formed nearly ten years ago to plan for the Larimer County Landfill reaching capacity around 2025 and includes Fort Collins, Larimer County, Loveland, Estes Park, and Wellington. The Coalition has been valuable for addressing and planning for future needs, however, the Coalition's recent ability to move toward agreed upon outcomes has been suboptimal regional waste issues through the development of the Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan (SWIMP). The Coalition has been unable to substantially advance policies, strategies and tactics that make headway on the work outlined in the SWIMP. There are a variety of factors that have contributed to the slowdown of progress, one being a lack of alignment on the approach to the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) that commits signatories to specific expectations for infrastructure and policy.

## Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)

The 2019 IGA was developed and adopted by all members of the Coalition to create clear expectations for conditions needed to spur the County's construction of new diversion facilities concurrent with supportive policy development.

Larimer County has requested each member jurisdiction formally suspend the agreement and does not anticipate bringing the IGA back out of abeyance. Four out of five signatories in the Coalition have voted to place it in abeyance, Fort Collins being the sole organization that has not.

The reasons other jurisdictions have shared for putting the IGA into abeyance are varied and nuanced based on the needs of each individual community, but the overarching theme is that the agreement has outdated language, assumptions, costs for facilities, market assumptions, and timeframes that no longer reflect the current market within the Regional Wasteshed. This is especially true for the infrastructure cost estimates, over which the County expressed concerns, stating that the cost of the infrastructure was infeasible for the County to cover alone as stipulated in the IGA, given rapidly escalating costs and the County's perceived uncertainty in the market about volume of waste materials.

It is important to note that the IGA has meaningful content that commits to the tiered prioritization of infrastructure projects. This prioritization aligns with the waste hierarchy that guides policy decisions and the strategic approach to waste reduction and recycling in Fort Collins. Ensuring that these elements of the agreement are not lost in the process of advancing the work of the Regional Wasteshed Coalition is vitally important, as clarity of expectations provide the foundation for moving collaboratively toward a zero-waste community. The County is currently progressing cautiously on the landfill and transfer station, which is foundational infrastructure.

The prioritization of projects in the IGA is of particular importance since Larimer County is currently considering multiple partners and technological solutions, some of which may be aligned with the goals of the City and other, like waste-to-energy projects, that are not necessarily aligned with the City's preferred approach and were assigned a low priority in both the SWIMP and the IGA. Furthermore, without an IGA in place, there is not a clear process to determine prioritization of potential infrastructure. See the section below for details of the current state of Larimer County's plan for infrastructure.

Fort Collins' members of the Regional Wasteshed Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) have expressed interest during past discussions in an approach that would develop a replacement IGA prior to suspending the current IGA. Larimer County has proposed recrafting an agreement in the future that could take the form of multiple IGAs with individual partners or possibly one regional IGA. At this juncture, the current IGA is not being followed and the County has suspended meetings of the PAC until all partners place the IGA into abeyance. The following table includes potential actions councilmembers may consider in relation to the IGA.

Potential options for next steps for the IGA	
Option	Considerations
1) Place IGA into abeyance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ends commitment to tiered prioritization of infrastructure elements</li> <li>• Meets Larimer County request and aligns with partner actions</li> <li>• Unclear timeline, roles and process to create next IGA               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Unclear if next IGA would be shared regional IGA or if distinct IGAs between Larimer County and each community would be developed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2) Place IGA into abeyance with conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could place current IGA into abeyance for a certain amount of time and have it come back into effect unless specific actions (e.g. creating a new IGA) have been completed</li> <li>• Many of the same considerations as Option 1</li> </ul>
3) Replace and repeal IGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop new IGA and repeal prior at the same time as adopting new</li> <li>• Would have clarity on next agreement prior to exiting existing</li> <li>• Unclear timeline or pathway</li> </ul>
4) Terminate IGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would likely have same impact as putting IGA into abeyance, as Larimer County does not intend to bring the IGA out of abeyance</li> <li>• Requires notification and goes into effect 18 months after notice is given               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Could place IGA into abeyance for the 18 months until it is terminated</li> </ul> </li> <li>• May be clearer than unending abeyance</li> </ul>
5) No action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current IGA would remain in place but commitments unlikely to be met</li> <li>• Next steps unclear</li> </ul>

### Planned Infrastructure and Status

The SWIMP identifies and prioritizes infrastructure to be constructed with regional partner policy support. In 2022, Larimer County issued a request for proposals (RFP) for potential diversion partners which yielded additional potential infrastructure. Larimer County is in negotiations with four potential private partners, some of which propose waste-to-energy or mixed waste processing, which are not categories of infrastructure prioritized in the SWIMP. Details are included in the following table.

### Status of infrastructure identified in the SWIMP and Larimer County RFP

Infrastructure element	Material processed	Tier in SWIMP	Status	Notes
<b>Infrastructure elements from SWIMP and in IGA</b>				
Landfill	Waste	1	Under construction	Market risk of landfill not receiving enough material if Fort Collins does not adopt flow control.
Transfer station	Waste	1	Planned	
C&D Recycling	Construction & Demolition material	1	Dependent on receiving state grant (notification anticipated Q2 2024)	Addresses barrier of having to separate all materials at C&D sites – could make C&D materials “single stream” recyclable
Yard trimmings composting	Yard trimmings	1	Under consideration	Could move forward via A1 Organics proposal to Larimer County
Food scraps composting	Food scraps	1	Unclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential food scraps are often collected mixed with yard waste and composted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No identified path for this material</li> </ul> </li> <li>Commercial food scraps are often collected separately and composted or anaerobically digested</li> </ul>
Anaerobic digestion	Food scraps, nutrient-rich liquids	2	Under consideration	Could move forward via Anaergia proposal to Larimer County
Expand recycle center	Curbside recyclables	2	Not being considered	Requires more recyclables than facility currently receives
Waste-to-Energy	Mixed waste or specific materials	3	Under consideration	EPA waste hierarchy supports this only for materials that can't be reused, recycled or composted
<b>Specific companies that submitted proposals to Larimer County RFP</b>				
Anaergia	Mixed waste or food scraps	2 or 3	Under consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processing of food scraps consistent with EPA waste hierarchy</li> <li>Mixed waste processing can be more expensive and can generate materials that are hard to market</li> </ul>
Biochar	Wood	N/A	Under consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May process treated / painted wood or clean wood</li> <li>Uncertainty around potential air quality impacts</li> </ul>
A1 Organics	Yard trimmings	1	Under consideration	Largest composter in Colorado, currently owns and operates sites in Eaton, Keenesburg
Plasma Development	Unclear	3	Under consideration	Waste to Energy company

## Flow Control – Context for Future Discussion

Flow control is a requirement that waste is directed for disposal to a specific facility. The location that receives the material must be owned and operated by a public entity and there must be a public benefit to sending the material to that facility.

Larimer County would like Fort Collins to consider instituting flow control for solid waste to ensure the County has enough material to operate the new landfill and transfer station, and potentially support development of future diversion facilities. The IGA states the partners will not adopt flow control for waste. However, there have been significant market changes since the adoption of the IGA that change the assumptions and further examination may be warranted on the impacts flow control would have on the City, the County, and customers in the regional wasteshed.

Consistent with the commitments in the IGA, the City has already conditionally required that mixed C&D waste be deposited at the County processing facility if and when it is constructed. However, for waste, flow control has not been adopted, meaning haulers can decide where to take it. If haulers opt to take more waste to other landfills, the County is at risk of not having enough material to cover the costs of landfill operations.

To address this risk, Larimer County is requesting Fort Collins consider adopting flow control to Larimer County for the residential waste collected via the City's single hauler contract. The adoption of flow control has a pricing impact on customers.

Staff propose making this topic a central consideration at future Work Sessions as councilmembers consider ways to advance the priority to accelerate zero waste infrastructure and policies. In the meantime, staff from both organizations will continue to meet regularly to seek clarity and discuss viable options.

## Grant-supported Research and Development

The City has recently been awarded a Technical Assistance Grant (TASP) by the State of Colorado to identify specific options and implementable solutions for greater C&D diversion and recycling, and community-scale food scraps composting. This staff work will begin in the spring of 2024 and should yield clear actions that the City, on its own or in partnership with regional collaborators, can take to advance its zero waste goals. The research conducted will be central to future Work Sessions on the Council Priority to *Accelerate Zero Waste Policies and Infrastructure*. Concurrently, Larimer County is pursuing State grant funds to construct a C&D processing facility that is aligned with the City's diversion objectives. Ongoing collaboration and cooperation with partners is critical to identifying the path forward on local and regional waste solutions.

## Data and Supporting Information

In 2021 – the most recent year for which data is available – the City of Fort Collins produced 350,000 tons of waste; 52% of it, or 182,000 tons, was diverted from the landfill.

The Community Diversion Rate includes material from the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors and is calculated based on weights. Per recent discussions regarding the use of weight-based measurement rather than volume, Fort Collins uses weight-based measurements as they are the industry standard and are the most accurate available approach to measuring waste. Fort Collins also tracks diversion rates by sector (in 2021, they were: single-unit residential: 29%, commercial / multi-unit residential: 32%, industrial: 66%). In order to capture the impacts of source reduction, Fort Collins also tracks the pounds per capita of material landfilled. Conducting more regular and smaller scale waste sorts is also a potential future source of additional data about materials disposal in the community.

More information can be found in the 2021 Waste Reduction and Recycling Annual Report (included as an attachment).

## NEXT STEPS

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- Staff will bring forward a Resolution relating to the IGA, if desired, consistent with feedback.
- If Councilmembers desire a joint Work Session with the Larimer County Commissioners, an off-cycle meeting time will be set.
- City staff will work with the TASP grant consultants to further identify and vet potential pathways to food scrap and C&D materials infrastructure, including analysis and collaboration regarding flow control informed by Councilmember feedback.
- City staff will propose next steps for the Council Priority to Accelerate Zero Waste Policies and Infrastructure at a work session on May 14.

## ATTACHMENTS

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1. Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan (SWIMP) Executive Summary
2. 2019 Regional Wasteshed Intergovernmental Agreement
3. 2021 Waste Reduction and Recycling Annual Report (most recent available)
4. Presentation



## Partnering for Change

Larimer County  
Solid Waste Infrastructure  
Master Plan

*Larimer County, Colorado*

October 25, 2018

*DRAFT – FOR  
LARIMER COUNTY  
ADOPTION*

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## Attachments

### VOLUME II: TECHNICAL MEMOS

- Memo A: Task 3 – Emerging Technologies Technical Memorandum
- Memo B: Task 3 – Solid Waste Management Practices Memo
- Memo C: Task 5 – Solid Waste Volumes Memo (with attachments)
- Memo D: Analysis of Infrastructure Options (with attachments)
- Memo E: Potential Local Government Options and Policies (with attachments)
- Memo F: Disposal Site Options – Advantages and Disadvantages (with attachments)

### VOLUME III: APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Colorado Integrated Solid Waste & Materials Management Plan
- Appendix B: Final Report – Phase 1 Regional Wasteshed Planning Study
- Appendix C: Stakeholder Presentations (1-7)

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

AD	Anaerobic Digestion
BCR	Benefit-Cost Ratio
C&D	Construction and Demolition
CAA	Clean Air Act
Coalition	North Front Range Regional Wasteshed Coalition
COBRA	Co-benefit Risk Analysis
eGRID	Emissions & Generation Resource Integrated Database
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
LF	Landfill
MMRF	Multi-Materials Recovery Facility
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
NHSM	Non-Hazardous
PAC	Policy Advisory Committee
Plan	Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan
RDF	Refuse Derived Fuel
SROI	Sustainable Return on Investment
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TBL	Triple Bottom Line
TS	Transfer Station
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
Wasteshed	North Front Range Regional Wasteshed
WTE	Waste to Energy
WWTF	Waste Water Treatment Facility
YW	Yard Waste

# Executive Summary

## Background

Responsible solid waste management has long been a shared goal of the governing agencies within Larimer County. The Larimer County Landfill began operations in the late 1960s. In 1972, the cities of Fort Collins and Loveland and Larimer County collaborated when the jointly owned landfill was established to ensure that environmental regulations and citizen needs could be met for waste disposal in the Wasteshed. With the inevitable upcoming closure of the Larimer County landfill (expected around 2025) and predictions of continued regional population growth, these partners, plus the neighboring community of Estes Park, worked together to evaluate waste management needs and develop guidance plans to manage waste for the region into the future. The result of that effort is this Master Plan.

The North Front Range Regional Wasteshed Coalition (Coalition) was formed in 2015 to address the future of solid waste management. The Coalition includes a Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) made up of elected officials from Fort Collins, Loveland, Estes Park, and Larimer County, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) made up of staff members from the same entities and a Stakeholder Advisory Group consisting of representatives from local businesses, community groups, educational institutions, regional governance and all eight municipalities within Larimer County. The charter of the Coalition is to responsibly address the current solid waste management and resource recovery needs of the region, while considering infrastructure and policy that will meet community needs in the future.

Although the current solid waste infrastructure in the Wasteshed is working well, significant portions of the waste stream are recoverable and challenges are foreseeable in the near future. These challenges include the closure of the Larimer County Landfill (which is expected to reach capacity in 2025 and is the primary asset of the current infrastructure system) the need to address population growth and additional future waste, infrastructure capacity, sustainability, and other related issues, while paying close attention to financial constraints and responsibilities.

In 2016, the Coalition initiated the first phase of the process. A Regional Wasteshed Report was developed through public engagement that included four public forums in September 2016 focused on the issues of resource recovery and materials management. This report formed the basis for further evaluation of infrastructure options developed to address current and future solid waste demands within the Wasteshed.

The Coalition initiated the second phase of its multi-year Regional Wasteshed Planning Study in 2017, and retained the firm of HDR Engineering, Inc., to further identify a road map for the continued efficient, economical, and environmentally responsible handling of waste generated within the Wasteshed. To further identify and analyze options for developing the future regional waste infrastructure system, this North Front Range Regional Wasteshed Coalition Solid Waste Infrastructure

Master Plan (Plan) reviews and recommends potential infrastructure options based on established goals and objectives, population and waste projections, resource needs, capital and operational costs, and sustainable return on investment analyses.

## Goals of the Plan

Through active collaboration and feedback from stakeholders and community members, the Coalition developed the following goals to assist in guiding the Wasteshed to a sustainable and achievable future regional solid waste infrastructure system. The shared goals are as follows:

**Goal #1:** Establish a comprehensive, regional solid waste materials management system by 2025 that is implemented in an economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable manner.

**Goal #2:** Create a comprehensive solid waste materials management plan and implement programs and facilities that reflect the needs and desires of users.

**Goal #3:** Develop a set of waste diversion/reduction goals that are adopted and implemented by all jurisdictions in the Wasteshed.

**Goal #4:** Develop a strong public education and outreach program that is consistent throughout the Wasteshed.

## Phase 2 Study Stakeholder Engagement

To ensure alignment with the needs and expectations of the local businesses and communities, the Coalition actively developed and engaged a Stakeholder Advisory Group comprised of 88 representatives from throughout the Wasteshed including: regional governments/agencies, boards and commissions, educational institutions, solid waste industry, business/industry, and various associations. The Stakeholder Advisory Group was key in reviewing and providing consensus with the findings and recommendations presented by the TAC throughout the study process.

A total of seven (7) stakeholder meetings were held throughout Phase 2; each meeting covered specific topics discussed in the sections of this Plan and included progress updates of the infrastructure evaluations. Prior to each meeting, an email invitation was sent to the entire members of the Stakeholder Advisory Group to inform them of the meeting date, time, location, and topic. A website was established specific to the stakeholders that housed documents shared with the stakeholders and provided a forum for submitting comments in the event they missed a meeting.

## Infrastructure Options Considered

Through a collaborative effort with the Coalition's TAC, stakeholders, and community partners, 11 potential solid waste infrastructure options were chosen to further refine, identify, and analyze. The options selected for further evaluation were:

- Status Quo
- Central Transfer Station

- New County Landfill or Alternate Disposal Site
- Material Recovery Facility (Clean)
- Yard Waste Organic Processing Facility
- Construction and Demolition Debris Processing Facility
- Energy From Waste Facility – Direct Combustion
- Mixed Waste Processing (Dirty Material Recovery Facility [MRF])
- Static Aerated Composting including Food Waste
- Anaerobic Digestion
- Refuse Derived Fuel Processing

Upon completion of the individual infrastructure options evaluation, the Coalition's TAC carefully considered the impacts, costs, and benefits of a complete and comprehensive solid waste infrastructure system. This proposed comprehensive solid waste infrastructure system was presented to the Stakeholders and the PAC, for their concurrence and eventual selection as the recommended option to proceed forward as the future solid waste management infrastructure for the Wasteshed. Table ES-1 outlines the tiered infrastructure options selected with the Sustainable Return on Investment (SROI) ranking, a potential schedule for siting approval, permitting and design, construction and year to be placed in service. The TAC chose not to eliminate technologies from future consideration, in the event that in the future they became more viable, so instead ranked them in a tiered approach given the current status of each technology.

**Table ES-1. Tiered Infrastructure Options**

Tier Recommendations	Potential Schedule			
	Local Siting Approval	Permitting/ Design	Construction	In Service
<b><u>Tier 1</u></b>				
Central Transfer Station	2019	2020	2021	2022
New County Landfill	2019	2020	2022	2023
Yard Waste Open Windrow Composting	2020	2021	2022	2022
Construction & Demolition Waste Processing	2020	2021	2022	2022
Food Waste Composting – Static Aerated Bin	2021	2021	2023	2024

**Table ES-1. Tiered Infrastructure Options**

Tier Recommendations	Potential Schedule			
	Local Siting Approval	Permitting/ Design	Construction	In Service
<u><b>Tier 2</b></u>				
Clean Material Recovery Facility /Upgrade	Assessed Annually Moving Forward			
Anaerobic Digestion /Pre-Processing - WWTP				
<u><b>Tier 3</b></u>				
Waste to Energy (Direct Combustion)	Possible Future Consideration			
Refuse Derived Fuel Processing				
<u><b>Not Considered Viable</b></u>				
Mixed Waste Processing - Dirty MRF	Not Currently Viable			
Status Quo				

The New County Landfill infrastructure option was initially evaluated as a publicly owned and operated facility. Subsequent to the initial evaluation, the TAC considered further evaluating an alternative disposal site or privately owned and operated facility for the landfill infrastructure option as a result of an unsolicited private disposal option. Based on this further evaluation the recommendation was made to move forward with the option of a publicly owned and operated landfill.

As the New County Landfill infrastructure option moves forward, additional investigation of the site owned by the County will need to be initiated to ensure suitability for construction and operation of a landfill facility. If the property is not suitable for a landfill, the TAC and the PAC will reconvene and re-evaluate disposal options.

## Process Controls and Risk Management

The TAC considered potential regulations and policies to be adopted that would support the business model of the infrastructure options chosen for the regional solid waste management system. This included an assessment of associated risks, advantages and disadvantages for each process control. During the TAC's evaluation of process controls options, consideration was given to the implications for the public, commercial industry, private haulers, solid waste industry, and elected officials. Each of the controls evaluated have been previously implemented in some manner throughout the region or elsewhere in the country.

Key findings resulting from review of potential local process controls options and policies included:

- Currently, there are limited controls, policies and regulations in place in the Wasteshed to guarantee that waste is directed to infrastructure that supports the goals and objectives that the Coalition has established to enhance waste reduction and diversion.
- It is common practice for municipalities and local government to employ some method of regulatory control, whether it be through ordinances, policies or procedures to ensure waste is handled in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Due to the competitive nature of the waste industry in the region, more specifically the low cost of burying waste, local governments can be subject to the risk of rising costs if regulatory control is not established for waste reduction and diversion purposes.
- Regulatory control protects the health, safety and the welfare of the community by providing greater control and oversight of solid waste management activities and protects natural resources by allowing the municipalities to designate disposal and recycling sites that meet required environmental standards or assist with achieving diversion goals.

## Phase 2 Study Public Outreach

The Coalition held a series of four public meetings around Larimer County for members of the public to learn more about the future of solid waste in the region and to provide feedback on the draft regional master plan concepts for waste recovery and disposal. The meetings were held in an open-house format, displaying 11 informational boards throughout the room and included project overview presentations. Comment forms were provided for attendees to submit written feedback.

More than 100 participants attended the public meetings and provided valuable feedback to the Coalition members.

## Phase 2 Study Recommendations

Building on the vision, goals, and objectives established by the Coalition, stakeholders, and community members, and their recommendations for



infrastructure facilities, an implementation schedule was established that outlines the 7-year plan for moving forward with the recommended actions. Table ES-2 outlines the recommendations and implementation schedule for the Coalition to put in to action prior to the closure of the Larimer County Landfill.

**Table ES-2. Implementation Schedule**

Recommendation	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation Year						
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Infrastructure								
The Coalition and stakeholders recommend that the Tier 1 Infrastructure be approved, built and in service prior to the closure of the Larimer County Landfill in 2025. Recommended Tier 1 facilities are:	Larimer County							
• Central Transfer Station (Jan 2019–Jan 2023)			✓	✓	✓	✓		
• New County Landfill <sup>1</sup> (Jan 2019–Jan 2024)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
• Yard Waste Open Windrow Composting (Jan 2020–Jan 2023)				✓	✓	✓		
• Construction and Demolition Waste Processing (Jan 2020–Jan 2023)				✓	✓	✓		
• Food Waste Composting – Static Aerated Bin (Oct 2021–Feb 2025)					✓	✓	✓	✓
The Tier 2 Infrastructure will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Coalition for possible implementation at a later date.	Larimer County City of Fort Collins City of Loveland Town of Estes Park	Ongoing						

Table ES-2. Implementation Schedule

Recommendation	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation Year						
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Policy and Process Controls								
Draft policy language will be developed through a collaborative process by the TAC for process controls, waste bans and hauler licensing that will yield specific results associated with waste diversion, reductions and recycling while achieving consistency amongst the Coalition members. Once drafted, the policies/codes should be vetted through each of the Coalition’s government entities for comments.	Larimer County City of Fort Collins City of Loveland Town of Estes Park	Q4	-	-	-	-	-	
An Intergovernmental Agreement for Solid Waste handling will be drafted by the Coalition members and adopted by each of the Coalition’s government entities.	Larimer County City of Fort Collins City of Loveland Town of Estes Park	-	Q1	-	-	-	-	
Administration and Education								
The Coalition members will work cooperatively to establish a public education and outreach program to educate the citizens and stakeholders on upcoming changes to the waste management system in the Wasteshed.	Larimer County City of Fort Collins City of Loveland Town of Estes Park	Ongoing						

Table ES-2. Implementation Schedule

Recommendation	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation Year						
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Upon adoption of the Intergovernmental Agreements, an Advisory Board should be established which consists of Coalition members, stakeholders and members of the public to advise on solid waste management issues.	Larimer County City of Fort Collins City of Loveland Town of Estes Park	-	Q3	-	-	-	-	-

<sup>1</sup>The recommendation will require an initial site evaluation to determine if the County owned site is suitable for landfill infrastructure.

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR SOLID WASTE PROGRAMMING AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

This Intergovernmental Agreement for Solid Waste Programming and Infrastructure Improvements ("Agreement") is made and effective on March 19, 2019 (Effective Date), by and among the Board of County Commissioners of Larimer County, Colorado (referred to as "County"), and the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, the City of Loveland, Colorado, and the Town of Estes Park, Colorado (individually referred to as "Municipality" or collectively as "Municipalities"). The County and Municipalities shall jointly be referred to as the "Parties".

### I. RECITALS

WHEREAS, the appropriate management of solid waste materials is critical to human health and safety, the environmental and the economic wellbeing of the region; and

WHEREAS, the Larimer County Solid Waste Facility located at 5887 S. Taft Hill Road serves as a regional solid waste processing and disposal site for residents of Larimer County located in municipalities and unincorporated areas; and

WHEREAS, The Larimer County Solid Waste Facility includes a regional sanitary landfill that receives approximately one million cubic yards of material per year and is forecasted to consume the available permitted air space capacity by the fourth quarter of the year 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Parties formed the North Front Range Regional Wasteshed Coalition (including a Technical Advisory Committee of staff members and a Policy Advisory Committee of elected officials and a 60+ member stakeholder advisory group) to identify, analyze, and prioritize solid waste infrastructure and implementation options. This work resulted in the development of a Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan for adoption by Larimer County; and

WHEREAS, on December 19, 2018, the Larimer County Planning Commission adopted the 2018 Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan, which includes various recommendations for infrastructure and facility improvements, education, licensing and other program elements to provide solid waste services within Larimer County and increase material diversion from landfill disposal; and

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to work cooperatively to implement the 2018 Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan, continue to develop joint programs for consistent public education, evaluate future technologies associated with solid waste management, and establish the respective responsibilities of the Parties; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado legislature has expressly endorsed "local efforts...focused toward the reduction of the volume and toxicity of the waste stream...through source reduction, recycling, composting, and similar waste management strategies" (Section 30-20-100.5, C.R.S.) and

authorized designation of exclusive sites and facilities for disposal of solid waste (Section 30-20-107, C.R.S.); and

WHEREAS, cooperation of the Parties pursuant to this Agreement will allow for implementation of an integrated package of waste disposal services designed to increase recycling and confer significant health and environmental benefits upon the citizens of Larimer County by enhancing recycling incentives and opportunities, obtaining information for the tracking and planning of waste diversion, and increasing the ability of the Parties to monitor and enforce recycling and other waste management laws; and

WHEREAS, County and Municipalities are authorized pursuant to Article XIV, Section 18 of the Colorado Constitution and Section 29-1-201, et seq., Colorado Revised Statutes, to enter into intergovernmental agreements for the purpose of providing any service or performing any function which they can perform individually; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the existing infrastructure and infrastructure to be constructed by Larimer County, the Municipalities have developed and continue to operate the following solid waste infrastructure: the Estes Park Transfer Station owned by the Town of Estes Park and operated by Larimer County, the Timberline Recycling Center and the Crushing Operations Site which are owned by the City of Fort Collins, and the Loveland Recycling Center and collection vehicles which are owned by the City of Loveland.

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

## II. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Agreement, the following definitions shall apply:

**Clean Material Recovery Facility.** A facility consisting of structures, machinery, devices, or persons to sort, bale, or otherwise manage or process recyclable materials prior to conveyance to end markets.

**Construction and Demolition Waste.** Waste that is generated from construction, remodeling, repairs, or demolition of buildings, and other structures which includes but is not limited to, lumber, bricks, carpets, ceramics, sheetrock, porcelain, metals, drywall, window glass, metal and plastic piping, paint and any other non-hazardous materials resulting from construction and demolition activities.

**Disposal.** The final treatment, deposition, or incineration of Solid Waste but shall not include Waste Prevention or Recycling as defined herein.

**Flow Control.** Provision that allows local governments to designate the places where materials generated within their jurisdiction are taken for processing disposal. For the purposes of this Agreement, flow control explicitly excludes municipal solid waste, yard waste, food waste and hazardous waste.

**Food Waste.** Materials that include animal/fruit/vegetable based staple scraps, old fruit/vegetables, egg shells, coffee grounds, tea bags, food-soiled paper, old bread, food scraps, and expired de-packaged foods. Additionally, it may include plant wastes from the food processing industry and pre-consumer vegetative food waste.

**Hauler.** Any person or company that collects, transports and/or disposes of discarded materials and waste (e.g. solid waste, recyclables, food waste, yard trimmings) as their primary business and delivers waste into facilities for disposal or recycling.

**Hauler Licensing.** A coordinated licensing approach for data tracking, public outreach and curbside collection requirements for implementation to licensed haulers (Appendix C).

**Hazardous Waste.** Hazardous substances as defined in 25-15-101(6), as amended, and any other substances or materials defined or classified as such by the Hazardous Waste Commission pursuant to 25-15-302, C.R.S., as amended.

**Integrated Solid Waste Management System.** The system of facilities for the collection, processing, and disposal of solid waste currently owned/operated by the Parties, which includes the Estes Park Transfer Station owned by the Town of Estes Park and operated by Larimer County, the Timberline Recycling Center and the Crushing Operations Site owned by the City of Fort Collins, the Loveland Recycling Center and collection vehicles owned by the City of Loveland, and the Larimer County Solid Waste Infrastructure System.

**Landfill.** A discrete area of land or an excavation where solid wastes are placed for final disposal, which is not a land application unit, waste impoundment, or waste pile. Landfills include, but are not limited to, ash monofills, construction and demolition landfills, sanitary landfills, tire monofills and similar facilities where final disposal occurs.

**Larimer County Solid Waste Infrastructure System.** Includes Larimer County's Solid Waste facilities used to manage Solid Waste which includes but is not limited to household hazardous waste, landfill, recycling facility, and Tier 1 processing and disposal facilities as established pursuant to the approved Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan.

**Municipal Solid Waste.** Solid waste from household, community, commercial and industrial sources that does not contain hazardous wastes as defined in Section 25-15-101(9) of the Colorado Hazardous Waste Act unless otherwise regulated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

**Processing.** Sorting and converting solid waste, by manual or mechanical means, into raw material for new use. Includes Recycling and Composting.

**Recyclable Material.** Any type of discarded or waste material that is not regulated under Section 25-8-205(1) (e), C.R.S., and can be reused, remanufactured, reclaimed, or recycled.

**Solid Waste.** Any garbage, refuse, sludge from a waste treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, air pollution control facility, or other discarded material; including solid, liquid, semisolid,

or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial operations, commercial operations or community activities. Solid Waste does not include any solid or dissolved materials in irrigation return flows, or industrial discharges which are point sources subject to permits under the provisions of the “Colorado Water Quality Control Act”, Title 25, Article 8, CRS or materials handled at facilities licensed pursuant to the provisions on “Radiation Control Act” in Title 25, Article 11, CRS. Solid Waste does not include: (a) materials handled at facilities licensed pursuant to the provisions on radiation control in Article 11 of Title 25, C.R.S.; or (b) excluded scrap metal that is being recycled; or (c) shredded circuit boards that are being recycled.

**Solid Waste Policy Council or Policy Council.** The Policy Council created to advise the Parties on solid waste matters regarding infrastructure, programs, education and master plan updates.

**Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan.** The Larimer County 2018 Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan as approved and amended from time to time by the Larimer County Planning Commission.

**Technical Staff.** A group of technical staff provided by each Party pursuant to Section 6.1.2 to support the Policy Council.

**Tier 1 Infrastructure Facilities.** Tier 1 Infrastructure facilities are outlined in the approved Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan to be developed in supporting the solid waste infrastructure system and include: Central Transfer Station, New County Landfill, Construction and Demolition Waste Processing Facility, Yard Waste Windrow Composting Facility and Food Waste Composting Facility (Appendix A).

**Tier 2 Infrastructure Facilities.** Tier 2 Infrastructure facilities are outlined in the approved Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan to be reviewed on an annual basis for possible implementation at a later date and include: Clean Material Recovery Facility/Upgrade, Anaerobic Digestion/Pre-Processing (Appendix A).

**Tier 3 Infrastructure Facilities.** Tier 3 Infrastructure facilities are outlined in the approved Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan and will be further reviewed on an annual basis as industry changes occur and include: Waste to Energy and Refuse Derived Fuel Processing (Appendix A).

**Transfer Station.** A facility at which Solid Waste, awaiting transportation to a processing or disposal site, is transferred from one type of containerized collection receptacle and placed into another and/or is processed for compaction.

**Waste Prevention.** Methods utilized to create less waste prior to recycling, composting or disposal.

**Yard Waste.** Waste generated from yard maintenance, including garden waste, fruit fall, grass clippings, wood, twigs, leaves and branches.

### III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is to foster coordination and cooperation between the Parties and to establish the respective responsibilities of the Parties in an Integrated Solid Waste Management System including, but not limited to, planning, education, waste prevention, recycling, collection, composting, transportation and disposal.

### IV. TERM

- 4.1 Initial Term.** This Agreement shall become effective on the Effective Date and shall remain in effect through December 31, 2050 (Initial Term).
- 4.2 Extension Term.** Unless earlier terminated as provided herein, the Agreement will automatically renew for an additional term of ten years (Extension Term).
- 4.3 Termination.** Any Party shall have the right to terminate their continued participation in this Agreement during the Initial Term or any Extension Term as follows:
  - 4.3.1** In the event of non-appropriation by their elected bodies.
  - 4.3.2** By written notice given to all other Parties 18 months prior to the date on which the Party elects to terminate their continued participation.
  - 4.3.3** By mutual agreement by all parties.

### V. GENERAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES

#### 5.1 LARIMER COUNTY

- 5.1.1 Land for Facility Improvements.** The County agrees to provide land for construction of Tier 1 Infrastructure Facilities which includes the County-owned land adjacent to the existing Larimer County Landfill located at 5887 S. Taft Hill Road and the 626 acres of County owned property located at the intersection of County Road 76 East and County Road 11 North. An alternate site for Tier 1 composting facilities is indicated on the map in appendix D, which is on jointly owned property by the County, City of Fort Collins, and City of Loveland. Construction of any new Tier 1 Infrastructure on land jointly-owned by Larimer County, Loveland and Fort Collins will require consent from the Cities of Fort Collins and Loveland as landowners and pursuant to the 1974 Operating Agreement. If consent is not given by Fort Collins or Loveland, Larimer County shall not be required to provide the yard waste and food waste facilities described in Sections 5.1.7 and 5.1.8 below; however, the Parties agree to negotiate in an effort to find an alternative location for such facilities.
- 5.1.2 Facility Design and Construction.** The County shall be responsible for all Tier 1 Infrastructure Facility Design and Construction activities. In addition to the development of the Tier 1 Infrastructure Facilities, the County will annually evaluate, in close coordination with the Solid Waste Policy Council described in Section VI, the applicability/feasibility of developing the Tier 2 and Tier 3 Infrastructure Facilities based on current waste management practices, the waste market within the region, and quantity and quality of waste materials managed within the Tier 1 Infrastructure Facilities. The County reserves the right to design



and construct any Tier 1 Infrastructure Facilities prior to the dates and/or volumes set forth in this Agreement.

- 5.1.3 Project Funding and Financing.** The County shall be responsible for all funding and financing of Tier 1 Infrastructure Facilities, and retain all corresponding revenue, within the County's Solid Waste Enterprise. Funding and financing of Tier 2 and Tier 3 Infrastructure Facilities will be determined at the time of facility planning and development.
- 5.1.4 Facility Operations and Maintenance.** The County shall own and operate all Tier 1 Infrastructure Facilities and shall be responsible for operations and maintenance of the facilities. The County may hire private service providers to operate Tier 1 facilities at its discretion, however, County shall at all times retain ownership and any contracted service provider shall only serve as a vendor for operational purposes. In no event shall County delegate discretionary rate-setting authority and no private vendor will have authority or influence over the integrated waste management systems implemented by this Agreement. The County shall receive all income from the operation of Tier 1 Infrastructure Facilities. In the event there are any operating losses in connection with the Tier 1 Infrastructure Facilities, the County shall bear the same without contribution from the Parties. Operations and maintenance of Tier 2 and Tier 3 Infrastructure Facilities will be determined at the time of facility planning and development. The County shall continue to operate and maintain the Larimer County Solid Waste Infrastructure System for the term of this Agreement.
- 5.1.5 Hauler Licensing.** The County shall support and participate with the Parties in a coordinated approach to data tracking. The County hauler licensing program will be developed and implemented no later than January 1, 2020. Appendices B and C attached hereto provide proposed minimum hauler licensing requirements and maps, which will be applied in the County's hauler licensing program.
- 5.1.6 Solid Waste Management.** The County agrees to develop and construct the Tier 1 Infrastructure Facilities to manage solid waste that include a Central Transfer Station and New County Landfill, that will be operational prior to the closure of the current Larimer County Landfill. The County will design and construct the Tier 1 Central Transfer Station and the New County Landfill beginning in 2019 to accept solid waste on October 1, 2023.
- 5.1.7 Yard Waste Material Management.** The County agrees to develop and construct the Tier 1 Yard Waste Windrow Compost Facility and to establish fees that promote segregation of yard waste from disposal and encourage composting. The County will continue to operate the current green waste landfill segregation program at the Larimer County Landfill through calendar year 2021. The County will design and construct the Tier 1 Yard Waste Windrow Compost Facility beginning in 2019 to accept yard waste on June 1, 2021.
- 5.1.8 Food Waste Material Management.** The County agrees to develop and construct the Tier 1 Food Waste Compost Facility to recycle and compost segregated food waste upon adoption of policies or programs pursuant to section 5.2.4 of this agreement. The Parties shall coordinate through the Solid Waste Policy Council the development and timing of food waste collection programs that meet the

required quantities to properly schedule the planning, design, and construction of a food waste compost facility, and establish policies to encourage composting.

- 5.1.9 Construction and Demolition Waste Management.** The County agrees to develop, construct and operate the Tier 1 Construction and Demolition Waste Processing Facility to recycle mixed construction and demolition waste and to establish policies to encourage recycling of mixed construction and demolition waste. The County will design and construct the Tier 1 Construction and Demolition Waste Processing Facility pursuant to section 5.2.5 of this agreement within not more than four years of policy adoption.
- 5.1.10 Single Stream Recycling Material Management.** The County shall continue to own and operate a Single Stream Recycling Materials Management Facility. The County agrees to issue a request for letters of interest from private companies to expand or replace the existing Recycling Facility for conversion to a full-service Clean Material Recovery Facility to serve as a regional single stream recycling center for northern Colorado and potentially other areas upon adopting flow control for single stream recyclables pursuant to section 5.2.6.
- 5.1.11 Public Education Programs.** The County shall work cooperatively with the Municipalities to coordinate public education and outreach to provide information and educational materials that shall engage and educate the community on topics including waste disposal, recycling, waste prevention, reuse, and materials handling methods. The Solid Waste Policy Council shall coordinate overall educational efforts associated with solid waste programs and the best practices for proper waste management. The Solid Waste Policy Council will coordinate a toolkit for use within Parties' education programs to facilitate a consistent look, feel and message across all of Larimer County. This toolkit may be customized by the Parties without interfering with the consistent messaging. The Solid Waste Policy Council will also initiate the formation and regular meetings of an Education subcommittee comprised of representatives from each Party and appropriate key stakeholders that will meet at least once per year.
- 5.1.12 Solid Waste Planning.** The County shall serve as the coordinating body with responsibility for completing and updating the Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan through participation of the Solid Waste Policy Council.

## **5.2 PARTIES**

- 5.2.1 Solid Waste Management.** The Parties shall continue to operate and maintain their respective Integrated Solid Waste Management System facilities for the term of this Agreement, provided that the parties may independently relocate, replace, and/or modify their respective facilities in a manner not detrimental to the overall operation of the Integrated Solid Waste Management System.
- 5.2.2 Hauler Licensing.** The Parties shall participate in a coordinated approach to data tracking. Curbside collection requirements will be implemented through the Parties' hauler licensing programs, which will be developed and implemented in accordance with Appendices B and C no later than January 1, 2020. The Parties agree to manage and enforce Hauler Licensing requirements with reasonable diligence within their respective jurisdictions.

- 5.2.3 Yard Waste Management.** The Parties agree to develop and implement local programs to encourage segregation of yard waste from landfill disposal within the designated yard waste collection service area as outlined in Appendix B. The Municipalities agree to waive any claim to a share of revenues from the existing Larimer County Landfill property for composting operations, should the County construct the Tier 1 yard waste composting facility on “Alternative Compost Area” as illustrated in Appendix D. The City of Loveland agrees to direct all yard waste material received by the Loveland solid waste program to the Larimer County yard waste facility commencing on June 1, 2021 or sooner if mutually agreed by City of Loveland and County.
- 5.2.4 Food Waste Management.** The Parties may implement policies and procedures to segregate food waste from landfill disposal at their individual discretion. The Parties shall work cooperatively to plan and implement segregated food waste programs, to allow County adequate time to construct a food waste processing facility as described in Section 5.1.8. The Parties must demonstrate to the County that one or more of them have adopted policies or programs reasonably anticipated to generate in the aggregate, a minimum of 6,000 tons per year of food waste and a minimum of 30,000 tons per year of yard waste for delivery to the facility prior to implementation of the Tier 1 facility construction. The Parties agree to conduct ongoing education to reduce contamination in food waste collection programs.
- 5.2.5 Construction and Demolition Waste Management.** To support waste diversion, the Parties may direct mixed construction and demolition waste to the County Tier 1 Construction and Demolition Waste Processing Facility. One or more of the Parties must adopt policies or programs reasonably anticipated to generate in the aggregate, a minimum of 60,000 tons per year of mixed construction and demolition waste for delivery to the facility prior to implementation of the Tier 1 facility construction. The Parties may adopt control measures as deemed appropriate through the following:
- 5.2.5.1** Flow control by one or more local Municipalities of mixed construction and demolition waste reasonably anticipated to generate the minimum volume set forth in this section 5.2.5;
  - 5.2.5.2** Pricing differentials/incentives; and/or
  - 5.2.5.3** Mandates as developed by the State of Colorado.
- 5.2.6 Single Stream Recycling Material Management.** To support waste diversion Parties may direct single stream recyclables to the County owned Larimer County Recycling Center at 5887 S. Taft Hill Road or the County developed full service Clean Material Recovery Facility. One or more of the Parties, with or without participation by others, must adopt policies or programs reasonably anticipated to generate, in the aggregate, a minimum of 55,000 tons per year of single stream recyclables materials for delivery to the facility prior to the County soliciting letters of interest for a Clean Material Recovery Facility.
- 5.2.7 Public Education Programs.** Parties shall work cooperatively to coordinate public education and outreach to provide information and educational materials that shall engage and educate the community on topics including waste disposal, recycling, waste prevention, reuse, and materials handling methods. In addition, each Party will use the jointly-created education and public outreach toolkit within

the Parties' educational programs to facilitate a consistent look, feel and message across all of Larimer County. The toolkit may be customized by the Parties without interfering with the consistent messaging.

## VI. SOLID WASTE POLICY COUNCIL

- 6.1** There is hereby created an advisory council comprised of representatives from the Parties which shall be known as the Solid Waste Policy Council ("Council"). The charge of the Council is to serve in an advisory capacity to the Larimer County Board of Commissioners on solid waste matters. In addition, the Council shall also be available to the other Parties to discuss solid waste management and planning matters.

**6.1.1 Membership.** The membership of the Council shall consist of eight (8) members as follows: one (1) elected official appointee and one (1) appointee from each of the signatories to this Intergovernmental Agreement. In the event other jurisdictions join as parties to this Agreement pursuant to Section 10.5 below, membership of the Council shall be expanded to include one (1) elected official appointee and one (1) appointee from such jurisdiction. Members shall be appointed within 90 days of the Effective Date of this Intergovernmental Agreement. Each member of the Council shall serve a term of three (3) years, except the first appointees shall serve staggered terms to avoid all membership terms ending during the same year. Each member shall be limited to two terms, with the exception of elected official appointees who may serve for the duration of their term as an elected official. Regular terms shall begin December 1 and end November 30 of the expiring term year. Members of the Council shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing bodies and shall receive no compensation from the County.

**6.1.2 Organization.** The Council shall elect a chair and vice-chair and shall adopt bylaws to guide its deliberations. Each Party shall provide one or more technical staff to serve in an advisory and staff-support role to the Council (collectively the "Technical Staff").

**6.1.3 Council Responsibilities.** The Council shall:

**6.1.3.1** Serve as an ongoing forum to advise and assist the Larimer County Board of Commissioners, providing it with technical and non-technical advice on solid waste matters. The Council is not authorized to make decisions or speak for the Larimer County Board of Commissioners or any other Party.

**6.1.3.2** Meet with and provide direction to the Technical Staff. The Technical Staff shall be available to provide research/technical and programmatic guidance to the Council on matters including but not limited to infrastructure, programs, education and master plan updates. Employees of the Parties have already been collaborating in this capacity, and the intent of the Parties is for such efforts to continue and for each Party to make one or more of its employees available to serve as the Technical Staff.

**6.1.3.3** Provide comments to the Parties on all policy aspects of Solid Waste management and planning;

- 6.1.3.4** Participate in the development of future recommendations for the Solid Waste Infrastructure Management Plan (SWIMP) and other plans governing the future of the Integrated Solid Waste Management System, and facilitate a review and approval of revisions/updates to the existing SWIMP by each jurisdiction;
  - 6.1.3.5** Assist in the development of proposed revisions to this Intergovernmental Agreement between Larimer County and municipalities regarding waste management;
  - 6.1.3.6** Review and comment on disposal rate proposals and County financial policies;
  - 6.1.3.7** Review and comment on status reports generated by the Technical Staff and/or Parties;
  - 6.1.3.8** Promote consistent information exchange and interaction between waste generators, haulers, recyclers, and the Parties with respect to the Integrated Solid Waste Management System.
- 6.1.4 County Responsibilities.** The County shall assume the following responsibilities with respect to the Council:
- 6.1.4.1** The County shall provide staff support to Council;
  - 6.1.4.2** In consultation with the chair of the Council, the County shall notify Municipalities and their designated representatives and alternates of meeting times, locations and meeting agendas. Notification by electronic mail or regular mail shall meet the requirements of this Subsection;
  - 6.1.4.3** The County shall post such notices of meetings as may be required from time to time by the Colorado Open Meetings Law and shall maintain custody of the records of the Council in accordance with the Colorado Open Records Act;
  - 6.1.4.4** The County shall consider and respond on a timely basis to questions and issues posed by the Council and shall seek to resolve those issues in collaboration with the Municipalities.
  - 6.1.4.5** The County shall provide information and supporting documentation and analyses as reasonably requested by the Council to perform its duties and functions described herein.

## **VII. RATE SETTING**

The Larimer County Board of County Commissioners may adopt and amend rates for any Tier 1 Infrastructure Facilities at its sole discretion to fund and recover all capital, debt, operating, maintenance, depreciation, regulatory, post closure, and any other expenses of the County Solid Waste Enterprise. Differential pricing of waste streams may be developed and implemented to assist with waste diversion efforts and support flow control where applicable. Upon the opening of the central transfer station and initial receipt of waste, sections 5 and 6 of the November 21, 1974 Intergovernmental Agreement regarding free disposal will be terminated.

## **VIII. NOTICE**

Any notice, request, demand, consent, or approval, or other communication required or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be hand-delivered or sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or by overnight commercial courier, addressed to such other Party at its respective addresses set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and such notice or other communication shall be deemed given when so hand-delivered or three (3) business days after so mailed, or the next business day after being deposited within an overnight commercial courier.

## IX. FUNDING OBLIGATIONS

The financial obligations of the Parties arising under this Agreement that are payable after calendar year 2019 are contingent upon funds for that purpose being annually appropriated, budgeted and otherwise made available by the respective governing bodies of the Parties in their sole discretion. No term or condition of this Agreement is intended nor shall be interpreted to be a multi-fiscal year obligation.

## X. MISCELLANEOUS

- 10.1 Entire Agreement.** This Agreement is to be construed according to its fair meaning and as if prepared by all Parties hereto and is deemed to be and contain the entire understanding and agreement between the Parties hereto. There shall be deemed to be no other terms, conditions, promises, understandings, statements, or representations, expressed or implied, concerning this Agreement unless set forth in writing and signed by the Parties hereto. This Agreement cannot be modified except in writing signed by all Parties.
- 10.2 Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be governed by and its terms construed under the laws of the State of Colorado. Venue for any action shall be in Larimer County, State of Colorado.
- 10.3 Agency Relationship.** Nothing contained herein is deemed or shall be construed by the Parties or by any third party as creating a relationship of principle and agent, a partnership or a joint venture between the parties, or an employment relationship between the Parties.
- 10.4 Third Party Beneficiaries.** This agreement is made for the sole and exclusive benefit of the Parties, their successors and assigns, and it is not made for the benefit of any third party.
- 10.5 Addition of New Parties to the Agreement.** Additional governmental entities in Larimer County may be added to this Agreement with the consent of all Parties.
- 10.6 Severability.** If any term or condition of this Agreement is held to be invalid by final judgment of any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity of such a term or condition shall not in any way affect any of the other terms or conditions of this Agreement, provided that the invalidity of any such term or condition does not materially prejudice an Party in their respective rights and obligations under the valid terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 10.7 Uncontrollable Circumstances.** No Party shall be deemed in violation of this Agreement if prevented from performing any of its respective obligations hereunder by reason of strikes, boycotts, labor disputes, embargoes, shortages of energy or materials, acts of God, acts of public enemies, acts of superior governmental authorities, weather conditions, right,

rebellions, sabotage, or any other circumstances for which it is not responsible or that are not within its control.

**10.8 Counterparts.** This Agreement may be signed by the Parties in counterpart.

**10.9 Governmental Immunity.** No term or condition of this Agreement is intended nor shall be construed as a waiver, either express or implied, of the monetary limits, notice requirements, immunities, rights, benefits, defenses, limitations and protections available to the Parties under any applicable law, including but not limited to the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, C.R.S. 24-10-101, *et. seq.*, as currently written or hereafter amended or implemented.

**10.10 Future Amendment.** This Agreement is made in reliance on current laws and legal authority. The Parties agree to negotiate amendments to this Agreement as may be necessary to maintain the stated purposes and goals while accounting for changes and evolution of applicable laws and legal authority.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** the Parties have caused this Agreement to be ratified by resolution of their governing Boards or Councils as evidenced by the minutes of their governing Boards or Councils and executed by their duly authorized officers as of the date first written.

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SIGNATURE PAGES FOLLOW



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO

By: [Signature]  
Title: CHAIR

A TEST:

[Signature]



Approved as to form:

(see Page 13A)  
County Attorney

CITY OF FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

By: 

Wade Troxell, Mayor

ATTEST:





Approved as to form:



Sr. Asst.

City Attorney



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO**

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Approved as to form:**

 3/19/20

**County Attorney**


*Item 2.*

CITY OF LOVELAND, COLORADO

By: Stephen Adams  
Stephen C. Adams, City Manager



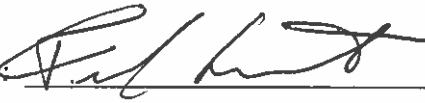
ATTEST:

Deputy City Clerk 

Approved as to form:

Laurie A. Assistant  
City Attorney

TOWN OF ESTES PARK, COLORADO

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Frank Lancaster

**Town Administrator**

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix A

### Tiered Infrastructure Facilities

Table 1 outlines the Tier 1, 2 and 3 Infrastructure Facilities selected with a potential schedule for siting approval, permitting and design, construction and year to be place in service.

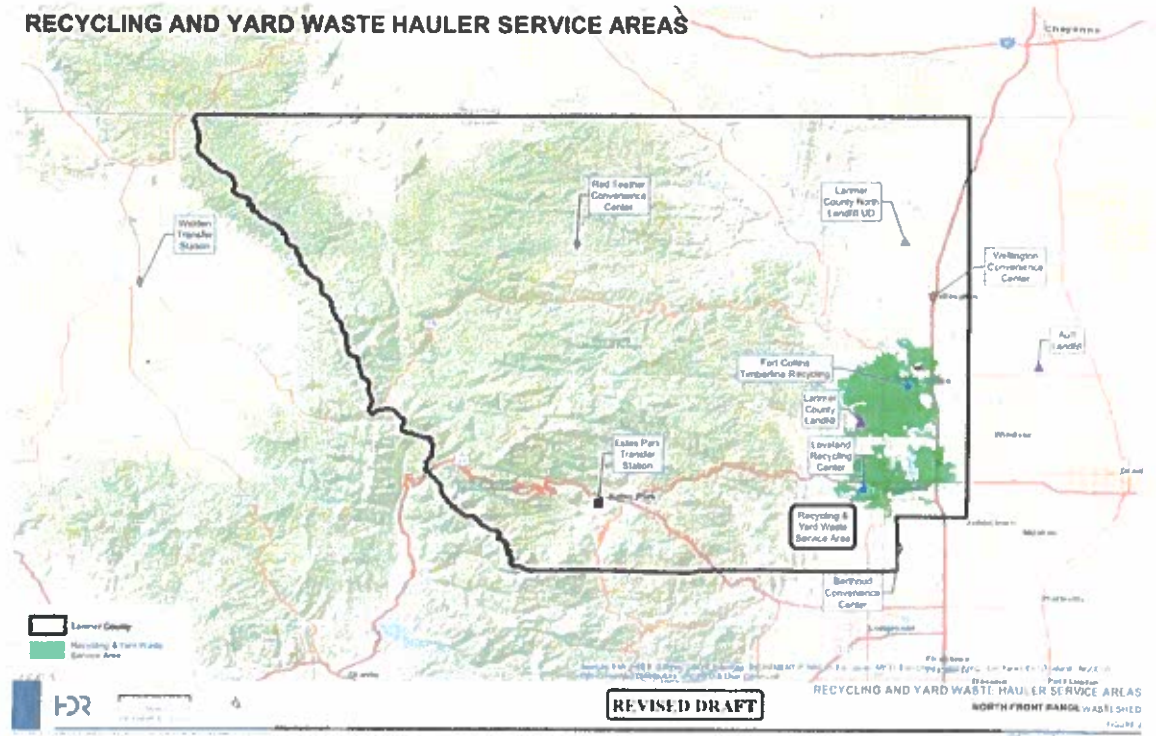
Table 1. Tiered Infrastructure Facilities				
Tier Recommendations	Potential Schedule			
	Local Siting Approval	Permitting/ Design	Construction	In Service
<b><u>Tier 1</u></b>				
Central Transfer Station	2019	2020	2021	2022
New County Landfill	2019	2020	2022	2023
Yard Waste Open Windrow Composting	2019	2019	2020	2021
Construction & Demolition Waste Processing	2020	2021	2022	2022
Food Waste Composting	2021	2021	2023	2024
<b><u>Tier 2</u></b>				
Clean Material Recovery Facility /Upgrade	Assessed Annually Moving Forward			
Anaerobic Digestion /Pre-Processing - WWTP				
<b><u>Tier 3</u></b>				
Waste to Energy (Direct Combustion)	Possible Future Consideration			
Refuse Derived Fuel Processing				



## Appendix B

### Regional Recycling and Yard Waste Collection Service Area Map\*

February 2019



**\*Individual Parties may amend this Appendix B to add portions of their jurisdiction to the Recycling and/or Yard Waste Service Area without consent from the other Parties.**

**\*\*Note: As of February 26, 2019, the green shaded area depicted includes all areas within the city limits of Fort Collins and Loveland. The electronic map depicted above is maintained by and available from the County and shall govern the area within which recycling and yard waste collection services must be offered. It is the County's intent to include portions of Larimer County in the above map in the future as the County hauler licensing program is developed and implemented.**

## **Appendix C**

### **Hauler Minimum Standards**

The Parties will establish minimum hauler requirements as part of a required Hauler License to provide a coordinated licensing approach for data tracking, educational material distribution, and curbside collection requirements.

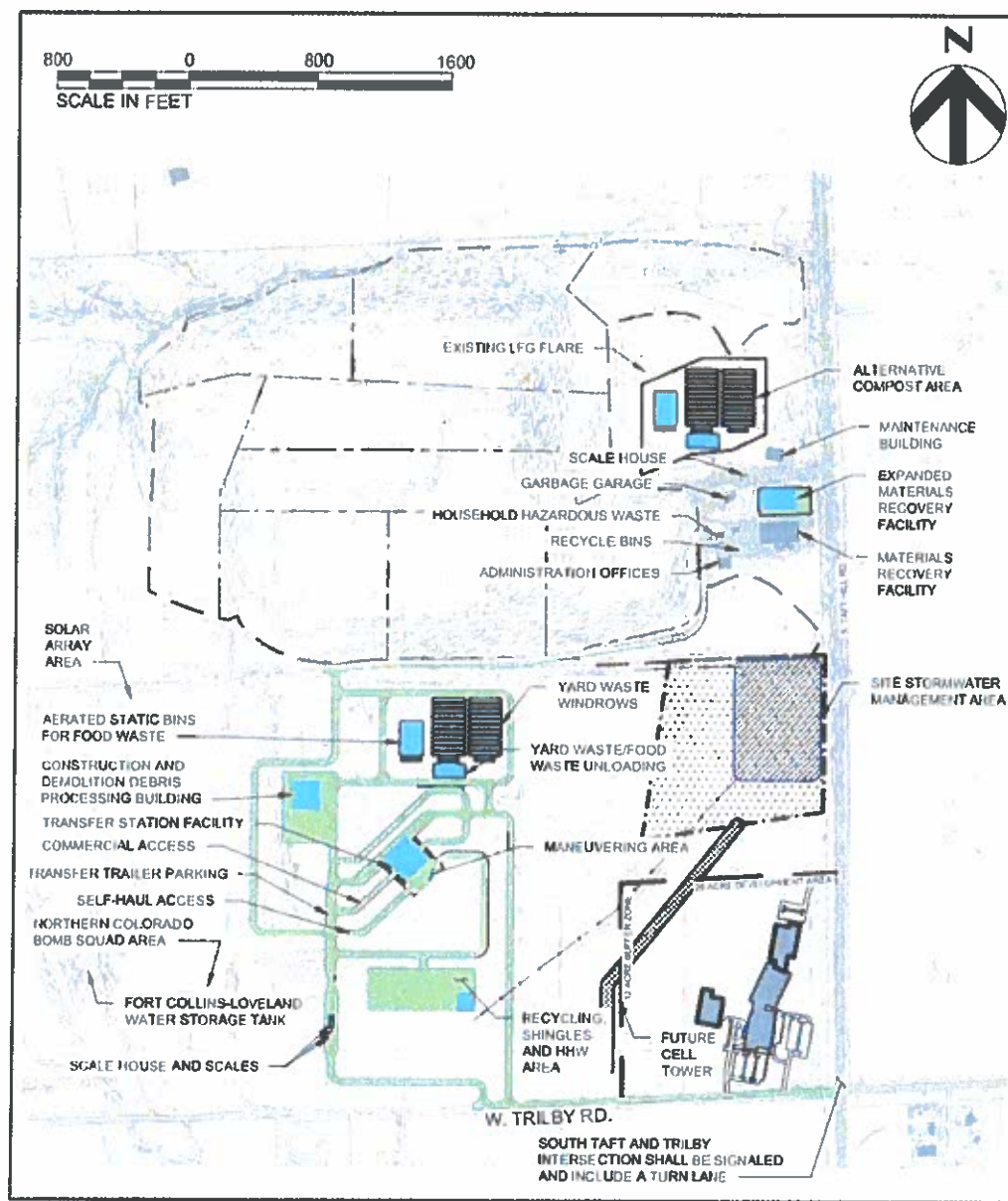
At a minimum, hauler license requirements will include:

- a. For single-family residential customers: Pay As You Throw volume based requirements that apply differential pricing structures for different sized solid waste containers, or a bag pricing model. Volume based rates will be established with a substantive differential cart rate. A minimum of two cart sizes shall be required for curbside garbage collection, unless a bag pricing model is used. Recycling containers shall be provided for areas on map in Appendix B with each curbside garbage cart. Yard waste collection must be offered as an option in areas depicted on the map in Appendix B.
- b. Requirement that Haulers abide by ordinances in that Party's jurisdiction.
- c. Requirement that Haulers meet Insurance requirements as established by each jurisdiction.
- d. Requirement that Haulers list each vehicle in the Hauler's fleet that will be used for collection in that Party's jurisdiction.
- e. Requirement that Haulers report twice yearly the waste and recyclable materials (in tons or cubic yards) collected in the Party's jurisdiction and the customer type from which the waste and recyclable material was collected.
- f. Requirement that Haulers distribute to customers educational materials provided by Parties at least once per year.
- g. Provisions allowing Parties to conduct audits and penalties for non-compliance.

# Appendix D

## Preliminary Site Plan

(Subject to Change)



**LARIMER COUNTY SOLID WASTE  
AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

PRELIMINARY SITE LAYOUT

DATE  
2-21-19

FIGURE  
1

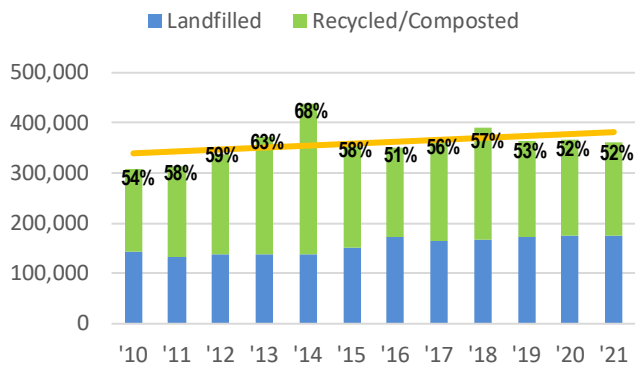
# WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING REPORT

## Community Diversion Rate

A diversion rate compares the amount of material that was recycled or composted with total waste generated by the community. Fort Collins tracks trends in the community by measuring diversion rates as well as per-capita volumes of trash generated.

The overall community-wide diversion rate includes residential, commercial, and industrial trash and recyclable materials. **The Fort Collins Community Diversion Rate in 2021 was 51.5%.**

### COMMUNITY DIVERSION RATES SINCE 2010



### CHANGE IN COMMUNITY DIVERSION RATE FROM 2020 – 2021



**0.5 percentage points**

### CHANGE IN POUNDS OF LANDFILLED MATERIAL PER CAPITA PER DAY FROM 2020 – 2021



**From 5.42 to 5.38**

## Drivers for change in Community Diversion Rate from 2020 – 2021

- Community Recycling Ordinance increased recycling from multi-unit housing and businesses
- Fluctuations in the amount of industrial materials recycled (concrete, asphalt, scrap metal, soil)
- Landfilled roofing materials from the 2019 hailstorm tapered off

Details are included in the text on page two.

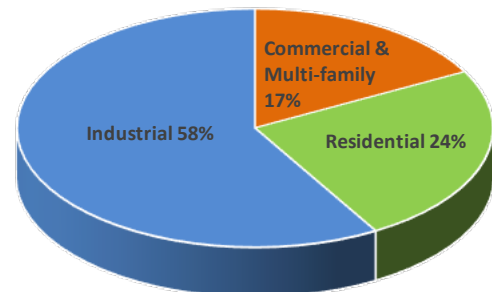
### DIVERSION RATES BY SECTOR IN 2020

**RESIDENTIAL 29%**

**COMMERCIAL / MULTI-UNIT 32%**

**INDUSTRIAL 66%**

### PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL COMMUNITY WASTE AND RECYCLING GENERATED BY SECTOR IN 2021



## CHANGES IN 2021 COMMUNITY DIVERSION RATE

### Community Recycling Ordinance

The Community Recycling Ordinance came into effect in summer 2021 and required Fort Collins waste haulers to provide a minimum level of recycling collection to all multi-unit housing and commercial properties. The 2021 diversion data reflect this change. Recycling from these sectors increased by 44%, meaning an additional 2,500 tons of material was recycled compared with 2020.

This is particularly notable considering the amount landfilled by the multi-unit and commercial sector only increased by 5% in 2021.

### Self-Hauled Landfill Waste

Residents continued to clean out their homes and do home renovation projects in 2021, generating 3,000 more tons of waste that residents took to the landfill themselves compared with 2020.

### Industrial Waste and Recycling

Industrial materials are heavy and so changes in these materials impact the Community Diversion Rate significantly. The following industrial material changes are reflected in the 2021 Community Diversion Rate:

- Municipal industrial waste (including wet soil, rock, and other materials) fluctuates with the types of projects completed each year. Fewer waste-generating projects in 2021 meant there was 5,600 less tons of waste landfilled from this source than in 2020.
- There was an overall increase of 6,700 tons of construction and demolition waste landfilled in 2021 compared with 2020 as some construction projects moved past the initial COVID impacts and got back underway.
- There were 10,000 tons less asphalt and concrete recycled at the City's Hoffman Mill Crushing Facility in 2021.
- Over 2,500 tons of additional scrap metal was recycled in 2021 compared with 2020.

### Food Scraps Recycling

While not a driver for the diversion rate, it is notable that the residential food scraps collected by two small local food scraps-only haulers increased by over 150% compared with 2020. They collected a total of 260 tons of food scraps for composting.

### Roofing Waste

In July 2019, over 10,000 Fort Collins homes were impacted by a massive hailstorm, requiring many roof replacements in 2020 and 2021. Many roofs were replaced in 2021, but far fewer than in 2020, resulting in a 6,600 ton decrease in industrial waste from the roofing sector. Fort Collins now requires Class 4 impact-resistant shingles, which will hopefully help prevent roofing waste due to hailstorms in the future.

### Residential Trash & Recycling Carts

Cart size	Residents subscribed	Change from 2020
Intermittent / pay-by-the bag	0.5%	↓ 0.5 percentage point
32 gal trash cart	38%	↓ 1 percentage point
64 gal trash cart	40%	↑ 2 percentage points
96 gal trash cart	21%	↓ 1 percentage point
18 gal recycling tub	9%	↓ 4 percentage points
32, 64 or 96 gal recycling cart	91%	↑ 4 percentage points
64 or 96 gal yard trimmings collection cart	17%	↑ 2 percentage points



## 2021 PROGRAM UPDATES

### Plastic Pollution

In 2021, City Council adopted the Disposable Bag Ordinance and referred it to voters who approved it by 59%.

The [Disposable Bag Ordinance](#) will go into effect on May 1, 2022. It will ban plastic carryout bags and require a 10-cent fee on paper bags at large grocers.

Later in 2021 the Colorado State Legislature adopted a [plastic pollution reduction bill](#) that imposes fees on paper and plastic bags at large stores in 2023, bans plastic bags at those stores in 2024, and bans the use of expanded foam food packaging at restaurants in 2024.

The Waste Reduction and Recycling (WR&R) team engaged with community members to understand potential impacts of the Disposable Bag Ordinance in the fall of 2021 for updates to incorporate prior to the ordinance roll out.

At the end of 2021, staff held meetings with all major Fort Collins grocers in preparation for the Disposable Bag Ordinance implementation and sent out reusable cloth shopping bags to 1300 low-income households.

### Community Recycling Ordinance

The [Community Recycling Ordinance](#) brought recycling services to all commercial and multi-unit properties in Fort Collins in 2021. Recycling from these sectors increased by 2,500 tons, an increase of 44% compared with 2020.

The WR&R team worked with Fort Collins haulers, businesses, and multi-unit property owners/managers to ensure that not only was recycling available but also successful.

Businesses and multi-unit complexes can apply for a variance from recycling service for certain circumstances. Over the summer of 2021, the WR&R team received 194 variance requests and conducted a site visit for each one. A total of 99 were approved.

The City's WR&R and Code Compliance teams partnered up in fall of 2021 to conduct a compliance sweep to ensure businesses and multi-unit complexes had recycling, which uncovered 125 locations out of compliance. The WR&R compliance team member then worked with haulers to get those properties into compliance.

## Waste Reduction and Recycling Program (WRAP)

In 2021, City staff supported over 100 businesses and multi-unit properties (apartment and condo complexes) to understand new requirements and start or improve recycling programs. To support the implementation of the Community Recycling Ordinance, WR&R staff created toolkits for [businesses](#) and [multi-unit properties](#) and provided [other tools](#) to improve their recycling programs independently.

### Our Climate Future

[Our Climate Future](#) (OCF) is an equity-centered combined update to the City's Climate Action Plan, Energy Policy, and Road to Zero Waste Plan, which was adopted in 2021.

OCF identified the following strategies for waste reduction in the first two-year implementation cycle:

Strategy	Status
Expand recycling education campaign	Underway
Explore additional community-needs donation options	Seeking community partner
Explore Universal Composting Ordinance and Related Composting Infrastructure/Facilities	Partnering for compost infrastructure via Regional Wasteshed collaboration
Identify barriers to accessing recycling services	Underway
Implement universal recycling ordinance	Implemented Community Recycling Ordinance
Facilitate the sharing of commonly needed items through libraries	Led by Poudre River Library District; Tool share through Eco-Thrift
Implement Disposable Grocery Bag Policy	Adopted in 2021; implementation in 2022
Support work on a digital marketplace for industrial waste	Working with Recycle Colorado's ReCircle project
Continue to explore ways to further reuse and recycle soil from City projects	Underway, led by Fort Collins Utilities' Water Field Operations department

## Barriers to Recycling

The “Our Climate Future” waste, energy, and climate plan highlighted that historically underrepresented groups in Fort Collins experience barriers to recycling. To better understand these barriers and identify areas for action, City staff partnered with community members on a “Barriers to Recycling” project. The project uncovered challenges such as language accessibility in signage, access to trucks and trailers to haul bulky objects to the recycling center, and representation in materials and on-site at the recycling center. City staff will begin implementing project recommendations in 2022.

## Timberline Recycling Center (TRC)

The City of Fort Collins’ Timberline Recycling Center celebrated its fifth anniversary in 2021. The Everyday Recyclables yard receives over 400 recyclers per day and recycled over 3.3 million pounds of recyclables. Over 11,000 recyclers utilized the Hard-to-Recycle Materials yard and delivered over 1 million pounds of material to be recycled.

In 2020, a significant increase in online shopping resulted in residents generating much more cardboard. This trend continued in 2021, as nearly 800 tons of cardboard was recycled at the TRC in 2021, a 12% increase from 2020.

The TRC website is one of the most used City websites, with an average of 3,000 visits per month.

## Recycling Ambassadors Volunteer Program

The Recycling Ambassador volunteer program includes 31 volunteers who answer visitor questions and support the Timberline Recycling Center. Since the program was founded in 2017, Recycling Ambassadors have volunteered over 3,600 hours and engaged with over 15,500 community members.

## Definitions and Notes

*Non-industrial diversion rate:* includes waste generated by single-family residential, multi-family residential, and commercial sectors.

*Industrial diversion rate:* includes materials such as waste generated by City government operations, concrete and asphalt recycled at crushing facilities, construction and demolition waste, brewery wastes, and biosolids that are land-applied.

*Community diversion rate:* the combined total of industrial and non-industrial wastes – provides an overall view of waste generation and waste diversion for the entire community.

Note about *Alternative Daily Cover (ADC)*: Each day, landfills are legally required to cover the day’s contents with soil or another approved material. Various materials can be used as ADC, including wood, drywall or yard waste. Because many of these materials have “higher and better” uses, the City does not include ADC as diversion in its calculations, unlike some other entities, including the State of California.

Notes about Appendix 1 (detailing Fort Collins’ waste and recycling):

- Data are updated over time as new information becomes available or new methodologies emerge. Appendix 1 is updated yearly, which may result in the data in this appendix not matching the initial report.
- Yellow-shaded boxes are included in the Non-Industrial (MSW) totals
- Orange-shaded boxes are included in the Industrial totals.

## Report Prepared By



Molly Saylor, Caroline Mitchell and the rest of the  
Waste Reduction and Recycling Team  
Environmental Services Department  
City of Fort Collins  
970-221-6600  
recycling@fcgov.com  
fcgov.com/recycling

## 2021 Fort Collins Community Waste & Recycling Summary

Recyclables	
Residential Curbside Recycling	Tons
Single-stream	9,221
<b>Curbside Total:</b>	<b>9,221</b>
Multifamily & Commercial Recycling	
Commercial single-stream	6,225
Multi-family single-stream	872
Paper Mix (ONP, OMX, etc)	88
Office paper	3
Corrugated Cardboard	1,531
Glass	2,040
Commingle containers (aluminum, steel, glass, plastic)	83
<b>Multi-Family &amp; Commercial Total:</b>	<b>10,842</b>
Drop-off Centers	
Corrugated cardboard	931
Paperboard, low-grade paper	0
Mixed Paper	408
Commingle containers	134
Glass	360
White Office Paper	23
Hard-to-recycle items from Timberline Recycling Center	26
<b>Drop-off System Total:</b>	<b>1,881</b>
Other Recyclables	
Electronics	121
Plastic bags / shrink wrap	89
Textiles	0
<b>Total Other:</b>	<b>210</b>
<b>TOTAL MSW RECYCLING TONS</b>	<b>22,154</b>
Industrial Recyclables	
Scrap metal (ferrous) -- iron, steel	25,376
Concrete	17,100
Asphalt	43,347

Organics	
Residential / Commercial Organics	Tons
Food Waste (Residential)	261
Food Waste (Commercial)	917
Yard Waste (Residential)	7,772
Yard Waste (Commercial)	8,927
<b>Total MSW Organics</b>	<b>17,877</b>
Industrial Organics	
Spent brewery grain	489
Wood waste (Commercial)	22,172
Other organics (Industrial)	7,306
Biosolids	2,055
<b>Total Industrial Organics</b>	<b>32,021</b>
<b>TOTAL ORGANICS TONS</b>	<b>49,898</b>

Landfill	
Tons of Solid Waste Landfilled	Tons
Residential	64,064
Multi-family	5,988
Commercial	35,249
Industrial	68,140
Alternative Daily Cover (soils used to meet landfill cover needs)	3,336
<b>TOTAL LANDFILL TONS</b>	<b>176,776</b>

Recycling Participation	
Customer Type	% of Customer w Recycling
Residential	97%
Residential yard trimmings collection	16%
Multi-family	117%
Commercial	61%
Industrial	12%
<b>Total customers with recycling</b>	<b>92%</b>

Non-Industrial Totals (MSW)	Residential	Commercial	Overall	Lbs / Capita / Day
Total Landfill	64,064	41,237	<b>105,300</b>	3.35
Total Organics Composted	8,033	9,844	<b>17,877</b>	0.57
Total Recycling	11,102	11,052	<b>22,154</b>	0.70
PAYT Source Reduction "tons"	4,992	n/a	<b>4,992</b>	0.16
Total Disposed	88,191	62,133	<b>150,323</b>	4.78
Diversion Rate	23.0%	33.6%	<b>27.5%</b>	
Diversion Rate w/ Source Reduction	27.4%	n/a	<b>30.0%</b>	

Industrial Totals	Tons	Lbs/Cap/Da
Total Landfill	<b>68,140</b>	2.17
Total ADC	<b>3,336</b>	0.11
Total Organics Composted	<b>32,021</b>	1.02
Total Recycling	<b>108,000</b>	3.43
Total Disposed	<b>211,497</b>	6.73
Diversion Rate	<b>66.2%</b>	
Diversion Rate, ADC as diversion	<b>67.8%</b>	

Combined Totals	MSW	Industrial	Overall	/Day
Total Landfill	105,300	68,140	<b>173,440</b>	5.52
Total ADC	n/a	3,336	<b>3,336</b>	0.11
Total Organics Composted	17,877	32,021	<b>49,898</b>	1.59
Total Recycling	22,154	108,000	<b>130,155</b>	4.14
PAYT Source Reduction	4,992	n/a	<b>4,992</b>	0.16
Total Disposed	150,323	211,497	<b>361,821</b>	11.51
Diversion Rate, no Source Reduction	27.5%	66.2%	<b>50.5%</b>	
Diversion Rate with PAYT Source Reduction	30.0%		<b>51.1%</b>	
Diversion Rate with PAYT Source Reduction, ADC as diversion			<b>52.1%</b>	

*single stream recycling totals reduced by 13.7% to account for contamination (and trash totals increased commensurately)*



# Regional Wasteshed Update: Intergovernmental Agreement and Immediate Next Steps

**Jacob Castillo**

Sustainability Officer



1. What feedback do Councilmembers have about whether to bring forward a Resolution placing the 2019 Intergovernmental Agreement into abeyance?
2. What are the areas of primary importance to Councilmembers as staff engage in finding regional solutions for missing infrastructure?
3. Do Councilmembers wish to hold a joint meeting with the Larimer County Board of Commissioners to discuss Regional Wasteshed collaboration?



## Council Priority

Accelerate Zero  
Waste Policies and  
Infrastructure



## Our Climate Future

Critical Path to  
Achieving Climate  
Goals (composting)

Big Move 2:  
Zero Waste  
Neighborhoods

Big Move 10:  
Zero Waste Economy



## City Plan

Principle ENV 5:  
Create a Zero Waste  
system.



## City Strategic Plan

Environmental Health  
ENV 1



EPA Waste Management Hierarchy adopted in Fort Collins municipal code to support decisions about how to handle materials.

EPA does not consider waste-to-energy (a.k.a. energy recovery) as “diversion” – they are considered a form of disposal as the materials can no longer be used again after the process.



## Goals

### 2025

- 90% diversion
- 2.8 lbs. / day / capita landfilled

**2030: Zero Waste**

## Current Diversion Status

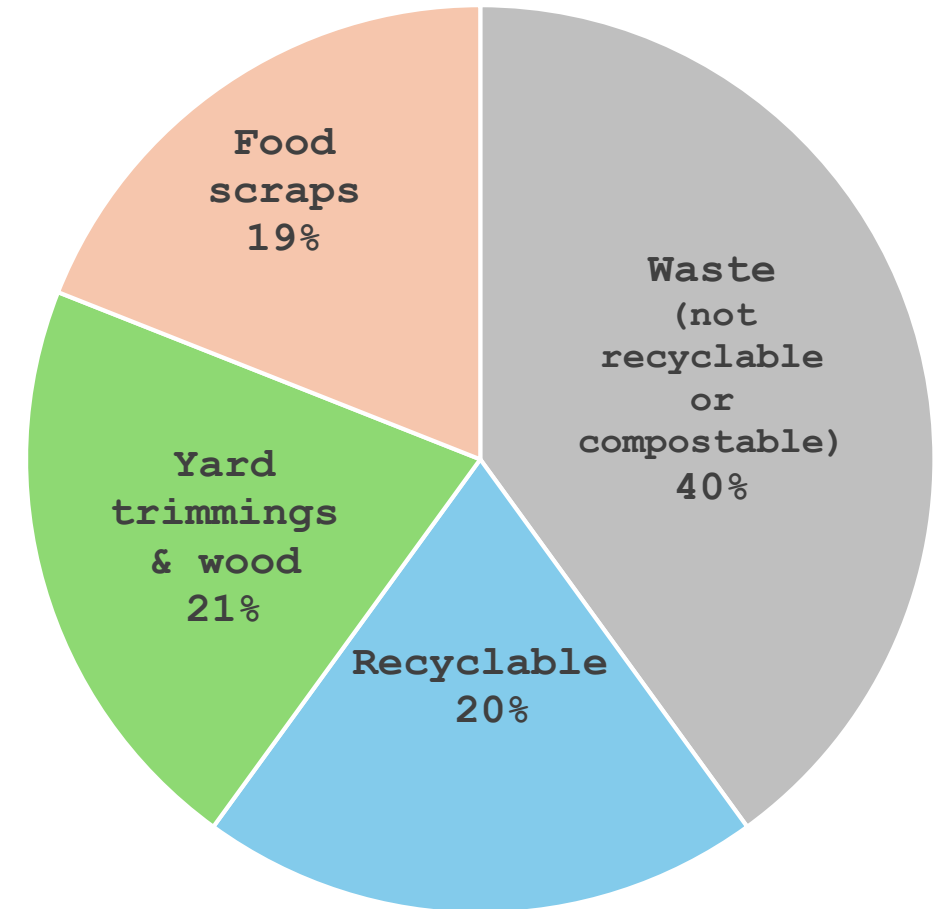
Residential: **29%**

Commercial / Multi-Unit: **32%**

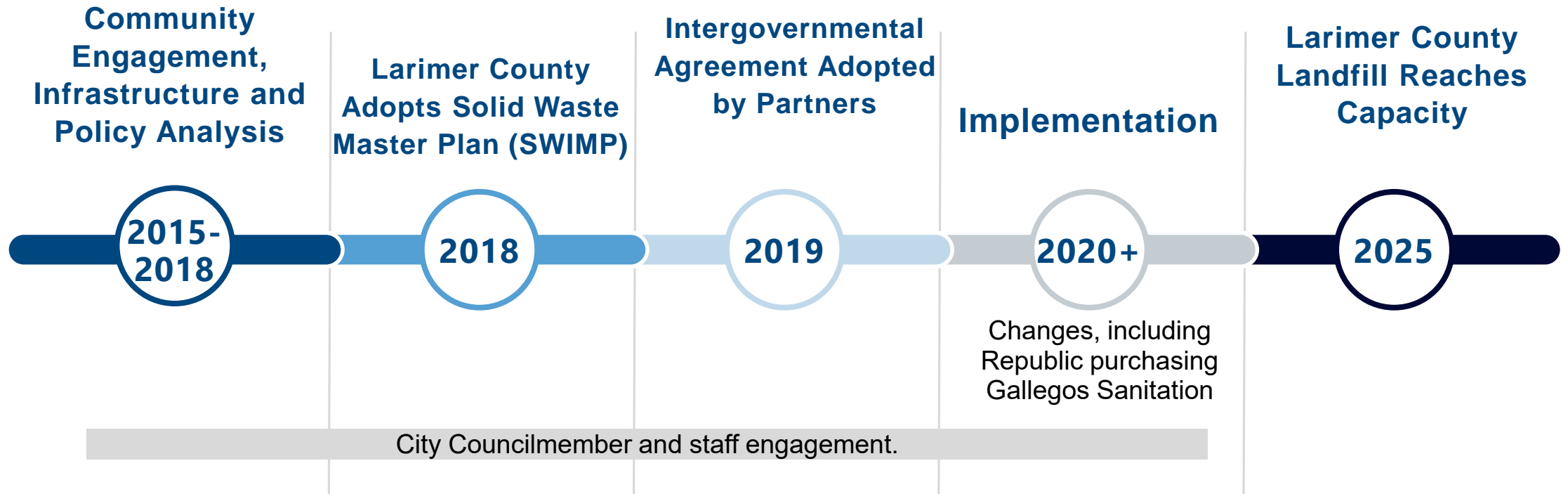
Industrial: **66%**

Community-wide diversion: **52%**

Contents of Material Landfilled by Fort Collins Residents and Businesses



# Regional Wasteshed Coalition Background








**Coalition Partners:** Larimer County, Loveland, Estes Park, Wellington



Existing Facility	Notes related to Regional Wasteshed
Landfill	Will reach capacity in 2025
Recycling programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrap metal</li> <li>• Yard trimmings</li> <li>• Mattresses</li> </ul>	Will remain in place
Recycling Center (transfer station for everyday recyclables)	Will remain in place (Could be expanded to full Material Recovery Facility if receives enough material)
Recycling drop-off center	Will remain in place
Household Hazardous Waste	Will remain in place
Garbage Garage education center	Will remain in place

## Initially Planned (SWIMP / IGA)

### Tier 1 (highest priority)

- New landfill (near Rawhide Power Plant) 
- Transfer station 
- Yard trimmings compost 
- Food scrap compost 
- Construction and Demolition (C&D) recycling 

### Tier 2 (next for consideration)

- Expanded recycling facility (for everyday recyclables) 
- Anaerobic digestion (for food scraps) 

### Tier 3 (for possible consideration after Tier 1 and 2)

- Waste to Energy 

## Current Status






### Under Construction

- New landfill (near Rawhide Power Plant) 

### Planned

- Transfer station 

### Under Consideration

- Construction and Demolition (C&D) recycling 
- Yard trimmings compost 
- Anaerobic digestion (food scraps or mixed waste)  
- Waste to Energy 



## IGA Contents

- Includes all regional watershed partners
- Commits to tiered prioritization of infrastructure projects
- Addresses the chicken / egg problem of infrastructure and materials to process
  - For C&D recycling, yard trimmings, food scraps
- Creates ongoing staff (TAC) and elected official (PAC) working groups to collaborate on implementation and update the IGA / SWIMP as needed to adapt to changes as they arise

## Current Status

- Larimer County has requested partners put IGA into abeyance (suspend)
- IGA *not* anticipated to come out of abeyance
- IGA commitments not being met
- All partner communities have put it into abeyance (other than Fort Collins)
  - Means IGA still in effect
- Timeline, roles to create next IGA not clear
  - Next IGA could be between Larimer County and each agency individually or possibly regional



# Potential IGA Actions to Consider

Option	Considerations
1) Place IGA into abeyance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ends commitment to tiered prioritization of infrastructure elements               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Infrastructure decisions may take place without collaboratively-set criteria for decision making</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Meets Larimer County request and aligns with partner actions</li> </ul>
2) Place IGA into abeyance with conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could place current IGA into abeyance for a certain amount of time and have it come back into effect unless specific actions (e.g. creating a new IGA) have been completed</li> <li>• Same considerations as Option 1</li> </ul>
3) Replace and repeal IGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop new IGA and repeal prior at the same time as adopting new</li> <li>• Would have clarity on next agreement prior to exiting existing</li> <li>• Unclear timeline or pathway to next IGA</li> </ul>
4) Terminate IGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would likely have same impact as putting IGA into abeyance, as Larimer County does not intend to bring the IGA out of abeyance</li> <li>• Requires notification and goes into effect 18 months after notice is given               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Could place IGA into abeyance for the 18 months until it is terminated</li> </ul> </li> <li>• May be clearer than unending abeyance</li> </ul>
<div>Page 71</div> <b>No action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current IGA would remain in place but commitments unlikely to be met</li> <li>• Next steps unclear</li> </ul>

**Flow Control:** *directing waste material to a specific facility*

- Facility must be publicly owned and operated
- Must provide benefit to community

**Request from Larimer County:**

- Flow control waste from Fort Collins' residential hauler contract to Larimer County

**Staff Recommendation:**

- Include analysis and collaboration regarding flow control as part of 2024-25 staff work to identify and vet potential pathways to food scrap and C&D materials infrastructure as driven by Council Priority to Accelerate Zero Waste Policies and Infrastructure

- Staff will bring forward a Resolution relating to the IGA, if desired, consistent with Council feedback.
- If Councilmembers desire a joint Work Session with the Larimer County Commissioners, an off-cycle meeting time will be set.
- City staff will work to further identify and vet potential pathways to food scrap and C&D materials infrastructure, including analysis and collaboration regarding flow control informed by Councilmember feedback
  - City received a grant for free consulting support for this work (TASP grant)
- City staff will propose next steps for the Council Priority to Accelerate Zero Waste Policies and Infrastructure at the Council Work Session on May 14.

1. What feedback do Councilmembers have about whether to bring forward a Resolution placing the 2019 Intergovernmental Agreement into abeyance?
2. What are the areas of primary importance to Councilmembers as staff engage in finding regional solutions for missing infrastructure?
3. Do Councilmembers wish to hold a joint meeting with the Larimer County Board of Commissioners to discuss Regional Wasteshed collaboration?

March 26, 2024

# WORK SESSION AGENDA

## ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



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### STAFF

Kendra Boot, City Forester  
Dean Klingner, Community Services Director

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### SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

**Urban Forest Strategic Plan Findings and Proposed Direction.**

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to share the findings from the urban forest strategic planning effort and to seek feedback and support from Council.

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### GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Do Councilmembers support the general direction of the Urban Forest Strategic Plan effort?
2. What feedback do Councilmembers have regarding the Urban Forest Strategic Plan?

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### BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

#### Urban Forest Strategic Plan

Trees are an important part of the community infrastructure and provide many essential human health, social, environmental, and economic benefits to those who live, work, and play in Fort Collins. Tree-related policies have been strong in Fort Collins and that coupled with a supportive community created the urban tree canopy that exists today. Existing policies have helped to preserve the character of Fort Collins and have also helped increase canopy as the community grows, including adding an average of 1,500 to 2,000 new street trees annually through development. With the continued demands of development, redevelopment, and other pressures on the canopy, the City recognized the need to create a Strategic Plan to ensure the vibrancy of the urban forest long into the future, prioritizing social equity, extreme heat mitigation, and the Forestry Division as a valuable resource to the community.

#### **Purpose**

The Urban Forest Strategic Plan (UFSP) will serve as a guiding document to:

- Summarize the state of the urban forest
- Create a 20-year vision for Fort Collins' trees
- Set goals
- Recommend next steps

## Timeline

The development of the UFSP began in the summer of 2023. Initial work included:

- Analysis of existing policies
- Analysis of industry standards, best practices, and policies from peer cities
- Work in the fall and winter of 2023 and 2024 included focus groups and community engagement
- With Council's feedback, the Forestry Division is seeking final plan adoption end of summer 2024.

## Summary of Initial Findings

- Overall, canopy has grown in a positive direction over the last 10 years.
- An estimated seventy-five percent (75%) of the urban canopy is on private property.
- City Forestry provides a high level of service to the community.
- Sixty percent (60%) of the public tree inventory are less than 8-inches in diameter and will require additional resources to manage as trees continue to mature and thrive into the future.
- A review of tree policies within both Municipal and Land Use Code was conducted.
- An urban tree canopy (UTC) analysis was completed to intersect canopy disparities prioritizing the following variables:
  - Social variables (i.e., income, population density, BIPOC, renters),
  - Health variables (i.e., asthma, heart disease, mental health), and
  - Environmental variables (i.e., urban heat and stormwater).
- Additional variables analyzed was canopy cover associated with bus stops and bike lanes.

## Recommendations

The following recommendations are listed in more detail including supporting initiatives, in the "UFSP Draft Recommendations" document. The proposed recommendations are as follows:

**Recommendation 1** - Strategically invest in growing tree canopy where it will promote resilience and quality of life in Fort Collins.

**Recommendation 2** - Create a tree planting plan.

**Recommendation 3** - Complete the shift to proactive management of Fort Collins's public trees.

**Recommendation 4** - Strengthen city policies to protect trees.

**Recommendation 5** - Collect data to track changes to tree canopy over time and to inform Forestry activities.

**Recommendation 6** - Sustainably grow the Forestry Division to keep pace with growth of the urban forest.

**Recommendation 7** - Deepen engagement with the community about tree stewardship.

**Recommendation 8** - Expand the network of Forestry Division partners.

## Considerations

Prior to the urban forest strategic plan effort, Forestry presented at a Council work session on October 10, 2023, with a handful of tree-related Land Use policy updates. It is important to keep in mind that that UFSP policy review makes recommendations based on what may be missing compared to other communities and may not align with the competing values and land use goals of Fort Collins. This work continues as Forestry aligns with the Planning Department and overall Land Use Code changes. Forestry staff will work closely with the Land Use Code project team to better understand potential trade-offs to other goals, such as the creation of affordable housing and small business preservation. This work is ongoing and more information on possible Land Use Code changes will be brought to a Council work session for discussion on June 11th.

## NEXT STEPS

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- Listen to and work in Council feedback
- Visit Boards and Commissions
- Finalize the plan document
- Seek Council adoption end of summer 2024

## ATTACHMENTS

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1. UFSP Draft Recommendations
2. UFSP Focus Group List
3. Presentation



FORT COLLINS

# Urban Forest Strategic Plan

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS AND SELECT FINDINGS

March 26, 2024

# Introduction

The recommendations presented in the Urban Forest Strategic Plan distill lessons into actionable strategies that can guide the Forestry Division over the next 20 years. Data and information that were collected for the Plan spanned many types of inquiry over a period of several months.

As you read through the following themes and strategies, reflect on these questions:

- Have we accurately captured the information and themes?
- Do the recommendations reflect the most important takeaways and priorities?
- Which strategies and alternatives should be elevated?
- Which alternatives can be dismissed out of hand due to lack of feasibility?
- What additional alternatives are possible?

## THEMES & OUTCOME AREAS

Three overarching themes were identified during development of the strategic plan that summarize the Forestry Division's vision for the urban forest over the next 20 years.

### Urban Forestry Strategic Plan Themes

1. Build resilience & wellbeing of people and trees
2. Sustainably grow the Forestry program
3. Expand the community's appreciation for trees

Additionally, the recommendations of the Urban Forest Strategic Plan reflect seven Outcome Areas that are detailed in the Fort Collins City Plan (2019) and the 2022 Strategic Plan. Because of the many social, economic, and environmental benefits that trees provide, the recommendations of the Urban Forest Strategic Plan relate to all seven of these Outcome Areas. The most relevant Outcome Areas are listed for each recommendation.

### Outcome Areas

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Neighborhood Livability & Social Health ( <i>pending name change</i> ) | 4. Environmental Health       |
| 2. Culture & Recreation   | 5. Safe Community             |
| 3. Economic Health  | 6. Transportation & Mobility  |
|   | 7. High-Performing Government |

# Recommendations

Eight urban forestry strategic recommendations are presented to guide Fort Collins' forestry initiatives over the next 20 years.

Within each recommendation, the current state of Fort Collins' urban forestry program is summarized as it relates to the recommendation. Following each recommendation are two levels of action steps that can support accomplishment of each recommendation.

- **Foundational Initiatives** represent those that may be simpler to implement, or more urgent, or strategies that must be completed before some or all of the Transformational Initiatives can be tackled.
- **Transformational Initiatives** may be more complicated or difficult alternatives to Foundational Initiatives, or they may represent standalone strategies that are complex or on a long implementation horizon. At the same time, Transformational Initiatives may provide more value to the forestry program and the City's larger civic goals and Outcome Areas.

## RECOMMENDATION 1. STRATEGICALLY INVEST IN GROWING TREE CANOPY WHERE IT WILL PROMOTE RESILIENCE AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN FORT COLLINS

While tree canopy is growing in Fort Collins, it is not evenly distributed across the city. Targeted investment in planting and maintenance where trees provide the most value can help Forestry support multiple civic goals. This presents the opportunity to adapt to climate change and the needs of the community in ways that lead the region in preparedness.

Urban forestry activities that tie into other civic objectives—such as encouraging cycling, walking, and public transit use—can demonstrate how urban forestry is intertwined with quality of life in Fort Collins.

**Themes:** Resilience & Wellbeing, Sustainable Growth

**Outcome Areas:** Neighborhood Livability & Social Health, Culture & Recreation, Transportation & Mobility

## Current State

- Citywide tree canopy cover is 13.7% and has grown 753 acres (17.3%) in the decade from 2011–2021.
- Tree cover in the city + growth management area is 12.6% and has grown 936 acres (17.2%) in the past decade.
- Tree canopy cover ranges widely across Fort Collins. Among 137 US Census block groups (federal geographic areas that are smaller than a census tract), tree cover ranges from <0.1% to 41%.

## Foundational Initiatives

- Prioritize planting and maintenance within areas of greatest tree canopy loss that correspond to priority areas for health and social factors and combined human/environmental wellbeing (see the Priority Planting Analysis).
- Implement a parks planting plan to identify and strategically fill vacant planting sites (e.g., Living Tribute Trees) as well as rebuild canopy within new parks.

## Transformational Initiatives

- Prioritize planting and maintenance along bicycle routes and around bus stops.
- Coordinate with other city departments to integrate trees into a *complete streets* framework, an urban planning design concept that aims to make streets comfortable and safe for all users.
- Plant along walking/cycling/public transportation corridors to build tree connectivity to parks. Encourage citywide adoption of existing metrics such as the 10-Minute Walk, an initiative that aims to place all city residents within a 10-minute walk of quality parks and nature.
- Plant trees along other transportation corridors, such as Safe Routes to Schools.
- Utilize third-party metrics for social equity such as the Tree Equity Score from American Forests to guide planting and maintenance investments and communicate about equity with the public.
- Develop and set canopy goals for different geographies. For example, set goals that differ by land use type, factoring in variability in potential tree canopy among differing land uses; alternatively, create separate goals by district.

## RECOMMENDATION 2. CREATE A TREE PLANTING PLAN

A planting plan can guide tree planting efforts to reach desired levels of planting and more equitably distribute tree canopy across the city. Planning over longer periods of time allows for species selection, sourcing of trees, and spreads out the maintenance needs of tree cohorts over time.

**Themes:** Resilience & Wellbeing, Sustainable Growth

**Outcome Area:** Environmental Health, Neighborhood Livability & Social Health

### Current State

- In the past 5 years, average annual public tree removals have outpaced public tree plantings: 633 trees removed per year vs. 500 trees planted per year.
- In 2021-2022, tree plantings surpassed removals (556 trees planted vs. 513 trees removed). Two \$50K grants in 2022 and 2023 helped achieve more trees planted.
- The Community Canopy Program (established in 2018) has provided 1,000 trees for \$25/tree to residents within the Growth Management Area.

### Foundational Initiatives

- Scale annual tree planting efforts to replace public tree losses due to tree removals and natural mortality.
- Create a planting plan to fill vacant planting spaces over 10 years (2025-2026 BFO cycle).
- Incorporate new species that are recommended for future climate conditions, making considerations for drought tolerance, warmer and more extreme temperatures, and pest/disease tolerance.
- Work with water efficiency experts to create species guidance by irrigation zones.
- Grow the Community Canopy Program to supply more trees to residents for planting on private property.

### Transformational Initiatives

- Shift species composition of the urban forest toward more drought-tolerant species.

- Build species-level biodiversity of the public tree inventory. Track the use of cultivars and varieties.
- Explore a citywide tree canopy goal that can inform planting and protection objectives for private property.
- Provide species guidance for tree giveaways and private planting.

### RECOMMENDATION 3. COMPLETE THE SHIFT TO PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT OF FORT COLLIN'S PUBLIC TREES

The Forestry Division strives for a 5-year pruning rotation to improve the health of public trees and create safe public spaces in the community. Additional resources will be needed to continue a 5-year pruning cycle, which reduces the costs of storm and emergency response and helps maintain the health of public trees.

An urban forest management plan can provide operational direction for Forestry and the city for the next 5–10 years. A management plan is more detailed than an urban forest strategic plan; it utilizes data to prioritize tree activities and ensures that trees are integrated into the city's other overlapping plans and outcome areas.

**Themes:** Sustainable Growth

**Outcome Areas:** Economic Health, Safe Community

#### Current State

- From 2018–2022, Forestry pruned 8,670 trees (18.2% of the public tree inventory) per year, on average.
- In 2022, Forestry pruned 10,877 trees (22.4% of the public tree inventory) with the aid resource cost recovery and carry over from 2021 snow storm.

#### Foundational Initiatives

- Implement a 5-year routine pruning cycle.
- Plan to scale up pruning activities as additional trees are added to the inventory.
- Use the existing tree inventory to inform management decisions based on species and size.
- Create an urban forest management plan that details Forestry operations over the next 5–10 years.

- Incorporate the storm response plan, City Plan, Parks Master Plan, Our Climate Future plan, and other city management plans.

### Transformational Initiatives

- Use enhanced inventory data to guide management based on risk rating, recommended maintenance, and/or related metrics.
- Project tree benefits under different management scenarios.
- Integrate natural areas inventory data into natural areas management plans.

## RECOMMENDATION 4. STRENGTHEN CITY POLICIES TO PROTECT TREES

Tree protection in Fort Collins currently focuses on the stewardship of public trees, with less policy development around private tree protection. Because a majority of the city's trees are found on private land, additional opportunities to protect trees on private land—whether through policy or incentives—will help curb canopy losses in parts of the city and help protect community tree benefits for all residents.

**Themes:** Resilience & Wellbeing, Appreciation for Trees

**Outcome Areas:** Neighborhood Livability & Social Health, Environmental Health

### Current State

- The existing city code has provisions for public tree planting, protection, and care.
- A draft land use code adds additional protections and planting requirements for trees during development and additional exploration on trade-offs on other goals, such as the creation of affordable housing and small business preservation, is needed.
- Supplemental documents—e.g. *Tree Management Standards and BMPs*—strengthen city policies but are not referenced in city code.
- Public sentiment about private tree protection lags behind support for trees on public land; however, public opinion is divided, and a large portion of public participants in the UFSP process indicate that they do not know enough about issues such as heritage tree programs to state their opinion.

## Foundational Initiatives

- Reference existing supplemental policy documents for Forestry, including the *Tree Management Standards and BMPs* document, in city code.
- Adopt a citywide land use code that improves tree preservation and protection while balancing other priorities and needs of the community.
- Draft a heritage tree program that allows for the elective enrollment of trees that have cultural, historic, or ecological value.
- Create policy summaries or tip sheets that clarify the responsibility for tree maintenance within alleyways.
- Plan for education and outreach that will guide policy development about tree protection for development scenarios on private land.
- Encode existing good practices—best management practices, certified arborist requirements, wood utilization program—in city ordinance.
- Build upon the *Emerald Ash Borer Management and Response Plan* (2020) to create a more generalized insect/disease control plan to address existing and future threats. Reference the plan within city ordinance.

## Transformational Initiatives

- Draft a heritage tree policy that protects trees greater than a certain size on private property. Require a permit for, or prohibit, pruning or removal of heritage trees.
  - For reference, 6% of public trees are >24 in DSH and 2% of public trees are >36 in DSH.
  - Connect policy to stormwater and water efficiency public benefits of large trees.
  - Exclude invasive species and those that are prohibited by existing ordinance.
- Clarify the legal responsibility for trees within vacant and boundary areas (land without ownership) to encourage the protection and growth of tree canopy within these spaces.
- Plan for tree preservation and tree canopy expansion within areas in the Growth Management Area that are to remain as future green space as identified by the Parks & Recreation Master Plan.
- Expand tree protection policies within the Land Use Code to apply to non-development scenarios.



- Develop additional policy for tree protection on private land—for example, protecting trees during residential property development scenarios. Educate and engage with the public about policy scenarios to gauge public support.
- Require landfill diversion for wood waste from private land.

## RECOMMENDATION 5. COLLECT DATA TO TRACK CHANGES TO TREE CANOPY OVER TIME AND TO INFORM FORESTRY ACTIVITIES

Accurate, up-to-date data can inform sound decision making. Planning for future urban tree canopy assessments and tree inventory updates will provide information that can help the Forestry Division evaluate progress and refine management strategies.

**Themes:** Sustainable Growth

**Outcome Area:** High-Performing Government

### Current State

- An existing urban tree canopy assessment and public tree inventory provide bottom-up and top-down information about tree canopy.
- Tree inventory information utilizes trained volunteers to provide up-to-date information about public trees.

### Foundational Initiatives

- Repeat an urban tree canopy assessment in 5 years using 2026 data (2027–2028 BFO cycle) to measure canopy change.
  - Measure five-class land cover: tree canopy, vegetation, impervious surface, bare soil, open water.
  - Evaluate urban tree canopy within street rights-of-way.
- Map existing public trees under threat from pests and/or drought using inventory data; look for trends that may inform tree activities.
- Complete a sample inventory of natural areas.

### Transformational Initiatives

- Repeat an urban tree canopy assessment in 2 years to capture early canopy changes due to emerald ash borer. Advance mapping options:

- Canopy health and broadleaf/evergreen distribution
- Tree canopy cover and change within additional geographies—e.g., riparian and ditch areas, alleyways, land uses, private/public land—to guide and measure the effects of policy changes
- Update the public tree inventory on a 5-year cycle.
- Utilize certified arborists to capture tree inventory data about risk and recommended maintenance, to inform proactive maintenance.

## RECOMMENDATION 6. SUSTAINABLY GROW THE FORESTRY DIVISION TO KEEP PACE WITH GROWTH OF THE URBAN FOREST

The Forestry Division currently provides an excellent level of service to the city of Fort Collins. Additional metrics about tree activities will be helpful for internal planning, budgeting, and reporting to both city council and the community.

The public tree inventory reflects the city's sustained commitment to planting. With 60 percent of the public tree inventory consisting of young trees, and new trees being planted every year, it will be necessary to plan for growth of the Forestry program. Additional capacity and a sustainable funding stream will be needed to keep pace with growth of the public tree inventory.

**Themes:** Sustainable Growth

**Outcome Areas:** Economic Health, High-Performing Government

### Current State

- Access FC allows for and tracks resident requests.
- The Fort Collins 2022 Strategic Plan and Budgeting for Outcomes process require relation of tree activities to Outcome Areas.
- Forestry is providing a great level of service compared with U.S. cities but is approaching the threshold of tree activities that they are able to perform annually with existing resources.

### Foundational Initiatives

- Internally track public requests that are submitted via phone and email.
- Regularly report on budget expenditures by tree activity.

- Create work plans to make efficient use of personnel and budget.
- Acquire additional staff for tree planting/preparation and pruning.
- Add capacity for grant writing and reporting.
- Pursue grants and other limited funding opportunities.
- Contribute to local initiatives to expand the green workforce.

### Transformational Initiatives

- Use resource management software to track public requests.
- Create an urban forestry planner position.
- Annually or biannually report to the public on tree activities.
- Link tree activities to health, social, and environmental data, and to civic data (transit ridership, cycling/pedestrian stats, city Outcome Areas) as available.
- Implement a staff rotation schedule. Regularly rotate Forestry staff to different teams to provide rest from physical labor and build knowledge across the team.
- Increase the budget for tree maintenance over time as young trees grow.
- Create new sources of sustained funding, such as a Tree Fund, and align with City Give.

## RECOMMENDATION 7. DEEPEN ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY ABOUT TREE STEWARDSHIP

There is a great amount of support for trees and urban forestry in Fort Collins from the public, officials, and the surrounding region. This public support can help facilitate conversations about difficult decisions and expand engagement to new community sectors.

**Themes:** Appreciation for Trees

**Outcome Areas:** Neighborhood Livability & Social Health, Environmental Health

### Current State

- The public shows a high level of support for public trees and the Forestry Division.
- Forestry has established wood waste and tree ambassador programs.

- Public opinion varies on the topic of private property tree protections.

### Foundational Initiatives

- Continue to support the wood waste program and grow the network of urban woodworkers and wood utilization partners.
- Engage the public in policy updates that protect trees on private property.
- Continue and grow the urban forest ambassador program.
- Provide educational resources to assist property owners with private tree planting, maintenance, and preservation.

### Transformational Initiatives

- Engage in cross-sector coalition-building around trees:
  - Integrate forestry activities with implementation of the Active Modes Plan. Engage with Active Modes stakeholders including the cycling community.
  - Expand engagement and volunteer opportunities into communities with health and social vulnerabilities.
  - Align wood utilization efforts with larger Zero Waste initiatives.
  - Engage with parks advocates; see Nature in the City and 15-Minute Walk campaigns.
  - Engage with the business sector to promote trees for economic development, e.g., Holiday Lights.
  - Enlist community organizations to engage with their networks on topics including tree benefits, tree responsibilities, policy development, and volunteer opportunities.
- Create resources on wood utilization best management practices for the general public.
- Provide financial resources to assist property owners with private tree planting, maintenance, and preservation.
- Expand volunteer opportunities to assist with activities such as young tree pruning, watering assistance during drought, or community education.
- Create tip sheets that explain city ordinances and policies in plain language.
- Create a municipal Urban Forestry Commission with resident appointments.

## RECOMMENDATION 8. EXPAND THE NETWORK OF FORESTRY DIVISION PARTNERS

Technical partnerships within urban forestry are abundant across the Front Range—see for example the Colorado Tree Coalition, the Front Range Urban Forestry Council, and the Emerging Pests in Colorado (EPIC) Committee. Increasing Fort Collins' presence and role within these collectives can promote greater knowledge sharing and adaptability for the city while building staff technical skills. Involvement can also promote adoption of the latest guidance and standards.

**Themes:** Sustainable Growth, Appreciation for Trees

**Outcome Areas:** Safe Community, High-Performing Government

### Current State

- Existing resources for climate- and pest-resilient species selection are established for the Front Range and are in the process of being updated.
- Forestry Division has collaborative relationships with numerous internal and external partners.

### Foundational Initiatives

- Continue regional work with nursery growers to secure the quantity and types of climate- and pest-adapted trees that will be needed to meet planting goals.
- Share urban forestry resources and knowledge with neighboring communities.
- Expand staff involvement in regional urban forestry networks; provide additional opportunities for staff that contribute to career development.

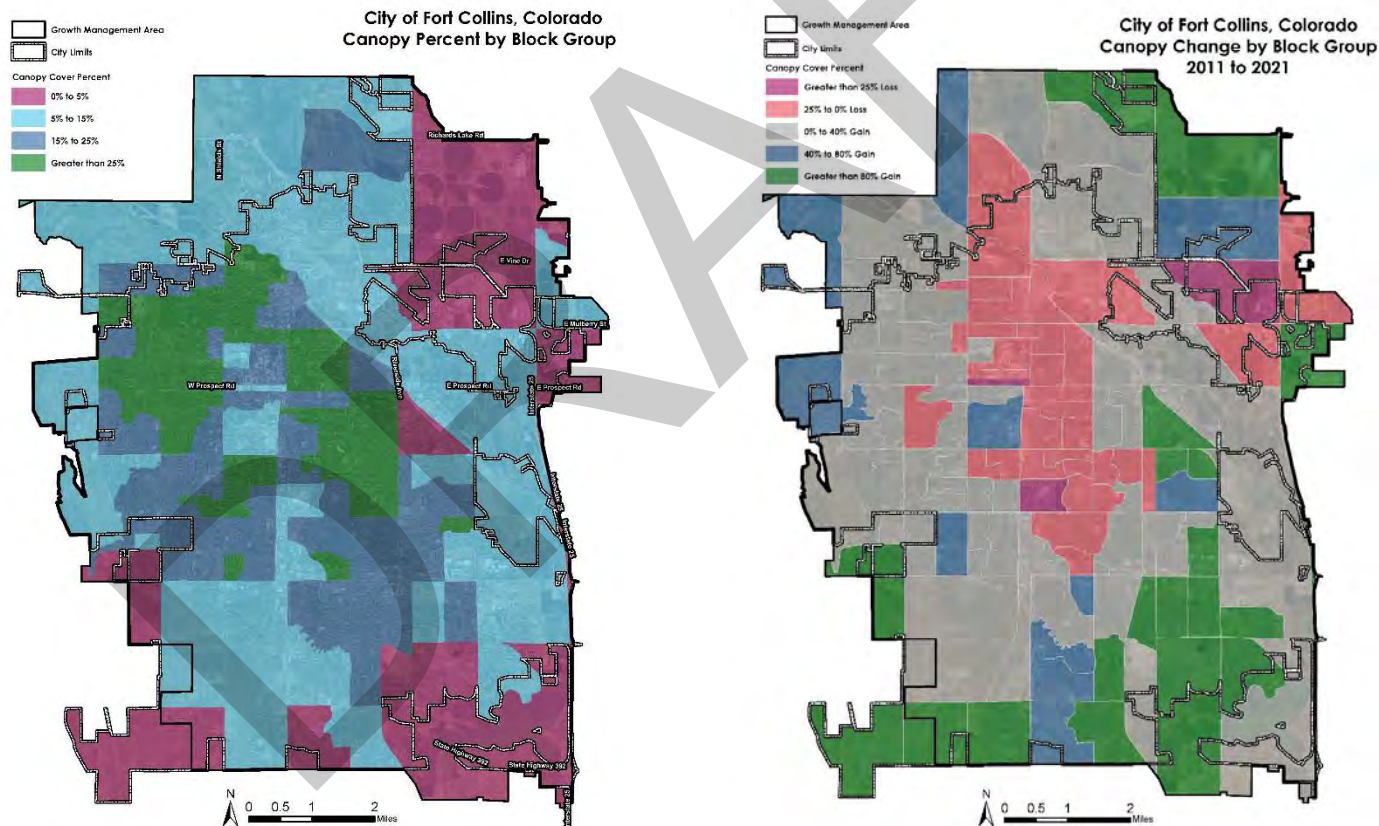
### Transformational Initiatives

- Encourage large corporate and institutional campuses to develop tree plans.
- Continue engagement with partners about management of public trees.
- Contribute expertise about trees and urban forestry in regional planning efforts that relate to climate resilience, complete & green streets, human health, wood utilization, etc.

# Fort Collins' Trees

## TREE CANOPY COVER AND CANOPY CHANGE BY U.S. CENSUS BLOCK GROUP

Tree cover ranges from <0.1% to 41% among U.S. Census *block groups*, federally defined geographic areas that typically contain between 600–3,000 residents. From 2011–2021, 69% of block groups experienced tree canopy growth (maximum growth: +378% tree cover), while 30% of block groups lost tree canopy (maximum loss: -53% tree cover).

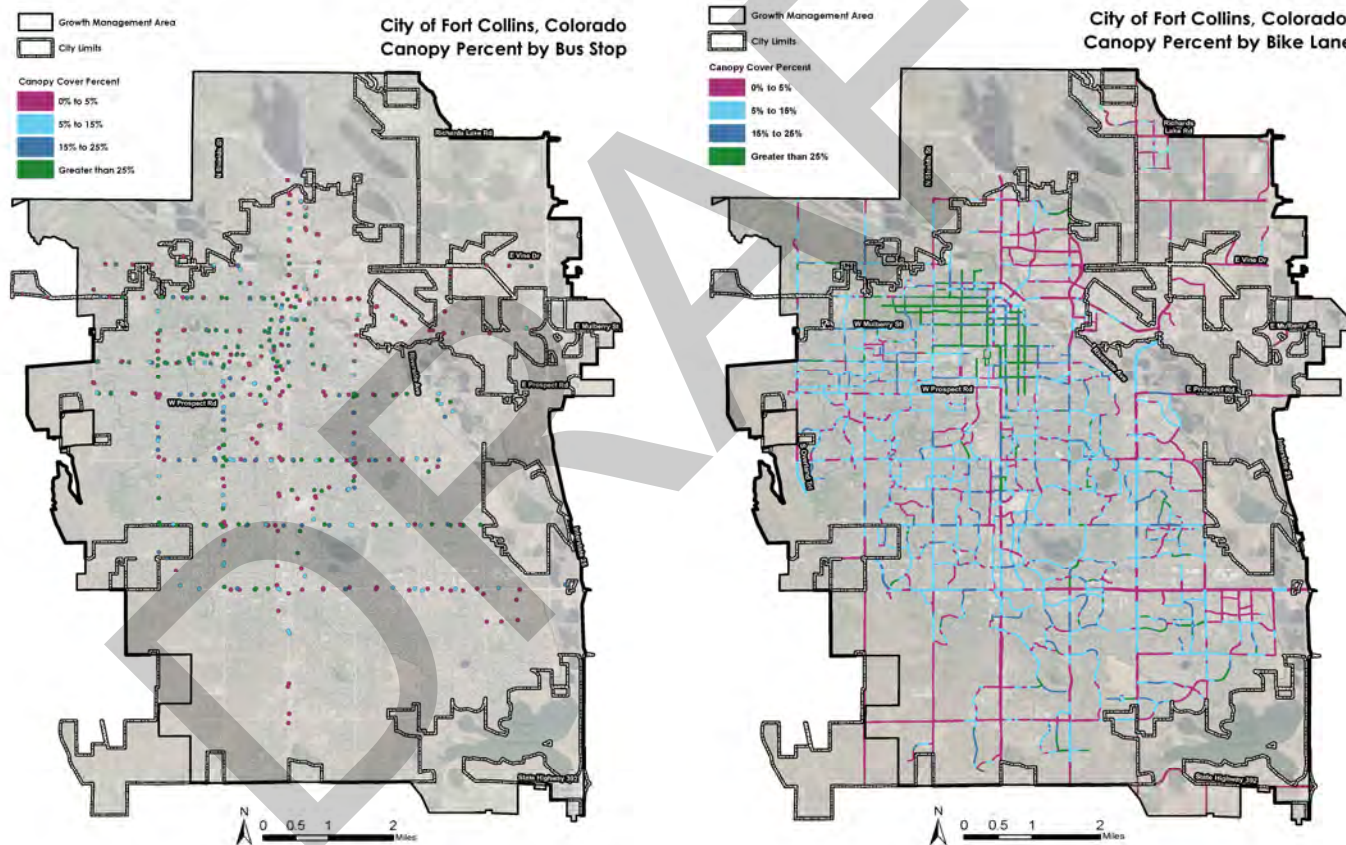




## Canopy Cover at Bus Stops and within Bike Lanes

Average tree cover is 18.3% at 22 bus stations and 423 bus stops across Fort Collins. Among 263 bus stops that did not have a built-in shelter, average tree cover is 21.2%, a loss of 2.3% tree cover since 2011.

Over 267 miles of bike lanes across Fort Collins, average tree canopy cover is 9.5%, approximately the same as it was in 2011 (+0.1%).



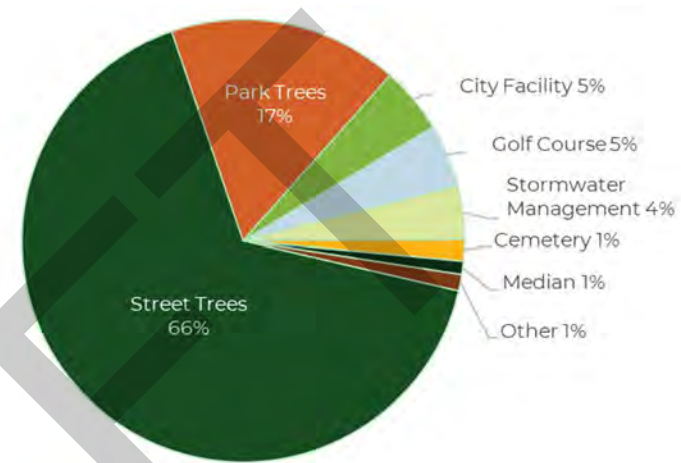


## PUBLIC TREE INVENTORY

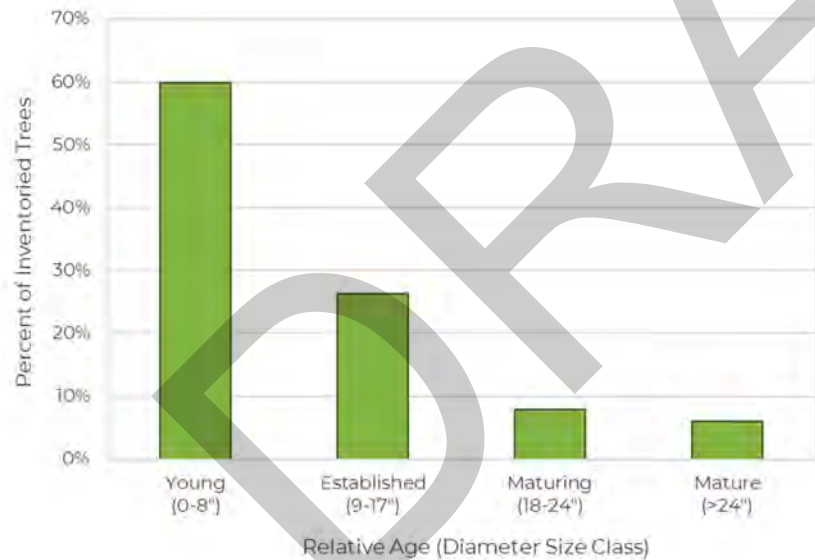
### 57,991 Public Trees

Two-thirds of public trees are street trees.

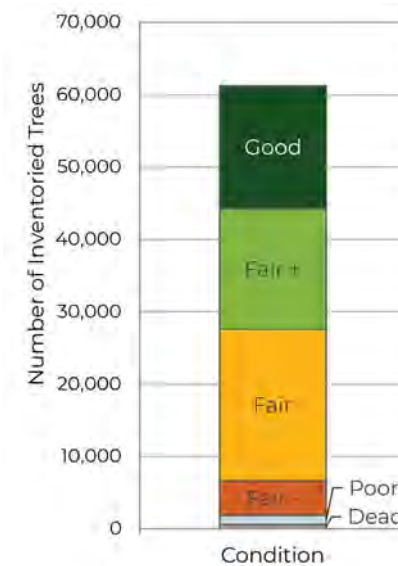
Overall, public trees skew young - sixty percent of public trees are less than 8 inches in trunk diameter. The majority of public trees are healthy, with 89% of trees receiving a canopy condition rating of fair to good.



Public trees by location.



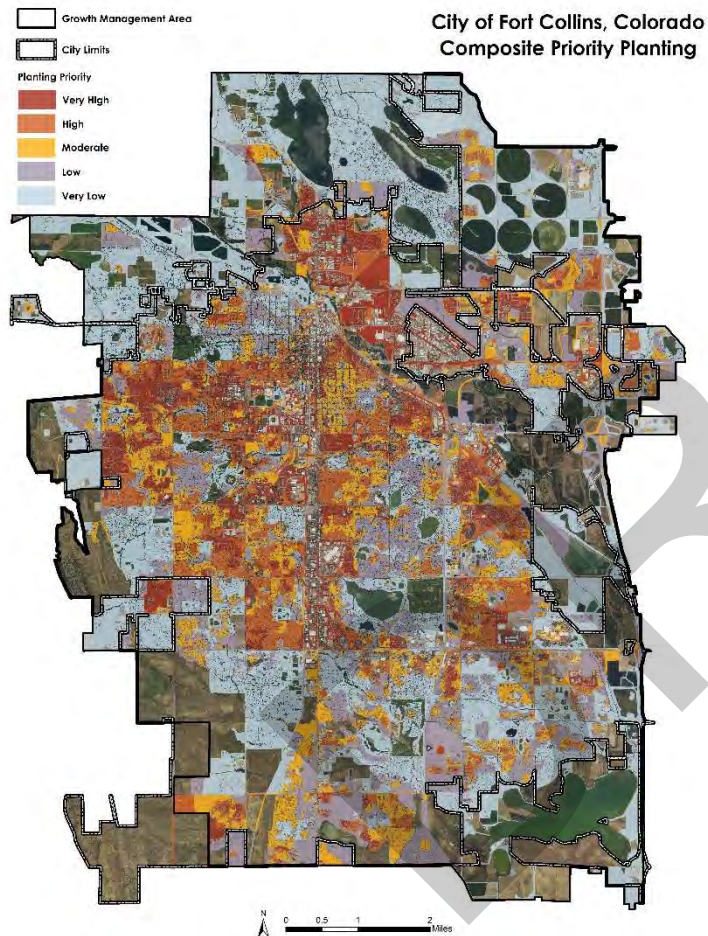
Relative age classes of public trees based on trunk diameter.



Canopy condition of public trees.

## PRIORITY PLANTING ANALYSIS

The priority planting analysis ranked 15,418 acres of possible tree planting area on a five-point scale from Very Low to Very High based on environmental, human health, and social factors. The analysis identified 2,251 acres of High or Very High priority area for tree planting.



### Priority Planting Factors

Priority planting factors were chosen based on factors that are mitigated by, or disproportionately benefit from, the presence of tree canopy, and are additionally topics of concern in Fort Collins.

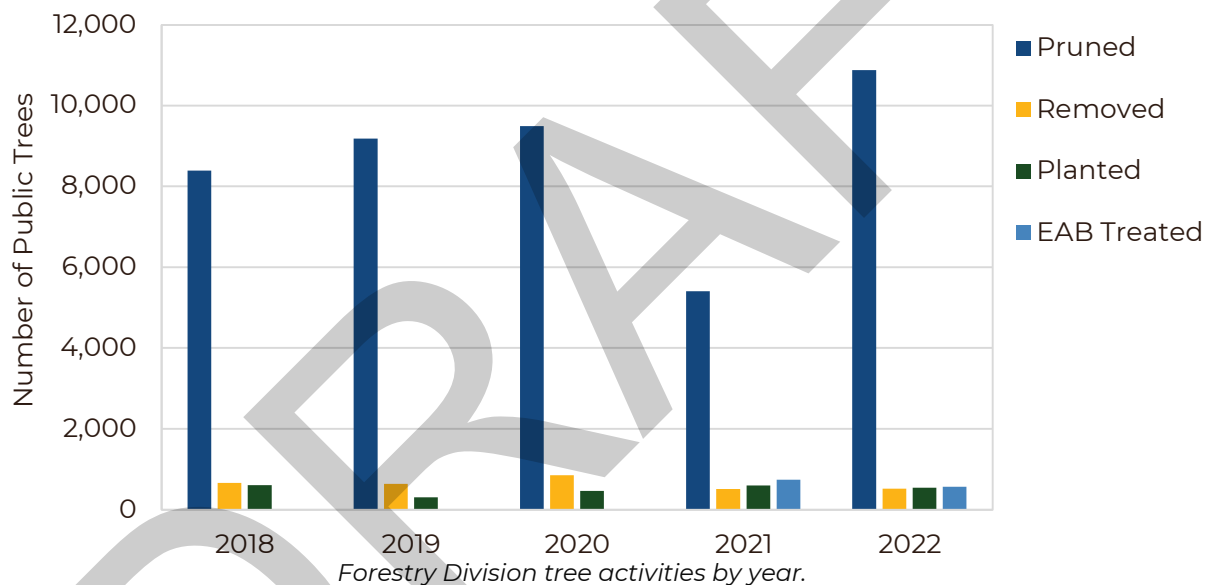
- Environmental: urban heat, stormwater
- Human health: asthma, heart disease, and mental health
- Social: income, population density, BIPOC residents, renters

# Forestry Division

## PUBLIC TREE ACTIVITIES BY YEAR

Beginning in 2021, public tree planting exceeded tree removals. In this year, the Forestry Division also began treating ash trees for emerald ash borer.

In 2022, the Forestry Division pruned more than 20% of its tree inventory, laying the groundwork for a 5-year pruning cycle. Industry standards recommend a regular pruning cycle of 5–10 years. Only approximately one-half of U.S. cities proactively prune their trees on a regular cycle of any duration.



## STAFFING

The Forestry Division currently employs 17 full-time staff, 5 hourly staff, and receives part-time assistance from one office assistant. One additional full-time staff is housed within the Zoning Department.

Additional capacity needs have been identified for development plan review as well as for operations including pruning, removal, planting, stump grinding, potholing, infrastructure conflicts, and contract management.

*Forestry Division staffing, 2024*

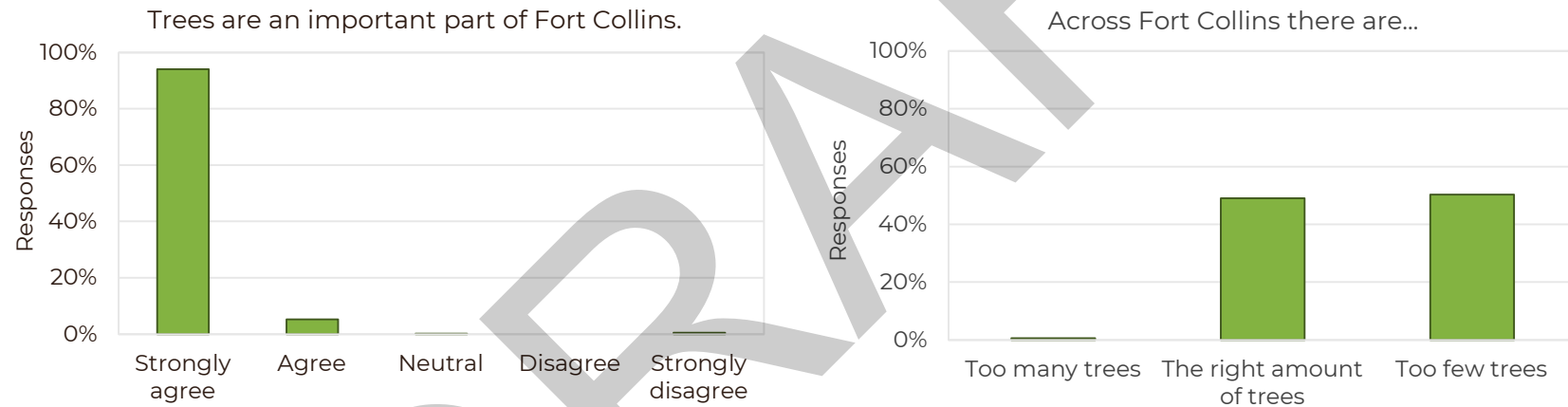
Staff Title	Number of Staff	Number of Vacancies
City Forester	1	0
Assistant City Forester	1	0
Sr Specialist, Forestry	3	0
Forestry Zoning Inspector (Zoning Dept.)	1	0
Sr Supervisor, Forestry	1	0
Crew Chief, Forestry	3	0
Technician II, Forestry	6	0
Technician I, Forestry	2	0
Hourly Staff	5	0
Office Assistant	.25	0

# Public Engagement & Outreach

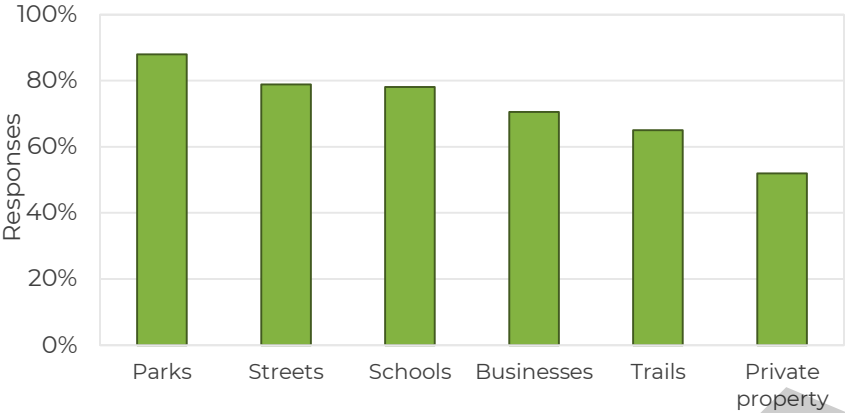
## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

### Community Survey

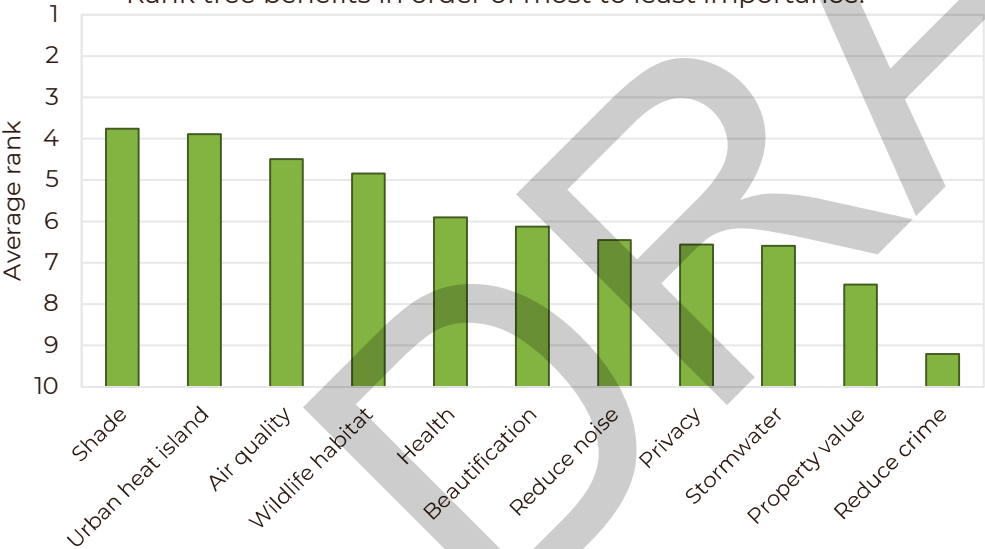
971 survey respondents



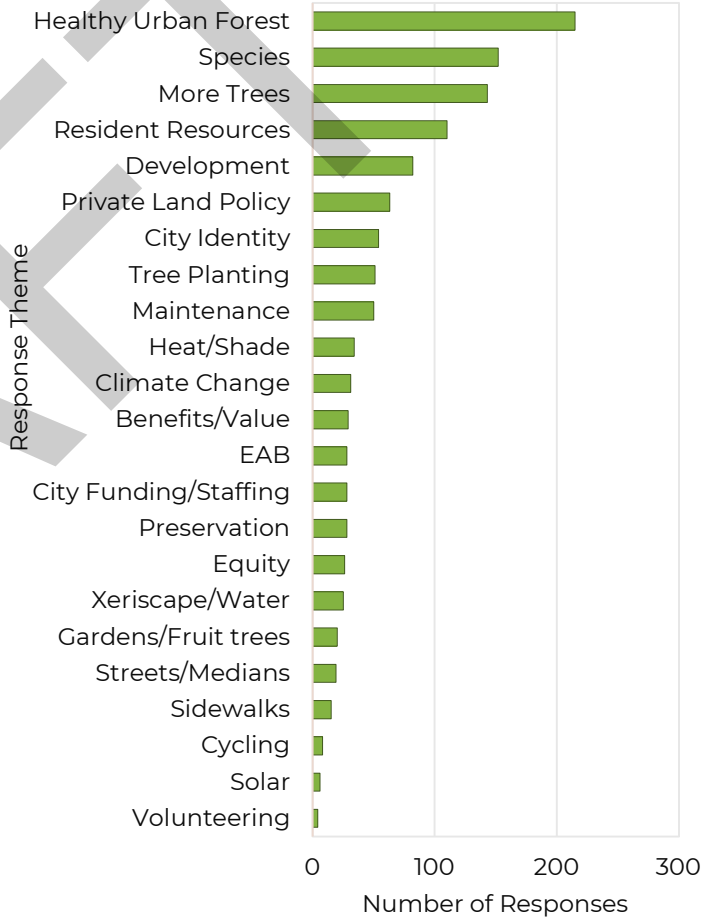
Where is it most important to plant trees?

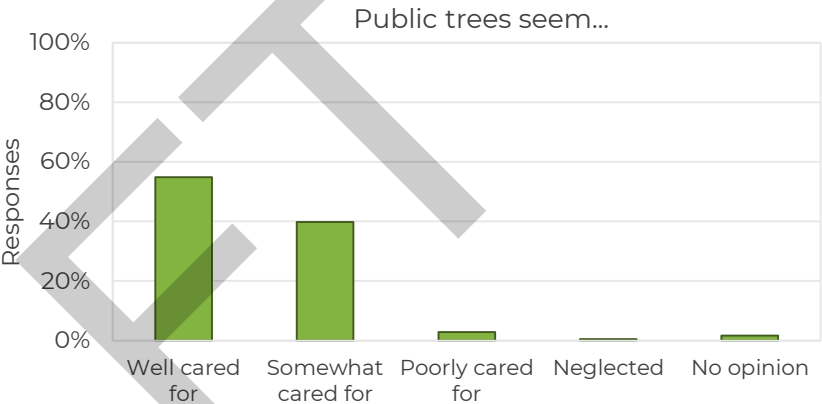
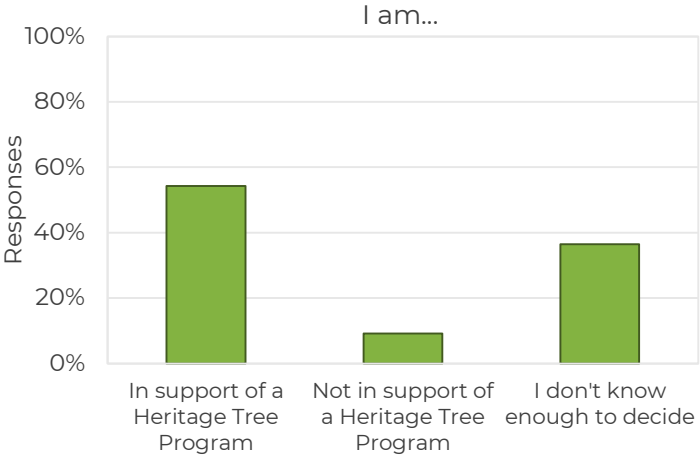


Rank tree benefits in order of most to least importance.



What is your hope for the future of the urban forest in Fort Collins?







## Public Meetings

Responses to questions in public meetings were similar to those provided by the public survey.

Other themes:

- Cost is a difficulty many residents face when planting new trees. Tree care and removal costs are a burden to homeowners.
- The community may prefer “carrot” over “stick” approaches to trees on private property, for example, financial resources, mitigation credits, and outreach and education as opposed to stricter ordinances. However, some residents directly support policy mechanisms for enforcement. Many residents indicated they needed more information to make an informed decision.
- Many comments expressed concern over water usage, e.g., which tree species are planted and where.
- Several participants spoke in support of more native trees as well as edible fruit and nut trees.
- The public wants guidelines about preventing trees from blocking solar panels.

## Partner Focus Groups

Discussion topics and emergent themes:

- Leverage and expand partnerships with internal and external collaborators.
- Increase public education and outreach.
- Investigate funding sources that can help private landowners maintain trees.
  - Prioritize support for low-income property owners and those within high-priority neighborhoods.
- Integrate the UFSP and trees into future City plans.
- Increase code enforcement.
  - Promote tree protection and mitigation for development projects.
- Increase communication to the public about City Forestry activities.
- Share Forestry resources with surrounding communities.
- Engage with legal experts to clarify any legal uncertainty regarding stewardship of no-man’s-land and alleyways.
- Strengthen planting and maintenance along transportation corridors.
- Work with local and regional nursery growers to promote local nursery stock, species diversity, and availability of key species.

# Ordinance Review

TOPIC	ADDRESSED X = Yes (X) = Partial	CHAPTER & SECTION*	COMMENTS
<b>Credentials</b>			
Requires certified arborist for paid private tree work			
Requires Certified Arborist for public tree work	(X)	MC 27-17	This is included in the <i>Tree Management Standards and BMPs</i> document. MC 27-17 allows for the City Manager to implement written rules. A recommended improvement is to mention this document within city code.
Requires licensing of private tree care firms	X	MC 27-34-40	
Defines official authority for public tree management	X	MC 27-17	
<b>Public Tree Management and Protection</b>			
Establishes/Authorizes City Forester to regulate public trees	X	MC 27-17	
Establishes/Authorizes City position (e.g. Mayor, City Administrator, DPW Director) to regulate public trees	X	MC 27-17	
Established a community Tree Board or Commission			
Defines public trees			
Requires annual community tree work plans			
Identifies formula for determining monetary tree value	(X)	LUC 3.2.1 I-7	Applies only to development
Establishes responsibility for public tree maintenance (e.g. City, adjacent property owner)	X	MC 24-42, 27-17, 27-57	Responsibility for public trees is implied but not directly stated
Requires regular public tree maintenance	X	MC 27-57	
Requires particular types of maintenance (e.g., pruning)	X	MC 27-58	

TOPIC	ADDRESSED X = Yes (X) = Partial	CHAPTER & SECTION*	COMMENTS
Requires adherence to ANSI A300 standards and best management practices	(X)	MC 27-17	In Tree Management Standards and BMPs
Establishes permit system for work on public trees	X	MC 27-33	
Requires payment of fees for the removal of public trees			
Establishes provisions for penalties for non-compliance	X	MC 27-59–62	
Restricts tree removal on public property			Permit required; see next line
Permit or approval required for tree removal, pruning or excavating near public trees	X	MC 27-31–32	
Requires protection of public trees during construction, repairs or utility work	X	LUC 3.2.1 G	
Prohibits damage to public trees (e.g. attaching ropes, signs, wires, chemicals, storing materials, excavation etc.)	X	MC 27-19	
Establishes provisions for trimming for overhead utility line clearance			
Restricts burning of solid wood waste			
Establishes a wood utilization program			
Establishes an insect/disease control strategy			Recommended Improvement
Prohibits tree topping	(X)	MC 27-17	In Tree Management Standards and BMPs
Regulates abatement of hazardous or nuisance trees on private property	(X)	MC 27-18(c)	
Regulates removal of dead or diseased trees	X	MC 27-58	
Tree Fund			
<b>Tree Planting</b>			
Regulates tree species which may or may not be planted on private property (approved tree list)	X	MC 27-18 LUC 3.2.1 D-4, I-2, I-8	
Requires tree planting around and within parking lots	X	LUC 3.2.1 D, E-4–5	
Requires replacement of removed publicly owned trees	X	LUC 3.2.1 D-2-d	Applies only to development
Permits public tree planting - beyond the right-of-way	X	LUC 3.2.1 D-2-b	

TOPIC	ADDRESSED X = Yes (X) = Partial	CHAPTER & SECTION*	COMMENTS
Requires tree plantings around new developments (see also trees in parking lots)	X	LUC 3.2.1 D, D-1-c	
Regulates tree species which may or may not be planted on public property (approved tree list)	X	MC 27-18 LUC 3.2.1 D-1-c, I-8	
<b>Private Tree Protection and Preservation</b>			
Restricts tree removal on private property			
Permit or approval required for tree removal on private property			
Requires preservation of trees during development on private property	X	LUC 3.2.1 F	
Prohibits damage to preserved/protected trees			Recommended Improvement
Prohibits damage or removal of trees on another person's property			
Inventory of trees on site required	X	LUC 3.2.1 F	
Identification of forests/woodlands required			
Specific species and/or size tree regulated (e.g. heritage/significant trees)	(X)	LUC 3.2.1 F	Applies only to development
Location of Critical Root Zone/Dripline required	X	LUC 3.2.1 G-7	
Minimum canopy cover requirement set			
Identification of riparian buffers, natural areas, preservation zones	X	LUC 3.2.1 A, M	
Tree protection/preservation plan required	X	LUC 3.2.1 C	
Identification of prohibited activities in dripline/critical root zone	X	LUC 3.2.1 G-3	
Tree protection fencing required	X	LUC 3.2.1 G-3	
Location/type of other tree protection measures (e.g. root pruning, aeration, vertical mulching, trunk protection, soil protection, irrigation,) on development plans (e.g. site plans, construction plans, etc.)	X	LUC 3.2.1 G, G-7, J-2	
Provide credits/incentives for tree preservation			Recommended Improvement
Landscape plan with proposed landscaping and mitigation trees to be planted	(X)	LUC 3.2.1 C	
Requires Grading plan to include protected/preserved trees			
Utility plan with trees to include protected/preserved trees	X	LUC 3.2.1 K	

TOPIC	ADDRESSED X = Yes (X) = Partial	CHAPTER & SECTION*	COMMENTS
Tree planting requirements for removal of regulated trees	X	LUC 3.2.1 F, F-1	
Fee in Lieu of planting mitigation trees	X	LUC 3.2.1 F	
Tree mitigation survival requirements	X	LUC 3.2.1 I-4-6	
Fine for removal of regulated trees			Recommended Improvement
Penalties established for damage and removal of preserved/saved trees			Recommended Improvement
Bonding to ensure required trees are planted	X	LUC 3.2.1 I-4	
Bonding utilized to discourage tree removals			
<b>Other Ordinances of Note</b>			
Defining 'City Forester'	X	MC 27-16	
Alley ROW maintenance	X	MC 27-31	
Right of entry	X	MC 27-56	
Tree spacing	X	LUC 3.2.1 D-1-c	
Visual clearance	X	LUC 3.2.1 L	
Requirement of ROW planting	X	LUC 3.2.1 D-2-a, D-2-c	
ROW tree spacing from infrastructure	X	LUC 3.2.1 D-2-a, D-2-c, K	
Minimum species diversity for development plans	X	LUC 3.2.1 D-3	
Minimum sizes for trees planted	X	LUC 3.2.1 D-4-5	
Buffering requirements	X	LUC 3.2.1 E-1	
Water conservation requirements	X	LUC 3.2.1 E-3	
Required maintenance for development landscape	X	LUC 3.2.1 I-5	
* CO: Fort Collins, Colorado Municipal Code (February 5, 2024); LUC: City of Fort Collins Land Use Code (December 21, 2023)			

## City of Fort Collins Urban Forest Strategic Plan Focus Group Meetings - November 2023

In October and November, 2023, the City of Fort Collins held a series of stakeholder focus group meetings with city departments/divisions and external partners to inform the development of Fort Collins' Urban Forest Strategic Plan.

### MEETING PARTICIPANTS

#### City of Fort Collins Departments & Divisions

Cemeteries  
 Connexion  
 FC Moves  
 Forestry  
 FC Police Department  
 Gardens on Spring Creek  
 Golf Division  
 Light & Power  
 Natural Areas  
 Nature in the City  
 Neighborhood Services  
 Parks Division  
 Planning & Environmental Planning  
 Park Planning & Development  
 Police Services  
 Recreation  
 Streets  
 Transfort  
 Utilities  
 Water Conservation  
 Zoning

#### Community Stakeholders

Arthur Irrigation Company  
 Bartlett Tree Experts  
 Bath Landscape Design & Irrigation Co.  
 BHA Design  
 Blue River Forestry & Tree Care  
 Broadcom Inc.  
 Colorado State University  
 CSU Extension  
 Davey Tree  
 Downtown Development Authority  
 Downtown General Improvement District  
 Fort Collins Tree Care Inc.  
 City of Greeley  
 Hartford Homes  
 HF2M Inc.  
 Housing Catalyst  
 Larimer and Weld Irrigation Company  
 Larimer County, Natural Resources  
 Lumen  
 Norris Design  
 Pleasant Valley and Lake Canal Company  
 Poudre Fire Authority  
 Poudre River Public Library District  
 Poudre School District  
 Ripley Design Inc.  
 SavATree  
 South Side Ditch Company  
 Wisdom Tree Care  
 Zak George Landscaping



# URBAN FOREST Strategic Plan

**Kendra Boot**

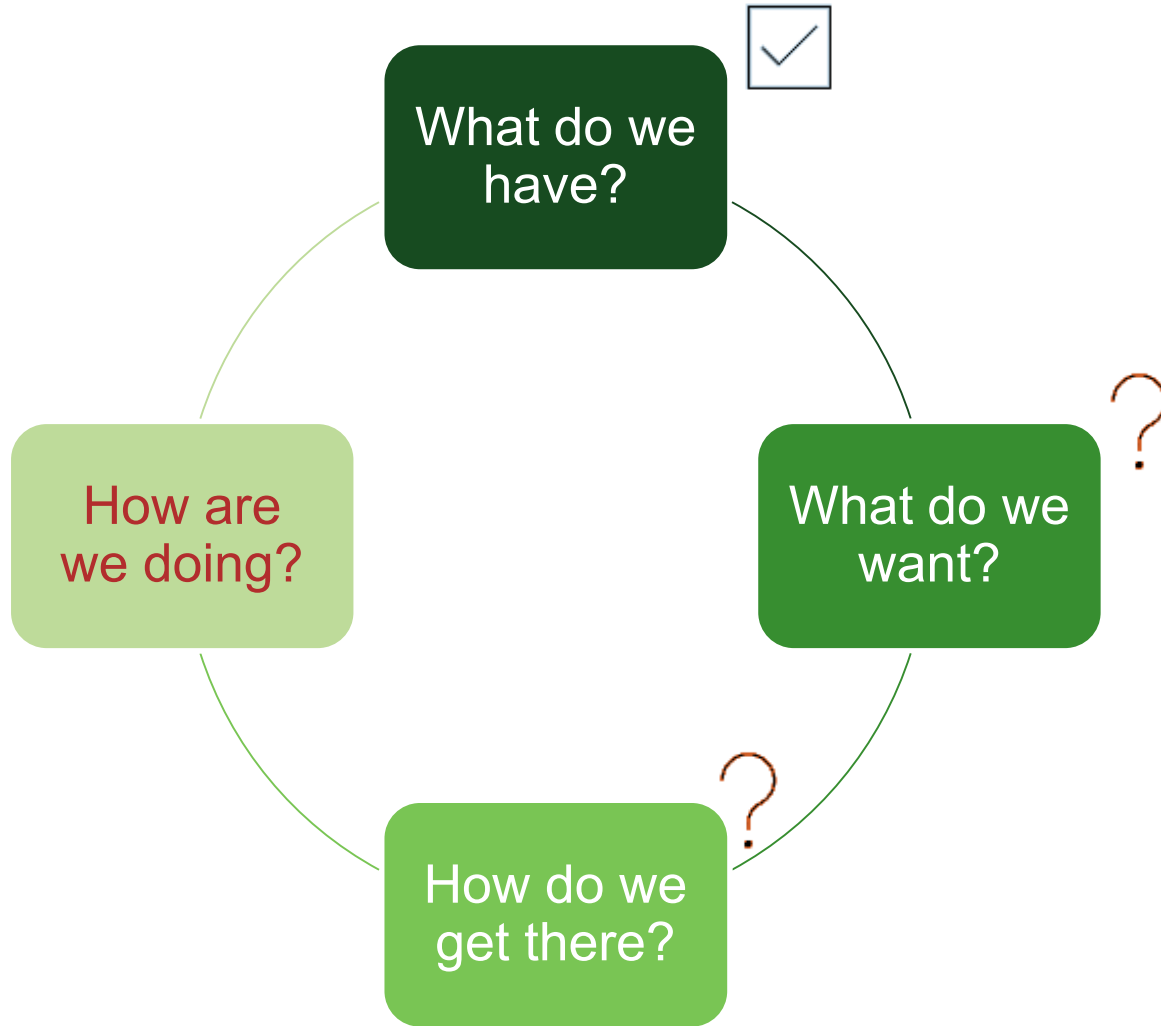
City Forester  
Forestry Division

**Dana Karcher**

Project Developer  
Davey Resource Group

- Do Councilmembers support the general direction of the Urban Forest Strategic Plan effort?
- What feedback do Councilmembers have regarding the Urban Forest Strategic Plan?





## WHY PLAN?

The Urban Forest Strategic Plan (UFSP) will serve as a guiding document to:

- Summarize the state of the urban forest
- Create a 20-year vision for trees in Fort Collins
- Set goals
- Recommend next steps

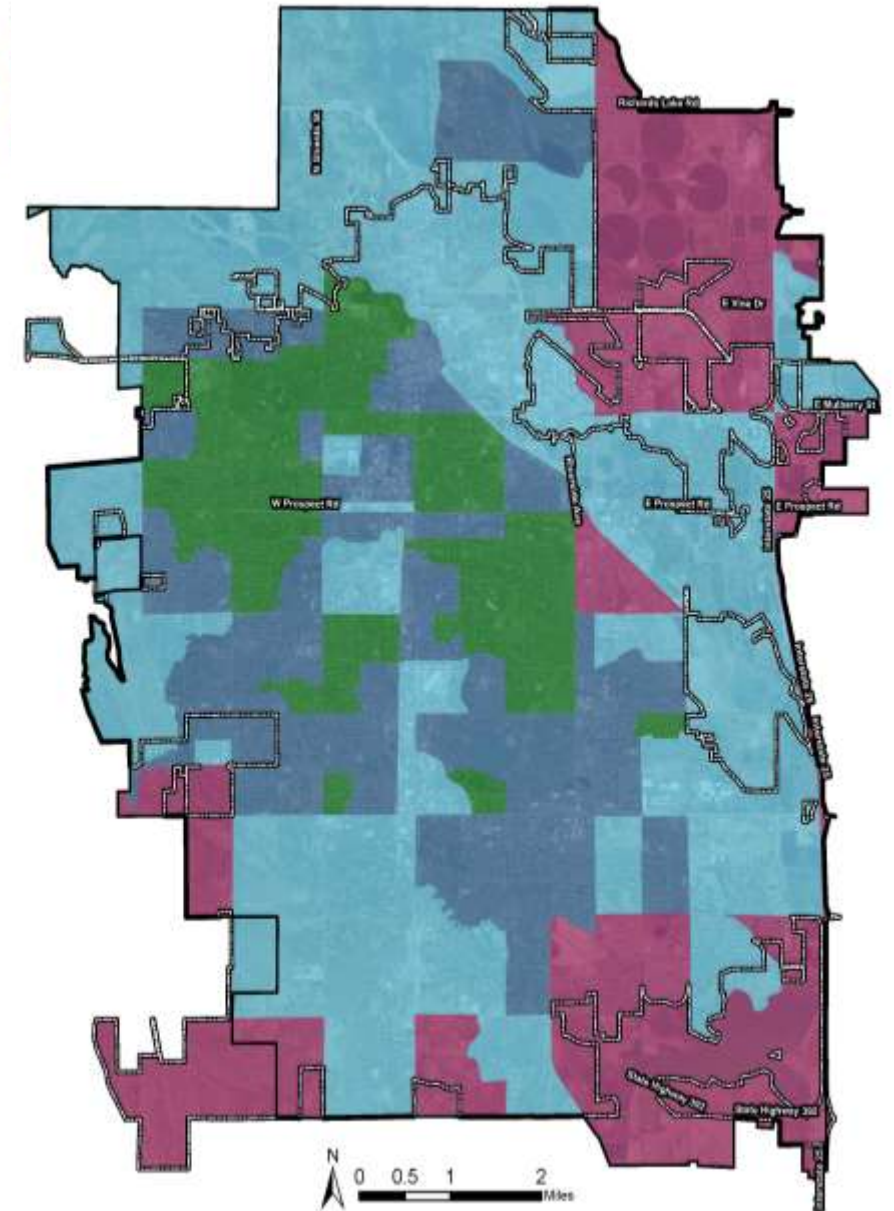
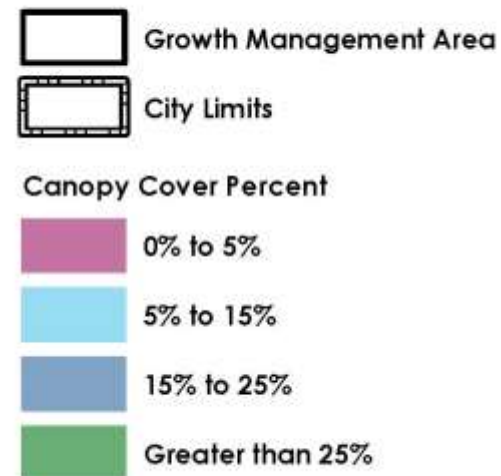




# WHAT DO WE HAVE?

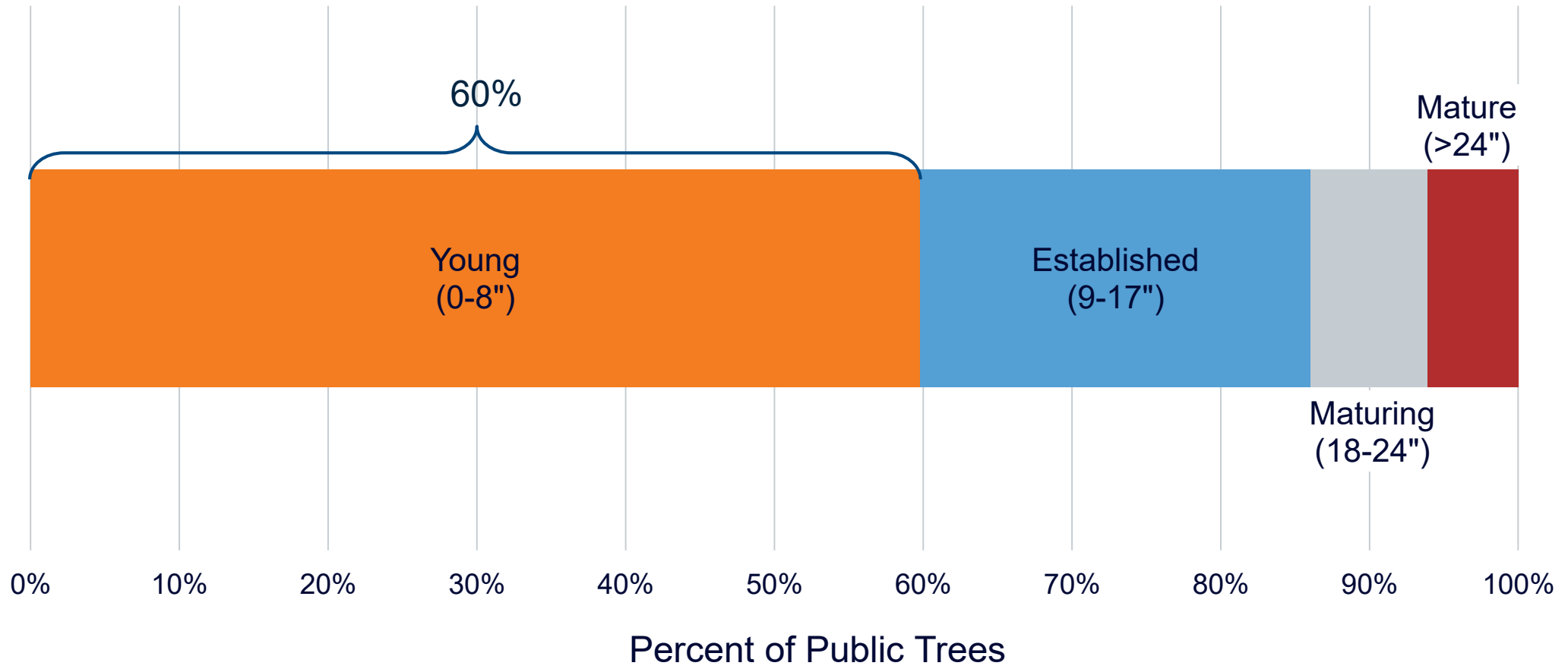
## CANOPY PERCENT BY BLOCK GROUP

- Citywide: 13.7%
- City + GMA: 12.6%



## PUBLIC TREES BY SIZE/AGE

59,144 PUBLIC TREES



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Public Sentiment about Trees

- Trees are an integral part of Fort Collins
- People love trees on public property
- The City's Forestry Division is viewed favorably
- Residents want resources for planting & tree care on private property
- Concerns about development & trees

## 3 PUBLIC MEETINGS

- October 2023 & March 2024
- North & South Fort Collins
- 160 participants
- 8 different community events

## 1 COMMUNITY SURVEY

- September–December 2023
- 965 respondents
- 657 write-in comments







## SUMMARY

- Forestry Division provides a high level of service.
- The public tree inventory trends young.
- Forestry Division will need to plan for sustainable growth to keep pace with the urban forest.
- Mixed public opinion about regulation of trees on private property.



# WHAT DO WE WANT?

## Vision

Fort Collins will be home to a healthy and equitably distributed urban forest woven throughout the built environment creating safer and cooler neighborhoods with increased climate resilience.

Trees in Fort Collins are recognized as a vital part of city infrastructure that provide health, social, environmental and economic benefits for all present and future people who live, work, and visit Fort Collins.

## Future Challenges

- Equitable distribution of canopy
- Insect and Disease
- A changing climate
- Sixty percent (60%) “young” public urban forest
- Development/Redevelopment





# HOW DO WE GET THERE?

# Commended Strategies

1. Strategically invest in growing tree canopy where it will promote resilience and quality of life in Fort Collins.
2. Create a tree planting plan.
3. Complete the shift to proactive management of Fort Collins' public trees.
4. Strengthen City policies to protect trees.



## Commended Strategies

5. Collect data to track changes to tree canopy over time and to inform Forestry activities.
6. Sustainably grow the Forestry Division to keep pace with growth of the urban forest.
7. Deepen engagement with the community about tree stewardship.
8. Expand the network of Forestry Division partners.







## Tree preservation and protection

- Appraised value of trees is utilized across the country to protect urban tree canopy
- Other incentives have been used to encourage tree protection and preservation
- Trade-offs exist and more engagement and analysis will be needed

## Next steps for policy

- April 2 - Council Meeting
  - Foundational Land Use Code Updates
- June 11 - Council Work Session
  - Phase II Discussion

# SP Project Timeline



- Do Councilmembers support the general direction of the Urban Forest Strategic Plan effort?
- What feedback do Councilmembers have regarding the Urban Forest Strategic Plan?



# Thank you!



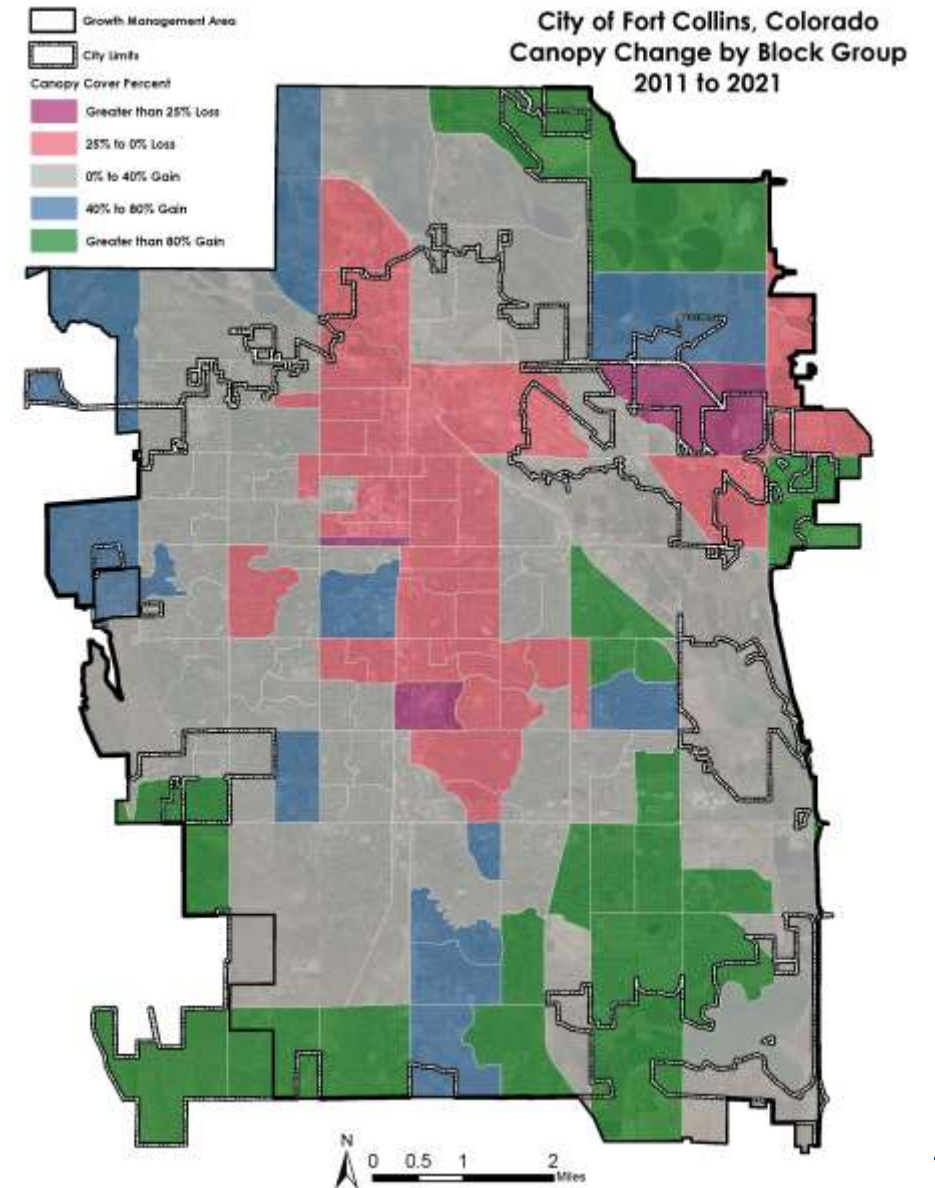
# Additional slides

Following slides are in Council's "UFSP Draft Recommendations and Select Findings" document



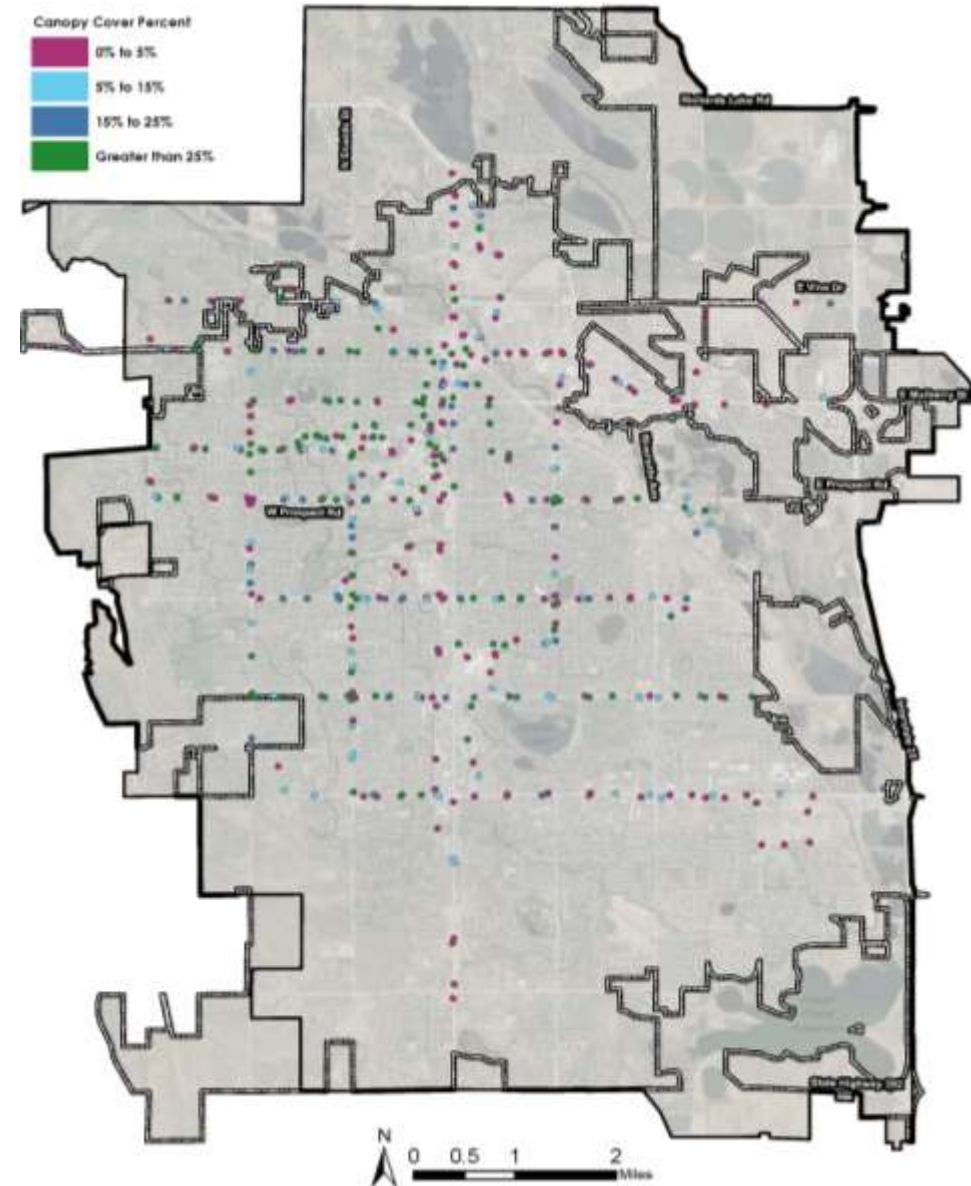
## TREE CANOPY CHANGE 2011–2021

- City Limits: +753 acres (+17.3%)
- City + GMA: +936 acres (+17.2%)



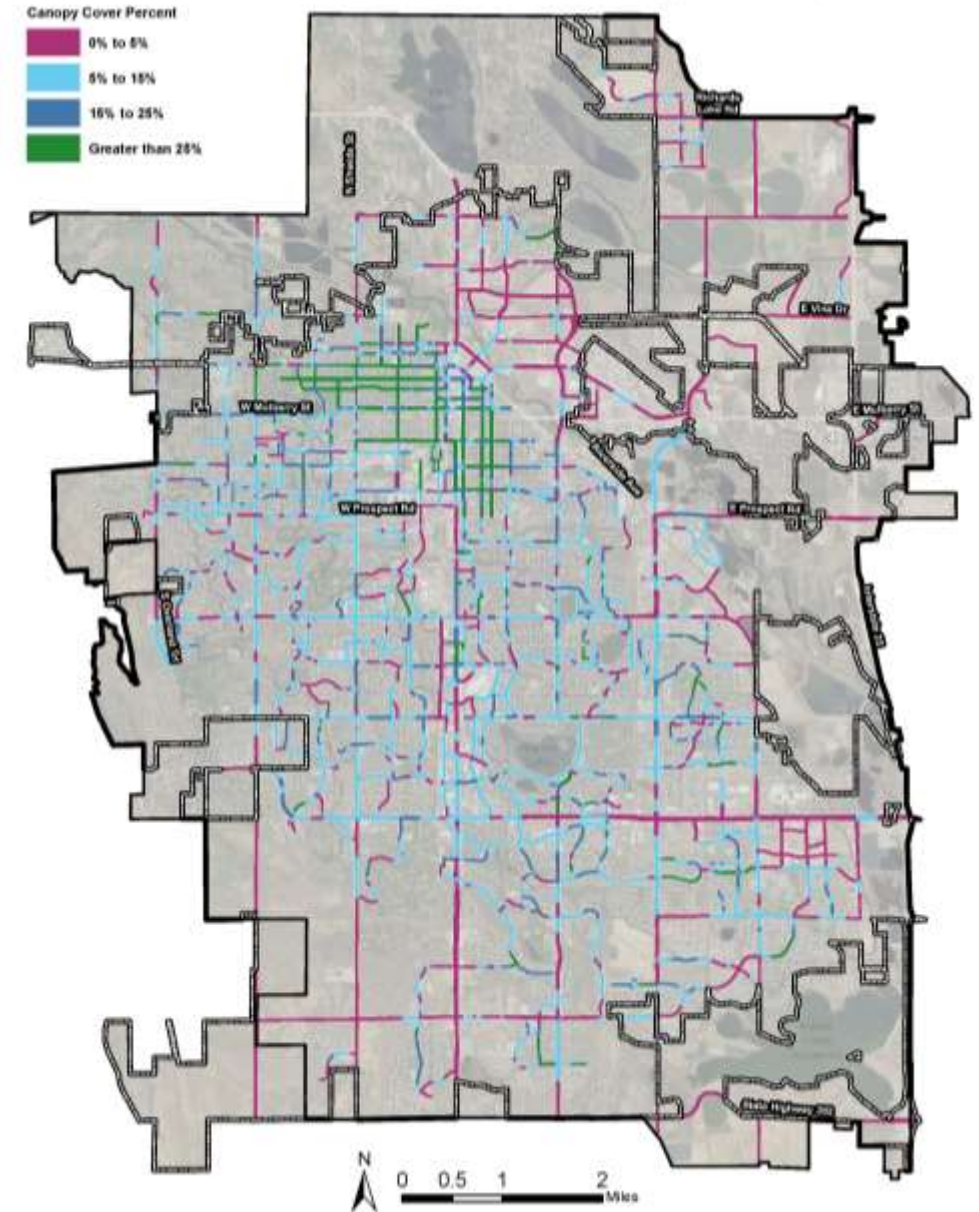
## TREE CANOPY AT BUS STOPS

- 423 bus stops
- Canopy cover (no shelters): 21.2%
- Canopy change: -2.3%



## TREE CANOPY IN BIKE LANES

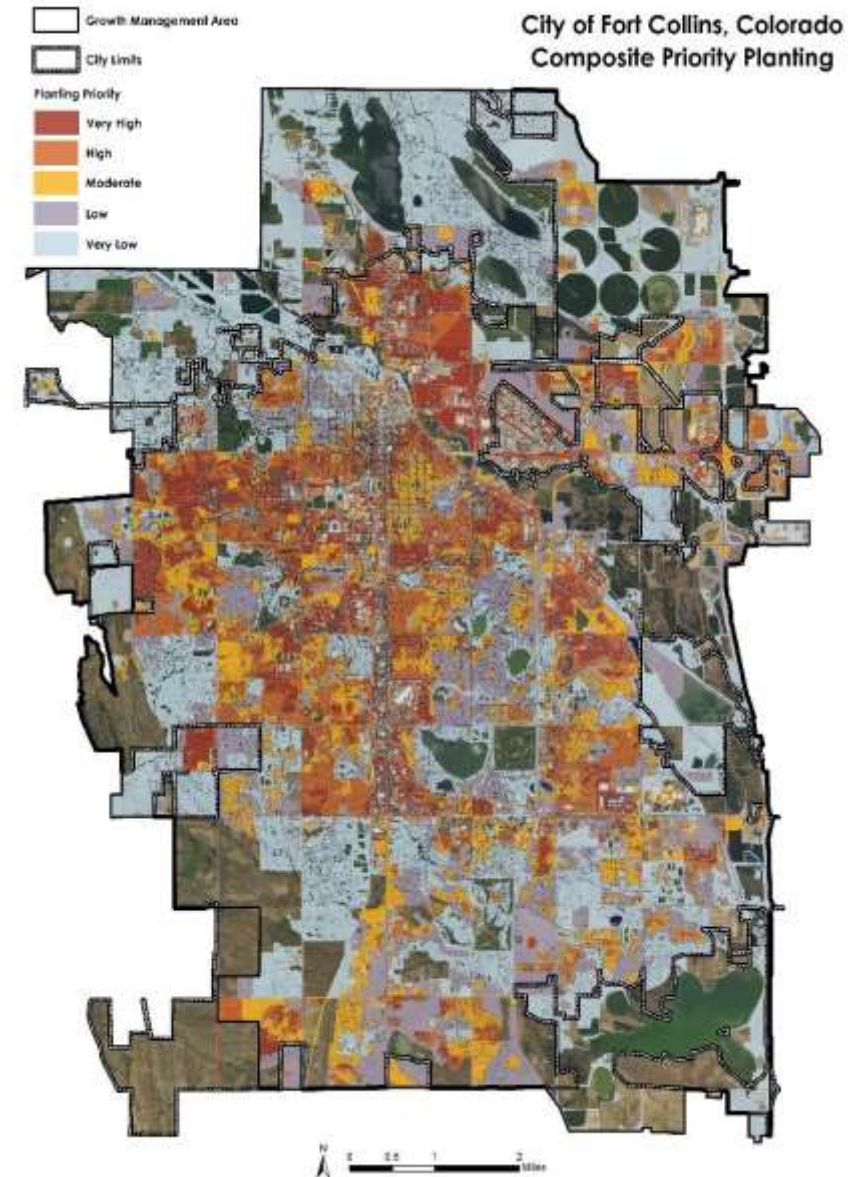
- 267 miles
- Canopy cover: 9.5%
- Canopy change: +0.1%





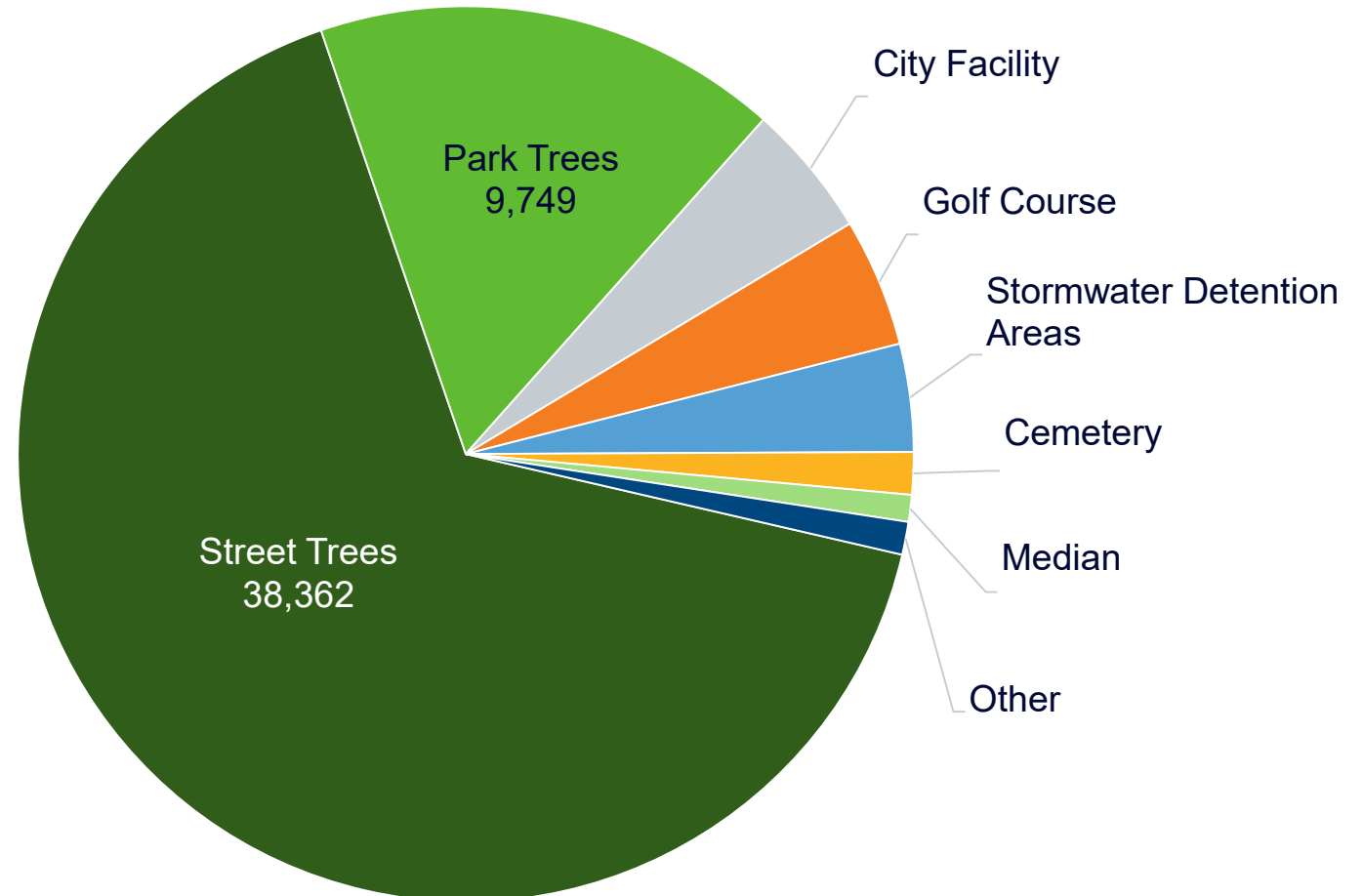
## 15,418 POTENTIAL NEW CANOPY ACRES

- Classified from Very Low to Very High priority
  - **Social, Health and Environmental**
- 2,251 acres of High or Very High priority
- Can help City plant trees for outcomes

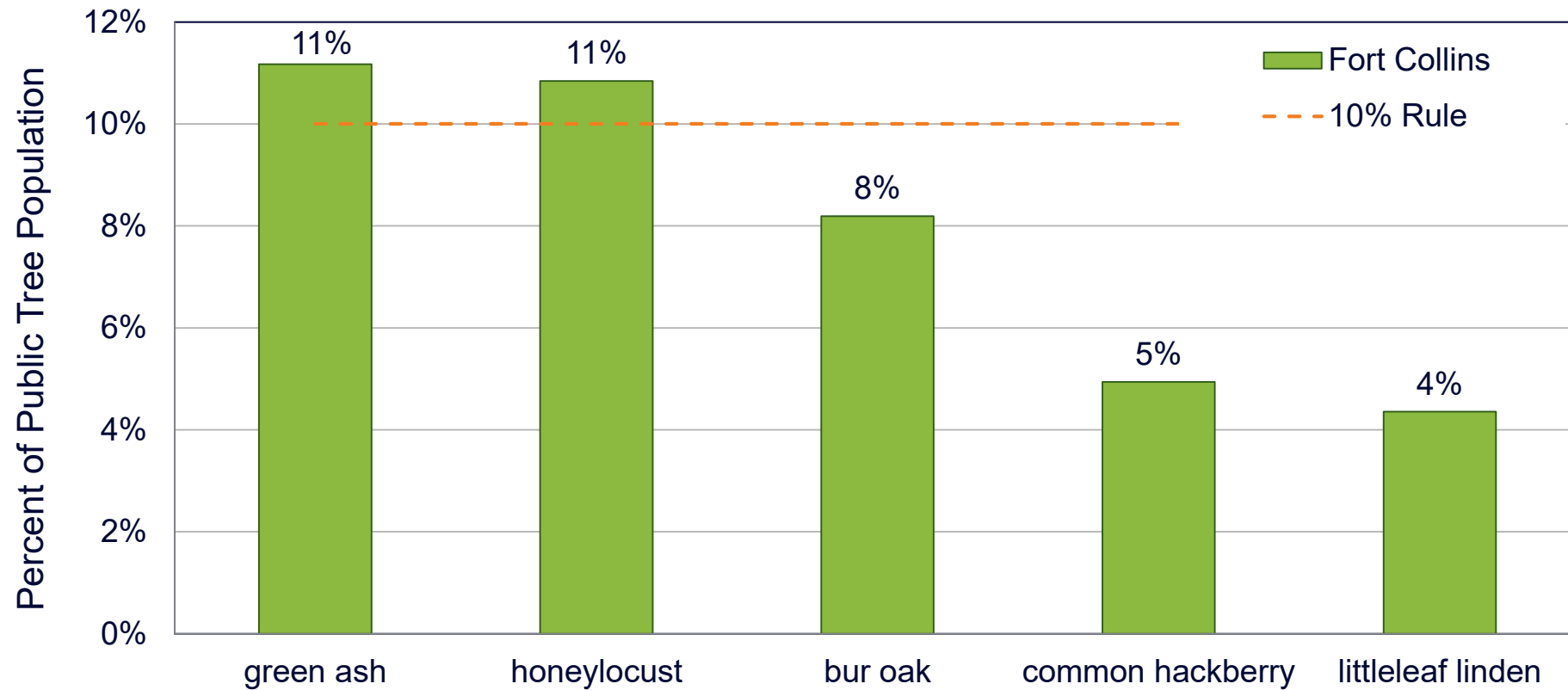


## 59,144 PUBLIC TREES

- Two-thirds are street trees



## TOP 5 PUBLIC TREE SPECIES



## PUBLIC TREE ACTIVITIES BY YEAR

