

# PETITION FOR INITIATIVE

TO: The City Council of the City of Fort Collins

## GENERAL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

An ordinance to expand Public Open Lands in Fort Collins by requiring the City to acquire the Hughes Stadium Property and use it for parks, recreation and open lands, natural areas, and wildlife rescue and education.

We are seeking that the proposed ordinance be placed on the next regular city election ballot in April 2021. We are not seeking a special election.

**WARNING:  
IT IS AGAINST THE LAW**

for anyone to sign any initiative petition with any name other than his or her own or to knowingly sign his or her name more than once for the same measure or to knowingly sign such petition when not a registered elector.

DO NOT SIGN THIS PETITION UNLESS YOU ARE A REGISTERED ELECTOR.

TO BE A REGISTERED ELECTOR, YOU MUST BE A CITIZEN OF THE STATE OF COLORADO AND A RESIDENT OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS AND REGISTERED TO VOTE IN FORT COLLINS MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Do not sign this petition unless you have read or had read to you the proposed initiative or the summary of the initiated measure in its entirety and understand its meaning.

### PETITION REPRESENTATIVES (not less than 3, no more than 5)

	Name	Address
1.	Elena M. Lopez	301 S. Howes St., PO Box 1732, Fort Collins, CO 80522
2.	Melissa Rosas	301 S. Howes St., PO Box 1732, Fort Collins, CO 80522
3.	Paul Patterson	2936 Eindborough Dr, Fort Collins, CO 80525
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____

**NOTE:** Throughout its circulation, each petition section shall contain or have attached immediately following this page the full text of the proposed ordinance or resolution.

WHEREAS, the citizens of Fort Collins have shown strong support to preserve and provide open space, natural areas, community separators, wildlife habitat, and trails for today and for the future; and

WHEREAS, Fort Collins citizens currently enjoy their open spaces and natural areas; the recreation they provide, such as walking, hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, bird watching, and fishing; the educational opportunities and programs provided to people of all ages and backgrounds; and the beautiful landscapes and views they provide; and

WHEREAS, open space, natural areas, wildlife habitat, community separators, agricultural lands, and trails benefit all members of the Fort Collins community; and

WHEREAS, conserved open space and natural areas help make Fort Collins a highly desirable place to live, work, and visit; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Collins values sustainability in policies, plans, strategies and projects that align with its Triple Bottom Line decision-making philosophy of social, economic and environmental well-being to meet its citizens' present needs and the needs of future generations without compromising the ecosystems upon which we all depend; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Fort Collins have provided continuous funding for open space and natural areas acquisition and maintenance since first voting for a capital improvement sales tax in 1973 and approving extensions or new revenue sources in every election such a question has appeared on the ballot; and

WHEREAS, Fort Collins has conserved over 40,000 acres of open space and natural areas since 1973; and

WHEREAS, the property formerly home to the Colorado State University's Hughes Stadium is a currently undeveloped 164.56-acre parcel of land that was recently annexed into the city of Fort Collins; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Collins has many distinct zoning districts in its land use code; and

WHEREAS, one zoning classification in the Fort Collins land use code is "Public Open Lands," which currently allows for parks, recreation and open lands, and wildlife rescue and education centers, subject to administrative or Planning and Zoning Board review; and

WHEREAS, the Hughes Stadium property is currently zoned as Transition District (T) pursuant to Division 4.12 of its land use code, which is intended for properties for which there are no specific and immediate plans for development; and

WHEREAS, the Hughes Stadium property occupies an area in between the current Maxwell Natural Area and Pineridge Natural Area; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of the Hughes Stadium Property and conversion into a public open lands area would build upon the City's significant history of preserving open spaces and would

provide an invaluable social, economic, and environmental resource for current and future generations of Fort Collins residents; and

WHEREAS, the Hughes Stadium property would represent a crown jewel acquisition for Fort Collins open space; and

WHEREAS, absent acquisition and conservation efforts under this ordinance, the Hughes Stadium property would forever be lost to residential and/or commercial development; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of the Hughes Stadium property by the City of Fort Collins should occur using existing voter-approved open space sales tax revenue and other funds currently available to the City, financing agreements, grants, partnerships with other local governments, or other available fiscally responsible mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, publicly available information indicates Colorado State University values the Hughes Stadium property at \$10 million, and the City should use that figure as a starting point in its negotiations to acquire the property at its fair market value; and

WHEREAS, the rezoning of the Hughes Stadium property into the Public Open Lands (P-O-L) zoning district pursuant to Article 1, Division 1.3 and Article 4, Division 4.13 of the land use code would be necessary to convert the property into an area for parks, recreation and open lands, and wildlife rescue and education.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the City hereby makes and adopts the determinations and findings contained in the recitals set forth above.

Section 2. That the City shall acquire the Hughes Stadium property, a 164.56-acre parcel of land legally described in Section 3 of Fort Collins Ordinance No. 123 (2018) (“Annexing the Property Known as the Hughes Stadium Property Annexation to the City of Fort Collins, Colorado”) at its fair market value for the purpose of using it for parks, recreation and open lands, natural areas, and wildlife rescue and education.

Section 3. That notwithstanding any contrary designation in the April 2019 City Plan or any action taken by the Council subsequent to its annexation of the Hughes Stadium property but before the passage of this Ordinance, the City shall rezone the Hughes Stadium property as Public Open Lands (P-O-L) zoning district pursuant to Division 4.13 of the City of Fort Collins land use code immediately upon passage of this Ordinance.

Section 4. That the City shall not de-annex, cease acquisition efforts, or subsequently rezone the Hughes Stadium property to any designation other than Public Open Lands without voter approval of a separate initiative referred to the voters by City Council.

Section 5. That to acquire the Hughes Stadium property, the City shall seek funding from existing sources or future partnerships, including but not limited to the Fort Collins Open Space Yes! sales tax fund, Certificates of Participation, the City's general fund, Great Outdoors Colorado and other third party organizations providing open space or other types of recreational or land conservation grants, and/or partnerships with other entities such as Larimer County.

Section 6. That the City Council may refer ballot measures to the voters for the purpose of seeking additional funding only if existing sources of funding or future partnerships are insufficient for the preservation of the Hughes Stadium property as described in this Ordinance.

Section 7. That the City shall expeditiously, but no later than two years from the passage of this Ordinance, use best efforts in good faith to acquire the Hughes Stadium property utilizing the financial mechanisms described in Sections 5 and 6.

Section 8. That this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage by the majority of the voters of Fort Collins during the first available regular city election, and any registered voter in Fort Collins has legal standing to petition for injunctive and/or declaratory relief related to City noncompliance with the provisions of this Ordinance.

**DO NOT SIGN THIS PETITION UNLESS YOU ARE A RESIDENT OF FORT COLLINS  
AND REGISTERED TO VOTE AT YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS**

Before signing this petition, you are encouraged to read the full text of the initiated or referred measure,  
or the purpose statement in the case of a recall petition, which immediately precedes these signature pages.

1	Signature	Residence Address (Street and Number)	Date Signed
	Printed Name	City	
2	Signature	Residence Address (Street and Number)	Date Signed
	Printed Name	City	
3	Signature	Residence Address (Street and Number)	Date Signed
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	Printed Name	City	
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	Printed Name	City	
28	Signature	Residence Address (Street and Number)	Date Signed
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29	Signature	Residence Address (Street and Number)	Date Signed
	Printed Name	City	
30	Signature	Residence Address (Street and Number)	Date Signed
	Printed Name	City	

**AFFIDAVIT OF PETITION CIRCULATOR**

STATE OF COLORADO )  
  )  
COUNTY OF LARIMER ) ss.  
  )  
CITY OF FORT COLLINS )

The undersigned petition circulator, being first duly sworn and upon oath, states that he or she is eighteen (18) years of age or older; that he or she personally circulated the attached petition; that each signature thereon is the signature of the person whose name it purports to be; that to the best of the knowledge and belief of the affiant each of the persons signing said petition was, at the time of signing, a registered elector in the City of Fort Collins; that each signer had an opportunity before signing to read the full text of the petition; and that the petition circulator has not paid or will not in the future pay, directly or indirectly, any money or other thing of value to any signer for the purpose of inducing or causing such signer to affix his or her signature to such petition.

**AFFIANT:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Petition Circulator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Petition Circulator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address of Petition Circulator

\_\_\_\_\_  
City / State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address of Notary Public