

ORDINANCE NO. 052, 2021
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
APPROPRIATING PRIOR YEAR RESERVES IN THE NATURAL AREAS FUND
FOR THE PURPOSE OF LAND CONSERVATION, VISITOR AMENITIES, RESTORATION
AND OTHER RELATED NATURAL AREAS STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES NOT
INCLUDED IN THE 2021 ADOPTED CITY BUDGET

WHEREAS, the City is committed to preserving natural areas and providing educational, interpretive and appropriate recreational opportunities to the public; and

WHEREAS, Natural Areas Department (“NAD”) programming implements open land conservation priorities identified in the City’s Comprehensive Plan by purchasing conservation easement interests in key natural areas, community separators, or other open lands; providing stewardship for lands purchased; and developing trails and interpretive features for public use; and

WHEREAS, the NAD is funded primarily through the collection of City Open Space - Yes sales and use tax revenue, as well as revenues from the Larimer County Help Preserve Open Space sales and use tax, investment earnings, and other miscellaneous revenues deposited in the Natural Areas Fund; and

WHEREAS, funding for purposes other than capital projects lapses each year if it is not spent; and

WHEREAS, NAD staff has asked that the City Council appropriate \$4,484,000 in unspent 2020 budgeted funds and \$516,000 in unanticipated revenue to increase 2021 appropriations in the City’s Natural Areas Fund by \$5,000,000; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 9 of the City Charter permits the City Council to appropriate by ordinance at any time during the fiscal year such funds for expenditure as may be available from reserves accumulated in prior years, notwithstanding that such reserves were not previously appropriated; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 11 of the City Charter requires all appropriations unexpended or unencumbered at the end of the fiscal year lapse to the applicable general or special revenue fund, except appropriations for capital projects and federal or state grants do not lapse until completion of the capital project or expiration of the respective grant; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager has determined that the appropriations as described herein are available and previously unappropriated in the Natural Areas Fund; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager has recommended the appropriation from prior year reserves in the Natural Areas Fund of a total of \$5,000,000, comprised of unspent and unencumbered appropriations from 2020, to be used for land conservation and restoration, acquisition, construction, enhancement and maintenance of trail systems, wildlife habitat and other natural areas, and other NAD stewardship activities to benefit the residents of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

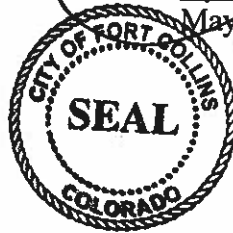
Section 1. That the City Council hereby makes and adopts the determinations and findings contained in the recitals set forth above.

Section 2. That there is hereby appropriated from prior year reserves in the Natural Areas Fund the sum of FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$5,000,000) to be used for land conservation and restoration, acquisition, construction, enhancement and maintenance of trail systems, wildlife habitat and other natural areas, and other NAD stewardship activities to benefit the residents of the City.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading, and ordered published this 20th day of April, A.D. 2021, and to be presented for final passage on the 4th day of May, A.D. 2021.

ATTEST:


City Clerk




Mayor

Passed and adopted on final reading on the 4th day of May, A.D. 2021.

ATTEST:


City Clerk




Mayor