

'Tear down this fence'

River's Edge Natural Area unlocks beautiful new venue for Loveland nature lovers, recreationists

More than 1,000 cyclists, runners, walkers and their dogs use Loveland's Recreation Trail on a busy summer Saturday.

Where the trail skirts the Big Thompson River just south of West First Street, users pass along a foreboding and unsightly 8-foot-tall chain link fence.

The barrier separates the trail from some of the most alluring open land the city has to offer. Visitors peer through the fence and foliage to see cormorants and turtles basking on an island in Bass Pond. Fish turn on the surface, creating rings and ripples that whet anglers' appetites.

On Sept. 28, the fence comes down and the land beyond becomes River's Edge open space, with the emphasis on "open."

Most of the 155-acre tract of woodland, wetland, ponds and meadows has been locked away for decades, first as a private farm, then as a portion of Hewlett-Packard Co.'s vast Loveland holdings.

But the 2011 entry of Cumberland & Western Resources LLC as the new owner of the corporate campus gave the people of Loveland the keys to open that lock.

Loveland, as the seller of the entire campus, retained the open space for inclusion in the Parks and

Recreation Department's growing open lands portfolio.

"It's unique to have an open space as large as this preserved, so centrally located in a town or city, and right along the river," said Debbie Eley, Loveland's Open Lands Specialist in the Department of Parks and Recreation.

"To have that fence come down is pretty exciting."

River's Edge embodies all a natural area should be. Elk, deer, coyotes and other mammals share the expanse with waterfowl such as herons, pelicans, grebes, cormorants and mergansers. Bulrush wetlands blend into drier meadows where native grasses sway.

Amenities that make it people-friendly, such as parking lots, restrooms and picnic shelters, are concentrated in a small zone that encroaches as lightly as possible on the rich animal and plant habitat.

The city's \$889,000 purchase of 121 acres of the land represents a bargain – translating to just over \$7,000 per acre. Funds came from Open Lands Capital Expansion Fees charged on single family building permits, making it a shining example of growth paying

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Loveland resident Jim Daly is a frequent walker on the Recreation Trail, and looks forward to the day when the chain link falls away, opening the River's Edge Natural Area.

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Denver contractor Taylor Kohrs has treaded lightly at River's Edge, with a 5-acre footprint for park facilities that leaves plenty of room for plants, animals and fish.

Riverfront celebration

A community party is in store when a battered chain-link fence gives way to allow free access to Loveland's new River's Edge Natural Area.

The City's Parks and Recreation Department will host a grand opening from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, to give Loveland residents their first look at the city's newest natural area.

An opening ceremony begins at 10 a.m., with remarks from City officials and others who helped make the project happen.

Thereafter, a late morning and afternoon of free family-friendly activities, including fishing in the newly stocked ponds at River's Edge, will be available. Members of the Loveland Fishing Club will be on hand to assist young and first-time anglers who want to test their luck. Local conservation and non-profit organizations will lead guided walks, kids' activities and demonstrations to round out the day's events.

Limited parking is available on site, and additional parking is nearby at Centennial Park, just across First Street from the River's Edge entrance. The site is also accessible from the Recreation Trail between Centennial and Fairgrounds parks.

More information, including a large map of the area, is online at www.cityofloveland.org/RiversEdge.

for community benefit.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife, seeing the value of the River's Edge water features, chipped in a \$90,000 grant under its "Fishing is Fun" program for fishing access improvements.

Fishing at Bass, Dragonfly and Sandpiper ponds, all of them reclaimed gravel pits, will be fun. Catch-and-release angling for smallmouth and largemouth bass, as well as regulated fishing for pan fish like bluegill, crappie and catfish, will be a major draw.

Open Lands managers said Denver contractor Taylor Kohrs, a recreation project specialist, has made the "human-built" footprint at River's Edge so compact, covering just five acres, that nature rules.

"We thought we were going to have to go in there and do a lot of

re-vegetation and restoration when they were finished, but they've been so careful about their work that we won't have much to do," Loveland Open Lands Manager Rob Burdine said.

A parking area for 45 vehicles, picnic shelters, restrooms and a kiosk directing users to the trail network are served by an entrance road off First Street, just south of Centennial Park.

Fishing opportunities expand with a new bridge that connects River's Edge to Jayhawker Ponds to the east. Trails wrapping the three ponds at River's Edge will have access points for fishing and float tubes, including a dock designed for people with disabilities on the east shore of Dragonfly Pond.

City Open Lands managers say their appreciation of River's Edge has

grown with each visit they make as the project moves ahead.

"Every time I go there, I see something unique," Eley said. "There's a different species I've never seen there before, or a new experience. It's full of surprises."

Confidential document shredding event

**10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 28th
400 N. Wilson Ave.
Recycling Center Loveland**

The City's Solid Waste Division offers residents the opportunity to completely shred sensitive, confidential documents at no charge with a current Yard Debris Permit.

The cost to residents without a yard debris permit and County

residents wishing to participate, is \$5 (all shredded documents will be recycled). Please limit quantities to three bags or boxes per household.

Those who have shredders at home can bring shredded paper to the Recycling Center at any time and place it in the box for office paper.

For more information call 962-2529 or visit the Solid Waste Division webpages at www.cityofloveland.org/solidwaste.



Hazardous waste pick-up for seniors & disabled



Loveland's seniors and disabled can sign up for a door-to-door pick up of household hazardous waste products so they can be disposed of in an environmentally-responsible way.

Items for pick-up include adhesives, aerosols, hobby supplies, automotive products, batteries, cleaners/waxes, flammables, lubricants, paints, personal products, pesticides and other household chemicals. A complete list of accepted materials is available at www.cityofloveland.org/stormwater.

Pick-ups will be limited to the first forty residents who call and are planned for the first week of October. To sign up call 1-815-607-3452, choose option 3 and be prepared to provide your name, phone and address. For more information call 962-2772.

To Loveland businesses: We say 'thank you'

All Loveland business owners and managers are invited to the City of Loveland's Annual Business Appreciation Event Thursday, September 5th, 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at Embassy Suites, Conference Hall. There is no charge for the event.

The event's theme is "Bring It on Home to Loveland." Breakfast will be served. Mayor Cecil Gutierrez will provide the welcome speech and City Council members will host the event.

Keynote Speaker is Andy Wirth, President and Chief Executive Officer of Squaw Valley Ski Holdings. He has more than 25 years as a senior executive in the mountain resort and

hospitality management industry. As an executive working with multiple ownership groups and parent companies, he has worked with over 20 industry-leading mountain and hospitality resorts in the United States and Canada. The genesis of Andy's strong conservation and environmental ethic was his work as a backcountry ranger in Rocky Mountain National Park and wildland firefighter on an initial attack Hot Shot crew and a Wilderness Ranger in New Mexico.

To RSVP email dawn.wirth@cityofloveland.org or for more information contact Dawn Wirth at (970) 962-2316.

\$10M water bond clears way for treatment plant upgrades and line replacement work

Loveland Water and Power (LWP) owns and maintains hundreds of millions of dollars in water and wastewater assets. These assets include storage reservoirs, treatment plants, distribution systems, collection systems and pump stations. For several years, LWP has been planning and working towards needed upgrades to the water and wastewater systems that function well but are feeling their age as well as the increasing demands of a growing population.

Recently, City Council gave LWP staff the green light to pursue a \$10 million water bond. This bond will be in addition to an internal \$6 million loan that was recently approved by council and a series of water rate increases that were approved earlier in the year. While these funds won't resolve all of the system's needs, they do set LWP on a positive track. The funds help to bring up system reliability by starting repairs and enabling crews to properly maintain the system as needed.

A top priority and project already in planning will be expanding the water treatment plant. During the winter the plant treats an average of 6.5 million gallons of water each day compared to over 27 million gallons on very hot, dry days during the summer. LWP must expand the



water treatment plant to meet the peak demand. It can currently process 30 million gallons per day and will be expanded to allow for 38 million gallons per day. The plant expansion is slated for completion in 2016 and is estimated to cost \$21 million dollars.

Old water lines and those in need of repair are also at the top of the to-do list. LWP plans to invest \$17 million over the next ten years to address those needs.

For more information about projects as they happen and a tentative schedule for water line replacement, go to cityofloveland.org/LWPConstruction.

Let's get safe



Safety is top-of-mind for families gearing up for the start of a new school year. With children and their parents on the move, hazards are always present.

The Loveland Fire Rescue Authority will host a multi-agency event Sept. 14 to share information and tools to make the summer-to-fall transition a safe one.

The 2013 Emergency Preparedness and Family Safety Expo, a free, family-friendly event, convenes from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, September 14 at Fairgrounds Park, 700 S. Railroad Ave. in Loveland.

Vendors and organizations will be on hand to demonstrate emergency response equipment and provide information on a wide variety of safety and preparedness topics.

Some of this year's exhibit highlights are:

- An inflatable jump castle.
- Tours of Loveland Fire Rescue's "Smoke House" fire safety trailer.
- A railroad crossing safety display.
- A vehicle roll-over simulator, provided by the Colorado State Patrol.
- The American Red Cross emergency response vehicle.
- Bike helmet fit-testing.
- Free child identification kits.
- A display of fire engines, police cars, an ambulance and more.

For more information contact Scott Pringle at (970) 962-2614 or by e-mail at scott.pringle@cityofloveland.org.

Harvest Bazaar has food, fun and farm-fresh produce

The Senior Center's annual Harvest Bazaar will be held 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Friday, September 20th at the Chilson Senior Center, 700 East 4th Street.

This fun event features home-made crafts, home-made vegetable soup, chili and pies, plus fresh garden produce for sale.

The cost for this family event is \$5 for the Meal Deal if tickets are

purchased in advance or \$6 at the door. The meal is served from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Coffee and pie are available for \$2 starting at 9 a.m.

Proceeds benefit a scholarship program for low income seniors. Call 962-2783 for more information.



Parks & Rec wants community input

Community outreach and citizen input are critical to the success of the Parks and Recreation department's Master Plan, which is currently being updated. The master plan identifies community needs for parks, recreation facilities, open lands, trails, golf, events and programs.



Citizen involvement ensures the Parks and Recreation Master Plan will reflect the priorities and needs of the community.

Citizens can get involved and provide feedback in one or more of the following ways:

- **Parks, Recreation and Open Lands Questionnaire:**

Fill out a short online questionnaire on park and recreation needs at: www.cityofloveland.org/prmasterplan.

- **Community Events:**

Participate in a fun, interactive voting exercise at several events throughout the summer.

- **Parks and Recreation Community Survey:**

Watch your mail to see if you are one of the lucky, randomly-selected residents to receive the *PARCS Survey*. Please fill it out and return ASAP.

- **Other Opportunities:**

Contact the Parks and Recreation Department for more ways to get involved. This includes attending board and commission meetings, focus group meetings and next winter, reviewing plan recommendations.

Parks and Recreation and Open Lands Master Plan

Update

In May, the City began updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The new plan will be developed in three phases and completed in early 2014. It will replace the old master plan that was adopted in 2001, as well as the 2003 Open Lands Plan. The new master plan will contain new standards, policies and a new implementation plan to enhance park and recreation opportunities for the future.

Get rid of the goatheads



Commonly known as 'goathead,' Puncturevine appears throughout the spring and summer and produces spiny burs that are sharp enough to puncture bicycle tires and injure bare feet or pets' paws.

This menacing plant is on the State of Colorado's noxious weed list. Homeowners should remove these weeds from their property before they seed and spread.

Residents can attack the weed in a number of ways; digging it up and throwing in the garbage (not composting), or herbicides are effective. If seeded plants are sprayed the seeds will drop off and continue to be a problem. If the plants have set seed, all plant material must be bagged and disposed of to prevent seed dispersal.

For information on effective herbicides contact the Larimer County Weed District or go to www.larimer.org/weeds/troublesome.htm#puncturevine.

Even stone and metal need TLC

Loveland enjoys an internationally renowned collection of sculptures, but keeping this unique public art in great shape doesn't just happen by itself. The intense Colorado sun, freezing temperatures and high public contact with



the artwork all play a role in the condition of the sculptures.

Each year, Loveland's sculpture collection undergoes an extensive maintenance process. This year, all sculpture was surveyed and about one-third of the public art collection received a detailed conservation report. A suitable course of treatment was recommended for surface or structural changes to the artwork.

At any point in time, artwork in need of special attention, whether through vandalism or other unforeseen circumstances, is treated by a broad range of local art experts. The ongoing maintenance and preservation of this wonderful city asset is part of what makes Loveland unique among Colorado municipalities.

For more information on the Art in Public Places Program or maintaining city sculptures, call 962-2409.

You're the Point!
Be Fit • Live Well
Earn Rewards!
September 3 - November 29, 2013
Points Program
700 E. 4th Street - Loveland - 962-2FUN

City Update is a monthly publication of the City of Loveland. Residents receive *City Update* according to their utility billing cycle. Timeliness of the information may be affected by recipients' billing schedule. *City Update* is also available around the first of every month on the City's website at www.cityofloveland.org. Your comments are encouraged and welcomed at 962-2302, Tom.Hacker@cityofloveland.org. The City of Loveland is committed to providing an equal opportunity for citizens and does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or gender. The City will make reasonable accommodations for citizens in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For more information, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator at Betty.Greenberg@cityofloveland.org or 962-3319.