

PREFACE

The intention of the Wildlife Management Plan is to develop a general City philosophy for allowing the coexistence of wildlife and human activities and to the extent possible, preserve wildlife habitats and promote improvements of degraded habitats, ensuring that Longmont's high quality of life is maintained for its residents.

Through Council direction, the adoption of this plan is intended to be implemented and monitored on those public lands owned and managed by the City. Specific plan recommendation for private lands will be reviewed over time and adopted individually, through the ordinance process, as directed by Council. Plan recommendations, both for public and private lands are listed in the attached appendices G and H.

This *Wildlife Management Plan* for the City of Longmont, Colorado, represents the culmination of an approximately two year public process that involved the following key steps:

- A meeting with the City's Staff Advisory Team to develop a vision and approach for the project.
- Compilation and review of existing information on the ecological resources and open lands (including publicly owned open space/parks and undeveloped private lands) of the area.
- Reconnaissance-level surveys of the area, with an emphasis on lands identified during an evaluation of satellite imagery, the City's open space map, and Staff Advisory Team input.
- Public meetings with the Staff Advisory Team and a Public Focus Group to test preliminary findings and conclusions and provide and opportunity to adjust the project's direction.
- Public meetings before the City's Parks and Open Space Advisory Board and numerous City Council discussions.

In reading the Plan and seeking to understand or apply its concepts, the reader should keep the following in mind:

First, much of the Plan conveys basic ecological information on existing wildlife resources and habitats within the project area and develops a methodology for prioritizing future acquisitions and land management actions to optimize City lands for wildlife. The latter recognizes that some of the existing or future open space lands are subject to other, competing or incompatible uses.

Second, recommendations to assist the City in dealing with problem wildlife on City lands are secondary to the City's overarching "live and let live" philosophy toward wildlife that embodies an emphasis on problem avoidance and wildlife-friendly solutions. More strident methods for dealing with problem wildlife are intended to be a last resort, applied only under limited circumstances.

Third, recommendations for new or modified land development standards would apply to private land primarily in conjunction with proposed subdivision or annexation. They are intended to ensure that Longmont continues to support diverse and abundant wildlife for their intrinsic value and their importance to many Longmont residents. The recommendations are not meant to unduly burden development or infringe on property rights but to maintain Longmont's quality of life.

It is anticipated that City Council will consider some of the key concepts and recommendations in this Final plan as separate items to be disapproved or approved and applied on a case-by-case basis. The Plan sets forth overall policies that City Council may accept or reject in whole or in part.

Finally, it should be noted that the Plan is subject to periodic update or revision to reflect changes in ecological conditions, federal or state regulations, and attitudes or priorities of the community.

