

Resource Conservation Parks & Open Space



Green Practice

Environmental Benefit

Urban Forestry Program: maintain a safe, healthy, species diverse, multi-aged urban forest



Planting trees is one of the least expensive and most effective means of drawing excess CO₂ from the atmosphere:

- The City's Forestry Program is responsible for over 20,000 public trees
- Longmont has over 300,000 trees on private property
- Longmont, for 28 consecutive years, has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation!

Grasscycling: leaving clippings on the lawn when mowing

Approx. 5,200 tons of lawn clippings are diverted from landfills by City facilities alone! Grass-cycling adds soil nutrients, saves time & money, produces healthy & green lawns, reduces fertilizer needs, water use, and storm drainage runoff.

New native vegetation development and maintenance standards through primary greenways



Native grasses and plants improve habitat health, reduce weeds, increase plant diversity, and better provide for wildlife presence and movement in greenways. New maintenance guidelines lead to reduction in water use and less frequent mowing.

Top dress with organic compost

Allows for more efficient water retainage while providing nutrients, thereby reducing water use and fertilizer needs.

Fall leaf mulching in native grass areas



Reduces the amount of landscape waste disposed of in landfills. Mulch decomposes quickly and adds nutrients to soil.

New park development standards

Durable materials (concrete, masonry and steel) withstand intense use and vandalism, enabling long use; less replacement.

Use recycled car tires for playground surfacing



Diverts tires for productive reuse.

Recycling bins in new parks

Promotes recycling for cans, glass and steel which diverts waste from landfills and recycles materials for reuse.

Covered trash receptacles

Reduces scavenger spill and exposure of trash to rain, thereby reducing ground water and stormwater pollution.

Electric Golf Car Fleets

Reduces fossil fuel use and improves air quality by eliminating gasoline use and associated emissions from gas carts.

Designed and fabricated dog bag waste dispensers for the reuse of newspaper and/or grocery store bags

Helps eliminate pet waste in City parks. The use of recycled plastic bags provides a "second use" for these bags.