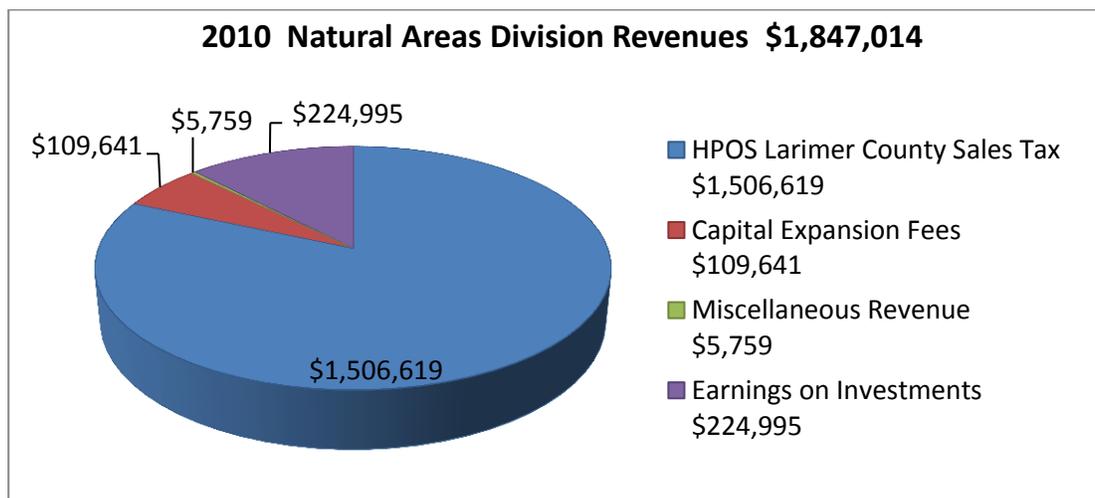




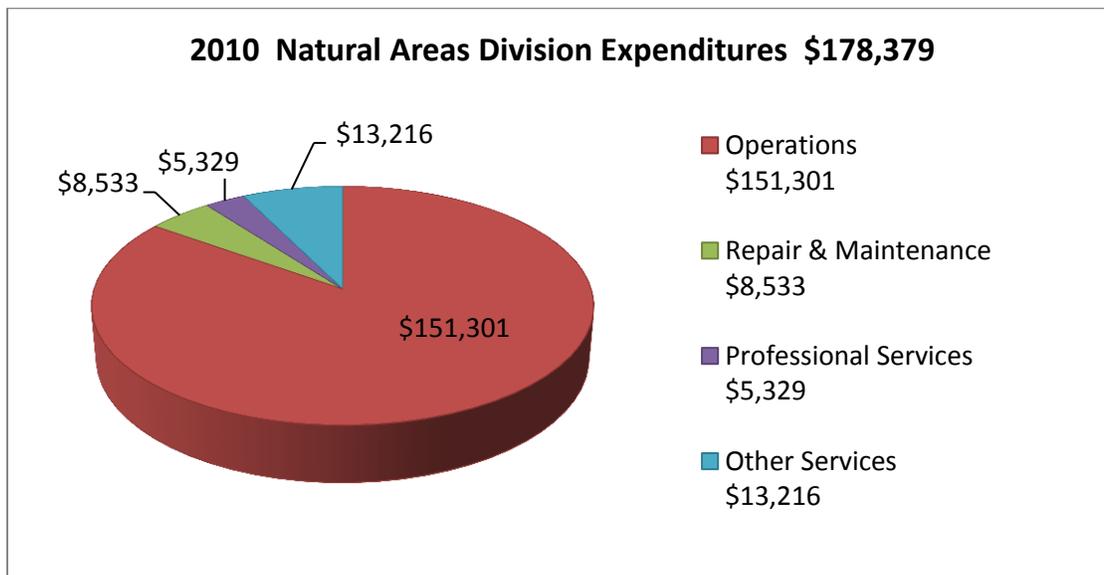
To: Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board
From: City of Loveland Natural Areas Division
Date: May 19, 2011
Subject: Natural Areas Division – Revenues, Expenditures, and Operations 2010

The City of Loveland Natural Areas Division received \$1,506,619 in funding from the Larimer County Help Preserve Open Spaces Sales Tax (HPOS) in 2010. The Natural Areas Program partners with Larimer County and other local agencies to preserve land in and around the City of Loveland. The City of Loveland initiated an Open Lands Capital Expansion Fee in 2002. This funding can be used for capital expenditures to purchase open space and/or capital improvements on open space. This source provides additional funding to help fulfill the goal of preserving the priority projects described in the 2003 Open Lands Master Plan. In 2010, the Open Lands Capital Expansion Fee was \$778 per residential unit built in the City. The fee is due to increase to \$824 per unit in 2011. Capital Expansion Fee revenue for 2010 totaled \$109,641. The City's Natural Areas Division also received farm lease income of \$5,759 during 2010. Earnings on investments totaled \$224,995 for 2010. HPOS provided 81% of the Natural Areas Division revenues for 2010 compared to 74% in 2009.



* Figures for 2010 are unaudited

Total operational expenditures for the Natural Areas Division were \$151,301 in 2010. The City of Loveland Natural Areas Program has helped to preserve over 4,800 acres of land since its inception in 1996. A large portion of existing properties conserved have been acquired with conservation easements and partnerships that help to keep operation and maintenance costs sustainable.



* Figures for 2010 are unaudited

Some of the highlights and accomplishments for 2010 included:

- The City of Loveland was certified by the State of Colorado to hold conservation easements for which a state tax credit is claimed. The application evaluated 26 areas of the City’s conservation easement program. Of the 26 areas, the City received the highest rating on 25.
- A new trail was completed in the Meadowbrook Natural Area by Cub Scout Pack 184, which has adopted this site as a part of the City’s Adopt-a-Waterway Program.
- The Natural Areas Division continues to manage the very successful Environmental Education Program that has been run at Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park for the last 29 years. More than 1,600 students attended programs in the spring and fall of 2010. Improvements were made to the facilities which included lighting and three custom display cases for new wildlife exhibits in the historic cabin where part of the program is held.

- Natural Areas Staff worked with a local Cub Scout Pack to improve wildlife habitat on one of our Natural Areas. Cub Scout Pack 389 received the William T. Hornaday Award for their bluebird nest box project conducted at the Morey Wildlife Reserve at Mariana Butte.
- The City of Loveland Natural Areas Division successfully negotiated a change in the IGA with Colorado State Parks regarding the farm lease for the irrigated farm ground on the east side of Boyd Lake State Park.
- Russian olive tree removal projects on open space properties continued throughout 2010 by Parks staff and in partnership with the Exotic Species Elimination Project at Front Range Community College.

Several projects are underway for 2011, including City of Loveland acquisitions as well as partnerships with Larimer County and other entities. A large urban 100+ acre open space acquisition is planned for 2011 as a part of the ACE project that will have a vital economic impact on Northern Colorado.