

Thumbs Up to 2018!

INSIDE:

New Trail at Hermit Park Open Space

Collaborating for Forest Health

Impactful Ways to Give

2018 Holiday Party



Our mission is to preserve and protect open space, valleys, wetlands, streams, ranch lands, and wildlife habitat in the Estes Valley and surrounding area. Lands adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park and the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest are of special concern.

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(above and front cover) Kids were excited to learn about raptors like this American kestrel at our July Picnic.

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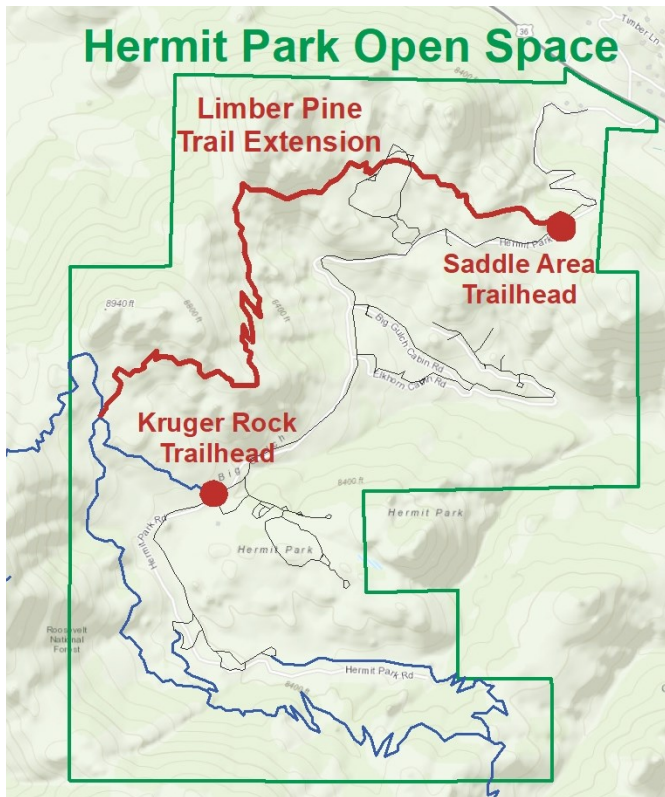
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Learn More About Our Work

Learn about our mission and our work and how you can be a part of our story:

evlandtrust.org

2.5 Miles of New Trail Opened!



Major changes occurred at Hermit Park Open Space this year, to increase access while continuing to preserve open space and habitat. The land trust holds a conservation easement on this 1,362-acre park and all the improvements were consistent with the terms of the easement.

“We are most excited to share the extended Limber Pine Trail with the community, and to offer new trailheads for more access.” - Chris Fleming, Larimer County Natural Resources

The Limber Pine trail doubled in length, running 5 miles to the north side of the park, and is open to hiking,

Make a day trip!

Where: Hermit Park Open Space

When: March-December (closed in winter)

What To Do: Hike Kruger Rock in the morning, eat lunch at the pavilion, then bike Limber Pine trail in the afternoon

Cost: \$6 entry fee

biking, and horseback riding. Two new trailheads with parking lots were created to support more users.

The County partnered with many volunteers to complete preservation work on the historic Hermit's Cabin. In the coming years, they plan to add an outdoor classroom and interpretive signs for kids.

Bear boxes were installed at the campgrounds across the open space. When properly used, they prevent bears from accessing human food and help keep them wild.

Hermit Park is home to 8.5 miles of multi-use trails, 13 cabins, 86 camping/RV sites, and 5 equestrian campsites.



Larimer County employees and volunteers doubled the length of the Limber Pine Trail this summer.



Anita Prinzmetal (L) and Carolyn Kramer (R) monitoring Eagle Rock, a place they both love to hike.

Thank You 2018 Monitors!

The stewardship program is happy to announce that all properties have been successfully monitored - that's 187 reports filled out by our amazing volunteers! Rock star monitor Anita Prinzmetal said:

“Being a monitor is a real treat! I get to explore beautiful places that I've never seen while helping them remain in their pristine state.”

Land Trust Partners to Improve Forest Health

Forest Thinning at Meadowdale

Look closely at Meadowdale Ranch, off Highway 36, as you drive toward Pinewood Springs. The forest will be changing soon.

Many of the conservation easements held by the Estes Valley Land Trust allow forest thinning to improve forest health or reduce the threat of catastrophic fire. This is the case on the Meadowdale Ranch Conservation Easement, where the land trust is partnering with landowners and the Big Thompson Conservation District (BTCD) to thin the ponderosa pine forest.

**“We appreciate the cooperation with the land trust, Larimer County and the landowners, to improve forest health and provide openings that mimic natural disturbances.”
– Matt Marshall, BTCD Forester**

The land trust reviews and approves each forest plan before the project is initiated and ensures that the foresters

utilize best management practices (BMPs) during all forestry activities.

BMPs include standards for writing science-based forestry plans, protecting streams from pollution and soil from erosion.

Why is Thinning Needed?

Two hundred years ago, forests in the valley were exposed to fire on a regular basis. Like a haircut for the forest, fires would burn the understories of ponderosa pine woodlands every 10-20 years to make room for new growth and to cycle nutrients back into the soil. Entire lodgepole pine stands would burn and regrow every 300 years.

When fire suppression began 150 years ago, forests started growing too thick to thrive. The trees that grow in these stands would have been healthier with the open space and sunlight that frequent fires provided.

Eventually, the forests will burn, but the fires of the 21st century burn hotter and faster than they used to because there

are more trees (fuel) crowded together. This fire behavior can endanger homes, businesses and the lives of firefighters.

Forest thinning leaves a more resilient landscape that recovers faster after a fire. Recovery after big fires, such as the High Park Fire, can take decades. But recovery in forests that have been thinned can take much less time, as the soils may be healthy enough to begin growing vegetation the next year. Healthy soils also absorb more water, and can better protect against floods.

“Forest thinning improves the entire ecosystem’s health and resiliency to pests, disease, wildfire and extreme weather events.” – Matt Marshall

Forests are dynamic and fire is a natural disturbance that may not be safe to reintroduce in parts of the Estes Valley. Mechanical forest thinning, such as the treatment planned for Meadowdale Ranch, will mimic a low intensity fire and improve forest health.



Charlie Johnson

The Estes Valley Land Trust is partnering with landowners and conservation organizations to improve forest health at Meadowdale Ranch

Forever Estes Circle Grows

The Forever Estes Circle, our planned giving society, has new members! Chris and Bill Childers made a planned gift to the Estes Valley Land Trust to help us preserve the mountains, valleys and open space we share. To learn more about them, see the back cover.

Have you added the land trust to your will? Let us know so we can recognize you as a leader in the community.

Current Forever Estes Circle members include:

Anonymous (6)	Dave Koon
Gail Albers	Nils & Denise
Vaughn Baker	Kristoffersen
Mary Banken	Glen Kroh
Joan Borel	Mary Lamy
Bill Childers	Sandy Lindquist
Chris Childers	Linda McKee & Roger
Art & Marsha French	Fankhauser
Robin Harding	Jan Ricker
Stacey Harding	Peter & Stephanie
Susan Harris	Sinnott
Carol Henning	Leo Weber
Piet Hondius	

Endowment Grows to \$370K

A growing endowment that helps cover annual operating expenses is a sign of a healthy non-profit organization. Since January, the Estes Valley Land Trust's endowment, the Perpetuity Fund, has grown to over \$370,000.

"I'm pleased with the early returns from our Perpetuity Fund. We've had a few very generous donors make a gift and our fund continues to grow."
– Robin Harding, President, Board of Directors

Once the fund reaches the \$5 million goal, \$200,000 will be withdrawn annually to help cover our annual operating expenses. The remainder will continue to be invested so the fund grows. This will ensure the land trust has the assets to protect the Estes Valley forever.



Scott Thompson

The Perpetuity Fund will be used to preserve the valley's scenic views.



Marsha Hobert

(L to R) Harriette Woodard, Zeke Kramer, Seth Greer, Jeffrey Boring

Scholarships Awarded

Zeke and Seth were the recipients of the 2018 Estes Valley Land Trust Scholarships, a \$1000 scholarship awarded to local seniors who plan to pursue a career in conservation. Zeke is at Western State Colorado University, majoring in Environment and Sustainability, and Seth is attending the University of Colorado-Boulder, majoring in Environmental Science.

Schedule Your Colorado Gives Day Gift

Colorado Gives Day is our largest single day of giving and this year, two anonymous donors have already pledged \$16,000 to kick-start our campaign. Our goal is to raise a total of \$44,000 to fund a Stewardship Coordinator position year-around, so they can resolve ongoing stewardship issues, such as littering and boundary disputes.

You don't have to wait until Colorado Gives Day, December 4th, to make a donation. It can be scheduled online now at ColoradoGives.org, by searching for the Estes Valley Land Trust.



Thank You to our Amazing Donors!

Preserving the Estes Valley is only possible through the generous donations
and incredible support from the Estes Park community. Thank you!

BENEFACTOR (\$1000+)

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Nancy Amos
Vaughn Baker-in honor of Jan Swaney
Toni L. Brown
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Barbara Marshall
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Jan & Jim Swaney
Brian & Michell Thomas
Leo Weber & Deborah Hughes
Joan Winstein

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Hal & Bonnie Dalzell
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Art & Marsha French
Patti Freudenburg & Tony White
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Bobbie Heisterkamp
Christann & Bob Higley
Pieter & Helen Hondius
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**"EVLT is dedicated to
conserving
properties
throughout the Estes
Valley. My family and
I are happy to lend
them our continued
support through our
annual
membership."
- Wells Johnson**

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**“As an EVLT member
 and monitor, I get to
 know open spaces
 more varied than
 those in the Park. My
 support helps
 preserve open space
 for our town’s
 growing population.”**

- Renate Fernandez

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 & Marsha French
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**“We support the Estes Valley Land Trust
 because in all the world, there is only one
 Estes Park.” - Don Priem**

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Saving Wildlife Habitat Leads to Land Trust Planned Gift

Longtime members Chris and Bill Childers both joined the Forever Estes Circle this year.



Bill and Chris love exploring RMNP.

"With my lifelong passion for saving species and habitat and my love of the amazing ecosystem of the Estes Valley, this is the best legacy I can imagine."

- Chris Childers

The Childers believe in the power of environmental education and its role in the protection of habitat and open space. To them, the land trust represents an engaged and educated community, and their gifts will continue to protect the land their family loves.

To learn more about the Forever Estes Circle, visit evlandtrust.org/planned-giving or contact the land trust.

*You're Invited to the
Estes Valley Land Trust
Holiday Party!*

When: December 5th, 3-5 PM
Where: Estes Park Resort
1700 Big Thompson Ave

*Join us as we celebrate the successes of 2018
and debut our new video. We will have light
hors d'oeuvres and a cash-only bar.*

RSVP by November 28:
evlandtrust.org/rsvp,
evlt@evlandtrust.org, 970-577-6837