

127 acres and 4 streams  
preserved at the

# YMCA!

Estes Valley Land Trust Newsletter



**May 2019**

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2019 Summer Events  
Reaccreditation - One of Three in the Nation!  
Estes Valley Open Space Plan



Our mission is to preserve and protect open space, valleys, wetlands, streams, ranch lands, and wildlife habitat in the Estes Valley and surrounding area.



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Above: Springtime green along trails at the YMCA of the Rockies.  
Front Cover: Glacier Creek runs along the northern boundary of the YMCA of the Rockies Conservation Easement and separates it from Rocky Mountain National Park.

## YMCA of the Rockies

# Q&A

In December, EVLT closed on its 169th conservation easement, protecting 127 acres of the YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park Center.

### Q: What land is now under conservation easement?

A: The conservation easement preserves land adjacent to Highway 66, along Wind River, Glacier Creek and the Big Thompson.

### Q: Does it protect land adjacent to the National Park?

A: Yes, nearly one mile of the Rocky Mountain National Park boundary is preserved through this easement.

### Q: How long does the easement last?

A: Every conservation easement held by EVLT is permanent. Both current and all future owners must comply with it.

### Q: What does the easement prohibit?

A: There are many land uses that are prohibited, such as mining, residential/commercial development, amusement ride facilities, sports facilities, and more.

### Q: How can I see the land conserved by this easement?

A: The land trust will be hosting a tour of the eased property during our July 18th cookout. Mark your calendars and join us!

# Summer Events



## Lynx Breakfast

**Speaker:** Eric Odell, Species Conservation Project Manager, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

**Topic:** Research on the Lynx Reintroduction Project in the Colorado Rockies.

**When:** June 22 at 8 AM

**Where:** Centennial Open Space at Knoll-Willows - park along the streets

**Cost:** \$15

**RSVP by:** June 15



## Family Cookout

**Speaker:** Speakers from The Butterfly Pavillion in Denver

**Topic:** Insect science & stories, live bugs, hot dogs, ice cream, rock climbing, and Rosie the Tarantula!

**When:** July 18 at 5 PM

**Where:** YMCA of the Rockies

**Cost:** \$5 suggested donation

**RSVP by:** July 12



## Climate Change Breakfast

**Speakers:** Dr. Monique Rocca, Associate Professor at CSU & Jeff Lukas, Associate Scientist at CU-Boulder

**Topic:** The impact that a changing climate has on the Rocky Mountains and life in Colorado.

**When:** August 24 at 8 AM

**Where:** High Peak Camp, 111 Salvation Lane, off Hwy 7

**Cost:** \$15

**RSVP by:** August 17

Reservations are required, note deadlines above.

NEW: we are accepting credit cards at all our events. Pay on-site with credit card, cash, or check!

To make reservations you can:

- Go to [evlandtrust.org/RSVP](https://evlandtrust.org/RSVP)
- Email first and last names of all attendees to [evlt@evlandtrust.org](mailto:evlt@evlandtrust.org)
- Call 970-577-6837

All events are outdoors. Please bring a chair (at Knoll-Willows breakfast only), jacket, sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, and drinking water.



# Strategic Plan to Focus Conservation Efforts in Estes Park

More than half of the private land in the Estes Valley remains unprotected. Where should the Estes Valley Land Trust focus our conservation efforts? A new strategic plan will use the best available science and community input to target the highest conservation and recreation priorities in the Estes Valley.

**"In order to be most effective, the Estes Valley Land Trust needs to be strategic and focus our conservation efforts on lands with the highest conservation value." - Jeffrey Boring, Executive Director.**

Large, intact properties that are known wildlife corridors likely have higher conservation values than smaller properties that are located in a developed area, for example. Data from the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and others will be used to identify the lands with the highest natural resource values.

Creating new outdoor recreation opportunities is also a must. With more than 4.5 million visitors a year, Rocky Mountain National Park is simply not enough accessible land for the residents or visitors of Estes Park. New US Forest Service access and publicly

accessible open space, like Hermit Park Open Space, is needed.

The strategic plan will help identify the types of outdoor recreation activities in highest demand and begin to develop the partnerships needed to create more accessible land. Centennial Open Space at Knoll-Willows and Hermit Park Open Space are two great examples of publicly accessible open space that were made possible through the Estes Valley Land Trust. The plan will identify more Knoll-Willows and Hermit Park type conservation opportunities around Estes Park. The planning process will include many opportunities for public input.

**"The Estes Valley Land Trust's approach to conservation and recreation should reflect the community's values," said Boring. "Developing a strategic plan with the community is the best way to ensure we're protecting what we all value most."**

The project will begin in the fall of 2019 and a plan will be presented to the Estes Valley Land Trust Board of Directors in 2020.





***Working together to preserve the Estes Valley***



# Come **Hike with Us!**

**Why is it called Gianttrack Mountain? You'll have to join us to find out!**

This summer, we're offering an exclusive opportunity to hike the 89-acre Giant Track and Krotter/Johnson conservation easements. These private properties are not typically open for hiking, but Wells Johnson, grantor, has invited our members to see it firsthand.

**"I donated the conservation easements to protect the valley's spectacular mountain scenery. I hope you can join me and see these incredible views for yourself!"  
- Wells Johnson**

The Giant Track and Krotter/Johnson CEs buffer forest service lands and offer spectacular views from the start to finish!

The approximately 2-hour moderate hike will include about 300 feet in elevation gain. Reservations are required.

## **Want to join?**

**When:** 9 AM, July 12

**Where:** Giant Track Conservation Easement (meet at the EVLT office to carpool)

**Cost:** Free, limit of 12 people

**RSVP by:** July 5



Photo: Lisa Fulton

# Endowment Now Over \$410,000

The Perpetuity Fund, EVLT's operating endowment, received numerous contributions in 2018 and now exceeds \$410,000. Once the fund reaches \$1 million, it can be used to help cover annual operating expenses.

In 2018, Ken Oldham, former Board Director and legal counsel, made two immediate gifts to the Perpetuity Fund.



**"I can think of no objective for our charitable giving more important than helping to secure the long term viability of the Estes Valley Land Trust," said Oldham.**

Restricted gifts to the Perpetuity Fund ensures the Estes Valley Land Trust will:

- Remain your local, independent land trust
- Monitor and defend each conservation easement
- Forever preserve the spectacular Estes Valley

## EVLT Receives National Recognition Again!

More than 1,300 land trusts preserve critically important land across the US. In February, the Estes Valley Land Trust was one of only three land trusts recognized for its professional excellence and commitment to practicing industry standards.



The Land Trust Alliance, the national voice for the land trust community, awarded the Estes Valley Land Trust renewed accreditation. Accreditation was awarded in 2009, renewed in 2014 and renewed again in 2019.

Learn more at [landtrustaccreditation.org](http://landtrustaccreditation.org)



Photo: Charlie Johnson

## Land Trust Bench Available Along Riverwalk

The Estes Valley Land Trust Benches are one of the most recognizable and adored elements of the downtown Riverwalk. They're beautiful and provide a delightful and relaxing spot to enjoy the Big Thompson River.

Proceeds from the sale of our benches are used to conserve land throughout the Estes Valley. Please contact us if you would like to learn more about purchasing an EVLT Bench.

## Donating is easier than ever!

You can easily make online donations and pay your membership dues with our new online portal. It's now safer and easier to donate with credit cards.

Our donation page is [evlandtrust.org/donate](http://evlandtrust.org/donate). Three steps and you're done - try it out next time you renew!





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## Remembering Linda McKee

Longtime Estes Valley Land Trust supporter Linda McKee has passed away. Linda loved the Estes Valley and was one of the first major donors to our Perpetuity Fund.

Her generosity will sustain the land trust and help preserve this valley forever.



Photo: Kris Hazelton  
Harriett Woodard, Annalise Basch, Jake Rastatter, Jeffrey Boring

## Congrats Jake and Annalise!

Jake Rastatter and Annalise Basch are co-recipients of the 2019 Estes Valley Land Trust Scholarship.

The two \$1000 scholarships are awarded to local seniors that have demonstrated a commitment to conservation through community service or employment. Congratulations to both of these deserving students!