

## Larimer divides \$20,589 among seven projects

Grants support connecting people to the land



Volunteers plant native plants at River's Edge Natural Area in Loveland through the Colorado Native Plant Society, which received a Small Grant for Community Partnering in 2019. The grant supported the transformation of two barren areas into native plant demonstration gardens, complete with educational signs. (Kathy Maher / Courtesy of Larimer County Department of Natural Resources)

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Larimer County has split \$20,589 between seven projects that help educate about and connect people to the land.

The Larimer County Department of Natural Resources announced Monday the community and neighborhood projects chosen to receive money through the Small Grants for Community Partnering program, which is funded through the open space sales tax.

The department gives out about \$20,000 per year.

This year's winners include the Loveland-based Hearts and Horses, which received \$3,000 toward the extension of its interactive Trail of Discovery. The therapeutic riding center's Trail of Discovery program connects riders to the natural world through new sensory integration skills including smelling, touching, and learning about native plants.

Also receiving \$3,000 are: Audubon Rockies for Habitat Hero demonstration gardens in Northern Colorado; Colorado Youth Outdoors for bridge reconstruction and trails programming at Swift Ponds in Windsor; and Traut Elementary School in Fort Collins for an outdoor classroom.

Wildland Restoration Volunteers and Raisin' Roots Farm each received \$2,940. The volunteer program will use the money for "planting the seeds of stewardship in Larimer County," while the Fort Collins-based sustainable farm will spend it on soil health and production improvements, according to a news release from Larimer County.

The seventh grant recipient is The Growing Project, which will receive \$2,880 for the nonprofit's garden beds and to extend its season. The program focuses on food justice, which according to its website means it "seeks to advance equity and intersectionality (environmental, racial, economic, gender and social) in relationship to food for all."

Since 2008, Larimer County has given \$329,172 to 207 community projects through the yearly program.

More information is available at [larimer.org/smallgrants](http://larimer.org/smallgrants).