



March 1, 2024

Fort Collins Mayor and/or City Council Member(s) (these can be customized to each person)

I/We are writing to express our support for the organizations working with the City of Fort Collins to create a Wildlife Nature Campus on the former Hughes Stadium property.

The vision of this project honors the will of the citizens who voted in April of 2021 that the land be designated for "parks, recreation, open lands, natural areas, and wildlife rescue and restoration." The Fort Collins community has long fostered a uniquely close relationship with local wildlife and the environment.

Four local non-profits now perceive an inspiring opportunity to honor and deepen that relationship. The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Northern Colorado Wildlife Center, and Audubon Rockies wish to construct a shared cooperative space.

This campus will allow residents and visitors to gather and experience these organizations' impactful science, conservation, education, and wildlife rescue activities. The project aims to help our community connect more profoundly with our natural world.

United by a common vision and dedication to wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and conservation education, these groups and other potential partners would showcase the great conservation work being done by local and regional organizations in our area, provide opportunities for further collaboration with like-minded organizations, and provide immersive community education programs for all of the participants on the campus.

The Wildlife Nature Campus will be open to the public. Its design honors the land's history while inspiring future generations. We're engaging world-class leaders in environmental and conservation education, interpretation, and design.

The campus will feature live birds of prey and other wildlife, demonstration gardens, nature trails, pollinator plantings, and more. The indoor space will include interactive education attractions that highlight the grassland/foothills region to create a sense of place and stewardship responsibility and inspire curiosity and nature investigations.

Supporting partners include Colorado Open Lands and the National Association for Interpretation. Potential partners include Colorado State University, Poudre School District, Front Range Community College, and other organizations that would expand our experiential education opportunities and programs to a level unmatched anywhere in Colorado. Opportunities to learn about animals and habitats through educational trails, backyard habitat demonstrations, conservation education programs, and wildlife rehabilitation while connecting to nature will enrich our community for diverse audiences and visitors.

I/We fully support this Wildlife Nature Campus on the former Hughes Stadium property and urge your full support of the project.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Organization/ Title: _____

Instructions for writing a letter of support for the Wildlife Nature Campus

Using your own letterhead, use the information below to write your personal letter of support for the creation of a Wildlife and Nature Campus at Hughes. Consider adding these critical points to your letter as the Fort Collins City Council makes its decision about the project.

Please write to your specific Council person.

- The city has long fostered a uniquely close relationship with local wildlife, and accessibility to nature is a big part of why people live and thrive here.
- Now, four local nonprofit organizations, collaborating with several partners, are engaging the City of Fort Collins to pursue an inspiring opportunity. The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Northern Colorado Wildlife Center, and Audubon Rockies wish to construct a shared cooperative space at the former Hughes Stadium.
- This project's vision honors the citizens' vote in April 2021 to designate the land for “parks, recreation, open lands, natural areas, and wildlife rescue and restoration.”
- United by a shared vision and dedication to wildlife conservation, rescue, and education, these groups and other potential partners will showcase the excellent conservation work that is being done by local and regional organizations in our area, provide opportunities for further collaboration with like-minded organizations, and provide immersive community education programs to the public, offered by all of the participants in the campus.
- The Wildlife Nature Campus will be available to the public. Its environmental design honors the land's natural and cultural history while inspiring future generations. The campus is engaging world-class leaders in environmental and conservation education, interpretation, and design.
- This campus will invite and be accessible to all residents and visitors, allowing them to gather and experience the impactful science, conservation, education, and wildlife rescue activities conducted by these organizations. This will help our community connect more profoundly with our natural world.
- The campus will feature live birds of prey and other wildlife, demonstration gardens, nature trails, pollinator plantings, and more. The indoor space will include interactive educational attractions that highlight the grassland/foothills region to create a sense of place and stewardship responsibility and inspire curiosity and nature investigations.
- Guests will have opportunities to learn about animals and habitats through educational trails, backyard habitat demonstrations, conservation education programs, and land and wildlife rehabilitation, all while connecting to nature. The experience will enrich our community.
- Supporting partners include Colorado Open Lands, the National Association for Interpretation, and Colorado State University. They are continuing to engage additional partners to help expand experiential education opportunities and programs to a level unmatched anywhere in Colorado.

Finally, express your enthusiastic support of the Wildlife Nature Campus at Hughes Stadium and urge the reader to support the project fully. Date the letter and sign your name(s).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Organization/Title _____