

Welcome to
Pinewood Springs
and Estes Park Estates

RESIDENT HANDBOOK



Pinewood Springs Property Owners' Association
(PSPOA)

61 Kiowa Road
Lyons, CO 80540

<https://pinewoodspringspoa.com/>
pinewoodspringspoa@gmail.com

WELCOME TO PINEWOOD SPRINGS AND ESTES PARK ESTATES

This Resident Handbook has been prepared by the Pinewood Springs Property Owners' Association (PSPOA) to help community members better understand the community and to provide basic information about living in Pinewood Springs and Estes Park Estates. Suggestions, insights, and information can be useful to the entire community.

The Pinewood Springs and Estes Park Estates neighborhood is an unincorporated area in Larimer County. Its mailing address is Lyons, Colorado 80540. Its default school district with school bus service is in Estes Park.

Pinewood Springs (PWS) has a Property Owners' Association (PSPOA) and Fire Protection District (PSFPD), Water District (PSWD) and Road District. Estes Park Estates (EPE) has its own Road District, which includes a POA for snow plowing, but no Water District as residences have wells instead. Both subdivisions are part of the Pinewood Springs Fire Protection District. What makes the neighborhood a community are the people who live here and the connections they make with each other.

Each of us comes to the mountains for different reasons. Whatever your motivations are in coming here, we welcome you and hope you find whatever you are seeking in our peaceful and pleasant community. The benefits of living in a smaller and somewhat remote community are many, but it also means that some amenities taken for granted in more urban areas may not be as available here. For example, power, water, internet, or phone services may be down more frequently and take longer to restore. Roads in the neighborhood and leading in and out may occasionally be closed or impassable. Anticipate and prepare in advance for these situations.

Many thanks and sincere appreciation to everyone who has contributed to this effort.

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DIRECTORY

ALL EMERGENCIES – MEDICAL, FIRE, AUTO ACCIDENT, LAW	911
NON-EMERGENCIES – Larimer County Sheriff (non-emergency dispatch)	970-416-1985
– Estes Park Police Department (24 hours)	970-586-4000
-- Colorado State Patrol Headquarters - Information	303-239-4500
Larimer County Offices, Fort Collins 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.	970-498-7000
Larimer County Humane Society, Animal Control - Fort Collins	970-226-3647
Sign up to receive emergency notification at; Everbridge, LETA, NOCO Alert Reachwell app, and NOCO Alert	
Everbridge Mobile Application - designed to reliably work under adverse network conditions, for example, when bandwidth or connectivity is limited. Available for iOS and Android devices. https://www.everbridge.com/products/mobile-apps	
LETA - Larimer Emergency Telephone Advisory reverse 911 notifications Go to http://leta911.org/ to subscribe.	970-962-2170
NOCO Alert Reachwell app – allows community members to select the language in which they receive emergency alerts from public safety agencies in Larimer County. https://nocoalert.org/app	
NOCO ALERT – Emergency Alerts in Larimer County. The best way to ensure you receive alerts is NOCOAlert. https://nocoalert.org	
Colorado Division of Wildlife NE Regional Office - Fort Collins	970-472-4300
Outside Business Hours Contact Colorado State Patrol	303-239-4501

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND DISTRICTS

Pinewood Springs Property Owners' Association	303-823-5345
https://pinewoodspringspoa.com/	
pinewoodspringspoa@gmail.com	
61 Kiowa Road, Lyons, CO 80540-8202	
Pinewood Springs Fire Protection District	303-823-5086
Fire Station (unmanned)	
https://pinewoodspringsfire.org/	
61 Kiowa Road, Lyons, CO 80540-8202	
Pinewood Springs Road District - General Improvement District (GID) #2	
https://pinewoodspringspoa.com/road-districts	
johnlorang@gmail.com	
	303-828-8302
61 Kiowa Road, Lyons, CO 80540-8202	
Estes Park Estates Road District - Public Improvement District (PID) #25	
https://www.larimer.org/boards/estes-park-estates	
Pinewood Springs Water District	
Office - Billing/Administration	303-823-5345
Service - Treatment Plant	303-823-5926
Water Emergencies	303-823-5345
https://pwswd.com/	
pswdadmin@att.net	
183 Cree Court, Lyons, CO 80540-8228	

HISTORY OF PINEWOOD SPRINGS AND ESTES PARK ESTATES

Early History

The earliest known occupants of this valley were the Arapaho Indians who used the hills as hunting and fishing grounds. A family named Miner built the first homestead in the valley. About 1906, the ranch was sold to Charles Meining and his son Louis. Fire destroyed the original house, which was replaced by a home that is still in use, standing on the north-east side of US-36, near Algonquin Road. The area was known as "Little Elk Park" or "Little Elk Meadows," and the surrounding forests provided good hunting.

In 1938, Everett May and his family purchased the ranch, which consisted of 1300 acres, and lived there for twenty years. Many of the buildings they constructed are still in use, close to the Meining home. May had come to Estes Park in 1908, driving team-drawn freight wagons over the stage road from Lyons. The remains of these roads can be seen in several places in the valley. There was a stage stop at Crescent Lake. The ranch was sold to Dwight Webster and Walter Johnson in 1958. At this time, covenants intended to maintain property values were drawn up, and Little Elk Park officially became Pinewood Springs. Webster and Johnson installed a water system during the next several years, sold home sites and opened up additional lots. In 1966, due to poor health, Webster and Johnson sold the development to Hank Birnbaum, who formed the Pinewood Springs Corporation.

The PWS Corporation formed the Pinewood Springs Property Owners' Association in 1975 to provide insurance for, administer, and maintain the public areas of the neighborhood, Crescent Lake and the Tubs, for the property owners of Pinewood Springs.

Estes Park Estates (EPE) is also a part of the original Meining ranch, developed by a Mr. Appleby in 1964. The community began as summer homes and gradually became mostly year-around residences.

Community Church (260 Button Rock Road)

The church was organized in 1978 to meet non-denominational needs, although it is Presbyterian in origin. The land and buildings were purchased from a boys' camp with financial help from the Presbytery of Boulder. Services, adult Bible study, teen group, and activities for children are held regularly, as well as community activities around the church holidays. Members are drawn from Pinewood Springs, Estes Park Estates, Big Elk Meadows and surrounding areas.

The church hosts a variety of community meetings.

The Fire of 2002

Major wildfire came to the Pinewood Springs valley on July 17, 2002. It started on the road to Big Elk Meadows (CR-47) just a half-mile from houses on the south-west side of US-36. It was caused by an overheated catalytic converter in a vehicle coming into contact with tinder-dry grass. The wind usually blows from the west-northwest but blew from the southeast away from the valley that day or many homes could have been lost. Big Elk was evacuated, and all of the Pinewood valley was on alert for almost a week, with cars packed with what residents hoped to save. The smoke plume was visible from Boulder.

Temperatures were in the 90s that week, and generally had been for over six weeks. Also, over the previous six weeks only 2.83 inches of rain had fallen. A state-wide drought was in progress and there were many wildfires state-wide that summer.

Three pilots lost their lives fighting the wildfire. Two pilots, Rick Schwartz, of Ulm, MT, and Milt Stollak, of Cathedral City, CA, operating a WWII-era slurry bomber that lost its left wing during a drop of fire retardant, causing it to crash. The third pilot, Gordon Knight, of Boulder, CO, was dropping water on hot spots from a Llama helicopter that went down.

Firefighters included personnel from seven agencies, including the Pinewood Springs Fire Protection District (PSFPD) volunteers and several other rural fire departments, numbering nearly 150 persons, plus 4 aircraft, 6 helicopters, 3 bulldozers, 3 water tenders, several foam trucks, and 48 fire engines. The total acreage affected was estimated at 4,800. Only one structure was lost in the fire.

(Information provided in part by Gerry and Steve Pearson.)

The Flood of 2013

Rain began during the night of September 9 and continued heavily and nonstop for over two days. The evening of 9/11 US-36 east toward Lyons was washed out and early 9/12 US-36 west to Estes Park was likewise washed out. The Kiowa and Cree bridges gave way on the 12th, and the area between Kiowa and Wichita was inundated. "Kiowa Island" was born. Many people were stranded throughout the community. Late 9/11 CR47 was destroyed for miles, completely cutting off Big Elk Meadows.

Emergency evacuations began September 14 with the weather clearing. The first helicopters on site were small Blackhawks, that were readily accommodated near the Fire Station open grounds. Medical evacuees were high priority and went first. They were flown to an American Red Cross Emergency Response Center set up in Fort Collins.

Then Chinook helicopters and military personnel arrived to take residents and their pets to response centers in Boulder and Fort Collins, where they received disaster relief services. The Red Cross and FEMA personnel shared responsibility in providing care to displaced residents.

September 15 broke wet. It continued to rain at a moderate rate, which would have been called a downpour before the flood. It was too wet for road work, and too rainy for evacuation, but work began on the old wagon road to Spring Gulch. The “Pinewood Redneck Road Crew” (PRRC) did much of this work with their own equipment and fuel. They scouted the trail, cleared trees, and dug dirt to fill swampy areas. Despite eager volunteers, who received only sporadic thanks and a PRRC hat, a larger crew of trained personnel was needed.

September 16 dawned foggy, but it burned off quickly and evacuation began full force. The arrival of the first large 'copter knocked people off their feet with a 150 mph down-wash. In all over two or three days and within the widespread area affected by the flood, 3,233 people and 1300 pets were evacuated, 2526 by helicopter. It was the largest airlift rescue since Hurricane Katrina. About 900 people and their pets were evacuated from the PWS/EPE area alone.

September 18 the 20-member Payson, AZ hotshot crew joined the local PRRC. The combined crews felled trees to corduroy the old stage road and make it passable for four-wheel drive vehicles. On September 20, about 230 cars made the trip out, including two 2WD cars and one box truck.

The National Guard monitored residents' access on US-36 from Lyons while the highway was out. The temporary highway provided a level, smooth surface, but was at risk of damage from snow melt and flooding in spring. The plan was to shift the roadbed away from the river and increase the width of the shoulders. From January to June of 2014 there were extensive road closures to complete this work. Delays of 15-60 minutes made planning ahead necessary for every trip. From June to August, finishing touches were completed to make the highway what it is today. Ribbon Cutting for the reopening of US-36 was November 4, over eighteen months since the rains had come.

As a result of the flood, a large ponderosa pine at Crescent Lake died, and was cut to about 20' to avoid dead branches falling and injuring anyone. The PSPOA, after seeking input from the community, had a chainsaw carver (chainsawmama.com) create a History Tree sculpture of animals seen in the area, including commemorative plaques, and surrounded by a garden of native plants.

Commercial Ventures

Pinewood Springs and the adjacent Estes Park Estates are essentially residential communities. Our “commercial district” along US Highway 36 consists of two businesses. A gas station was started in 1960, and a small convenience store, known simply as “the store,” was added in 1973. A restaurant was also opened in 1960. Under various owners it has been a short order cafe, a pie shop, and a French restaurant. The business is now The Colorado Cherry Company, a coffee shop that caters to tourist traffic on the way to Rocky Mountain National Park. Villa Tatra, across the highway, has been a bistro and bar with a gift shop, featuring Slavic art and foods. It is currently a special-events venue and sells smoked fish. The building was designed by Polish Architect Sebastian Nowakowski and is owned by the family of Julian Wojcik. It exhibits fine wood and stone craftsmanship. Other ventures along the highway have included riding stables, a gas station, real estate offices and a sandwich shop.

PINEWOOD SPRINGS PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION (PSPOA)

<https://pinewoodspringspoa.com/>

The Pinewood Springs Property Owners' Association (PSPOA) is an all- volunteer organization formed in 1975. PSPOA meetings are held at the Pinewood Springs Fire Station and Community Center the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Changes in meeting schedule are posted on the Community Bulletin Board at the mailboxes and at the Fire Station bulletin board. Contact information for PSPOA Board members can be found on the website. All residents are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings. Bringing new ideas, concerns, and your voice help improve the community while providing the cohesiveness that nurtures community spirit.

The developer of Pinewood Springs deeded the Tubs and Crescent Lake properties over to all property owners in Pinewood Springs in the mid 70's. The developer decided that the dues to this Property Owners' group should be voluntary. He organized the Property Owners' Association Board to be stewards of the two recreational areas. All residents in the Pinewood Springs community are POA members. Only the PSPOA annual fees are voluntary. The monies collected are used toward maintenance, insurance, and upkeep of the areas as well as community projects around Pinewood such as the mailbox installation, the Community Bulletin Board upgrade, the History Tree, the Little Library, and the Pinewood sign.

What PSPOA does

- Supports and enforces the Protective Covenants – Pinewood Springs.
- Obtains Amerigas and Polar Gas propane discounts for paid PSPOA members.
- Provides residents with the Pinewood Springs & Estes Park Estates Resident Handbook.
- Pays insurance premiums, property taxes, provides equipment, and upkeep for the PSPOA owned properties the Tubs and Crescent Lake common areas.
- Distributes alerts and notifications through PSPOA community email list.
- Addresses community resident concerns and welcomes ideas.
- Provides PSPOA community information website.
- Sponsors community cleanups, repairs, and projects.
- Conducts and/or sponsors community events.

The PSPOA collects annual membership assessments of \$30.00 per property, which is used to pay the liability insurance premiums, property taxes, provide equipment and upkeep on the two PSPOA owned properties along the Little Thompson River, the Tubs and Crescent Lake Parks common areas. The annual membership year is June 1 through May 31. Property owners may send \$30.00 annual membership dues to:

PSPOA, 61 Kiowa Road, Lyons, CO 80540

Or drop membership dues at the mailboxes in the water payment drop-box.

Covenants:

The protective covenants were established in the late 1960's and are still in effect. No matter how old the protective covenants are, they still apply to all Pinewood Springs property owners. When buyers take title to a property in Pinewood Springs, they implicitly accept and agree to abide by the community's declaration. A copy of the protective covenants document for your filing should be provided by the title company with the closing of the purchase of your property in Pinewood Springs. As a Pinewood Springs property owner, it is your obligation to comply with the protective covenants that protect you and neighboring property owners. Covenants and a filing map can be found on the POA website, <https://pinewoodspringspoa.com/board> .

Established covenants can protect property values, promote safety and aesthetic appeal, and generally improve a neighborhood's quality of life. The PSPOA does not take civil action in protective covenants violations received, however the property owners who have submitted the protective covenants violations complaints to the PSPOA would be able to take civil action in any case at their expense.

Bylaws:

The PSPOA Bylaws can be found at: <https://pinewoodspringspoa.com/board>.

Rentals:

Short-term rentals of fewer than 31 days are prohibited in Larimer County without proper licensing. <https://www.larimer.gov/codecompliance/short-term-rentals>

Rules for Using the PSPOA-Owned Community Parks:

- Only Pinewood Springs and Estes Park Estates residents are allowed to be in the Tubs and Crescent Lake common areas. Families and guests of residents are allowed in these areas only when physically always accompanied by that resident.
- Property owners use these areas AT THEIR OWN RISK. Owners assume the risk of injury or death to self, family members or guests.
- **NO FIRES.** As in the rest of the Pinewood Springs Fire District, **open fires are prohibited.** Charcoal grills **cannot** be used because there is no safe place to dispose of the ashes. A properly functioning and attended propane grill could be used and removed upon leaving.
- No smoking.
- No alcohol consumption.
- Dogs must be always leashed. All animal feces must be promptly removed from the premises per Larimer County regulations.
- All trash must be removed promptly. Leave no trace.
- Obey all signs.

Rules specific to the Tubs:

- The Tubs area is inherently dangerous. High water increases the risk of drowning, but even if the water is not high, it is often cold enough to cause hypothermia, impaired muscle function, and cold-water drowning.
- The rocks are always slippery, even when not wet.
- As in the entire Pinewood Springs Valley, wild animals, including rattlesnakes, may be present. Close supervision of family members and guests is required.
- The Tubs is a fragile ecosystem. For groups larger than 12 persons contact PSPOA for permission.
- Picking of wildflowers or other plants is prohibited.

PINEWOOD SPRINGS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (PSFPD)

<https://pinewoodspringsfire.org/>

The Pinewood Springs Fire Protection District is housed in the Pinewood Springs Fire Station and Community Center (reconstructed in 2018), on Kiowa at Highway US-36. The District was created in 1962 to serve Pinewood Springs, Estes Park Estates, and the surrounding area. The Fire District is tax-supported and operated completely by volunteers and includes a portion of Boulder County.

The District is composed of two segments: an elected Board of Directors, who handle the administrative business of the District, and the Operations side, which provides fire protection, rescue, and initial response for medical calls. The Fire Chief is appointed by the Board of Directors and is responsible for the overall activity of the Fire Department. Board contact information is on the Fire District's website.

The Fire District is funded by community property and road taxes and donations and grants. There are no fees charged for any service that the Fire District provides to the community. However, the District does reserve the right to charge for reimbursement in the case of hazardous material spills and cleanup.

The Fire Department personnel are volunteers who live in the Pinewood Springs and Estes Park Estates area. They respond to emergencies within, and occasionally outside, the District.

When a call is placed to 911, it goes to both the Estes Park and the Boulder County Communications Centers where it is determined who needs to respond -- fire, ambulance, sheriff, etc. and then they notify the appropriate agency. In the case of a fire or medical emergency Communication Centers contact Pinewood Springs Fire Protection District by pager. Calling 911 starts the whole EMS system and makes a lot of preplanned things happen quickly.

ALWAYS CALL 911 FOR ALL EMERGENCIES.

When 911 is called for a medical emergency, an ambulance from the Estes Park Medical Center will respond along with the Fire Department and Larimer County Sheriff, if needed. Most of the staff are Fire-Medics and all fire-fighters have CPR and AED training. The Fire Department will usually arrive at your house before the ambulance can get there, so have someone where your driveway intersects the road to flag down the fire truck or ambulance, if possible. At night turn on outside lights. The Fire Protection District urges all residents to purchase and install a green reflective house-number sign to ensure the address is readily visible from the road. These signs are available from the PSPOA website.

Always **call 911** for any emergency, not a neighbor, friend, or family member. If not sure whether it is really an emergency, call 911. Then stay off the phone in case emergency responders need to call you back. The system is designed to get the right help going quickly across multiple agencies and counties. The highly trained communication specialists will take the best course of action to get the help needed, whether it's an emergency or not. Failure to call 911 will result in a significant delay in getting help.

The Fire Protection District has automatic mutual aid agreements with the Lyons Fire District, Big Elk Meadows VFD, and the Estes Valley Fire District, and many other agencies in both Larimer and Boulder counties. They automatically respond to structure fires in Pinewood or, upon request, for other incidents. The Pinewood Springs Fire Protection District provides this support to these other communities and agencies as well.

The Fire Protection District is always looking for volunteers in various capacities, not only as fire-fighters. Come to either the Fire Board meeting or the training meeting, both held at the Fire Station at US-36 and Kiowa, to get involved. The Fire Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Training meetings are held on the third and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Training sessions include basic firefighting, emergency vehicle driving and operation, emergency medicine, vehicle extraction, wild-land firefighting, hazardous materials awareness and response, and various other basic and advanced categories. Any change in schedule for the Board meeting will be posted on the community bulletin board at the mailboxes, and the posting board at the Fire Station.

All communities are assigned a fire protection class rating by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). The ISO assesses the ability of fire departments to protect their respective communities based on equipment, manpower, training, water supply, and other factors. This rating is used by most insurance companies to determine the cost of fire insurance for property owners in the community.

Residents can verify the current rating by contacting the Fire Protection District and following up with the insurance company. Not all insurance carriers use the class rating number in their calculations, as there are other methods. PSFPD currently has an ISO PPC3 rating for the entire district, which is very good (1-10 where lower is better).

Fire Mitigation

The Pinewood Springs area is a high-hazard fire environment during summer and fall due to hot, dry and windy conditions. “Defensible Space,” or the “Home Ignition Zone” around a structure ranges up to 200 feet depending on slope and vegetation. The steeper the slope the more rapidly fire spreads, and dry or dead vegetation and combustible house roofing provide fuel for a fire. Small flames and embers (which can be carried over a mile by the wind), have been shown to be the main sources of ignition in a wildfire. In the Cold Springs/Nederland fire of July 9-12, 2016, all twenty-one homes compliant with mitigation principles survived intact, and none of the twenty structures destroyed had been subject to mitigation measures. A mitigation consultation may be requested on the Fire Protection District website <https://pinewoodspringsfire.org/>, where there is also excellent fire mitigation information. The *Home Ignition Zone* guide to preparing your home for wildfire and creating defensible space can be downloaded at <https://csfs.colostate.edu/csfspublications>.

Pinewood Springs Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

The purpose of the CWPP is to open the lines of communication between community members about wildfire mitigation and wildfire hazards, to educate and prepare residents and property owners in the area and to identify, obtain and make available grant funds and other resources that can assist with the associated activities. To learn more about the PWS CWPP the document can be downloaded at <https://pinewoodspringsfire.org>.

Boulder County has locations for FREE drop off of limbs, slash, and other materials.
Go to: <https://www.bouldercounty.org/property-and-land/forest-health/>

For more detailed information,
see <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA> .
A copy of “How to Prepare Your Home for Wildfires” is included for your convenience.

A **burn permit** is required for all outdoor burning. Permits are obtained through Larimer County at <https://www.larimer.gov/health/clean-air-water-and-soil/air-quality/burn-permits>. **Approval must be given by the Pinewood Springs Fire Protection District.** The term of each permit is October through April for slash burning at elevations above 6000 feet. Slash burning guidelines can be accessed at https://apps.larimer.org/burnpermit/slash_burning_guidelines.htm.

Burn regulations are found on the community bulletin board at the mailboxes, and on the Fire Protection District website under “General Information” and “Open Flame Policy” (SOP AD 005A 33 15). A copy is included for your convenience. This policy discusses all forms of burning, and whether allowed or prohibited.

The Pinewood Springs Fire Station and Community Center meeting room in the Fire Station is available to be reserved by community resident groups. See the website for the reservation policy and guidelines for use, as well as to reserve the space.

ROADS

<https://pinewoodspringspoa.com/road-districts>

General Road Information:

- The County denotes the Pinewood Springs Valley roads as *closed mountain roads*. The speed limit is 20 mph unless otherwise posted.
- Speeding is a significant problem. It endangers residents and animals, damages gravel roads and causes washboards (ripples in the gravel) which cause wear and tear on cars.
- Snow is plowed on major roads first and then side roads. Unlike paved roads, not all snow can be removed from gravel roads without damaging the roads. Roads often become icy as a result.
- Uphill traffic has right-of-way by State law. Walkers must be alert to uphill traffic as well, so that drivers may avoid having to stop. Backing downhill on icy roads can be dangerous.
- Barrels of gravel, maintained by the road crew for resident use, are placed by sections of road that often become icy in winter.
- Access/egress from homes may be impaired in winter; be prepared with stored food. Electric service may also be compromised in inclement weather conditions.
- Roads are narrow with compromised visibility. Large delivery and moving trucks may need to be met near the mailboxes and goods transported in smaller vehicles from there.
- Larimer County requires that each property owner install a 15" culvert at the entrance to their property and keep it open and in good repair. The property owner is responsible for drainage around the culvert as well. This prevents run-off and road erosion, which increases the expense of maintaining the roads. Larimer County further mandates access to rights-of-way on private property for road work.
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- Telephone and internet lines are buried in many locations at varying depths. Call the Northern Colorado Utility Locate service at 811, <https://colorado811.org/> before digging, putting in culverts or grading ditches.
- The Larimer County Road District in Fort Collins must approve all digging in county roads.
- No ATVs or other unlicensed vehicles are permitted on Pinewood Springs and Estes Park Estates roads per Colorado Code 33-145-108.
- Water lines usually run along roads in the easement. Should a leak occur in that area, any plantings or fences may need to be removed to reach and repair the leak.

PWS Road District (GID #2)

The Larimer County Board of Commissioners authorized General Improvement Districts (GIDs) and Public Improvement Districts (PIDs) for roads in 1968 and established a Mil levy. The developers of Pinewood Springs had continued to maintain the roads, but ceased doing so in June 1972, when community residents took over with help and equipment from the Fire District. Pinewood Springs was designated General Improvement District (GID#2) once all landowners had placed their properties into the District and the Road Board was formed.

In 1975, the Larimer County Commissioners accepted the responsibility of maintaining four roads in Pinewood Springs: Kiowa from US-36 to the bridge, Deer Lane, Mohawk, and Apache. Bladeworks, Inc. is contracted for tasks requiring heavy equipment, particularly in the spring. The Road Board directs PWS Road Maintenance, Inc., ("the road crew") in light repairs and snow removal.

The Road Board is comprised of five people, with members elected for four-year terms. Contact information is at <https://pinewoodspringspoa.com/road-districts>. Every two years, the terms of two or three board members end. Vacant seats are filled by an election process as directed by Larimer County and the Road Board's By-Laws. The Board meets bi-monthly for one hour the first Tuesday of even months at 7:00 PM at the Fire Station & Community Center. The Road crew is answerable to the Road Board.

EPE Road District (PID #25)

The Estes Park Estates Road Board meets as needed. The EPE Public Improvement District (PID#25) has a POA for snow removal and the tax supported PID for road maintenance. They also contract with Bladeworks, Inc. for heavier work. Board members can be contacted at <https://www.larimer.org/boards/estes-park-estates>.

PINEWOOD SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT (PSWD)

<https://pwswd.com/>

The State of Colorado Water Court approved and accepted an “Augmentation Plan” for Pinewood Springs on February 24, 1976. The Pinewood Springs Water District was formed in 1978 when the water system was purchased by the property owners from the developer, Hank Birnbaum. The Plan provides a practical and legal basis for the use of the water. The Water District is responsible for compliance of the community's use of water.

The Rules and Regulations, by which the Board of Directors governs the District, are available on the Water District website. They define the responsibilities of the District and property owners, billing rates and other charges, and penalties for violation of governing documents.

A five-member Board of Directors, elected by the property owners of the Water District, administers the business of the Water District. Members serve for a term of four years, with elections held according to Colorado law, currently in May of even-numbered years, and the election of members staggered for continuity of administration. The Board typically meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Fire Station & Community Center. Meetings in November and December are usually moved to a different date due to holidays and regulatory deadlines. These meetings are open to the public. Notice of meetings is posted on the bulletin board by the mailboxes and the posting board at the Fire Station.

The employees of the District are currently a full time Water Superintendent, a full-time technician, and a part-time Administrative Clerk.

There is a drop box at the mailboxes for water payments. Payments and other communications may also be mailed to the Pinewood Springs Water District at 183 Cree Ct, Lyons, CO 80540.

Important information for Pinewood Springs Water District residents:

- The Augmentation Plan stipulates a strict 200 gallons per day water limit per household, which the District interprets as 6,000 gallons per month.
- **No outdoor use of water is permitted.** This includes watering plants, washing cars, etc. This limitation also applies to residents within the water district who have wells.
- The sole raw water source for the Water District is the Little Thompson River watershed. The river frequently goes dry in late summer. The reservoir is available as a water source when the river is dry, but extended periods of dry weather could deplete the reservoir. There is no guarantee of raw water availability.
 - The water provided by the Water District is required to meet all Federal and State safe drinking water standards. Water sampling and record keeping are directed and enforced by the State.
- Heavy run-off in the spring can result in water discoloration. The water is still safe to drink.
- The Water District infrastructure consists of a treatment plant on Cree Court, a number of storage tanks, and pumps and water mains throughout the community.
- Due to the terrain and geological features in Pinewood Springs, it is impractical to place water mains strictly along roads and property lines. Mains may run through the middle of a lot, as necessary. Larimer County requires property owners to provide access to Water District personnel to complete any necessary work.
- Residents should report all water main leaks to the Water District as soon as possible. Leaks may appear as wet spots or puddles.
- There is NO sewer system in Pinewood Springs. Residences have either a septic system or a vault for wastewater.
- The Water District encourages residents to have water-efficient fixtures and appliances.
- Any leaks inside the home should be fixed as soon as possible. Running toilets can waste a lot of water very quickly.
- Residents are responsible for the water service line between the water meter and the home. This responsibility includes line leak repair and replacement as well as the water lost due to a leak.

Water Outside the Pinewood Springs Water District

All EPE and several Pinewood Springs properties are not within the Pinewood Springs Water District. These residences usually have private wells. It is incumbent upon these residents to have their water tested regularly for contamination from bacteria and/or radioactive and other contaminants. All wells are required to be permitted. If unsure whether one's well is permitted, call. 303-866-3587 or go to <http://water.state.co.us/groundwater/Pages/default.aspx>.

As in the PWS Water District, NO ONE may take water from the Little Thompson River without permission from the State. When the Little Thompson River watershed goes dry, it is possible that wells may also become dry or unreliable. Residences in Estes Park Estates, as in PWS, usually have septic systems or vaults for wastewater.

AREA SERVICES

<u>Hospitals</u>		
Estes Park Medical Center - 555 Prospect Ave., Estes Park		970-586-2317
BCH, Foothills Hospital - 4747 Arapahoe, Boulder		303-415-7000
Longmont United Hospital -1950 Mountain View Ave., Longmont		303-651-5111
UC Health Long's Peak Hospital - 1750 E. Ken Pratt Blvd., Longmont		720-718-7000
<u>Urgent Care Centers</u>		
Foothills Hospital Emergency Department - 4747 Arapahoe, Boulder		303-415-7000
Med Express Urgent Care - 601 S. Main Street, Longmont		303-776-6104
Next Care UC - 2144 Main Street #8, Longmont		303-772-0041
UC Health - 2101 Main Street, Longmont		720-745-8030
<u>Animal Emergency Centers</u>		
Animal Medical Center of Estes Park - 1260 Manford Ave., Estes Park		970-586-6898
Aspen Meadows Veterinary Specialists - 104 S. Main Street, Longmont		303-678-8844
<u>Estes Park Schools</u>		
Estes Park Elementary School -1505 Brodie Ave., Estes Park		970-586-7406
Estes Park Middle School -1500 Manford Ave., Estes Park		970-586-4439
Estes Park High School -1600 Manford Ave., Estes Park		970-586-5321
Estes Park Options School -1605 Brodie Ave., Estes Park		970-586-2361
https://www.estesschools.org/		
<u>Lyons Schools</u>		
Lyons Elementary School - 338 High Street, Lyons		303-823-6915
https://lyonses.svvsd.org/		
Lyons Middle/Senior High School - 100 McConnell Drive, Lyons		303-823-6631
https://lmshs.svvsd.org/		
<u>Estes Valley Recreation & Parks District</u>		
Estes Valley Community Center - 660 Community Drive, Estes Park		970-586-8191
https://evrpd.colorado.gov/estes-valley-community-center		
<u>Libraries</u>		
Lyons Regional Library - 451 Fourth Ave., Lyons		303-823-5165
https://lyons.colibraries.org/		
Estes Park Public Library - 335 E. Elkhorn Ave., Estes Park		970-586-8116
http://estesvalleylibrary.org/		
Longmont Public Library - 409 4 th Ave., Longmont		303-651-8470
https://www.longmontcolorado.gov/departments/departments-e-m/library		

AREA SERVICES

<u>Pinewood Springs Community Church</u>		
260 Button Rock Road, Lyons		303-823-6272
<u>Senior Citizen Centers</u>		
Estes Park Senior Citizen Center -1760 Olympian Lane, Estes Park		970-581-2195
https://estesparkseniors.org/about-us/		
Longmont Senior Center - 910 Longs Peak Ave., Longmont		303-651-8411
https://seniorcenter.us/sc/longmont_senior_center_longmont_co		
Lyons Golden Gang - 335 Railroad Ave., Lyons		303-823-6771
http://lyonsgoldengang.weebly.com/		
<u>United States Post Office</u>		
305 Railroad Ave., Lyons	(Local 303-823-0109)	800-275-8777
<u>Electric Co-op: Poudre Valley Electric Association (PVREA)</u>		
		800-432-1012
https://www.pvrea.coop/		
<u>Trash</u>		
One Way, Inc. - 101 Martin Street, Longmont		303-823-0556
https://onewaytrash.com/		
Waste Management		800-482-6406
https://www.wm.com/us/en/home		
<u>Recycling</u>		
Estes Park Residential Recycling Center - 640 Elm Street, Estes Park		970-498-5762
http://www.recycleestes.org/		
Eco-Cycle -198 2 nd Street, Lyons		720-564-2220
https://www.ecocycle.org/yourcommunity/lyons		
Eco-Cycle CHaRM (Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials)		303-444-6634
6400 Arapahoe, Boulder		
https://www.ecocycle.org/charm		
<u>Utilities</u>		
<i>Residents of Larimer County are required to provide access for utility work on private property.</i>		
Internet Service: Hughes Net, Rise Broadband, Xbar7 Communications		
Phone: Century Link (landline), Rise Broadband, Xbar7 Communications (VoIP).		
Propane: Amerigas and Polar both give a discount to PSPOA paid members.		
Water hauling: See internet for local services.		
Septic cleaning: See internet. Check with PSPOA regarding discounts.		

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Pinewood Springs and Estes Park Estates are under the jurisdiction of Larimer County and Colorado State laws, enforced by the Larimer County Sheriff's Department, Estes Park District. All instances of threat to local public safety or of illegal activity, including excessive noise or dogs running loose, are to be reported to the Sheriff's Department in Estes Park, which communicates by radio to a Deputy Sheriff on duty in the Estes Park area. Because of the distance from Estes Park, response time to reports may exceed 30 minutes.

New Colorado Driver's License

Go to <https://www.colorado.gov/driver-services>.

Vehicle Licensing

Go to <https://www.larimer.org/clerk/vehiclelicensing>.

Vehicle licensing may also be available at
Larimer County - Vehicle Licensing Estes Park Office - 1601 Brodie Ave., Estes Park.

Voting

Go to <https://www.larimer.org/clerk/elections> or call 970-498-7820 for current regulations.
All voting is currently by mailed ballot.

Operation Game Thief (OGT) is a Colorado Parks and Wildlife program that pays rewards to citizens who turn in poachers. You can call OGT toll-free within Colorado at 1-877-COLO-OGT, Verizon cell phone users can dial #OGT, or contact OGT via e-mail at game.thief@state.co.us.
<https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/OGT.aspx>

LARIMER COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

Dogs running loose have been an ongoing concern in the neighborhood for some years. Loose dogs have attacked other dogs and people, and even killed other dogs. Dogs and cats have also disappeared and never returned, presumed to have been killed by predators.

The following is a summary of the pertinent Larimer County Code. For more information, go to <https://www.larimer.org/>, “pet animals”, “Larimer County Animal Control Ordinance.”

- All dogs must be always licensed and wear the license tag.
- Rabies vaccination is required for all dogs and cats; the vaccination tag must be always worn.
- Dogs must always be accompanied by a human and kept under restraint of a leash of less than 6 feet in length; be immediately responsive to sound, mechanical, electrical, or other command of the accompanying human; or confined by a secure fence or housing.
- Pets may not disturb the peace by barking, howling, or other noise in an excessive, ongoing, or untimely manner.
- Pets may not chase or attack wildlife, including birds.
- It is unlawful to keep an animal that bites or attempts to bite a person or animal or approaches in an attitude of attack.
- Any animal which bites a human must be immediately reported to an animal control officer and the County Health Department.
- A pet's feces must be immediately removed from private or public property.
- No person may keep or feed any wild animal. However, feeding squirrels and birds other than wild ducks or geese is permitted.

Problems may be brought to the attention of the Larimer County Sheriff (970-586-4000) or Animal Control (970-226-3647).

AREA VEGETATION

The Pinewood Springs area presents many challenges to vegetation. It is subject to periods of drought, excessive moisture, and high winds. Animals, parasites, and insects may feed on or rub against vegetation. The altitude here is about 6700 feet, which limits the species that do well here.

The primary **tree species** present, and the pests that target them, are ponderosa pine (pine bark beetle and mistletoe), cedar (aphids and red spider mites), spruce and fir (spruce budworm), cottonwood and aspen. Dominant **shrubs**, which are all susceptible to webworm, are bitterbrush, chokecherry, and mountain mahogany. Other shrubs here are wax currant and elderberry. This is not by any means an exhaustive list.

Winter burn may affect any of the tree species, but ponderosa pine is especially susceptible. Tree needles may turn brown in winter, but in the spring and summer growth of new needles and the loss of the brown needles will return the trees to a healthy-looking condition.

There are too many species of **wildflowers** to provide a complete list, but a few seen here are blanket flower, bluebells, blue flax, field chickweed, hairy golden aster, larkspur, lupine, penstemon, prairie sunflower, prickly poppy, pussytoes, stonecrop, sulphur flower, yucca and yarrow.

See <http://rockymountainsflora.com/>.

Invasive Weeds

The State of Colorado has identified invasive weeds that property owners are required to control, and at least one species present in the PWS Valley, myrtle spurge, which property owners must eradicate. Species common here that must be prevented from spreading by pulling, digging, or cutting seed heads, are scentless chamomile, common teasel, Dalmatian toadflax, knapweeds, leafy spurge, moth mullein, red-stemmed filaree, yellow toadflax, and a variety of thistles.

Russian Olive is a weed tree that has been banned from sale in Colorado since 2004. Larimer County encourages residents to remove Russian olives because they are a major problem along stream corridors where they establish dense thickets that displace native trees and shrubs. Seeds are readily spread by birds. Russian olive seedlings have been observed along the Little Thompson River in Pinewood Springs.

Many of these weeds are prolific seed producers and can spread rapidly. It takes consistent effort for years to eradicate them, since the seeds remain dormant in the soil for several years. See identifications at <https://www.larimer.org/naturalresources/weeds>.

The Larimer County Weed District is responsible for noxious weed management in the unincorporated areas of the county as mandated by the [Colorado Noxious Weed Act](#) and outlined in the [Larimer County Noxious Weed Management Plan](#). Larimer County weed district personnel will identify plants from a submitted photo and will also make site visits free of charge. See Noxious Weed Law at <https://www.larimer.gov/naturalresources/weeds/law>.

Other aliens here that are so widespread in the State that full eradication is not considered feasible, but it is beneficial to pull, are common mullein and burdock.

Cheat grass is something of a special case. It is so widespread as to be considered impossible to eradicate; however, it presents an extreme fire hazard when dry. It gets its name from emerging early in the season and cheating native and more desirable plants of the moisture they need to grow. Mowing, pulling, and smothering are techniques for keeping it somewhat in check.

Cheat grass is also a danger to pets. It can become embedded in paws and fur and cause skin infections.

Weeds placed in special paper bags obtainable at hardware stores may be dropped off on Elm Rd. past the recycling and transfer station in Estes Park off US 36. These bagged weeds will be burned to prevent seed germination. For drop-off schedule email elsa.weeds@gmail.com. Weeds in paper bags are also accepted at the Boulder County sort yards.

Pesticide use is not recommended, especially Round Up, which has been shown to cause cancer and could easily end up in the drinking water.

AREA WILDLIFE

Mammals

Animals that frequent neighborhood yards are elk, deer, bears, mountain lions, bobcats, fox, coyote, and lynx, as well as smaller ones, such as squirrels, skunks, raccoons, chipmunks, turkeys, and rabbits. The larger species, such as bears, mountain lions and lynx, may prey on people and their pets, especially between dusk and dawn. **Feeding wildlife is against the law.** “A fed bear is a dead bear,” because once a bear finds food in a location it is likely to return until it becomes a nuisance, and it will be destroyed. Food sources that attract bears to neighborhoods are improperly managed garbage and fruit dropped from trees that is not kept picked up. Keep trash enclosed in a secure garage or shed until pick-up day or use a bear-proof trash container to help keep bears alive.

Reptiles

Eastern fence lizards may be seen in sunny, rocky areas of pine woods.

There are several non-poisonous snakes in the Valley. Western terrestrial garter snakes are harmless and control rodent populations. They are most prevalent below 7500 feet. Gopher snakes and racer snakes are also seen here, up to 7000'.

The Pinewood Springs area is host to the western rattlesnake, the only poisonous snake in Colorado. Is it found below 8000'. It will flee from footsteps; freeze to let it move on. Bites sting but are rarely fatal. However, get prompt medical attention. Keep the bitten area below heart level, and the keep victim still to help prevent the spread of venom. If alone, walk **slowly** to get help.

Pets are at more risk from a rattlesnake bite. A dog of 30 lbs. or more may survive, but small dogs and cats will perish from a rattler's bite. Seek immediate emergency care. There is a canine vaccine that can extend the time to get treatment, and dog training programs for rattlesnake avoidance are available at the Longmont Humane Society and in Denver at Pro Bass shops.

Estes Park Medical Center and Estes Park veterinary clinics **do not have** antivenom because the elevation is too high for rattlesnakes. **Call 911 if you or another human are bitten by a rattlesnake.**

Take a bitten dog to:

Aspen Meadow Veterinary Specialists (open 24/7)

104 S. Main Street, Longmont, 303-678-8844

<https://aspenmeadowvet.com/>

or

Lyons Veterinary Clinic (business hours Monday-Saturday)

412 High Street, Lyons, 303-823-6767

<https://www.lyonsvetclinic.com/>

Birds

There are too many birds to name them all, but the following birds are frequently seen in the area: bluebirds, chickadees, crows, hummingbirds, magpies, nuthatches, ravens, robins, sparrows, swallows, turkeys, woodpeckers, and wrens.

Hummingbird feeders should be taken down by September 15 to encourage migration before winter. During bear season, April to December, take in all feeders at night to avoid attracting bears.

Bright lights at night disturb bird migratory patterns. A yard light may provide a sense of security for residents, but the addition of a motion sensor enhances effectiveness, saves energy, and minimally disturbs neighbors and wildlife. See <https://www.darksky.org/> for more information from the International Dark-Sky Association.

Larimer County requires owners of pets, be it a dog or other animal, to provide predator-proof housing, such as a secure structure or electric fencing.

Wood ticks

Wood ticks are prevalent in rocky and grassy areas from June to September.

Tick diseases, such as Colorado Tick Fever, Lyme Disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, present with flu-like symptoms. They are also a vector for rabbit-borne tularemia. While it takes 6-8 hours for an attached tick to transmit disease, seek prompt medical attention if a tick bite is suspected. In the absence of a tick, a red spot may indicate a bite.

If a tick becomes attached, it should be removed carefully and gently. Grasp the head as close to the skin as possible with a pair of tweezers and pull straight back with a steady motion.

Hikers and campers can reduce their chances of tick attachment by wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants tucked into boots. Clothing that is light in color allows ticks to be readily spotted. Insect repellents may be used, but apply them to clothing, not skin. The chemicals are absorbed through the skin and can cause reactions, including rashes and other problems, especially in children.

Although ticks are unwelcome hitchhikers for hikers, one of their favored modes of transportation is a dog. They are attracted by the scent of animals and are most often encountered near roads, paths, trails, and recreational areas. A monthly tick repellent liquid or chewable will protect your dog. Annual testing for tick-borne diseases is recommended.

(Reference: National Audubon Society Field Guide to the Rocky Mountain States, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1998.)

Contributions were made by PSPOA Board Members, Water District Board Members, Road Board Members, Fire Protection District Members, and Community residents.

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Please send any suggestions and input to pinewoodspringspoa@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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