

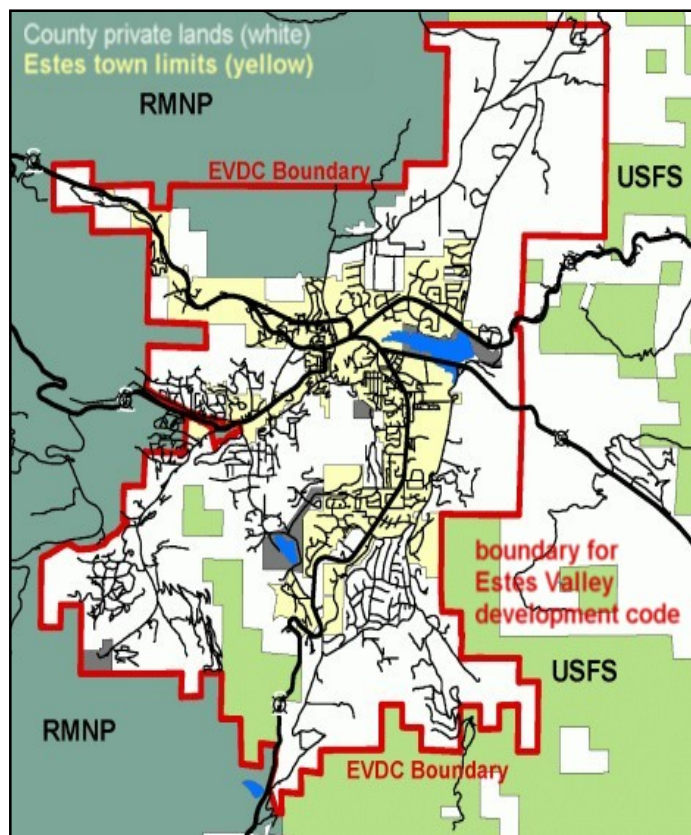
Local Government Guide

Estes Park & Estes Valley, CO (Jan 20, 2012 update for new Town weblinks)

(compiled by the **Association for Responsible Development**; "one-click" [www links](#) in **digital** "pdf" file)

Local government determines the future character of the Estes Town & Valley. By knowing & interacting with local officials, you can evaluate how well you're represented, make well-informed voting decisions, and have your opinions matter. Local information and names, addresses, & phone numbers are online from www.estes.org & in the EP *Trail Gazette's* "Community Resource Guide" published each August. Below is a brief description of how our local government works, with key shortcuts to active online links.

Voter registration – Info: 970-498-7820 (& absentee ballots). Register with Larimer Co. Clerk, 1601 Brodie Ave, at least 29 days prior to an election (or go to the Estes Town Clerk office, 170 MacGregor Ave).



The **Estes Valley planning area** includes ~ 30+ square miles of Larimer County, largely surrounded by national park (RMNP) and national forest (USFS). Just ~7 square miles are within the Estes Park town limits (map at left).

The **Estes Valley Planning Commission** is a (www.estes.org/BoardsandMeetings) joint town-and-county (rare in CO!) advisory body comprising 3 town and 4 county volunteer members – *appointed* by interview process – with authority* for Estes valley-wide development decisions, aided by a 1996 **Comprehensive Plan** and a 2000 **Development Code** (www.estes.org/CommunityDevelopment) – choose "Planning & Zoning" on left side.
* EVPC-only decision authority is restricted to "use-by-right" issues (e.g., plat maps of development footprints & infrastructure) & not subdivision or zoning matters.

By intergovernmental agreement, the Estes Park **Community Development Department** town staff processes & reviews development applications for the *entire Valley* (including county-only areas).

Other types of valley proposals (& appeals of EVPC decisions) are decided by the **Estes Park Town Board of Trustees** (inside town limits) or by the **Larimer Board of County Commissioners** (outside town limits). Appeals by "parties-of-interest" must be filed within 30 days. Hearings are within 60 days. Appeal hearing *target dates* are the **4th Tues for Estes Town** & the **3rd Mon for County** (schedules follow).

Changes to the valley-wide **Development Code** can be made through a public-hearing process held before both of these elected boards (town *and* county, see below), independent of one another.

Valley zoning map: <http://www.estes.org/CommunityDevelopment> ("Planning & Zoning" => "...maps").

The **Estes Park Town Board of Trustees** includes six trustees and a mayor, all *elected at large* by voters (www.estes.org/BoardsandMeetings) within the town limits. The mayor has a Board vote only to break a tie. All are 4-year terms with 3 trustee terms staggered by 2 years from the others.

Town Municipal Code: www.estes.org/TownClerk (choose "Municipal Code").

Town Mission, vision & values: www.estes.org/TownClerk (choose "Mayor & Trustees").

The **Larimer Board of County Commissioners** (www.co.larimer.co.us/officials.htm) includes three *elected-at-large* commissioners for the 3 county geographic districts (Estes is in District 3).

There are numerous other governmental committees and boards, but major decision-making bodies noted here have **regularly scheduled public meetings**, for which agendas are posted online several days in advance. Local Estes town hall meetings are on Estes Cable TV. From the following page link (www.estes.org/BoardsandMeetings), you can **watch archive local meetings online** several days after they occur. At www.estes.org/News, you can subscribe to **emailed agendas & emailed news press releases**, and you can view the latter.

Estes Valley Planning Commission (joint town/county) – **3rd Tues, 1:30 pm**, Estes Municipal Building Board Room, 170 MacGregor Ave, 1st floor, NW corner. Study Session (public observation but no comment) occurs earlier (check online for time, often around 11 am).
Comments for public record: kthompson@estes.org by Wed noon, 6 days prior to meeting.
Agendas, information, & minutes: www.estes.org/BoardsandMeetings

Estes Park Town Board of Trustees (town only) – **2nd & 4th Tues, 7:00 pm**, Estes Municipal Building Board Room, 170 MacGregor Ave, 1st floor, NW corner. Administration phone: 970-577-3700.
Study Session (public observation but no comment) occurs earlier (check online, often around 5 pm).
Comments for public record: jwilliamson@estes.org by Thurs 4:30 pm, 5 days prior to meeting.
Agendas, information, & minutes: www.estes.org/BoardsandMeetings

Mayor's Forum – **1st Wed** of each month, **8:00 am**, at the Senior Center, 220 4th St.

Larimer Board of County Commissioners (county only) – in Ft. Collins, 200 W. Oak St. (2nd block west of College/Rt. 287 and 3 blocks north of Mulberry), 970-498-7010.
Check **calendar** for **possible topical board meetings in Estes:** www.larimer.org/list_calendar.cfm

Land use meetings (1st floor) are the **1st four Mondays** starting at **3:00 pm**, possibly also at **6:30 pm** the **1st three Mondays**. **Administrative-matters** meetings (2nd floor) are **Tues at 9:30 am**. Both types of meetings **open with** or are **preceded by** (Tues at 9:00 am) **a public comment session** – Mon afternoon public comments can be *only about land use or budget*; Mon evening and Tues public comments are **NOT subject-restricted**. **Internet broadcasts** (no Estes TV): www.larimer.org/bcc/broadcast.cfm
Scroll down at above broadcast link for description of the most regular commissioner meetings and for direct links to those specific **agendas** and **minutes** (or go to www.larimer.org/bcc/meetings.htm).

County Commissioner (District 3) **Tom Donnelly** visits **Estes Park** for a **Citizens Meeting** each **3rd Wed**. Watch for reported times (usually **9:00 am**) and locations (usually Senior Center, 220 4th St.).

County Commissioner email: bocc@larimer.org . Community Information Officer *Deni La Rue* email: dlarue@larimer.org . County board and commission information can be found at county offices, online at www.larimer.org/boards, or by contacting *Diane Tokarz* at 498-7015, dtokarz@larimer.org .
For county informational "EMAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS": www.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm#rss

Estes local newspapers: Letters-To-The-Editor (Due Tues, 4:00 pm, to appear in Fri newspapers)

Estes Park **Trail Gazette:** tgeditor@eprail.com Estes Park **News:** kris@estesparknews.com

Note that letters-to-the-editor are **not** recognized as official "public comments" by town and valley officials **unless also** submitted for inclusion in the officials' information packets prepared prior to their meetings **or** presented in person at the meetings. The Estes Town Board **and** Estes Valley Planning Commission must each receive **separate** letters and commentary (same for County Commissioners).

Those interested in learning more about Town government can apply for the Estes Park annual "**Citizens Information Academy**," a 2-month (once per week) series of classes early each year.
Direct link: www.estes.org/CommunityInfo



Mountain Pine Beetles: Call Estes Park Public Works (**577-3587**) to request free valley-wide tree inspections & info about this continuing epidemic & mitigation methods. Watch for annual Estes Park "Tree Symposium" (public info seminar) each May.
Beetle photo at left is highly magnified!

www.estes.org/BoardsandMeetings (choose "Tree Board" and then "Pine Beetle Mitigation")