



Prairie Dog Management Permit – Overview

The Longmont City Council established regulations for the extermination, removal, and/or relocation of prairie dogs within the City of Longmont ([LMC 7.06](#)). Permits are required for any activity that involves prairie dog habitat, unless specifically exempted in the ordinance. If there is interest in managing prairie dog populations in the City of Longmont, the following steps must be taken:

Step 1: Complete and submit the [Prairie Dog Management Permit Application](#).

Step 2: City staff will determine whether a major or minor prairie dog management permit will be required by reviewing applications using the criteria below:

Minor prairie dog management permit

A minor prairie dog management permit may be applicable for properties that meet one of the following criteria:

- The property is less than 1.5 acres in size, or
- The active prairie dog habitat (APDH) is less than 1.5 acres in size, or
- The property has existing urban development. *Urban development* is defined in [LMC 7.06.020](#) as:
 - Property of any size that has received a land use approval and a certificate of occupancy (CO) for the existing use(s) on the property, or
 - Developed outlots in both residential and non-residential subdivisions that were approved for open space, recreation or drainage purposes, or city-owned and managed golf courses and developed parks.

Management of the prairie dogs under a minor permit must be through a City-approved extermination method, or alternatively through live-trapping and relocation.

If the City determines that a minor prairie dog management permit is appropriate, the City-signed application is sufficient to serve as the permit, and the approved management method can be implemented,

Major prairie dog management permit

A major prairie dog management permit may be applicable for properties that meet one of the following criteria:

- The property has an APDH greater than 1.5 acres, or
- The property has no existing urban development (see above for the definition of urban development).

If the City determines that a major prairie dog management permit is appropriate, the following materials, processes, and fees will be required:

Report

If the prairie dogs are located on a parcel greater than 1.5 acres, the City of Longmont requires that the property be surveyed by a wildlife biologist. The biologist must present the following information in a submittal for the permit application:

- A. Aerial photo of the property defining the size of the APDH, defined as the smallest possible area of a polygon encompassing all active prairie dog burrows on a property ([LMC 7.06.020](#)).
- B. An estimate of the number of prairie dogs and description of the methodology for the estimation. City staff will review and accept methodologies that are detailed in the report and that are deemed appropriate.

Relocation

The City of Longmont requires that a Relocation Plan be submitted before relocating any prairie dogs. Relocators must meet the following criteria:

- A. The relocator has at least three years of experience relocating prairie dogs.
- B. The relocator provides references for, and documentation of, two successful prairie dog relocation projects.
- C. The relocator team must include, at least as an on-call consultant, a natural resources professional who has experience in wildlife biology and plant ecology.
- D. The relocator must provide a list of all methods used during relocation, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Number of traps,
 - b. Days of pre-baiting,
 - c. How often traps are monitored,
 - d. Days of trapping,
 - e. Method of transportation of prairie dogs to receiving site, and
 - f. Facility for holding live prairie dogs

An [Application to Capture, Move, and Relocate](#) must be completed before a relocation plan will be reviewed by the City. If the property for which a relocation permit is sought is the subject of a development application, acceptance by a receiving site must be made before any stormwater construction activity permit (SCAP) is issued for the property. If the property for which a relocation permit is sought is not the subject of a development application, acceptance must be made by a receiving site within 90 days of notice or the City will issue a permit to exterminate under an approved plan. Prior to the issuance of a City-approved major prairie dog permit involving relocation, the applicant must submit a copy of their State approved relocation permit to the City.

Notification

The City of Longmont requires that notification of the public be issued regarding the relocation of prairie dogs. Notice shall be given at the time of application for development, or as soon as the City determines that the property has an APDH greater than 1.5 acres. If extermination is approved as a method of prairie dog management, notice shall be posted on the property for at least 14 days prior to management.

For each property, when a sign is required, one sign must be posted for every street frontage. The City also requires that with every sign posting, a Certificate of Posting be submitted. Signs should be obtained from the Planning Division and are \$20 per sign to cover administrative fees. Payment may be made via credit card or check made out to the City of Longmont.

Fees

- Major permit application fees: \$500
- Habitat restoration fees: \$1200 per acre of active habitat lost. These fees may be waived in situations where a landowner has proposed humane methods to destroy prairie dogs targeted under an extermination permit (including those who have used a combination of relocation and humane extermination methods). To be eligible for the habit restoration fee waiver, the applicant must present proof of the method of extermination. City Staff will work with the applicant prior to extermination to determine what proof is needed to be considered for a fee waiver.

Approval conditions

Approved prairie dog management permits are valid for one year beginning from the date the permit is issued. Prairie dogs may not be relocated during the period of April 1 through June 1.

Prohibitions

- A. No person shall kill a prairie dog, or use lethal means with the intent to kill a prairie dog, except as allowed by 7.06 of the Longmont Municipal Code.
- B. No person shall trap or remove a prairie dog from the ground except as allowed by 7.06 of the Longmont Municipal Code.
- C. No person shall damage or fill a prairie dog burrow except as allowed by 7.06 of the Longmont Municipal Code.
- D. No person shall transport a prairie dog from within the city onto public or private property except under an approved relocation plan as described in subsection [7.06.050.B](#) of the Longmont Municipal Code.