



# Natural Areas Department



*naturally yours*



# Mission

To conserve and enhance lands with natural resource, scenic and agricultural values, while providing for education and recreation opportunities.



*naturally yours*





**Land  
Conservation**



**Stewardship**



**Community  
Outreach**





# LAND CONSERVATION





# 49 Natural Areas

(41 currently open to the public)

45 Local

4 Regional

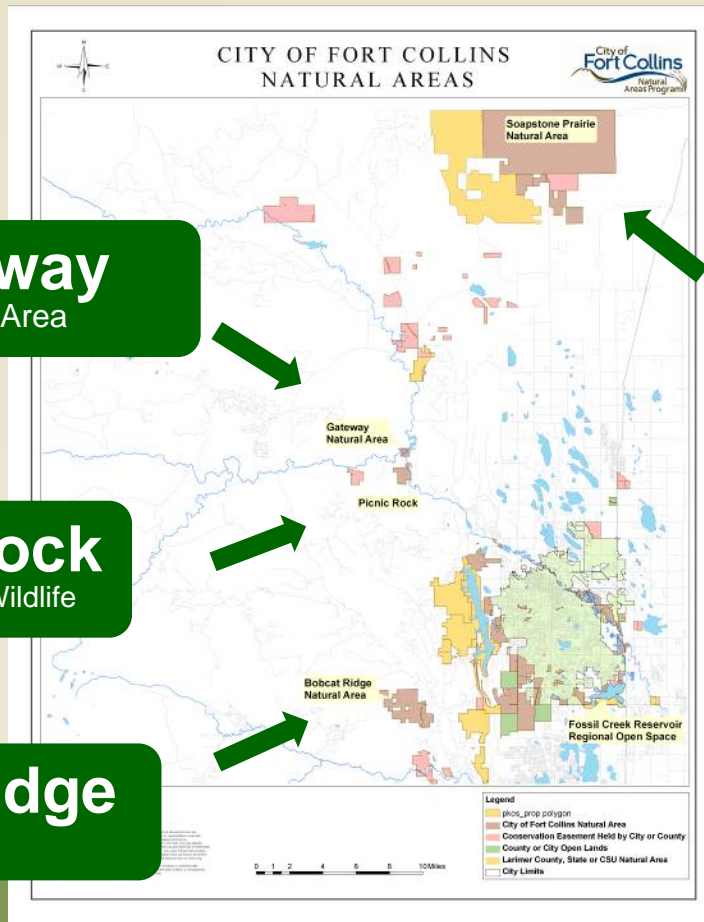
Total: 36,300 acres

(1-22,258 acres)

126 Miles of Trails

(18 miles of Paved Trail)





**Gateway**  
Natural Area

**Picnic Rock**  
Colorado Parks & Wildlife

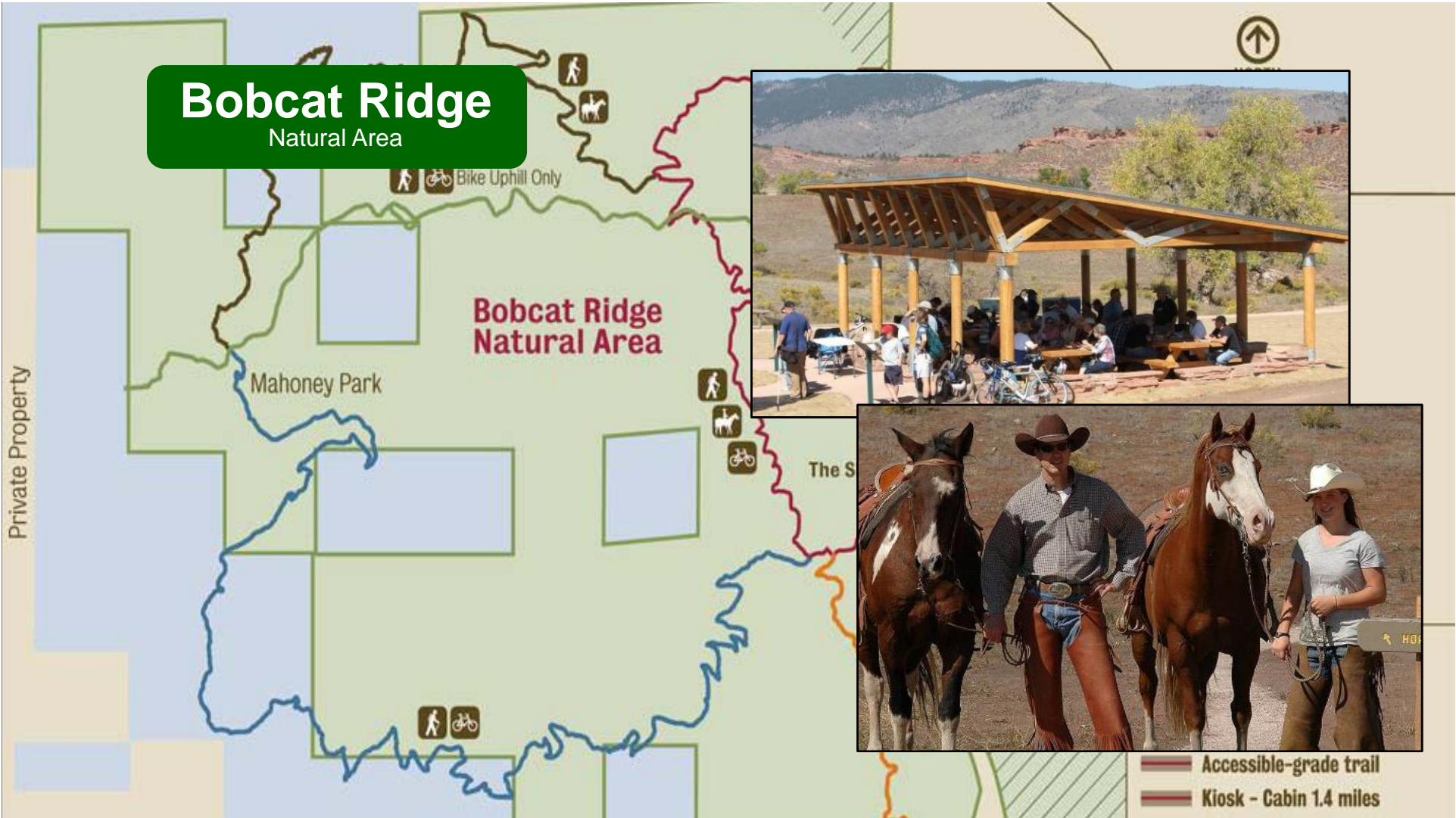
**Bobcat Ridge**  
Natural Area

**Soapstone Prairie**  
Natural Area



# Bobcat Ridge

Natural Area



— Accessible-grade trail  
— Kiosk - Cabin 1.4 miles





City of  
**Fort Collins**  
Natural  
Areas



# Gateway Natural Area





# Soapstone Prairie

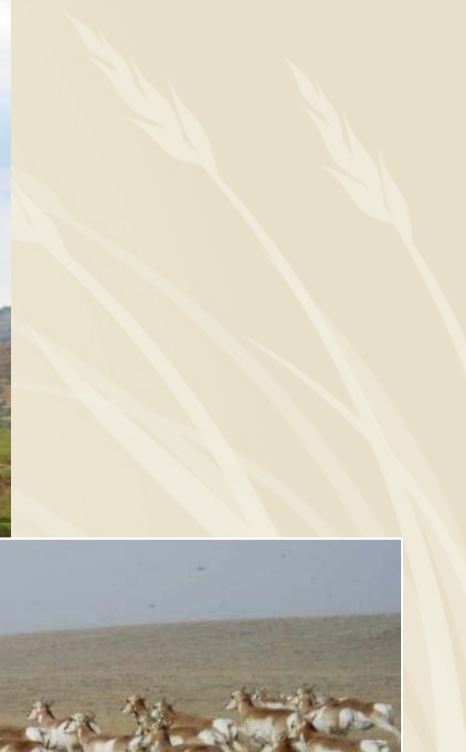
Natural Area

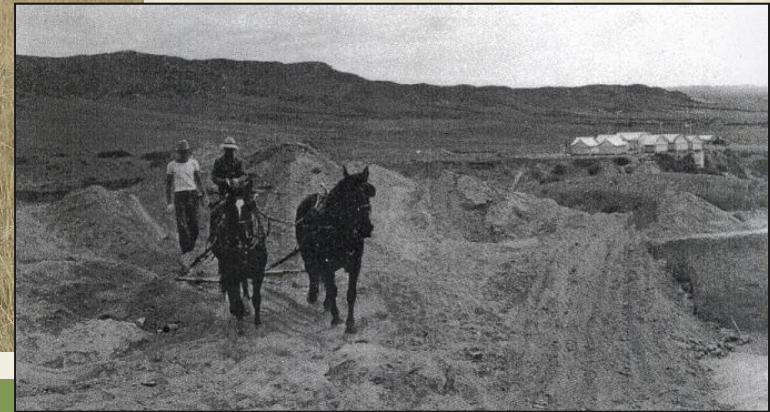


Ranch Manager Residence  
No Public Access









## The Lindenmeier Site







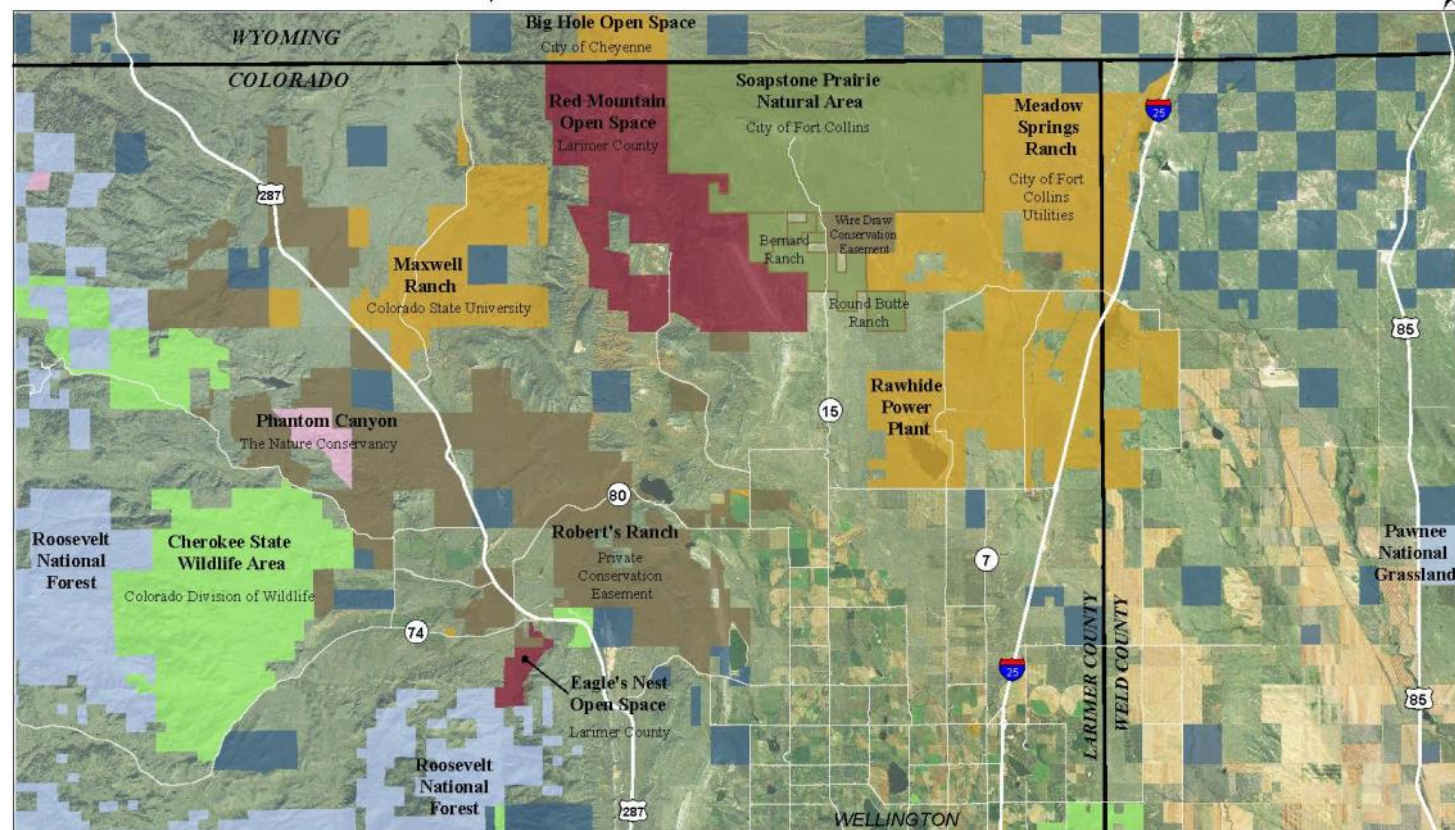




# Laramie Foothills: Mountains to Plains Project



# Laramie Foothills Mountains to Plains Project



- |                           |                     |                        |                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Fort Collins Natural Area | State Land Board    | State Wildlife Area    | Conservation Easement |
| Larimer County Open Space | U.S. Forest Service | The Nature Conservancy | Other Public Lands    |







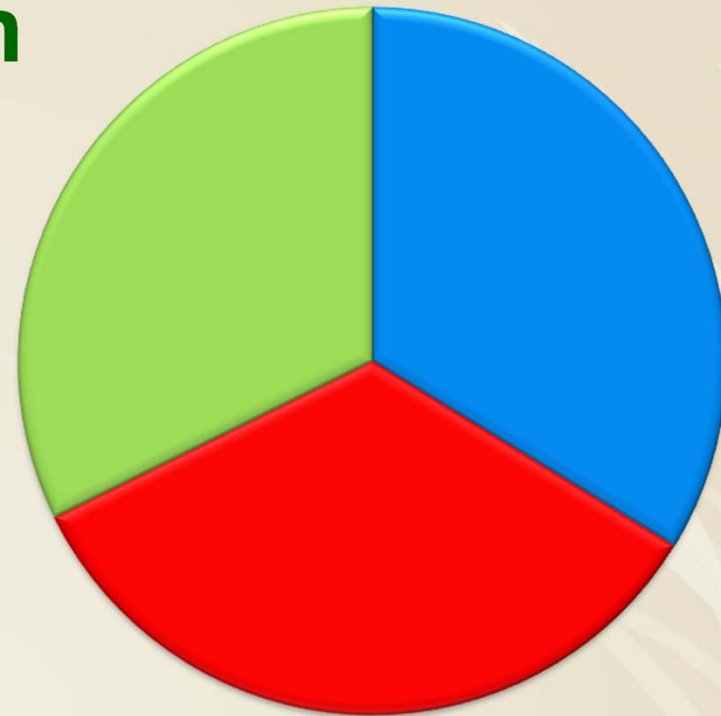
## Land Conservation: Focus Area

### Conservation Values

- wildlife habitat
- recreation
- education
- scenic views
- watershed protection
- floodplains
- agriculture
- community separators
- archeological
- historical

# Land Conservation Purchases: \$87,046,000

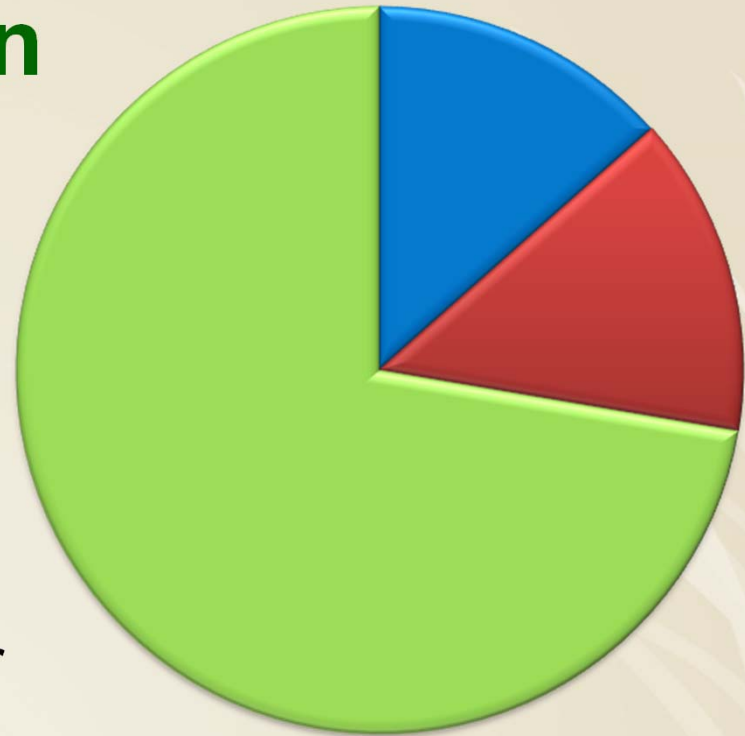
- Regional
- Local
- Community Separator



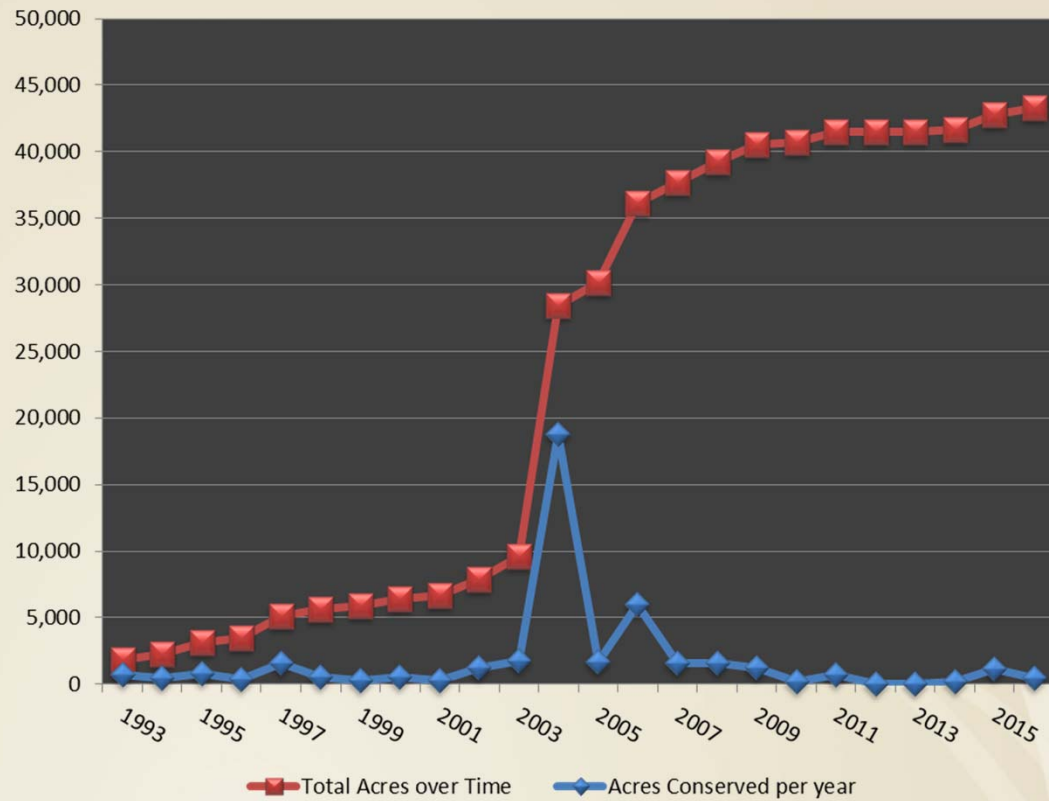


# Land Conservation Acreage: 43,109

- Local
- Regional
- Community Separator



# Total Acres Per Year 1993-2016





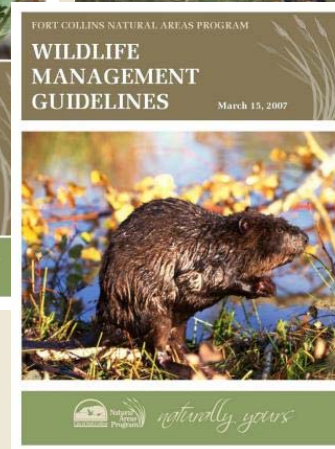
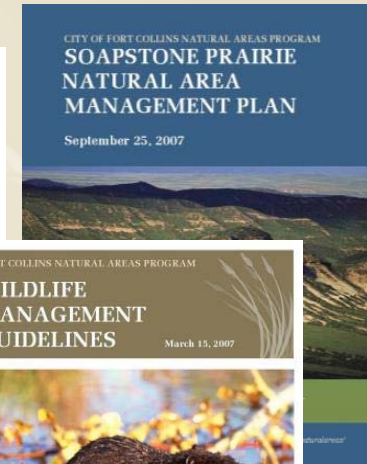
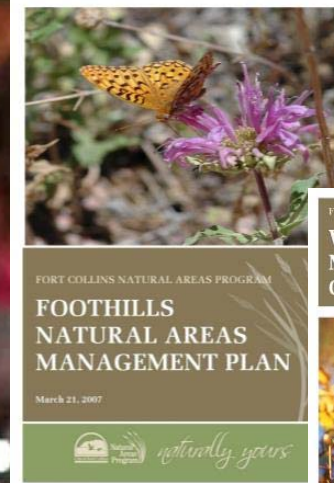
# Priorities for the next 10 Years of Land Conservation

- Local
- Foothills
- Community Separators



**STEWARDSHIP**





# Department Management

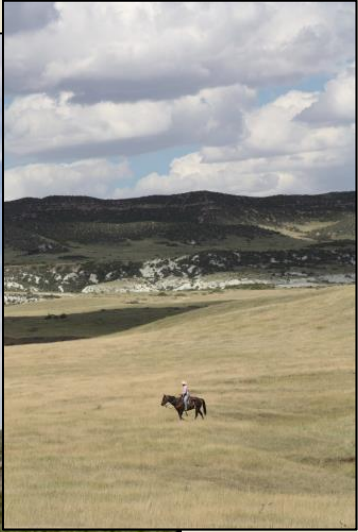






# Land Management











# Resource Management





Land Preparation



Planting and Seeding



Erosion Control



Restoring Ecological Processes

# Vegetation and Soil Management

# Restoration







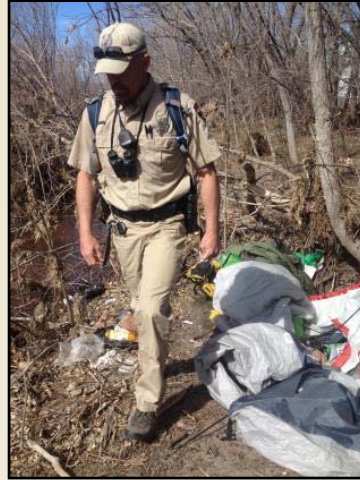
# Wildlife Management



# Natural Areas and Trails Rangers







## Prevention and Response



## Patrol of Natural Areas and Trails





# Public Improvements

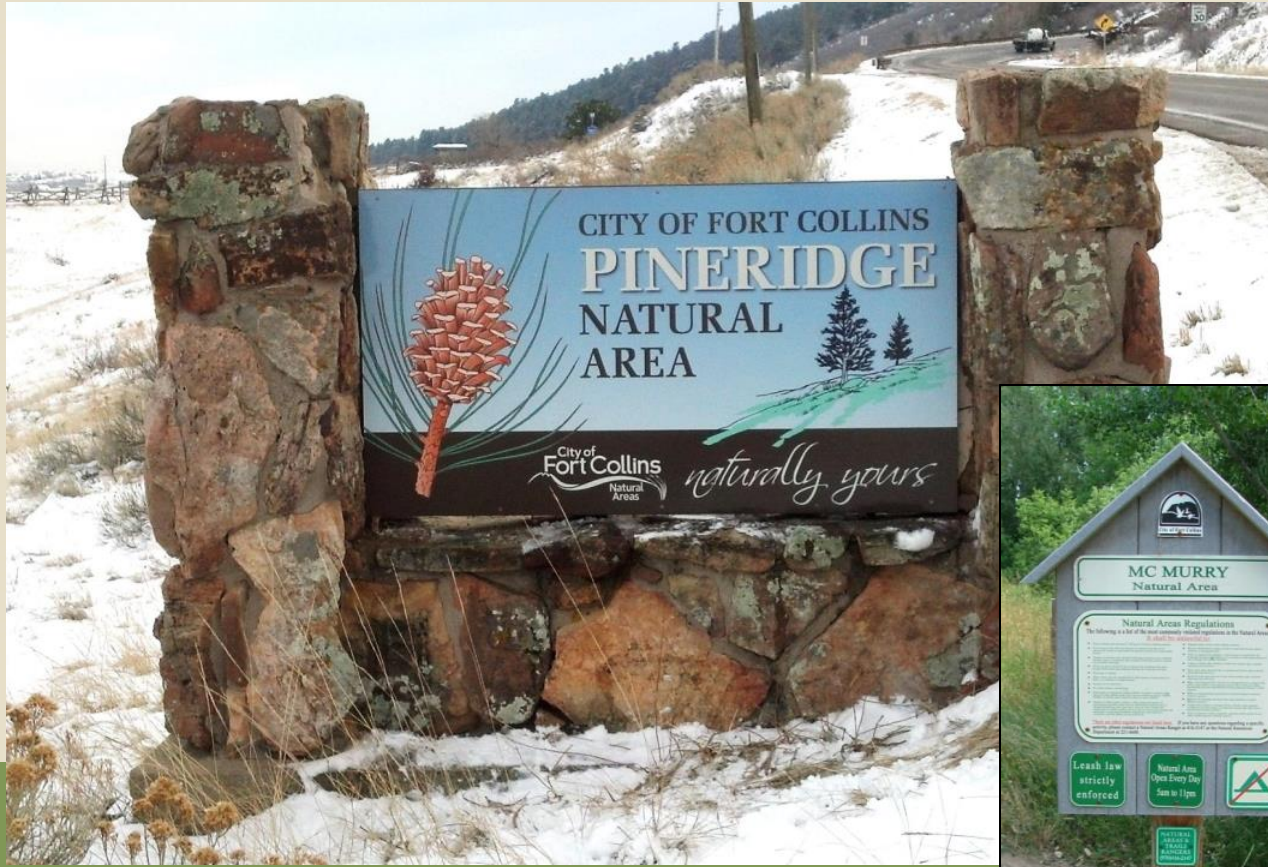


126 Miles





# Trail Construction and Maintenance







### Birds Love These Bushes

Overgrown grasses like this one are a great place for you, me and our birds. Some birds are summer residents, others hang out here year-round. And some that fly through here are a welcome stop on their long migration.

**Lead-hunting**  
These birds summer on the edge of shrubby habitats.

**Yellow warblers**  
These birds are here in the summer and fall. They are here through the winter and throughout the year.

**Blue jays**  
These birds are here in the summer and fall. They are here through the winter and throughout the year.

**What's What's That?**  
The great blue heron is a big bird that is a big bird. It is a big bird that is a big bird. It is a big bird that is a big bird.

**On the Edge**

It's always a good idea to stay on the edge of the park. Stay on the edge of the park. Stay on the edge of the park.

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### Take Care...

As you enjoy this wild place, explore with care and be aware.

**Cherish your land!**  
Tread lightly—staying on the trails leaves wild spaces for wildlife. Take out the trash, your's and others, and leave everything in nature exactly as you find it.

**Be wise in the wild!**  
Bears, mountain lions, and rattlesnakes live here. Respect them—and give them plenty of space.

**Plan Ahead and Prepare!**  
Stay alert. Storms build quickly here. Lightning is dangerous and heavy rains can rapidly flood low-lying areas.

**Remember to take sunscreen and plenty of water.**

**Don't climb the hogbacks!**  
These fragile formations break easily and are home to many of this area's unique plants and animals.

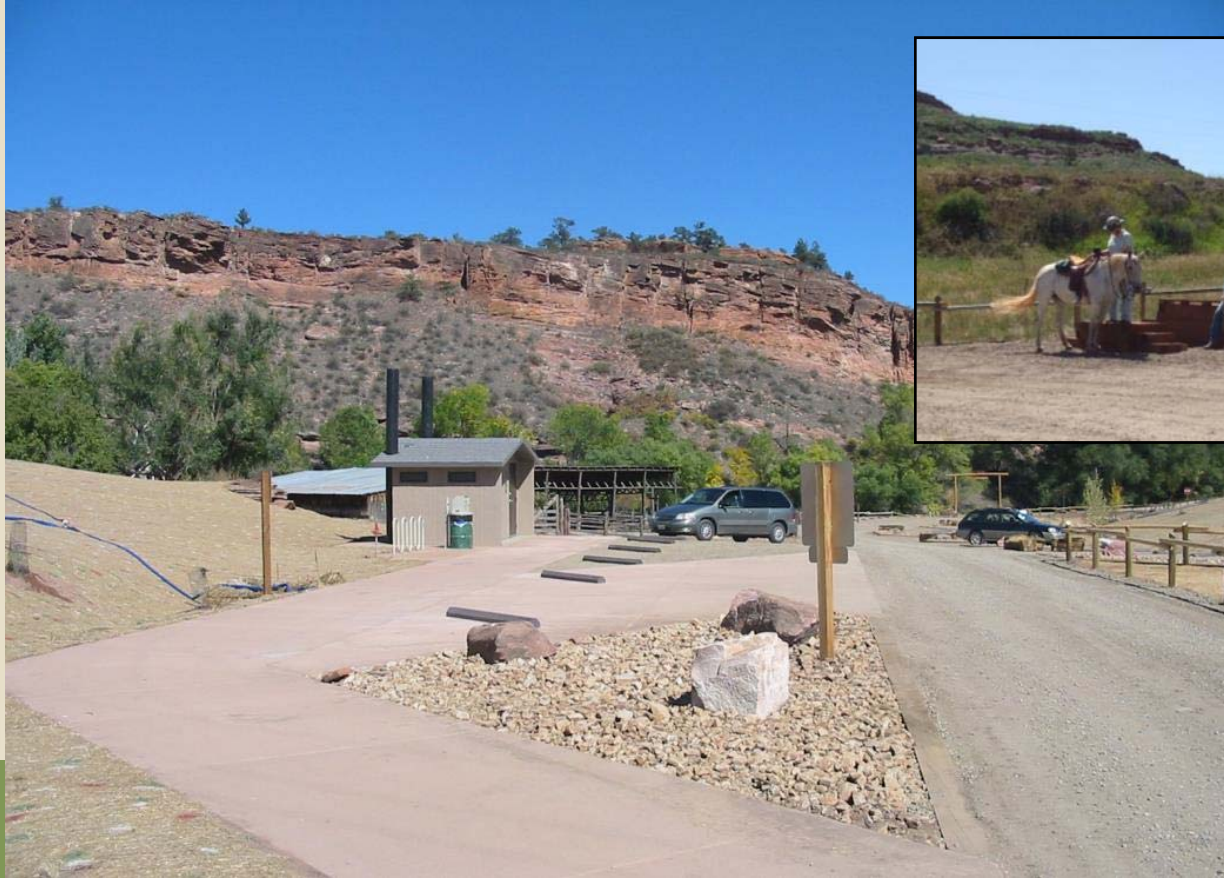














# Recreational Opportunities



































# Facility Operations

# Nix Farm





# Primrose Studio



**Gateway**



**Bobcat Ridge**



**FCRNA Ranger Office/Shop**







**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

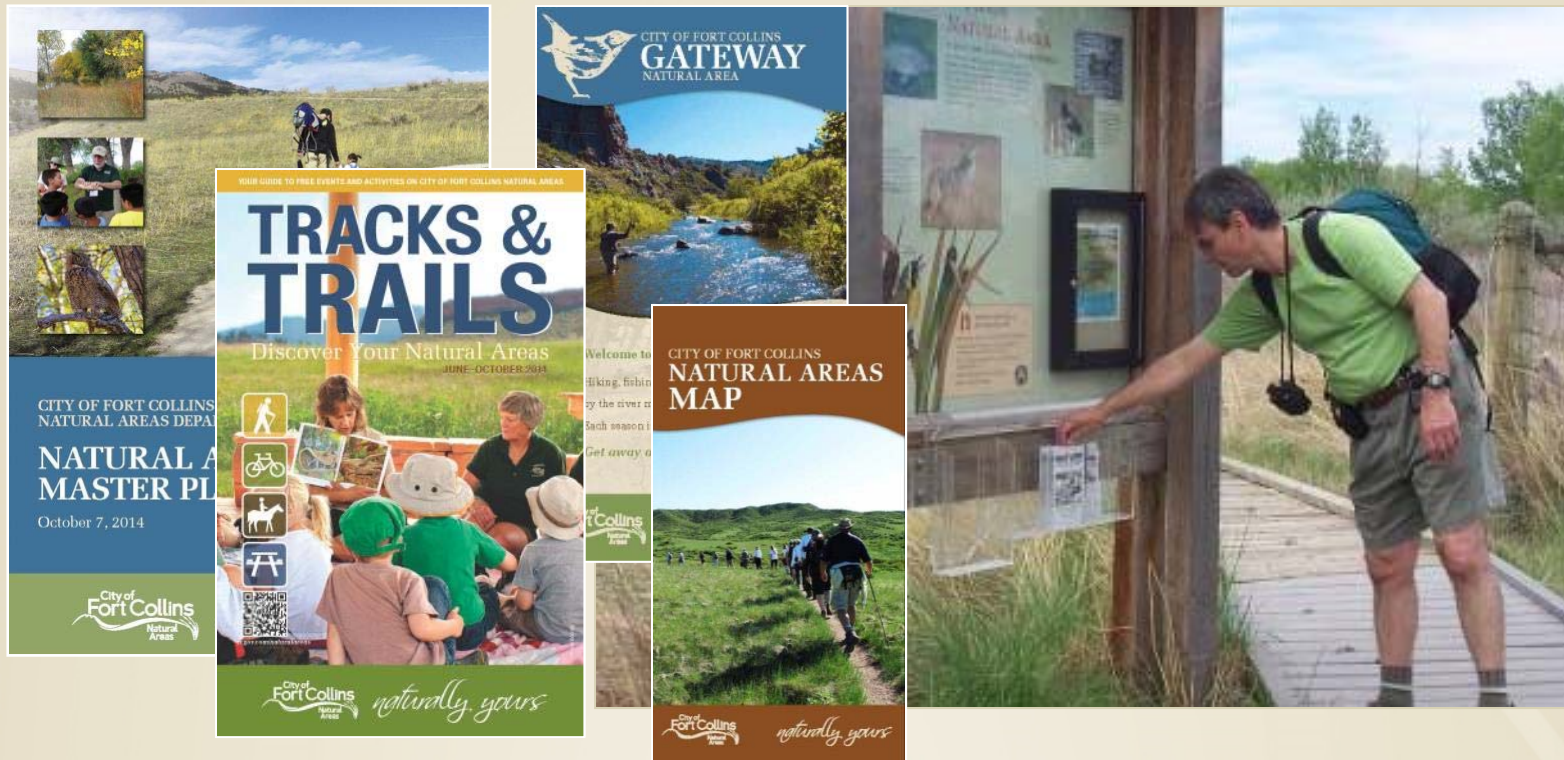


These "edges" combine the best of both worlds. Watch for both.



# Interpretive Signs





# Printed Materials

**CITY OF FORT COLLINS**  
**NATURAL AREAS news**  
 November 2014  
 Naturally Yours  
You are subscribed as "NaturallyYours@CO"

**Trails for November**




This month we celebrate gratitude and thankfulness- are trails something you are thankful for? November is a great time to visit [Sagestone Prairie Natural Area](#), known for its vast grasslands and wide open views. At this remote site you can get a sense for the shortgrass prairie, soundscape, and vistas that settlers might have experienced. There are over 40 miles of trails for hiking, biking or horseback riding. Sagestone closes in December, January and February, so its a great time to make one last visit for 2014! This is the place where endangered black-footed ferrets were reintroduced this year. Wildlife cameras have captured the [first photo of Sagestone's ferrets](#). Thank you CSU Wildlife Society volunteers who monitor the motion triggered camera!

Looking for somewhere closer to home to explore? Visit [Running Deer Natural Area's](#) fire cab- it was once on top of White Pine Mountain, 26 miles west of Fort Collins. Years ago, the U.S. Forest Service relied on people (not airplanes or satellite images) to spot forest fires. Rural people stationed on remote mountaintops were paid to watch for fires- every day, all summer long. The fire cab (top), is now a nice destination and place to watch for wildlife. Start at the Welcome Center parking lot and head west about 1 mile on the flat trail.

**Dam-free Anniversary**

A year ago, a stretch of the Poudre River became dam-free when the abandoned Toth Arroyo diversion structure at [North Shields South Natural Area](#) was removed. It was replaced with a series of riffles (small rapids). The project was an exciting partnership between the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department and the Colorado Water Trust to improve fish passage, connect the river to its floodplain, improve river-based recreation, and reduce downstream

**City of Fort Collins Natural Areas**  
 Outdoors - Sports & Recreation

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795 people like this  
 Carlin Chickpea and 2 other friends

2,584 people have been here

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**City of Fort Collins**

News Release

**City of Fort Collins**

about our city

CITY SERVICES NEWS/EVENTS CITY LEADERSHIP PUBLIC RECORDS JOBS BUSINESS CONTACT US

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**14 WHEN LOCAL MATTERS**

Featured Videos

- Planning & Zoning Board Meeting 10/17/14
- Landmark Preservation Commission 10/16/14
- Fort Collins City Council Meeting 10/17/14
- Public Works and the Election
- North Ridge 2014

**Now Playing**

**Fort Collins City Council Meeting 10/22/14**

Fort Collins City Council Meeting 10/22/14  
 City Council discusses the Affordable Housing Ordinance, priority actions for next year's month, the new utility administration building, the 2013-2016 City Budget, & 100th Anniversary, Nov. 8.

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**Black-footed Ferret Welcome Home**

Black-footed Ferret Release 074 views 1 month ago

**Karen Weikumar**  
 Mayor of Fort Collins

# Media Outreach





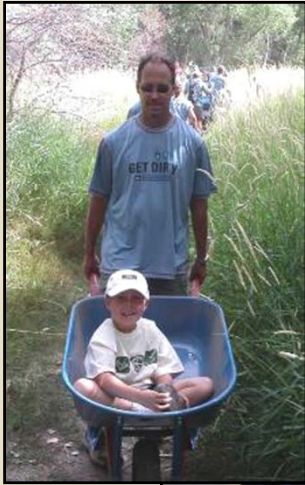


# Programs by Staff Educators



# Programs by Master Naturalists





# Volunteer Projects



Summer 2010

Volunteer News

**NATURALIST'S NICHE**

**MEET THE CLASS OF 2010!**

This spring a new group of Master Naturalists and Master Naturalist Assistants (MNAs) joined our program. The MNAs serve as important aids to Master Naturalists assisting with group management, organization, and activities.

Master Naturalists provide educational programs on the natural areas to groups including schools, clubs and scouts. Often groups are large, the settings take place in remote areas, or the activities are complex, and Master Naturalists need a helping hand. MNAs provide just that assistance. They can take an active role in the education program without the time commitment or specialized training required of Master Naturalists. It's also a great way to gain experience in interpretation, natural history, and



*Class of 2010 photo at Princeton Studio.*

**New Master Naturalist and Master Naturalist Assistants:** Beth Anderson, Jerry Carroll, Renee Darral, Amanda Duggan, Karla Hoffmann, Ellen Hosh, James Ireland, Nance Kashi, Julie Legg, Linda Lightsey, Ann Moran, Dawn Muckenstern, Theresa Oshover, Dale Oshover, Renee

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC IS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 28!**

Our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, August 28, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at beautiful Gateway Natural Area. We are planning an all-included celebration with a barbecue, baking contest, sack races, fishing, prizes, hiking, and more. Watch your email boxes for more information and registration details in July. You and your family won't want to miss out!



# Volunteer Appreciation







# FUNDING

# 2017 Budgeted Revenue \$13,087,136

- Open Space Yes!
- Miscellaneous Income
- 1996 HPOS Larimer County 1/4 Cent Sales Tax





# 2017 Budgeted Expenditures \$12,720,629





the end