



VOLUNTEERS:

NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM AMBASSADORS

Volunteers perform a vital and visible role in the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program. You are representatives of the program in our community. Although your programs have a topic and a theme, a few moments spent explaining the Natural Areas Program to children and adults is always appropriate. Here are some must-haves:

- ✓ Always introduce yourself! State your name and that you are a volunteer with the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program. This helps identify our program.
- ✓ Know the mission and messages! The City's Natural Areas Program protects and conserves land. Protection of natural habitats and features is the highest priority, while providing opportunities for education and recreation for the Fort Collins community. We want our community members to have wonderful, diverse experiences on the natural areas, to care about them for the long term, and to feel welcome when they visit.
- ✓ Know where the money comes from! We are entirely funded by sales taxes which began in 1993. These taxes were not imposed on the citizenry – the citizens of our city and county have voted five times to tax themselves to conserve natural areas, open spaces and, agricultural lands. Every time you or your audience purchases something in Fort Collins or Larimer County, you are helping the Natural Areas Program.
- ✓ Know something about the other parts of the Natural Areas Program. We purchase land that has natural values but that's not all. We also restore and maintain these lands, provide public access and amenities via trails, roads, parking lots, restrooms and signage, and, of course, we do lots of outreach and education.

It's always a good idea to arm yourself with a few fast facts:

- ❁ The components of the Natural Areas Program includes land acquisition, restoration, public improvements, enforcement, planning, and education.
- ❁ The Natural Areas Program owns and manages 33,000 acres on 43 natural areas. Always carry a few maps with you—they're very popular and help you answer lots of questions.
- ❁ Memorize the website! www.fcgov.com/naturalareas It's very useful to tell others.
- ❁ The Natural Areas Program does not operate in a vacuum. We have many partners, including Larimer County, the City of Loveland, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Larimer Land Trust, Great Outdoors Colorado and others.



naturally yours