



Lin Wilder

Thank you!

The City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program is funded by Fort Collins and Larimer County voters. Your citizen-initiated sales tax dollars make it possible to conserve over 40 natural areas, install and maintain trails, parking lots, restrooms, shelters and interpretive signs and to provide educational programs, tours and brochures.



Contact Us

City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program

970-416-2815

www.fcgov.com/naturalareas

naturalareas@fcgov.com



**CITY OF FORT COLLINS
NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM**

Fall Program Guide

In This Guide

Soapstone Prairie Natural Area Tours

Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Events

Explore with a Guide

Calendar

Partners for Nature and Culture

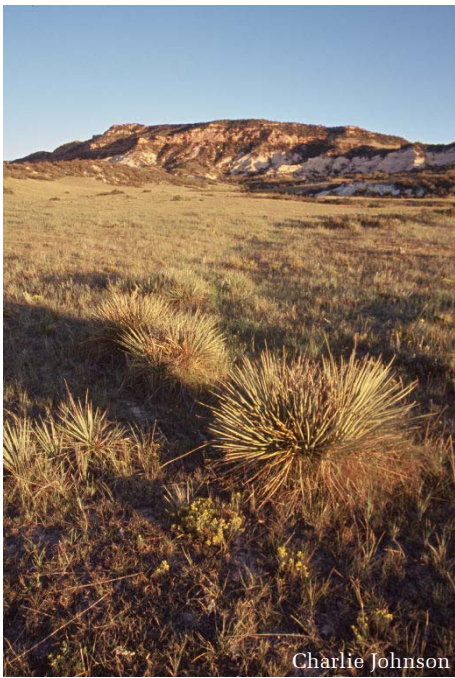
Nature of the Poudre River Tours



naturally yours



naturally yours



Charlie Johnson

Soapstone Prairie Natural Area 2008 Preview Tours

Discover a landscape of tremendous beauty with undulating native prairie, unique rock formations and the archaeologically-significant Lindenmeier site. Professional naturalist tour leaders highlight geology, ecology, archaeology and history.

Free, **reservations required**

970-416-2815, naturalareas@fcgov.com

Tours by Van– short walks, a lunch break and fantastic views. 8 am– 3 pm.

- Sept. 2 Sept. 26
- Sept. 3 Sept. 28
- Sept. 4 Sept. 30
- Sept. 6 Oct. 1
- Sept. 8 Oct. 4
- Sept. 10 Oct. 6
- Sept. 11 Oct. 8
- Sept. 18 Oct. 10
- Sept. 21 Oct. 11
- Sept. 23

Hike the Prairie– Explore 4-6 miles on foot, 7 am– 3 pm Sept. 16, Sept. 24, Oct. 9.

Discovery Bike Ride– Guided ride on several miles of gravel roads with steep grades. 8 am– 3 pm, Sept. 20.

Equestrian Tours– Ride a 15-mile loop with your mount. 9 am– 3 pm Sept. 3, Sept. 5, Oct. 2.



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are critical to the Natural Areas Program - from education to restoration, office work to field research. Be part of a community that shares a passion for the outdoors and environmental conservation. Volunteers are valued and recognized through appreciation events and continuing education offerings.

Adopt a Natural Area- Take an active role in the stewardship of natural areas by doing monthly litter clean-ups. A great way to work outside and get to know a natural area! Flexible time commitment.

Volunteer Ranger Assistants– Serve as a friendly face on the trail to greet visitors, promote safety and assist rangers. The next training will be Feb. 10, 12, 14. Flexible schedule, 20 hours of volunteer service are required.

Master Naturalists– Experience beautiful natural areas while you learn how to lead fun, hands-on field trips. Training is held each spring. Flexible schedule, 50 hours of volunteer service are required.

Other Opportunities are scheduled in the warmer months. Check www.fcgov.com/naturalareas/volunteers.php for updates.

Interested? Contact Susan Schafer, Natural Areas Volunteer Coordinator
970-416-2480, sschafer@fcgov.com



naturally yours

Invite a Naturalist

Master Naturalist volunteers are available to give free presentations, lead visits to natural areas and more. Master Naturalists are volunteer educators trained in ecology, as well as interpretive and education techniques.

Master Naturalists offer something to every group. Indoor and outdoor program topics include local wildlife, geology and plants. You'll gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of your natural areas after a Master Naturalist-led program. *Teachers*– programs for students meet standards and complement classroom studies.

To schedule a free presentation, contact Natural Areas Education and Volunteer Coordinator Susan Schafer, 970-416-2480, sschafer@fcgov.com.

At least two weeks advance notice is required.



Bobcat Ridge Happenings

Full Moon Sense– Discover nocturnal animal adaptations under a full moon. Sat, 9/13, 6:45 pm.

Wild and Open Skies– Brief introduction to astronomy followed by sky viewing. Fri, 9/19, 6:45 pm.

History Mysteries of Bobcat Ridge– Hike and discover the stories of the people of Bobcat Ridge and Buckhorn Valley. Sun, 9/21, 9 am.

Free, **reservations required**, 970-416-2815, naturalareas@fcgov.com

9 am With a Naturalist

Join the fun on Saturdays at 9 am at the Bobcat Ridge Natural Area picnic shelter. Free, **no reservations required**.

- 9/6- **Bedtime Snack Time: Bears Prepare for Winter**
- 9/13- **Wildlife Radar: How to See Wildlife in Nature** (includes hike)
- 9/20- **Front Range Geology** (includes hike)
- 9/27– **Native American Legends of the Front Range**
- 10/4– **Pine Beetles & Their Dark Intent** (includes hike)
- 10/11– **History Mysteries of Bobcat Ridge** (includes hike)
- 10/18– **Awake or Snoozing? Wildlife in Winter**
- 10/25– **Mysterious Lives of Bats and Owls**



The Master Naturalist Class of 2008

Explore Your Natural Areas with a Guide

Free Programs Led by Volunteer Master Naturalists



Nature of the Poudre River Tours

Discover the beautiful Cache La Poudre River as it flows near downtown Fort Collins. Explore this natural green corridor on a 2 hour walking tour (2-mile loop on paved and soft surface trails).

Free, no registration necessary.

Meet at Lee Martinez Park (600 N. Sherwood, lower parking lot by the tennis courts). Tours are geared for adults.

**Every Tuesday in Sept. & Oct.,
3:30-5:30 pm**

Friday, Sept. 5, 1- 3 pm

Thursday, Sept. 11, 8- 10 am

Friday, Sept. 19, 1- 3 pm

Saturday, Sept. 20, 9- 11 am

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 9- 11 am

Friday, Oct. 3, 1- 3 pm

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 8- 10 am

Friday, Oct. 17, 1- 3 pm

Saturday, Nov. 15, 10 am- noon

Trail Savvy Dog- Teach your dog trail manners so you both can have a safe, enjoyable natural area experience. Sat, Oct. 4, 3- 4 pm, Lee Martinez Park.

Colorado Bats- Learn what makes bats special and important. Tues, Oct.14, 6- 7 pm, indoors, 215 N. Mason.

Life on the Prairie- Stroll and discover the plant and animal life of the shortgrass prairie. Fri, Oct. 17, 10 am– noon, Cathy Fromme Prairie Natural Area.

Mountain Lions- Researchers explain these majestic creatures rarely glimpsed in the wild. Wed, Oct. 29, 7- 9 pm, indoors, 215 N. Mason.

Hidden History of the Poudre River- Learn the role that the Poudre River plays in our city's history. Thurs, Nov. 6, 6- 7 pm, indoors, 215 N. Mason.

Getting Ready For Winter- Find out how plants and animals prepare for winter while visiting a peaceful natural area. Sat, Nov. 22, 9 am- noon, Nix Natural Area.

Free, registration required [970-416-2815](tel:970-416-2815), naturalareas@fcgov.com



naturally yours



James Leveillee

Partners in Culture and Nature

The City of Fort Collins Museum and the Natural Areas Program are partnering to gather historical and cultural resources from the many people who have lived on, experienced and visited natural places. Stories date from thousands of years ago to the present. This information will support and enhance interpretation efforts.

The *Soapstone Prairie Natural Area Oral History Project* is in progress- stories of the area are being collected from Native Americans, homesteaders, ranchers, archaeologists, conservationists and recreationists. In addition, the museum is contributing to the interpretation of several physical sites at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area including the Lindenmeier site, camps, homesteads and ranches.

To enhance your visit to Fort Collins natural areas, come to the museum to learn more about the history of people in the region, including Folsom culture and the discovery of the Lindenmeier site, Native Americans, farmers and ranchers. The Fort Collins Museum is open Tues.-Sat., 10 am- 5 pm, Sun. 12- 5 pm, closed Mon. It is located at 200 Mathews St, adjacent to Library Park. Call 970-221-6738 or visit www.fcgov.com/museum to learn more.

Look for more explorations and celebrations of human connections to the landscape in future collaborations between the Fort Collins Museum and the Natural Areas Program.

What Is Special About This Place?

Second Saturday Natural Area Tours

Get to know Fort Collins natural areas on a monthly stroll. Walks are led by volunteer Master Naturalists. Second Saturday of the month, 8- 10 am, free, no registration required.

- Sep 13 **Riverbend Ponds Natural Area** (Prospect St entrance)
- Oct 11 **Gateway Natural Area** (Picnic shelter)
- Nov 8 **Cathy Fromme Prairie Natural Area** (Shields entrance)
- Dec 13 **Nix/Kingfisher/Cattail Chorus natural areas** (Nix parking lot)
- Jan 10 **Primrose Studio** (Reservoir Ridge Nat. Area, Michaud Lane entrance)

2009 schedule will be posted at www.fcgov.com/naturalareas



Fort Collins Natural Area Events Autumn & Winter 2008

Tuesday Sept. 2

Soapstone Van Tour
Nature of the Poudre River Tour

Wednesday Sept. 3

Soapstone Van Tour
Soapstone Equestrian Tour

Thursday Sept. 4

Soapstone Van Tour

Friday Sept. 5

Soapstone Equestrian Tour
Nature of the Poudre River Tour

Saturday Sept. 6

Soapstone Van Tour
Bears at Bobcat Ridge

Monday Sept. 8

Soapstone Van Tour

Tuesday Sept. 9

Nature of the Poudre River Tour

Wednesday Sept. 10

Soapstone Van Tour

Thursday Sept. 11

Soapstone Van Tour
Nature of the Poudre River

Saturday Sept. 13

Wildlife Radar at Bobcat Ridge
Full Moon Sense at Bobcat
2nd Sat. Walk, Riverbend Ponds

Tuesday Sept. 16

Soapstone Hiking Tour,
Nature of the Poudre River Tour

Thursday Sept. 18

Soapstone Van Tour

Friday Sept. 19

Wild and Open Skies at Bobcat Ridge
Nature of the Poudre River Tour

Saturday Sept. 20

Soapstone Bike Tour
Geology at Bobcat Ridge
Nature of the Poudre River Tour

Sunday Sept. 21

Soapstone Van Tour
History Mysteries at Bobcat Ridge

Tuesday Sept. 23

Soapstone Van Tour
Nature of the Poudre River Tour

Wednesday Sept. 24

Soapstone Hiking Tour
Nature of the Poudre River Tour

Friday Sept. 26

Soapstone Van Tour

Saturday Sept. 27

Native American Legends at Bobcat

Sunday Sept. 28

Soapstone Van Tour

Tuesday Sept. 30

Soapstone Van Tour
Nature of the Poudre River Tour

Wednesday Oct. 1

Soapstone Van Tour

Thursday Oct. 2

Soapstone Equestrian Tour

Friday Oct. 3

Nature of the Poudre River Tour

Saturday Oct. 4

Soapstone Van Tour
Pine Beetles at Bobcat Ridge
Trail Savvy Dog

Monday Oct. 6

Soapstone Van Tour

Tuesday Oct. 7

Nature of the Poudre River Tour

Wednesday Oct. 8

Soapstone Van Tour

Thursday Oct. 9

Soapstone Hiking Tour

Friday Oct. 10

Soapstone Van Tour

Saturday Oct. 11

Soapstone Van Tour
History Mysteries at Bobcat Ridge
2nd Sat. Walk, Gateway

Tuesday Oct. 14

Nature of the Poudre (8 am, 3:30 pm)
Bats at 215 N. Mason

Friday Oct. 17

Nature of the Poudre River Tour
Life of the Prairie

Saturday Oct. 18

Winter Wildlife at Bobcat Ridge

Tuesday Oct. 21

Nature of the Poudre River Tour

Saturday Oct. 25

Bats at Bobcat Ridge

Tuesday Oct. 28

Nature of the Poudre River Tour

Wednesday Oct. 29

Mountain Lions at 215 N. Mason

Saturday, Nov. 3

2nd Sat. Walk, Cathy Fromme Prairie

Thursday, Nov. 6

Hidden History of the Poudre River

Saturday, Nov. 15

Nature of the Poudre River Tour

Saturday, Nov. 22

Getting Ready for Winter

Saturday, Dec. 13

2nd Sat. Walk, Nix