

# TRACKS & TRAILS

Discover Your Natural Areas | JUNE-OCTOBER 2016

**YOUR GUIDE TO FREE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES  
ON CITY OF FORT COLLINS NATURAL AREAS**

*fcgov.com/naturalareas*



John Robson

City of  
**Fort Collins**  
Natural  
Areas

*naturally yours*

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Ryan Burke

## Discover Your Natural Areas!

Natural areas are special places to explore and treasure. The City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department manages more than 40 natural areas encompassing over 36,000 acres and 100 miles of trails—there’s probably a natural area near you! Check the maps on pages 42-45 or visit [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas).

Fort Collins natural areas are open from 5 a.m. until 11 p.m. except Bobcat Ridge, Gateway, Reservoir Ridge, and Soapstone Prairie natural areas, which are open dawn to dusk. Soapstone Prairie is closed December–February.

## Safety

The activities and events offered in this guide often take place in natural areas where you are responsible for your own safety. Outdoor activities include the potential for serious injury, death, or property loss. Choose activities that match your abilities. Be prepared for changing weather conditions. Field trip leaders may cancel a program in progress for safety. No pets are allowed at *Tracks & Trails* programs.

## What the Symbols Mean



Handicapped accessible; wheelchairs welcome. Paved or hard-packed trails; distance is 1 mile or less with moderate inclines. *Auxiliary aids and services are available for persons with disabilities.* V/TDD: Dial 711 for Relay Colorado.

Asistencia disponible en español a ningún costo.



Some programs are not suitable for all audiences and have age restrictions indicated by a symbol such as this. Children must be accompanied by adults on all programs.



Registration is required. Go to [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com). Set up your account with your name, phone number, and email. You can also sign up for activities that do not require registration and receive a reminder and updates. For assistance, call 970-416-2815 or email [naturalareas@fcgov.com](mailto:naturalareas@fcgov.com).

## Registrations and Cancellations

Everything you need to know about an activity can be found in four places:

- [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com) for descriptions and registrations
- [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas) for cancellations and updates
- Like City of Fort Collins Natural Areas on Facebook for news and information.
- Follow @FCNaturalAreas for cancellations, updates, and trail conditions.

Occasionally activities are canceled due to inclement weather. Check [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas) before you go! Field trip leaders may cancel an activity in progress for safety.

## Program Leaders

Master Naturalists are highly trained volunteer educators who lead most of the *Tracks & Trails* activities. They love to share their enthusiasm, knowledge, and passion for natural areas. You’ll have lots of fun and gain a deeper understanding of your natural areas by attending a Master Naturalist-led program.

## Programs for Groups

Groups of six or more are required to schedule their activities at a separate time. To request an activity for your group, contact Emily, Community Programs Educator at 970-416-2043 or [eolivo@fcgov.com](mailto:eolivo@fcgov.com). At least two weeks advance notice is required. All activities are free.

Groups of 15 or more visiting a natural area without a Master Naturalist must apply for a permit in advance online at [fcgov.com/naturalareas/permits.php](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas/permits.php). Permits are free and help ensure there are no conflicts on the day you plan to visit.



# JUNE NATURAL AREA ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b>	Nature Nuggets: Hurry Scurry!, p.17		<b>4</b> National Trails Day, p.14 Hike to a Homestead, p.28
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	Archaeological Dig Tour, p.29 From Shore to Ocean Depths, p.37	<b>7</b>	Nature Nuggets: Song Dogs of the Prairie, p.18 Archaeological Dig Tour, p.29	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Bobcat Ridge History Celebration, p.14
			<b>8</b>	Nature Nuggets: Hurry Scurry!, p.17		<b>11</b> Poudre River Walk, p.33 Family Nature Club, p.19 Skygazing at Fossil Creek Reservoir, p.23
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	Archaeological Dig Tour, p.29 American Bison Exploration, p.36	<b>14</b>	Pioneer Life, p.29 Toddlers on the Trail, p.17	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Flowers & Their Insect Partners, p.33 Family Night Walk, p.21
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	Archaeological Dig Tour, p.29 Wildflowers Through the Seasons, p.33	<b>21</b>	Nature Nuggets: Hurry Scurry!, p.17	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Introduction to Nature Journaling, p.31 Smithsonian at Lindenmeier, p.29 Astronomy at Bobcat Ridge, p.22
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	Drawing Plants, p.31	<b>28</b>	Nature Nuggets: Song Dogs of the Prairie, p.18 Adult Night Walk, p.21	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
			<b>29</b>	Home in the Water, p.25		



# JULY NATURAL AREA ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> Natural History of Bobcat Ridge, p.33	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Stroller Strolls, p.17	<b>7</b> Nature Nuggets: It's a Bug's Life, p.18 Creating the Bison Herd, p.26	<b>8</b> Natural History Stroll, p.34	<b>9</b> Skygazing at Fossil Creek Reservoir, p.23 Family Nature Club, p.19
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Campfire at the Cabin, p.22	<b>12</b> Campfire at the Cabin, p.22	<b>13</b> Fly Fishing for Teens, p.38	<b>14</b> Nature Nuggets: Critters & Cattails, p.18	<b>15</b> Campfire at Nix Farm, p.22	<b>16</b> Paddle with a Naturalist, p.38
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Adult Night Walk, p.21 Wildflowers Through the Seasons, p.33	<b>19</b> Adult Night Walk, p.21 Wildflowers Through the Seasons, p.33	<b>20</b> Toddlers on the Trail, p.17 Family Night Walk, p.21	<b>21</b> Nature Nuggets: It's a Bug's Life, p.18 Birds Along the River, p.34	<b>22</b> American Bison Exploration, p.36 Family Fishing Night, p.39	<b>23</b> Fort Collins, the River, and You, p.34 The Lay of the Land, p.31
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Natural Areas: Cleaning Up Our Water, p.25	<b>26</b> Natural Areas: Cleaning Up Our Water, p.25	<b>27</b> Life in a Fire Tower, p.29	<b>28</b> Nature Nuggets: Critters & Cattails, p.18	<b>29</b> Black-Footed Ferret Exploration, p.35	<b>30</b> Rustic Women of Soapstone Prairie, p.29
<b>31</b>						



# AUGUST NATURAL AREA ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Campfire at the Cabin, p.22		Nature Nuggets: Pepe Le Pew on Parade, p.18	Natural History of Coyote Ridge, p.34	Wade the River, p.14 Family Nature Club, p.19 Fort Collins, the River, and You, p.34
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Poudre River Walk, p.33	Stroller Strolls, p.17	Nature Nuggets: Forests Big & Small, p.18	Artists' Day in the Field, p.30 Skygazing at Fossil Creek Reservoir, p.23	Walk the Gangplank, p.37
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		Wildflowers through the Seasons, p.33	Toddlers on the Trail, p.17 Adult Night Walk, p.21	Nature Nuggets: Pepe Le Pew on Parade, p.18 Family Night Walk, p.21	Search and Rescue Demonstration, p.39 Pioneer Life, p.29	American Bison Exploration, p.36
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Native Plant Gardening, p.39	A Night Without Stars, p.26		Big Landscape, Small Details, p.31	Arid Adaptations, p.33 Astronomy at Bobcat Ridge, p.22
28	29	30	31			
		Black-Footed Ferret Exploration, p.35	Campfire at Nix Farm, p.22			



# SEPTEMBER NATURAL AREA ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 In the Words of Loren Eiseley, p.29
4	5	6	American Bison Exploration, p.36	7	8	9 Skygazing at Fossil Creek Reservoir, p.23
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Campfire at the Cabin, p.22
17	18 Smithsonian at Lindenmeier, p.29	19	20	21 Black-Footed Ferret Exploration, p.35	22	23 Astronomy at Bobcat Ridge, p.22
24	25 Mountain Bike Ride, p.39	26 Close-Up to Macro, p.30	27	28	29	30
						17 Black-Footed Ferret Day, p.15 Rustic Women of Soapstone Prairie, p.29
						10 Nature's Harvest Festival, p.15 Landforms & Life Forms, p.34 Family Nature Club, p.19
						24 National Public Lands Day, p.15 A River for Fish, p.34



Norm Kealy

# OCTOBER NATURAL AREA ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> Introduction to Animal Tracking, p.39
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Nature Photography for Teens, p.30	<b>6</b> Prairie Dogs, Plague, and Black-Footed Ferrets, p.27	<b>7</b> Skygazing at Fossil Creek Reservoir, p.23	<b>8</b> Black-Footed Ferret Exploration, p.35
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Wild by Wild, p.15 Hike to a Homestead, p.28 Campfire at the Cabin, p.22 Family Nature Club, p.19
<b>16</b> Adult Night Walk, p.21	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Astronomy at Bobcat Ridge, p.22
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Bioengineering: Harnessing the Resiliency of Nature, p.27	<b>28</b> Campfire at Nix Farm, p.22	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					



## SPECIAL EVENTS IN 2016

### National Trails Day

Sat. June 4, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Bobcat Ridge Natural Area

Get outdoors and give back! Volunteers of all ages are invited to help maintain the trails at Bobcat Ridge. Kid-friendly projects and activities will be available. A free celebratory lunch will be offered at noon. This project is sponsored by REI, Backcountry Delicatessen, and Larimer County Conservation Corps. All volunteers under the age of 16 must be with an adult 18+. Free; **registration is required** at [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com).

### Bobcat Ridge History Celebration

Fri. June 10, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Celebrate the pioneers of Bobcat Ridge! Tour newly restored buildings complete with artifacts, tools, and furnishings. Discover the lives of the families that made this place their home. The restoration project was made possible by contributions from the Pulliam Family Charitable Trust and the State Historical Fund of History Colorado. Parking is limited—please carpool! Free; no registration required, but you can get a reminder and updates at [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com).

### Wade the River

Sat. Aug. 6, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Lee Martinez Park, 600 North Sherwood St.

Wade the river with dip nets and collecting trays to discover what lives beneath the surface of the Cache la Poudre River. Biologists will be on-hand to help identify your finds. Fishes, insects, larvae, algae, and more are easily seen with field microscopes. All equipment is provided. Bring your own towels, wear closed-toe shoes that can get wet, and sun and mosquito protection. No registration required, but you can get a reminder

Register (if required) at [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com) or call 970-416-2815.

and updates by signing up at [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com). The river is dynamic and so are we; we may have to change dates, locations, or cancel for safety. Check [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas) before you go!

### Nature's Harvest Fest

Sat. Sept. 10, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave.

Celebrate local nature and agriculture! Everyone is invited to a free day of fun and learning for the whole family that includes live animals, interactive activities, live music, food, vendors, presentations, giveaways, and more! Check [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens) for updates.

### Black-Footed Ferret Day

Sat. Sept. 17, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, 408 Mason Ct.

Celebrate National Black-Footed Ferret Day and the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the ferrets' release at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area! Activities include talks with scientists, seeing live black-footed ferrets, and more. See the schedule at [fcmof.org](http://fcmof.org). Free, but Museum admission is required for the main exhibit hall. No registration required, but you can get a reminder and updates at [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com).

### National Public Lands Day

Sat. Sept. 24

Save the date for a family-friendly project that celebrates giving back to the natural areas you love! This project is sponsored by REI. Project location and description will be available in early fall at [fcgov.com/naturalareas/volunteers.php](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas/volunteers.php).

### Wild by Wild: Photographs of Wildlife Taken by Wildlife

Sat. Oct. 15, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Museum of Discovery, 408 Mason Ct.

Stop by and view the gallery of the latest wild animal “selfies” taken by remote cameras. New fun family activities include checking a camera, finding wildlife signs, guessing animal sounds, and voting for best image of 2016. Free; no registration required, but you can get a reminder and updates by signing up at [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com).

### Make a Difference Week

Oct. 17 – 23

Pitch in and make a difference. Help Natural Areas support the mission of United Way by volunteering in our community. Project information and registration will be available in early fall. Visit [impact.uwaylc.org](http://impact.uwaylc.org) for more information.

Check for cancellations at [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas) before you go!





John Rabson

## BUDDING YOUNG NATURALISTS

These activities are designed for families with young children. Organized groups must schedule programs at a separate time: contact Emily, Community Programs Educator, at 970-416-2043, [eolivo@fcgov.com](mailto:eolivo@fcgov.com).

Register (if required) at [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com) or call 970-416-2815.

### Stroller Strolls

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Head off on adventure—toddler style! Bring your child (under 3 years old), stroller, and snacks to explore from the ground up in a kid-friendly natural area. **Registration is required.**

DATE	NATURAL AREA
Wed. June 8	<b>Ross</b> Meet at the playground at Rolland Moore Park.
Wed. July 6	<b>Lee Martinez Park</b> Meet at the parking lot by the tennis courts.
Wed. Aug. 10	<b>Poudre River Trail</b> Meet at Nix Farm, 1745 Hoffman Mill Rd.

### Toddlers on the Trail

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Load your toddler into a backpack and join the fun! These activities are similar to Stroller Strolls but travel where wheels cannot. Bring your child (under 3 years old), backpack, and snacks. **Registration is required.**

DATE	NATURAL AREA
Wed. June 15	<b>Riverbend Ponds</b> Meet at the parking lot off Timberline and Cairnes Dr.
Wed. July 20	<b>Magpie Meander</b> Meet at the playground at Soft Gold Park, 520 Hickory St.
Wed. Aug. 17	<b>North Shields Ponds</b> Meet at the natural area parking lot.

### Nature Nuggets

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. or 11:00 – noon.

Bring your little ones (ages 3-7 years) to learn about nature with stories and hands-on activities. **Parents/guardians must be present at all times.** The activities at 9:30 are repeated at 11:00 a.m. Please be on time. Organized groups must schedule programs at a separate time: contact Emily, Community Programs Educator, at 970-416-2043, [eolivo@fcgov.com](mailto:eolivo@fcgov.com).

DATE	NATURAL AREA	DESCRIPTION
Thur. June 2	<b>Magpie Meander</b>	<b>Hurry Scurry!</b>
Thur. June 16	Meet at Soft Gold Park, 520 Hickory St.	Always all around us, mice and squirrels are vital to the natural food web.

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Check for cancellations at [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas) before you go!

Nature Nuggets, continued

DATE	NATURAL AREA	DESCRIPTION
Thur. June 9 Thur. June 23	<b>Fossil Creek Reservoir</b> Meet at the parking lot.	<b>Song Dogs of the Prairie</b> Learn about one of the smartest animals in Fort Collins—the coyote!
Thur. July 7 Thur. July 21	<b>Lee Martinez Park</b> Meet at the parking lot by the tennis courts.	<b>It's a Bug's Life</b> Insects live very differently than we do! Discover what life is like from their perspective.
Thur. July 14 Thur. July 28	<b>McMurry</b> Meet at Soft Gold Park, 520 Hickory St.	<b>Critters &amp; Cattails</b> Investigate the plants and animals that call a pond home!
Thur. Aug. 4 Thur. Aug. 18	<b>Nix Farm</b> 1745 Hoffman Mill Rd.	<b>Pepe Le Pew on Parade</b> No need to pinch your nose! Find out why skunks are much more than their smell.
Thur. Aug. 11	<b>Riverbend Ponds</b> Meet at the parking lot off Timberline and Cairnes Dr.	<b>Forests Big &amp; Small</b> What is the forest like for a bird? A bug? A bear? Let's investigate!



### Family Nature Club

Calling all families with children 12 and under! Kids who spend more time outside have longer attention spans, are more creative, and tend to be healthier. It can be hard to get kids out there, though! In the Natural Areas Family Nature Club, you'll meet other families with similar interests and challenges. We'll visit different natural areas each month and discover fun family activities and resources. A monthly commitment is encouraged but not required. Plan to get dirty, be outside in all weather, and have fun! Parents must actively participate in all sessions. Space is limited; **registration is required.**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Sat. June 11	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	<b>Nix Farm</b> 1745 Hoffman Mill Rd. Nature Club Kick-Off!
Sat. July 9	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	<b>Soapstone Prairie</b> Meet at north parking lot, approximately one hour driving time from Fort Collins.
Sat. Aug. 6	1:30 – 3:00 p.m.	<b>Lee Martinez Park</b> 600 N Sherwood St. Attend <b>Wade the River</b> event. See page 14 for description.
Sat. Sept. 10	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<b>Gardens on Spring Creek</b> 2145 Centre Ave. Attend <b>Nature's Harvest Fest</b> . See page 15 for description.
Sat. Oct. 15	10:00 a.m. – noon	<b>Fort Collins Museum of Discovery</b> 208 Mason Ct. Attend <b>Wild by Wild</b> event. See page 15 for description.
Sat. Nov. 12	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	<b>Magpie Meander</b> Meet at Soft Gold Park, 520 Hickory St.
Sat. Dec. 10	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	<b>Nix Farm</b> 1745 Hoffman Mill Rd.

Register (if required) at [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com) or call 970-416-2815.  
Check for cancellations at [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas) before you go!



Brian Brewington

## NATURAL AREAS AFTER DARK

Explore and enjoy your natural areas after the sun goes down! Organized groups must schedule programs at a separate time: contact Emily, Community Programs Educator, at 970-416-2043, [eolivo@fcgov.com](mailto:eolivo@fcgov.com).

Register (if required) at [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com) or call 970-416-2815.

### Natural Night Walks

Families enjoy a short walk with interactive activities and stories about nocturnal animals and night senses. Adults experience a longer, quieter walk with time for reflection. Children 16 and older may come to adult hikes but must be accompanied by parents. Walks are offered near the full moon with lots of natural light—no need for flashlights! Dress warmly, wear closed-toe shoes, and bring water. **Registration is required.** Location is provided at time of registration. 0.5 - 2 miles, easy.

### Family Night Walks

DATE	TIME	GENERAL LOCATION
Sat. June 18	8:00 – 9:00 p.m.	NW Fort Collins
Wed. July 20	8:00 – 9:00 p.m.	SW Fort Collins
Thurs. Aug. 18	7:30 – 8:30 p.m.	NW Fort Collins

### Adult Night Walks


DATE	TIME	GENERAL LOCATION
Thurs. June 23	8:00 – 10:00 p.m.	NW Fort Collins
Tues. July 19	8:00 – 10:00 p.m.	SW Fort Collins
Wed. Aug. 17	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	NW Fort Collins
Sun. Oct. 16	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	SW Fort Collins

### Campfire Programs

**Registration is required at all campfire programs.** Spend an evening cozy by a campfire complete with stories and s'mores! These programs are suitable for all ages. Dress warmly and bring water.

Campfires at Coyote Ridge include a hike on a marked trail to the cabin. Meet your guide at the cabin and enjoy a campfire and stories under a starry sky. Please allow 30-40 minutes to reach the cabin. The campfire begins at the time listed below. Bring a flashlight for the walk back. 2 miles; easy.

Campfires at Nix Farm do not include a hike and are wheelchair accessible. Bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on if you like (limited seating available).

DATE	LOCATION	TIME	DESCRIPTION
Fri. June 17	<b>Coyote Ridge Cabin</b>	8:00 – 9:30 p.m.	<b>Nighttime Migrations</b> Discover birds, bugs, and other animals that travel long distances while we sleep.
Fri. June 24	<b>Nix Farm </b>		

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Check for cancellations at [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas) before you go!

Campfire Programs, continued

DATE	LOCATION	TIME	DESCRIPTION
Tues. July 12	<b>Coyote Ridge Cabin</b>	8:00 – 9:30 p.m.	<b>Nocturnal Necessities</b> Find out the amazing adaptations animals need to thrive in the darkness.
Fri. July 15	<b>Nix Farm</b> ♿		
Tues. Aug. 2	<b>Coyote Ridge Cabin</b>	7:30 – 9:00 p.m.	<b>Folklore by the Fire</b> Hear centuries-old tales about our natural world, passed down through generations.
Wed. Aug 31	<b>Nix Farm</b> ♿		
Fri. Sept. 16	<b>Coyote Ridge Cabin</b>	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	<b>The Full Moon in Fall</b> Under the light of a full moon, learn about the changing of the seasons and what it means for flora and fauna.
Thurs. Sept. 22	<b>Nix Farm</b> ♿		
Sat. Oct. 15	<b>Coyote Ridge Cabin</b>	6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Things that Go Bump in the Night</b> The howl of a coyote, the hoot of an owl—discover why those nighttime noises aren't really so scary!
Fri. Oct. 28	<b>Nix Farm</b> ♿		

**Astronomy at Bobcat Ridge** ♿ R

Enjoy a brief, family-friendly astronomy program with skygazing afterward. Volunteers from the Northern Colorado Astronomical Society provide telescopes for viewing. Dress warmly, bring water, and a blanket or chair to sit on in the parking lot. Program begins at the picnic shelter, a 0.25 mile-walk. **Please arrive on time! The gate closes shortly after start times and parking is not allowed on the road outside the gate. Registration is required.**

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
Sat. June 25	8:30 – 10:30 p.m.	<b>Red Planet in a Summer Sky</b> Learn about our amazing planetary neighbor, Mars.
Sat. Aug. 27	7:30 – 10:30 p.m.	<b>Starry, Starry Night</b> Discover the importance of dark skies for humans and wildlife alike.
Fri. Sept. 23	7:00 – 10:00 p.m.	<b>Our Home in the Universe</b> See the Milky Way galaxy in the autumn sky.
Sat. Oct 22	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	<b>Rings of Saturn</b> Learn about this beautiful gas giant.

Register (if required) at [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com) or call 970-416-2815.



Jeremy White

**Skygazing at Fossil Creek Reservoir** ♿

Volunteers from the Northern Colorado Astronomical Society provide telescopes and share their knowledge about stars, planets, galaxies, and more. Dress warmly and bring a blanket or chair to sit on. Meet in the parking lot. No registration required, but you can get a reminder and updates at [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com).

DATE	TIME
Sat. June 11	9:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Sat. July 9	9:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Fri. Aug. 12	8:30 – 10:30 p.m. Perseid meteor shower!
Fri. Sept. 9	7:45 – 9:45 p.m.
Fri. Oct. 7	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Fri. Nov. 4	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Fri. Nov. 18	7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Leonid meteor shower!
Sat. Dec. 3	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Sat. Dec. 17	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Fri. Dec. 30	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Check for cancellations at [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas) before you go!



John Robison

## SCIENCE BEHIND THE SCENERY

These informative talks are designed for adults to learn more about research and science related to natural areas. Parking is limited—please carpool, bike or walk. Bring a snack if you like. **Registration is required.**

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**Register** (if required) at [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com) or call 970-416-2815.  
**Check for cancellations** at [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas) before you go!

### Science Behind the Scenery, continued

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
Wed. June 29	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Nix Farm</b> 1745 Hoffman Mill Rd.	<b>Home in the Water</b> Hear Colorado Parks & Wildlife Biologist Boyd Wright and Fort Collins Natural Areas Land and Water Manager Daylan Figgs discuss the re-introduction of several fish species to local waterways and the significant relationship between the fish and the streams.
Thurs. July 7	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Community Room, 215 N Mason</b> Enter through the north door.	<b>Creating the Bison Herd</b> Dr. Jennifer Barfield, CSU, tells the story of the Laramie Foothills Bison Conservation project, highlighting the amazing reproductive techniques used to establish the herd.
Tues. July 26	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Nix Farm</b> 1745 Hoffman Mill Rd.	<b>Natural Areas: Cleaning Up our Water</b> Discover the significant impact that our natural areas have on purifying urban water, and the dynamics of water use with CSU student Eric Hamm.

*Continued on next page*



John Robison



William A. Cator/CSU Photography

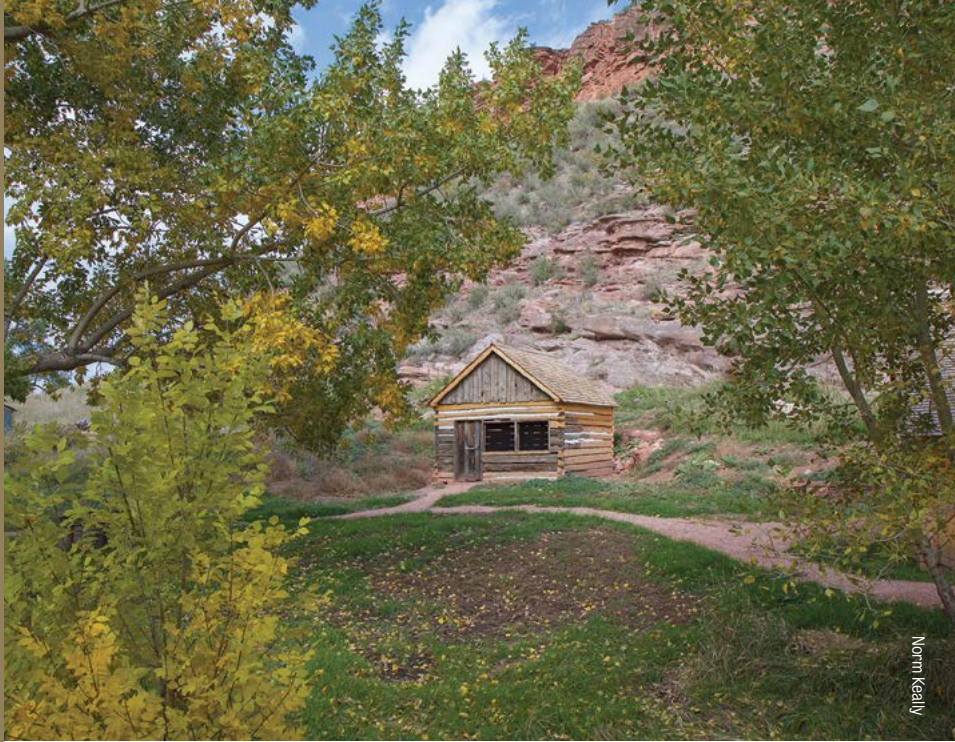
*Science Behind the Scenery, continued*

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
Wed. Aug. 24	6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	<b>Nix Farm</b> 1745 Hoffman Mill Rd.	<b>A Night Without Stars</b> As urban areas develop, artificial light impacts our ability to see the night sky. Discover what is being done to preserve our dark skies with Natural Areas Department Environmental Planner Justin Scharton and National Park Service Physical Scientist Jeremy White.
Thurs. Sept. 15	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Community Room, 215 N Mason</b> Enter through the north door.	<b>Ancient Peoples of Fossil Creek</b> Discover what life may have been like for the ancient inhabitants of the plains with CSU Anthropologist Dr. Jason LaBelle, who conducted an archaeological dig on Fossil Creek Wetlands Natural Area and uncovered artifacts from over 1,200 years ago.

*Continued on next page*Register (if required) at [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com) or call 970-416-2815.*Science Behind the Scenery, continued*

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
Thurs. Oct. 6	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Nix Farm</b> 1745 Hoffman Mill Rd.	<b>Prairie Dogs, Plague, and Black-Footed Ferrets</b> Learn about these dynamic relationships on Soapstone Prairie, as well as an update on the ferrets' first year, with Natural Areas Department Land and Water Manager Daylan Figgs, Colorado Parks & Wildlife Disease Researcher Dan Tripp, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Biologist John Hughes.
Thurs. Oct. 27	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Nix Farm</b> 1745 Hoffman Mill Rd.	<b>Bio-Engineering: Harnessing the Resiliency of Nature</b> How can we mimic nature to create stronger, more resilient communities? CSU's Dr. Hussam Mahmoud works at the intersection of biology and structural engineering and will share his research, including how the structure of bird nests serves as a model for better buildings.

Check for cancellations at [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas) before you go!



## VOICES OF THE PAST

From ancient to modern times, northern Colorado has been a great place to live. Discover people of the past that have lived in and shaped our community. Organized groups must schedule programs at a separate time: contact Emily, Community Programs Educator, at 970-416-2043, [eolivo@fcgov.com](mailto:eolivo@fcgov.com). Please bring water, food, sun protection, and any other comforts you might need.

DATE	TIME	NATURAL AREA	DESCRIPTION
Sat. June 4	9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b>Soapstone Prairie</b>	<b>Hike to a Homestead</b> Learn about the early history of the settlers of Soapstone Prairie. Visit several homestead ruins and hear stories about pioneer families. Options for moderate 3-mile or moderate-strenuous 6-mile hike. 🚶 🗺
Sat. Oct. 15		Meet at the south parking lot, approximately one hour driving time from Fort Collins.	

Voices of the Past, continued

DATE	TIME	NATURAL AREA	DESCRIPTION
Tues. June 7 Thurs. June 9 Tues. June 14 Tues. June 21	9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Location provided at time of registration.	<b>Archaeological Dig Tours</b> Witness Anthropologist Dr. Jason LaBelle and his team of CSU students conduct an archaeological dig to uncover artifacts from over 1,200 years ago. Discover what life may have been like for the ancient inhabitants of the plains. 0.5 miles, easy. 🚶 🗺
Wed. June 15 Fri. Aug. 19	9:00 – 10:00 a.m.  Or  9:00 a.m. – noon	<b>Bobcat Ridge</b> Meet at the parking lot.	<b>Pioneer Life</b> Find out what life was like for early settlers by visiting historic farm structures. Then take an optional hike for a more in-depth discussion of the fascinating cultural and natural history of the area, visiting tipi rings and a pioneer cabin along the way. 0 miles; or 4 miles; moderate. 🚶 🗺 🗺
Sat. June 25 Sun. Sept. 18	10:00 a.m. – noon	<b>Soapstone Prairie</b> Meet at the north parking lot, approximately one hour driving time from Fort Collins.	<b>Smithsonian at Lindenmeier</b> Travel back in time to learn how Paleoindians survived the high plains; 10,000 years later, archaeologists uncovered their story. 0.25 miles; easy. 🚶 🗺
Wed. July 27	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Nix Farm</b> 1745 Hoffman Mill Rd.	<b>Life in a Fire Tower</b> Hear stories of the summers Doug and Cathy Hutchinson lived in a remote fire lookout tower on West White Pine Mountain. The Fire Tower is now at Running Deer Natural Area. 🚶 🗺
Sat. July 30 Sat. Sept. 17	1:00 – 2:30 p.m.	<b>Soapstone Prairie</b> Meet at the north parking lot, approximately one hour driving time from Fort Collins.	<b>Rustic Women of Soapstone Prairie</b> Discover three pioneer women homesteaders and get a glimpse of early life on the prairie. 0.25 miles, easy. 🚶
Sat. Sept. 3	10:00 a.m. – noon	<b>Soapstone Prairie</b> Meet at the north parking lot, approximately one hour driving time from Fort Collins.	<b>In the Words of Loren Eiseley</b> Through his own words, learn how this scientist and writer made a key discovery in the 1930s at the famed Lindenmeier Site. 0.25 miles; easy. 🚶 🗺 🗺

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Register (if required) at [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com) or call 970-416-2815.





Check for cancellations at [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas) before you go!



Heidi Muller

## CREATIVE BY NATURE

Set your creative side free and experience nature in a new way. Organized groups must schedule programs at a separate time: contact Emily, Community Programs Educator, at 970-416-2043, [eolivo@fcgov.com](mailto:eolivo@fcgov.com). **Registration is required.**

DATE	TIME	NATURAL AREA	DESCRIPTION
Fri. Aug. 12	9:00 a.m. – noon	<b>Soapstone Prairie</b> Meet at the north parking lot, approximately one hour drive time from Fort Collins.	<b>Artists' Day in the Field</b> For new and experienced artists. Hike the Towhee Trail and sketch or paint the wildlife and scenery in the footsteps of Edwin Cassedy, the Smithsonian artist on the famous Lindenmeier excavation. Bring water, snacks, sun protection, closed-toe shoes, and your choice of art supplies. 3 miles; easy. 
Tues. Sept. 27	9:00 a.m. – noon	<b>Nix Farm</b> 1745 Hoffman Mill Rd.	<b>Close-Up to Macro</b> Learn photography techniques that allow you to literally get closer to nature. Bring your camera and join us for a myopic view of the natural wonders nearby and close up.  
Wed. Oct. 5	4:30 – 6:30 p.m.	<b>Nix Farm</b> 1745 Hoffman Mill Rd.	<b>Nature Photography for Teens</b> Discover how to take incredible photos of nature simply using the camera on your cellphone! Learn techniques and spend time outside taking photos. Bring a cellphone with camera capability. 


Register (if required) at [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com) or call 970-416-2815.

## Nature Journaling Club

No art experience required! Join one, some, or all of the following gatherings. Each outing will include a short walk of less than 1 mile. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring drinking water, a snack if you like, something to sit on (a stool, jacket, pad, etc.), journal or paper, your choice of medium (pens, pencils, etc.), and binoculars if you have them. **Registration is required.**



Jim Seifkin

DATE	TIME	NATURAL AREA	DESCRIPTION
Sat. June 25	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	<b>Reservoir Ridge</b> Meet at Primrose Studio.	<b>Introduction to Nature Journaling</b> Be introduced to the art materials easiest to use in nature, types of journals, and journaling techniques. Participate in studio and outdoor nature journaling.
Tues. June 28	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Nix Farm</b> 1745 Hoffman Mill Rd.	<b>Drawing Plants</b> Join us for this classroom talk with tips and techniques for drawing plants in close-up detail as well as landscape mode. Develop a greater appreciation and understanding of the plants around us through the process of drawing. 
Sat. July 23	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Fossil Creek Reservoir</b> Meet at the parking lot.	<b>The Lay of the Land</b> Mountains, foothills, trees, water, and plants are all visible in this beautiful natural area. Learn how to settle in and capture that which inspires you most. 
Fri. Aug. 26	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	<b>Bobcat Ridge</b> Meet at the parking lot.	<b>Big Landscape, Small Details</b> Enjoy the opportunity to record the foothills and red rocks in the evening light. Learn tips and techniques for capturing landscape formations and plant life.

Check for cancellations at [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas) before you go!





Sarah Hamilton

## NATURAL DISCOVERIES

Connect to your natural areas through a variety of programs and hikes with trained naturalists. Organized groups must schedule programs at a separate time: contact Emily, Community Programs Educator, at 970-416-2043, [eolivo@fcgov.com](mailto:eolivo@fcgov.com). Be prepared and bring water, food, sun protection, appropriate footwear, and any other comforts you might need. Unprepared individuals may be denied participation for their safety.

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Register (if required) at [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com) or call 970-416-2815.

### Natural Discoveries, continued

DATE	TIME	NATURAL AREA	DESCRIPTION
Third Tuesdays: Tues. May 17 Tues. June 21 Tues. July 19 Tues. Aug. 16	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	<b>Bobcat Ridge</b> Meet at the parking lot.	<b>Wildflowers through the Seasons</b> Walk with us to see what's in bloom and learn about native plants. 1-2 miles; easy. <b>R</b>
Sat. May 21 Sat. Aug. 27	9:00 – 11:30 a.m.	<b>Reservoir Ridge</b> Meet at the Michaud Lane trailhead.	<b>Arid Adaptations</b> In an area with scarce water, how do plants and animals survive? Learn about their amazing strategies as you hike from prairie to foothills. 2.5 miles; easy to moderate. <b>16</b>
Wed. June 8	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	<b>Nix Farm</b> 1745 Hoffman Mill Rd.	<b>Birding for Beginners</b> Bring your smart phone and learn to bird using apps and the web! We'll head outside to discover what's in the area. Bring binoculars or borrow from us. Family friendly. 1 mile; easy. <b>R</b>
Sat. June 11 Tues. Aug. 9	9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	<b>Poudre River Natural Areas</b> Meet at the parking lot near the tennis courts at Lee Martinez Park.	<b>Poudre River Walk</b> Enjoy a leisurely walk along the Poudre Trail. We will explore the dance between the river and land and observe animal and plant life. Bring binoculars or borrow from us. 1-2 miles; easy.
Sat. June 18	9:00 a.m. – noon	<b>Soapstone Prairie</b> Meet at the north parking lot, approximately one hour driving time from Fort Collins.	<b>Flowers &amp; Their Insect Partners</b> Learn about the flowers of summer on the high prairie ecosystem and the insects they entice to do their bidding. Bring water, lunch, and closed-toe shoes. 3 miles; moderate. <b>12 R</b>
Fri. July 1	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<b>Bobcat Ridge</b> Meet at the parking lot.	<b>Natural History of Bobcat Ridge</b> Hike through three different habitats, discovering the unique qualities and the connections between them. 3 miles; moderate.

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Check for cancellations at [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas) before you go!

Natural Discoveries, continued

DATE	TIME	NATURAL AREA	DESCRIPTION
Fri. July 8	10:00 a.m. – noon	<b>Soapstone Prairie</b> Meet at the north parking lot, approximately one hour driving time from Fort Collins.	<b>Natural History Stroll</b> Seniors and people with mobility issues are encouraged to attend this discussion on the natural and cultural history of the shortgrass prairie. Bring lunch, water, and sun protection. 0.25 miles; easy.
Thurs. July 21	8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	<b>Lee Martinez Park</b> Meet at the parking lot near the tennis courts.	<b>Birds Along the River</b> Join Natural Areas Department Biologist Aran Meyer to discover resident and migrant species along the river. Bring your binoculars and field guides or borrow from us. 1-2 miles; easy.
Sat. July 23 Sat. Aug. 6	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	<b>Poudre River Natural Areas</b> Meet in the Museum of Discovery parking lot, 408 Mason Ct.	<b>Fort Collins, the River, and You</b> Discover the Cache la Poudre River as it both meanders and rushes through our city. Learn where it has been, where it is going, and what it sees along the way. Explore what stake you have in the river's flow and future. 1-2 miles; easy.
Fri. Aug. 5	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	<b>Coyote Ridge</b> Meet at the parking lot.	<b>Natural History of Coyote Ridge</b> Discover the array of wildlife and plants in this area and how geology connects it all, as you travel from prairie to foothills. 2.5 miles; moderate.
Sat. Sept. 10	9:00 a.m. – noon	<b>Soapstone Prairie</b> Meet at the north parking lot, approximately one hour driving time from Fort Collins.	<b>Landforms &amp; Life Forms</b> Learn more about the intimate connection between geology, landforms, and the life that has evolved and adapted to live in this dramatic high prairie habitat. 3 miles; moderate.
Sat. Sept. 24	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	<b>Running Deer</b> Meet at the Prospect Rd. parking lot.	<b>A River for Fish</b> Visit a newly installed fish passage and a historic fire lookout with Natural Areas Watershed Planner Jen Shanahan and Colorado Parks & Wildlife Hydrologist Eric Richer to learn about efforts to support the Poudre River, a vital resource. 1-2 miles; easy.

Register (if required) at [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com) or call 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas) before you go!



**Black-Footed Ferret Exploration**

Explore one of North America's rarest animals in this unique opportunity. Journey together to Soapstone Prairie for a presentation about the black-footed ferret and then hike and search for this elusive resident. Bring snacks, water, closed-toe shoes, warm layers, and a flashlight. Transportation provided from Fort Collins. 1-2 miles; moderate with uneven terrain. **Registration is required and participation is limited to protect the animals.**

DATE	TIME
Fri. July 29	6:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Tues. Aug. 30	6:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Wed. Sept. 21	5:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 8	4:30 – 9:30 p.m.

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William A. Cotton/GSU Photography

### American Bison Exploration

Discover American bison in their natural habitat, the shortgrass prairie! Observe the herd and learn their amazing story. Bring binoculars, snacks, water, closed-toe shoes, and sun protection. 0.25 miles; easy. *Please note: the bison are constantly on the move and we cannot guarantee that they will be visible.* **Registration is required.**

DATE	TIME	NATURAL AREA
Tues. June 14	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	<b>Soapstone Prairie</b> Meet at the south parking lot, approximately one hour drive time from Fort Collins.
Fri. July 22	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	
Sat. Aug. 20	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	
Wed. Sept. 7	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	

### Geology Explorations

Hike with a friendly and fun geologist to uncover the secrets of how the landscape formed. Bring sun protection, lunch, water, closed-toe shoes, and rain gear. **Registration is required.**

DATE	NATURAL AREA	TIME	DESCRIPTION
Tues. May 24	<b>Bobcat Ridge</b> Meet in the parking lot.	9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	<b>From Basement to Desert</b> Discover the oldest rocks in Larimer County, the Great Unconformity, and the red rocks shed from the Ancestral Rockies. 4 miles; moderate.
Tues. June 7	<b>Coyote Ridge</b> Meet in the parking lot.	9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	<b>From Shore to Ocean Depths</b> Examine the Cretaceous Seaway from the top of Coyote Ridge. Learn how these sediments deposited, uplifted, and eroded. 4 miles; moderate.
Sat. Aug. 13	<b>Soapstone Prairie</b> Meet at the north parking lot, approximately one hour driving time from Fort Collins.	9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	<b>Walk the Gangplank</b> Discover the geologic secrets of the rocks shed from the Rocky Mountains and how these influence humans and wildlife. 5-6 miles; moderate.

Register (if required) at [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com) or call 970-416-2815.

Check for cancellations at [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas) before you go!



Ryan Burke

## OUTDOOR SKILLS <sup>®</sup>

Learn something new! Join recreation experts and challenge yourself with a new activity. Organized groups must schedule programs at a separate time: contact Emily, Community Programs Educator at 970-416-2043 or [eolivo@fcgov.com](mailto:eolivo@fcgov.com). Be prepared and bring water, food, sun protection, appropriate footwear, and any other comforts you might need. Unprepared individuals may be denied participation for safety. **Registration is required.**

DATE	TIME	NATURAL AREA	DESCRIPTION
Wed. July 13	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<b>Gateway</b> Meet at the parking lot.	<b>Fly Fishing for Teens</b> Teens of all skill levels are welcome! Join Colorado Parks & Wildlife staff on the Poudre River to fly fish for the first time or improve your existing skills. Equipment provided or bring your own. Ages 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult; ages 16 and over must have a current Colorado fishing license. More info at: <a href="http://cpw.state.co.us/buyapply/Pages/Fishing.aspx">http://cpw.state.co.us/buyapply/Pages/Fishing.aspx</a> <sup>12</sup>
Sat. July 16	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Riverbend Ponds</b> Meet at the parking lot off Prospect Rd.	<b>Paddle with a Naturalist</b> Paddle in the evening light as you learn about life in a pond and receive canoeing tips from Poudre Paddlers instructors. Bring your canoe, life vest, paddle, and sun protection! Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. <sup>12</sup>

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Register (if required) at [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com) or call 970-416-2815.

## Outdoor Skills, continued

Fri. July 22	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	<b>Dixon Reservoir at Pineridge</b> Meet at the parking lot off County Rd 42C.	<b>Family Fishing Night</b> Colorado Parks & Wildlife staff will teach you how to fish or help improve your existing skills! Equipment provided or bring your own. Ages 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult; ages 16 and older must have a current Colorado fishing license. More info at: <a href="http://cpw.state.co.us/buyapply/Pages/Fishing.aspx">http://cpw.state.co.us/buyapply/Pages/Fishing.aspx</a>
Fri. Aug. 19	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	<b>Nix Farm</b> 1745 Hoffman Mill Rd.	<b>Search and Rescue Demonstration</b> Bring the whole family and learn tips for staying safe when lost. See a live demonstration of Larimer County Search and Rescue’s techniques—including a search by one of their trained canines! <sup>16</sup>
Tues. Aug. 23	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	<b>Nix Farm</b> 1745 Hoffman Mill Rd.	<b>Native Plant Gardening</b> Take a guided tour through the Nix Farm Native Plant Garden. Learn planting techniques, best choices, and growing needs of native species. Take home some native seeds to plant in your own garden. <sup>16</sup>
Sun. Sept. 25	10:00 a.m.	<b>Soapstone Prairie</b> Meet at the south parking lot, approximately one hour driving time from Fort Collins.	<b>Mountain Bike Ride</b> For beginner and advanced riders alike! Bring your bike and helmet. Members of Diamond Peaks Bike Patrol will lead the ride and Master Naturalists will provide fascinating information about the area. Multiple route options; easy-strenuous.
Sat. Oct. 1	10:00 a.m. – noon	<b>Nix Farm</b> 1745 Hoffman Mill Rd.	<b>Introduction to Animal Tracking</b> Learn the basics of how to read the landscape for subtle clues and patterns of animals while connecting to nature in a deeper way. <sup>16</sup>

Check for cancellations at [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas) before you go!

## Natural Areas Visitor Center

Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, 408 Mason Court, Fort Collins, Tuesday–Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Thursdays until 8:00 p.m.

Check out the Natural Areas Visitor Center in the lobby of the museum. Play with the interactive map, watch live endangered black-footed ferrets, and relax at the ripple tank. Pick up a map or other natural areas information while you're there. *No admission fee!*

## Schedule Your Next Meeting at Primrose Studio

Primrose Studio is a quiet facility in a beautiful setting in northwest Fort Collins. It is perfect for small classes and retreats.

Hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Closed holidays.

Cost: Private groups: \$200 for up to 5 hours and \$40 per additional hour. Non-profit and government rates: \$100 for up to 5 hours and \$20 per additional hour. Three-hour minimum required. Learn more at [fcgov.com/naturalareas/primrose.php](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas/primrose.php) or 970-416-2815.



Gate Dillon

## Volunteer With Us!

The natural areas are yours to enjoy and explore. Get involved with the stewardship of these special places. With over 36,000 acres and more than 40 natural areas, there's a lot to care for!

Group volunteer projects are great for team-building, networking, and camaraderie. Don't have a group? Individuals and families can also participate. Projects include trail maintenance, litter clean-up, plantings, and more. Contact Cate, Service Learning Educator at 970-219-1106 or [cdillon@fcgov.com](mailto:cdillon@fcgov.com).



## There's More to Explore

Keep up on natural areas happenings. New activities and events are added throughout the year. Check:

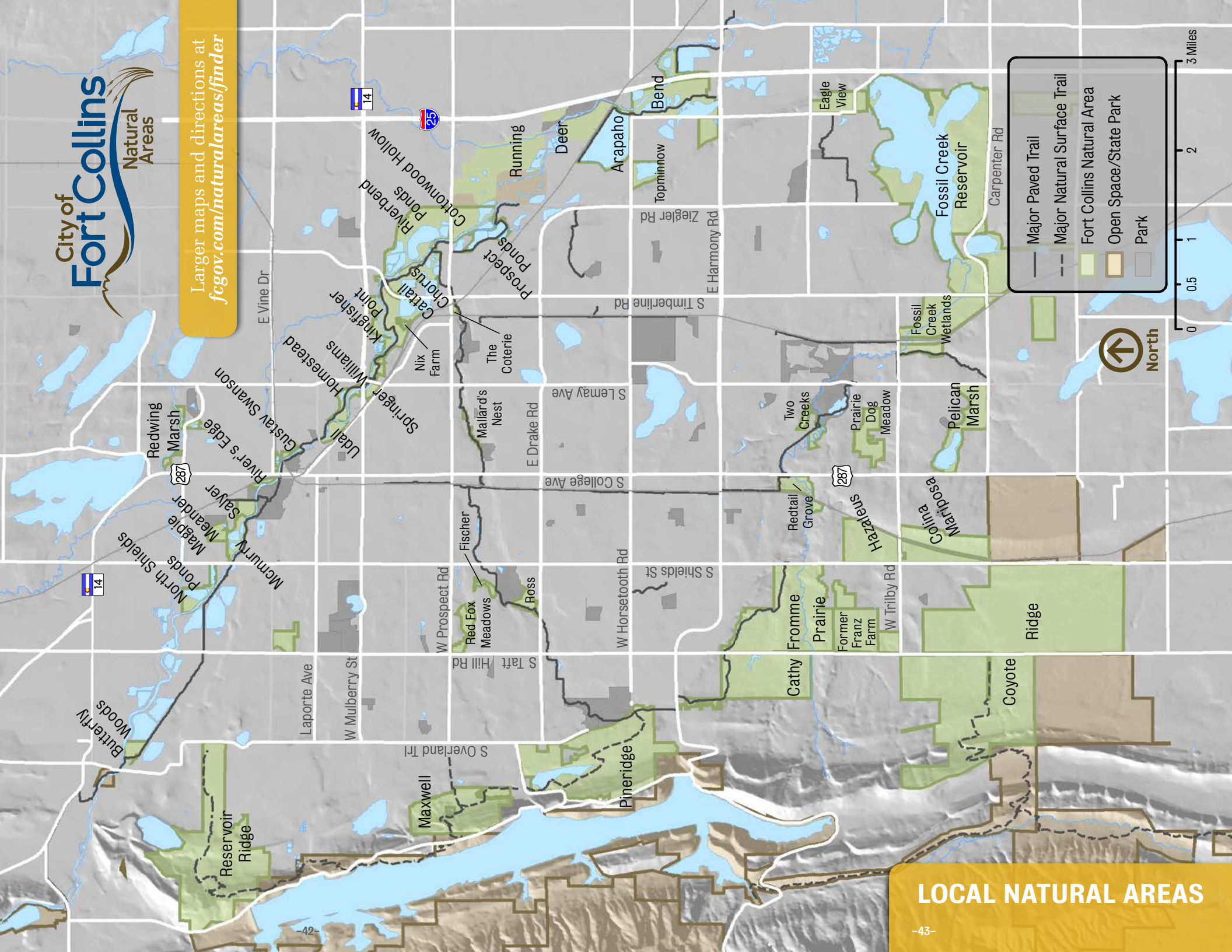
- [naturetracker.fcgov.com](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com) for descriptions and registrations.
- [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas) for cancellations and updates.
- *Natural Areas Enews*, a monthly email newsletter that includes trail recommendations, news, and volunteer opportunities at [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas).

## Share Your Story #FCNaturalAreas

YOU are part of Fort Collins natural areas! Join the conversation at:

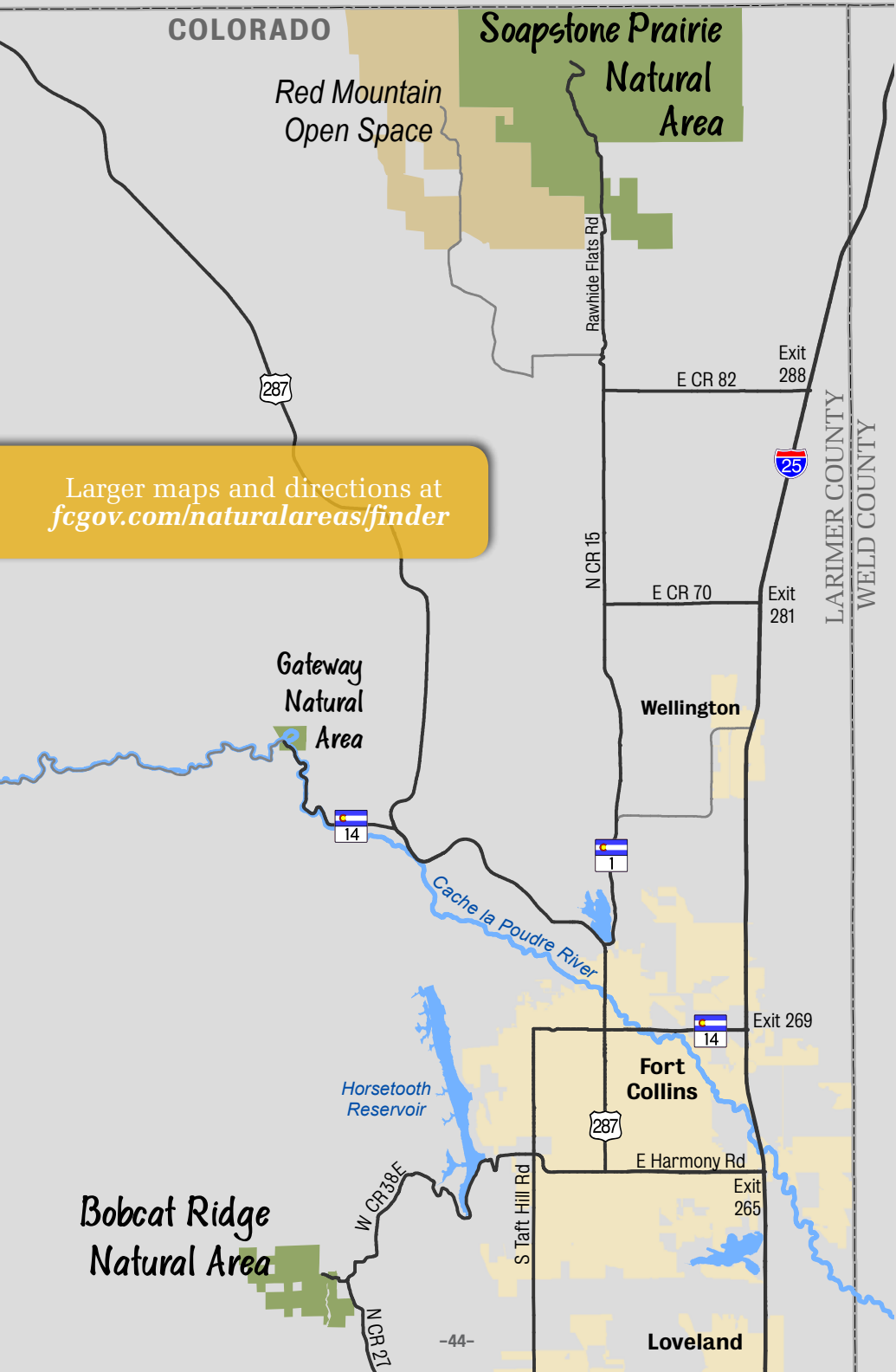
-  City of Fort Collins Natural Areas
-  Instant news, trail conditions, and program cancellations @FCNaturalAreas

Larger maps and directions at [fcgov.com/naturalareasfinder](http://fcgov.com/naturalareasfinder)



- Major Paved Trail
- Major Natural Surface Trail
- Fort Collins Natural Area
- Open Space/State Park
- Park



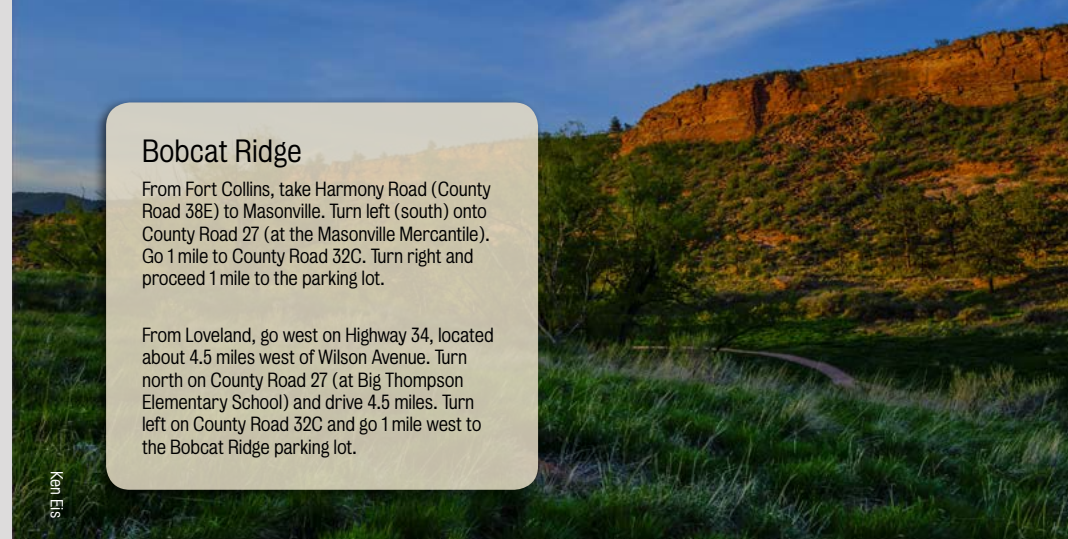


Larger maps and directions at [fcgov.com/naturalareas/finder](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas/finder)



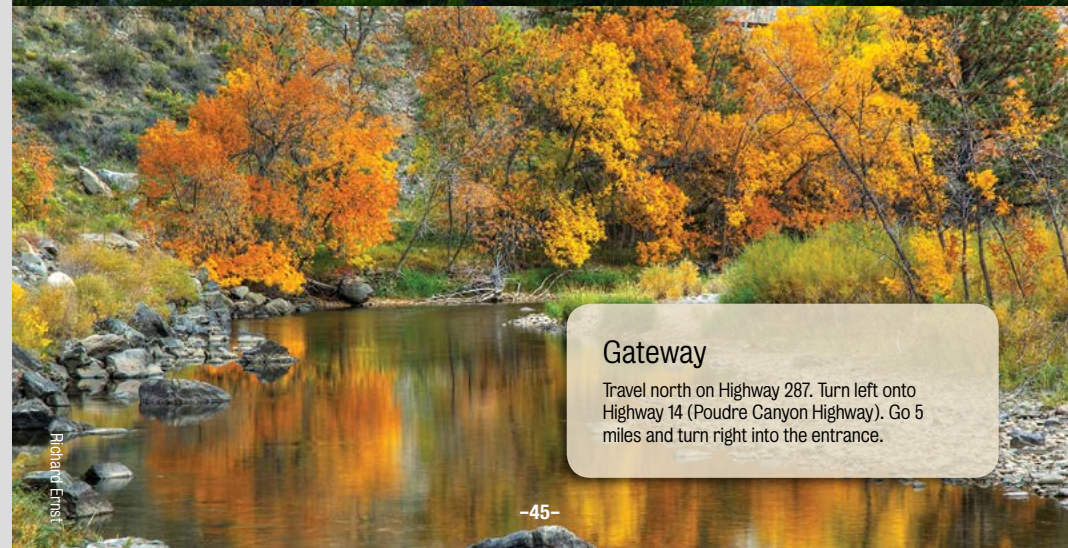
Ryan Burke

**Soapstone Prairie**  
Travel north on Highway 1 (Terry Lake Road). Turn left (toward Waverly) on County Road 15. Travel north and turn right onto Rawhide Flats Road. Go 6 miles to the entrance station. Please obey posted speed limits. Soapstone Prairie is about 25 miles from Fort Collins and takes approximately one hour driving time.



Keri Eis

**Bobcat Ridge**  
From Fort Collins, take Harmony Road (County Road 38E) to Masonville. Turn left (south) onto County Road 27 (at the Masonville Mercantile). Go 1 mile to County Road 32C. Turn right and proceed 1 mile to the parking lot.  
  
From Loveland, go west on Highway 34, located about 4.5 miles west of Wilson Avenue. Turn north on County Road 27 (at Big Thompson Elementary School) and drive 4.5 miles. Turn left on County Road 32C and go 1 mile west to the Bobcat Ridge parking lot.



Rochard Ernst

**Gateway**  
Travel north on Highway 287. Turn left onto Highway 14 (Poudre Canyon Highway). Go 5 miles and turn right into the entrance.

# Activities by Location

## Bobcat Ridge

- **Astronomy at Bobcat Ridge**  
multiple dates .....22
- **Wildflowers Through the Seasons**  
multiple dates .....33
- **From Basement to Desert**  
May 24 .....37
- **Pioneer Life** June 15  
and Aug. 19 .....29
- **Natural History of Bobcat Ridge**  
July 1 .....33
- **Big Landscape, Small Details**  
Aug. 26 .....31

## Community Room, 215 N Mason

- **Creating the Bison Herd**  
July 7 .....25
- **Ancient Peoples of Fossil Creek** Sept. 15 .....26

## Coyote Ridge

- **Campfire at the Cabin**  
multiple dates .....21-22
- **From Shore to Ocean Depths**  
June 7 .....37
- **Natural History of Coyote Ridge**  
Aug. 5 .....34

## Fossil Creek Reservoir

- **Stargazing at Fossil Creek Reservoir**  
multiple dates .....23
- **Nature Nuggets**  
June 9 and 23 .....18
- **The Lay of the Land**  
July 23 .....31

## Gateway

- **Fly Fishing for Teens**  
July 13 .....38

## Lee Martinez Park

- **Poudre River Walk**  
June 11 and Aug. 9 .....33
- **Stroller Strolls**  
July 6 .....17
- **Nature Nuggets**  
July 7 and 21 .....18
- **Birds Along the River**  
July 21 .....34
- **Family Nature Club**  
Aug. 6 .....19

## Magpie Meander

- **Nature Nuggets**  
June 2 and 16 .....17
- **Toddlers on the Trail**  
July 20 .....17
- **Family Nature Club**  
Nov. 12 .....19

## McMurry

- **Nature Nuggets**  
July 14 and 28 .....18

## Nix Farm

- **Campfire at Nix Farm**  
multiple dates .....21-22
- **Birding for Beginners**  
June 8 .....33
- **Family Nature Club**  
June 11 and Dec. 10 .....19
- **Drawing Plants**  
June 28 .....31
- **Home In the Water**  
June 29 .....25
- **Natural Areas: Cleaning Up Our Water**  
July 26 .....25
- **Life in a Fire Tower**  
July 27 .....29
- **Nature Nuggets**  
Aug. 4 and 18 .....18

## Stroller Strolls

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