

Experience Your Natural Areas!

NATURAL AREAS AND TRAILS RANGERS – YOUR GUIDES TO THE NATURAL AREAS!

The mission of the Ranger Program is to provide a safe, peaceful, and enjoyable environment for all visitors and trail users while ensuring the protection of natural and cultural resources. Next time you're on the trail or in the natural area, feel free to stop a ranger and ask a question, relate a concern, describe a wildlife sighting, or provide feedback on the natural areas program.

Call 970-416-2147 to speak to the on-duty ranger.

ASK A MASTER NATURALIST

Master Naturalists are trained in natural history, ecology and education techniques. They are available to deliver high-quality programs and fun nature hikes – indoors or outdoors. All programs are free, custom-tailored to your group and hands-on activities and supplies are provided.

These are great for:

- scouts
- seniors
- clubs
- after-school programs
- school field trips (ask us about bus money!)

Call 970-416-2480 to schedule your Master Naturalist program.

ADOPT A NATURAL AREA

The Natural Areas Program manages more than 33,000 acres of land. Volunteers are critical in helping to keep these sites free of litter and enjoyable for visitors.

To Adopt a Natural Area: 970-416-2480.

THE PERMIT PROCESS

Section 23–194 of the Fort Collins Municipal Code defines a process where a person or organization may submit a request to conduct activities within a natural area that are prohibited.

Examples of typical permit requests include:

- permission for students to conduct research activities
- requests to be in a natural area during closed periods
- requests for group activities in which more than fifteen individuals are involved.

Applications for a permit are available at fcgov.com/naturalareas/plans-policies or call 416-2815 to request a hard copy. To discuss the details of your request call 970-221-6281.

Please be sure your application is filled out completely and accurately. Allow five business days for processing. Also note that more extensive requests may require additional permits from other City departments such as police, fire, forestry or parks, which may require additional review time.

Thanks you Fort Collins and Larimer County voters!
Your citizen-initiated sales tax dollars conserves natural areas and provides visitor services.



fcgov.com/naturalareas

Ranger 970-416-2147

Life-threatening emergency 911

Permit Information 970-221-6281



CITY OF FORT COLLINS NATURAL AREAS REGULATIONS

Enjoy Your Natural Areas

Fort Collins citizens take pride in our natural areas. We are committed to recreating in a sustainable manner while protecting the important ecological and natural features.

Your stewardship matters. Knowing the regulations governing natural areas helps to provide a safe, considerate, and enjoyable experience for everyone.

This brochure is a summary of sections of the Fort Collins Municipal Code which specifically regulate activities in natural areas.

If you have questions please call a Natural Areas and Trails Ranger at 416-2147 or the Natural Areas Program at 416-2815 or contact naturalareas@fcgov.com.

naturally yours



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SEC. 23-193 (A) IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL TO:

Discard, dispose or release any waste or hazardous substance of any kind in a natural area or in a manner reasonably likely to result in the entrance of such waste or hazardous substance into or upon a natural area, except for the disposal of incidental trash in receptacles provided by the City for disposal of trash.

Bring any glass container into a natural area or possess the same while in any natural area except when removing containers during site clean-up activities sponsored or permitted by the city.

Bathe or wash any persons or objects in any waters of a natural area, or otherwise in any manner reasonably likely to result in the release of any waste or hazardous substance into any waters of a natural area.

Drive, hit or throw golf balls into or upon a natural area.

Fly a kite within a natural area.

Kick, hit or throw a flying disc, ball or boomerang in, onto or over a natural area, except within a fenced area designated and posted to allow dogs off-leash.

Operate a motorized model boat, car, truck, aircraft or other motorized model vehicle in a natural area.

Launch a model rocket in, onto or over a natural area.

Bicycle, skateboard or skate (in-line or otherwise) in a natural area, except upon a roadway or designated trail.

Knowingly or negligently harass wildlife, or permit or direct a dog, falcon or other animal under one's care or control to harass wildlife, in a natural area, whether or not the same results in injury to such wildlife.

Remove, destroy, mutilate, modify or deface any building, structure, water control device, fence, gate, notice, sign, survey or section marker, tree, shrub or other plant or vegetation, insect, bird or other animal, or any other object, in a natural area, except during site clean-up activities, when taking fish in a manner otherwise permitted under this Article, or as specifically allowed by permit issued pursuant to §§ 23-193 and 23-194.

Possess or consume in a natural area any alcoholic beverage or possess any container, whether open or unopened, that contains or has been used to contain any alcoholic beverage.

Fish in a natural area without a valid license as required by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, or in violation of any requirements of the Colorado Division of Wildlife, or possess a fish taken in violation thereof.

Leave any fire unattended in a natural area.

Operate any boat in waters within a natural area unless the boat contains at least one (1) personal floatation device that is in good and serviceable condition and of a type approved for recreational use by the United States Coast Guard for each person on board. Any such use must also be consistent with subsection (d)(2), below.

Ride a horse, bicycle, skateboard or other means of conveyance, or skate, in a reckless or unsafe manner in a natural area.

Violate the following in any natural area:

- a. Division 5 of Chapter 4, regarding control of animals;
- b. Chapter 9, regarding fire prevention and protection;
- c. Chapter 11, regarding hazardous materials transportation;
- d. Section 12-37, prohibiting tampering with refuse or rubbish containers;
- e. Chapter 17, regarding miscellaneous offenses, including without limitation the discharge of weapons, trespass, loitering and disturbing the peace; and
- f. Chapter 23.5, regarding special events.

Fail to comply with any posted yield, right-of-way or other trail use requirement on a trail subject to the provisions of this Article.

Violate any term, condition or requirement of any permit issued pursuant to this Article.

SEC. 23-193 (B) UNLESS A SIGN HAS BEEN POSTED BY THE SERVICE AREA THAT THE PARTICULAR NATURAL AREA OR A PORTION THEREOF IS OPEN FOR SUCH USE, IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL TO:

Enter upon the ice of any waters of a natural area.

Swim, wade or otherwise enter into any waters of a natural area, or allow any pet animal or any riding or pack animal to do so.

Sled, snow tube, downhill ski or snowboard in a natural area.

Ride a horse in a natural area, other than on or within ten (10) feet of a designated trail, except to the extent unavoidable circumstances require that a horse be ridden beyond this ten-foot limit briefly to avoid imminent danger to other persons.

Climb rocks or boulders with or without ropes, fixtures, or other apparatus.

Sec. 23-193 (c) It shall be unlawful to engage in any activity within or upon a natural area when a sign has been posted by the Service Area that the particular area or a portion of the area is closed for such use, based upon a determination by the Service Area that such prohibition is appropriate to protect the safety or well-being of persons or animals; the natural area, related facilities or any other City or public property or facility; the use and enjoyment of said areas or facilities by the general public; the needs and objectives of the City in maintaining and operating the same; and/or the natural environment in general.

SEC. 23-193 (D) EXCEPT AS AUTHORIZED BY A PERMIT OBTAINED FOR SUCH USE FROM THE SERVICE AREA, IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL TO:

Enter a natural area during the hours of 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., except:
a. as otherwise permitted by a sign posted by the Service Area opening or closing the particular area or a portion of the area for public use for a specified time or during specified hours; or
b. as necessary to participate as a registered or otherwise officially recognized participant in a city-sponsored or permitted event in a natural area.

Operate a motorized boat, other than one with a wakeless, electronic trolling motor in a natural area.

Land or launch in a natural area, or fly lower than five hundred (500) feet above a natural area, any type of aircraft, including hot air balloons and hang gliders, except within takeoff or landing airways of a commercial airport or in emergency situations.

Remove, disturb, or damage any archaeological, geological or paleontological materials from a natural area.

Remove from a natural area downed trees, logs or groupings of branches or sticks, or disturb or damage any of the same.

Collect seeds, plants or cuttings of trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, wildflowers or other plants in a natural area, or otherwise remove the same from a natural area.

Plant trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, wildflowers or other plants in a natural area.

Construct a structure in a natural area.

Build a campfire, bonfire or other fire in a natural area.

Allow livestock to graze in a natural area.

Feed, or attempt to feed, songbirds, squirrels, ducks, geese or any other wildlife species in a natural area.

Post a notice, including fastening or showing cards, posters or other materials in a natural area.

Conduct or sponsor a group event in a natural area.

Perform a service for commercial gain or sell or offer to sell any item for commercial gain in a natural area.

Deposit rocks, wood, dirt or any other material in a natural area.

Release or otherwise introduce into a natural area an insect, bird or other animal.

Deposit or scatter in a natural area created remains of any human or animal origin.

Operate or park a motor vehicle or other motorized means of conveyance anywhere in a natural area other than on established roadways and in designated parking areas; provided, however, that a motorized wheelchair or similar assistive device may be used by any person with temporary or permanent mobility impairment, anywhere in a natural area that public access is allowed.

Camp in a natural area.

Possess in a natural area any gun, pistol, crossbow, bow and arrow, slingshot or other firearm or weapon whatsoever, including BB guns, or pellet, or paintball guns except as permitted by a city-issued or other lawfully issued permit.