



NATURAL AREAS EXPLORER

MAY-OCTOBER 2025



fcgov.com/naturalareas

- RESOURCES TO CONNECT WITH THE OUTDOORS
- FREE ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

DISCOVER YOUR NATURAL AREAS!

Natural areas are special places to explore and treasure. The City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department manages more than 50 natural areas encompassing over 40,000 acres and 100 miles of trails. Check the maps on pages 73-74 or visit fcgov.com/naturalareas.

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

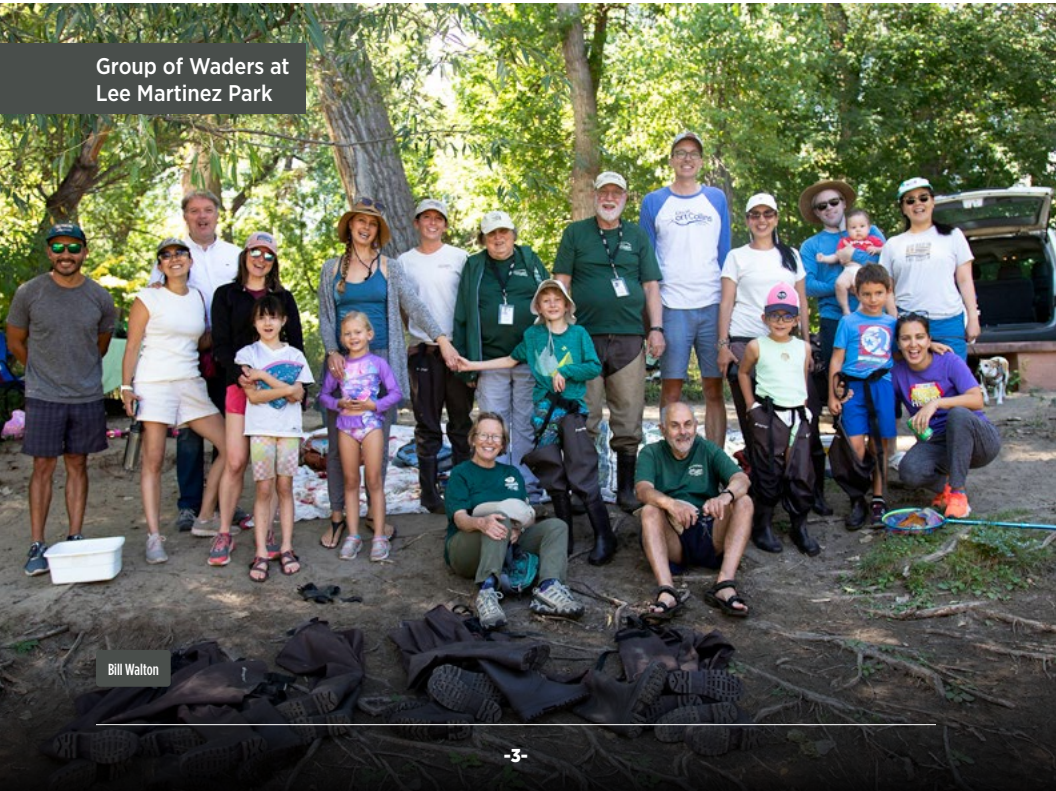
THANK YOU, ARTISTS!

Please check out creative submissions from local artists in the Explorer Art Gallery, located on pages 13-26 of this publication. If you're interested in having art featured in the 2026 Explorer publication, reach out to lhennessey@fcgov.com to learn more!

STAY INFORMED

Subscribe to *Natural Areas E-news*, a monthly email newsletter that includes trail recommendations, updates, and volunteer opportunities at fcgov.com/naturalareas.

Group of Waders at Lee Martinez Park



Bill Walton

ACCESSIBILITY AND LANGUAGES

We welcome individuals of all abilities and are happy to accommodate requests for language interpretation, wheelchair access, and more. To request accommodations, please visit our website via the QR code or email naturalareas@fcgov.com. Please submit accommodation requests at least two weeks before the event.



Accommodation
Form

While most Natural Areas activities are conducted in English, some offer consecutive or simultaneous Spanish interpretation.

Simultaneous interpretation uses specialized audio equipment to translate in real-time, while consecutive interpretation occurs when the speaker pauses for the interpreter. Translation refers to converting written text between languages.

This publication is available as an accessible PDF on fcgov.com/naturalareas and can be requested in large print.

For questions about languages or accessibility, please contact naturalareas@fcgov.com or call 970-416-2815.



Activities in Spanish or with interpretation are marked with this symbol.

ACCESIBILIDAD E IDIOMAS

Queremos que todas las personas, sin importar sus habilidades, se sientan bienvenidas. Nos complace poder ofrecer adaptaciones como interpretación de idiomas, acceso para sillas de ruedas y más. Si necesitas alguna adaptación, visita nuestra página web usando el código QR o escríbenos a naturalareas@fcgov.com. Asegúrate de hacer tu solicitud al menos dos semanas antes del evento.

La mayoría de las actividades de Áreas naturales son en inglés, pero algunas se ofrecen en español o con interpretación simultánea o consecutiva.

La interpretación simultánea utiliza equipos de audio especiales para traducir en tiempo real, mientras que la interpretación consecutiva sucede cuando el hablante hace una pausa para que el intérprete traduzca. La traducción, por otro lado, es cuando se convierte un texto escrito de un idioma a otro.

Esta publicación está disponible en formato PDF accesible en fcgov.com/naturalareas y también se puede pedir en letra grande.

Si tienes alguna pregunta sobre idiomas o accesibilidad, no dudes en escribirnos a naturalareas@fcgov.com o llamarnos al 970-416-2815.



Las actividades en español o con interpretación están marcadas con este símbolo.



Áreas
naturales en
español



Formulario de
accesibilidad

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN



Accessible; wheelchairs welcome. Paved or hard-packed trails; distance is 1 mile or less with moderate inclines.



This program will be delivered partially in Spanish.
Esta actividad se ofrecerá parcialmente en español.



This activity is designed for the LGBTQ community.



Some activities are not suitable for all audiences and have age restrictions. Children must be accompanied by adults on all activities.



Some activities are specifically designed to be family-friendly and welcome all ages. Children must be accompanied by adults on all activities.



These activities are led by Natural Areas partner organizations and require a separate site for registration.




REGISTERING AND CANCELLATIONS

Registration is required for most activities and opens 30 days before the activity. Go to fcgov.com/register to register or call 970-416-2815 for more information on a particular event.



Activities may be canceled due to inclement weather. Check before you go! Naturalist leaders may cancel an activity in progress for safety reasons.

Check out:

- fcgov.com/register for descriptions, registrations, cancellations, and updates.
- fcgov.com/naturalareas for trail closures and general information.
-  Like City of Fort Collins Natural Areas on **Facebook** for news and information.
-  See photos from your favorite natural areas at [@fcnaturalareas](https://www.instagram.com/fcnaturalareas).
-  Visit trails.colorado.gov or check the COTREX app for trail closures.



Brent Eelman

ACTIVITY LEADERS

Volunteer Naturalists are highly trained educators who lead many of the activities in this guide. 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 Volunteer Naturalist-led activity.

DOGS

For the comfort of all visitors, dogs are not allowed at any scheduled activities. Please enjoy natural areas with your dog outside of activity times. To protect natural habitats, dogs must be on leash at all times at natural areas. Due to sensitive wildlife concerns, dogs are not allowed at Bobcat Ridge, Coyote Ridge, Cottonwood Hollow, Fossil Creek Reservoir, Running Deer, and Soapstone Prairie natural areas.

Service animals trained to assist those with a disability are welcome at natural areas and at natural areas activities.

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. Beware of rattlesnakes, lightning, and high water. If you're not sure how to properly prepare, refer to this guide or contact us at naturalareas@fcgov.com.



Gateway Natural Area



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge and honor the lands situated within the City of Fort Collins as the original homelands of the Hinono'eiteen (Arapaho), Tsétséhéstáhesé (Cheyenne), Nʉmɪnɪnʉ (Comanche), Cáuigú (Kiowa), Čariks i Čariks (Pawnee), Sosonih (Shoshone), Oc'eti S'akowin (Lakota) and Núuchiu (Ute) Peoples. This area is an important site of trade, gathering, and healing for these Native Nations. These lands are home to a diverse urban Native community representing multiple Native Nations and Indigenous Peoples. Despite forced removal and land dispossession, they continue to thrive as resilient members of our community. We are grateful for Native community members and honor the rich cultural heritage they bring to our collective community. We further recognize and value their social, intellectual, economic, and cultural contributions. The City of Fort Collins is committed to supporting, partnering, and working with the Native and Indigenous community.

Honramos las tierras originarias de los pueblos Hinono'eiteen (Arapaho), Tsétséhéstáhesé (Cheyenne), Nʉmɪnɪnʉ (Comanche), Kiowa (Caiugu), Čariks i Čariks (Pawnee), Sosonih (Shoshone), Oc'eti S'akowin (Sioux) y Núuchiu (Ute) dentro de Fort Collins. A pesar del desplazamiento forzado, una comunidad urbana nativa resiliente prospera, contribuyendo con un rico patrimonio cultural. La ciudad está comprometida a apoyar y colaborar con la comunidad nativa e indígena, reconociendo sus valiosas contribuciones.

NATURAL AREAS TREASURE HUNT

By **November 1**, complete three of the four activities, take a photo of this page, and email to naturalareas@fcgov.com. Your prize, a “Because of My Support” pin, will be mailed to you. One per person, please.

- 1 ENJOY YOUR TREASURED NATURAL AREAS** List at least two that you visited and put a star next to your favorite. Map at fcgov.com/naturalareas.



- 2 LEARN ABOUT YOUR TREASURES** Attend an activity at fcgov.com/register. Which did you go to?



- 3 CELEBRATE YOUR TREASURED PLACES**
Draw or write about something you love about Fort Collins Natural Areas.

4 TAKE CARE OF YOUR TREASURES

Be a steward of natural areas, circle at least one you did:

- Follow a rule that protects nature and people. Which one?



- Bag it, pack it, and (trash) can your pet waste

- Keep cats indoors to protect birds

- Shop locally—sales taxes support conservation and stewardship

- Share the trail



- Follow Leave No Trace Principles, Int.org/why/7-principles

- Plant native plants in your own space

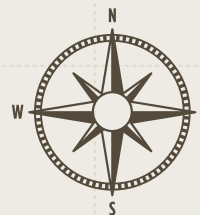
- Other (write in):

SEND MY “BECAUSE OF MY SUPPORT” PIN TO:

Name

Address

City/State/Zip



BÚSQUEDA DE TESOROS

DE ÁREAS NATURALES

Tienes hasta **el 1º de noviembre** para completar tres de las cuatro actividades. Toma una foto de esta página y envíala por correo electrónico a naturalareas@fcgov.com. Tu premio será un pin de “Gracias a mi apoyo” y se te enviará por correo. Por favor, solo un pin por persona.

1 DISFRUTA DE TUS TESOROS

NATURALES Visita al menos dos áreas naturales, haz una lista y pon una estrella junto a tu favorita. Encuentra el mapa en fcgov.com/naturalareas.



2 CONOCE TUS TESOROS

- Participa en una actividad que puedes encontrar en fcgov.com/register. ¿Cuál actividad hiciste?



3 CELEBRA TUS LUGARES PRECIADOS

Dibuja o escribe algo que te gusta de las Áreas naturales de Fort Collins.

4 CUIDA DE TUS TESOROS

Cuida y protege las áreas naturales, selecciona al menos una de las acciones que hayas realizado:

- Sigue una regla que proteja la naturaleza y a las personas. ¿Cuál escogiste?



- Recoge, empaca y desecha la basura de tu mascota
- Mantén a los gatos en casa para proteger a las aves

- Compra localmente – el impuesto sobre la venta apoya la conservación

- Comparte el sendero

Sigue los principios de “No dejar rastro”, Int.org/why/7-principles



- Planta especies nativas en tu propio espacio
- Otro (escribe aquí):

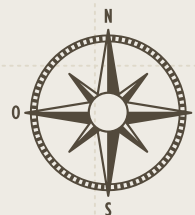


ENVÍA MI PIN DE “GRACIAS A MI APOYO” A:

Nombre

Dirección

Ciudad/Estado/Código postal



LOCAL ARTIST GALLERY

Check out creative submissions from local artists in the Explorer Art Gallery! Thank you, artists, for celebrating natural areas through creative pieces of art.

If you're interested in having art featured in the 2026 Explorer publication, reach out to lhennessey@fcgov.com to learn more!



Anne Rose Cendak
Queen of the Prairie 1



Anne Rose Cendak
Queen of the Prairie 2



Anne Rose Cendak
Queen of the Prairie 3



Lynn Rizzotto
Birds on a Vine,
mosaic



Laura DeLancey
Rabbitbrush



Susan Quinlan
Western Wildflowers



Dog poop contains bacteria
& viruses that can make
other pets, wildlife, and
humans sick.

When not picked up it can
contaminate our natural
waterways.

Dog poop is not a natural
fertilizer, and it can also disrupt
our natural ecosystems.

**Please pick
up your dog's
poop!**

Julie Kitzes
Clean Up After Your Pup



Bonnell Lindstrom
Poudre River Glow



Steven Austin
Flower Bombs (left and right)



Evelyn Davis
Snowy Trees





Brita LaTona

Reflections

Dusk at Pineridge Natural Area

Brita LaTona

A moment at sunset expanded.

The crickets sing, a dragonfly alights on water, the prairie dogs find themselves in a final conversation before dusk.

A brilliant peach, lavender sunset collides with the earth, highlighting the ripples on water below.

I pause, in reflection

Life in all of it's wildness, pain, and beauty.

The sacred, messy moments, the inspiration, and the challenges.

The joy, loss, and forgiveness.

A warm air moves through the Cottonwoods, echoing

A reflection of all that we are and can be.



Selvi Boominathan
Sunrise



Dalton Zerlan
Our View



Jen Barnes
Perfect Timing



Lauren Holliday
Still Moments in Nature

Camera Checkers of Bobcat Ridge

Written by Volunteer Camera Checkers

Among the trails where burned trees crack and sigh,
Through Ladle Spring's cool, shaded path we tread,
In summer's sun, beneath the endless sky,
Where nature's whispers fill the air like thread.
The cameras set, each moment they ensnare,
With every click, the wild world comes to play,
Yet Mahoney Park's the crown jewel, so rare,
Untouched by flames, it stands both proud and fey.
And the new growth shines, so green, so bright,
Its beauty peaks, a scene from dreams it seems,
Each step we take, in silent snow, feels right,
Nature's purest work, the realm of gentle dreams.
To volunteer amidst such grace and gleam,
Is a gift beyond measure, a cherished dream.





MAY 2025

NATURAL AREAS ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Spring Marvelous Migration, p. 60
4	5	6	7	8 Find Nature Wherever You Are: LGBTQ+ Community Campfire, p. 44	9	10 Spring Emergence along the Cache la Poudre River, p. 60
MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 11 World Migratory Bird Day, p. 66	12	13	14	15	16	17 Bird Watching for All, p. 60 Skygazing at Bobcat Ridge, p. 45
18 Help Shape the Future, p. 49	19	20	21	22	23 Wild "Dogs" of Larimer County, p. 60	24
25	MEMORIAL DAY 26	27	28 Preview of Upcoming Improvements, p. 49	29 Meet Your Herptile Friends, p. 60	30 Campfire at Coyote Ridge, p. 45	31 Welcome Bobolinks, p. 60

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date. Visit fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/naturalareas before you go!



Register Here

JUNE 2025

NATURAL AREAS ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 Connect with Nature Using All of your Senses: LGBTQ+ Community Hike, p. 60	6 Photography Scavenger Hunt: Experience Nature through Your Smartphone Camera, p. 40	7 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY National Trails Day Volunteer Event, p. 66 How I Survived a Rattlesnake Bite, p. 61
8	9	10 Just Be Yoga and Meditation, p. 58	11 Toddler Tracks Storytime, p. 36 Zumba on the Deck / Zumba en la terraza, p. 58	12 Light Up the Night, p. 44	13 Art in the Great Outdoors, p. 36 Skygazing at Bobcat Ridge, p. 45	14 Wildflower Hike, p. 61
15	16	17	18 Help Shape the Future, p. 49 Pollinators, p. 48	19 JUNETEENTH	20 Just Be Yoga and Meditation, p. 58 Pride Picnic, p. 66	21
	POLLINATOR WEEK: JUNE 16-22					
22	23	24	25 BIKE TO WORK DAY Natural Areas Station at Bike to Work (or Wherever) Day, p. 66 Introduction to Nature Journaling, p. 56	26 Let's Explore: History, Habitat, and More, p. 61 Raptors and Nature: Rocky Mountain Raptor Program, p. 61	27 Art in the Great Outdoors, p. 36	28
29	30					

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date. Visit fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/naturalareas before you go!



Register Here

JULY 2025

NATURAL AREAS ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 Combine Nature with Creativity: LGBTQ+ Community Nature Journaling, p. 56	INDEPENDENCE DAY 4	5 Primrose Studio Behind the Scenes Tour, p. 70
6	7	8 Adaptive Recreation Opportunities, p. 37 Light Up the Night, p. 44	9 Nature Journaling: The Lay of the Land, p. 56 Toddler Tracks Storytime, p. 36 Conservation Agriculture and Native Seeds, p. 48	10	11 Prairie Dogs are Just Like People, p. 40	12
13	14	15 Adaptive Recreation Opportunities, p. 37	16 Just Be Yoga and Meditation, p. 58	17	18 Campfire at Coyote Ridge, p. 45	19 The Poudre River: A Look Back in Time, p. 52 Skygazing at Bobcat Ridge, p. 45
20	21	22 Adaptive Recreation Opportunities, p. 37	23 A Walk on the Wild Side, p. 40 Toddler Tracks Storytime, p. 36	24	25	26 Raptors and Nature: Rocky Mountain Raptor Program, p. 61
27	28	29 Adaptive Recreation Opportunities, p. 37	30	31		

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date. Visit fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/naturalareas before you go!



Register Here

AUGUST 2025

NATURAL AREAS ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
TRANS HISTORY MONTH						
3	4	5	6 Toddler Tracks Storytime, p. 36	7 Wade the River, p. 62 Bring Nature to You: LGBTQ+ Community Activity, p. 62	8 Campfire at Coyote Ridge, p. 45	POUDRE RIVER FEST 9 Poudre RiverFest, p. 66
10	11	12	13 Just Be Yoga and Meditation, p. 58	14 Listening in the Dark: Bat Biology at Gadwall Ponds, p. 44	15 Raptors and Nature: Rocky Mountain Raptor Program, p. 61 Backyard Wildlife, p. 40	16 Nature Photography with a Smartphone, p. 56
17	18	19	20	21	22	CSU HIKE TO THE "A" 23 Colorado State University Hike to the "A", p. 66
24 31	25	26	27	27	29	30

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date. Visit fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/naturalareas before you go!



Register Here

SEPTEMBER 2025

NATURAL AREAS ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	LABOR DAY 1	2	3	4	5	6 Toddler Tracks Storytime, p. 36 Ghostly Echoes from the Last Ice Age, p. 52
7	8	9	10 ES Zumba on the Deck / Zumba en la terraza, p. 58	11 Let's Explore: History, Habitat, and More, p. 61	12 Skygazing at Bobcat Ridge, p. 45	13 ES Wade the River / Camina el río, p. 62
14	15	16	17 ES Lightning Talks! / ¡Charlas relámpago!, p. 67	18 Pond Clean-Up, p. 62 Nature's Magic Hour Photography, p. 56	19 The Smithsonian at Lindenmeier, p. 52	20 Ghostly Echoes from the Last Ice Age, p. 52 Primrose Studio Behind the Scenes Tour, p. 70
LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK: SEPT. 13-21		LATINÉ & HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH: SEPT. 15 - OCT. 15				
21 ES Just Be Yoga and Meditation Retreat / Simplemente ser retiro de yoga y meditación, p. 58	22	23	24 Forest Therapy, p. 58	25	26	27 NAT'L PUBLIC LANDS DAY National Public Lands Day Volunteer Event, p. 67
28	29	30				

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date. Visit [fcgov.com/register](https://www.fcgov.com/register) or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at [fcgov.com/naturalareas](https://www.fcgov.com/naturalareas) before you go!



Register Here

OCTOBER 2025

NATURAL AREAS ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Beginning Birding Walk: LGBTQ+ Community Activity, p. 63	3	4 Celebración comunitaria del mes de la herencia Latiné & Hispánica/ Community Celebration
LATINÉ & HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH: SEPT. 15 - OCT. 15						
5	6	7 Black-Footed Ferret Exploration, p. 63	8 Forest Therapy, p. 58	9	10 Skygazing at Bobcat Ridge, p. 45	11 Fall Marvelous Migration, p. 63
12	13 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY	14	15	16	17 Black-Footed Ferret Exploration, p. 63	18 Life and Times of Homesteaders, p. 52
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Meet the Boo Crew, p. 63
26	27	28	29	30	31	
BAT WEEK: OCT. 24-31						

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date. Visit fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/naturalareas before you go!



Register Here

NATURE --- IN THE CITY



Fresh Look, Same Love for Nature!

Nature in the City just got a makeover, and we're **wildly** excited to share it with you! Our new logo and branding are inspired by the native plant habitats that thrive right here in the City of Fort Collins.



But don't fret—while our look may be new, our commitment to connecting people with nature hasn't changed.

Want to bring more nature into your life?

Check out **www.fcgov.com/natureinthecity** or scan the QR code for landscape design resources, events, and grant opportunities.



NATURE IN THE CITY helps to fund projects that will bring natural spaces into your neighborhood and community!

VISIT: www.fcgov.com/natureinthecity



Birdwatching Activity at
Riverbend Ponds Natural Area



Bill Walton

STEWARDSHIP AT HOME

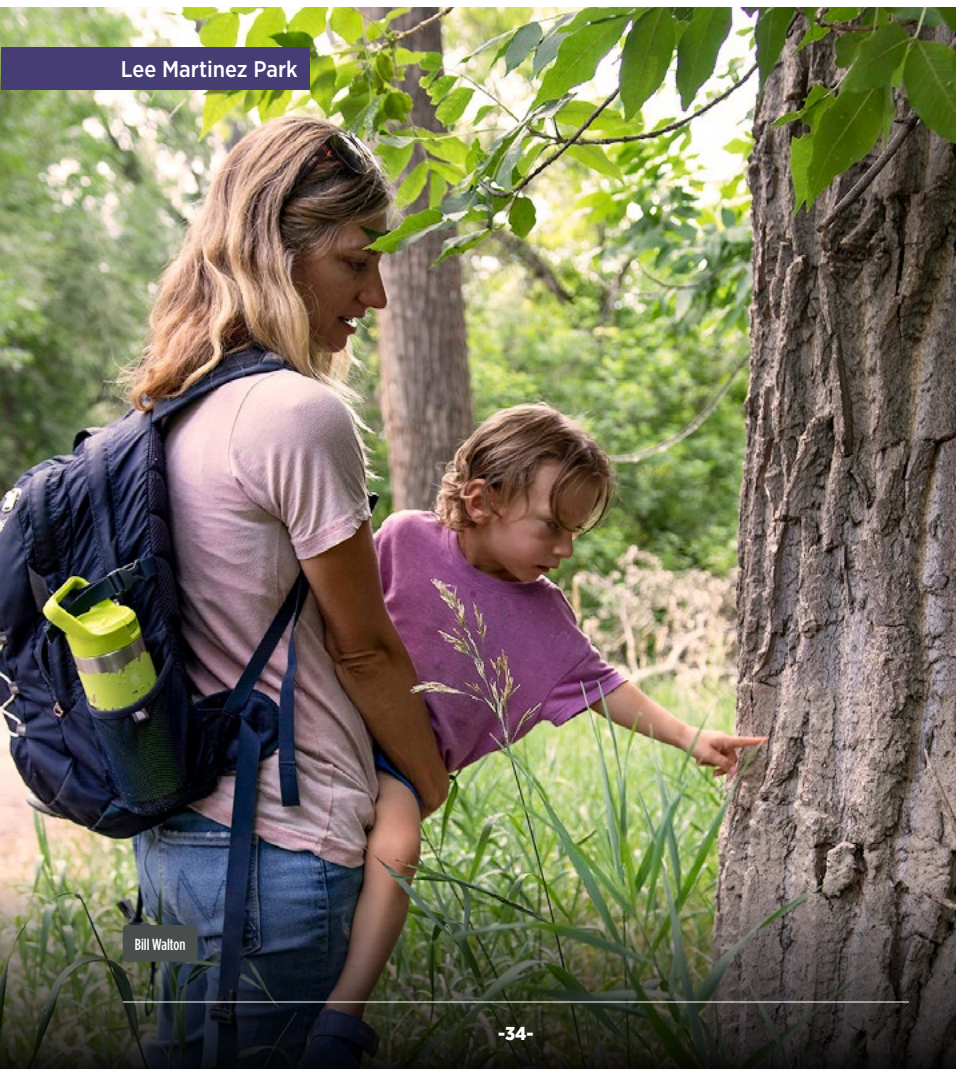
DIY

Explore your natural areas with our new Do-It-Yourself activity series! Each topic features a downloadable handout with background information, a guide to the best natural areas for your adventure, and ideas for engaging activities you can do on your own. Whether you're spotting songbirds at Riverbend Ponds, practicing mindful listening at Gateway, discovering aquatic insects in the Poudre River, or exploring the ancient rock formations at Bobcat Ridge, these guides will help you connect with nature in new ways.



Find DIY resources online at fcgov.com/naturalareas/learn.

Lee Martinez Park



Bill Walton



John Robson

YOUNG NATURALISTS

Activities specifically for youth.

Toddler Tracks Storytime

- **Wed., June 11, 9:30 - 10 a.m. at Ross Natural Area**
Meet at Rolland Moore Park playground
- **Wed., July 9, 9:30 - 10 a.m. at Red Fox Meadows Natural Area**
Meet at the trailhead kiosk off Longworth Dr.
- **Wed., July 23, 9:30 - 10 a.m. at Magpie Meander Natural Area**
Meet at Soft Gold Park
- **Wed., Aug. 6, 9:30 - 10 a.m. at McMurry Natural Area**
Meet at the small parking lot at the west end of Hemlock St.

Discover flowers, bugs, tracks, and more in this slow-paced exploratory walk and story-time in natural areas with the Poudre Library District. For ages 1-3. Parents/guardians must be present at all times. Register through the Poudre Library District: read.poudrelibraries.org/events.



Art in the Great Outdoors

- **Fri., June 13, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Riverbend Ponds Natural Area**
- **Fri., June 27, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Riverbend Ponds Natural Area**

Let your creativity flow with a mini workshop on photography, then explore during a guided hike. For ages 10-18. Registration is required. Register through the Poudre Library District: poudrelibraries.librarycalendar.com/events.



Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date.

Visit fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/register before you go!

ADAPTIVE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Tue., July 8, 10 - 11:30 a.m. at Arapaho Bend Natural Area
- Tue., July 15, 10 - 11:30 a.m. at North Shields Ponds Natural Area
- Tue., July 22, 10 - 11:30 a.m. at Coyote Ridge Natural Area
- Tue., July 29, 10 - 11:30 a.m. at Gateway Natural Area

A series of exploratory afternoons for people with disabilities. Transportation is available. Register through: webtrac.fcgov.com/wbwsc/webtracrec.wsc/search.html?module=AR&primarycode=302911.



Fossil Creek Natural Area



City of Fort Collins



Enriching your Every Day



May 24 - August 31 ☀ Mayo 24 - Agosto 31

NATURE all around us

NATURALEZA a nuestro alrededor

Created by / Creada por:



Modified for tour and distributed by /
Modificada para su itinerancia y distribución por:



Exhibit presented in English and Spanish.
Exposición presentada en español e inglés.



FORT COLLINS
MUSEUM OF
DISCOVERY



408 Mason Court | 970.221.6738 | fcmod.org



NATURE ALL AROUND US

Join Naturalists on youth-centered activities to learn about nature within and around the Fort Collins community! Check out the “Nature All Around Us” exhibit at the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery to learn more.



Photography Scavenger Hunt: Experience Nature through Your Smartphone Camera

- **Fri., June 6, 9 - 11 a.m. at McMurry Natural Area**

Let's explore nature with a list of 10 things to find and photograph.

Prairie Dogs are Just Like People

- **Fri., July 11, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. at Coyote Ridge Natural Area**

Did you know that black-tailed prairie dogs and people both build homes and live in towns? We will explore how these amazing animals live and thrive on the prairie.

A Walk on the Wild Side

- **Wed., July 23, 9:30 - 11 a.m. at Lee Martinez Park**

Nature is where you find it. Join us on a family-friendly nature walk and scavenger hunt to search out plants, animals, and birds along the way.

Backyard Wildlife

- **Fri., August 15, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Fort Collins Museum of Discovery**

Our backyards and urban parks are filled with wildlife. Discover fun facts about local animals and explore how they have adapted to living alongside people.

Scavenger Hunt

Bill Walton

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date. Visit fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/register before you go!

Great Blue Heron at Pineridge



Prairie Dogs



Turkey at Nix Farm



Merganser Family
at Riverbend Ponds



All Photography by Brent Eelman



Coyote at Arapaho Bend



Blue Jay at Riverbend Ponds



Deer at Coyote Ridge



Rocky Mountain Bee Plant
at North Shields Ponds

Campfire at
Coyote Ridge Natural Area



NATURAL AREAS AFTER DARK

NIGHT WALKS

Bring a headlamp or flashlight for a fun and mellow family-friendly walk.

Light Up the Night

- **Thur., June 12, 8:30 - 10 p.m. at Riverbend Ponds Natural Area**
- **Tues., July 8, 8:30 - 10 p.m. at Riverbend Ponds Natural Area**

Find out why Fort Collins is such a great place for fireflies to live and learn fun facts about these amazing beetles. If you have attended in previous years, please consider letting first timers have priority to attend. Meet at the Prospect Road parking lot.

Listening in the Dark: Bat Biology at Gadwall Ponds

- **Thur., Aug. 14, 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Kingfisher Point Natural Area**

Join bat biologists and learn about bat behaviors, unique abilities, biology, and how you can help protect bat populations.

CAMPFIRES

Spend a cozy evening by the campfire, complete with stories and s'mores! Suitable for all ages. Dress warmly and bring water to drink.

For campfires at **Coyote Ridge**, there is a 1.1 mile-hike on an unpaved trail to the cabin. Allow 30-40 minutes for this. The programs are at the cabin and begin at the times listed. Bring a flashlight for the walk back. 2 miles round trip; a few moderate hills each way.

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).

Find Nature Wherever You Are: LGBTQ+ Community Campfire

- **Thur., May 8, 6 - 8 p.m. at Nix Farm, 1745 Hoffman Mill Road**

Campfires continued on next page

Registration is required for most programs and opens 30 days prior to the activity date at fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/register before you go!

Campfire at Coyote Ridge

- Fri., May 30, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
- Fri., July 18, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
- Fri., Aug. 8, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. (with full moon hike)

SKYGAZING AT BOBCAT RIDGE

Enjoy a brief, family-friendly astronomy activity followed by skygazing. Volunteers from the Northern Colorado Astronomical Society provide telescopes. Dress warmly, bring water, and a blanket or chair to sit on in the parking lot.

Please arrive on time! The gate closes shortly after start times and parking is not allowed on the road outside the gate. Event will start at the pavilion, about a 10-minute walk from the parking lot, and will continue in the parking lot.

- Sat., May 17, 8 - 10 p.m.
- Fri., June 13, 8:30 - 10:30 p.m.
- Sat., July 19, 8:30 - 10:30 p.m.
- Fri., Sept. 12, 7:15 - 9:15 p.m.
- Fri., Oct. 10, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Skygazing at
Bobcat Ridge Natural Area

Jeremy White

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date. Visit fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/register before you go!

Light Up the Night at
Riverbend Ponds Natural Area

Owen Martin

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date.
Visit fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/register before you go!

Bilingual Discovery Walk
at Gateway Natural Area



STEWARDSHIP BEHIND THE SCENERY

These informative talks are designed for adults to learn more about research in natural areas and how their unique and valuable natural resources are stewarded. Parking is limited—please carpool, bike, or walk.

NATURE LOVERS ADVENTURE SERIES

In partnership with Poudre Libraries. More information can be found at poudrelibraries.librarycalendar.com/events/month.



Pollinators

- **Wed., June 18, 6 - 7 p.m. at Sugar Beet Park**

Come learn about local pollinators, native plants, and how to identify bees! Natural Areas staff will explain the Nature in the City and share resources for your own pollinator garden. Register through the Poudre Library District: poudrelibraries.librarycalendar.com/event/nature-lovers-adventure-series-pollinators-sugar-beet-park-11683.

Conservation Agriculture and Native Seeds

- **Wed., July 9, 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Kestrel Fields**

Take a closer look at what's happening in the farm fields and how the City is restoring the surrounding land to support the community, wildlife, local agriculture, and native seeds. Register through the Poudre Library District: poudrelibraries.librarycalendar.com/event/nature-lovers-conservation-agriculture-and-native-seeds-12372.

River Health Assessment Sampling

- **Wed., Aug. 20, 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

More information coming soon! Details can be found at fcgov.com/register.

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date.

Visit fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/register before you go!

Hike With a Planner at CSU
Environmental Learning Center



HIKES WITH A PLANNER

Help Shape the Future

- **Mon., May 19, 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area**
- **Wed., June 18, 9 - 10:30 a.m. at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area**

The Natural Areas Department is updating the management plan for the montane zone (which includes Bobcat Ridge Natural Area) and planners want to hear your thoughts! This will be a slow-paced, easy, two-mile hike on the Valley Loop Trail with stops for conversation.

Preview of Upcoming Improvements

- **Wed., May 28, 5 - 6:30 p.m. at Arapaho Bend Natural Area**

Learn about restoration and visitor use improvements planned here and enjoy an evening outdoors.

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date.
Visit fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/register before you go!



VOICES OF THE PAST

For over 10,000 years, northern Colorado has been a great place to live. Discover people of the past that have lived in and shaped our community.

We recognize that the stories we are sharing in these activities are from a dominant European settler cultural perspective, which is not the full story. We continually strive to include the histories and voices of diverse communities. While our knowledge is currently limited, efforts are underway to hear from diverse perspectives that are not yet represented in our activities. These efforts take time, trust, and relationship-building. We hope you will share in a deep connection to this land and contribute to the stewardship of natural areas with a sense of respect and responsibility.

The Poudre River: A Look Back in Time

- **Sat., July 19, 9:30 - 11 a.m. at Old Fort Collins Heritage Park**

An easy half-mile stroll that explores the origins of the river, its history and future plans for the only Wild and Scenic-designated River in Colorado.

Ghostly Echoes from the Last Ice Age

- **Sat., Sept. 6, 10 - 11 a.m. at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area**
- **Sat., Sept. 20, 10 - 11 a.m. at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area**

Explore the fascinating stories of prey who've lost their predators and plants who've lost their pollinators since the days when snow and glaciers dominated the landscape.

The Smithsonian at Lindenmeier

- **Fri., Sept. 19, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area**

Visit the past and learn about the tremendous work done by the Smithsonian Institution and their findings about very early inhabitants of the area.

Life and Times of Homesteaders

- **Sat., Oct. 18, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area**

Learn about the experiences of the pioneer families who lived here.

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date.

Visit [fcgov.com/register](https://www.fcgov.com/register) or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at [fcgov.com/register](https://www.fcgov.com/register) before you go!



Norm Keally



LARAMIE FOOTHILLS BISON CONSERVATION HERD

Bison were reintroduced in 2015 to Soapstone Prairie Natural Area and Red Mountain Open Space through a partnership between:



The Laramie Foothills Bison Conservation Herd roams across approximately 2,700 acres. This herd is important to national conservation efforts and the health of the shortgrass prairie habitat.

HONORING NATIVE AMERICAN & INDIGENOUS CONNECTIONS

The importance of bison to the lifeways of Native Americans cannot be overstated, as they used every part of the animal for clothing, tipis, food and medicine. The bison or buffalo are “relatives” and are sacred to many of the plains Tribes, often centered within their spiritual and cultural ceremonies. The near extinction of the bison in the early 20th century led to conservation efforts to build from 500 bison to now over 15,000, including many that are part of Tribal-owned herds to rebuild food sovereignty.

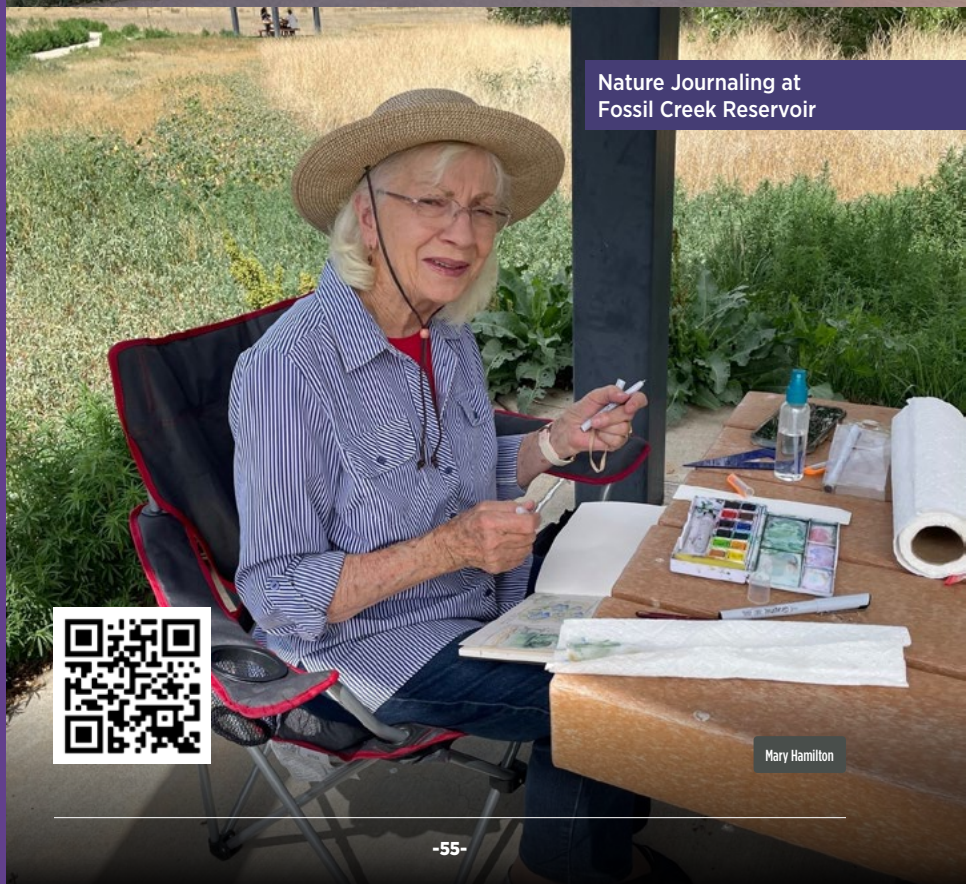
Learn more at fcgov.com/naturalareas/bison.

Nature's Magic Hour Photography
at Prospect Ponds Natural Area



Bill Walton

Nature Journaling at
Fossil Creek Reservoir



Mary Hamilton



CREATIVE BY NATURE

All skill levels welcome! Instruction, focused and guided observations along with drawing, painting, and writing deepen your connections to nature. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Feel free to bring your own art supplies or some will be available to borrow.

Introduction to Nature Journaling

- **Wed., June 25, 9 - 11 a.m. at Primrose Studio**

Enhance skills of observing nature and recording your nature experience.

Nature Journaling: The Lay of the Land

- **Wed., July 9, 9 - 11 a.m. at Fossil Creek Reservoir**

Use visual art, poetry, prose, and journaling to capture distant mountain landscapes or the closeup flora and fauna.

Combine Nature with Creativity: LGBTQ+ Community Nature Journaling

- **Thur., July 3, 6 - 8 p.m. at Fossil Creek Reservoir Natural Area**

Learn to use nature journaling techniques to capture the magic of a summer evening in a natural area.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Nature Photography with a Smartphone

- **Sat., Aug. 16, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. at Riverbend Ponds Natural Area**

We will learn the basics of nature photography including framing, how to use light and how to take the best photos of people.

Nature's Magic Hour Photography

- **Thur., Sept. 18, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Riverbend Ponds Natural Area**

The “Golden Hour” is when forests and fields transform as night settles—the best time for photography.

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date.

Visit fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/register before you go!



WELLNESS

Time spent in nature has been linked to reduced stress, improved well-being and increased social connectedness.

Zumba on the Deck / Zumba en la terraza ES

- **Wed., June 11, 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Primrose Studio**
- **Wed., Sept. 10, 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Primrose Studio**

Join Zumba Instructor Jose Gonzalez as he leads an exciting Zumba class.

- **Miércoles, 11 de junio, 6 - 7:30 p.m. en Primrose Studio**
- **Miércoles, 10 de septiembre, 6 - 7:30 p.m. en Primrose Studio**

Acompaña al instructor José González y experimenta una clase de baile fitness en un ambiente único: ¡al aire libre!

Just Be Yoga and Meditation

- **Tue., June 10, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Fossil Creek Reservoir Natural Area**
- **Fri., June 20, 5:15 - 6:15 a.m. at Fossil Creek Reservoir Natural Area**
- **Wed., July 16, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Red Fox Meadows Natural Area**
- **Wed., Aug. 13, 7:15 - 8:15 p.m. at Shields St River Access**

Join Reneca and Duan of InnatelyU for meditation and a light yoga practice at sunset for all levels of yoga practitioners.



Just Be Yoga and Meditation Retreat / Simplemente ser retiro de yoga y meditación ES

- **Sun., Sept. 21, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Primrose Studio**

Join Reneca and Duan of InnatelyU for a yoga and meditation retreat for all levels of yoga practitioners. Join to build community and experience nature together.

- **Domingo, 21 de septiembre, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. en Primrose Studio**

Acompaña a Reneca y Duan de InnatelyU en este retiro de yoga y meditación para todos los niveles. Ven a pasar tiempo en comunidad y a disfrutar de la naturaleza.

Forest Therapy 16+

- **Wed., Sept. 24, 1 - 3 p.m. at Gateway Natural Area**
- **Wed., Oct. 8, 1 - 3 p.m. at Gateway Natural Area**

Learn to unplug, slow down, and engage your senses to nature's healing power.

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date.

Visit fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/register before you go!



NATURAL DISCOVERIES

Spring Marvelous Migration

- **Sat., May 3, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. at Pineridge Natural Area**

Learn about birds' natural history, view them through spotting scopes, and binoculars.

Spring Emergence along the Cache la Poudre River

- **Sat., May 10, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. at Riverbend Ponds Natural Area**

Explore the ponds and woodlands that provide habitat for many waterfowl and mammals.

Bird Watching for All

- **Sat., May 17, 7 - 9:30 a.m. at Pineridge Natural Area**

Enjoy a leisurely walk around Dixon Reservoir and identify and observe various bird species.

Wild “Dogs” of Larimer County

- **Fri., May 23, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Gateway Natural Area**

Learn about five wild members of the dog (canid) family found around Colorado.

Meet Your Herptile Friends

- **Thur., May 29, 9 - 11 a.m. at Riverbend Ponds Natural Area**

Meet the team from the Reptile and Amphibian Center of the Rockies to learn about the creatures that call Riverbend Ponds Natural Area home.

Welcome Bobolinks

- **Sat., May 31, 8 - 10 a.m. at Reservoir Ridge Natural Area**

Each year for a short time, we are visited by one of Colorado's rare birds, the bobolink.

Connect with Nature Using All of your Senses: LGBTQ+ Community Hike

- **Thur., June 5, 6 - 8 p.m. at Horsetooth Mountain Open Space**

Join Larimer County staff, Natural Areas staff, and volunteers on a hike to Horsetooth Falls, using your senses to connect with the nature around us. Register through Larimer County Department of Natural Resources: offer.larimer.org.

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date.

Visit fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/register before you go!

How I Survived a Rattlesnake Bite

- Sat., June 7, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Coyote Ridge Natural Area

Learn about truths, myths, and ways to share natural areas with rattlesnakes while staying safe.

Wildflower Hike

- Sat., June 14, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. at Pineridge Natural Area

Learn about the globally rare Bells' twinpod that depends on local geology.

Let's Explore: History, Habitat, and More

- Thur., June 26, 9 - 11 a.m. at Arapaho Bend Natural Area
- Thur., Sept. 11, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Arapaho Bend Natural Area

Discover a special natural area along the Poudre River for people and nature.

Raptors and Nature: Rocky Mountain Raptor Program

- Thur., June 26, 6 - 8:30 p.m. at Coyote Ridge Natural Area
- Sat., July 26, 8 - 10 a.m. at Primrose Studio
- Fri., Aug. 15, 9 - 11 a.m. at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area

Learn about the amazing raptors that populate Colorado's Front Range and how we can help conserve them.



Raptor Program
at Primrose Studio

Bill Walton

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date. Visit fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/register before you go!



Volunteer Project at
Coyote Ridge Natural Area

Bill Walton

Wade the River

- **Thur., Aug. 7, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Lee Martinez Park**

Use 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. All dip netting equipment is provided.

Wade the River / Camina el río

- **Sábado, 13 de septiembre, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. en el parque Lee Martinez**

Utiliza redes y bandejas de recolección para descubrir qué vive debajo de la superficie del río Cache la Poudre. Tendremos biólogos disponibles para ayudar a identificar tus hallazgos. Se proporcionará todo el equipo. Para personas de todas las edades. Personal bilingüe disponible.

Bring Nature to You: LGBTQ+ Community Activity

- **Thur., Aug. 7, 6 - 8 p.m. at Lions Open Space and Poudre River Trail**

Join Larimer County Natural Resources staff and volunteers for an evening of creativity! Register through Larimer County Department of Natural Resources: offer.larimer.org.

Pond Clean-Up

- **Thur., Sept. 18, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Arapaho Bend Natural Area**

You and fellow volunteers will assist in removing trash from the lake and shore. Bring kayaks, canoes, or paddleboards if you have them.

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date.

Visit fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/register before you go!

Beginning Birding Walk: LGBTQ+ Community Activity

- **Thur., Oct. 2, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. at River Bluffs Open Space and Poudre River Trail**

Join Larimer County staff and volunteers for a hike, learning about birds, flora, and fauna of the area. Register through Larimer County Department of Natural Resources: offero.larimer.org.

Black-Footed Ferret Exploration

- **Tue., Oct. 7, 5 - 10 p.m. at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area**
- **Fri., Oct. 17, 5 - 10 p.m. at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area**

Learn about North America's rarest mammal. Start at the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery for a presentation about black-footed ferrets and then travel to Soapstone Prairie for a chance to view these critters in the wild.

Fall Marvelous Migration

- **Sat., Oct. 11, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. at Fossil Creek Reservoir Natural Area**

Learn about local birds' natural history and see them through the provided spotting scopes and binoculars.

Meet the Boo Crew

- **Sat., Oct. 25, 1:30 PM - 3:30 p.m. at Gateway Natural Area**

Halloween is a time for facing our fears. Become more familiar with "scary" animals like bats, wild cats, and owls that live nearby.

Fall Marvelous Migration at
Fossil Creek Reservoir Natural Area

Bill Walton

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date. Visit fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/register before you go!



Hike to the “A” at
Maxwell Natural Area



Brent Eelman

SPECIAL EVENTS

World Migratory Bird Day

- **Sun., May 11, 6:30 - 10:30 a.m. at Fossil Creek Reservoir**

Learn about migratory birds, habitat, and behavior from several different organizations, including Rocky Mountain Raptor Program who will bring some ambassador birds to view.

National Trails Day Volunteer Event

- **Sat., Jun. 7, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Soapstone Prairie**

Volunteer to restore trails and improve accessible spaces at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area. Registration is required. Lunch will be provided, and transportation is available upon request. Details coming soon, check fcgov.com/register for more information.

Pride Picnic

- **Fri. June 20, 4 - 6 p.m. at Rolland Moore Park**

Join Poudre Libraries and Natural Areas for fun activities, including a drag storytime, and learn about how to get involved with LGBTQ+ community organizations. Enjoy a guided nature walk through Ross Natural Area.

Natural Areas Station at Bike to Work (or Wherever) Day

- **Wed., June 25, 6:30 - 9:30 a.m.**

Stop by for yummy breakfast, swag, and information. The station will be located on the Poudre Trail, between Lemay and Timberline, near Nix Farm, 1745 Hoffman Mill Road.

Poudre RiverFest

- **Sat., Aug. 9, 12 - 6 p.m. at New Belgium Brewing Company**

The Poudre RiverFest is a free, family-friendly festival that celebrates the Poudre River, promotes restoration, and educates people about our river corridor, an important natural resource in our community.

Colorado State University Hike to the "A"

- **Sat., Aug. 23, 8 a.m - 1 p.m. at Maxwell Natural Area**

CSU has a tradition of welcoming the new freshman class with a hike. Be aware that 800+ students will be using the trail this morning.

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date.

Visit fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/register before you go!

Lightning Talks! / ¡Charlas relámpago!

- **Wed., Sept. 17, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at The Lyric Cinema**

Celebrate Latino Conservation Week at this special event, where the Departments of Natural Areas, Neighborhood Services, and Sustainability Services of the City of Fort Collins come together with CSU students and community members to share knowledge and reflections on environmental conservation.

- **Miércoles 17 de septiembre, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. en el cine The Lyric**

Acompáñanos a celebrar la Semana de la Conservación Latina en este evento especial, donde los departamentos de Áreas naturales, Servicios vecinales y Servicios de sostenibilidad de la Ciudad de Fort Collins se unen con estudiantes de CSU y miembros de la comunidad para compartir conocimientos y reflexiones sobre la conservación del medio ambiente.

National Public Lands Day Volunteer Event

- **Sat., Sept. 27, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Pineridge Natural Area**

Volunteer to clear drainages along the Timber Trail, a popular running and mountain biking trail in our community. Registration is required. Lunch will be provided, and transportation is available upon request. Check fcgov.com/register for more information.



Poudre River Fest

Registration is required. Opens 30 days prior to the activity date.

Visit fcgov.com/register or 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/register before you go!





WHAT TO BRING

Having the right things with you will help make your natural area visit a success. Use this checklist as a guideline to help you pack for a day outdoors.

- ☐ **Map and Compass, a GPS System, or Your Phone:** Not all natural areas have good reception, see the box below for more information. A natural areas map is at fcgov.com/naturalareas and at trailhead kiosks.
- ☐ **Layered Clothes and Rain Gear:** Be prepared for sudden changes in weather.
- ☐ **Repair Kit:** This may include duct tape, multi-tool, etc.
- ☐ **Water:** Pack more than you think you'll need and drink before you feel thirsty.
- ☐ **Trail Food**
- ☐ **First Aid Kit:** Include a space blanket if you have one.
- ☐ **Flashlight**
- ☐ **Sun and Bug Protection**



Visitor safety is important to the Natural Areas Department. Bobcat Ridge, Soapstone Prairie, and Gateway natural areas have little to no cell phone coverage. Call boxes are available in case of an emergency. See locations and details below:

- **Bobcat Ridge Natural Area** usually has cell phone coverage in the higher elevations. The call box is in the parking lot.
- **Soapstone Prairie Natural Area** has more cell phone coverage towards the North Parking Lot. The call box is at the entrance gatehouse near the South Parking Lot.
- **Gateway Natural Area** never has coverage. The call box is located before the gatehouse at the entrance.

PRIMROSE STUDIO

Primrose Studio is a secluded lakefront event venue perfect for meetings, retreats, and small classes. With no shortage of beautiful scenery and wildlife viewing opportunities, this special place has a remote feel without sacrificing amenities like reliable Wi-Fi, state-of-the-art audio/visual capabilities, and a full kitchen.

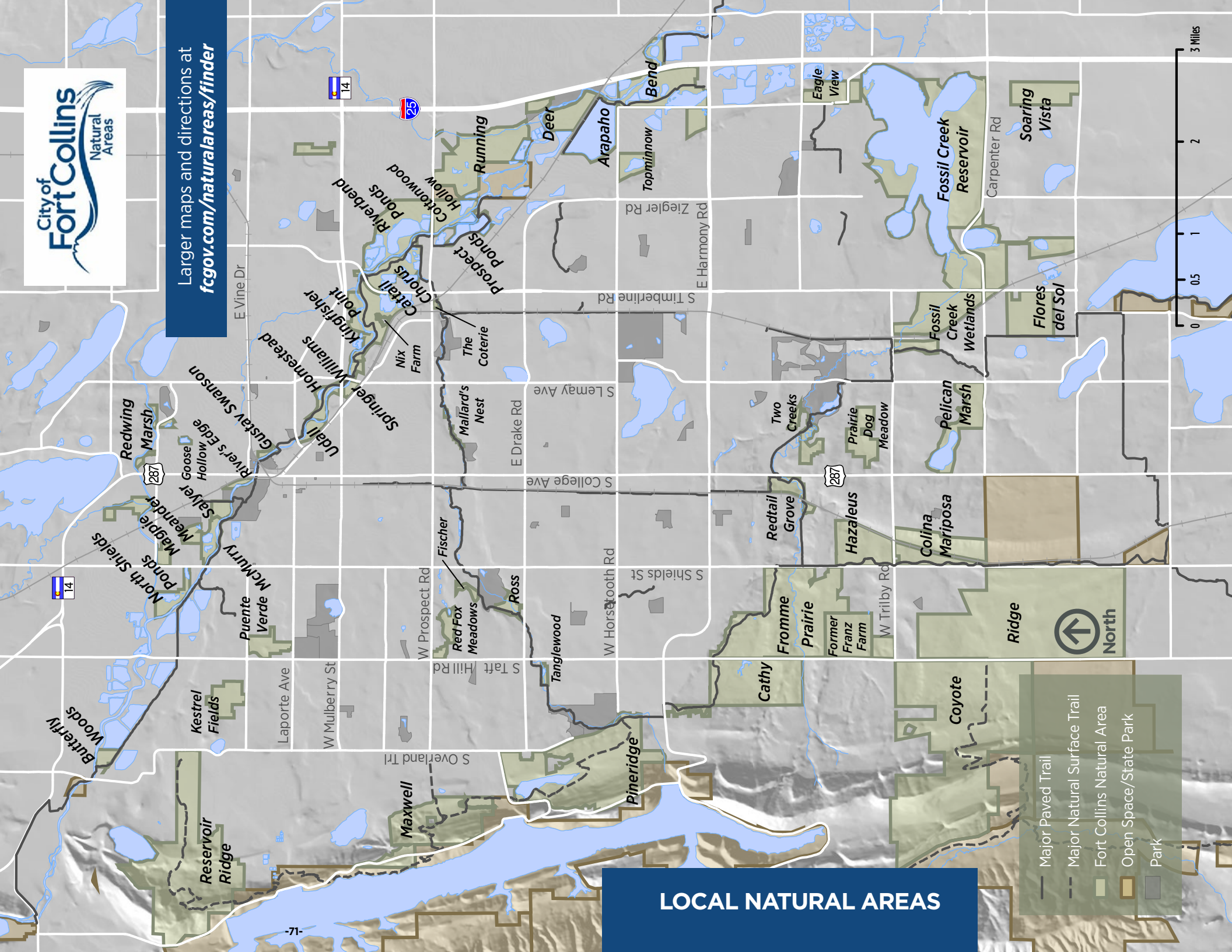
- Standard Rental: \$50 per hour
- Non-profit/government rental: \$30 per hour
- Four-hour minimum required

Primrose Studio Behind the Scenes Tour

- **Sat., July 5, 6 - 7 p.m.**
- **Sat, Sept. 20, 6 - 7 p.m.**

Experience the magic of Primrose Studio, a secluded event venue inside Reservoir Ridge Natural Area. Come learn about the history, wildlife, and ecosystem all while enjoying refreshments, beautiful views, and good company.





LOCAL NATURAL AREAS

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



0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles

**Soapstone Prairie
Natural Area**

**Red Mountain
Open Space**

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 drive time.

Gary Raham

Larger maps and directions at
fcgov.com/naturalareas/finder

**Gateway
Natural Area**

Gateway

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

City of Fort Collins

**Bobcat Ridge
Natural Area**

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.

Jan Latona

THANK YOU!

The activities in this booklet and the conservation and stewardship of City of Fort Collins natural areas are made possible by Fort Collins and Larimer County voters. Community-initiated sales tax ballot measures dedicate funds for land conservation, trails, shelters, restrooms, parking lots, and educational activities. Thank you!



Natural Areas Department - **970-416-2815**
Rangers - **970-416-2147**
fcgov.com/naturalareas
naturalareas@fcgov.com

Coyote Ridge Natural Area



Register for activities
at fcgov.com/register

