

# Community Scientists

## Volunteer Description Overview

City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Community Scientists help answer research questions that benefit local natural areas. A specific volunteer training is required for each type of community science activity:

- **Amphibian Monitors** are volunteers who, in pairs, are assigned survey sites along the Poudre River corridor to visit and record observations three times annually.
- **Biodiversity Monitors** are volunteers who monitor birds and butterflies on Nature in the City sites. Bird Monitors conduct "point count" surveys for birds between 6:00-10:00 a.m. They will spend a five minutes listening and looking for birds from a list of 15 species. Butterfly Monitors collect butterfly data using the "Pollard walk" method between 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. They will walk along a line and use butterfly nets to capture, identify, and release butterflies from a list of 10 species.
- **Camera Checkers** are volunteers who regularly hike Bobcat Ridge to service twelve remote wildlife cameras. New camera checkers will accompany experienced volunteers to learn the locations, logistics, and procedures.

## Key Responsibilities

- Record data with accuracy and using appropriate protocol.
- Record volunteer hours as a Site Visit in Engage.

## Impact

Help inform management decisions through scientific data collection.

## Training

- FC Volunteers online onboarding course
- Natural Areas Department's orientation
- Specific volunteer training is required for each type of community science activity
- Opportunity to attend continuing education sessions

## Support

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### **Commitment**

- After attending the appropriate training, commit to one year of volunteer service conducting a set number of observations.

### **Skills and Qualifications**

- Ability to use mobile devices (cell phones, iPads, etc.) and enter data into community science and volunteer databases.
- Ability to accurately track data and statistics including identification, weather conditions, etc.
- Must be able to hike three miles with little physical limitations.

### **Dress Code**

- Volunteer name tag (provided)
- Personal safety equipment (footwear, safety glasses, gloves etc.) provided when required

### **Benefits**

- Gain a valuable and rewarding volunteer experience
- Interact with people with similar interests.
- Be an integral part of large well-respected and forward-thinking land conservation and stewardship programs.
- Be truly valued by City staff and managers.
- Continuing education and volunteer recognition events.

### **Our Philosophy**

By becoming a volunteer with us, you are joining a long history of community commitment to conservation. Since its inception, the Natural Areas Department has engaged volunteers on every level, from education to stewardship to leadership. Volunteers help extend outreach and strengthen community involvement. We believe that volunteers are one of our most valuable resources.

### **Information**

Charlotte Norville, Volunteer Specialist, 970-305-0163, [cnorville@fcgov.com](mailto:cnorville@fcgov.com)

### **Apply**

<https://engage.fcgov.com/d/NA/App/CommunityScience>