



Fort Collins Natural Areas Resident Survey Report of Results

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Executive Summary

Survey Background

The City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program continues to measure community perceptions and satisfaction with its program and the natural areas, and the recreation activities of visitors to the natural areas. The City contracted with National Research Center at Polco to conduct its third scientific survey of residents in Fort Collins and the rest of Larimer County, excluding Estes Park (the previous surveys were in 2011 and 2016). Of the 1,800 randomly selected households to which surveys were sent, 64 were identified by the post office as vacant. A total of 323 completed surveys were returned from the estimated 1,736 households that received a survey, for a response rate of 19%. Survey results in each geographic area were weighted so that respondent age, gender, race, ethnicity, and housing tenure status (rent versus own) were represented in the proportions reflective of the entire area. The margin of error is plus or minus five percentage points around any given percent for all results.

Survey Results

- **As in past years, Fort Collins residents are more likely to visit natural areas compared to residents living in the rest of Larimer County, with a majority of all residents visiting at least once or twice a month.**

Fort Collins residents were more likely to be frequent visitors, making more than 50 visits in a year (45%), than were those who lived in the rest of the county (22%), while only about 3% of Fort Collins respondents said they never visit compared to 18% of residents outside of Fort Collins. Those who never had visited were asked to select the reasons why. About one-third of respondents cited lack of free time and 2 in 10 said they were not able to visit because of physical limitations.

Survey respondents in 2021 reported higher visitation rates (at least once or twice a week) compared to 2016, which could be due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantines, resulting in people spending more time outdoors.

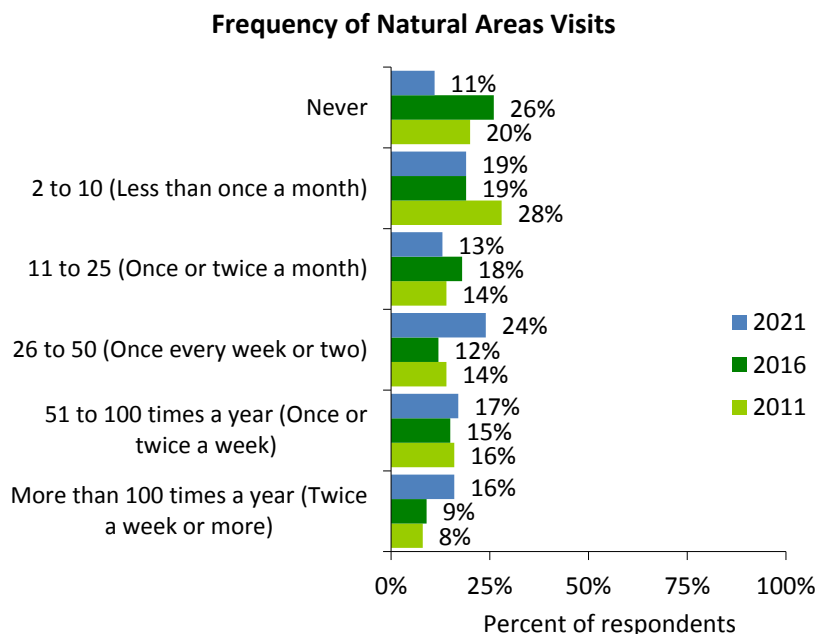
- **Hiking, enjoying the scenery, relaxing, and biking are the most commonly reported natural area activities.**

About 4 in 10 survey respondents enjoyed dog walking and wildlife viewing at the Fort Collins natural areas. Rates of dog walking increased in 2021, back to levels reported in 2011 (41% in 2021 vs 29% in 2016). The proportion of residents who enjoy the scenery in the natural areas has been trending up since 2011 (30% up to 69% in 2021).

Between one-quarter and one-third of residents also used the natural areas for running/jogging, commuting/passing through, and picnicking.

- **Residents voice appreciation of the existence of and proximity to natural areas.**

Survey respondents were provided a list of seven potential reasons they might appreciate the natural areas provided by the City. About one-quarter of residents said that they most appreciated that they exist and



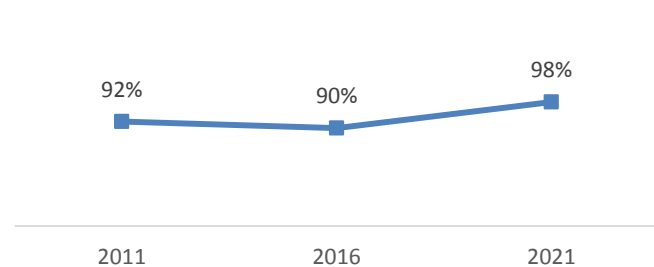
won't decrease (28%) and that they were nearby and accessible (21%). Just over 1 in 10 respondents also voiced gratitude for the number and variety of natural areas (15%), that the areas are not developed and serve as a buffer (14%), and that the trails make walking, biking, and running easy (11%). Compared to 2016, most ratings held steady; however, slightly more respondents in 2021 cited the fact that natural areas exist and won't decrease as a reason why they appreciate the natural areas. The proportion of people showing appreciation for the areas being well-maintained and preserved has been declining since 2011.

More than 90% of survey respondents said that access to a natural area was very or somewhat easy, however, not surprisingly, Fort Collins residents found them easier to access than the rest of Larimer County.

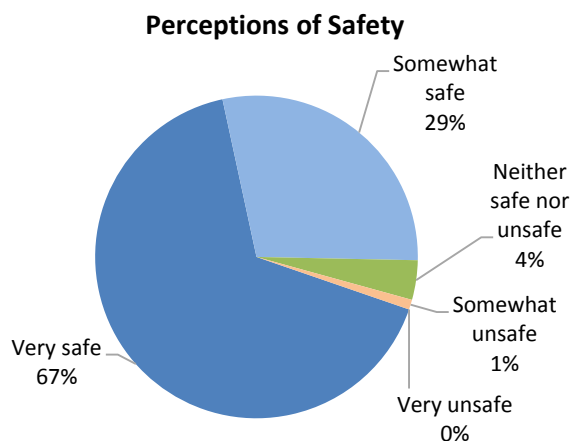
➤ **User satisfaction remains high and the vast majority of residents feel safe when visiting natural areas.**

As in 2016, about three-quarters of respondents were very satisfied with the natural areas they had visited, and 2 in 10 were somewhat satisfied. The proportion of residents who were very satisfied in 2021 was on par with 2016, and ratings were similar across the county. Additionally, nearly 9 in 10 reported not having had any unpleasant experiences in any City of Fort Collins natural area in the 12 months prior to the survey; a rating that was similar to past survey years.

Overall Satisfaction with Natural Areas



Survey respondents provided a grade (A, B, C, D, or F) for 12 individual natural areas facilities and services. Between 70% and 95% of respondents gave grades of “A” or “B” to all facilities and services, with the highest marks going to trail conditions (95%), trailhead conditions (94%), and information provided in maps (90%). These were among the highest rated in 2016 and these grades were stable from 2016 to 2021. Educational activities and events received relatively lower ratings (70% gave a grade of A or B) and declined from 2016; however, this could be due in part to in-person group activities being shut down during the pandemic. Grades for the number of restrooms saw a notable improvement from 2016 to 2021 (69% vs 80%, respectively).



A new question was added to the 2021 survey to gauge perceptions of safety while visiting Fort Collins natural areas. Two-thirds of respondents reported feeling very safe and about one-third felt somewhat safe. Only 4% reported feeling neither safe nor unsafe and 1% said they felt somewhat unsafe. No one said they felt very unsafe.

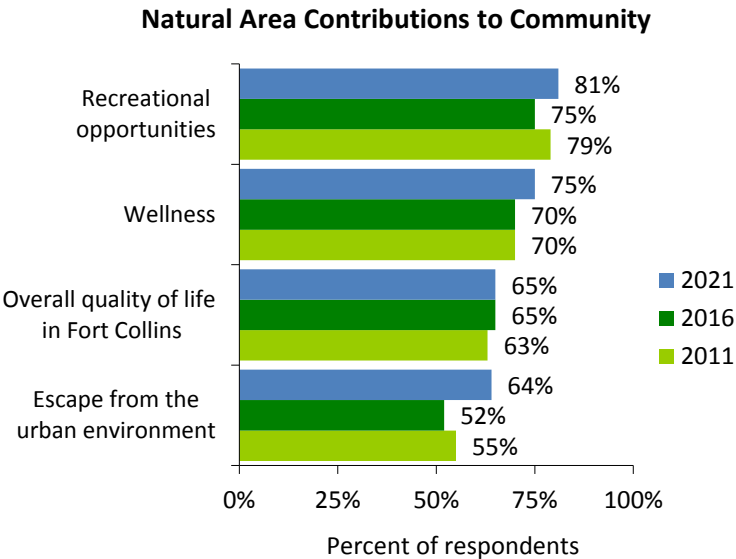
➤ **Recreational opportunities and wellness were considered by respondents to be the greatest contributions of the natural areas to the community.**

Residents evaluated the extent to which natural areas contribute to each of a number of aspects of the community. At least three-quarters of respondents felt that natural areas contributed to a “great” extent to the recreational opportunities (81% of respondents) and wellness (75%) of the community. About 6 in 10 residents said that the natural areas greatly contribute to escaping the urban environment (64%), economic vitality (60%), feeling a connection to nature or for personal renewal (62%), overall quality of

life in Fort Collins (65%), and wide open spaces (61%). Generally, respondents were less likely to believe that natural areas contributed to a great extent to mobility (41%), educational opportunities (31%), and cultural resources conservation (46%).

Fort Collins residents were less likely to feel that the natural areas contributed to a great extent to many of the attributes listed compared to the rest of Larimer County, including escape from the urban environment, habitat conservation, scientific opportunities, and cultural resources conservation, among others.

More residents in 2021 compared to 2016 felt that the natural areas play a greater role in each of the following aspects: feeling a connection to nature or for personal renewal, scientific opportunities, escaping the urban environment, and a healthy environment/ecology.



➤ **The Natural Areas website and word of mouth are where residents go to get information about natural areas.**

Each of these were cited as a source by 4 in 10 respondents as a way to get information about natural areas. COTrex (Colorado trail explorer app) and social media were used by 39% and 29% of survey respondents to get information, respectively. Residents were less likely to use radio (7%), the Natural Areas booth at local events (7%), Natural Areas Enews (7%), and Engage (activity calendar and registration system, 9%).

Use of the various sources of information tended to be similar in both Fort Collins and the rest of Larimer County, with slightly more Larimer County residents using word of mouth to get information about natural areas in Fort Collins.

Appendix A: Responses to Survey Questions

The following tables show the complete set of responses for each question on the survey. For two of the questions, two tables are provided, one that includes the “don’t know” responses and one that excludes the “don’t know” responses. Results are shown for Fort Collins residents, residents of the rest of Larimer County excluding Estes Park, and for all respondents. For the sake of brevity, the results for respondents living within Larimer County excluding Estes Park are labeled simply as “Rest of Larimer County.”

Table 1: Question 1

How often do you visit Fort Collins natural areas? Would you say...	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
More than 100 times a year (Twice a week or more)	15%	17%	16%
51 to 100 times a year (Once or twice a week)	30%	5%	17%
26 to 50 (Once every week or two)	20%	27%	24%
11 to 25 (Once or twice a month)	16%	11%	13%
1 to 10 (Less than once a month)	16%	22%	19%
Never	3%	18%	11%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table 2: Question 1A

If you never visit, please select the reasons why.	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
Lack of free time	14%	39%	35%
Lack of parking	0%	0%	0%
Lack of transportation	8%	0%	1%
Other	20%	34%	32%
No natural areas near me	15%	13%	14%
Not interested in visiting	20%	5%	7%
Not able to visit because of physical limitations	36%	16%	19%

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option. This question was only asked of respondents who never visit Fort Collins natural areas. Respondents were given the opportunity to write-in an "other" response; these responses can be found in Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Open-ended Questions.

Table 3: Question 2

In the last year, in what activity(ies) did you participate when you visited a Fort Collins natural area?	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
Hiking	76%	77%	77%
Running/jogging	39%	27%	34%
Fishing	13%	17%	15%
Commuting/passing through	31%	24%	28%
Picnicking	28%	22%	25%
Biking	50%	42%	47%
Dog walking	42%	39%	41%
Photography/art	24%	10%	18%
Horseback riding	1%	2%	1%
Wildlife viewing	42%	47%	44%
Relaxing/doing nothing	54%	45%	50%
Enjoying the scenery	72%	66%	69%
Kayaking/Tubing/Paddleboarding	21%	11%	17%
Other	6%	0%	3%

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option. This question was only asked of respondents who visit Fort Collins natural areas. Respondents were given the opportunity to write-in an "other" response; these responses can be found in Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Open-ended Questions.

Table 4: Question 3

Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with the Fort Collins natural areas you have visited?	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
Very satisfied	76%	78%	77%
Somewhat satisfied	21%	20%	21%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2%	0%	1%
Somewhat dissatisfied	0%	0%	0%
Very dissatisfied	0%	2%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

This question was only asked of respondents who visit Fort Collins natural areas.

Table 5: Question 4 without "don't know" responses

Please grade the following individual facilities and services, using the letter grades of A, B, C, D, or F (where A is the highest grade and F is the failing grade).	Fort Collins						Rest of Larimer County						Overall					
	A	B	C	D	F	Total	A	B	C	D	F	Total	A	B	C	D	F	Total
Trail condition	73%	23%	3%	0%	0%	100%	77%	16%	6%	0%	2%	100%	75%	20%	4%	0%	1%	100%
Trailhead condition	75%	19%	6%	0%	0%	100%	76%	18%	6%	0%	0%	100%	75%	19%	6%	0%	0%	100%
Number of restrooms	47%	30%	18%	4%	0%	100%	48%	34%	18%	1%	0%	100%	48%	32%	18%	3%	0%	100%
Condition of restrooms	33%	41%	19%	5%	2%	100%	40%	38%	16%	6%	0%	100%	36%	40%	18%	5%	1%	100%
Trash/Recycling cans	40%	43%	14%	3%	0%	100%	45%	24%	26%	5%	0%	100%	42%	34%	19%	4%	0%	100%
Directional informational signs	53%	37%	9%	2%	0%	100%	40%	39%	20%	1%	0%	100%	47%	38%	14%	2%	0%	100%
Interpretive signs (signs designed to provide educational guidance and deeper appreciation)	47%	39%	12%	2%	0%	100%	47%	32%	20%	1%	0%	100%	47%	36%	15%	2%	0%	100%
Information provided in brochures	56%	35%	8%	1%	0%	100%	68%	19%	12%	1%	0%	100%	61%	28%	10%	1%	0%	100%
Information provided in maps	57%	32%	9%	2%	0%	100%	60%	32%	8%	0%	0%	100%	58%	32%	9%	1%	0%	100%
Ranger services	57%	27%	13%	3%	0%	100%	49%	22%	17%	5%	7%	100%	54%	25%	15%	4%	3%	100%
Educational activities and events (for example, guided hikes/rides, kids' programs)	52%	20%	23%	4%	0%	100%	51%	15%	33%	0%	0%	100%	52%	18%	28%	2%	0%	100%
Ecological restoration (work to improve wildlife habitat and native plants)	57%	29%	12%	1%	0%	100%	37%	54%	5%	0%	4%	100%	47%	41%	9%	0%	2%	100%

This question was only asked of respondents who visit Fort Collins natural areas.

Table 6: Question 4 with "don't know" responses

Please grade the following individual facilities and services, using the letter grades of A, B, C, D, or F (where A is the highest grade and F is the failing grade).	Fort Collins							Rest of Larimer County							Overall						
	A	B	C	D	F	Don't know	Total	A	B	C	D	F	Don't know	Total	A	B	C	D	F	Don't know	Total
Trail condition	71%	22%	3%	0%	0%	3%	100%	75%	15%	5%	0%	2%	3%	100%	73%	19%	4%	0%	1%	3%	100%
Trailhead condition	71%	18%	6%	0%	0%	5%	100%	72%	17%	6%	0%	0%	5%	100%	71%	18%	6%	0%	0%	5%	100%
Number of restrooms	40%	25%	15%	4%	0%	15%	100%	44%	31%	16%	1%	0%	9%	100%	42%	28%	16%	2%	0%	12%	100%
Condition of restrooms	27%	34%	16%	4%	2%	17%	100%	35%	34%	14%	5%	0%	12%	100%	31%	34%	15%	4%	1%	15%	100%
Trash/Recycling cans	37%	40%	13%	3%	0%	7%	100%	43%	23%	24%	5%	0%	6%	100%	40%	32%	18%	4%	0%	7%	100%
Directional informational signs	48%	34%	8%	2%	0%	8%	100%	39%	38%	19%	1%	0%	2%	100%	44%	36%	13%	2%	0%	6%	100%
Interpretive signs (signs designed to provide educational guidance and deeper appreciation)	42%	34%	10%	2%	0%	12%	100%	38%	26%	16%	1%	0%	19%	100%	40%	30%	13%	1%	0%	15%	100%
Information provided in brochures	42%	26%	6%	0%	0%	25%	100%	43%	12%	8%	1%	0%	36%	100%	42%	19%	7%	1%	0%	30%	100%
Information provided in maps	48%	27%	8%	1%	0%	16%	100%	43%	23%	6%	0%	0%	28%	100%	46%	25%	7%	1%	0%	22%	100%
Ranger services	31%	15%	7%	2%	0%	45%	100%	22%	10%	8%	2%	3%	56%	100%	27%	12%	7%	2%	1%	50%	100%
Educational activities and events (for example, guided hikes/rides, kids' programs)	17%	7%	8%	1%	0%	67%	100%	17%	5%	11%	0%	0%	68%	100%	17%	6%	9%	1%	0%	67%	100%
Ecological restoration (work to improve wildlife habitat and native plants)	38%	19%	8%	1%	0%	34%	100%	27%	40%	4%	0%	3%	26%	100%	33%	29%	6%	0%	1%	30%	100%

This question was only asked of respondents who visit Fort Collins natural areas.

Table 7: Question 5

How safe or unsafe do you feel when visiting the Fort Collins natural areas?	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
Very safe	70%	62%	67%
Somewhat safe	24%	35%	29%
Neither safe nor unsafe	5%	3%	4%
Somewhat unsafe	1%	0%	1%
Very unsafe	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%

This question was only asked of respondents who visit Fort Collins natural areas. Respondents were given the opportunity to write-in a response if they feel unsafe; these responses can be found in Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Open-ended Questions.

Table 8: Question 6

During the past 12 months, have you had any unpleasant experiences in any City of Fort Collins natural area?	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
No	84%	92%	87%
Yes	16%	8%	13%
Total	100%	100%	100%

This question was only asked of respondents who visit Fort Collins natural areas. Respondents were given the opportunity to write-in a response if they indicated yes; these responses can be found in Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Open-ended Questions.

Table 9: Question 7

What one change would make your visits to Fort Collins' natural areas more enjoyable?	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
More amenities/expand hours/seasons they are open	7%	4%	6%
More trails and more areas for specific use (hiking, dogs, biking, etc.)	11%	2%	7%
More and improved signage (education, wildlife, fees, directional, etc.)	13%	7%	10%
Expand natural area spaces to reduce crowds	5%	11%	8%
Cleanliness/more trash receptacles	6%	5%	5%
Trail maintenance/control plant growth	7%	7%	7%
More rest areas (benches, picnic areas and shady areas)	7%	8%	8%
Safety concerns (increase ranger presence, bike speed limits, car break-ins, homeless presence)	5%	4%	4%
Water recreation options	9%	0%	5%
Parking concerns	3%	17%	9%
Other	16%	22%	19%
No changes needed, N/A	12%	13%	13%
Total	100%	100%	100%

This question was only asked of respondents who visit Fort Collins natural areas. 185 respondents chose to write-in a response; these responses, including "other" responses, can be found in Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Open-ended Questions.

Table 10: Question 8

Indicate if you or other members of your household use each of the following information sources about Natural Areas (Please check all that apply)	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
The Explorer (the guide to natural areas activities)	20%	16%	18%
Natural Areas Enews (monthly email newsletter)	5%	9%	7%
Natural Areas website (fcgov.com/naturalareas)	49%	46%	48%
Engage (activity calendar and registration system, fcgov.com/register)	9%	9%	9%
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	30%	28%	29%
Other	13%	14%	14%
COTrex (Colorado trail explorer app)	38%	40%	39%
Word of mouth	37%	52%	43%
Newspaper (print or online)	8%	17%	12%
Radio	10%	3%	7%
Natural Areas booth at local events	6%	7%	7%

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option. This question was only asked of respondents who visit Fort Collins natural areas. Respondents were given the opportunity to write-in an "other" response; these responses can be found in Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Open-ended Questions.

Table 11: Question 9

How easy, if at all, do you feel it is to access a natural area near you?	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
Very easy	74%	62%	68%
Somewhat easy	20%	26%	23%
Neither easy or difficult	4%	7%	5%
Somewhat difficult	2%	2%	2%
Very difficult	0%	2%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table 12: Question 10

What can the Natural Areas Department do to make accessing natural areas easier for you?	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
Accessibility is great/other positive comments	11%	16%	13%
Parking improvements (car parking and bike racks)	9%	15%	12%
Improved signage and maps/more easily accessible information	16%	10%	13%
Road improvements	4%	16%	10%
More natural areas and walking/biking path connections	27%	13%	20%
Other	10%	11%	11%
Nothing, N/A	23%	21%	22%
Total	100%	100%	100%

131 respondents chose to write-in a response; these responses, including "other" responses, can be found in Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Open-ended Questions.

Table 13: Question 11 without "don't know" responses

For each of the attributes below, please rate to what extent, if at all, you think the City of Fort Collins natural areas contribute to this attribute of the community. What about...	Fort Collins					Rest of Larimer County					Overall				
	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Great extent	Total	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Great extent	Total	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Great extent	Total
Economic vitality (make Fort Collins an attractive place to work and do business)	17%	6%	24%	53%	100%	9%	5%	20%	66%	100%	12%	6%	22%	60%	100%
Wellness (a place to get fit and be healthy)	8%	5%	11%	76%	100%	12%	3%	11%	74%	100%	10%	4%	11%	75%	100%
Recreational opportunities (hiking, biking, running, horseback riding, bird watching, fishing, creating art, relaxing, and enjoying the outdoors)	7%	1%	11%	81%	100%	2%	0%	17%	81%	100%	5%	0%	14%	81%	100%
Mobility (using the natural areas trails to get around Fort Collins)	21%	24%	20%	36%	100%	19%	20%	16%	46%	100%	20%	22%	18%	41%	100%
Educational opportunities (learn more about the outdoors)	24%	23%	28%	26%	100%	14%	25%	24%	37%	100%	19%	24%	26%	31%	100%
Escape from the urban environment	17%	6%	21%	56%	100%	9%	3%	17%	71%	100%	13%	4%	19%	64%	100%
Healthy environment (filtering water and air, preventing flooding, etc.)	17%	8%	22%	52%	100%	16%	3%	25%	56%	100%	16%	6%	24%	55%	100%
Habitat conservation (places for wildlife and native plants to live and grow)	21%	6%	24%	49%	100%	11%	1%	24%	63%	100%	16%	4%	24%	56%	100%
Scientific opportunities (places for scientists to collect data)	20%	18%	20%	41%	100%	8%	15%	21%	55%	100%	14%	17%	21%	48%	100%
Cultural resources conservation (protecting traces of the past)	31%	20%	14%	36%	100%	9%	19%	16%	56%	100%	20%	20%	15%	46%	100%
Feeling a connection to nature or for personal renewal	18%	4%	23%	55%	100%	4%	7%	21%	68%	100%	10%	6%	22%	62%	100%
Overall quality of life in Fort Collins	12%	6%	23%	59%	100%	5%	5%	20%	70%	100%	8%	6%	21%	65%	100%
Wide open spaces (undeveloped views)	15%	11%	15%	58%	100%	13%	11%	12%	64%	100%	14%	11%	14%	61%	100%

Table 14: Question 11 with "don't know" responses

For each of the attributes below, please rate to what extent, if at all, you think the City of Fort Collins natural areas contribute to this attribute of the community. What about...	Fort Collins						Rest of Larimer County						Overall					
	Don't know	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Great extent	Total	Don't know	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Great extent	Total	Don't know	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Great extent	Total
Economic vitality (make Fort Collins an attractive place to work and do business)	38%	10%	4%	15%	32%	100%	31%	6%	3%	14%	46%	100%	35%	8%	4%	14%	39%	100%
Wellness (a place to get fit and be healthy)	46%	4%	3%	6%	41%	100%	26%	9%	2%	8%	55%	100%	36%	7%	3%	7%	48%	100%
Recreational opportunities (hiking, biking, running, horseback riding, bird watching, fishing, creating art, relaxing, and enjoying the outdoors)	46%	4%	0%	6%	44%	100%	34%	2%	0%	11%	53%	100%	40%	3%	0%	8%	48%	100%
Mobility (using the natural areas trails to get around Fort Collins)	22%	16%	18%	16%	28%	100%	17%	15%	16%	13%	38%	100%	20%	16%	17%	15%	33%	100%
Educational opportunities (learn more about the outdoors)	22%	18%	18%	21%	20%	100%	18%	12%	20%	20%	30%	100%	20%	15%	19%	21%	25%	100%
Escape from the urban environment	40%	10%	3%	13%	33%	100%	29%	6%	2%	12%	51%	100%	34%	8%	3%	12%	42%	100%
Healthy environment (filtering water and air, preventing flooding, etc.)	39%	10%	5%	14%	32%	100%	28%	11%	2%	18%	41%	100%	34%	11%	4%	16%	36%	100%
Habitat conservation (places for wildlife and native plants to live and grow)	36%	13%	4%	15%	31%	100%	28%	8%	1%	17%	45%	100%	32%	11%	2%	16%	38%	100%
Scientific opportunities (places for scientists to collect data)	31%	14%	13%	14%	29%	100%	28%	6%	11%	15%	39%	100%	30%	10%	12%	15%	34%	100%
Cultural resources conservation (protecting traces of the past)	27%	22%	15%	10%	26%	100%	22%	7%	15%	13%	44%	100%	25%	15%	15%	11%	35%	100%
Feeling a connection to nature or for personal renewal	42%	10%	3%	13%	32%	100%	31%	3%	5%	14%	47%	100%	36%	7%	4%	14%	40%	100%
Overall quality of life in Fort Collins	44%	7%	3%	13%	33%	100%	30%	3%	4%	14%	49%	100%	37%	5%	4%	14%	41%	100%
Wide open spaces (undeveloped views)	38%	9%	7%	9%	36%	100%	20%	10%	9%	10%	51%	100%	29%	10%	8%	10%	44%	100%

Table 15: Question 12

What one thing (if any) do you most appreciate about Fort Collins' natural areas?	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
Nearby and accessible	27%	15%	21%
Number and variety of natural areas	10%	20%	15%
Well-maintained/preserved	4%	6%	5%
Not developed, buffer for built areas	12%	16%	14%
Trails/ease of walking, biking, running	16%	6%	11%
The fact that natural areas exist and won't decrease	23%	32%	28%
Aesthetic beauty/scenery	4%	3%	4%
Other	3%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Respondents were given the opportunity to write-in an "other" response; these responses can be found in Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Open-ended Questions.

Table 16: Question 13

What other comments, if any, would you like to make about City of Fort Collins natural areas?	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
Comments of appreciation for natural areas and the work being done to maintain them	47%	41%	44%
Expand natural area spaces and focus on keeping as much natural areas as possible	15%	30%	22%
Improvements to signage	3%	0%	1%
Comments related to water sports and the Poudre River	5%	2%	4%
Safety concerns	7%	2%	4%
Trail maintenance and trail connectivity comments	3%	4%	4%
Other	17%	12%	14%
Nothing, N/A	4%	8%	6%
Total	100%	100%	100%

125 respondents chose to write-in a response; these responses, including "other" responses, can be found in Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Open-ended Questions.

Table 17: Question 14

What is your zip code?	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
80252	0%	0%	0%
80513	0%	4%	2%
80521	15%	18%	16%
80524	12%	25%	19%
80525	37%	1%	19%
80526	26%	11%	18%
80528	10%	6%	8%
80534	0%	2%	1%
80535	0%	2%	1%
80537	0%	14%	7%
80538	0%	4%	2%
80539	0%	2%	1%
80547	0%	2%	1%
80549	0%	8%	4%
80550	0%	1%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table 18: Question 15

About how long have you lived in Larimer County?	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
Less than a year	7%	2%	5%
1–5 years	37%	26%	31%
6–10 years	15%	16%	16%
11–15 years	5%	7%	6%
16–20 years	4%	10%	7%
More than 20 years	31%	39%	35%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table 19: Question 16

Do you rent or own your home?	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
Rent	46%	25%	35%
Own	54%	75%	65%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table 20: Question 17

Which category best describes your gender?	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
Female	50%	52%	51%
Male	49%	48%	49%
Gender non-conforming	1%	0%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table 21: Question 18

Which category best describes your age?	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
18-19 years	1%	0%	1%
20-29 years	32%	7%	19%
30-39 years	21%	26%	23%
40-49 years	12%	6%	9%
50-59 years	9%	12%	10%
60-69 years	12%	23%	18%
70 years or older	10%	25%	18%
Decline to specify	2%	1%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table 22: Question 19

Which category best describes your level of education?	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
Less than high school graduate	0%	0%	0%
High school graduate (or equivalency)	4%	13%	9%
Some college or Associate's degree	19%	24%	22%
Bachelor's degree	37%	40%	39%
Master's or PhD	39%	23%	31%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table 23: Question 20

Which category best describes your household income?	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
Less than \$10,000	6%	1%	3%
\$10,000–\$14,999	3%	4%	3%
\$15,000–\$24,999	10%	2%	6%
\$25,000–\$34,999	8%	2%	5%
\$35,000–\$49,999	6%	12%	9%
\$50,000–\$74,999	19%	16%	18%
\$75,000–\$99,999	18%	34%	26%
\$100,000–\$149,999	13%	19%	16%
\$150,000–\$199,999	7%	3%	5%
\$200,000 or more	10%	7%	8%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table 24: Question 21

Which category best describes your race?	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
American Indian/Alaska Native	3%	6%	5%
Asian	3%	0%	1%
Black/African American	2%	0%	1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0%	0%	0%
White	88%	90%	89%
Two or more races	5%	4%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table 25: Question 22

Which category best describes your ethnicity?	Fort Collins	Rest of Larimer County	Overall
Hispanic/Latinx	7%	8%	8%
Non-Hispanic/Latinx	93%	92%	92%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Open-ended Questions

Following are verbatim responses to the open-ended question on the survey, sorted alphabetically. The verbatim responses were not edited for grammar or punctuation.

Question 1a: If you never visit, please select the reasons why. Check all that apply, then skip to Question #9. "Other" responses.

- Didn't know about them.
- INTEREST BUT PROCRASTINATION.
- JUST ARRIVED IN STATE.
- Just don't think about it.
- Just moved here haven't had time yet.
- Nature doesn't stay in the areas you have provided, prairie dogs, hawks, foxes (of which I've seen a mom and her pups this year) go where they want. That leaves the "natural" areas full of people, not nature.
- Not aware of how many there are. don't feel comfortable going by myself.
- retired and walk my paths in Loveland
- VISITS ARE ACCIDENTAL; WHILE BIKING ON THE POUDRE TRAIL.
- Walk in neighbourhood due to age 83.
- We live in Loveland don't go to Ft. Collins to hike or go to natural areas.

Question 2: In the last year, in what activity(ies) did you participate when you visited a Fort Collins natural area in the last year? (Please check all that apply.) "Other" responses.

- Areas with water are great for cooling off on a hot day, more just throwing rocks and feet in the river.
- astronomy
- Bike trail system for transportation.
- Biking through.
- Bird & butterfly surveys for NIC.
- Bird watching.
- Botany; teaching.
- Dog SAR training
- Educational.
- Just walking.
- Lakehouse.
- Making park petting zoo.
- Mountain Biking
- N/A.
- Need help getting these.
- Never visited these areas.
- Swimming reservoir.
- Swimming.
- The silence.
- Walking for exercise.
- Walking.
- Walking.
- Walking.
- Walking.
- Walking; meeting; catching up with friend

Question 5a: If you feel unsafe, please explain:

- A lot of people walking these dogs off leash.
- Almost always in a group (in daytime).
- At dusk it is dark and it is more difficult to see people.
- Concern about car break-ins.
- DODGING BICYCLES.
- Dogs off leash.
- Except for feel of rattlesnakes.
- Ft.C. in general & gun culture.
- Homeless people sleeping in parks.
- I feel safe; however; in 18 years of using Horsetooth trails almost daily; I have never seen a ranger on foot on a hill.
- I have stopped running on Mason trail. There are many homeless people sleeping in the grasses end. It is too bad.
- I only take the kids earlier in the day. It's usually just me & the kids w/ our little dog.
- If signs are posted because of car break-ins...
- Is there something else that can be done to defer trailhead car break-ins?

- Keep hearing about break-ins of cars parked near hiking trails.
- Kind of people in area.
- Most natural areas I feel safe. I would not run at Lee Martinez; are the lake (pond) at E-learning center by myself.
- Mountain lions?
- Northside; east of college; is scary still.
- Not very safe too many homeless people cause problems.
- POUDRE TRAIL - FEEL UNSAFE RUNNING ALONE.
- Remote area. Just felt unsafe to venture too far from vehicle.
- Reports of car breakins & trash heap.
- Safe during daylight. Not so much @ sunrise or sunset.
- Safety in #'s- alone; I feel wild cats not lions- Like the Santana (sp)? closed off area to kayaker.
- Sometimes when I've been alone or with a small child I've felt vulnerable when around single men.
- The wildlife.
- Too many reports of car break-ins.
- Unless rattlesnake season is occurring - cautions of bobcats too.
- Was followed by a young man once. I now carry a pepper spray. Happened 2 yrs. ago.
- We are new out here in time we will see.
- Would not visit at dark/alone.

Question 6: During the past 12 months, have you had any unpleasant experiences in any City of Fort Collins natural area? (If yes, please explain:)

- (1) Too many cyclists speeding or not alerting soon enough. (2) People not picking up after their dogs.
- 1 TIME; CAR BROKEN INTO AT ENVIRONMENTAL CTR.
- A FEW RUDE PEOPLE & NO PASSING SIGNAL.
- A rattlesnake on the paved trail!
- At Arapahoe Bend, an individual displaying erratic, unpredictable behavior/incoherent yelling
- BATHROOMS.
- Bicycles racing along paths without signaling or slowing down trail edges treated with herbicides.
- Bike riders too fast & reckless.
- Bikers riding so fast that they whipped around a corner and crashed into myself and my dog.
- Bit by bull snake in gateway while fighting.
- Closes early AM as I'm a 6 AM hiker; kayaker.
- Clothing left scattered.
- Cyclists going too fast in pedestrian areas with curves.
- Dog off leash.
- Dog owners! Most are fine; but many don't pick up their plastic poop bags; many don't leash their dogs - i've been lunged at by many dogs off leash.
- Dog pooh not picked up: bike riders "not" saying "on your left".
- Encountered an individual who made me feel uncomfortable and unsafe. I was able to leave the situation without a problem. I spoke with a ranger and he was very helpful.
- Getting blasted by rude cyclists out of control (and I'm an avid cyclist).
- Homeless man talks to himself.
- I do see men sleeping or waking up around the time I run.
- I saw a dead cat that wasn't removed.
- Just a little crowded
- Just rude bikers at Pineridge.
- Just run ins with other trail users(verbal).
- kids on mini-bikes
- Knots and unpleasant odors; geese dropping (all natural).
- Maybe on occasion portable radios can be too invasive.
- NA.
- Not everyone is using a leash w/ dog & not cleaning up. (Our dog was hurt by another dog - not at Ft Co area; but now can be nervous w/ other dogs. if we can't bring our dog we won't go) Need leashes at all places; please!
- Not sure if this survey includes the paved bike/pedestrian trails, but we've been startled multiple times by bikes, and especially ebikes, passing at high speed.
- Number of homeless along trails
- People aggressively searching for parking. College boat rentals/parties in the caves; play music so loudly you can hear it miles away.
- People not picking up dog waste.
- Restroom at Arapahoe bend.
- Since July 2020: Chased and/or aggressively approached by off-leash dogs. Watched off-leash

dogs chase prairie dogs at Maxwell and at Pineridge. Mocked for wearing a mask (on three separate occasions), ranging from a passing comment from a cyclist to many sentences shouted by a fellow walker (who kept shouting as we passed each other and I kept walking).

- small group of homeless were drinking and being loud and littering
- Someone was having a mental health crisis at the natural area and was acting a bit aggressive
- The recently completed Maxwell "restoration" is a complete disaster. The city could have built a much better trail. Also ignored two years of outreach and did a horrible job communicating their ultimate plan to the community.
- There exists a big drop at Cache la Poudre River between Mcmurry and Salyer natural area, but it seems there is not a warning sign for

tubing/paddleboarding. Fortunately, one guy stopped the family 50-meter far from the drop. Very luckily.

- Trail flooding between Shields and Taft Hill Trail Flooding tunnel south College Ave
- Transient Camps, trash at trailhead
- Unleashed dogs coming at my dogs.
- We frequent Red Fox Meadows. Great that it's so close. The trails are a web -- could be made more established (or closed/restored) off of main through trail.
- When walking the Poudre trail, every time I try to use the Gustav Swanson bathroom someone seems to be camped inside. One time I knocked on the door, and the man inside threatened to blow my f'ing brains out. The trail really needs more bathrooms - and the area around Gustav Swanson seems to have gotten worse this past year. :(

Question 7: What one change would make your visits to Fort Collins' natural areas more enjoyable?

- (1) Separate trail for cyclists. (2) More trash cans & dog waste stations to encourage clean-up. (Sharing the same trail is a hazard for the elderly/disabled).
- [?] mountain biking trails.
- A better place for homeless residents
- A bit better signage where paths cross or fork.
- A few more interpretive signs.
- A trail to connect them together would be unreal.
- a water source
- Added wildlife interpretive signs & wildlife viewing areas with sign of common animals.
- Additional Trails/Capacity
- All was fine.
- Allow dogs on leash.
- Allow dogs to run free in open spaces
- A lot more fish. These areas are visited daily by a very large number of residents. They are heavily fished and quite challenging to catch close to daily limit. Although it would be costly, I'd recommend stocking these waters to 100% of maximum viably possible. Would truly make for some unforgettable experiences!
- Better educate fellow attendees to not block the entire path when walking with a larger group.
- Better eradication (mechanical; not chemical) of invasive plant species.
- Better maintenance of weeds.
- Better management and planning for recreational opportunities for all trail users at all skill levels with a particular emphasis on mountain biking

and using trails to connect different natural areas together.

- BETTER PARKING LOTS.
- better upkeep on mountain bike trails
- BETTER WHEELCHAIR ACCESS.
- Bike riders speed better controlled
- Bike speed limits.
- Bill [?] [?] !
- Bit of better signage out in Soapstone, a bit confusing out there with the single track and double track
- Can't think of any change
- Can't think of anything right now.
- Can't think of one.
- Cheatgrass tends to make me a bit sad
- Cleaner trails during the winter. Sometimes there is too much ice, but maybe this can't be helped.
- Cleaner well-stocked restrooms.
- Clearer directions/maps, very easy to get lost for someone not used to the area.
- Complete trail to Timnath and east.
- Concerns for homeless population on trails.
- Cut back grass/weeds hanging over some trails.
- Dogs on leash only (I'd prefer that natural areas were closed to dogs but know that's highly unlikely)
- Don't build at old stadium site.
- Don't really have one. If must have one, sandy beach and more parking lots might be preferred at

horsetooth reservior. Asking too much, hahaha, I know.

- Don't use them enough to make a comment.
- Establish unpaved hiking trails that prohibit bicycles and horses; in short; more emphasis on nature experiences and less on recreation - allow more off trail exploration.
- Even more of them; though F.C. is very good in the number of natural areas.
- Expand areas.
- Have more of them.
- Having dog off leash hiking areas would be great!
- Having staff present to encourage following leash laws & cleaning up after pets. The bag stations help; but also need trash cans be leaving a bag behind is still just gross.
- Homeless person in area.
- I bike there often. It would be great to have separate walking / biking trails. That said, I also don't want too much natural area taken up by sidewalk. Tough balance. Otherwise, just more of them.
- I love our natural areas. I enjoy as it.
- I love the area dearly. I think it is quite well managed. As the area's population grows; a greater ranger presence on the trails.
- I think they're wonderful
- I want open spaces for walking my dog off leash. Dog parks don't get either of us the exercise we need.
- I would like to see more directional information signs.
- I would replace the interpretive signs because many me weathered.
- If others using the trails would clean up after themselves, especially their pets, as I often see bags of poop lying around.
- Improve etiquette from cyclists.
- Improved directional information signage
- Improvement on trail maps
- In the case of Ross natural area; invasive plant species are taking over. Milkweed! is everywhere.
- Increase my motivation to get out more.
- Information on what to do in case of emergency - like snake bite or fall. To do this, I would think internet coverage would be helpful.
- Keep expanding bike routes both gravel & paved.
- Leave restrooms open later in fall.
- Less mosquitoes; so really snow removal so I visit in winter more.
- Less people!
- Less people... Ha! Fat chance.
- Less rattlesnakes.
- lower the fees at Horsetooth and Blue Sky as they are prohibitive to some
- Maintenance.
- Make it legal to ride e-bikes. My husband and I are both seniors and love bike riding. We would not be able to ride now if it weren't for e-bikes. If a reasonable speed limit is established and posted, I think it would work fine. We are also hikers/walkers and have had no problem with the e-bikers we've shared trails with. All have been extremely respectful of walkers' safety. I would also like to see the City protect prairie dog colonies rather than destroy them. Prairie dogs are such an important species to our ecosystem and the proliferation of other wildlife.
- Make it more accessible to visitors without a car.
- Maybe a little more parking at some areas like Coyote Ridge.
- Maybe geocaching options?
- Maybe more benches in shaded areas when taking my kids and parents along
- Maybe more trash/ recycle/ compost cans to help avoid littering; especially during holiday weekends.
- Maybe some natural benches for sitting or resting.
- More areas for dogs to run unleashed.
- More areas without dogs & bikes.
- More awareness about their existence.
- More bat boxes. A few more shaded picnic areas or benches could be nice.
- More bathrooms easily accessible along Poudre trail. And more dog parks. Maybe in the new area along Zeigler?
- More bathrooms.
- More bench/rest area along trail.
- more benches for sitting....for ones like me who can't walk far at a time.
- More benches.
- More dog waste bins!
- More education and more art.
- More free kayaking areas
- More frequent presence of a ranger
- More interpretive signs or guided hikes
- More more more natural areas
- More Mt. bike specific use trails.
- More natural area! Sometimes they're quite small in size.
- More natural areas = less crowds.
- More of them

- More of them!
- More of them.
- More of them. I would open all to leashed dogs.
- More open space.
- More parking
- More parking for horse trailers.
- MORE PARKING LOT WEBCAMS TO SEE IF LOT IS FULL.
- more parking spaces
- More parking.
- More picnic areas around Horsetooth res.
- More ranger presence at NA's w/ bikes; including Pineridge downhill trails back to Spring Canyon Park.
- More recycling/trash. Easier bathroom access and clean bathrooms.
- More restrooms - leash law enforced.
- More restrooms & more active police presence; such as bike cops.
- More restrooms.
- more river access - we should be able to float from timberline to college without the fear of dams or obstructions.
- More shade benches.
- More shade structures & seating in Prairie areas.
- More shade trees; however, I know they take a long time to grow!
- More shaded areas for kids and elderly.
- more signage at trail forks
- More signage on who gets the right of way between horses/bikes/hikers and uphill/downhill. Also plant identification along the trail!
- More staff.
- more stay right signs
- More time ;)
- More trail systems to connect to them so you can bike or walk!
- More trails
- More trails
- More trash cans & Doggy Poop bags on trails
- More trash cans and more enforcement of dog leash laws.
- More trash cans for dog poop bags.
- More trash cans in some areas.
- More trash cans or places to dispose of dog waste. I see bags of it along the trail frequently because people don't want to carry it all the way to the next trash can.
- More water facilities (a drinking / spigot station anywhere along the Foothills Trail, from Maxwell to Reservoir Ridge would be a tremendous joy!)
- More water filling stations would be nice.
- More water refill stations on the trails that are en route to the natural areas.
- Move the weeds just west of shields between the 2 irrigation ditches.
- Mowing tall grass along trails in common use areas to prevent spread of ticks.
- n/a
- N/A.
- N/A.
- N/A.
- Night time options; water options.
- No changes.
- No fishing from shields bridge north to college bridge south.
- No rattlesnakes
- None.
- NONE.
- Not finding horse poop on trails.
- Not sure
- nothing
- nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing is coming to mind. Being a runner I knew about the trails (Poudre River Trail and Spring Creek Trail) long before I knew about the open space areas that are also available. I wish I would have known about the open spaces sooner. Maybe figuring out ways to spread the word about these open space areas to the community to raise awareness.
- Off leash areas for well behaved dogs would be nice.
- online ability to see how crowded/parking
- Paddleboarding access.
- Parking. better priced and more lots
- Paving parking areas where weather and traffic tend to degrade the surface (like the upper lot by Dixon reservoir which has major pothole problems)
- People keeping dogs on a leash
- Places to sit - more benches or large stores.
- PLEASE MAKE HAMMOCKING LEGAL IN CITY PARKS
- Possibly more parking.
- Potable water available where possible/feasible.

- Provide benches along trails & elsewhere for sr. citizens.
- Providing more swim areas at the reservoir
- Refilling the hand sanitizer in bathrooms more often
- Remove gravel from paths.
- Restore some of the interpretive signs that are falling apart and add new ones!
- Restrooms left open longer in fall.
- Restrooms open longer in fall
- Reverse climate change - I'm not kidding; take steps to slow climate change and improve air quality.
- See previous questions.
- See#6. (Dog poo not picked up: bike riders "not" saying "on your left".)
- Separate bikes & hikers! Too many dogs!
- Shade.
- Shady areas to sit & rest.
- Shuttle buses from Loveland.
- SOME OF THE CONCRETE TRAILS AND BRIDGES ARE GETTING BEAT UP.
- The bathrooms would be open earlier.
- There is a lot of misunderstanding about fees between all areas - Larimer vs. state vs. F.C.N.A.
- THEY ARE IN GOOD CONDITION NOW.
- Trail etiquette being observed by others in the natural areas. Including picking up trash, yielding to others, etc
- Try to reduce noise, trash and smell. There are often so many bikes - would be nice to have specified days for hikers only
- Went to go swim at reservoir public beaches (all 3 were closed) one must swim early - for parking to avoid boats.
- Where I live (closer to natural areas) and no snakes.
- Would be interesting to see more interpretive materials out on the trails...
- Would love to see more and better-paid rangers. Every ranger I meet there is great, just think they could do more.
- WOULD REMOVING ALL MOSQUITOES BE ASKING TOO MUCH?

Question 8: Indicate if you or other members of your household use each of the following information sources about Natural Areas (Please check all that apply).

- AllTrails.com
- As a long time resident I've just explored them all over the years.
- Google searches; all trails app.
- Google.
- I didn't know about any of these.
- Internet.
- LIVE ALONE.
- MAPS.
- Maps.
- Nat. areas maps.
- Natural Areas printed map
- Natural Areas staff
- None.
- On the trails; city website.
- They are already easily accessible.
- Web search.

Question 10: What can the Natural Areas Department do to make accessing natural areas easier for you?

- Access for paddleboarding.
- Access has never been a problem.
- Access is already great.
- Add even more
- Add extra parking spaces.
- add more areas
- Additional Trails
- Already pretty easy for me.
- Already very easy, thanks!
- Bathroom facility at Arapaho Bend/Reservoir. Port-a-potties are difficult to physically access.
- Better parking.
- BETTER ROADS.
- Better signage from road.
- BETTER SIGNAGE.
- Better signage. Area coming up signs.
- Build more roads to get to natural areas.
- Build more that allow for commuting and recreating along the south-to-north corridors. (More integration w/ urban core).
- Buses for that purpose.
- Can't think of anything
- Can't think of anything; it's great!

- Connection between NE Fort Collins and Downtown (or the Poudre or Spring Creek trail)
- Construct a trail from the south end of Pineridge to the intersection of CR23 and CR38 so that trails west of the reservoir may be accessed without riding / hiking on Harmony road.
- Continue to find and maintain open space areas in and around Fort Collins so it's easy for all residence to access these areas if they want to.
- Continue to invest in land to designate as Natural Area. So the masses can spread.
- Crosswalks across major roads to access them from more directions. Example: Red Fox access from Prospect
- DK-N/A.
- Don't use them enough to make a comment.
- Easy to get to in city. Need better cooperation/coordination with country concerning open spaces. E.g. Watson lake & Soapstone. The perfect dinosaur shelter should be seen & protected.
- Fix prospect pond access (pot holes).
- From what I see it looks like there are multiple easy to access parking areas.
- Get rid of the prairie dog infestation. I've been bit by fleas, and so has my dog.
- Greater distribution of areas & trails by maps & online.
- Have walking paths to the area from nearby residential areas.
- Help keep stadium property open space.
- I can bike or run from my house.
- I can't believe how many people leave their dogs poop. I think people think it's cool to let their dogs go off leash.
- I know some areas don't have adequate parking.
- I would like easier access via bike; walking paths.
- I'd love to learn what type of bird is pictured on many of the natural areas signs (like the northern flicker on the Fischer Natural Area sign). They're beautiful, and sometimes I see them in these natural areas, but I don't usually know what kind of bird they are.
- I'm very satisfied w/ our access now. We moved here in 2018 from Michigan and our parks are very much enjoyed - that and the bike trails were a big factor in choosing FC.
- Increased parking availability
- Is there any safety issue(s) for a single woman?
- It is easy.
- Its all easy; some parking is not available if not early.
- its all good
- Just read in newspapers - new housing (old what?) was to start the elite can be too elite rent at 1800! Ridiculous & not affordable.
- keep it the way it is. fees are already expensive!
- Keep more areas around town open space.
- keep them for others
- Keep up the great work!
- Leash law signage.
- Love all the work you do... I also really love the goals..
- lower the fees at Horsetooth and Blue Sky
- Map/guidebook.
- **MORE BIKE LANES ON MAIN ROADS TO GET TO NATURAL AREAS.**
- More bike parking/secure locking points
- More bike trails connections, like complete the power line trail to Harmony from Hosrsetooth.
- More connection to bike paths
- More fishing area.. (I mean like areas at the water that extend into the water for more accessible fishing, piers, fishing dugouts, areas cleared near shore, etc)
- More information of where all the natural areas are! I don't even know where to look!
- **MORE MAPS.**
- More more more natural areas
- More of them
- More of them
- More of them! Ensure current areas are not developed.
- More parking
- more parking spaces
- More parking.
- More parking. Nearby ones are okay. More distant ones need more parking.
- More signage (two blocks to ____).
- More trails and parking.
- n/a
- n/a
- n/a
- n/a
- N/A
- N/A
- N/a very accessible. One of the best parts about living here!
- N/A.
- N/a.

- N/A.
- N/A.
- N/A.
- N/A.
- N/A.
- N/A.
- N/A.
- NA.
- Need more secure bike racks to lock my bike
- NO COMMENT - I ALWAYS BIKE TO TRAILS.
- None that I know of.
- NONE.
- None. Make sure no new development - e.g. pipelines; roads; powerlines; etc. - impinge on the natural areas.
- Not sure
- Not sure
- nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing needed. Very accessible for me.
- Nothing that I can think of.
- Nothing.
- Nothing.
- Nothing... Keep up the good work.
- 'One' booklet showing as many natural areas as possible, which makes accessing natural areas easier whenever necessary.
- Potable water.
- Provide benches & rest areas (per above) & phone posts for summoning assistance if needed.
- Provide information easily accessed that shows the location of all walking trail & also gives information about parking availability.
- Provide more information on history; acquisition; management of natural areas; provide more interpretative materials (maps; brochures; websites) on the cultural and natural history; geology; and conservation importance of natural areas.
- Public needs to better informed on how all the various areas work in terms of fees/free areas.
- RAISE AREAS THAT FLOOD ALONG THE BIKE/HIKING PATH.
- See#7. [More shade structures & seating in Prairie areas.]
- Shoulder or sidewalk access east on Horsetooth to access the Arapaho Bends area. And of course - connection of the Poudre trail pieces. Better connection on the Powers trail as it crosses Harmony.
- Signs to let larger groups know to not block the path
- Thanks for sending the Natural Areas Map. I am fairly new to Fort Collins & have not heard of most of these areas.
- The areas I have visited are very accessible.
- The areas near me are very accessible either walking; biking or by car.
- The best way is probably to have more of them
- The connection to red fox meadows across Taft is difficult. There is no bike entrance onto the sidewalk on the west side of Taft. Also there is no entrance off of prospect to access easily from Avery Park.
- There's really nothing that gets in the way of my access to Natural Areas.
- They are easy to access just not near to me.
- To keep posted how deep snow is or flooding in spring so I know in advance.
- Trail networks for biking can always be added or extended for ease of access; but generally accessibility is quite good.
- Trail system that connects north Fort Collins to the natural areas
- Unsure/unaware of where to find resources above & unfamiliar w/ many locations listed. Would like more info/advertising to find info & resources.
- We live outside of Ft Collins; so our access is just driving longer distances. Can't change that.
- WEBCAMS IN PARKING LOTS.
- WHAT THEY CAN DO IS VERY DIFFERENT THAN WHAT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES ARE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME; JUST MAINTAIN THE AREAS TO HIGH STANDARDS AND DON'T LOSE FOCUS.
- works great now.
- You are doing a fantastic job; thank you for your hard work!
- You are doing a great job! Thanks for keeping our outdoors accessible & enjoyable!
- You're doing fine.

Question 12: What one thing (if any) do you most appreciate about Fort Collins' natural areas? responses.

- all of the above
- All of the above!
- All of the above.
- All of the above. But emphasize: keep open space open!
- All the above.
- All.
- Conserving and restoring natural environments/ecology; helping the community make them a priority
- Freedom.
- Hope someone can have the vision to increase natural areas.
- If we had natural areas to match how many 4 story buildings are in town. Planting flowers and shrubs in the medians doesn't count.
- Protection of ecology in an increasingly developed area.
- Seeing other people; friendly.
- The focus on ecological restoration (e.g. in McMurray natural area/ponds)

Question 13: What other comments, if any, would you like to make about City of Fort Collins natural areas? responses.

- Access to natural areas was #1 thing we looked for in a new home in 2021 - 6's of 1) recreation/fitness; 2) urban buffer/ green space; 3) bike commuting.
- Always say how lucky we are to be so close to so many beautiful areas in Fort Collins!
- As the front range grows we will need more natural areas for conservation, wildlife and recreation. Increase the tax and buy up as much land as possible before it is too late.
- At the beginning of the year I challenged myself to visit every natural area I can and am tracking it using a copy of the map
- Basically Ft. Collins is doing a great job in providing non urban feeling places within a city.
- Beautiful city \ close to everything!
- Better patrol / follow up with break ins.
- Bike trails need better directional signage. More needed and current ones too small to read while biking.
- Buy as much land as you can and figure out how to pay for them later.
- Can not have enough natural areas. Wish there was more wild life.
- can't think of anything that I haven't already typed
- Can't wait for the bike path to connect from Radiant Park!
- CITY SHOULD BUY MORE UNDEVELOPED AND FARM LAND; AND STOP COOPERATING WITH DEVELOPERS. NO MORE HOUSING; NO MORE BUILDING; BUY LAND; LEAVE MORE OPEN SPACE.
- Concentrating on adding fishing benefits the areas to everyone, even those who do not fish, it makes for a more vibrant, fun, and exciting place to spend time.
- Cooperation/coordination of country & state on parks & open space management & use! Better signage at Watson lake.
- Create them as much as possible to try to preserve and protect parts of nature and prevent development and destruction.
- Doing a great job thank you.
- Essential; taxpayer - voter supported.
- FEEL LUCKY TO HAVE AS MANY AREAS; AS CLOSE AS THEY ARE.
- Fort Collins Natural Areas are one of the best resources the city has to offer it's residents and they really distinguish Fort Collins from other cities around the country.
- Fort Collins provide great rec. opportunities. Thank you!!!
- GREAT FOR CYCLING.
- Great job maintaining these areas.
- How accessible is all of this for low income/disabled folks? Maybe an extra 1% from lottery would help.
- I am in full support of natural areas and would be delighted to pay more taxes to continually add more of them; preserve & maintain them.
- I am trying to get to more of them this year - I really value that FC has the natural areas that it does.
- I am very pleased with all the natural areas available.
- I am worried what will happen if the Poudre River runs low because of the proposed NISP project -

then the entire river area, trails, and habitat would be ruined forever!

- I appreciate our natural areas. Especially with the continued growth of FC, our natural areas are necessary to maintain our quality of life. I super appreciate well maintained restrooms!
- I appreciate the opportunity to give my feedback but never visited Ft. Collins natural area - love the map.
- I BELIEVE THEY SHOULD BE CONFINED TO THE CITY BOUNDARY; OTHER AREAS SHOULD BE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTY OR STATE.
- I don't take advantage of them like I could - I grew up on a farm on Horsetooth & shields & take for granted this lovely area.
- I live in Loveland; don't use these areas; may now go to see what they have to offer; never knew about them.
- I live in Maple Hill, the last of Fort Collins undeveloped land is out here, ensure some land is reserved for natural areas in this area.
- I love all the natural areas and will be willing to pay more in taxes to maintain and add more to the city
- I love and use the natural areas here so much!
- I love our natural areas! One small suggestion (and I know it costs money) is to have bathrooms at every natural area.
- I love the availability of walking trails. Any opportunity to increase trails & paths & green natural areas should be taken.
- I LOVE THE BIKE TRAILS! THAT TUNNEL UNDER THE RAILWAY IS AWESOME.
- I love them... They provide a natural; beautiful space in nature that provides a place for humans and animals to live and relax peaceably!
- I think having all of these natural areas contributes to the mental and physical health of the community!
- I think it is important for Fort Collins to continue to make our natural areas a priority for its residents.
- I think the amount we have is fine. Any more is costly and it still is not the same like being in nature removed from civilization. i would invest in getting the commercial trains out of the city. have a cost effective yard east of i25 and avoid the economy hindering in the city. use the city track for a connection Cheyenne ,Fort Collins, Loveland ,Longmont..... Denver like modern cities in Europe do with a coordinated Buss system for inside the city.
- I think they are great! Would like to see Foco capitalize on the floating/ tubing the poudre more - we should be able to float all the way through town like Steamboat Springs. This would be a huge attraction!
- I would like to see the City be more cognizant and respectful of the role prairie dogs play in our ecosystem. I have seen the City destroy prairie dog colonies because one nearby homeowner complained.
- I would love to see some more cafes. biergartens, etc along the trails going to the natural areas. Being able to easily go to a cafe right off of the trail would be amazing!
- I'd like classes on paddle boarding; kayaking; canoeing; etc. Rental options on east side of town; signs that clearly state it designated water sport area.
- I'd love to see more wildflowers in these areas. Also clearer trail markings when the trails fork to indicate a little further on that you are still on the trail you wanted to be on.
- I'm new to the area and VERY impressed with the city and all it has to offer to enjoy nature, how well maintained they are and that no one vandalizes the community areas.
- Improve signage.
- It is highly encouraging to see the voter support that natural areas initiatives has garnered. Thanks to the visionaries who initiated open space efforts for the City, and to Natural Areas staff for decades of work conserving, restoring, maintaining properties.
- It is so nice to have a place for the flora & fauna to be. We can't cover everything with concrete.
- It's nice to have them for people to use that really enjoy nature and are able to get away from city "life".
- It's very nice...
- Just a thank you to the city of Fort Collins staff who make it all possible.
- JUST SEEING THEM AS I DRIVE OR RIDE BY MAKES ME SMILE & RELAX A BIT. PASSING THE HAZALEUS SIGN REMINDS ME OF MY BROTHER'S FRIEND.
- Keep parking at trail heads free.
- KEEP THEM ALIVE!! DONT LET BUILDERS/DEVELOPERS TAKE THEM OVER!
- Keep up the amazing work.
- Kudos for all your good work!!! :)
- Let Dogs go on the trails

- Love them! My goal this year is to visit them ALL. Truly my favorite part of living in this city. Thank you for making nature easy.
- Love them.
- Make trails wider; no gravel on diff trails; trim unsafe tree branches; stop rangers from spying/from my neighbourhood. Cut the weeds.
- More informational & educational signs about the area/ wildlife and our impact on them.
- More natural areas; too much building; where does the wildlife (balance the system) go?
- More patrols; lot of small time rule breakers.
- More sensitive, respectful, inclusive interpretation of Indigenous communities who have lived -- and continue to live -- in this area.
- My family (nieces; nephews) love your natural areas.
- My family members love them use bike parks often.
- My kids and I love taking nature walks in the natural areas. We have explored many different places at Riverbends and Running Deer and Salyer by Lee Martinez.
- Natural areas needs to hire someone with experience in and enthusiasm for recreational planning. Preferably someone who at least mountain bikes. Someone who is not on the record as saying they'd wish the mountain bikers would just go away. The need for more recreational areas and trails is only going to increase over the next decade.
- Need animal wild control before its too late!
- Need more trails and connect more trails together for bigger loops without having to be on streets/hwys.
- None
- NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS & SERVES NO PURPOSE OTHER THAN P***** PEOPLE OFF.
- NONE.
- None.
- Not enough attention paid to sr. citizen access & enjoyment.
- Nothing.
- One of the best things about living in Fort Collins. I know we need affordable housing, but I rather see apartment buildings and higher density residential areas but keep the natural spaces protected
- Open space is why Fort Collins is so attractive by keeping all & adding more open space will only help us grow the right way.
- Personally; I would like to see less "manicured" trails - well-maintained shouldn't involve heavy trail side moving; pesticide use; etc. Make trails look and feel more natural by limiting the number of paved and manicured trails; or rather by adding additional smaller; more intimate paths to the major trail routes through natural areas. (E.g. Compact arapaho bend or riverbend ponds with Redfoil grove; Cathy Fromme Prairie...).
- Please do all you can to continue acquisition of undeveloped land to support the quality of life provided by natural areas.
- Please fight to protect Hughes stadium open area!! We need that area to protect Ft Collin's biodiversity!
- PLEASE IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.
- please keep as much natural space as you can
- PLEASE!!!! PLEASE PLEASE!! Keep the old hughes area open space. A development would ruin such a beautiful space.
- Really love all the green spaces here; thank you!
- reduce the number of areas for land development/housing and turn them into natural areas.
- Residence should be able to vote on all new housing/ open space like we did at Hughes stadium.
- Re-visit first nations history in this area. a.) signage b.) re-vert back to native names. Re-think manifest destiny historical record. Re-write historical record. Big picture planning. Climate disruption: air pollution - the brown cloud inversion <1980's water drought vs flood'97 fire red zones faust-ian zoning laws; fix! ...Earth = top soil; ban fertilizers & neo - for bees.
- Ross area; around Spring Creek; could use better trail maintenance. Invasive weeds are choking out native species; and closing in on trails.
- So glad you have them and make it a priority!
- Staff is very friendly if I meet at natural areas.
- Thank you for all your hard work to make this a great place to live!
- Thank you for everything you do.
- Thank you for the effort, time, and money you put into making the natural areas here what they are.
- Thank you Fort Collins for recognizing the value open space adds to our community. I'll always want more, because I love it, but I'm happy with what we have. Recently my high school son has been using the Power Trail, Poudre Trail, and Spring Canyon Trail to meet up with friends and

get to orthodontist appointments. Creating more biking and running trails to make it easy to get around our city without having to be on busy streets would be wonderful. It gives all of us another way to get around our community rather than always relying on cars.

- Thank you!
- Thanks again!! You'll rock!
- The bikes on the trails are going so fast it is a danger to everyone else. There needs to be some kind of speed control so all trail goers are safe and not getting ran over by a bike coming around the bend at ridiculous speeds.
- The city should not allow encroachment of utilities such as pipelines in the natural areas.
- The gardens off Spring Creek bike trail - I could not even go in (was told) to see what was in the bldg - too elite - 8 to get in & only at specific X & no way - but I would go in & more often if entry was [?].
- The housing in this town is too dense. Need more area around such home. Very little privacy.
- The land use code includes language to ensure that proposed developments don't negatively affect views from inside natural areas, but to my knowledge, the natural areas program has never used that language to object to a project. The natural areas along the Poudre used to provide a welcome escape from the urban environment and a buffer from development, but that quality is quickly disappearing with developments like Pateros Creek, which provide a nice view to the people who buy the trophy houses, but destroy the view for the people who use the trails (even going so far as to post billboards facing the trail). Encroaching development is eventually going to kill one of the main purposes (escape & stress relief) mentioned in the original Natural Areas Policy Plan. If inappropriate development on the edge of natural areas can't be prevented, then at least we should ensure meaningful vegetative screening and prohibit advertising and private entrances to the areas.
- The mountains; the Poudre; the natural areas; the bike paths make Fort Collins; without those things this town could compete with Gary; Indiana.

- The natural area in Fort Collins are the reason I live in this town. The accessibility to trails & [?] improve my life.
- The natural areas along with the bike trails are my absolute favorite thing about the city.
- The natural areas are a great asset to Fort Collins, and I hope they are maintained and increased.
- The natural areas are a very valuable asset for myself; family; and the children and residents of Fort Collins.
- The natural areas are a wonderful urban asset.
- The Poudre River is a very important source of water for many FoCo Natural Areas. PLEASE, DO NOT let the NISP pipeline divert water from the Poudre in north Fort Collins. The ecology of the river is already suffering from low water levels! We have seen areas near the CSU Environmental Learning Center where the river is basically dry in times of drought! If water is to be diverted, it should be south of Fort Collins!!
- The rangers need to walk the area not drive around.
- These areas were such a relief/outlet during COVID when I had time to explore the area. I hadn't explored until then and have come to really value these areas.
- They add inaccessible value to quality of life in FoCo.
- They are very nice; aesthetic wise and make me happy.
- WE LOVE ALL OF THEM. OUR CITY COULD USE EVEN MORE.
- We love the amount of outdoor, nature access and opportunities we have here. It's the number 1 thing we love about living in NoCo.
- We love the fast response for clearing the trails of snow after a storm!
- We need more open spaces & rangers.
- We should have more of these & less houses!!
- We so appreciate having these areas where we can walk and feel like we're not in the middle of a city.
- Wonderful!
- Would like to see more natural areas (or expansion)

Appendix C: Comparison of Survey Responses by Year

The tables below show the survey results compared over time where similar questions were included on the 2021 survey. For comparisons of the 2021 to 2016 surveys, ratings can be considered statistically significantly different if they are eight percentage points or more for all respondents (323). For comparisons among subgroups, the margin of error rises to approximately plus or minus 10% for subgroups of 100 and plus or minus 18% for subgroups of 30.

Table 26: Question 1

How often do you visit Fort Collins natural areas? Would you say . . .	2021	2016	2011
More than 100 times a year (Twice a week or more)	16%	9%	8%
51 to 100 times a year (Once or twice a week)	17%	15%	16%
26 to 50 (Once every week or two)	24%	12%	14%
11 to 25 (Once or twice a month)	13%	18%	14%
1 to 10 (Less than once a month)	19%	19%	28%
Never	11%	26%	20%
Total	100%	100%	100%

**Prior to 2021, the response option of "2 to 10 (Less than once a month)" was "2 to 10 (Less than once a month)".*

Table 27: Question 2

2021: In the last year, in what activity(ies) did you participate the last time you visited a Fort Collins natural area?* 2016: In what activity(ies) did you participate the last time you visited a Fort Collins natural area in the last year?* 2011: In the past 12 months, in what activity(ies) have you participated in during your visits to Fort Collins' natural area(s)?*	2021	2016	2011
Biking	47%	50%	55%
Commuting/passing through	28%	22%	30%
Dog walking	41%	29%	44%
Enjoying the scenery	69%	58%	30%
Fishing	15%	16%	21%
Hiking	77%	76%	70%
Horseback riding	1%	3%	2%
Kayaking/Tubing/Paddleboarding	17%	NA	NA
Photography/art	18%	19%	20%
Picnicking	25%	24%	20%
Relaxing/doing nothing	50%	46%	42%
Running/jogging	34%	29%	29%
Wildlife viewing	44%	39%	39%
Other	3%	5%	6%

** Percents may add to more than 100% as respondents could give more than one answer.*

Table 28: Question 3

Overall, how would you rate your overall satisfaction with the natural areas you have visited?	2021	2016	2011
Very satisfied	77%	74%	67%
Somewhat satisfied	21%	16%	25%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	1%	7%	5%
Somewhat dissatisfied	0%	1%	0%
Very dissatisfied	1%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table 29: Question 4

Please grade the following individual facilities and services, using the letter grades of A, B, C, D, or F (where "A" is the highest grade and "F" is a failing grade). What about . . .	2021	2016	2011
Condition of restrooms	76%	71%	59%
Directional informational signs	85%	89%	81%
Ecological restoration (work to improve wildlife habitat and native plants)	88%	NA	NA
Educational activities and events (for example, guided hikes/rides, kids' programs)	70%	82%	66%
Information provided in brochures	89%	85%	69%
Information provided in maps	90%	87%	74%
Interpretive signs (signs designed to provide educational guidance and deeper appreciation)	83%	79%	74%
Number of restrooms	80%	69%	63%
Ranger services	79%	NA	NA
Trail condition	95%	97%	87%
Trailhead condition	94%	96%	88%
Trash/Recycling cans	76%	77%	69%

Table 30: Question 6

During the past 12 months, have you had any unpleasant experiences in any City of Fort Collins natural area?	2021	2016	2011
No	87%	84%	88%
Yes	13%	16%	12%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table 31: Question 11

For each of the attributes below, please rate to what extent, if at all, you think the City of Fort Collins natural areas contribute to this attribute of the community. What about . . . Percent saying "Great extent"	2021	2016	2011
Economic vitality (making Fort Collins an attractive place to work and do business)	60%	53%	50%
Wellness (a place to get fit and be healthy)	75%	70%	70%
Recreational opportunities (hiking, biking, walking, horseback riding, bird watching, fishing, creating art, relaxing and enjoying the outdoors)	81%	75%	79%
Mobility (using the natural areas and trails to get around Fort Collins)	41%	41%	44%
Educational opportunities (learn more about nature and the outdoors)	31%	37%	35%
Escape from the urban environment	64%	52%	55%
Healthy environment/ecology (filtering water and air, preventing flooding, etc.)	55%	48%	51%
Habitat (places for wildlife and native plants to live and grow) conservation	56%	57%	60%
Scientific opportunities (places for scientists to collect data)	48%	37%	38%
Cultural resources conservation (protecting traces of the past)	46%	39%	35%
Feeling a connection to nature or for personal renewal	62%	55%	50%
Overall quality of life in Fort Collins	65%	65%	63%
Wide open spaces (undeveloped views)	61%	NA	NA

Table 32: Question 12

What one thing (if any) do you most appreciate about Fort Collins' natural areas?	2021	2016	2011
Aesthetic beauty/scenery	4%	3%	0%
Nearby and accessible	21%	24%	15%
Not developed, buffer for built areas	14%	5%	0%
Number and variety of natural areas	15%	17%	14%
The fact that natural areas exist and won't decrease	28%	13%	24%
Trails/ease of walking, biking, running	11%	18%	9%
Well-maintained/preserved	5%	11%	18%
Other	2%	7%	13%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Prior to 2021, some items were worded differently: "Aesthetic beauty/scenery" was "Beauty/scenery", "Not developed, buffer for built areas" was "Not developed, buffer, restricting building", "Number and variety of natural areas" was "Abundant throughout the city and a large variety", "The fact that natural areas exist and won't decrease" was "That they exist in the city, the open space itself, won't decrease", "Well-maintained/preserved" was "Well maintained/preserved, aesthetic beauty of the preservation and maintenance".

Appendix D: Comparisons of 2021 Survey Responses by Respondent Characteristics

For ease of comparison between subgroups, some of the questions show summarized responses for only the proportion of respondents giving a positive answer; for example, the percent of respondents who were very or somewhat satisfied with the natural area they visited.

The subgroup comparison tables contain the cross tabulations of survey questions by selected respondent characteristics. Chi-square or ANOVA tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the sample represent “real” differences among those populations.

For each pair of subgroups that has a statistically significant difference, an uppercase letter denoting significance is shown in the category with the larger column proportion. The letter denotes the category with the smaller column proportion from which it is statistically different. Differences were marked as statistically significant if the probability that the differences were due to chance alone were less than 5%. Categories were not used in comparisons when a column proportion was equal to zero or one.

Items that have no uppercase letter denotation in their column and that are also not referred to in any other column were not statistically different.

For example, in Table 33 on page 37, respondents who had lived in Larimer County for 5 years or less (A) were statistically significantly more likely to visit natural areas 51 to 100 times a year (once or twice a week) compared to those who had live in the County for 6-20 years (B) or more than 20 years (C). This is indicated by the “B C” below the 31% of those who had lived in the County 5 years or less who selected “51 to 100 times a year”. In another example in Table 35 on page 38, those who were aged 18-39 (A) and those aged 60 or older (C) rated their level of satisfaction with Fort Collins natural areas significantly higher than residents who were aged 40-59 (B).

Highlights

Satisfaction with the Fort Collins natural areas visited was nearly universally positive among all demographic subgroups. Even when statistically significant differences were observed, the differences were small and not of “policy” significance. Likewise, the vast majority of respondents reported feeling of safe when visiting Fort Collins natural areas, and even differences that were statistically significant tended to be small.

While ratings of the ease of access to a natural area were also high, some differences between subgroups were greater than 7%; lower ratings were given by respondents who have resided in Larimer County 6-20 years, older respondents, respondents who identified as a race other than White, respondents with household incomes greater than \$100,000 compared to respondents who have resided in Larimer County for 5 years or less or for more than 20 years, younger respondents, respondents who identified as White, and respondents with household incomes less than \$100,000.

When asked to grade facilities and services in the natural areas, respondents who identified as a race other than White and those who identified as Hispanic/Latinx gave lower ratings to the condition of restrooms and to ecological restoration than did respondents who identified as White or who did not identify as Hispanic/Latinx. Additionally, those who identified as Hispanic/Latinx gave lower ratings to trash/recycling cans than those who did not identify as Hispanic/Latinx. Respondents who had resided in Larimer County longer than 20 years and older respondents gave lower ratings to the condition of trails and to directional information signs than did respondents with shorter residency in Larimer County or younger respondents. In addition, older respondents gave lower ratings to the number of restrooms, to trash/recycling cans, information provided in maps and ranger services than did younger respondents. Those who own their home gave lower ratings to the number of restrooms and to trash/recycling cans than did those who rent their home.

Younger respondents and respondents with a shorter length of residency in Larimer County were more likely to report hiking, running/jogging, community/passing through, relaxing/doing nothing and enjoying the scenery were activities in which they participated in Fort Collins natural areas than were older respondents and respondents with a longer length of residency. Younger respondents were also more likely to report biking, dog walking and kayaking/tubing/paddleboarding than were older respondents. Males were more likely to report fishing than were females, while females were more likely to report picnicking, dog walking and enjoying the scenery than were males. Respondents who rent their housing (who are probably younger) were more likely to report hiking, running/jogging, relaxing/doing nothing and enjoying the scenery than were respondents who own their housing (who are probably older than renters). Respondents who identified as a race other than White and those who identified as Hispanic/Latinx were more likely to report running/jogging, picnicking, and relaxing/doing nothing as activities than were respondents who identified as White or as Non-Hispanic/Latinx.

When asked what one thing they most appreciate about Fort Collins' natural areas, the top responses among all groups tended to be the fact that the natural areas exist and won't decrease or that they were nearby and accessible. One somewhat notable difference was that among those who rent their home and those who are younger than age 40 the second most frequently mentioned item after the fact that the natural areas exist was the number and variety of the natural areas, making the fact that the natural areas are nearby and accessible the third most appreciated facet of natural areas among these groups.

In general, respondents who identified their race as White or respondents who did not identify as Hispanic/Latinx were more likely to feel that natural areas contribute to the community in nearly all the ways considered on the survey than were respondents who identified their race as other than White and respondents who identified as Hispanic/Latinx. Those who have lived in Larimer County for a shorter time and younger respondents were more likely to consider that natural areas contribute to the recreational opportunities of the community and the quality of life in Fort Collins than were those who have lived in Larimer County for a longer time or older respondents. Respondents who have lived in Larimer County for a shorter time were more likely to feel natural areas contribute to wide open spaces than those who have lived in the County for longer time, while those who have lived in the County for a longer time were more likely to feel natural areas contributed to outdoor education than were those who have lived in the County for a shorter time.

When asked what information sources they use to learn about Fort Collins Natural Areas, respondents who have lived a shorter time in Larimer County, and younger respondents were more likely to say social media than were respondents who have lived a longer time in Larimer County

or older respondents. However, those who have lived a longer time in Larimer County and older respondents were more likely to use word of mouth and newspapers than were those who have lived a shorter time in Larimer County and younger respondents. Younger respondents were more likely to have used the Natural Areas website or the COTrex app than were older respondents. Male respondents were more likely to use The Explorer and COTrex than were female respondents, while female respondents were more likely to have relied on word of mouth than were male respondents. Respondents who identified their race as something other than White and respondents who identified as Hispanic/Latinx were more likely to have used The Explorer than were respondents who identified their race as White and those who did not identify as Hispanic/Latinx. Those who identified as Hispanic/Latinx were more likely to have used social media as an information source than were those who did not identify as Hispanic/Latinx.

Comparisons by Length of Residency, Housing Tenure, Respondent Gender, and Respondent Age

Table 33: Question 1 by Length of Residency, Housing Tenure, Respondent Gender, and Respondent Age

How often do you visit Fort Collins natural areas? Would you say...	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
More than 100 times a year (Twice a week or more)	11%	18%	20%	14%	18%	12%	21% A	16%	23%	13%	16%
51 to 100 times a year (Once or twice a week)	31% B C	11%	8%	27% B	12%	20%	15%	28% B C	15%	6%	17%
26 to 50 (Once every week or two)	37% B C	16%	17%	35% B	17%	24%	22%	30% B	15%	20%	24%
11 to 25 (Once or twice a month)	7%	24% A C	12%	8%	17% A	13%	15%	12%	15%	15%	13%
1 to 10 (Less than once a month)	6%	26% A	27% A	10%	23% A	19%	18%	14%	21%	23% A	19%
Never	8%	5%	17% B	7%	12%	12%	9%	0%	11%	23%	11%

Table 34: Question 2 by Length of Residency, Housing Tenure, Respondent Gender, and Respondent Age

In the last year, in what activity(ies) did you participate when you visited a Fort Collins natural area?	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
Hiking	84% C	78%	68%	85% B	73%	75%	80%	86% B C	69%	70%	77%
Running/jogging	52% B C	24%	21%	42% B	30%	37%	30%	47% C	48% C	7%	34%
Fishing	7%	17% A	22% A	16%	15%	9%	22% A	16%	15%	15%	15%
Commuting/passing through	37% C	27%	18%	33%	24%	30%	24%	38% C	26% C	11%	28%

In the last year, in what activity(ies) did you participate when you visited a Fort Collins natural area?	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
Picnicking	27%	29%	19%	21%	28%	31% B	20%	27%	25%	24%	25%
Biking	51%	45%	43%	50%	46%	46%	48%	54% C	62% C	29%	47%
Dog walking	45%	37%	40%	44%	40%	50% B	32%	47% C	48% C	29%	41%
Photography/art	19%	17%	18%	17%	18%	19%	16%	20%	17%	15%	18%
Horseback riding	2%	0%	3%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Wildlife viewing	39%	47%	49%	47%	44%	42%	48%	47% B	28%	53% B	44%
Relaxing/doing nothing	62% C	51%	37%	67% B	42%	55%	48%	62% B C	41%	40%	50%
Enjoying the scenery	79% C	70%	58%	82% B	63%	78% B	61%	80% B C	55%	61%	69%
Kayaking/Tubing/Paddleboarding	22%	12%	16%	11%	19%	21%	13%	19% C	33% A C	5%	17%
Other	2%	4%	3%	1%	4%	5%	2%	1%	8% A	3%	3%

Table 35: Question 3 by Length of Residency, Housing Tenure, Respondent Gender, and Respondent Age

(Percent very or somewhat satisfied)	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with the Fort Collins natural areas you have visited?	100% C	99% C	95%	99%	97%	99%	97%	100% B	93%	98% B	98%

Table 36: Question 4 by Length of Residency, Housing Tenure, Respondent Gender, and Respondent Age

Please grade the following individual facilities and services, using the letter grades of A, B, C, D, or F (where A is the highest grade and F is the failing grade). (Percent giving a grade of "A" or "B")	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
Trail condition	100% C	96% C	88%	98%	93%	95%	95%	99% C	95%	89%	95%
Trailhead condition	95%	97%	90%	97%	92%	95%	93%	96%	93%	91%	94%
Number of restrooms	82%	80%	75%	86% B	75%	81%	78%	86% C	90% C	64%	79%
Condition of restrooms	75%	79%	74%	75%	76%	78%	73%	74%	81%	79%	76%
Trash/Recycling cans	82%	71%	75%	90% B	68%	80%	74%	83% C	78%	64%	77%
Directional informational signs	87% C	89% C	77%	85%	84%	88%	81%	92% B C	77%	77%	84%
Interpretive signs (signs designed to provide educational guidance and deeper appreciation)	77%	88%	84%	79%	85%	82%	83%	80%	85%	86%	83%
Information provided in brochures	91%	92%	85%	91%	89%	88%	91%	94%	84%	87%	89%
Information provided in maps	94%	90%	87%	87%	92%	91%	90%	95% B	81%	90%	90%
Ranger services	80%	84%	72%	79%	77%	75%	81%	87% B	64%	78%	79%
Educational activities and events (for example, guided hikes/rides, kids' programs)	70%	69%	72%	66%	71%	71%	71%	78%	62%	63%	70%
Ecological restoration (work to improve wildlife habitat and native plants)	91%	92%	84%	92%	87%	88%	90%	91%	87%	88%	89%

Table 37: Question 5 by Length of Residency, Housing Tenure, Respondent Gender, and Respondent Age

(Percent very or somewhat safe)	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
How safe or unsafe do you feel when visiting the Fort Collins natural areas?	100% C	95%	92%	99%	95%	97%	96%	100% B C	91%	94%	96%

Table 38: Question 8 by Length of Residency, Housing Tenure, Respondent Gender, and Respondent Age

Indicate if you or other members of your household use each of the following information sources about Natural Areas	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
The Explorer (the guide to natural areas activities)	13%	23%	19%	22%	15%	12%	23% A	19%	22%	12%	18%
Natural Areas Enews (monthly email newsletter)	6%	4%	10%	14% B	4%	6%	9%	8%	9%	6%	7%
Natural Areas website (fcgov.com/naturalareas)	56%	43%	45%	54%	47%	45%	54%	59% C	56% C	31%	48%
Engage (activity calendar and registration system, fcgov.com/register)	5%	10%	12%	8%	9%	12%	6%	9%	7%	10%	9%
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	38% C	25%	23%	29%	29%	31%	29%	37% C	37% C	12%	29%
Other	11%	16%	14%	12%	14%	6%	20% A	15%	18%	11%	14%
COTrex (Colorado trail explorer app)	44%	44%	29%	38%	41%	32%	48% A	40%	55% C	30%	39%
Word of mouth	30%	47% A	54% A	29%	49% A	50% B	35%	27%	39%	65% A B	43%
Newspaper (print or online)	2%	21% A	13% A	2%	17% A	9%	15%	3%	4%	30% A B	12%
Radio	5%	12% C	2%	7%	6%	6%	8%	6%	7%	7%	7%
Natural Areas booth at local events	6%	7%	7%	7%	7%	5%	8%	6%	3%	11%	7%

Table 39: Question 9 by Length of Residency, Housing Tenure, Respondent Gender, and Respondent Age

(Percent very or somewhat easy)	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
How easy, if at all, do you feel it is to access a natural area near you?	95% B	85%	93% B	96%	89%	90%	92%	93%	97% C	86%	91%

Table 40: Question 11 by Length of Residency, Housing Tenure, Respondent Gender, and Respondent Age

For each of the attributes below, please rate to what extent, if at all, you think the City of Fort Collins natural areas contribute to this attribute of the community. What about... (Percent reporting great extent)	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
Economic vitality (make Fort Collins an attractive place to work and do business)	66%	56%	58%	59%	60%	65%	51%	66%	59%	55%	60%
Wellness (a place to get fit and be healthy)	81%	78%	69%	86% B	70%	76%	73%	78%	85%	69%	75%
Recreational opportunities (hiking, biking, running, horseback riding, bird watching, fishing, creating art, relaxing, and enjoying the outdoors)	95% C	92% C	65%	83%	80%	82%	78%	95% B C	72%	72%	81%
Mobility (using the natural areas trails to get around Fort Collins)	45%	44%	34%	43%	39%	49% B	30%	45%	45%	34%	41%
Educational opportunities (learn more about the outdoors)	23%	33%	39% A	26%	33%	34%	28%	25%	36%	36%	31%
Escape from the urban environment	72%	66%	57%	62%	64%	66%	60%	70%	60%	60%	64%
Healthy environment (filtering water and air, preventing flooding, etc.)	65%	48%	51%	57%	54%	57%	51%	59%	57%	48%	55%
Habitat conservation (places for wildlife and native plants to live and grow)	51%	68%	53%	49%	60%	58%	53%	55%	62%	52%	56%
Scientific opportunities (places for scientists to collect data)	45%	49%	52%	47%	49%	51%	45%	51%	48%	44%	48%
Cultural resources conservation (protecting traces of the past)	41%	54%	45%	48%	44%	53% B	37%	48%	47%	41%	46%
Feeling a connection to nature or for personal renewal	71%	61%	56%	66%	60%	65%	56%	70%	60%	55%	62%
Overall quality of life in Fort Collins	80% C	67%	53%	67%	64%	67%	62%	75% C	64%	58%	65%
Wide open spaces (undeveloped views)	72% B	53%	59%	67%	58%	65%	56%	60%	58%	63%	61%

Table 41: Question 12 by Length of Residency, Housing Tenure, Respondent Gender, and Respondent Age

What one thing (if any) do you most appreciate about Fort Collins' natural areas?	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Rent	Own	Female	Male	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60+	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)
Nearby and accessible	21%	13%	27% B	20%	22%	19%	24%	16%	32% A	22%	21%
Number and variety of natural areas	18%	14%	13%	22% B	12%	15%	16%	23% B C	9%	10%	15%
Well-maintained/preserved	4%	8%	5%	4%	6%	4%	7%	4%	6%	7%	5%
Not developed, buffer for built areas	10%	15%	17%	15%	13%	16%	11%	12%	10%	17%	14%
Trails/ease of walking, biking, running	12%	14%	7%	8%	12%	12%	10%	12%	6%	11%	11%
The fact that natural areas exist and won't decrease	31%	29%	24%	26%	28%	31%	24%	29%	28%	26%	28%
Aesthetic beauty/scenery	5%	4%	3%	3%	4%	3%	5%	3%	8%	3%	4%
Other	0%	3%	4%	2%	2%	1%	4%	2%	2%	3%	2%

Comparisons by Household Income, Respondent Race, and Respondent Ethnicity

Table 42: Question 1 by Household Income, Respondent Race, and Respondent Ethnicity

How often do you visit Fort Collins natural areas? Would you say...	Less than \$50k	\$50k to less than \$75k	\$75k to less than \$100k	\$100k or more	White	Not white	Hispanic/Latinx	Non-Hispanic/Latinx	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)
More than 100 times a year (Twice a week or more)	13%	20%	24% D	9%	14%	27%	30%	15%	16%
51 to 100 times a year (Once or twice a week)	27% C	22% C	5%	20% C	18%	13%	18%	18%	17%
26 to 50 (Once every week or two)	18%	23%	40% A B D	12%	25%	11%	1%	26% A	24%
11 to 25 (Once or twice a month)	10%	9%	14%	19%	13%	15%	21%	13%	13%
1 to 10 (Less than once a month)	22%	16%	11%	25% C	19%	14%	14%	18%	19%
Never	10%	10%	6%	16% C	9%	21% A	15%	10%	11%

Table 43: Question 2 by Household Income, Respondent Race, and Respondent Ethnicity

In the last year, in what activity(ies) did you participate when you visited a Fort Collins natural area?	Less than \$50k	\$50k to less than \$75k	\$75k to less than \$100k	\$100k or more	White	Not white	Hispanic/Latinx	Non-Hispanic/Latinx	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)
Hiking	77%	75%	80%	77%	77%	82%	88%	78%	77%
Running/jogging	30%	47% D	42%	27%	31%	59% A	59% B	34%	34%
Fishing	18%	8%	17%	11%	14%	26%	31% B	14%	15%
Commuting/passing through	17%	35% A	42% A D	22%	26%	43%	47%	27%	28%
Picnicking	27%	27%	35% D	14%	24%	46% A	46% B	24%	25%

In the last year, in what activity(ies) did you participate when you visited a Fort Collins natural area?	Less than \$50k	\$50k to less than \$75k	\$75k to less than \$100k	\$100k or more	White	Not white	Hispanic/Latinx	Non-Hispanic/Latinx	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)
Biking	47%	43%	48%	52%	46%	60%	69%	49%	47%
Dog walking	40%	30%	49% B	41%	40%	47%	56%	42%	41%
Photography/art	20%	36% A C D	13%	11%	18%	20%	24%	18%	18%
Horseback riding	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Wildlife viewing	52% D	57% D	44%	30%	45%	50%	59%	42%	44%
Relaxing/doing nothing	64% D	49% D	64% D	28%	50%	71% A	80% B	51%	50%
Enjoying the scenery	78% D	79% D	68%	58%	70%	70%	75%	70%	69%
Kayaking/Tubing/Paddleboarding	10%	30% A C	15%	20%	19%	8%	2%	20% A	17%
Other	3%	4%	0%	5%	3%	5%	2%	4%	3%

Table 44: Question 3 by Household Income, Respondent Race, and Respondent Ethnicity

(Percent very or somewhat satisfied)	Less than \$50k	\$50k to less than \$75k	\$75k to less than \$100k	\$100k or more	White	Not white	Hispanic/Latinx	Non-Hispanic/Latinx	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)
Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with the Fort Collins natural areas you have visited?	98%	94%	100% B	98%	98%	94%	96%	98%	98%

Table 45: Question 4 by Household Income, Respondent Race, and Respondent Ethnicity

Please grade the following individual facilities and services, using the letter grades of A, B, C, D, or F (where A is the highest grade and F is the failing grade). (Percent giving a grade of "A" or "B")	Less than \$50k	\$50k to less than \$75k	\$75k to less than \$100k	\$100k or more	White	Not white	Hispanic/Latinx	Non-Hispanic/Latinx	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)
Trail condition	95% B	86%	98% B	99% B	95%	90%	86%	96%	95%
Trailhead condition	96%	88%	91%	98% B	93%	97%	96%	96%	94%
Number of restrooms	86% B	58%	90% B	78% B	80%	68%	63%	80%	79%
Condition of restrooms	69%	74%	77%	80%	81% B	26%	22%	80% A	76%
Trash/Recycling cans	85% C	75%	67%	78%	77%	67%	45%	78% A	77%
Directional informational signs	88%	80%	82%	83%	84%	86%	83%	84%	84%
Interpretive signs (signs designed to provide educational guidance and deeper appreciation)	84%	91% C	75%	82%	82%	85%	79%	83%	83%
Information provided in brochures	84%	89%	93%	90%	89%	88%	83%	89%	89%
Information provided in maps	84%	91%	99% A	90%	91%	85%	85%	91%	90%
Ranger services	65%	81%	89% A	78%	77%	85%	78%	77%	79%
Educational activities and events (for example, guided hikes/rides, kids' programs)	52%	93% A	86% A	63%	70%	67%	81%	66%	70%
Ecological restoration (work to improve wildlife habitat and native plants)	85%	87%	99% A D	83%	91% B	75%	74%	90% A	89%

Table 46: Question 5 by Household Income, Respondent Race, and Respondent Ethnicity

(Percent very or somewhat safe)	Less than \$50k	\$50k to less than \$75k	\$75k to less than \$100k	\$100k or more	White	Not white	Hispanic/Latinx	Non-Hispanic/Latinx	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)
How safe or unsafe do you feel when visiting the Fort Collins natural areas?	98% D	94%	100% D	91%	96%	93%	92%	96%	96%

Table 47: Question 8 by Household Income, Respondent Race, and Respondent Ethnicity

Indicate if you or other members of your household use each of the following information sources about Natural Areas	Less than \$50k	\$50k to less than \$75k	\$75k to less than \$100k	\$100k or more	White	Not white	Hispanic/Latinx	Non-Hispanic/Latinx	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)
The Explorer (the guide to natural areas activities)	29% B D	10%	24% D	6%	14%	48% A	42% B	15%	18%
Natural Areas Enews (monthly email newsletter)	11% C	18% C D	1%	3%	7%	7%	0%	8%	7%
Natural Areas website (fcgov.com/naturalareas)	43%	63% D	63% A D	38%	50%	47%	51%	51%	48%
Engage (activity calendar and registration system, fcgov.com/register)	6%	24% A C D	6%	5%	9%	9%	0%	10%	9%
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	15%	32% A	49% A D	29%	29%	32%	61% B	28%	29%
Other	6%	23% A	19% A	13%	12%	30% A	31% B	12%	14%
COTrex (Colorado trail explorer app)	26%	41%	47% A	46% A	41%	33%	51%	41%	39%
Word of mouth	47%	41%	44%	31%	43%	38%	43%	40%	43%
Newspaper (print or online)	11%	13%	5%	16%	12%	15%	12%	12%	12%
Radio	10%	7%	3%	3%	6%	17%	2%	8%	7%
Natural Areas booth at local events	4%	12%	8%	6%	7%	7%	10%	6%	7%

Table 48: Question 9 by Household Income, Respondent Race, and Respondent Ethnicity

(Percent very or somewhat easy)	Less than \$50k	\$50k to less than \$75k	\$75k to less than \$100k	\$100k or more	White	Not white	Hispanic/Latinx	Non-Hispanic/Latinx	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)
How easy, if at all, do you feel it is to access a natural area near you?	90% D	99% D	99% D	80%	93% B	82%	89%	91%	91%

Table 49: Question 11 by Household Income, Respondent Race, and Respondent Ethnicity

For each of the attributes below, please rate to what extent, if at all, you think the City of Fort Collins natural areas contribute to this attribute of the community. What about... (Percent reporting great extent)	Less than \$50k	\$50k to less than \$75k	\$75k to less than \$100k	\$100k or more	White	Not white	Hispanic/Latinx	Non-Hispanic/Latinx	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)
Economic vitality (make Fort Collins an attractive place to work and do business)	53%	53%	74% A	57%	62% B	31%	28%	62% A	60%
Wellness (a place to get fit and be healthy)	74%	68%	87% D	67%	76%	54%	45%	76% A	75%
Recreational opportunities (hiking, biking, running, horseback riding, bird watching, fishing, creating art, relaxing, and enjoying the outdoors)	67%	78%	92% A	80%	83% B	55%	45%	83% A	81%
Mobility (using the natural areas trails to get around Fort Collins)	36%	28%	49% B	41%	39%	44%	26%	41%	41%
Educational opportunities (learn more about the outdoors)	26%	31%	32%	33%	31%	17%	26%	29%	31%
Escape from the urban environment	52%	56%	84% A B D	64%	66% B	35%	31%	65% A	64%
Healthy environment (filtering water and air, preventing flooding, etc.)	46%	49%	60%	60%	55%	45%	50%	55%	55%
Habitat conservation (places for wildlife and native plants to live and grow)	43%	57%	64% A	58%	58% B	19%	29%	59% A	56%
Scientific opportunities (places for scientists to collect data)	44%	46%	56%	45%	50% B	22%	25%	50% A	48%
Cultural resources conservation (protecting traces of the past)	51%	37%	52%	36%	47% B	13%	11%	47% A	46%

For each of the attributes below, please rate to what extent, if at all, you think the City of Fort Collins natural areas contribute to this attribute of the community. What about... (Percent reporting great extent)	Less than \$50k	\$50k to less than \$75k	\$75k to less than \$100k	\$100k or more	White	Not white	Hispanic/Latinx	Non-Hispanic/Latinx	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)
Feeling a connection to nature or for personal renewal	48%	57%	85% A B D	57%	63% B	35%	31%	62% A	62%
Overall quality of life in Fort Collins	46%	65%	82% A D	62%	66%	50%	28%	68% A	65%
Wide open spaces (undeveloped views)	54%	49%	70%	60%	64% B	40%	23%	62% A	61%

Table 50: Question 12 by Household Income, Respondent Race, and Respondent Ethnicity

What one thing (if any) do you most appreciate about Fort Collins' natural areas?	Less than \$50k	\$50k to less than \$75k	\$75k to less than \$100k	\$100k or more	White	Not white	Hispanic/Latinx	Non-Hispanic/Latinx	Overall
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)
Nearby and accessible	29%	20%	17%	18%	21%	22%	25%	20%	21%
Number and variety of natural areas	13%	19%	16%	13%	16%	18%	18%	16%	15%
Well-maintained/preserved	9%	5%	3%	5%	6%	0%	0%	5%	5%
Not developed, buffer for built areas	13%	7%	19%	10%	14%	5%	7%	13%	14%
Trails/ease of walking, biking, running	7%	9%	10%	18%	10%	18%	17%	11%	11%
The fact that natural areas exist and won't decrease	25%	25%	33%	29%	27%	35%	33%	28%	28%
Aesthetic beauty/scenery	2%	5%	2%	7%	4%	1%	0%	4%	4%
Other	2%	10% A	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	3%	2%

Appendix E: Survey Methodology

Developing the Questionnaire

The City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department desired to learn about community perceptions and satisfaction with its program and the natural areas, and the recreation activities of visitors to the natural areas. A similar survey was conducted in 2016 and 2011, and development of the questionnaire was undertaken by the agency's staff members, with input from survey scientists at National Research Center at Polco. For the 2021 survey project, some of the questions from the 2016 survey were retained, with minor changes to a couple questions, and several new questions were added. A copy of the questionnaire can be found in *Appendix F: Survey Materials*.

The City of Fort Collins funded this research. Please contact Todd Juhasz, with the Natural Areas Department, at tjuhasz@fcgov.com if you have any questions about the survey.

Selecting Survey Recipients

“Sampling” refers to the method by which survey recipients are chosen. The “sample” refers to all those who were given a chance to participate in the survey. Ideally, the chosen survey recipients should be representative of all eligible survey recipients. Randomly selecting survey recipients ensures that this will occur.

For the 2021 Fort Collins Natural Areas Resident Survey, 1,800 residents were randomly selected from within Larimer County, excluding Estes Park. A list of all households within the zip codes serving Fort Collins and Larimer County was purchased from Go-Dog Direct based on updated listings from the United States Postal Service delivery sequence file. The addresses were geocoded (mapped to a specific latitude and longitude) and compared to the boundaries of Larimer County, Estes Park and Fort Collins. Addresses identified as being in Estes Park or outside Larimer County were excluded.

Systematic sampling is a procedure whereby a complete list of all possible addresses is culled, selecting every Nth one until the appropriate number of households is sampled. This procedure was used to select 1,350 from within Fort Collins, and 450 from the rest of the County (excluding Estes Park). Multi-family housing units were oversampled to compensate for single-family housing unit residents' tendency to return surveys at a higher rate.

An individual within each household was selected using the birthday method. (The birthday method selects a person within the household by asking the “person whose birthday has most recently passed” to complete the questionnaire. The underlying assumption in this method is that day of birth has no relationship to the way people respond to surveys.)

In addition to the scientific, random selection of households, a link to an online open participation survey was publicized and shared via all available City communication channels. This survey was identical to the scientific survey and open to all City and County residents. The data presented in this report exclude the open participation survey data. These data can be found in the Supplemental Online Survey Results provided under separate cover.

Administering the Survey

Selected household addresses were processed for certification and verification, using use CASSTM/NCOA software that relies on the USPS National Directory information to verify and standardize the address elements and assign each a complete, nine-digit zip code where possible.

Each of these survey recipients were contacted by mail a total of three times in July 2021. The first mailing was a prenotification postcard announcing the upcoming survey was sent on July 1, 2021. About a week after the prenotification postcard was sent the first wave of the survey was sent. This packet included the questionnaire with a cover letter signed by Zoë Shark, the interim Director of the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department and a pre-addressed, postage-paid return envelope. This first mailing also included a map of all the Fort Collins Natural Areas, which was provided by the City. A week later a second survey was mailed, with instructions to recycle the survey if they had already responded to the first survey. Each invitation included a web link where respondents could complete the survey online if they preferred, and invitations were written in both English and Spanish so that those who preferred to complete the survey in Spanish could do so online. A copy of the survey materials can be found in *Appendix F: Survey Instrument*. Completed surveys were collected over the following six weeks. The online “opt-in” survey became available to all residents on August 2, 2021 and remained open for two weeks.

Of the 1,800 addresses selected to receive the survey, 64 were identified by the post office as vacant. A total of 323 completed surveys were returned, for a response rate of 19%. Of these 323, 248 were from Fort Collins residents (97 were collected online; for a total a response rate of 19%) and 75 were from the rest of Larimer County, excluding Estes Park (20 were online; a total response rate of 17%).

Confidence Intervals

The 95% confidence interval (or “margin of error”) quantifies the “sampling error” or precision of the estimates made from the survey results. A 95% confidence interval can be calculated for any sample size, and indicates that in 95 of 100 surveys conducted like this one, for a particular item, a result would be found that is within a certain range if everyone in the population of interest was surveyed. The practical difficulties of conducting any resident survey may introduce other sources of error in addition to sampling error. Despite the best efforts to boost participation and ensure potential inclusion of all households, some selected households will decline participation in the survey (referred to as non-response error) and some eligible households may be unintentionally excluded from the listed sources for the sample (referred to as coverage error). Coverage error is very low for this survey, as the USPS delivery sequence file is used to select addresses, which has nearly complete coverage of all households.

For this survey, with 323 responses, the 95% confidence interval is about plus or minus five percentage points. The precision is when looking only at responses from those who live in Fort Collins, where it is plus or minus six percentage points, or for residents from the rest of Larimer County, where it is plus or minus 11 percentage points. Additionally, 398 residents completed the online open participation survey.

Survey Processing (Data Entry)

Mailed surveys were returned to NRC directly via postage-paid business reply envelopes. Once received, staff assigned a unique identification number to each questionnaire. Additionally, each survey was reviewed and “cleaned” as necessary. For example, a question may have asked a respondent to pick two items out of a list of five, but the respondent checked three; staff would choose randomly two of the three selected items to be coded in the dataset.

Once all surveys were assigned a unique identification number, they were entered into an electronic dataset. This dataset was subject to a data entry protocol of “key and verify,” in which survey data were entered twice into an electronic dataset and then compared. Discrepancies were evaluated against the original survey form and corrected. Range checks as well as other forms of quality control were also performed.

NRC used Polco, our web-based civic engagement platform, to collect the online survey data. Use of an online system means all collected data are entered into the dataset when the respondents submit the surveys. Skip patterns or logic are programmed into the system so respondents are automatically “skipped” to the appropriate question based on the individual responses being given. Online programming also allows for more rigid control of the data format, making extensive data cleaning unnecessary.

A series of quality control checks were also performed in order to ensure the integrity of the web data. Steps may include and not be limited to reviewing the data for clusters of repeat IP addresses and time stamps (indicating duplicate responses) and reviewing response patterns to look for potential duplicate submissions. The online survey data were downloaded, cleaned as necessary and appended to the mail survey data to create a final, complete dataset.

Weighting the Data

One of the first steps in the data analysis was to statistically adjust the survey results so that the demographic profile of the respondents mirrors that of the population as a whole. This process is known as “weighting” the data. The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey sample reflective of the larger population of the community. The socioeconomic profile of survey respondents was compared to estimates provided by the U.S. Census for adults in each of the two geographic areas (Fort Collins and the rest of Larimer County without Estes Park).

The variables used for weighting were a combination of respondent age, gender, race, ethnicity, and housing tenure (rent versus own). No adjustments were made for design effects. Results for the opt-in survey have been provided under separate cover. The results of the weighting scheme are presented in the following table.

Table 51: Natural Areas Survey Weighting Table

Characteristic	Population Norm	Unweighted Data	Weighted Data
Housing			
Rent home	35%	23%	35%
Own home	65%	77%	65%
Race and Ethnicity			
White	92%	90%	89%
Not white	8%	10%	11%
Not Hispanic/Latinx	91%	94%	92%
Hispanic/Latinx	9%	6%	8%
White alone, not Hispanic/Latinx	87%	87%	86%
Hispanic/Latinx and/or other race	13%	13%	14%
Sex and Age			
Female	51%	60%	51%
Male	49%	40%	49%
18–29 years	16%	11%	20%
30–49 years	34%	23%	33%
50 years or older	49%	66%	47%
Females 18–29 years	8%	7%	12%
Females 30–49 years	17%	15%	16%
Females 50 years or older	26%	38%	23%
Males 18–29 years	8%	4%	9%
Males 30–49 years	17%	8%	16%
Males 50 years or older	24%	28%	24%
Area			
Fort Collins	49%	77%	49%
The rest of Larimer County (excluding Este Park)	51%	23%	51%

* 2010 U.S. Census and 2017 American Community Survey 5-year estimates

The electronic dataset was analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). For the most part, frequency distributions and percent positive (e.g., very or somewhat satisfied, very or somewhat safe) are presented in the body of the report. A complete set of frequencies for each survey question is presented in *Appendix A: Responses to Survey Questions*. Also included are results by respondent characteristics (*Appendix D: Comparisons of 2021 Survey Responses by Respondent Characteristics*). Chi-square or ANOVA tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of selected survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the survey respondents represent “real” differences among those populations.

Appendix F: Survey Materials

A copy of the survey materials appear on the following pages.

Dear Larimer County Resident,

Your household has been selected at random to participate in an anonymous survey about the City of Fort Collins natural areas. You will receive a copy of the survey next week in the mail with instructions for completing and returning it. Thank you in advance for helping us with this important study! We really want to know what residents think about the City's natural areas, whether or not they ever visit them.

Sincerely,

Zoë Shark,
Interim Director of the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department

Dear Larimer County Resident,

Your household has been selected at random to participate in an anonymous survey about the City of Fort Collins natural areas. You will receive a copy of the survey next week in the mail with instructions for completing and returning it. Thank you in advance for helping us with this important study! We really want to know what residents think about the City's natural areas, whether or not they ever visit them.

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Sincerely,

Zoë Shark,
Interim Director of the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department



PO Box 580
Fort Collins, CO 80522-0580

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE
PAID
BOULDER, CO
PERMIT NO. 94



PO Box 580
Fort Collins, CO 80522-0580

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PERMIT NO. 94



1745 Hoffman Mill Road
PO Box 580, Fort Collins, CO 80522-0580

ZOË SHARK / INTERIM DIRECTOR
NATURAL AREAS DEPARTMENT

970-221-6311 /P
zshark@fcgov.com /E

Dear Larimer County Resident:

We would like to know what you think about Fort Collins natural areas. Your perspectives are crucial and will help the City manage these sites effectively. We want to hear from you regardless of whether you visit natural areas and no matter what your feelings are about them. Getting our natural areas right will improve the quality of life for all residents.

You can play an important role in shaping the future of this department within the city and our local quality of life by completing the enclosed anonymous questionnaire. All information you share with us will be used for planning purposes.

To get a scientifically reliable sample of residents, the adult (anyone 18 years or older) in your household who most recently had a birthday should complete this survey. The year of birth of the adult does not matter.

Please have the appropriate member of the household spend a few minutes to answer all the questions and return the survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. Your answers are completely anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

Thank you very much for taking a few minutes to share your thoughts and opinions. If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Charlotte Norville, Natural Areas Public Engagement Interim Manager, at (970) 416-2480.

Sincerely,

Zoë Shark, Interim Director of the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department

The questions on this survey refer to the natural areas conserved and managed by the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department. These include:

Arapaho Bend, Bobcat Ridge, Butterfly Woods, Cathy Fromme Prairie, Cattail Chorus, Colina Mariposa, Cottonwood Hollow, Coyote Ridge, Goose Hollow, Fischer, Fossil Creek Reservoir, Fossil Creek Wetlands, Gateway, Gustav Swanson, Homestead, Kingfisher Point, Magpie Meander, Mallard's Nest, Maxwell, McMurphy, North Shields Ponds, Pineridge, Prairie Dog Meadow, Prospect Ponds, Puente Verde, Red Fox Meadows, Redtail Grove, Redwing Marsh, Reservoir Ridge, River's Edge, Riverbend Ponds, Ross, Running Deer, Salyer, Soapstone Prairie, Soaring Vista, Springer, The Coterie, Two Creeks, Udall, and Williams natural areas.

We are not asking about areas managed by other agencies, like Larimer County, the Forest Service, or the National Park Service. The City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department does NOT manage Horsetooth Reservoir or Horsetooth Mountain Open Space; which are managed by Larimer County.



1745 Hoffman Mill Road
PO Box 580, Fort Collins, CO 80522-0580

ZOË SHARK / INTERIM DIRECTOR
NATURAL AREAS DEPARTMENT

970-221-6311 /P
zshark@fcgov.com /E

Dear Larimer County Resident:

About a week ago we sent you this survey that asks for your opinion about City of Fort Collins natural areas. **If you have already completed the survey and returned it, we thank you and ask you to disregard this letter.** Please do not complete the survey a second time. If you haven't had a chance to get to the survey, we ask you to spend a few moments to complete it now. Your input is very important to us.

We would like to know what you think about Fort Collins natural areas. Your perspectives are crucial and will help the City manage these sites effectively. We want to hear from you regardless of whether you visit natural areas and no matter what your feelings are about them. Getting our natural areas right will improve the quality of life for all residents.

You can play an important role in shaping the future of this department within the city and our local quality of life by completing the enclosed anonymous questionnaire. All information you share with us will be used for planning purposes.

To get a scientifically reliable sample of residents, the adult (anyone 18 years or older) in your household who most recently had a birthday should complete this survey. The year of birth of the adult does not matter.

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Fort Collins Natural Areas Resident Survey



The questions on this survey refer to the natural areas conserved and managed by the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department. These include:

Arapaho Bend, Bobcat Ridge, Butterfly Woods, Cathy Fromme Prairie, Cattail Chorus, Colina Mariposa, Cottonwood Hollow, Coyote Ridge, Fischer, Fossil Creek Reservoir, Fossil Creek Wetlands, Gateway, Goose Hollow, Gustav Swanson, Homestead, Kingfisher Point, Magpie Meander, Mallard's Nest, Maxwell, McMurry, North Shields Ponds, Pineridge, Prairie Dog Meadow, Prospect Ponds, Puente Verde, Red Fox Meadows, Redtail Grove, Redwing Marsh, Reservoir Ridge, River's Edge, Riverbend Ponds, Ross, Running Deer, Salyer, Soapstone Prairie, Soaring Vista, Springer, The Coterie, Two Creeks, Udall, and Williams natural areas.

We are not asking about areas managed by other agencies, like Larimer County, the Forest Service, or the National Park Service. The City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department does NOT manage Horsetooth Reservoir or Horsetooth Mountain Open Space; which are managed by Larimer County.

1. How often do you visit Fort Collins natural areas? Would you say...

- ☐ More than 100 times a year (Twice a week or more) ☐ 11 to 25 (Once or twice a month)
☐ 51 to 100 times a year (Once or twice a week) ☐ 1 to 10 (Less than once a month)
☐ 26 to 50 (Once every week or two) ☐ Never → Go to question 1a

1a. If you *never* visit, please select the reasons why. Check all that apply, then skip to Question #9.

- ☐ Lack of free time ☐ No natural areas near me
☐ Lack of parking ☐ Not interested in visiting
☐ Lack of transportation ☐ Not able to visit because of physical limitations
☐ Other _____

2. In the last year, in what activity(ies) did you participate when you visited a Fort Collins natural area?

(Please check all that apply.)

- ☐ Hiking ☐ Biking ☐ Relaxing/doing nothing
☐ Running/jogging ☐ Dog walking ☐ Enjoying the scenery
☐ Fishing ☐ Photography/art ☐ Kayaking/Tubing/Paddleboarding
☐ Commuting/passing through ☐ Horseback riding ☐ Other (please specify) _____
☐ Picnicking ☐ Wildlife viewing _____

3. Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with the Fort Collins natural areas you have visited?

- ☐ Very satisfied ☐ Somewhat satisfied ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied ☐ Somewhat dissatisfied ☐ Very dissatisfied

4. Please grade the following individual facilities and services, using the letter grades of A, B, C, D, or F (where A is the highest grade and F is the failing grade).

<u>What about...</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Trail condition	A	B	C	D	F	DK
Trailhead condition	A	B	C	D	F	DK
Number of restrooms	A	B	C	D	F	DK
Condition of restrooms	A	B	C	D	F	DK
Trash/Recycling cans	A	B	C	D	F	DK
Directional informational signs	A	B	C	D	F	DK
Interpretive signs (signs designed to provide educational guidance and deeper appreciation)	A	B	C	D	F	DK
Information provided in brochures	A	B	C	D	F	DK
Information provided in maps	A	B	C	D	F	DK
Ranger services	A	B	C	D	F	DK
Educational activities and events (for example, guided hikes/rides, kids' programs)	A	B	C	D	F	DK
Ecological restoration (work to improve wildlife habitat and native plants)	A	B	C	D	F	DK

5. How safe or unsafe do you feel when visiting the Fort Collins natural areas?

- ☐ Very safe ☐ Somewhat safe ☐ Neither safe nor unsafe ☐ Somewhat unsafe ☐ Very unsafe

5a. If you feel *unsafe*, please explain: _____

6. During the past 12 months, have you had any unpleasant experiences in any City of Fort Collins natural area?

- ☐ No
☐ Yes → If yes, please explain: _____

7. What one change would make your visits to Fort Collins' natural areas more enjoyable?

8. Indicate if you or other members of your household use each of the following information sources about Natural Areas (Please check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Explorer (the guide to natural areas activities) | <input type="checkbox"/> COTrex (Colorado trail explorer app) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Areas Enews (monthly email newsletter) | <input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Areas website (fcgov.com/naturalareas) | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper (print or online) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engage (activity calendar and registration system, fcgov.com/register) | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Areas booth at local events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | |

9. How easy, if at all, do you feel it is to access a natural area near you?

- ☐ Very easy ☐ Somewhat easy ☐ Neither easy or difficult ☐ Somewhat difficult ☐ Very difficult

10. What can the Natural Areas Department do to make accessing natural areas easier for you?

11. For each of the attributes below, please rate to what extent, if at all, you think the City of Fort Collins natural areas contribute to this attribute of the community.

<u>What about...</u>	<u>Great extent</u>	<u>Moderate extent</u>	<u>Small extent</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Economic vitality (make Fort Collins an attractive place to work and do business)	5	4	3	2	1
Wellness (a place to get fit and be healthy)	5	4	3	2	1
Recreational opportunities (hiking, biking, running, horseback riding, bird watching, fishing, creating art, relaxing, and enjoying the outdoors)	5	4	3	2	1
Mobility (using the natural areas trails to get around Fort Collins)	5	4	3	2	1
Educational opportunities (learn more about the outdoors)	5	4	3	2	1
Escape from the urban environment	5	4	3	2	1
Healthy environment (filtering water and air, preventing flooding, etc.)	5	4	3	2	1
Habitat conservation (places for wildlife and native plants to live and grow)	5	4	3	2	1
Scientific opportunities (places for scientists to collect data)	5	4	3	2	1
Cultural resources conservation (protecting traces of the past)	5	4	3	2	1
Feeling a connection to nature or for personal renewal	5	4	3	2	1
Overall quality of life in Fort Collins	5	4	3	2	1
Wide open spaces (undeveloped views)	5	4	3	2	1

12. What one thing (if any) do you most appreciate about Fort Collins' natural areas?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nearby and accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> Trails/ease of walking, biking, running |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Number and variety of natural areas | <input type="checkbox"/> The fact that natural areas exist and won't decrease |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Well-maintained/preserved | <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic beauty/scenery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not developed, buffer for built areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |

13. What other comments, if any, would you like to make about City of Fort Collins natural areas?

The City gathers demographic information to help improve communications and engagement. All questions are optional, and any information gathered will be kept completely anonymous. Thank you for your help!

14. What is your zip code? _____

15. About how long have you lived in Larimer County?

- ☐ Less than a year
- ☐ 1–5 years
- ☐ 6–10 years
- ☐ 11–15 years
- ☐ 16–20 years
- ☐ More than 20 years

16. Do you rent or own your home?

- ☐ Rent
- ☐ Own

17. Which category best describes your gender?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Gender non-conforming

18. Which category best describes your age?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18-19 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 50-59 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20-29 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 60-69 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 30-39 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 70 years or older |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 40-49 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Decline to specify |

19. Which category best describes your level of education?

- ☐ Less than high school graduate
- ☐ High school graduate (or equivalency)
- ☐ Some college or Associate's degree
- ☐ Bachelor's degree
- ☐ Master's or PhD

20. Which category best describes your household income?

- ☐ Less than \$10,000
- ☐ \$10,000–\$14,999
- ☐ \$15,000–\$24,999
- ☐ \$25,000–\$34,999
- ☐ \$35,000–\$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000–\$74,999
- ☐ \$75,000–\$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000–\$149,999
- ☐ \$150,000–\$199,999
- ☐ \$200,000 or more

21. Which category best describes your race?

- ☐ American Indian/Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black/African American
- ☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- ☐ White
- ☐ Two or more races

22. Which category best describes your ethnicity?

- ☐ Hispanic/Latinx
- ☐ Non-Hispanic/Latinx

Thank you very much for completing this survey. Your opinions and feedback are appreciated. Please return this survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope to:

National Research Center, Inc.

PO Box 549, Belle Mead, NJ 08502