

Kestrel Fields Natural Area

2022 Engagement Cycle Feedback

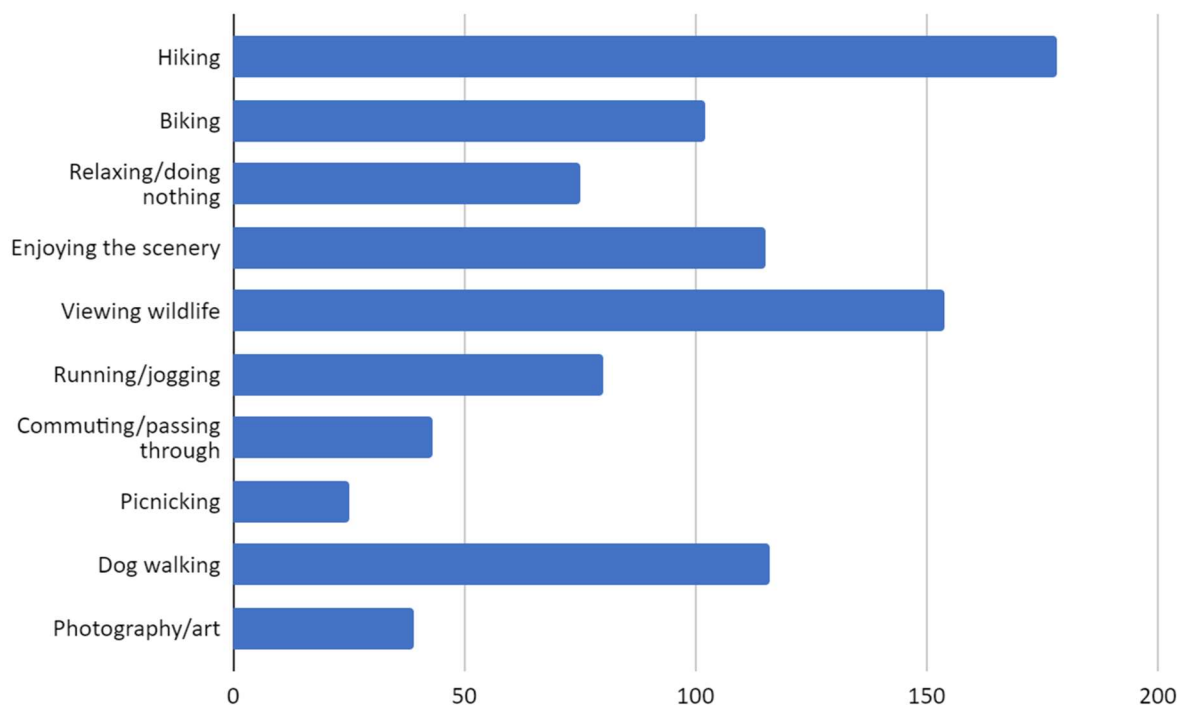


Introduction

[Kestrel Fields Natural Area](#) is planned to open in early 2023 as a conservation agriculture focused property supporting a working farm and public access trails on roughly 70 acres. Feedback questions for Kestrel Fields focused on the entrance sign, trails, and use types. Natural Areas received 256 responses regarding trail alignment, 124 comments about trail changes, and 274 responses about signage.

Respondents who shared demographic information were generally older, wealthier, and more highly educated than the general population. Just under 20% of people reported making less than \$50,000 annually, and nearly 90% of respondents who shared their education level had at least a Bachelor's degree. Respondents were also less diverse than the general population of Fort Collins. Of the respondents who provided information on their race, 94% were white and 95% were non-Hispanic/Latinx. Approximately 10% of respondents were under 30, and half (50%) were over 50 years of age.

The top activities that people anticipated using Kestrel Fields for were hiking, viewing wildlife, dog walking, and enjoying the scenery.



Signage and Trail Alignment

The majority of respondents (70%) preferred sign option #2 (pictured below).



Approximately 57% of respondents were in favor of the suggested trail alignment (pictured below). About a third said they would “maybe” be in favor of the proposed trail alignment, and about 8% were not in favor. Some respondents felt they could not make a decision about the trail without understanding the type of trail (gravel, paved, etc.).



In comments about trail alignment, people largely requested additional connectivity to neighborhoods and other trail systems, as well as a larger loop throughout the site. For example, one respondent shared,

I wish there was access to the Stonecrest community...it would allow my family to access the natural area workout going out to Taft or Vine. Connecting to form a loop along the western edge of the farming area to create a loop would also be great.

Another asked,

Would it be possible to create a large loop trail encircling the entire natural area that would have spurs connecting Vine, Havel, Lawrence, and Liberty to the large loop? If so, that would be awesome!

While most comments about trail alignment requested additional trail length, a few responses expressed concern about privacy for adjacent homeowners or maintaining habitats. As one person shared,

Move the trail away from the property lines. [Property] owners do not want folks so close to their home. Privacy issues; do not solve with trees, as that obscures view...[property] owners need to know that folks right along their fence line is not a "normal" walker/visitor thing (know when to be concerned and when not to).

Overall, comments demonstrate that community members are excited about safe, easy access to this new natural area, and appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback in the early stages of the planning process.