

Data in this report reflects broad outreach efforts from spring and summer of 2022, and 2023. Feedback forms were available in English and Spanish.

Natural Area Goals:

 1 CONSERVE LANDS & WATER	 2 ECOSYSTEM HEALTH & RESILIENCE
 3 EDUCATION & APPROPRIATE RECREATION	 4 STEWARD PUBLIC RESOURCES

Key Feedback Themes for the Poudre River:

- Balancing conservation and recreation
- Enhancing infrastructure
- Managing unwanted activities
- Maintaining safety
- Easing tensions between user types
- Maintaining river flows



432

Responses

What people said they appreciate about Poudre River natural areas:

1. Conserved land
2. Trail system
3. Beauty and wildlife viewing

"I enjoy birding on the Poudre trail. It's nice that along the length of the trail there are many different ecological niches/habitats that allow for a diversity of species to be observed."

-Community Member

Common Themes:

A healthy natural system: Roughly 80% of Fort Collins' biodiversity occurs along the river. Natural Areas will continue to protect sensitive species and the range of biodiversity along the river through restoration and targeting the removal of invasive species.

Amount of water in the river: Demands for water from the Poudre River have resulted in reduced in-stream flows. Reduced flows impact river functions, recreation, water quality, and native species. Natural Areas will continue to work with regional water providers and partners to increase water in the river where possible.

Illegal camping: Community feedback identified issues related to illegal camping on natural areas as a concern. Natural areas is part of the broad effort alongside other City departments and partner organizations to address long-term solutions to support people experiencing homelessness. Natural Areas will continue to protect conserved areas through education, connection to services, cleanups, and enforcement efforts.

Dogs off leash: Dogs can disrupt natural ecosystems and leave waste in sensitive areas when allowed off leash, causing problems for native ecosystems. Natural Areas rangers will continue to educate community members and enforce leash rules by ticketing violators to protect the ecosystem.

Trash: Wind, littering, and increased public use lead to concerns about trash along the Poudre River. Natural Areas will continue to address trash by coordinating with other City partners on trash can design, location, and pick-up schedule.

About the Feedback:

Input was collected in English and Spanish through web-based and paper forms, online and at events, March 2022 - June 2023. Outreach included:

- Irish Elementary Day of the Child
- Kestrel Fields Drop-In
- Poudre River Drop-In
- Soapstone Prairie Drop-In
- Consultant-led Accessibility Assessment at Soapstone Prairie and Poudre River
- Natural Areas E-news
- Land Conservation and Stewardship Board
- Social Media
- Trailhead Signs
- Mailing to Neighbors
- Volunteer Coffee Talk
- Presentations to Poudre School District Teachers and a PSD English Language Learners Group
- Native American and Indigenous Community Meeting
- Summer Bike to Work Day, 2023



Feedback Demographics

The demographics of the 432 feedback form respondents were generally older, wealthier, and more educated than the general population. Of the respondents who provided information on their race, 87.5% were white, while only 5% were Hispanic/Latinx, 4% were two or more races, and other demographics combined were less than 4%. Around 17% of respondents did not provide information on their race or ethnicity. While this feedback doesn't accurately represent the community, Natural Areas strives to conduct inclusive public engagement that reflects the diverse demographics of the community and is always evolving its processes to meet this goal.

In addition to the feedback form, community input is expressed through many other methods, all of which are valued by the Natural Areas Department. Feedback on natural areas management can be provided anytime at fcgov.com/naturalareas/feedback.

How Feedback Leads to Action

Community Feedback



Priorities

eg: Focused Visitor Use

Tactics

eg: Identify areas with larger, already impacted shorelines for creating purposeful gathering spaces and river access.

Work Outcomes

