

Visitors to Bobcat Ridge Natural Area

CITY OF FORT COLLINS NATURAL AREAS DEPARTMENT

Executive Summary

Natural Areas staff administered visitor exit interviews ($n = 370$) at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area during 2021 and 2022. Interviews were conducted on both weekdays and weekends in four shifts (i.e., 8 am to 9:30 am, 10:15 am to 11:45 am, 12:30pm to 2 pm, and 2:45 pm to 4:15 pm). Shift times and days were selected using a stratified random sampling procedure.

The purpose of this effort was to gain a better understanding of visitors to Bobcat Ridge Natural Area. This report is intended to (a) provide a baseline of visitor information at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area and (b) to aid Natural Areas staff in making informed management decisions.

To aid in analysis, this report compares respondents engaged in four primary activities: hiking ($n = 214$), mountain biking ($n = 55$), trail running ($n = 30$), and horseback riding ($n = 42$).

Given the population of Fort Collins, the sample size, and random selection procedures the findings here have a 95% confidence interval with a $\pm 5\%$ margin of error.

Demographics (Tables 2 - 3)

- More than three quarters (76.4%) of mountain bike respondents identified as male, compared to hikers (47.4%), trail runners (56.7%) and equestrians (23.8%).
- The mean age of respondents was between 41.57% (trail runners) and 57.7% (equestrians).
- Most respondents identified as non-Hispanic/Latinx (85.6% to 94.1%).
- Most respondents self-reported as White (93.1% to 97.6%).
- Across all primary activity groups, respondents were well educated, with more than two-thirds reporting higher levels of education.
- Income levels ranged among the four activity groups with mountain bikers (43%) earning the largest annual household incomes (e.g., \$150,000 to over \$200,000) followed by equestrians (35%), trail runners (30%), and hikers (21.5%).
- Over 80% of all respondents lived in Larimer County.
- Equestrians reported living in the county the longest ($M = 26.7$ years) followed by mountain bikers ($M = 16.6$ years), hikers ($M = 16.07$ years) and trail runners ($M = 13.2$ years).

Visitation Characteristics (Tables 4 - 6)

- Equestrians ($M = 8.9$ visits) reported visiting most frequently, followed by hikers ($M = 7.6$ visits), mountain bikers ($M = 7.1$ visits) and trail runners ($M = 6.4$ visits).
- Residents of Larimer County reported visiting an average of nine times in the last twelve months.
- Non-residents reported visiting an average of 3.5 times in the last twelve months.
- Over forty percent of non-residents were first time visitors, compared to 16.2% of residents.

- On weekdays, hiking (53.7%) was the most reported activity.
- On weekends horseback riding (73.8%) was the most reported activity followed by trail running (73.3%), and mountain biking (69.1)

Group Characteristics (Tables 5 – 7)

- Most hikers (60.1%) and equestrians (83.3%) visited in groups of two or more.
- Most mountain bikers (51.9%) and trail runners (70%) visited alone.
- Average group composition consisted of two adults: hiking ($M= 2.1$), mountain biking ($M = 1.7$), trail running ($M = 1.3$), horseback riding ($M = 2.8$).
- Most respondents reported that no children were present in their group: hiking (90.2%), mountain biking (96.3%), trail running (100.00%), and horseback riding (85.7%).

Motivations for Visiting (Tables 8 – 9)

- Hikers most often selected “it’s close to home” (25.8%) and “to be in nature” (25.3%) as their primary motivations for visiting Bobcat Ridge Natural Area.
- Mountain bikers and trail runners most often selected “it’s close to home” and “to get exercise” as their primary motivations.
- Equestrians selected “it’s close to home” (34.9%) with additional primary motivations including “to be in nature” (14.3%) and “to spend time with friends or family” (14.3%).
- Residents reported their two main motivations for visiting were because “it’s close to home” (27.7%) and “to get exercise” (22.1%).
- Non-residents two primary motivations for visiting were “to be in nature” (23.1%) and “to get exercise” (19.2%).

Visitor Satisfaction (Tables 10 – 11)

- Over 85% percent of respondents in all activity types rated all facilities (e.g., restrooms, trails) as “good” or “very good”.
- Nearly 100% of respondents across all activity types reported that their perceived quality of experience was “good” to “excellent”.
- In the literature, the standard of quality for satisfaction with facilities and experiences indicates that at least eighty percent of visitors should be satisfied with their experience (Vaske & Roemer, 2013).

Perceived Conflict (Tables 12 – 14)

- Over eighty percent of respondents had never witnessed other visitors being unsafe or discourteous.
- Over sixty percent of respondents reported having no conflict with other groups’ behaviors.
- When asked if visitors believed unsafe or discourteous behaviors were a problem, a range of response ratings from 6.7% (e.g., trail runners and hikers behaving unsafely) to 35.1% (e.g., equestrians and mountain bikers being discourteous) developed.

- Interpersonal conflict was most often reported between equestrians and mountain bikers behaving unsafely (12.9%), and equestrians and mountain bikers behaving discourteously (13.9%).
- Incidents of interpersonal conflict (e.g., witnessing a behavior and perceiving it as a problem) at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area were well below the standard of <25% of responses.

Perceived Crowding (Table 15)

- Less than 10% of respondents reported ever feeling crowded either at the trailhead or on the trail.
- The highest incidence of perceived crowding occurred when mountain bikers felt crowded by hikers at the trailhead (9.6%).
- In the literature, no more than $\leq 35\%$ of visitors should report feeling crowded.

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Introduction

Public land managers are often tasked with providing high quality recreational experiences for visitors. However, it can be difficult to accurately understand the quality of a visitor's experience without a thorough evaluation. Self-report surveys provide an easy, expedient way to gather large amounts of information for visitor studies. When grounded in theory and paired with a stratified random sampling process, self-report surveys can yield valid, representative, and generalizable data for decision makers.

The objectives of this study were to gather data on:

1. Demographic characteristics (e.g., gender, ethnicity)
2. Trip characteristics (e.g., group size, primary activity)
3. Visitor satisfaction
4. Motivations for visiting
5. Perceived conflicts with other visitors
6. Perceive crowding

This report is intended to (a) provide a baseline of visitor information at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area and (b) to aid Natural Areas staff in making informed management decisions.

Understanding Indicators and Standards for High Quality Visitor Experiences

Assigning quantitative indicators and standards can aid in defining and understanding abstract concepts such as a high-quality visitor experience. Indicators (e.g., satisfaction, conflict) are useful measures of a current situation. Standards represent a threshold (e.g., less than 25% of visitors reporting conflict) or a desired situation (e.g., well-stocked bathrooms).

This study utilized three indicators often considered in the evaluation of outdoor recreation experiences: visitor satisfaction, perceived conflict, and perceived crowding.

Satisfaction

Satisfaction can be defined as the intersection of visitor expectations and services/experience provided (Manning, 2011). If a public land manager adequately provides the services/experience expected, a visitor is likely to report a high-quality visitor experience. Satisfaction represents the nexus of management objectives and visitor expectations.

As a standard for visitor satisfaction, research suggests that no fewer than 80% of visitors should be satisfied with their experience or the facilities provided (Vaske & Roemer, 2013).

Perceived Conflict

Perceived conflict is often segmented into two categories: interpersonal conflict and social values conflict.

Interpersonal conflict can occur when the presence of an individual or group directly interferes with the desired experience of another individual or group (e.g., downhill users not yielding to uphill users). It can also occur indirectly when the evidence (e.g., horse excrement on a trail, tire tracks on a pedestrian-only trail) of another individual or group is substantial enough to create a

conflict. In this study, interpersonal conflict is operationalized as a respondent both “witnessing” a behavior and simultaneously perceiving it as a problem.

Social values conflict reflects a disparity in norms or values between individuals and groups (e.g., the appropriateness of e-bikes on natural surface trails). It can occur even if an individual has not directly or indirectly experienced conflict with another visitor or group. In this study, social values conflict is operationalized as a respondent “never witnessing” a behavior, but still perceiving the behavior as a problem.

A common conflict standard in the research suggests that no more than 25% of respondents should report experiencing interpersonal conflict (Vaske, 2019). If this standard is exceeded, management intervention (e.g., use-specific trails, temporal management) may be necessary.

Perceived Crowding

The phrase “perceived crowding” is often used to recognize the subjective nature of the term “crowding”. Crowding, over-crowding, and visitor density are often confounded by natural resource managers and visitors alike. While visitor density can be directly measured (e.g., total visitors present on a trail/total miles of trail), crowding reflects an attitude toward a given situation. As attitudes are often veiled and abstract evaluations of some thing, they can be difficult to measure.

To alleviate crowding’s subjectiveness, a response scale was developed by Heberlein and Vaske (1977) to precisely measure a respondent’s evaluation of crowding. The scale ranges from 1 to 9, along a continuum of “not at all crowded” to “extremely crowded.”

A meta-analysis (Vaske & Shelby, 2008) found this scale used in over 600 outdoor recreation contexts across the world. Based upon this research, a crowding standard was offered suggesting that no more than 35% of respondents should report feeling crowded. At 50 to 60% of visitors feeling crowded, the area is approaching carrying capacity often leading to visitor displacement and access concerns. At 65% of visitors reporting feeling crowded the area has exceeded carrying capacity.

Methods

Data Collection

Natural Areas Trails and Visitor Amenities (TVA) staff conducted visitor exit interviews ($n = 370$) at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area during 2021 and 2022.

Development of the survey instrument was guided by theoretical concepts (e.g., cognitive theory, goal interference) and seeks to build off previous research related to indicators and standards for quality visitor experiences (Vaske, 2019).

A stratified random sampling procedure was used to ensure representativeness and generalizability to the community of Larimer County, Colorado. Survey days and times were selected using a random number generator (stattrek.com). Interviews were conducted on both weekdays and weekends in four shifts (i.e., 8 am to 9:30 am, 10:15 am to 11:45 am, 12:30pm to 2 pm, and 2:45 pm to 4:15 pm). Table 1 summarizes this data collection effort.

This report compared respondents engaged in four primary activities: hiking ($n = 214$), mountain biking ($n = 55$), trail running ($n = 30$), and horseback riding ($n = 42$).

Table 1. Visitor survey data collection effort at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area

	Hiking	Mountain Biking	Trail Running	Horseback Riding
Year				
2021	26.6%	5.5%	20.0%	11.9%
2022	73.4%	94.5%	80.0%	88.1%
Season				
Winter	12.1%	16.4%	16.7%	2.4%
Spring	16.4%	12.7%	13.3%	21.4%
Summer	23.4%	50.9%	40.0%	31.0%
Fall	48.1%	20.0%	30.0%	45.2%
Day of Week				
Weekday	53.7%	30.9%	26.7%	26.2%
Weekend	46.3%	69.1%	73.3%	73.8%
Shift				
8:00 - 9:30	15.4%	34.5%	46.7%	2.4%
10:15 - 11:45	35.0%	29.1%	26.7%	21.4%
12:30 - 2:00	29.0%	27.3%	16.7%	57.1%
2:45 - 4:15	20.6%	9.1%	10.0%	19.0%

Statistical Data Analysis

Data was analyzed by staff using IBM's Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

This report utilizes two types of statistics for conducting comparisons: Chi-square (χ^2) and F values. Chi square values were used to analyze dependent variables that were either dichotomous (i.e., yes or no) or categorical (i.e., race). F values were used when a variable was continuous (i.e., age, days visited).

In this analysis, primary activity was most often used as the independent variable. Statistical significance was set at $p < 0.05$. If p values are larger than this they do not represent a statistical difference in the data. Statistical significance indicates an actual difference between variables in the data that is not attributable to coincidence.

While p -values indicate if statistical differences exist between variables they do not measure the strength of the relationship (i.e., effect size) between variables. For this measurement, two other statistics were used: Cramer's V for χ^2 and eta (η) for F- values.

Research (Vaske, 2019) has indicated that the results of these two statistics can be divided into three categories that illustrate the strength of the relationship between variables. For Cramer's V, results of .1 to .29 indicated a minimal relationship, .3 to .49 indicated a typical relationship, and results of .5 or greater indicated a substantial relationship. When using eta (η), results of .1 to .242 indicated a minimal relationship, .243 to .37 indicated a typical relationship, and results of .371 or greater indicated a substantial relationship.

Results

Demographics

More than three quarters (76.4%) of mountain bike respondents identified as male, compared to hikers (47.4%), trail runners (56.7%) and equestrians (23.8%). The mean age of respondents was between 41.57% (trail runners) and 57.7% (equestrians). Most respondents identified as non-Hispanic/Latinx (85.6% to 94.1%), with hiking (14.5%) having the most ethnic diversity (e.g., Hispanic/Latinx, prefer to self-identify) of all primary activities reported. These three differences were all statistically significant (Table 2).

Similarly, most respondents self-reported as White (93.1% to 97.6%). Across all primary activity groups, respondents were well educated, with more than two-thirds reporting higher levels of education. Income levels varied among the four activity groups with mountain bikers (43%) earning the largest annual household incomes (e.g., \$150,000 to over \$200,000) followed by equestrians (35%), trail runners (30%), and hikers (21.5%).

Table 2. Demographic profile of visitors to Bobcat Ridge Natural Area

	Hiking	Mountain Biking	Trail Running	Horseback Riding	Statistic χ^2 or F-value	p-value	Effect size V or η
Gender					34.50	<.001	.316
Female	52.6%	23.6%	43.3%	76.2%			
Male	47.4%	76.4%	56.7%	23.8%			
Age					95.89	<.001	.299
<20	5.2%	3.6%					
21 to 25	2.4%	1.8%	3.3%				
26 to 35	9.4%	7.3%	20.0%	7.1%			
36 to 45	10.8%	25.5%	50.0%	11.9%			
46 to 55	12.7%	14.5%	20.0%	9.5%			
56 to 65	28.8%	41.8%	6.7%	45.2%			
Over 65	30.7%	5.5%		26.2%			
Mean age	56.7	49.7	41.57	57.7			
Ethnicity					28.07	.005	.186
Hispanic/Latinx	5.6%	2.0%	4.2%				
Non-Hispanic/Latinx	85.6%	94.1%	91.7%	91.4%			

	Hiking	Mountain Biking	Trail Running	Horseback Riding	Statistic χ^2 or F-value	p-value	Effect size V or η
Prefer to self-identify	8.9%	3.9%	4.2%	8.6%			
Race					11.97	.996	.064
Asian	1.5%	1.9%					
Black	1.0%		3.4%				
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander		1.9%					
White	94.1%	96.3%	93.1%	97.6%			
Two or more races	3.4%		3.4%	2.4%			
Highest Level of Education					18.21	.921	.132
Some high school or less	0.5%			2.5%			
High School	11.7%	11.3%	6.7%	15.0%			
Associate degree	9.7%	13.2%	6.7%	15.0%			
Bachelor's degree	34.5%	34.0%	43.3%	27.5%			
Masters/Ph.D.	43.7%	41.5%	43.3%	40.0%			
Household Income					78.29	.005	.220
Less than \$24,999	2.7%	3.9%	10.0%	2.5%			
\$25,000 – \$34,999	5.9%	3.9%	6.7%	2.5%			
\$35,000 – \$49,999	7.0%	5.9%		2.5%			
\$50,000 – \$74,999	19.4%	7.8%	10.0%	20.0%			
\$75,000 – \$99,999	20.4%	23.5%	10.0%	17.5%			
\$100,000 – \$149,999	23.1%	11.8%	33.3%	20.0%			
\$150,000 – \$199,999	12.4%	17.6%	26.7%	22.5%			
\$200,000+	9.1%	25.5%	3.3%	12.5%			

Over eighty percent of all respondents lived in Larimer County. This represents a statistical difference between residents and non-residents. Equestrians (M = 26.7 years) reported living in the county the longest followed by mountain bikers (M = 16.6 years), hikers (M = 16.07 years) and trail runners (M = 13.2 years) (Table 3).

Table 3. Residence of visitors to Bobcat Ridge Natural Area

	Hiking	Mountain Biking	Trail Running	Horseback Riding	Statistic χ^2 or F-value	p-value	Effect size V or η
Resident of Larimer County					24.34	<.001	.263
Yes	80.8%	74.5%	83.3%	61.9%			
No	19.2%	25.5%	16.7%	38.1%			

	Hiking	Mountain Biking	Trail Running	Horseback Riding	Statistic χ^2 or F-value	p-value	Effect size V or η
Years lived in Larimer County					46.05	.122	.274
One year or less	5.8%	7.1%	7.7%				
2 to 3	14.6%	9.5%	3.8%	7.1%			
4 to 5	11.7%	11.9%	15.4%				
6 to 10	14.0%	21.4%	23.1%	7.1%			
11 to 20	23.4%	19.0%	34.6%	21.4%			
21 to 30	15.2%	11.9%	11.5%	25.0%			
More than 30 years	15.2%	19.0%	3.8%	39.3%			
Mean	16.07	16.60	13.23	26.71			
Range	1 to 65	1 to 52	0 to 41	3 to 56			

Visitation Characteristics

Over the past twelve months, equestrians ($M = 8.9$ visits) reported visiting most frequently, followed by hikers ($M = 7.6$ visits), mountain bikers ($M = 7.1$ visits) and trail runners ($M = 6.4$ visits) (Table 4).

Table 4. Number of visits to Bobcat Ridge Natural Area in the past twelve months

	Hiking	Mountain Biking	Trail Running	Horseback Riding	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
Visits					96.42	<.001	.230
First time visiting	26.6%	15.7%	10.7%	11.9%			
1 to 2 visits	20.8%	21.6%	32.1%	26.2%			
3 to 5 visits	20.3%	23.5%	17.9%	19.0%			
6 to 10 visits	15.9%	15.7%	28.6%	21.4%			
11 to 20 visits	7.7%	17.6%		9.5%			
21 to 50 visits	6.8%	5.9%	10.7%	9.5%			
Over 50 visits	1.9%			2.4%			
Mean	7.6	7.1	6.4	8.9			

Residents of Larimer County reported visiting an average of nine times in the last twelve months, while non-residents reported visiting an average of 3.5 times. Over forty percent of non-residents were first time visitors. These results are statistically significant (Table 5).

Table 5. Number of visits by residents of Larimer County and non-residents to Bobcat Ridge Natural Area

	Resident	Non-Resident	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
Visits			33.09	<.001	.282
First time visiting	16.2%	41.0%			
1 to 2 visits	21.0%	27.7%			
3 to 5 visits	22.1%	16.9%			
6 to 10 visits	19.9%	8.4%			
11 to 20 visits	9.6%	3.6%			
21 to 50 visits	9.2%	1.2%			
Over 50 visits	1.8%	1.2%			
Mean	9.0	3.5			
Range	0 to 100	0 to 99			

Hiking (53.7%) was the most popular activity during the week. While horseback riding (73.8%), trail running (73.3%), and mountain biking (69.1%) all saw significant increases during the weekend. These differences are statistically significant (Table 6).

Table 6. Primary activities on weekdays and weekends

	Hiking	Mountain Biking	Trail Running	Horseback Riding	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
Day of Week					26.71	<.001	.276
Weekday	53.7%	30.9%	26.7%	26.2%			
Weekend	46.3%	69.1%	73.3%	73.8%			

Group Characteristics

Most hikers (60.1%) and equestrians (83.3%) visited in groups of two or more, while most mountain bikers (51.9%) and trail runners (70%) visited alone. On average group composition consisted of two adults: hiking (M= 2.1), mountain biking (M = 1.7), trail running (M = 1.3), horseback riding (M = 2.8). Most respondents reported that no children were present in their group: hiking (90.2%), mountain biking (96.3%), trail running (100.00%), and horseback riding (85.7%). This data is represented in Table 7.

Table 7. Group characteristics of visitors to Bobcat Ridge Natural Area

	Hiking	Mountain Biking	Trail Running	Horseback Riding	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
Number of people in group					58.83	<.001	.287
1	39.9%	51.9%	70.0%	16.7%			
2	35.2%	31.5%	26.7%	45.2%			

	Hiking	Mountain Biking	Trail Running	Horseback Riding	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
3	10.8%	13.0%	3.3%	23.8%			
4 to 5	8.0%	3.7%	0%	2.4%			
6 or more	6.1%	0%	0%	11.9%			
Mean	2.4	1.7	1.3	2.8			
Range	1 to 17	1 to 4	1 to 3	1 to 8			
Number of adults in group					70.68	<.001	.279
1	41.8%	53.7%	70.0%	16.7%			
2	38.5%	29.6%	26.7%	54.8%			
3	7.5%	13.0%	3.3%	16.7%			
4 to 5	8.5%	3.7%	0%				
6 or more	3.8%	0%	0%	11.9%			
Mean	2.1	1.7	1.3	2.7			
Range	1 to 10	1 to 4	1 to 3	1 to 8			
Number of children in group					12.82	.915	.137
0	90.2%	96.3%	100.0%	85.7%			
1	4.7%	3.7%	0%	11.9%			
2	2.3%	0%	0%				
3 or more	2.8%	0%	0%	2.4%			
Mean	0.18	0.04	0.00	0.19			
Range	0 to 3	0 to 1	0	0 to 3			

Motivations for Visiting

In a question asking respondents to select their primary two motivations for visiting Bobcat Ridge Natural Area, hikers most often selected “it’s close to home” (25.8%) and “to be in nature” (25.3%). Similarly, mountain bikers and trail runners most often selected “it’s close to home” and “to get exercise”. While equestrians also selected “it’s close to home” (34.9%) as a top motivation, other primary motivations included an equal split between “to be in nature” (14.3%) and “to spend time with friends or family” (14.3%) These results are statistically significant (Table 8).

Table 8. Two main reasons for visiting Bobcat Ridge Natural Area

	Hiking	Mountain Biking	Trail Running	Horseback Riding	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
Two main reasons for visiting					152.39	<.001	.199
It's close to home.	25.8%	22.0%	20.5%	34.9%			
To get exercise.	22.8%	24.2%	31.8%	6.3%			
I feel safe here.	0.6%	1.1%	0%	1.6%			
To learn about nature.	0.3%	0%	0%	3.2%			
To be in nature.	25.3%	14.3%	13.6%	14.3%			
For relaxation.	4.2%	1.1%	0%	4.8%			
To escape from everyday responsibilities or pressure.	0.6%	1.1%	0%	1.6%			
To feel better spiritually.	1.7%	0%	6.8%				
It's less crowded than other natural areas.	10.6%	15.4%	13.6%	7.9%			
To develop my skills and abilities.	0.3%	14.3%	2.3%	4.8%			
To spend time with friends or family.	5.8%	4.4%	4.5%	14.3%			
Other.	2.2%	2.2%	6.8%	6.3%			

Residents reported their two main motivations for visiting were because “it’s close to home” (27.7%) and “to get exercise” (22.1%). Non-residents top two motivations for visiting were “to be in nature” (23.1%) and “to get exercise” (19.2%). These results are statistically significant (Table 9).

Table 9. Two main reasons for visiting Bobcat Ridge Natural Area by residency

	Resident	Non-Resident	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
Two main reasons for visiting			25.95	.007	.115
It's close to home.	27.7%	14.6%			
To get exercise.	22.1%	19.2%			
I feel safe here.	0.7%	0.8%			
To learn about nature.	0.4%	1.5%			
To be in nature.	20.7%	23.1%			
For relaxation.	2.4%	7.7%			
To escape from everyday responsibilities or pressure.	0.9%	0.8%			

	Resident	Non-Resident	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
To feel better spiritually.	1.3%	2.3%			
It's less crowded than other natural areas.	11.6%	11.5%			
To develop my skills and abilities.	2.6%	6.2%			
To spend time with friends or family.	5.5%	10.0%			
Other.	4.1%	2.3%			

Visitor Satisfaction

Over eighty- five percent of respondents in all activity types rated all facilities (e.g., restrooms, parking areas, trails) as “good” or “very good” (Table 10).

Table 10. Perceived quality of facilities at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area

	Hiking	Mountain Biking	Trail Running	Horseback Riding	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
Restrooms	90.2%	96.7%	89.5%	95.9%	16.65	.863	.183
Parking areas	98.1%	96%	100%	92.3%	23.70	.308	.152
Picnic areas	94.4%	93.8%	100%	92.3%	26.10	.202	.305
Trash receptacles	93.9%	95.2%	100%	85.7%	10.04	.931	.110
Kiosk information	95.2%	92.8%	100%	95.2%	6.44	.954	.109
Trails	98.6%	94.1%	100%	100%	11.98	.848	.127

Cell entries are percentages of “good” and “very good” responses.

Nearly 100% of respondents across all activity types reported that their perceived quality of experience was “good” to “excellent” (Table 11).

Table 11. Overall perceived quality of experience at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area

	Hiking	Mountain Biking	Trail Running	Horseback Riding	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
Average	1.4%	3.8%	0%	0%	10.59	.718	.141
Good	25.2%	24.5%	20.0%	19.0%			
Excellent	73.4%	71.7%	80.0%	81.0%			

Perceived Conflict

In a question asking respondents how often they witnessed other activity types behaving either unsafely or discourteously, less than twenty percent reported ever witnessing unsafe or discourteous behaviors.

A statistically significant difference did emerge between equestrians witnessing mountain bikers being discourteous (82.1%). This data is represented in Table 12.

Table 12. Unsafe and discourteous behaviors witnessed at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area

	Hiking	Mountain Biking	Trail Running	Horseback Riding	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
Never witnessed							
Hikers behaving unsafely	98.6%	94.2%	100.0%	92.5%	22.67	.002	.258
Mountain bikers behaving unsafely	96.6%	94.2%	96.7%	87.2%	7.20	.408	.146
Equestrians behaving unsafely	99.1%	98.1%	100.0%	97.5%	1.44	.984	.065
Hikers being discourteous	98.6%	98.1%	100.0%	97.5%	.961	.995	.053
Mountain bikers being discourteous	98.0%	92.6%	93.1%	82.1%	19.02	.008	.238
Equestrians being discourteous	99.5%	98.1%	100.0%	97.5%	2.61	.919	.087

A question designed to measure social values conflict asked respondents if they perceive unsafe or discourteous behavior to be a problem at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area. Responses yielded averages ranging between 6.7% (e.g., trail runners and hikers behaving unsafely) and 35.1% (e.g., equestrians and mountain bikers being discourteous). Of the four activity types, equestrian reported the highest social values conflict (e.g., 22% to 35.1%) (Table 13.)

Table 13. Perceived problems with other visitors at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area

	Hiking	Mountain Biking	Trail Running	Horseback Riding	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
Thinks it's a problem							
Hikers behaving unsafely	17.1%	17.3%	6.7%	22.0%	4.88	.675	.121
Mountain bikers behaving unsafely	26.1%	21.3%	29.6%	30.3%	4.13	.765	.119
Equestrians behaving unsafely	15.6%	17.6%	10.3%	22.0%	3.64	.820	.105
Hikers being discourteous	16.9%	22.4%	10.0%	31.7%	9.76	.203	.174
Mountain bikers being discourteous	22.0%	21.3%	33.3%	35.1%	6.90	.439	.153
Equestrians being discourteous	15.2%	18.0%	14.3%	14.6%	1.96	.962	.078

Table 14 is computed from combined participant responses reporting witnessing and perceiving behaviors as problems. Over sixty percent of respondents reported having no conflict with another groups' behaviors. Interpersonal conflict (e.g., witnessing a behavior and perceiving it as a problem) was most often reported between equestrians and mountain bikers behaving unsafely (12.9%), and equestrians and mountain bikers behaving discourteously (13.9%). These data are well below the standard for outdoor recreation conflict and indicate that interpersonal conflict does not need to be managed for at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area.

Table 14. Perceived conflict at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area

	Hiking	Mountain Biking	Trail Running	Horseback Riding	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
Hikers behaving unsafely					6.91	.938	.117
No conflict	82.7%	81.6%	93.3%	77.5%			
Interpersonal conflict	1.5%	2.0%	0%	5.0%			
Social values conflict	15.8%	16.3%	6.7%	17.5%			
Mountain bikers behaving unsafely					17.61	.225	.118
No conflict	74.7%	79.5%	70.4%	67.7%			
Interpersonal conflict	1.1%	2.3%	3.7%	12.9%			
Social values conflict	24.1%	18.2%	25.9%	19.4%			
Equestrians behaving unsafely					6.27	.959	.106
No conflict	84.3%	81.3%	89.7%	77.5%			
Interpersonal conflict	0.5%	0%	0%	2.5%			
Social values conflict	15.2%	18.8%	10.3%	20.0%			
Hikers being discourteous					11.48	.648	.176
No conflict	82.8%	76.6%	90.0%	67.5%			
Interpersonal conflict	1.0%	0%	0%	2.5%			
Social values conflict	16.1%	23.4%	10.0%	30.0%			
Mountain bikers being discourteous					22.40	.071	.130
No conflict	77.7%	78.3%	66.7%	63.9%			
Interpersonal conflict	0.6%	4.3%	3.7%	13.9%			
Social values conflict	21.7%	17.4%	29.6%	22.2%			
Equestrians being discourteous					5.23	.982	.085
No conflict	84.6%	80.9%	85.7%	85.0%			
Interpersonal conflict	0.5%	0%	0%	2.5%			
Social values conflict	14.9%	19.1%	14.3%	12.5%			

Perceived Crowding

Table 15 indicates that less than 10% of respondents reported ever feeling crowded either at the trailhead or on the trail. The highest incidence of perceived crowding occurred when mountain bikers felt crowded by hikers at the trailhead (9.6%). This occurrence was also statistically significant. These data do not indicate that crowding is a concern at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area.

Table 15. Perceived crowding at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area

	Hiking	Mountain Biking	Trail Running	Horseback Riding	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
Did you feel crowded by:							
Hikers							
At the trailhead	4.0%	9.6%	3.6%	0%	25.62	<.001	.282
On the trail	4.6%	7.7%	6.7%	5.9%	1.41	.965	.066
Mountain bikers							
At the trailhead	3.0%	0%	0%	2.9%	2.83	.900	.093
On the trail	3.2%	1.9%	0%	5.7%	2.34	.886	.086
Equestrians							
At the trailhead	1.0%	1.9%	0%	2.8%	1.48	.983	.067
On the trail	1.5%	7.4%	6.7%	5.1%	6.55	.365	.141

Conclusion

In 2021 and 2022 Natural Areas staff conducted visitor exit interviews ($n = 370$) at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area. The purpose of this effort was to develop a baseline of visitor information at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area and to aid in making informed management decisions. This report compared respondents engaged in four primary activities: hiking ($n = 214$), mountain biking ($n = 55$), trail running ($n = 30$), and horseback riding ($n = 42$) related to their demographics, visitation characteristics, visitor satisfaction, motivations, perceived conflict, and perceived crowding.

Results indicated that the mean age of respondents was between 41.57% (trail runners) and 57.7% (equestrians). Most respondents identified as non-Hispanic/Latinx (85.6% to 94.1%) and as White (93.1% to 97.6%). Across all primary activity groups, respondents were well educated and most reported annual household incomes at or above \$75,000.

Over 80% of all respondents lived in Larimer County. Equestrians ($M = 26.7$ years) reported living in the county the longest followed by mountain bikers ($M = 16.6$ years), hikers ($M = 16.07$ years) and trail runners ($M = 13.2$ years). Equestrians ($M = 8.9$ visits) reported visiting most frequently, followed by hikers ($M = 7.6$ visits), mountain bikers ($M = 7.1$ visits) and trail runners ($M = 6.4$ visits). Residents of Larimer County reported visiting an average of nine times in the last twelve months, while non-residents reported visiting an average of 3.5 times in the last twelve months. Over forty percent of non-residents were first time visitors, compared to 16.2% of residents.

The most reported activity on weekdays was hiking (53.7%). On weekends horseback riding (73.8%) was the most reported activity followed by trail running (73.3%), and mountain biking (69.1%).

Most hikers (60.1%) and equestrians (83.3%) visited in groups of two or more, while most mountain bikers (51.9%) and trail runners (70%) visited alone. The average group composition consisted of two adults: hiking ($M = 2.1$), mountain biking ($M = 1.7$), trail running ($M = 1.3$), horseback riding ($M = 2.8$). Children were most often absent from groups.

In terms of primary motivations for visiting Bobcat ridge Natural Area, hikers most often selected “it’s close to home” (25.8%) and “to be in nature” (25.3%). Mountain bikers and trail runners most often selected “it’s close to home” and “to get exercise”. Similarly, equestrians selected “it’s close to home” (34.9%) and additional primary motivations included “to be in nature” (14.3%) and “to spend time with friends or family” (14.3%). Residents reported their two main motivations for visiting were because “it’s close to home” (27.7%) and “to get exercise” (22.1%). Non-residents two primary motivations for visiting were “to be in nature” (23.1%) and “to get exercise” (19.2%).

Over 85% percent of respondents in all activity types rated all facilities (e.g., restrooms, trails) as “good” or “very good”. Nearly all respondents across all activity types reported that their perceived quality of experience was “good” to “excellent”.

Over eighty percent of respondents had never witnessed other visitors being unsafe or discourteous. Over sixty percent of respondents reported having no conflict with other groups’ behaviors. Incidents of interpersonal conflict (witnessing a behavior and believing it a problem) was most often reported between equestrians and mountain bikers behaving unsafely (12.9%), and equestrians and mountain bikers behaving discourteously (13.9%). Though, reports of interpersonal conflict (e.g., witnessing a behavior and perceiving it as a problem) at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area were well below the standard of <25% of responses.

Perceived crowding was nearly absent at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area, with less than 10% of respondents reporting ever feeling crowded either at the trailhead or on the trail. The highest incidence of perceived crowding occurred when mountain bikers felt crowded by hikers at the trailhead (9.6%).

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Appendix A- Verbatim Responses

Reasons for facility ratings

On the rocks is a bit overgrown in a few parts
A little muddy
A little stinky :) but clean
All above average.
All good
All good.
All great!
All is amazing.
all well-kept!
Always awesome.
always clean
Always clean, kept up really well, ranger on site
always clean/stocked!
Always in good shape.
amazing amount of work done to recover after Cameron
Area is a great resource for hiking
bathroom clean, trail well maintained
Bathroom door doesn't lock.
Bathroom is stinky. Trails and parking are excellent.
Bathroom was pristine.
Bathroom was very bad
beautiful area, well groomed trails
Because its true.
Best trail for mountain biking in area.
Bobcat has a great trail and easy parking lot
Bobcat Ridge is awesome! Trails restored and rerouted post-fire are great.
Cause that's how I see it.
clean
Clean
clean & not smelly
Clean and everything in great condition.
Clean and had tp
Clean and hand sanitizer is appreciated.
Clean place.
Clean restroom, well maintained trails
clean, clear and safe trail
Clean, easy to use.
Clean, kept up

Clean, well maintained.
Clean, well-kept, good markings, good conditions, benches on the hill were great clean! Good signs- very well cared for.
Could use more trailer parking. Restroom is in good shape.
Did not use most of the facilities, other than the walking trails, nothing seems maintained.
Didn't use everything else. Trail was wonderful.
don't use much of the facility
Don't use them much.
Door lock not working when closed.
Doors wont lock.
Everything here is well maintained
everything I did was well-maintained
everything I used was awesome!
Everything is great shape and well maintained
Everything is great!
Everything is great.
everything is in excellent condition
Everything is kept very well/excellent.
Everything is lovely.
Everything is nice, except the locks on the restrooms wont lock.
Everything is pristine and in excellent shape.
Everything is very well done here.
Everything is well maintained.
Everything listed was immaculate! So clean & perfect
everything was "very good"
everything was clean & looked great
everything was clean, trail was great
Everything was clean, well maintained, and had signs.
Everything was fine, trails are very good
Everything was great
Everything we used was very good.
Excellent condition, clean.
Excellent maintenance
Excellent trail system. Good parking for horse trailer.
Excellent upkeep
Excellent. Well maintained beautiful place.
Excellently maintained.
fantastic place, our favorite
felt safe
Fine facility, easy to get to, and not too crowded.
Fort Collins parks are great.
Ginny trail is a littler dangerous in spots
Go Foco! Great upkeep!

Good facility
Good parking and nice trails, some good for loping
Good place for us to see wildlife
Good quality
Good shape.
good solid, clean areas
Good trails.
Good, maintained trail with small parking.
great area well maintained
Great area, great trail.
Great condition and the trail was fun.
Great Condition!
Great experience. Very clean. Great trails.
Great facilities, great trails.
Great facility
Great horse trailer parking
Great place
great place to ride
Great place to ride, awkward parking with no place to tie horse on side of trailer
Great place to ride.
Great shape but not intrusive.
Great shape.
Great site!
Great trail upkeep
great trails for horseback riding
Great trails, always.
Great trails, clean area, not crowded.
Great trails.
Had a tree with very low branch.
High quality.
Hiking was great.
I am impressed with how it was restored after the fire
I didn't use the restroom, but everything seemed pretty good
I enjoyed the experience. The road is much better than past few years
I had no issues and were in good quality
I like Devils Backbone and Bobcat Trail
I like it!
I looked at the signs & the trail's in great condition
I love Colorado's natural beauty and it seems to be preserved and nurtured here
I love hiking here
I love it
I love this open space!
I would like some shady parking spots

I've been coming here since 2006, horses included, well maintained/clean
in comparison to other areas
In great shape.
It is just a great trail with easy to difficult trails for all.
It's a natural area and I expect a certain amount of rustic atmosphere
It's convenient
It's just very nice!
It's a parking lot.
Its clean.
Its good but not special.
Its great to have restrooms and trash. The cabin is cool!
Its very easy to use for horse people.
Its very nice.
Just a short visit. We love it here. Will come back for a longer hike later.
Just awesome and fun trails with gorgeous view
Just cause for the trails
like hiking here
Limited parking.
looking good
Lots of poop
Love Bobcat.
Love Ginny trail. Doing OMBA patrol
love it here!
Love the challenge of this trail
Love the new hitching posts!
Love the trail and up keep
Lower trail north is boring. Otherwise nice.
Marvelous trail and open space.
more shaded spots would be great
My favorite trail
Need more trail construction, need better horse trail to Mahoney park
Needs more parking on the weekends, otherwise pretty good.
Nice
Nice facilities
Nice horse trailer parking. Would love more horse only trails.
Nice place to hike.
Nice variety of terrain.
Nice, well keep up
no potholes, ample parking, availability of materials, trails well maintained
no problem parking and the trails are kept clear
No problems.
Not much traffic as other trails
Nothing stood out

Observation.

only use trails - always good shape

organized incredibly well

overall a good visit

Overall clean and in good condition.

Overall in good condition

Parking can get a little muddy & hard to navigate in heavy rain

Parking for horses is tight. A lot of us use the side to tack up.

Parking lot and bathrooms are always clean.

Plenty parking. Trail = Great.

really nice place - facilities and area kept up!

Restroom at parking lot needs cleaned.

restroom by cabin is not clean. Main restroom is nice

Restroom has hand sanitizer! Good trails.

Restroom lock broken

Restrooms are always not great!

Restrooms cleaned and stocked with toilet paper and hand sanitizer. Trails groomed. Some horse manure.

Restrooms cleaner than most.

RR were clean & well stocked. Ginny trail is amazing!

Sign on way to cabin needs refurbishing.

Sign to turn in from Loveland is a bit unclear.

Some distance markers on North trail fork would be nice

Some rocky areas on the trails. Everything was clean.

The

The lock on the restroom doesn't work

The lock to one of the restrooms seems to be broken

The natural area is always clean and the facilities are very nice

The parking lot restroom was very small, but the one on the trail was perfect.

The trail was very well maintained and the signage was helpful.

The trails were clear and clean.

The whole area is very well maintained.

They are clean, safe, available.

They are cleaned and well maintained.

They did their job.

They were all in great shape

They were good

They were good.

They were great!

They were maintained well.

This facility is always great

this is my favorite city natural area- specifically for the biking

Too much sand and gravel. Missing the natural rock of years past.

Trail is excellent and well maintained.
Trail were clearly marked; love the bathrooms on the trail
trails & parking were clean
trails are recovering, but there is work to be done esp. powerline and upper DR
Trails are so well-maintained and enough space for everyone. Nice humps for MTB'ers.
Trails are well maintained
Trails aren't overly constructed. Nice sign for bicyclists to yield
Trails better maintained now- fewer bike ruts.
Trails clear, beautiful views.
Trails have some horse dung on them
Trails were well kept and beautiful.
Trash cans were hard to open for my small hands
very clean
Very clean
very clean & well kept
Very clean, well kept.
very clean, well maintained
very clean, well taken care of. Nice trails!!
Very nice trail.
Very nice!
Very nice.
very user-friendly. Well-maintained trail. Winding nicely through the valley.
very well kept up
Very well maintained and not too busy. Always amazed how clean the cabin is.
We like to hike and its easy.
We love it here
We love this area
We only mtn biked today and did not need the others
Well done
well kept
well kept & easy access from home, not crowded
well kept facility
Well kept.
Well maintained trail, nice parking and structures.
well maintained
Well maintained
Well maintained and well suited to multiple activities.
Well maintained, road access, safety.
Well marked.
well taken care of!
Well-routed, nice trails, maps and signs
Wide trails, separate biking, horse, hiking.
works for me.

you all have always had the cleanest restrooms. The trails are good.

Reasons for rating overall experience

a little rough from horses

All good.

Always beautiful, rarely crowded.

always groomed, addressing noxious weeds got rid of Bubonic Plague P/D colony

Always in good shape, great trail system.

Awesome.

Bathroom brough score down.

Beautiful

Beautiful and mostly natural.

Beautiful and well-maintained.

Beautiful area

Beautiful area, few people.

Beautiful but sad its burned. No perennial creeks. No dogs.

beautiful hike

Beautiful land and well maintained.

Beautiful park!

Beautiful scenery, not crowded with dog people. Mostly courteous people when im on horse

Beautiful- not crowded weekdays.

Beautiful, great trails.

Beautiful, nice trails. Interesting to see the burned trees.

Beautiful, quiet

Beautiful, quiet, easy to get to

Beautiful, quiet, no dogs.

Beautiful, scenic trail.

Beautiful, trails well marked.

beautiful, well-kept

Beautiful. In natural condition

Beautifully maintained and protected. Good management of traffic

Beautifully maintained from what I could tell.

Beauty.

Best around and Karl.

Bikes

Biological diversity. Quietness.

Bobcat Ridge is one of my favorite trails in FOCO.

Burn scar.

Cabin was great and well maintained.

Clean and beautiful.

Clean and natural

clean trails and polite hikers/bikers

Clean, natural.
Clean, trails kept up well
Clean, well maintained
Clean, well maintained, beautiful views.
Clean, well marked
Clean.
Close by. No fees.
Close to Fort Collins, scenic, uncrowded
close to home
close to home, quiet
Close, safe.
Comparatively it is above average
Diversity of elevation
Don't know...it is just one of my favorite places.
easy drive to a very nice area
Enjoyed our hike
every natural area has its own beauty
Everything is well maintained.
Excellent but please don't spread the word
Excellent maintenance
Excellent trails
Excellent. Well maintained beautiful place. Very friendly trail users.
fairly easy to walk
Favorite spot in Larimer County.
Few people. Hot day.
Few trees
Fire.
flowers are coming up well
Generally very good- some erosion and invasive weeds post-fire, some trail erosion due to bikes.
good
good but...
Good facilities
Good open views, easy walking.
great - hiking
Great area and convenient location.
great area. Weed control after burn is an issue
great biking, usually not too crowded
great hike
Great location and well-maintained trails.
Great maintenance
Great place, not overrun with cyclists.
Great Place.

Great scenic hike.
Great spot to hike.
Great to see restoration after the fire.
Great trail, great views.
Great trails
Great trails despite fire damage
Great trails for all users.
Great trails, clean area, not crowded.
Great trails, variety of distance and difficulty.
Great trails, well maintained, great scenery, wildlife
Great views, trails, facilities.
Great walk!
I <3 Bobcat
I always have a good visit.
I am impressed how well/nice the trail is.
I had an excellent time
I like it
I like it.
I love coming out here to hike, it's a great hiking area
I love getting exercise here
I prefer more shade
I'm from Maine!
Impressed, after the fire especially.
It is close to town & I can get my steps in
It is very well maintained.
It is!
It would be amazing to have more access to the mountain bike trails.
It's easy access and not difficult!
It's great, no complaints
It's right near my house
It's fun
Its beautiful here!
Its close to us. Never too crowded even when lot is full, and great for pretty much all the stuff we like to do: run, hike, mt bike, horseback ride.
Its coming back.
Its is so close to home, easy parking, well maintained, bikers are courteous to horses.
Its just about perfect.
just is, well done
Less people than some other areas. Good sharing by hike, bike, and horse
Lightly used/ remote.
location, habitat, ease of use
Looks so good.
lots of wildlife

lots of wildlife & not too crowded, but at times feel like mountain bikers don't yield to hikers
lots to see easy w/ toddler
Love it here
Love it.
Love it. Very well maintained.
love ride horses here
Love the variety of trails
love this place
Love variety and solitude
Lovely upkeep.
Lovely Valley Loop experience.
maintained very well; safely
Multiple use trails, varying difficulty
my favorite hiking place
My favorite trails.
natural
Natural area is wonderful. Mountain biking trails through Bobcat Ridge have been ruined! No technical areas left. Everything does not need to be a paved/smooth road.
Nice and clear
Nice and not too crowded.
Nice trail
Nice trail, well kept.
No noticeable issues
No parking fee, great trails
No trash, friendly, good services here
Not crowded, beautiful, well maintained trails and facilities.
not crowded, great trails
Not crowd
not overly developed but not under attended to
One of my favorite spots in FC!
Only thirty minutes from FTC w/ variety of hiking.
open spaces!
overall it is a beautiful open space.
Peaceful.
Poor exotic weed control. So much mullen in burn area. I would volunteer to help control weeds - (I did wonder if the mullen was left for erosion control, or ?)
Quiet, clean, serene.
Quiet. Obvious work being done to restore/keep it natural.
really pretty but burn damage is present
Recovering.
Restoration in progress. Wasn't sure how that impacted the environment.
restrooms
Sad that so many trees died in the fire.

Sad to see fire damage
Scenery.
see above
See ratings and notes
seen nothing wrong
Shame about the burn but good to see the growth coming back.
so beautiful & accessible to all
So nice to not have to worry about dogs.
so well taken care of & respected
some non-native plants could use some regulation herbicide
Some non-native plants.
Some trails maintenance required
Some wear and tear on the trails
The burnt trees
The cycle of death and life - love the signage explaining the fire, wildlife, vegetation
The efforts to restore the area with natural vegetation have been great
The fire damage was depressing.
The only bad part is the view of houses.
The openness- not too busy
The trails and variety in terrain is great
The trails.
The views and trails were great.
The whole area is very well maintained.
This is a great place.
This is a nice place to come to
To see fire damage recover is great for education.
Too many mountain bikes.
Totally enjoyed hiked and trails well maintained
Trail is very rocky, hard on ankles for people like me who primarily run roads
Trails are in great condition
Trails were well maintained Fun!
trails, scenery, good management
Trees burned down - otherwise we love it here
Trees got burned down, sorry not your fault
unique and gorgeous
Very accessible.
very beautiful, peaceful
very clean & well kept
Very clean and natural.
Very enjoyable
Very good natural space.
very nice place to ride
very nicely kept, quiet

Very pleasant.
Very well taken care of.
We have them, and they're well kept
We love Bobcat.
Well done! No dogs!
Well maintained
Well maintained area.
Well maintained, good trail options
Well maintained.
well managed
Would be 5 except for the fire damage

Reasons for witnessing hikers behaving unsafely?

Approaching horse quickly
Hiking the bike trail.
Off trail.
Wearing earbuds

Reasons for witnessing mountain bikers behaving unsafely?

Approaching horse quickly
Big Group
Couldn't stop easily.
Flew past horse downhill.
high rate of speed
I got ran over by a bike.
Not yielding to horses
Off trail to uphill traffic.
on DR trail & flying down trails
Stopped in the road and would not let us pass

Reasons for witnessing horseback riders behaving unsafely?

Not staying on specified trail.
Two horses side by side
Total

Reasons for witnessing hikers being discourteous?

Hikers on bike trail.
Not yielding when going slow
playing music
Rude comments

Reasons for witnessing mountain bikers being discourteous?

Approaching horse quickly
did not yield
E biker.
Fast
I got ran over by a bike.
Not giving right of way
Not yielding to horses.
on DR trail
Rude comments
Swearing at us
When we spoke to them they were rude.

Reasons for witnessing horseback riders being discourteous?

everyone is very nice.
Not staying on specified trail.
Rude comments

Additional comments

Aloha.
bikers don't yield to walkers/hikers
born & raised in foco!!
Cabin is really cool.
E mountain bikes should be allowed on all trails MTB's are allowed
Everyone was super friendly and respectful on the trail.
Favorite place in the state
Fort Collins parks are great.
From Washington DC
Ft. Collins does a good job w/ open space & nat areas. Thank you!

Great area! Will return!
Great area.
Great day!
Great facility. I'll be back.
Great hike today.
Great open space and use of a beautiful area.
Great place
Great place - so fortunate to save this place
great place, please don't charge a fee
Great place!
Great place.
Great place. Thanks for asking. Any chance making Eden Valley a loop?
Great spot. Many thanks.
I didn't know this place existed till this week.
I had a great experience today. No complaints!
I hike early morning - always less people, cooler and generally see more wildlife
I just wish I could bring my dog here.
I like Bobcat because its close and not very crowded at all if you get up here early. The trails are challenging.
I love Bobcat Ridge! Keep up the great work!
I love Colorado
I love hiking trails
I love Karl!!!
I love that it's free and not littered (especially with dog poop)
I love this area & use all the time but do not think fees are the way to go. This needs funding from the whole community. Also- I wanted to volunteer to help with repairs but was unable to connect with anyone.
I love this natural area!
I love this place!
I wish the thistles would be sprayed before they spread more
I've lived in Colorado for 40 years and this my favorite place to visit and trail run.
If it isn't there already a sign that explains that the Powerline Trail connects to the Valley Loop.
Keep the trails as they are! Love them! Do not do what you did to Maxwell!
Keep up the great work! Thank you for giving us these places!
Less horse poop would be good. Bathroom is clean! :)
Love bobcat ridge
Love Bobcat!!! Thank you!
Love it here :)
love it!
Love this spot. Will be back
lovely area
Lovely area - Thank you
Lovely day. Thank you for the great work you do <3

More mountain bike free trails.
Need more bike free trails
Need to create a citizen advisory group for this park. Also, city of F.C. should start a volunteer trail ranger program.
Never come on weekends. Tuesday and Wednesday ar best days.
New fav natural area
Nice place! I will come back.
Nice work, Parks Department!!
no pay to park was nice
Please expand mountain biking trails- especially in new acquisition.
Please open gate at dawn.
Please revert Maxwell to a technical trail.
Still a good place to hike after the fire
Super area!
Thank you for a beautiful FREE hiking area!
Thank you for a free hiking area
Thank you for all you do to make this & other natural areas a great place to visit :)
Thank you for listening!
thank you for the incredible outdoors opportunities in Fort Collins!
Thank you for the work that you do! I love having access to these trails and natural areas.
Thank you for the work you do!
Thank you for your hard work. I appreciate it.
Thank you!
Thank you! Love the open spaces. Let us know how to help.
Thanks for all you do!
Thanks for asking!
Thanks for doing the survey. Beautiful place. People use the website and Cotrex.
Thanks for doing this!
Thanks for having these surveys.
Thanks for the work!
Thanks, great facility!
Thanks!
The trail layout of Bobcat Ridge is how most trails in the Front range should be. Thank you!
This is an exceptional trail system!
trails were maintained well
Very enjoyable visit. Will return. I found the cabin to be a great place to think about things- the past, and also the interaction between human culture & nature.
Very nice!
We all need to work together to keep all the open space areas safe and fun for walkers, hikers, and bikers.
We come several times per year the quality and continued upgrades for riders are top notch
We love Bobcat!
We love this area so much. It is the perfect length for (around 5 miles) and has variety of easy and moderately hard areas.

We love this area!!!

Website should consistently reflect actual opening time of gates.

What's up with reforestation?

Wish dogs on leash were allowed

With over 30K pics of Bobcat, the park NEVER disappoints me. There is always something to see.

Wonderful place. Good expansion.

Would like to see more e-mountain bike trails for us older arthritic athletes! Less sand - too slippery for mountain bikes (falls!). Too many technical spots on trails are smoothed out. More parking!

You do a great job here! Thank you.

Appendix B – Survey Instrument



This survey will help **City of Fort Collins Natural Areas** staff better understand visitors' views and improve service delivery. Your participation is completely voluntary, and your answers will remain anonymous. **Thank you for your assistance - your input is greatly appreciated!**

TODAY'S VISIT

1. About how many visits have you made to this natural area in the past 12 months? *(If this is your first visit or you come here less than once per year, write 0)* _____

2. What was your primary activity **TODAY** during your visit? *(Check only one)*

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> Family gathering | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife viewing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain biking | <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback riding | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography/Art |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail running | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking | |

3. Which of the following best describes **WHO** traveled here **with you** today? *(Check one and write in the number of people in your group, if more than just you today.)*

- Just me! Group (____ # adults, ____ # children)

4. For the facilities that you used today during your visit, please rate their quality by circling the appropriate number for each facility.

	Did Not Use	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good
Restrooms	0	1	2	3	4	5
Parking Areas	0	1	2	3	4	5
Picnic Areas	0	1	2	3	4	5
Trash Receptacles	0	1	2	3	4	5
Kiosk Materials & Signs	0	1	2	3	4	5
Trails	0	1	2	3	4	5

Please explain why you rated the facilities this way: _____

5. How would you rate the overall quality of this natural area? *(Circle one number)*

- | | | | | |
|-------------|---|----------------|---|------------------|
| <u>Poor</u> | | <u>Neutral</u> | | <u>Excellent</u> |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Please explain why you rated it this way: _____

6. Please check the two main reasons you chose to visit **THIS** natural area instead of others.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> It's close to home. | <input type="checkbox"/> To be in nature. | <input type="checkbox"/> It's less crowded than other natural areas. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To get exercise. | <input type="checkbox"/> For relaxation. | <input type="checkbox"/> To develop my skills and abilities. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I feel safe here. | <input type="checkbox"/> To escape from everyday responsibilities or pressure. | <input type="checkbox"/> To spend time with friends or family. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To learn about nature. | <input type="checkbox"/> To feel better spiritually. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

7. Is there a particular City of Fort Collins Natural Areas site that you choose to **no longer** visit?

- No
 Yes If yes, where? _____
 If yes, why do you avoid this property?

OBSERVATIONS AT THIS NATURAL AREA

8. How often **has each** of the following happened to you personally during **THIS VISIT**? *(Circle one and include a description, if applicable)*

	Never	1 or 2 times	3 to 5 times	Many times	Almost always
Saw hikers behaving unsafely If so, how? _____	0	1	2	3	4
Saw mountain bikers behaving unsafely If so, how? _____	0	1	2	3	4
Saw horseback riders behaving unsafely If so, how? _____	0	1	2	3	4
Witnessed hikers being discourteous If so, how? _____	0	1	2	3	4
Witnessed mountain bikers being discourteous If so, how? _____	0	1	2	3	4
Witnessed horseback riders being discourteous If so, how? _____	0	1	2	3	4

CONTINUE ON BACK ↓

9. To what extent do you think each of the following is a problem at this natural area?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Almost always
Hikers hiking unsafely	0	1	2	3	4
Mountain bikers riding unsafely	0	1	2	3	4
Horseback riders riding unsafely	0	1	2	3	4
Hikers being discourteous	0	1	2	3	4
Mountain bikers being discourteous	0	1	2	3	4
Horseback riders being discourteous	0	1	2	3	4

10. Please estimate the number of hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders you saw **TODAY** at the trailhead and on the trail.

	Number seen at the trailhead	Number seen on the trail
Hikers	_____	_____
Mountain bikers	_____	_____
Horseback riders	_____	_____

11. Did you feel crowded by the number of other visitors at each of the following locations? (Circle one)

Did you feel crowded by:	Not at all Crowded	Slightly Crowded	Moderately Crowded	Extremely Crowded
<u>Hikers</u>				
At the trailhead	1	2	3	4
On the trail	1	2	3	4
<u>Mountain bikers</u>				
At the trailhead	1	2	3	4
On the trail	1	2	3	4
<u>Horseback riders</u>				
At the trailhead	1	2	3	4
On the trail	1	2	3	4

VISITOR DEMOGRAPHICS

12. Which best describes your gender?

- Female Transgender Female Gender non-conforming
 Male Transgender Male Prefer to self-identify _____

13. What is your age? _____ (Years)

14. What is your ethnicity?

- Hispanic/Latinx Non-Hispanic/Latinx Prefer to self-identify _____

15. What is your race?

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

16. What is your highest level of completed education?

- Some High School or less Graduated from High School/GED
 Associate degree Bachelor's degree Master's/Ph.D.

17. What is your annual household income?

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

18. What is your Zip Code for your PRIMARY residence? _____

19. If you live in Larimer County, how long have you lived here? _____ (Years)

COMMENTS