

Visitors to Gateway Natural Area

CITY OF FORT COLLINS NATURAL AREAS

Executive Summary

Natural Areas staff administered visitor exit interviews ($n = 356$) at Gateway 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 Gateway Natural Area. This report is intended to (a) provide a baseline of visitor information at Gateway Natural Area and (b) to aid Natural Areas staff in making informed management decisions.

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.

To aid in analysis, this report compares residents of Larimer County ($n = 231$) and non-residents ($n = 125$).

Demographics (Table 2)

- Over a third of respondents (35.1%) reported not living in Larimer County.
- Slightly more respondents across both categories identified as female (52%) than male (46.9%), The average age of respondents was forty-six years old.
- Over 87% of all respondents reported as non-Hispanic, and most were White (94.8%).
- More than half of all respondents were college-educated.
- Over 50% of all respondents reported annual household incomes below \$100,000.

Visitation Characteristics (Table 3)

- Nearly half of all non-residents were first time visitors, compared to 19% of residents.
- The average number of annual visits for residents was ten, while non-residents visited 3 times per year.

Primary Activity (Table 4)

- Hiking was the most selected primary activity for both residents (39%) and non-residents (52%).
- Fishing was the second most reported activity for both residents (25.4%) and non-residents (25.3%).
- Family gathering (11%) was the third most reported primary activity for all respondents.

Group Characteristics (Table 5)

- Three quarters of respondents visited in groups of two or more.
- Average group size was 3.35 visitors and ranged from one to twenty individuals.
- Twenty-six percent of respondents reported at least one child was present in their group.

Motivations for Visiting (Table 6)

- Residents most often selected “it’s close to home” (27.9%), and “to be in nature” (24.7%).
- Non-residents selected “to be in nature” (28.6%) and “to spend time with friends or family” (20%).

Visitor Satisfaction (Tables 7 & 8)

- Over 90% of respondents rating most facilities as either “good” or “very good”.
- Restroom ratings were lower for both residents (89.5%), and non-residents (75%).
- Picnic areas were highest rated with 99% of respondents rating them as either “good” or “very good” across both groups.
- Nearly 100% of all respondents reported that their perceived quality of experience was “good” to “excellent”.

Perceived Safety (Table 9)

- Over two-thirds of respondents reported feeling “always safe”.
- Less than 1% of both residents and non-residents reported ever feeling “not very safe”.

Contents

Introduction	1
Methods.....	1
Results.....	3
Conclusion	8
Appendix A - Open-ended responses	10
Appendix B- Survey Instrument.....	27

List of Tables

Table 1. Visitor survey data collection effort at Gateway Natural Area	1
Table 2. Demographic profile of visitors to Gateway Natural Area.....	3
Table 3. Residency of visitors to Gateway Natural Area.....	4
Table 4. Number of visits to Gateway Natural Area in the past twelve months	5
Table 5. Primary activity.....	5
Table 6. Group characteristics of visitors to Gateway Natural Area	6
Table 7. Two main reasons for visiting Gateway Natural Area	6
Table 8. Perceived quality of facilities at Gateway Natural Area.....	7
Table 9. Overall perceived quality of experience at Gateway Natural Area	8
Table 10. Perceived safety at Gateway Natural Area	8

Introduction

Public land managers are often tasked with providing high quality recreational experiences for visitors. However, it can be difficult to accurately understand visitor 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. Visitation characteristics
3. Visitor satisfaction
4. Motivations for visiting
5. Perceived safety

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

Methods

Data Collection

Natural Areas staff conducted visitor exit interviews ($n = 356$) at Gateway 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 compares responses from Larimer County residents ($n = 231$) and non-residents ($n = 125$).

Table 1. Visitor survey data collection effort at Gateway Natural Area

Year	
2021	18.3%
2022	81.7%
Season	
Winter	7.3%
Spring	21.6%
Summer	36.2%
Fall	34.8%
Day of Week	
Weekday	32.9%
Weekend	67.1%
Shift	
8:00 - 9:30	3.7%
10:15 - 11:45	16.9%
12:30 - 2:00	44.1%
2:45 - 4:15	35.4%

Statistical Data Analysis

Data was analyzed using IBM's Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) with assistance from former Colorado State University Professor and Illinois State University Researcher, Dr. Jerry Vaske.

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

Over a third of respondents (35.1%) reported not living in Larimer County. Slightly more respondents across both categories identified as female (52%) than male (46.9%), and the mean age of respondents was forty-six years old. Over 87% of all respondents reported as non-Hispanic, and most were White (94.8%). More than half of all respondents were college-educated. A statistical difference with a minimal effect size emerged between resident and non-resident levels of education. Over 50% of all respondents reported annual household incomes below \$100,000.

Table 2. Demographic profile of visitors to Gateway Natural Area

	Resident	Non-resident	Total	Statistic χ^2 or F-value	p-value	Effect size V or η
Do you live in Larimer County?	64.9%	35.1%	100%			
Gender				.400	.819	.034
Female	52.8%	50.4%	52.0%			
Male	45.9%	48.8%	46.9%			
Gender non-conforming	1.3%	0.8%	1.1%			
Age				6.051	.418	.131
<20	6.1%	7.2%	6.5%			
21 to 25	9.2%	15.2%	11.3%			
26 to 35	25.3%	24.8%	25.1%			
36 to 45	19.2%	15.2%	17.8%			
46 to 55	10.9%	7.2%	9.6%			
56 to 65	18.8%	16.0%	17.8%			
Over 65	10.5%	14.4%	11.9%			
Mean age	47.8	42.7	46			
Ethnicity				3.601	.165	.103
Hispanic/Latinx	6.8%	12.0%	8.6%			
Non-Hispanic/Latinx	90.0%	82.9%	87.6%			
Prefer to self-identify	3.2%	5.1%	3.8%			
Race				11.97	.996	.064
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.9%	0.8%	0.9%			
Asian	0.4%	1.7%	0.9%			
Black	0.9%		0.6%			
White	94.3%	95.9%	94.8%			
Two or more races	3.5%	1.7%	2.9%			
Highest Level of Education				10.302	.036	.171
Some high school or less	1.7%	0.8%	1.4%			

	Resident	Non-resident	Total	Statistic χ^2 or F-value	p-value	Effect size V or η
GED or high school grad	12.1%	22.8%	15.8%			
Associate degree	15.2%	14.6%	15.0%			
Bachelor's degree	39.0%	41.5%	39.8%			
Masters/PhD	32.0%	20.3%	28.0%			
Household Income				9.939	.192	.175
Less than \$24,999	9.0%	1.7%	6.5%			
\$25,000 – \$34,999	7.1%	7.0%	7.1%			
\$35,000 – \$49,999	3.8%	5.2%	4.3%			
\$50,000 – \$74,999	15.2%	17.4%	16.0%			
\$75,000 – \$99,999	16.2%	22.6%	18.5%			
\$100,000 – \$149,999	26.7%	23.5%	25.5%			
\$150,000 – \$199,999	10.5%	13.9%	11.7%			
\$200,000+	11.4%	8.7%	10.5%			

An analysis of non-resident and resident zip codes found that nearly 8% of visitors resided in Weld County, nearly 20% were from other parts of Colorado, and over 17% were from other states in the US.

Table 3. Residency of Visitors to Gateway Natural Area

Residence	Percentage of responses
Fort Collins	52.1%
Windsor	4.3%
Wellington	2.0%
Timnath	1.4%
Greeley	3.4%
Other Colorado	19.5%
Other US	17.2%

Visitation Characteristics

Not surprisingly, a statistical difference was found between frequency of visits and residency. The average number of annual visits for residents was ten, and non-residents visited 3 times per year. Nearly half of all non-residents were first time visitors, compared to 19% of residents.

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

	Resident	Non-resident	Total	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
Visits				42.722	<.001	.359
First time visiting	19.1%	46.6%	28.7%			
1 to 2 visits	26.0%	32.8%	28.4%			
3 to 5 visits	24.7%	9.5%	19.3%			
6 to 10 visits	8.8%	3.4%	6.9%			
11 to 20 visits	10.7%	4.3%	8.5%			
21 to 50 visits	7.0%	3.4%	5.7%			
Over 50 visits	3.7%		2.4%			
Mean	9.7	2.7	6.4			

Primary Activity

Hiking was the most selected primary activity for both residents (39%) and non-residents (52%). Fishing was the second most reported activity for both residents (25.4%) and non-residents (25.3%). Family gathering (11%) was the third most reported primary activity for all respondents.

Table 5. Primary activity

	Resident	Non-resident	Total	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
Primary Activity				17.964	.056	.253
Hiking	39.0%	51.9%	43.8%			
Trail Running	1.7%		1.1%			
Family Gathering	9.0%	14.4%	11.0%			
Picnicking	9.0%	4.8%	7.5%			
Photography/Art	1.7%	1.9%	1.8%			
Wildlife Viewing	1.7%		1.1%			
Dog walking	6.8%	1.0%	4.6%			
Fishing	25.4%	25.0%	25.3%			
Kayaking	1.1%		0.7%			
Rafting/Tubing	0.6%		0.4%			
Swimming	4.0%	1.0%	2.8%			

Group Characteristics

Three quarters of respondents visited in groups of two or more, with the mean group size being 3.35 visitors. Twenty-six percent of respondents reported at least one child was present in their group. Group size ranged from one to twenty individuals.

Table 6. Group characteristics of visitors to Gateway Natural Area

	Resident	Non-resident	Total	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
Number of people in group				3.330	.504	.098
1	26.9%	19.8%	24.4%			
2	32.2%	31.4%	31.9%			
3	11.9%	11.6%	11.8%			
4 to 5	15.0%	18.2%	16.1%			
6 or more	14.1%	19.0%	15.8%			
Mean	3.22	3.60	3.35			
Range	1 to 20	1 to 16	1 to 20			
Number of adults in group				4.545	.337	.114
1	29.1%	22.3%	26.7%			
2	38.3%	33.9%	36.8%			
3	14.1%	18.2%	15.5%			
4 to 5	11.0%	14.9%	12.4%			
6 or more	7.5%	10.7%	8.6%			
Mean	2.54	2.82	2.64			
Range	1 to 20	1 to 10	1 to 20			
Number of children in group				3.225	.354	.097
0	72.2%	76.0%	73.6%			
1	10.6%	8.3%	9.8%			
2	8.4%	4.1%	6.9%			
3 or more	8.8%	11.6%	9.8%			
Mean	0.68	0.76	0.71			
Range	0 to 10	0 to 13	0 to 13			

Motivations for Visiting

In a question asking respondents to select their primary two motivations for visiting Gateway Natural Area, residents most often selected “it’s close to home” (27.9%), and “to be in nature” (24.7%). Non-residents selected “to be in nature” (28.6%) and “to spend time with friends or family” (20%). These results are statistically significant with a minimal effect size.

Table 7. Two main reasons for visiting Gateway Natural Area

	Resident	Non-resident	Total	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
Two main reasons for visiting				29.527	.002	.222
It's close to home.	27.9%	13.6%	22.7%			
To get exercise.	7.1%	5.5%	6.5%			
I feel safe here.	1.1%	1.8%	1.3%			

	Resident	Non-resident	Total	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
To learn about nature.	0.8%	0.5%	0.7%			
To be in nature.	24.7%	28.6%	26.2%			
For relaxation.	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%			
To escape from everyday responsibilities or pressure.	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%			
To feel better spiritually.	2.6%	1.4%	2.2%			
It's less crowded than other natural areas.	8.4%	9.1%	8.7%			
To develop my skills and abilities.	1.3%	3.6%	2.2%			
To spend time with friends or family.	10.0%	20.0%	13.7%			
Other.	3.4%	3.2%	3.3%			

Visitor Satisfaction

Satisfaction with facilities at Gateway Natural Area was high, with over 90% of respondents rating them as either “good” or “very good”. However, restroom ratings were lower for both residents (89.5%), and non-residents (75%). This represents a statistically significant difference with a minimal effect size. Picnic areas were highest rated with 99% of respondents rating them as either “good” or “very good” across both groups.

Table 8. Perceived quality of facilities at Gateway Natural Area

	Resident	Non-resident	Total	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
Restrooms	89.5%	75%	84.8%	9.930	.042	.217
Parking areas	93.3%	94.9%	93.9%	1.190	.880	.059
Picnic areas	98.8%	98.7%	98.8%	1.294	.731	.074
Trash receptacles	97.1%	96.7%	97%	.839	.840	.056
Kiosk information	92.6%	93.3%	92.8%	2.660	.447	.095
Trails	95.3%	95.7%	95.4%	2.636	.620	.090

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

Regardless of residency, nearly 100% of respondents reported that their perceived quality of experience was “good” to “excellent” (Table 11).

Table 9. Overall perceived quality of experience at Gateway Natural Area

	Resident	Non-resident	Total	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
Average	0.4%	0.8%	0.6%	.280	.869	.028
Good	15.7%	16.8%	16.1%			
Excellent	83.9%	82.4%	83.4%			

Perceived Safety

In a question asking respondents to rate how safe they feel at Gateway Natural Area, over two-thirds of respondents reported feeling “always safe”. Less than 1% of both residents and non-residents reported ever feeling “not very safe”.

Table 10. Perceived safety at Gateway Natural Area

	Resident	Non-resident	Total	Statistic χ^2	p-value	Effect size V
Not very safe	0.4%		0.3%	3.338	.342	.097
Somewhat safe	2.6%	1.6%	2.3%			
Usually safe	33.0%	25.6%	30.4%			
Always safe	63.9%	72.8%	67.0%			

Conclusion

While convenience sampling of visitors had been intermittently performed at Gateway Natural Area, a fully generalizable, representative, and statistically significant sample had not been achieved. To gain a better understanding of the site’s visitors, Natural Areas staff administered visitor exit interviews ($n = 356$) 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 report was to (a) provide a baseline of visitor information at Gateway Natural Area and (b) to aid Natural Areas staff in making informed management decisions

A demographic comparison of visitors found that over a third of respondents (35.1%) reported not living in Larimer County. Slightly more respondents across both categories identified as female (52%) than male (46.9%), and the mean age of respondents was forty-six years old. Over 87% of all respondents reported as non-Hispanic, and most were White (94.8%). More than half of all respondents were college-educated. A statistical difference with a minimal effect size emerged between resident and non-resident levels of education. Over 50% of all respondents reported annual household incomes below \$100,000.

Not surprisingly, a statistical difference was found between frequency of visits and residency. The average number of annual visits for residents was ten, and non-residents visited 3 times per year. Nearly half of all non-residents were first time visitors, compared to 19% of residents.

Hiking was the most selected primary activity for both residents (39%) and non-residents (52%). Fishing was the second most reported activity for both residents (25.4%) and non-residents (25.3%). Family gathering (11%) was the third most reported primary activity for all respondents.

Three quarters of respondents visited in groups of two or more, with the mean group size being 3.35 visitors. Twenty-six percent of respondents reported at least one child was present in their group. Group size ranged from one to twenty individuals.

In a question asking respondents to select their two, primary motivations for visiting Gateway Natural Area, residents most often selected “it’s close to home” (27.9%), and “to be in nature” (24.7%). Non-residents selected “to be in nature” (28.6%) and “to spend time with friends or family” (20%). These results are statistically significant with a minimal effect size.

Satisfaction with facilities at Gateway Natural Area was high, with over 90% of respondents rating them as either “good” or “very good”. However, restroom ratings were lower for both residents (89.5%), and non-residents (75%). This represents a statistically significant difference with a minimal effect size. Picnic areas were highest rated with 99% of respondents rating them as either “good” or “very good” across both groups.

Regardless of residency, nearly 100% of respondents reported that their perceived quality of experience was “good” to “excellent” (Table 11).

In a question asking respondents to rate how safe they feel at Gateway Natural Area, over two-thirds of respondents reported feeling “always safe”. Less than 1% of both residents and non-residents reported ever feeling “not very safe”.

Appendix A - Open-ended responses

Explanation of facility ratings

20 years of fun.

All around great!

All excellent and quiet

all were good, some developing decent-sized ruts

Always a pleasure to be here.

Always can count on this area to be clean, not overused

Always clean and enjoy

Always clean!

Always enjoy coming to this well-kept park

always well kept up

awesome energy

bathroom very clean, signage great

bathroom was clean, had hand sanitizer.

Beautiful park, well maintained.

Beautiful place kept very clean.

Beautiful, clean and well maintained

beautifully maintained

Because they were very good.

been here often alone and feel safe & comfortable

Better signage for seaman reservior directions

can always incrementaly improve

can't complain! It's beautiful out here

Clean and beautiful area.

Clean and easy.

Clean and neat enough, people feel safe.

Clean and signage is on point!

Clean and well kept.
Clean facilities, [but]limited parking. We love it here!
Clean, easy to follow.
clean, well kept
clean, well kept, beautiful!
Clean, well maintained, beautiful.
Clean, well-marked.
clean, well-maintained. No running water in restroom
Clean.
Cleanliness and friendly
Clear paths.
Easy to use.
Enjoyable place to go.
Everything has been well cleaned and picked up.
Everything in top shape, clean and available
Everything is great
Everything is in good condition.
Everything is very kept
Everything is very well kept and clean
Everything looks good.
Everything was amazing
Everything was great.
Everything's good
Everything's great.
Excellent job.
Excellent park
Excellent park.
Friendly environment and a lovely place.
Fun adventure.

Good

good condition & plenty of spots today

good facilities. Well kept

Good natural area

good shape beautiful

Great - did not use restroom

Great facilities

great overall experience

great place

Great place

great place!

Great shape.

Great site.

Great visit.

Great!

Had a great experience. Signs are just starting to show age.

Happy with Gateway.

Helpful and easy to access.

How I felt about the area

I love it. Too many flies in the bathroom.

I love the large grassy area for dogs and baby

I love this spot! My family has been coming here since 2006.

I only used the pay booth and parking

I've been to a lot of parks & natural areas & this is consistently one of the nicer ones

It is always very clean and pleasant here

It is kept so well, a real "go-to" place.

It never disappoints. Always a pleasure.

It was excellent.

It was very clean

It's always nice

Its always so nice here.

Just did - no particular reason - but definitely because all are more on the plus side

Just great park/facilities

Just the way it is.

Kiosk out of paper. Ranger was awesome about it though

kiosk took forever to process payment

Limited trail/maps made me search for the info wish it was "in my way"

love fishing here and it's easy and convenient in all ways

love gateway

Love it here!

Love the picnic area.

Love this park.

Love this place.

Loved it all!

maps on signs would be nice

minimally invasive but met our needs

mostly just fine

Need handwashing area.

Need running water in bathrooms and more parking.

Needs hand sanitizer stocked. Again, all out.

Nice and clean.

nice clean area

nice trails to walk + good fishing views

Nice trails!

No Faucet

No issues.

Only fished today.

overall great shape

Overall seems well maintained.

Parking area- clean, clear, and graded. Trails- some near the dam are washed out.

Parking areas average due to replacing perfectly good spaces by the bridge with no parking signs. I know spaces were added elsewhere, but I'd bet it's a net loss of spaces.

Parking needs to be patrolled. People are parking all over.

picnic areas look great, but we've never used them. People really enjoy them.

positive experience

Quick hike with two year old.

quiet and peaceful, less trafficked time of year

really well maintained area

relaxing location

Restroom clean with now working sink

Restrooms are clean!

Restrooms could use some soap.

Seems nice

Signage (trail identification).

Small parking

Someone peed on the floor

Stellar experience, didn't notice much signage

such a cute trail!

The machine did not accept cash- I didn't know how to pay today

The place is well maintained.

The river is great

The trail is well-maintained.

The trail was extremely overgrown. We had to turn around because we were unable to locate path

They all didn't say thank you

They are fine

They felt intuitive

They were clean and functional.

They were great

Trails are very well kept

Trails aren't walked enough

trails took some weird routes (like, right over a giant rock instead of around it)

trash sometimes overlooked, but rarely

Tried to hike 12 miles by reservoir - trail too overgrown

Very beautiful

very clean

very clean + well maintained

Very clean and accessible.

Very clean, clear signage.

very clean, well kept

Very easy to use and we had no problems

Very fun

Very good, well maintained

very nice & clean

very relaxing.

Very spiffy.

Very welcoming and clean.

We have been to many trails and this is well maintained

we just went for a short walk today, but we love this place

We love it here

Well kept

well maintained & easy to use

well maintained, beautiful area

Well maintained.

well managed

Well taken care of.

Why not?

Wonderful place, well-managed.

Would like a bit more parking spots for people running a river shuttle.

Would like to see a few more trash receptacles further into the park.

Would love more trails

Explanation for overall experience rating

A very nice environment and well kept

Always an awesome trip here.

Always clean and peaceful.

Always clean, not overused

Always clean, plenty of spots for everyone.

Amazing spot

Awesome place! But "5" would mean it had rock climbing

beautiful

Beautiful

Beautiful and accessible

Beautiful and clean. Great fishing!

Beautiful and well maintained

Beautiful area

Beautiful area and well kept up

Beautiful area, away from town

Beautiful area, disappointed by the trail (or lack of) is all

beautiful area, quiet little spot

Beautiful area.

Beautiful landscape, easy to navigate.

Beautiful park, great place to raft

Beautiful place with excellent conditions.

beautiful place!

Beautiful place.
beautiful scenery & good fishing
beautiful scenery & quiet
Beautiful, clean
Beautiful, clean, well maintained.
Beautiful, not dirty, wide open space for dogs.
beautiful, peaceful, clean, nice "staff", good parking
Beautiful, quiet; flat, easy trail
Beautiful!
Beautiful! Very well maintained!
Beautiful.
Because it has everything one could want
Can't beat mother nature
CFS on north fork need to be increase
Clean
clean & family oriented
Clean and beautiful.
Clean and friendly.
Clean and relaxing.
clean and upkept
Clean and views
Clean and well kept.
Clean trails
clean, doggy bags, hook disposal, etc
Clean, grassy
Clean, large, beautiful.
clean, mildly used
Clean, mowed, and dog poop bags
Clean, no drugs, staff friendly

Clean, no trash and plenty of space even on a crowded day.

Clean, peaceful and scenic.

Clean, pretty area.

clean, quiet, nice picnic area

Clean, river access.

Clean, safe, natural beauty

Clean, safe.

Clean, shady, beautiful rushing river.

Clean, well-marked.

Clear trails and beautiful scenery and shade.

Clear trails and easy access to river

Close to home [but] feels far away.

Convenient and open.

Cool rocks, pretty river

ease of use - good facilities

Easy access, clean, family friendly

easy access, lots of birds & wildlife, different ecosystems

Easy to get to, scenic multi-use

Easy to navigate, beautiful area and friendly staff

Easy to walk

Easy to walk and see a variety of environments.

enjoyable , clean, easy access

Family and dogs have great times here

fantastically beautiful.

Favorite for fishing & bring guest

fishing quality

fishing, clean, not crowded

Fun! Beautiful!

Good condition and beautiful views. Quiet and peaceful.

Good facilities

good fishing

Good improvement in last couple of years. A little something for everyone- kids, adults, hike, fish, bird, etc.

Good maintenance, used to be a bit crowded.

Good trail conditions and clean

great access to river and trails; love the play area

Great area with lots of things to do

Great fishing

Great hike. Could use more mileage around the reservoir.

great paths & clean areas

great place

Great public use for the whole family

Great trails and picnic areas

great trails with beautiful views

Human/nature interface, great roughed out spots, trails and people areas.

I haven't explored all it has to offer yet.

I like it, it's very nice

I love this area!

I love this place.

I rated my overall experience at this natural area as excellent due to the scenery

It is a very relaxing and nice area.

It is a well-maintained, multi-use area

It was an enjoyable time.

It was lovely and quiet and serene

It's "The Best" - so grateful for this wonderful area

It's beautiful

It's beautiful and easy to get to

It's beautiful and easy to use

It's great need good access to river always

It's kept very well!

It's so beautiful here, it's like a well-kept secret. Something here for everyone.

It's well maintained

It's a clean area, very calm and enjoyable to spend a day with family.

Its all very green and nice.

Its always a memorable experience. Views are stunning.

Its great.

Its is a beautiful landscape

Its open and has many spots.

Its well maintained and scenic.

Just perfect.

Limited number of people allowed.

lots of beautiful views & I love the fly fishermen

Lots of fun.

Lots of shade and things to do.

lots of trails and beautiful scenery

Love fishing here

Love it

Love it here!

Love it!

Love nature.

love open space

love the canyon, the river

Love the facility.

Love the scenery.

Love this area

Love this place, very clean too.

Love visiting here!

Lovely spot
maintained
maintained well.
mostly fine, limited options, closed areas
Mountains, water, fly fishermen
Natural and quiet
Natural, beautiful area with easy access and nice views.
Nice river.
Nice with water, close to FC
No loose trash.
No trash
No trash, quiet, good fishing
Not 5 because of all the weeds. Would like for those to be managed.
Not crowded.
One of the best parks in the Fort Collins system.
Open dry area
open, clean, low crowd
Outstanding
Peaceful and quiet
Peaceful, well maintained, great picnic area
Picked up. Well maintained.
Plenty of space for everyone to enjoy. Grass is the best grass to go barefoot.
plenty of well-marked trails & diff. activity
Poudre tributaries and beautiful watersides/creeksides
pretty peaceful reservoir had good amount of algae
Quiet, close to home, relaxing, love the river
Quiet, well kept.
Really beautiful and not many people
Really enjoy the area.

river & feels like in the remote mountains

River access.

Same as below

Seems crowd-controlled, clean, and well-tended, beautiful

Signed well and lots of places for family activities.

slightly above average

so beautiful! & history of location

So beautiful! Well kept!

So clean and beautiful

So gorgeous, nicely kept.

So pretty, no trash

so secluded & incredible views! Just what my Sunday needed

Sometimes it is difficult to find a trash can.

sometimes see fishing trash (salmon egg jars, etc.) & misc. litter

Such a beautiful spot. Very friendly rangers, clean and well maintained

The trails are clean and in good condition

This was our first visit, and I will return. Great family trail, nice access for future fly fishing.

Too many people

Trail well maintained. No litter

very beautiful natural area kept pristine - thank you

Very clean.

very nice

Very nice park to FC

very nice trails, I just wish it was wilder

Very organized, easy access, parking pass easy pay

very peaceful, calm, beautiful

Very relaxing.

Very scenic, great fishing

very well kept and good trails

very well maintained and low crowds
view, close to home, lots of trails. All year long.
water, trees, decent shade, fall colors
We love gates
we love it here. Well maintained
Well-kept and maintained, friendly staff
Well kept, good access for all kinds of people
well maintained
Well maintained
Well maintained, clean
Well maintained.
Well maintained/open year round
Well taken care of and a very sun space
wonderful mix of things to do for a family

Explanation for River Safety

*will always appreciate more rangers patrolling
Allow alcohol
Cell service
Education on low overhead dams if caught in one
Handrail to water.
hard, it's just walking along the road can feel unsafe
Have seen a rattlesnake.
I don't know
I don't know if there are break-ins here
I'm scared of snakes
just high during runoff
Make it more risky.
More classes on safety and wildlife

N/A

New to area so learning.

No cell service and there is no way to communicate

Not much. Anything you do could take away from the quality of wildlife.

Not sure, its pretty awesome.

nothing

Nothing-its nature

Nothing.

Only worry at peak runoff.

Personal responsibility is good.

Put warnings when necessary

Rattlesnakes.

Staff, call box.

There are areas in town that feel less safe due to transient pop.

Very safe! The rangers here make it feel safe as a women

was at Gateway Natural Area, so I just had lions and bears in mind, plus isolated and no cell service - nothing for city to do

Water is fast.

work to change the frequency of sexual assault of women & girls

worried about rattlesnakes in the summer

Additional Comments

All Good

All your facilities are top-notch

Awesome park!

beautiful, relaxing, wonderful watersides & park

Canada

Ethnicity and race are the same

glad its open all year!

great fishing & hikes for my 15 year old dog

Great job!

Great place.

I have been coming to Seamen reservoir for 20 years and have always loved the area.

I lived in Oregon for 33 years & your parks are very well maintained & very accessible. They are fun to visit!

I love this park!

It would be nice to take dogs up to Seamen Reservoir.

keep up the great work

lived here for 34 years but not anymore

Love it here!

Love the FC Natural Areas

Love this nature area! Like the idea of a slightly bigger playground but love the "nature" theme of the current one.

Nice survey. Good paper. Short. Satisfying.

one of my faves due to proximity, not crowded, better hikes, and river access

Open gates hour before sunrise?

Our favorite place to relax and enjoy nature.

Thank you for creating and maintaining beautiful spaces!

Thank you for keeping these areas clean & beautiful - thanks for all you do so we can enjoy nature! And the bathrooms! Thanks for keeping them open year round!

Thank you for our natural area!

Thank you!

Thank you! Great work!

Thanks for everything.

Thanks for all you do to support natural areas!

Thanks!

Thanks! :)

Thanx! But where's the fish?

This park is amazing. Thanks for all your hard work.

Very clean, easy to park and find private areas.

Very nice, easy access from town!

We love this natural area.

would like annual passes to remain as place cards so I could use either of my 2 cars. If I must affix it to the window I'll have to buy another one to use my other car.

Years ago, I brought my adult kids here to introduce them to this area. They loved it. We spent many mother's day.

You are doing great!!

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 help- your input is greatly appreciated!**

TODAY'S VISIT

- 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) _____
- What was your primary activity **TODAY** during your visit? (Check only one)
 - Hiking
 - Family gathering
 - Wildlife Viewing
 - Kayaking
 - Biking
 - Picnicking
 - Dog walking
 - Rafting/Tubing
 - Trail running
 - Photography/Art
 - Fishing
 - Swimming/Wading
- WHO** were you travelling with today?
(Check one and write in the number of people in your group, if more than just you today.)
 ___ Just me! ___ Group (___ # adults, ___ # children)
- Please rate the quality of each of the facilities that you used today 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: _____

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

Poor	Neutral	Excellent
1	2	3
4	5	

Please explain why you rated it this way: _____

- Please check the two main reasons you choose to visit **THIS** natural area instead of other places?
 - It's close to home.
 - To be in nature.
 - It's less crowded than other natural areas.
 - To get exercise.
 - For relaxation.
 - To develop my skills and abilities.
 - I feel safe here.
 - To escape from everyday responsibilities or pressure.
 - To spend time with friends or family.
 - To learn about nature.
 - To feel better spiritually.
 - Other _____
- Please rate how safe you feel along the Poudre River:
 - Not very safe
 - Somewhat safe
 - Usually safe
 - Always safe
- If you feel unsafe, what could the City do to make you feel safer along the Poudre River?

- 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? _____

Please tell us about yourself (All responses will be kept confidential).

- Which best describes your gender?
 - Female
 - Transgender Female
 - Gender non-conforming
 - Male
 - Transgender Male
 - Prefer to self- identify _____
- What is your age? _____ (Years)
- What is your ethnicity?
 - Hispanic/Latinx
 - Non-Hispanic/Latinx
 - Prefer to self-identify _____
- What is your race?
 - American Indian/Alaska Native
 - Asian
 - Black/African American
 - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
 - White
 - Two or more races
- 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.

15. What is your annual household income?

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

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

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