

Experience Your Natural Areas!

Need help or have questions?

Ranger staff can be reached by calling, 970-416-2147.

- If Rangers are on the line helping another visitor, please leave a message and they will get right back to you.

Other helpful telephone numbers:

- Natural Area Administrative Offices, 970-416-2815, M-F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Gateway Natural Area Ranger Office, 970-407-1106
- Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Ranger Office, 970-461-2700

What are the current trail conditions?

Natural Areas Rangers monitor trail conditions daily and report at:

- Natural Areas Trail Conditions webpage fcgov.com/naturalareas/status.php
- NoCoTrailReport.org
- Facebook @FCNaturalAreas
- Twitter @FCNaturalAreas using #FCTrails



Are the parking lots full?

The most popular parking lot/trailhead locations are equipped with webcams that update every 5 minutes. View any of the webcams at: fcgov.com/naturalareas/status.php.

The following parking lots have webcams:

- Bobcat Ridge Natural Area
- Coyote Ridge Natural Area
- Reservoir Ridge Natural Area (Michaud Lane parking lot)



Want to be a Volunteer Ranger Assistant?

Do you enjoy the outdoors and ensuring public enjoyment of natural areas? Consider becoming a Volunteer Ranger Assistant. VRAs participate in patrolling trails, staff parking lots, and responding to emergency situations. Go to fcgov.com/rangers/volunteers.php.

See you on the trail!



When do I need a natural area permit?

Section 23-194 of the Fort Collins Municipal Code defines a process where a person or organization may submit a request to conduct activities within a natural area that are otherwise prohibited.

Examples of typical permit requests include:

- permission for students and others to conduct research
- requests to enter a natural area during closed hours.
- requests for group activities involving more than 15 participants.
- Operate a commercial use venture

Applications for a permit are available at fcgov.com/naturalareas/plans-policies or call 970-416-2815.

Thank you Fort Collins and Larimer County voters!

Your citizen-initiated sales tax dollars conserve natural areas and provide visitor services.



NATURAL AREAS REGULATIONS

Enjoy Your Natural Areas

Fort Collins citizens take pride in our natural areas. We are committed to recreating in a sustainable manner while protecting the important ecological and natural features.

Your actions matter. Understanding the regulations governing natural areas helps to provide a safe, considerate, and enjoyable experience for everyone.

This brochure is a summary of sections of the Fort Collins Municipal Code which specifically regulate activities in natural areas.

If you have questions please call a Natural Areas and Trails Ranger at 970-416-2147, the Natural Areas Department at 970-416-2815, or contact naturalareas@fcgov.com.



fcgov.com/naturalareas

Natural Areas Department 970-416-2815 **On-duty Rangers** 970-416-2147

Life-threatening emergency 911 **Permit Information** 970-221-6281

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naturally yours

July 2019



naturally yours

Sec. 23-193 (a)

It shall be unlawful to:

- Discard, dispose or release any waste or hazardous substance of any kind in a natural area or in a manner reasonably likely to result in the entrance of such waste or hazardous substance into or upon a natural area, except for the disposal of incidental trash in receptacles provided by the City for disposal of trash.
- Bring any glass container into a natural area or possess the same while in any natural area except when removing containers during site clean-up activities sponsored or permitted by the city.
- Bathe or wash any persons or objects in any waters of a natural area, or otherwise in any manner reasonably likely to result in the release of any waste or hazardous substance into any waters of a natural area.
- Drive, hit or throw golf balls into or upon a natural area.
- Fly a kite within a natural area.
- Kick, hit or throw a flying disc, ball or boomerang in, onto or over a natural area, except within a fenced area designated and posted to allow dogs off-leash.
- Operate a motorized model boat, car, truck, aircraft or other motorized model vehicle in a natural area.
- Launch a model rocket in, onto or over a natural area.
- Bicycle, skateboard or skate (in-line or otherwise) in a natural area, except upon a roadway or designated trail.
- Knowingly or negligently harass wildlife, or permit or direct a dog, falcon or other animal under one's care or control to harass wildlife, in a natural area, whether or not the same results in injury to such wildlife.
- Remove, destroy, mutilate, modify or deface any building, structure, water control device, fence, gate, notice, sign, survey or section marker, tree, shrub or other plant or vegetation, insect, bird or other animal, or any other object, in a natural area, except during site clean-up activities, when taking fish in a manner otherwise permitted under this Article, or as specifically allowed by permit issued pursuant to §§ 23-193 and 23-194.
- Possess or consume in a natural area any alcoholic beverage or possess any container, whether open or unopened, that contains or has been used to contain any alcoholic beverage.
- Fish in a natural area without a valid license as required by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, or in violation of any requirements of the Colorado Division of Wildlife, or possess a fish taken in violation thereof.
- Leave any fire unattended in a natural area.
- Operate any boat in waters within a natural area unless the boat contains at least one (1) personal floatation device that is in good and serviceable condition and of a type approved for recreational use by the United States Coast Guard for each person on board. Any such use must also be consistent with subsection (d)(2), below.
- Ride a horse, bicycle, skateboard or other means of conveyance, or skate, in a reckless or unsafe manner in a natural area.

• Violate the following in any natural area:

- a. Division 5 of Chapter 4, regarding control of animals;
 - Dogs must be leashed at all times.
 - Dogs must display all tags including rabies.
 - b. Chapter 9, regarding fire prevention and protection;
 - This includes fireworks and campfires
 - c. Chapter 11, regarding hazardous materials transportation;
 - d. Section 12-37, prohibiting tampering with refuse or rubbish containers;
 - e. Chapter 12, Sec. 12-59 prohibiting smoking in public places, natural areas;
 - f. Chapter 17, regarding miscellaneous offenses, including without limitation the discharge of weapons, trespass, loitering and disturbing the peace;
 - g. Chapter 17, Sec. 17-191 & 17-193 prohibiting the consumption, possession, transfer and display of marijuana in public places, natural areas; and
 - h. Chapter 23.5, regarding special events.
- Fail to comply with any posted yield, right-of-way or other trail use requirement on a trail subject to the provisions of this Article.
 - Violate any term, condition or requirement of any permit issued pursuant to this Article.

Sec. 23-193 (b)

Unless a sign has been posted by the Service Area that the particular natural area or a portion thereof is open for such use, it shall be unlawful to:

- Enter upon the ice of any waters of a natural area.
- Swim, wade or otherwise enter into any waters of a natural area, or allow any pet animal or any riding or pack animal to do so.
- Sled, snow tube, downhill ski or snowboard in a natural area.
- Ride a horse in a natural area, other than on or within ten (10) feet of a designated trail, except to the extent unavoidable circumstances require that a horse be ridden beyond this ten-foot limit briefly to avoid imminent danger to other persons.
- Climb rocks or boulders with or without ropes, fixtures, or other apparatus.
- Affix to any object or use an affixed rope, line or other similar equipment for the purposes of walking, jumping, crawling, sitting, lying or balancing along a suspended or partially suspended plane between two objects.
- Sec. 23-193 (c) It shall be unlawful to engage in any activity within or upon a natural area when a sign has been posted by the Service Area that the particular area or a portion of the area is closed for such use, based upon a determination by the Service Area that such prohibition is appropriate to protect the safety or well-being of persons or animals; the natural area, related facilities or any other City or public property or facility; the use and enjoyment of said areas or facilities by the general public; the needs and objectives of the City in maintaining and operating the same; and/or the natural environment in general.

Sec. 23-193 (d)

Except as authorized by a permit obtained for such use from the Service Area, it shall be unlawful to:

- Enter a natural area during the hours of 11:00 p.m.–5:00 a.m., except:
 - a. as otherwise permitted by a sign posted by the Service Area opening or closing the particular area or a portion of the area for public use for a specified time or during specified hours; or
 - b. as necessary to participate as a registered or otherwise officially recognized participant in a city-sponsored or permitted event in a natural area.
- Operate a motorized boat, other than one with a wakeless, electronic trolling motor in a natural area.
- Land or launch in a natural area or fly lower than five hundred feet above a natural area, any type of aircraft, including hot air balloons and hang gliders, except within takeoff or landing airways of a commercial airport or in an emergency situation. For purposes of this section, unmanned drones are considered "aircraft".
- Remove, disturb, or damage any archaeological, geological or paleontological materials from a natural area.
- Remove from a natural area downed trees, logs or groupings of branches or sticks, or disturb or damage any of the same.
- Collect seeds, plants or cuttings of trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, wildflowers or other plants in a natural area, or otherwise remove the same from a natural area.
- Plant trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, wildflowers or other plants in a natural area.
- Construct a structure in a natural area.
- Build a campfire, bonfire or other fire in a natural area.
- Allow livestock to graze in a natural area.
- Feed, or attempt to feed, songbirds, squirrels, ducks, geese or any other wildlife species in a natural area.
- Post a notice, including fastening or showing cards, posters or other materials in a natural area.
- Conduct or sponsor a group event in a natural area.
- Perform a service for commercial gain or sell or offer to sell any item for commercial gain in a natural area.
- Deposit rocks, wood, dirt or any other material in a natural area.
- Release or otherwise introduce into a natural area an insect, bird or other animal.
- Deposit or scatter in a natural area created remains of any human or animal origin.
- Operate or park a motor vehicle or other motorized means of conveyance anywhere in a natural area other than on established roadways and in designated parking areas; provided, however, that a motorized wheelchair or similar assistive device may be used by any person with temporary or permanent mobility impairment, anywhere in a natural area that public access is allowed.
- Camp in a natural area.
- Possess without a valid permit, openly carry, or discharge a weapon.