

Water Matters.

Centennial Drive.

Bike Tours.

Take a tour on Fort Collins bike trails and learn about the value of water to Fort Collins and the region.

The Cache la Poudre River starts as a small stream at Poudre Lake in the northern part of Rocky Mountain National Park. It descends eastward in the mountains as it passes through the Poudre Canyon and emerges from the foothills north of Fort Collins, where it flows through the city and east past the city of Greeley to the Platte River.

Fort Collins draws half of its water supply from the river, which is home to native wildlife and plants and is one of Colorado's most popular river recreation areas. The Poudre River is recognized as a major contributor to the development of water law in the western United States, the evolution of water delivery systems and the shaping of the region's cultural heritage.



This drive, a challenging bike route, runs along the perimeter of Horsetooth Reservoir, a favorite recreation spot.

- 1

**Aggie Greens Disc Golf Course.** Located in a water quality and detention area. Water from storms is filtered and released into the Spring Creek watershed.
- 2

**Pineridge Natural Area.** One of the city's original natural areas. Fort Collins Parks uses reservoir water to irrigate Spring Canyon Park.
- 3

**Rotary Park.** South of this Larimer county recreational site is Inlet Bay where water from the Western Slope travels more than 100 miles to reach Horsetooth Reservoir.
- 4

**Water Treatment Facility.** Located at the base of Soldier Canyon Dam, this Fort Collins' facility mixes Poudre River and Reservoir water as needed. It consistently treats drinking water to surpass state and Federal standards for purity.
- 5

**Skyline Picnic Area.** At capacity, the reservoir is 188 feet deep and holds 156,735 acre-feet of water, enough to fill 204 billion glasses of water. Hansen Supply Canal carries water north from Horsetooth Dam.



Horsetooth Reservoir.

**1882 Water Works.** Located on Overland Trail, south of Bingham Hill Rd. The facility was constructed in 1882-83 to provide Fort Collins with an adequate supply of water for community health and fire safety. The Water Works served Fort Collins until 1905 when a filter plant was built in the Poudre Canyon.



Spring Creek Trail.

Poudre Trail.

Downtown and CSU Campus.

Spring Creek has experienced much change in the past 20 years; the devastating flood of 1997 destroyed many reaches of the stream, requiring multiple engineering projects to restore the stream and wildlife habitat.

- 1

**Spring Canyon Park.** Uses water from Dixon Reservoir for irrigation, reducing the need and cost for treated water.
- 2

**Water Cycle Wall.\*** Provides details about rebuilding a major portion of the stream to restore habitat and prevent erosion.
- 3

**Ross Natural Area.** Marker denotes the height of the 1997 Spring Creek Flood. Water-loving plants and contrasting grassland create diversity of wildlife habitat.
- 4

**Rolland Moore Park.** New Mercer Irrigation Ditch provides water for the grass and landscape.
- 5

**Spur to Red Fox Meadows.** Stormwater from the Canal Importation Ponds and Outfall project drains into this holding basin. Landscape features native plants and preserves fox habitat.
- 6

**Gardens on Spring Creek.\*** Showcases many water-saving plants and designs in the rock garden and xeriscaped area.
- 7

**Creekside Park.\*** Statue symbolizes devastation of the 1997 Spring Creek Flood. Flood marker shows how the 1997 flood stacked up to historically large storms.
- 8

**Mallard's Nest Natural Area.** Provides habitat for ducks and preserves small ponds and cattails that filter water coming downstream.
- 9

**Edora Park.** Pond on Spring Creek used to water the landscape. Approximately 80% of all water used on park landscapes is raw water, saving costs required to treat water.

\* Art in Public Places installation.

The Poudre Trail follows the meandering course of the Poudre River through wooded corridors and among agricultural and natural areas, parks and light industrial sites.

- 1

**Drake Water Reclamation Facility.\*** Uses biological processes to remove waste material from water so clean water is released back into the Poudre River.
- 2

**Prospect Ponds Natural Area.** The east bank was reconstructed to prevent the river from flowing into the ponds. These former gravel mines support flood control and water quality and provide wildlife habitat.
- 3

**Suspension Flume.** Carried waste from early sugar beet factories for deposit in area now named Kingfisher Point Natural Area. Site being restored and returned to its natural state.
- 4

**Mulberry Water Reclamation Facility.** Uses state-of-the-art treatment to reduce waste, remove nutrients, control odor and disinfect wastewater.
- 5

**Udall Natural Area.** Opening at the end of 2012, serves as an outlet for downtown stormwater to prevent contaminants from reaching the river.
- 6

**Levee.** Keeps water from reaching the neighborhood to the east while providing a great base for a bike trail. Keeps property owners out of the floodplain.
- 7

**Boat Chute and Coy Ditch Diversion.** Concrete structure and boulders below are part of the first legal diversion of water for recreation in Colorado. This also is where Coy Ditch diverts water from the river on its way to historic farmland.
- 8

**McMurry Natural Area.** More than 20 species of fish live in the two ponds – more than any other natural area in Fort Collins.
- 9

**National Heritage Area Sign.** The Poudre River, from Fort Collins to Greeley, is largely included in this national park system designation because of the deep ties to agriculture and communities.

Fort Collins and Colorado State University share a long history of managing water to support health; safety; urban, agricultural and industrial uses; and conservation.

- 1

**Xeriscape Demonstration Garden.\*** Showcase for low-water using plants and turf varieties. The fountain is a symbol of the watershed that brings water to Fort Collins.
- 2

**Welch Block.** On Linden St. north of Old Town Square. Major destructive fires in this area in 1880-81 prompted residents to vote for an adequate water supply for fire protection. In 1882, the first water works was built.
- 3

**Mitchell Block.** Located at the corner of Mountain Ave. and Walnut St. Low-impact development site for stormwater. Parking spaces on either side of the building allow rainwater to filter through instead of going to the river.
- 4

**Oak Street Plaza.\*** Fountain filters and recycles water for citizens to enjoy over and over.
- 5

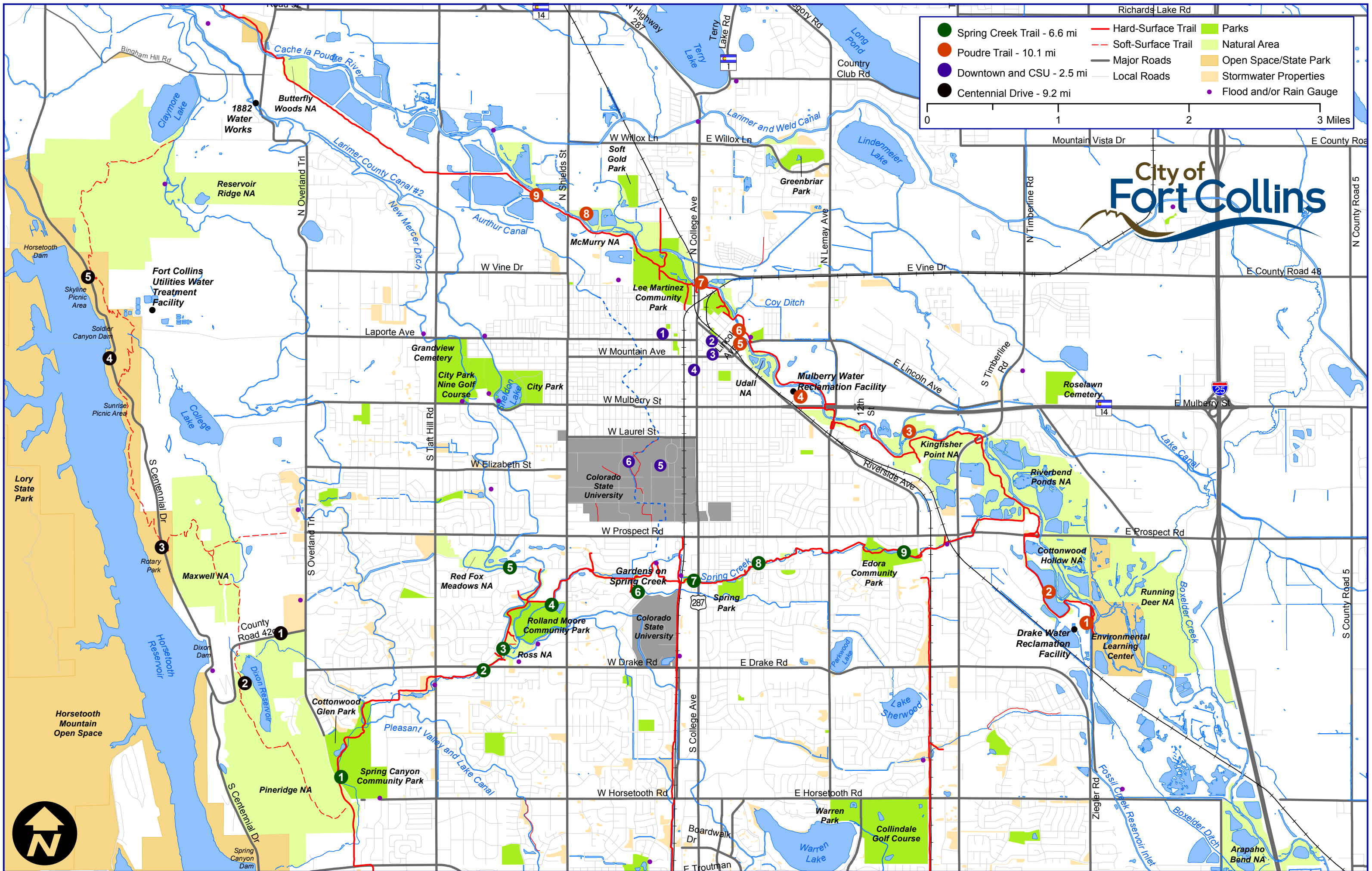
**Arthur Ditch on CSU campus.** Carries water from the Poudre River to many properties and parks across the city. To the north and south of campus, the ditch has been diverted underground.
- 6

**CSU Water Plaza.** Features a Parshall Flume, designed in 1922 by Professor Ralph Parshall to measure flow rate in a ditch or canal, leading to more equal distribution and proper management of irrigation water.



Suspension flume on the Poudre Trail.





Spring Creek Trail - 6.6 mi

Poudre Trail - 10.1 mi

Downtown and CSU - 2.5 mi

Centennial Drive - 9.2 mi

Hard-Surface Trail

Soft-Surface Trail

Major Roads

Local Roads

Parks

Natural Area

Open Space/State Park

Stormwater Properties

Flood and/or Rain Gauge

0

1

2

3 Miles

The logo for the City of Fort Collins, featuring the city name in a stylized font with a mountain silhouette and a river flowing through it.