

TRACKS & TRAILS

Discover Your Natural Areas

JUNE–OCTOBER 2014



fcgov.com/naturalareas



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Discover Your Natural Areas!

Natural areas are special places to explore and treasure. The City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department manages more than 40 natural areas encompassing over 34,000 acres, and 100 miles of trails—there’s probably a natural area near you! Check the maps on pages 34-37 or visit fcgov.com/naturalareas.



Fort Collins natural areas are open from 5 a.m. until 11 p.m. except Bobcat Ridge, Gateway, Reservoir Ridge, and Soapstone Prairie natural areas which are open dawn to dusk. Soapstone Prairie is closed December-February.

What the Symbols Mean



Handicapped accessible; wheelchairs welcome. Paved or hard-packed trails; distance is 1 mile or less with moderate inclines. The City of Fort Collins will make reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities. Please call 970-416-2815 for accommodation requests at least one week in advance.



Programs for 16 years and up. Parents must accompany children on all programs.



Registration required. Go to naturetracker.fcgov.com. Set up your account with your name, phone number, and email. For programs that do not require registration, you can get program reminders and updates by signing up here. For assistance, call 970-416-2815 or email naturalareas@fcgov.com.

Registrations and Cancellations

Everything you need to know about a program can be found in two places:

- NatureTracker.fcgov.com for descriptions and registrations
- fcgov.com/naturalareas for cancellations and updates

Occasionally programs are canceled due to inclement weather. Check fcgov.com/naturalareas before you go! Also, field trip leaders may cancel a program in progress due to danger from lightning.

Program Leaders

Master Naturalists are highly trained volunteer educators who lead most of the *Tracks & Trails* programs. They love to share their enthusiasm, knowledge, and passion for natural areas. You’ll have lots of fun and gain a deeper understanding of your natural areas by attending a Master Naturalist-led program.

Programs for Groups

Groups of six or more are required to schedule their programs at a separate time. To request a program for your group, contact 970-217-3075 or dprice@fcgov.com. At least two weeks advance notice is required. All programs are free.

Groups of 15 or more visiting a natural area without a Master Naturalist must apply for a permit in advance online at fcgov.com/naturalareas/plans-policies.php. Permits are free and help ensure there are no conflicts on the day you plan to visit.

Safety

The activities and events offered in this guide often take place in natural areas where you are responsible for your own safety. Outdoor activities include the potential for serious injury, death, or property loss. Choose activities that match your abilities. Be prepared for changing weather conditions.



JUNE NATURAL AREA ACTIVITIES

© Francoise Smith

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 Nature Nuggets—Tricky Tracks Fossil Creek Reservoir p. 15	6	7 National Trails Day p. 12 Skygazing Fossil Creek Reservoir p. 23 Explore Some More—Poudre River Walk Poudre Natural Areas p. 26
8 Soapstone Prairie: Then and Now—Walk the Gangplank: Geology at Soapstone Prairie Soapstone Prairie p.31	9 Explore Some More—Foothills Geology Coyote Ridge p. 26	10 Fireside Tails—Backyard Wildlife Fort Collins Museum of Discovery p. 21 Explore Some More—Restoration Along the River North Shields Ponds p. 27	11 Budding Young Naturalists—Stroller Stroll Ross p. 14	12 Nature Nuggets—Pepe LePew on Parade Bobcat Ridge p. 15 Natural Areas After Dark—Adult Night Walk SW Fort Collins p. 20	13 Natural Areas After Dark—Family Night Walk SW Fort Collins p. 20	14 National Get Outdoors Day p. 13
15	16 Nature at Noon—Mountain Lions and Me Community Room, 215 N. Mason p. 24	17 Explore Some More—Wildflowers Through the Seasons Bobcat Ridge p. 27	18 Nature Nuggets—Pepe LePew on Parade Fossil Creek Reservoir p. 15	19	20	21 Soapstone Prairie: Then and Now—Loren Eiseley and the Ghosts of Lindenmeier Soapstone Prairie p. 31
22 Explore Some More—Pelican Pride Kingfisher Point p. 27 Soapstone Prairie: Then and Now—Hike to a Homestead Soapstone Prairie p. 31	23	24 Fireside Tails—Backyard Wildlife Nix Farm p. 21	25 Toddlers on the Trail Poudre River Trail p. 15	26 Nature Nuggets—Slinky Snakes Fort Collins Museum of Discovery p. 16	27 Explore Some More—Journalist Takes A Nature Walk Pineridge p. 27	28 Astronomy—It's a Bird! It's a Plane! It's the ISS! Bobcat Ridge p. 22 Soapstone Prairie: Then and Now—Protecting the Western Frontier with the Buffalo Soldiers Soapstone Prairie p. 31
29	30 Explore Some More—Pioneer Life at Bobcat Ridge Bobcat Ridge p. 27					

Register (if required) at naturetracker.fcgov.com or call 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/naturalareas before you go!



JULY NATURAL AREA ACTIVITIES

© Françoise Smith

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 Nature Nuggets—Slinky Snakes Fort Collins Museum of Discovery p. 16	4	5
6	7	8 Fireside Tails—Animal Night Sense Fort Collins Museum of Discovery p. 21 Soapstone Prairie: Then and Now—Rustic Women of Soapstone Prairie Soapstone Prairie p. 31	9 Budding Young Naturalists—Stroller Stroll Pineridge p. 14	10 Nature Nuggets—Tall Tree Tales Pineridge p. 16	11 Natural Areas After Dark—Family Night Walk SW Fort Collins p. 20 Skygazing Fossil Creek Reservoir p. 23	12 Natural Areas After Dark—Adult Night Walk SW Fort Collins p. 20 Soapstone Prairie: Then and Now—Folsom Hunter's Guide Soapstone Prairie p. 31
13	14	15	16 Explore Some More—Wildflowers Through the Seasons Bobcat Ridge p. 27	17 Nature Nuggets—Tall Tree Tales Magpie Meander p. 16	18	19 Soapstone Prairie: Then and Now—Smithsonian at Soapstone Soapstone Prairie p. 31 Wade the River Lee Martinez Park p. 13
20	21	22 Toddlers on the Trail Riverbend Ponds p. 15 Fireside Tails—Animal Night Sense Nix Farm p. 21 Nature at Noon—Saving Native Fish Community Room, 215 N. Mason p. 24	23	24 Nature Nuggets—Noises at Night Bobcat Ridge p. 16	25 Astronomy—Summer Scorpius Bobcat Ridge p. 22	26 Explore Some More—Pelican Pride Fossil Creek Reservoir p. 28
27 Soapstone Prairie: Then and Now—Soapstone Surprise Soapstone Prairie p. 31	28 Explore Some More—Behind the Scenes at Bobcat Ridge Bobcat Ridge p. 28	29	30	31 Nature Nuggets—Noises at Night Fossil Creek Reservoir p. 16		

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AUGUST NATURAL AREA ACTIVITIES

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Skygazing Fossil Creek Reservoir p. 23
3	4 Explore Some More— Behind the Scenes at Bobcat Ridge Bobcat Ridge p. 28	5	6 Nature at Noon— Restoration Along the Cache La Poudre Community Room , 215 N. Mason p. 25	7 Nature Nuggets—Animal Hide-n-Seek Pineridge p. 19	8	9 Natural Areas After Dark—Family Night Walk NW Fort Collins p. 20 Soapstone Prairie: Then and Now—Rustic Women of Soapstone Prairie Soapstone Prairie p. 31
10 Natural Areas After Dark—Adult Night Walk NW Fort Collins p. 20	11	12 Fireside Tails—River Highway Fort Collins Museum of Discovery p. 21	13 Budding Young Naturalists—Stroller Stroll Gateway p. 14	14 Nature Nuggets—Animal Hide-n-Seek Pineridge p. 19	15	16 Astronomy—Getting Close in Space Bobcat Ridge p. 22 Soapstone Prairie: Then and Now—Soapstone Surprise Soapstone Prairie p. 31
17	18	19	20 Explore Some More— Wildflowers Through the Seasons Bobcat Ridge p. 27	21 Nature Nuggets— Amazing Ants Bobcat Ridge p. 19	22 Explore Some More— Natural History of Coyote Ridge p. 28	23
24 Explore Some More— Prairie and Foothills Adaptations Reservoir Ridge p. 28	25	26 Fireside Tails—River Highway Nix Farm p. 21	27 Toddlers on the Trail Magpie Meander p. 15	28 Nature Nuggets— Amazing Ants Fossil Creek Reservoir p. 19 Explore Some More— Wildlife Cameras for Research and Outreach Fort Collins Museum of Discovery p. 28	29	30
31						

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SEPTEMBER NATURAL AREA ACTIVITIES

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 Nature Nuggets—Frisky Squirrel's Treasure Hunt Pineridge p. 19	5 Explore Some More—Restoration Along the River McMurry p. 29	6 Natural Areas After Dark—Family Night Walk SW Fort Collins p. 20
7 Natural Areas After Dark—Adult Night Walk SW Fort Collins p. 20	8	9	10	11 Nature Nuggets—Frisky Squirrel's Treasure Hunt Magpie Meander p. 19	12 Skygazing Fossil Creek Reservoir p. 23	13 Soapstone Prairie: Then and Now—Walk the Gangplank: Geology at Soapstone Prairie Soapstone Prairie p. 31
14 Soapstone Prairie: Then and Now—Soapstone Surprise Soapstone Prairie p. 31	15	16	17 Explore Some More—Wildflowers Through the Seasons Bobcat Ridge p. 27	18	19	20 Soapstone Prairie: Then and Now—Hike to a Homestead Soapstone Prairie p. 31
21 Soapstone Prairie: Then and Now—Folsom Hunter's Guide Soapstone Prairie p. 31	22 Foothills Day Hikes—Foothills Trail Dixon Reservoir p. 29	23	24	25	26 Astronomy—Morning and Evening "Stars" Bobcat Ridge p. 22	27 National Public Lands Day p. 13 Northern Colorado Nature Festival Location TBD p. 13
28	29	30				

Register (if required) at naturetracker.fcgov.com or call 970-416-2815. Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/naturalareas before you go!



OCTOBER NATURAL AREA ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 Nature at Noon—Healthy River? Go With the Flow! Community Room, 215 N. Mason p. 25	4
5	6	7	8 Skygazing—Total Lunar Eclipse Fossil Creek Reservoir p. 23	9 Campfire at the Cabin—Adults SW Fort Collins p. 21 Nature at Noon—Forensic Botany: Can Plants Help Solve Crimes? Community Room, 215 N. Mason p. 25	10 Campfire at the Cabin—Families SW Fort Collins p. 21	11 Skygazing Fossil Creek Reservoir p. 23 Foothills Day Hikes—Coyote Ridge to Devil's Backbone Devil's Backbone p. 29
12	13	14	15	16	17 Astronomy—Decorations in the Fall Sky Bobcat Ridge p. 22	18
19	20	21	22	23 Skygazing—Partial Solar Eclipse Fossil Creek Reservoir p. 23	24	25
Soapstone Prairie: Then and Now—Lindenmeier: Ancient Lives, Ancient Dreams Soapstone Prairie p. 30						
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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SPECIAL EVENTS IN 2014

National Trails Day

Sat. June 7, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Get your hands dirty on National Trails Day! Volunteers of all ages are invited to help restore trails. A free celebratory lunch will be provided at noon. Kid-friendly projects and activities will be available. Please visit fcgov.com/naturalareas/volunteers.php for project location and details.

Register (if required) at naturetracker.fcgov.com or call 970-416-2815.

National Get Outdoors Day

Sat. June 14, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

City Park

Celebrate all the wonderful outdoor activities in Northern Colorado! Enjoy a mix of information centers and “active fun” areas. Play Frisbee golf, run with a North Face athlete, fish, hike, bike, climb, boat, backpack, take an up-close look at live, native wildlife, and more! Check the website for more information: NatureTracker.fcgov.com or fcgov.com/naturalareas.

Wade the River

Sat. July 19, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Lee Martinez Park

Wade the river with dip nets and collecting trays to discover what lives beneath the surface of the Cache la Poudre River. Biologists will be on-hand to help identify your finds. Fishes, insects, larvae, algae, and more are easily seen with field microscopes. Bring your own towels, wear closed-toe shoes that can get wet, and sun and mosquito protection. All equipment is provided. No registration required but you can get a reminder and updates by signing up at NatureTracker.fcgov.com.

Northern Colorado Nature Festival

Sat. Sept. 27, 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to a free day of fun and learning for the whole family that includes live animals, interactive activities, live music, food, vendors, presentations, giveaways, a nature costume contest and more! Free parking available. Bring the whole family to this nature-filled festival. Location to be determined. Check www.larimer.org/naturalresources/nature_festival.htm for more details later this summer.

National Public Lands Day

Sat. Sept. 27, 9:00 a.m.-noon

Celebrate the nation's public lands by pitching in to take care of natural areas. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Visit fcgov.com/naturalareas/volunteers.php for project location and details.

Soapstone Prairie: Then and Now

Celebrate Soapstone Prairie this year through a variety of special programs in honor of the 80th anniversary of the Smithsonian Institute's visit in the 1930s. The celebration culminates in a four-day symposium October 19-22. For more details and program descriptions, see the special category for Soapstone Prairie on page 30. Keep your eyes on our webpage to learn about special programs this fall focusing on old residents of Soapstone Prairie—black-footed ferrets and bison—being considered for reintroduction to this historic site.

Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/naturalareas before you go!

BUDDING YOUNG NATURALISTS

Programs are designed for families with young children. If you manage a daycare, summer camp, or other group, please schedule a separate time for a special program for just your group. Contact dprice@fcgov.com or 970-217-3075.

Stroller Strolls

Head off on adventure—toddler style! Bring your toddler (under 3 years old), stroller, and snacks and explore from the ground up in a kid-friendly natural area. **R** Registration required.

SYMBOLS	DATE	TIME	NATURAL AREA
 R	Wed. June 11	10:30-11:30 a.m.	Ross Meet at playground at Rolland Moore Park.
 R	Wed. July 9	10:30-11:30 a.m.	Pineridge Meet at Dixon Reservoir parking lot off CR 42C.
 R	Wed. Aug. 13	10:30-11:30 a.m.	Gateway Meet at natural playground. No stroller, bring lunch, entrance fee waived.



Toddlers on the Trail

These programs are designed for those with children under 3 years who have tackled the Stroller Stroll programs before and would like more of a challenge. Load your toddler into a backpack and join the fun! **R** Registration required.

SYMBOLS	DATE	TIME	NATURAL AREA
 R	Wed. June 25	10:30-11:30 a.m.	Poudre River Trail Meet at Lee Martinez Park by tennis courts.
 R	Wed. July 22	10:30-11:30 a.m.	Riverbend Ponds Meet at parking lot off Timberline and Cairnes Dr.
 R	Wed. Aug. 27	10:30-11:30 a.m.	Magpie Meander Meet at playground at Soft Gold Park at the west end of Hickory St.

Nature Nuggets

Bring your little ones (ages 3-7 years) every Thursday to learn about nature with stories and hands-on activities. Parents/guardians must be present at all times. Please be on time. No registration required. Groups should schedule programs at a separate time. To request a program for your group, contact 970-217-3075 or dprice@fcgov.com.

SYMBOL	DATE	TIME	NATURAL AREA	DESCRIPTION
	Thur. June 5	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.-noon	Fossil Creek Reservoir Meet at program shelter next to parking lot.	Tricky Tracks You may not always see wildlife but they leave clues behind!
	Thur. June 12	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.-noon	Bobcat Ridge Meet at picnic shelter 1/8 mile from parking lot.	Pepe LePew on Parade Skunks don't deserve a bad rap because they smell bad. Learn about the good things, too!
	Thur. June 19	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.-noon	Fossil Creek Reservoir Meet at program shelter next to parking lot.	Pepe LePew on Parade Skunks don't deserve a bad rap because they smell bad. Learn about the good things, too!

Register (if required) at naturetracker.fcgov.com or call 970-416-2815.
Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/naturalareas before you go!



Nature Nuggets cont.

SYMBOL	DATE	TIME	NATURAL AREA	DESCRIPTION
	Thur. June 26 Thur. July 3	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.-noon	Fort Collins Museum of Discovery Go in school entrance door.	Slinky Snakes Discover what makes snakes "cool," and meet Slinky, the museum's live ball python.
	Thur. July 10	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.-noon	Pineridge Meet at Dixon Reservoir parking lot off CR 42C.	Tall Tree Tales If trees could talk, what would they say? Hear stories behind the bark.
	Thur. July 17	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.-noon	Magpie Meander Meet at Soft Gold Park, 520 Hickory St.	Tall Tree Tales If trees could talk, what would they say? Hear stories behind the bark.
	Thur. July 24	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.-noon	Bobcat Ridge Meet at picnic shelter ½ mile from parking lot.	Noises in the Night Find out what comes out after dark and how animals see without flashlights.
	Thur. July 31	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.-noon	Fossil Creek Reservoir Meet at program shelter next to parking lot.	Noises in the Night Find out who comes out after dark and how animals see without flashlights.

Register (if required) at naturetracker.fcgov.com or call 970-416-2815.

Be a Junior Naturalist in Your Natural Areas!



*Become a certified Junior Naturalist
and share your enthusiasm for natural areas
with everyone you know!*



City of
Fort Collins
Natural
Areas

naturally yours

If you are 5-16 (or older!) you can earn a Junior Naturalist certificate and pin. Complete this form and turn it in. See details below.



Attend three activities listed in *Tracks & Trails*.

Name of program attended: _____

Natural Area: _____ Date attended: _____

Master Naturalist Signature: _____

Name of program attended: _____

Natural Area: _____ Date attended: _____

Master Naturalist Signature: _____

Name of program attended: _____

Natural Area: _____ Date attended: _____

Master Naturalist Signature: _____

Attend a volunteer service project at a natural area, or visit the Natural Areas Visitor Center in the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery (no admission fee).

I attended: _____ Date attended: _____

Master Naturalist/Staff Signature: _____

Discover a natural area new to you. Finish this paragraph:

My favorite part of _____ Natural Area is

We should take care of this natural area because _____

Return this to the Natural Areas Department at Nix Farm,
1745 Hoffman Mill Road between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Monday-Friday. If you need to arrange an alternate time,
call 970-217-3075 or email dprice@fcgov.com.

*Thank you for caring for natural areas
by becoming a Junior Naturalist!*



Images: western tiger swallowtail ©Ryan Burke, western meadowlark ©Tom Reichner



Nature Nuggets cont.

SYMBOL	DATE	TIME	NATURAL AREA	DESCRIPTION
	Thur. Aug. 7 Thur. Aug. 14	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.-noon	Pineridge Meet at Dixon Reservoir parking lot off CR 42C.	Animal Hide-n-Seek Animals can blend in without even trying. Discover how camouflage works in the wild.
	Thur. Aug. 21	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.-noon	Bobcat Ridge Meet at picnic shelter ½ mile from parking lot.	Amazing Ants These clever social insects are more like us than you think!
	Thur. Aug. 28	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.-noon	Fossil Creek Reservoir Meet at program shelter near the parking lot.	Amazing Ants These clever social insects are more like us than you think!
	Thur. Sept. 4	10-11 a.m.	Pineridge Meet at Dixon Reservoir parking lot off CR 42C.	Frisky Squirrel's Treasure Hunt Many squirrels don't hibernate. Learn how they prepare for the cold winter.
	Thur. Sept. 11	10-11 a.m.	Magpie Meander Meet at Soft Gold Park, 520 Hickory St.	Frisky Squirrel's Treasure Hunt Many squirrels don't hibernate. Learn how they prepare for the cold winter.

Register (if required) at naturetracker.fcgov.com or call 970-416-2815.

Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/naturalareas before you go!



NATURAL AREAS AFTER DARK!

Groups must schedule night programs at a separate time. To request a program for your group, contact 970-217-3075 or dprice@fcgov.com.

Natural Night Walks

Bring your family to enjoy a short walk with interactive activities and stories related to nocturnal animals and night senses. Adults only experience a longer, quieter walk, with information about the night and time for reflection. **Children 16 and older may come to adult hikes, but must be accompanied by parents.** Walks are offered near the full moon with lots of natural light—no need for flashlights! Dress warmly, wear closed-toe walking shoes, and bring water to drink. **Registration required.** Location is provided at time of registration.

Family Night Walks

SYMBOLS	DATE	TIME	GENERAL LOCATION
	Fri. June 13	8:00-10:00 p.m.	SW side of Fort Collins
	Fri. July 11	8:00-10:00 p.m.	SW of Fort Collins
	Sat. Aug. 9	7:30-9:30 p.m.	NW side of Fort Collins
	Sat. Sept. 6	7:00-9:00 p.m.	SW of Fort Collins

Adult Night Walks

SYMBOLS	DATE	TIME	GENERAL LOCATION
	Thur. June 12	8:00-10:00 p.m.	SW side of Fort Collins
	Sat. July 12	8:00-10:00 p.m.	SW of Fort Collins
	Sun. Aug. 10	7:30-9:30 p.m.	NW side of Fort Collins
	Sun. Sept. 7	7:00-9:00 p.m.	SW of Fort Collins

Register (if required) at naturetracker.fcgov.com or call 970-416-2815.

Campfire at the Cabin

New this year! Hike to a cabin and learn about nocturnal animals along the way through activities and demonstrations. Enjoy a campfire at the cabin before returning to the parking lot. Two miles round trip. **Registration required.** Location is provided at time of registration.

SYMBOLS	DATE	TIME	GENERAL LOCATION	FAMILY/ADULT
	Thur. Oct. 9	6:00-9:00 p.m.	SW side of Fort Collins	Adult
	Fri. Oct. 10	6:00-9:00 p.m.	SW side of Fort Collins	Family

Fireside Tails

Gather around the fire, hear stories, and learn more about our wildlife neighbors. Bring a lawn chair to sit on if you like. *S'mores* provided! For the programs at Nix Farm only, bring marshmallow skewers if you have them. **Registration required.**

SYMBOL	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
	Tues. June 10	8:00-9:30 p.m.	Fort Collins Museum of Discovery: The Big Backyard 408 Mason St	Backyard Wildlife Hear fun facts about urban wildlife.
	Tues. June 24	8:00-9:30 p.m.	Nix Farm 1745 Hoffman Mill Road	Backyard Wildlife Hear fun facts about urban wildlife.
	Tues. July 8	8:00-9:30 p.m.	Fort Collins Museum of Discovery: The Big Backyard 408 Mason St.	Animal Night Sense Discover survival skills of nocturnal wildlife,
	Tues. July 22	8:00-9:30 p.m.	Nix Farm 1745 Hoffman Mill Road	Animal Night Sense Discover survival skills of nocturnal wildlife.
	Tues. Aug. 12	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Fort Collins Museum of Discovery: The Big Backyard 408 Mason St	River Highway Find out how the river is important to wildlife.
	Tues. Aug. 26	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Nix Farm 1745 Hoffman Mill Road	River Highway Find out how the river is important to wildlife.

Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/naturalareas before you go!



© Jeremy White

Astronomy at Bobcat Ridge

Enjoy a brief family-friendly astronomy program at Bobcat Ridge. Skygazing follows with telescopes provided by the Northern Colorado Astronomical Society. Dress warmly, bring water and a blanket or chair to sit on. Program begins at the picnic shelter. **Please arrive on time! The gate closes shortly after start times and parking is not allowed on the road outside the gate.** **R** Registration required.

SYMBOL	DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
R	Sat. June 28	8:00-11:00 p.m.	It's a Bird! It's a Plane! It's the ISS! International Space Station and other satellites
R	Fri. July 25	8:00-11:00 p.m.	Summer Scorpius Summer Constellations
R	Sat. Aug. 16	7:30-10:30 p.m.	Getting Close in Space Venus, Jupiter, and the Moon
R	Fri. Sept. 26	6:30-9:30 p.m.	Morning and Evening "Stars" Venus and Mercury
R	Fri. Oct. 17	6:00-9:00 p.m.	Decorations in the Fall Sky Comets, meteors, and constellations

Register (if required) at naturetracker.fcgov.com or call 970-416-2815.

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Skygazing at Fossil Creek Reservoir

Each month volunteers from the Northern Colorado Astronomical Society provide telescopes for your viewing pleasure and share their knowledge about stars, planets, galaxies, and more. Dress warmly and bring a blanket or chair to sit on. Meet in the parking lot. **No registration required.**

SYMBOL	DATE	TIME
	Sat. June 7	9:00-11:00 p.m.
	Fri. July 11	9:00-11:00 p.m.
	Sat. Aug. 2	8:30-10:30 p.m.
	Fri. Sept. 12	8:00-10:00 p.m.
	Wed. Oct. 8—Total Lunar Eclipse	3:00-7:00 a.m.
	Sat. Oct. 11	7:00-9:00 p.m.
	Thur. Oct. 23—Partial Solar Eclipse	3:00-6:00 p.m.
	Sat. Nov. 1	7:00-9:00 p.m.
	Sat. Nov. 29	7:30-9:00 p.m.
	Sat. Dec. 27	7:30-9:00 p.m.





NATURE AT NOON

These informative talks are designed for adults to learn more about research and science relating to the natural areas. Bring a lunch if you like. All programs are held in the Community Room at 215 N. Mason. Enter on the north side of the building. Parking is limited—plan ahead. **R** Registration required.

SYMBOL	DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
 16+ R	Tues. June 17	12:00-1:00 p.m.	Mountain Lions and Me Mary Jean Currier chased wild mountain lions and raised three kittens for Colorado State University in the 1970s. Hear about her experiences; learn about lion behavior and how to live safely in mountain lion country.
 16+ R	Tues. July 22	12:00-1:00 p.m.	Saving Native Fish Boyd Wright, Native Aquatic Species Biologist with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, will show the wonderful underwater world of the Cache la Poudre River and how saving fish species helps the health of the river.

Nature at Noon cont.

SYMBOL	DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
 16+ R	Wed. Aug. 6	12:00-1:00 p.m.	Restoration Along the Cache La Poudre The Poudre is the lifeblood of Fort Collins, providing a focus for wildlife as well as human residents. Join City staff to learn about restoration projects, the role of flooding, the legacy of human uses, and future management of river natural areas.
 16+ R	Fri. Oct. 3	12:00-1:00 p.m.	Healthy River? Go With the Flow! Sara Rathburn, Associate professor in the Department of Geosciences at CSU, will share how high and low water flows move sediment in the Cache la Poudre River and how this affects the health of the river ecosystem.
 16+ R	Thurs. Oct. 9	12:00-1:00 p.m.	Forensic Botany—Can Plants Help Solve Crimes? Join Pam Smith, field botanist and ecologist with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program at CSU and Certified Botanist with NecroSearch International, for an intriguing look at the ways plants provide clues at crime scenes. Plants can even find buried bodies!



Register (if required) at naturetracker.fcgov.com or call 970-416-2815.
Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/naturalareas before you go!



EXPLORE SOME MORE

Enjoy a variety of programs and hikes! Please note the symbols and description for each program to help decide if it is right for you and if registration is required. Groups should schedule programs at a separate time. To request a program for your group, contact 970-217-3075 or dprice@fcgov.com.

SYMBOL	DATE	TIME	NATURAL AREA	DESCRIPTION
	Sat. June 7	9:30-11:00 a.m.	Poudre Natural Areas Meet at Lee Martinez Park parking lot.	Poudre River Walk Enjoy a leisurely walk along the Poudre River trail to observe birds, trees, and plants, and the interaction of the river and landforms. Families welcome. 1-2 miles, easy.
	Mon. June 9	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Coyote Ridge Meet at parking lot.	Foothills Geology Discover some of the forces that shaped the Front Range landscape. 4 miles, easy to moderate.

Explore Some More cont.

SYMBOL	DATE	TIME	NATURAL AREA	DESCRIPTION
	Tues. June 10	10:00-noon	North Shields Ponds Meet at parking lot north of Vine St.	Restoration Along the River A Natural Areas Department environmental planner will share information about restoration work being done along the Poudre and the importance of the floodplain. See new plantings. 1-2 miles, easy.
	Wed. June 18 Wed. July 16 Wed. Aug. 20 Wed. Sept. 17	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Bobcat Ridge Meet at parking lot.	Wildflowers through the Seasons Different wildflowers bloom in different seasons. Come every third Wednesday to see what's blooming and learn about native plants. 1-2 miles, easy.
 	Sun. June 22	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Kingfisher Point Meet at Timberline Road parking lot.	Pelican Pride Pelicans in Colorado? Yes! Learn about these interesting birds as they preen, fight, fly, fish, and roost, and discover why they live here. 1 mile or less, easy.
	Fri. June 27	9:00 a.m.-noon	Pineridge Meet at Dixon Reservoir parking lot off CR 42C.	Journalist Takes a Nature Walk Families are invited to learn the art of keeping a journal by viewing nature from the perspective of a scientist, writer, artist, or philosopher. 1-3 miles, easy.
	Mon. June 30	9:00-11:30 a.m.	Bobcat Ridge Meet at parking lot.	Pioneer Life at Bobcat Ridge Explore what life was like 100 years ago at Bobcat Ridge. Family activities at barn area between 9-11:30 a.m. Adult history hike at 9:30 a.m. Family hike at 10:30. Both hikes go to pioneer cabin, 2 miles, easy. Bring water and lunch/snacks.

Explore Some More cont.

SYMBOL	DATE	TIME	NATURAL AREA	DESCRIPTION
 R	Sat. July 26	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Fossil Creek Reservoir Meet at program shelter near parking lot.	Pelican Pride Pelicans in Colorado? Yes! Learn about these interesting birds as they preen, fight, fly, fish, and roost, and discover why they live here. 1 mile or less, easy.
R	Mon. July 28 Mon. Aug. 4	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Bobcat Ridge Meet at parking lot.	Behind the Scenes at Bobcat Ridge Cultural and natural history intermingle at Bobcat Ridge. Pick from two programs: hike to a stone circle and learn about Native American history, or hike to a wildlife camera and discover how images are used in schools and at CSU. Both hikes 2 miles, easy.
	Fri. Aug. 22	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Coyote Ridge Meet at parking lot.	Natural History of Coyote Ridge Discover the wide variety of prairie wildlife and plants and see how geology connects it all as you ascend into the foothills. 2.5 miles, easy.
	Sun. Aug. 24	9:00-11:30 a.m.	Reservoir Ridge Meet at parking lot at the west end of Michaud Lane.	Prairie and Foothills Adaptations Investigate prairie and foothills plants and learn about adaptations that help plants and animals survive in an arid climate. 3 miles, easy to moderate.
 R	Thur. Aug. 28	7:30-8:30 p.m.	Fort Collins Museum of Discovery Digital Dome 408 Mason Court.	Wildlife Cameras for Research and Outreach Learn how Colorado State University undergraduates are utilizing motion-triggered cameras at Pineridge and Bobcat Ridge for research projects and for cooperative studies with sixth graders from Boltz Middle School. See images projected in the museum dome.

Register (if required) at naturetracker.fcgov.com or call 970-416-2815.

Explore Some More cont.

SYMBOL	DATE	TIME	NATURAL AREA	DESCRIPTION
16+	Fri. Sept. 5	10:00 a.m.-noon	McMurry Meet at parking lot at the west end of Hemlock St.	Restoration Along the River A Natural Areas Department environmental planner will share information about restoration work being done along the Poudre and the importance of the floodplain. See new growth from the spring. 1-2 miles, easy.

Foothills Day Hikes

Up for a longer hike? These one-way hikes are more physically challenging than other programs. They provide an excellent way to see how natural areas provide corridors for wildlife and a connecting route for people. Bring plenty of water, lunch, snacks, good hiking shoes, a jacket, and sunscreen. **R Registration required. Car shuttling will be arranged after registration.**

SYMBOL	DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
R	Mon. Sept. 22	8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Pineridge Meet at Dixon Reservoir parking lot off CR 42C. Foothills Trail The Foothills Trail from Pineridge to Reservoir Ridge takes you along Horsetooth Reservoir and through Maxwell Natural Area. Enjoy this popular trail with a Master Naturalist and learn more as you hike. 7 miles, moderate.
R	Sat. Oct. 11	8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Devil's Backbone Meet at Devil's Backbone parking lot on Hwy. 34. Coyote Ridge to Devil's Backbone The trail from Coyote Ridge to Devil's Backbone connects City and County natural areas. Hike the plains, foothills, and ridges of this popular trail with City and County Naturalists and learn as you hike. 9 miles, moderate.

Check for cancellations at fcgov.com/naturalareas before you go!



SOAPSTONE PRAIRIE: THEN AND NOW

Eighty years ago, scientists from the Smithsonian Institute arrived at what is now Soapstone Prairie. Their subsequent research provided proof that people lived in this area at least 11,000 years ago and possibly longer. They validated one of the most amazing discoveries of the time. In 2014, we celebrate the importance of Soapstone Prairie to people of the past, as well as the significance of this unique site today and into the future. Join scientists, Master Naturalists, historians, and community members at special events and educational programs. The 2014 celebration will climax with a unique symposium that will bring together scientists who have worked at Soapstone Prairie both in the past and in modern times.

Lindenmeier: Ancient Lives, Ancient Dreams

Sunday, October 19-Wednesday, October 22

This unique symposium brings together world-renowned archaeologists for the first time to share their knowledge about this National Historic Landmark and its significance. Keynote speaker is Dr. Ed Wilmsen, author of publications that summarized the findings of the Smithsonian excavation in the 1930s. Other featured experts include Dr. Jason LaBelle, Dr. David Meltzer, Dr. Vance Haynes, Dr. Vance Holliday, Dr. Fredrick Sallet, and Dr. Steve Holen. Hear about the significance and importance of Soapstone Prairie directly from the experts. The symposium is being sponsored by the Natural Areas Department and the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery. Space is limited. Information about registration, cost, and schedule are available at fcmo.org.

SYMBOL	DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
	Sun. June 8 Sat. Sept. 13	8:00 a.m.-noon Meet at north parking lot.	Walk the Gangplank: Geology at Soapstone Prairie Hike to the landform known as the gangplank and discover geological secrets of this beautiful landscape. Bring water, snacks, sunscreen and jacket. Children 12 and over may attend with parents. 5-6 miles, moderate.
16+	Sat. June 21	10:00-11:00 a.m. Meet at north parking lot.	Loren Eiseley and the Ghosts of Lindenmeier Learn about the scientist/writer who helped excavate this archaeological site in the 1930s. ½ mile paved trail, easy.
16+ R	Sun. June 22 Sat. Sept. 20	9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Meet at south parking lot.	Hike to a Homestead Learn about the early history of the settlers of Soapstone Prairie. Visit several homestead ruins and hear stories about pioneer families. Bring plenty of water, food, and sunscreen. 6 miles, moderate-strenuous.
16+ R	Sat. June 28	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Meet at south parking lot.	Protecting the Western Frontier with the Buffalo Soldiers Saddle up with the Buffalo Soldiers of the American West. Discover their role in protecting frontier citizens. Watch a presentation in the parking lot, followed by a guided equestrian ride. Bring your own horse, water to drink, food, and sunscreen. Registration required only for the equestrian ride.
	Tues. July 8 Sat. Aug. 9	11:00 a.m.-noon Meet at north parking lot.	Rustic Women of Soapstone Prairie Learn about three pioneer women who homesteaded at Soapstone Prairie and get a glimpse of early life on the prairie. ½ mile on paved trail, easy.
16+ R	Sat. July 12 Sun. Sept. 21	10:00-11:00 a.m. Meet at north parking lot.	Folsom Hunter's Guide Learn about the legacies of ancient predators and grazers and what the well-prepared ancient cook used to garnish her bison steak. ½ mile on paved trail, easy.
	Sat. July 19	9:30-11:30 a.m. Meet at north parking lot.	Smithsonian at Soapstone Prairie Hear about the 1930s Smithsonian Institute's excavation and amazing discoveries at Soapstone Prairie. ½ mile paved trail, easy.
	Sun. July 27 Sat. Aug. 16 Sun. Sept. 14	9:00-10:30 a.m. Meet at north parking lot.	Soapstone Surprise Discover amazing archaeological and natural secrets and find out why this site is so important to conserve. Bring water and sunscreen. ½ to 3 miles, easy.

Natural Areas Visitor Center

Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, 408 Mason Court, Fort Collins,
Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Check out the Natural Areas Visitor Center in the lobby of the museum. Play with the interactive map, crawl into the shortgrass prairie diorama, watch live endangered black-footed ferrets, and relax at the ripple tank that shows how small environmental actions can have large effects. Pick up a map or other natural areas information while you're there. *No admission fee!*

Schedule Your Next Meeting at Primrose Studio

Primrose Studio is a quiet facility in a beautiful setting in northwest Fort Collins. It is perfect for small classes and retreats.

By reservation only: Tues.-Sat. 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Closed holidays.

Cost: Private groups: \$200 for up to 5 hours and \$40 per additional hour. Non-profit and government rates: \$100 for up to 5 hours and \$20 per additional hour. Three-hour minimum required. Learn more at fcgov.com/naturalareas/primrose.php or 970-416-2815.

Dig in and Volunteer With Us!

Natural areas are yours to enjoy and explore. You can also get involved with the stewardship of these special places. With more than 34,000 acres and 44 natural areas, there's a lot to care for! Projects include trail maintenance, weeding, planting, cleanups, and more.

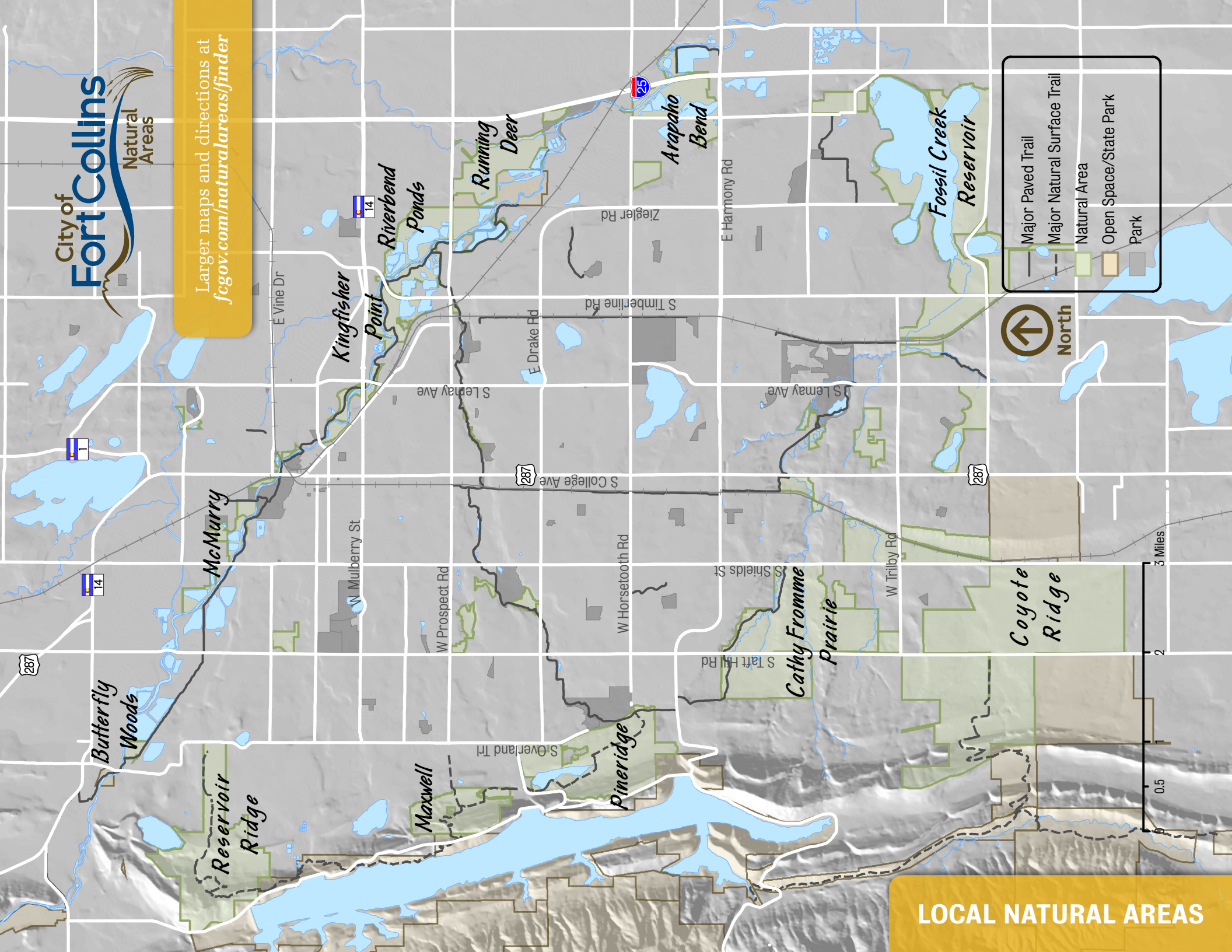
Have a group? Volunteer projects are great for team building, networking, and camaraderie. Don't have a group? Individuals and families are welcome. Visit fcgov.com/naturalareas/volopps1day.php for community projects or contact 970-219-1106 or cdillon@fcgov.com to schedule a customized project.

There's More to Explore

Be sure to check the website fcgov.com/naturalareas for updates and additional programs throughout the year.



Larger maps and directions at
fcgov.com/naturalareasfinder

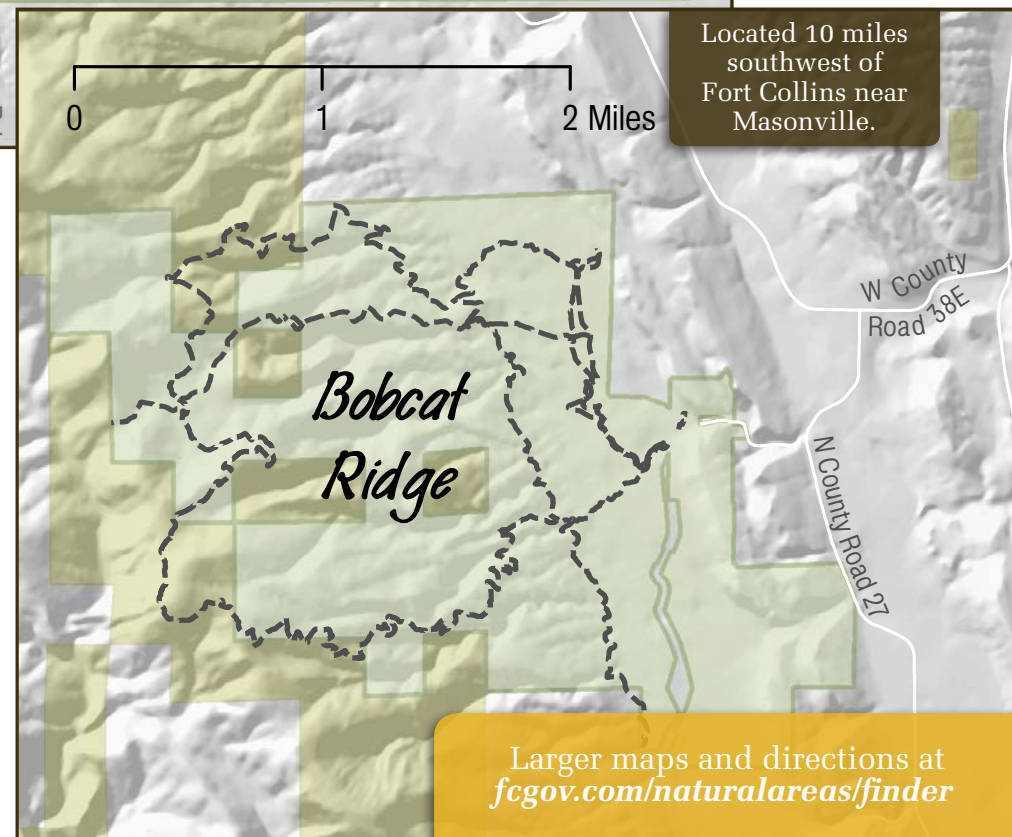


REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS

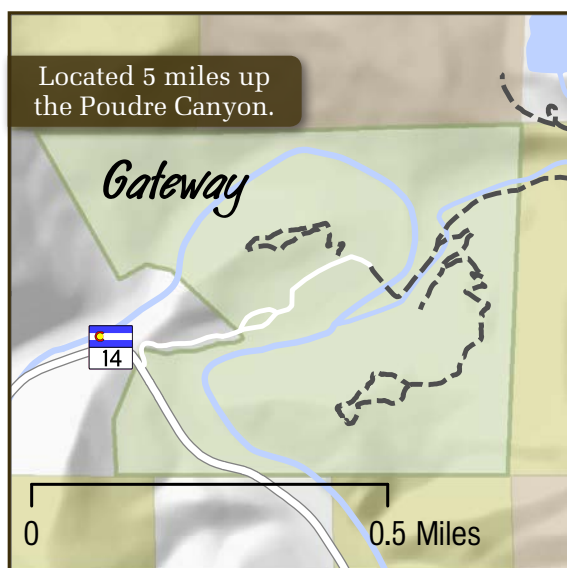
Located 26 miles north
of Fort Collins.



Located 10 miles
southwest of
Fort Collins near
Masonville.



Located 5 miles up
the Poudre Canyon.



Larger maps and directions at
fcgov.com/naturalareas/finder



Thank you! The Natural Areas Department is funded by Fort Collins and Larimer County voters. Your citizen-initiated sales tax dollars conserve land and provide funds for trails, shelters, restrooms, parking lots, and programs.



Natural Areas Department 970-416-2815

Rangers 970-416-2147

fcgov.com/naturalareas

naturalareas@fcgov.com

Register for programs at naturetracker.fcgov.com



naturally yours