



# Bike the Sites

Natural Wonders  
of Fort Collins

## About the Fort Collins Bike Library

The Fort Collins Bike Library is a community-supported program developed by FC Bikes, Bike Fort Collins, and the Fort Collins Bike Co-op.

To borrow a bike and get rolling, all you need is a valid ID and a credit card for a damage deposit. Borrowing bikes is free!

To learn more, go to [www.fcbikelibrary.org](http://www.fcbikelibrary.org) or call 970.419.1050. The Fort Collins Bike Library station is located in Old Town Square (near Linden St.) An additional Fort Collins Bike Library location, The Mason Station, is located at 222 LaPorte Ave. (corner of Howes St. and Laporte Ave.), 970.221.2453

## Safe Bicycling in Fort Collins

Please be a good example of a respectful bicyclist and follow the rules of the road. Ride with lights at night. Stop at traffic lights and stop signs. Use hand signals and eye contact to communicate your turns to motorists. Ride on the right hand side of the road and when cycling on bike trails signal to pass pedestrians and other cyclists with your bike bell. Always wear a helmet. Enjoy the ride!

## Bicycling Info & Tips

Bicycles are a sensible form of transportation in Fort Collins. Our City offers over 280 miles of bike lanes, and over 30 miles of bike trails. Bicycling on College Ave in downtown is legal, but recommended for experienced bicyclists only. Please walk your bicycles through Old Town Square and on sidewalks in the downtown area. Bicycling on roads is recommended and legal. In case of emergency, dial 911. In the event of mechanical difficulties or need for directions, please call 970.491.1050 or 970.221.2453.

## Thank You!

This brochure was created in collaboration with CSU's Sustainable Tourism class, FC Bikes, Bike Fort Collins, the Downtown Development Authority, the Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program, the CSU Environmental Learning Center, and [Desmond@EveryPerspective.com](mailto:Desmond@EveryPerspective.com).



# Fort Collins Environmental Learning Tour

Approx. 9 Miles (round trip)

Enjoy some of the natural areas that make Fort Collins a world class place to live and visit! Take the paved Poudre River Trail from downtown to the CSU Environmental Learning Center and discover several special natural places along the river.

Over 36,000 acres of natural areas have been conserved in and around Fort Collins - many sites are easily accessible by bike!

To learn more about City of Fort Collins Natural Areas, call 416-2815, [www.fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://www.fcgov.com/naturalareas)

## Site 1 - Gustav Swanson Natural Area,

A great nature getaway near downtown! In the woods, watch for warblers, woodpeckers, and magpies. In the wetland you may spot mallards, kingfishers or common mergansers. The site was named after Gustav Swanson who was instrumental in focusing community attention on the importance of the river to Fort Collins. Many citizens volunteered thousands of hours to acquire the property, restore portions of it, and plant native plants- thank you!

## Site 2/3 - Springer & Williams Natural Area,

The rare American black currant and the bright golden currant live here. Look for the sign to learn more. Williams is small, but provides important habitat for butterflies and nesting birds.

## Site 4 - Nix Natural Area -

Home of the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program, the offices are open regular business hours, M-F 8-5. Check out the beautiful native plant gardens around the main house and see if you can identify the creatures that left tracks on the trail that connects the offices to the Poudre Trail!

## Site 5 - Kingfisher Natural Area,

The chattering call of the belted kingfisher announces his claim to the river. Look for these birds perched on overhanging branches, staring intently into the water. Kingfisher dive in headfirst and stab small fishes with their stout beaks.

## Site 6 - Cattail Chorus Natural Area, a local wetland sanctuary.

## Site 7 - Riverbend Ponds Natural Area,

a former gravel mining pit that is frequented by many birds and small mammals.

## Site 8 -

### Prospect Ponds

This 25-acre site consists of two ponds, active beaver lodges, open water that attracts wintering waterfowl, and proximity to the paved trail, makes this an attractive spot for birding and fishing. Enjoy the benches and information kiosks.

**The Environmental Learning Center (ELC)** is part of the Warner College of Natural Resources at CSU and its goal is to "advance environmental stewardship among students & the community through opportunities for experimental learning, self-study & educational programs."

Nestled at the east end of the Poudre River Trail, the ELC is a perfect place to escape the city and get some hands-on experience with nature.



## Legend

- Tour Route
- Biking/Walking Trail
- Street or Road
- Cafe Bicyclette (Old-Town at Linden Street)
- Mason Station (222 LaPorte Avenue)



Learn about local flora, fauna, the ecosystems of the surrounding area, and how humans impact the natural environment. Enjoy the beautiful hiking trails through prairie grasslands & riparian zones.

In addition, the ELC is host to some of the birds of prey from the Rocky Mtn. Raptor Program-a must see on any visit.

**Call the ELC at 970-491-1661** to find out the current exciting programs!  
<http://elc.warnercnr.colostate.edu/>