



NATURAL AREAS **STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK** THE GUIDE TO CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP

2024-2025 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

What do you want for the future of your natural areas? For over 30 years, the Fort Collins and Larimer County community has prioritized natural areas conservation. Now, your voice will guide the future forward with a planning document called the Natural Areas Strategic Framework. Your perspectives will help the City embody community-driven conservation and stewardship.

Learn what is planned and how you can get involved through this document!

WHEN AND HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK PROCESS

2024

2025

DEC 2023 - MAY 2024

JUN- SEP 2024

OCT- JAN 2025

FEB - MAY 2025

APR - AUG 2025



PHASE 1: DISCOVERY

Focuses on identifying the process and early data collection. Existing data will be organized into a storymap to define various trends and forces. Building on existing surveys and research will focus the public outreach moving into the next stage.

✓ Who: Partners, Staff, Land Conservation Stewardship Board, Other City Departments, HUG

✓ What: Website, E-News

PHASE 2: THINK AHEAD

Guided by what resulted from Phase 1, the community will be asked to weigh in on the different focuses Natural Areas could trend in the future.

✓ Who: Community (On and off Natural Areas), TAC, HUG, Council, Superboard meeting (LCSB and others)

✓ What: Website, E-news, Questionnaire, Printed Notifications, Volunteer Newsletter, Social Media, Community Events

PHASE 3: STRATEGIZE

Guided by the community feedback collected in Phase 2, Phase 3 will introduce draft vision, goals, and strategies to inform the Strategic Framework.

✓ Who: LCSB, HUG, TAC

✓ What: Website, E-news, Social Media

PHASE 4: CONFIRM

Gather early feedback on the Draft Strategic Framework from partners and then collect community comments.

✓ Who: TAC, City Departments, partners, public, staff

✓ What: Website, E-news, Social Media, Community Events

PHASE 5: PRESENT

Finalize the Strategic Framework and present it to Council for adoption.

✓ Who: Staff, Council, HUG

✓ What: Website, E-news, Social Media

Visit the project website for updates and opportunities to participate:



YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT! THE FUTURE IS UP TO YOU!

As the community looks forward to conservation and stewardship in a changing world, it is vital to connect with a diversity of groups representing a number of perspectives to develop a unified plan. The goal for the engagement approach is to be inclusive, listen genuinely, and collect a breadth and depth of perspectives.

WHO IS INVOLVED?



COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Ample opportunity in many different venues will be provided to the public to discuss the current state of Natural Areas and gather feedback throughout the process.



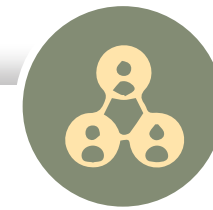
HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS

Natural Areas Public Engagement Team has worked hard to build relationships and support engagement with historically underrepresented groups (HUG) through purposeful communications and programs. Focused engagement will elevate the voices of those who may not have been involved in the past and give Natural Areas an opportunity to learn and incorporate feedback.



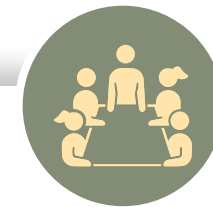
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Comprised of representatives of specific interests across a variety of disciplines, the TAC will meet regularly to provide input unique to these perspectives including: historic preservation, conservation, birding, wildlife, native plants, economics, education, sustainability, development, health, conservation agriculture, hiking, running, equestrians, cycling, and fishing.



BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Similar to other city departments, boards and commissions across the City have interests that overlap. The Land Conservation and Stewardship Board will be a key group involved in advising the Fort Collins City Council on actions related to Natural Areas. They will review materials and provide guidance prior to Council engagement.



CITY COUNCIL

City Council will adopt the Strategic Framework. Their approval directs future department decisions that are within the guidance of the Strategic Framework.



CITY DEPARTMENTS AND PARTNERS

Partnerships (local, county, and state agencies) are extremely important because some natural areas are located beyond City borders and several natural area properties are acquired and managed through close collaboration with partners.

WHY PLAN FOR THE FUTURE?



To bring together a variety of community voices



To align financial and staffing resources



To respond to an ever-changing environment



To improve health and quality of life



To preserve environmental health and ecosystem function



To create a more equitable city

Challenges natural areas will face in the next 20 years include:

Increasing flooding, wildfires, and stressed ecosystems due to climate change and population growth; Increasing needs for infrastructure maintenance; Increasing visitation and recreation use; Diverse and sometimes conflicting community interests

WHAT METHODS ARE BEING USED?

PROJECT ENGAGEMENT
WEBPAGE



ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRES



VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER



PRINTED NOTIFICATIONS
(YARD SIGNS, POSTERS, ETC)



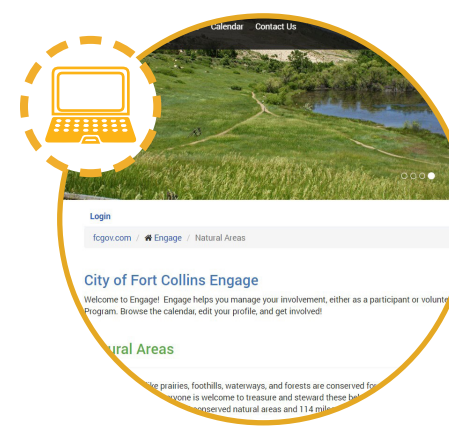
E-NEWS



SOCIAL MEDIA



FCGOV WEBSITE



COMMUNITY EVENTS



All outreach materials will be accessible and provided in Spanish. If you need accommodations, please contact naturalareas@fcgov.com or call 970-416-2815.



LISTENING AND ADAPTING TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING.

This is a community-driven plan. Broad participation from the entire community helps ground this work in the realities of living in Fort Collins and ensuring that the vision is relevant, accessible, and implementable.



HOW IS SUCCESS MEASURED?

AWARE



The amount of people considered AWARE refers to the amount of people who have seen the event information or visited the project website.



INFORMED



The amount of people considered INFORMED includes people who have interacted with the website by clicking on a link, attending an event or asking questions about something.



ENGAGED



The amount of people considered ENGAGED in a project refers to how many have given direct feedback, taken a questionnaire, participated in an activity or tagged the map.



Land conservation and stewardship by the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department is made possible thanks to community-initiated sales taxes (Fort Collins' Open Space Yes! and Larimer County's Help Preserve Open Space). Thank you voters!

This framework is going to guide department priorities for conservation and stewardship throughout the next 20 years.