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| Logo  Description automatically generated | 1745 Hoffman Mill RoadPO Box 580, Fort Collins, CO 80522-0580 | Natural Areas department970-416-2815 /P naturalareas@fcgov.com /e |

**Hunter Access Permit Information**

City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department will review permit requests to cross Bobcat Ridge and Gateway natural areas for access to adjacent public lands during the spring turkey season (Bobcat Ridge) and big game, small game, waterfowl, and turkey seasons (Gateway), as established by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

* Hunting and discharge of any weapon within a natural area is prohibited by City of Fort Collins Municipal Code.
* If approved, the permit will be limited to non-motorized access (including e-bikes). across the natural area. Requests for vehicle access through a natural area will be denied.
* Duration of the access and parking is restricted to the established hours of operation. Requests for access before opening, after closing, or overnight parking will be denied.
* Access across Gateway Natural Area with unloaded, open-chambered weapons may be issued September 1 through May 15 (only during Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s licensed hunting season).
* Access permits for big game, small game, waterfowl or fall turkey hunting will not be granted at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area because there are alternative access points.
* Spring turkey hunting access through Bobcat Ridge Natural Area will be permitted only when Forest Service Road 153/Bar D Ranch Road is closed, leaving Bobcat Ridge as the only access point. The Bar D Road is open during big game hunting season.
* Access is not permitted when the natural area is closed, even if a hunting access permit has been granted.
* Natural Areas limits the number of hunting access permits each season to protect resources and provide high quality visitor experiences.
* Permits will be reviewed on a first come, first-serve basis, beginning in mid-August.
* Review takes up to 15 business days.

**Tips for Permit Applicants**

* Apply for separate permits for each hunting season. Small game and waterfowl seasons can be included with big game and turkey seasons.
* Groups are limited to 3 people to protect resources and provide high quality visitor experiences.
* Please be aware that accessing federal lands west of Bobcat Ridge Natural Area will be a challenging physical experience. The federal land is three air miles to the west and the landscape is rugged and steep.  Any individual who wishes to hunt this remote location should be confident in their physical and route-finding abilities.

**Before Applying Be Aware of These Typical Permit Conditions**

* All natural area visitors must comply with Natural Areas Rules and Regulations, https://library.municode.com/co/fort\_collins/codes/municipal\_code?nodeId=CH23PUPR\_ARTIXNAAR
* Permittees must carry a hardcopy or digital version of the permit during their visit and display it clearly on any associated vehicle’s dashboard.
* Permittees must have all necessary and valid permits, licenses, and tags required by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.
* All State of Colorado hunting regulations apply and must be followed.
* Permittees must park within designated parking areas.
* Permittees must pay for parking at Gateway Natural Area.
* Permittees must call the ranger phone line on the day(s) they plan to access the natural area.
* After-hours access is prohibited. Access and parking are restricted to the natural areas’ established hours of operation, dawn to dusk.
* Bobcat Ridge Natural Area: Off-trail use is not permitted including going off-trail to access federal land inholdings. Hunters may access USFS property that is directly accessible from trails.
* Permittees may not make any alterations or changes to the natural area of any kind, temporary or permanent.
* No dogs are allowed at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area, including hunting dogs accompanying permittees.
* Permittees’ weapons must be unloaded with an open chamber when crossing the natural area. Permittees may choose to either carry openly, stow in a case, or stow their firearm within a backpack.
* Hunting access permits are for non-commercial use. Any guided hunt or other service for which payment is required must apply for and be approved under the City’s Commercial Use Permit system.  Failure to do so will result in revocation of special use permit and will be reported to Colorado Parks and Wildlife.
* No sales or solicitation for sales are to be conducted on natural areas property.
* Permittees must not exceed the group size approved and listed on the permit (limit three people per permit). Permits are non-transferrable.