

Report on the Nature in the City Session March 26, 2014



Report compiled by:

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On March 26, 2014, at the Lincoln Center over 50 Fort Collins residents participated in a community issues forum sponsored by the city of Fort Collins and the Colorado State University Center for Public Deliberation. The forum focused on two topics: an update on the water restrictions plan and a new city project entitled Nature in the City. This report focused on the data collected regarding Nature in the City.



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Nature in the City Overview (from city of Fort Collins website:

<http://www.fcgov.com/advanceplanning/natureinthecity/project-info.php>)

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, almost 80% of people living in the United States live in an urban setting. That means now, more than ever, people are experiencing nature in an urban environment. As our community transitions from a suburban to urban city and densities increase, informal natural areas and features within the urban core are threatened unless we take action to ensure these areas are either preserved or created.

This effort will develop a Nature in the City Strategic Plan to ensure that every citizen has access to nature. The Strategic Plan will include design guidelines, policies, and actions designed to achieve this goal. An interdisciplinary team has been formed between the City and Colorado State University to address three main objectives:

- Ensure every resident is within a 10-minute walk to nature from their home or workplace,
- Have natural spaces that provide diverse social and ecological opportunities, and
- Continue to shift the landscape aesthetic from lawns to more diverse landscapes that support healthy environments for all species.

A full summary of the Nature in the City project is available

<http://www.fcgov.com/advanceplanning/pdf/nature-in-the-city-summary.pdf>

Description of Nature in the City process on March 26

The participants at the forum were placed in individual round tables with 4-7 other participants and a facilitator from the Center for Public Deliberation (CPD). Martín Carcasson, the director of the CPD, ran the process from the front of the room, with assistance from city government employees connected to the two topics. The forum was organized in several different sessions that had the participants respond to gathered information and various prompts.

Session 1: “Nature” word association

During this first session, participants introduced themselves and were asked to write down the three words that come to mind when they hear the word “nature.” All the answers are below. The answers offer a very wide variety of ideas and concepts. Some of the primary categories include:

- Wildlife (7), Animals (6), Biodiversity (3), Birds (2) (18 total mentions)
- Respite/ Escape/Tranquility/Removed from City Noises/ Less People Quiet-No Traffic/Shade and trees/ No cars Peace (12 mentions between them)
- Trees (5)

<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>
Natural Areas	Wildlife	Trees
Ecology	Biodiversity	Recreation
In it	Of it	Collaborate
Wild spaces	Animals	Not Polluted
Walking w/o cars	Ducks and Birds	Quiet-No Traffic/Shade and trees
Nature		
Fun	Fresh air	Clean
Clam	Enjoyable	Good for kids
Outdoors	Enjoyable	Environment
Wildlife	Plants	Paths
Natural	Animals	Vegetation and water
Parks	Fresh Air	Removed from City Noises
Ecology	Wildlife	Biodiversity
Plants	Water	Quiet
Water	Trees	Animals
Green	Interesting sounds	Clean smells
Natural systems	Beauty	Connections
Life	Beauty	Trees
Needs	Gaia	Peace
River	Trees	Bugs
Fish	Birds	Landscape
Greenery	Fresh Air	Dirt
Water	Wildlife	Animal/Bug sounds
Wild	Unmanaged	Critters
Wildlife	Habitat	Escape
Stewardship	Green	
Animals	Plants	Nature (habitat)
Parks	Fresh Air	Hiking
No cars	Less People	Flora/Fauna
Trees	Water	Animals
Beauty	Peace	Wildlife
Undeveloped	Manicured	Things can live
Joy	Respite	Tranquility
Wildlife	Water	Tranquility
Biodiversity	Habitat	Order
Peace	Pretty	Running
Alive	Messy	Not separate from us

Examining the **positive comments** concerning spots in town to access nature, the following themes were identified most often:

- Seclusion/no noise/no people/no traffic / get away
- Trails/connectivity
- Close/walking distance/convenient
- Animals/birds
- View/scenery/beauty (4)

Examining the **negative comments**, the following themes were most common:

- Problems from dogs (both feces and loose dogs)
- Danger from bicyclists
- Waste/trash
- Mud
- Too much traffic/noise

Three key tensions to consider

An interesting tension was evident in the discussions and written comments between participants that preferred “nature” to be as natural, pure, and “minimally landscaped” as possible, while others preferred their experience with nature to be more managed and manicured. For example, for some concrete trails were a negative, but for others such man-made features were important to provide access and a quality experience. For some, having natural spaces maintained was important, others preferred more of the wild look. For some, “critters” and bugs were a positive, for others, not so much.

Another difficult tension that may arise is between the focus on tranquility and open spaces, with the reality that the spaces will likely get busier and busier as the city grows. The more popular a spot becomes, the less desirable it may become as well.

Lastly, Fort Collins is clearly known for being a wonderful town for both bicycling and dog enthusiasts, and the city’s parks and natural areas are obviously critical to both bicyclists and dog-owners. On the other hand, problems with bicyclists and dogs were the most common concerns with natural areas when participants were queried.

The yellow worksheets also asked participants to note what **form of transportation** they used to access nature. A summary of the responses:

- 38 Walk/foot
- 19 Bike or walk
- 18 car/drive
- 15 bicycle
- 9 bike or car
- 2 Bike, walk and ride
- 2 run
- 2 run, bike
- car to gardens then walk

Session 3 – Keypad process regarding access points and values

Participants were then asked to utilize wireless keypads to respond to a series of questions. The first several questions were demographic questions identifying who was in the room. Then a series of questions were asked responding to information developed from earlier public engagement and the work of the Nature in the City advisory group.

1.) What part of the City do you live in? (by quadrant) (multiple choice)

	Responses	
	(percent)	(count)
East of College Ave and North of Drake	25%	12
East of College Ave and South of Drake	29%	14
West of College Ave and North of Drake	40%	19
West of College Ave and South of Drake	6%	3
	100%	48

2.) What part of the City do you work in? (by quadrant) (multiple choice)

	Responses	
	(percent)	(count)
East of College Ave and North of Drake	9%	4
East of College Ave and South of Drake	11%	5
West of College Ave and North of Drake	38%	17
West of College Ave and South of Drake	2%	1
Work outside Fort Collins	2%	1
Don't currently work	38%	17
	100%	45

3.) What is your race? (multiple choice)

	Responses	
	(percent)	(count)
Asian	2%	1
Black	0%	0
Hispanic	0%	0
White	93%	40
Native American	0%	0
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0%	0
Multi-racial	0%	0
Prefer not to answer	5%	2
	100%	43

4.) What is your household income? (multiple choice)

	Responses	
	(percent)	(count)
\$21,999 or less	7%	3
\$22,000-58,999	23%	10
\$59,000-87,999	26%	11
\$88,000-149,999	28%	12
\$150,000-\$249,999	2%	1
\$250,000 or more	0%	0
Prefer not to answer	14%	6
	100%	43

5.) Where do you access nature in the city? (choose all that apply) (multiple choice)

Participants could choose as many responses as applied. The percentages below represent what percentage of the attendees chose that option.

	Responses	
	(percent)	(count)
Parks	98%	42
Natural Areas	91%	39
Streams, creeks or canals	86%	37
Open space in my neighborhood (HOA or other)	60%	26
Community gardens or local farms	44%	19
Schools	40%	17
Open space at my office or where I shop	37%	16
Other	28%	12
I don't access nature	5%	2
I don't access nature within the city	2%	1
	100%	211

8.) In what part of the City do you most often access nature? (multiple choice)

	Responses	
	(percent)	(count)
East of College Ave and North of Drake	13%	6
East of College Ave and South of Drake	17%	8
West of College Ave and North of Drake	46%	21
West of College Ave and South of Drake	24%	11
I don't access nature in the city	0%	0
	100%	46

**9.) Why do you choose to spend time in nature? (choose top 3 in order)
(priority ranking)**

For this question, participants were asked to respond to a list of categories developed prior to the forum by choosing the top 3 answers for them in order. In the results below, their first choice received 3 points, their 2nd 2 points, and their third 1 point. The three final questions all allowed for such priority ranking. In the table discussions, participants were asked to respond to the categories and provide examples of additional potential reasons.

	Responses	
	(percent)	(count)
Personal exercise or play	21%	64
To Experience Beauty, Aesthetics	18%	54
Escape from urban environment	16%	48
Wildlife (intrinsic value or viewing)	10%	30
Family exercise or play	8%	24
Convenience/It's Close to Home	8%	24
Fresh Air/Respite from Heat	6%	17
To be Close to Water	5%	15
To Walk My Dog/Pet	5%	15
(press 0) Other	3%	8
	100%	299

**10.) Which of these values are most important in your neighborhood?
(choose top 3 in order) (priority ranking)**

	Responses	
	(percent)	(count)
Personal exercise or play	21%	60
To Experience Beauty, Aesthetics	20%	58
Escape from urban environment	16%	46
Wildlife (intrinsic value or viewing)	13%	37
Family exercise or play	11%	32
Convenience/It's Close to Home	7%	20
To Walk My Dog/Pet	7%	20
Fresh Air/Respite from Heat	5%	13
To be Close to Water	1%	3
(press 0) Other	0%	0
	100%	289

11.) Considering our current strengths and weaknesses, which should this project focus on the most for the city overall? (choose top 3 in order) (priority ranking)

	Responses	
	(percent)	(count)
Escape from urban environment	22%	62
Convenience/It's Close to Home	19%	53
Wildlife (intrinsic value or viewing)	18%	50
To Experience Beauty, Aesthetics	18%	51
Fresh Air/Respite from Heat	8%	22
Family exercise or play	5%	14
Personal exercise or play	4%	11
To be Close to Water	4%	11
To Walk My Dog/Pet	0%	1
(Press O) Other	0%	1
	100%	276

Summary of keypad answers:

The distinctions between the answers for question 9 and 10 were minimal, meaning when people considered what was most important to them and what was most important for their neighborhood, the answers were essentially the same. Question 11, which asked for the top priorities of Nature in the City, did see some important changes, as “escape from urban environment” rose from 3rd most important to the most important overall. The previous first – personal exercise or play – dropped to 7th – likely meaning that participants did make a distinction about what was most important to them, and what the city government should particularly focus on.

After the keypad process, participants discussed the results at their individual tables. The full raw notes from those discussions are available in Appendix C. A couple key insights drawn from those discussions were:

- Reacting to the pre-set categories of “where they access nature” (question 5), the primary option that seemed missing from the list was trails. Many participants spoke very highly of the city’s trail system and its importance to linking residents to nature. Other new categories included community gardens and backyards.
- The notion of “connectivity” was mentioned often as an important feature. Many spoke positively of the current connectively, while others called for the need for more. Participants seemed to define connectively in two different ways. Some seemed to focus on how trails do (or could) connect to each other throughout the city, while others seemed to focus on social connectivity and how spending time in nature was a way to connect to neighbors and other people.

Appendix A: Notes from table discussions regarding the word association and the Wordle.

- Accessibility, it should be easier
- Proximity to where we live
- Accessibility how do you get to these areas
- Transcendence should be bigger word. Get away from grind of job/taxes/stuff.
- Refreshing is a good word
- It's a little distracting – words should be clustered.
- Nature is disappearing because of us. What we have thought of as natural places are being built on. Amount of trees gone (3 margs). Foothills fashion mall surrounded, now gone. City determined trees dangerous, needed to widen roads.
- Did it further up shields too, unsafe.
- That's why this is important to hold on and nourish what we have left rather than it go away
- Assuming we work in foco, I don't work here, that's a problem with design.
- Wellington, Windsor, Loveland....
- Circle on map, home, I'm retired.
- How do you know which is your favorite?
- What about trails?
- Traveled? one way? distance to the place and back home?
- From home to the place
- People saw the wordle as feelings or experiential qualities of nature as opposed to a scientific quantities of what people get out of nature. However there was general consensus that that people agreed with the wordle and they mentioned many of the same words.
- Nature makes sense and gives order
- Mainly thinking of the outdoor aspect
- We think we're above nature, rather than a part of it, even when it's all around us.
- Possum is surprising, never seen one in Fort Collins
- Unpredictable doesn't fit for me, nature's pretty predictable
- Bugs should be bigger
- Interesting that human isn't on there
- Nothing too shocking or surprising
- Bit surprised by effort (see it as effortless) and inner-city (more related to built environment)"
- Surprised the word "water" was not a bigger priority among the words; however, also made mention that every word listed had value, and that none were more important than others. All make up an important, diverse whole picture of nature.
- Serenity: Nature is serene and beautiful
 - Nature isn't always serene. Sometimes we aren't welcome [by the wildlife]
 - Example of being attacked by geese
 - But still, this is just a part of nature and even this can be appreciated
- 4 people in our group wrote ""beauty""FQ: Why did those of you who chose the word, 'beauty' do so?

- Beauty captures many aspects of nature
 - serenity, spiritually uplifting, tranquil, nice and calming; all of these seem to be a part of beauty
- Nature isn't disappearing, but how we experience nature is most definitely disappearing
- Our opportunity to experience nature on a frequent basis is disappearing
- It's surprising how redundant the wordle is
 - A lot of the words mean or describe the same thing about nature
- It's surprising that organic, and nurturing are small on the wordle
- I'm surprised that the word ""humans"" did not appear (maybe it did and wasn't seen), but it wasn't very big if it was there
 - We are a big part of nature
- Safe surprised me
 - Nature, by nature, isn't safe sometimes
- The largest words on the Wordle are not emphasizing the most important aspects of nature in relation to our existence
- Words the group thought should be bigger:
 - Tranquility
 - Water/River
 - Clean
 - Wild (way too small-the word was frequently brought up within the group, and they were surprised to see it so small on the wordle)
 - Conservation
 - Safe
 - Accessible/Connectivity
- We do a good job having it accessible
- Along with “disappearing”, “managed” (everything is managed)
- Rocky mountain national park- hard core paved part
- No human part- may not exist
- Nature in the city- there is wilderness and then there is nature in the city. nature is different. Urban nature- very different.
- Different things come to mind when thinking about “wilderness” as opposed to “nature”
- Mountain lion that came into Fort Collins- think about how out of place it was in the city

Appendix B: Raw data from yellow worksheets regarding positives and concerns with various access points to nature around the city.

Positives of spot from yellow worksheets

- bike/running paths large open area. Part of a continuing route to other parks/open space
- open, views, no traffic
- close to home, recreation, play ground, open grassy areas, access to Spring Creek Trail
- water, greenspace, trees, paths
- within walking distance. Can loop around neighborhood with my dog, neighbors. Able to follow irrigation ditch path
- park
- Concrete paths for easy bike riding
- close to home, has playground for kids
- close to home. Relatively isolated from city. Has the birds from Raptor Program
- easy hiking trail that gives full access to nature
- large park, access to SC trail, tennis courts, programmed recreation, natural areas
- trail gardens, pathways. Multiple different plants
- access to native plants
- fishing, wildlife
- large, lots of open water, trails
- do canoeing, walk the shore
- close to where I live, artwork along the pathway
- accessible from my house via foot/bike. Easy to use and easy for children to enjoy. Spring Creek goes through
- trails, ponds/lakes, wildlife, river
- natural vegetation, river, ponds, fishing possible, birds abundant
- close
- exercise, relax, especially forest by Lemay
- lakes, ponds, river, wildlife
- isolated, away from noise pollution, wildlife, longer and steeper trails, more variety
- close, large, good walking/bike trail
- can be great for bird watching
- open field, wide paths
- Poudre River walk, excellent habitat, McMurray Ponds nearby, birds, fish, plants, bugs in natural habitat
- exercise, relaxed travel
- great trails, abundant, wildlife
- pond, playground, open acreage, restroom
- great connection trail/ natural "strip"
- close drive to it, short hiking path so can do almost any time--have seen deer and other interesting wildlife there
- lots of wildlife and a great place for a 1 mile or so
- lots of waterfowl

- great for running/training- varied terrain
- like to take walk along the trail
- close by many facilities
- It has scenic views of the Foothills and the reservoir
- hiking and not too crowded
- close to home and work. Diversity of activities depending on who I'm with
- good for exercise and for commuting. Can be beautiful and quiet or crowded and very social depending on time/day
- looks clean
- location would lend itself to being a good lunch spot
- diversity of activities and amount of space
- "out of the city"-sorta, ranging habitats
- open, grass
- I like to experience the social side of people walking, fishing, playing in a place "out of doors"
- large area, lots of trees
- large, beautiful trees, grass
- natural-near Power Line Trail, pond-nice
- beautiful, calming, can jump in to cool off, trails, a lot of vegetation, tubing
- walk, run, bike path East and west on Poudre Trail. Beauty, wildlife, birds and encounters with people
- not far (2 miles), good birding, enjoy wetlands
- fun recreation, beautiful, getting away from people and noise, relaxing, happy
- More remote than the closer city trails; I like natural trails rather than paved. Like being a little "higher" above the city
- proximity to home
- trails and rockclimbing
- bike path, water, able to get to a number of parks in the city
- stream bike/walking path, proximity
- beautiful trail
- birds, water, greenspace, paired trails, ballparks, open space, kids playground, good for dog walks (free poop bags)
- sports, kids playground, the Farm, bike trails, nature, wildlife, river, museum, coffee shop
- very close
- lakes, ducks, walk way east on bike to town on Poudre River trail
- large, water, some restored regulation
- quiet, secluded, wildlife, views, bike riding
- close to home. Can access from different directions (changing route). Have choice of giving east or west for miles or bike or foot or go to WF for coffee, shop at that strip center
- good for mountain biking and cross country skiing. River is, of course, beautiful. No asphalt

- water rushing, ponds quiet, wonderful place to play with my dog, fisher folks present
- open area instead of apartments--the city did a great job, the design is beautiful
- sparse visitation. Large. Actual nature...not a park
- great trails
- great trails, quiet, not crowded
- quiet, animals, excellent trail
- multi-use (walking, biking, etc.)
- great hiking
- a pond. View of foothills.
- nice quiet walk
- beautiful trail, curvy, views, plowed in winter
- beautiful trail, lots of trees and birds
- nice trails along canals
- easy access to house, good hiking/biking, scenery
- hardened trail, proximity to river. Easy access, multiple uses
- Access to river, fishing, hardened and dirt trails, hiking, biking
- the pond is gorgeous. Trail well-maintained. Doggie bags. Soccer field playground
- bird watching, wildlife
- H's another world of trees and falling rushing water. Structures are old, have a patina
- Undeveloped path; naturalistic rock garden
- an oasis of insect sound in a silent subdivision
- beautiful gardens, trees and arboretum. Great place to bird and look for butterflies, identify trees and shrubs and look at what grows well in CO. Great peaceful spot right on campus
- large open space, as yet undeveloped. Near Spring Creek and Gardens on Spring Creek. I like to walk my dog around this area
- Turkey Virtue Roost. I check on the birds every time I drive down Mountain between March and October
- It has air, creativity, wind, train, temp.
- cottonwood grove near end of Richmond Dr. My favorite place as a kid, don't cut them down!
- birds, trees, quiet
- trees, WL, solitude, green space
- Beautiful place to watch the sunset. Secluded. Full of bees and birds and rabbits
- Full of great tree species, shade trees, deer and clandestine students
- the city does a great job maintaining the bike paths!
- I LOVE that we have a community garden area!
- some nice creek area on southern edge with cottonwoods. Close to home
- riparian corridor
- biodiversity, exercise
- peaceful, biodiversity, chance to learn about/observe nature
- labeled plants

- Wildlife, trees, nature, inter trails, reservoir
- great mix of developed park space, recreation area, and less developed space

Concerns with spots

- rattlesnakes
- fairly small park, not much diversity of experience
- often has cigarette butts that are left from high school students
- too much space given to sports fields
- no longer maintained
- will be replaced by a football stadium
- no continuity with bike trails to the east
- lots of construction nearby, weaves through traffic
- Not very natural--not a lot of trees. Duck pond gets a little funky in summer.
- some vandalism of cabin, industrial gravel operation nearby
- far away, you often have to pay to park at hiking trails
- often busy
- sewage plant can smell and make it impossible to enjoy
- parking/peds crossing Boardwalk during ballgames
- very crowded at times
- crossing Harmony
- restrooms near FCHS
- people with dogs off leash
- sometimes a little trashy
- sometimes it gets a bit crowded with bicyclists
- dogs and dog feces
- places to park are limited unless you pay for it
- dogs not on leash and dog feces
- looks more for parents/kids, close to an elementary school; is "park-like" rather than "natural"
- tends to be a transient hangout
- employees drive through the area
- busy
- traffic
- busy
- Pollution from neighborhood run-off, vandalism
- N/A
- currently portions are under construction
- vandalism
- paying to park
- dog feces, MANY MANY unleashed dogs
- Urban encroachment
- none
- trash, kids drinking/smoking

- not many places to sit/gather
- won't ride or bike alone because of homeless
- Willox is a high traffic street
- trash, unnatural rep.; polluted water, use of pesticides and herbicides (kills pollinators and frogs)
- too much mowed grass/unnatural vegetation
- mosquitos
- highwater closes when it rains (underpasses). Spring Creek East of College has a lot of fast food trash lately
- some trash
- river is current fenced off with orange plastic
- please keep wild plants and wild animals habitat focus
- loose dogs and rare wildlife
- traffic
- The Cattail Marsh was bulldozed last year!?
- bikes move pretty fast
- heavy use
- the junkyard
- the wetlands as a muddy bed have concerns of insect larvae, off leash dogs
- not enough viewing areas
- neglect is part of the positive; but also part of negative qualities (dumping in ditch)
- CSU is planning to build their idiotic on-campus football stadium
- CSU will probably build a parking lot in this open space
- The giant spruce trees where the birds roost may be at risk. Two of the trees have been cut down.
- Air getting polluted, water, getting polluted and is running off
- nearby development, fear (cottonwood trees) will get cutdown like many other cottonwoods in town
- I have none
- The new football stadium - This project is the future
- constuction causes closures=SMOKERS!
- people take our produce sometimes :(
- none, really
- increasing use by teens and violators of rules. Increasing enforcement of rules for regular users (catching wrong people)
- overmanagement by city, decreasing access, excessiver enforcement for poor reasons, decreasing quality of biodiversity because of over-management (for ex. Stormwater)
- weekenders are both needed and ruin atmosphere
- lack of funding within CSU and new football stadium
- Power Lines

Appendix C – Table notes from Session 2a - Map exercise to identify characteristics of places to access nature –

What were some of the most important positives for various spots?

- Close to home take a break from work, growing grass and other enhancements, great turnaround.
- Seeing the foothills from City Park
- Walking distance from home, great trees, a park that does its purpose like that at Martinez Park during the flood last year.
- Horsetooth Reservoir, ride horses, never thought you'd be able to have horses in the city of Fort Collins.
- Less traffic. motorized
- Great trails
- Prairie and spring creek trails- beautiful, trees birds... the views of the foothills. animals. (Kathy front prairie)
- I can walk to easy from house, neighborhood park... cattails and the marsh, kinda ugly. Big areas no people
- Early in morning, not many people
- I like to explore
- Openness and beauty
- Kept clean! (agreement) fort Collins s kept clean
- Not just city- people don't trash.
- Variety of animals, scenery, activities
- Easy access
- Little traffic near the areas"
- Seclusion, views, abundance of species to observe
- Fresh air
- Chance to expose and educate people to those places - open newbie's eyes to things that are out there
- I like being outside always, like space, like to know whats around me; Variety and diversity of development - mix of environments and things to do
- The City maintains bike routes well - better than they maintain handicap access"
- Water (ponds, rivers)- ducks
- Remote- few people, no ""city noise"" (cars, streets, people)
- Informality- lack pavement, maintenance, pesticides"
- Beauty and cleanliness
- Neighborhood Park hooks up with a trail
- Very well maintained
- The trail gives us easy access to other parks that are close by
- Trails
- "Jewel of Fort Collins"
- Reason for living in Fort Collins
- They are maintained well even in the winter
 - Sometimes when the weather is bad, there's no well maintained places to spend time outside, but we can always count on the trails being shoveled

- To be around water, and to be around the beauty
- Sometimes it's nice to be off of a trail and be around more wildlife, and see animal tracks and things like that
- It's nice to get away from people and to get away from the traffic and the noise
- Go walking in certain areas because it's nice to have a trail to walk on"
- Convenient, Clean, Quiet
- Overland- the one that i use is overland park and i absolutely love it- place to take the dog for a walk. take my grandson-
- Big soccer field, kids, people, bathrooms are clean
- Reservoir ridge- picnic area is nice
- Rogers park- close to my house, nice dog walk, community garden, more naturalized, great for families, old barn has a real nice feel to it. adds some history. see horses from peoples back yards.
- Fossil creek- magnificent- bald eagles in the winter, encroached upon by large estate type houses. good thing- quite a bit of wetlands that is preserved

What were some concerns or reasons you don't utilize certain spots?

- City Park Plum Street apartment area.
- Blevins Park won't go there dog poop, dog biting children.
- People in the area smoking pot, call the high school, trying to manage this problem.
- Difference in age where teenagers can't even say hi to other people out in the area.
- Dogs off leash
- Traffic and the noise.
- Dog poop in bags
- Afraid of getting hit by bikes- don't give warning
- Agreement>
- I wrote an article about this: I am a biker, about rude bikers, rude passing, why?
- Worries me about bikers
- People killing rattlesnakes/ approaching. I worry about that
- All these signs about be careful car will be broken into- truth to these signs? Are there break-ins on trailheads?
- Yes I think so
- Still go there, but if break-ins become serious...
- It's a little bit out of character of FOCO. Not real concern about areas.
- Doesn't matter.
- Went there MORE when closer, but still go anyways, even though it would be nicer if closer, can't move prairie in front of house
- I like to walk from front door. I could get to foothills... like walking. Not going to walk too far. Eliminate too far. Some places I'll stop if I happen to be close/have time
- The segmentation of the parks and residential areas- too difficult for people and animals to transition.
- Too much building near or on natural areas
- Roger's park- small, no sense of community, too much trash

- FRCC- parking lot expansion inhibiting wildlife
- Little continuity for paths to bike on- makes riders cross busy streets"
- Water run off, not managed as best it could be
- I agree, hate seeing pavement in natural areas
- Sustainable practices aren't used enough - example of cement parking lots; all about design - need better block off
- Waste control/management - there should be more recycling and composting services available throughout the city
- Cutting down cottonwood trees - I would like to see less nature being taken down/destroyed
- Maintained lawns- too planned, gardened, maintained with chemicals
- Cars- noise of the city and traffic
- Unsafe bike paths with steep slopes and blind spots (suggest the addition/ repair of more bridges)
- Trash which caused stunted plant growth and repels wildlife"
- They still utilize the places, but my group was annoyed with the bags of dog poop people just leave on the ground.
- Sometimes it's hard to get through green areas and natural areas because it's wet, or because it's muddy
- Dogs and dog leftovers are a major deterrent
- Speeding bicyclists on the Poudre River Trail are scary
- Concerned about storm water and natural areas
- There needs to be ore training for the people who spray the trails
 - They don't know the difference between a rare, and possibly native plant, and a weed
 - This could lead to native species of plant being wiped out or endangered
- Golf Courses should not be considered natural areas. You can't just go walking on a golf course. It's "dangerous".
- Overland-there is a marsh/wetland that was dugout last year and now it is coming back and it is muddy (worry about insects, larvae, algae) when i walk to dog- all of that nasty- looks like a breeding ground for "bad things"
- We don't use it that much because it is very open- its almost too much nature- weekend it is very crowded
- Reservoir ridge- lack of trees- windy

Notes specifically reacting to the "where did you access nature" categories?

- 2. Participants appreciate the large number of parks throughout the city. They want to see more of if this type of development. They access nature through the parks often; however, would like to see more connecting paths/trails between different parks. Specifically greater access running East and West.
- 2. I'd like to see more pocket park development when open spaces get developed. They're tiny places (about a block big) that are parks, like a waterfall with seating. It's a place where people can get to from anywhere and are little. In Portland, neighbors have contracts to make natural areas in their neighborhood, it comes from the neighborhood and is called neighborhood repair
F: Who enacts neighborhood repair and what does it look like?
Neighbors enact it and it can be anything the neighborhood wants, it's meant to build community
- 3. Closeness to the house.
- 3/5. Mentioned open space as a priority in accessing nature. The open space in one participant's neighborhood belongs to the school, and it has not been maintained but had lost its beauty through trash.
- 6: convenience is interesting- it's not like we can move things around. can't change that. I guess the idea is to focus on what they can do.
- 6: or at least improve access to- close by? cross major roads? not convenient
- 7. Love water spaces! Rivers/ponds were particularly enjoyed and important.
- 9: we try to go everywhere. new, old, take our dogs with us. not every area is dog friendly.

Notes on "other" categories for "where did you access nature?"

- The social meeting up with other people.
- Recreational for being social, it should be accessible."
- I have diff concern about project- we love natural areas outside the city – gateway- aren't represented in discussion. They require going in a car. we need to be.
- I feel constrained by these choices- I use trails. No way for me to put that in categories. It should be added to list. Sometimes it's long a stream. I run, bike thru lots of trails.
- Paths and trails
- Nothing specifically
- Quiet, fast bikes are still a big concern because they intimidate people who want to go on a walk from using the trails
- Want a choice that connects different wildlife areas
- One person was really shocked/annoyed that "my own yard" wasn't an option.
- Other: Trails
 - they are always cleared in the winter
 - nice to have somewhere solid to walk on
 - it's nice seeing people out there as well
 - trails definitely should have been an option for people to chose from
- Gardens and yards, rock garden at the YMCA are really nea

- some yards have native grass that aren't mowed- not flowers and shrub from the nursery either- naturalistic
- naturalistic gardens and yards
- my own backyard
- the sky- amazing what you can see fly over this town (birds) (storms) (sunsets)- anywhere you go

Any additional notes on the "where to access" points?

- My table was excited about the possibility of developing a continuous network of paths and trails to all the natural areas and parks in Foco. They like that many are close to where they live, but they are concerned when they want to continue on paths and they end up having to cross busy streets to get to them.
- Connectivity, create wildlife corridors
- Went to a CSU event discussing designing for diversity, but it's not our job to manage the environment.
- We are intrinsic to nature - consider that in City actions - noted in triple bottom line and other projects. Minimize our effects on nature
- Maybe there's a way to combine water conservation and nature in the city?
- There's a conception that every nice place should be available to all use, but many of those uses are not compatible, for example, dog parks separated from other parks, then both sides have a choice. I'm not anti-dog, but there's some intrusion. Multiple use isn't always good, there should be segregated uses. Multiple use doesn't work well - you can't hunt and bird watch in the same place. Everyone has a place, but it's not every place."
- Our group really liked trails.

Notes on the "values/why I access nature" categories

- It's nice to get out and about.
- Balance between manmade environment and natural environment.
- Fit with the environment, take advice of the geographers.
- Turn back a turf area into a natural area."
- Not on here is great interactions with other humans when on trails. Meet people haven't seen in years. You and others share something. Love for being in place at this time
- I agree
- Number 8 is nebulous statement. if you don't live in foco...
- Helps build community
- Agree! foco is a beautiful city. Only place compare is Scottsdale, spends money on landscaping. Natural areas add to it
- Our table got a bit off topic, so we didn't really get to this part of the discussion.
- Our group mainly discussed escaping the urban environment as a primary value. Natural spaces that are minimally landscaped, include water, dirt trails and seclusion.

- I like the tow of Fort Collins, but everyday I want to get out of it
- I appreciate the critters
- That's not where I want to be
- Well for some people, nature is the perfect place to get exercise
- This shouldn't have even been an option; it's not a part of natural areas
- For some people it is, though
- You can do the same kind of exercise downtown
- Some people don't want to
- On a daily basis, you can go to places with nature that are close
- We need nature more than it needs us for own well-being
- The dog dropping and horse leftovers are annoying
- 2. Wildlife
- Connectivity Issue--must create corridors for the habitat to develop within the community
- I bought my house where it is due to it's connectivity to these corridors where wildlife resides
- Poudre River is a natural corridor and we should use it to our greatest advantage
- Spring Creek Trail is another corridor, but it gets a little narrow at points, thus limiting the habitat
- We should be creating more space between ditches/corridors and developments, the critters like to have their space
- There is a lack of community gardens--Urban Agriculture seems like a win-win
- 6. Cannot safely get to some places (i.e. Needing to take Shields via bike because the location is too close to drive to)
 - Another example: Power Trail @ Harmony Rd: wide street to cross with lots of traffic- gets nervous about safety when taking his Grandson places"
- Escape from urban environment

Notes on any "other" categories for "values/why I access nature"

- Everyone at our table agreed that a very important aspect of nature was community building, and had strong social values.
- Our table got a bit off topic, so we didn't really get to this part of the discussion.
- This list is lacking a lot
- Community connectedness should be on the list
 - (Group agrees) It's nice seeing people out on the trails"

Any additional notes from the Nature in the City process

- No planning in other cities like this (ex. Atlanta) doesn't compare
- This started years ago
- You can tell planning was already in place
- Increase clay paths like the ones at FRCC- low cost, increases access, helps students get credit (I think they built them).
- Create off setting fences for easier access"
- Our table got a bit off topic, so we didn't really get to this part of the discussion.

- Participant thinks donated natural areas are not being properly maintained by the schools. They get tremendous use and accumulate trash. Would like to see the city take a larger role in protecting the quality of natural areas.
- What do y'all think has been missing from this conversation? Values, Things to Consider, etc?
- It's a Multi-modal issue (connectivity w/o requiring vehicle)
- Used to bike lots of places, great way to get to know the city, then started hearing about a lot of accidents. Now, bikes less now and sees less of the city
- Safety is a big issue
- Access doesn't fit into the list of categories—VALUES for accessing nature...not accessing problems in general
- Ecological value—scientific evaluation
- What would provide the most benefit?
- Developing the mall- would love to see destroying some of that paved space around the mall and provide more nature space
- The city should be (if there is anything the city can do) preserving habitat- improve things for wildlife- keeping people out of some areas (dogs too)