



On the Trail to Health, Heritage, and Happiness

Route 1: "Lions' Share of History"

<https://goo.gl/maps/P3v2rWNY5uE2>

County, City/Town:	Larimer, Laporte and Bellvue
One-way length:	2.8 miles, approximately
Estimated travel time:	Walking time one-way and stopping to answer questions and take pictures = 1.5 hours
Suggested Season:	Summer, Fall
Cell phone coverage:	Available for entire route

Route Recommendations: The route and Points of Interest (POIs) are described travelling from east to west, beginning at Lions Open Space on N. Overland Trail in Laporte and ending where the Poudre Trail currently ends, at the entrance to Watson Fish Hatchery / Watson Lake in Bellvue. Easily complete a 5.6 mile round-trip by bike, walk 1.4 miles to the halfway point and then turn back to complete 2.8 miles, or walk the entire 2.8 mile route by bringing a friend and two cars — park one at the Lions Open Space trailhead and the other at the trailhead at Watson Lake.

Getting there:

- Trailhead at Lions Open Space (recommended starting point): **The trailhead is located at 2449 N. Overland Trail in Laporte, CO.** From NCRH, head west on Hwy 34 and take the I-25 north exit. Proceed on I-25 for 10.9 miles and then take the exit for Prospect Rd (Exit 268), headed west. Follow Prospect Rd through Fort Collins for 7 miles. Turn right (north) onto S. Overland Trail and proceed 4.1 miles to Lions Open Space. The parking lot will be on the west side of the road. (We recommend using Prospect Rd due to a section of Mulberry St near City Park being closed for construction).
- Trailhead at Watson Fish Hatchery/Watson Lake: **The trailhead is located at approximately 4996 W. County Road 52E in Bellvue, CO.** From NCRH, head west on Hwy 34 and take the I-25 north exit. Proceed on I-25 for 10.9 miles and then take the exit for Prospect Rd (Exit 268), headed west. Follow Prospect Rd through Fort Collins for 7 miles. (We recommend using Prospect Rd due to a section of Mulberry St near City Park being closed for construction). Turn right (north) onto S. Overland Trail and proceed 4.4 miles, past Lions Open Space to the intersection of N. Overland Trail and 287-B / W. County Road 54G in Laporte. Turn left onto 287-B and head northwest for 1 mile before turning left (west) onto Rist Canyon Rd. Follow Rist Canyon Road for 1 mile and then just after you cross the Poudre River, turn right (north) onto W. County Road 52E where you see the "Watson State Trout Rearing Unit" sign. The parking lot is just behind that sign. .
- Watson Fish Hatchery/Watson Lake trailhead to Lions Open Space trailhead: If you decide to bring two cars and leave one at each end of the route, we recommend leaving a car first at the trailhead at Watson Lake and then driving to Lions Open Space on N. Overland Trail to start the route. From the trailhead parking lot at Watson Fish Hatchery/Watson Lake, head northeast on Rist Canyon Rd for one mile. Turn right onto 287-B/W. County Road 54 G. Head east for 1 mile and then turn right onto N. Overland Trail. Proceed .3 miles to the Lions Open Space parking lot.

Make a day of it—Fun for the whole family! When we say "lion's share of history," we're not kidding! In the route description, you'll see 3 "delightful diversions" that will take you to different historical sites in the area (map on last page). There are also two more nearby sites that you won't want to miss: the 1883 Fort Collins Water Works and the Bingham Hill Cemetery.

- **The 1883 Fort Collins Water Works** was to provide the town of Fort Collins with a better water supply system. By 1900, the community outgrew this first water system, but this Gothic-style pump house is now a Historic Landmark that is open to the public. They are in the process of turning this building into a Water Interpretive Center.
- **The Bingham Hill Pioneer Cemetery** houses over 150 historical graves, dating back as early as 1862. A stone monument lists the names of all the people known to be buried in the cemetery. Visitors are asked to show their respect to this site.

Fort Collins Water Works: 2005 N. Overland Trail in Laporte. (970) 221-0533 poudrelandmarks.org/water-works/

- Tickets: FREE, donations appreciated
- Hours: Open on the second Saturday of each month from May through October. 10am to 3pm. Several special events are held throughout the year.

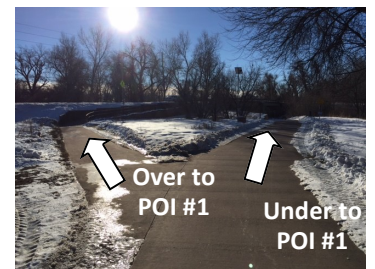
Bingham Hill Pioneer Cemetery: 3706 Bingham Hill Rd in Laporte (approximate address).

- The narrow dirt trail leading into the cemetery is located on Bingham Hill Rd just past the irrigation ditch that leads southeast to the Water Works.



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START: Lions Open Space trailhead parking lot at 2449 N. Overland Trail, Laporte. From the parking lot, first head southeast on the trail where it crosses under (or over) N. Overland Trail.



POI #1: Lions Open Space Bridge – .3 miles. Cross the bridge and stop where the bridge ends and heads into the Butterfly Woods Open Space.

- **Seasonal Selfie:** Take a selfie looking up river with as much of the bridge in the background as you can!



POI #1: L: Looking southeast, R: At other end of bridge, looking back upriver

Head back across the bridge to Lions Open Space: Go back the way you came towards the parking lot. When you reach the parking lot, continue northwest on the Poudre Trail along the river towards the next POI or follow the directions below to visit a “delightful diversion.”



In Lions Open Space, head northwest on the Poudre Trail. The trail will wind through the woods before reaching the chainlink fence that surrounds the Cache la Poudre School.



Fence bordering Cache la Poudre School on the right, river to the left.

POI #2: Edge of Cache la Poudre School grounds — .8 miles. This is a beautiful section of the trail that runs next to the river. Take it all in!

- **Seasonal Selfie:** Take a selfie with the river and foothills in the background.



POI #2: A scenic view of the river

POI #3: The Poudre Trail takes a sharp left turn (1.2 miles) and proceeds northwest on the trail alongside 287-B/W County Rd 54G to the next POI.



Turn left to stay on the Poudre Trail

POI #4: Taylor and Gill Ditches wayside interpretive sign — 1.4 miles **HALFWAY POINT**

- **Heritage Hunt Question:** How long is the Taylor and Gill Ditch?
- **Heritage Hunt Question:** Scan the QR code on the interpretive sign (or visit the website listed by the QR code: www.poudrerivertour.com/taylor), watch the ***Poudre Heritage Alliance*** video and answer the following question:

In what year did Congress designate the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area?



POI #3: Taylor and Gill ditch wayside interpretive sign

- **Seasonal Selfie:** Take a selfie with the Taylor and Gill ditch charthouse in the background.

Taylor and Gill ditch charthouse



Continue northwest on the Poudre Trail, cross the Taylor and Gill Ditch, and then turn left (south) onto Galway Drive. Walk a short ways down Galway Drive to the next POI.



POI #5: Antoine Janis monument—1.8 miles. This stone monument and plaque honor Antoine Janis, the first European settler in the area.



Continue to follow the Poudre Trail as it turns onto Rist Canyon Road near Vern's Place. The trail crosses Rist Canyon Road right before the Poudre River.



Trail crosses Rist Canyon Road

POI #6: Bellvue Hydraulic Irrigation Laboratory wayside interpretive sign — 2.7 miles

- **Heritage Hunt Question:** What was the name of the college that Ralph Parshall taught at?
- **Heritage Hunt Question:** Scan the QR code on the interpretive sign (or visit the website listed by the QR code: www.poudrerivertour.com/bellvue), watch the ***Water Innovation*** video and answer the following question: In what year was the Parshall Flume patented?



Continue to follow over two bridges until you reach the end of the Poudre Trail.

END: This is the official end of the Poudre Trail in Larimer County - 2.8 miles. The parking lot is at the entrance to Watson Fish Hatchery/Watson Lake (behind the sign), located at approximately 4996 W. County Road 52E, Bellvue, CO.

