

# Upper Poudre: North Fork through Timnath

## Natural and Recreation Areas: Parks, Open Space, Wildlife Viewing

*\*Note that each entry below includes an index number that corresponds to the included resource location map.*

### **Arapaho Bend Natural Area (46)**

This 278-acre former gravel mine has several ponds which provide habitat for bass, yellow perch, and pumpkinseed fishes. Cormorants, raccoons, beavers, rabbits, snapping turtles, and skunks also live here. Parking lots are located at the corner of Horsetooth Road and Strauss Cabin Road, along Strauss Cabin Road, and at the Harmony Transportation Transfer Center. There are two miles of soft-surface trails with interpretive signs and benches.

### **Archery Park (45)**

Established in 1984, the park that includes the archery range is located southwest of the intersection of Interstate-25 and East Prospect Road at the south end of the frontage road, past the weigh station, and is maintained by the Fort Collins Archery Association under an agreement with the City of Fort Collins. The site features two practice ranges at marked yardages and an unmarked fourteen target field range

that runs along the Poudre River. There range provides restrooms, picnic tables, and a shelter, and is available for group events. For more information regarding events, permitting or passes, contact call 970-221-6660 or visit [parkshop@fcgov.com](mailto:parkshop@fcgov.com).

### **Buckingham Park (35)**

Located at 101 First St., 5.75-acre Buckingham Park has various amenities including: barbeque grills, baseball fields, basketball courts, drinking fountains, a turf area, parking, playgrounds, restrooms, and shelters.

### **Butterfly Woods Natural Area (19)**

In the past, Butterfly Woods was a small-fruit agricultural area, and it is gradually being restored to a natural riparian (riverside) forest and upland. The most popular way to visit is by bicycling or walking on the paved, wheel-chair accessible, .4-mile section of the Poudre River Trail adjacent to the natural area. Butterfly Woods is east of the unique pedestrian bridge over the Poudre River near Overland Trail Road. Visitors may see squirrels, foxes, raccoons, mule deer, mourning doves and woodpeckers. This natural area is home to the two-spotted skipper and the smokey-eyed brown butterfly – both rare species whose habitat is protected by the on-trail only policy. Butterfly Woods is located along the Poudre River Trail about ¼ mile east of Lions Park. The nearest parking lot is at Lions Park on North Overland Trail Rd.

**Cattail Chorus Natural Area (39)**

This 40-acre naturalized gravel-mined group of ponds provides habitat for a high diversity of migrant and resident songbirds and waterfowl. The cottonwoods provide a winter roosting site for great blue herons. Yellow-headed blackbirds nest in the cattails. The natural area is accessible from the Poudre River Trail via a pedestrian-only trail. Bicycle parking is available at the trail entrance and benches and interpretive signage are provided.

**Cottonwood Hollow Natural Area (40)**

One of the two ponds on this 93-acre former gravel mining site has been reclaimed to create habitat specifically for shorebirds. A gradual shoreline and abundant wetland plants have been established. This natural area provides habitat for a high diversity of birds especially in the spring and summer. Red-winged and yellow-headed blackbirds, egrets, herons, sandpipers, pelicans, and killdeer make use of the pond and wetlands. Warblers, kingbirds, and song sparrows nest in the uplands. Painted turtles, foxes, muskrats, and both mule deer and white-tailed deer inhabit this natural area. There is a parking lot off Prospect Road, and the natural area offers a soft-surface trail, interpretive features and benches. The natural area is for pedestrians only - no dogs, horses, or bikes.

**Fort Collins Heritage Park (28)**

Located at 112 E. Willow St. and 13 acres in size, Fort Collins Heritage Park

is equipped with the following amenities: basketball courts, drinking fountains, playgrounds, racquetball courts, skate park and a turf area.

**Gateway Natural Area (1)**

Gateway Natural Area (formerly Gateway Mountain Park) is the site of the city's old water filtration plant, where the North Fork of the Poudre River joins the main Poudre River. Visitors enjoy it because its tucked away from the noise of Highway 14 and Gateway is only 15 miles from Fort Collins! You'll find hiking trails, a designated launch area for kayaks and canoes, fishing, picnic tables with grills, informational kiosks and a natural playground. The natural area is located at 5216 Poudre Canyon Highway. For more information contact City of Fort Collins: 970-416-2480, [www.fcgov.com/naturalareas/finder/gateway](http://www.fcgov.com/naturalareas/finder/gateway).

**Gustav Swanson Natural Area (35)**

This natural area is located a few blocks from downtown Fort Collins along the Poudre River. Interpretive signs and benches help you enjoy this special spot. Over 45 species of birds have been seen here, including green-winged teal, great blue herons, owls, kestrels, and Bullock's orioles. Bats, foxes, and deer are also seen here from time to time. The site contains .4 miles of paved, wheelchair accessible trails. The parking lot is on Linden Street, between Riverside St. and Buckingham St.

### **Horse Tooth Mountain Open Space (12)**

The scenic 2,711-acre Horsetooth Mountain Open Space (consisting of Culver, Soderberg, and Hughey Open Spaces) covers elevations from 5,430 to 7,255 feet. Its 29 miles of hiking, biking, and horseback riding trails connect to the Blue Sky Trail and Lory State Park trails. The open space is located at 1800 S. County Road 31, Loveland, CO 80537. For more information contact Larimer County: 970-679-4570, [www.co.larimer.co.us/parks/htmp.htm](http://www.co.larimer.co.us/parks/htmp.htm)

### **Horsetooth Recreation Area (10)**

Surrounded by 1,900 acres of public lands, this 6.5-mile reservoir offers fishing, boating, camping, picnicking, swimming, scuba diving, rock climbing, and water skiing. As part of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project to divert water from the west slope to the east slope for drinking water, irrigation, and hydropower generation, the reservoir is jointly operated by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District who manage water levels for irrigation, municipal, and industry use. Larimer County manages recreation. The reservoir requires entrance and camping permits, and is open year round. It's located west of Fort Collins, Colorado, at an elevation of 5,420 feet.

### **Kingfisher Point Natural Area (38)**

This natural area provides habitat for birds such as great horned owls (they occasionally nest here), kingfishers, wood ducks, pelicans and western tanagers, and more. Part of Kingfisher Point Natural Area was acquired with the help of a Great Outdoors Colorado grant. Nix Natural Area has been incorporated into Kingfisher Point Natural Area and the property east of Timberline is now known as Cattail Chorus Natural Area. The natural area contains approximately 0.8 miles of the paved Poudre River Trail (wheelchair accessible) and 0.2 miles soft surface from parking lot on Timberline. Note that



*Horsetooth Reservoir in Fort Collins: photo courtesy of Colorado State University [www.news.colostate.edu/Release/5619](http://www.news.colostate.edu/Release/5619)*

there is no trailhead parking at 1745 Hoffman Mill Road. A short spur trail goes from the Poudre River Trail south to the Natural Areas Department's headquarters and maintenance facility (called Nix). Check out the native plant demonstration garden that surrounds the office. Parking is located on Timberline, between Prospect and Mulberry or from Poudre River Trail between Lemay and Timberline.

### **Lee Martinez Park (25)**

The park was named by the Fort Collins City Council after Librado (Lee) Martinez, a long time resident and community leader. Mr. Martinez served on the Fort Collins Human Relations Commission and was active in many other capacities for several organizations. Facilities include playground, picnic shelter, basketball courts, restrooms, ball fields, parking, The Farm and Poudre Trail. The park is located at 600 N. Sherwood St. in Fort Collins. For more information contact City of Fort Collins: 413 South Bryan Ave, Fort Collins, CO 80521, 970-221-6660, [www.fcgov.com/parks/finder/lee-martinez](http://www.fcgov.com/parks/finder/lee-martinez).

### **Legacy Park (27)**

The 8.4-acre park contains barbeque grills and shelters, and parking. It is adjacent to Salyer Natural Area on the Poudre River and is accessible by Woodlawn Dr.

### **Lions Park (16)**

This popular park plays host to habitat that supports a critically imperiled butterfly species. Further along the trail, are concentrations of narrowleaf cottonwood and chokecherry. The property is located on Overland Trail north of Ft. Collins, past Bingham Hill Rd. Lions Park is on the west side of the road, before you get to the town of La Porte. For more information contact Larimer County: 200 W. Oak Street, 970-498-7000, [www.larimer.org/openlands/os\\_lions\\_park.htm](http://www.larimer.org/openlands/os_lions_park.htm).

### **Lory State Park (11)**

Hit the trail at Lory State Park and enjoy mountain biking, hiking and horseback riding amid some fabulous foothills scenery just minutes from Fort Collins and adjacent to Horsetooth Reservoir. For more information contact State Parks Department: 708 Lodgepole Drive Bellvue, 970-493-1623, [www.parks.state.co.us/Parks](http://www.parks.state.co.us/Parks)

### **Maxwell Natural Area (13)**

Listen for the spotted towhee's call, which sounds like "drink-your-teeeee," and look for mule deer which are common but easily blend into the mountain mahogany shrubs. The rare Bell's twinpod grows at Maxwell. Watch out for rattlesnakes here. The 1.5 mile trail at Maxwell Natural Area is part of the 6.8 mile Foothills Trail which crosses city, county, state and federal lands. The Foothills Trail connects Pineridge, Maxwell and Reservoir Ridge natural



**Mountain biking facilities at Lory State Park**  
[http://csp.civicore.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=Opportunities.View&Opportunity\\_ID=2044](http://csp.civicore.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=Opportunities.View&Opportunity_ID=2044)

areas. Trail markers show you the way. Biking on the Foothills Trail is for the experienced cyclist- the trail is challenging. Maxwell Natural Area is just west of CSU's Hughes Stadium. Parking lots are off County Rd 42 C and on Centennial/CR 23. Please do not park along CR 42C roadway. There is one designated horse trailer parking spot.

**McMurray Natural Area (24)**

Anglers love McMurry's two ponds and river frontage that provide habitat for more than 20 species of fish - more than any other natural area in Fort Collins. You may find orange spotted sunfish, smallmouth and largemouth bass, bluegills, black crappie or yellow perch. Birds at McMurry include cedar waxwings, Bullock's orioles and even osprey, a raptor once near the brink of extinction and still relatively rare in Colorado. Snapping and painted turtles

often sun themselves on warm summer days. Rabbits, muskrats, and red fox make their homes here as well. McMurry Natural Area was acquired with the help of a Great Outdoors Colorado grant. There are 1.5 miles of natural surface trails with a connection to Magpie Meander Natural Area and Salyer Natural Area. There is a boat launch for non-motorized boats on the eastern pond. Park in the lot at the west end of Hemlock Street.

**Nix Natural Area (38)**

This natural area is adjacent to the Fort Collins Natural Areas Program Headquarters and Kingfisher Point Natural area. It is accessible from Hoffman Mill Rd, and directly accesses the Poudre Trail.



**Bridge through River Bluffs Open Space in Larimer County: photo courtesy of Larimer.org**

**North Shields Pond Natural Area (22)**

This natural area has nice views of the mountains and a feeling of remoteness, even close to town. It's popular for anglers, equestrians and hikers. Fish species include black bullhead, channel

catfish, bluegill, hybrid sunfishes, largemouth bass, and black crappie. Birdwatchers will want to look for any of the 30 species of birds that have been seen here including red-winged blackbirds, great blue herons, snow geese and American wigeons. Native plants include showy milkweed (upon which the monarch butterfly is dependent), cattails, and cottonwood trees. The natural area offers 1.5 miles of natural surface trail, wheelchair accessible fishing deck, picnic tables and benches. The parking lot is on Shields St, north of Shields/Vine, west side of road.

### **Picnic Rock (3)**

This state park encompasses 13 acres of land along the Cache la Poudre River, 12 miles northwest of Fort Collins. This site is used mainly by anglers, kayakers and rafters. Along this stretch of river is the only beginning-level white water on the Cache la Poudre. It begins above Upper Picnic Rock and ends at lower Picnic Rock. The fishing at Picnic Rock is good for brown, brook and rainbow trout. The state Division of Wildlife stocks the non-wild trout waters of the Cache la Poudre River with 53,000 fish. For more information contact state Parks Department: 708 Lodgepole Drive , Bellvue, CO, 80512, 970-493-1623, [www.wildernet.com](http://www.wildernet.com)

### **Reservoir Ridge Natural Area (9)**

This 311-acre site provides key winter deer habitat, and raptors are often seen here. Views of the City, Watson Lake,

and Goat Hill to the north, south, and east are spectacular. There is a parking lot off Centennial Drive, and the natural area is accessible from Foothills Trail.

### **River's Edge Natural Area (27)**

River's Edge provides habitat for red fox, deer, kingfisher and mallard amongst others, and is part of a network of parks and natural areas that create a natural green corridor along the river just blocks from Downtown Fort Collins. Parking is available at the west end of Woodlawn Drive, and the can be trail accessed from Lee Martinez Park and Salyer Natural Area.

<http://www.fcgov.com/naturalareas/finder/riversedge>

### **Riverbend Ponds Natural Area (39)**

Previously a gravel mining site, this 226-acre natural area supports abundant wildlife. This is an excellent area to view waterfowl, herons, rails, bitterns, cormorants, red-winged blackbirds, shorebirds, and other wetland birds. Painted turtles, frogs, muskrats, and beavers are also seen here. During spring and fall, a variety of migrant warblers and other songbirds can be seen and heard in the forest along the river. This riparian forest also supports owls, woodpeckers, and songbirds throughout the year. Fox squirrels, cottontail rabbits, red foxes, and both white-tailed and mule deer frequent the wooded and grassland areas. The wet meadow in the boardwalk area supports the prairie gentian, a rare plant found only in a few places in Colorado.

Parking lots are located off Prospect, Cherly, and Timberline. Visitors can take a self-guided walk. There are soft-surface trails, interpretive signs, an accessible fishing pier and boardwalk as well as benches and a restroom.

### **Running Deer Natural Area (43)**

As its name suggests, deer love Running Deer because of the plentiful food, water and shelter for them here. Visitors may see deer either bedded down or running across the site. In spring and summer, you may see American white pelicans flying low over Running Deer as they head for the ponds at adjacent Cottonwood Hollow Natural Area. The site was purchased in part with a grant from Great Outdoors Colorado. The site contains about two miles of soft surface trail for pedestrians only. Running Deer is one of the few natural areas where no bikes or dogs are permitted. Dogs and bikes are allowed at Riverbend Ponds, on the north side of Prospect Rd. Parking lots are located on east Prospect Rd and at the Colorado Welcome Center on Prospect Rd. The site can also be reached via the Prospect Rd underpass from Riverbend Ponds Natural Area.

### **Salyer Natural Area (24)**

Easy to get to from the Poudre Trail and nearby neighborhoods, this site is situated along the north side of the Poudre River, with .3 miles of paved, wheel chair accessible trails, and another .3 miles of natural surface trails. Look for waterfowl and birds such as

killdeers, belted kingfishers, and song sparrows. You may notice the iris on the site sign- it is a native plant found at Salyer. The iris have been temporarily relocated while the meadow is restored to its native condition. Nearest parking is at the west end of Woodlawn Drive or the west end of Hemlock Street. The trail can be accessed from Lee Martinez Park and McMurry Natural Area. [www.fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://www.fcgov.com/naturalareas)

### **Seaman Reservoir (2)**

Owned and managed by the City of Greeley for water supply purposes, the reservoir is located 15 miles northwest of Fort Collins up the Poudre Canyon in the Gateway Natural Area. This reservoir is primarily known for its access to good cliff jumping during the summer. Depending on the water level, cliffs around the reservoir can range from 6–70 feet. The adjacent Seaman Reservoir Trail is 1.0 mile long in one direction and has almost zero elevation gain.

### **Springer Natural Area (37)**

Springer is a forested natural area along the Poudre River Trail. Just a short distance east of Lemay on the Poudre River Trail, visitors will find an interpretive sign that describes the American black currant, which grows in the area, and is listed as critically imperiled in Colorado. Wildlife watchers are likely to see and hear a number of migratory songbirds, waterfowl, and waterbirds that are typically found here. You may also see evidence of beaver

activity on this natural area. Nearest parking is at Lemay/Mulberry (Qdoba/Dairy Queen area). Trail access from the Poudre River Trail. [www.fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://www.fcgov.com/naturalareas)

### **Sterling Natural Area (21)**

Sterling Natural Area was incorporated into North Shields Ponds as part of the site renaming directed in the 2011 update to the Cache La Poudre River Natural Areas Management Plan. The entire property that was previously known as Sterling Natural Area is now known as North Shields Ponds.. [www.fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://www.fcgov.com/naturalareas)

### **Terry Lake (23)**

Terry Lake on a tributary of Dry Creek is in Larimer County, Colorado and is used for irrigation purposes and is the property of Larimer & Weld Reservoir Company. The Terry Lake Recreation Association (TLRA) is a not-for-profit organization formed to maintain a cost effective lease of the lake and the surrounding greenbelt area with the Larimer and Weld Reservoir Company for the exclusive recreational use by its active members. For more info contact Terry Lake Recreation Association, PO Box 215 Fort Collins, CO 80522 [www.terrylakerecreationassn.org](http://www.terrylakerecreationassn.org)

### **Timnath Reservoir (47)**

Timnath Reservoir opened to Timnath Residents in the summer of 2009 for recreation purposes. Access to the reservoir is off of County Road 40, between County Road 5 and County

Road 1. For more info contact the Town of Timnath: 4800 Goodman Street, Timnath, CO 80547, 970-224-3211, [www.timnathco.govoffice2.com](http://www.timnathco.govoffice2.com)

### **Udall Natural Area (36)**

Located on Lincoln Street, between Riverside Avenue and Buckingham Park, Udall Natural Area is co-owned and co-managed with Fort Collins Utilities for water quality, flood control and wildlife habitat. The water from downtown and nearby neighborhood storm drains flows into a series of ponds before entering the Poudre River. The settling ponds and wetlands filter the water but they aren't a water treatment plant. Please don't pour oil, chemicals or even soapy water from washing cars into storm drains- they drain into the river and impact the entire aquatic system from bugs to birds to animals. As of the writing of this plan, this natural area was not open to the public. [www.fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://www.fcgov.com/naturalareas)

### **Watson Lake State Wildlife Area (7)**

Located 2 miles west of LaPorte and 6 miles northwest of Fort Collins on CR 52E adjacent to the Poudre River, activities include fishing picnicking, and wildlife viewing from nature trails. For more information contact the DOW: Fort Collins Service Center, 317 W. Prospect, Fort Collins, 970-472-4300, <http://wildlife.state.co.us/Landwater/statewildlifeareas>



**Williams Natural Area (37)**

This site provides wildlife habitat along the Poudre River. Some .1 miles of the paved Poudre River Trail runs through the site and serves as the primary access. The nearest parking is at

Mulberry/Lemay near Qdoba.  
[www.fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://www.fcgov.com/naturalareas)

## Cultural, Educational and Historic Landmarks

*\*Note that each entry below includes an index number that corresponds to the included resource location map.*

### **The Avery House (30)**

Built in 1879, the Avery House represents the gains made by those "founding fathers" of Fort Collins who committed themselves to the economic development of the town of Fort Collins. Serving as a military post between 1862 and 1866, Fort Collins was established to protect the Cherokee Trail and guard the Overland Stage line. In 1873, Fort Collins was incorporated as a town. <http://www.poudrelandmarks.org>

### **Colorado Welcome Center (42)**

Colorado experts provide complimentary Colorado maps, routing information, weather updates, brochures and more. The welcome center houses the North Park Region office of Colorado State Parks and the Rocky Mountain Nature Association bookstore. The center is surrounded by more than 200 acres of nature preserve, with nature and interpretive trails, picnic areas and more. For more information contact the welcome center: 3745 E. Prospect Rd., Fort Collins, CO 80525, 970-491-3583, [www.colorado.com/FortCollinsWelcomeCenter.aspx](http://www.colorado.com/FortCollinsWelcomeCenter.aspx).

### **CSU Environmental Learning Center (41)**

The ELC mission is to connect people with nature by facilitating educational, inclusive and safe experiences in the natural environment and to advance the field of environmental education through sound research and practice. For more information contact the ELC: 2400 South County Road 9, Ft. Collins, CO 80525, 970-491-1661 <http://warnercnr.colostate.edu/elc-home>.

### **Farm at Lee Martinez Park (25)**

The Farm opened in 1985 and has become a very popular place for families to observe farm animals. Self-guided tours lead visitors around the farm, but guided tours are also available. The Farm Museum offers displays of antique farm implements. Pony rides are available. This was a real farm, operated by the George Wilcox family from 1912. In 1920, the farm was sold to J.A. Nelson, and Nelson's Dairy was established. After 1945, the property changed hands many times, before it was purchased by the city. For more information, contact The Farm: 970-221-6665, [www.fcgov.com/recreation/thefarm.php](http://www.fcgov.com/recreation/thefarm.php).

### **Fort Collins Museum and Discovery Science Center (29)**

The Fort Collins Museum and Discovery Science Center are two of the most respected cultural organizations in Northern Colorado, serving more than 50,000 visitors annually. In 2007, the two separate institutions merged with

the mission of providing a facility and experience that will inspire, educate, and entertain people about science and culture. For more information contact City of Fort Collins: 200 Mathews Street, Fort Collins, CO 80524-2817, 970-221-6738, [www.fcmdsc.org/index.php](http://www.fcmdsc.org/index.php).

### **John and Inez Romero House Museum (34)**

The museum was constructed by hand of adobe bricks in 1927 and marks the immigration and active recruitment of Hispanic laborers seeking employment in the sugar beet industry boom that began at the turn of the twentieth century. The John and Inez Romero House, which will formally be known as The Museo de las Tres Colonias, conveys the stories of hardship, perseverance and success experienced by Hispanic immigrants to the Fort Collins area.

<http://www.fcmdsc.org/trails/tour3/tour3-museo.html>

### **Lions Park – Bridge to East (16)**

Park and walk one-quarter of a mile east on the bridge for a magnificent view of the Cache la Poudre River. The bridge is located in Laporte, CO. For more information contact Larimer County: 200 W. Oak Street, Fort Collins, CO 80521, 970-498-7000, [www.co.larimer.co.us/naturalresources](http://www.co.larimer.co.us/naturalresources)

### **Ted's Place (5)**

Ted's Place was owned and founded by Edward I. "Ted" Herring at the intersection of U.S. 287 and Colorado

14. Ted served six terms in the state House of Representatives and one term in the state Senate. He was heavily involved in establishing area hatcheries. Now Ted's Place is a sportsman's headquarters supplying fishing tackle, supplies, information, gas and food.

### **Watson Lake Fish Hatchery – Colorado Division of Wildlife in (8)**

About 300,000 trout are raised here each year, and kids love walking the concrete raceways and feeding swarms of fish (bring quarters for fish food). Look forward to different sizes of fish in different holding areas including enormous fish at the end of each tank. For more information contact the hatchery: 4936 West CR 52 E Bellvue, CO 80512, 970-482-1659, <http://wildlife.state.co.us/Education/TeacherResources/Hatcheries.htm>.

## Infrastructure: Ditches, Canals, Dams and Bridges

*It is important to note that not all of the facilities included in this section can be accessed by the public. Many of the ditches and canals are owned and maintained by private companies and traverse private lands. Such facilities are included here only as part of an inventory of known infrastructure related to irrigation and other historical water uses associated with the primary themes of the CALA.*

*Also note that each entry below includes an index number that corresponds to the included resource location map.*

### **Boxelder Ditch (44)**

The ditch originates from the Poudre's west bank just north of the CSU Environmental Learning Center. From there, the ditch runs generally parallel to the river for 4 to 5 miles before emptying back into the Poudre about a mile from the Weld County line. For more information contact the North Poudre Irrigation Company at 970-568-3612, P.O. Box 100 Wellington, CO 80549. [www.larimer.org/engineering/ditchco/ditchcompanydirectory](http://www.larimer.org/engineering/ditchco/ditchcompanydirectory)

### **Coy Ditch (32)**

The Coy Ditch is located across the river and Hwy 287 from the Fort Collins Museum and Discovery Science Center. The ditch is owned by J.C. Coy c/o Fisher and Hoffman, Fort Collins, CO 970-482-8554. [www.watercolorado.com/resources/ditches.shtml](http://www.watercolorado.com/resources/ditches.shtml).

### **Greeley Pipeline Diversion Dam (6)**

The dam exists on the Poudre River just northwest of Bellvue and south of the Poudre Valley Canal. From this point, the Greeley Pipeline runs southeast to Greeley, where water is treated at Greeley Filtration Plant and used for municipal and domestic needs. The pipeline was originally built in 1907. For more information contact City of Greeley Water Dept.: 1100 10th Street, Ste. 300, Greeley, CO, 970-350-9811, [www.greeleygov.com/Water](http://www.greeleygov.com/Water)

### **Lake Canal (33)**

Lake Canal runs generally from the Poudre River east of I-25 in the Fort Collins vicinity under the interstate and connects with other ditches south of the Timnath Reservoir. The canal is owned by Lake Canal Reservoir Company, 6312 E Harmony, Fort Collins, CO 970-352-0222 [www.larimer.org/engineering/ditchco/ditchcompanydirectory](http://www.larimer.org/engineering/ditchco/ditchcompanydirectory)



*Lake Canal, Downtown Fort Collins: photo courtesy of [fortnet.org](http://fortnet.org)*

### **Larimer Canal #2 (14)**

This canal is fed by the Poudre River near Reservoir Ridge Natural Area before flowing through the Old Fort Collins Waterworks at 2005 N Overland Trail. Upon exiting the waterworks, the canal runs parallel to the river for about a mile before turning south through the heart of Fort Collins. The canal dead-ends at the city's south side near Harmony Rd. For more information contact: Larimer County Canal No.2 Irrigating Company, 970-482-3309, 1281 E Magnolia Ste D #161, Fort Collins, CO 80524  
[www.larimer.org/engineering/ditchco/ditchcompanydirectory](http://www.larimer.org/engineering/ditchco/ditchcompanydirectory)

### **Old Fort Collins Waterworks (18)**

The waterworks was the primary water system for the City of Fort Collins from 1883 to 1904. The Poudre Landmarks Foundation and the Friends of the Water Works administers the ongoing preservation work at the water works property. For more information contact Poudre Landmarks Foundation: 2005 North Overland Trail Fort Collins, CO 80521, 970-221-0533,



[www.poudrelandmarks.com/plf\\_water\\_works.shtml](http://www.poudrelandmarks.com/plf_water_works.shtml).

### **Poudre Valley Canal (4)**

The canal is owned by the Windsor Reservoir and Canal Company. Contact the canal company at 970-482-7671.  
[www.larimer.org/engineering/ditchco/ditchcompanydirectory.htm#Windsor Reservoir and Canal Co.](http://www.larimer.org/engineering/ditchco/ditchcompanydirectory.htm#WindsorReservoirandCanalCo)

### **Other Water Distribution Structures**

Many other ditches, canals and laterals can be found on the Cultural and Natural Resource Attractions map including Hill and Brush Ditch, Hillsboro Ditch, Big Thompson Ditch, Farmers Ditch, Loveland and Greeley Canal, Horsetooth Supply Canal, Buckhorn Highline Ditch, Windsor Ditch, Mead Lateral, Town Lateral, Plumb Ditch, Patterson Ditch and Union Ditch. The list of such structures contained within this plan is not intended to be exhaustive.

For more information consult Larimer or Weld County, Water Colorado, Colorado Department of Transportation, City of Greeley or Fort Collins, Town of Timnath or Windsor, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy, Central Colorado Water Conservancy, Colorado State University, University of Northern Colorado, or other similar organizations.

*Fort Collins First Waterworks: photo courtesy of [history.poudrelibraries.org](http://history.poudrelibraries.org)*

## Heritage and Recreational Events and Activities

### **Annual Children’s Water Festival – CSU campus, Fort Collins**

[www.fcgov.com/utilities/community-education/youth/water-festival](http://www.fcgov.com/utilities/community-education/youth/water-festival)

Each spring, approximately 1,700 third-grade students and teachers from public, private and home schools attend this water festival – the longest-running of its kind in Colorado. Held on the CSU campus, the event is sponsored by City Fort Collins, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and the Bureau of Reclamation, and is packed with fun, hands-on activities that teach students about water via classroom presentations, exhibit hall displays, trivia contests and other activities.

### **First Night Fort Collins**

[www.downtownfortcollins.com](http://www.downtownfortcollins.com)

This is an annual alcohol-free family-oriented event celebrating the New Year with lots of entertainment venues throughout Downtown Fort Collins. See theatre, music, hands on arts, juggling, cultural dance shows, headliner performances and fireworks.

### **FORToberfest**

<http://downtownfortcollins.com>

FORToberfest celebrates Fort Collins’ music scene, rich beer brewing history, and active bicycle culture in the downtown area.

### **Harvest Festival – Gardens on Spring Creek, Fort Collins**

[www.fcgov.com/gardens](http://www.fcgov.com/gardens)

Celebrate the harvest with cooking and urban homesteading workshops, tastings of fresh produce, a marketplace full of local artisans and food producers, entertainment, kids' activities, and food vendors.

### **Larimer County Fair and Rodeo**

[www.larimercountyfair.org](http://www.larimercountyfair.org)

The fair is held annually, generally in August, and offers traditional rodeo and county fair activities, such as roping and bull-riding, livestock shows, pig races, 4X4 Truck and Jeep show, 4H fundraiser dinner, carnival activities, lumberjack show and live music acts.

### **Northern Colorado Birding Fair – Fossil Creek Park, Fort Collins**

[http://larimer.org/naturalresources/birding\\_fair.htm](http://larimer.org/naturalresources/birding_fair.htm)

The Northern Colorado Birding Fair is now 2 free days of fun and learning for the whole family held at Fossil Creek Regional Open Space and Nix Natural Area where visitors can celebrate the

sights and sounds of birding in the region. Bring the whole family and participate in hands on birding activities, watch a presentation about birds, or build up your birding skills with an in-depth clinic.

**Rocky Mountain Irish Festival – Old Town Square and Civic Center Park, Fort Collins**

[www.fortcollinsirishfestival.com](http://www.fortcollinsirishfestival.com)

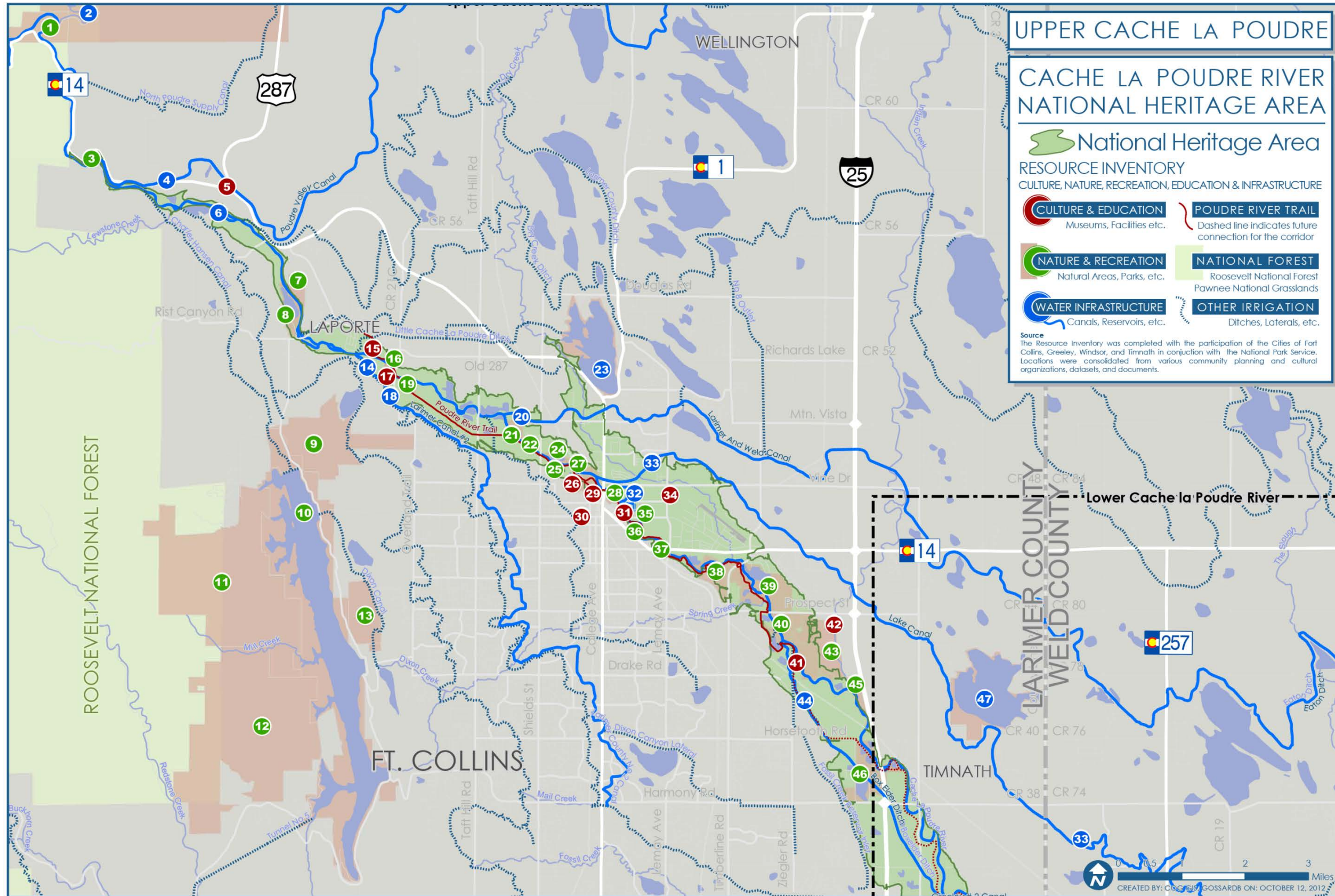
Rocky Mountain Irish Festival presents Irish bands, famous Irish Authors, storytellers, Irish dancers, Pipe & Drum bands, Celtic vendors, rugby match,

Irish beer, Irish flags, myths, legends and more.

**Sustainable Living Fair – Legacy Park, Fort Collins**

[www.sustainablelivingassociation.org](http://www.sustainablelivingassociation.org)

The Sustainable Living Fair offers a weekend of solution-based, interactive, family oriented events designed to educate people of all ages and backgrounds about: renewable energy, alternative transportation, sustainable agriculture, green building, natural health, environmental and social responsibility, local economies and more.



CACHE LA POUDE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



# Lower Poudre: Windsor to the South Platte River

## Natural and Recreation Areas Parks, Open Space, Wildlife Viewing

*\*Note that each entry below includes an index number that corresponds to the included resource location map.*

### **Eastman Park (58)**

This park is 25 acres on the Poudre, offering ball fields, playground, water fountain, skate park, lake and restrooms. The park is located at 7025 Eastman Park Drive, Windsor CO 80550. For more information contact the Town of Windsor Community Recreation Center at 970-674-3500, <http://www.ci.windsor.co.us>

### **Frank State Wildlife Area (51)**

Free camping and fishing for large-mouth bass and catfish; located near end of Poudre River Trail in Windsor. For more information contact the Fort Collins Service Center, 317 W. Prospect, Fort Collins, CO 80526, (970) 472-4300, <http://wildlife.state.co.us>

### **Island Grove Park (71)**

Island Grove Park is a regional multi-use events complex with spacious lawns, century-old trees and an all-purpose stadium. The park hosts the Greeley Stampede, Weld County Fair

and Greeley Kennel Club AKC dog shows. Centennial Village is also located in the park, which is located at 501 North 14th Avenue, Greeley, CO 80631. For more information contact City of Greeley: 970-350-9392, <http://greeleygov.com/Parks/islandgrove.aspx>

### **Kodak Watchable Wildlife Area (59)**

Wild turkey, geese and other animals live amongst mature cottonwood stands in this state wildlife area. Park and access the Poudre on the north side. For more information contact the Fort Collins Service Center, 317 W. Prospect, Fort Collins, CO 80526, 970-472-4300, <http://wildlife.state.co.us>

### **Mitani – Tokuyasu State Wildlife Area (78)**

This state wildlife area is great for hunting and is located at the Poudre River's confluence with the Platte about 5 miles east of Greeley. Hunt for squirrel, dove, waterfowl, deer, rabbit and pheasant. For more information contact the State Division of Wildlife: 122 E. Edison Brush, CO 80723, 970-842-6300 [http://wildlife.state.co.us/Apps/swa/maps/Northeast/MitaniSWA\\_web.pdf](http://wildlife.state.co.us/Apps/swa/maps/Northeast/MitaniSWA_web.pdf)

### **Oxbow Disc Golf Park (57)**

This 12-hole course is located in the scenic natural area of Eastman Park along the Poudre River. This course is a collaborative project between the Town of Windsor and the dedicated volunteers in the local disc golf scene, made possible by many generous

donations from the surrounding communities.

### **Poudre Bluffs (61)**

Rising to over 200 feet above the water the area is home to cold-war relic Missile Silo Park, former Shark's Tooth Ski Area, and a historic World War II Prisoner of War camp. For more information contact City of Greeley: 1100 10th Street, Suite 202-Greeley, Colorado 80631, 970-336-4044, <http://www.poudretrail.org/geo.htm>.

### **Poudre Ponds (70)**

Poudre Ponds is a new recreational fishery opening to the public in 2011 for gasless boating, fishing and other activities at 1001 9th Avenue, Greeley, CO 80631. For more information contact City of Greeley: (970) 350-9390, <http://greeleygov.com/Parks>.

### **Poudre Natural Area (56)**

This natural area encompasses 14 acres of open lands at 1050 Larch Drive in Windsor. For more information contact the Town of Windsor: 970-674-2400, 301 Walnut Street, Windsor, Colorado 80550, <http://www.ci.windsor.co.us>

### **Poudre Pooch Park (56)**

This dog park consists of a one-acre, fenced area west of Eastman Park in Windsor, where dogs can roam freely off-leash. For information contact Town of Windsor at 970-674-2400, 301 Walnut Street, Windsor, Colorado 80550, [www.ci.windsor.co.us](http://www.ci.windsor.co.us)

### **Poudre River Ranch Natural Area (66)**

This 86-acre natural area on the river is located at 1001 9th Avenue Greeley, CO 80631 and has restrooms and a little red barn. For more information contact City of Greeley at 970-350-9390, <http://greeleygov.com/Parks>

### **Poudre River Trail (Windsor to Greeley)**

The Trail is over twenty miles of all-weather pavement from Island Grove Regional Park in Greeley, west through Windsor along the Cache la Poudre River. The Trail was built through a cooperative effort between Greeley, Windsor, and Weld County and offers non-motorized recreation. For more information contact the Poudre Trail Office: 970-336-4044, 1100 10th Street, Suite 202-Greeley, Colorado 80631, [www.poudretrail.org](http://www.poudretrail.org)

### **Riverbend Natural Area (52)**

This natural area consists of 10 acres of open land and a storm water detention area located at 525 Parkwood Drive in Windsor. For more information contact Town of Windsor at 970-674-2400, 301 Walnut Street, Windsor, Colorado 80550, [www.ci.windsor.co.us](http://www.ci.windsor.co.us)

### **River Bluffs Open Space (48)**

This property has a combination of riparian corridor, wetlands, agricultural fields, and bluffs, which create a diverse plant and animal habitat. It is also the site of an old oxbow formed by the nearby Cache la Poudre River. This oxbow was abandoned in the late 60s or

early 70 when the river was channeled to build a bridge across it. River Bluffs Open Space is currently recognized by the Colorado Division of Wildlife as a significant duck winter range. For more information contact Larimer County: 200 W. Oak Street, Fort Collins, CO 80521, 970-498-7000  
[www.larimer.org/openlands](http://www.larimer.org/openlands)

### **Rover Run Dog Park (67)**

This three-acre fenced dog-park is complete with waste bags, picnic table and overhead shelter, and close to the Poudre River trail head. It is located approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles east of 59<sup>th</sup> Ave. on "F" Street. For more information contact City of Greeley: 970-350-9390, [http://www.greeleygov.com/Parks/green\\_dog.aspx](http://www.greeleygov.com/Parks/green_dog.aspx).

### **Windsor Lake (54)**

The highlight of a visit to Windsor Lake is bird-watching along the rocky shores which are circumnavigated by 2.8 mile trail. The main access to the lake is from Boardwalk Park, but alternate access exists from the southeast portion of the lake at the end of Chimney Park Drive. For more information contact Town of Windsor: 250 N. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Windsor, CO 80550, (970) 674-3500, <http://www.ci.windsor.co.us>

## Cultural and Historic Landmarks

*\*Note that each entry below includes an index number that corresponds to the included resource location map.*

### **Centennial Village (72)**

Northern Colorado's premier outdoor museum with 30+ structures on eight acres on the south side of Island Grove Park; interprets settlement history of Greeley and parts of Weld County from 1860 to about 1920. For more information contact City of Greeley: 714 8th Street, Greeley, CO 80631, (970) 350-9220, <http://greeleygov.com/Museums/CentennialVillage.aspx>.

### **Greeley History Museum (73)**

This historic 1929 building formerly housed the Greeley Tribune newspaper offices. The 34,000 square-foot museum opened in 2005 and is listed on the Colorado and National Registers of Historic Places. For more information contact City of Greeley: 714 8th Street, Greeley, CO 80631, (970) 350-9220, <http://greeleygov.com/Museums/GreeleyHistoryMuseum.aspx>.

### **Greeley Freight Station Museum (75)**

Features 5,500 square-foot HO gauge model railroad layout with 20+ scale miles of mainline track, hundreds of

buildings, thousands of hand-made trees and unique scenery; also displays over 1,100 railroad artifacts. For more information contact the museum at 680 10th Street, Greeley, CO 80631, 970-392-2934, <http://www.gfsm.org/pcindex.html>



*Visitors at the  
Greeley Freight Station Museum*

### **Historic Union Pacific Depot (74)**

This de-commissioned railway station now houses the Greeley Chamber of Commerce, Convention and Visitors' Bureau and Greeley Farmers' Market. For more information contact City of Greeley: 714 8th Street, Greeley, CO 80631, (970) 350-9220, <http://greeleygov.com/Museums/CVDepot.aspx>.

### **Kaplan-Hoover Buffalo Kill Site (50)**

National Register of Historic Places 2003, holds remnants of ancient arroyo hunting trap, with bones of estimated 200 bison; great archaeological, ethnographic, and cultural value, established as only archaic-age bison kill in Colorado and largest of its kind in North America. The site is in the River West Housing Development, located two-and-a-half miles east of the Windsor exit off I-25. For more information contact Town of Windsor Art & Heritage, 970-674-2443, [www.ci.windsor.co.us](http://www.ci.windsor.co.us), or National Register of Historic Places: [www.nps.gov/history/nr/listings/20030425.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/listings/20030425.htm)

### **Missile Silo Park (60)**

This park is a deactivated Atlas E missile site for one of the nation's first operational intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICMB), and is the only missile site of its kind that can be toured of the



*Local children engage in educational activities at the Poudre Learning Center.*

nine that exist in the U.S. Seasonal camping is permitted on-site. For more information contact Weld County: 970-304-6531, 10611 Spur 257, Greeley, CO 80632, [www.co.weld.co.us/Departments/BuildingsandGrounds/MissileSitePark.html](http://www.co.weld.co.us/Departments/BuildingsandGrounds/MissileSitePark.html).

### **Nathan Meeker Home (76)**

Nathan Meeker was the agricultural editor of Horace Greeley's New York Tribune and the founder of Union Colony. The building is an 1870 two-story adobe home listed on both National and Greeley Historic Registers. A costumed guide gives regular tours. The site is located at 1324 9th Avenue, Greeley, Colorado 80631. For more information contact City of Greeley: 970-350-9220, <http://greeleygov.com/Museums/MeekerHome.aspx>.

### **Plumb Farm Learning Center (69)**

This learning center works to preserve the legacy of pioneer farmers and Union Colony roots. It serves as an agricultural learning center for educating younger generations about Greeley agricultural heritage and is located at 955 39th Avenue, Greeley, Colorado 80631. For more information contact City of Greeley: 970-350-9220, <http://greeleygov.com/Museums/PlumbFarm.aspx>.

### **Poudre Learning Center (65)**

The PLC is a learning facility for kids focusing on history, science, economics, stewardship and aesthetics of the

Poudre River. It also serves as the headquarters for the Poudre Heritage Alliance, the non-profit that administers the Cache la Poudre National Heritage Area. The PLC is located at 8313 West F Street, Greeley, Colorado 80631. For more information contact them at 970-352-1267 or <http://www.plcoutdoors.org/index.html>.

#### **Shark's Tooth Ski Area (64)**

Former Greeley mayor Richard Perchlick opened a ski area in Weld County in 1970 and named it "Sharkstooth" because of the petrified sharks' teeth fossils found on the slopes. It was located in the bluffs above the Cache la Poudre southeast of the Eastman Kodak plant. Due to the lack of snow, the ski area was closed but the series of runs are still etched into the surrounding bluffs. For more information contact the Poudre Trail office: 1100 10th Street, Suite 202-Greeley, Colorado 80631, 970-336-4044, <http://www.poudretrail.org>

#### **Windsor Art and Heritage Center (53)**

Built in 1909, the Art & Heritage Center originally served as the Windsor Town Hall, as well as the Police, and Fire departments. The Art & Heritage Center has various exhibits set up throughout the year and can be rented for private parties. For more information contact Town of Windsor: 116 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Windsor - 970-674-2443, [www.ci.windsor.co.us](http://www.ci.windsor.co.us)

*Historic photo of Greeley WWII POW Camp*

#### **Windsor Museum at Boardwalk Park (55)**

Windsor's history comes alive as you walk through the restored Railroad Depot, Whitehall Schoolhouse, German from Russia Beet Shanty, and Pioneer Church and discover Windsor's early business, community, and life. The park is located at 6<sup>th</sup> St. and Ash St. in Windsor. For more information contact Town of Windsor: (970) 674-2443, [www.ci.windsor.co.us](http://www.ci.windsor.co.us)

#### **WWII POW Camp (63)**

These entry gateposts to a World War II United States Army German Prisoner of War camp still exist along the Poudre River. Although virtually no physical evidence remains of the camp, the U.S. Army held German prisoners of war at this site until the end of World War II. According to local landowners, some POWs returned to settle in the area after the war. For more information contact the Poudre Trail office: 1100 10th Street, Suite 202-Greeley, Colorado 80631, 970-336-4044, [www.poudretrail.org/powcamp.htm](http://www.poudretrail.org/powcamp.htm).

