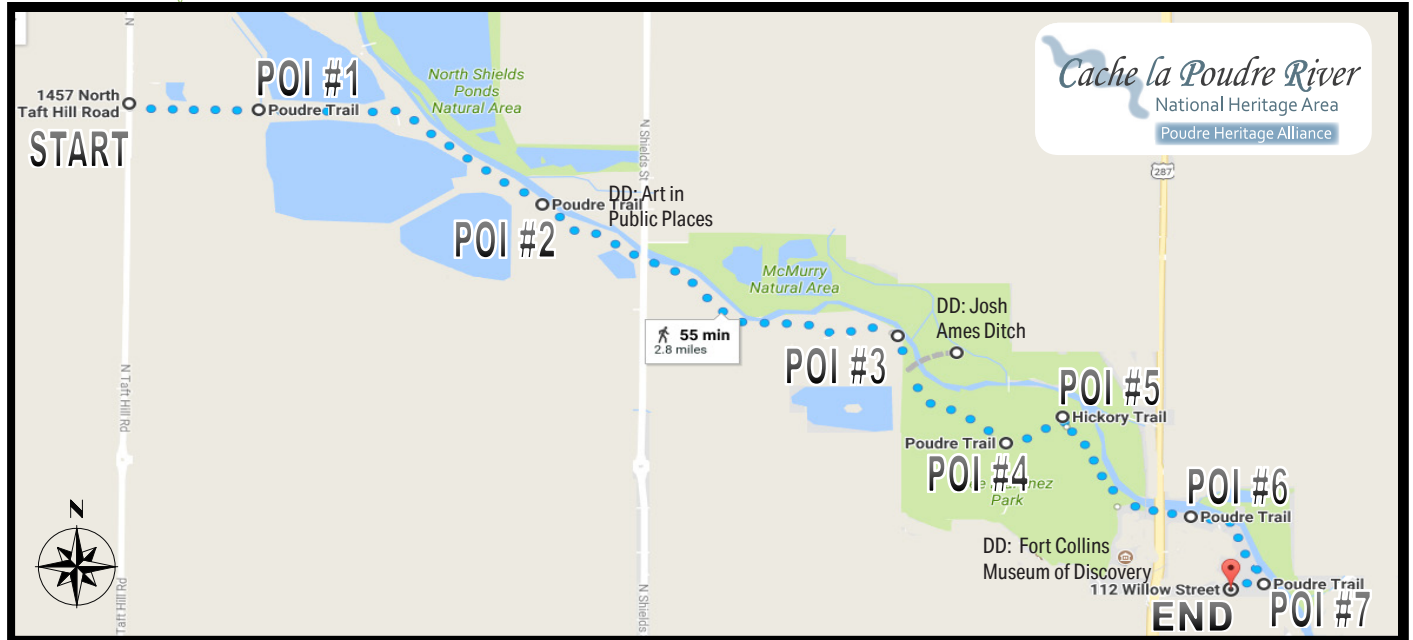


Past, Present, and Future Fort Collins



START

Trailhead parking lot at 1457 N. Taft Hill Road, Fort Collins. Head east onto the Poudre Trail.

POI #1

Poudre Trail crosses ditch – .3 miles. Head straight east between two ponds. The trail then heads through a tunnel and turns slightly southwest.



POI #2

Wayside interpretive sign — .9 miles.

- Heritage Hunt Question: What six towns shown on this map are part of the Heritage Area?
- Heritage Hunt Question: Scan the QR code on the interpretive sign (or visit the website listed by the QR code: <http://poudreheritage.org/video/western-water-law/>) and watch the River Health video and answer this question: What fraction of the river is diverted before it even reaches Fort Collins?

Delightful Diversion - Art in Public Places

A short distance past the wayside interpretive sign, you will cross a bridge and notice a seating area with outdoor art next to the river. The interpretive plaza features benches and a hand carved sandstone floodway table that maps the West Vine Basin, streets, and floodway. Five graphic panels also illustrate significant historical crossings.



POI #3

McMurry Natural Area River Gage - 1.7 miles. A bridge crosses the Poudre River where you can view a river gage that is mounted on the bridge support and an interpretive sign is available for your information.

- Seasonal Selfie: Take a selfie with the river gage in the background, showing the height of the river during your visit.

Delightful Diversion - Josh Ames Ditch

Walk across the McMurry Bridge, and then take the path to the right into Salyer Natural Area. What remains of the 1867 portion of the Josh Ames head gate and ditch is about 1/2 mile long and mostly filled in by vegetation. Learn more about the structure and Ames family history at <http://poudreheritage.org/locations/josh-ames-ditch/>.



POI #4

Interpretive Kiosk near Lee Martinez Park - 2 miles. On the right-side kiosk sign, take a look at the map of the Cache la Poudre River and answer the question below.

- Heritage Hunt Question: In between which two Fort Collins' Natural Areas are you standing right now?



0.4 miles after POI #4 you will see a dirt (or snow-covered, depending on the time of year) path that branches off to the right. Take this trail.

POI #5

Lake Canal wayside interpretive sign on the Hickory Trail in Lee Martinez Park — 2.1 miles

- Heritage Hunt Question: Where did the communities of Fort Collins and Greeley meet to settle the 1874 conflict over the Lake Canal?
- Heritage Hunt Question: Scan the QR code on the interpretive sign (or visit the website listed by the QR code: <http://poudreheritage.org/video/western-water-law/>, watch the Western Water Law video and fill in the blanks. The conflict that was settled on July 15, 1874, determined how water was allocated: "the person or irrigation company who had first _____ water from the river is the first person to _____ the water from the river for beneficial use."



Delightful Diversion - Lake Canal Dam Structure

Follow the path that goes directly behind the interpretive sign and you can see the diversion dam, head gate, and canal that started the "Colorado Doctrine," the water appropriation system that has since prevailed throughout the west.

Delightful Diversion - Fort Collins Museum of Discovery

Take the trail through Lee Martinez Park to reach the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, located just off the Poudre Trail at 408 Mason Court. In addition to paid exhibits, the museum has a free zone that contains a local history archive, observation deck, several small exhibits, and a cafe.



POI #6

Coy Ditch Diversion structure — 2.5 miles. As of 2017, the City of Fort Collins is in the process of removing the diversion structure to make way for a kayak course.

- Seasonal Selfie: Take a selfie with the Coy Ditch Diversion structure (or its former location) in the background.



POI #7

Informational kiosk in Heritage Park — 2.8 miles .

- Heritage Hunt Question: There is a wealth of information on this kiosk about the history of the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area. Write down something new that you learned from this Kiosk.

END

Parking lot at Atzlan Community Center, 112 Willow St, Fort Collins — 2.8 miles.