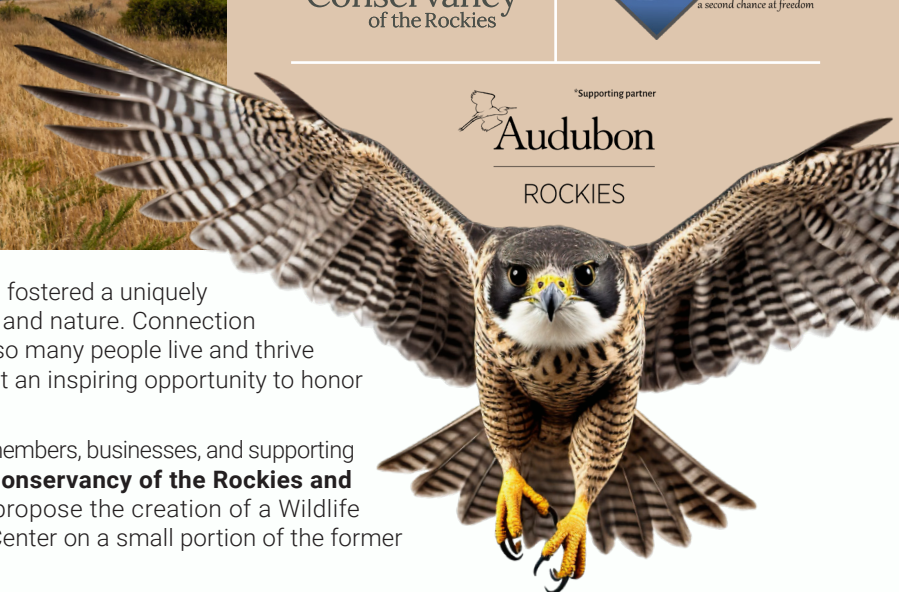


WILDLIFE REHABILITATION, NATURE, & EDUCATION CENTER

Uniting for our Future



Together,
we can
create
a unique
community
space!

The Center
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**Help us bring
this vision to
Fort Collins.**

The Fort Collins community has long fostered a uniquely close relationship with local wildlife and nature. Connection to nature is a big part of the reason so many people live and thrive here. Three local non-profits highlight an inspiring opportunity to honor and deepen that relationship.

In collaboration with local community members, businesses, and supporting partner **(Audubon Rockies), Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and Rocky Mountain Raptor Program** propose the creation of a Wildlife Rehabilitation, Nature, & Education Center on a small portion of the former Hughes Stadium property.

The Center, nestled into the northeast corner of the property, will be **constructed with sustainable materials and designed to blend into the natural environment**, easing the transition of this urban-to-rural corridor, while enhancing engagement with nature and promoting a better understanding of wildlife and conservation for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. It will provide **one-of-a-kind volunteerism, education, and internship opportunities**, while offering **licensed and professional wildlife rescue services**. This space will also allow residents and visitors to gather and experience the **impactful science, conservation, education, and raptor rescue activities** conducted by these organizations, while providing a retreat into our natural world.

We aim to foster a collaborative spirit in our community by merging our talents, resources, and programs. The Center will be **open to the public, including school groups, college students, and community members**, offering advanced learning opportunities. Visitors will experience **wildlife viewing, rehabilitation, connections to nature, and learn about everyday conservation actions** they can take at home, at school, or in their neighborhoods.

Envision a place where our community can explore, gain respect for, and learn the importance of our responsibility in living in the Colorado Rockies. Centrally located near trails, wildlife habitats, public transportation, veterinary hospitals, regulatory agencies, and other visitor-friendly hubs, **the Center will enhance community connectivity and expand upon existing recreation opportunities.**

Finally, we propose a **guided, concerted effort to restore the habitat in this critical biodiversity corridor**. The neighboring spaces surrounding the property are home to hundreds of species of plants and animals that stand to benefit from the restoration of this property that has been impacted by the stadium and its parking lots. This includes the up to 70 species of birds that breed in the area, as noted by the over 4,000 observations of birders who flock to this part of the city to observe their beauty. Supporting the Center is supporting habitat restoration and wildlife, further cementing our city's status as **'Bird City Colorado'**.

Together, we can create a unique community space. A space where compassionate citizens can **come together to serve and protect the local natural resources** that make Fort Collins so beautiful and diverse. No other community in the Rockies brings together the wildlife capacity that we have to offer. *Help us bring this vision to Fort Collins!*

Sincerely,

Carin Avila
Rocky Mountain
Raptor Program

Tammy VerCauteren
Bird Conservancy
of the Rockies

Allison Holloran
Audubon Rockies

