Every place has a story.

Maybe it is the unusual manner in which the community was settled. Perhaps it is found in the natural or physical attributes of the location. It could be unique aspects of its business and community development. Most certainly, the people associated with a place over time provide special perspective to a community’s character and personality.

Gaining insights to the unique attributes of a community enriches its residents and visitors with its special ‘sense of place’ in the state, country, and in the world.

Greeley has exceptional qualities that bear sharing and to help in that regard, the City has launched a program called the “G.Town Tours” to help acquaint community members and visitors with parts of the community that may not be as well known but which offer sparks of community enlightenment once revealed.

Tours are generally scheduled for the first Friday morning of each month and will vary between different themes throughout the year, including:

- Historic Faces & Places
- Greeley’s Creative District
- Natural Places & Open Spaces
- Business Around Town
- City Hall Crawl & More
- Greeley Unexpected

On this NATURAL PLACES tour, twenty-two sites will be highlighted to provide a glimpse of Greeley’s past and some of her well-hidden secrets.

Tour Highlights

The following points of interest correlate to the points on the enclosed tour route map:

1 Lincoln Park

- Lincoln Park is one of very few remaining sites constructed during the Union Colony’s first year and represents the colonists’ belief that a central public plaza is essential to the health and vitality of residents.
- The park has historically been the site of many annual events, ranging from Arts Picnic and Oktoberfest to Christmas lighting festivities and concerts, contributing to its history and on-going significance.
- The “bee-hive” fountain was once fed by an early Artesian well. That structure is comprised of various memorabilia supplied from the early settlers.
- Two lakes, called Lake Luna and Lake Auricular, were located in the north and south halves of the park, but they were soon drained because of mosquitoes and flooding.
2 Jesus Rodarte Cultural Center
- The original building at this site was constructed in 1979 and consisted of one large meeting room and patio. The facility, the only cultural center operated by the City, was named for Jesus Rodarte, a long-time neighborhood resident and community activist. The surrounding open area, named Hoshiko Park, is named for the Hoshiko family, another long-time area family and owner of the produce warehouse area south of the site.
- The facility has grown over the years, most significantly with funds from the 2002 Quality of Life bond issue, which enabled a $2 million expansion that included a basketball court, boxing area, kitchen area, fitness room, classroom/meeting areas, and related features to accommodate all ages, from youth to senior groups.
- The N. 11th Avenue Corridor is known as “Mercado del Norte” /“Mercado District”, which was created as a voluntary land use overlay tool to promote a southwest architectural design for new and infill development in the area.

3 Island Grove Regional Park
- The 140-acre park was named for the original stand of cottonwood trees growing in an island area within the adjacent Poudre River and date back to the 1860s.
- The Bunkhouse structure in the park, was Greeley’s first City Hall in 1879, and was moved to the park in 1908.
- Shawsheen, sister of Ute Chief Ouray, was captured and then enslaved by an Arapaho band. In 1863, a cavalry unit on patrol came across that band and rescued Shawsheen, who was tied to an Island Grove cottonwood, and returned her to the Ute band. Later, following the White River Meeker Massacre, Shawsheen befriended Meeker’s wife, daughter and others who were captives of the Ute for 23 days, improved their treatment, and assisted with negotiating their release through her brother, Chief Ouray.
- The Works Progress Administration installed park improvements including new structures at the fairgrounds.
- The Park at one time also included a zoo with Cindy the brown bear, Blacky the black bear, Ranger the bull elk, Bower the buffalo, and Pink the monkey.

4 Poudre Ponds
- Established in 2011 as a collaborative project between the City Parks and Water Divisions, this site is 90 acres in size, with 70 surface acres of water.
- Built with a federal “Fishing is Fun” grant, it is a fishery managed by the Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife which includes trout, catfish, crappie, bass and bluegill. It is also an excellent bird-watching location.
- Once area mining is complete (10-12 yrs) the site will be expanded to the south.
- The Ponds are also a key part of the annual Poudre Challenge Adventure Course, now in its third year.

5 Rover Run Dog Park/Poudre Trail
- Dogs are allowed to run free inside a 3-acre fenced area that is open during daylight hours and is adjacent to the Poudre Trail where dogs are allowed on-leash only.
- The Poudre River Trail is a 21-mile concrete bike and pedestrian trail reaching from Island Grove Park to the west edge of Windsor. The Trail was constructed over 17 years under the stewardship of a 9-member Poudre River Trail Board, a non-profit organization which has balanced membership from the City of Greeley, Town of Windsor and Weld County Government.
- Work is now underway to create an expanded greenway corridor adjacent to the trail to enhance this special open space area further.
- The first recorded burial was Newell Ives, who died June 3rd, the same day the cemetery was established.
- Many remains from the original Greeley Cemetery were re-interred at Linn Grove in 1882.

Racers at Island Grove Park
6 Boomerang Golf Course
- This course is the second public golf course in the City and was developed in response to citizen request due to the heavy play at the City’s Highland Hills Golf Course.
- Construction started in 1989 and the course opened in 1991 with land on the south nine donated by an adjacent business—Hewlett-Packard—as a draw for their adjacent corporate campus.
- The course is named after the Boomerang lateral of the Grapevine Ditch.
- The course has a links-style 18-hole Championship golf course, boasts the largest driving range in northern Colorado, has large practice green, chipping green and sand bunker, as well as a fully stocked Pro Shop and Outback Pub & Grill which is open to the public.

7 Poudre Trail Head at 71st Ave
- Highlighted by an iconic red barn, this trailhead marks one of the most popular locations to access the Poudre Trail. The barn had to be removed to make way for the adjacent subdivision development and the Poudre Trail Board arranged for its acquisition and move to its current location.
- As with most of the major trailheads along the river corridor, this site includes interpretive signage describes aspects of the trail as well as trail rules.
- This trailhead is adjacent to the river, small lakes, a large multi-acre open space area and bluff area.
- Along the trail are ‘mile markers’ placed at quarter-mile points to provide trail users a guide to distance traveled but also location information if emergency help is needed. The granite markers were funded primarily by a private donor as well as some funds from Greeley’s Public Art fund.

8 Poudre Learning Center
- Thanks to a donation of 65 acres from Hall-Irwin Corporation, area school children and the public now enjoy an interdisciplinary learning that focuses on the importance of history, science, economics, stewardship and aesthetics of the Cache Poudre River in Northeastern Colorado.
- The building which houses the PLC was constructed using the former historic Hazelton School house floor plan and some bricks retrieved from that building when it had to be removed from its location at 71st Ave and 10th Street for a CDOT road-widening project. The center was constructed with private donations, primarily raised by area Rotary Clubs.
- Today, over 1,000 children visit the center each year to learn about water, habitats and the natural world.

9 POW Pillars & Missile Silo Park
- The site gateposts originally marked the entrance to the World War II POW Camp 202 for German prisoners from late 1943 to early 1946 when it closed.
- Most prisoners worked as laborers on area farms.
- The stone gateposts are all that remain of the camp in this location and they were relocated and preserved with help from a wide coalition of government, non-profit and private parties.
- Apartments at 9th Street and 23rd Avenue originally were barracks at the Camp, moved to the current location after the camp closed.
- The Missile Silo Park is a representation of the Cold War Era, constructed in 1961 to house a nuclear warhead; four of these Atlas sites were located around Weld County with the host military base in Cheyenne.
- This site was deactivated in 1965 and is currently used to store archived records for Weld County government.
10 Promontory Park
- Greeley’s most westerly park is 32 acres in size and was developed in conjunction with the business park and residential subdivisions.
- The site has three shelters and a waterfall that operates on a recirculation pump system between three lakes.
- This site offers area employees wellness walk opportunities, is a populate site for fishing, weddings, and is the site of an annual Triathlon.

11 Youth Sports Complex
- Established in 1993 as a replacement for the modest sports fields at Elk Lakes, this site is 79 acres in size and includes eight combined softball and baseball fields. It hosts 2,210 games annually strictly for youth, including tournament and high school play.
- The site also includes a bike skills course on its northern access to the Sheep draw Trail.

12 FunPlex/Twin Rivers Park
- On 43 acres this community park facility includes a full-service recreation center, 4-plex of lighted adult softball fields, sensory playground, shelters, amphitheater, and 18-hole miniature golf course
- The site hosted 1,644 games in 2012
- One of the City’s most significant public arts installations is located at this site—four glass pillars designed to reflect the four seasons.

Highland Hills Golf Course
- This traditional golf course opened in 1959 in unincorporated Weld County, and annexed to the City in the 1980s. A former City’s water lift station continues to be an iconic marker at this site.
- The site is a par 71, 18-hole championship golf course that features tree-lined fairways, rolling hills, and challenging greens. The course features a driving ranges with grass and mat hitting stations, two putting greens, one chipping green with sand trap, fully-stocked pro shop, lessons from PGA and LPGA pros and a Club house restaurant (Bogey’s Pub and Grille).

13 Josephine Jones Park
- Josephine B. Jones was an active volunteer and community leader in Greeley. A teacher and world traveler, she chose this site for her home for its views.
- As part of her will, Ms Jones dedicated this land to be used as a cit park with the stipulation that the City add at least 15 more acres and maintain its natural area character.
- The City added 25 acres to her donation and has located the City’s Forestry office there; the site also has some meeting space.
- The 37-acre site is primarily in natural landscape with a 1.6 mile soft surface looped path, a playground and pond for irrigation.

14 Homestead Park
- Formerly the Elk Lakes golf course, the site was redeveloped as a commercial shopping area and residential subdivision. As part of that redevelopment, the area once dedicated to the golf course was retained for park land development for the area.
- The neighborhood park will be under construction Spring 2013 and include A playground, outdoor classroom, two shelters, soft surface and concrete paths, and a public art installation.
- Due to the water element the site is attractive to a variety of birds, as well as other wildlife.
15 Westlake at Sanborn Park

- Originally a low spot in the landscape, West Lake at Sanborn Park played a historical role in irrigation development dating back to the Union Colony. In 1893, Burton Sanborn saw this depression as an opportunity to impound seepage and irrigation waste waters for additional use. Known as one of the “foremost irrigationists,” Burton sought to make Greeley the “garden spot of the West” by storing water from the Poudre River in reservoirs for later distribution to farmers. Sanborn was a Trustee of the Union Colony, served on City Council and was instrumental in securing the donation of a 40-acre track of land and $15,000 for the establish of the State Normal School (UNC).
- Originally called “Miami” or “Houston” Reservoir was referred to as Sanborn Lakes by 1918 and took on the name West Greeley Lake around 1950 and is now known as Westlake.
- The Park and lake play a critical role in the 28th Avenue drainage basin which begins near US Hwy 34 and eventually discharges into the No. 3 ditch on its way to the Cache la Poudre River.

16 Centennial Park/Butch Butler Fields

- The Centennial Park area is located adjacent City water reservoirs and includes a pool, tennis courts, baseball fields, skate board ramps, and a fountain sculpture.
- The “Greeley Municipal Swimming Pool” was dedicated in 1965, followed by a new baseball field the following summer. The baseball field were named after Glen “Butch” Butler, son of Pete Butler, a Colorado State College (now UNC) baseball coach, who drowned in a boating accident.
- The Greeley Grays, a local semi-professional baseball team, also played on these fields. The Grays history goes back to 1922 and is related to the Mexican American migrant workforce recruited by the Great Western Sugar Company that were encouraged to settle in the area to work agriculture. The baseball became an important and enjoyable recreational outlet after working long hours in the fields.

17 Xeriscape Demonstration Gardens

- The term ‘xeriscape’ refers to water conserving gardens and is often confused with the notion that such areas are only comprised of rock and cactus plantings.
- Greeley has three xeriscape demonstration gardens which have been developed to illustrate and educate residents about the wide variety of perennials, annuals, ornamental grasses, bulbs, trees, shrubs and turf that provide a lush mix of plantings that are considered water conserving landscapes.
- Greeley’s xeriscape gardens are found by the City’s Reservoir Rd storage facility (2503 Reservoir Rd), on the UNC campus at 17th Ave and Reservoir Rd, and at the City’s Downtown Recycling Center 228 11th Ave NUE. The first of the gardens (UNC site) dates back to 1996 and was funded by a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant. That same site, in 2007, also became the first of Greeley’s Community Gardens, where residents can rent and ‘farm’ a small plot for flowers and/or produce.

18 Glenmere Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary

- The design for Glenmere Park was based on the City Beautiful movement, which promoted the idea of using city planning to make the community more visually appealing. One concept was to avoid planting trees in straight lines to leave the best views open and depart from the traditional grid block neighborhood layout.
- The Glenmere Park Association deeded the park to the City in 1911. The park itself was not developed until the 1930s when various civic groups and the Garden Club organized a tree planting day in which 160 trees were installed. The Greeley Exchange Club entered the park in a national city beautification contest in which Greeley placed fourth and received a bronze plaque, which is still displayed in the park.
- Glenmere Park is a favorite place for picture-taking, weddings, family reunions, and a host of special events. Its design and mature stand of trees promotes a rich habitat with diverse reptile, bird and mammals that occupy the area, including several rare bird sightings.
- In 1974, a two-acre strip of land was dedicated as the Wildlife Sanctuary. The following year a nature trail was installed there as part of an Eagle Scout Project.
19 UNC Garden Theater

- Constructed and dedicated in 1940, this informal bandshell structure on the University's Central Campus was funded by donations from alumni, students, faculty and friends of the college and was built to allow the rear wall to be removed to allow full view of the stage from both sides.
- The Theatre, which was the original site of college groups presenting Shakespearean comedies, has since provided the venue for a wide variety of campus events from graduations to special performances.
- Community and campus residents have especially enjoyed one of the longest-running outdoor music series of live Concerts Under the Stars, which feature a wide range of musical artists who perform during the summer semester. The concerts are free and residents bring lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic suppers to enjoy an evening of music in this special outdoor setting.

20 UNC Jackson Field

- Named for Charles N. Jackson, a resident trustee on the Board of Trustees for ‘Colorado State College’ from 1923-1935, for the college in 1924 who worked to secure funds for the school to purchase the vacant land at 18th Street and 6th Avenue.
- Jackson was an avid football fan and the field was dedicated to him at the first intercollegiate game held there on October 10, 1927.
- KFKA Radio, established in 1925, installed a line to Jackson Field to broadcast the first football game at the Field.
- Jackson Field has been renovated in recent years and continues to serve as an athletic play field for UNC Soccer and Baseball.

21 Discovery Bay Water Park/Waggin’ Tail Dog Park/Balsam Sports Complex

- Established in 2007, the Discovery Bay Water Park includes a zero depth swimming area for little tykes, volleyball and basketball active areas, and a lazy river and water slide.
- The name of the water park was chosen to reflect an archeological dig theme and 1% for art monies were used to created the history of northern Colorado back to the Paleolithic Erica. The dinosaur was custom-designed for Greeley and this site. This was one of the Quality-of-Life bond funded projects.
- Over 16,000 visitors used the site in 2012, and the pool also hosts an end-of-season dog pool party in fall.
- The Waggin’ Tail dog park is a 3-acre site with three separate roaming areas for different-sized dogs.
- The Balsam Sports complex is a 15-acre field area with five football/soccer fields.

22 Linn Grove Cemetery

- The cemetery was established in 1874; the first recorded burial was Newell Ives, who died June 3, the same day the cemetery was established.
- The initial forty acres for the cemetery were bought by Joseph C. Shattuck, who owned a farm in Linn Creek, Missouri named “Linn Grove.” When the town bought the land from him, they kept the name for the cemetery.
- Many remains from the original Greeley Cemetery (which was on the site known as Inspiration Point/the UNC Student Center) were re-interred at Linn Grove in 1882.