



Fort Collins, Colorado – Money Magazine’s Top Pick for Best Places to Live

According to the August 2006 issue of Money magazine, "Americans are flocking to places that offer the opportunity and amenities of a big city - but with a lot more green space and a lot less stress."

Fort Collins was awarded the No. 1 rank based on data and qualitative findings by *Money's* team of Best Places to Live editors and reporters. The *Money* staff started by identifying small cities with populations exceeding 50,000 and screened out cities of more than 300,000 people where more than 40 percent of the residents are over 50.

A mix of 38 quality-of-life indicators, such as income, divorce rates, weather, population density, commute times, affordability, art and leisure, park space and incidence of stress-related ailments were used to rank remaining locations. Next, they interviewed local officials, residents and community leaders by phone, before visiting a final pool of 20 cities to assess congestion, natural surroundings, the vibrancy of town center and sense of community.

The natural setting, the vibrancy of downtown and the presence of Colorado State University helped put Fort Collins at the top of the magazine’s list.

Overall, Fort Collins emerged to represent the 2006 most livable city with "the best possible blend of good jobs, low crime, quality schools, plenty of open space, rational home prices and lots to do."

Read more about America's Best Places to Live at Money.cnn.com.

Additional Fort Collins accolades

- *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine's **34th most fiscally sensible city** in which to live (2006)
- One of the Top 10 "**Best Places to Raise Your Family**," according to the book, *Best Places to Raise Your Family: The Top 100 Affordable Communities in the U.S.*, published by Frommer's travel guides and written by Peter Sander and Bert Sperling (2006)
- Named one of 10 "**New American Dream Towns**" by *Outside Magazine* based on open space, smart solutions to sprawl and gridlock, can-do community spirit, an active embrace of the adventurous life, and healthy job markets (2005)
- *Forbes Magazine* top 20 small metro **areas to start a business or career** (2005)
- "**Bicycle Friendly Community**" national award by League of American Bicyclists (2005)
- *Runner's World Magazine* **25 best running cities in America** (2005)
- Listed as a **nature-friendly town** in *Nature-Friendly Communities*, by Island Press (2005)



Fort Collins, Colorado Statistics

- Population: **128,000**
- Home to **CSU** and top-ranked **Poudre Valley Hospital** which together provide 10,000 jobs
- City offers **restaurants, night life and culture**
- **60 miles** of hiking and biking trails
- **Old Town**, a restored historic district, hops at night
- Students in **school district** best the state averages
- Four microbreweries provide **local flavor**
- Natural attractions like **Horsetooth Reservoir** for boating and swimming

- Selected by *Men's Journal* magazine as **fourth best place to live in the United States** (2005, 2003)
- Officially designated as a Take Pride In America Community, through a national partnership established by the *U.S. Department of the Interior* (2005)
- Selected as "**Top Retirement Spot**" by *Where to Retire* magazine (2005)
- **Best Place to Reinvent Your Life**, by *AARP Magazine* (2003)
- Ranked among the **top 50 places to live in the United States** by *Forbes Magazine* (2002)
- **Second in the nation as a digital city**, 2002 *Digital Cities Survey* conducted by The Center for Digital Government
- *ICLEI 5-Star Award* for **efforts to reduce global warming and pollution** (2002)
- **17th Best Place to Live and Work in America** by *Employment Review* (2002)
- Featured on *A&E Television* as **one of America's 10 most livable cities** (2000)