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IMAGES

The mission of the Boulder County Parks & Open Space Department is to conserve natural, cultural, and agricultural resources and provide public uses that reflect sound resource management and community values.

PHOTOGRAPHS & ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover photo: Agricultural Heritage Center,

Jim Drew

Raptor Monitor, Michelle Durant

Lohr Farmhouse, Rachel Gehr

Front Range Twinpod, Ann Cooper

Easter Daisy, Ann Cooper

Serviceberry, Bugwood.org; Mary Ellen Harte

Turtleback Formation, Andrea Van Sambeek

Coal Creek Trail Dog Walker, Pascale Fried

Caribou Ranch, Pascale Fried

Agricultural Heritage Center, Rachel Gehr

**Uncredited photos from BCPOS Collection*

NATURE DETECTIVES

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Volume 45, number 1

Volunteer with Us!

by Pascale Fried

Boulder County enjoys a unique and spectacular setting along the Front Range of the Southern Rocky Mountains. Volunteers have played a significant role in caring for our open spaces for the past four decades. The Volunteer Naturalist program started in 1975, the same year the department was founded. Over the years, opportunities have grown to engage volunteers in almost all land management activities. You can join a one-time service project or commit to longer-term positions. Volunteer opportunities are year-round!

What I know for sure is that volunteers join Boulder County Parks & Open Space for many reasons. Retirement gives them time to contribute to the community; others are looking for hands-on experience as they consider new hobbies or career options—and many just want to get away from their desks and spend time outdoors.

One of the most fulfilling ways to give back to the community is by volunteering. These are some of the rewards you'll likely enjoy when volunteering with us:

- Spending time in nature.
- Ensuring the continuing vitality and health of our open spaces.
- Getting to know your local open space properties.
- Gaining new skills.
- Making an impact on quality of life in Boulder County.
- Sharing the history of this area with a variety of groups.
- Meeting new people, building lasting relationships, and having fun!

National Volunteer Week

April 17 - 21, 2023

National Volunteer Week was created in 1974 to highlight the impact and power of volunteerism.

Below is an impressive snapshot of the level of community engagement from last year – thanks to everyone who helped steward our local open spaces!

Volunteers in 2022: 810

Contributed Hours: 15,847

One Day Project Volunteers: 1,492

Contributed: 5,047 hours

2023 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Agriculture

Rangeland Health Monitor: Photograph locations to monitor trends over time.

Forestry

Sort Yard Host: Greet people, collect data, and provide information on forest ecology.

Plants

Native Seed Garden Steward: Plant and monitor seed development, pull weeds, collect seed, and harvest plants.

Wildlife

Shrub Browse Monitor: Track shrub health in the elk management areas of Ron Stewart Preserve and Red Hill.

Raptor Monitor: Observe, record, and report data relating to nesting raptors.

Left Hand Outdoor Challenge

Boulder County youth, ages 14-18, participate in nine monthly challenges that focus on outdoor exploration, environmental stewardship, and careers in the outdoors. Volunteer adult mentors help lead youth and strengthen their connection to the outdoors.

"Images" Magazine Writer

Research and write articles about local natural and cultural resources, county open space properties, and open space management.

Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee

Members attend monthly meetings to provide input on open space policies and plans.

Visitor Education & Public Outreach

Agricultural Heritage Center:

- Animal Caretaker
- Tour Guide
- Gardening

Altona Educator: Share this historic one-room school with field trip groups and trail users.

Mining Museums Guide: Welcome visitors and share information about the museum and historical mining communities.

Walker Ranch Living History: Demonstrate chores and games of a 19th-century ranch to families, seniors, and school groups.

Volunteer Naturalist: Develop and present natural history programs to families, schools, and other groups.

Volunteer Ranger Corps: Patrol trails while providing visitors with information and collect visitor data. Assist with community outreach.



Volunteer Ranger Corps

"I love the enthusiasm of the people who attend programs, especially the kids."

Agricultural Heritage Center Volunteer



Raptor monitor



Walker Ranch living history volunteer

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Main website for all volunteer positions:
Boco.org/BCPOSvolunteer

Agricultural Heritage Center: Jim Drew,
jdrew@bouldercounty.org

Cultural History: Sheryl Kippen,
skippen@bouldercounty.org

Lefthand Outdoor Challenge: Sully Tun-Ake,
stunake@bouldercounty.org

Volunteer Naturalist: Angela Borland,
aborland@bouldercounty.org

Volunteer Ranger Corps: Michelle Marotti,
mmarrotti@bouldercounty.org

Nailing Down the Lohr Farmhouse

by Pete Lundskow

Many of you might know that the farmhouse at the Agricultural Heritage Center in Longmont is a Sears & Roebuck kit house.

Although not an exact match for any one house in the company's 40-page catalog, "Book of Modern Homes and Building Plans," it is similar to two houses featured in the 1911 through 1913 catalogs.

Back then, customers could make changes to the basic design and that is most likely what the Lohr family did. Every piece of the house was supplied by Sears, most likely delivered to the Longmont railroad station and then transported by truck or wagon to the building site. The only part of the house that the Lohrs would have had to supply locally would have been the foundation. All the wooden elements would have been labeled and instructions on their assembly included.

To anyone who has toured the Lohr farmhouse, it is easy to see that it is made of high-quality wood, materials, and fixtures. Sears sold the kit homes from 1908 to 1940.

THE BEGINNING OF KIT HOMES

Before 1908, Sears had a building materials department that was hard to keep organized and lost the company money. Richard Sears gave the head of the tableware department, Frank Kushel, the job of getting rid of this unprofitable department. Kushel came up with the idea of changing the way items were sold: to combine them into one package from wood to shingles to nails and screws and ship them to the nearest railroad station. Richard Sears was so taken by the idea that he created the first house catalog.

Sears wasn't the first company to offer kits. The North American Construction Company (eventually named Aladdin Houses) also did. Montgomery Ward, Sears' main competitor, offered its own version until 1918.

FAIR FINANCING

In 1911, around the same time the Lohrs purchased their kit, Sears began offering financing for the houses; we don't know if the Lohrs took advantage of financing or not. The terms were simple: 25 percent down on the house and lot and 6 percent interest over five years. The application asked no questions about race, ethnicity, gender or even finances—unheard of for that time period and for decades to come. The process allowed people to qualify for a home who otherwise might not have been able to do so.

400 HOME DESIGNS

Sears sold around 100,000 homes, and many still exist today. The store offered nearly 400 designs covering many architectural styles, from simple bungalows to 10-room houses for \$6,500. Sears also offered reproductions of Mount Vernon and other historic homes, dabbled in art deco design, and even had a contract with the federal government to build barracks for the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The house kit business peaked in the late 1920s and was strained during the Great Depression. In 1934, Sears stopped financing and selling kits. But after the establishment of the Federal Housing Administration and governmentally insured mortgages, the company resumed just selling houses. Unfortunately, this division of Sears finally stopped in 1940 because of the tens of millions of mortgage defaults and the start of shortages of building materials because of the lead up to World War II.

PRICE CHANGES WITH THE TIME

Most of the Sears' houses in high-priced market areas have gained much more value than the standard rate of inflation. A small cottage-type house in Longmont sold in 2019 for \$569,000 and a medium-sized bungalow sold in Boulder just before the pandemic for \$1.2 million. The people who benefited from the affordable houses offered by Sears back then would not likely be able to afford these kit homes at today's prices.

IDENTIFYING A KIT HOME

These tips are from the University of Maryland website, "Kit Homes" page, but many resources are dedicated to kit homes. One resource is www.searsarchives.com/homes.

- **Look for stamped lumber:** Sears lumber was marked with a letter and number on the tall side of the lumber and can be found two to 10 inches from the end of the member."
- **Look at plumbing fixtures:** When plumbing, electrical, and heating were added to the standard kit house, sometimes the fixtures were stamped with the initials or logo of the company.
- **Check the floor plan:** Compare the footprint and room sizes to the original manufacturer catalog. Many companies have digitized their catalogs, and they can be found online.
- **Look for shipping labels:** Inspect the back of millwork (wood molding and trim) for shipping labels.
- **Investigate shipping records:** Sears' houses were shipped exclusively by rail.

FOR LESS THAN \$1,825⁰⁰ YOU CAN BUILD THIS VERY CONVENIENTLY ARRANGED SEVEN-ROOM FRAME HOUSE, COMPLETE, READY FOR OCCUPANCY

IN MANY LOCALITIES THIS HOUSE COULD NOT BE DUPLICATED FOR LESS THAN \$3,000.00, IF BUILT WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF OUR FREE BUILDING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND BILL OF MATERIALS, WHICH INSURE YOU GETTING ONLY THE BEST KINDS OF MATERIALS. (SEE OUR SPECIAL OFFER ON PAGE 2.)



Oklahoma Houses By Mail

MODERN HOME No. 117

The arrangement of this house is as follows:

FIRST FLOOR.	
Parlor	13 feet 6 inches by 14 feet
Sitting Room or Bedroom	9 feet by 12 feet
Dining Room	13 feet 6 inches by 12 feet
Kitchen	16 feet by 11 feet
Pantry	9 feet by 5 feet
Front Porch	12 feet by 5 feet
Rear Porch	7 feet by 11 feet

SECOND FLOOR.	
Bedroom	23 feet by 11 feet
Bedroom	12 feet by 13 feet
Bedroom	22 feet by 14 feet
Large Hall	

The outside measurement of building, 26 feet by 46 feet, not including porches.

This house has an excavated basement under the entire building, 7 feet high to the joists. The first story measures 8 feet 4 inches from floor to ceiling and the rooms on the second floor measure 8 feet from floor to ceiling. For this house we specify fireproof glass "A" grade solid yellow pine inside doors for both first and second floors and yellow pine stairs and sills. Our mill work is shipped direct from our factory and reaches you in clean and bright condition. On page 2 of this book we explain to you how to get plans, specifications and complete list of materials for the construction of this house absolutely free.

Hot Water Heating Plant, extra.
Screen Living Plant, extra.

\$190.00
175.00

Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago, Ill. —12— BOOK OF MODERN HOMES



VISIT THE LOHR FARMHOUSE

You can tour the Lohr farmhouse at the Agricultural Heritage Center.
8348 Ute Highway 66, Longmont
Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April -Oct.

RESEARCH ON OPEN SPACE

The Boulder County Parks & Open Space Department offers grants for research on county open space lands each year. All proposals are reviewed by a team of resource specialists, and awarded research projects are monitored during their activities on open space. The following is a summary of a 2022 study conducted by Esa K. Crumb at PG Environmental. The project focused on assessing the effects of cattle grazing on riparian vegetation, groundwater, and soils and implications for carbon storage potential

Abstract: Wetland and riparian habitats are significant carbon sinks due to their high productivity and ability to efficiently sequester carbon in soils. Livestock grazing of riparian areas can affect the riparian environment by impacting vegetation biomass and composition and altering the stream characteristics and functions. In this study, we investigated the benefits of livestock exclosures on riparian condition and carbon sequestration potential. We hypothesized that riparian habitats on Boulder Parks & Open Space lands that have been isolated from livestock grazing will demonstrate increased carbon sequestration potential in both soil and vegetation biomass as compared to grazed locations, in addition to comparatively higher functioning ecological condition.

Study Objectives: 1. Characterize depth of saturation or groundwater as a measure of wetland hydrology at various

temporal scales across the riparian zone; 2. Evaluate soil characteristics, including indicators of hydric soils and soil carbon content, at various temporal scales across the riparian zone; 3. Assess vegetation community composition, including dominant species by strata and total cover, and estimate carbon sequestration potential; 4. Correlate active wetland indicators (hydrology, soils, vegetation) with above and below ground carbon storage estimates; and 5. Compare data collected at stream locations within and outside of cattle grazing exclosures.

We documented marked impacts of grazing pressure on vegetation community composition and quality, above ground biomass, wetland extents, and influences on groundwater levels and stream morphology. However, for this study we did not document clear differences in belowground carbon storage between exclosure sites and grazed sites. Our work suggests that grazing exclosures contribute significant habitat improvement benefits, but more *extensive* soil investigations are needed to understand the potential influence on below ground carbon sequestration potential.

If you want to read the full report or other funded research, visit the department's website at boco.org/research.

Can Spring Be Far Behind?

by Ann Cooper

Although bears do it, bats do it, and even people might occasionally wish to do it (hibernate), spring will eventually come, animals will awaken, as will wildflowers.

Spring technically starts on the vernal equinox (March 20, 2023), but in most years that's late enough to miss some of the loveliest wildflowers. Start looking as soon as wintery sun and snow-melt moisture encourage the first perennial plants to sprout from their well-established roots. The earliest blooms may appear as soon as January.

FINDING FIRST SPRING FLOWERS

One of the best places to look for first spring flowers is on the surface shale beds along the base of the foothills. The well-draining, sun-warmed dark substrate suits these “early birds” of the plant kingdom. Sheltered woodland trails are also worth a look. Here's what might you expect to find.

Low Easter Daisy doesn't wait for Easter to appear! This flat-to-the-ground, cushion plant has a rosette of greyish leaves and bright white to pink-tinged daisy-like flowers. Look carefully and you'll see white, strap-like petals surrounding a mass of minute yellow disc flowers. The whole head contains many individual florets—typical of the sunflower family. That makes them a good destination for insects to visit with their flat landing platform and ample clustered food (pollen) rewards! And so, the plants get pollinated.

Front Range Twinpod (Bell's Twinpod) is an endemic plant (it has a single, defined, geographical location), found in Boulder and Larimer counties. It is locally abundant on shale mesas, hogbacks, and road cuts. Vivid yellow blossoms of this mustard family plant sprout from a grey-green rosette. When in fruit, the two pods produced by each flower nestle together—hence the name. The characteristic round shape of the plant sitting on otherwise bare earth, let alone the bright circles of yellow blooms, make it recognizable from Highway 36 between Boulder and Lyons even at highway speeds. But please park and take a closer look!

Foothills—or three-fingered Milkvetch is another ground-hugging plant of rocky outcrops and shales that blooms early in spring. Typical of the pea family, it has tiny, lavender pea-flowers with interesting dark lines that might possibly be guides for insects seeking to find nectar? When not blooming, this grey-green spreading plant merges into the rock substrate and is easy to miss—a hands-and-knees plant.

Western Serviceberry is a shrub, small tree, or a mere mini-twig on shale soils. In the rose family, it has attractive white petals followed by berries that ripen to dull purple. They are edible, but besides the fact that collecting them is not allowed on county lands, it is prudent to never eat wild berries unless you are confident in your identification skills!

Spring Beauty deserves its name, with its delicate white to pink flowers on frail stems that barely top the grass growing in patchy sunlight beneath pines. Its leaves are long, skinny, and fleshy. Underground, the plant stores enough nutrients in its gumball-shaped tubers to fuel its early spring growth. Older field guides place this plant in the purslane family; newer guides say it's in the miner's lettuce family. Regardless, the common name is apt and memorable, and finding this elegant flower is a true trail delight.

Pasqueflowers, in the Buttercup Family, vary in color from nearly white, to palest blue, to lilac. (The colored parts are sepals, and the flower has no petals—on many flowers the green sepals behind the petals enclose the bud.) The bell-shaped flowers push up from the ground as the snows melt and gradually straighten and open. The whole plant is silky-hairy and the upright bell on each flower stalk is surrounded by a “nest” of leaflike, fuzzy bracts. When the flower is over, the seed heads resemble a silvery head of wild hair—picture a photo of Albert Einstein!

These are just a few of the wildflowers to look for in early spring. Besides the thrill of finding them, the biggest benefit is they entice their fans to get out on the trail!



Front Range Twinpod



Easter Daisy



Western Serviceberry



Pasqueflower



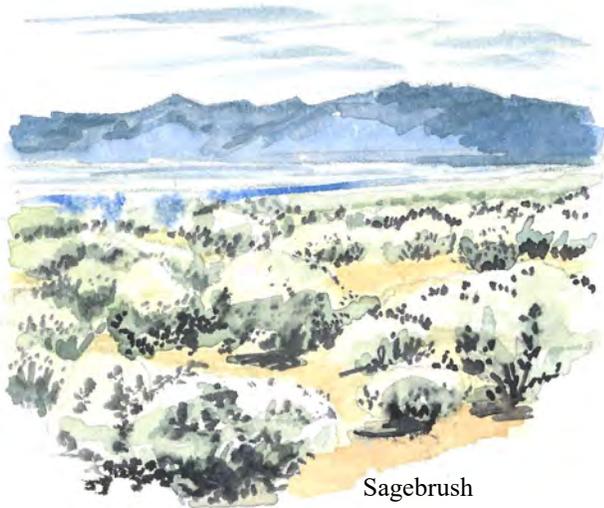
Spring Beauty



Milkvetch

NATURE DETECTIVES

Spring 2023



Sagebrush

Native Plants Wake Up!

Here they come!

Have you ever –after a winter night’s sound sleep– poked your head out from under the bedcovers into the morning light?



Penstemon

Pull Out and Sav

If yes, you can understand the wild seed. After the dark night of winter underground, the tiny plant is now feeling its way out of its seed coat...up through the moist soil...stretching up to the warm sun... growing its first bright green leaves. The trees wake up and drink in the sun. It’s Spring! Our native plants are growing again!

What are Native Plants?

Trees, grasses, flowers that have, for ages, grown naturally together in a certain place in nature—a rocky outcropping, for instance, or a high alpine meadow, a forest, or on the plains. Each has its own special kind and mixture of plants because it has its own special soil— some are full of sand, some sticky clay, others are rocky and still others are good earth for growing crops—and some are mixed. Each has its own special climate—dry, windy, snowy, sunny, shady, warm, cold and some are mixed.

These plants know how to create just the right kind of environment so they can all live well in their particular place. But that’s not all...

What Else is Special About Them?

Have you ever worked out how to get along with your family members or with kids on the playground?

The plants in each special area have had *thousands of years* to work out how to get along really well with each other, the local insects, the birds, foxes, bear, deer and other animals... They both help each other and keep each other in check so no one takes over the whole space. The native plants can keep going and re-grow with each other and their animal and insect partners even in rough times.



Snowdrops



Poppy Mallow

Sometimes plants from afar come to join them, blown in by wind or transported on vehicle tires; some die out here and others find a place for themselves in the overall balance. (There are other plants from far away which start taking over once they're here. Why? They don't have their own plant and insect companions from back home to keep them in check. We call that action "invasive.")

Our native plants attract insects, people, and other animals with their beautiful colors, scents and patterns. Have you ever seen an all-blue tree? Did you know Colorado has one named

after our state? It's called the Colorado blue spruce. Its picture is on the next page.

And some of our plants have strong, pungent smells. Smell sage or sagebrush—you won't forget those! Smell a pine forest in the foothills or the bark of just one ponderosa pine in the warm sun! Many people think it smells like vanilla or butterscotch. What do you think?

The pollen and nectar of our native plants attract and feed insects and other animals who have evolved with them throughout the centuries. Their stems provide cozy homes for insects sleeping through the winter.

Many native grasses and flowers have roots that go deep into the earth to find water. They hold our precious soils in place. And they don't need any help with fancy special garden soils or fertilizers. They have learned to make do over thousands of years here. They keep our precious water in the ground so it doesn't run away. (Many people like to plant native plants around their home for all these reasons.)

Plants and People



Serviceberry

Do you live in a home or have furniture made of wood? If it's pine or Douglas fir or Colorado blue spruce, these native plants of ours may be sheltering and helping you, just as they provide shelter for birds and raccoons.

Native people for many thousands of years and the settlers in the 1800's made their homes from trees' wood and bark, grasses and earth.

Did you know people have also made sun hats from native plants called reeds? And baskets and waterproofing from roots of certain trees such as spruce. And soap from yucca leaves!



Prairie Turnip



Sunchokes

Do you like to pick and eat raspberries? People who lived here before us did, too! They gathered food and drink from wild native raspberries, strawberries, plums, serviceberries, currants, sunroot (Jerusalem artichokes), prairie turnip, yucca root, wild onions and many more wild plants. They made medicines from native plants such as American licorice, evening primrose, elderberries, and so many more.

What's the best way to get familiar with our local native plants? Stay tuned to Boulder County Parks & Open Space website for plant programs or request one for your group. And you can start right now with the activity "Finding Your Tree!" on the next page.



Colorado Blue Spruce

Activity: Finding Your Tree!

This is an all-time favorite of both children and adults.

To play:

- Take one blindfold per person. Many people like to use bandannas.
- Go to a forest or group of trees with one other player or if you are in a class, pair up. Choose one special “base camp” in that area and go there.
- Now the first person in a pair (A) puts on a blindfold.
- The second person in the pair (B) takes the first person by the hand and very slowly leads (A) to a tree. It can be close or far. You might want to do the first round with a close tree.
- The blindfolded player (A) feels and smells all around the tree until they are pretty sure they could identify it with their blindfold off. (But leave it on for now.) After a few minutes, when the blindfolded person (A) feels ready, the partner (B) again takes their hand and leads them back to base camp.
- Back at base camp, the blindfolded partner (A) takes off their blindfold. The partner (B) says, “Can you find your tree?”
- The blindfolded person (A) then tries to find their tree with their blindfold *off*. (No one believes they can, but most people do on the first try.) (B) tells them when they are not close or are getting close by saying ‘you’re cold...or warm... or hot!’ Once (A) has identified their tree and has had time to see it with open eyes, the partners both go back to base camp.
- Then they switch roles.
- People usually like to have at least two rounds each. Have fun!



Gems of our Regional Trails

by Andrea Van Sambeek

When we decide to go for a hike, it often takes preparation. We research the trails, find directions to the trailhead, gather our gear, and finally head off in a car to our destination. Luckily, in Boulder County, we can opt to skip out on much of this prep work by taking a hike on our regional trails system. For many of us, the regional trails are just steps from home and have much to offer.

We often think of these trail systems as a commuter resource, allowing people to bike between towns without fighting traffic. Of course, this is a great benefit of the regional trails, but they have much more to offer. Coal Creek, Rock Creek, LoBo (Longmont-Boulder), and Niwot trails are homes to wildlife, provide scenic views, and offer a drier trail option during the muddy spring season. Here are a few of the many gems waiting to be discovered on our regional trails:

FLAGG PARK

Located just off Flagg Drive in the city of Lafayette, Flagg Park offers easy access to Coal Creek, as well as a quick connection to both Coal and Rock Creek trails. In spring and summer, the picnic table next to Coal Creek provides a shady spot for an afternoon break. Just a short walk down the trail brings into view a great blue heron rookery (seen from where the two trails intersect). Walking just a bit further down the trail brings you to an overlook of the confluence of Rock Creek and Coal Creek. The western views from this part of the trail are impressive in all seasons. Dragonflies are abundant in the area and other wildlife, including raptors and coyotes, call this area home as well.

RAILROAD TRESTLE AT COMMERCE COURT

If you have any railroad enthusiasts in your family, then a visit to the Coal Creek Trail is in order. Simply head east from the South Public Road trailhead. Just before you reach 120th, the trail goes under an active railroad trestle. If you are lucky, one of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) trains may even be on top! It is a fantastic way to get an up-close glimpse of a train while maintaining a safe distance for even the smallest fans of locomotives. The BNSF trains now service Universal Forest Products (UFP Industries) by bringing in lumber for truss construction. Historically, this line serviced the coal mines in the area and even brought passengers to Lafayette until 1958.

TURTLEBACKS

The Niwot Trail holds another regional gem. This trail is of special interest to folks who are interested in a history that dates back much further than the railroads and coal mines. In fact, the sandstone formations found here date back 67 million years to a time when this area was the beach of a huge inland sea. Trace fossils of burrowing sea

creatures, as well as small sharks' teeth, are located in these rocks. From the trail, you can observe turtlebacks—areas of polygonal (many-sided) joints or cracks in the sandstone, as well as domes and depressions—left as the clay that makes up this sandstone contracted as it dried. Those less interested in geology will still enjoy the incredible views from this trail just south of the Somerset housing development.

Wherever you decide to ramble on our regional trails system, you are bound to come across gems of your own. Enjoy your exploration!

Turtleback formation along the Niwot Trail



Wolf mural on the Lobo Trail



Coal Creek Trail



Calendar of Events

BIRDS OF PREY DRIVING TOUR

Saturday, March 11, 9 a.m.-noon

Near Longmont. Location provided when registering.

Hop in your car and join us for a driving tour of the best areas to view birds of prey. Follow the tour map to designated stops with volunteer naturalists and search the skies for raptors, learn about their habitat, and work on your identification skills. Register at boco.org/discover.

BIRDING THROUGH THE SEASONS SLIDE PROGRAM

Thursday, March 16, 6:30-8 p.m.

Near Longmont. Location provided when registering

This slide program will explore where to go and how to identify some of our local birds, from the plains to the alpine. You will also learn about challenges birds face and how they adapt to a range of ecosystems and habitats. Register at boco.org/discover.

VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE: PLAY BALL—WALKER RANCH HOMESTEAD'S VINTAGE BASE BALL GAME 2022

Thursday, March 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Online program.

Enjoy for the first time or relive the old-fashioned vintage baseball game from 2022 held at Walker Ranch Homestead. Using 19th century rules, the Walker Ranchers (our local recruits) played a visiting team from the Colorado Vintage Base Ball Association. Players from both teams will share their experiences in a Q&A. Register by March 14 at boco.org/discover.

BIRDS OF PREY SLIDE SHOW

Saturday, March 18, 2-3:30 p.m.

Louisville Public Library, 951 Spruce St., Louisville

Learn to recognize birds of prey in the winter skies. During this slide presentation, you'll learn how to distinguish among raptors by identifying common field marks. You will also learn about the habitat requirements, behavior, and ecology of these magnificent birds. Register at <https://www.louisville-library.org/browse-find/test/calendar>

FAMILY PROGRAM: WETLANDS WILDLIFE

Thursday, March 23, 10 a.m.-noon

Near Longmont. Location provided when registering.

Come explore the many animals in the wetlands from under the water to up into the skies. We will look for critters all around the wetland, get our hands wet, and learn how many of these animals rely on and connect to the wetlands in our area. Ages 6 and up welcome with an accompanying adult. Register at boco.org/discover.

HERE COMES SPRING!

Saturday, March 25, 1-3 p.m.

Near Boulder. Location provided when registering.

Join volunteer naturalists on a leisurely 1.5-mile hike to celebrate the beginning of spring by looking and listening for signs of new life along the trail. Learn the importance of the sun at equinox. Register at boco.org/discover.

HIKE FOR SENIORS: HIBERNATORS EMERGE!

Wednesday, March 29, 1- 3 p.m.

Near Boulder. Space is limited. Location provided when registering.

Transportation available.

Easy/moderate hike. After a winter of frigid temperatures and snow-covered landscapes, hibernators stir and awaken. Some have slept through the winter and others have awakened here and there. Hike with volunteer naturalists as they share how some animals use dormancy to survive the winter. Register at boco.org/discover.

BUZZ! BUZZ! POLLINATORS ABOUND

Thursday, April 6, 5-6:30 p.m.

Near Boulder. Location provided when registering.

Pollinators are a crucial part of any ecosystem. Without them, we wouldn't have some of our most beloved foods or raw materials. Join volunteer naturalists on a

brief walk in search of our native pollinators and the plants they love. Register at boco.org/discover.



THE MYSTERY OF BIRD MIGRATION SLIDE PROGRAM

Wednesday, April 12, 6:30-8 p.m.

Near Lafayette. Location provided when registering.

Join volunteer naturalists in exploring the mysteries surrounding bird migration. Why do birds migrate? Why some and not others? Come find the answers to these questions and more as we talk about where you can observe birds in migration. Register at boco.org/discover.

MIGRATION AT THE PONDS

Saturday, April 15, 8:30-11 a.m.

Near Boulder. Location provided when registering.

Join volunteer naturalists to explore the joys of bird watching and learn to recognize different types of migratory birds. Be prepared for a slow-paced walk of up to two miles. Bring water, walking shoes, binoculars, and a bird field guide if you have them. Register at boco.org/discover.

WILDFLOWERS OF BOULDER COUNTY SLIDE PROGRAM

Tuesday, April 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Lafayette Public Library, 775 Baseline Rd., Lafayette

Join volunteer naturalists for a slide program to kick off the wildflower season! You'll learn about the diversity of wildflowers in Boulder County from the plains to the alpine, where and when to look for them, and some interesting stories about some of our native plants. Register at boco.org/discover.

YOGA ON THE FARM

Friday, April 21, 9-10 a.m.

Agricultural Heritage Center, 8348 Ute Highway 66, Longmont

Join Andrea Van Sambeek (certified yoga instructor) for a gentle yoga class and take in the views from your mat. Pause, breathe, and revitalize in this idyllic setting. After class, stay to explore the Agricultural Heritage Center. Please bring your own yoga mat. All levels are welcome! Ages 12 and up. Register at boco.org/discover.

LETTERS OF PROMISE: GIVING BACK TO NATURE

Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m.-noon

Near Boulder. Location provided to those registering.

This earth day-themed program will lead participants through conversations and activities that help us become better protectors of the wildlife and natural resources we've come to appreciate. Short walk included. All materials included. Register at boco.org/discover.



Seniors Fish-off

Friday, April 21, 6:30-10 a.m. Wally Toevs Pond at Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat, 75th St, between Valmont Road and Jay Road, Boulder

The trout have fattened up and are biting! Prizes will be awarded for heaviest rainbow trout, most experienced (oldest) angler, best fishing hat, and first to catch the limit.

- Open to seniors 65 years and older.
- All anglers must sign in (no fishing before 6:30 a.m.)
- Valid 2023 Colorado fishing license required.
- Live bait and artificial flies/lures permitted—bring your own fishing gear.
- Wheelchair-accessible fishing pier is available.

For more information, contact Michelle Marotti at mmarotti@bouldercounty.org or 303-678-6219.

HIKE FOR SENIORS: PRAIRIE DOGS, A KEYSTONE SPECIES

Thursday, April 27, 1-3 p.m.

Near Boulder. Space is limited. Location provided when registering.

Easy hike. Their statue-like positions atop their mounds and high-pitch squeaks are iconic. Volunteer naturalists will lead you on a short hike around a prairie dog colony to get a closer look at this species.



RATTLESNAKE HIKE

Sunday, April 30, 1-3:30 p.m.

Near Lyons. Location provided when registering

Watch your step! Join volunteer naturalists on a moderate trek through prime rattlesnake habitat and learn about these often misunderstood and feared creatures. Meet at the shelter to share in a discussion about rattlesnake habitat and behavior and learn things you'd never imagine through seeing and feeling. Register at boco.org/discover.

BILINGUAL WILDFLOWER HIKE: CAMINATA CON MAMÁ:

Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m. -1 p.m.

Near Boulder. Location provided when registering.

Siempre hay flores para aquellos que quieren verlas. Join us for a moderate two-mile wildflower hike to celebrate Mother's Day. We will saunter along the trail from grassland to ponderosa pine shrubland in search of early bloomers. Come look for yourself as Bilingual naturalists help you learn about and identify the unique vegetative biodiversity you will find in Boulder County. Register at boco.org/discover.

WILDFLOWER HIKE: FLOWERS FOR MOM

Sunday, May 14, 10 a.m.-noon

Near Boulder. Location provided when registering.

Join us for an easy and short wildflower hike to celebrate Mother's Day. Learn to identify our native wildflowers and how to find them. Take in the reds, whites, yellows, and purples that dot Boulder County's open spaces. Register at boco.org/discover.

WILDFLOWERS OF BOULDER COUNTY SLIDE PROGRAM

Tuesday, May 16, 6:30-8 p.m.

Near Longmont. Location provided when registering.

Join volunteer naturalists for a slide program to kick off the wildflower season! You'll learn about a diversity of wildflowers and where and when to look for them. Register at boco.org/discover.



Calendar of Events

FUN ON THE FARM: HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Friday, May 19, 9:45–10:30 a.m.

Agricultural Heritage Center, 8348 Ute Highway 66, Longmont

Bring your kids ages 3–6 to the farm to learn about animals, plants, and agricultural life. Programs include a short story time, hands-on activities, and a take-home craft. Afterwards, explore the farm. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

FOOTHILLS GEOLOGY HIKE

Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m.-noon

Near Longmont. Location provided when registering.

Join volunteer naturalists for a 1.3-mile moderate hike on the Lichen Loop Trail to learn how this landscape has changed. Tales told in the rocks span 200 million years, from ancient sand dunes to tidal flats to riverbeds where dinosaurs roamed. The rocks also determine the shape and ecology of the present landscape and the plants and wildlife we find here. Register at [boco.org/discover](https://www.boco.org/discover).

FOSSILS AND FLOWERS HIKE

Monday, May 22, 10 a.m.-noon

Near Boulder. Location provided when registering.

Join volunteer naturalists for a short, moderately strenuous hike to explore a landscape created by folding and faulting and see evidence of the seas that once inundated this area. Bring water and hiking shoes. Register at [boco.org/discover](https://www.boco.org/discover).



YOGA ON THE FARM

Friday, May 26, 9-10 a.m.

Agricultural Heritage Center, 8348 Ute Highway 66, Longmont

Join Andrea Van Sambeek (certified yoga instructor) for a gentle yoga class and take in the views from your mat. Pause, breathe, and revitalize in this idyllic setting. After connecting with breath and movement, stay to explore all the Agricultural Heritage Center has to offer. Please bring your own yoga mat. All levels are welcome! Ages 12 and up. Register at [boco.org/discover](https://www.boco.org/discover).

ALL PROGRAMS:

Be prepared for changing temperatures. Bring water, and dress in layers.

For information about these programs or to arrange a private program, please call 303-678-6214. NO PETS, PLEASE!

HIKE FOR SENIORS: WILDFLOWER HIKE

Wednesday, May 24, 1-3 p.m.

Near Boulder. Space is limited. Location provided when registering.

Easy Hike. Wildflowers are blooming; bright colors dot the hillsides and valleys at higher elevations. Find these flowers along the trail as volunteer naturalists share stories and uses for some of our native plant species.

SPECTACULAR GEOLOGY!

Saturday, May 27, 2-3:30 p.m.

Superior Community Center, 1500 Coalton Rd., Superior

The geologic history of our landscape goes back nearly two billion years! Join volunteer naturalists for this slide program and learn how to read this story in the rocks. Register at <https://www.louisville-library.org/browse-find/test/calendar>

Night Programs

ASTRONOMY: WISH UPON A STAR

Friday, April 21, 7:30-10 p.m.

Near Lyons. Space is limited. Location provided when registering.

Join us for a program about meteors, meteor showers and learn where they come from, followed by sky gazing with telescopes provided by the Longmont Astronomical Society. All ages. Registration required at www.boco.org/discover.

ASTRONOMY: GALAXY EXTRAVAGANZA

Friday, May 19, 8-10:30 p.m.

Near Lyons. Space is limited. Location provided when registering.

Join us for this program to discuss our galaxy and learn about other galaxies and galaxy clusters, followed by sky gazing with telescopes provided by Longmont Astronomical Society. All ages. Registration required at www.boco.org/discover.

FULL MOON HIKE: MOON STORIES

Friday, May 5, 8-10:30 p.m.

Near Boulder. Location provided when registering.

Come learn about the beauty that lights up our night skies. Listen to the stories and interpretation of their presence from then and now and observe the full moon from the peaceful stillness of open space after dark. Please bring a flashlight or headlamp. Registration required at www.boco.org/discover.

Get Muddy!

Wet ground is fragile. Winter snows and spring rains saturate and soften the ground, making it very susceptible to recreation impacts.

When trails are muddy:

- Use before 10 a.m.
- Visit a park that has hard-surface trails.
- Stay on the trail and go through mud.

Shortcutting switchbacks and bypassing mud puddles greatly increases erosion, widens trails, and destroys vegetation.

Before you go:

Visit boco.org/trails for current trail conditions.

Pick the Right Trail

In wet conditions, use hard-surface trails at lower elevations, such as:

- Coal Creek Trail
- Boulder Creek Path
- St. Vrain Greenway Trail

Boots, bikes, and horses clean up fast, but trails take years to heal.

Caribou Ranch Annual Closure April—June

This annual spring closure from April 1 through June 30 protects spring migratory birds, overwinter elk survival, and elk calving and rearing activities. Please respect wildlife needs for solitude.

Migrating from lower elevations, the local elk herd arrives every spring. Females calve on the property and remain until June or July, when they move to higher elevations.

Parks & Open Space strives to find a balance between providing recreational activities and protecting wildlife habitats and natural resources.

Violators of the closure can be fined \$100 by the resident ranger and county sheriff deputies who patrol the open space property.



Agricultural Heritage Center Opens April 1



Come to the farm! Enjoy the rural setting and learn about the agricultural history of Boulder County. The farm includes two barns with exhibits, a milk house, blacksmith shop, and a furnished 1909 farmhouse.

During the busy season there are also animals on site, including chickens, pigs, sheep, and other critters.

Hours: open every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. April through October

Admission: free

Location: 8348 Ute Highway 66, west of Longmont

For additional information: call 303-776-8688 or visit boco.org/ahc.

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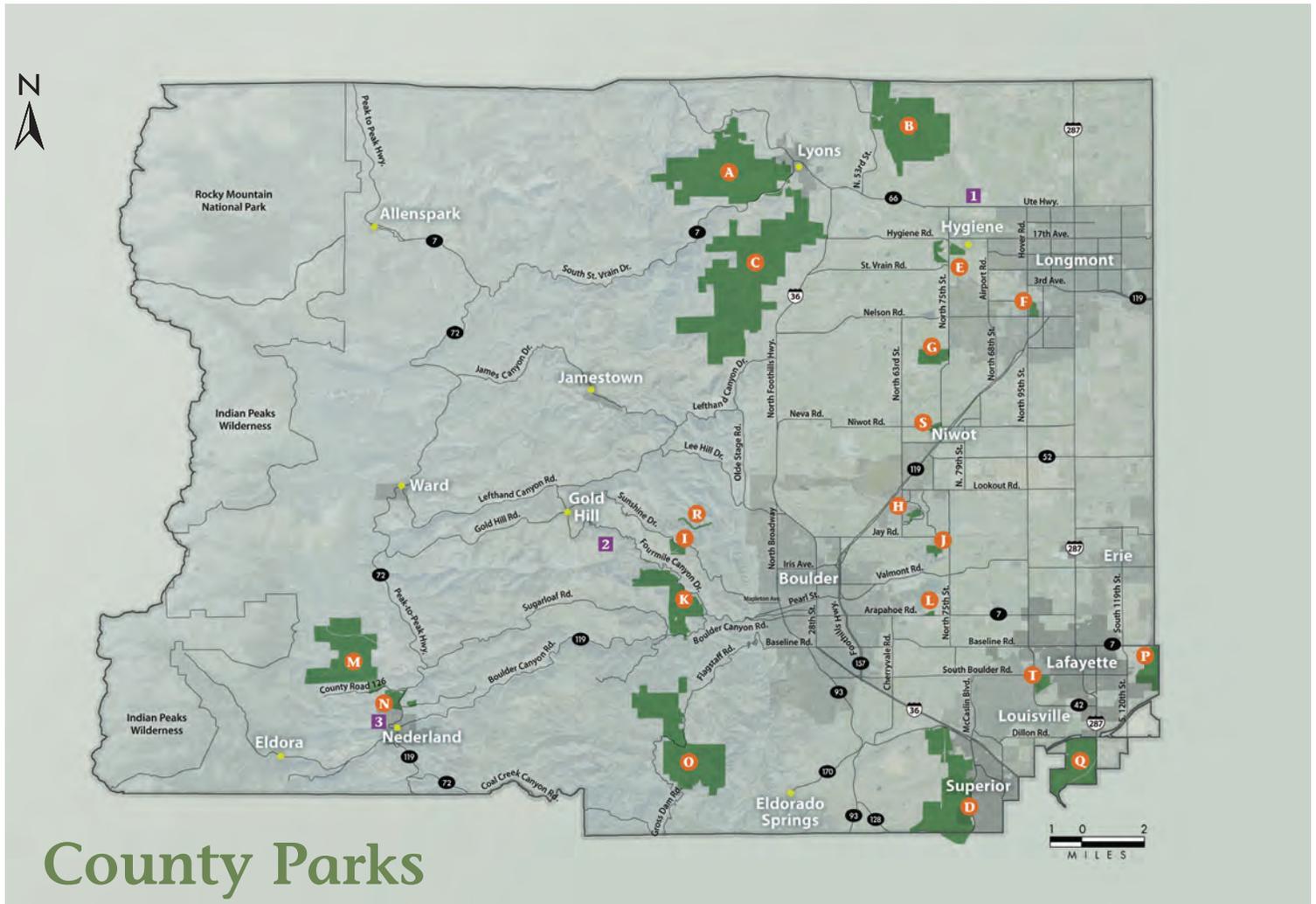
Visit boco.org/jobs



Parks & Open Space

5201 St. Vrain Road, Longmont, CO 80503

www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org



County Parks

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| A Hall Ranch | H Twin Lakes | P Flagg Park |
| B Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain | I Bald Mountain Scenic Area | Q Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Ranch |
| C Heil Valley Ranch | J Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat | R Anne U. White |
| D Coalton Trailhead | K Betasso Preserve | S Dodd Lake |
| E Pella Crossing | L Legion Park | T Harney Lastoka |
| F Boulder County Fairgrounds | M Caribou Ranch | 1 Agricultural Heritage Center |
| G Lagerman Reservoir | N Mud Lake | 2 James F. Bailey Assay Office Museum |
| | O Walker Ranch | 3 Nederland Mining Museum |