

IMAGES

NEWS



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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.

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NATURE DETECTIVES

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PRINTING

Boulder County Printing Department

EDITORS

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volume 39, number 3

The Soil Revolution

by Clark Harshbarger and Vanessa McCracken

Boulder County Parks and Open Space is committed to conserving natural, cultural, and agricultural resources, and providing public uses that reflect sound resource management and community values. One of the most fundamental natural resources is right beneath our feet. Soil is a living and life-giving natural resource vital to our survival.

Soil health can be defined as the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains life and is regenerated by the management of plants and animals by humans.

BENEFITS OF SOIL HEALTH MANAGEMENT

With the adoption of the Boulder County Cropland Policy in 2011, the Boulder County Parks and Open Space (BCPOS) Agricultural Resources Division was prompted to initiate a soil health monitoring program on county-owned and privately-operated agricultural lands. In 2014, BCPOS began a partnership with the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in this endeavor. NRCS was a logical partner because of their technical expertise in the science of soil health, and history of working with land managers to establish a conservation plan to manage natural resources. The objective of the soil health monitoring program is to bring a heightened awareness of the benefits of managing agricultural lands within the context of soil health management systems (SHMS) to policy makers, tenants and concerned citizens in Boulder County. SHMS are farming systems that use a combination of conservation practices to address resource concerns such as erosion, soil quality degradation, and insufficient water. Conservation practices such as residue and tillage management, conservation crop rotations, cover crops and prescribed grazing are used in combination to address documented resource concerns.

Soil health can be defined as the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains life and is regenerated by the management of plants and animals by humans.

The long-term health of agricultural soils is a major determining factor in how successful Boulder County will be in creating a sustainable agricultural system on its cropland. Sustainability as it relates to soil health and quality requires affirmative efforts to protect the resource base of cropland so that it shall be productive in the future.

During 2014 and 2015, the Agricultural Resources Division assessed six characteristics of soil health on eight properties. These characteristics included, soil texture, water infiltration, organic matter estimates, percent residue cover, aggregate stability and an earthworm count.



Soil health volunteers Pam Sherman and Shelby Kaminski complete the Soil Health Cropland Resource Concern Assessment Card at the Pasqual Property.

Technical assistance from the NRCS allowed staff to reassess and slightly redesign and expand the program in 2016. The redesigned program included a more robust field assessment and two laboratory tests to assess soil health. The assessments were completed by a team of volunteers, BCPOS, CSU Extension, and NRCS staff members.

Results of the field Resource Concern Assessments are below. Scores are on a scale of one to three with three being the highest or best. Soil in the Soil Texture row: C-Clay, L-Loam, S-Sand, SI-Silt.

		Property 1	Property 2	Property 3	Property 4	Property 5	Property 6	Property 7	Property 8
	Soil Texture (field)	SIC, SC, C	SICL, SCL	CL	CL, SCL	SCL, SICL	SL, SCL	CL, L, SCL	SICL
PHYSICAL	Erosion	2.3	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.7	3.0	1.9	3.0
	Soil Structure	1.3	2.5	1.5	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.5	2.0
	Slake Test (aggregate stability NRCS)	2.0	N/A	2.5	2.0	2.5	1.0	N/A	N/A
	Soil Crust	1.0	2.8	2.3	1.0	1.5	2.5	1.5	3.0
	Compaction	1.0	2.0	2.1	1.3	2.2	1.3	1.0	1.0
BIOLOGICAL	Residue	2.0	2.5	2.0	2.3	3.0	2.7	1.5	3.0
	Roots and pores	1.3	2.5	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.0
	Soil color and smell	1.2	2	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.3	1.5	2.0
	Soil Food Web	1.0	2.75	2.0	2.4	1.9	1.3	1.3	2.0
	Soil Temperature	1.0	3	1.0	3.0	1.0	2.3	2.7	2.0
Health Field Score		1.4	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.4	2.0

Two laboratory tests were also completed on three of the eight properties. Ward Laboratories performed the Haney Test (also known as the Soil Health Nutrient Tool) and Cornell University performed the Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health (CASH). Haney scores range from one to 50, with a score of seven or higher preferred. CASH scores range from one to 100 where higher scores are better. The combined results of the field assessment, Haney Test and CASH are shown below. The same trend was revealed providing similar diagnoses of the systems' soil health. Dig a little, learn a lot!

Combined Soil Health Results			
	Property 1	Property 6	Property 2
Field Score	1.4	1.9	2.3
CASH Score	36	39	52
Haney Score	3.91	5.37	10.2

The goal when assessing soil health is not to compare one property to another. The goal is to compare each property to itself as management practices change over time. The partnership created between BCPOS, NRCS, CSU Extension, tenants and volunteers has led to exciting collaborations and projects that have continued in 2017.

Stay tuned for part two in the Spring 2018 issue of *Images*.

A First Year and Beyond

by Eric Lane, Boulder County Parks & Open Space Director

Over the past year as the new director for Boulder County Parks and Open Space (BCPOS), it has been my great pleasure to learn more and more about the many different facets of our operations. During my brief tenure I have come to appreciate how BCPOS has grown into a robust organization with capabilities and accomplishments that we should all be proud of. For example, just yesterday (as of the writing of this article) I joined our Boulder County staff, complimented by dozens of staff from neighboring jurisdictions, conducting a successful prescribed burn at the Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain to restore ecological function and reduce the likelihood of uncontrolled fires that might threaten neighboring homes and farmlands. While many open space programs can acquire parcels of land in order to protect resources, few can match our investments and capacity to manage these lands and resources for biodiversity, ecological function, agricultural productivity, and cultural heritage.

COMMITMENT

This investment and capacity is made possible by the dedication and passion of our staff who care deeply about the mission of BCPOS; the generosity of our volunteers and partners who help multiply our capacity for accomplishment by investing their time and resources; and the sustained commitment of the community through repeated approval of sales-tax initiatives that have provided the means to acquire and manage lands across the county. The analogy of a three-legged stool is an apt one here. Without one of these sources of support, BCPOS simply could not be the effective organization it is today.

MEETING CHALLENGES

This past year has been a challenging one in several respects. Professionally, our department grappled with a couple of difficult and controversial issues like the transition away from genetically-engineered crops on public open space lands and the introduction of hunting as a management tool on Rabbit Mountain to disperse a rapidly increasing elk herd. Despite the at-times acrimonious public debate, our staff provided the best in public service by continuing to listen attentively and carefully to the input from all stakeholders in order to craft and hone our recommendations into workable policies and plans to address these resource issues.

FACING LOSS

Personally, our department suffered a tremendous loss with the tragic death of a long-time friend and colleague, Faulkner Merdes, an employee in our noxious weed management program.

Eric Lane and Al Hardy, Recreation and Facilities Division Manager who also works at Parks and Open Space, talk with an equestrian at the dedication of the new Overland Loop Trail at Heil Valley Ranch Open Space.



In the days and months that followed, our staff not only supported one another, but also Faulkner's family. The compassion that we showed each other and the Merdes family underscored the fact that BCPOS is not just an organization of mission-oriented professionals, but also a family. Our loss has also helped the department refocus its attention on safety throughout the organization. We are making a concerted effort to examine how we can prevent accidents in the future, as well as learn from past accidents, small and large.

LOOKING AHEAD

In the coming years, we will continue to tackle difficult and sometimes controversial challenges, like how we can mitigate and adapt to climate change across the breadth of our wild and managed landscapes, what sustainable agriculture can and should look like across the diversity of agricultural lands and tenant producers we partner with, and how we manage the increased recreational demands on our trails and landscapes to provide access while protecting sensitive resources. I'm very happy to be a part of BCPOS and look forward to working with our staff, volunteers, partners, and community to continue our progress and tackle the challenges ahead. So much has been accomplished in the past 40 years. Yet so much remains to be accomplished. It is truly a privilege to be a part of this community's commitment to protecting and stewarding the agricultural, cultural, and natural resources of Boulder County.

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Gleaning for the Greater Good

by Ashley Hanlon



Have you noticed that the corn stalks have gone from their typical vibrant green to a more yellowish brown color? Do you think that the pumpkin patches are starting to look a little sparse? Well, have no fear—the Boulder County gleaners are here!

In the past couple of years, volunteers have participated in a new and meaningful way to donate their time through a project called “gleaning.” Historically, this term was used in the Celtic language to describe the time after the first grain harvest when farmers would send people back out to gather any leftover grain; this became known as gleaning. The gleaning projects that Boulder County Parks and Open Space host are not all that different from those historic roots.

Gleaning Step by Step

First, we gather volunteers and take them to a property leased by a farmer from Boulder County Parks and Open Space. In 2016, organic farmer Dave Asbury allowed his crops to be gleaned by volunteers. These volunteer projects occur after the farmer has harvested everything they want from the field. Typically there is a lot of perfectly good produce left behind. This is where the gleaners come in.

Next, gleaners grab their bins and are ready to collect that left over produce. They make sure that each piece collected is food they would serve at their own table, and then they put it in a large collection bin. After they have gleaned what they can from the fields, the food is taken to Community Food Share in Louisville.

Community Food Share collects food from generous donors throughout the area, then sorts, stores, and distributes the food to those in need. A percentage of the food is made available to individual families struggling to buy their own food, and another portion of the food goes to organizations such as homeless shelters and nursing homes. A study in 2014 concluded that Community Food Share assisted 78,200 individual clients with feeding their families. They collect a variety of foods including the fresh produce that Boulder County volunteers collected, as well as canned foods, pasta and pasta sauce, juices, and much more.

This type of volunteer work is both fun and rewarding. The food that our volunteers collect goes to help those in need, which helps to make the Boulder County community a better place.

Last year, the department collected over 5,000 pounds of produce to donate to Community Food Share. Let’s see if we can do even better in 2017!

VOLUNTEER

Want to take part in a gleaning project? Visit our website at www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/wildwork to learn about upcoming gleaning projects scheduled in October.

Ginger Butternut Squash Soup

Have extra fall produce of your own? Try out a new recipe, like this vegan and gluten-free squash soup!

Ingredients

- 1 large butternut squash, halved lengthwise and seeded
- 2 tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon of olive oil
- 1 large yellow onion, diced
- 2 carrots, diced
- 2 celery stalks, diced
- 2 medium apples, peeled, cored, and diced
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 two-inch piece fresh ginger, peeled and minced
- 4 to 5 cups vegetable stock
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- Salt to taste

Directions

Prick each squash half several times with a fork and lightly coat with the extra 1 teaspoon olive oil. Bake cut-side down at 375 degrees until very tender, 45-60 minutes. Once cooled, scoop the flesh into a bowl.

Meanwhile, in a large nonstick pan on medium-low heat, add the remaining oil and sauté the onion, carrot and celery until very soft, about 10-15 minutes. Add the ginger, garlic, apple, and pepper, and cook an additional 3-5 minutes.

Using a food processor, puree the squash, sautéed vegetables, and stock in batches until smooth.

Transfer to a large saucepan and reheat on low, adding salt and pepper to taste. Serve with your favorite toppings, such as pumpkin seeds, pine nuts, sour cream, parmesan cheese, fresh herbs and a slice of toasted bread.

This recipe is very adaptable! Feel free to substitute other herbs and spices in place of the ginger for unlimited options.

by Evangelynn Fortuna

Elk & Vegetation: A Plan for Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain

By Dave Hoerath



View from Little Thompson Trail at Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain

The Boulder County Parks and Open Space (BCPOS) current management plan for Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain was created in 1985. Interestingly, it barely mentions elk, as they were really not part of the Rabbit Mountain landscape 30 years ago. Contrast that with a fall count in 2016 of 360 animals, and the story has changed. The elk population has grown ten-fold in the past several years, buoyed by enhanced survivorship of more and more elk. The current nature of the use and travel patterns of this elk herd is causing issues across the northern part of the county on and around Rabbit Mountain.

The herd has chosen to use areas on the open space far from concentrated human use that still provide those things all wildlife need: food, cover, water, and space. It also provides refuge from hunting. This core area the elk inhabit is the sparsely-forested area south of the Eagle Wind Trail. Staff began seeing habitat impacts from this use over time, and vehicle collisions, crop damage, and neighbor complaints to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) increased.

FOUR AREAS OF FOCUS

These growing issues brought BCPOS and CPW together to work on them.

Our primary goal was to manage for a sustainable elk population on the landscape by monitoring objectives in four areas of concern:

- Natural vegetation: reducing and repairing negative impacts
- Migration and movements: reestablishing a pattern of migration
- Elk population numbers: reducing the population back down to 30-70 animals
- Human conflicts: reducing the damage and conflicts to agricultural producers, neighbors, and area users.

Since 2015, we monitored elk distribution and movement patterns with radio collars on some of the elk. Initial data showed short, daily movements back and forth from Ron Stewart Preserve

at Rabbit Mountain Open Space to private lands to utilize irrigated fields. As the herd grew, some of the distances increased, and the groups did not always return to Rabbit Mountain the same day. It has also shown that the herd did not migrate, choosing instead to remain year-round in the area.

A PLAN IS APPROVED

CPW enhanced hunting opportunities on private lands surrounding Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain by creating a special liberalized hunt unit in 2015. But the elk herd has largely frustrated these efforts by being nocturnal and keeping to open space. The accumulating conflicts and resource damage became too much to manage the way we were going, so we developed a plan to add Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain Open Space to the special hunt unit. After a series of public meetings, with plenty of citizen input, the modified plan was approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) in June 2017. This multi-faceted plan contains limited hunting as its centerpiece, along with fencing, hazing, and continued vegetative monitoring.

The park and trails will close three days each week, September 11, 2017 through January 31, 2018, in order to conduct this management safely. Hunters will be drawn from those that already possess the 2017 special unit tag, and they will receive an orientation and have to pass a proficiency test. The open space, trailhead, and trails will be open Thursdays through Sundays.

The three-year plan should begin to address all of our objectives in short order, although vegetative response will be slow. The radiocollars will allow us to follow the elk as they respond to the increased hunting pressure and lack of a safe haven, and whether some of them establish a migration pattern (or abandon Rabbit Mountain altogether).

We hope to get to a point where hunting is greatly reduced or discontinued for long periods of time. The plan will also have periodic check-in and reporting to the public and the BOCC, to make sure we are on track, making progress, and operating safely.

WHEN TO VISIT RABBIT MOUNTAIN

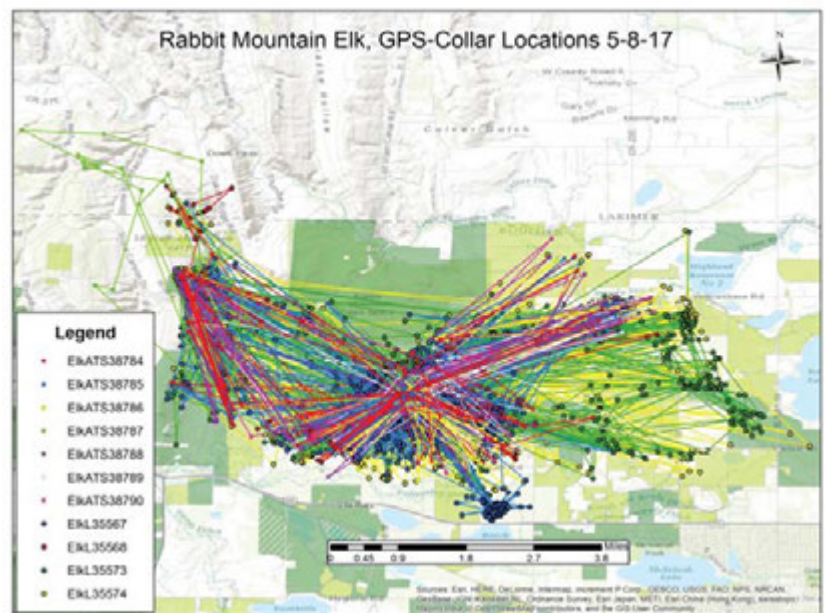
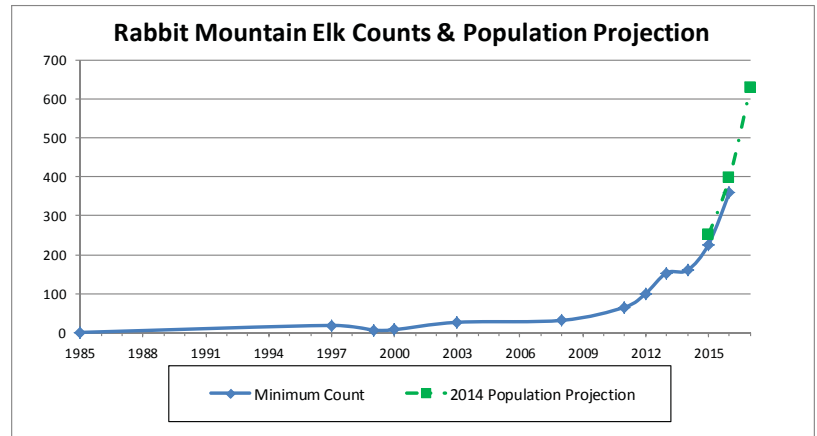
Property is open to the public Thursday-Sunday from sunrise to sunset.

Property is closed to public: Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from September 11, 2017 to January 31, 2018.

Learn more:

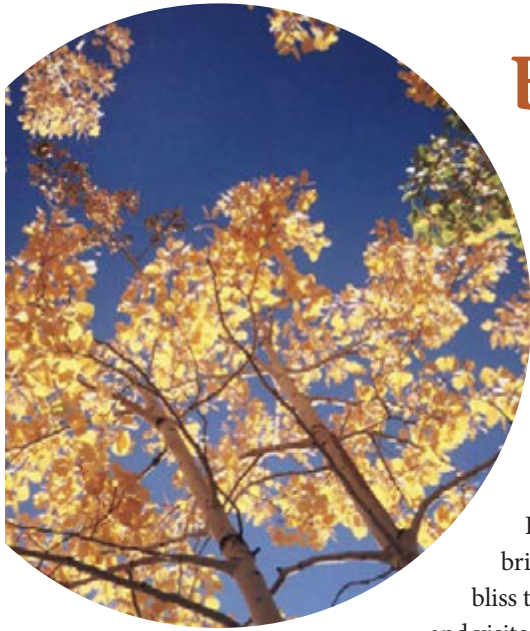
www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/elkmanagement

Questions? Contact Dave Hoerath, wildlife biologist with Boulder County Parks and Open Space, at dhoerath@bouldercounty.org or 303-678-6204.



The top graph illustrates the sharp increase in the elk population at the property.

The bottom graph shows the movements of the radiocollared cows at Rabbit Mountain from 2015 to 2017. It illustrates the elk don't migrate and that they utilize the southern portion of Rabbit Mountain as a core area from which they radiate out to utilize private land parcels at various times of the year.



Beautiful Colors & Cool Temperatures—Time to Get Outdoors

by Justin St Onge

The arrival of autumn in Boulder County brings happiness and bliss to many residents and visitors alike. Besides the cooler weather, increased wildlife

sightings and dazzling colors, fall is an exceptional time to get out and explore our open space. With diverse elevations, Boulder County's Parks and Open Space (BCPOS) offers opportunities for all to catch fall foliage in its peak from the plains to the mountains.

UPPER ELEVATIONS

With the onset of crimson and golden leaves trembling in the autumn breeze, exploring alpine terrain will reveal stunning views. Mud Lake and Caribou Ranch are situated at a perfect elevation and are home to large stands of aspen that deliver beautiful colors, usually during the latter part of September and into early October.

These two alpine parks also provide habitat for our larger deer species, especially moose and elk, which can usually be seen and heard during the fall rut. The rut, or breeding season, for these two species occurs during September and October and makes for increased wildlife presence and activity in the area. During the rut, males (bulls) increase their activity level by setting up territories to attract females (cows) by calling with a low grunting bugle that can be heard far and wide. This fall, visit these two parks for beautiful fall colors, wonderful hiking opportunities, and majestic views of the Indian Peaks Wilderness. And if you miss out this fall, venture up to Mud Lake in the spring and early summer for stunning wildflowers!

LOWER ELEVATIONS

The arrival of fall should also encourage you to explore those hot and sunny parks you avoided during the summer months. Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat not only hosts a diversity of tree species providing brilliant colors, but the ponds nestled into the landscape create a perfect backdrop and bird haven. The wide and flat trails allow you to observe surroundings while walking, which

during autumn is an excellent time to see migratory birds using the ponds as a resting spot before embarking on their journeys south. These wetlands support a wide diversity of waterfowl, marsh-nesting species, and shoreline and grassland birds. Remember to bring along your binoculars and sense of adventure as you explore the Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat.

FALL BIKING

Cooler weather and fewer visitors on open space during the fall create excellent riding opportunities. Two parks that lend themselves to single track riding all year long and are especially beautiful during the fall are Hall Ranch and Walker Ranch.

At the intersect of sweeping grasslands and sandstone buttes you will find great fall riding opportunities along with excellent scenery at Hall Ranch. The exposed rock and landforms provide exciting and challenging riding. Another must for mountain bike enthusiasts looking to ride fun and challenging single track is Walker Ranch.

The Walker Loop provides several steep technical sections with some sandy rock, and great climbs and downhill. Make sure to take time to enjoy South Boulder Creek that runs adjacent to the trail in a few sections in the low parts and snowcapped mountain peaks on the horizon, in the high lands.

For those looking for a mellower ride, take a ride on the Longmont-to-Boulder (LOBO) regional trail. The LOBO trail runs through Gunbarrel, Niwot, and open space properties connecting Boulder to Longmont on a 12-mile trail system. With great surfaces to ride and beautiful scenery along the path and out in the distance, the LOBO trail is an excellent fall ride.

**Autumn is
a second
spring when
every leaf is
a flower.**

-Albert Camus



NATURE DETECTIVES

Fall 2017



Bull Snakes Are Awe-sssss-some

The slender bull snake lay coiled out of the sun, sheltered beneath a big rock. It had feasted on mice, voles and pocket gophers during spring and summer, and had grown to six feet in length. Soon it would move into the hibernation den it shared with other kinds of snakes every winter. Successful summer hunting gave the snake a better chance to survive deep underground for months without food.

The cautious snake flicked its tongue in the air, scanning for smells that meant prey or danger. The snake saw nothing moving and felt no vibrations from human footsteps so it slithered into the open and headed toward its favorite hunting hideout.

Lucky to Spot a Snake

A young girl with a camera was standing quietly on the path, and she watched the snake disappear into the grass. She knew snakes try to avoid people so catching a glimpse of one was a treat. This snake was beautiful with dark blotches on a cream-colored background.

The girl did not see any rattles on its tail. Rattles would mean a rattlesnake. Rattlesnakes can inject venom with their bite to kill prey. She liked snakes, even rattlesnakes, at a safe distance. She guessed the big snake was a bull snake. She'd read bull snakes are constrictors that squeeze their prey to death. She was excited to tell her brother, and wished it hadn't escaped before she could snap a photo.

If you spend time in open areas anywhere in Boulder County, **you** might get to see a bull snake. Bull snakes inhabit territory from the plains up to the montane, below 9000 feet in elevation. They need enough prey to eat and space for dens. They are especially common on the plains and in the foothills.

People don't always realize the necessity of slithery reptiles in our ecosystem. Bull snakes play an important role in keeping rodent populations in check. They are also cool and exciting to see.



Keeping Cool Snake Style

Like all snakes, bull snakes regulate their body temperature by changing their location. They are ectotherms, which means their body temperature goes up or down with the temperatures in their surroundings.

Snake muscles don't work well if the snake is cold. Digestion and even hearing are impaired in a cold snake. Basking in the sun warms them on cold mornings, but too much sun on a hot day can kill them. Bull snakes spend much of their time under rocks or in underground chambers. They use the burrows of other animals or dig into the ground themselves.



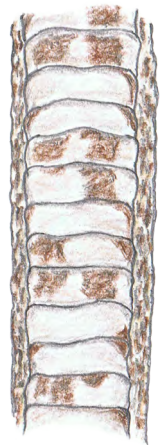
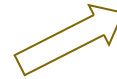
Bull Snakes Can Do Amazing Things

Bull snakes have a slightly pointed snout shaped for digging. They dig and scoop the dirt out with their head and neck.

Scales made of keratin cover their body. (Our fingernails are keratin.) Between the scales, their skin is slightly stretchy. They use their muscles to press the wide scales on their belly against any surface to push themselves along.

Snakes can't back up well, but do a u-turn instead. Bull snakes can even climb trees by pressing the edges of their belly scales into the bark. The urge to hunt can prompt a hungry snake to climb up where there are baby birds or eggs to eat.

belly scales



Bull Snakes Go for Gophers

Their varied diet can include toads, lizards and duck eggs. They eat a lot of different things, but pocket gophers and other rodents are tops on the menu. For that reason, bull snakes are also called gopher snakes.

Bull snakes are powerful constrictors and can squeeze prey as large as young rabbits. Smaller bull snakes eat smaller prey. It takes only three seconds or less to grab hold with their teeth then coil around their prey. For small rodents in burrows, bull snakes can simply press their prey against the sides of the burrow. Either way, pressure stops blood flow to the brain of their prey and kills very quickly. Sometimes the prey animal bites back and the bull snake will retreat.

Expandable Jaws

Bull snakes have jaws held together with stretchy tendons. Without bony hinges, such as our jaws have, they are able to open their mouths sideways, wide enough to swallow their prey whole. Bull snakes never chew their food before swallowing, but in snakes, that isn't impolite.



Baby Bull Snakes Have a Rough Go

Female bull snakes find an empty burrow or dig a nest hole to hold their eggs from late June into the middle of July. They look for warm, moist soil in an open, sunny area to lay their 3-24 eggs. The female doesn't stay to guard eggs or hatchlings.

Hatchling bull snakes appear in late August or September in Colorado, and they usually won't eat a meal until spring. Most young snakes will not live until spring, but successful bull snakes can survive for 15 years or more.



hatching from eggs

Room to Grow

Bull snakes never stop growing, but growth gets slower as they get older. Although the snake's skin is somewhat stretchy, it doesn't grow with the snake so snakes must shed their tight, old skin to reveal new, bigger skin underneath.

Shedding usually begins at the head, and the first sign is the eyes get cloudy-looking. Then the old skin gets loose around the lips and head. Bull snakes crawl slowly, rubbing against rocks and bushes, and the old skin rolls off. Much like a kid taking off a sock, the snake leaves the shed skin behind in one piece, but turned inside out.

Senses and Defenses

Bull snakes see movement well with their lovely, round eyes. Because they lack eyelids, snakes never blink. Transparent scales protect their eyes.

They feel vibrations in the ground and hear sounds in the air. They smell by flicking their tongues then touching the twin tongue tips to a pair of pouches on the roof of their mouth to pick up scent molecules. Their forked tongue allows the snake to pinpoint the direction of the smell source.

Camouflage colors help bull snakes hide against their background so their first defense is to freeze in place or flee quickly. To look threatening, they will rear up, vibrate their tail to "rattle" against dry plants or gravel and hiss like a rattlesnake. They will spread their jaws to make their head more triangle-shaped and rattler looking. They will coil and lunge with a grunt. Hawks, foxes and bigger snakes sometimes still eat bull snakes despite their best defense.

The worst problem for the constrictor snakes is people. Imitating a rattlesnake may scare off some animals, but it backfires with the humans who often kill rattlesnakes in fear and dislike. Vehicles and roadside mowers also run over bull snakes in huge numbers.



Sensing with Chemicals

Snakes use chemosensation to sense things around them and “taste” their surroundings. They use their tongues to do this. Did you know that you also use chemosensation?

Have you ever eaten a chili pepper that made your mouth burn? Jalapeno peppers have chemical compounds that are odorless and flavorless. These chemicals are hidden in the white flesh of peppers and when they touch your tongue...WOW! You just sensed a hot pepper.

Scoot Like a Snake

Did you ever watch a snake slither across the ground? It has no feet or legs but it can move pretty fast. Snakes have scales on their body that work individually to help move the snake along.

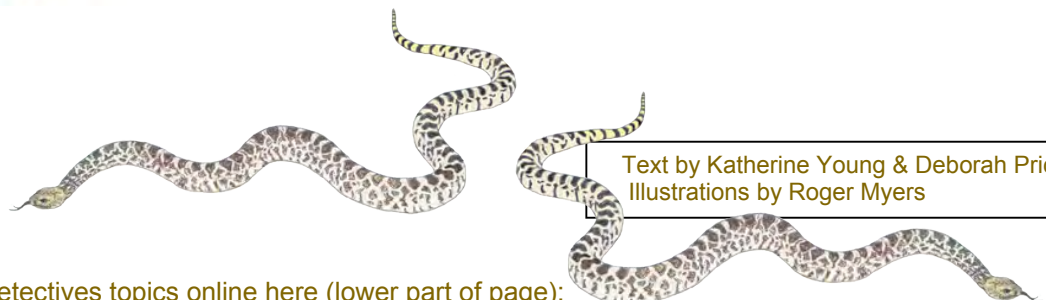
Try this: Lie on your stomach on the ground or floor and hold your arms to your sides. Keep your legs straight behind you and don't bend them. Now try to move forward. You'll probably have to wiggle like crazy in order to get going.



Just imagine if you had scales on your body to push against the floor to help you move! Scales on a bull snake's body help it to climb plants and even trees without arms or legs.



Sherlock Fox says: Bull snakes are better than mousetraps for controlling the rodent population. All snakes are helpful to the environment, but remember even non-venomous snakes may bite if you get too close. **Be cautious!**



Text by Katherine Young & Deborah Price
Illustrations by Roger Myers

Find more Nature Detectives topics online here (lower part of page):
<https://www.bouldercounty.org/open-space/education/nature-detectives/>

German Russians: Land for Eternal Time

by Doug Hofmeister

The steam engine of the Kansas Pacific screeched to a halt near Globeville, just north of Denver. It was 1880 and the first German Russian sons debarked to take jobs as section hands for the railroad after a crop failure in their adopted Kansas. Daughters followed, and then whole families, church groups, and communities. Many more came from Russia: evangelicals from the Volga region, Catholics and Mennonites from the Black Sea. By 1900, German Russians became the dominant minority in Northern Colorado.

The migration began with Catherine the Great's promise in 1763. This is your land for eternal time, she declared to the German States, if you settle the Russian frontier on the Volga River. It came with a 30-year exemption from taxes, guaranteed religious freedom, and no military service.

Tens of thousands moved from their ancestral homes. They cultivated the Russian Steppes and built prosperous farms, while holding fast to their German traditions.

After Catherine came Czar Alexander II's "russification" programs. German ways were outlawed, taxes enforced and military conscription prevailed. "Go to America," urged the Reverend Wilhelm Stirkel in village gatherings. Even after 100 years in Russia, many chose to leave.

Railroads and a familiar landscape beckoned them to the Midwest prairies. In northern Colorado, the railroads had land for sale cheap. Grasslands became new fields to sow with the seeds of the red wheat they brought from the Steppes. They prodded fruits and vegetables from the parched soil. Sunflower seeds became a staple snack.

Then came the sugar beets needed by the Great Western Sugar Company. Planting, nurturing and harvesting was "stoop labor." Every farm required the whole family. School would wait. The German Russians could do the work.

Unser leit – our people – they called themselves. Church was their mainstay, family their obsession. They lived, laughed, worked and, in scarce leisure time, danced the "Dutch hop" to the sounds of the hammered dulcimer. Oral tradition dominated. Folk and religious songs interrupted the stories told in gatherings. Neighbors brought wedding invitations to your door with a verse crafted for the occasion. Funerals drew hundreds.

They were industrious and frugal. The first generation lived in quickly built shanty towns beside the sugar beet factories. The next generations bought the land they tilled and built communities throughout Larimer, Weld and the counties of northeastern Colorado. Boulder County benefited from wheat growers who made Longmont the "Minneapolis of the Rockies."



German Russian children pull sugar beets in the early 1900s.

It was never easy. After hard beginnings, families suffered discrimination as Germans during two world wars, with KKK crosses burnt before their eyes. They stayed connected to loved ones back home in both Russia and Germany. They missed them, as a popular folk song laments:

*Beside the gushing brooks the willows hang,
In the valleys patches of snow remain.
Dear child, that I must go
And leave our homeland behind —
Pains my poor heart so!*

Still, they held nothing back. Second and third generations diversified. They became business entrepreneurs like the Anschutz family in energy and the Erhlichs in automotive. They became teachers, sculptors and civil servants. Landmarks, such as Brantner Gulch (an eight-mile long watershed tributary to the South Platte River south of E-470 along US 85) are named for them. They founded hospitals, charities and countless churches.

From the beginning, Germans from Russia have gathered history, genealogy and folklore to preserve their rich history. Northern Colorado boasts the birthplace of the International Historical Society of Germans from Russia located on the CSU campus. A local chapter of German Russian descendants is the largest in the United States, publishes a newsletter and hosts dinners quarterly.

Their roots in the land still live. They live in the title of the song from the late John Denver, born Deutschendorf, a German Russian, which is called "Take Me Home, Country Roads." They live in many of the farms of Northern Colorado, still owned and operated by descendants of Germans from Russia. They live 250 years after first settling the Volga in what Catherine the Great called their "land for eternal time." She just never knew it would be in Colorado.

Feel Crowded on Open Space? Tips to Improve Your Visit

by Bevin Carithers

The highly anticipated reopening of Pella Crossing and the grand openings of the Overland Trail at Heil Ranch and the Lagerman Agricultural Preserve remind us that our parks are a cherished part of the Boulder County landscape and lifestyle. Since Pella Crossing's opening this spring, thousands of park visitors have enthusiastically walked the new trails, explored the restored shorelines, and reeled in trophy-sized bass.

When rangers are on park patrol, visitors often express gratitude for a restoration well done. However, not all feedback is positive. Visitors to Pella Crossing also express concerns about vehicles parked in horse trailer parking, not adhering to regulations, dogs off of leash, trash along the shoreline, visitors smoking cigarettes, after-hours park use, and negative interactions with other visitors on the trail.

Unfortunately, these types of complaints are not isolated to Pella Crossing. As the population in Boulder County increases and recreationists continue to discover the world-class parks and trails in our backyard, we will need to reevaluate how we recreate and interact with one another in the outdoors. As I look into the future of recreation in Boulder County, I am reminded of an ominous warning that a wise ranger shared with me, "we can love our parks to death." If we fail to recognize that our outdoor culture is changing and expanding, we will be forced to react in dramatic ways to protect the resources we love. However, a simple recognition of the changes occurring throughout Colorado and a few simple adjustments in our mindset can ensure that our parks, trails, and open spaces remain world-class places for recreation, conservation, and preservation for generations to come. Although most trail conflicts can be avoided with a smile and friendly greeting, there are a few surefire ways to make your next trip to open space more enjoyable.

YOUR VISIT—ONLY BETTER

Visit parks during off-peak times. If your idea of a great hike or ride involves a more solitary experience, try visiting your favorite park during the early evening hours on Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday. Visitor studies show that these are the least busy times of the week. Just remember, parks close at sunset. Many of our trails can be accessed by public transportation. Try extending your hike or bike ride by walking from the bus stop to the trailhead. In fact, the Hessie trailhead is one of the only wilderness trailheads in the country that can be accessed from a major international airport entirely on public transportation!

Know and understand the rules and regulations. Rangers do not enjoy issuing citations. In fact, most rangers got into the profession out of their love of Colorado's spectacular natural resources and a desire to help others enjoy the outdoors safely. In Colorado, it is the visitor's responsibility to know and understand the regulations of the places they are visiting even if they are not posted. For example, if you are walking your dog off leash on a Boulder County park because you have a voice or sight tag issued by the City of Boulder, you will likely be ticketed by a county ranger. Dogs are required to be on leash on most trails owned or managed by Boulder County.

Keep track of time. Another common citation issued by rangers in Boulder County is an after-hours violation. This \$75 ticket can be avoided by simply checking the time of sunrise and sunset each day. A free sunrise/sunset app downloaded to your smart phone can save you a lot of money and make your trips to our parks ticket-free.

Explore volunteering. One of the best ways to experience Boulder County Parks and Open Space is from an insider's perspective. Although we are not hiring new rangers at this time, we are always looking for volunteers and participants in our diverse outreach programs.

It is no secret that our parks and open spaces are changing, but the memorable experience we have on our trails with friends and families don't have to. Together, we can work smarter to plan our visits, better understand park rules and regulations, and volunteer in order to maintain our unique outdoor way of life for many, many more visitors to come.

QUIETER TIMES TO VISIT PARKS

Early evening: Sunday-Monday-Tuesday

If it's sprinkling, but conditions aren't muddy, you might find the trails less crowded.

Don't forget that trails at lower elevations are often walkable year-round.



Calendar of Events

**two
dates**

Fun on the Farm: How Does Your Garden Grow?

Friday, September 1

&

Friday, September 15

Offered twice each day at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Agricultural Heritage Center, 8348 Highway 66, Longmont

Come to the farm to learn about animals, plants, and agricultural life. This program includes a short story time, hands-on activities, and a take-home craft. For ages 3-6 with accompanying adult. Groups of 10 or more are requested to schedule a private program date.



**fun for
all ages!**

Crafts and Trades of Olden Days

Sunday, September 10

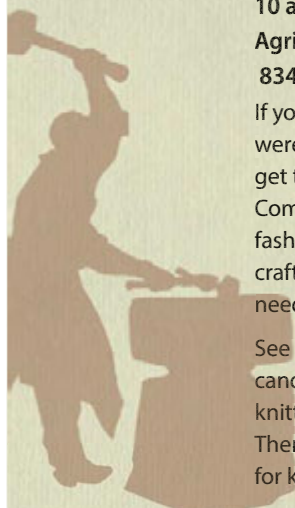
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Agricultural Heritage Center

8348 Ute Highway 66, Longmont

If you were a pioneer settler and there were no stores in the area, how would you get the things you needed for your family? Come to the farm and learn about old-fashioned jobs and the traditional arts and crafts that went into making what was needed for life down on the farm.

See demonstrations on blacksmithing, candle dipping, wool spinning and knitting, soap making, and beekeeping. There will also be make-and-take crafts for kids.



NATURE DETECTIVES IN THE FIELD: AWE-SSSSOME BULL SNAKES

Friday September 8, 10-11:30 a.m.

Meeting location provided to registered participants

One of the largest snakes in Colorado, non-venomous bull snakes have an important place in the ecosystem and are interesting animals. Bring your 3-8 year-olds to explore the world of bull snakes through activities, exploration, and stories. Register at www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/register by September 6.

SEEING OURSELVES THROUGH THE EYES OF NATURE

Saturday September 9, 9:30 a.m.-noon

Meeting location provided to registered participants

Join volunteer naturalist Linda Weber for a contemplative walk in nature. Experience nature's rhythms and learn more about the ways of earth and sky. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a notebook and pen. For ages 16 and up. Register at www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/register by September 6.

RATTLESNAKE HIKE

Sunday September 10, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain Open Space, NE of Lyons on north 55th Street, meet at group shelter

As fall approaches, rattlesnakes become more active as they prepare for hibernation. Join volunteer naturalists on a moderate 1.5-mile hike and learn about the prairie rattlesnake, including habitat, ecology, behavior, and how to be safe in rattlesnake country.

BEARS IN OUR BACKYARD

Saturday September 16, 10 a.m.-noon

Heil Valley Ranch Open Space, North of Boulder off Lefthand Canyon Drive, meet at group shelter

As fall approaches, black bears are busy gorging on berries and other food in preparation for their long winter sleep. Join volunteer naturalists on a moderate one-mile hike to learn about the natural history of our local bruin and how people and bears can share our wild places.



Calendar of Events

STORY IN THE ROCKS

Tuesday September 19, 7-8:30 p.m.

Louisville Public Library, 951 Spruce Street, Louisville

The geologic history of Boulder County's remarkable landscape goes back nearly two billion years. Rocks contain a record of earth's history that can be read like the pages in a book. Join geologist and volunteer naturalist, Roger Myers for this slide program and learn how to read the story in the rocks in your backyard.

BIRDING BOULDER COUNTY THROUGH THE SEASONS

Wednesday September 20, 6:30-8 p.m.

Lyons Regional Library, 805 Main Street, Lyons

Join volunteer naturalists to learn about birding through the seasons in Boulder County. This program will explore where to find and how to identify some of our local and migratory birds, and also introduce you to a range of ecosystems and habitats.



ASTRONOMY: ALL THINGS BEING EQUAL

Friday September 22, 6:30-9 p.m.

Location provided to registered participants

On the fall equinox, discover how daylight and seasons change, find out why we see constellations at different times of the year, and discover why the Zodiac doesn't quite line up. Afterwards, enjoy the skies with telescopes provided by the Longmont Astronomical Society. This program is family-friendly. Register at www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/register by September 20.

GEOLOGY AND LANDFORMS OF HALL RANCH

Saturday September 23, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Hall Ranch Open Space, one mile west of Lyons on Highway 7, meet at the group shelter near the upper parking lot

Join geologist and volunteer naturalist, Roger Myers to learn about the remarkable and dramatic geology and landscape of Hall Ranch. This moderately strenuous 2-mile hike (roundtrip) will cover igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks that span over 1.7 billion years of geologic history. This hike is geared to adults.

FALL COLOR PAINT SESSION

Saturday, September 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Caribou Ranch, 2 miles north of Nederland on County Road 126, meet at parking lot kiosk

Ranger Fowler will accompany artists to an ideal spot to capture fall colors. This event involves a moderate hike. Children under 18 are welcome with adult supervision. Register at www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/register.

SUNRISE FALL COLOR PAINT SESSION

Saturday, October 7, 6 - 9:30 a.m.

Agricultural Heritage Center, 8348 Ute Highway 66, Longmont

Please join us for a sunrise paint session to capture the rising sun. Children under 18 are welcome to attend with adult supervision. Register at www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/register.

fun for
all ages!

Autumn Heritage Day & Vintage Baseball Game

Sunday, September 24, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Walker Ranch Homestead,

8999 Flagstaff Mountain Road, approximately
seven miles west of Boulder

See how autumn was spent on a working ranch in the late 1800s.

Costumed volunteers will demonstrate chores such as root-cellar, sausage making and doing laundry with a washboard and wringer. Watch the blacksmith make hinges, nails, and other hardware needed around the ranch, attend a one-room school session or take a guided homestead tour.

A highlight of this event is the vintage baseball game that will begin at noon.

For more information, contact Sheryl Kippen at skippen@bouldercounty.org or 303-776-8848.

Please note: Dogs and bicycles not permitted at the homestead.



two
dates

HAMMERING AT THE FARM – BLACKSMITHING DEMONSTRATION

Saturday September 30, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

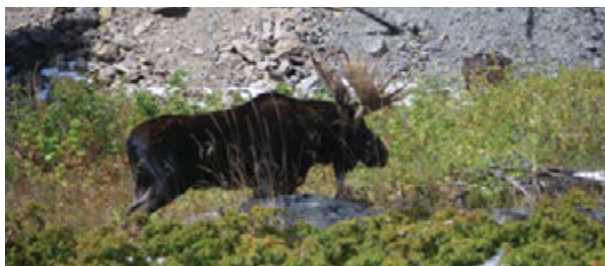
&

Sunday October 22, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Agricultural Heritage Center, 8348 Hwy 66,
Longmont

Watch blacksmiths forge new tools to be used at the Agricultural Heritage Center. Blacksmithing was a common trade that supported agriculture, mining, and construction in creating and repairing all things iron and steel. Stop by for this drop-in program that is appropriate for all ages.

Calendar of Events



OH DEER, ELK AND MOOSE!

Saturday October 7, 9 a.m.-noon

Caribou Ranch Open Space, 2 miles north of Nederland on County Road 126, meet at parking lot kiosk

Join volunteer naturalists for a moderate three-mile hike in the high country to learn about the natural history, behavior, and ecology of the three members of the deer family that call Caribou Ranch home – mule deer, American elk, and moose. We'll also look for signs of wildlife along the trail.

Junior & Senior Fishing Derby

Saturday, October 14, 9 a.m.-noon

Wally Toevs Pond at Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat off of 75th Street between Jay Road and Valmont Road, Boulder

Create a fishing dream team! Boulder County Parks and Open Space is hosting a Junior and Senior Fishing Derby. This special event is for pairs of one senior and one junior participant fishing together as a team.

- There will be prizes given to the senior and junior pair who catch the heaviest trout, have the largest age difference, and are first to catch the limit.
- Seniors must be age 64 or older and juniors must be age 15 or younger.
- Event takes place rain or shine!
- The pond is stocked with rainbow trout.
- Artificial and live bait are both permitted at Wally Toevs Pond.
- Seniors must have a valid Colorado fishing license.

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



GOATS GALORE – MEET AND GREET

Sunday, October 8, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Agricultural Heritage Center, 8348 Ute Highway, Longmont

Join the Goats Galore 4-H club and their goats for a drop-in program all about goats. Why do people raise goats? Do goats really eat tin cans and tennis shoes? How do I get involved in 4-H with goats? Get answers and learn about raising goats, different breeds, housing and feed requirements, and see a live milking demonstration.

GRAVEYARDS OF THE WEST

Monday October 9th 9 a.m.-1p.m.

Space is limited, meeting location provided to registered participants

Pioneer cemeteries in Colorado tell a special story as the first groups of people from the east coast settled in Boulder County. Come learn how cemeteries in the western United States differ from those in other parts of the country. Then explore cemeteries in Boulder County. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy among these special stones. Wear sturdy closed-toe walking shoes or boots. We will be in rough, steep terrain with quite a bit of walking. Register at www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/register. Email Katherine McDaniel at kmcdaniel@bouldercounty.org if you have questions.

WHOO ARE THE OWLS?

Wednesday October 11, 7-8:30 p.m.

Longmont Public Library, 409 4th Avenue, Meeting Rooms A & B, Longmont

Owls have been regarded with fascination and awe throughout recorded history and across many cultures. Over half of the owls recorded in the U.S. have been seen in Boulder County, and most of those owls nest here. Join Boulder County naturalists for a slide program to explore these fascinating creatures, and to learn about the special adaptations that make them such expert hunters.



All Programs:

All ages welcome unless otherwise noted. NO PETS PLEASE! Be prepared for cool to warm temperatures. Bring drinking water and dress in layers. For more information or to arrange a volunteer-led program for your group, please call 303-678-6214.

Calendar of Events

ANCIENT BEACH WALK

Saturday October 14, 9-11:00 a.m.

Meeting location will be provided to registered participants

Visit an ancient beach in our backyard! This small but very unique and fragile exposure of Fox Hills sandstone was deposited as a beach 67 million years ago as the Rocky Mountains uplifted and the inland sea retreated. Join geologist and volunteer naturalist Sue Hirschfeld on an easy walk to see the fossils and unusual geologic features formed in this near-shore marine environment. We will also watch for some of the plants and animals that live here today. Please wear hiking shoes or boots—there's lots of prickly pear cactus! Register at www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/register by October 12.

BIRDS OF PREY SLIDE PROGRAM

Wednesday November 8, 6-7:30 p.m.

Lafayette Public Library, 775 west Baseline Road

Join volunteer naturalists and learn how to recognize birds of prey—hawks, eagles, falcons, and owls—in the skies above Boulder County. During this slide presentation, you'll learn how to distinguish between different raptors by identifying field marks, behavior, location, and time of year. You will also learn about the habitat requirements and ecology of these magnificent birds.



WILD TURKEYS!

Saturday November 11, 10:30 a.m.-noon

Sandstone Ranch Open Space, the visitor center is located south of Highway 119, one mile east of Weld County Road 1. Take the east entrance to Sandstone Ranch, turning south on Sandstone Drive. Follow the signs to the upper parking lot.

How fast can a turkey run? Do they fly? Did you know that wild turkeys can be found all over the Front Range, including Sandstone Ranch? Come learn all about wild turkeys at this program which includes hands-on crafts and play. Suitable for families and kids of all ages.

(City of Longmont suggested donation of \$2/person or \$5/family)

Mining Programs Through the Fall

HARD ROCK MINING TOURS

Saturday September 2, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday September 28, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday October 12, 9:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m.

Meeting locations given to registered participants.

Tap into the towns, tools and characters of local hard rock mining heritage by visiting mining sites of years gone by. Tours are free and open to ages 10 and older. Some walking required. Register at www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/register or call 303-258-7332.

GOLD PANNING

Sunday September 17, noon-2 p.m.

Sunday, October 15, noon-2 p.m.

Try your hand at gold panning! This activity led to the settlement of Boulder County as people sought their fortunes. Do you have what it takes to travel back in time and search for gold? Programs are open to ages 5 and older.

Program location given to registered participants. Register at www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/register or call 303-258-7332.

AN EVENING AT THE MUSEUM

Nederland Mining Museum, 200 N. Bridge St., Nederland

Visit the Nederland Mining Museum after hours for a special guest speaker, along with coffee and dessert.

Friday September 8, Autumn in the Rockies - Discover what makes autumn one of the most magical times of the year in Nederland.

Friday October 13, Weather or Not? – Discover the science behind extremes of Rocky Mountain weather and climate.

NATURE HIKE FOR SENIORS

Enjoy a guided nature hike for seniors every month. For more information, call 303-678-6214.

Programs begin at 10 a.m. and end at noon

Thursday September 28, Betasso Preserve (meet at group shelter)

Thursday October 26, Heil Valley Ranch, south trailhead (meet at Lichen Loop Trailhead)

Thursday November 30, Pella Crossing Open Space

BIRDS OF PREY DRIVING TOUR

Saturday November 18, 9 a.m.-noon

Meeting location provided to registered participants

Join volunteer naturalists for a driving tour of some of Boulder County's best areas to view birds of prey, or raptors. We will carpool from our meeting place searching for raptors, learning about habitat, and working on our observation and identification skills. Please bring binoculars and a bird field guide if you have them. The tour is geared to adults and older children. Register at www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/register by November 16.

Volunteer Opportunity

Be a Volunteer Naturalist!

If you enjoy nature and sharing your knowledge with others, apply to be a volunteer naturalist.

Volunteer naturalists lead hikes, present slide programs, and provide hands-on experiences to people of all ages. We are especially looking for people interested in sharing nature with school groups, both on trails and in the classroom. Topics range from wildlife and plants to ecology and geology. You will learn about interpretive techniques to connect with audiences.

REQUIREMENTS: To apply, you must be at least 18 years old, pass a background check, and participate in the 10-week training class. Applicants must also have some ongoing weekday availability. You'll be asked to help lead at least six programs in 2018. Previous experience is not necessary!

TRAINING INFORMATION: Training classes take place on Wednesdays, January 10 through March 14, 2018, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Longmont.

PLEASE CONTACT: Larry Colbenson, Natural History Program Coordinator, at 303-678-6214 or lcolbenson@bouldercounty.org for information and application forms. **Application deadline is November 10, 2017 or until class is filled.** Since there is limited space in the training, all applicants will be interviewed.



2018 Parks & Open Space Calendars on Sale

The 4.75" x 5.5" calendar features 14 beautiful photos highlighting some of Boulder County's most significant natural and historic areas. These calendars make memorable holiday and birthday gifts for your family, teachers, coaches, friends, co-workers, and neighbors.

- **Cost:** \$2.00 each if you pick up at the Parks & Open Space headquarters in Longmont (you must pay in advance) or \$4.00 if we mail them to you via U.S. Postal Service
- **Order:** Place your order at www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/calendar
- **Questions:** Email parkscalendars@bouldercounty.org



Overland Loop Trail Now Open

The new Overland Loop ribbon-cutting took place on a rainy August afternoon. The ceremony marked the addition of 210 acres to Heil Valley Ranch Open Space. More than 600 volunteers contributed over 2,300 hours to help build the multi-use Overland Loop!

A temporary parking lot, approximately 0.25 miles from intersection of Lefthand Canyon and Geer Canyon Drive, is available for vehicles.

Two additional trails and a permanent trailhead are in the works and are expected to be completed in 2018. The new trails and trailhead are part of the Heil Valley Ranch 2 Small Area Plan that was approved in 2016.

In addition to recreational opportunities, the additional open space will protect cultural resources (lime kiln, grindstone quarry, corral area, Altona Schoolhouse), and two significant natural communities—New Mexico feathergrass and needle-and-thread communities.

Art Show:

"2017 Land through the Lens Exhibit – Juried Photography Exhibit featuring Boulder County Parks & Open Space"

Celebrate our county public lands at the Great Frame Up in Longmont October 13 – November 3.

Join us for the exhibit opening catered by Guillaume's European Catering, on Friday, October 13, from 5-8 p.m. at the Great Frame Up, 430 Main Street, Longmont.

Exhibit hours: October 13 - November 7, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Saturday.

For more information visit:

www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/photoshow or contact Karen Imbierowicz at 303-678-6268.



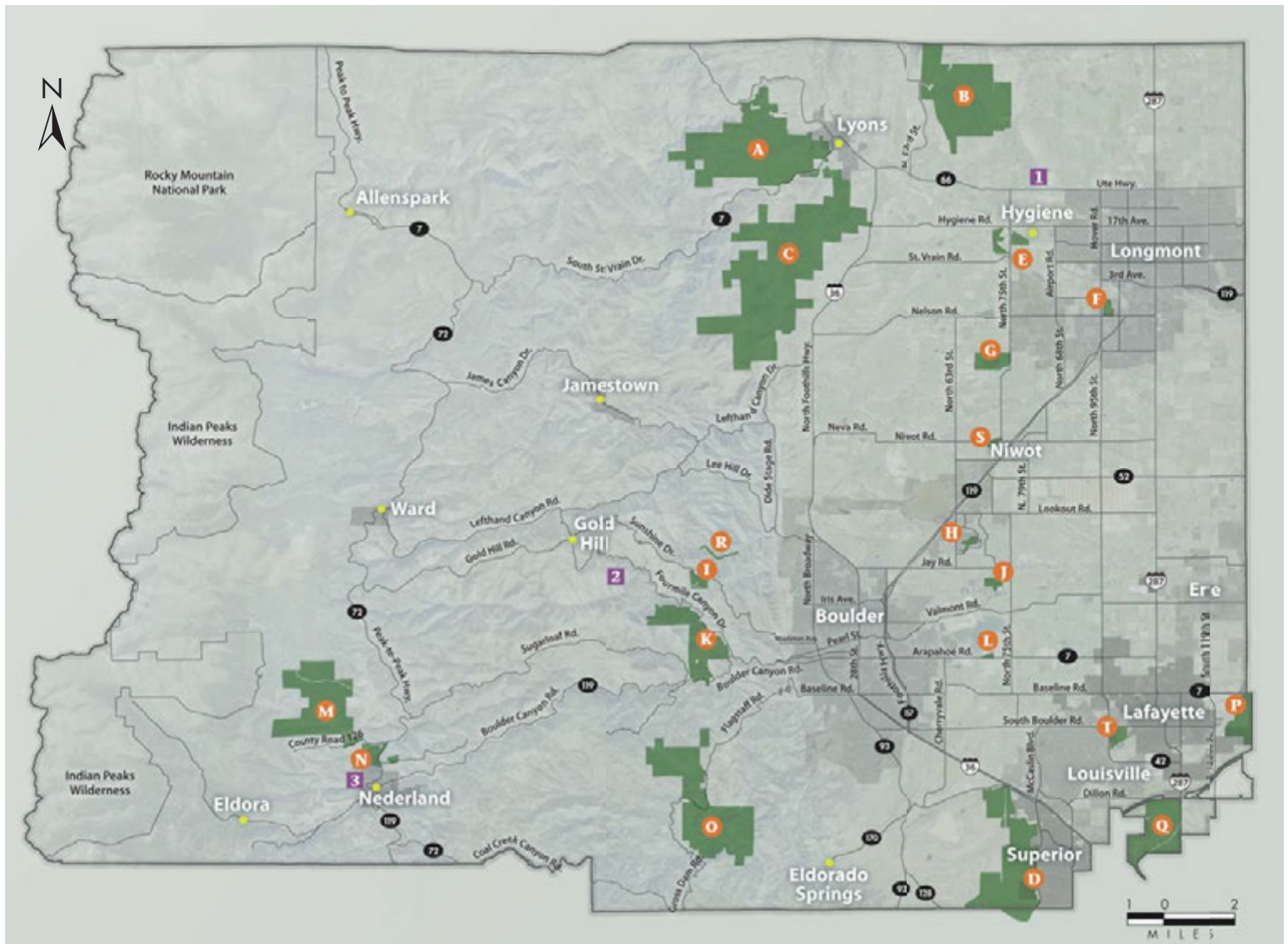
Photo by Kevin Rutherford



Parks & Open Space

5201 St. Vrain Road, Longmont, CO 80503

www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org



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