

IMAGES

NEWS



PROPERTIES



NATURE



HISTORY



EVENTS



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: Long-eared owlets, Kevin Grady

Volunteer Photos, Amanda Hatfield

Wencel Family, Courtesy of Ken and Darla Shupe

Weidemeyer's Admiral, Jan Chu

Aphrodite Fritillary, Dan Fosco

Nate Gore, Judy Wolfe

Corpsmembers, Kiernan McClish

Pig, Jim Drew

Black-eyed Susan, Kat Chen

Rattlesnake, Dave Hoerath

Wildflowers, Vanessa McCracken

NATURE DETECTIVES

Katherine Young and Deborah Price

Illustrations, Carol Tuttle

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Larry Colbenson, Jim Drew, and Sheryl Kippen

PRINTING

Boulder County Printing Department

EDITORS

Rachel Gehr and Pascale Fried

Suggestions and comments are welcome.

Please contact us at 303-678-6201 or

pfried@bouldercounty.org. Non-credited articles are by the editors.

RECEIVE IMAGES ONLINE OR IN PRINT

In print: Subscriptions are free to Boulder County residents or \$6 annually. Contact us at rrobles@bouldercounty.org or 303-678-6222.

Online: Go to www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/images and enter your email address in the space provided. You will receive only four emails per year with the issue of Images.

NOTE: To stop receiving the printed version, send an email to rrobles@bouldercounty.org.

Images is a quarterly publication.



Volume 42, number 1

How Does It All Get Done? Volunteers!

By Amanda Hatfield

Have you ever wondered how a staff of 129 can manage 100,000 acres of open space? The answer is volunteers! People who participate in volunteer work projects are integral to helping the department reach its goals.

The volunteer work project team aims to offer a variety of projects all over the county to better meet the goals of the department, while providing projects of interest to a diverse and varied public. Last year, 2,005 volunteers participated in 152 projects, contributing 6,476 hours of service. A majority of our projects are special requests from businesses or organizations. We have a partnership program in which companies and groups commit to completing one or two projects each year. We also offer at least two public projects each month from June-September.

Last year we were able to offer projects from all of the work groups within the department: Agriculture & Water, Buildings & Historic Preservation, Fairgrounds, Forestry, Grounds, Plant Ecology, Trails, Weeds, and Wildlife. A few volunteer projects:

- Harvested field peas from an experimental plot that were then donated to Community Food Share
- Removed 1,701 bags of trash as part of the clean-up effort at Rainbow Nursery
- Collected and cleaned 307 pounds of native seed
- Constructed the new Schoolhouse Loop at Heil Valley Ranch
- Built prairie dog barriers
- Cleared dead willows to encourage new growth
- Removed cattail to enhance wetland habitat for leopard frogs

NEW AND ANNUAL PROJECTS

Projects vary from year to year. For example, last year volunteers helped build a new trail at Heil Valley Ranch. The Schoolhouse Loop trail was designed for beginner mountain bikers and offers terrain that challenges them to develop riding skills. This year, we do not anticipate any new trails so there will be a shift to trail maintenance.

Winter is a challenging time to plan volunteer projects, as the weather is unpredictable. And try as we might, plants just are not going to produce seed for us to collect in the winter! However, there are a few activities perfectly suited to working indoors. All the seeds collected during the late summer need to be cleaned and made ready for planting. Seed cleaning projects are a fun time to talk and listen to music while staying warm inside. Cold days are also great time to build benches for our cultural history sites like Walker Ranch and the Agricultural Heritage Center. We plan to offer a few of these building days this spring, so keep your eyes open for that posting!

A few projects happen every year without fail. Weeds, as you know, are probably never going to be eradicated from Boulder County. But volunteers play an integral role in helping control the spread of these invaders. Oxeye daisy is an invasive weed that has started to take over some meadows in the subalpine areas of Boulder County—especially at Caribou Ranch. Legend has it that a wedding party traveling on the Switzerland Trail railroad spread these beautiful yet harmful weeds as part of a ceremony. Today, you can see the white flowers taking over meadows and outcompeting native wildflowers such as bee balm and one-sided penstemon. These meadows are bisected by small waterways, which make herbicide spraying impossible. Last year, volunteers spent their mornings and evenings picking daisies to restore these meadows to their glory.

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

One of our most exciting projects this past year was gleaning field peas. Gleaning is harvesting unused produce from agricultural fields and then donating the produce to local food

banks. In 2019, our agriculture division planted a few test plots to preview some non-GMO options for our local vegetable producers. Volunteers harvested the peas which we then transported to Community Food Share in Lafayette. We try to reach out to farmers who lease Parks & Open Space land for vegetable production every year to see if they have any unharvested produce. These projects are my favorites since we directly give back to the community.

With projects offered in all parts of the county catering to a variety of interests and ability levels, we hope to see you in 2020!

We post public projects on our website at www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/volunteer under Wild Work One-Time Opportunities. Or email Amanda Hatfield at ahatfield@bouldercounty.org to be added to our monthly email listing of projects.



Volunteers in the Field

Top two photos: Employees of Salesforce picked peas on the Vicklund open space.

Right: Volunteers removed invasive oxeye daisies at Caribou Ranch Open Space. Heads of the daisies are collected to cut down on seed dispersal.



The Barn with a Bright Future

by Carol Beam

Looking back at its 117 years, the Wencel barn on the Braly Open Space, west of Hygiene, is going to receive critical repairs thanks to a \$200,000 grant from History Colorado's State Historical Fund.

Named after its builder, Mathias "Matt" Wencel, the barn is a symbol of farmer ingenuity through its use of locally-sourced building materials, including the use of tree trunks to provide the ground level framing posts and the loft level roof support system.

Wencel came to America in 1888 from the village of Ratzersdorf in present day Slovakia. After arriving in New York, he ended up in Denver and found work switching narrow gauge to standard gauge tracks between Denver and Lyons. While working for the railroad in the Hygiene area, Wencel quit his railroad job in favor of farming. He rented a farm in the area for five years, then in 1899 purchased the property. He constructed the large hay barn to support his family's farming operation beginning in November 1900 and completed the project in 1903.

Wencel and his wife Ernestine raised their four children on the farm. The family planted wheat, corn, sugar beets and hay, and also raised turkeys, ducks, geese, dairy cows, and chickens. The barn served as a centerpiece of the farm to milk cows, store hay, and provide shelter for horses and other animals.

After Matt Wencel retired from farming, his two sons Frederick and Edward kept the farm going. Matt Wencel died in 1958 at the age of 92.

In 2000, Boulder County acquired the property and the farm's remaining agricultural outbuildings. The property is managed by the Parks & Open Space Department under the St. Vrain Creek Corridor Open Space Management Plan. The 112-acre property is closed until resources are available to prepare the property for public visitation by constructing trails, parking, providing fishing access, and developing environmental and cultural interpretive opportunities.

A SYMBOL OF FARMING HISTORY

The Wencel barn, along with the remaining outbuildings on the property, will be a highly visible element for visitors to enjoy after the property is opened to the public with a long-term goal of allowing visitors inside the barn.

Beginning this summer, repairs will strengthen the existing walls, floors, and roof framing systems, replace failed structural elements, and integrate a lateral force resisting system to secure the overstressed roof support columns in place. Future phases will include rehabilitation of the barn's siding, windows, and doors, as well as roof repairs to the dairy barn addition.

This project embodies the county's long-standing vision of preserving the rural character and cultural resources of unincorporated Boulder County. The Wencel barn is an important and enduring symbol of the area's farming history. It represents the type of family farm that has rapidly disappeared due to increased land value and decreased farming profitability.

Visit www.boco.org/WencelBarn in the coming months for project updates and photographs.



Left: The Wencel family in 1897.

Below: The Wencel barn in 2020. The stabilization project will begin this summer.



RESTORATION PROJECT FUNDING

The Colorado State Historical Fund is a statewide grants program that was created by the 1990 constitutional amendment allowing limited gaming in the towns of Cripple Creek, Central City, and Black Hawk. The constitutional amendment directs that a portion of the gaming tax revenues be used for historic preservation projects throughout the state. State Historical Fund grants are distributed throughout the state through a competitive application process.

RESEARCH ON OPEN SPACE: E-BIKES

The following is an excerpt from the 2019 literature review conducted by Sadie Mae Palmatier and Abraham Proffitt about recreation conflicts focused on emerging e-bike technology. Their research was part of the Boulder County Parks & Open Space pilot program last year to permit e-bikes on some county open space trails. If you want to read the full report or other research project reports, visit the department's website at www.bouldercounty.org/open-space/education/research

Executive Summary:

As a rapidly evolving hybrid technology, e-bikes are challenging the notions of traditional, passive, non-motorized recreation. The goal of this literature review is to inform policy discussions and decisions for the quickly growing e-bike market in four of Colorado's northern Front Range open space programs: Boulder County Parks & Open Space, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, Larimer County Natural Resources Department, and City of Fort Collins.

A 2018 nationwide study of nearly 1,800 new e-bike owners found that older adults and those with physical limitations use e-bikes mostly for fitness and recreation, whereas younger adults tend to use e-bikes more heavily for utilitarian purposes, such as replacing car trips for commuting, errands, and hauling cargo. The electric-assist makes it possible for more people to ride a bicycle and generates more and longer trips. Many users feel safer riding an e-bike because of their increased confidence in getting through a wide intersection or navigating more challenging terrain.

E-bikes offer positive outcomes for accessibility and inclusion, and many agencies allow them as "other power-driven mobility devices" (OPDMDs) under the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. Several studies have established positive health benefits of e-bike use, given that e-bikers ride more frequently and longer. E-bikes are particularly attractive to aging baby boomers.

Safety, speed, crowding, and user conflict are common concerns related to bicycles generally, and these concerns are heightened for e-bikes. Recreation conflict literature suggests that most conflict follows an asymmetrical pattern, and research on e-bikes shows that experience

informs perceptions. Several studies show that trail users unfamiliar with e-bikes express a preference to not share the trail with them, but the majority did not notice that they were sharing the trail with e-bikes. Similarly, once trail users were exposed to e-bikes, concerns about them decrease for many.

Another negative in the recreation arena is a concern about technical abilities and riders on e-bikes exceeding their experience levels or needing rescue. Additionally, some recreational mountain bikers believe that e-bike riders should "earn" their ride. There is not much research on the impacts of e-bikes to physical trail conditions. The only study to date found that soil displacement resulting from eMTBs was not significantly different from mountain bikes, and both kinds of bikes cause significantly less damage than dirt bikes.

Ecologically, some evidence suggests that the impacts of e-bikes (erosion, noise pollution, effects on wildlife) are no different from conventional bikes, but e-bike batteries may exacerbate problems associated with battery production and disposal. On the positive side, although they emit more CO₂ than conventional bikes, the potential emissions reduction from e-bikes could be significant if widely adopted and used for utilitarian purposes.

Many Colorado jurisdictions have acted to allow some or all classes of e-bikes, including the City of Boulder (certain multi-modal trails), Durango, Jefferson County, Eagle County, Summit County Rec Path, and Rio Grande Trail. Many other local jurisdictions allow e-bikes by default under the August 2017 change in state law. Colorado Parks and Wildlife allow e-bikes wherever conventional bikes are allowed. In August 2019 the Department of the Interior (DOI) issued a Secretarial Order directing all DOI lands (National Park Service, National Wildlife Refuge, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation) to exempt e-bikes from the definition of motorized vehicles and allow e-bikes on all paths where conventional bikes are allowed. The Order provided agencies 30 days to develop proposals guiding implementation.

Beloved Butterfly Trail

by Jan Chu

Spring is on its way and tiny flowers will be showing their blossoms soon. Then the butterflies will return.

Both the Anne U. White Trail and several homes along the Fourmile Stream were devastated by the flood of September 2013. The trail was closed to the public for several years, but the ups and downs of butterflies that call the area home continued.

KEEPING TRACK OVER THE YEARS

Successful butterfly inventories have taken place within Boulder County Parks & Open Space properties for 16 years. The butterfly research volunteers look forward each year to beginning an inventory at Anne U. White. Many butterflies choose to live in this little-known biological treasure. Its lush well-covered slopes and large variety of plants provide high counts of butterfly species.

In 2005, it was described as "a deep and well-preserved small foothill canyon," by researchers. During six days, 53 butterfly species were recorded, comparable to the number of butterfly species in much larger areas such as Heil Valley Ranch, which is also inventoried regularly.

THE TRAIL POST-FLOOD

In August 2014 following the flood, butterflies that occurred in below average numbers were the aphrodite fritillary (*Speyeria aphrodite*), northwestern fritillary (*Speyeria hesperis*), and western branded skipper (*Hesperi colorado*).

During June of 2019, the red admirals (*Vanessa atalanta*), painted ladies (*Vanessa cardui*), and Weidemeyer's admirals (*Limenitis weidemeyerii*) were all displaying their large and colorful wing patterns.

Silvery blues (*Glaucomysche lygdamus*) were outnumbered by the cabbage whites (*Pieris rapae*). Two-tailed swallowtails (*Papilio multicaudata*) and clouded

sulphurs (*Colias philodice*) were there in June and August. Also, in August, the common wood nymph (*Cercyonis pegala*) and woodland skippers (*Ochlodes sylvanoides*) were monitored. The Peck's skipper (*Polites peckius*) was a newly noted butterfly on this trail, as it was in other parts of the county in 2019.

In December, the Anne U. White trail opened after six years of extensive restoration work and improvements. The flooded homes have been removed, and large culverts and rock walls replace the soil-eroded hillsides. Timbers were cleared from the creek to prevent further debris accumulation. The parking lot was expanded to allow more visitors.

The Anne U. White Trail is beloved by many people, and now more can easily visit.



TRAIL FACTS: ANNE U. WHITE TRAIL



- 1.7 miles, one way
- Elevation gain: 484 ft.
- Trail crosses the Fourmile Canyon Creek numerous times.
- Dogs must be on-leash at all times.
- A port-a-potty is located at parking lot. A permanent restroom is scheduled to be built during 2020.

Butterflies by the Numbers

Ann U. White	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
# Species Identified	44	45	35	31	47	50	29	17	10	Data not collected in 2016	24	32	23
# Research Hours On-site	9.5	16	10	10.5	19.5	13.5	11	6	3		3.5	18.5	10
# Individual Butterflies Counted	366	536	217	112	773	509	334	105	33		96	319	216

NATURE DETECTIVES

Spring 2020



Park Ranger on Patrol

Ranger Erin climbed into her patrol car and pushed the talk button on her radio. Her first task was to let the dispatch operator know she was on duty—starting now.

For the next ten hours Erin would be patrolling Boulder County Parks & Open Space.

Her job: helping visitors while at the same time protecting property, wildlife, and everything else in the parks.

Her main motivation: sharing her enthusiasm for the outdoors with the people she encounters.

Rangers Go the Extra Miles



Like most of the county rangers, Ranger Erin spends a lot of time hiking the park trails and answering visitors' questions. Some days she hikes up to ten miles. Other days she could be looking for a lost hiker or helping an injured cyclist. She also encounters wildlife needing help. One time, Erin was able to remove a fishing line that was entangling a Canada goose.

When an emergency arises, the dispatch operator will radio the rangers on duty. The ranger closest to the problem will answer the dispatcher and respond to the call. Other rangers may provide backup.

The same dispatch calls go out to firefighters and sheriff's deputies too. All official communication goes through this central dispatch. The rangers keep in radio contact with each other during their shift so they know where the other rangers are patrolling.

Each time the rangers report to dispatch at the start of their shift, they have no idea what exciting or special moments might happen during their next hours on patrol. They do know they will be part of a team protecting people, wildlife and open spaces. And, they will be spending a lot of time outside!

Could You Be a Park Ranger Some Day?

Park rangers such as Erin come from many different backgrounds. Some may have once been young nature detectives—much like you. Rangers are a diverse group with unique individual skills, but they generally have certain characteristics in common. They tend to like people and like being outside in nature. They enjoy watching wildlife and learning new outdoor skills. Some may prefer to hike while others cycle or ski, but each one hopes to inspire others to share their interests and passions. Rangers are great at helping and encouraging others.

Knowing how to be safe on the trails and take good care of our open spaces are two of the main messages rangers like to share with people they meet in the parks. They model regard for human visitors and for wildlife. They protect historical sites with respect for past inhabitants such as the Arapaho tribes who hunted and lived here. They are protecting open space land for future visitors too.

When People Behave Badly

Rangers spend hours educating visitors about Boulder County **regulations**. Regulations are rules for the safety of visitors and the protection of the natural and cultural aspects of the parks. Most people do treat the parks and other visitors kindly, but what happens when people aren't acting safely and respectfully? In all cases, the rangers are tasked with enforcing county regulations fairly and consistently. Sometimes visitors just need the rules explained. Rangers may also give rule breakers a warning or issue a fine.

Example of an Open Space Regulation

Do you know the regulation that horses always have the right-of-way over bicycles and pedestrians? When Ranger Jeff patrols on his horse Rohan, a person going past him may not understand horses. Jeff would probably explain that Rohan is trained for patrol work and likely won't spook, but someone else's horse could be startled enough to hurt itself or its rider.

Bikes can alarm horses too. Cyclists are faster than hikers and runners. Cyclists must give way carefully to all other trail users. Informative signs on multiuse trails show a triangle. Arrows on the triangle show that cyclists give way to hikers and horses. Hikers give way to horses. Safety is the goal.



What About Crimes on Open Space?

County sheriff's deputies are also assigned to open space properties and parks. Their job is to enforce **criminal laws** of Boulder County and the State of Colorado. Park rangers and sheriff's deputies work together to keep open spaces safe. Wildland firefighters work with rangers and deputies too. Since all agencies use the same radio dispatch system, all ears hear calls at the same time and coordinate team responses to keep the parks safe now and for future visitors.



Emergency!

Ankles break, cyclists crash, and bears get mischievous. Even airplanes make emergency landings on open space property! Good news, the Parks & Open Space rangers are on the job and prepared. Rangers have been to Peace Officer Standards and Training School. They've passed self-defense and medical training. On top of that, they have emergency medical response training. Smoke in the air? With their wildland firefighting training and prescribed burn training, they can assist the firefighters when needed to have things under control.

Rangers are adept at moving wildlife out of unsafe areas. Sometimes they have to use rubber bullets to convince a reluctant animal to head back to safety. Rangers climbed to an osprey nest to remove stuff that could entangle nestlings. Ranger Erin removed a rattlesnake from harm with a loooong garden rake.

Rangers are highly trained. All the rangers retrain every year. They take advantage of additional opportunities to learn new skills and keep their learned skills sharp.

Noses for Trouble

Despite all their skills, no human has a nose for finding lost people or wandering kids. That's when Ranger Jeff's search and rescue dog Dax or one of Jeff's other qualified dogs comes on the job. Jeff's dogs like people and are very good at finding them.



You Could Spot a Ranger on Patrol

You might see Ranger Jeff patrolling Pella Crossing on Rohan or Ranger Sarah riding Starlight on patrol. Maybe you'll see Sarah patrolling Caribou on skis. Ranger Erin might be hiking up a trail at Walden Ponds. You might meet Ranger Kevin at Heil Valley Ranch. A few rangers such as Kevin live on open space property. Ranger Denny lives on Walker Ranch and can be seen cycling the trails there.

Rangers can hike or bike over 1,000 miles a year on the job! Whenever you encounter a ranger on patrol, tell them thanks for their awesome work.



Learn from a Ranger

Hundreds of visitors, adults and kids, participate in ranger-led educational programs each year. Look in IMAGES magazine or on the Parks & Open Space website for opportunities to take part when programs are offered.



Junior Ranger Adventures

If you are a kid, 5 to 12 years old, who likes to spend time outdoors, you might enjoy the Junior Ranger Adventures program.

If you'd like to learn about wildland firefighting, helping injured people on the trail, how to search for lost hikers and sharpen your outdoor safety skills check out Junior Ranger Adventures.

Participants in the program sometimes have opportunities to interact with Boulder County park rangers, volunteer rangers, Boulder County deputies and others. There are usually four events in the summer plus other opportunities.

The program is free but you have to register. You may also sign up to receive email updates about upcoming Junior Ranger activities and events on this website:

<https://www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/jr>

Hope to see you in a county park or on an open space trail in Boulder County soon!



Sherlock Fox says: Be a Ranger Example

You can help rangers by setting a good example for others. Be sure you stay on the trails whenever possible, keep a distance from wildlife, don't leave trash behind, and follow the rules and regulations posted at each site.

Thanks for enjoying and protecting our open spaces!

First Person: Youth Corps Remembered

By Nate Gore

Throughout my youth and young adulthood, I was fortunate to grow up surrounded by nature. My family and I lived near sprawling grasslands, towering mountains, and a riparian stream, all located just minutes from our home. Since a young age, I have been amazed by the interaction of human built infrastructure as it coincides with nature, making it accessible for recreation. I think my early interest in nature and its beauty sparked my interest and led me to pursue it as a career path.

At the age of 14, I began working with the Boulder County Youth Corps. This job served as my first introduction to resource management. I will always remember one of my first assigned tasks—my team and I built a multipurpose trail completely from the bottom up. We dug through the dirt and mud for hours on end for many weeks, laying weed prevention fabric down along our progress. We then began laying trail material over the fabric, and the ditch we had been digging began to look like a professionally constructed trail. Later that summer I was asked by my supervisor to design and build a flagstone path that led from the trail to the adjacent stream.

It has been eight years since I first put the shovel into that plot of grass, and I still find myself proudly riding my bike on that trail and remembering the long, hot days that went into building the path. Building that stretch of trail and the flagstone path are very fond memories for me, and I am incredibly grateful that I was given the opportunity to do this type of work for my community to help people bond with nature.

Another memorable task that I undertook during that summer was the extensive removal of many invasive species that plagued the grasslands and riparian ecosystems of my community. Pulling mullein and sawing down Russian olive trees became a staple task of my summer before high school.

As tedious and uncomfortable as the work was at times, it felt rewarding to be working to promote the wellbeing of nature in my community. Through my work with the Youth Corps, I found my love of working outdoors.

I loved this seasonal job so much that I returned to it every summer for the next eight years. This simple entry level summer job ignited an interest in the management of natural resources that I would study for my undergraduate and now my master's degree. Completing that trail and removing the invasive plant species all those years ago made me realize that I want a career that allowed me to work to make its beauty accessible for myself and others in my community.

"Through my work in the Youth Corps and projects I completed, I found my calling to work as a steward of natural resources to promote a healthy relationship between people and nature."



The Boulder County Youth Corps is currently recruiting Boulder County youth ages 14-17 for the 8-week summer employment program. Teens can apply online and their applications will be accepted through Wednesday, April 1.

Leader applications from those 18 and older will also be taken online until all of the positions have been filled. Challenge yourself this summer by joining the Youth Corps! Find more information and apply online at [**The Boulder County Youth Corps—Improving Ourselves, Improving Our Community**](http://www.BoulderCounty.org>YouthCorps.</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)



DISCOVER BOULDER COUNTY

Calendar of Events

BIRDS OF PREY DRIVING TOUR

Saturday, March 7, 9 a.m.-noon

Near Longmont. Location provided when registered.

Join volunteer naturalists for a driving tour of some of the best areas to view raptors. We will carpool from our meeting place, searching for raptors, learning about habitat and behavior, and working on our observation skills. Bring lunch, binoculars, spotting scopes, and a bird field guide if you have them. For ages 10 and older with an accompanying adult. Register at www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/register

THE HIDDEN WORLD OF BIRD NESTS

Sunday, March 15, 1-3 p.m.

Near Boulder. Location provided when registered.

Bird nests range from a scrape on the ground to intricately woven hanging baskets. Join volunteer naturalists for an easy walk in search of some of these diverse structures created by avian architects. Bring binoculars and a bird field guide if you have them. Register at www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/register



SPRING HAS SPRUNG HIKE!

Saturday, March 21, 1-3 p.m.

Near Boulder. Location provided when registered.

Join volunteer naturalists on a leisurely 2-mile hike and celebrate spring looking for signs of new life. Learn the importance of the sun at equinox. Register at www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/register

BIRDING THROUGH THE SEASONS SLIDE PROGRAM

Monday, March 23, 7-8:30 p.m.

Longmont Public Library Meeting Room, 409 Fourth Avenue, Longmont

Join volunteer naturalists to learn where to find and how to identify some of our local birds. Learn about the challenges birds face and how they adapt. You will also learn about migratory birds that return to or pass through during the year.

SPRING AWAKENING—BEARS IN OUR BACKYARD HIKE

Saturday, March 28, 1-3 p.m.

Near Boulder. Location provided when registered.

Join volunteer naturalists to explore how bears survive winter and become active in spring. We'll also learn to live safely in bear country. Register at www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/register

I SPY BEAKS AND FEET!

Thursday, April 9, 10-11:30 a.m.

Near Boulder. Location provided when registered.

Join volunteer naturalists to learn how a bird's beak and feet help them find and eat their favorite foods. We will also learn where birds live, eat, and have babies. This program is for preschool and early school-aged children and accompanying adult. Register at www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/register

THE GEOLOGIC HISTORY OF BOULDER COUNTY

Wednesday, April 15, 7-8:30 p.m.

Lyons Regional Library, 451 Fourth Avenue, Lyons

The geologic history of Boulder County's remarkable landscape goes back nearly two billion years! Join volunteer naturalists for this slide program and learn how to read this fascinating story in the rocks.

Senior Fish-off



Friday, April 17, 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 2020 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.

Calendar of Events

PELLA CROSSING: HISTORY AND HABITAT

Sunday, April 19, 1-3 p.m.

Near Longmont. Location provided when registered.

Join volunteer naturalists to learn about the residents of Pella Crossing. Learn about the agricultural and mining history of this area, and the development of the ponds for wildlife habitat. Register at www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/register



SPRING WILDFLOWER HIKE

Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m.-noon

Near Boulder. Location provided when registered.

Join volunteer naturalists for a leisurely spring stroll through pinyon and ponderosa pines looking for early season wildflowers. Register at www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/register

NATURE DETECTIVES: PARK RANGERS ON PATROL

Monday, April 27, 10-11:30 a.m.

Near Hygiene. Location provided when registered.

Ankles break, cyclists crash, and bears misbehave! Good news—rangers are on the job! Did you know rangers cycle, ski, hike, and ride horses on patrol? Meet Ranger Jeff's horse and enjoy a hands-on, activity-filled program for children ages 5-10 and an accompanying adult. Register at www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/register

NORTH FOOTHILLS GEOLOGY HIKE

Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Near Lyons. Location provided when registered.

Join volunteer naturalist Roger Myers and others on a moderate 2-mile hike to learn about the unusual geology of the area. We'll also watch for wildflowers, raptors, and wildlife. Bring water, sunscreen, closed-toed shoes, and binoculars if you have them. This program is geared to adults. Register at www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/register

THE MYSTERY OF BIRD MIGRATION SLIDE PROGRAM

Monday, May 4, 6:30-8 p.m.

Louisville Public Library, 951 Spruce Street, Louisville

Some birds are seen year-round in Boulder County, some only in summer or winter, and some only briefly in spring or fall. Join volunteer naturalists Larry Arp and Vicki Braunagel to explore these mysteries surrounding the world of bird migration.

SPRING MIGRATION BIRD WALK

Saturday, May 9, 8-10:30 a.m.

Near Boulder. Location provided when registered.

Join volunteer naturalists to explore the joys of bird watching during migration season! Learn to recognize different types of birds. Be prepared for a slow-paced walk of up to 2 miles. Bring binoculars and a bird guide if you have them. Register at www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/register

MOTHER'S DAY WILDFLOWER HIKE

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

Near Lyons. Location provided when registered.

The foothills are a great place to view wildflowers! Join volunteer naturalists for a moderate 2-mile hike that will take you from grassland to ponderosa pine and mountain mahogany shrubland in search of early bloomers. Register at www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/register

RATTLESNAKE HIKE

Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Near Lyons. Location provided when registered.

Enjoy a moderate 2-mile hike to learn about this reptile. Volunteer naturalists will share information about the prairie rattlesnake, including habitat, ecology, behavior, and how to be safe in rattlesnake country. Please bring water and wear closed-toe shoes. Register at www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/register



FOSSILS AND FLOWERS HIKE

Saturday, May 23, 9:30 a.m.-noon

Near Boulder. Location provided when registered.

Join volunteer naturalists Sue Hirschfeld and Linda Boley for a short, moderately strenuous hike to explore a landscape created by folding and faulting. You will see fossilized evidence of the Cretaceous seas that once inundated this area, as well as some wildflowers. Bring water and wear hiking shoes. Register at www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/register

WETLAND WADERS BIRD WALK

Sunday, May 24, 8-10:30 a.m.

Near Boulder. Location provided when registered.

Join volunteer naturalists to explore the long-legged waders found in Boulder County! Learn tips for recognizing different types of wading birds and their nesting preferences. Be prepared for a slow-paced walk of up to 2 miles. Bring binoculars and a bird field guide if you have them. Register at www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/register

Calendar of Events

WILDFLOWERS OF BOULDER COUNTY SLIDE PROGRAM

Thursday, May 28, 7-8:30 p.m.

Longmont Public Library, Fourth Avenue, Longmont

Join volunteer naturalists for a slide program to celebrate the spring wildflower season. Learn about the diversity of wildflowers, where and when to look for them, and interesting stories about some of our native plants.

ANCIENT BEACH WALK

Saturday, May 30, 9-11 a.m.

Near Niwot. Location provided when registered.

This small but unique and fragile exposure of Fox Hills sandstone was deposited as a beach 67 million years ago. Join volunteer naturalist Roger Myers for an easy walk to see the fossils and unusual geologic features formed in this near-shore marine environment. Please wear hiking shoes—there's lots of prickly pear cactus! Register at www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/register

Nature Hikes for Seniors

FOOTHILLS HIKE FOR SENIORS

Wednesday, March 25, 10 a.m.-noon

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

Join naturalists for a moderate hike to learn about this area's geology, history, plants, and wildlife.

WETLAND HIKE FOR SENIORS

Thursday, April 30, 10 a.m.-noon

Pella Crossing Open Space, about 1 mile south of Hygiene on the east side of North 75th Street, meet at the trailhead

Join naturalists for an easy hike to explore the ponds and look for migratory birds as well as our year-round residents.

PRAIRIE HIKE FOR SENIORS

Friday, May 29, 10 a.m.-noon

Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm, north of Broomfield at the junction of South 104th Street and Dillon Road, meet at the Stearns Lake Trailhead

Join naturalists for an easy hike to explore how plants and wildlife respond as spring transitions to summer.

Note for all programs: No registration is necessary. For more information or directions to open space properties, please visit [www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org](http://BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org) or call 303-678-6214.



Astronomy Programs

DROP-IN ASTRONOMY: SEE THE STARS!

Saturday, March 28, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Near Lyons. Location provided when registered.

Join county volunteers and the Longmont Astronomical Society to view the sky in the dark surroundings of open space.

ASTRONOMY: WELCOME TO THE DARK SKIES

Saturday, April 18, 7:30-10 p.m.

Near Lyons. Location provided when registered.

Discover why dark skies are important to wildlife and human health at a brief program, and then view a moonless dark sky with the help of telescopes provided by the Longmont Astronomical Society.

ASTRONOMY: SIZE AND DISTANCE MATTER

Saturday, May 30, 8:30-10:30 p.m.

Near Lyons. Location provided when registered.

Visual examples that explain our place in the universe—both in size and distance—will be presented at a brief program, followed by sky viewing with telescopes provided by the Longmont Astronomical Society.

Note: Register for all astronomy programs at www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/register



All Programs:

All ages are welcome unless otherwise noted. NO PETS PLEASE! Be prepared for changing temperatures. Bring drinking water and wear closed-toe hiking shoes.

For more information about these programs or to arrange a volunteer-led program for your group, contact Larry Colbenson at 303-678-6214 or lcolbenson@bouldercounty.org.

Caribou Ranch Annual Closure April - June

There is a permanent spring closure April 1 through June 30 to protect spring migratory birds, overwinter elk survival, and elk calving and rearing activities. Please respect wildlife needs for solitude.

Violators of the closure can be fined up to \$300 by the resident ranger and county sheriff deputies who patrol the open space property.



Where to Ride Your E-Bike

In November 2019, the Board of County Commissioners approved allowing class 1 and class 2 e-bikes on Boulder County Parks & Open Space trails on the plains where regular bikes are allowed.

You can ride your e-bike at these parks and trails:

Regional Trails

- Coal Creek Trail
- LoBo Trail (except on the Cottonwood and Cotton Tail trails)
- Rock Creek Trail

Plains Trails

- Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm
- Harney Lastoka
- Lagerman Agricultural Preserve
- Legion Park
- Meadowlark Trail
- Niwot Trails
- Pella Crossing
- Twin Lakes
- Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat

E-bikes are not permitted on all other Boulder County Parks & Open Space trails.

Agricultural Heritage Center Opens April 3



Come to the farm! Enjoy the rural setting and learn about the rich agricultural history of Boulder County. The farm includes two barns with interactive 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: April through Oct. the center will be open every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tours are offered on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 11 a.m.

Admission: Free

Location: 8348 Ute Highway 66, west of Longmont

For additional information call 303-776-8688 or visit www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/ahc

THANK YOU!

More than 3,079 volunteers contributed 31,764 hours to Boulder County Parks & Open Space in 2019!

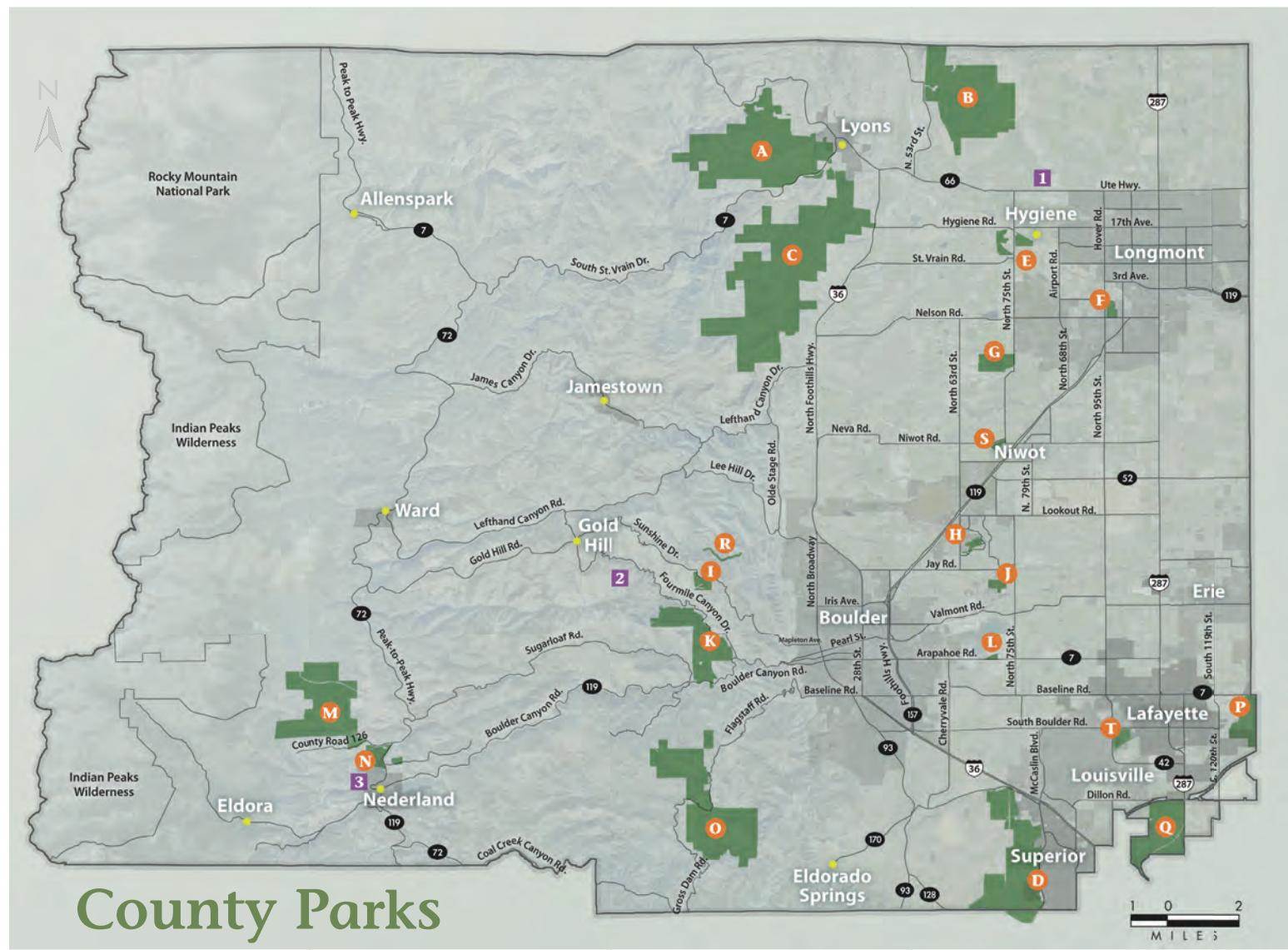


Parks & Open Space

5201 St. Vrain Road, Longmont, CO 80503

www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org

303-678-6200



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