


## FIRE

For numerous reasons wildfire is suppressed on Open Space. Since most fires on Open Space are started by people, YOU, the Open Space visitor, can play an important role in protecting these natural resources from fire. Fires are not allowed. Fireworks, hot air balloons, model rockets and all flammable devices represent a serious fire hazard and are prohibited.

## REGULATIONS

Please help us protect and keep Open Space lands safe and enjoyable places for all visitors.

- \* Motorized vehicles must remain on designated roadways and parking areas.
- \* Bicycles are only allowed on trails designated with the international bicycle symbol (  ).
- \* Camping is prohibited on Open Space lands.
- \* Fireworks are prohibited. Be careful with all sources of ignition.
- \* Glass containers are prohibited and litter must be disposed of properly.
- \* All natural and historic features (wildflowers, berries, rocks, artifacts, etc.) are protected from disturbance or collection.
- \* Hunting, possession of or discharge of firearms and projectile weapons are prohibited.
- \* Please keep dogs on leashes or within sight and under voice control of the owner/keeper. Special regulations are in effect in many areas. Please check these regulations before bringing a pet onto Open Space.

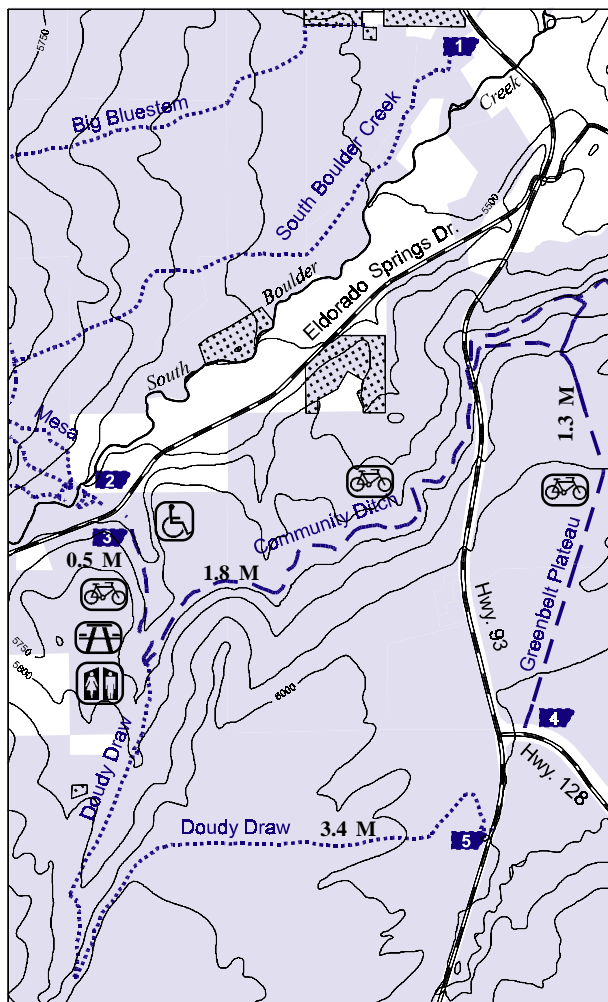
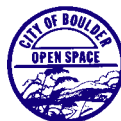
## OPPORTUNITIES

The Doudy Draw area offers a wheelchair accessible trail, parking and restrooms. In case of an emergency call 911.

City of Boulder Open Space Department  
66 South Cherryvale Road  
Boulder, CO 80303 -or-  
1300 Canyon Boulevard  
Boulder, CO 80302



Printed on  
recycled paper



## VISITOR ETIQUETTE

Boulder's Open Space is a very special place. Open Space teems with native plants and wildlife and is home to threatened and endangered species. It serves as a buffer between Boulder and nearby development. It sustains agricultural uses and adds untold benefits to the natural environment -- clean air, water, and earth. It shapes the urban mosaic of the Boulder Valley and provides citizens with passive recreation opportunities unique within urban America. The success of the Open Space program is a direct result of citizen involvement. Boulder's Open Space belongs to all of us and your support is essential in protecting these lands for the future.

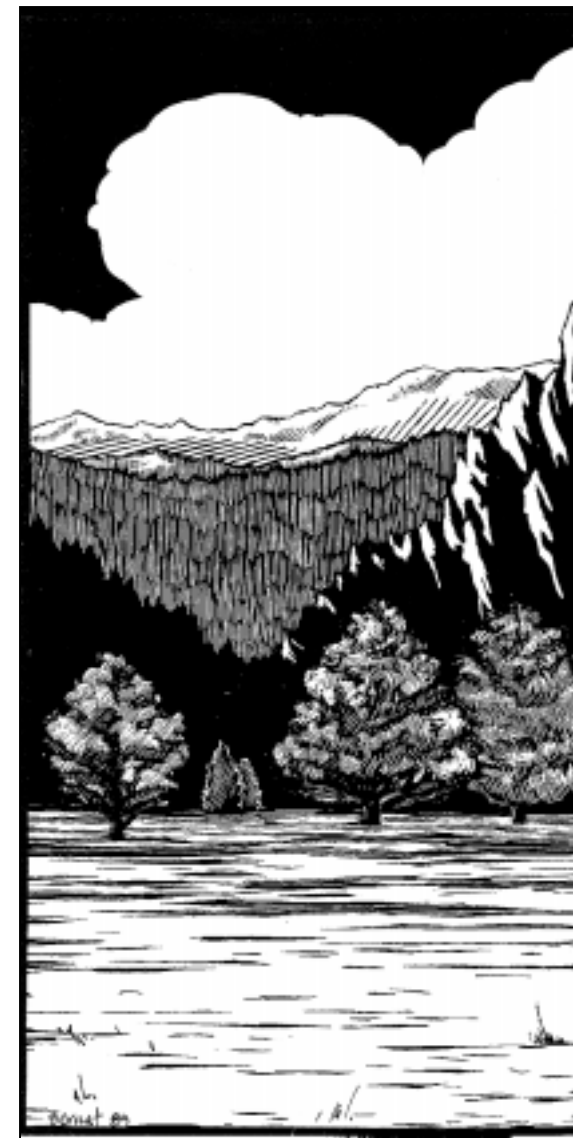
### Use Trailheads Responsibly

- \* Do not block emergency access gates or park in designated handicap parking spaces.
- \* Use trailhead recycling centers. You can help us greatly by depositing only appropriate items in the proper receptacles.
- \* Pick up after your pet. Bags and receptacles for pet excrement are provided in most high use areas to maintain a pleasant and enjoyable visit for all trailhead users.
- \* Open Space parking lots are only for the use of Open Space visitors.
- \* Use alternative modes of transportation (bicycle, bus, carpool) whenever possible to get to Open Space areas.

### Use Trails Responsibly

- \* Respect others. Be courteous and yield to fellow trail users.
- \* Stay on designated trails and avoid areas that are marked sensitive or closed. Do not cut switchbacks or make shortcuts.
- \* Minimize your impacts. Use hard surfaced paths during wet conditions. If you come upon a muddy spot or puddle, please continue through it instead of going around and creating a new trail.

## DOUDY DRAW



CITY OF BOULDER  
OPEN SPACE DEPARTMENT

## CITY OF BOULDER OPEN SPACE PROGRAM

Boulder is surrounded by over 26,000 acres of city-owned open space land. From the plains grasslands to the forests and towering rock formations of the foothills, residents and visitors are able to enjoy some of the most scenic and diverse open space land in the country. These lands help to preserve the natural environment of the Boulder area, while providing buffers between Boulder and abutting communities. The Open Space properties south of Eldorado Springs Drive and west of Highway 93 have a well-developed network of trails which traverse a variety of landscapes. They offer access to beautiful areas near Boulder for photographers, wildlife watchers, hikers and people seeking solitude in natural places.

### HISTORY

Early settlers mentioned the presence of Indians living upon these mesas and archaeologists have found artifacts and evidence of their presence scattered over the area. Visitors may not remove or disturb any artifacts or historic sites, but are urged to bring any discoveries to the attention of the Open Space Department. In 1859 the discovery of coal and iron ore in the nearby town of Marshall attracted people and money to the area.



Railroads soon followed. Eventually many of the small routes between the cities and coal fields were consolidated and plans were made for laying track up the east slope of the Rockies. One of the intended routes for this line ran westward from South Boulder Creek. Insurmountable construction problems faced the engineers as they considered laying the bed and track through the solid rock cliffs of Eldorado Canyon. So a more southern route was selected.

Agriculture accompanied mining as an important incentive to settle the area. In this arid landscape, irrigation is a necessity for providing water to hay fields and pasture land. The flow of South Boulder Creek was diverted by the construction of a series of ditches. Community Ditch was one of the first irrigation projects along the creek. Constructed in the early 1900s this four mile diversion runs from near the mouth of Eldorado Canyon to Marshall Lake, crossing several Open Space properties along its route. Most of this area is leased for cattle grazing according to grazing plans carefully designed by the Open Space Department.

### GEOLOGY

The rocks and sediment that form the soil in the Doudy Draw area are millions of years old. This material was deposited over a vast area about two million years ago when streams and rivers draining glaciers to the north and west deposited their load of materials over present day eastern Colorado. At one time, the Rocky Flats alluvium probably covered the landscape uniformly, but since deposition, erosion by wind and water has shaped the landscape into the pattern of mesas and valleys we see today.

Although this area lies east of the steeply tilting sedimentary formations known as The Flatirons, there are some exposures of sandstone near the northern boundary and in the Coal Creek drainage. These sandstones were formed about 70 million years ago when rivers deposited sediment into an ancient inland sea.



### PLANTS

Groups of plants tend to occur with enough regularity so that distinct associations can be described. These associations are determined in part by environmental conditions such as moisture, shade, soil type and by the plants native or introduced to the region. A mid-grass prairie dominates this area. Native grasses such as western wheatgrass, mountain muhly and blue grama appear alongside the introduced Kentucky bluegrass, cheatgrass and Japanese brome. Green needlegrass is also fairly common. Needlegrass gets its name from the thin, long, stiff hair (called an awn) that is attached to each seed. Changes in humidity cause this awn to shrink and swell, moving the awn. This movement helps plant the seed in the soil. Other common plants of the mid-grass prairie include yucca, snakebrush, skunkbrush and a variety of wildflowers. Some of the more common flowers are golden banner, curly cup gunweed, wild iris, and various species of penstemon. Easter daisies and sand lilies can also be found on the mesas. Other plant associations in the area include tall grass prairie, riparian (streamside) forest and ponderosa pine savannah.

Although most tallgrass prairie is located east of the Great Plains, pockets of tallgrass species can be found in this area. Big bluestem, also called turkey foot because of the three-way branching of the flower head, may grow as high as nine feet tall

and is an unmistakable indicator of tallgrass prairie. From the Flatirons Vista Trailhead, Doudy Draw Trail crosses mid-grasses. Soon the trail leaves the grassland and enters the open forest. This ponderosa pine savannah marks the forest/grassland border. Here there is enough moisture retained by the soil to permit sparse tree growth. Rocky soils may create enough of a barrier so that fire is not a severe threat to tree seedling survival.

### ANIMALS

This forest/grassland border provides plentiful food and shelter for animals. In winter, deer can feed upon the broadleaf prairie plants while using the trees for shade, shelter and food. Great-horned owls are relatively common in the forested area. Hawks and eagles can be seen soaring overhead throughout the year. The trees provide excellent perches from which to search for food, while the grasses are home to the mice and other small mammals upon which the raptors feed. Mountain chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches and juncos are common winter residents in the pines. Stellar's jays, as well as flickers and other woodpeckers, are common year-round. Pine squirrels and Abert's (or tufted eared) squirrels feed upon the plentiful pine cones and bark of pines. Mountain bluebirds are fairly common visitors to the open areas in the spring. Coyote sign (tracks and droppings) is common along the trails, however, it is unlikely one will catch sight of this wary predator.

