

Start here!

MYSTERY GUIDE

- ♥ Take this Mystery Guide and a pen or pencil with you as you explore. To complete your Nature Detective training at this park, complete at least 3 of the 5 activities.
- ♥ Inside you will find a map of the park, which will serve as a guide. Some activities correspond to locations on the map, , and some activities can be done anywhere.
- ♥ Feel free to get help from grown-ups on this, but remember, these activities are for you! You can write or draw anywhere in this mystery guide. The more thoughtful and artistic, the better!

YOUR CASE: CAROLYN HOLMBERG PRESERVE

This is a great place to see raptors (birds of prey) such as hawks and eagles. It is also home to snakes, deer, prairie dogs, foxes, coyotes, mice, and many others. You can also see a working farm in action. The farmer grows several foods, including a pick-your-own pumpkin patch for Halloween!

Nature Detectives Club Mystery Guides can be found at:

- 1) Agricultural Heritage Center
- 2) Bald Mountain Scenic Area
- 3) Betasso Preserve
- 4) Caribou Ranch Open Space
- 5) Carolyn Holmberg Preserve
- 6) Heil Valley Ranch
- 7) Mud Lake Open Space
- 8) Pella Crossing
- 9) Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat

Drop completed mystery guides in the Nature Detectives Club mailbox at each park. If you need to finish at home, mail it to us: Nature Detectives Club, Boulder County Parks and Open Space, 5201 St. Vrain Road, Longmont, CO 80503

Complete the information below so we can send you prizes and return your mystery guides!

Grown-ups, please provide the following information:

Detective's name: _____

_____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip code: _____

Phone: _____

BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org

2016



NATURE DETECTIVES CLUB



CAROLYN HOLMBERG PRESERVE AT ROCK CREEK FARM

A mystery awaits in this county park full of clues!

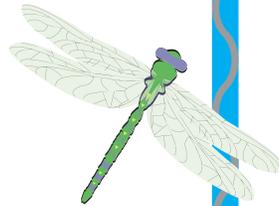
- ♥ **Your mission** is to become a young Nature Detective, collecting clues from the world around you, and solving mysteries of the forest, prairie, wetlands, and mountains.
- ♥ After completing a mystery guide we will send you a useful tool for your future outdoor adventures.
- ♥ All right detective, let's go!

(Intended for ages 4-11)

1

Fishing

Some people like to go fishing for fun, and others to catch dinner. What creatures are here to catch a meal? Find a nice place to sit where you can see the water and watch for a “fishing” animal. If you spot one, try to draw it in the space below. (Don’t worry if your picture isn’t perfect— this is a hard assignment, detective!)



What animal is this? _____

2

Nest Tally

This area is home to many kinds of birds. Some spend their time around the lake and in the water, while others are soaring high overhead. Many birds build their nests around here every year. As you walk, look up in the trees, down into the reeds and shrubs, and all around. How many bird nests can you find? Keep count with tally marks below for each nest you see.

Keep a nest tally!

Don’t go near the nests—we don’t want to disturb the birds in their homes!

3

I Spy

**MAP
ACTIVITY!**



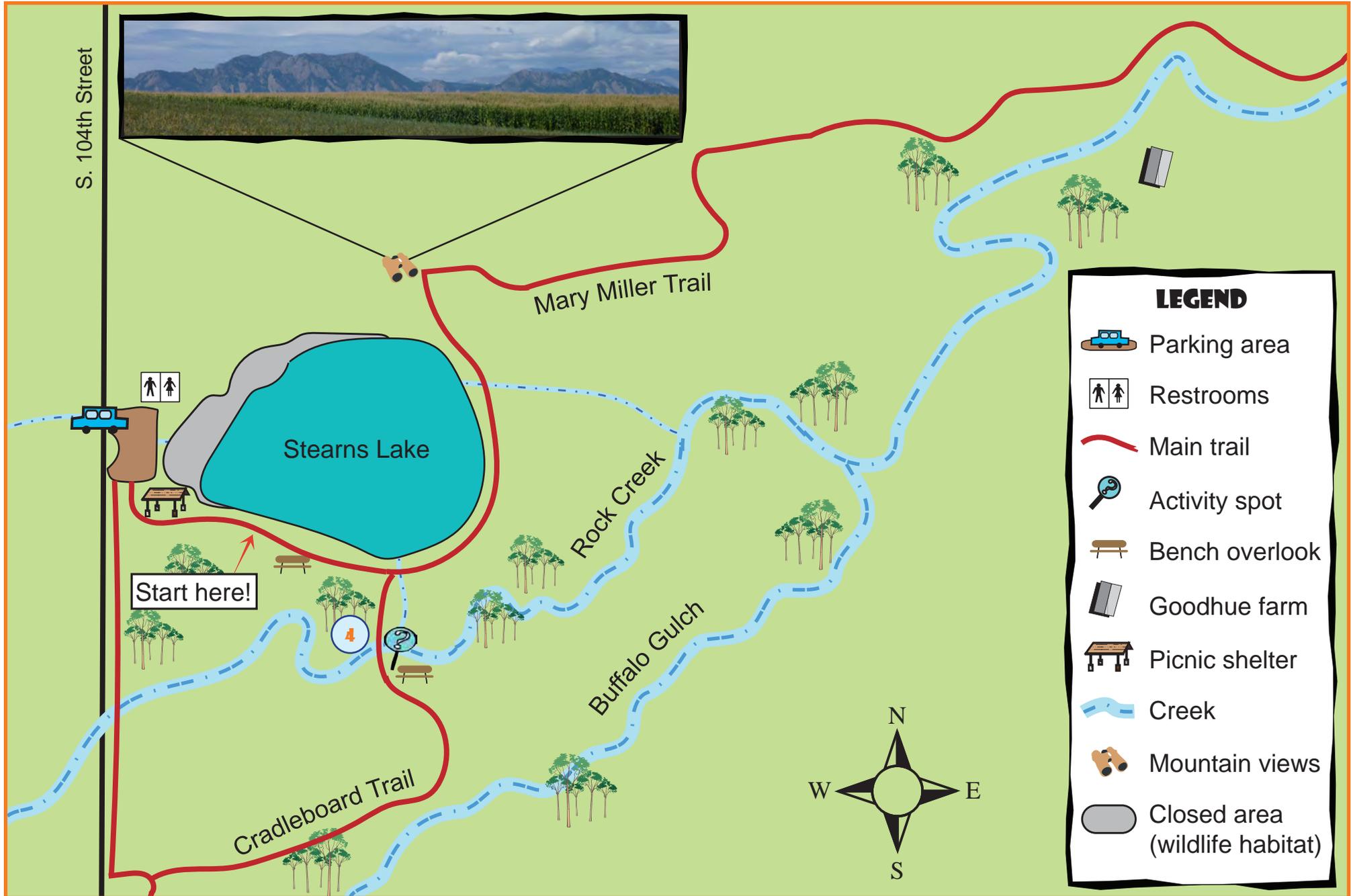
Be a detective! Mark on the map where you see any of these items.

For example, put a B on the map where you see a bird’s nest.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| A. Rotten log | E. Animal track |
| B. Bird nest | F. Smooth rock |
| C. Cattail | G. Narrow leaf |
| D. Prairie dog | |

CAROLYN HOLMBERG PRESERVE NATURE DETECTIVES MAP

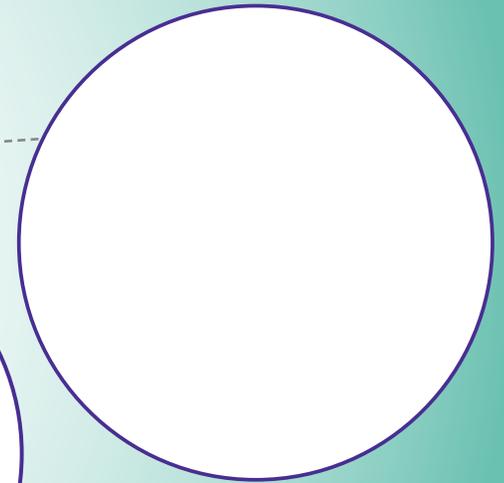
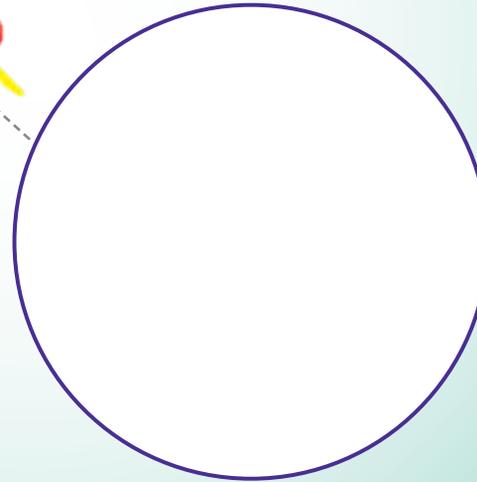
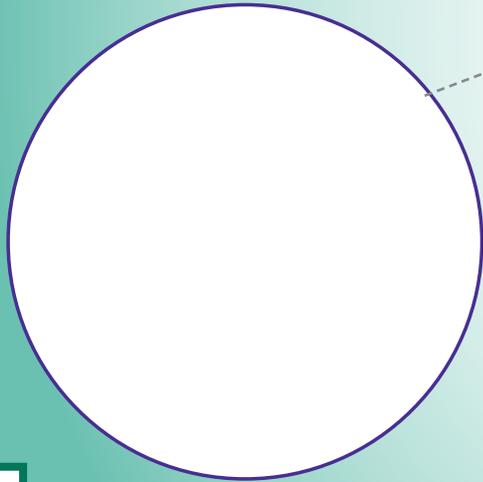
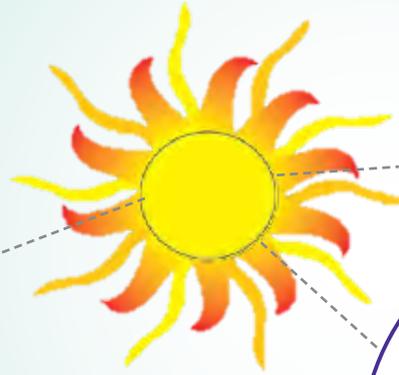
Feel free to write or draw on your map!



4

Wildlife Watch

Farms grow food for us, and also provide open space where animals make their homes. Sit silently on or near the bridge , and watch for wildlife along the banks of Rock Creek. Draw any wildlife you see in the circles below, and also fill a few circles with things that animals may depend on, such as the creek (water to drink), or a log or bush (for small animals to hide in). Don't forget insects!



5

Red-tailed Hawk

Imagine you are a red-tailed hawk. You live in this area and hunt for rodents, reptiles, or other birds. Think about what might be important to you. Where would you build your nest? Hidden down in the grass or up in the tallest trees? Write where you would live and one reason you think this is a good place for a red-tailed hawk, such as yourself. (Hint: Look for a hawk to see where it goes.)

As a red-tailed hawk, where would you live? _____

Why? _____

