



KIDS IN
THE
CREEK



FIELD
GUIDE

WELCOME TO



EXPLORING OUR BACKYARD AND BEYOND

KEEP THE FUN COMING!



Jump online with your parents to sign up for our e-newsletter and get monthly online activities for the whole family at cherryhillslandpreserve.org



Follow us on Instagram

Kids in the Creek is the kid-focused program of Cherry Hills Land Preserve. We help kids and families explore the natural treasures in our own backyard - inspiring passion and volunteerism to protect the beauty we love in Cherry Hills Village. We want kids to get outside, explore, discover, volunteer, and become future conservation leaders. Every month through our newsletter we share activities and events designed to spark curiosity about nature and science - and a life-long understanding of the importance of land conservation.

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This book, along with the Cherry Hills Village Parks and Trails map, is your guide to exploring 27 miles of trails right inside our very own community, winding through the natural lands, wildlife habitats, and scenic vistas that make this area such an amazing place to call home.

These landscapes are yours to enjoy thanks to the rural heritage of Cherry Hills Village and people who believe that nature and open spaces improve the quality of life for us all.

CHERRY HILLS
LAND PRESERVE



cherryhillslandpreserve.org

LEARN | EXPLORE | PROTECT

5 PARKS - 50 ACRES - 27 MILES OF TRAILS A WHOLE WORLD TO DISCOVER

Walk the trails in CHV! Take the trail walk challenge. To get started, use the Cherry Hills Village Parks and Trails map to find a trail you'd like to visit. You can explore the trails by walking, running, biking, or horseback riding - any way counts. Once you've explored them, mark them off. Remember that bikers yield to hikers and both bikers and hikers always yield to horses.



Cherry Hills Village trails checklist:

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Highline Canal Trail section #1 (Hampden to Three Pond Park) | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 2049 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4146 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4724 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Highline Canal Trail section #2 (Three Pond Park to Blackmer Commons) | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 2245 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4148 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4750 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Highline Canal Trail section #3 (Blackmer Commons to Belleview) | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 2442 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4212 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4756 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 0837 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 2637 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4322 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4842 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 0941 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 2643 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4418 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4844 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 1241 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 2645 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4420 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4918 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 1337 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 2841 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4422 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4944 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 1441 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 2939 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4424 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4946 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 1451 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 3149 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4449 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4948 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 1541 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 3247 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4452 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4952 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 1947 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 3539 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4454 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4956 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 2043 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 3636 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4512 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 5044 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 2045 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 3710 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4520 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 5046 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 2047 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 3745 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4522 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 5048 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 3828 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4524 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 5049 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 3830 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4526 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 5145 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 3926 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4534 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 5247 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 3930 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4618 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 5351 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 3934 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4620 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 5449 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4045 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4634 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 5547 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4047 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4720 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 6247 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4110 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail 4722 | |

LET THE TRAIL WALK CHALLENGE BEGIN

Village Loop Trail

Did you know that Cherry Hills has a Village Loop Trail that is 6 miles long? It's new and the Village has put up signs to show where it goes. Can you trace the Village Trail on your city Trail Map? Trace the trails listed below with a pen or pencil on your city trail map and connect them with a section of the High Line Canal to see the Village Trail.

For extra credit, walk or bike the entire Village Trail!

Trails that make up the Village Trail: 4842, 4047, 4045, 3745, 4534, 4526, 4524, 2645, 4424, 2643, 2841, 3930.

Connect these trails with the High Line Canal to complete the loop.

PARKS & FACILITIES	horse riding areas	natural open space	parking	play-ground	shelter	wildlife viewing
Blackmer Common S. Dahlia St. at the Highline Canal		●				●
Dahlia Hollow Park S. Dahlia St. at E. Oxford Ave.		●				●
John Meade Park E Quincy Ave. at Meade Lane	●	●	●	●	●	●
Three Pond Park S. Colorado Blvd. at High Line Canal	●	●	●			●
Woodie Hollow Park NW of University & Belleview	●	●			●	●



Remember, all who pass through this land are ultimately its guardians and caretakers.

MEET THE LOCALS

As you explore the Village's parks and trails stay on the lookout for all of our amazing wildlife. Mark them off as you spot them here. Do you think you can find them all before summer's end?

Breathtaking Birds

The Village is home to birds of all kinds and sizes.

Broadtail Hummingbird

Amazing flying machines!



Red-Winged Blackbird

Found amidst cattails and meadows.



Western Meadowlark

Listen for their great sound.



Great Blue Heron

*Often standing on pond edges.
Look for their long legs.*



Black-Billed Magpie

Loud black-and-white thieves with long tails.



Hooded Merganser Duck

Found at various ponds throughout the Village. Look for their dramatic crests.



Mallard Duck

The most common duck in the world.



Riveting Raptors

Raptors are large birds of prey and some of the most exciting birds to spot! Because they are at the top of the food chain, we need to help keep them thriving with clean water, a good source of food, and no pesticides.

Owls: **Great Horned** **Eastern Screech Owl**



Hawks: **Red-Tailed** **Swainson's** **Cooper's**



Falcons: **Kestrel**



Eagles: **Bald**



Take part in the Cherry Hills Village iNaturalist Project

The mobile app, iNaturalist makes it easy to connect with the nature around us, recording and identifying whatever we see - from a rare butterfly to a common weed. The app allows you to see not only what you post but what anyone else has posted in the same area. So download the app, search for "Cherry Hills Land Preserve" under Projects, and start contributing as you explore the Village.

NATURE'S CHECK LIST

Sneaky Snakes

We don't have many snakes in the Village or in Colorado in general. But when you do come across one, always keep a safe distance.

- Western Terrestrial Garter Snake** *Small and harmless, eats mosquitoes and small bugs. There are 5-6 species of Garter snakes in Colorado.*



- Colorado Bullsnake** *Larger, brown or yellowish. Known as a "farmer's friend" because they eat mice. Their defense mechanism is to sound like a rattlesnake!*



- Prairie Rattlesnake** *A venomous snake rarely seen in the Village, but sometimes on the Front Range.*



Phenomenal Pollinators

A pollinator is an animal that causes flowering plants to produce fruits or seeds by moving pollen from one plant to another - playing a critical role in food production. Pollinators facilitate the reproduction of 90% of the world's flowering plants. We need to keep them protected because without these animals, our food supply and our surrounding landscapes would wither away.

- Bees** *There are over 900 species.*

- Wasps** *Wasps are pollinators and predators of pest insects.*

- Butterflies** *There are over 250 species.*

- Birds** *Some pollinate, but not all.*

- Beetles** *The most diverse group of insects on the planet.*



Our Naturally Important Native Plants & Trees

Why are our plants and trees important? They provide food, habitats, and shelter for local wildlife. Plus, they keep the land healthy by preventing soil erosion. Can you find these trees in the Village?

Plains Cottonwood Tree

Look for triangular-shaped leaves.



Narrowleaf Cottonwood Tree

These have thin, pointed leaves and are a popular shade tree.



Colorado Blue Spruce

Look for blue-colored needles and a Christmas-tree shape.



Ponderosa Pine

A tall pine with long needles.



Rocky Mountain Columbine

A flower with five spurs, pollinated by hummingbirds, butterflies, hawk moths, and bees. It is the state flower.



Cattails

A wetland plant that creates a barrier on our stream banks.



Download the Cherry Hills Public Art app and let the adventure begin

Thanks to the Cherry Hills Village Art Commission, throughout the Village there are amazing public art pieces that help make our community even more interesting and beautiful.

Simply search for "Cherry Hills Public Art" in the app store - and you'll have the perfect guide for finding these great pieces of public art. Why not see if you can visit all of them?



Artist: Emmett Culligan
Art Piece: Rubric Series Number 6



Artist: Emmett Culligan
Art Piece: Crew Series Number 4, 5 and 7



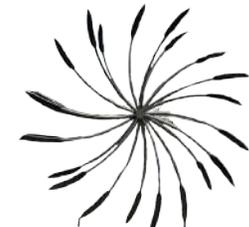
Artist: Anthony Heinz May
Art Piece: Beyin Withond



Artist: Jesse Horton
Art Piece: Chainsaw



Artist: Deborah Butterfield
Art Piece: Charlo



Artist: James Surls
Art Piece: Big Bronze Walking Eye Flower

CHV SCAVENGER HUNT

What could be more fun than a scavenger hunt throughout the parks and trails in our own backyard? Grab some friends, form a couple teams, and get outside to see how many items you can spot within 60 minutes. Ready... Set... Scavenge!

Something furry

What and where was it? _____

A sign that lets people know where they are

What and where was it? _____

A place to rest

What and where was it? _____

Animal footprints

What do you think made it and where was it? _____

Something with wings

What and where was it? _____

Something with four legs

What and where was it? _____

Something that blooms

What and where was it? _____

A body of water

What and where was it? _____

Something taller than you!

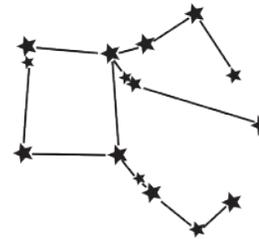
What and where was it? _____

A beautiful piece of art

What and where was it? _____

STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT

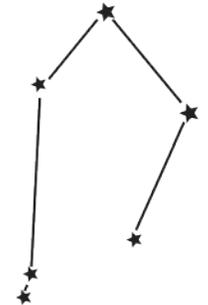
The many open spaces in the Village means less light pollution from the ground and more opportunities to see the stars in their purest, brightest form. How many you can spot on a clear Village night?



Pegasus
The Winged Horse



Gemini
The Twins



Libra
The Scales



Orion
The Hunter



Ursa Major
The Great Bear



Pisces
The Fish



Taurus
The Bull



Cassiopeia
The Queen



Ursa Minor
The Little Bear

IN PURSUIT OF POLLINATORS

How many pollinators can you find in this word search?

L M G B P F H R O A O R O A I P N T E
A K H U R A A U U L W A S P P A U M R
R A A T U J M Q M W E L E E J L C O P
J E O T A P D A N M J G R J R E L T K
I N E E N W O M D G I H T R M R K H A
W B I R D L F O R H L N U O H T A V A
H E A F O R T N N E A T G N E I A P L
O T O L S T A K B T P E M B R W I E I
N L A Y G Q B E E T L E N A I L E R Z
E U P O W U G Y I Z R I R T E R B M A
Y A F L Y A H L O U N U N E O E D K R
B R F K G R A O E W M A T T E N I N D
E N N E N B U M B L E B E E L R F D B
E A E P A G M R I T O W R P E I G U P

WORDS TO FIND:

Hummingbird

Monkey*

Butterfly

Lizard*

Bumblebee

Bird

Honeybee

Beetle

Bat

Moth

Wasp

Fly

WORD SEARCH FUN FACTS:

Hummingbird: Hummingbirds have long, thin beaks and tongues – perfect for drinking nectar from flowers. They are one of the few birds that can hover, and are the only bird that can fly backwards.

Butterfly: Like hummingbirds, butterflies drink the nectar of flowers for energy. They find flowers by using their antennae to “smell” them.

Bumblebee: The bumblebee is like a large honeybee. These bees are responsible for a majority of crop pollination across the world.

Honeybee: The honeybee will also pollinate plants, but people use them mainly to make honey.

Bat: In some parts of the world (but not in Colorado) there are bats that prefer nectar for food. Flowers that attract bats tend to be large, very fragrant, and they open at night.

Wasp: Wasps are not very efficient pollinators when compared to bees, but they still pollinate flowers.

Beetle: Beetles account for a large amount of pollination. Ancient beetles were among the first insects to start pollinating flowers.

Moth: Most moths are nocturnal, meaning they are active at night. For this reason, many prefer flowers that open at night.

Fly: There are some types of flies that pretend to be bees, including eating the same food as bees: nectar!

Monkey: Although not native to Colorado, some monkeys enjoy nectar not as a main food source, but as a sweet treat. As they visit different flowers looking for nectar, they distribute pollen.

Lizard: On some islands where there may not be insects up to the task, flowers adapt to attract lizards such as geckos to serve as pollinators.

Bird: Hummingbirds may be the most popular pollinating bird.

ANIMAL ENIGMAS

Solve these riddles and learn a few fun facts about the animals you may spot out and about in the Village.

I have four legs but no tail. I'm mostly heard at night.

What am I? _____

I can be as small as your thumb. You'll hear me before you see me. What am I? _____

I grow down as I grow up. What am I? _____

I am alive without breath. I am always drinking but never thirsty. What am I? _____

I'm a rodent but I'm not a bat. I hibernate but I'm not a bear. What am I? _____

I like carrots but I'm not a rabbit. I have a mane but I'm not a lion. What am I? _____

I am very short. But can move very fast. I hiss and I rattle. What am I? _____

My wings are webbed. I hang upside down. I find my way with echoes. What am I? _____

Answer Key

A squirrel • A horse • A snake • A bat
A frog • A hummingbird • A goose • A fish

TEN FUN THINGS TO DO AS A COLORADO KID IN CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE

- Balance along the length of a fallen log in Three Pond Park
- Bike the 2.5 miles of the High Line Canal in Cherry Hills Village
- Explore the rocks and riffles along Little Dry Creek
- Look for turtles and ducks at Three Pond Park or at Greenwood Village's Marjorie Perry Open Space and draw a picture of what you find
- Listen for Great Horned Owls calling to each other at night
- Spot the Big Dipper, Venus, and the evening star on a clear night
- Look for a Red-Tailed Hawk circling on thermal air currents high in the sky
- Go on a hunt to find barns with horses. Count how many you spot
- Visit all five parks *You'll find a listing on page 2*
- Build a box to attract nesting owls or bats to your backyard

What are your favorite ways to enjoy our open space?

Send your ideas to info@cherryhillslandpreserve.com or tag us in your Instagram posts today at [instagram.com/cherryhillslandpreserve](https://www.instagram.com/cherryhillslandpreserve).

Take the Kids in the Creek Pledge

"As a Kids in the Creek Ambassador, I promise to help protect the open lands, nature and wildlife in Cherry Hills Village, throughout Colorado, and beyond.

- I will help keep parks beautiful by never leaving trash behind.
- I will help keep wildlife wild by not feeding animals.
- I will help protect plants by not picking them.
- And I will encourage others to do the same."

The best way for us to know how to protect nature is by observing it today. Find a comfortable, quiet place within our parks and trails. Take a few minutes to carefully observe everything around you - using as many of your senses as possible: sight, hearing, smell, and touch. Then, in the next few pages, write or draw everything you've noticed.



CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

This certifies that

Your name here

has met the requirements to be a Kids in the Creek Ambassador!

Cherry Hills Land Preserve Signature Date

Ambassador Signature Date

“I have loved living in Cherry Hills Village for over 26 years. The beautiful parks and trails are such a meaningful part of our lifestyle”

JK JANET KRITZER

Janet@JanetKritzer.com | 303.883.2474 mobile | janetkritzer.com

LIV | **Sotheby's**
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

8000 East Belleview Avenue, Suite 200
Greenwood Village, CO, 80111



The Village Club is a family- focused club, with horse, tennis, and swim activities for all ages

4601 E Belleview Ave
Cherry Hills Village, CO
80121
303.771.8131
villageclubco.org

EASY WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

With your help, our amazing open space will stay beautiful and thriving for all future Village kids and families to enjoy.

Here are a few simple ways for you to play a part:

- Pick up any trash that you see.
- Take care of our pollinators and birds – design gardens, limit pesticides and water wisely.
- Write a blog or post a vlog about your favorite ways to enjoy the CHV open space! Send it to us and it could be featured on our website.

Here are a few simple ways to stay in touch:

- Follow us on [Instagram.com/cherryhillslandpreserve.org](https://www.instagram.com/cherryhillslandpreserve.org). Be sure to tag us in the pics and videos you post!
- Send us an email about what you find so we can share on social media! info@cherryhillslandpreserve.org
- Join the Cherry Hills Land Preserve and our community on local volunteer days
- Report Wildlife sightings on iNaturalist

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