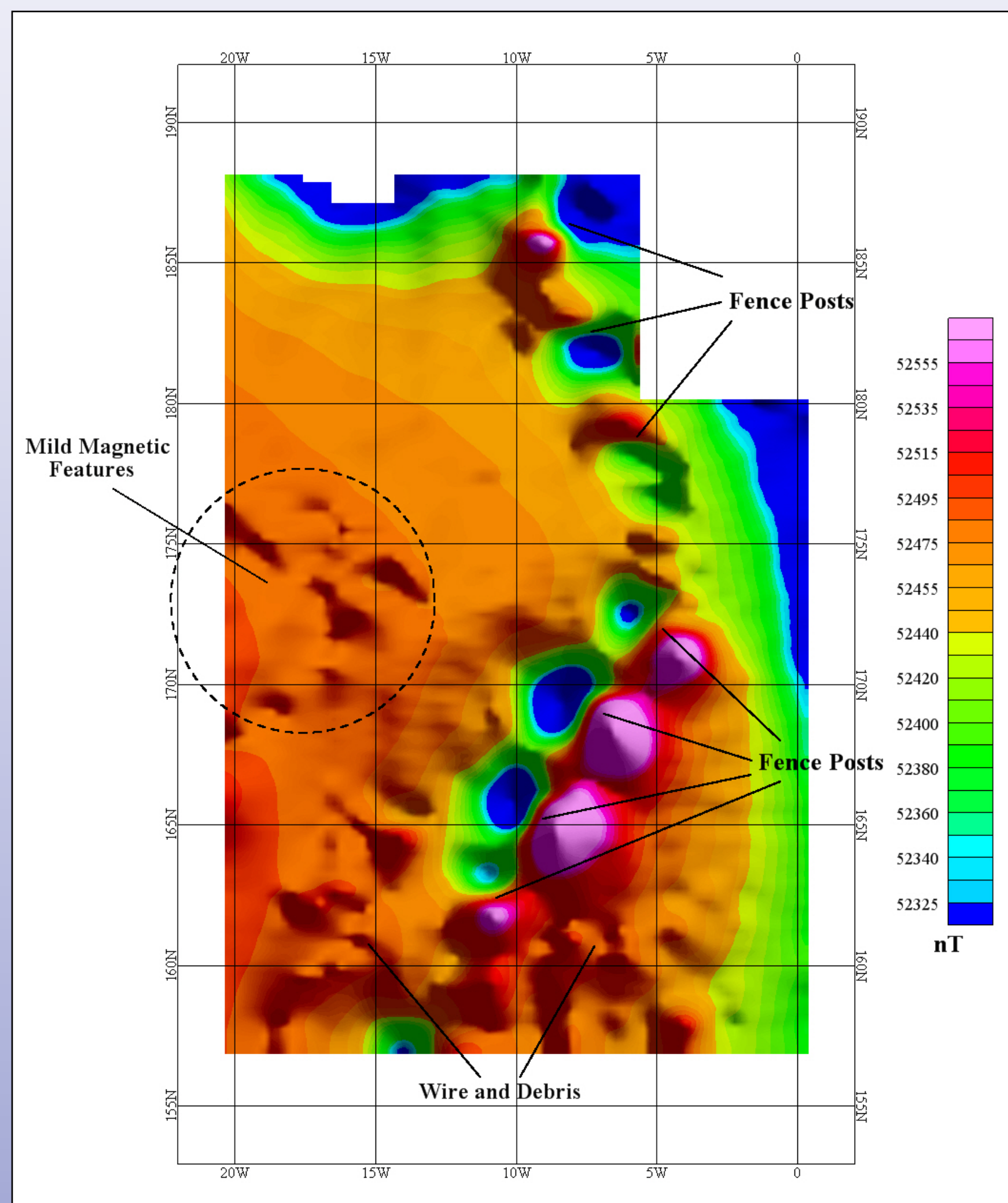


Site History - Archeological Dig



Magnetometer Data Map of the area surrounding the digital kiosk

Federal permitting requires that certain development sites be surveyed to identify cultural resources. After surveys identified possible resources, archaeological studies and excavations were conducted by TRC Solutions throughout the Open Space to ensure that no sacred grounds were being disturbed. Test holes, dug by hand and with backhoes, were helpful in recovering artifacts and showing different 'cultural levels' present throughout the soil. Remote sensing tools, including the Magnetometer data is used to detect archaeological sites and other buried or submerged objects without actually breaking ground. The Magnetometer data illustrates the changes in the magnetic field surrounding disturbed areas, which could indicate human settlements.

Artifacts recovered from the excavation include chipped stone tools used for cutting meat, as well as scraping hides, wood, and bone. Ground stone tools include manos and mutates, used by inhabitants for grinding vegetable and meat foods. Bones from game animals likely hunted and eaten by the site inhabitants include bison (buffalo), pronghorn antelope, jackrabbit, and turtle. Excavations did not recover any pottery, projectile points (spear or arrow points), or activity areas such as houses, food preparation areas, cooking/heating fire pits, or burials.

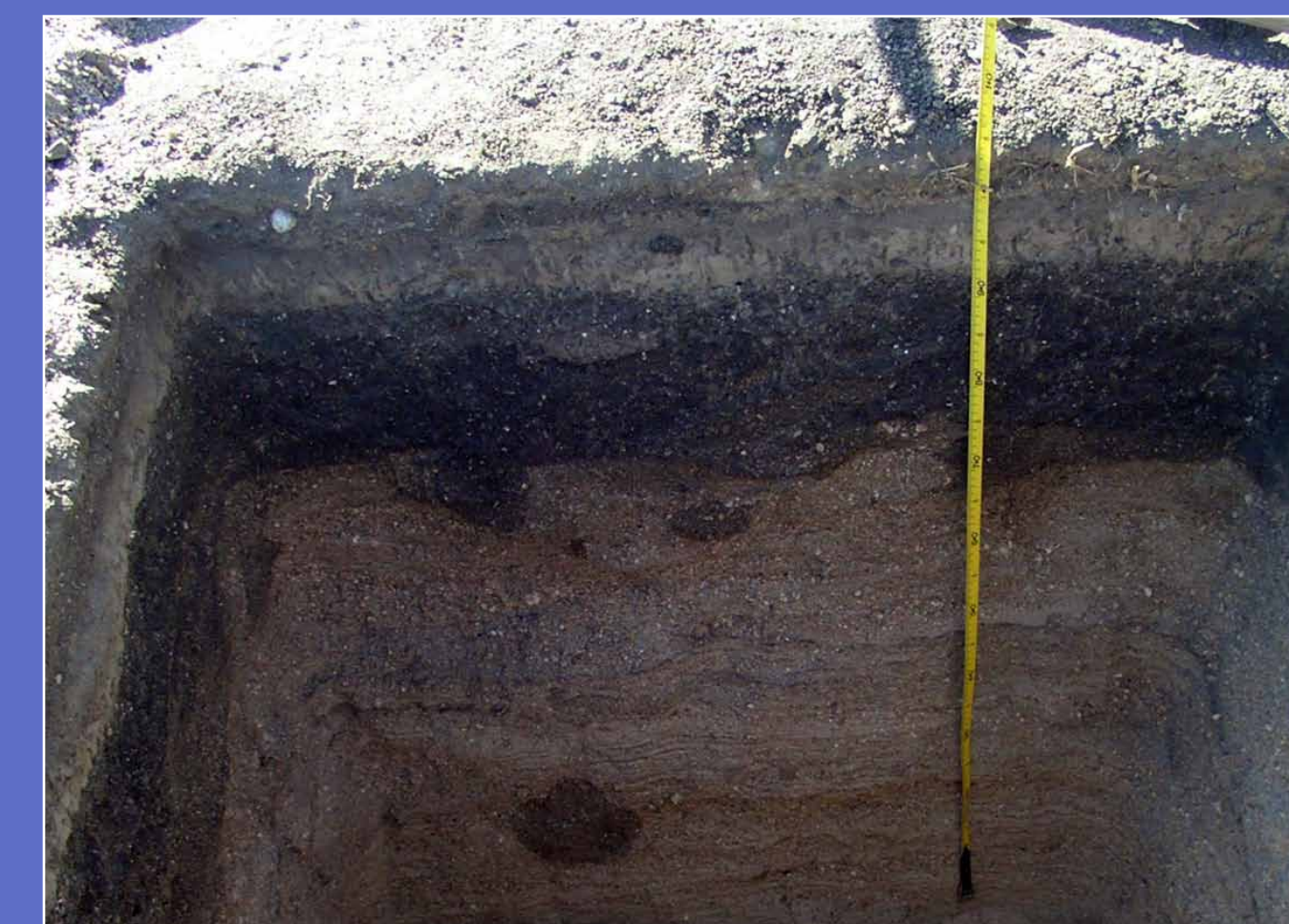
Specialized samples will be processed for radiocarbon (C-14) dating to determine the age of the materials uncovered. Further studies include the screening of soils to recover charred plant remains. In-depth study of the starch and protein residues on chipped and ground stone artifacts will help us understand what types of plants and animals were used by

Events:

Date
Event
Location
Time

September 22, 2012
Cherry Creek "Run for the Watershed" Relay Race
Visit www.cherry-creek.org for race info and updates

Journaling and Pictures:



Sample soil stratigraphy from one of the 15 hand excavated 1x1 meter holes.

Did You Know?

Information gathered from the archeological dig will be used to help reconstruct past environments in the Cherry Creek Valley and how people interacted with their environment.



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March 12, 2012
11:59 AM

Adventures - Eager Beaver

Level 1 - Sensory observations

Feathered Friends

Did you know that many birds migrate to the Cherry Creek Valley for the summer? You may not be able to see all the birds hiding in the leafy trees, but you may be able to hear them.

-  How many different bird songs can you hear on your walk today? Can you tell if they're from the same species of bird? Do they have the same bird song? Can you try to copy the bird sounds?
-  What other evidence of birds can you find along the trail? Nests or hollows, fallen feathers, scat or droppings?





Birdwatching

Pet a Plant

You don't need to be a botanist to tell different grassy plants apart, just remember this rhyme!

“Sedges have Edges,
Rushes are Round,
Grasses are Hollow right up from the ground”

-  Can you find examples of sedges, rushes and grasses growing along the creek or in the park? Where did you find each type; near the creek, on higher ground, next to the path?
-  Go ahead and touch the plants, twirl them between your thumb and fingers. You'll have to be a keen observer to see the differences!



Botanist at work

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Journaling and Pictures:



Sedges have Edges,



Rushes are Round,



Grasses are Hollow right up from the ground,



Did You Know?

Some birds like the European Starling mimic the calls and songs of other birds.

Additional Functionality: Sound Files for bird types



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Adventures - Trailblazer

Level 2 - Look and Think



Ladybug



Harvester Ant



Grasshopper



Bumble Bee

Interesting Insects

Did you know that all insects have 6 legs? If it doesn't have six legs as an adult, then it's not an insect!

- How many different types of insects can you find on your adventure? Where did you find them; near the water, along the path, in the taller grasses?
- Can you find the insects in these pictures? Take some photos, draw a picture, tell us about your adventure; they might be posted on this kiosk next time you return! See the home page for instructions on how to submit your findings.

Fast Flood

The Cherry Creek may look calm and gentle, but did you know that the Cherry Creek flooded its banks more than once and almost wiped out the City of Denver? Not only does a flood mean more water in the creek, that water is moving MUCH faster than normal, making floods dangerous.

- Can you see where a flood of the creek might come over the path on your adventure today? Where are the places on the path that you should avoid during high water or flood conditions and where are the places you should go?



1864



1885



1933



2006



Events:

Date
Event
Location
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Journaling and Pictures:



A young Trailblazer on an expedition.

Did You Know?

It only takes six inches of moving water to knock you off of your feet. Please be careful on your adventure today.



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March 12, 2012
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Adventures - Stewards

Level 3 - Take Action

Good Indicators

Did you know that the insects and other **macroinvertebrates** we find in the Cherry Creek can tell us if the watershed and the Cherry Creek are healthy?

 The juvenile stage of many common flying insects can live only in unpolluted waterways with high levels of dissolved oxygen. If we find them in our creek, they are indicators of a healthy watershed.

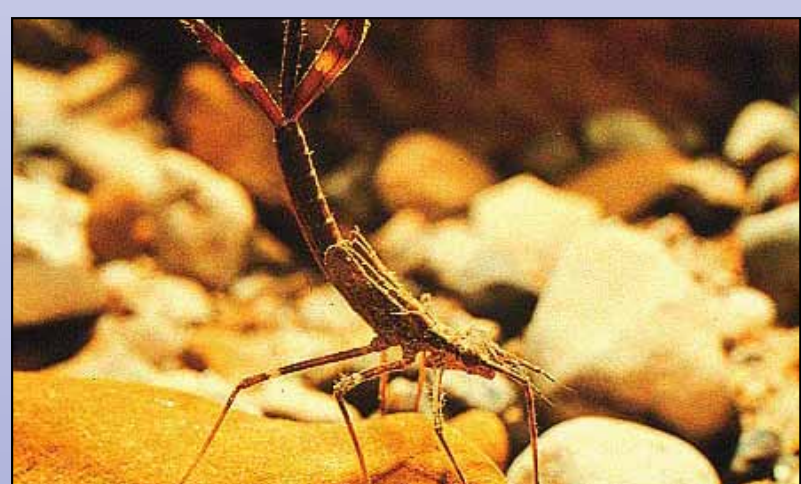
 Which **macroinvertebrates** can you find in the Cherry Creek? They like to hide under rocks and leaves in the creek, and they're pretty small, so look closely!



Damselfly Nymph



Damselfly Adult



Dragonfly Nymph



Dragonfly Adult



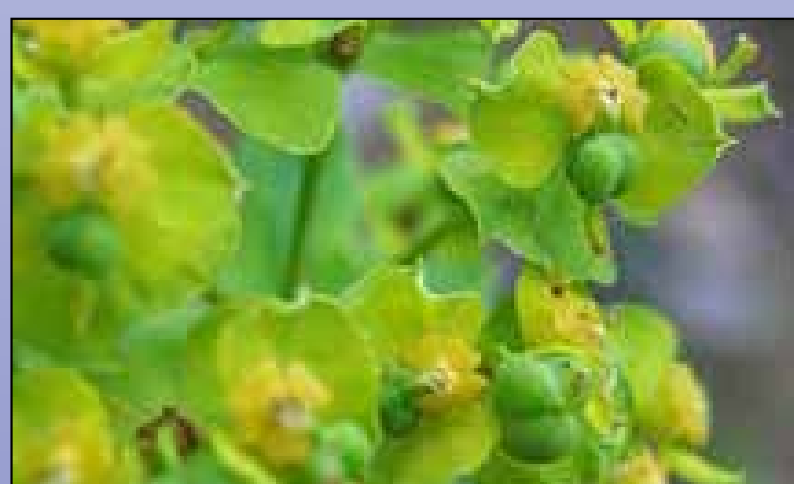
Diffuse Knapweed Plant



Diffuse Knapweed Flowers




Leafy Spurge Plant




Leafy Spurge Flowers

Problem Plants

Not all plants found here are native to this environment. The non-native plants can cause serious disruption in our fragile ecosystem. Be on the look-out for these "problem plants."

 Diffuse Knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*) can produce a whopping 18,000 seeds per plant. Their thistles damage the mouth and digestive tracts of animals that eat them. The plants are **allelopaths**, meaning the roots release a chemical into the soil that prevents other plants from growing there.

 Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) has a massive root structure and can regenerate from a tiny piece of root. Its milky white sap is poisonous to humans and animals, causing blisters on the skin and digestive tract if eaten, possibly resulting in death.

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Journaling and Pictures:



Stewards like you look for macroinvertebrates in the Cherry Creek.



Follow the QR Code to a macroinvertebrate index.



Did You Know?

You can be our "eyes in the field". Get involved with the many stewardship opportunities available through the Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners. Visit www.cherry-creek.org to learn more.



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