



#YOUTHACOS EXPLORE YOUR SPACE

We want to make sure that Arapahoe County's open spaces, parks and trails are places that people, wild animals and insects want to spend time in and enjoy.

In order to do that, we need your help. We want you to go on an outdoor adventure and share what you find!



DIRECTIONS

Fill out this workbook to help us make Arapahoe County Open Spaces the best they can be!

1. Before you head into the Great Outdoors read and answer the questions on this page through page 4.
2. Starting on page 5, take your workbook with you and walk, bike, skip, roll or hop through three open spaces. Let us know what you find by filling out the three field notes pages.
3. After you complete your travels, there are some more fun activities for you to work on, starting on page 8.
4. Please return your completed adventure workbook or upload it by Monday, August 31st (directions for returning are on the last page).

READY TO GET STARTED? LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN!

What city or town do you live in?

Circle your age range:

5 - 10 years old

11 - 15 years old

Over 15 years old

SUPPLIES YOU MIGHT WANT TO TAKE WITH YOU:

- Phone/camera
- Pencils, crayons, pens
- Binoculars
- Magnifying glass
- Bug collecting jar

EXPLORE YOUR SPACE

We are working on the Arapahoe County Open Spaces Master Plan update to make sure we have high-quality open spaces, parks and trails for everyone in Arapahoe County to enjoy.

By completing this workbook and an additional photography activity, you will help us make the plan great.

These definitions are good to keep close as you complete your adventure.

ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACES PROGRAM

The program began in 2003 when citizens of Arapahoe County voted to fund the program through an Open Space sales and use tax. That means these spaces belong to everyone in Arapahoe County.

BIOBLITZ

Taking photos of and making notes about the wildlife, plants and water you find in open spaces, on trails and in parks.

BIODIVERSITY

If there are several different species of plants and animals, then the area is considered biodiverse. If there are not very many different types, than the area is not as healthy, or biodiverse.

FIELD NOTES

When you make your observations, you will write down what you see - these are field notes - they help you and others understand what you saw in our open spaces.

OPEN SPACES

Open Spaces are farm lands and ranches. They are rivers and creeks. They are places where birds and deer and fish live and eat. They are trails for walking or riding bikes. Parks are also part of the open space system.

WILDLIFE

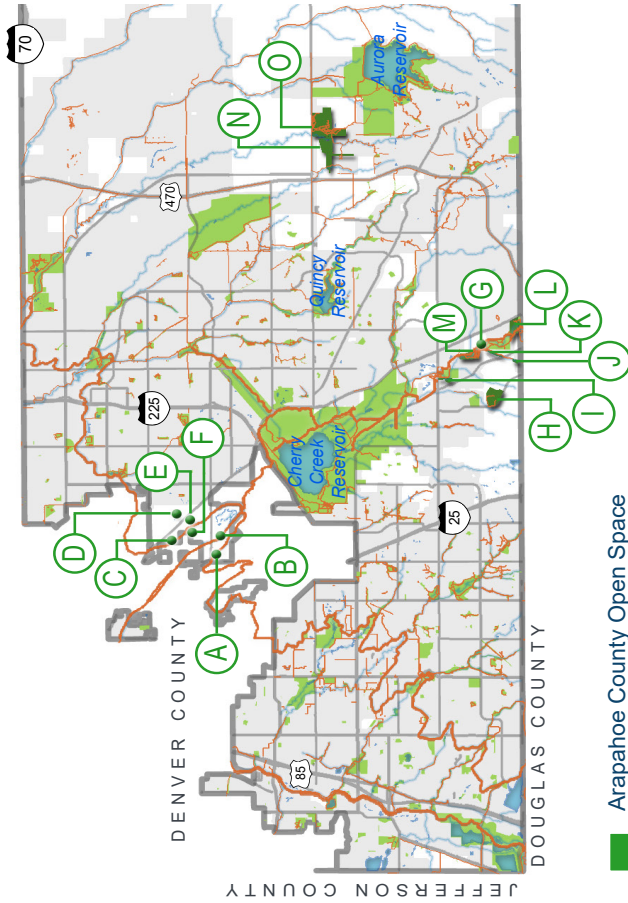
No, not your dog or cat. We're talking about animals that live in the wild - you might see during your tour - like birds, bees, foxes, snakes, deer or maybe even bison.

PHOTOGRAPH YOUR SPACE

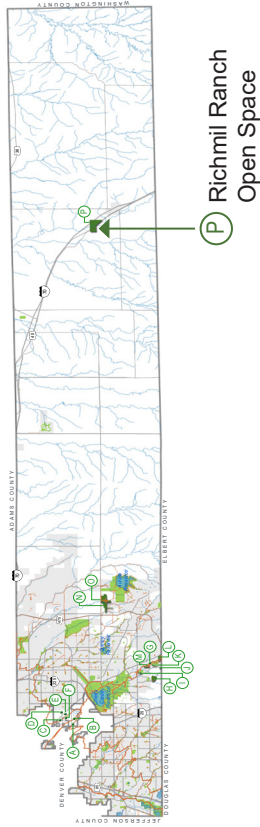
If you choose to accept it, once you complete the workbook activities, your second challenge is a photography activity with the chance to submit your photos online to Arapahoe County to be featured online!

With your new knowledge, go here to get started: <https://bit.ly/youthACOSphoto>

IDENTIFY YOUR SPACE



- Arapahoe County Open Space Properties
- Other Local Parks and Open Space
- Trails



P Richmil Ranch Open Space

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| A Wayside Park | I Arapahoe Road Trailhead |
| B Wabash Trailhead | J Green Acres Trail |
| C Long's Pine Grove | K Happy Canyon Open Trail |
| D Cheyenne/Arapaho Park | L 17 Mile House Farm Park |
| E Welch Park | M Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park |
| F South Quebec Way Trailhead | N Harvest Trail |
| G Broncos Parkway Trailhead | O Fairgrounds Park |
| H Dove Valley Regional Park | P Richmil Ranch Open Space |

QUICK FACT

Go to the Arapahoe County Open Space website to learn more about all the open spaces you can explore:

www.arapahoegov.com/openspaces

ACOS OPEN SPACES ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

The map above includes all the publicly accessible open spaces, trails and parks Arapahoe County owns. Which ones have you visited? Find them on the map and write the letter or name of the open space, trail or park here. If you need help, just ask your parents, a friend or your brother or sister.

USE YOUR SPACE

Circle the 3 activities below you like doing the most in the open spaces, trails and parks you visit. Then, it's time to bioblitz!



Playing in Nature



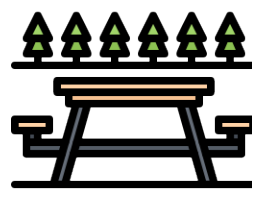
Seeing wildlife



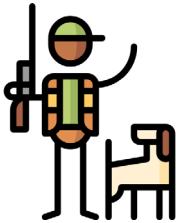
Camping



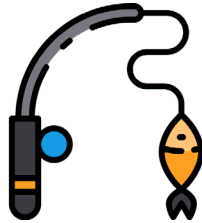
Hiking or Walking



Picnicking



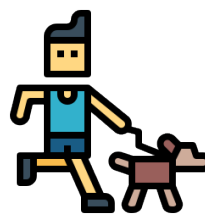
Hunting



Fishing



Playing Sports



Exercising



Bicycling

Why are the three activities you circled your favorite?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Are there any activities listed above that you would like to do but can't? Why can't you?

Are there any activities not listed that you would like to do when you visit open spaces, parks or trails?

BIOBLITZ YOUR SPACE

FIELD NOTES #1

Name of ACOS open space, trail or park #1: _____

How long did it take to get here and how did you get here?: _____

SKETCH

Draw a sketch of any interesting wild animals, insects, plants, or water that you find:

OBSERVE

ANIMALS/INSECTS

Type: _____

Number: _____

Size: _____

Behavior: _____

Location: _____

PLANTS

Type: _____

Number: _____

Size: _____

Color: _____

Location: _____

WATER

Type: _____

Is it clear? Yes No

Are there fish? Yes No

People swimming? Yes No

TIME OF DAY

Morning Afternoon Evening

ADDITIONAL NOTES

IDENTIFY

Circle outdoor activities available in the space:



Relaxing



Bicycling



Fishing



Seeing wildlife



Hiking/Walking



Playing Sports



Camping



Hunting



Exercising



Picnicking

BIOBLITZ YOUR SPACE

FIELD NOTES #2

Name of ACOS open space, trail or park #2: _____

How long did it take to get here and how did you get here?: _____

SKETCH

Draw a sketch of any interesting wild animals, insects, plants, or water that you find:

OBSERVE

ANIMALS/INSECTS

Type: _____

Number: _____

Size: _____

Behavior: _____

Location: _____

PLANTS

Type: _____

Number: _____

Size: _____

Color: _____

Location: _____

WATER

Type: _____

Is it clear? Yes No

Are there fish? Yes No

People swimming? Yes No

TIME OF DAY

Morning Afternoon Evening

ADDITIONAL NOTES

IDENTIFY

Circle outdoor activities available in the space:



Relaxing



Bicycling



Fishing



Seeing wildlife



Hiking/Walking



Playing Sports



Camping



Hunting



Exercising



Picnicking

BIOBLITZ YOUR SPACE

FIELD NOTES #3

Name of your favorite open space, trail or park (this one doesn't have to be an ACOS space): _____

How long did it take to get here and how did you get here?: _____

SKETCH

Draw a sketch of any interesting wild animals, insects, plants, or water that you find:

OBSERVE

ANIMALS/INSECTS

Type: _____

Number: _____

Size: _____

Behavior: _____

Location: _____

PLANTS

Type: _____

Number: _____

Size: _____

Color: _____

Location: _____

WATER

Type: _____

Is it clear? Yes No

Are there fish? Yes No

People swimming? Yes No

TIME OF DAY

Morning Afternoon Evening

ADDITIONAL NOTES

IDENTIFY

Circle outdoor activities available in the space:



Relaxing



Bicycling



Fishing



Seeing wildlife



Hiking/Walking



Playing Sports



Camping



Hunting



Exercising



Picnicking

ANALYZE YOUR SPACE

Now that you've explored open spaces, trails and/or parks, we want to know what you've learned.

What three things do you think your neighborhood needs to help you better enjoy access to nature?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What three things do you like best about the open spaces, trails and parks you explored?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

If you could change one thing about the open spaces, trails and parks you go to most, it would be:

The Arapahoe County Open Space Department's mission is *"to protect Arapahoe County's treasured parks, trails and open space for residents to enjoy today and forever."* Would you like to continue to be involved to help support this mission? If yes, how do you think you could help?

EVALUATE YOUR SPACE

Now that you've completed your bioblitz and analyzed the spaces you visited, we're going to ask you to think about how you can apply what you learned to your neighborhood, your city, your state, the country or even the world!

What do you think is important for people to know about the wildlife, plants and water in the open spaces that we all share?

If you were a bird or a bee, or a bear or a fox, or a tree or a flower, would you be happy in the open spaces you visited today? Why?

How can humans interact with our natural environment in different ways to keep it healthy?

Is there anything else you would like to share about your bioblitz?

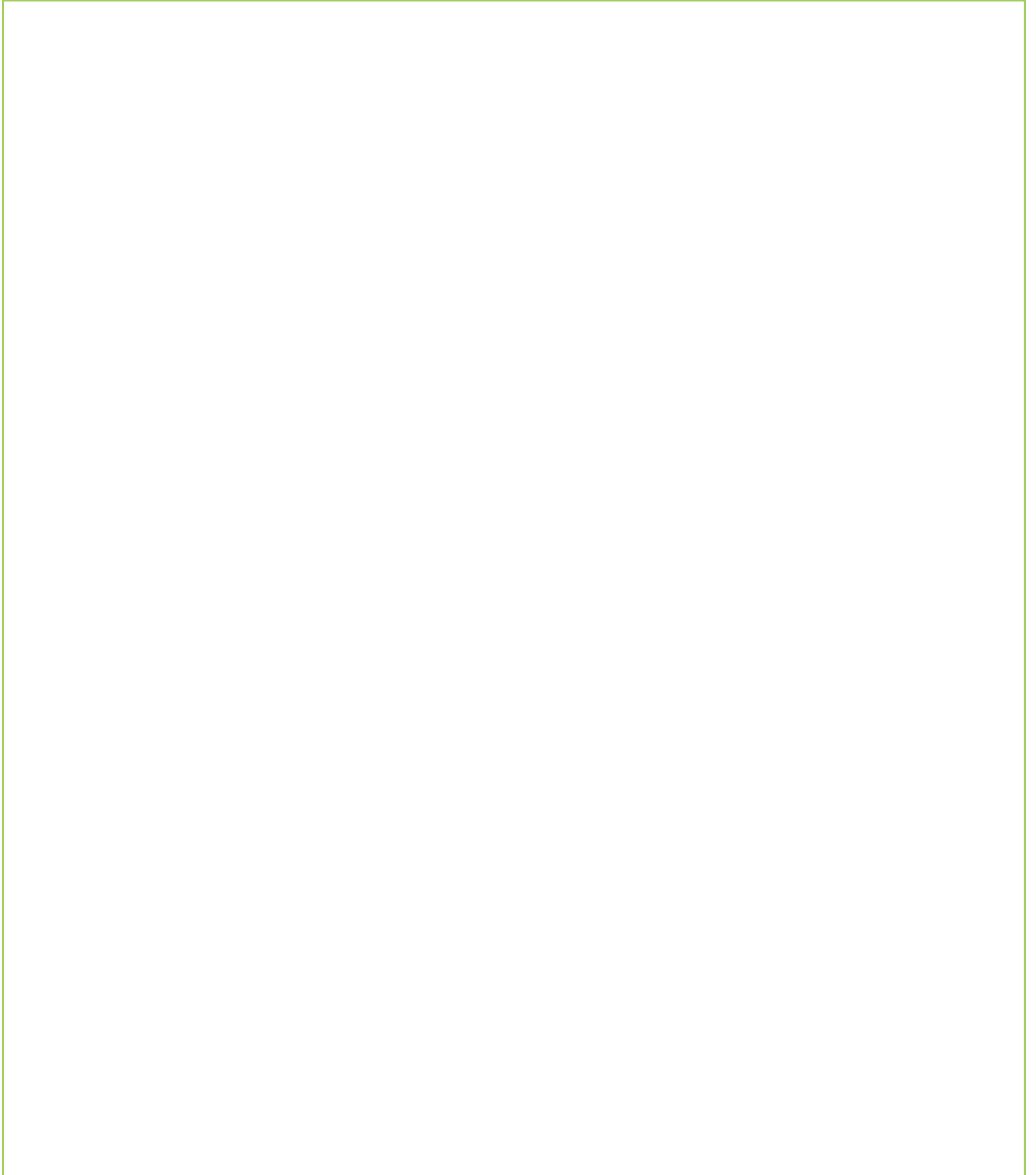
ENVISION YOUR SPACE

OK - you've explored, identified and told us what you like to do. Now, we want you to draw or write one to five sentences to describe your ideal open space or park.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin green border, intended for drawing or writing a description of an ideal open space or park.

WILD YOUR SPACE

On this page, draw a "wild" open space with the types of wildlife you would love to see there.



SHARE YOUR SPACE

THANK YOU for sharing what you learned during your adventure!
When you're done with your workbook, drop it off here by August 31st:

Arapahoe County Open Space Building
6934 S Lima St.
Centennial, CO 80112

or scan and email it to:
findyourspace@arapahoegov.com

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE!
INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO GET STARTED ARE ON PAGE 2.

www.arapahoegov.com/osmasterplan

Want to learn more about animals and plants,
and how you can become a citizen scientist?

Visit the following websites:

[GOCO Generation Wild](http://www.generationwild.com): www.generationwild.com

[iNaturalist](http://www.iNaturalist.org): www.iNaturalist.org

[Arapahoe County Extension Native Bee Watch Citizen Science](http://arapahoe.extension.colostate.edu/nbw):
arapahoe.extension.colostate.edu/nbw

[Nurture Your Nature](http://www.arapahoelibraries.org/blogs/post/nurture-your-nature/): www.arapahoelibraries.org/blogs/post/nurture-your-nature/

[PBS Kids SciGirls](http://www.pbskids.org/scigirls/citizen-science): www.pbskids.org/scigirls/citizen-science

[Denver Museum of Nature & Science](http://www.dmns.org): www.dmns.org