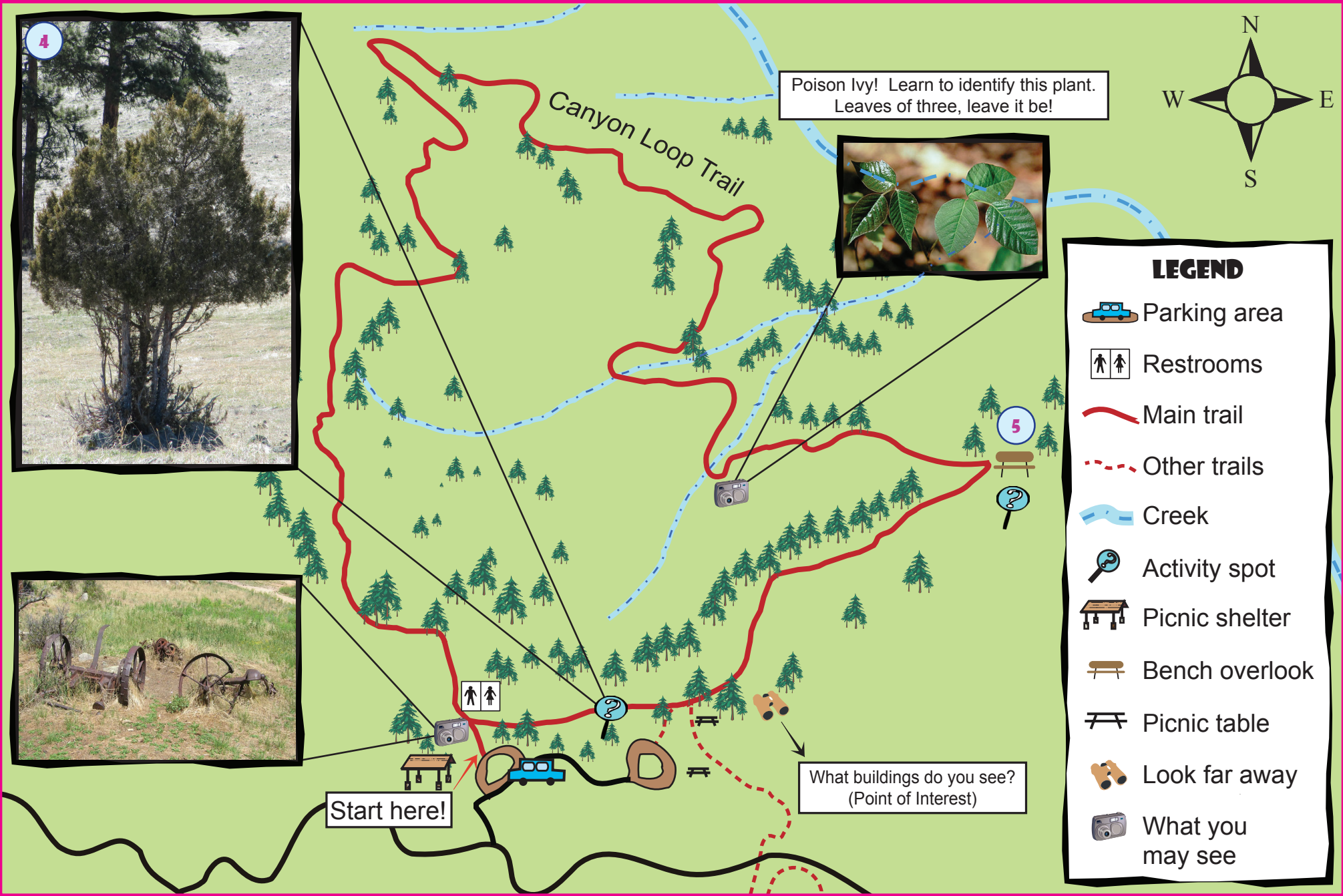


BETASSO PRESERVE NATURE DETECTIVES MAP

Feel free to write or draw on your map!



MAP ACTIVITIES!

Map Your Hike

On the map above, put a triangle ▲ where you started your hike and a star ★ where you turned around to come back to your car.

Let's Listen!

Have grown-ups join in this one! Sit on the bench, or find a nice spot nearby. Get someone in your group to time you for five minutes. Your goal is to silently listen and be a detective. At the end of the five minutes, write down three sounds you heard that come from nature, and three human-made sounds.

Human Sounds	Nature Sounds

Point of Interest: The tan building you see here is very important to the City of Boulder. It is a water treatment plant. Water from melted snow comes from the peaks above and some of it flows to the plant, where it is filtered and cleaned. The clean water is sent down the mountain to our houses for drinking.

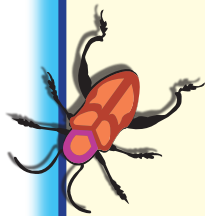
Juniper Trees

Usually juniper trees are very full and bushy, but there are some juniper trees at Betasso Preserve that look like the photo on the map above. What do you think happened to these trees that they don't have any lower branches or leaves?

Animal Tracking

Many wild animals, both large and small live here. As you hike the trail, keep your eyes peeled for tracks, scat (poop), or other animal signs. When you find one sign, draw it in the box below and mark an X on the map where you found it.

What animal do you think made this?



You are the mastermind for this activity! Find a nice spot to sit. Pick one favorite thing that you notice about Betasso Preserve and draw a picture that describes it. It can be anything, even things you can't hold in your hand, such as the wind or sunlight. Write down the title of your drawing at the bottom.

Draw here!

Your Favorite Thing

2

*Clue: You can't see this unique feature! What other senses could you use?

(c)

(b)

(a)

Things you noticed about a ponderosa pine tree:

The pine trees in this ecosystem are called ponderosa pine. You might see an Abert's squirrel here; look for their pointy tufted ears! These trees are their homes. Get close to one of these trees, and write down three things you notice. Really investigate this, detective! There is one feature about this tree that is very unique.*


Tree Investigation

1



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 6 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: BETASSO PRESERVE

This park is a ponderosa pine ecosystem and is home to the tuft-eared Abert's squirrel, birds of prey, foxes, coyotes, mountain lions, mule deer, and many other animals. This was a working ranch for many years. If you look closely, you can still find old buildings and remnants from the ranching days.

Nature Detectives Club Mystery Guides can be found at:

- 1) Agricultural Heritage Center
- 2) Anne U. White Trail
- 3) Bald Mountain Scenic Area
- 4) Betasso Preserve
- 5) Caribou Ranch Open Space
- 6) Carolyn Holmberg Preserve
- 7) Heil Valley Ranch
- 8) Mud Lake Open Space
- 9) Pella Crossing
- 10) 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 to:
Nature Detectives Club, Boulder County Parks & 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: _____

Look for Nature Detective inserts and activities in each issue of Images.



NATURE DETECTIVES CLUB



BETASSO PRESERVE

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!