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?

________________________________________________
________________________________________________

Human Sounds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human Sounds</th>
<th>Nature Sounds</th>
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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.

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.

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.
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. Even things you can’t hold, such as the wind or sunlight, are fair game. Here are a few examples:

- A bluebird singing a lovely song
- A butterfly with multi-colored wings
- The wind blowing through the trees
- Sunshine shimmering on the ground
- A squirrel running across the trail
- A mountain lion skulking in the grass
- A hummingbird hovering near a flower
- A fox lagging in the distance
- A mule deer foraging in the undergrowth
- A mountain lion prowling in the distance

Write down the title of your drawing at the bottom.

Title for your drawing: ____________________________________________________

Tree Investigation:

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.

Things you noticed about a ponderosa pine tree:

a) ______________________________________________________________________

b) ______________________________________________________________________

c) ______________________________________________________________________

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

Draw 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!

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 (currently closed)
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: __________________________

Boulder County Open Space
Printed in 2021

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)