

**Carolyn Holmberg Preserve  
at Rock Creek Farm  
Management Plan Update**

**Open House  
March 11, 2020  
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Presentation at 5 p.m.**





# Parks & Open Space



## Mission

To conserve natural, cultural, and agricultural resources and provide public uses that reflect sound resource management and community values

## Goals

- ▶ To preserve rural lands and buffers
- ▶ To preserve and restore natural resources for the benefit of the environment and the public
- ▶ To provide public outreach, partnerships, and volunteer opportunities to increase awareness and appreciation of Boulder County's open space
- ▶ To protect, restore, and interpret cultural resources for the education and enjoyment of current and future generations
- ▶ To provide quality recreational experiences while protecting open space resources
- ▶ To promote and provide for sustainable agriculture in Boulder County for the natural, cultural, and economic values it provides
- ▶ To develop human resources potential, employ sustainable and sound business practices, and pursue technological advancements

# Planning Area

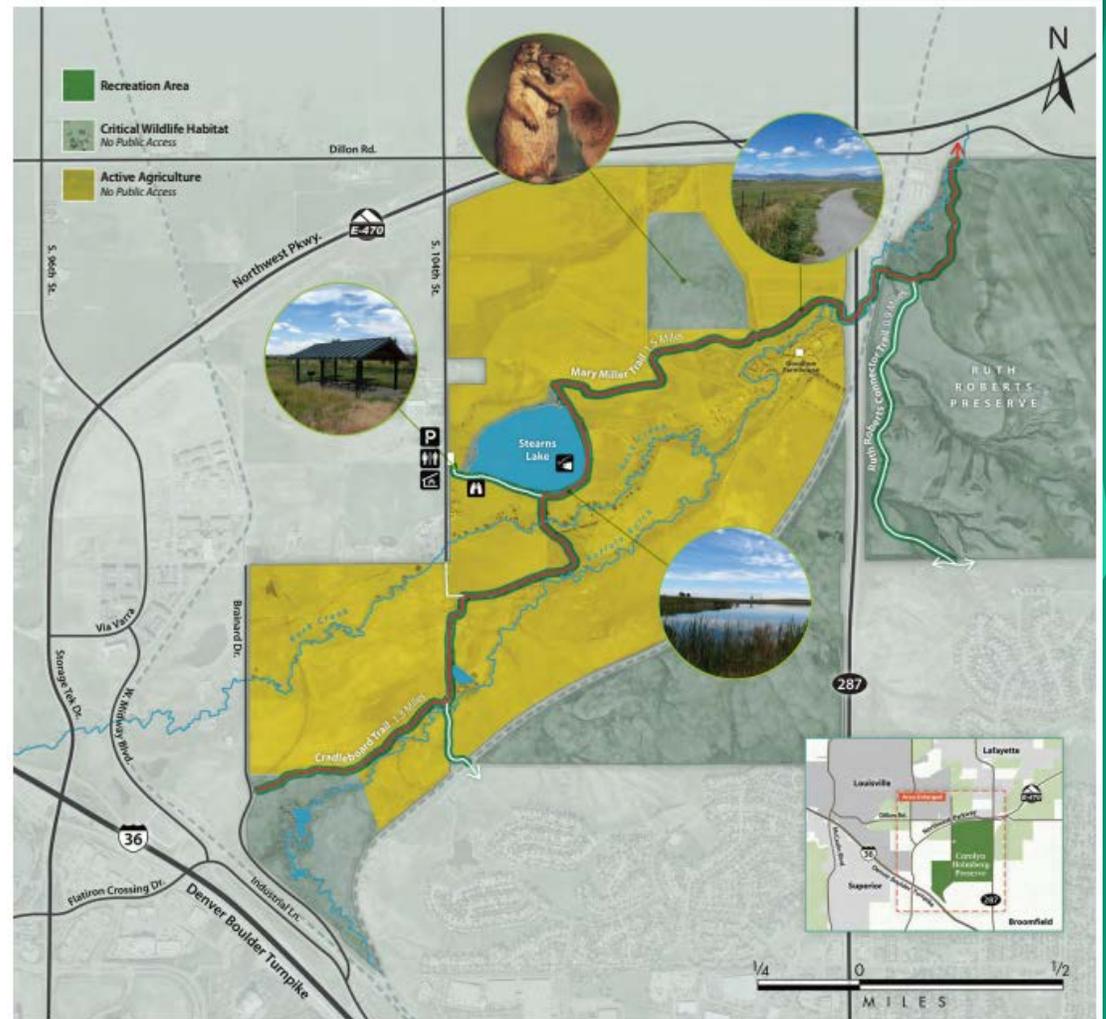
1,124 acres

## Key features

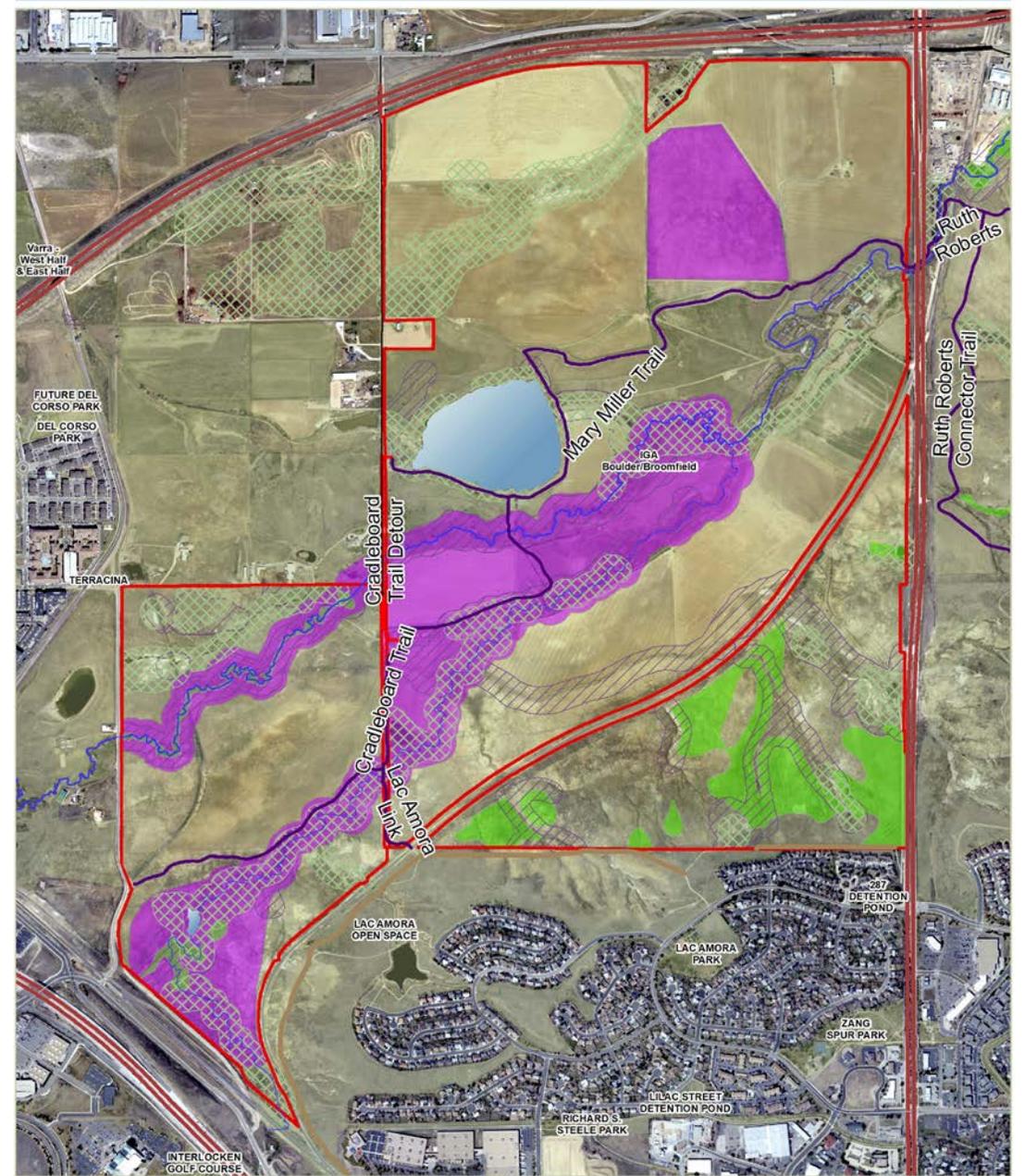
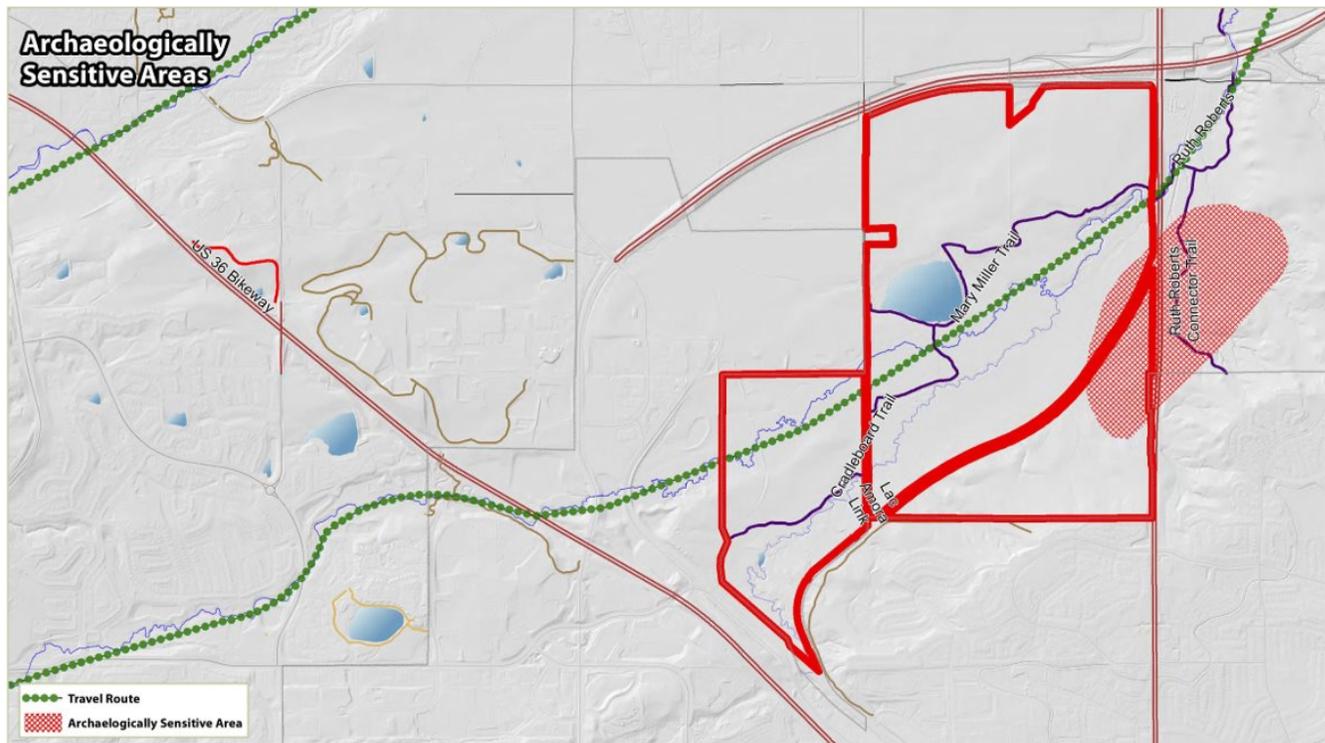
- ▶ Purchased to preserve the open space buffer zone and agricultural lands
- ▶ Birds of Prey Foundation rehabilitation center
- ▶ 3.3 miles of public trail system
- ▶ Designated cultural landscape
- ▶ Critical wildlife habitat areas
- ▶ Riparian creek corridors, wetlands, and significant natural communities
- ▶ Oil and gas wells

### Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm

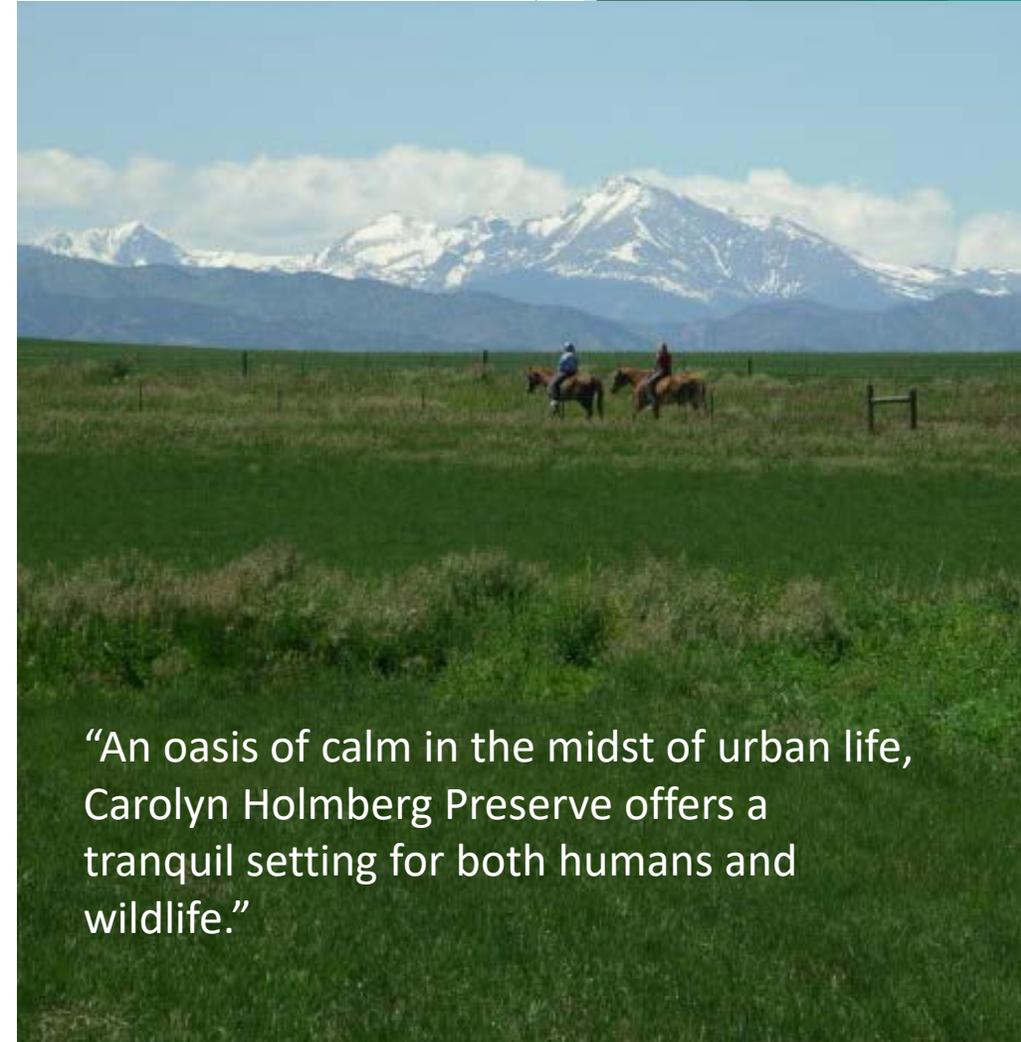
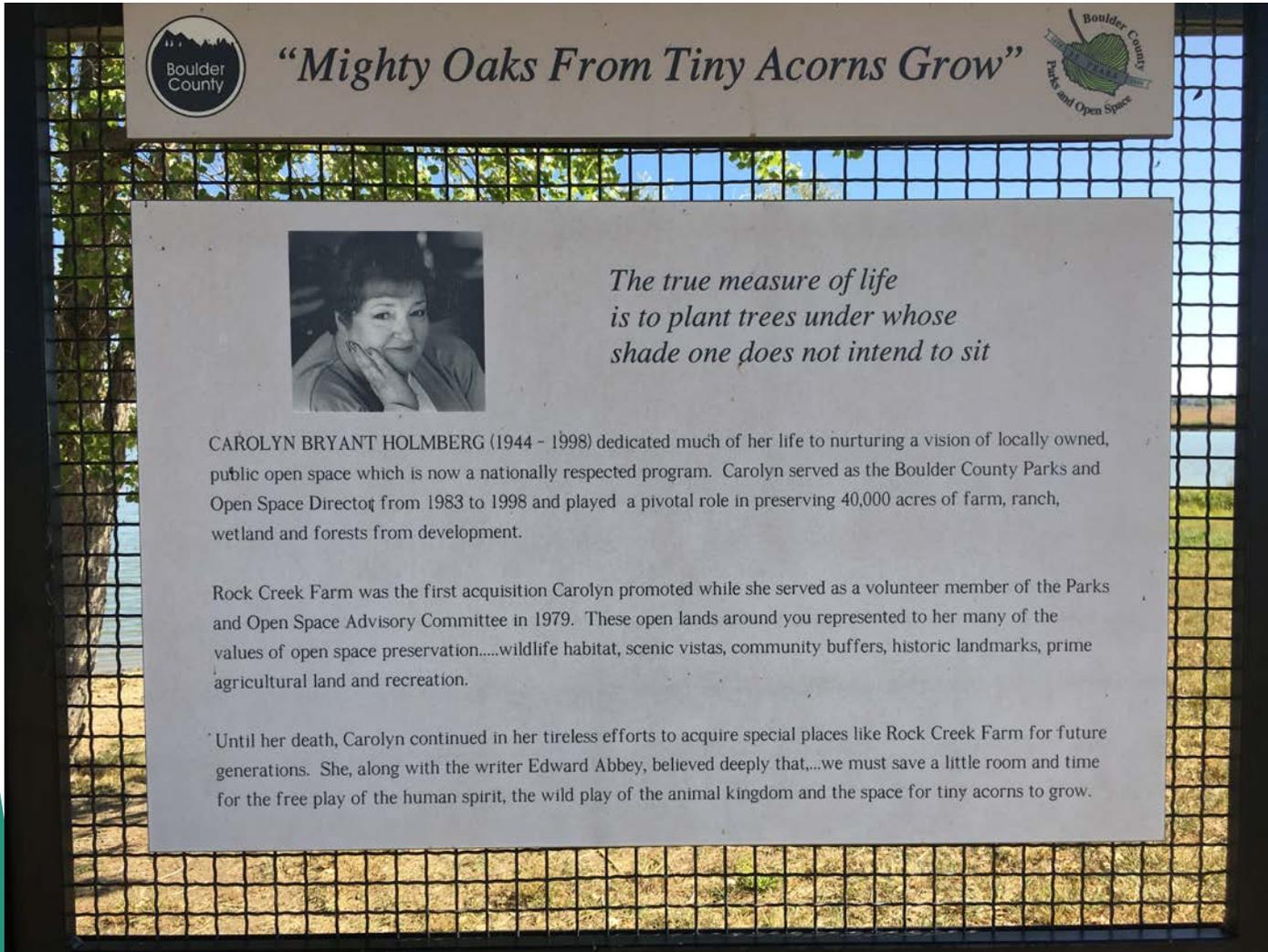
<b>LEGEND</b>		<b>LOCATION</b>	
Restrooms	Fishing	Multi-use Trail (pedestrian, equestrian, bikers)	Located north of Broomfield at the junction of South 104th St and Dillon Road
Trailhead Parking	Wildlife Viewing	Paved Road	
Picnic Shelter		Rock Creek Regional Trail	
		Railroad	



# Cultural & Natural Resources



# Dedication of Rock Creek Farm as Carolyn Holmberg Preserve



“An oasis of calm in the midst of urban life, Carolyn Holmberg Preserve offers a tranquil setting for both humans and wildlife.”

# Estimated Visitors

2015 Visitor Study<sup>1</sup> (N=80)

- ▶ Broomfield (28%)
- ▶ Lafayette (21%)
- ▶ Louisville (15%)

Trail Use	in 2019
Stearns Lake Trailhead	35,691
Mary Miller Trail	15,877
Loc Amora Link	15,425
Cradleboard Trail <sup>2</sup>	8,960
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,953</b>

## Top three activities

Data Point	Primary	Second	Third	N=
2019	Hiking (43%)	Biking (24%)	Fishing (11%)	1,535
2018	Biking (38%)	Running (29%)	Hiking (15%)	721
2017	Biking (37%)	Hiking (29%)	Fishing (15%)	719

<sup>1</sup>2015 Visitor Study includes system-wide demographics and satisfaction survey.

<sup>2</sup>The Cradleboard Trail was closed from mid-April to late July to protect sensitive wildlife in the area.



# Fall U-Pick-Em Pumpkin Patch and Corn Maze



# Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm

## 2020 Management Plan Update

### Proposed Plan Goals

#### Preserve & Enhance

- ▶ Critical wildlife habitats
- ▶ Unique stands of shortgrass prairie
- ▶ Wetlands and riparian areas
- ▶ Historic/archaeological resources

#### Maintain

- ▶ Agricultural production and associated water rights

#### Provide

- ▶ Compatible recreational use



## Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm

# 2020 Management Plan Update

### Proposed Update Objectives

- ▶ Guide management of open space resources
- ▶ Identify opportunities for enhancement
- ▶ Provide for sustainable use and stewardship
- ▶ Incorporate input from public stakeholders
- ▶ Review the most up-to-date information
- ▶ Ensure plan is fiscally sound





# Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm

## Proposed vision

*Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm is a working landscape of farming, ranching, irrigation features, and reservoirs, intertwined with critical wildlife, wetland, riparian, and grassland habitats, that preserves its distinct history and provides regional trail connectivity and recreational amenities for current and future generations.*



# Proposed Plan Update Topics

- ▶ Farm operations
- ▶ Water
- ▶ Visitor access and accessibility
- ▶ Historic buildings, cultural and paleontology resources
- ▶ Wildlife, riparian, and wetland habitat areas
- ▶ Grassland restoration
- ▶ Prairie dog management
- ▶ Birds of Prey Foundation operations
- ▶ Standard Operating Procedures

# Visitor Trail Use / Wildlife

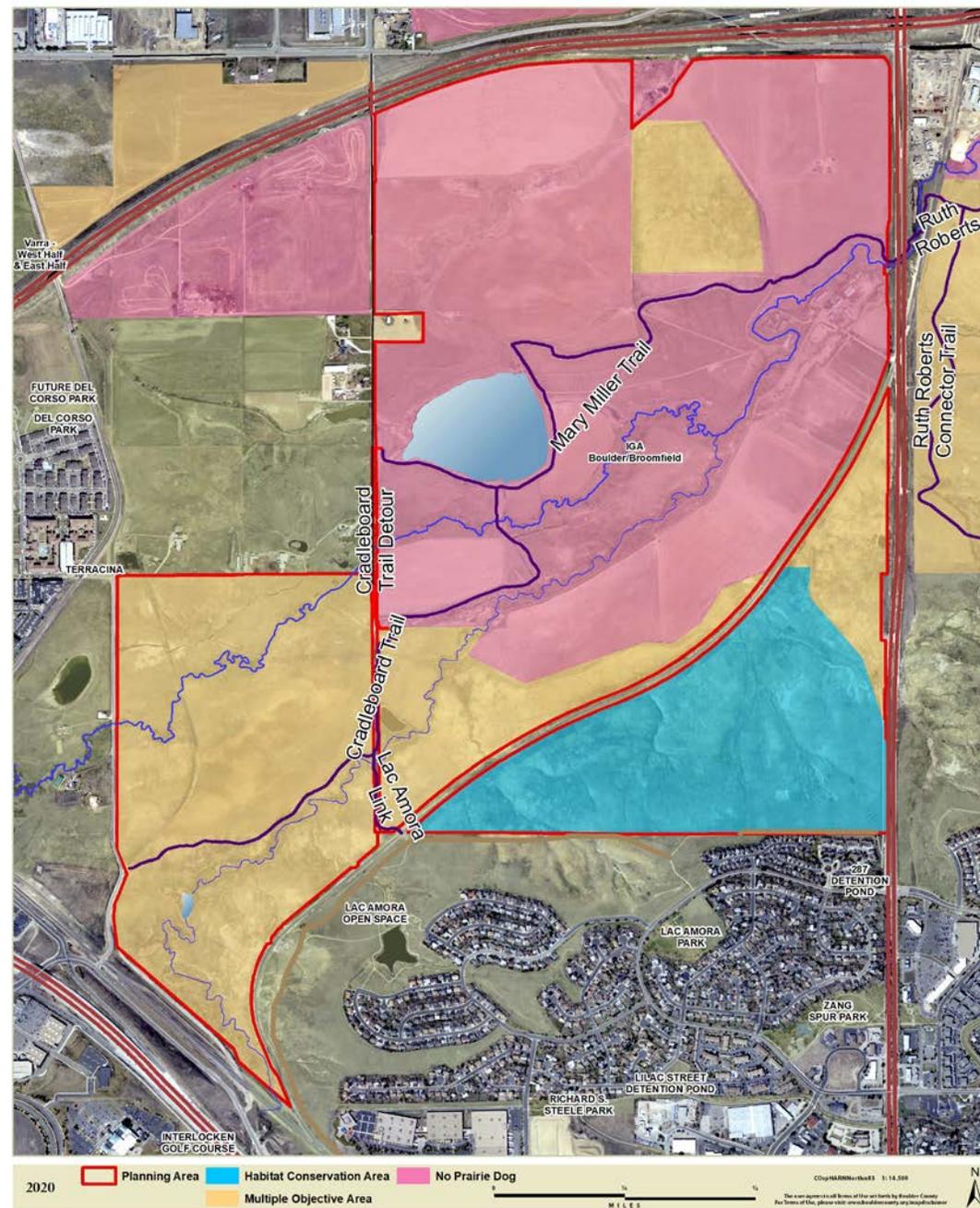
- ▶ Proximity of regional trail to nesting birds
- ▶ Seasonal wildlife closures of regional trail
- ▶ Detours that do not meet trail standards



# Prairie Dog Policy Land Designations

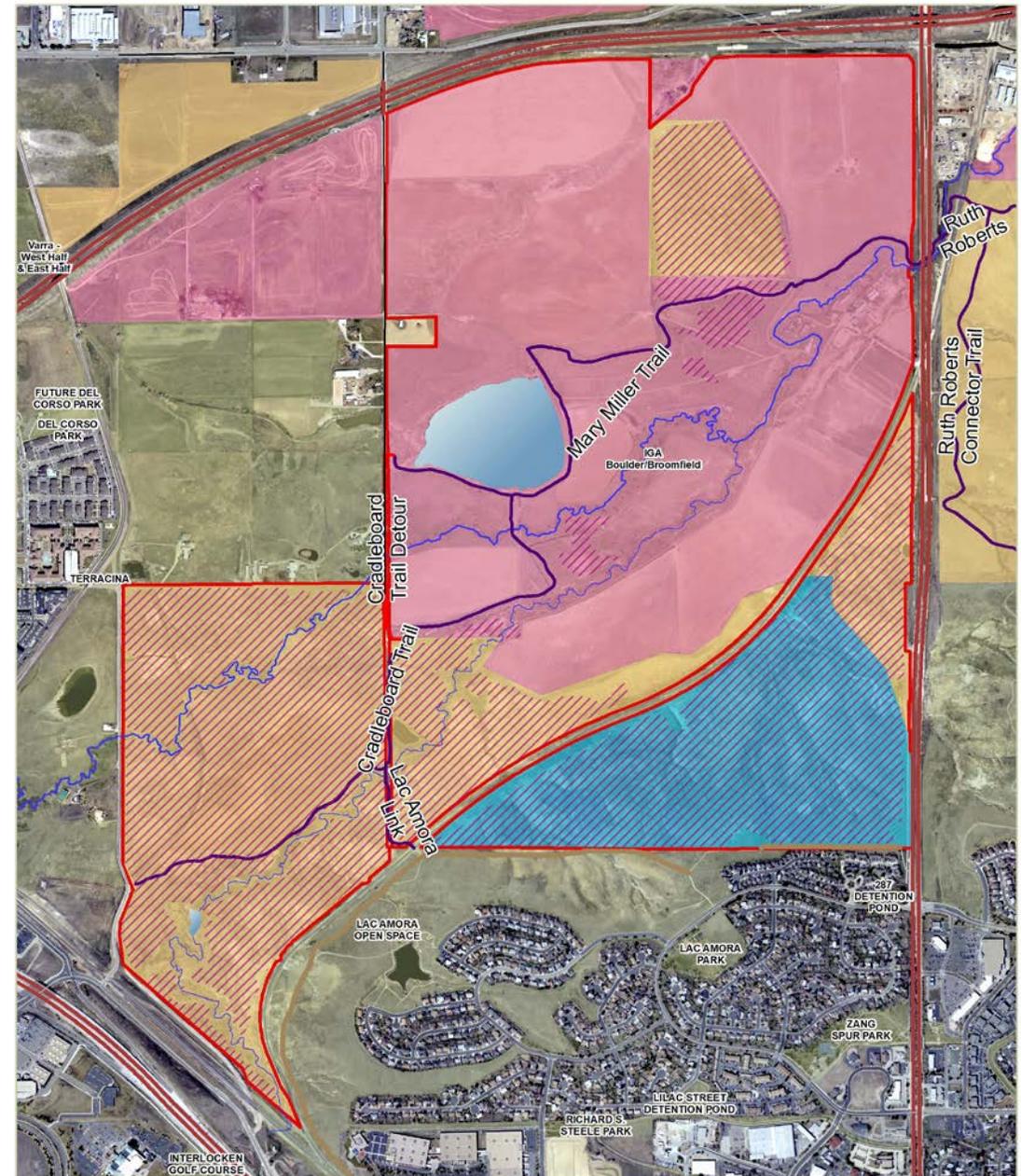


- ▶ Pink = No Prairie Dogs
- ▶ Blue = Habitat Conservation Area
  - 99-acre Habitat Conservation Area
- ▶ Orange = Multiple Objective Area
  - 40-acre preserve
  - Several hundred additional acres



# Prairie Dogs / Farm Operations / Grassland Restoration

- ▶ Active prairie dog colonies
- ▶ Prairie dog encroachment
- ▶ Impacts to native grasses and rangeland



In 2014, staff and volunteers reinforced existing prairie dog barrier fencing at the prairie dog preserve.

# Prairie Dogs / Farm Operations / Grassland restoration

- ▶ Prairie dog and cattle grazing impacts
- ▶ Extensive bare ground, prone to loss of soil
- ▶ Several invasive weed species



June 2019



November 2019

# Historic Buildings / Farm Operations

- ▶ Suitability of farm headquarters site and historic buildings for modern farm operations
- ▶ Stewardship of historic buildings





# Proposed Plan Update Topics

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# Update Planning process

## Internal Scoping

(Fall 2019)

- Renewed vision
- Desired future conditions
- What's working
- Focused changes
- Data gaps



## Initial Public Comment

(March/April 2020)

- Open house
- Online survey
- POSAC update



## Plan Development

(May-July 2020)

- Existing conditions
- Options assessment
- Staff-preferred alternative(s)



## Public Review

(Aug./Sept. 2020)

- Public meetings
- Site visit(s)
- 30-day public comment



## Plan Adoption

(Fall 2020)

- Revise to reflect public comments
- POSAC hearing
- BOCC hearing

# More information...

## Visit [boco.org/CHPplan](http://boco.org/CHPplan)

- ▶ All open house materials posted on the web page
- ▶ Online comment form to leave input

## Contact me

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Questions?

