Feel free to write or draw on your map!

Observing the World
All around you are interesting sights, sounds, smells, and textures. Scientists use all of their senses to learn about the world. If you were a scientist, what would you want to study here? Write or draw it below.

Plants Have Families!
Plants that look similar are often in the same family, or group of plants, just like you might have siblings or cousins. As you hike, make a check mark when you see a flower you think is in one of the families below. Did you see a flower that doesn’t fit with the families here? Draw it in the blank box.

- Aster family - I look like a daisy, but can be many colors.
- Rose family - I have 5 petals.
- I’m a pea! My leaves look like ladders, clovers, or fingers on a hand.

What Do the Birds Say?
Listen to the sounds of the birds. Birds use songs and calls to find mates, warn each other of problems, and tell other birds where their territory is. Write down the sounds you hear and what you think the birds are saying.

Watch Out!
Poison ivy is a plant that can give you an itchy rash if you touch it. Make sure to avoid it!

BONUS ACTIVITY!
Make a tally mark every time you cross the creek.
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!

**Mystery Guide**

**Start here!**

1. **See the Signs**
   - Check out the signs you see at the beginning of the trail. Select a sign and write down why you think it’s important.

2. **Bugs that Live in Water**
   - The stream here dries up by the end of the summer, so there aren’t any fish. That makes it a great place for bugs that live in the water, because fish can’t eat them. At a stream crossing, see if you can find some bugs that live in the water. Then write down why you think it’s important.

3. **Check Out Some Rocks**
   - Many of the rocks here look like they’re made of different colors. This type of rock is called granite, and it’s found all over the mountains! Look closely at some of these rocks and write down the colors you see.

**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.**

BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org

Printed in 2022

**Anne U. White**

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)