



NATURAL AREAS & TRAILS

Signature Bluffs Natural Area Ecosystem Restoration Project Update Winter 2020



Photo by Hugh Munoz

Ecosystem Restoration Progress

Work to establish native vegetation in the wetland areas is still underway. Most of the trees and shrubs that were planted are doing well with a few replacements planted in early fall. However, the seeded areas are not establishing as well as expected due to high salt levels in the soil. The Army Corps of Engineers and their contractor have been investigating the issue and working towards solutions. These solutions may include planting additional species that can tolerate the salt levels. The upland meadow was treated a second time late Fall 2020 to eliminate the non-native smooth brome and the area will be tilled and seeded with native grasses and forbs in Spring 2021.



Wildlife

Beaver activity has been observed in several locations along the river upstream and downstream of Signature Bluffs and the pond at Signature Bluffs has been home to beavers for several years. Although beaver are native wildlife and an important part of a healthy ecosystem, neighbors expressed concerns about the number of trees the beaver were felling. Natural Areas & Trails staff, along with the Weld County Youth Corps, began the labor-intensive process of installing

materials to protect some of the trees around the pond in 2019 with additional work in 2020. This work involves erecting wire “cages” around the trunks of selected trees to try to exclude the beaver from gnawing on the trunks. On May 15, 2021 volunteers through Volunteers of Outdoor Colorado do additional work including planting trees , some of which will be protected and others left available as a food source for the beaver. Residents are encouraged to sign up to volunteer. Visit the [Natural Areas & Trails](#) webpage for information on volunteer opportunities.



Nature Trail

The nature trail was completed and opened in late 2019 with boardwalks, benches and interpretive signs. This 1.4 mile soft-surface loop can be accessed from the Poudre Trail in three locations. The trail provides a great opportunity to observe the ecosystem restoration site up close and enjoy nature at a leisurely pace.

Trailhead Improvements

A new controller was recently installed on the parking lot gate to allow the gate to automatically open and close. City natural areas and trails are open from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset.

What’s Next?

Project updates will be posted periodically to the [Natural Areas & Trails](#)

Greeley Natural Areas & Trails

Vision: *A community connected to nature.*

Mission: *Equitably connect residents to nature through a robust natural areas and trail system for the entire community. Make these connections by conserving, stewarding and activating lands with the community that have significant natural and water resource, agricultural, and community shaping values.*

