DOUGLAS LAND CONSERVANCY

34 Years and Counting!

More Than 26,700 Acres Protected!

Douglas Land Conservancy is honored to be invited by the Parker Rotary to present about who we are, what we do, and how we benefit our community in Douglas County

Thank you!

Douglas Land Conservancy (DLC) is a nonpolitical, nonprofit land trust dedicated to the protection and conservation of the natural character, habitats, ecosystems, and open space of Douglas County and other areas along the Front Range region of Colorado.

With help from our conservation partners and supporters, we have preserved over 26,700 acres since our beginning in 1987 for an average of almost 785 acres annually.

We use conservation easements to protect the land from future development.

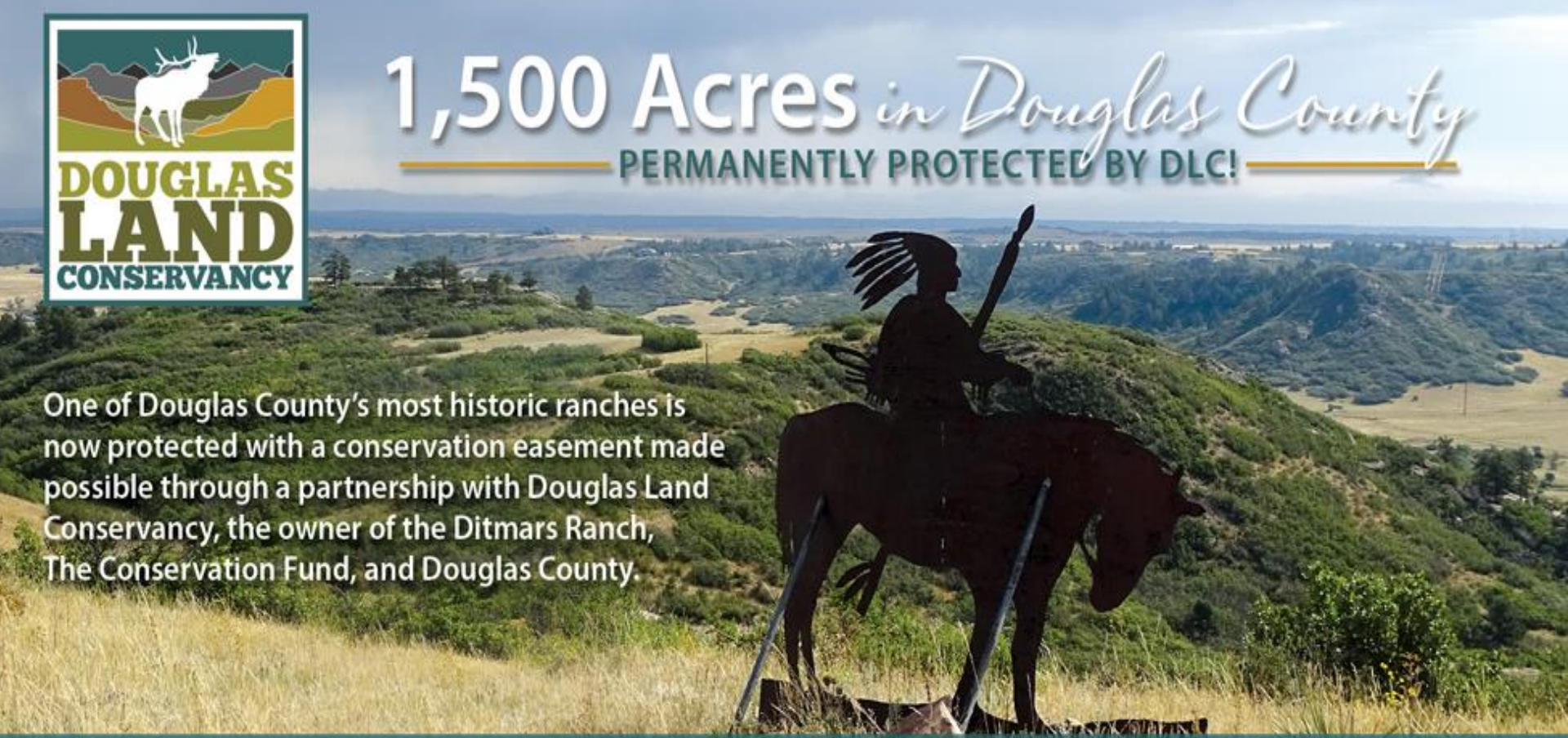
These lands include agricultural lands, public recreation open space, scenic viewscapes, critical wildlife habitat, and wetlands.

DLC Recent Conservation Projects

DOUGLAS LAND CONSERVANCY

1,500 Acres *in Douglas County*

PERMANENTLY PROTECTED BY DLC!



One of Douglas County's most historic ranches is now protected with a conservation easement made possible through a partnership with Douglas Land Conservancy, the owner of the Ditmars Ranch, The Conservation Fund, and Douglas County.

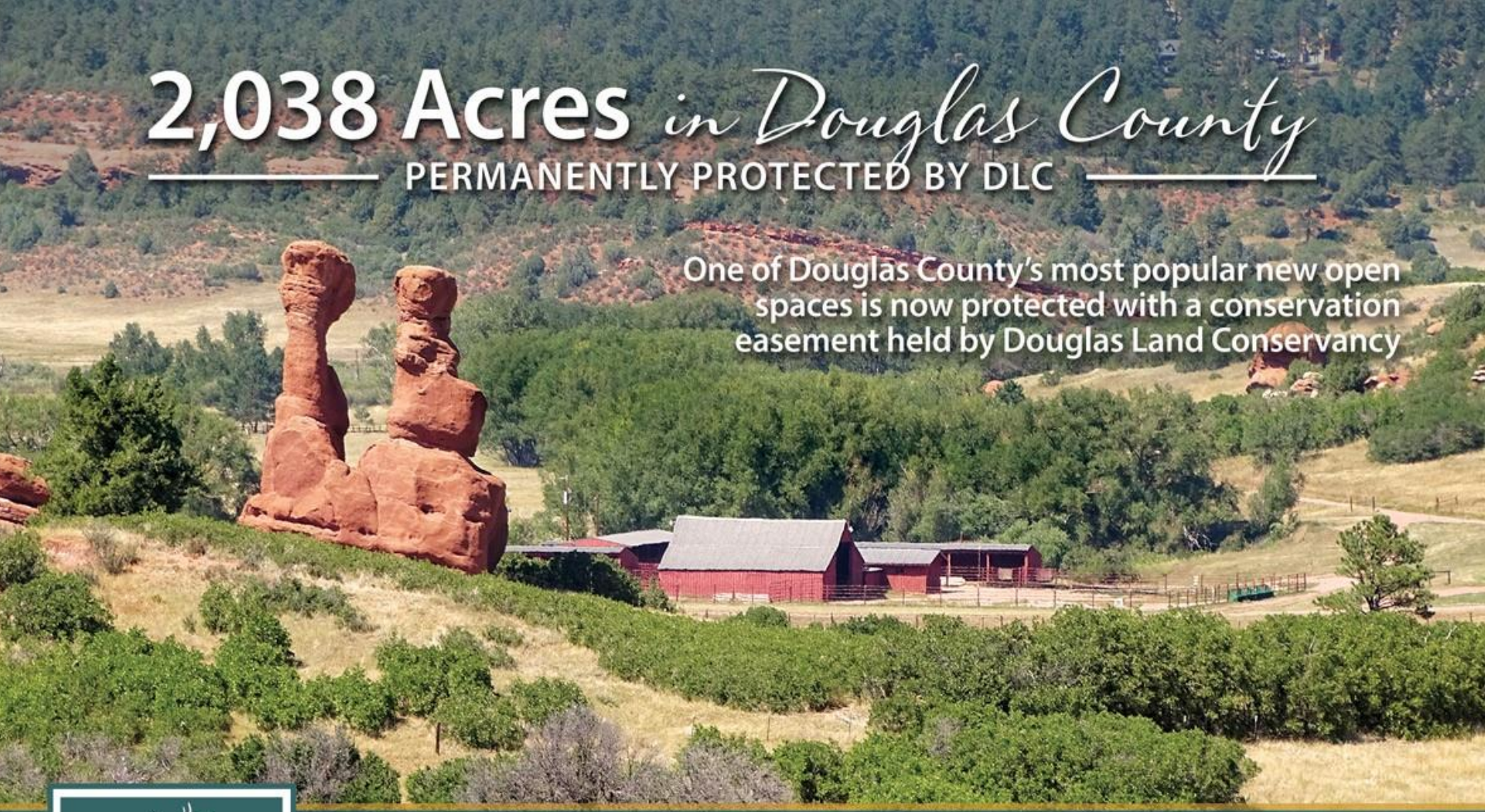
"I am so incredibly grateful for the conservation easement program that will forever protect our ranch from development and preserve the wildlife and ecological environment forever," said Don Ditmars, whose grandfather originally purchased land in the valley in 1892. Although the property remains in private ownership, the conservation easement will accommodate public access via four guided public hikes per year. The property will continue to be managed as a private working cattle ranch.

We are thrilled to be part of this collaborative effort to preserve Ditmars Ranch. Without Mr. Ditmars' conservation interests and the conservation partners that came together to make sure the property was preserved, another piece of the unique character of Douglas County may have been lost. DLC is excited to begin fulfilling its role of ensuring that this land is protected forever," said Patti Hostetler, Executive Director.

Visit **DouglasLandConservancy.org** for more information

2,038 Acres *in Douglas County*

PERMANENTLY PROTECTED BY DLC



One of Douglas County's most popular new open spaces is now protected with a conservation easement held by Douglas Land Conservancy

DOUGLAS LAND CONSERVANCY

DLC Executive Director Patti Hostetler said "Douglas Land Conservancy is honored to continue fulfilling its job as a conservation partner to Douglas County, ensuring that Sandstone Ranch will always remain as protected open space and provide a great public benefit for many generations to come."

Visit **DouglasLandConservancy.org** for more information

520 Acres *in Douglas County*

PERMANENTLY PROTECTED BY DLC

DOUGLAS LAND CONSERVANCY

The Schmidt property is 520 acres near West Jackson Creek Road and the Pike National Forest boundary

The property was donated to the County in exchange for the conservation easement. The protection of the riparian area and wildlife habitat on the Schmidt property will help mitigate habitat loss caused by the expansion of Chatfield Reservoir. Douglas County plans to open selected, non-riparian portions of the land to the public in the future.

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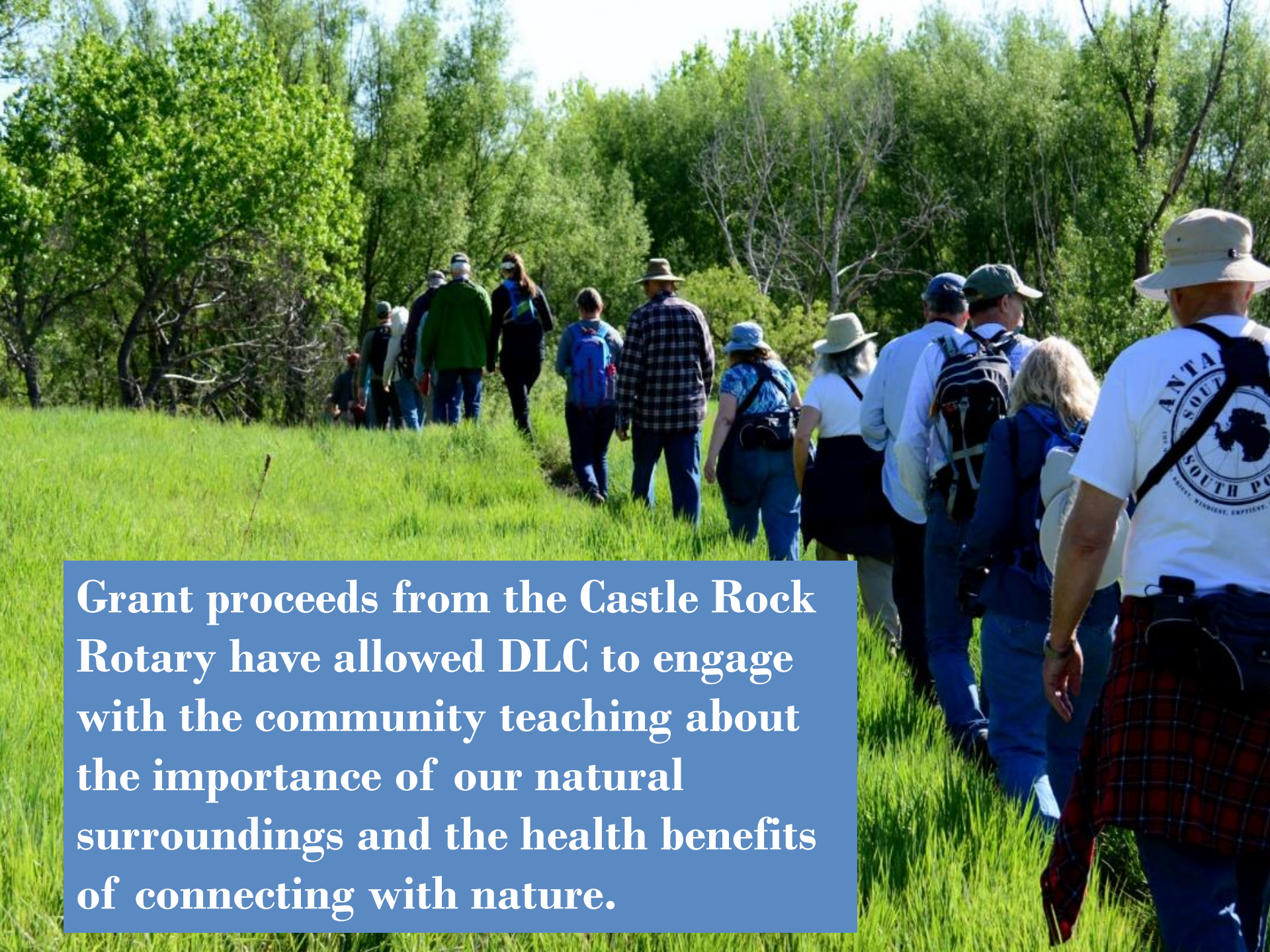

Grant proceeds from the Castle Rock Rotary have allowed DLC to engage with the community teaching about the importance of our natural surroundings and the health benefits of connecting with nature.

Family friendly outdoor educational events

Connecting Families with Nature……

DLC Virtual Events

DLC holds many virtual educational events throughout the year for those that are not able to get outside.

DECODE DOUGLAS COUNTY OUTDOORS

CAN YOU UNLOCK THE SECRETS?

DECODE
OUTDOORS
COUNTY
4
CONGRATULATIONS!
YOU FOUND A NUMBER
IN THE CODE.
YOUR NEXT LOCATION IS
LOCATION 6.

CONGRATULATIONS!
YOU FOUND A NUMBER IN THE CODE.
YOUR NEXT LOCATION IS LOCATION G.
Record this in your booklet.
DECODE
DOUGLAS COUNTY
OUTDOORS
What is this? Check out
www.dcoutdoors.org/decode
to join the adventure!

Teaching about the agricultural heritage of our region of Colorado
Douglas Land Conservancy

Connecting the senior community with the outdoors.

Bonaventure

Wild in our County
DOUGLAS
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Douglas Land Conservancy works with the Town of Parker to hold educational guided hikes at the Harvie Park Open Space on East Main Street in Parker.

The Harvie Park Open Space is an 80 acre property owned by the Town of Parker and protected by DLC. The Town plans to create trails and a parking area for all to enjoy in the near future.

Nature Sketching Classes Led by DLC Volunteers

TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK COLORADO

WHO LIVES HERE

DOUGLAS LAND CONSERVANCY

The area around you is described as a montane shrubland habitat. Areas like this typically have scattered trees but lots of brush, grassland and wildflowers. In Castle Rock, our shrubland is dominated by Gambel oak (also called scrub oak), mountain mahogany, chokecherry, skunkbrush and Ponderosa Pine trees. This type of vegetation provides great habitats for wildlife like insects, reptiles, small and large mammals and migratory birds. Take a look around and if you are lucky enough to actually see any animals, please be respectful. Remember, it's their home too.

Great Horned Owl
Year-round

Broad-tailed Hummingbird
May-September

Western Bluebird
March-November

Painted Lady Butterfly
May-September

Red Fox
Year-round

Wild Turkey
Year-round

Black Bear
March-November

Bull Snake
April-October

Mule Deer
Year-round

Photo credits: Mule Deer by Yathin S. Krishnappa, Western Bluebird and Painted Lady by Barb Spagnuolo, Great Horned Owl by Dick Vogel

Annual DLC Birding Hike at DuPont Open Space

TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK COLORADO

WHAT GROWS HERE

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Poison Ivy

Indian Paintbrush

Chokecherry

Scratch & Sniff

Oils found in the resin of older Ponderosas have a very fragrant aroma, described as vanilla or butterscotch. Go sniff the reddish Ponderosa bark and decide for yourself!

Ponderosa Pines

Ponderosa Pines are large evergreen trees that can be found here in Colorado and throughout the West. Found alone or in stands with Douglas-fir, Ponderosas are typically found at lower elevations in drier soils, like those found here in Castle Rock. The best way to identify Ponderosas is by their long bright green needles arranged in bundles of three, and their egg-shaped cones with stiff protective prickles sticking out on the end. Ponderosas can grow over 200 feet tall and live for more than 500 years, but there are natural and man-made threats to these trees, such as erosion, fire, disease and insects.

Built-In Fire Protection

Wildfires can be a huge problem throughout the West, damaging or destroying large communities and habitats. For Ponderosa Pine trees, wildfires con harm young seedling pines, but larger mature trees have a thick protective outer bark to prevent fire damage. As long as the fire doesn't burn the inner bark, the tree will survive.

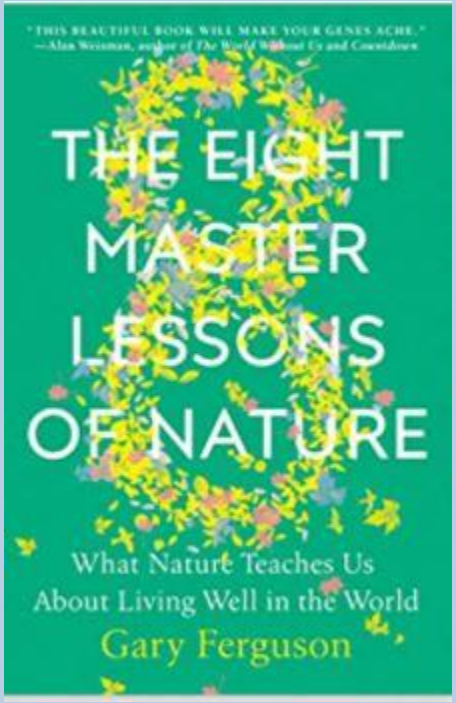
Damaging Insects

Mountain pine beetles have spread to the Front Range and invaded our local Ponderosa Pine tree population. The insects bore into the tree and transmit a blue stain fungus to restrict the flow of nutrients to the top of the tree. Healthy trees can "pitch" or push the insect out, but overcrowding, drought, disease and old age can compromise that ability.

Hunting native hops on a DLC protected property with one of our local craft breweries

Hunting Wild Hops on DLC's Conserved Lands

DLC Nature Book Club

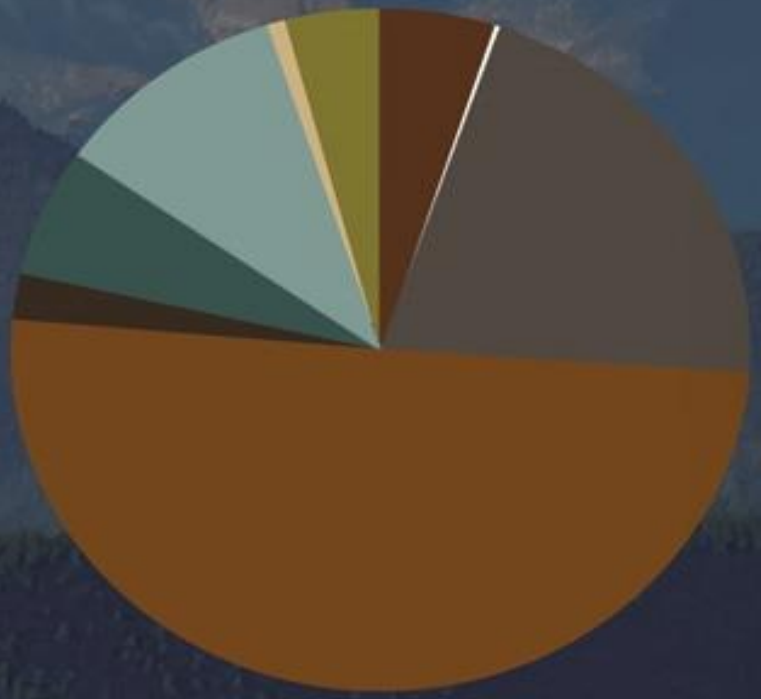


Join us in 2021 to discuss fiction and nonfiction books connected to the natural world.
The DLC Book Club meets virtually from 7:00-8:30pm on the third Tuesday of odd numbered months

Everyone loves DLC's volunteers!

VOLUNTEER HOURS BY CATEGORY

- **ADMIN/TECH** 123.5 HRS
- **ARTICLES/BLOGS** 9 HRS
- **BLUEBIRDS** 512.5 HRS
- **BOARD/COMMITTEE MTGS** 1230 HRS
- **EVENTS/SPEAKERS** 52 HRS
- **HIKES** 151.5 HRS
- **PHOTOGRAPHY** 24.5 HRS
- **VIRTUAL EVENTS** 97 HRS
- **OTHER** 248 HRS



2,448 VOLUNTEER HOURS SO FAR IN 2020 = **$66,585.60** 2020 VALUE OF DLC'S VOLUNTEERS' TIME

$27.20 CURRENT ESTIMATED NATIONAL VALUE OF EACH VOLUNTEER HOUR *CALCULATED BY INDEPENDENT SECTOR*

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Thank you Parker Rotary for your interest in Douglas Land Conservancy!