

Highlights from the Field

Commissioner Adams'
March 2022 Update

Taishya.Adams@state.co.us



Celebrating Black Farmers, Gardeners, and Ranchers in Colorado

Heartland Ranch Nature Preserve

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) engage participants at the Denver Botanic Garden as part of the Black History Month Celebration co-hosted with Outdoor Afro Colorado. Linking urban and rural, past and present, the gathering included an interview with Alice McDonald, a descendent of the Dry, a Black homestead near Manzanola, CO; a panel with Black urban and rural farmers, gardeners, and ranchers in Colorado representing Frontline Farming, ELK Urban Gardeners, Wild Boyd Farms, and Hampden Lavender Farms.

The day ended with exploration stations where participants enjoyed interactive and activities from Black America West Museum, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Environment Learning for Kids, The Nature Conservancy.

Thank you to our CPW & CO Department of Agriculture Exploration Stations Hosts:

- ▶ Mary McCormac, Statewide Interpretation and Wildlife Viewing Coordinator,
- ▶ Donna Forrest, Interpretation and Wildlife Viewing Program Assistant;
- ▶ Jose Barrientos, Wildlife Viewing Graphic Designer;
- ▶ John Anglin, Wildlife Viewing Education Specialist
- ▶ Olga Robak, Director of Communications and Public Awareness



SATURDAY, FEB. 12, 2022, ONLINE

A Black Homestead Homecoming

CO-HOSTED BY OUTDOOR AFRO AND DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS



Interview from the *A Black Homestead Homecoming Event*: Alice McDonald, descendent of The Dry, an African American Homestead Community

<https://youtu.be/nzEUiBIFHqI?t=1342>



- ▶ Alice Craig McDonald, a descendent of the Dry was born there in 1934 and continues to tell the story to ensure that history is not erased nor the implications to present day.
- ▶ South of Manzanola in Colorado's Eastern Plains, there once was a community called The Dry. Black families came to the area in 1917.
- ▶ There were once over 700 Black residents of the Dry. The Dry was comprised of homesteads and a school
- ▶ Note: People of African descent were excluded from the first three years of the Homestead Act due to continued legal enslavement.

Top Photo: Alice Craig McDonald and her father, Harvey, at The Dry around 1952
Photo by Rolan Craig, Courtesy Alice McDonald

Thank you to the CPW Education Team
for joining the 2022 Colorado Charter Schools Annual Conference!




Thank you for expanding the incredible placed based learning experiences that connect the needs and wants of humans, nonhumans, and the planet.

EXPLORE THE HIGHLINE CANAL WITH THE HIGHLINE CANAL CONSERVANCY

At 71 miles long, the High Line Canal is one of the longest continuous urban trails in the country, twisting through the most populated area of Colorado while crossing a diverse mosaic of communities and nature. The Canal originates at Waterton Canyon in Douglas County and runs to Green Valley Ranch in Northeast Denver, falling within one mile of more than 350,000 residents. For more information, please visit <https://highlinecanal.org/>.

High Line Canal Stormwater Quality Pilot Project

Denver's Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI) has begun construction of The High Line Canal Stormwater Quality Pilot Project in southeast Denver. DOTI's project is one of five stormwater quality efforts in and along the High Line Canal, with additional projects underway in Littleton, Centennial, Greenwood Village and Douglas County. The Canal was originally built to convey irrigation water but is no longer used for that purpose. The green infrastructure initiative is intended to transform the Canal into a stormwater management system, once again bringing some water to the Canal, thereby extending the life of the existing tree canopy and providing much needed water for new plantings and wildlife. For more information, please visit, <https://denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directories/Department-of-Transportation-and-Infrastructure/Programs-Services/Projects/High-Line-Canal-Stormwater>



THE TRAIL'S BEGINNING

SEGMENT 2 HIGHLIGHTS

- Chatfield State Park
- View of Lockhead Martin
- Mikash-Helmer cabin
- Seven Stones Botanical Gardens Cemetery
- Cottonwood Riding Club

The Trail's Beginning | Miles 2-7

Start: High Line Canal Waterton Trailhead
End: Roxborough Park Road Trailhead, 1498 N. Roxborough Park Road, Littleton

On this pleasant walk through the rolling foothills, you'll begin moving along the trail with the Canal channel always at your side. Denver peeks up off in the distance as you make your way through this rural section of the Canal, where you'll likely pass horseback riders.

DISTANCE: 5.2 miles one way

TRAIL SURFACE: Crusher-fine gravel

TRAIL OUTINGS: Trail is gravel in sections, road bikes are not recommended.


TRAIL FACILITIES: Portable restroom at Roxborough Park Road

PARKING: High Line Canal Waterton Trailhead parking lot, 10401 W. Waterton Road, Littleton

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Douglas County Parks, Trails and Building Grounds

FOR PARKS & RECREATION CONTACT INFORMATION, SEE PAGE 88.

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SAND CREEK CONNECTION
Segment 23

SEGMENT 23 START: Norfolk Glen Park Neighborhood Access

SEGMENT 24 START: Triple Creek Trailhead

SEGMENT 25 START: E 28th Ave Neighborhood Access

LEGEND:

- PARKING TRAIL ACCESS (No Restrooms)
- RESTING TRAIL ACCESS (Parking & Restrooms)
- FULL TRAIL ACCESS (Parking | Restrooms | Trail Amenities)
- NEIGHBORHOOD ACCESS
- LANDMARK
- MILE MARKER
- WATER
- PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE
- ORIGINAL ALIGNMENT / UNIMPROVED TRAIL
- ROAD
- REGIONAL TRAIL
- RAILROAD CROSSING

Map Labels: AURORA, Norfolk Glen Park, Norfolk Glen Trailhead, Colfax Avenue, E Colfax Ave Crossing, Granby City Open Space, Apache Mesa Park, Beck Recreation Center, E 1st Ave Neighborhood Access, E 28th Ave Neighborhood Access, Sand Creek Regional Gateway, Triple Creek Trailhead, Sand Creek Connection, Miles 58.25 - 71.0, Prairie Retreat.

