

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Prospect Park

Site Code S.USCOHP*352

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1633 Site Class PCA
Site Alias None

Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

<u>NCA Site ID</u>	<u>NCA Site Code</u>	<u>NCA Site Name</u>
-		No Data

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 394627N
State Colorado Longitude 1050726W

Quad Code Quad Name

39105-G1 Arvada
39105-G2 Golden

County

Watershed Code Watershed Name

10190004 Clear

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,280.00 Feet	1,609.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,450.00 Feet	1,661.00 Meters

Site Description

Clear Creek flows through the the Prospect Park site from west to east. The site includes the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, and a narrow area of connectivity to the Jefferson County Open Space to the west, which is evidently used by wildlife such as mountain lions. The overpass at Kipling Street fragments the site, and marks the eastern limit of the wide part of the greenbelt where residential development has not proliferated on the floodplain. From Kipling to the 44th Street overpass, the floodplain is more developed but significant areas of the riparian corridor and floodplain remain, with good examples of cottonwood riparian woodlands and marginal habitat for Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*). Most of the area was floodplain historically. The dominant vegetation types are cottonwood riparian woodlands and non-native grasslands dominated by smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*). There are many former creek channels which are typically dominated by wetland vegetation such as cattails (*Typha* spp.) and coyote willow (*Salix exigua*). Small creeks flow across the floodplain throughout the summer that are fed by seeps along the ridge to the south and by storm water runoff. Many of these creeks flow through dense vegetation that is virtually impenetrable, such as thickets of common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*). One occurrence of Ute ladies'-tresses is found within the site and is composed of approximately 18 subpopulations. Counts of over 400 individuals have been obtained in past years (i.e. 1999, a very good year at this location) for the two large subpopulations. A species of earth star (*Mycenastrum* sp. nov.) that is new to science has also been recently documented in the greenbelt west of the Miller Trailhead, and thus far is known only from this location. This report has yet to be verified, and the species description has not yet been published. Two areas in the site have components of rare communities. These include the Plains cottonwood - chokecherry woodland and the Plains cottonwood - snowberry woodland. The size of these areas is small and the condition is affected by the presence of non-native and invasive species. However, these examples may be remnants of the community type that naturally occurred there. Although their quality is poor, these areas could serve as references for restoration of these community types in other parts of the greenbelt where conditions would be appropriate for their establishment.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

Grazing, haying, homesteading, gravel mining, and recreational open space.

Cultural Features

No Data

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SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 01/17/2001

Designer Anderson, D.G.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses a broad area known to support *Spiranthes*, including areas that the species is apparently expanding its range into appropriate habitat. Due to the occasional presence of potential habitat along the riparian corridor of Clear Creek, and the presence of several small subpopulations, all of the corridor east to a historically known location for the state-rare *Ribes americana* is included. The extensive cottonwood riparian woodland in the floodplain is circumscribed due to the potential for restoration to high quality natural communities throughout the area. The area west of the Miller Trailhead is included due to the presence of an undescribed species of earth star (*Mycenastrum* sp. nov.). In general, the entire floodplain, both private and public portions, between Youngsfield Street and 44th Street is included to encompass a functional portion of the riparian system on which the plants depend.

Primary Area 3,860.84 Acres 1,562.43 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is drawn for the Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*), a federally listed plant species. This site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of this globally imperiled (G2G3/S2) species.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

No Data

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

Exotic species that are threatening Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) in order of priority are teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*), leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), Canada thistle (*Breca arvensis*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), and yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*).

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element</u>			<u>Global</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Driving</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Site Rank</u>
17998	<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	Ute ladies' tresses	G2G3	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
167313	Anderson, D. and J. Stevens. 2001. Wheat Ridge Open Space Biological Inventory. Prepared for the City of Wheat Ridge.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/17/2001

Version Author Anderson, D.G.

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