

SIGNAGE ON WOMAN CREEK PARCEL

June 23, 2025

Purpose:

Receive Direction on Desired Language
and Visuals for Signage

Woman Creek Parcel

- City Council directed Staff to work with stakeholders to develop meaningful, educational signs
- Staff has engaged stakeholders on draft alternatives for signage on the Property
- City Council preferences and direction is respectfully requested on draft signage language and visuals

Three Alternatives

- Balance competing views
- Respect intent
- Acknowledge complexities
- Build awareness
- Support personal choice



Visiting Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge May Expose You to Radioactive Materials

Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge was once a nuclear weapons site. Although it is now open for recreation, visitors are encouraged to learn about its history and make informed choices before recreating.

The Rocky Flats Plant, located 1.8 miles west of this location, operated from 1951 to 1989. The plant produced plutonium components for nuclear weapons. During this time, radioactive and hazardous materials were released into the environment, affecting land and water.

After cleanup efforts starting in the early 1990s, including removal of contaminated soil, water, and demolition of 800 structures in the central plant area, the surrounding buffer zone was designated the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge in 2007.

While the refuge is open year-round with miles of multi-use trails, radioactive and hazardous materials remain in the soil, water, and airborne dust. Nearby communities and experts continue to express concerns about health risks.

Hikers, bikers, and equestrians should make informed decisions before entering.

If you are concerned, consider alternate routes such as the Indiana Connector to the east or the Prickly Pear Trail, both part of the Rocky Mountain Greenway Trail.

For emergencies, dial 911.

For more information on plutonium hazards, visit [website or QR code here].

Welcome to Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge - A Prairie Passage to Rocky Flats

You are entering a unique landscape that supports rare prairie plants and over 200 wildlife species — a vital habitat preserved for recreation and conservation.

This land also holds a complex history tied to Cold War nuclear weapons production. From 1952 to 1989, plutonium triggers were manufactured nearby. The central plant site was cleaned up and closed to the public. The surrounding buffer zone became protected habitat in 2007.

What You Should Know - In 1989, Rocky Flats was listed as a Superfund site due to contamination.

Although the Superfund area has been remediated and deemed safe by the Environmental Protection Agency and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, trace amounts of plutonium remain in the soil.

Plutonium emits alpha radiation, which is not harmful outside the body, but inhaling or ingesting dust particles may increase long-term cancer risk. Plutonium particles are invisible and odorless, and they can cling to shoes, tires, or pets.

Travel Safely

We encourage you to stay on designated trails and observe all closure signs to protect yourself and this fragile environment.

Some community members and scientists voice ongoing concerns. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supports the Refuge as safe for recreation. The choice to visit is yours — please consider the following:

Stay on marked trails - Respect closure areas - Clean|soil off shoes and pets before leaving

Alternate routes include the Indiana Connector to the east or the Prickly Pear Trail. Thank you for helping preserve Rocky Flats for wildlife and visitors alike.

Rocky Flats Entry Exposure Warning

You are entering Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, home to rare prairie vegetation and over 200 wildlife species. This landscape also carries a legacy of nuclear weapons production.

From 1952–1989, the U.S. manufactured plutonium triggers for nuclear weapons nearby. Though the central plant site was cleaned up and closed to the public, this area — once part of the buffer zone — was preserved as habitat in 2007.

What You Should Know

Trace amounts of plutonium remain in the soil. While the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment have determined the Refuge is safe for public use, some scientists and community members believe no level of plutonium exposure is risk-free.

Plutonium cannot be seen or smelled. Alpha radiation it emits is not harmful outside the body — but inhaling or ingesting particles could increase long-term cancer risk. Dust may cling to shoes, tires, or pets. It is recommended that users stay on designated trails.

Explore with Awareness

The choice to visit is yours. This place holds both ecological wonder and historical complexity. Walk with care — and reflect on the past, present, and future of this land.

Visuals

- Radioactive symbol
- Former weapons plant
- Others?

**VISITING ROCKY FLATS
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**



**MAY EXPOSE YOU TO
RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS**

QUESTIONS

