

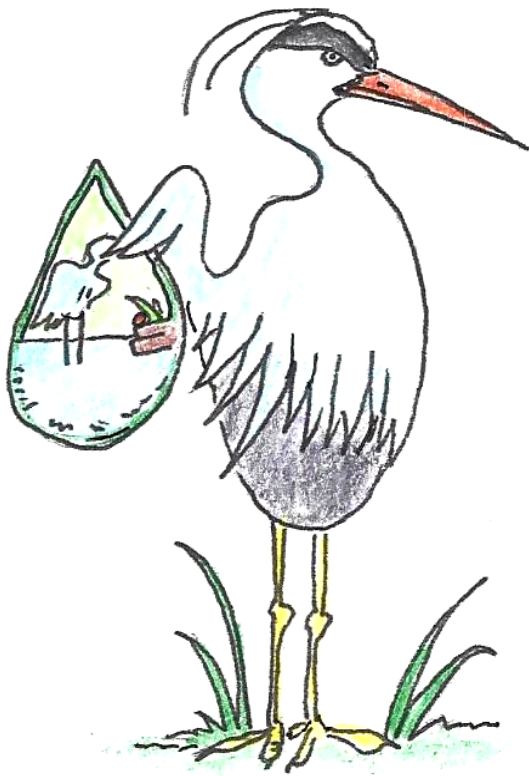


Junior Naturalist Booklet

Color Me



Welcome to Fountain Creek Nature Center



Hi, I am Harley the Great Blue Heron. I would love to take you on a tour of Fountain Creek Regional Park and help you become a Junior Naturalist!

As you work through this booklet you will see this icon.



It means you should stop and read the directions to find out what to do next.

Junior Naturalists are good stewards of our parks. A **steward** is someone responsible for overseeing and protecting something worth caring for and preserving.

That might sound tough but basically it means following the rules of the park and treating it with respect. Rules tell us what is safe and how to take care of the park.

To earn your Fountain Creek Junior Naturalist title, complete the following steps:

Jr. Naturalist patches cost \$3 at the nature center.

☐

Complete the activities in this booklet to the best of your ability on the trails and/or in the nature center.

☐

Pick up one piece of trash from the park.

☐

Bring booklet to Fountain Creek Nature Center and take the Jr. Naturalist pledge:

"As a Junior Naturalist, I promise to help preserve and protect the natural areas of Fountain Creek Regional Park. I also pledge to learn more about nature and to help protect the environment wherever I go!"

This certifies that

_____ **has completed the
Fountain Creek Junior Naturalist Program.**

Witnessed by: _____ **(FCNC Staff)**

















Date: ____/____/____

Wetland Bingo



Junior Naturalists need good eyes to know what lives in the park. Look all over during your hike or out the nature center windows to find these park residents.

Place an "X" in the box if you have found it.

<p>Red Wing Blackbird</p> 	<p>Cottonwood Tree or Leaf</p> 	<p>Cattail</p> 	<p>Beaver</p> 
<p>Cotton Tail Rabbit</p> 	<p>Great Blue Heron</p> 	<p>Barn Swallow Nest</p> 	<p>Garter Snake</p> 
<p>Bullfrog</p> 	<p>Mallard Duck</p> 	<p>3 Bird Calls</p> 	<p>Read a Trail Sign</p> 
<p>Animal Food</p> 	<p>Fox Squirrel</p> 	<p>Western Painted Turtle</p> 	<p>Animal Tracks</p> 

Habitat Hunter

Fountain Creek Regional Park has five distinct habitats. **Habitats** are good places for animals and plants to live. Find and cross out our five habitats in the word search.



C	F	O	M	O	W
R	D	W	A	A	O
E	M	T	R	E	O
E	E	R	S	S	D
K	A	H	H	E	L
L	D	T	E	R	A
S	O	P	A	C	N
E	W	P	O	N	D

- Creek
- Woodland
- Meadow
- Marsh
- Pond

After you have found all five, starting in the top left corner and working right, write down the letters you did not cross out to find the four things that make a good habitat.

Every animal needs _ _ _ _ , _ _ _ _ ,
_ _ _ _ _ , and _ _ _ _ to live.

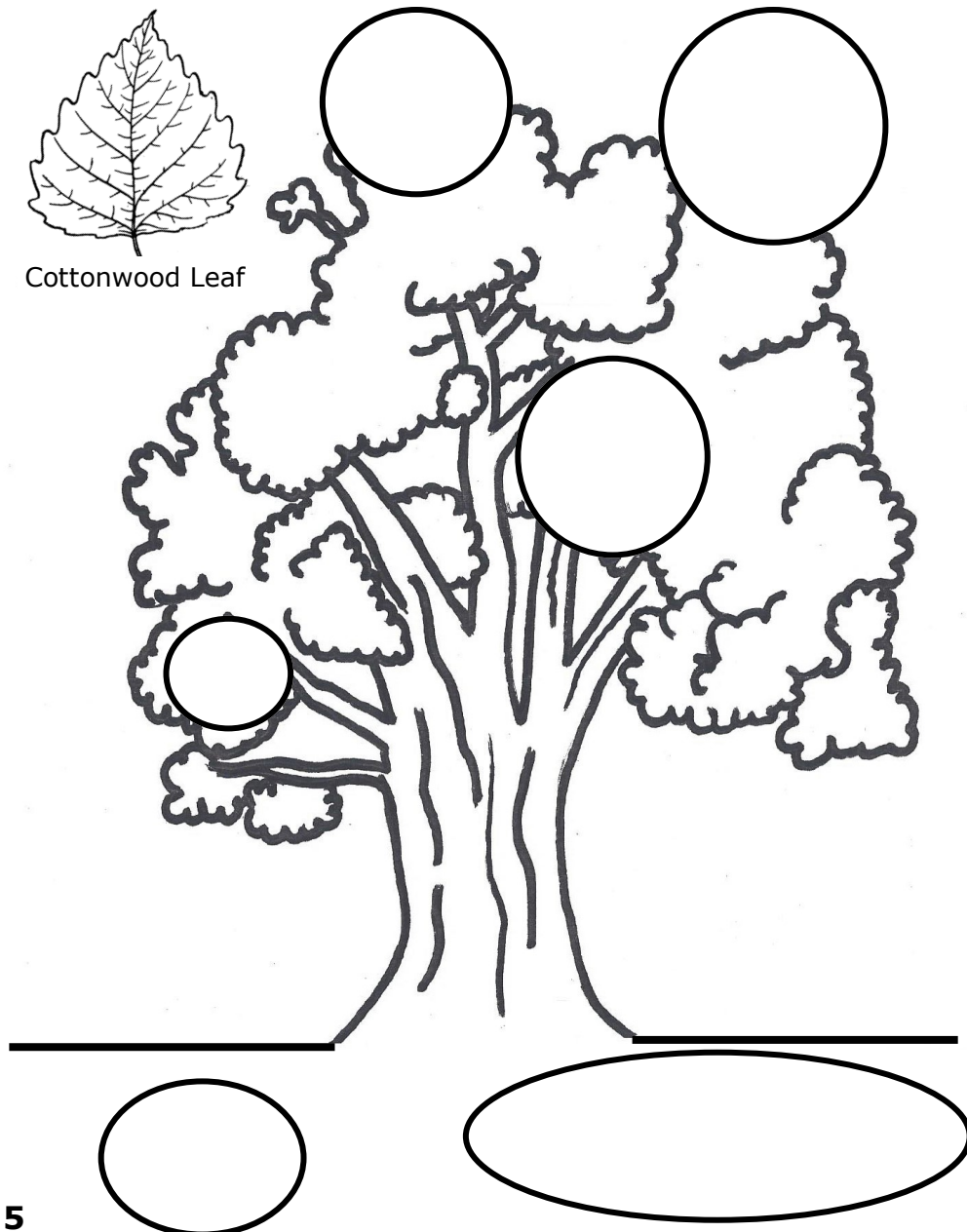
Cottonwood Condos



The oldest tree in our park is Grandfather Cottonwood. He is over 150 years old! In all those years he has been the perfect home to squirrels, birds, bats, bees, and more. Look around the park and the nature center and draw the animals that would live in and around a cottonwood tree.



Cottonwood Leaf
















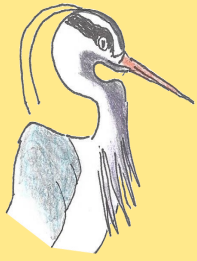
Wetland Beaks

When you study birds, notice their mouths are much different than ours. Instead of lips, they have beaks. Beaks are adapted to eat certain foods. You can determine what a bird eats just by looking at its beak.



Draw a line from the bird, to its beak, to its food. If you need help stop by the nature center.

Bird	Beak	Food
<p>The <u>Northern Flicker</u> uses its pointed beak to <u>chisel</u> into bark and wood.</p> 		
<p>The <u>House Finch</u> uses its strong beak to <u>crack</u> hard seed coatings.</p> 		
<p>The <u>Red-tailed Hawk</u> uses its sharp beak to <u>tear</u> meat.</p> 		 
<p>The <u>Mallard Duck</u> uses its filter-feeding beak to <u>strain</u> plants and bugs from the water.</p> 		



**Draw or Write Your
Discoveries Here.**

Small Critters..



Fountain Creek is an official Monarch Way Station. Monarch Way Stations are places that provide the food, water, and shelter necessary for monarchs to rest and lay their eggs.

Complete the maze starting with the egg to help this baby monarch become a butterfly. For order see key.

KEY

1.Egg



2.Caterpillar



3.Chrysalis

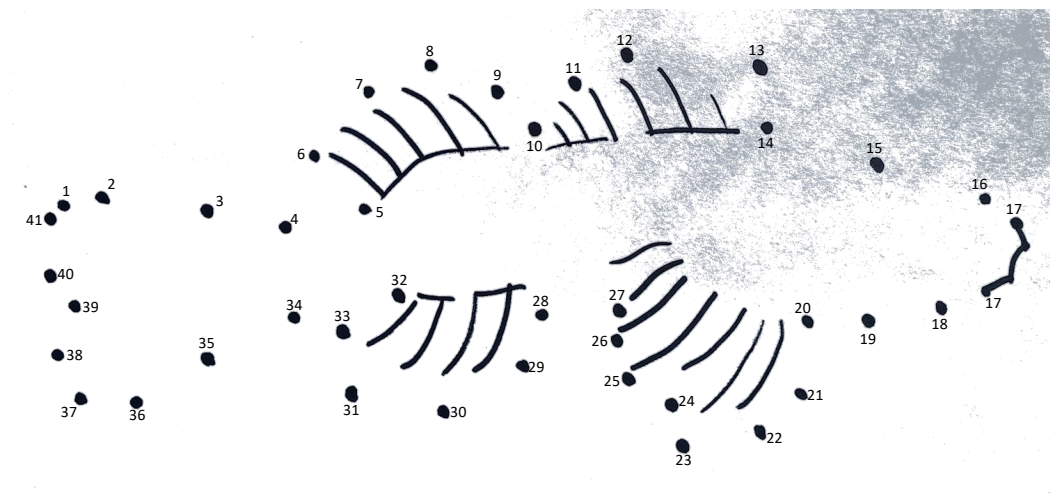


4.Butterfly



..Big Challenges

The Arkansas Darter is a tiny animal living in our park. It is a candidate for protection under the Endangered Species Act. This means if humans do not help preserve their habitat and keep the water clean they might go extinct. Connect the dots to see what kind of animal the Arkansas Darter is.



The Arkansas Darter is what kind of animal?

Who Goes There?



Animals are elusive and if they do not want to be seen, often they will not be! The tracks they leave on a muddy trail can often be the best clue to figuring out what animals have been active.

Use the tracks below to answer the questions.

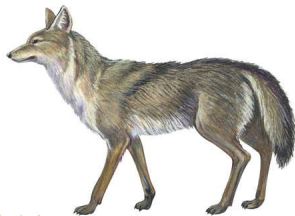
Canada Goose



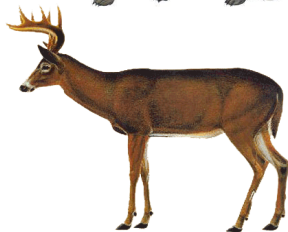
Mountain Lion



Coyote



White-tailed Deer



Which animal has webbed feet?

Which ones leave claw marks?

Which one has four toes and does not leave claw marks?

Which animal has hooved feet?

Ant-Vision

Imagine you were as tiny as a Harvester ant. Find a spot around the trail that is the same size as the circle below and pretend this is your new ant-home. See how closely you can draw it.



It takes a really big person to care for something smaller. Next time you see a bug do not squash it, stop and take a closer look. It is probably just as busy as you are!

Where There Is Water, There Is Life.



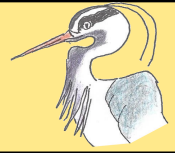
When the nature center opens again, use the Watershed Table in the middle of the nature center to complete a sketch of the waterways in the Fountain Creek Watershed.

Or look up the Fountain Creek Watershed Map on-line and see what waterways you can draw in.

Draw the following:

1. Fountain Creek and its tributaries
2. Our nature center
2. Your home
3. Pikes Peak
4. The Arkansas River

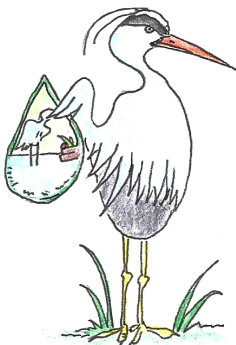
Water is everyone's business!



Draw or write one way you depend on water.

What is one way **you**
can keep the water clean?

What is one way your
community can keep the water
clean?



All life depends on water so it is very important that there are stewards like you to protect the water in your neighborhood and keep it clean. Need ideas? Visit the nature center. Thank you for joining me on this adventure to becoming a Jr. Naturalist!



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