

2022 TOPS BioBlitz Summary

Parks Advisory Board
November 10th, 2022
Gillian Rossi, TOPS Senior Park Ranger



What is a BioBlitz?



An event that focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time. A bioblitz is also known as a biological inventory or biological census with a primary goal of obtaining an overall count of the plants, animals, fungi and other organisms that live in a place.



History



- The TOPS stewardship program started hosting bioblitzes in 2017 to get a snapshot of biodiversity within parks and open spaces around Colorado Springs.
- Previously, a scientists-only and a public BioBlitz were held each year.
- In 2022, TOPS' shifted to a one-day event, focusing on citizen science and including data collection from scientists, park staff, and park visitors alike.



2022 BioBlitz



- Blodgett Open Space – Saturday, August 6th, 2022



2022 BioBlitz Statistics



- 374 observations
- 233 species
- 68 identifiers
- 12 observers
- 9 citizen science-themed tables
- 103 public contacts
- 7 on-site staff members
- 1 interactive spore-showering mushroom

A poster for the BioBlitz at Blodgett Open Space. The title "BioBlitz" is in large blue letters with a pink butterfly icon to its right. Below it, "at Blodgett Open Space" is written in black. The date and time "SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM" are in black, with the year "2022" in large yellow letters to the right. A photograph of a mountain landscape is in the center. Below the photo, the address "3786 W WOODMEN RD, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80919" is printed. On the left side, there are four icons: a yellow bird, a green plant, a red mushroom, and a white deer. On the right side, there is a paragraph of text and the Colorado Springs logo with "TOPS" below it.

BioBlitz 

at Blodgett Open Space

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM **2022**



3786 W WOODMEN RD, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80919



The Trails, Open Space & Parks (TOPS) program is hosting a BioBlitz in Blodgett Open Space. Free and open to the public, the event focuses on finding as many species as possible to create a biological census of the area. There will also be guided hikes and family-friendly activity booths from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Join scientists from Colorado Springs on Saturday at the North Blodgett Open Space parking lot to learn more about the local scientific community, plus wildlife and plants in the Pikes Peak region.



parka recreation cultural services
TOPS

Citizen Science Tablers



Staff Support



Park Ranger Elaine Freeth
Point of Contact for Blodgett Open Space



Tierni Chun
TOPS Education Technician

Staff Support



Faye Olsgard
TOPS Education Technician



No image
available

Park Ranger Hayley Noneman
BioBlitz Coordinator

Staff Support



Cody Bear Sutton
Natural Resource Specialist



Lindsey Meyers
TOPS Resource Technician

Anthony Dunnam
TOPS Biological Technician

So much spore!



- Most Observed Species = Ornate Tiger Moth



Moth Backlighting



Blodgett BioBlitz Partners



- COS Stormwater
- PPLD Green Team
- Rocky Mountain Field Institute
- UCCS Biology Department
- Mile High Bug Club
- Wild Connections
- Aiken Audubon Society
- Friends of Peregrine Parks & Open Space



Moving Forward



- Continue to ignite public interest in citizen science
- Increase scientist *and* public involvement in BioBlitzes
- Use collected data in master planning process, trail reroutes, and other land management practices

TOPS Thanks You!

