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Park and Shade Tree Commission Bird Box Subcommittee Report for May 28, 2025

The BB Subcommittee met over Zoom on May 13.

Voting members present: Lucy Cairns, Quindi Franco, Margaret Cosbey

Advisory members present: Jean Seelig

Current active monitors: Quindi Franco, Margaret Cosbey, Jean Seelig, Diana Wert, Helen Davis. Chris Hennessy has withdrawn from volunteering due to other commitments.

New volunteers: Diana Wert has undergone training and has joined the monitoring team.

Carol Nye and Lauren Minnich have requested training and Lucy will arrange to do this.

The focus of this meeting was a the clarification of how to use the Google sheet created by Helen Davis for the documentation of field data. Aids for identifying eggs were reviewed – specifically, excellent color photos are provided in the NABS Fact Sheet ‘Monitoring Bluebird Nest Boxes’ were recommended.

Data on egg-laying activity so far this season:

Bluebird eggs have been found in 4 boxes

House Sparrows evicted bluebirds in 2 of these boxes before eggs could hatch.

In 1 box, hatchlings appear to have been lost to predation

Tree Swallow eggs have been found in 5 boxes

Eggs were lost from 1 box, probably due to predation

Chickadee eggs have been found in 7 boxes

All eggs in 3 boxes have been lost, most likely due to predation

House Sparrow eggs have been pierced or removed from 3 boxes

House Wrens have not started building nests in our boxes yet this year, but they are expected to appear soon.

Actions to consider, based on these early-season results:

- Install Noel guards on the boxes where predation has been documented. Since altering the box risks spooking the birds, this should not be attempted on boxes containing eggs or young.
- Before the 2026 season, replace more of the older boxes with new boxes on posts more difficult for ground-based predators to climb (than the wooden posts) and consider predator baffles and Noel guards on the new boxes.
- Before the 2026 season, install a few nest boxes designed specifically for chickadees and/or place entrance hole reducers on a few of our current boxes that will exclude all but wrens and chickadees.
- Continue to develop plans to discourage or eliminate House Sparrows in our boxes

DRAFT







Hungry and Cold

Winter is especially hard for large animals that need a lot of calories to live. Elk and deer herd together in the winter for protection from predators. Herds forage in areas with more accessible but less nutritious food options, like dry grass.

Elk and deer must minimize activity to avoid starvation. Disturbances can cost them precious energy and impact whether they survive the lean, harsh winter.

Safeguard their Energy!

Give elk and deer lots of space and don't make them move, whenever possible.



El invierno es especialmente difícil para los animales grandes que necesitan muchas calorías para sobrevivir. El uapiti y los ciervos se reúnen en manada en el invierno para protegerse de los depredadores. Las manadas se alimentan en áreas con opciones de alimentos más accesible pero menos nutritivas, como el pasto seco.

El uapiti y los ciervos tienen que minimizar la actividad para evitar inanición. Las perturbaciones pueden costarles energía preciosa e impactan si el uapiti y los ciervos sobreviven el invierno duro.

¡Guarda su energía! Dale mucho espacio al uapiti y los ciervos y no hacerlos mover, siempre que sea posible.



THANKS TO THESE COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS:
RIS/US Mountain Science Center & Nature Photography



Habitat Changes with the Seasons

As temperatures rise in the summer months, elk migrate to higher elevations, away from Eagle, to stay cool and eat their preferred vegetation. Inversely, when temperatures cool and snow stacks up in the winter, elk migrate to lower elevations in search of food and less snow. The Eagle area is an ideal winter range for elk because of its low elevation, proximity to a river, and lower snow totals.

Being aware of where wildlife prefers to concentrate during the year can help minimize impacts to wildlife. It is especially important to give them space during the sensitive winter and production seasons.



Mientras que aumentan las temperaturas en los meses del verano, los uapitíes migran a elevaciones más altas, lejos de Eagle. A la inversa, cuando las temperaturas bajan y la nieve se acumula en el invierno, los uapitíes migran a elevaciones más bajas en busca de alimentos y menos nieve. El área de Eagle es una gama del invierno ideal por los uapitíes debido a su baja elevación, proximidad a un río y totales de nieve menores.

Ser consciente de donde prefiere concentrarse la vida silvestre durante el año puede ayudar a minimizar los impactos sobre la vida silvestre, especialmente durante el invierno delicado y temporadas de producción.

Thanks to these community contributors:
Rising Mountain Science Center & Nature Photography
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Brush Creek Dog Park

As you and your furry friends enjoy the park, please respect the wildlife who call this home!



Brush Creek Open Space is home to many wild animals who may visit the dog park and surrounding area. Use the "rule of thumb" to determine if you are getting too close to wildlife. Dogs must never approach or harass wildlife.

Winter is especially hard for large animals that need a lot of calories to live. Elk and deer must minimize activity to avoid starvation. Disturbances can cost them precious energy and impact whether they survive the lean, harsh winter.

Safeguard their Energy! Give elk and deer lots of space and don't make them move, whenever possible.



If you can completely cover the animal with your thumb, then you're far enough away.
Si puedes cubrir completamente al animal con tu pulgar estás suficientemente lejos.

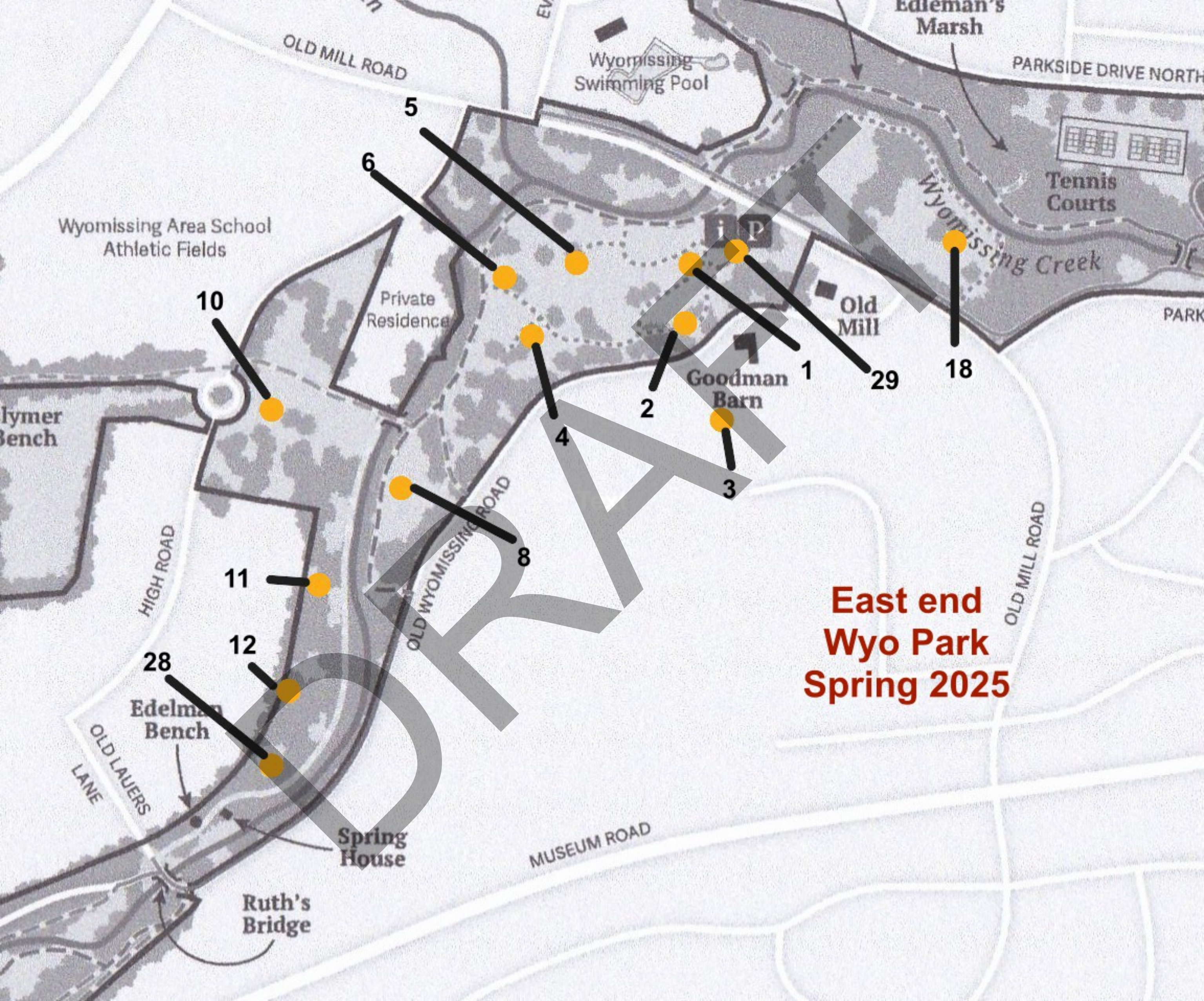
Brush Creek Open Space es el hogar de muchos animales salvajes que pueden visitar el parque de perros y sus alrededores. Utilice la "regla general" para determinar si se está acercando demasiado a la vida silvestre. Perros nunca deben acercarse ni acosar la vida silvestre.

El invierno es especialmente difícil para animales grandes que necesitan muchas calorías para sobrevivir. El wapiti y los ciervos minimizan su actividad para evitar el hambre. Las perturbaciones pueden costarles energía preciosa y afectar si sobreviven el invierno severo.

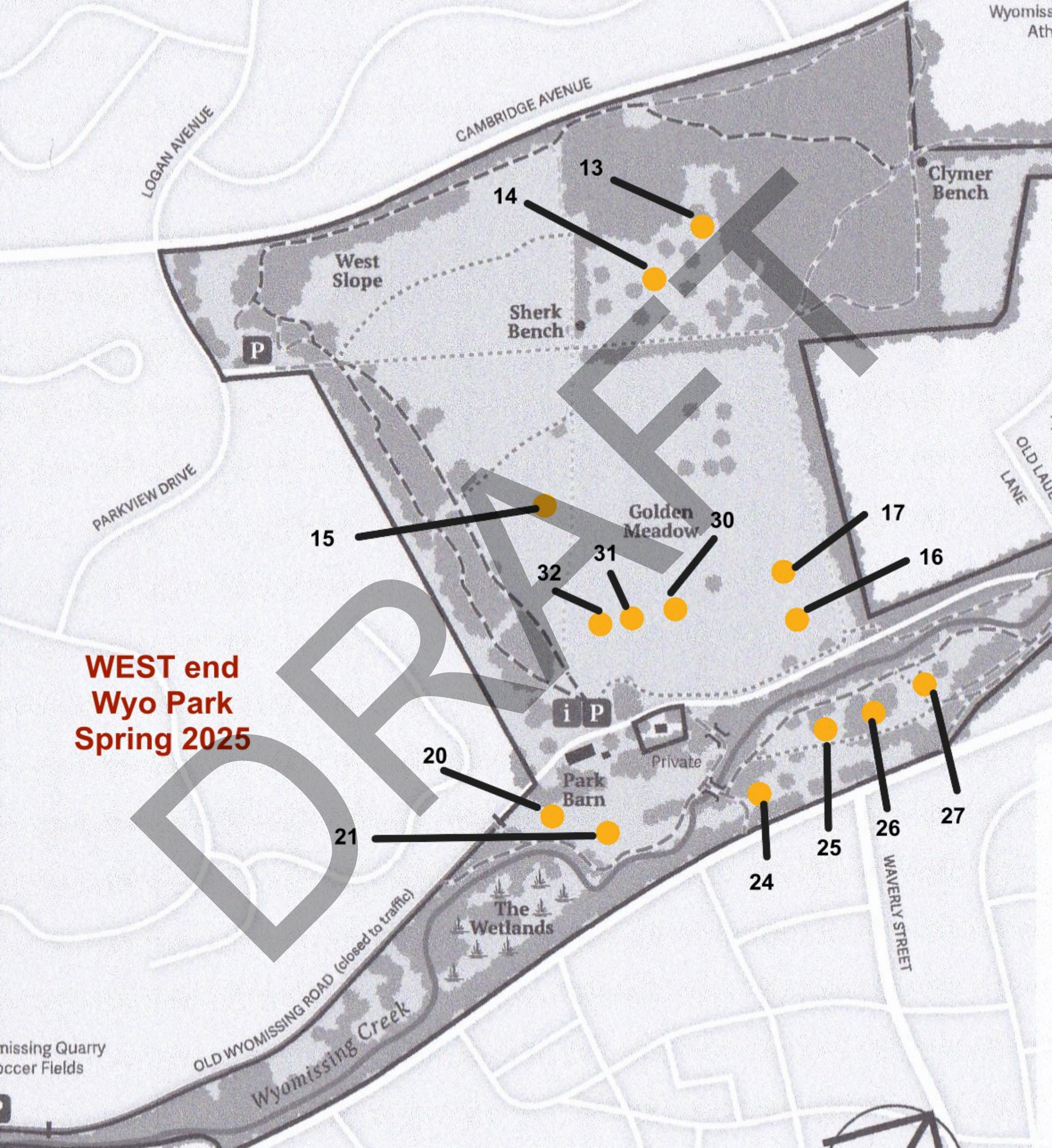
¡Salvaguarda su energía! Dale mucho espacio al wapiti y los ciervos y no hacerlos mover cuando sea posible.

For more information please visit landtrust.org





**East end
Wyo Park
Spring 2025**



**WEST end
Wyo Park
Spring 2025**