



Mineral Rights and Oil & Gas Development on County Open Space

Last Updated: February 2, 2024

Disclaimer: The information provided here was compiled by county staff and has not been verified by a mineral title expert. While this information represents the best information the county has been able to compile, this map is for informational purposes only and should not be relied on for legal, contractual, or permitting purposes.

Please note the following important information for understanding this data:

¹ The mineral rights under some open space properties were already leased out for oil and gas development before Boulder County acquired them, so the county had to accept the land subject to those pre-existing leases. Those properties may have oil and gas activity even if the county later acquired some or all the underlying mineral rights.

² The term 'Active' means wells that are producing or shut-in (usually a temporary situation, and those wells go back into producing status if/when the operator re-opens the well).

³ The Greater Wattenberg Area (GWA), where most of the current oil and gas activity occurs, extends only into the eastern portion of Boulder County. For this reason, county staff's research has targeted the area outlined by the red dash, between the east county line and 63rd Street (for land south of Nelson Road in Longmont), and the area between the east county line and 75th Street east (for land north of Nelson Road). Research also includes county fee interests in Weld County.

⁴ The term 'County Open Space' includes county-owned properties and properties jointly owned with municipal open space programs. It does not include option properties or county managed properties.

⁵ Boulder County owns 100% of the mineral rights under the properties denoted in blue. The county owns some (but not 100%) of the mineral rights under properties denoted in turquoise. The county always buys all the mineral rights that a seller owns, but in some cases, prior landowners had already reserved some of the mineral rights. Those rights are still held by third parties. Whenever any mineral rights are held by third parties, the county doesn't control use of the minerals.

Mineral Interests on Fee - Owned Open Space⁴	Acres without Active² Wells	Acres with Active² Wells	Acre Totals
Boulder County Fee properties – Research Done in East County Only³			
County owns 100% of the mineral rights ⁵	2,369	1,368	3,737
County owns some % of the mineral rights ⁵	5,799	2,846	8,645
County doesn't own any mineral rights	3,727	838	4,565
No title work exists	0	0	0
Subtotal:	11,895	5,052	16,947
Jointly-Owned Weld County Fee properties			
County owns 100% of the mineral rights ⁵	130	0	130
County owns some % of the mineral rights	0	0	0
County doesn't own any mineral rights	0	0	0
Subtotal:	0	0	0
Acre Totals:	12,025	5,052	17,077

Producing Wells - Fee¹ Properties	Numbers of Active² Wells	Properties with Active² Wells	Acres in GWA³
County Open Space in Boulder County ⁴	95	51	7,085
Jointly-Owned Open Space in Weld County	0	0	0
Grand Total:	95	51	7,085