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SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

Local residents participate in nature hikes and craft projects while learning about the activities and adventures available at the Eagle River Preserve at a June 30 event.

An event showcases Eagle River Preserve

Open space was preserved in 2005

Daily staff report

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EDWARDS — On June 30, the Eagle Valley Land Trust hosted a “Family Fun Day” at the Eagle River Preserve, a 72-acre parcel of community open space with more than a mile and a half of publicly accessible Eagle River frontage. Several local kids, along with moms and dads and aunts and uncles, participated in nature hikes and craft projects while learning about the activities and adventures available at the Preserve. The family fun also included an educational land-conservation message, a kids’ face painter and refreshments.

The Eagle River Preserve was permanently protected with a conservation easement by the Land Trust in 2005. The preserve serves as publicly accessible open space and a “central park” for the mid-valley region. The land allows residents and guests of Eagle County, especially those in the greater Edwards community, to get outdoors and enjoy hiking trails, natural meadows and Eagle River access on the valley floor. The preserve is within walking distance from the Edwards-area neighborhoods and shopping areas.

Located just to the west of The Gashouse Restaurant and across from the Ambulance District in Edwards, the Eagle River Preserve is bordered on the south by U.S. Highway 6, on the north by the Eagle River and on the west by the Wild Flower Farm. The property borders Edwards Plaza and the Alpine Bank building on its east side. A 72-acre outdoor playground along the river, the preserve offers a venue for nature hiking, biking, fishing, kite flying, wildlife viewing, picnicking, bird watching and an off-leash dog park. Eventually, the countywide ECO Trail system will run through the property.

Eagle Valley Land Trust periodically hosts Family Fun Day activities on local lands it has conserved to highlight conservation in the valley. The next Land Trust “Family Fun Day” will be held in September, and details will be announced soon.

For more information about the local land conservation projects of the Eagle Valley Land Trust, or to learn more about future “Family Fun Day” events, contact Jason Denhart, director of communications and development for the Land Trust, at 970-748-7654 or jdenhart@evlt.org.