



Rella Abernathy, Ph.D.

Senior Ecologist, Ecosystem Management, City of Boulder, Colorado

Rella Abernathy oversees ecosystem management policy for the City of Boulder, Colorado. Boulder has legacy of environmental stewardship and enacted the first open space tax in the U.S., which led to the conservation of 45,000 acres of mountain parks, prairie grasslands, agricultural properties and wetlands. Boulder was one of the first cities to adopt an Integrated Pest Management policy and neighbor pesticide notification ordinance. The city has been a national leader in reducing pesticide and synthetic fertilizer use, and using an ecosystem management framework for land management. Rella leads the pollinator conservation program for the new Cool Boulder initiative, a partnership between the city, universities, NGOs, businesses, tribal leaders, and community members working together to equitably and inclusively implement natural climate solutions. Rella has spent her career on the development of ecologically-sound land management practices.

Quote

"We need humility, respect for the ecology of the land, and the views of others as we learn together how to repair and heal the relationships between people and nature, and amongst ourselves."

Social Media



@cityofboulder



@bouldercolorado

Biodiversity Credentials

- Biodiversity lead for Natural Climate Solutions Division of the Climate Initiatives Department
- Developed Mosquito Management Program based on wetland biodiversity protection and monitoring
- Lead for Urban Pollinator Pathway and Rewilding Program
- Developed Pesticide assessment process that accounts for impacts to ecosystem function and stability

Biodiversity Affiliations

- ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability USA
- Urban Sustainability Directors Network
- Nature Based Climate Solutions
- Colorado Pollinator Network