



2020 Partnership Program Summary

Stewardship of county open space lands has been deemed an “essential service” during the pandemic, allowing volunteer groups to participate in projects, with some adaptations including: groups of nine or less, volunteers from different households to drive to the project site in separate vehicles, and participants to wear masks throughout the project.

Nine partners participated in stewardship projects to care for our county trails and buildings, constructing fence, collecting seed, and monitoring wildlife cameras. Groups included Altona and Longs Peak Middle School, Boulder Mountainbike Alliance (BMA), Boulder High School Mountain Bike Team, CEMEX, Community United Church of Christ, Corden Pharma, KBI Bio Pharma, and Tetra Tech.

Altona and Longs Peak Middle School, partners since 2019, continue to monitor wildlife cameras.

BMA, partner since before 2008, hosted seven volunteer days at Heil Valley Ranch (HVR) and one day at the planned Tolland trail near Eldora, contributing over 200 volunteer hours. The Boulder High School Mountain Bike Team, partners since 2018, participated in six projects at HVR, contributing over 100 volunteer hours. Important routine maintenance and rock restoration trail work was accomplished by both organizations.

We welcomed CEMEX as a new partner in 2020. CEMEX employees participated in their first volunteer project this summer at Hall Ranch, removing vegetation and clearing drainage ditches to prevent erosion from heavy rain fall.

In August, Corden Pharma, partner since 2009, applied stain to a restroom at Caribou Ranch. Prosaic yet important work.

Members from the Community United Church of Christ, partner since 2016, spent a peaceful spring morning in the outdoors collecting annual Blue Flax seed at the Beech property. They also scheduled a fall project which needed to be cancelled due to poor air quality from wildfire smoke.

Employees from KBI-Bio Pharma, partner since 2017, participated in an impressive three trails’ projects at Hall Ranch.

Tetra Tech, partner since 2014, built a fence at the Heil Valley Ranch, Picture Rock Trailhead to prevent trespassing onto an area of the property that is closed to the public.

The county's COVID-19 safety protocols did not allow for forestry volunteer projects because projects often involve shuttling volunteers to remote locations.

Prairie Partners for 2020 included the Ocean First Institute and the St. Vrain Valley School District for their support of the Redbelly Dace Recovery project and Skcratch Labs for donating masks and drink mix to department rangers. The Boulder County Parks & Open Space Foundation donated significant funds to the remodeling of the Volunteer Naturalist Center at Walden Ponds and toward a portable sawmill. In addition, they contributed to funding a wildlife staff person to reach out to adjacent landowners for wildlife protection and partnerships and contributed to the graphic design services for the Walnut Wonders booklet