

Volunteer Contributions

Each year, volunteer projects and programs attract a diversity of people, creating a community of empowered and educated residents. Our volunteers get hands-on opportunities in land stewardship and public education.

Involving volunteers makes our department stronger and more productive. Volunteers are an integral part of a thriving community and they make a tremendous impact on the quality of life in Boulder County.

Volunteer opportunities are divided into ongoing programs and work projects. Turn the page to learn more about their 2016 contributions!



Ongoing Programs
1,020 Volunteers
25,525 Hours

One Day Projects
2,040 Volunteers
7,511 Hours

Partners Program
62 Partners
87% partners renewed
12 Prairie Partners
25 Forest Partners
24 Alpine Partners

Paid Staff
85% worked directly
with volunteers
or provided behind-
the-scene assistance



Photographs (clockwise from top left):
Walker Ranch Homestead volunteers
National Trails Day Work Project
Naturalist Hike at Caribou Ranch
Forestry Volunteer Work Project

Long-term Programs



Long-term programs use a core group of trained volunteers to complete on-going skilled and semi-skilled duties and educational responsibilities. These ongoing programs included:

Adopt-a-Park/Trail (314 volunteers, 3,768 hours)

These volunteers focus on trash pick-up. The program is designed to be autonomous, allowing volunteers to work at their own pace and on their own schedule with the understanding that they visit 'their park' at least four times each year. In 2015, we had 70 segments adopted by 65 different groups, families or individuals.

Crew Leaders (27 volunteers, 207 hours)

Volunteers helped to ensure an enjoyable and safe experience for other volunteers at forestry and plant ecology projects. As agents of Boulder County Parks and Open Space, these volunteers provide essential technical assistance, a positive attitude, and a great example of the "best in public service."

Cultural History Program (97 volunteers, 3,487 hours)

Volunteers were living history demonstrators, historic site tour guides, and outreach program leaders. Volunteers also assisted with artifact collections, livestock and garden care. They worked primarily at the Agricultural Heritage Center, Nederland Mining Museum, Walker Ranch Homestead, and the Assay Office Museum. Cultural history volunteers fostered an appreciation of the county's past to a wide range of county residents and out of town guests.

Left Hand Outdoor Challenge (50 volunteers, 1,977 hours)

Teens and adult mentors participated in a series of workshops and volunteer service learning projects from September to May. Each challenge was designed to facilitate a better understanding of Boulder County Parks and Open Space and natural resource management, culminating in a final youth project. The focus of the 2016 season was wildlife management. Activities ranged from rock climbing with Eldorado Canyon State Park rangers to improving wildlife habitat at Rocky Mountain National Park.

Long-term Programs



Natural Resource Monitoring Programs (274 volunteers, 4,353 hours)

Volunteers collect data to help the department monitor plants and wildlife over time. Some of these monitoring programs have been collecting data for decades, while others are new.

Program	Volunteers & Hours	Program	Volunteers & Hours
Abert's Squirrels	4 vols, 67 hrs	Pollinators	12 vols, 140 hrs
Bluebirds	10 vols, 700 hrs	Prairie Dogs	14 vols, 62 hrs
Breeding Bird Surveys	1 vol, 120 hrs	Rangeland Health	2 vols, 51 hrs
Burrowing Owls	39 vols, 565 hrs	Raptor Nests	24 vols, 684 hrs
Butterflies	17 vols, 256 hrs	Seed Collection Scouts	6 vols, 46 hrs
Community Sort Yard	4 vols, 81 hrs	Shrubs	6 vols, 30 hrs
Conservation Easements	5 vols, 22 hrs	Slash Piles	1 vol, 78 hrs
Dark Sky	16 vols, 48 hrs	Soil Health	10 vols, 115 hrs
Milkweed	7 vols, 81 hrs	Wildlife Cameras	17 vols, 50 hrs
Native Garden Stewards	8 vols, 313 hrs	Waterfowl	17 vols, 434 hrs
Owl Prowl	7 vols, 73 hrs	Raptor Data Entry	11 vols, 71 hrs
Pella Crossing Wildlife	14 vols, 200 hrs		

Note: More detailed information about programs can be found in 2016 Agricultural Resources Division, Forest Management, Plant Ecology, Real Estate, Weed Management, and Wildlife Management annual reports.

Long-term Programs



Park Patroller Program (139 volunteers, 2,861 hours)

Three different groups: Citizen Ranger Corps (CRC), Boulder Mountain Bike Patrol (BMBP) and Angler Hosts, are part of the patroller program. CRC and BMBP park patrollers contacted open space visitors while traveling on BCPOS trails or staffing trailhead displays. They answered questions about the property's natural resources, park amenities, recreational opportunities and land management activities. They also provided a uniformed presence, encouraged responsible use of open space, and addressed infractions of park regulations when appropriate. Volunteer angler hosts staffed Kids Gone Fishing clinics, Drop-in Fishing, Catfish Nights, and the Jr/Sr Fishing derby.

Volunteer Naturalist Program (107 volunteers, 6,833 hours)

The Volunteer Naturalist Program was created in 1975, when the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department was founded. Over the years the program has grown from a handful of volunteers to over 100 naturalists, who present natural history programs for children, families, seniors, and the general public. Volunteer naturalists lead nature hikes and field trips focusing on geology, wildlife, plants, wildflowers and trees, and local ecosystems. Naturalists also present classroom and other indoor programs and slide presentations. Volunteers provided most of the department's natural history programs, conducting 90% of all programs, compared to paid staff who led 10% of programs.

Miscellaneous Volunteers (12 volunteers, 2,039 hours)

Nine volunteers were writers or illustrators for the department's quarterly journal, *Images*. Of the those volunteers, two independently created the kid's insert called "Nature Detectives" which featured ptarmigans, marmots, roly-polys, and turtles in 2016. Two volunteer osprey chat moderators assisted staff with managing comments posted on the osprey camera web page. They answered questions, generated discussion, posted screenshots, and provided facts about osprey. One volunteer made a 3-dimensional map model of Boulder County for display in the POS lobby. The model was made from glued layers of poster board cut out along contour lines from reduced scale USGS topographic maps.

One Day Projects



Volunteer work projects are one-time events (episodic) that engage residents in labor-intensive projects while teaching them about natural resource management on open space properties. The department sponsored a total of 131 one-day volunteer work projects at 30 different properties. There were 28 requested projects, 39 public projects and 64 work projects with groups that are part of the department's Partners Program. The 131 projects included 2,040 volunteers who contributed 7,511 hours of service. Volunteer project details by BCPOS work groups included:

Agriculture/Water Resources: Two gleaning projects were coordinated and led by resource management staff.

Buildings and Historic Preservation: One painting project was coordinated and led by resource management staff.

Fairgrounds: One fence building project. There were also three weed pulls at the Fairgrounds that were coordinated and led by resource management staff.

Forestry: sponsored 32 projects involved building and rehabilitating slash piles and some restoration work.

Grounds: Seven projects including mulching, building fences and caging trees.

Plant Ecology: 35 projects, primarily seed collections and seed cleaning projects, with a few shrub lopping projects.

Trails: 32 projects, all at Heil Valley Ranch, building new trail and restoring old trail.

Weeds: five projects that took place at the Boulder County Fairgrounds and Caribou Ranch.

Wildlife: 15 projects, including fence removal and tree caging.

Partnership Program

Prairie Partners are groups that have contributed “in-kind” items or a financial donation. Prairie Partners also help us to recruit volunteers for programs such as the wildlife monitoring. The following Prairie Partners helped the department enrich its programs in 2016: The Boulder County Audubon Society and the Boulder County Nature Association (recruitment for Volunteer Monitors), Calwood (Left Hand Outdoor Challenge sponsor), City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks (Left Hand Outdoor Challenge support), Environment for the Americas (cash donation), Humane Society of the U.S. (Prairie Dog relocation assistance), Longmont Astronomical Society (volunteers and telescopes), Longs Peak Middle School (Wildlife camera citizen science project), McGuckins (in-kind contribution for Fishing Derby) and Patagonia (in-kind contribution for Junior Ranger program) and Roarie Bummler’s Homeschool Group (Wildlife camera citizen science project).

Foothills Partners are groups who are committed to an annual project or have participated in one or more volunteer projects for three or more consecutive years. In 2016 these partners were: ABT Associates (formerly Stratus Consulting), Alexander Dawson School, Alpha Phi Omega, Behind the Red, Boulder Climbing Community, Boy Scouts of Boulder County, CU Boulder MBA Program, Defenders of Wildlife, EMC², Foothills United Way, Lefthand Outdoor Challenge, Mapleton School District, Olde Columbine High School, Oncore Manufacturing, Sandisk, Stratus Consulting, Tetrattech, Thornton Youth Volunteer Corps and the Wild Foundation. In 2016, we welcomed the following groups as new Foothills Partners: Community United Church of Christ, E Source, Emerson Micro Motion, Epsilon, Recurly and Rosemount DP Flow.



Alpine Partners are groups that agree to participate in at least two projects annually and volunteer to maintain and construct trails as well as perform maintenance projects on open space areas around the county and included: Backpacker Magazine, Boulder Area Trails Coalition, Boulder County Horse Association, Boulder Mountainbike Alliance, Boulder Trail Runners, Boulder Country Day School, Corden Pharma, CU – Program for Writing and Rhetoric, Geocachers, Google, Level III, NetApp, New Vista High School, Qualcomm, Rally Software, Redstone Cyclery, Singletrack Mountain Bike Adventures, Smartwool, Ultrarunners, vAuto Stockwave, Volunteers for Outdoors Colorado and Wildland Restoration Volunteers. In 2016 we welcomed Sam’s Club and Sovrn.