

Volunteer Contributions

The significant contributions volunteers make is recognized by Boulder County Parks and Open Space and reflected in one of the department's goals: *To provide public outreach, partnerships and volunteer opportunities to increase awareness and appreciation of Boulder County's open space.*

Each year, volunteer projects and programs attract many diverse people and create 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 Volunteer Work Projects. Turn the page to learn more about their 2018 contributions!

2018 Grand Totals
2,444 Volunteers
26,411 Hours

Ongoing Programs
874 Volunteers
21,219 Hours

One Day Projects
1,570 Volunteers
5,192 Hours

Partners Program
22 Prairie Partners
25 Forest Partners
28 Alpine Partners



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 ongoing skilled and semi-skilled duties and educational responsibilities. These ongoing programs included:

Adopt-a-Trail (275 volunteers contributed 3,300 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 2018, we had 62 segments adopted by 58 different groups, families or individuals.

Cultural History Program (107 volunteers contributed 3,335 hours)

Volunteers provide living history demonstrations, historic site tours, and outreach programs. 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 (47 volunteers contributed 3,384 hours)

Teens and adult mentors participated in a series of workshops and service learning projects from September to May. This year’s challenge theme focused on the resource management activities of Boulder County Parks and Open Space at Heil Valley Ranch. We recruited a record 38 participants this year. Challenges ranged from forestry and wild land fire to back country hiking and fence removal. In September the participants went on a backpacking trip at Heil Valley Ranch which proved to be a first time camping experience for several of the teens.

Long-term Programs



Natural Resource Monitoring Programs (139 volunteers contributed 3,046 hours)

Volunteers collect data to help the department monitor plants and wildlife over time. The goal of all monitoring programs is to use the collected data for open space planning and management. Some of these monitoring programs have been collecting data for decades, while others are new.

Program	Volunteers & Hours	Program	Volunteers & Hours
Abert's Squirrels	5 vols, 42 hrs	Native Garden Stewards	9 vols, 426 hrs
Bluebirds	7 vols, 289 hrs	Owl Surveys	5 vols, 42 hrs
Breeding Bird Surveys	1 vol, 20 hrs	Rangeland Health	2 vol, 48 hrs
Burrowing Owls	25 vols, 498 hrs	Raptor Nests	12 vols, 439 hrs
Butterflies	14 vols, 620 hrs	Seed Collection Scouts	4 vols, 64 hrs
Conservation Easements	12 vols, 111 hrs	Shrubs	5 vols, 42 hrs
Dark Sky	20 vols, 80 hrs	Slash Piles	1 vol, 78 hrs
Dragonfly Surveys	5 vols, 110 hrs	Soil Health	6 vols, 38 hrs
Limber Pine Dwarf Mistletoe	1 vol, 41 hrs	Wildlife Special Projects	5 vols, 58 hrs

Note: Details about these programs can be found in 2018 Agricultural Resources Division, Forest Management, Plant Ecology, Education & Outreach, Weed Management, and Wildlife Management annual reports.

Park Patroller Program (134 volunteers contributed 2,929 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 patrollers contacted open space visitors while traveling on BCPOS trails and staffing trailhead displays. They answered questions about a 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 annual Jr/Sr Fishing Derby.

Long-term Programs



Schools Stewardship Projects (54 volunteers contributed 1,220 hours)

Three middle school classes participate in three projects. With the help of a grant from National Geographic, Westview Middle School students helped construct PVC pipe fishing line collection tubes at Pella Crossing. Two middle school STEM clubs monitored wildlife cameras: Altona Middle School at the Golden-Fredstrom property and Longs Peak Middle School at the Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain Open Space. Altona students also assessed water quality of South St Vrain Creek as a partnership with River Watch of Colorado and POS.

Volunteer Naturalist Program (108 volunteers contributed 3,110 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 87 percent of the department's natural history programs in 2018.

Miscellaneous Volunteers (10 volunteers contributed 895 hours)

Seven of the 10 volunteers were writers or illustrators for the department's quarterly journal, *Images*. Of those volunteers, two independently created the kid's insert called "Nature Detectives" which featured pikas, bats, American white pelicans and water striders in 2018. 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. These two volunteers contributed approximately 280 hours. One unpaid intern contributed 80 hours when she assisted the department's public information and engagement team.

One Day Projects



The department sponsored a total of 129 one-day volunteer work projects at 29 properties. There were 26 requested projects, 35 public projects and 60 work projects with POS Partners. The projects included 1,570 volunteers who contributed 5,192 total hours of service.

Buildings & Historic Preservation: sponsored nine projects engaging 162 volunteers for 519 volunteer hours. Volunteers painted buildings at the Agricultural Heritage Center, and rebuilt fences at Heil Valley Ranch and Walker Ranch properties.

Fairgrounds: sponsored one planting project, engaging six volunteers for 18 hours.

Forestry: sponsored 12 projects engaging 56 volunteers for 174 hours. The forestry projects involved building slash piles, cutting lodgepole, and regenerating ponderosa pine trees at forest enhancement sites.

Grounds: sponsored 11 projects engaging 83 volunteers for 167 hours. Volunteers planted 250 perennials, 300 shrubs, and five trees. They also mulched five yards, removed T-posts and erosion barrier and wrapped 12 trees. They removed three truck beds full of trash and built post & dowel fence.

Plant Ecology: sponsored 53 projects engaging 538 volunteers for 1,739 hours. Volunteers collected and cleaned 257 pounds of seed, built 20 pollinator habitat boxes, salvaged 200 perennials, and planted 510 shrubs.

Trails: sponsored 30 projects engaging 757 volunteers for 2,581 hours. Volunteers built and maintained 3.5 miles of trail including the construction of the new Schoolhouse Loop. Volunteers also built grade reversals, rock turnpikes, worm fencing, and rock armoring of trail sections.

Weeds: sponsored five projects engaging 45 volunteers for 131 hours. The projects took place at Peck Native Seed Garden, Western Mobile, Anne U. White, and Sherwood Gulch.

Wildlife: sponsored five projects engaging 61 volunteers for 201 hours. They built prairie dog barrier and elk enclosure. Volunteers also cleared dead willows to encourage new growth, caged trees for protection from beavers, and removed cattail to enhance wetland habitat for leopard frogs.

Partnership Program

Prairie Partners: groups that have contributed “in-kind” items or a financial donation. Prairie Partners also help recruit volunteers. Wildlife camera citizen science project partners include: The Altona Middle School, Longs Peak Middle School, Roarie Bummler’s Homeschool Group, and Westview Middle School. The Boulder County Audubon Society and Boulder County Nature Association recruited volunteers. The following organizations supported the Lefthand Outdoor Challenge program: Balarat Education Center, Calwood, City of Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, and City of Westminster. These groups supported the Junior Ranger Program: Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Kids House of Joy, and Patagonia. The Humane Society of the U.S. and the Prairie Dog Coalition assisted with prairie dog relocation. The Interfaith Quilters demonstrated at special events. The Longmont Astronomical Society provided volunteers and telescopes. Colorado State University provided a stream tracker for a citizen science project. Saint Vrain Cidery, Longmont Kiwanis Club, and Goats Galore 4-H Club supported events at the Agricultural Heritage Center.

Foothills Partners: groups who are committed to an annual project or have participated in one or more volunteer projects for three or more consecutive years. In 2018 these partners were: Alexander Dawson School, Alpha Phi Omega, Boulder Climbing Community, Boulder Country Day School, Boy Scouts of Boulder County, Community United Church of Christ, CU Boulder MBA Program, E Source, Emerson Micro Motion, Epsilon, Foothills United Way, Hygiene Community Association, Mapleton School District, miRagen Therapeutics, Nederland Area Trails Organization, Olde Columbine High School, NEO Tech (formerly Oncore Manufacturing), Oracle, Recurly, Sphero, Tetrattech, Uber, Voltage Ad, and the WILD Foundation.



Alpine Partners: groups that agree to participate in at least two projects annually and volunteer to maintain and construct trails as well as to perform maintenance projects on open space areas around the county. In 2018, groups included: Boulder Area Trails Coalition, Boulder County Horse Association, Boulder High School – Mountain Bike Team, Boulder Mountainbike Alliance, Boulder Trail Runners, CA Technologies (formerly Rally Software), Century Link (formerly Level III), Corden Pharma, Crocs, CU – Program for Writing and Rhetoric, Defenders of Wildlife, Dell EMC², Elion Labs, Geocachers, Google, NetApp/Solidfire, New Vista High School, Popsockets, Qualcomm, Redstone Cyclery, Rosemount DP Flow, Singletrack Mountain Bike Adventures, Southern Sun, vAuto Stockwave, Volunteers for Outdoors Colorado, Wildland Restoration Volunteers, and Zeal Optics.