



**Parks &
Open Space**

2021 Partnership Program Summary

Despite the ongoing pandemic, interested businesses and organizations were able to participate in group volunteer stewardship projects, however, the Volunteer Work Project (VWP) Coordinators were without a Trails and Facilities Coordinator or any designated VWP staff from this division until mid-September. This made it difficult to accommodate all groups, current partners, and new organizations, who were interested in project participation. In addition, as a result of the pandemic, quite a few contacts at current partner organizations did not respond to the minimum outreach efforts of the Partnership Coordinator; outreach efforts were kept to a minimum due to the staffing shortages. Also, due to the pandemic, some contacts at partner businesses and organizations are no longer associated with these groups so new contacts need to be identified.

While there were the above-mentioned challenges in 2021, 12 current partners were able to participate in at least one stewardship project and four new partner organizations were recruited. Many projects were focused on the Heil Valley Ranch fire restoration work including planting salvaged material, seed collection, building fence, and trail restoration and construction. The Boulder Mountainbike Alliance organized and participated in over 20 projects on Heil Valley Ranch trails. Other partners who helped with the Heil Valley Ranch recovery work included: Boy Scouts of Boulder County, Community United Church of Christ, KBI Biopharma, Emerson Micro Motion, Boulder High School Mountain Bike Team, and the Boulder Area Trails Coalition who also donated funds toward the Heil Valley Ranch recovery projects. New partner, OptTek participated in a planting project at the Calwood Fire recovery site. Other new partners, the Watershed School, CU ENV Ecological Planting Design Class, and CE Broker and EverCheck participated in forestry projects at Reynolds Ranch, seed collection at Hall Ranch, and planting salvaged material at the Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat. Verily participated in two weed eradication projects, New Vista High School students planted trees at Walden Ponds, and the Boulder Climbing Community participated in multiple projects improving the Castle Rock climbing area. Research partners, the St. Vrain Valley School District Innovation Center and Longs Peak Middle School students conducted Red Belly Dace research and restoration and monitored wildlife cameras.

2021 was a successful year despite the various impediments. The program currently has 33 partners, one more than the goal of maintaining 32 partners; this includes the above-mentioned and other partners who wanted to participate but were not able to do so due to department staffing shortages, and those partners who have been in contact about their continued interest in the Partnership Program but who were not able to organize a volunteer group due pandemic constraints.

Donor partners, businesses or organizations that contribute cash, supplies, or help to recruit volunteers, included the Ocean First Institute and the St. Vrain Valley School District for their

support of the Redbelly Dace Recovery project, the Longmont Astronomical Society for their contribution of telescopes and volunteers, the Boulder County Audubon Society and the Boulder County Nature Association for recruitment of volunteer monitors, and the Mike O'Brien Fund which donated cash toward the Boulder Climbing Community project at Castle Rock and the Tolland Ranch Trail, and the cities of Louisville and Lafayette for their contribution to the Rock Creek Trail along 104thSt.

In addition, the Boulder County Parks & Open Space Foundation generously contributed to many important department projects including:

- 104th Street Connector Trail match funding
- CalWood Fire recovery fencing materials and pedestrian bridge
- "Fireman's Hat" on the Wencel Barn silo on the Braly Open Space
- Indigenous Ways & Land Commitment Team organization
- Lefthand Outdoor Challenge Trailer
- Lower Boulder Creek Restoration match funding
- Paleontological survey of Southeast County Grasslands
- Power stations at the Caribou Ranch Artist in Residence cabin
- Redbelly Dace Program support person for Ocean's First, and equipment, supplies, and lab analysis
- Replacement ash trees for Longmont High School creating a student learning opportunity
- Replacement osprey cameras at the Fairgrounds and three trailhead cameras
- Storage facility at Ludlow open space for BOCO Beans project
- Supplies and specialized service for restoration of fruit trees at Zapf Orchard