



Resource Protection

Boulder County

2019 Annual Report

Park Rangers

- Bevin Carithers
- Erin Hartnett
- Jason Vroman
- Jeff Hiebert
- Chris White
- Kevin Grady
- Denny Morris
- Graham Fowler
- Sarah Andrews
- John Queen
- Perry Bentley
- Juan Ocampo
- Jennifer Kramer
- Sabrina Chande
- Matt Rusco

Park Deputies

- Randy Wilber
- Cathy Bryarly
- Sue Cullen
- Phil Jarvis
- Katie Tkach

K9s & Horses

- Dax
- Scout
- Sam
- Trinity
- Rohan
- Starlight
- Duke
- Blaze

Resource Protection Purpose

As leaders in our field, Boulder County park rangers and deputies play an integral role protecting open space lands and ensuring the safety of park users. We engage and educate the public, and safeguard the human, natural, and cultural resources of Boulder County. Our work inspires an appreciation of conservation and environmental stewardship for future generations.



Patrol, Enforcement & Incident Data



Enforcement and Patrol Highlights:

- 136 citations were written at Heil Valley Ranch in 2019.
- 141 parking citations were issued by rangers and deputies along 4th of July Road.
- Heil Valley Ranch, Walker Ranch, and the Boulder County Fairgrounds were patrolled most frequently in 2019.



Figure 1. Warnings and citations written on the top 10 open space parks or properties.

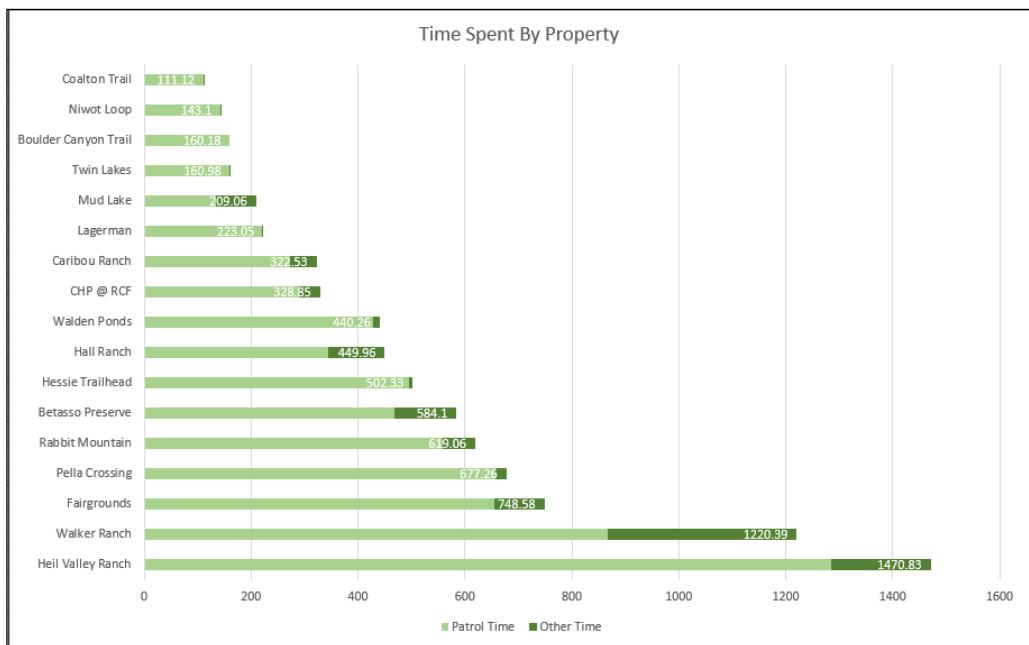


Figure 2. Patrol, project, and other time spent on parks and open space properties in 2019.

Patrol, Enforcement & Incident Data



Enforcement and Patrol Highlights:

- Rangers and deputies responded to 868 medical, criminal, and search and rescue incidents in 2019.
- In 2019, rangers and deputies write a total of 669 citations.
- Rangers and deputies issued 485 parking citations, 170 citations for after-hours use, and 134 citations for dogs off of leash.

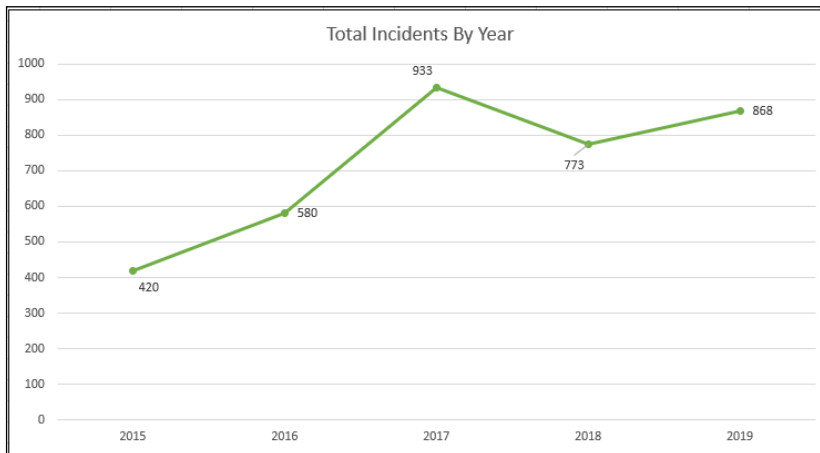


Figure 3. The total number of incidents responded to by rangers and deputies from 2015–2019.

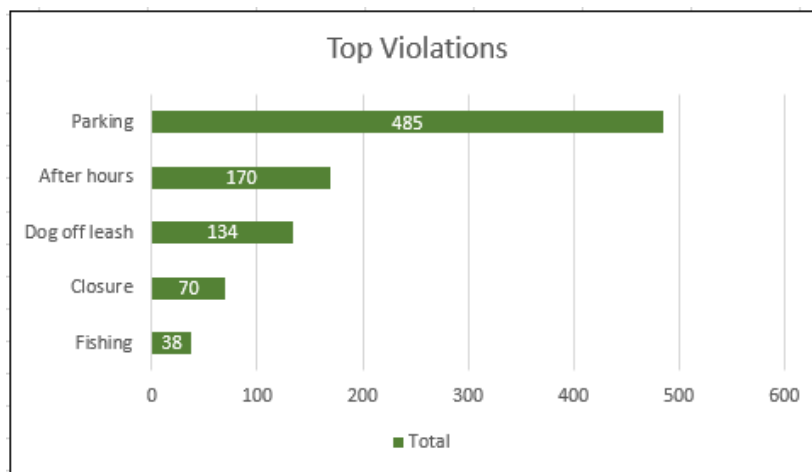


Figure 4. The top five violations cited by rangers and deputies in 2019.

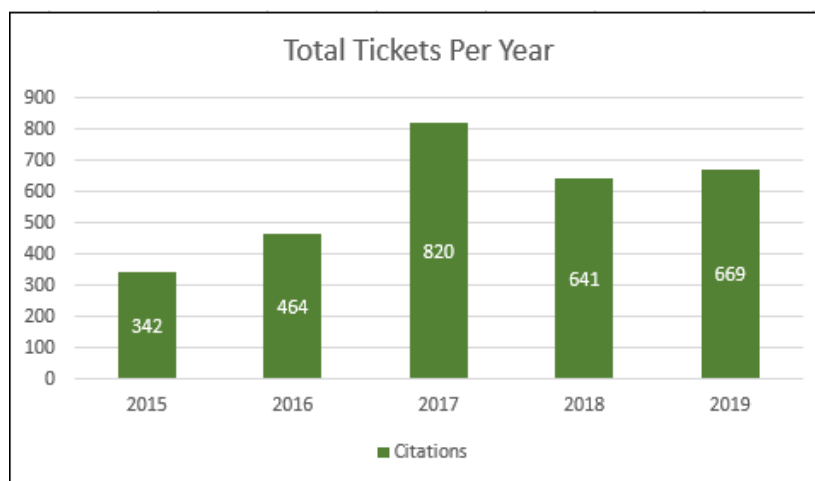


Figure 5. The total number of citations issued by rangers and deputies from 2015–2019.

Resource Protection in the Community

Rangers and deputies prioritize community engagement by leading programs such as Left Hand Outdoor Challenge and Junior Ranger Adventures, and participating in numerous community events including National Night Out, Boulder Rural Safety Day, Boulder County Fair, Wild Bear Trick or Trunk, Boulder County Farmer’s Market, Warren Tech High School Outdoor Leadership scenario day, the Boulder County Sheriff’s Office (BCSO) Citizen’s Academy, and World Ranger Day.

Left Hand Outdoor Challenge: Rangers and the teenage participants wrapped up the 2018–2019 season with challenges focused on winter survival skills, raptor rehabilitation, flood recovery, and building fence on the Grindstone Quarry Trail at Heil Valley Ranch. For the 2019–2020 season, rangers reimagined the program by implementing three guiding principles — recognition, reflection, and service — and designed leadership tokens for the participants to earn. So far, the 28 teens and five mentors in the program have participated in a campout, a ropes course, volunteering at a horse therapy center, and learning CPR and first aid.

Junior Ranger Adventures: Over the summer, approximately 130 kids participated in fun events like Junior Ranger Boot Camp: Survivor Edition, and Search and Rescue Dogs. We partnered with the University of Colorado (CU) Museum of Natural History for an end-of-summer ExTREEvaganza, which focused on the forests of Colorado.

San Lazaro Field Trips: Rangers partnered with the San Lazaro community to provide bilingual outdoor education programs. They led two field trips for Latino families to Heil Valley Ranch and Caribou Ranch. Both field trips had over 20 attendees that ranged in age from babies to grandparents. We conducted the majority of the programs in Spanish, which the adults in the group really appreciated.

National Night Out: Rangers joined the BCSO and local fire departments at events in Superior and San Lazaro. They spoke to hundreds of people about Boulder County Parks & Open Space (BCPOS), and engaged the crowds with a trivia game, corn hole, and s’mores.

Volunteer Ranger Corps: Rangers assisted with training 30 new volunteer rangers to patrol the parks and help with special assignments. Throughout the year, a total of 68 volunteers patrolled 1,274 hours, and dedicated 120 hours to helping the rangers with search and rescue dog training, Junior Ranger Adventures events, and training scenarios.

Horse Program: Rangers and deputies patrolled a combine 116 hours at various parks throughout the county. They also rode the new Grindstone Quarry Trail at Heil Valley Ranch and made safety recommendations prior to the grand opening. Ranger Sarah Andrews and partner horse Starlight were a hit at the Boulder Rural Safety Day.



Resource Protection in Action

The resource protection team responded to numerous high stress situations in 2019. These calls require the rangers and deputies to use our officer safety and critical incident training, and challenges us to make self care a priority in the days and weeks following so that we can come back to work ready for the next high-stress incident or contact. Each incident listed below was handled safely, professionally, and with public service in mind.

Canine Search and Rescues: Ranger Jeff Hiebert, Deputy Katie Tkach, and Deputy Cathy Bryarly responded to a combined 54 calls with their canine partners Dax, Trinity, Scout, and Sam. Notable incidents include locating a suicide victim near Gross Reservoir, assisting the FBI with a human remains search in Leadville, locating the remains of a person missing since 2018 off of Lee Hill Road, finding a missing teenager near Twin Lakes who was possibly in need of medical attention, and locating a drowning victim at Cherry Creek Reservoir. In addition, the entire team was featured in a book called “Extraordinary Dogs” that tells the story of working dogs and their officer partners.

Suicides: Back-to-back suicides involving firearms occurred in April, one at Meyers Gulch Trailhead, which was carried out in front of the responding ranger, and the other at Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain.

Lightning Strike Victims: Two hikers were struck by lightning on a trail near Walker Ranch, critically injuring one. Ranger Denny Morris was first on scene with an Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) ranger. They preformed CPR and used an AED to regain a pulse. The patient was evacuated via helicopter, but sadly died on the way to the hospital.

Boulder Canyon Deaths: Rangers responded to a drowning victim and two fatal climbing accidents in Boulder Canyon over the summer. One of the climbing deaths occurred at Boulder Falls with Ranger Sarah Andrews first on scene. Due to the technical terrain, she was unable to reach the victim, but quickly turned her attention to the victim’s friend, rendering medical care when she went into a seizure and suffered panic attacks and hyperventilation.

Fairgrounds Domestic Violence: A couple’s argument over campground dues turned violent, leading to assault, kidnapping, reckless endangerment, and false imprisonment charges. Deputy Katie Tkach was instrumental in locating the suspect after a search and providing advocacy for the victim.

Transient Camps: Rangers and deputies contacted numerous transient camps on properties throughout the county including Keyes, Ward Exchange, Legion Park, and Platt Rogers. These are high-risk contacts that require at least one ranger and one deputy, body armor, and a high level of situational awareness. Warrants for arrests, mental illness, weapons, drugs, and stolen items are commonly encountered at these transient camps.



Resource Protection Strategic Planning

BCPOS staff embarked on a strategic planning process in 2019. This process included the creation of work-group-specific desired future conditions, goals, and strategies. The desired future conditions and goals created by resource protection staff seek to ensure that our parks, trails, and open space areas are welcoming places for all members of our community, while ensuring that rules and regulations, trail courtesies, and safe recreational practices are modeled and adhered to.

Additionally, the strategic goals outlined by staff will help ensure that visitors are engaged in volunteer and outreach programs that inspire them to protect the department's natural and cultural resources. These goals will also help guide annual planning processes, partnerships, and collaborative practices, and the allocation of resource protection resources.

Desired Future Condition

Visitors adhere to park regulations, model safe and courteous outdoor behaviors, and actively participate in protecting open space resources.

Strategic Goals

1. Assemble a well-equipped team that is diverse, inclusive, and guided by the Resource Protection Purpose and Values.
2. Foster a positive outdoor ethic and encourage safe recreational experiences through trail-based patrol, regulation enforcement, and easily understood and accessible rules and regulations.
3. Inspire park users to protect and steward open spaces through engaging educational programs, meaningful volunteer experiences, and community outreach efforts.
4. Collaborate with partner agencies and community organizations to implement a robust resource protection, training, and safety program.





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