



BOULDER COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Invasive Plant 2022 Annual Report

Boulder County invasive plant mission is to minimize the occurrence of invasive plants and their associated negative impacts on native plant communities, agricultural lands, and public corridors. Utilizing an integrated management approach, we strive to prevent the introduction of new invasive plant species, eradicate isolated or limited populations, and contain species that are well established within the county.

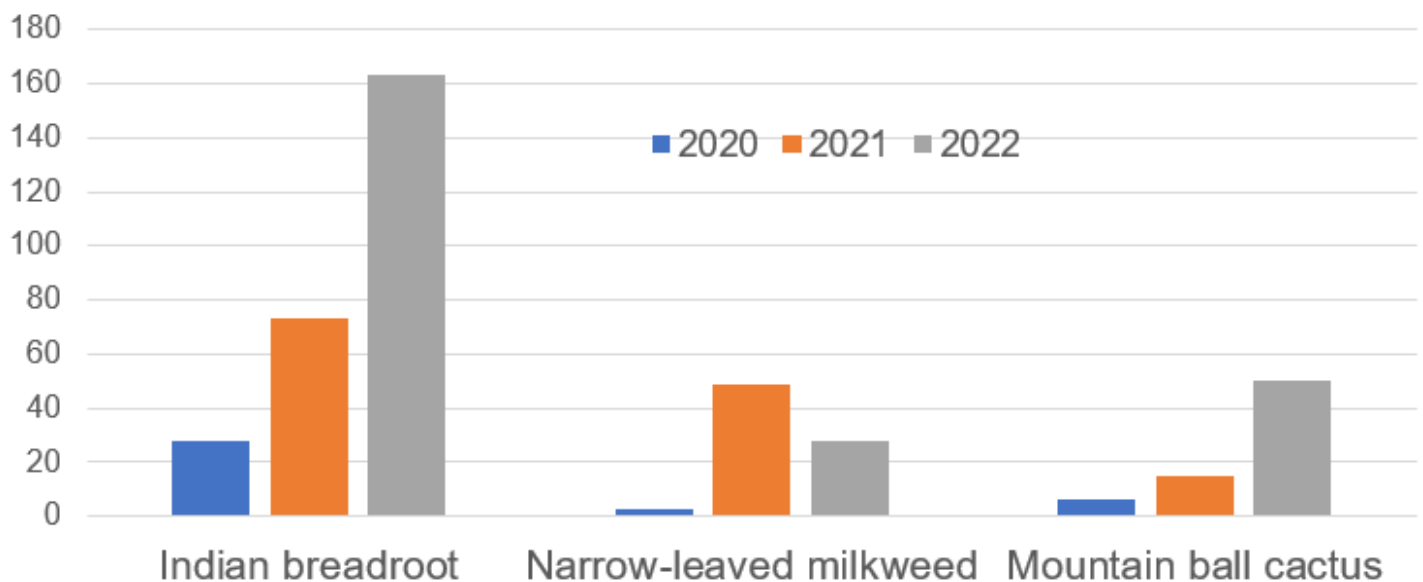
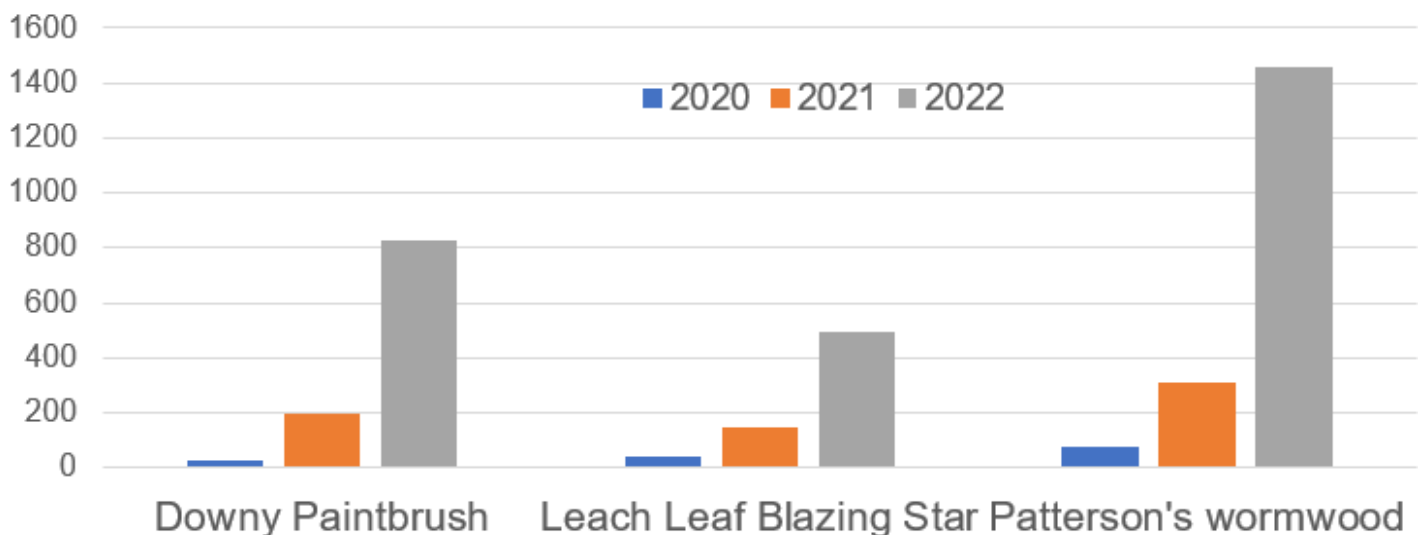


REJUVRA & RESTORATION

Active restoration of native ecosystems

2022 monitoring of cheatgrass control, as well as its long-term impacts to wildlife, pollinators, rare and short-lived native species, species diversity, soil microbes and moisture, and wildfire. Collaboration on these 2022 and long-term projects includes Colorado State University, University of Wyoming, City of Boulder, Larimer County, Jefferson County, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Several journal publications have been submitted in past years, and many more are in the works from these projects completed in 2022.

of Rare Plants Over Time (12 sites)



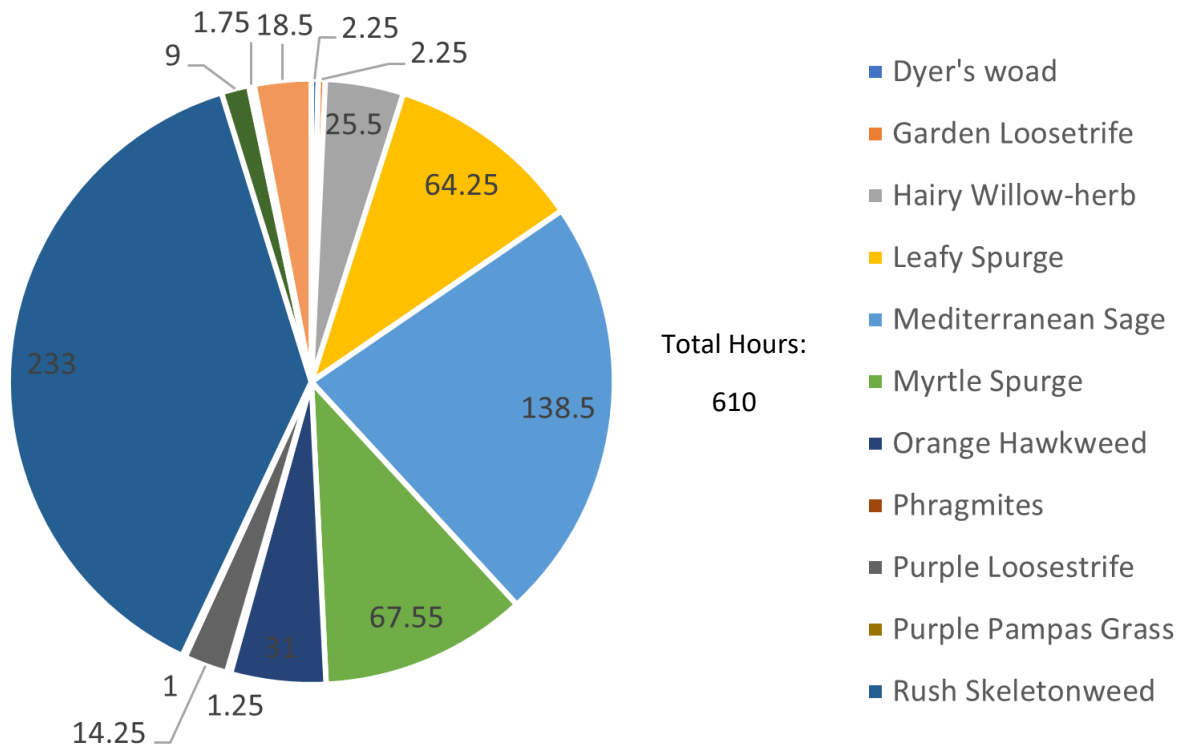


List A Work

Highlights

- Previous Orange Hawkweed infestations were found to be much larger than known
- Several new populations of Yellow Toadflax and Yellow Flag Iris were found
- Continued weekly effort for Rush Skeletonweed saw a decrease in density and numbers
- Late start to the season allowed for several populations of Mediterranean Sage to flower
- Leafy Spurge biocontrol was released in several locations to help with residential and U.S. Forest Service problem populations
- At Walden Ponds Garden, Loosestrife population was severely reduced, but Tamarisk numbers sharply increased
- Volunteers helped cover hundreds of acres and remove hundreds of plants

Hours Spent Treating Each List A Species



ROADSIDE & TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Keeping Right of Ways Clean Safe and Enjoyable

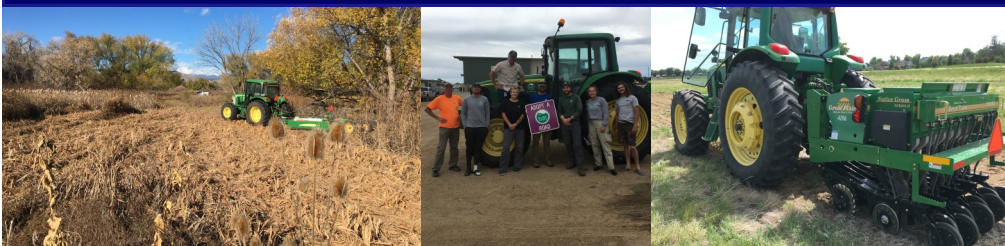


ROADSIDE VEGETATION HIGHLIGHTS

- Three rounds of mowing completed on all county-maintained right of ways (ROW), which required approximately 900 hours between two roadside mowing tractors
- Collaboration with many other Boulder County work groups, as well as outside agencies like Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and Cal-Wood Education Center
- Release of bio-control insects on roadside populations of Leafy Spurge and Russian Knapweed
- Re-seeding performed on areas affected by the Marshall fire as, well as seeding along CDOT Highway 119, as part of the “Pollinator Highway” project
- Excellent safety record with zero injuries or property damage claims for the 2022 season
- Roadside cheatgrass control performed along high wildfire potential areas of Four-Mile Canyon and CDOT Highway 36
- Total vegetation control on guardrails and medians throughout Boulder County for the safety of road maintenance crews and the public

Trails Treated (57.5 miles)

- Agricultural Heritage Center
- Braly
- Marlatt
- Lichen Loop
- Schoolhouse Loop
- Grindstone Quarry
- LoBo
- Skills Loop
- Open Sky Loop
- Betasso Link
- Niwot Local Connection
- Cradleboard
- Mary Miller
- Anne U. White
- Mayhoffer Singletree
- Meadowlark
- North Rim
- Meyers Homestead
- Ponderosa Pine Loop
- Josie Heath Trail
- Walker Ranch Loop
- Walden Ponds
- Picture Rock
- Wild Turkey
- Wapiti
- Overland



PROJECTS TO HIGHLIGHT



Grassland Improvement

Because of severe erosion caused by invasive plants and over utilization by prairie dogs, Monarch Park was selected for revegetation this spring. Approximately 18 acres were restored by reseeding some areas and enhancing current stands of native grass areas. The project utilized expertise of the Invasive Plants Group, Plant Ecology and the Ag Division's Prairie Dog Team, as well as assistance from CDOT by allowing control of noxious weeds on state ROW.



POST-FLOOD RECOVERY CONTINUED

At the Braley & Western Mobile sites the invasive plant crew treated 255 acres. This priority project included bare grounding all spill ways, treating dense patches of Teasel and Canada Thistle in riparian corridors, and the removal of 342 invasive trees.





Boulder County invasive plant desired future condition is a diverse habitat for native flora and fauna that is achieved through a strategic reduction in invasive plant populations to support open space values.

THANK YOU!

See you next year!

