



2022 Annual Report

Resource Protection

Park Rangers

Bevin Carithers

Erin Hartnett

Lucero Torres

Jeff Hiebert

Chris White

Kevin Grady

Denny Morris

Juan Ocampo

Sarah Andrews

John Queen

Sully Tun-Ake

Jose Barrientos

Bailey Eddy

Warren DeKoven

Jess Anderson

Mad Robinson

Emma Schorder

Park Deputies

Matt Sanderson

Tony Tagliatela

Kelly Boden

Josh Scudder

Phil Jarvis

K9 Staff

Dax

Scout

Trinity

Switch

Zee

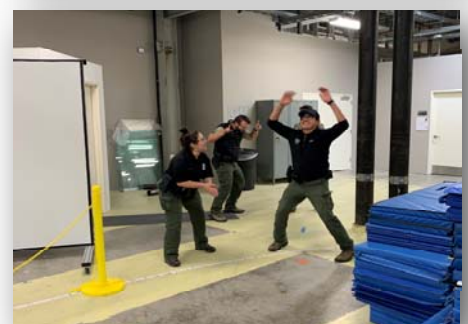
Equestrian Staff

Rohan

Starlight

2022 Program Highlights

- ★ Expanded commitment to cultural responsiveness, inclusion, and community engagement by hiring our first Spanish-speaking Community Engagement Park Ranger.
- ★ Continued our partnership with the San Lazaro Community, offering six ranger-led community experiences for families in Spanish and English.
- ★ Hesse trailhead shuttle operations provided outdoor experiences for more than 41,000 riders.
- ★ K9 search and rescue teams completed more than 30 missions, assisting agencies throughout Colorado. The first, fully equipped K9 ranger vehicle was put into service.
- ★ Rangers and deputies completed 6,816 hours of patrol in parks, open spaces, and on trail.
- ★ Rangers and deputies respond to 570 incidents and calls for service.
- ★ Rangers and deputies wrote 669 citations and written warnings.
- ★ Crowned our first pickleball team champions at the inaugural Resource Protection Invitational hosted by the Apex Recreation District in Arvada.





2022 Community Engagement Highlights

In November of 2019, the 9th World Ranger Congress hosted in Nepal unanimously passed the Chitwan Declaration, which “strongly encourages those who manage protected and conserved areas that employ Rangers to identify shortcomings, and thereafter introduce measures to improve outcomes,” relating to several thematic areas presented at the congress. In particular, the congressional delegates highlighted the role of park rangers in their local communities. The declaration states that, “Protected areas will be socially relevant once mutually supportive and trusting relationships between... local communities and rangers are built, safeguarding all parties, and increasing collaboration, dialogue, and transparency.”

Maintaining relevant, inclusive, trusting, and supportive community-based programming is at the core of the resource protection team’s values and strategic plan. Below are a few highlights of the community-based efforts that demonstrate our commitment to ensuring that our work has a noticeable and lasting impact throughout Boulder County.

- ★ **Left Hand Outdoor Challenge:** Led by our new Community Engagement Park Ranger, Sully Tun-Ake, 20 teens and four mentors cultivated their passion for the outdoors together in September: 2020 challenge experiences included an overnight camping trip and fire mitigation project at Bear Creek Lake Park; indoor rock climbing at Boulder Rock Club: collaborative project with Wildland Restoration Volunteers; and a career exploration day with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado. Continued partnerships with local outdoor professionals, conservation organizations, and partner agencies, help make this program possible.
- ★ **Community Engagement:** The resource protection team’s 2022 community engagement efforts included National Night Out World Ranger Day trailhead experiences, Summer of Pride, and ranger-led requested programs from local schools, conservation groups, and non-profit organizations like Warren Tech Outdoor Leadership, Cottonwood Institute-Casa de La Esperanza youth hike, Out Boulder County for Queer and Transgender People of Color fall hike.
- ★ **San Lazaro Community:** Our continued commitment to Boulder County’s Spanish-speaking community launched in June at San Lazaro with a community campfire, s’mores, and an exploration of a park ranger truck! Rangers also hosted a bilingual question-and-answer session for families to learn about upcoming monthly programs. Thirty-five community members attended the launch and helped create and schedule a number of ranger-led activities, including a sensory hike at Walden Ponds, search and rescue K9 demonstration at Betasso Preserve, sunset fire ecology hike at Heil Valley Ranch, fall family hike at Caribou Ranch, and holiday tree cutting at Reynolds Ranch.

Patrol and Enforcement Summery

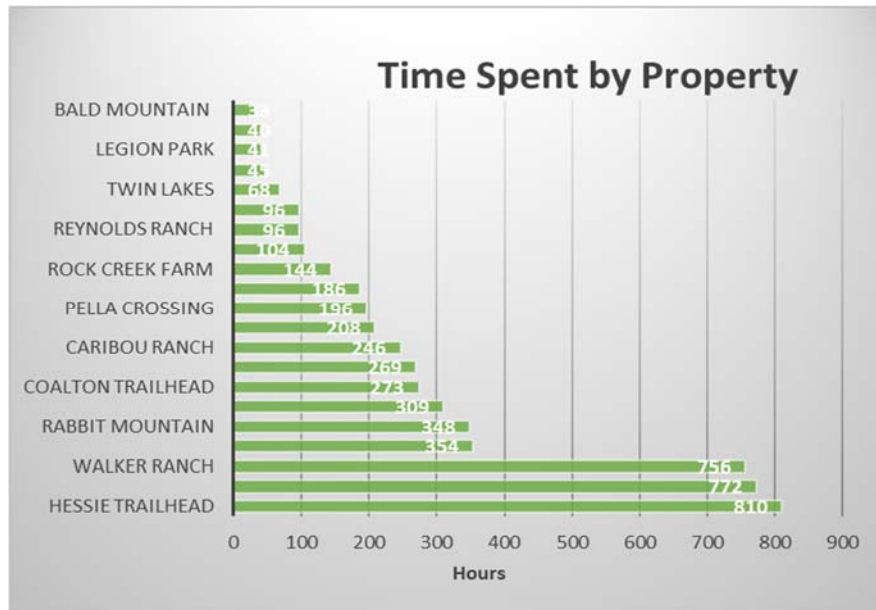


Figure 1. Patrol and other time reported by rangers and deputies at open space parks and properties.

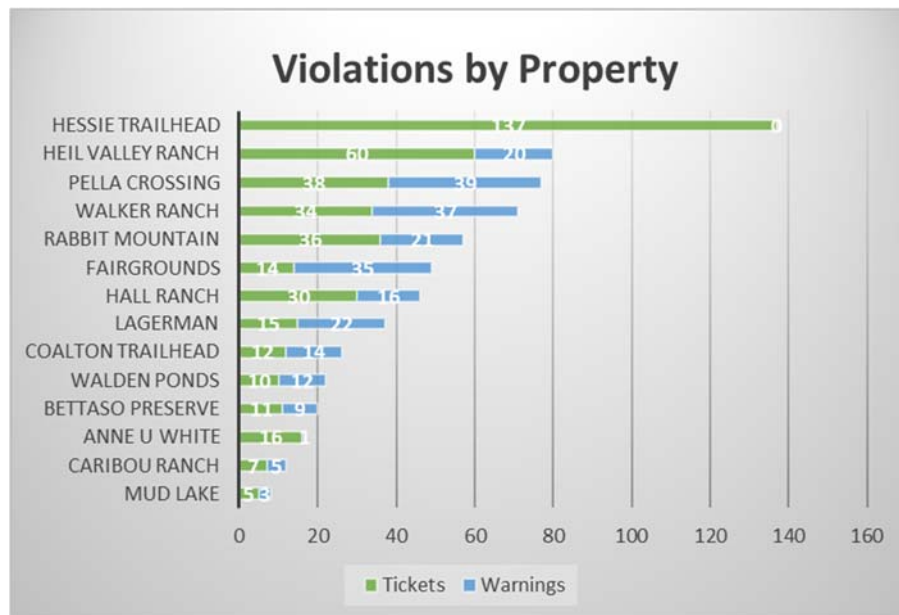


Figure 2. Citations and written warnings issued by rangers and deputies at open space parks and properties.

Patrol and Enforcement Summery

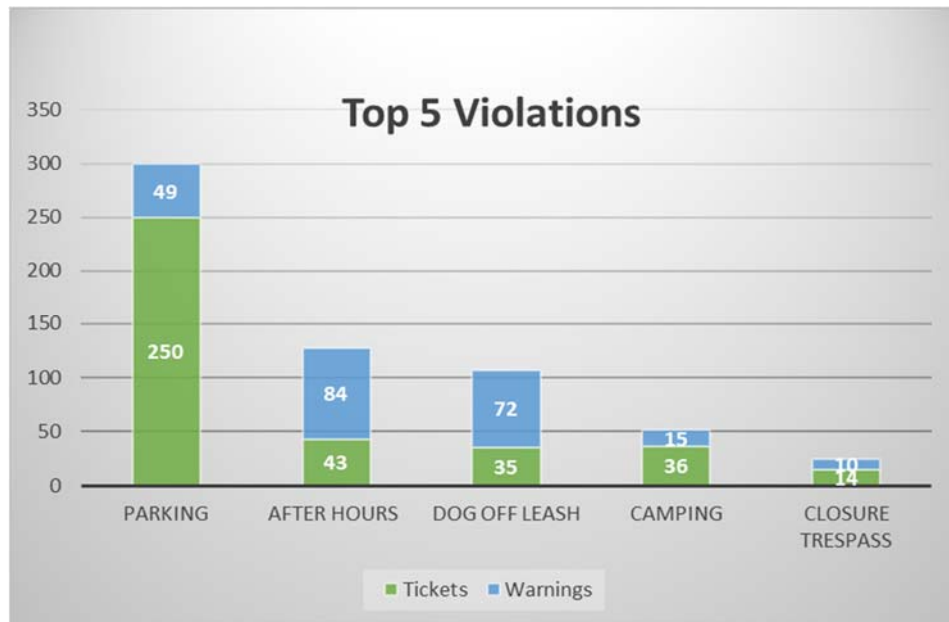


Figure 3. Top 5 violations reported by rangers and deputies on open space parks and properties in 2022.

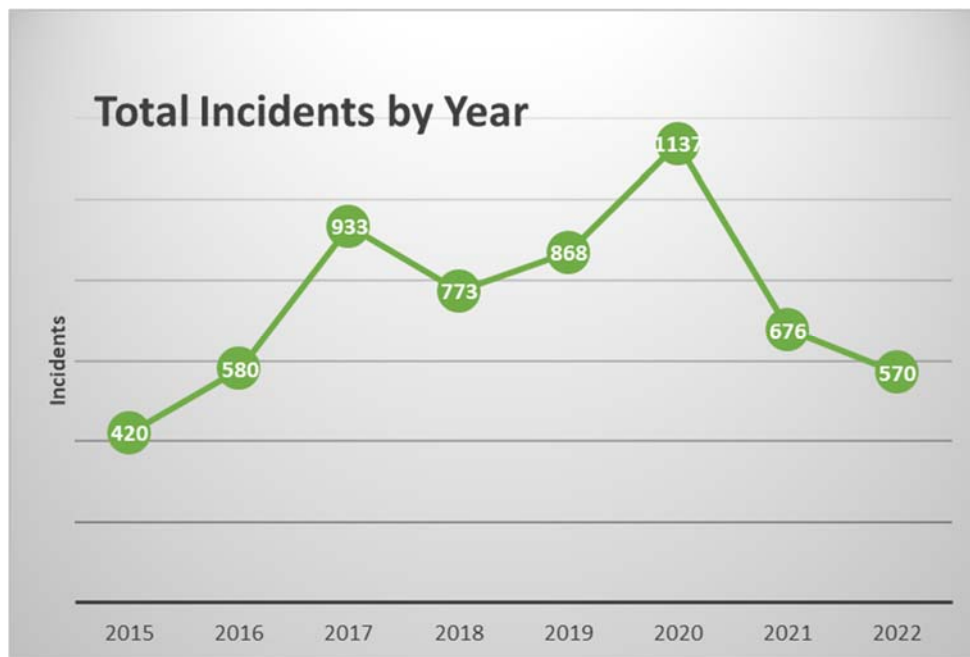


Figure 4. Total number of incidents requiring the response of at least one park ranger or park deputy from 2015—2022.

Hessie Shuttle Has Another Busy Summer!

Every year, the Hessie Trailhead shuttle sees thousands of visitors, and the summer of 2022 was no exception. The shuttle surpassed 37,000 boardings during its operational season from Memorial Day weekend to mid-October. Transportation to the trailhead relieves parking pressure and decreases the environmental and social impact of illegal parking along Fourth of July Rd. Daily ridership increased, with more than 850 visitors taking the free shuttle to Hessie Trailhead, where they go on to hike to Lost Lake or into the Indian Peaks Wilderness. One of the shuttle’s most loved attributes is both dogs and humans are allowed to ride! 2022 saw several dogs become “pup rangers,” working to keep our parks safe.

Surveys from shuttle riders during the 2022 summer season highlight important data for Boulder County and the Resource Protection Team. Below are key takeaways from the survey:

- ★ When asked, 94.36% of visitors said the primary purpose of their visit was day use/ hiking or trail running, with 76.69% of hikers reporting they were traveling to Lost Lake.
- ★ More than half of those surveyed were visiting the area for the first time, and 47.74% currently live in the Denver Metro Area.
- ★ 50.38% of those surveyed rated operating the shuttle seven days per week as a high priority for improvement.
- ★ 94.72% of those surveyed did not identify as being of Hispanic, Latinx, or Spanish origin.
- ★ The majority of visitors learned about the shuttle from apps (like AllTrails) or trail head staff and rangers.

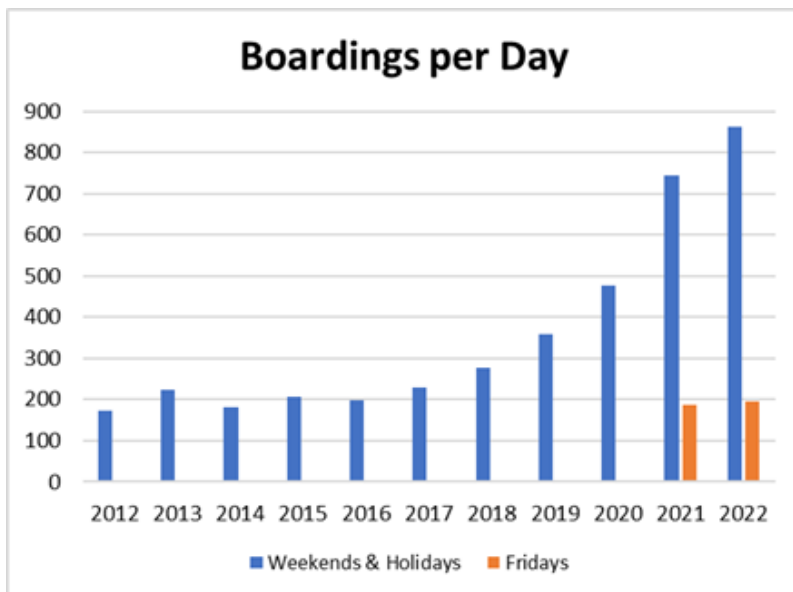


Figure 5. Hessie Shuttle boardings per day from 2012 to 2022.

2022 Highlights: K9 Search and Rescue Team

Park Ranger Jeff Hiebert and his canine partners, Dax, Switch, and Zee, led a successful year of searches, trainings, and outside agency assists as part of the, Resource Protection Service Dog program and the Search and Rescue Dog of the United States (SARDUS) volunteer group. Ranger Hiebert is the president of SARDUS, which is the largest search and rescue dog group in the state, and he is directly responsible for training and dispatching 30 dog teams. Ranger Hiebert and the volunteers were instrumental in a number of cases in 2022, providing canines to search for evidence, missing people, and human remains across the front range.

Team Accomplishments:

- ★ Rangers responded to 11 missions.
- ★ SARDUS teams went on 30 missions, including four requests to search for human remains, eleven missing people, five suicides, four murder investigations, one drowning, one evidence recovery request, and one investigation.
- ★ Agencies assisted included the Boulder County Sheriff's Office (BCSO), Boulder Police Department, Arvada Police Department, Aurora Police Department, Chaffee County Sheriff's Office, Cherry Creek Reservoir State Park, Eagle County Coroner's Office, Erie Police Department, Ft. Collins Police Department, Grand County Sheriff's Office, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Longmont Police Department (LPD), Louisville Police Department, Natrona Sheriff's Office, Nebraska State Police, Rifle Police Department, Rocky Mountain National Park, Trinidad Police Department, and Town of Basalt.

Mission Highlights:

- ★ During the aftermath of the Marshall Fire, Ranger Hiebert and the five other dog teams searched approximately 600 burned structures over three days and assisted in locating the human remains of the two fatalities that occurred in the fire. They received a Sheriff's Accommodation award from BCSO for their efforts.
- ★ SARDUS volunteer, Jose Negrón, and his canine Lola led a fun and informative presentation in Spanish about wilderness safety to San Lázaro families.
- ★ Ranger Hiebert assisted LPD in locating the remains of murder victim, Rita Gutierrez, allowing her family to have closure four years after she went missing.
- ★ Ranger Hiebert assisted BCSO search for evidence during a murder investigation on Flagstaff Rd.

Resource Protection 2022 Annual Report

For a copy of this report, contact:

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Member Since 2020

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.