



Parks &
Open Space

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT EDUCATION & OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT



EDUCATION & OUTREACH STAFF

- Eva Lark – Education & Outreach Supervisor
- Summer Alameel – Publicity and Outreach Specialist
- Monserrat Alvarez – Bilingual Community Engagement Specialist
- Angela Borland – Natural History Program Specialist
- Jim Drew – Volunteer Coordinator, Agricultural Heritage Center
- Amanda Hatfield – Volunteer Work Project Senior Coordinator
- Shery Kippen – Cultural History Program Coordinator
- Carlos Lerma – Natural History Program Coordinator
- Michelle Marotti – Education and Outreach Specialist
- Seasonal Staff: David Diaz, Tori Guesman, Tykee James, Donal Maloney, Ash Matthews, Pouria Montazeri, Sarah Quiroga, Andrea Van Sambeek, and Gabe Winfield



NATURAL HISTORY PROGRAM

- Ninety-nine volunteer naturalists contributed 6,395 hours planning, preparing, and presenting interpretive and educational programs in 2024.
- Volunteers led 94% of the natural history programming provided by Boulder County Parks & Open Space.
- The natural history (NH) program offered 182 programs in 2024, a nearly 20% increase from the previous year, including 103 public programs and 79 requested programs. Twenty-seven programs were canceled because of inclement weather and park closures in the early spring.
- The NH program worked with community partners and historically marginalized communities to provide a range of programming that included LGBTQ+-friendly and Spanish-language programs. Highlights include a night hike in August for LatinX families and Pride in the Parks programming for the LGBTQ+ community in June.
- In 2024, the Volunteer Naturalist program welcomed 20 new graduates. To become a volunteer naturalist, participants must complete a 10-week intensive training program that covers a variety of topics related to Parks & Open Space.



CULTURAL HISTORY PROGRAM

The cultural history program works with volunteers to share local history with visitors at five historic sites. Historic sites are open to the public through seasonal open hours, public programs, special events, and requested programs, like school field trips.

Volunteers & Programs

- 129 volunteers gave 2,821 hours.
- Total programs at all sites: 190 with 3,937 participants
- 61% of program participants visit on school field trips.

Visitation at Historic Sites

- Agricultural Heritage Center: 10,144
- Altona School: 312
- Assay Office Museum: 182
- Nederland Mining Museum: 5,926
- Walker Ranch Homestead: 693



Event Highlights

- 150th Anniversary of Nederland
- Barnyard Critter Day
- Corn Festival
- Nederland Mining Museum tours for 1st-5th graders

Notable Site Changes

- Assay Office Museum CAST Project enhancing interpretation and picnic, bicyclists' amenities
- Building adaptation to prevent White Nose Syndrome spread among bats

INFORMAL EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Volunteer Work Projects

- A total of 1,268 volunteers participated in one-day projects on open space properties, contributing 4,250 service hours in 2024.
- During these 178 projects, volunteers learned about a property's cultural and natural resources and how their work that day played into the overall management of the property.

Partnership Program

- Ninety-four volunteers from our 6 partner organizations contributed 376 hours of service.
- Our 2024 partners include: Cemex, Emerson Micro Motion, KBI Biopharma, New Vista High School, Qualcomm Inc., and Corden Pharma.

Park Visitation

- In 2024, we monitored 13 vehicle and 22 trail counters at 35 access points, with the assistance of other work group staff.
- All trail and vehicle counters are TRAFx counters that record time-stamped hourly data for visitation. These counters make it possible to monitor hourly, daily, weekly, and monthly visitation at properties to identify trends.
- A full report is available, and individual park visitation can be found on their park webpages.

Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance Volunteers

- Sixty-four patrollers performed 575 patrols on Boulder County Parks & Open Space properties for a total of 1014 hours.

INFORMAL EDUCATION & OUTREACH (CONTINUED)

Volunteer Ranger Corps

Seventy-nine volunteer rangers engaged with visitors on open space properties. Volunteers visit open spaces and provide park visitors with information about a park's history, plants, wildlife, recreational opportunities, facilities, and regulations. In 2024, they gave 2,614 hours of volunteer time and had contact with 19,567 visitors on our trails and open spaces.

Fishing Events

We held two Catfish Nights events at Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Stearns Lake with 43 anglers. These events allow fishing until 11 p.m. on the property. Seventy-four people attended the Junior and Senior Fishing Derby in October and the annual Senior Fish Off held in April. Both events are held at the Wally Toevs Pond at Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat.



Trailhead Displays

A total of 818 park visitors stopped by one of our 20 trailhead displays. The majority of displays were scheduled on weekends during peak-use hours. The themes included: dog safety and regulations, elk management, mountain bike trail share with bike bells, rattlesnake, pride, and the ranger in you. Trailhead displays were offered at Anne U. White, Coalton Trailhead, Hall Ranch, Heil Valley Ranch, Mud Lake, Pella Crossing, and Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Community Engagement

- Collaborative events: 31
(compared to nine events in 2023)
- Participants: 4,253
- Staff and volunteer support: 35
- Staff time invested: 750 hours

Community Partners

- Cal-Wood Education Center
- Casa de la Esperanza
- Cottonwood Institute
- Harvest of All First Nations
- Inspire Youth Connections
- Latino Outdoors
- Luna Cultura
- Nature Kids Programs
(Thorne Nature Experience)
- Rocky Mountain National Park
- San Lázaro Mobile
Home Community
- Sister Carmen

Communications

2023 Metrics

- Hikes & Events: 1,874
- Kids Hikes & Events: 1,476
- Volunteer newsletter: 3,073
- Images email subscribers: 1,788
- Images mailing list: 688

2024 Metrics

- Hikes & Events: 2,262 (+20.70%)
- Kids Hikes & Events: 1,643
(+11.31%)
- Volunteer newsletter: 3,298
(+7.32%)
- Images email subscribers: 1,871
(+4.64%)
- Images mailing list: 693 (+0.73%)
- Social Followers: 30,469
- Social Reach: 589,925