



# Education & Outreach

Boulder County | 2025 Annual Report

## Highlights

- For the 50th anniversary of Boulder County Parks & Open Space, we hosted numerous trailhead celebrations throughout the summer. We also provided giveaway items at community festivals, school programs, and our museums.
- We had a total of 1,734 volunteers provide 17,266 hours of service.
- Volunteer naturalists provided 155 programs that served 3,769 people.
- Visitation at our museums and historic sites tallied 14,843 people.
- The five-year study was conducted at 15 park properties, and a total of 2,594 surveys were administered.
- The community engagement team provided 43 programs to 3,250 participants.
- The Voices of Open Space Podcast was launched, and 15 episodes were published.







# Informal Education & Outreach

## Volunteer Ranger Corps & Boulder Mountain Bike Patrol

Fifty-nine volunteer rangers and 67 mountain bike patrollers engaged with visitors on open space properties. In 2025, volunteer rangers gave 2,236 hours of volunteer time and observed or had contact with 21,709 visitors on our trails. Boulder mountain bike patrollers gave 1,467 hours of volunteer time and observed or had contact with 18,107 visitors on our trails.

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## Trailhead Displays

A total of 2,001 park visitors stopped by one of our 27 trailhead displays. Most displays were scheduled on weekends during peak-use hours. The themes included: 50th anniversary, black bear, dog safety and regulations, moose, mountain lion, Pride, raptors, rattlesnakes, mountain bike trail share with bike bells, wildflowers, and World Ranger Day. Trailhead displays were offered at Anne U. White, Betasso Preserve, Caribou Ranch, Coalton Trailhead, Hall Ranch, Heil Valley Ranch, Hessie Trailhead, Lagerman Agricultural Preserve, Mud Lake, Pella Crossing, Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain, Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat, and Walker Ranch.

## Roving Interpretation

Five Education & Outreach staff (four seasonal and one permanent) visited parks and engaged with visitors along the trail. Similar to volunteer rangers, staff answered a wide range of visitor questions, addressed regulations when appropriate, and recorded observational information. In total, staff dedicated 189 hours across 73 visits, interacting with or observing 3,072 visitors.

## Fishing Events

Fifty-two 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.

## Interpretive Panels

Three interpretive panels at Cattail Pond were updated and translated into Spanish, improving the design, accessibility, and engagement for visitors.





# Volunteer Work Projects

## Volunteer Work Projects

1,211 volunteers participated in one-day projects on open space properties, contributing 4,870 service hours in 2025. During these 165 projects, volunteers learned about a property's cultural and natural resources and how their work that day played in the overall management of the property.

## Partnership Program

Six partners participated in the program this year. 94 volunteers from these organizations contributed 376 hours of service. Our 2025 partners include: Cemex, Emerson-Micro Motion, KBI Biopharma, New Vista High School, Qualcomm Inc., and Corden Pharma.



## Visitor Studies

### Five Year Visitor Study

Every five years, Boulder County Parks & Open Space conducts a system-wide demographics and satisfaction survey. These studies complement regular annual research and look at long-term trends in visitor demographics, preferences, attitudes, and behaviors. A total of 490 hours was spent across 245 survey sessions in the parks. Trained staff and volunteers collected 2,594 surveys (response rate 71%) at 15 park properties. A full report is available.

### Park Visitation

In 2025, 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.



# 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

- 127 volunteers gave 3,375 hours
- Total programs at all sites: 212 with 4,788 participants

## Visitation at Historic Sites

- Agricultural Heritage Center: 8,146
- Altona School: 225
- Assay Office Museum: 206
- Nederland Mining Museum: 5,455
- Walker Ranch Homestead: 811



## Highlights

### Events

- Barnyard Critter Day
- BCPOS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Picnic
- Grassroots Community Resilience Gathering
- Historic fence building demonstration with Buildings & Historic Preservation at Autumn Heritage Day
- Small Engine Days

### Notable Happenings

- Historic detonator (blaster) donated to Nederland Mining Museum
- 15 years of volunteer livestock care program at the Agricultural Heritage Center
- Haunted Hike at the Assay Office Museum
- Partnered with Left Hand Fire Station #1 for Altona School field trips
- Collaboration with Natural History for an Arapaho culture and language preservation volunteer training by Dr. Andy Cowell

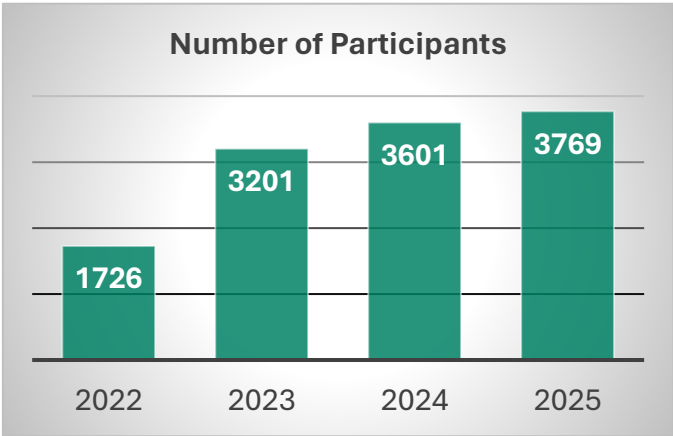


# Natural History Program

The natural history program connects our community to the natural resources of Boulder County through interpretive and educational programs designed for schools, families, and the general public.

**In 2025:**

- Volunteer Naturalists (VNs) offered 155 programs that served 3,769 participants.
- Our parks hosted 799 students for field trips.
- 218 children and their families completed a Nature Detectives Mystery Guide at one of our trailheads.



|      | # of Total Programs | # of Public Programs | # of School Field Trips | # of Canceled Programs |
|------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 2024 | 182                 | 103                  | 79                      | 27                     |
| 2025 | 155                 | 91                   | 64                      | 23                     |

## Volunteer Naturalists

The Volunteer Naturalist Program was created in 1975, when the Boulder County Parks & Open Space Department was founded. Today, we have more than 114 volunteers who present interpretive and educational programs. In 2025, a new cohort of 19 VNs completed their training and joined our ranks.

VNs lead 96% of the Natural History programs offered and contribute 4,930 hours of service, which are worth more than \$171,000. VNs are responsible for educating, facilitating connection with nature, and communicating the complexities of natural resource management with residents and visitors of Boulder County.





# Community Engagement

## Community Engagement Big Picture

Collaborative events: 43

(compared to 31 events in 2024)

Participants: 3,250

Staff time invested: 940 hours

\*participant numbers do not include LHOC and all of the San Lazaro programs



## Community Partners

Cal-Wood Education Center

Casa de la Esperanza

Centro Amistad

Harvest of All First Nations

Indigenous People's Community Church (IPCC)

Latino Outdoors

Longmont Youth Center

Luna Cultura

Natural Highs

Nature Kids Programs (Thorne Nature Experience)

Ponderosa Mobile Home Community

Rocky Mountain Equality

San Lazaro Mobile Home Community

Sister Carmen



## Art Programs

### What's new in 2025:

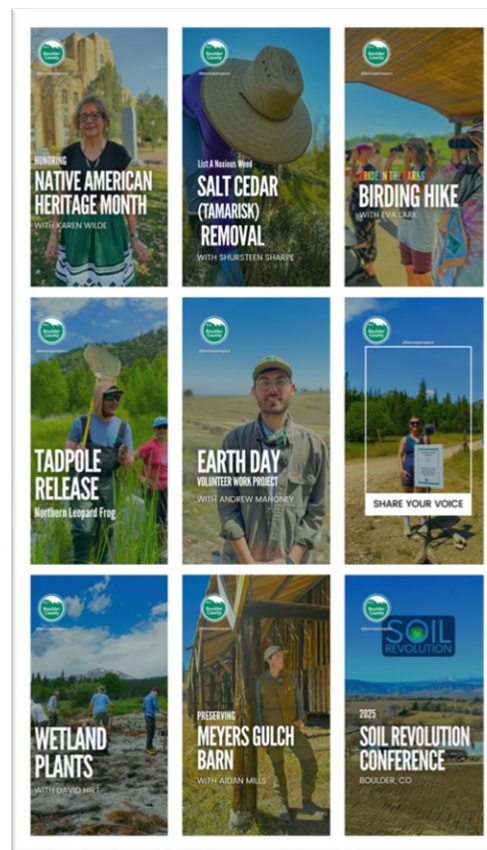
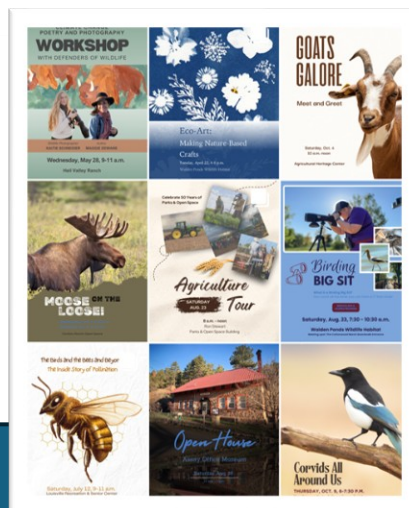
- We welcomed a new community engagement specialist, Jeresneyka Rose. She will serve as the art programs coordinator.
- Integrated four art programs with Luna Cultura into our general community engagement programs.
- The DeLonde Barn, home of the AIR program, underwent facility updates including an accessible bed.
- Created an Artist-in-Residence Handbook.

### What's coming in 2026:

- Building out the DeLonde Barn classroom to host community workshops
- Updates to the Artist-in-Residence program structure







## 2025 Multimedia (video, audio, and social media content)

- 63 reels
- 15 published podcast episodes
- 207 social media posts
- 307 social media stories
- 7 internal training/orientation videos
- COSA video on San Lazero video
- Foundation video
- Soil Revolution video
- DeLonde Creek Beaver Habitat Restoration video
- West Rabbit video for the community
- Digital manual (solar + on-demand hot water) video
- 5 volunteer naturalist final presentation videos
- Volunteer rangers 2025 video

## Newsletters and Print

- Hikes & Events newsletter subscribers: 2,349 (+3.77%)
- Kids Hikes & Events newsletter subscribers: 1,561 (-5.11%)
- Volunteer newsletter subscribers: 3,254 (-1.34%)
- Images email subscribers: 1,768 (-5.66%)
- Images mailing list: 702 (+1.29%)

## Social Media Overview

### Instagram

- Content overview: 4.1M (4,054,691)
- Reach: 2.7M (2,679,355) (+13.5K%)
- Content interactions; 626.3K (+100%)
- Post Interactions: 516.8K
- Stories: 52.4K views, 4.8K reach
- Visits: 24.7K (+592.3 )
- Follows: 11.2K

### Facebook

- All content overview: 3.5M (3,515,930)
- Posts: 3.5M views, 95.1K interactions
- Stories: 1.4K interactions
- Reels: 2.0M views, 247d 10h watch time, 84K interactions
- Visits: 27.6K (+6.4% )
- Follows: 2K (+68.7% )

### YouTube

- 141K views
- 40.9K hours watch time
- +196 subscribers