



# Recreation and Facilities

Boulder County | 2025 Annual Report

## Highlights

- Completed major infrastructure improvements at Lagerman Reservoir including expansion of the main trail head, addition of ADA accessible parking spaces, installation of ADA compliant walkways, and improvements to supporting site infrastructure.
- Enhanced usability, safety and long-term resilience of trailheads and access roads through seasonal grading and surface maintenance, improving visitor access throughout the system.
- Walker Ranch and Four Mile Canyon step repairs.
- Trail resurfacing projects at Monarch Park, Overland Trail, Ruth Roberts trailhead, Twin Lakes Park, and Red Fox Hills.
- Continued Priority Historic Preservation
- Transition of 27 pieces of gas-powered equipment to electric alternatives.



## STAFF

Will Towle

### **Buildings and Historic Preservation**

Emily Ruff

Mike Bunn

Mike Lohr

Aidan Mills

Lauren Mickley

### **Trails**

Andy Tyler

Tristan Stone

Chris Trujillo

Khris Mitchell

Bryce Ramsey

Max Phinney

Chris Ullom

### **Trailhead Operations**

Jeff Cox

Darrin Cole

Chase Stewart

Kasey Kennedy

Brianne Schmalst

Caleb Dixon

Zack Markewitz

Mary Tiernan

### **Signs**

Mary Rolf

Bruno Pachuca-  
Osorinio

### **Fleet and Safety**

Paul Hemmick

Sara Milligan

### **Volunteer Coordination**

Joanna Daloisio

George Carter

# Overview

In 2025, the Recreation and Facilities team within Boulder County Parks & Open Space continued to strengthen the county's parks, trail systems, public amenities and cultural assets with steady progress, thoughtful stewardship, and a renewed focus on safety in both field operations and visitor experience.

The county's Open Space saw a wide range of projects in 2025. Crews repaired and resurfaced sections of trail damaged by years of recreational use, upgraded aging infrastructure, and refined drainage systems to help paths stay durable through environmental change. New reroutes, surface improvements, and access refinements helped ensure that visitors of all ages and abilities could move more confidently through natural spaces.

Field staff also partnered closely with volunteers who contributed thousands of hours to trail restoration and improvement. Their work supported healthier ecosystems, clearer corridors, and sustainable recreation opportunities countywide.

Historic facilities received attentive preservation work, blending modern construction practices with the character of materials sourced and milled responsibly from county lands. Teams made strategic upgrades to buildings, trailheads, and gathering areas—enhancing function while honoring the history embedded in these structures and landscapes.

Updates to accessibility features also focused on reducing trip hazards, improving stability underfoot, and creating clearer lines of sight.

Across every project, collaboration was the constant thread: staff, volunteers, partners, and community members working together to protect the county's natural landscapes while making them accessible, resilient, and welcoming for everyone. As 2025 closes, the division moves forward with a stronger foundation, a clearer safety culture, and an ongoing commitment to caring for the places that connect people to the outdoors.

-Will Towle, Recreation and Facilities Division Manager



# Trailhead Maintenance

In 2025, the Trailhead Maintenance (THM) team continued to work diligently to keep pace with the ever-growing restroom maintenance needs. The team remained committed to sanitation and repair efforts at trailheads, including restroom cleaning, trash and recycling removal, and restocking essential supplies. They addressed graffiti and vandalism as it occurred and worked to bring trailhead facilities into ADA compliance. THM consistently upheld a high standard of care while also responding to unexpected, immediate maintenance needs as they arose.

Much of the summer of 2025 was dedicated to upgrading trailhead infrastructure, including the replacement of outdated trash and recycling receptacles with more durable, wildlife-resistant BearSaver units. These upgrades were completed at several key locations, including Niwot Loop Trailhead, Legion Park Trailhead, Ethel Harrold at Walker Ranch, and Lagerman Trailhead at the corner of 75th Street and Pike Road.



**Bear Saver install at Niwot Loop Trailhead**



**Lagerman Trailhead bathroom – before and after**

At Lagerman Trailhead, the restroom building was refreshed with a new coat of stain, and the doors were repainted. Additionally, the information kiosk and picnic shelter also received a new coat of paint, helping restore the facility just in time for reopening following parking lot improvements.

# Parks Infrastructure

Parks Infrastructure and Parks Enhancements staff completed extensive maintenance efforts across key county properties to enhance trail access, safety, and infrastructure durability.

## Infrastructure & Repairs

- Maintenance activities included:
  - Cold patching and pothole repair
  - Fence and gate repairs
  - Culvert and swale cleaning
  - Seasonal snow marker installation and removal

## Trailhead & Access Improvements

- Completed major improvements at Lagerman Reservoir, including trailhead expansion, ADA parking and walkways, and installation of new infrastructure.
- Improved usability and long-term resilience of trailheads and access roads with seasonal grading.
- Mowed over 100 miles of regional, mountain, and prairie trails.



Ecorastor installation for the Lagerman parking lot expansion

# Parks Enhancements

## General Maintenance

- Conducted routine maintenance at all trailheads to support safety and appearance.
- Removed graffiti countywide as needed from benches, bollards, and bridges.

## Grounds & Irrigation Maintenance

- Ongoing light maintenance included turf management, irrigation upkeep, and general trailhead care.
- Aerated and fertilized turf areas and cleared around sprinkler heads in preparation for seasonal activation.
- Irrigation systems were:
  - Charged in the spring
  - Maintained throughout the growing season
  - Winterized at key sites, including:

- Agricultural Heritage Center
- Kerr Gardens
- Goodhue House
- Homestead
- Left Hand Valley Grange

Staff partnered with Youth Corps at Monarch/Dry Creek Trail to install a new post-and-dowel perimeter fence. Additional improvements at Betasso included timber work across all three parking lots and installation of post-and-dowel fencing.



Youth Corps Monarch / Dry Creek fence project

Additional trailhead improvement projects were also completed throughout the season. The first seven restrooms in the system received new flooring installed by Jay Dee Flooring, significantly improving the appearance of our trailhead restrooms. The remaining restroom floors will be completed in 2026.



Pit toilet floor refinishing – before and after

In addition to maintaining trailhead restrooms, the THM team also worked hard to improve visitor areas, this included spreading out 50 cubic yards of new woodchips at the Lefthand Valley Grange playground in Niwot, making the space both safer and more visually appealing.



Spreading mulch at Lefthand Valley Grange playground

Collaboration remained a key focus, as the THM team partnered with others within the Trailhead Operations Work Group to install a much-requested bike rack at the main trailhead at Pella.



Installing a new bike rack at Pella trailhead

# Trails

Throughout 2025, the Trails Team completed a wide range of improvements across the system through both contacted and internal projects. These efforts focused on resurfacing, structural repairs, and strategic upgrades designed to improve trail safety, durability, and overall user experience. Contracted work included major improvements at Monarch Park, Twin Lakes West, Betasso Link, Ruth Roberts, Overbrook, and Red Fox Hills while Internal Projects focused on Walker Ranch, 4 Mile Canyon Connection Trail and the Nelson Loop at Hall Ranch.

These combined efforts strengthened trail infrastructure, reduced long-term maintenance demands, and ensured more reliable and enjoyable access for visitors throughout the trail system.



Overbrook Resurfacing Before



Overbrook Resurfacing After



Teamwork at Betasso Link

# Trails Contracted Projects

- **Monarch Park-** Resurfaced 1 mile of trail with crusher fines and installed a total of 300' of new concrete to address ongoing erosion issues. (\$308,000)
- **Twin Lakes East-** Resurfaced with road base covering 3,300' (\$122,000)



Monarch Resurfacing



Monarch Concrete Bridge Approach



Twin Lakes Resurfacing



## In-House Resurfacing Projects

- Overbrook- 1000' recycled asphalt
- Ruth Roberts- 1700' recycled asphalt
- Twin Lakes West- 3400' road base
- Red Fox Hills- 1200' crusher fines

# Trails Internal Projects

## Walker Ranch

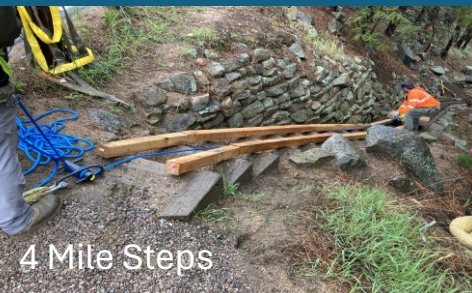
- Trail repairs on 5,000 ft. of trail surface at Crescent Meadows which includes 50+ new drains installed.
- Youth Corps Maintenance on ~2 miles of trail.
- Potential future reroutes found at Ethel Harrold and Crescent Meadows to eliminate steep, eroded, and dangerous sections of trail.
- Replaced 45 stone steps at the bottom of Ethel Harrold. (“The Wall”)



Nelson Loop Bridge Before



Nelson Loop Bridge After



4 Mile Steps



Nelson Loop Bridge



Bettaso Link Retaining Walls

## 4 Mile Connector Trail

- Replaced rotting timber steps with 38 stone steps.

## Nelson Loop at Hall Ranch

- Replaced dilapidated bridge.

## Bettaso Link

- Rebuilt 3 wood retaining walls with stone (10.5 tons installed)

## Emergent Tree Cutting

- Responded to 100+ down trees after severe windstorms.

# Trails Internal Projects

## Walker Ranch

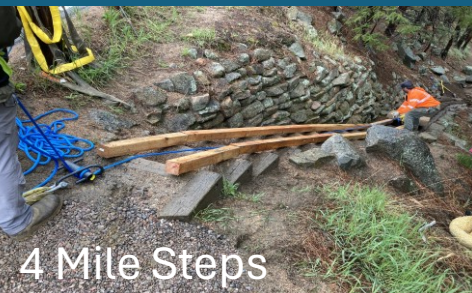
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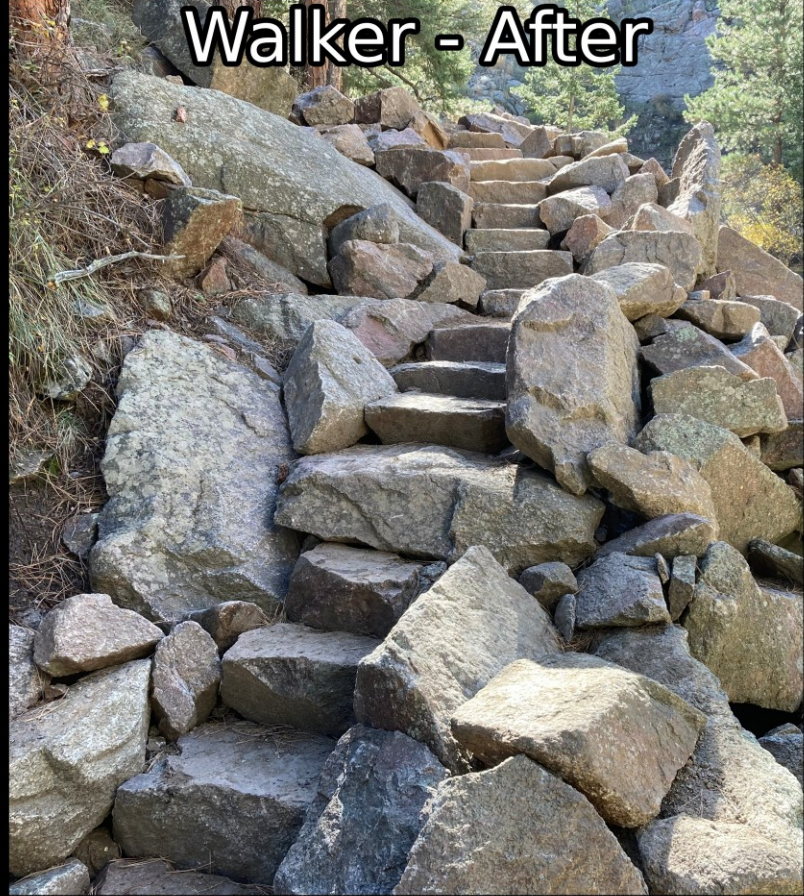
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Walker - Before



Walker - After



Walker Timber Steps



4 Mile Steps Complete

# Buildings and Historic Preservation

In 2025, the Buildings and Historic Preservation team continued to advance its proactive maintenance strategy, focusing on the historic structures that provide the greatest operational, cultural and public value. The team completed a range of supporting projects that strengthened organizational operations and community engagement. 2025 reflects another year of steady progress and improved asset condition—further solidifying the department’s shift toward long-term, proactive stewardship of historic resources.



New Stairs @ AHC

## Priority Historic Preservation 2025

- Rock Creek Maintenance
- Caribou Ranch Maintenance including Delande House reroof
- Meyers Gulch Barn Maintenance
- Agricultural Heritage Center Maintenance
- Walker Ranch Fencing/Gate Maintenance (in partnership with BCYC)
- Ramey Property Maintenance
- Walker House Painting
- Rock Creek Farm Maintenance
- Barret Maintenance
- Reynolds Maintenance
- Bald Mountain Corral Maintenance
- Geer Cabin Maintenance



Reynolds Ranch Cabin



Caribou Chicken House

# POS Mobile Saw Mill

The Parks and Open Space Mobile Sawmill has become an essential tool for supporting the department's historic preservation work. Purchased in 2022 for \$17,000, the mill allows staff to process lumber from forested trees within the system, turning material that would otherwise be unusable into a valuable resource.

Rough-sawn lumber is a critical component for maintaining and restoring historic structures, yet it is increasingly difficult to source and costly to purchase. By milling this lumber in-house, the department has saved more than \$10,000 each year while ensuring a steady and reliable supply of the specialty material needed for preservation projects.

In addition to the financial benefits, the sawmill contributes to the department's sustainability goals by reducing the need for transported lumber and by making full use of local timber removed for forest health or safety.

The mobile sawmill has established itself as a dependable, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible component of the department's preservation operations.



Mobile Sawmill in Action





Meyers Gulch Barn Restoration



Geer Cabin Maintenance at Heil Valley Ranch

# Fleet and Safety

In 2025, the Fleet, Shop, and Safety program continued advancing operational efficiency while strengthening safety systems that support staff across all Parks and Open Space workgroups. From trails and grounds to facilities, forestry, and sign operations, the program ensures employees have the tools, training, and systems to work safely across diverse environments.

As part of our commitment to reduce emissions and improve operational efficiency, we transitioned 27 pieces of gas-powered equipment to electric alternatives, including:

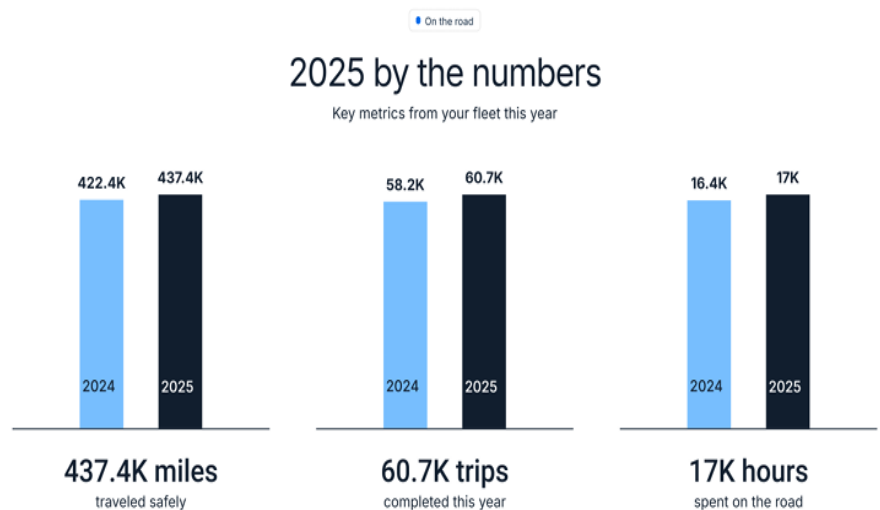
- Blowers – seven upgraded
- Brush cutter – one upgraded
- Rotary Hammer – one upgraded
- Trimmers/Weed Whips – eight upgraded
- Chainsaws – ten upgraded

These conversions help lower our carbon footprint, decrease noise pollution, and support our broader sustainability goals.

The program also saw key staffing developments this year. Sara Milligan was promoted to Fleet and Safety Specialist, expanding her role in fleet operations, safety coordination, and program implementation. She also completed trainer certification to support departmental equipment training. Additionally, Paul Hemmick joined the team as Fleet and Safety Coordinator, helping advance department-wide safety initiatives, fleet management, and risk management programs.

Together, these roles strengthen coordination across workgroups and support ongoing improvements to training, safety systems, and operational performance.

In addition, with telematics insights built over the past few years, we are driving more safely and operating with greater fuel efficiency across the department.



# New Equipment

This year, we strengthened our operational capacity by adding key equipment to support greater efficiency, safety, and reliability across our work. New assets include:

- CF Moto OHV
- Can-Am Defender
- COJack Machine
- JD 6130 Tractor
- Cat Diesel Generator
- JD 4075 Tractor
- JD XUV590 Gator
- Loader (two units)

In parallel, we continued right-sizing our fleet by retiring two ATVs, three Windstar minivans and one F350, reducing redundancies and improving overall resource efficiency. Together, these updates help streamline operations, lower environmental impact, and support a more sustainable equipment portfolio.

The department also strengthened its safety program by adding a towable mobile fall protection system, the X1250 Mobile Grabber, which gives staff reliable overhead anchor points for working aloft. Its adjustable mast and compact design make it easy to set up where lifts or permanent tie-offs simply aren't practical, helping keep teams safe and providing peace of mind during specialized elevated work such as trailhead roof structure maintenance and historic building preservation.

To further support our sustainability goals, we installed new Level 2 electric-vehicle chargers and upgraded existing units to faster, more reliable Level 2

