

Volunteer Services Annual Report 2012

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

The success of a society lies in the willingness of its citizens to give of themselves, to perform or give a service of their own free will. ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson



Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) connects with community! There are many opportunities for people to be on and give back to the land in meaningful ways. OSMP offers a number of stewardship projects and program-related volunteer opportunities. **In 2012, over 1,040 volunteers contributed approximately 26,000 hours!** OSMP volunteers greet visitors on trails, monitor wildlife, lead interpretive hikes, restore natural habitats, pull noxious weeds, build trails, monitor rare plants, and so much more! They provide inspiration to staff and community members alike.

Stewardship Project Volunteers participate in one-day or multi-day, on-the-ground projects. They help various OSMP work groups with restoration, trail building, trail cleanups, ditch maintenance, integrated pest management and more. In 2012, Stewardship Volunteers contributed 16,542 hours!

2012 Stewardship Project Highlights:

- Two AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) teams worked with OSMP for forty hours a week during a four month period. Teams removed acres of the invasive Mediterranean sage, tons of invasive shrubs and acres of myrtle spurge. NCCC removed and maintained thousands of feet of cattle fence for agriculture; assisted with trail construction on the Green Bear and Homestead reroutes; maintained twelve miles of irrigation ditches; and assisted the forestry crew by reducing acres of forest fuels. **5,080 Hours**
- OSMP had the Boulder County Jail Crew almost twice as often as in previous years. They are a strong work force and helped with a variety of projects across the OSMP system. **6,048 Hours**
- Forty-five community service individuals and groups assisted trailhead staff on a multitude of projects throughout the system. **1,078 Hours**
- Five Eagle Scout groups completed projects on OSMP properties; most projects included trail work to make trails more accessible. **871 Hours**
- Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) planted hundreds of shrubs and trees, and removed Russian olive trees along Boulder Creek on the Colorado Open Lands and Weiser properties; they assisted staff in the annual Mediterranean sage removal project on East Beech; they also assisted with a trail closure at the Homestead Trail. **637 Hours**

- Flatirons Climbing Council (FCC) members assisted with the restoration of the bouldering area at Crown Rock and Contact Corner, totaling three days of service. **539 Hours**
- National Trails Day took place at the Homestead Trail where community members and NCCC volunteers worked side by side, building hundreds of feet of trail for the new reroute. **282 Hours**
- The annual Trash Bash with the FCC cleaned hundreds of pounds of trash from the Flagstaff Summit and helped prep for the trail for the Crown Rock/Contact Corner project. **255 Hours**
- Three summer volunteer stewardship projects focused on trail construction on the Green Bear, Homestead and Sunshine Canyon trails. **248 Hours**
- Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC), along with the International Catastrophe Insurance Managers (ICAT), Boulder Mountain Bike Patrol, Ohio State University and a number of Eagle Scouts all helped with trail work at Homestead, Sunshine Canyon and Prairie Vista trails. **247 Hours**
- Several other local community stewardship groups such as Senior Hire, CU Sewall Hall and many more participated in a number of projects, totaling **hundreds of more hours**.



Jared Polis works with AmeriCorps on Silver Lake Ditch.



Volunteers working on Homestead Trail re-route.



Eagle Scouts work on the 2nd/3rd Flatiron Trail.



Community members volunteer at Contact Corner.



Program Volunteers participate in longer-term or year-round programs and contributed 9,483 hours in 2012.

2012 Program Volunteer Highlights:

Bat Monitors venture out at dusk to ponds and known bat roosts. They perform auditory and visual population counts for two consecutive nights a month, June through September. Information gathered aids resource management decisions. Both Mallory Cave and Harmon Cave roost sites are monitored. This program started in 1995. In 2012, 44 volunteers completed 110 site visits.

914 Hours

BearCare Team members educate neighbors about living safely with bears. Information is primarily dispersed door-to-door in areas where bear activity has occurred. These volunteers also assist OSMP Rangers and Division of Parks and Wildlife officers by “bearsitting” bears that come into town, monitoring and minimizing disturbances.

122 Hours

Bike Patrollers assist and educate trail users. By doing this, they help to reduce user conflict on trails. These 60 volunteers also patrol for and help partnering agencies: US Forest Service (USFS), Boulder County Parks and Open Space (BCPOS), Boulder Mountainbike Alliance (BMA), and City of Boulder Parks and Recreation at Valmont Bike Park.

1,320 Hours

Hayfield Monitors play a vital role in protecting rare birds that nest in grasslands. Volunteers survey hayfields at dusk or dawn, May and June, collecting data on bird species of concern. Their data help staff plan for better protection of the nesting birds. This program started in 2006. In 2012, nine volunteers made 33 site visits.

44 Hours

Hosts greet the public and provide information and education; they reach thousands of visitors each year.

Flagstaff Fire volunteers staffed trailheads affected by the Flagstaff Fire, informing visitors and providing closure updates.

153 Hours

Flagstaff Nature Center is filled with exhibits and information about OSMP. It is staffed 100 percent by volunteers, and is open May through September, on weekends and some weekdays. In 2012, over 2,053 visitors enjoyed the Flagstaff Nature Center.

198 Hours

Meadow Music volunteers act as “safety bunnies” to greet attendees, make sure they cross the street safely, assist with the nature hike, and provide extra eyes and ears to ensure these very popular summer events go smoothly.

45 Hours

Ranger Cottage Hosts assist with visitor questions at the Ranger Cottage, which is a main visitor contact point for OSMP. In 2012, staff and volunteers at the Ranger Cottage made 45,800 face-to-face contacts. **58 Hours**

Procycle Challenge volunteers assisted OSMP staff on Flagstaff Mountain during this huge event, answering questions, protecting resources, and providing feedback. **252 Hours**

Native Garden Team members plan, plant, and maintain the Ann Armstrong Memorial Native Garden at the Chautauqua Ranger Cottage. At this demonstration garden, all of the plants are labeled for educational purposes. While working in the garden, volunteers provide information on native gardening to interested visitors. It has never looked better. **179 Hours**

Naturalists provide interpretive nature programs for school-aged children, on trails and in classrooms. In 2012, Volunteer Naturalists provided 264 programs, inspiring thousands of school-aged children and their teachers. Through education comes understanding of the land and therefore, sound stewardship. This program began in 1995. **956 Hours**

Open Space Board of Trustees, research issues, advise on policy, and recommend actions on behalf of OSMP. **1,000 Hours**

Raptor Monitors enjoy the unique and rare opportunity of monitoring courtship, nest development and fledging of Front Range birds of prey. This program started in 1985 and is a model for the country. Volunteers commit to a 2-hour shift each week, February through July. In 2012, 50 volunteers made over 797 site visits. **2,165 Hours**

Staff Assistants and Interns provide support with individual research and help with field work in numerous areas, including native plant conservation, rare plant monitoring, cultural resources, administration, maintenance and outreach. **225 Hours**

Trail Guides have been traveling OSMP trails for over 20 years, enhancing the visitor experience. These 60 volunteers provide information on area features, natural and cultural history, seasonal changes, policies, safety, regulations and more. They also assist those in need, and serve as extra “eyes and ears” on the system. **1,852 Hours**



Thank you to all of our volunteers!

If you are interested in volunteering, go to our web page at www.bouldercolorado.gov/osmpvolunteers

Volunteer Stewardship Project Summary 2012

Volunteer Stewardship Groups	Project/Location	Volunteer #	Hours
Trash Bash	Flagstaff Summit	85	255
Boulder City Improvement Association	Dry Creek/PUP	5	10
Senior Hire	Lousberg/Gallagher Multiple Projects	28	396
CU Environmental Writing Class and Sewall Hall	Suits/Russian Olive	33	132
CU Sewall Hall	Sawhill Ponds/Trash Removal	5	20
Only Natural Pet Store	Dry Creek/PUP	7	11
Resource Conservation	B.C. Hospital/Agriculture Fence Removal	10	40
VMware Software	Bison Drive/Forestry Crew	8	32
AmeriCorps Two NCCC Teams	Multiple Projects	22	5,080
Trail Stewardship Groups	Project/Location	Volunteer #	Hours
National Trails Day	Homestead Trail Reroute	47	282
Summer Trails Projects	Trail Construction/Multiple Projects	35	248
Eagle Scouts	Second and Third Flatiron/Steps and Maintenance	18	206
FCC Flagstaff Trail Days (3 Projects)	Crown Rock - Contact Corner	77	539
VOC w/ ICAT, Mt Bike Patrol and Ohio State University	Trail Construction/Multiple Projects	51	247
Ecological Systems Stewardship Groups	Project/Location	Volunteer #	Hours
Wildland Restoration Volunteers (WRV)	Multiple Restoration Projects	79	471
Wildland Restoration Volunteers (WRV)	Multiple Restoration Projects	30	166
CU Class	Kelsall Mesa Top/Seed Collection	18	81
Trailhead Stewardship Groups	Project/Location	Volunteer #	Hours
Eagle Scout Groups	Multiple Trailhead ADA & Projects	92	665
Jail Crew	Multiple Trailhead & ADA Projects	7	6,048
County Court Projects	Multiple Trailhead & ADA Projects	66	535
Individual Community Service Projects	Multiple Trailhead & ADA Projects	45	1,078
Total Hours		768	16,542