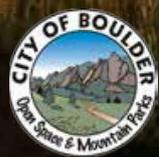


# Open Space and Mountain Parks

## 2014 Annual Report



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## **INTERIM DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

Last year was an action-packed year of rebuilding in the wake of the flood, new land acquisitions, revisions to our Voice and Sight Tag Program and the retirement of long-time OSMP director Michael Patton. The city's Open Space and Mountain Parks programs have had long-tenured directors over recent decades. Their legacy and Boulder's proud history of preserving open space, dating back to the initial purchase and dedication of land for Chautauqua in 1898, makes me proud – and humbled—to be selected as the interim director. While the city engages the community in the skills needed for OSMP and conducts a national search for our new director, I am committed to representing the interests of our full community and honoring the stewardship set forth in our charter.

As a Boulder resident since 1991, I understand the unique opportunity that these lands offer and the incredible responsibility we have as a community to protect Boulder's open space for today's residents and for future generations who will experience nature, recreation and solitude as we do. Open Space is not only the iconic buffer of Boulder's physical boundaries, but also serves as a constant reminder of our shared preservation values and our way of life – values that have spanned generations of community residents.

We'll approach 2015 together – community and staff – to continue flood restoration projects, work through the North Trail Study Area process and continue to be strong stewards of the land for the benefit of all who enjoy this tremendous gift of nature.

Thank you for your support during our transition, and I'll see you on the trails!

### **TRACY WINFREE**

Interim Director

Tracy Winfree has worked for the City of Boulder since 1990, serving as the Director of Public Works for Transportation since 2001. She also served as interim director for the city's Parks and Recreation Department. Tracy and her family enjoy hiking throughout the 45,000-acre system with a recent highlight of summiting Bear Peak.



**Photo Credit:** Emily Tolgyes  
2014 OSMP Photography Contest prize winner

# OSMP'S CHARTER

The City of Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks Department (OSMP) preserves and protects the natural environment and land resources that characterize Boulder. We foster appreciation and use that sustain the natural values of the land for current and future generations. In 1986, Boulder residents approved a charter that requires OSMP to acquire, maintain, preserve, retain and use open space land for the following purposes:

- a)** Preservation or restoration of natural areas characterized by or including terrain, geologic formations, flora, or fauna that are unusual, spectacular, historically important, scientifically valuable, or unique, or that represent outstanding or rare examples of native species;
- b)** Preservation of water resources in their natural or traditional state, scenic areas or vistas, wildlife habitats, or fragile ecosystems;
- c)** Preservation of land for passive recreational use, such as hiking, photography or nature studies, and, if specifically designated, bicycling, horseback riding or fishing;
- d)** Preservation of agricultural uses and land suitable for agricultural production;
- e)** Utilization of land for shaping the development of the city, limiting urban sprawl, and disciplining growth;
- f)** Utilization of non-urban land for spatial definition of urban areas;
- g)** Utilization of land to prevent encroachment on floodplains; and
- h)** Preservation of land for its aesthetic or passive recreational value and its contribution to the quality of life of the community.



**Photo Credit:** Christian Nunes  
2014 OSMP Photography Contest prize winner

## OSMP BY THE NUMBERS

<b>45,000+</b>	ACRES PRESERVED
<b>5.3 MILLION*</b>	VISITS IN 2014
<b>145</b>	MILES OF TRAILS
<b>35</b>	TRAILHEADS
<b>76</b>	ACCESS POINTS
<b>59</b>	SPECIES OF MAMMALS
<b>15,000</b>	AGRICULTURE ACRES
<b>100+</b>	SPECIES OF BIRDS
<b>700</b>	PLANT SPECIES

\* ESTIMATED

# ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

The mission of the Ecological Systems team is to preserve, protect and restore native flora and fauna on OSMP lands. OSMP features a diverse mix of plant and animal species, forming complex ecological communities. These habitats and the natural processes that sustain them make the system one of the most biologically rich areas in the United States. Accordingly, the Ecological Systems team is comprised of ecologists with expertise in plant ecology, wildlife ecology, wetland ecology, ecological restoration and integrated pest management.

## WILDLIFE

OSMP's Wildlife Ecology Program conducted surveys to: support Trail Study Area planning and implementation, address directives outlined in ecosystem plans, assess distribution and abundance of sensitive species post-flood, and prioritize habitat restoration projects. Highlights included finding a healthy population of federally threatened Preble's meadow jumping mice along South Boulder Creek, continuing to protect high-quality raptor nesting habitat, assessing rattlesnake use of the hogbacks north of Boulder and improving breeding habitat conditions for sensitive species, including northern leopard frogs and Townsend's big-eared bats.

## ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

OSMP's Ecological Restoration program implemented multiple projects to improve wildlife habitats and to restore flood-affected areas. Restoration staff worked with volunteers and contractors to improve habitats along South Boulder Creek and Boulder Creek for the federally threatened Ute ladies'-tresses orchids and the northern leopard frog, which is a species of concern in Colorado. Staff also performed multiple wetland plantings and hosted numerous seed collections to increase the availability of genetically local seeds.

[SEE SNAPSHOTS OF LOCAL WILDLIFE](#)

## WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN CORRIDORS

OSMP's Wetland and Riparian Ecology program focused on both flood-related and non-flood projects in 2014. Flood-related projects included the emergency restoration of Boulder Creek near 95th Street to stop 2014 flooding and the beginning of design work to restore flood-damaged areas of Boulder Creek between Valmont Road and 75th Street. OSMP staff and volunteers also completed wetland restoration and enhancement projects at Sombrero Marsh, Cowdrey Draw and in the South Boulder Creek floodplain.



**Photo Credit:** Jeff Reiger  
2014 OSMP Photography Contest prize winner

# ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS



**Photo Credit:** Jeff Reiger  
2014 OSMP Photography Contest prize winner

## INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

OSMP's Integrated Pest Management Program works on a multitude of restoration and invasive plant species management projects across OSMP's public lands. In 2014, the program managed more than 50 invasive plant species on over 4,000 acres of land using integrated approaches. Those included prescriptive goat and cattle grazing, mowing, hand digging and planting, along with the seeding of native vegetation and targeted herbicide applications. Invasive species pose a real and significant threat to the native biological diversity on protected lands. Integrated treatment methods on OSMP over the past 20 years have ensured the department maintains suitable habitats for a diverse assemblage of native life.

## FORESTS

OSMP's Forest Ecosystem Management team completed three major thinning projects in 2014, totaling 166 acres of treatment on OSMP lands. This forest health work, which has been ongoing since the late 1990s, has helped reduce fire risks for Boulder neighborhoods and has led to ecological improvements in forests across OSMP's public landscapes.

## GRASSLANDS

In 2014, the OSMP Grassland Plant Ecology Program focused on implementing the Grassland Ecosystem Management Plan through numerous conservation strategies, such as the use of prescribed fire and collaboration with the department's livestock grazing program. Highlights of the program include: completion of the sixth year of long-term grassland vegetation monitoring, collection of nearly 100 pounds of native seed for restoration with the help of more than 600 volunteer hours and the mapping of several hundred acres of vegetation in the North Trail Study Area.

Other 2014 achievements include the presentation of six grassland education programs, research sponsorship of vascular plant and lichen inventories of the White Rocks area and the completion of a late fall prescribed burn aimed at rare plant habitat restoration. This important program also worked to protect grassland habitat in conjunction with OSMP's 2014 flood recovery projects.

**TIPS FOR GROWING NATIVE PLANTS**

# TRAILS

Our community's access to recreation on OSMP relies heavily on its trail system. Trails take visitors where they want to go and direct them away from sensitive plant and animal species. OSMP has 145 miles of designated and maintained trails. These trails are built and maintained by OSMP's Trail Crews, Conservation Corps, Junior Rangers, volunteers, AmeriCorps crews, court-assigned workers and, starting in 2014, Bridge House crews. In 2014, much of the focus was on repairing and reopening trails damaged by the September 2013 floods, as well as continuing projects that were called for in the West Trail Study Area (W TSA) Plan.

## TRAIL WORK HIGHLIGHTS

**Saddle Rock:** Trail crews performed flood-related trail repairs and reopened this trail to public use.

**Royal Arch:** Trail crews repaired and re-routed portions of this flood-damaged trail and reopened it to public use.

**Green Mountain Lodge:** Trail crews re-routed a section of the heavily flood-damaged trail leading from Realization Point to Green Mountain Lodge, and a portion of the flood-damaged trail on upper Gregory Canyon Trail - to be completed in 2015.

**South Boulder Creek:** Trail crews repaired flood-damaged trails between the Bobolink Trailhead and Highway 93.

**Witemyer (Lion's Lair Trail):** Trail crews continued construction of this new trail, which was called for in the W TSA Plan, and closed undesignated trails on the west side of Mount Sanitas. The trail is now open for public use, with final construction work scheduled for 2015.

**Seal Rock:** Trail crews constructed a short climbing access trail to the south face of Seal Rock.

**Chautauqua Meadow Phase I:** Trail crews repaired and re-routed trails to sustainable standards as called for in the W TSA Plan. Phase II of this project will continue in 2015.

**Crown Rock:** Volunteers and trail crews repaired trails in this popular sight-seeing and rock climbing area.

# TRAILHEADS

Trailheads are maintained by the trailhead crew, with help from volunteers such as Eagle Scouts, community service members and court-assigned work crews. These crews service 35 trailheads, 76 access points and 86 trash cans twice a week. Services include maintaining restrooms, picnic areas and ADA paths as well as day-to-day issues like snow and graffiti removal.

This year, OSMP began a pilot program to turn dog waste into safe, beneficial compost. Seven trailheads were set up with composting dog waste cans in 2014. An additional eight will be added in 2015. This saves tons of dog waste from being transported to landfills.

The Rapid Response staff handles a variety of high-profile concerns brought up by visitors, citizens, staff and other agencies. These include encroachments, hazardous tree removals, irrigation water issues, along with fence and gate repairs throughout the entire system.

## LEARN HOW DOG WASTE IS COMPOSTED FROM OSMP WASTE BINS



Photo Credit: Envirowagg



**Photo Credit:** Alicia Green  
*2011 OSMP Photography Contest prize winner*



Photo Credit: Dave Sutherland

## SIGN & FACILITY MAINTENANCE

More than 100 buildings and structures on OSMP properties require routine maintenance, including four office buildings, 13 homes, numerous agricultural buildings, nature centers and parking lots. The most notable accomplishment for the team in 2014 was the completion of the Highway 93 underpass, making a safe connection for the Community Ditch Trail. OSMP's sign staff is responsible for thousands of signs and dozens of trailhead information boards. In 2014, hundreds of the Voice and Sight Tag Program regulatory signs needed to be redesigned and replaced to accommodate the changes in the program.

## ENGINEERING

Following the September 2013 floods, OSMP staff were inundated with permitting, construction and planning. In the midst of flood recovery efforts, OSMP created an engineering manager position. This position was hired in October and has been working on the following projects:

**Flood recovery**, including large trail reconstruction and bridge repair.

**Aiding in the final designs** on Mount Sanitas and the beginning phases of bridge repairs at the South Mesa Trailhead.

**A conceptual plan** for repairing the Gregory Canyon Trailhead.

**Coordination with** the city and Boulder County on projects involving OSMP land.

**Project coordination**, including permitting, technical support, planning and implementation.



Photo Credit: Kirk Williams

# JUNIOR RANGERS

In 2014, 100 local teens were chosen from a very competitive applicant pool and led by a staff of Junior Ranger program graduates and outdoor educators. Junior Rangers work on system maintenance, natural resource management and the response to flood damage. Aside from their work, the teens learn many valuable skills, including public service, pride, belonging, stewardship and leadership.

Youth were very responsive to the message of shared service and neighborliness that marked our community's response to the 2013 floods. There was significant interest from teens eager to help repair flood damaged trails and properties on OSMP.

"The power of the program legacy rests in the vibrant hope of teens who care about the future of their community and the adults who mentor their success and growth," said Halice Ruppi, Junior Ranger Coordinator for OSMP.

## JUNIOR RANGERS 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

**Forest management** on Flagstaff Mountain.

**Teasel removal** on numerous properties.

**Trailhead maintenance**, especially on Flagstaff Summit.

**Native seed** collection and restoration work.

**Six weeks of trail-building** support on Wittemeyer trails.

**Over 30 miles of trail** serviced for maintenance including drainage repair, corridor definition and safety.

Opportunities were provided for each crew to study various aspects of OSMP ecology: sustainability and wildlife relationships, fire ecology, the raptor nesting program, local watershed, ecology of flood events and Front Range geology.

## THE JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM CELEBRATED 50 YEARS OF SERVICE IN 2014



*Junior Rangers work together in 1974.*



*A Junior Ranger works on the Hogback Trail in 2014.*

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA EVENT

OSMP hosted a fancy Gala Event to honor past and current Junior Rangers. The event included dancing to five decades of music; Junior Rangers from each decade celebrating – even someone from 1965, the program's first year; three married couples who met while serving in the program; and the honoring of the program coordinators and leaders.

**WATCH A VIDEO FROM THE GALA**



*Halice Ruppi, far right, OSMP's Junior Ranger program coordinator, receives an award for her stewardship of the program.*

# PLANNING & MONITORING

The members of OSMP's Environmental Planning team develop plans to articulate OSMP's goals and objectives, analyze threats to the sustainability of resources, and describe the action OSMP will take to ensure the system remains healthy and enduring. All plans are careful to describe how OSMP will deliver and balance the community services described in the City Charter. The environmental planning team works closely with both OSMP staff and the community when drafting plans and takes its plans to both the Open Space Board of Trustees and the City Council for approval.

## VOICE AND SIGHT TAG PROGRAM

OSMP's Environmental Planning staff led the department's efforts to implement new updates to the Voice and Sight (V&S) Tag Program, which allows guardians to walk their dogs without a leash along 87 miles of V&S-control trails. As part of the workgroup's efforts to coordinate the new program changes, which went into effect on Jan. 1, they directed the development of a new online registration system, led the department's public outreach efforts, coordinated with other city departments and helped develop the new V&S education classes.

## AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

OSMP's planning and agricultural staff completed the scoping and identification of a framework, including a planning approach, for the city's Agricultural Resources Management Plan. Staff also began analysis and data gathering for the issues and plan components identified in the scoping phase. Staff also held a public open house to introduce the plan to both the general public and OSMP lessees.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VOICE AND SIGHT TAG PROGRAM](#)

## MONITORING

OSMP's monitoring group conducted system-wide recreational and natural resource monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of management plans and emerging management strategies. To assess 2015 enhancements to the Voice and Sight Dog Tag Program, staff completed 60 interview sessions of dog guardians and 65 observation sessions of guardians with their dogs. This work was done to better understand behaviors related to voice-and-sight control prior to implementing program revisions.

Anticipating North Trail Study Area planning efforts, volunteers, staff and contractors also surveyed current levels and types of recreational use at selected access points and parking lots in the northern portion of OSMP's system. In the summer of 2014, staff also completed its sixth year of monitoring of OSMP's upland grasslands to assess their health using viability indicators established in the Grassland Ecosystem Management Plan.



**Photo Credit:** Katie Edwards  
2014 OSMP Photography Contest prize winner

# PLANNING & MONITORING



**Photo Credit:** Heather Diamond Ryan  
2014 OSMP Photography Contest prize winner

## REGIONAL TRAILS

Working with our partners to identify and create regional trail connections is a priority for the City of Boulder. OSMP is working with the U.S. Department of Interior, State of Colorado, Boulder County and others on multiple regional trails. In 2014, OSMP planning staff partnered with Boulder County Parks and Open Space and Colorado Parks and Wildlife to pursue a trail feasibility study evaluating the potential for a multi-use trail connection from Eldorado Canyon State Park to Walker Ranch (Eldo-Walker).

Consideration of an Eldo-Walker multi-use trail connection was identified in both the Visitor Master Plan and the WTSA. In 2014, the trail feasibility study identified and began evaluating multiple conceptual trail corridors. Completion of the study is anticipated in 2015.



**Photo Credit:** Alexa Boyles  
2014 OSMP Photography Contest prize winner

## NORTH TRAIL STUDY AREA (TSA) PLAN

The North TSA will establish implementation strategies to improve visitor experiences on OSMP lands north of Linden Avenue and west of the Diagonal Highway. This plan will also provide a framework for a sustainable trail system for the plan area while also directing OSMP's efforts to protect natural and cultural resources. In 2014, planning staff worked with other department groups to prepare information that will be included in the upcoming plan.

## FLOOD RECOVERY COORDINATION

The 2013 September floods caused significant damage to OSMP's public lands, and the responsibility of coordinating the department's recovery in the wake of the historic floods fell to the Environmental Planning team. In 2014, the planning staff worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to identify \$3.1 million in additional funds to help rebuild OSMP's trail system. Planning staff also tracked the progress of the department's flood recovery work and presented numerous updates on OSMP's efforts to the Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) and the Boulder City Council.



**Photo Credit:** Phillip Yates

## **RANGERS**

OSMP's rich and diverse public landscapes encompass about 70 square miles. Every year, those varied lands see more than 5 million visits – more than Rocky Mountain National Park. With a full-time staff of 16 officers, OSMP Rangers are responsible for safeguarding the city's natural and cultural resources, along with protecting the thousands of visitors who access Boulder's public lands every day. At the same time, OSMP Rangers also serve as stewards of the land, helping to educate the public about Boulder's rich wildlife habitats and its diverse ecosystems. In order to achieve this wide range of duties, Rangers are required to be state certified peace officers, be proficient in emergency medical care and search and rescue techniques. They must also maintain national wildfire certifications as well as being knowledgeable and skilled environmental educators.

### **SEARCH AND RESCUE**

In 2014, Rangers assisted with more than a hundred search-and-rescue calls. These incidents ranged from dozens of fallen or stuck climbers to serious falls and other medical emergencies.

### **WILDLAND FIRE RESPONSE**

OSMP Rangers responded to seven small wildland fires on OSMP lands. The Ranger group has been among the first responders on every major wildland fire in Boulder County for the last 10 years.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

OSMP Rangers filed more than 600 law enforcement reports, issued more than 500 charges for violations of municipal code and assisted with dozens of arrests.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

Rangers provided more than 70 public educational programs in 2014. These programs range from hikes with school children to Natural Selections programs for the general public. Rangers also presented at the Colorado Open Space Alliance Conference in September.

### **TRAINING**

Rangers assisted in law enforcement training and helped Boulder Police officers and fellow Ranger staff maintain state standards. Six OSMP Rangers have credentials to teach the following disciplines: firearms, driving, defensive tactics, CPR and First Aid care.



Photo Credit: Phillip Yates

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Community Outreach team provides environmental education and volunteer services that improve the community's open space experience. In 2014, OSMP served a total of **17,675** people, presenting a total of **739** programs led by staff and volunteer field naturalists.

**142**

Natural Selections programs open to the public.

**597**

Programs requested by schools and civic groups.

**57**

Programs conducted in Spanish or were bilingual programs.

## VOICE AND SIGHT EDUCATION

In 2014, OSMP held more than 310 education classes for 5,380 guardians. By Dec. 31, 2014, there were 1,800 guardians registered for blue 2015 Voice and Sight Tags.

## OSMP AND THE ARTS

The OSMP and the Arts Program offered numerous programs in 2014. Three of these were in collaboration with the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra, nine were led by local artists, and four were led by OSMP Volunteer Naturalists. The remaining programs were led by staff. Approximately 400 people attended these art classes. For more information, go to [osmpandthearts.org](http://osmpandthearts.org).

## BIOMIMICRY

OSMP launched an innovative Biomimicry project to design sustainable, earth-friendly solutions to transition a road with deteriorating asphalt into a trail fit aesthetically to the environment. Biomimicry is the practice of emulating species and ecosystems' time-tested survival strategies and their deep patterns to generate sustainable designs for the challenges we face.



**Photo Credit:** Phillip Yates

## **VOLUNTEER SERVICES**

OSMP connects with the community by offering many opportunities for people to be on and give back to the land in meaningful ways. OSMP organizes a number of one-day volunteer projects as well as longer-term programs. Volunteers greet visitors on trails, monitor wildlife, lead interpretive hikes, restore natural habitats, pull noxious weeds, build trails, monitor rare plants, and much more! They provide inspiration to staff and community members alike. In 2014, hundreds of volunteers contributed thousands of hours!

In 2014, the Volunteer Services team was busy supporting continued flood-restoration efforts by organizing 48 flood-related projects, including working on damaged fenceline and repairing the historic Royal Arch Trail. In addition, more than 50 non-flood related projects were completed, including seed collections, wetland plantings and many trail projects. Volunteer Services also offered several new volunteer programs, including native bee monitoring, North TSA visitation monitoring and air quality monitoring. In order to meet the project demands, Volunteer Services hired two additional field seasonal staff.

**1000s**

Hours of work donated  
by volunteers

**50**

Non-flood  
volunteer projects

**48**

Flood-related  
volunteer projects

We are thankful for our volunteers! For more information about volunteering with OSMP, please visit <https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/volunteer-program>.

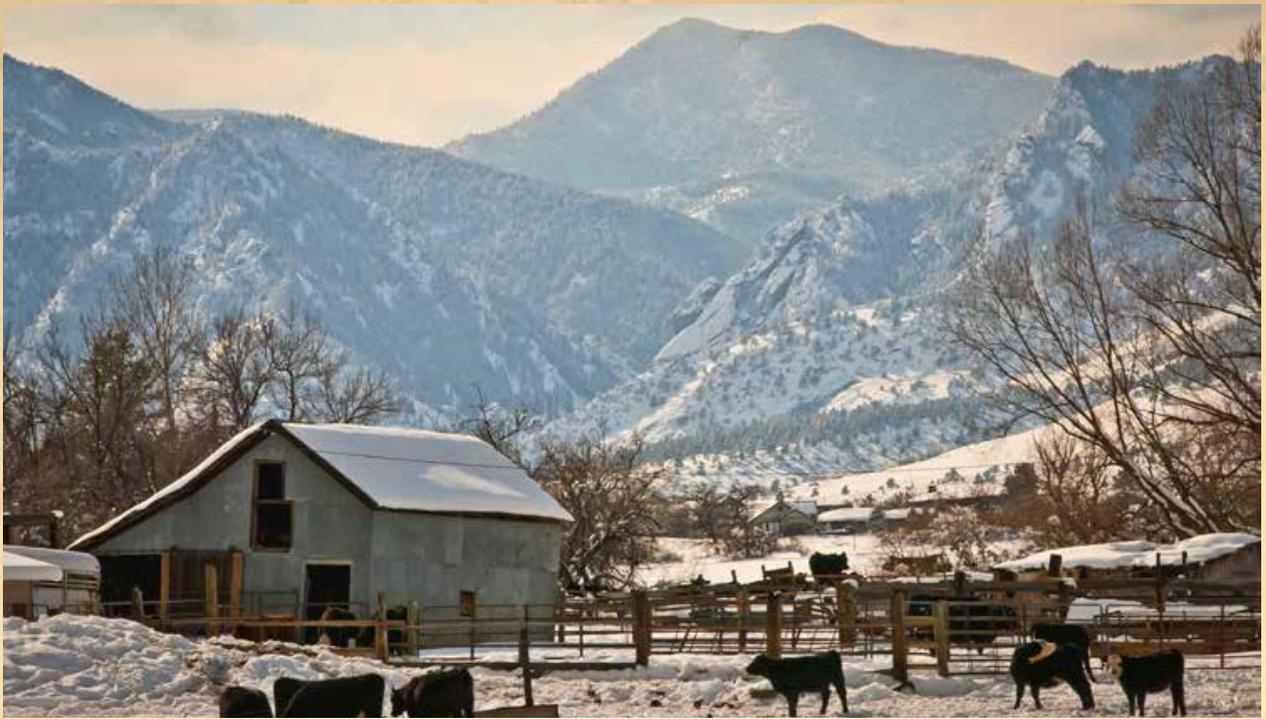


Photo Credit: Jack Sasson

## AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES

The Agriculture and Water Resources staff oversee all agricultural activities, ditch maintenance and management activities required to deliver OSMP's water rights across the system. The Agriculture Program includes a portfolio of approximately 15,000 acres that are leased to local farmers and ranchers. Of these lands, approximately 7,000 acres are irrigated using water from more than 30 irrigation ditches. In 2014, OSMP added a new diversified organic vegetable tenant, Dew Farms, on the McKenzie property. Cure Organic Farm also added 15 acres to its existing lease with OSMP to help it continue to expand production of local, organic vegetables.

### 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

The agriculture staff worked with OSMP's Public Relations and Community Outreach teams to underscore the importance of farming on OSMP. Together, staff hosted programs such as the Apple Day! event, Bees on Open Space, and cross-promotion of our lessees at the Farmer's Market, the Holiday Light Parade, and volunteer days at Cure and Black Cat farms. Agriculture and water resources staff also worked with FEMA, contractors and volunteers to continue repairing miles of fencing and irrigation infrastructure destroyed by the 2013 flood.



[WATCH A VIDEO OF A LOCAL FARM](#)

**15,000**

OSMP acres are leased to farmers and ranchers

**30**

OSMP ditches help to provide water to local farmers and ranchers



**Photo Credit:** Ann Duncan

# REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Today, through more than 650 individual transactions, the City of Boulder has assembled a 45,000-acre OSMP public lands system. The current program is now a mature one, and new acquisitions are generally neither as large nor as numerous as in the earlier years. The focus now for the Real Estate team is bringing properties into the system that are of ecological importance and that offer trail connection opportunities. In addition to acquiring property, the Real Estate Services team protects existing lands by ensuring that all newly proposed easements or dispositions are properly vetted through the process established by OSMP's charter. The team also monitors more than 100 conservation easements that OSMP has acquired. The Real Estate group also negotiates land purchases for other City of Boulder departments.

## OSMP 2014 ACQUISITIONS

PROPERTY	ACQUISITION TYPE	ACRES	CITY OF BOULDER COST
Berman Brothers	Fee	44	\$1,375,000
Martinson	Fee	83	\$3,000,000
Boulder Jewish Commons	Fee	8.59	0
Dagle II	Fee	12	\$525,000

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Public Relations team seeks to inform the community about OSMP through the website and social media, services for traditional press and media formats, and through face-to-face outreach and large events. Here are some highlights from 2014:

**The OSMP website** received more than 920,000 hits in 2014. That's an approximately 6.5-percent increase in traffic in 2014 over 2013. As in years past, the most popular pages on OSMP's website continue to be the home page, popular trailhead pages, and pages with trail maps and closure information. OSMP's homepage, [osmp.org](http://osmp.org), was the most popular department homepage on the city's website in 2014.

**voiceandsight.org** was also in the top 10 most-viewed OSMP pages. In the month of December, [voiceandsight.org](http://voiceandsight.org) was the third most-viewed page on the entire city website; it received significantly more hits than any other OSMP webpage during any month of the year.

**Over 20,000 face to face contacts** were made at OSMP trailheads

**OSMP distributed numerous editions** of its e-newsletter, Field Notes. The department also created numerous videos about OSMP programs and efforts.

**95 days were spent at Farmer's Markets**, dog-related events and big events like the Boulder Creek Fest, where thousands learned the wonders of OSMP.

**More than 68,000 people** were contacted at the Chautauqua Ranger Cottage - that's a record number.

**Meadow Music children's program** won a Colorado Association for Environmental Education award and had a record 5,814 participants this year.

# FINANCIAL SERVICES

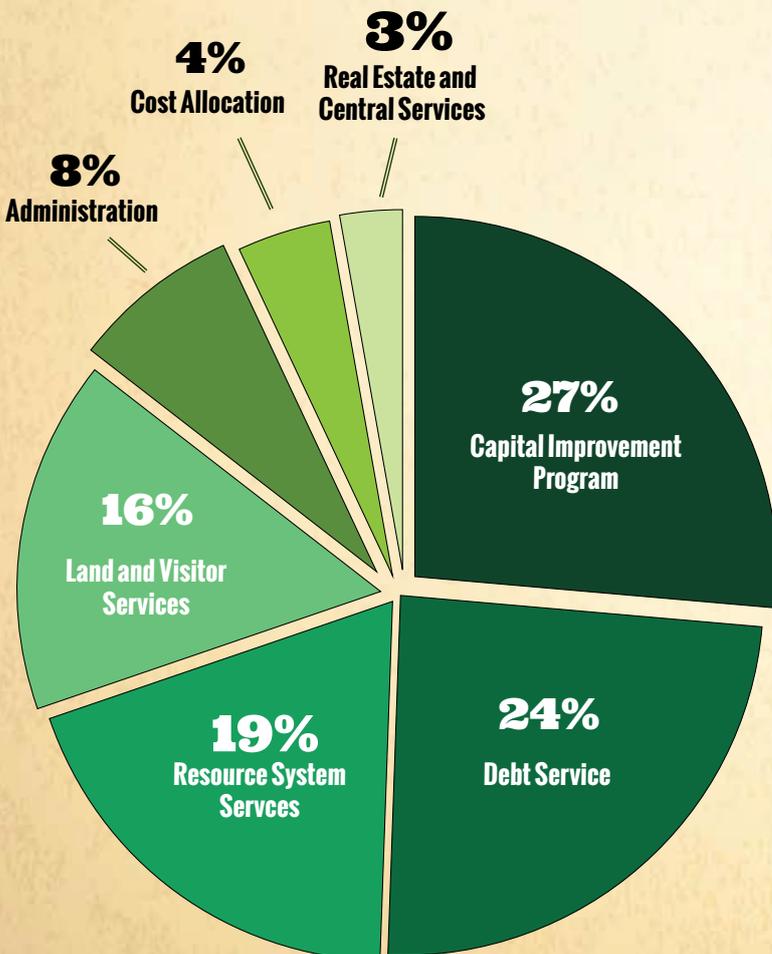
The Financial Services Management workgroup is responsible for maintaining the financial integrity of the Open Space Fund. To that end, the workgroup is responsible for:

**Processing financial transactions** in accordance with municipal, state and federal laws and regulations, and following generally accepted accounting principles; and,

**Preparing and submitting** OSMP’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and operating budgets, and providing analysis throughout the year. In addition, the Financial Services team provides purchasing and contracting support to project managers on a project-by-project basis.

## HOW DO CITIZENS SUPPORT OSMP WITH THEIR TAX DOLLARS?

OSMP is supported by the City of Boulder’s Open Space Fund, which derives its revenue almost exclusively from sales tax revenue. A portion (0.88 percent) of sales tax collected in the city is dedicated to the Open Space Fund. Boulder voters approved five separate ballot measures in 1967, 1989, 1997, 2003 and 2013 to provide funds for the acquisition and management of Open Space. One of these measures will be reduced from 0.33 percent to 0.22 percent at the end of 2018 and was extended in perpetuity, and one (0.15 percent) will be repurposed to other municipal services at the end of 2019.



## OSMP'S 2014 BUDGET EXPENSES

SERVICE	COST
Capital Improvement Program	\$7,353,000
Debt Service	\$6,722,082
Resource System Services	\$5,313,052
Land and Visitor Services	\$4,355,283
Administration	\$2,117,901
Cost Allocation	\$1,108,440
Real Estate, Central Services	\$760,858



**Photo Credit:** Phillip Yates

# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

OSMP's Administrative Services team provides a variety of functions that keep the department running smoothly. From keeping supplies stocked and doors locked, running payroll, assisting with public meetings and mass mailings to ensuring that the department is in compliance with city regulations and policies, the admins are the beating heart of the department. Often, the smiling face of a helpful admin is what leaves a lasting impression on members of the public who come to an OSMP office for assistance.

## ADMINISTRATION HIGHLIGHTS

**Administrative staff** members were key players in the launch of the new Voice and Sight Tag Program changes. This included participation in program development as well as assisting members of the public with registration at the front desk. This new program had a significant impact on admin workloads.

**The administrative staff** worked with the Facilities work group on plans and execution of updates and renovations at Cherryvale North, Annex and Ute buildings.

**Changes to improve** the city's financial and personnel software systems required significant assistance from the admin staff.

**Admin staff members** have been able to continue delivering excellent customer service to the department as well as members of the public despite all of the new program expectations.

# CULTURAL RESOURCES

In 2014, OSMP continued to protect the cultural legacy of the land by renovating, repairing and updating farm houses, barns, corn cribs as well as conducting multiple archaeological studies throughout the system.

## 2014 REPAIRS TO THE LEWIS FARMSTEAD

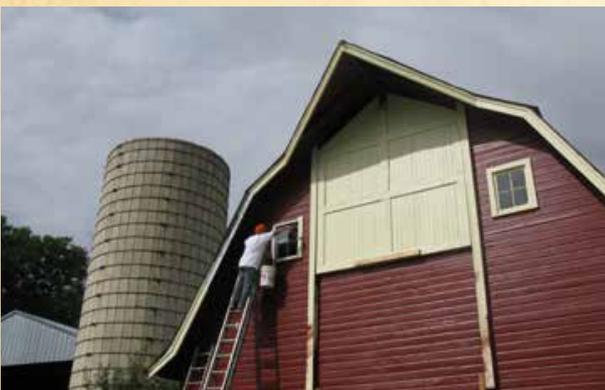


Photo Credits: Julie Johnson

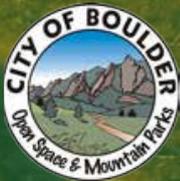


**Photo Credit:** Jim Glab

## **RESOURCE INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

The Resource Information Systems team continued to support OSMP staff by providing maps and information critical to OSMP's resource management and flood-recovery.

**SEARCH OSMP'S INTERACTIVE MAP**



**OPEN SPACE AND  
MOUNTAIN PARKS**

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**Photo Credit:** Jack Sasson