

# Volunteer Services Annual Report 2013

## City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

*“You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.”~ [Winston Churchill](#)*



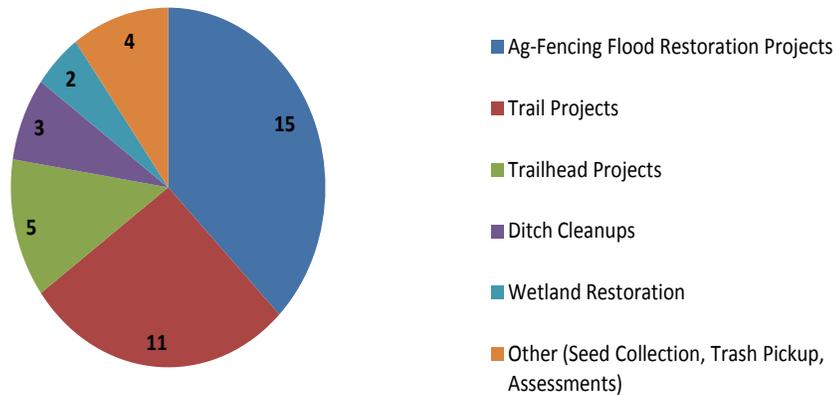
The City of Boulder’s Open Space and Mountain Parks Department will remember 2013 not only as the *year of the flood*, but as the *year of the volunteer!* After the historic flooding in September, hundreds of people offered to lend a hand to help restore OSMP’s trails and infrastructure. These volunteers joined the ranks of hundreds of others that help the department every year in carrying out its mission and goals. In 2013, OSMP offered dozens of one-day volunteer projects, including 40 flood-specific restoration work days. In addition, OSMP’s program volunteers continued doing the great work that they do every year, including greeting visitors on the trails, monitoring wildlife and rare plants, leading interpretive hikes, restoring natural habitats, pulling noxious weeds and building trails. **In 2013, more than 1,700 volunteers contributed over 28,000 hours!** The department appreciates the dedication and commitment from the community.

## Flood Restoration Volunteers

Before the September flood waters began to recede, OSMP’s phone lines were inundated with calls from organizations and residents who wanted to lend a hand to help the department rebuild. The tremendous outpouring of assistance from neighbors, local organizations and businesses was inspiring! Volunteers helped with debris removal, trail maintenance, fence repair, ditch maintenance, trail assessments and much more. **In 2013, over 777 volunteers assisted with 40 flood restoration projects totaling 3,958 hours!**



## Flood-Restoration Volunteer Projects 2013



**Project Volunteers** participate in one-day or multi-day, on-the-ground projects. They help with restoration, trail building, trail cleanups, ditch maintenance, integrated pest management and more. In 2013, over 1,276 Project Volunteers contributed 16,646 hours. (This includes all flood restoration projects as well.)



### Project Volunteer Highlights 2013:

- Two AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) teams worked with OSMP for 40 hours a week, during spring and fall of 2013. When the teams were not pulled off OSMP projects for inclement weather during the spring and fall, they worked on various projects throughout the OSMP system. AmeriCorps NCCC teams were critical in our flood recovery.
- OSMP used the Boulder County Jail Crew throughout the year. They are a strong work force and helped with a variety of projects across the OSMP system, mostly maintenance.
- Dozens of community service individuals and groups assisted trailhead staff on a multitude projects throughout the system to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, as well as flood recovery.
- Several Eagle Scout groups completed projects; most included making trails more accessible and improving and painting trailhead and picnic infrastructure.
- Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) assisted with the annual Mediterranean Sage removal project on the East Beech property. They also took out ponderosa pine trees near Flatirons Vista to reclaim a grassland habitat, and they aided with fence deconstruction and debris removal on the Weiser property after the flood.

- OSMP offered several summertime public trail projects, including National Trails Day on the Big Bluestem Trail where community members worked side by side, building hundreds of feet of trail for the new reroute.
- Members of the public were invited to plant tomatoes in the spring, and then harvest vegetables later in the summer at a local organic farm.
- Volunteers removed one and a half tons of material off of the historic Axelson property, including 30 tires. Volunteers painted curtains, flowers, cats and pies on the boarded up windows to improve the aesthetics of the house.
- Several local community organizations and companies participated in a number of projects, totaling hundreds of hours. These include: Active Boulder, Boulder Brands, Boulder Mountainbike Alliance (BMA), Boulder Mountain Bike Patrol, Boulder Trail Runners, The Church of Latter Day Saints, CU Summer Study, CU Sewall Hall, CU Fraternities, Deuter, GoLite, Flatirons Climbing Council, Junior Ranger Alumni, Markit on Demand, REI, The Nature Conservancy, Only Natural Pet Store, Oracle and Whitewave Foods. See Attachment B for more details.

**Program Volunteers** participate in longer-term or year-round programs. Over 426 volunteers contributed 11,459 hours in 2013, including helping with flood recovery efforts by leading guided hikes into flood affected areas, providing information to the public about the trail closures, and assisting with assessments of flood-damaged trails and climbing routes. See Attachment C for more details.



### Program Volunteer Highlights 2013:

**Bat Monitors** venture out at dusk to ponds and known bat roost sites. They perform auditory and visual 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 2013, 41 volunteers completed 95 site visits.

**Bear Care and Coyote Care Team** members educate neighbors about living safely with bears and coyotes in the neighborhood. Information is primarily dispersed door-to-door in areas where bear and coyote activity has occurred. These volunteers also assist OSMP Rangers and Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers by “bearsitting” bears that come into town, monitoring and minimizing disturbances.

**Hayfield Monitors** play a vital role in protecting rare birds that nest in grasslands. Volunteers survey hayfields at dusk or dawn, in May and June, collecting data on bird species of concern. Their data help staff plan for better protection of nesting birds. This program started in 2006. In 2013, eight volunteers made 33 site visits.

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

**Flagstaff Summit 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 2013, 18 volunteers staffed 93 shifts, which allowed 3,011 visitors to enjoy the Flagstaff Summit Nature Center.

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

**Ranger Cottage** hosts assist with visitor questions at the Ranger Cottage, which is a main visitor contact point for OSMP. In 2013, staff and volunteers at the Ranger Cottage made hundreds of face-to-face contacts.

**Mountain Bike Patrollers** assist and educate trail users. By doing this, they help to reduce user conflict on trails. These volunteers also patrol for and help these partnering agencies: US Forest Service (USFS), Boulder County Parks and Open Space (BCPOS), and City of Boulder Parks and Recreation at Valmont Bike Park. BMA is a part of the partnership as well. In 2013, bike patrollers made over 1,000 visitor contacts and covered over 9,260 trail miles.

**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.

**Naturalists** started in 1995, providing interpretive nature programs for school-aged children, both on trails and in the classrooms. In 2013, Volunteer Naturalists provided 156 programs, inspiring thousands of school-aged children and their teachers. Naturalists continue to give winter bear and mountain lion classroom programs, reaching students who would otherwise not receive this information. Naturalists also offered 35 Natural Selection flood-related hikes, to visit areas affected by the flood. These programs provided contemplative time to absorb the changes on the land, as well as an overview of these events from the perspective of natural geologic change.

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

**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 two-hour shift each week, February through July. In 2013, 65 volunteers made over 780 site visits.

**Resource Restoration Stewards**, otherwise known as *Weed Warriors*, scout the land looking for non-native species, such as Myrtle Spurge. They report the non-native plants to OSMP’s Integrated Pest Management (IPM) staff, and then pull the non-native plants, helping to keep plant systems in balance.

**Staff Assistants and Interns** provide support with individual research and help with field work in numerous areas, including native plant conservation and monitoring, wildlife monitoring, general administration, trail work, sign care, outreach and assistance on volunteer projects. In 2013, OSMP had 13 interns. After the September floods, members of Flatirons Climbing Council (FCC), Rocky Mountain Rescue (RMR), and Confluent Design assisted staff with post-flood assessments of the climbing areas and associated trails.

**Trail Guides** have been traveling OSMP trails for over 20 years, enhancing the visitor experience. These 50 volunteers provide information on trails, 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 land. In 2013, they made 15,225 contacts on 97 different trails in the OSMP system. In the days after the flood, Trail Guides staffed closure areas and trail heads to get information to visitors, as well as answer flood-related questions.

*Thank you to all of our 1,700 volunteers in 2013!*

If you are interested in volunteering, go to our web page at [www.bouldercolorado.gov/osmpvolunteers](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/osmpvolunteers)



# Volunteer Project Hours 2013

Multiple Work Groups Served	Project/Location	Volunteer #	Hours
CU Summer Study (IPM & Ag) - Invasive plant removal, property cleanup	Shanahan/Opal and Granite/South Boulder Creek	18	348
AmeriCorps, NCCC Two Rounds (IPM, Ag, Water) - Non-flood restoration	Multiple Projects/Flood Restoration	22	2,838
Agriculture - Non-Flood Projects	Project/Location	Volunteer #	Hours
CU Sewall Hall - Fence maintenance	Gebhard/South Boulder Creek	11	55
Cure Organic Farms - Harvesting tomatoes and potatoes	Cure Farm/Eccher	39	142
Boulder County Elections - Fence deconstruction	Lousberg/Gallagher	18	54
Markit on Demand - Property cleanup & artistic improvements to historical house	Axelson	12	72
CU Fraternity - Fence deconstruction for wildlife	Beech West	11	77
Agriculture - Flood Restoration Projects			
GoLite - Fence deconstruction & debris removal	Kolb	20	80
Whitewave and Deuter - Fence deconstruction & debris removal	Varra	12	48
AmeriCorps, NCCC - FEMA - Fence deconstruction & debris removal	Varra	10	60
Boulder Brands - Fence deconstruction & debris removal	Tall Grass West	20	120
Wildland Restoration Volunteers (WRV) & Active Boulder - Fence deconstruction & debris removal	Weiser	63	401.5
CU Give-A-Day - Fence deconstruction & debris removal	Van Vleet South	10	55
Community Ag Project - Fence deconstruction & debris removal	Van Vleet South	18	108
Community Ag Project - Fence deconstruction & debris removal	Straty Cline	7	42
Community Ag Project - Fence deconstruction & debris removal	Belgrove & McKenzie	19	114
Community Ag Project - Fence deconstruction & debris removal	Rolling Rock	17	62
Ecological Systems - Non-Flood Projects	Project/Location	Volunteer #	Hours
Wildland Restoration Volunteers (WRV) - Invasive Mediterranean sage & ponderosa pine removal	East Beech/Flatirons Vista	58	498
Community Seed Collections - Native seed collection	Greenbelt Plateau/High Plains	6	15
Ecological Systems - Flood Restoration Projects			
Community Wetland Restoration - sediment removal out of a sensitive wetland	Thomas Hogan Paris	24	76
Community Seed Collection - Tallgrass seed - flood related	Short Property	14	49
Trailheads - Non-Flood Projects	Project/Location	Volunteer #	Hours
Eagle Scout Groups - ADA improvements	Multiple Trailhead ADA & Projects	120	940
Jail Crew - ADA improvements	Multiple Trailhead ADA & Projects	7	6048
County Court Projects - ADA improvements	Multiple Trailhead ADA & Projects	22	176
Individual Community Service Projects - ADA improvements	Multiple Trailhead ADA & Projects	40	925
Trailheads - Flood Restoration Projects			
County Court Projects - ADA improvements & debris removal	Sawhill Ponds and Sombrero	10	80
Community Service - ADA improvements & debris removal	Cherryvale and Settlers Park	8	64
Eagle Scouts - ADA improvements & debris removal	Panorama Point and Halfway House	21	168
Community Service - ADA improvements & debris removal	Greenways/Boulder Community Hospital	19	152
Trails - Non-Flood Projects	Project/Location	Volunteer #	Hours
National Trails Day - rerouting Upper Big Bluestem Trail	Upper Big Bluestem	22	176
Community Trails Day - Multiple - new trail construction	Wittemyer Trail/Upper Big Bluestem	52	333
Bike Patrol - Trail maintenance	Springbrook/Coal Seam	45	134
BMA - Trail maintenance	Flatirons Vista	11	33
Boulder Trail Runners- New trail construction	Shadow Canyon	29	232
Trails - Flood Restoration Projects			
Bluebell Road maintenance	Bluebell	4	7
Community Trail Project - Trail repair & debris removal	Royal Arch	10	34

BMA- Bike Patrollers	High Plains Trail	36	144
Community Trail Project - Trail repair & debris removal	Sage	15	45
Community Trail Project - Trail repair & debris removal	Doudy Draw	22	88
Community Trail Project - Trail repair & debris removal	Doudy Draw/South Mesa	83	405
Community Trail Project - Trail repair & debris removal	South Boulder Creek	73	264
Community Trail Project - Trail repair & debris removal	South Mesa Connector Part 1	19	95
Community Trail Project - Trail repair & debris removal	South Mesa Connector Part 2	12	48
Junior Ranger Alumni & Community Trail Project - Trail repair & debris removal	South Mesa ADA	21	83.5
Flatirons Climbing Council (FCC)	Bluebell Drainage	5	30

<b>Water Resources - Non-Flood Projects</b>	<b>Project/Location</b>	<b>Volunteer #</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Church of Latter Day Saints - Corridor clearing	Boulder White Rocks Ditch	8	24
CU Environmental Writing Class - Corridor clearing	Dry Creek Davidson Ditch	8	24
<b>Flood Restoration - Flood Restoration Projects</b>			
AmeriCorps, NCCC Team Leaders - Sediment removal	Silver Lake Ditch	18	90
REI - Sediment removal	Silver Lake Ditch	37	260
The Nature Conservancy - Sediment removal	Silver Lake Ditch	31	155

<b>Whole System Cleanup</b>	<b>Project/Location</b>	<b>Volunteer #</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Only Natural Pet Store - Dog excrement removal	Bobolink Trail	6	12
Boy Scouts of America - Trash pickup	Sawhill Ponds	10	20
Oracle - Trash pickup	Flagstaff Summit	7	14
Boulder City Improvement Association (BCIA - PUP) - Dog excrement removal	Dry Creek/PUP	12	24
Community Project - Flood Restoration - Snow fence removal related to flood	Marshall Mesa	4	4

<b>2013 Total</b>		
	1,276	16,646

Independent Sector estimates the hourly rate for volunteer work is \$22.43. Total value for project volunteer work is \$373,369.

## Volunteer Program Hours 2013

Program	Workgroups Served	Volunteer #	Hours
Bat Monitors	Wildlife & Rangers	41	1115
BearCare & Coyote Care Team	Wildlife & Rangers	12	101
Hayfield Monitors	Agriculture Wildlife & Rangers	8	51
Hosts: Flagstaff Summit Nature Center, Meadow Music & Ranger Cottage	Community Outreach	73	530
Mountain Bike Patrollers	Community Outreach & Rangers	57	1801
Native Garden Team	Ecological Systems	17	165
Naturalists (including flood hikes and winter classroom programs)	Community Outreach	51	1070
Open Space Board of Trustees	All	5	1000
Raptor Monitors	Wildlife & Rangers	65	3000
Resource Restoration Stewards	Ecological Systems	7	20
Staff Assistants: Admin, Assessments, Interns, Sign Care, Vegetation Studies	All	40	1356
Trail Guides (including trail outreach related to the flood)	Community Outreach & Rangers	50	1250

2013 Total		
	426	11,459

Independent Sector estimates the hourly rate for volunteer work is \$22.43. The total value for program volunteers is \$257,025.