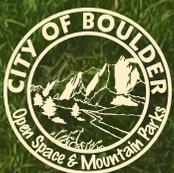


Volunteer Services

Community Connections & Partnerships

Annual Report 2015



City of Boulder
Open Space & Mountain Parks

Photo: Dustin Allard

2015 Overview

“Volunteering with OSMP has made me realize how important it is to use open spaces wisely and participate in its future and its preservation.”

~ Teirnan Doyle, OSMP Volunteer

Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) Volunteer Services engages the community through the land to inspire appreciation, connection and a legacy of stewardship. Volunteer Services serves departmental programs, projects, and events, as well as requests for customized projects from community members and organizations year-round. OSMP connects with the community through an outstanding volunteer program that offers a variety of opportunities for people to give back to the land in a meaningful way. Two major focus areas are ongoing volunteer programs and one-day projects. These help the department meet its mission and charter.

Volunteer Services has offered formal programs and projects since the 1980s with a growing response from the community. In 2015 Volunteer Services redirected their efforts towards recruitment for one-day community volunteer projects due to the loss of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps assisting with out-of-state priorities and flood restoration projects coming to a close. Volunteer Services changed the focus to community volunteer projects developed from OSMP work priorities. Working closely with staff from forestry, agriculture, trails, integrated pest management, and water resources

A photograph showing three volunteers in a field of tall, dry grass. They are wearing hats and backpacks, and appear to be engaged in a field activity, likely seed collection. The scene is outdoors with a clear sky.

Volunteers Collect
Native Seed for
Restoration

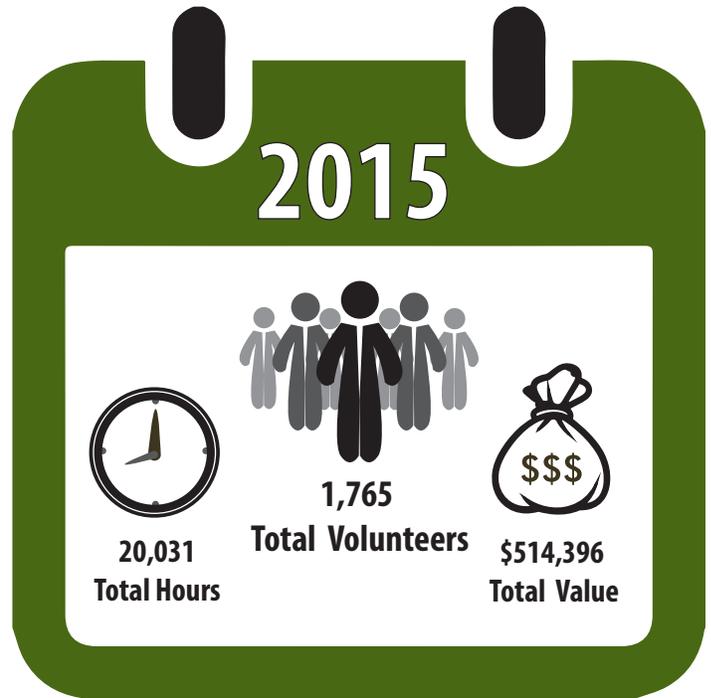
Photo: Kristin Weinberger

DREAM it. BUILD it. LOVE it.

2015 Overview

multiple community projects were planned. To fill these community volunteer projects, recruitment occurred through the new Dream it, Build it, Love it campaign which included the creation of a program brand, a newly designed webpage, and a formalized marketing plan. This comprehensive marketing plan contains templates for flyer and handout development, recruitment models, outreach opportunities, online advertisements, and much more. Volunteer Services' ability to sustain many volunteer projects in 2015 showcases the community interest and success of new marketing efforts.

In 2015 more than 1,765 volunteers contributed a grand total of over 20,000 hours. The work provided by OSMP project and program volunteers adds over half a million dollars in value every year!



Volunteer Naturalists Teach Students



Photo: OSMP Staff

DREAM it. BUILD it. LOVE it.

2015 Overview

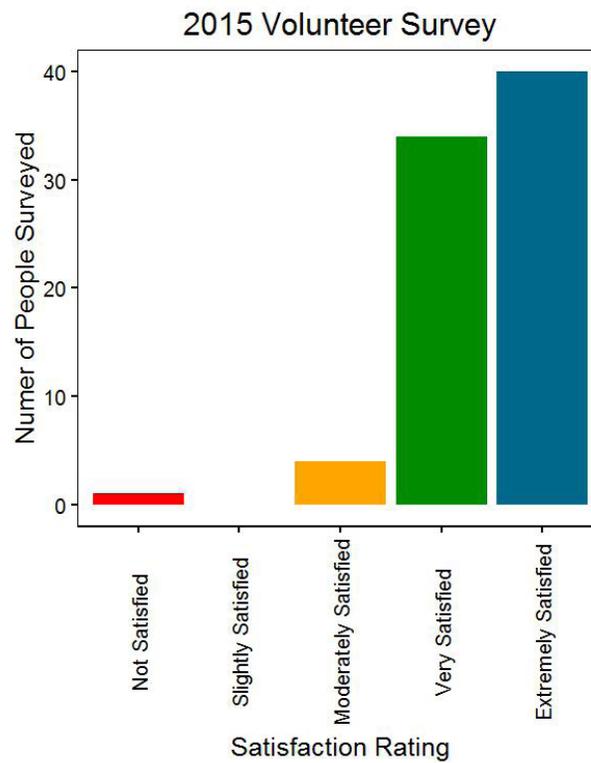
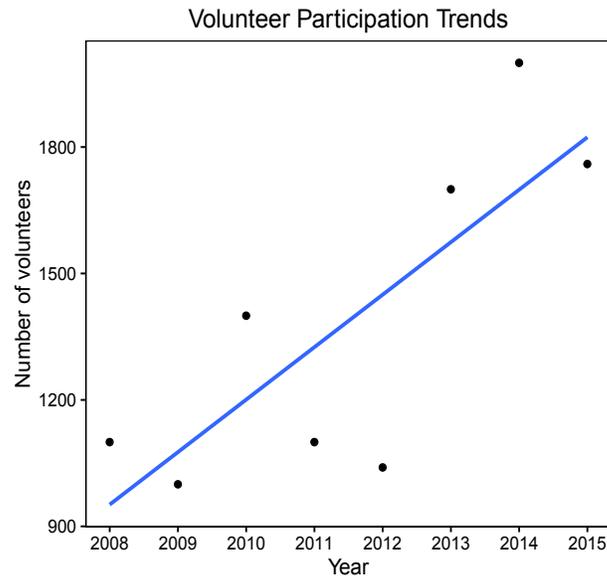




Photo: Beau Clark



Project Volunteers

“This curious world we inhabit is more wonderful than convenient; more beautiful than it is useful; it is more to be admired and enjoyed than used.”

~ Henry David Thoreau

Open Space and Mountain Parks offered 87 volunteer projects to individuals and organizations out of over 100 that were planned. Project volunteers participated in a variety of one-day or multi-day, on-the-ground projects. Each volunteer project involves an overview of the project objectives, information about management methods from the specialists, safety briefings, and education from naturalists. Volunteers are thanked throughout the day and lunch is provided by OSMP.

Volunteers continued to lend a hand assisting with eight flood restoration trail projects needed after the historic 2013 floods. For the first time Volunteer Services collaborated with forestry staff to offer ten one-day community volunteer projects. These projects involve chipping ponderosa pines to improve forest ecosystem health and reduce threats of catastrophic wildfires.

Volunteer Services also supported a departmental goal to highlight OSMP's agricultural program and give community members of all ages opportunities to have a hands-on experience with their local food sources. Volunteer Services collaborated with staff to offer 15 youth and family friendly projects with several agricultural tenants. These volunteer projects assisted with planting and harvesting vegetables, fence repair, and structure demolition. Volunteers learned about the history of agriculture in the area, organic vegetable production on OSMP, and what it takes to grow vegetables in this region. For the first time restoration and agricultural staff offered a community volunteer project to create a bee pollinator garden at Teller Farms to support local bee habitat.

Volunteer Services also supports staff from restoration, trails, trailheads, and water resources workgroups with volunteer project planning and coordination. In 2015 an estimated 1,365 project volunteers contributed 7,750 hours. See page 7 for the breakout of the 2015 volunteer projects per workgroup.

Contracts: Volunteer Services manages two long-term work contracts; one with Bridge House Ready to Work, and the other with Mile High Youth Corps. Volunteer Services pairs up community volunteers with Bridge House Ready to Work crews on various projects to allow the opportunity for crew members to work side by side with volunteers.



Volunteers Plant Organic Vegetables on Agricultural Lands

Photo: Kristin Weinburger

2015 Volunteer Project Summary

Volunteer Project Summary 2015

| Multiple Work Groups Served | Project/Location | Volunteer # | Hours |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Bridge House, Ready to Work | Multiple Projects | na | na |
| Mile High Youth Corps | Teller Lakes | na | na |
| Agriculture | Project/Location | Volunteer # | Hours |
| SportsLab - Loafing Shed Demolition | Abbot | 30 | 90 |
| Community Project with INVST Community Studies & One Act a Day | Cure Organic Farm | 24 | 82 |
| Engineers Without Borders - Cattle Fence | Manchester | 9 | 45 |
| Community Project - 63rd St. Farm | 63rd Street Farm | 31 | 128.5 |
| Colorado College Outdoor Education - Corral Demolition | North Teller/Manchester | 40 | 320 |
| Community Project - Barn Demolition | Berman Brothers | 14 | 70 |
| Navigant Consulting/North Face - Cattle Fence | Methvin | 23 | 92 |
| Dish - Cattle Fence | Andrus | 7 | 39.5 |
| Ecological Systems | Project/Location | Volunteer # | Hours |
| Community Project with CU & Medtronic - Forestry | Flatirons Vista | 85 | 392 |
| New Vista High School - Forestry | Flatirons Vista | 19 | 114 |
| Community Project - Bee Garden | South Teller | 15 | 40 |
| Community Project - Planted Plugs | Dammyanovich | 3 | 12 |
| Whitewave - Seed Collection | South Boulder Creek | 19 | 57 |
| Community Project - Seed Collection | Doudy Draw | 12 | 36 |
| WRV Seed Collections | Multiple Properties | 178 | 472 |
| IPM | Project/Location | Volunteer # | Hours |
| St. Olaf College - Cattle Fence for Tall Oat Grass | Shanahan Ridge | 29 | 203 |
| St. Olaf - Exotic Shrubs | Skunk Canyon | 16 | 112 |
| CU Geography/History - Cattle Fence for Tall Oat Grass | Shanahan Ridge | 12 | 72 |
| North Face - Cattle Fence for Tall Oat Grass | Shanahan Ridge | 3 | 21 |
| Boy Scouts - Moth Mullein | Flatirons Vista | 12 | 36 |
| Individual Volunteer - Mediterranean Sage | BLIP | 2 | 7.5 |
| WRV -Mediterranean Sage | Beech | 26 | 123 |
| Trailheads | Project/Location | Volunteer # | Hours |
| Yale Day of Service - Native Gardens | Thorne/Sombrero Marsh | 6 | 24 |
| County Court Projects | Multiple Project Sites | 55 | 416 |
| Individual Community Service | Multiple Project Sites | 57 | 1202 |
| Eagle Scouts | Multiple Project Sites | 130 | 923 |
| Trailheads - Flood Restoration | Project/Location | Volunteer # | Hours |
| County Court | Arnold Property | 10 | 80 |

2015 Volunteer Project Summary

| Trails | Project/Location | Volunteer # | Hours |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| New Vista High School - Trail Construction | Chautauqua | 17 | 119 |
| Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance - Trail Repair | Marshall Valley/FIV/High Plains | 46 | 222 |
| Community Project - Trail Repair | Chautauqua Meadow | 17 | 119 |
| SolidFire - Trail Repair | Chautauqua | 9 | 27 |
| Adventure Forward - Trail Structures Built | Chautauqua | 35 | 140 |
| Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado - Trail Construction | Long Canyon | 21 | 168 |
| Flatirons Climbing Council - Trail Repair | Flagstaff - Cloudshadow | 19 | 152 |
| Community Project for National Trails Day - Trail Construction | Joder | 35 | 181 |
| Bike Patrol - Trail Repair | Springbrook Loop Trail | 10 | 30 |
| Trails - Flood Restoration | Project/Location | Volunteer # | Hours |
| Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado - Trail Construction | Long Canyon | 17 | 136 |
| Individual Volunteer - Trail Repair | Royal Arch/Royal Arch | 4 | 39 |
| Front Range Climbing Stewards - Trail Repair | Royal Arch | 11 | 64 |
| Community Project - Trail Construction | Towhee | 18 | 126 |
| Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance - Trail Repair | High Plains Trail | 35 | 103 |
| Whitewave - Turnpike | Homestead Trail | 15 | 90 |
| Water Resources | Project/Location | Volunteer # | Hours |
| St. Olaf - Irrigation Maintenance | North Toll Gate | 36 | 227 |
| Community Project with CU Leadership Class - Irrigation Maintenance | Silver Lake Ditch | 33 | 225.5 |
| CU Triathlon Team - Irrigation Maintenance | Silver Lake Ditch | 11 | 66 |
| Whole System Cleanup | Project/Location | Volunteer # | Hours |
| PUP Derby - Clean Up | Dry Creek | 3 | 9 |
| New Vista High School - Fence Demolition and Repair | Cottonwood | 19 | 114 |
| Flatirons Climbing Council - Graffiti Clean Up | 2nd Flatiron | 3 | 15 |
| Flatirons Climbing Council for the Trash Bash - Trash Clean up | Flagstaff Summit | 70 | 140 |
| Summit Middle School - Trash Clean Up | Sawhill Ponds | 14 | 28 |
| The independent sector in Colorado estimates a hourly rate of \$25.68 for volunteer work, totaling a value of \$199,020 for this program. | | | |
| | | 2015 Total | |
| | | Volunteer # | Hours |
| | | 1,365 | 7,750 |

Volunteers Monitor Locally Nesting Raptors



Photo: Volunteer Staff



Program Volunteers

“Volunteering on behalf of OSMP for the past number of years has been awesome. I have probably gained the knowledge equivalent of a master’s degree in natural history. Each of the OSMP programs are meaningful and have a significant impact.” ~ Joel Koenig, OSMP Volunteer

Volunteer Services offers over 17 longer-term program assignments to assist OSMP in carrying out its mission and goals. In 2015, 354 individual program volunteers committed to assignments which included greeting visitors on the trails and monitoring wildlife and plants. Program volunteers also assisted at outreach events, answered questions at the Chautauqua Ranger Cottage and led interpretive hikes for youth and more. (see page 11)

Two milestones were marked this year with the 30th anniversary of the volunteer raptor monitoring program and the 20th anniversary of the bat monitoring program. Over the last 30 years, OSMP volunteers have monitored the fledging of 207 golden eagles, 31 bald eagles, 395 prairie falcons, 151 peregrine falcons, and 66 osprey. Raptor volunteers provide weekly information to OSMP staff about the status of nesting pairs and also report any closure violations.

In 1995 agencies within Boulder County began an on-going bat survey to determine numbers and species of bats in the area. Bat volunteers have gathered years of data for maternal roost sites and watering holes on OSMP properties. These citizen science monitoring programs are national models which demonstrate the

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successful partnerships between local community members, conservation groups, recreational groups, and land management agencies.

Based on a renewed staff need, herbarium volunteers reconvened once a week from March through June. These volunteers have been collecting and pressing plants found on our properties for over 20 years building a library-like collection that helps us better understand and manage our biologically diverse ecosystems.

“It is so life giving for me to be part of this volunteer program and feel like I can be helpful to the preservation of the natural world.” ~ Betsy Heppner, OSMP Volunteer

Volunteer Services staff recruited and trained additional mountain bike patrollers and trail guide/park patrollers who serve as extra eyes for the department and assist with communicating regulations, trail conditions, and natural history information to visitors. The Boulder Mountain Bike Patrol is a multi-agency program with the OSMP, Boulder County Parks and Open Space, U.S. Forest Service, City of Boulder Parks and Recreation, and Boulder Mountainbike Alliance. Patrollers ride trails assisting and educating mountain bikers and other park users. The goal is to promote a positive recreational experience on the trails. Over 75 mountain bike volunteers patrolled over 600 times covering more than 8,000 miles on OSMP trails. A particular focus this year included outreach in the Marshall Mesa area to educate about bike etiquette and to reduce user conflict. Similarly, trail guide/park patrollers hiked on all OSMP trails with extra time spent in the North Trail Study Area (NTSA) to provide information to visitors as well as assisting with Royal Arch closures and other departmental needs.

The Volunteer Naturalist program trained nine new volunteers who, along with 50 other volunteer naturalists, provided 259 guided interpretive hikes and programs to 4,233 school-age children from the surrounding area school districts. Youth served were mainly from the Boulder Valley School District as well as at least six other school districts across the Front Range. In response to growing demand, classroom wildlife programs which are scheduled and taught by volunteer naturalists, were expanded beyond bear and mountain lion curriculum to include coyote education.

Volunteer Naturalists Teach Students



Photo: OSMP Staff

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2015 Volunteer Program Summary

Volunteer Program Summary 2015

| Program | Workgroups Served | Volunteer # | Site Visits/Events | Hours |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------|
| Bat Monitors | Wildlife & Rangers | 50 | 110 | 1330 |
| Bear Care & Coyote Care Team | Wildlife, Rangers & CPW | 13 | 5 | 33 |
| Bee Monitors | Wildlife | 3 | 20 | 16 |
| Hayfield Monitors | Agriculture, Wildlife & Rangers | 6 | 26 | 40 |
| Herbarium | Ecological Systems | 7 | 5 | 25 |
| Hosts: Flagstaff Nature Center | Community Outreach | 18 | 116 | 479 |
| Host: Event Help (Meadow Music & Voice & Sight Events) | Community Outreach | 12 | 15 | 193 |
| Host: Ranger Cottage | Community Outreach | 5 | 20 | 150 |
| Mountain Bike Patrollers | Community Outreach & Rangers | 75 | 609 | 1590 |
| Native Garden Team | Community Outreach | 12 | 10 | 292 |
| Naturalists (including bear, mountain lion & coyote classroom programs) | Community Outreach | 43 | 259 | 900 |
| Open Space Board of Trustees | All | 5 | 12 | 1000 |
| Raptor Monitors | Wildlife & Rangers | 50 | 525 | 2300 |
| Resource Restoration Stewards | Ecological Systems | 6 | 5 | 15 |
| Undesignated Trail Study | Planning | 1 | 4 | 50 |
| Staff Assistants: Admin, Interns, Vegetation Studies | All | 5 | 5 | 461 |
| Trail Guide/Park Patrollers | Community Outreach & Rangers | 89 | 1091 | 3407 |
| The independent sector estimates a hourly rate in Colorado of \$25.68 for volunteer work, totaling a value of \$315,376 for this program. In 2015 there were 354 individual program volunteers, 46 of these volunteers are involved with multiple programs. | | | | |

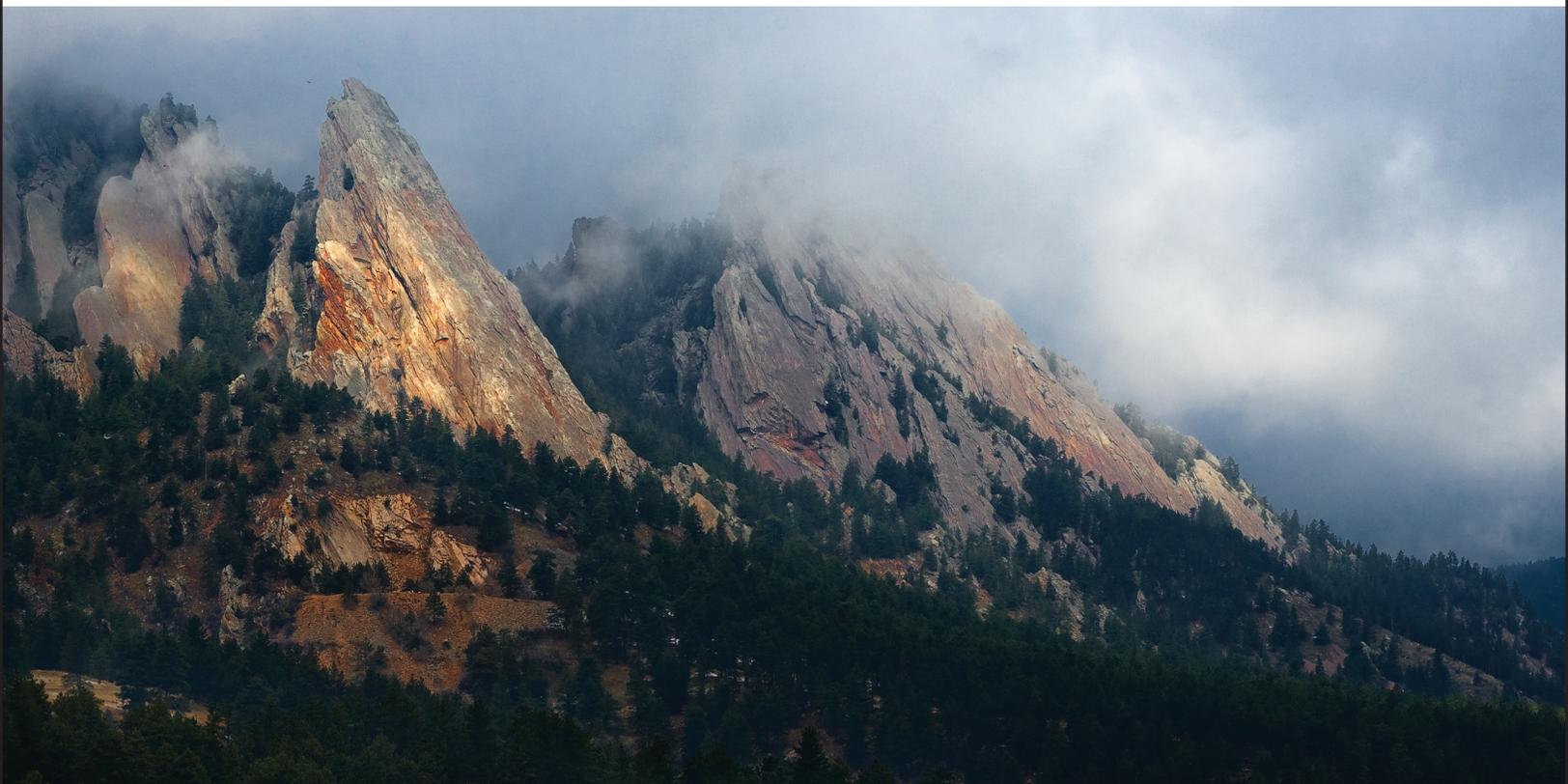
| Grand Total 2015 | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------|
| Training Provided by Staff | Volunteer # | Site Visits/Events | Hours |
| 1,485 hrs | 400 | 2,837 | 12,281 |

Photo: Volunteer Staff

Plans for 2016

In addition to continuing to offer projects and programs, Volunteer Services will focus on new initiatives in 2016. Staff will begin developing a five year strategic plan to look more closely at capacity, recruitment, and targeting key audiences. In an effort to enhance our communication style with volunteers, Volunteer Services will market projects and programs using Emma software. In addition, from the 2015 marketing plan, Volunteer Services learned lessons about how many volunteer projects to offer, the best timing, and when volunteers are most likely to participate. Volunteer Services will continue to offer one-day community projects as well as placing a new emphasis on targeted marketing to local companies who offer their employee's time to volunteer. This involves making face-to-face contacts to develop long-lasting relationships with identified businesses and organizations in our community. There will also be a focus on offering additional agriculturally-based projects as well as a pollinator meadow restoration project geared towards youth, families, and underserved communities.

Finally, Volunteer Services will continue to offer opportunities for long-term volunteer assignments. Recruitment and trainings will be offered for the programs that are requested by community members and/ or need additional volunteer support such as Mountain Bike Patrol, Trail Guide/Park Patrollers, and Bat Monitors. In 2016 a plant phenology program will be piloted to monitor plant phases in order to track trends over time. Phenology can be an early indicator of climate change especially for plants. Volunteers will make field observations over the course of a growing season using protocols and standards designed by the National Phenology Network.



Thank you!

With the support of the Open Space Board of Trustees, the OSMP Executive Team, staff, partner agencies, and our committed outdoor community, Volunteer Services continues to grow relationships that connect people to the land. Volunteer Services is grateful for these partnerships and dedication to the volunteer program. We tip our hats to the OSMP volunteers' accomplishments and look forward to the year ahead. Visit VolunteerOSMP.org for upcoming volunteer projects and programs.

Interested in Volunteering with Open Space & Mountain Parks?
Visit our website at VolunteerOSMP.org or contact:

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