

Boulder County Parks and Open Space Milestones

(updated January 2023)

1960

74,254 residents in Boulder County.

A *Preserving Open Space* report is prepared by Trafton Bean & Assoc (TBA) for Boulder County Regional Planning Commission.

1962

Regional Park Advisory Committee is appointed by Regional Planning Commission.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space report is prepared by TBA for Regional Planning Commission. Part I: Need, Part II: Standards.

1963

Outline for a *Park and Recreation Study, Boulder County* is completed by TBA.

Part III: Organization of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Report is submitted. Park Advisory Committee set up 3 sub-committees: Legal, Facilities and Publicity.

Parks Advisory Subcommittee submits recommendations to Commissioners for: Cooperative Board Recreational Administration, Standing Citizens Committee and County Parks Coordinator.

1964

John Morris is appointed the County Parks Coordinator.

1965

State Parks develops first Comprehensive Colorado Outdoor Recreation Plan.

John Morris is appointed the County Land Use Director and continues as Parks Coordinator.

1966

John Morris is appointed County Parks Coordinator.

1967

Commissioners appoint first Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC) members.

1968

In June, POSAC recommends the establishment of a Parks & Open Space District to acquire and preserve parkland and to be administered by a Parks & Greenbelt Commission composed of unpaid property owners.

In July, Long Range Planning Commission adopts *Basic Goals & Objectives*, including a section on Parks & Open Space.

In September, Commissioners vote to request that Planning Commission draw up a plan for the formation of a County Parks & Recreation District.

In September, work begins on St. Vrain River study.

DRCOG presents *Regional Open Space Plan* in December.

1969

St. Vrain fieldwork is completed; progress report is presented to Long Range Planning Commission.

1970

131,889 residents in Boulder County.

DRCOG presents *Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Development Program*, Denver SMSA.

1971

Long Range Planning Commission considers six Natural Area Studies prepared by CU Geography Department.

1972

Commissioners authorize hiring new planner to prepare Open Space Plan.

Libby Goodwin is appointed Parks Planner in County Planning Department.

Additional members are appointed to POSAC to increase countywide geographic representation.

1973

County Commissioners establish the Boulder County Parks & Open Space Fund, with a donation from Ruth and Ken Wright.

County Commissioners adopt a statement of POSAC Goals and Responsibilities.

Bald Mountain Scenic Area becomes the first county open space property to open to the public in June 1973.

Commissioners adopt the Policy Statement on Parks & Open Space in September.

POSAC begins series of neighborhood meetings to obtain citizen input on Open Space Plan in November.

Boulder Supply Canal designate as State non-motorized Recreational Trail at request of POSAC and BOCC.

1974

Commissioners appoint additional members to POSAC to bring it to full membership of 15 and regular terms are established.

Open Space survey compose by POSAC; 30,000 copies are distributed through the schools.

POSAC begins a series of work sessions to analyze results of neighborhood meetings and open space survey forms.

POSAC adopts Goals for the Open Space Plan.

Libby Goodwin presents proposal for reorganization of Boulder County Parks & Open Space Program to County Commissioners with endorsement of POSAC. County Commissioners adopt the proposal.

POSAC adopts working map of proposed Open Space Plan and begins a series of community meetings to obtain citizen input to the proposal.

POSAC adopts a set of eight Policies and Action Programs to accompany map of Open Space Plan.

1975

Boulder County Commissioners creates the Parks & Open Space Department (POS) in January. The volunteer naturalist program begins by recruiting 10 volunteers to lead nature hikes.

Libby Goodwin is appointed as the first POS director and serves until July 1976. Additional permanent staff included a Natural Resource Manager (Paul Maxwell) three park rangers and a Resource Planner (Linda Light-Bump).

POS manages Bald Mountain Scenic Area, Legion Park, Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat, and a handful of dedicated subdivision areas.

Boulder County submits an application for Land & Water Conservation Funds to develop Twin Lakes Trail.

1976

Paul Maxwell is promoted from Resource Manager to Director and serves until 1979.

Parks & Open Space Department publishes the *Open Space Handbook*.

POS creates the Forestry Division with 15 crew members.

Superior Cemetery donated to Boulder County from Rocky Mountain Fuel Company as a Bicentennial project.

Boulder County purchases 124-acres for \$291,000 that will become the Fairgrounds property.

1977

The Boulder County Board of Commissioners adopts the first set of POS rules and regulations -- rangers can only issue courtesy notices.

POS purchases 725 acres of Betasso Preserve for \$925/acre to be paid in options from 1977 – 1986 --Boulder County's first large open space purchase.

POS constructs 1.3 miles of trail at Bald Mountain Scenic Area.

Boulder County enters a management agreement with City of Boulder to manage Boulder Falls, Buckingham Park and Buckingham Campground. This agreement stays in effect until 1993.

The first 268 acres of the 2,566-acre Walker Ranch were purchased for approximately \$1,000/acre. (The final purchase was completed in 1984.)

1978

Forestry division sells 100 cords of beetle wood from the Walker Ranch logging operation to help fund the forestry project.

The first attempt for an Open Space ballot issue (0.50% sales tax) fails in May.

Boulder Fairgrounds moves from Roosevelt Park to its present location on Nelson Road in Longmont, and a Fairgrounds Master Plan is completed.

POS forestry staff and Sheriff employees develop an inter-regional wildland fire crew consisting of 12 members whose first assignment was in Cody, Wyoming.

1979

Construction of the Exhibit Building at the Boulder County Fairgrounds is completed.

Six Mile Fold (20 acres) is purchased for \$50,000.

First 240 acres of Rock Creek Farm are purchased for \$700,000.

1980

189,625 residents in Boulder County.

Ben Greene, from Foothills Metropolitan Recreation & Parks District, is appointed POS director and serves through 1982.

POS publishes the first issue of quarterly journal *Images* (Rich Koopmann was the first editor).

County Extension Services relocates from 1226 Main Street in Longmont to the Natural Resources Building at the Boulder County Fairgrounds.

Rock Creek Farm Open Space dedication takes place in October. The water rights tied to RCF are the first-ever purchased by Boulder County.

1981

POS has 10.1 miles of designated trails on four properties.

U.S. Forest Service donates two used restrooms to POS that are installed at Walker Ranch and Betasso Preserve.

Rock Creek Farm Nursery is established southeast of Stearns Lake when the forestry crew plant 850 juniper, Russian olives and Austrian pine seedlings.

1982

John Krukoff is promoted from Resource Manager to Interim Director in December and serves until 1983.

Fish habitat is created at Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat from old car tires.

Petition received to turn Rock Creek Farm Open Space into a public golf course. Another request is from the Sheriff's Office for a shooting range at the property.

The Boulder County Nature Association (BCNA) is founded in association with POS.

1983

POSAC chairperson Carolyn Holmberg is appointed as POS director and serves until her death in 1998.

Boulder County Fairgrounds leaves the Public Works Department to rejoin POS.

POS reorganizes into four divisions: Resource Management, Parks Operations, Fairgrounds and Administrative Services.

1984

The summer issue of *Images* includes the first Nature Detectives insert -- with Ann Cooper, Ann Armstrong and Carol Kampert as volunteer writers.

The National Register of Historic Places adds Walker Ranch to its list as the largest "Cultural Landscape" listing in the State of Colorado.

POS sponsors the first annual Walker Ranch Special Event.

The campground opens at the Boulder County Fairgrounds.

Birds of Prey Foundation establishes headquarters on Rock Creek Farm.

1985

The Volunteer Naturalists Program gets a part-time paid coordinator.

Eldorado Trail connection from Walker Ranch to Eldorado Canyon State Park is constructed.

New acquisitions include Lohr and Bragg/Sprangler.

POS begins management of Barker Reservoir for the Public Service Company -- an arrangement that continues through 1988.

Rabbit Mountain Open Space opens to the public.

Ranger staff graduate from Sheriff's Department Reserve Officer Academy.

POS hires the first wildlife biologist (Jeff Rucks) to address wildlife concerns on open space lands.

1986

POS creates the first Land Acquisition Officer position.

Resource Management Division, with assistance from volunteer naturalists and other POS staff trap and tag deer at Rabbit Mountain due to adjacent landowners concerns about crop damage.

1987

Parks & Open Space acquires Lagerman Reservoir.

The Lodestar, a converted motor home to mobile nature center, takes to the road at local special events.

The large barn at Walker Ranch is re-roofed for the first time since 1976 purchase.

The Betasso homestead (50 acres) is purchased from Ernie Betasso's estate. The Betasso Preserve property totals 773 acres.

Fairgrounds Lake is constructed down into the shale formation.

1988

Beech Open Space, the first joint purchase between Boulder County and City of Boulder, opens to the public.

Lefthand Canyon Fire burns nearly 2,200 acres including 500 acres of Beech Open Space and 20 acres of Six Mile Fold.

Boulder's Audubon Club constructs and installs bluebird boxes at Walker Ranch to help declining bluebird populations nationwide.

Boulder County publishes the first edition of *Exploring Boulder County* with an anonymous donation.

The National Register of Historic Places accepts the request to expand the Walker Ranch boundary for an additional 538 acres.

1989

Black Tiger Fire destroys 44 homes and 2,000 acres including Sugarloaf Mountain. Firefighters use Betasso Preserve as fire camp.

The Anne U. White Trail closes to mountain bicycles due to limited sight distance and visitor conflicts.

Neighbors loudly object to sludge added to Rock Creek Farm for soil amendment.

Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) Fishing is Fun Grant helps create Cattail Pond at the Boulder County Fairgrounds for youth fishing opportunities.

The Native Cultural Services discovers the remains of a prehistoric Native American occupation site along eroding bank of Rock Creek at Rock Creek Farm Open Space.

POS hosts the first annual Seniors Fish-Off at Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat.

County publishes the first edition of Anne Dyni's *Pioneer Voices of the Boulder Valley*.

The State of Colorado officially designates the Peak-to-Peak Scenic and Historic Byway.

Second attempt at open space sales tax fails.

The Wall Street Assay Office is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1990

226,374 residents in Boulder County.

Boulder County Sheriff grant limited commissions to resource specialists performing ranger patrols.

Private property owner donates Riverside Ranch open space and transfers development rights to Mountain Ridge subdivision at Highway 36 and Nelson Road.

DOW and Boulder County jointly fund the construction of a 500' boardwalk at Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat.

Old Stage fire destroys 11 homes and burns 6,000 acres, including part of Beech Open Space.

POS recruits the first class of cultural history/Walker Ranch volunteers.
Gilbert and Anne U. White donate 20 acres in four-mile canyon creek, adding to the trail corridor.

The county's first purchase of a conservation easement occurs to protect 334 acres of the Stromquist Farms property.

Archaeological excavation begins at Rock Creek Farm Open Space with a grant from BCNA and Scientific & Cultural Facilities Tax District.

1991

POS has 23.8 miles of designated trails on 10 properties.

POS creates first full-time Landscape Architect position to design trails and park facilities.

The Construction, Maintenance, Resource management and Fairgrounds work groups all merge together as the Operations Division (under the leadership of Don Brown).

The department removes Russian olive trees from county open space lands -- trees that were planted by the department!

The Volunteer Coordinator position is expanded to a full-time position.

The Construction and Maintenance work groups relocate from Lee Hill Shop to Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat.

1992

An electrical fire destroys the historical Walker Ranch white house in November.

Coal Creek/Rock Creek Trail's grand opening.

Commissioners award the first annual Land Conservation Award. The award honors residents who have made a major contribution to land conservation and to the development of a land conservation ethic in Boulder County.

1993

POS participates in the first National Trail Day at Walker Ranch.

POS begins its Historical Site Surveys, thanks to its first grant from the State Historical Fund.

The department begins using recycled plastic/wood lumber for construction projects.

POS weed management adds biological control to fight the war against diffuse knapweed at Walker Ranch.

The county acquires the Harney Lastoka property in the first ever joint purchase with Lafayette and Louisville.

A group of kids discover a mammoth's tooth at Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat while on a nature hike with volunteer naturalist!

Trail crews complete the reroute of Canyon Loop Trail at Betasso -- and mountain bicyclists discovered another single track trail in the foothills.

The third attempt for an Open Space ballot issue (0.25%) passes in November to expand the county's open space program.

Public Service helps install three raptor poles at Rabbit Mountain Open Space.

Rich Koopman writes the first Boulder County local landmark nomination for the Orodell townsite.

The Rock Creek archeology site is listed on the State Register of Historic Properties.

1994

The first AmeriCorps crew assist the department with forestry project at Walker Ranch.

The Adopt-a-Park/Trail Program kicks off -- all parks but Flagg Park are adopted.

Taxpayers' Union sues Boulder County over the wording of the successful 1993 sales and use tax ballot issue. They object to combining the sales-tax with the bond issue in one ballot measure. The 1994 tax revenues went into a trust fund until the lawsuit is finally decided by the Colorado State Supreme Court in favor of Boulder County.

Boulder County begins acquisition of Hall and Heil Ranches with help of The Nature Conservancy and Trust for Public Lands, who purchased the land for Boulder County until the settlement of the Taxpayers' Union lawsuit.

1995

The trails crew construct a 500-foot spiral staircase and face lift at "The Wall" on the Walker Ranch Loop.

Southdown Corporation donates 525 acres on Indian Mountain to Boulder County.

The department creates the Agricultural Resource Division.

Trail construction at Rabbit Mountain allows visitors to travel on trails rather than roads.

1996

Jack Ekin's photography exhibit "*Open Spaces, Wild Places*" tours Boulder County.

Citizen's advisory committee convenes to develop management direction for Harney-Lastoka Property.

Two sheriff officers begin work, as park deputies whose beat was solely county open space lands.

Weed Management work group join the Agricultural Resource Division.

Pella Crossing opens to the public. Boulder County's Youth Corps helped construct trails and parking lot during their inaugural year.

Park Host Program kicks off -- recruiting eight park hosts to provide informal contact with park visitors.

The department begins purchase of Caribou Ranch in partnership with City of Boulder Utilities Division for \$14 million.

Coalton Road permanently closes to public traffic and becomes part of the Coal Creek Trail.

The department ignites its first prescribed burn at Rabbit Mountain.

Board of County Commissioners adopt North Foothills Management Plan (Hall Ranch, Heil Valley Ranch and Dorothy Trevarton Conservation Easement properties), with a temporary moratorium on dogs to be in effect when the property opened to the public.

Hall Ranch opens in September with partial construction of Bitterbrush Trail (up to the prairie dog town).

1997

North Foothills Open Space Advisory Committee appointed to address unresolved issues in the North Foothills Open Space Management Plan.

County publishes first edition of newspaper insert *County Open Space: An Owner's Guide*.

The Stroh-Dickens Barn is moved from FAA property in downtown Longmont to the Lohr-McIntosh property.

POS hires first property caretaker (Sheldon Frost) for Hall Ranch Open Space.

More than 100 volunteers construct trail at Rabbit Mountain on National Volunteer Day. In cooperation with DOW, the department hires a New Zealand-based Kiwi Group to trap and tag seven female elk by helicopter at Heil Valley Ranch in effort to monitor the Lefthand Canyon elk herd.

County historic landmark designations include the Affolter House at the Boulder County Fairgrounds.

1998

Gravel mining finally concludes at Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat.

Improvements at Rabbit Mountain include a new parking lot, group picnic shelter and restrooms.

Wetland “odors” at Sombrero Marsh and Little Gaynor Lake prompts numerous complaints from neighbors.

POS Director Carolyn Holmberg dies following a brief illness on September 19.

County Land Use Director Graham Billingsley is appointed Interim Director of Parks and Open Space Department and serves until 1999.

County historic landmark designations include the Lohr-McIntosh Homestead, the Stroh Dickens Barn, Hall Ranch and Rock Creek Farm and the Wall Street Assay Office.

1999

Boulder County population is approximately 283,000 -- more than double the 1975 number.

The integrated weed management team adds eight goats and a llama to its tool kit to combat weeds on open space lands.

The Resource Management Team splits from the Operations Division, creating a manager level position.

Boulder County adopts the Grassland Management Plan, Prairie Dog Habitat Element.

Great Outdoors Colorado awards Boulder County \$3.275 million Legacy Grant for land and

water acquisitions along the St. Vrain corridor.

Ron Stewart is appointed POS director and served both as commissioner and director until the end of his commissioner term in 2004.

Voters approve the extension of an existing 0.25% Open Space Sales and Use tax for 10 years.

County historic landmark designations include the Carlson Silo and Betasso Preserve.

2000

271,651 residents in Boulder County.

POS celebrated 25th anniversary with more than 58,000 acres secured as county open space or conservation easements.

Heil Ranch opens to the public with the 1.3-mile Lichens Trail on a snowy March day.

77 volunteers join POS & VOC for a work project at Pella Crossing.

Coal Creek/Rock Creek Trail is extended another $\frac{3}{4}$ miles east to 120th Street in Lafayette.

A wildland fire consumes approximately 1,061 acres in the Walker Ranch area, and the annual Walker Ranch Cultural History Event was canceled since flames could be seen from Flagstaff Road.

Rock Creek Farm Open Space is rededicated in honor of Carolyn Holmberg and is now named the Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm Open Space.

Voters pass a resolution to extend the existing 0.10% county recycling and composting tax which sunsets in 2001, for open space. The tax is extended for eight years, expiring at end of 2009.

2001

POS has 83.7 miles of designated trails on 25 properties.

POS hires first water resource specialist to oversee department's water rights and resources.

Roadside vegetation management position is created within weed program.

Walker Ranch Loop trail reopens to public in January after a wildland fire closed the area, but visitors are restricted to on-trail use only because of hazardous conditions.

The department's education trailer hits the road to attend local town festivals and POS special events.

Rehabilitation efforts at Walker Ranch include a seasonal winter rehab crew and four spring volunteer projects. 190 volunteers helped POS with rehabilitation efforts during the spring volunteer projects.

Grand opening of the Agricultural Heritage Center at Lohr/McIntosh Farm, with 722 people visiting the site its first year.

52 volunteers help at an all-day rehabilitation project at Plumley Canyon/Heil Valley Ranch.

Wapiti and Ponderosa Loop trails open at Heil Ranch in October as part of Heil Valley Ranch's Phase II grand opening.

Coal Creek/Rock Creek Trail is extended 3/4 mile, giving users an uninterrupted 7-mile stretch along Coal Creek from 96th Street in Louisville to 120th Street in Lafayette.

Canyon Loop Trail at Betasso Preserve closes to mountain bikes on Wednesdays and Saturdays to mitigate trail user conflicts.

Cradle Board Trail and Mary Miller Trail at Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm opens to public in fall.

Picnic Pond at Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat was renamed as Wally Toevs Pond in honor of his work to convert the gravel mining area to a county open space.

Blanchard/Betasso cabin preservation is completed –Boulder County Youth Corps members help with restoration efforts.

18 volunteers (individuals and organizations) are recognized for their five years of service, while two individuals are recognized for their 10 years of service with POS.

Freak tornado-like wind blows down the upper homestead Betasso barn.

Total acreage of active prairie dog colonies grew from 801 to almost 2,500 acres since 1998! 578 prairie dogs are relocated to the Southeast Buffer Habitat Conservation Area.

The department purchases 5,889 acres in 83 property transactions for \$43.4 million.

In 2001, more than one million people visit Boulder County's parks and open space properties.

County historic landmark designations include the Harney-Lastoka Farm and Cardinal Mill

2002

Heil maintenance garage is demolished by strong winds on the night in January.

The Board of County Commissioners approve POS to develop protocol and partner with DOW to track and curtail chronic wasting disease on county open space lands.

Walden Ponds' Pelican Marsh is dedicated as the Ricky Weiser Wetland in February commemorating the long-time Boulder activist.

The 1.3-mile Cradle Board and 1.5-mile Mary Miller multiple-use trails open at the Carolyn Holmberg Preserve.

Scent station study to identify mammal species begins at Heil Valley Ranch.

The 2002 Drought, one of the worst in the 20th century, hits POS agricultural lands hard. Junior decreed ditches (after 1872) have no water to deliver!

The Board of County Commissioners approve annual funding for forest-thinning contracts on POS lands.

POS requires group reservations for any activity or event that may draw more than 25 people.

The department purchases 3,096 acres in 95 property transactions for \$22.9 million.

POS works with the cities of Lafayette and Louisville to develop management plans for 10 jointly-owned open space properties.

St Vrain trail master plan process begins.

POS files for conditional water rights and point of diversion from Boulder Creek to help maintain water levels at Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat.

2003

POS partners with Boulder County's Youth Corps to create new combined positions.

Master plan for 22 county open space properties within the St Vrain corridor begin to take shape.

The department acquires 706 acres of BLM land in the Ward area by exchange and seeks to acquire 750 acres of BLM land in the Gold Hill area through the federal Recreation & Public Purposes Act (R&PPA).

Summer Catfish Nights at Fairgrounds Lake are a big hit with local anglers seeking opportunity to fish after hours.

2004

POS participates in a Grasslands Bio Blitz event that netted 1,342 species in June.

The department begins using remote trail cameras to document wildlife activities.

The department receives \$62,300 grant from the State Historical Fund to complete a comprehensive historic sites survey for buildings over 50 years old.

Western portion of Pella Crossing (formally called Marlat property) opens.

Good news – the Wally Toevs Pond once again is swimming with rainbow trout after two years of drought conditions!

Caribou Ranch Open Space opens to the public in a thick fog with more than 50 guests present.

0.1% sales tax approved by voters, with half expiring in 2025 and the other half remaining in perpetuity.

County historic landmark designations include the Blue Bird Mine at Caribou Ranch Open Space.

2005

Working with the Urban Drainage & Flood Control District, POS begins a restoration project along Rock Creek to mitigate erosion and destabilized creek banks at the Carolyn Holmberg Preserve.

The Agricultural Heritage Center sponsors the first “Arts & Crafts on the Farm” and “Livestock Day” special events.

Geocaching is permitted on POS lands through a registration process.

The State Historical Fund awards a \$50,000 grant to Boulder County and the cities of Lafayette and Louisville to complete historic structure assessments of the buildings at the Harney-Lastoka property.

Legion Park’s 77mm field cannon is moved to the American Legion Post #10 in Boulder where it’s restored and displayed.

Coordination of Dougherty Museum seasonal staffing transfers from BOCC to POS.

POS moves to 5201 St Vrain Rd in a building heated by biomass energy.

2006

POS expands Land Conservation Awards to include Environmental Stewardship, Heritage and Outstanding Volunteers.

Walden Ponds A-frame and garages are removed and the B-frame is converted to the Volunteer Naturalists Center.

First class of volunteer native seed collection crew leaders are trained to lead community projects.

Department sponsors a small grant research project to assess the attitudes of adjacent landowners about POS land management.

James F. Bailey Assay Office Museum in Wall Street opens to the public.

County commissioners assign to the department management responsibility for regulatory land use conservation easements over 243 properties covering 11,222 acres.

POS and City of Lafayette purchase the Stephenson/Nelson property that was renamed Two Creeks Open Space.

South Boulder Creek Trailhead is improved and renamed Walker Ranch Loop Trailhead.

The regulation to prohibit dogs on North Foothills Open Space (Hall Ranch and Heil Valley Ranch) is made permanent by BOCC.

Grand opening of Mud Lake Open Space.

The Biomass Central Heating System at POS headquarters is one of the recipients of the first Pinnacle Awards by BOCC.

POS contributes \$95,000 to help finance a two-year data collection study by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program on rare plant and animal species in Boulder County.

EPA awards POS a \$200,000 Brownsfield Cleanup Grant for remediation of waste rock piles left from fluorspar mining at the Argo Mine (Mehl Property).

2007

POS receives four National Association of Counties (NACO) awards for the historic preservation video, volunteer programs, the Grasslands Management Plan and the biomass heating system.

The Agricultural Heritage Center expands to an April 1 - October 31 season.

BOCC approves CDOW Front Range Cougar Pilot Study to capture and radio collar on county open space.

Kick-off of the department's Nature Detective Club with three mystery guides at Walden Ponds, Carolyn Holmberg Preserve and Betasso Preserve.

Twin Lakes Open Space celebrates its grand opening.

The Wild Turkey Trail at Heil Valley Ranch open to public. POS reaches 100 miles of trail with the opening of the Wild Turkey Trail.

Expansion of the Walker Ranch Loop Trailhead is completed, including a new trail connection to the Meyers Homestead Trail.

Two-year scent station survey at Rabbit Mountain detects secretive and nocturnal wildlife.

CSU Extension Service's New Farmer Program kicks off with 20 participants.

Voters approve the extension of a 0.10 percent sales tax to support acquisition of and improvements to county open space properties. It will expire on 12/31/2029.

County historic landmark designations include the Blue Jay Mine.

2008

The Boulder County Youth Corps program transfers to POS from Administrative Services.

POS monitors 559 conservation easements and completes 24 new baseline reports.

Picture Rock Trail at Heil Valley Ranch opens to public.

Harney-Lastoka Open Space opens the Kerr Community Gardens and new trail.

POS launches a new Partnership Initiative (Karen Imbierowicz is program coordinator) and sponsors 54 projects, a 50% increase from previous year, for corporate partners.

Youth Corps starts annual awards to recognize a Corpsmember of the Year and a Sponsor of the Year.

POS partners with Land Use and the Sheriff's office to form the Boulder County Forest Health Program to mitigate effects of the mountain pine beetle epidemic.

Boulder County partners with local municipalities and federal agencies in the Northern Front Range Mountain Pine Beetle Working Group.
Department discovers a prehistoric hearth eroding out of the creek bank at Zaharias-Thomas property.

Phase II of Cardinal Mill rehabilitation is completed.

2009

POS holds the First Annual Partnership Event at the Goodhue Farmhouse to honor the 23 businesses and organizations.

Parks & Open Space Partnership Initiative and Boulder Flycasters receive the County Commissioners' Pinnacle Award for excellence for their work on restoring a stretch of Middle Boulder Creek on Platt Rogers Open Space.

The Walker Ranch white house is reconstructed to house a resident ranger and cultural history programming.

102 volunteers help construct Benjamin Loop trail at Betasso Preserve.

POS partners with Boulder County Nature Association and Boulder County Audubon Society to initiate a large-scale volunteer monitoring program for burrowing owls.

The final report by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program on rare species finds Boulder County has the highest density of rare elements of any Colorado county and it was home to three sites of global conservation significance.

Close 1.8 miles of social trails at Betasso Preserve & Benjamin properties with POS partners Wildland Restoration Volunteers (WRV) and Smartwool.

BOCC adopts the department's Conservation Easement Program Policies and Procedures.

Picture Rock Trailhead is completed.

County historic landmark designations include Camp Frances.

Youth Corps ran one season of the Energy Corps funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to conduct free home energy assessments 2009-2010.

2010

294,567 residents in Boulder County.

Rock Creek restoration at the Zaharias property is completed. A new archaeology site is identified.

POS launches a new Volunteer Natural Resource Monitors program.

Mayhoffer-Singletree Trail opens, linking county trails to the City of Boulder's southern trail system.

A CSU doctoral student starts a radio telemetry study of bobcat movements and behavior on several POS properties.

The 270-acre Dowe Flats Grassland Restoration Project is completed with native plant seeding of the last sections.

POS and CSU Extension Services sponsor four bus tours of BCPOS' farms during summer month as part of educational efforts in the development of the Cropland Policy.

Grand opening of the restored Bluebird Mine complex at Caribou Ranch.

The department adds social media (YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook) to communicate with public.

BOCC adopts the Forest Management Policy.

An aerial photography project verifies that 95% of Russian olive trees have been removed from POS lands.

The Fourmile Canyon Fire starts on Labor Day, September 6, and burns 6,182 acres, including Bald Mountain Scenic Area and some POS property in Wall Street. More than 50 POS employees work in various capacities, logging more than 1,500 hours on fire's suppression, emergency stabilization efforts and staffing the Emergency Communication Center. Three thousand people and 500 animals are evacuated, 167 residences are destroyed, and over \$210 million of insurance claims are filed.

77% of all POS staff work with or assist with volunteer programs or projects in 2010!

The Blue Jay Mine headframe and ore bin is restored with a grant from the State Historical Fund.

Rocky Mountain Mammoth Mine is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Birds of Prey Foundation admits 11,000th bird to facility since 1984!

882 acres of Loukonen-Dairy Farm property are purchased.

New sales tax and bonding approved by voters for Open Space (0.15% for 20 years) result in \$64 million bonds sold the next year.

2011

POS has 112 miles of designated trails on XXX properties.

Three new trails are constructed at Betasso Preserve: the Benjamin Loop, connecting link to Bummer's parking lot, and the Blanchard Trail.

A new resident ranger position is created for Betasso Preserve.

POS launches iPhone trails app.

The 756-acres AHI Ranch (formerly known as Double Dove) is purchased for \$30 million.

The 2006-acre Lillian Trevarton property is placed under permanent conservation easement.

The 9-member Cropland Policy Advisory Group is appointed by BOCC to help with the development of the Cropland Policy.

The angler host program is added to the Volunteer Park Patroller Program.

Coalton Trailhead and Meadowlark Trail open to the public in Superior, providing connection to the Rock Creek regional trail system.

The Farmers Market at the Fairgrounds is expanded to nearly double its current size.

Longmont to Boulder (LOBO) Trail opens with great enthusiasm from commuters and recreational users.

POS partners with the Boulder County Open Space Foundation to host the first Plein Art Exhibit at the Old Firehouse Art Center in Longmont.

The Resource Protection staff sponsor the 1st Junior Ranger Adventure Day.

Boulder County celebrates its 150th anniversary.

The longest working POS employee, Randy Coombs retires after 38 years of service.

Cardinal Mill is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

BOCC adopts the new Cropland Management Policy for county open space croplands.

The purchase of 573 acres from the Hall family (Hall II) is completed.

Group shelter at Mud Lake is constructed.

Youth Corps hosted a White House “Roundtable with Young Americans” to gather input on how to make the outdoors more relevant, accessible, and fun for young people.

2012

The virtual Hard Rock Mining Tour is launched on the county’s website.

A wireless, solar-powered video camera is mounted at Cattail Pond at the Fairgrounds to provide live stream of the osprey nest.

Group shelter and ADA accessible trail are constructed at Mud Lake.

Champion Cottonwood Tree in Hygiene declared dead.

New “Kid’s Gone Fishing” clinics are launched for five to 15 years old.

Boulder County funds Hesse Trailhead Shuttle from Nederland Middle School/Highschool.

Artist-in-Residence Program begins at Caribou Ranch.

The remaining 210 acres of Heil Valley Ranch are purchased for \$6,000,000.

The Anne U White Trail closes at noon July 1-August 31 due to flash flood risks.

Fourmile Link trail opens at Betasso Preserve.

27 teens participate in the new Left Hand Outdoor Challenge Program led by Resource Protection staff (rangers).

First Annual Junior-Senior Fishing Derby at Wally Toevs Pond.

2013

Land through the Lens: Photography of Boulder County Parks and Open Space exhibit at the Dairy Center for the Arts.

The first POS University training, Ag 101, conducted for staff.

Caribou Ranch-Sherwood Gulch and Upper Sherwood Gulch properties purchased.

Ownership of Fairgrounds Lake was transferred to the City of Longmont.

Nederland Mining Museum opens as a county museum.

The 100-year flood hits Boulder County, dumping 17 inches of over eight days. Estimated damage to county open space properties is \$25 Million.

“Carve! Selected Works from the Champion Cottonwood” exhibit at Longmont Museum.

County historic landmark designations include the DeLonde Ranch at Caribou Ranch Open Space and the Altona School.

Youth Corps loaned out tools, trailers, and vehicles for flood recovery efforts.

2014

Department initiates inventory of ash trees on all properties for emerald ash borer presence.

Grand Opening of Flagg Park Trailhead, redesigned and reconstructed after the 2013 flood.

Macro-invertebrate monitoring program begins.

Department hosts organic food workshop.

Post-2013 Flood Recovery:

23 miles of trails and 15 miles of fencing were repaired

All but two parks (Anne U White Trail and Pella Crossing) were reopened

Volunteers contributed over 4,500 hours of service on 70 projects

Temporary repair of three breaches and debris removal along St Vrain Creek on POS properties

2015

County historic landmark designations include the Reynolds Ranch cabin.

Boulder County received the Governor’s award for Historic Preservation to honor the work of department and Land Use in documenting historic structures pre- and post-disasters (Fourmile fire and 2013 flood)

The department received Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery) of approximately \$750,000 for design and engineering flood work on water projects in Hygiene area, Hall Ranch 2 and Cemex properties.

The county helped acquire a conservation easement over approximately 3,394 acres of the Tolland Ranch property. This vaulted the open space program over 100,000 acres! The county also acquired a trail easement through the property that, when built, will connect the US Forest Service's Jenny Creek and West Magnolia trails areas.

Received NACo awards for the Tolland Ranch project, Peck Demonstration Orchard, Ruth Roberts Trail project, Harvest Bucks program, Debris Removal after the 2013 floods, and the Wildfire Partners program.

Department begins biomonitoring program to assess short and long-term response of aquatic life and water quality on POS properties.

Department completes 2015 Vision and goals.

Youth Corps celebrated its 20th season with Boulder County.

2016

Department collaborates for the first time with middle school STEM Explorers Club to monitor wildlife along St Vrain Creek.

The Ed Trailer was retired due to ongoing maintenance, safety and staffing issues.

Department begins the major restoration elements of the flood damaged Ramey historic homestead barn and granary.

Department completes defensible space audits of 100 historic building and structures as part of a FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant.

The department completed the seventh closing on the phased Loukonen-Dairy Farm acquisition. Only three more closings to go to finish the 10-year acquisition!

Ron Stewart retires from Boulder County after 32 years of service, beginning as a county commissioner and concluding as POS director. Rabbit Mountain Open Space is rededicated in honor of Ron Stewart and is now named the Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain.

Eric Lane is hired as director of department.

Helicopter used for forestry project at Betasso Preserve.

First Soil Revolution Conference held in Longmont.

2017

Department completes defensible space measures of 100 historic building and structures as part of a FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant.

The county partnered with the cities of Lafayette and Louisville to acquire the Mayhoffer Farm, which is a buffer between the two cities. Mayhoffer Farm is a Centennial Farm with historic structures.

Lagerman Agricultural Preserve grand opening, with 659 acres of agricultural land adjacent to Lagerman Reservoir and 5.5 miles of new trail.

Parks & Open Space Founders Legacy video released.

Pella Crossing reopens after 2013 flood repairs are completed.

BOCC approves elk hunting for three years as part of the Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain Elk & Vegetation Management Plan.

Department completed defensible space project around 99 structures on 15 properties that was partly funded by FEMA and State of Colorado.

Open Space Element of the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan is updated.

2018

County historic landmark designations include the Lower Castle Rock Bridge, Upper Castle Rock Bridge and Wencil Barn.

Citizen Ranger Corps changed name to Volunteer Ranger Corps to be more inclusive of county residents who are citizens and those who are not citizens.

The county acquired land from the Brand and Hicks families to provide a buffer to the eastern side of the Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain. The county also protected the historic McCarty Farm by conservation easement.

Youth Corps received a Governor's Summer Job Hunt Award for employing so many young people.

2019

After a year's pilot program, e-bikes are permitted on regional trails and some park trails in the plains.

Department receives FAA approval to use drones for natural, agricultural, and cultural resource monitoring and management.

County historic landmark designations include Legion Park and Ramey Homestead.

Boot brush stations installed at four trailheads.

The county completed the 10th and final closing on the phased Loukonen-Dairy Farm acquisition. The county also helped the City of Lafayette purchase the Waneka Centennial Farm.

Altona School, Grindstone Quarry and Schoolhouse Loop (Heil 2 area) grand opening in fall.

Caboose 2199 at Corral Trailhead is restored.

Department hosts first Christmas tree cutting event at Reynold Ranch Open Space.

Anne U White Trail reopens after repairs from 2013 flood damage.

CAMP (Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Policy) is adopted.

Sold 81 trees at inaugural public holiday tree sale at the Reynolds Ranch property.

2020

Estimated 327,756 residents in Boulder County.

Boulder Area Trails app launches.

Lichen Loop and the Grindstone Quarry Trail at Heil Valley Ranch are closed weekdays for helicopter forestry operations.

Boulder County government closes non-essential offices and services mid-March due to global pandemic, including the Fairgrounds, Youth Corps, and all public programs and events. Many department services go virtual for the first time.

BOCC approves a two-year Red Hill elk herd management plan and extension at the Ron Steward Preserve at Rabbit Mountain.

Record visitation to POS lands as statewide spring stay-at-home order restricts many activities. Pandemic-related Public Health orders extend to open space, requiring face covering and social distancing to help reduce the spread of virus.

The county acquires the 324-acre Tucker family property west of Nederland.

The Town of Superior purchases the CenturyLink property, formerly known as the Level 3 property. Boulder County and Jefferson County partner to help Superior financially with the

purchase and jointly acquired a conservation easement in return. This is the first open space interest jointly acquired by the two counties.

Calwood Fire burns 10,106 acres including portions of Heil Valley Ranch Open Space and nearby conservation easement properties.

Phase I stabilization of the historic Wencel barn on Braly property was completed.

Wood from ~140-year-old black walnut tree on the Ramey property was given to 84 woodworkers to showcase their artwork at fall exhibit.

Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm Management Plan Update is approved by BOCC.

Department completes first strategic plan after two years of discussions!

2021

Consultants and staff committee complete the Cultural Responsiveness & Inclusion Strategic Plan (CRISP) for the department.

Department completes first paleontological resource survey on 12 southeast grasslands open space properties that are part of the fossil-rich Laramie Formation.

Tucker Ranch was listed as a local historic landmark.

Therese Glowacki is hired as department director after 22 years as the Resource Management Division Manager.

Released endangered northern redbelly daces into Webster Pond at Pella Crossing.

BOCC adopted the 2021 Cropland Policy Cropland Policy, allowing genetically engineered (GE) corn and sugar beet crops to be grown county open space.

Department partners with Lafayette, Louisville and CU to create the Mayhoffer Farm Open Space Management Plan.

Fairgrounds Master Plan launch to identify future upgrades to the facilities to provide public events and maintain a focus on county's rural heritage.

Denver Water will give Boulder County \$5.1M for acquisitions of fee properties, conservation easements, and trail corridors and will transfer 70 acres of land to Boulder County which will be added to Walker Ranch Open Space as part of the settlement for Gross Reservoir expansion, if

and when the expansion occurs.

Clark property acquired, which completed the county's acquisitions to conserve open space around the edges of Gunbarrel area.

Holmes agricultural property acquired, which completed a 36-year effort to conserve the agricultural land west of Longmont between McIntosh Lake and 75th Street.

Marshall Fire burns over 1,000 homes in Louisville and Superior, and 1,766 acres of county open space.

2022

After nearly two years, public COVID testing ends at the Fairgrounds.

Southdown Indian Mountain veterans group donated quilt to be displayed at Parks & Open Space headquarters.

Southern portion of Heil Valley Ranch reopens to public, with noon closure at main parking area during monsoon season.

Open Space Foundation funds remodeling Volunteer Naturalists Center at Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat that includes second building to house educational supplies.

John Clark Farm and Murray Culver Farm listed as local historic landmarks.

BOCC rejects CEMEX request for 15-year extension for mining at Dowe Flats, which would have been in exchange for closing the cement plant and selling the county significant additional open space for a bargain.

586-acre State Land Board parcel within Heil Valley Ranch was purchased, expanding the open space to 6,439 acres.

130-acre Bald Mountain property purchased, completing county's plans to own this since it first leased the property in 1973.