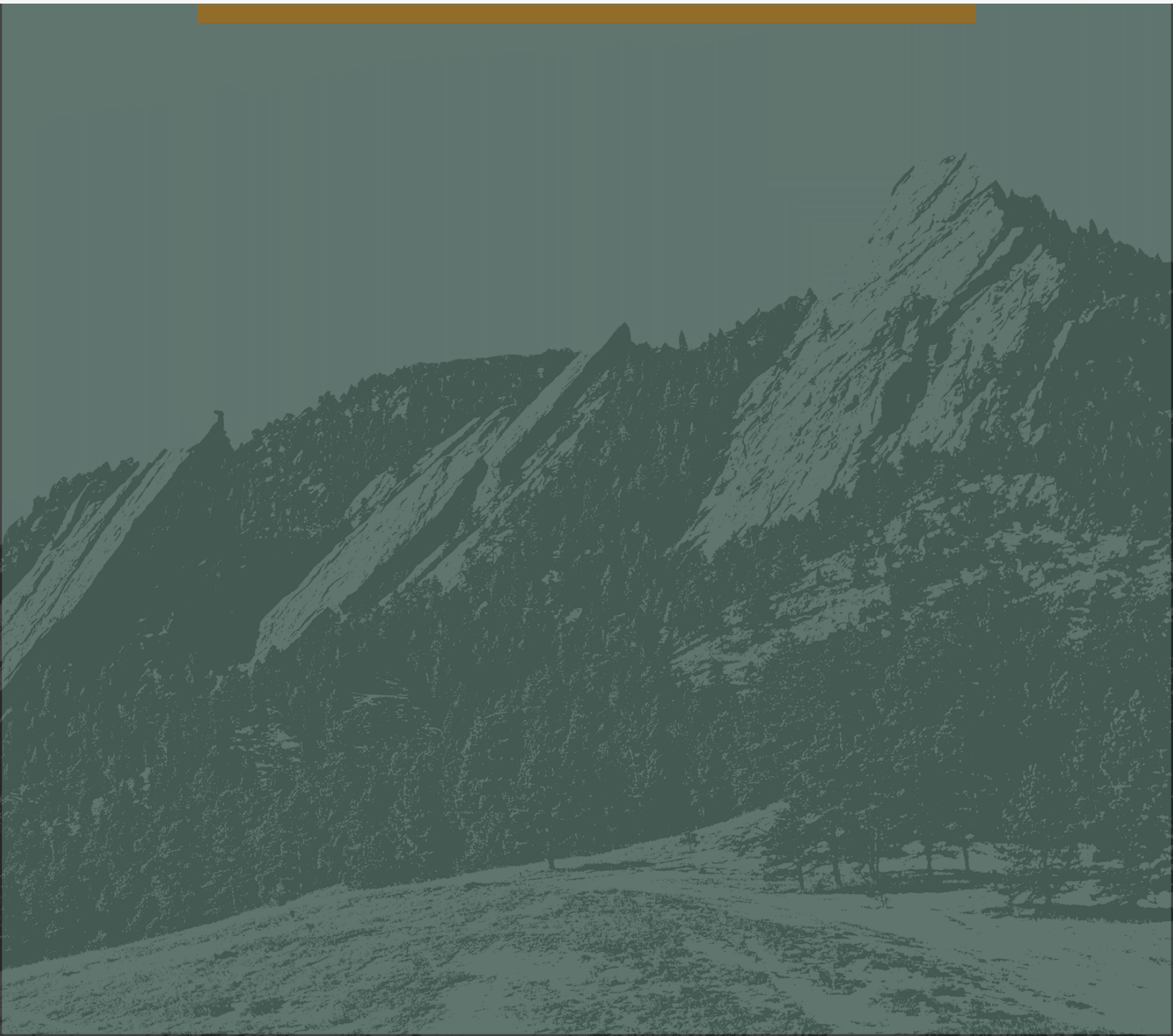
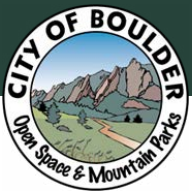

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP)

2022 Master Plan Annual Progress Report





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City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP)

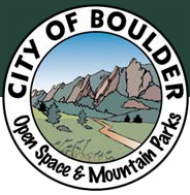
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Land Acknowledgment

The City of Boulder acknowledges the city is on the ancestral homelands and unceded territory of Indigenous Peoples who have traversed, lived in and stewarded lands in the Boulder Valley since time immemorial. Those Indigenous Nations include the: Di De'i (Apache), Hinoŋ'eiŋen (Arapaho), Tsistsistas (Cheyenne), Nəmənən (Comanche), Caiugu (Kiowa), Čariks i Čariks (Pawnee), Sosonih (Shoshone), Oc'eti S'akowin (Sioux) and Núuchiu (Ute).

We honor and respect the people of these Nations and their ancestors. We also recognize that Indigenous knowledge, oral histories and languages handed down through generations have shaped profound cultural and spiritual connections with Boulder-area lands and ecosystems — connections that are sustained and celebrated to this day.

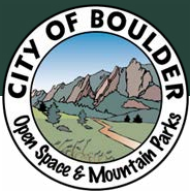
The City of Boulder recognizes that those now living and working on these ancestral lands have a responsibility to acknowledge and address the past. We must not only acknowledge our past but work to build a more just future. We are committed to taking action beyond these words. We pledge to use this land acknowledgment to help inspire education and reflection and initiate meaningful action to help support Indigenous Nations, communities and organizations. Read our full [staff land acknowledgment online](#).

The City of Boulder is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with American Indian Tribal Nation Representatives, to learn more about Indigenous cultures in the past and present and how to help convey their knowledge to open space visitors. As we continue to learn more from Tribal Nations, we encourage community members to take time to learn about and reflect on the Indigenous presence in the Boulder Valley, which has existed since time immemorial. Consider the perspectives emphasized in our shared histories and think about the Indigenous perspectives that have not been included.

Learn more about ongoing city consultation and engagement projects with American Indian Tribal Nations, which are helping the city to fulfill the city's:

- [Indigenous Peoples Day Resolution](#)
- [Staff land acknowledgment](#)
- [Open Space and Mountain Parks Master Plan](#)

Learn more about ongoing consultation and engagement work with [American Indian Tribal Nations online](#) and in the "Community Connection, Education and Inclusion" section of this report.



Open Space & Mountain Parks Overview

Thank you to Boulder community members for their work in building and maintaining the City of Boulder’s Open Space and Mountain Parks system.



46,600 acres

The total amount of land the Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) Department preserves and manages.

The Great Plains and Southern Rocky Mountains merge dramatically in Boulder, creating natural areas with high biodiversity and remarkable scenery.



City-managed open space helps protect **61 species of mammals.**



~ 5.5 million

The estimated number of visits OSMP trails receive each year. City-managed lands receive more visits than many National Parks.



OSMP provides habitat for **1,046** plants.



OSMP also helps protect **303** native bird species.



OSMP manages **16,000** acres of agricultural land.



OSMP has 129 full-time employees.



155 miles

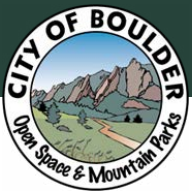
The total amount of designated trails that OSMP manages.

1967

The year Boulder residents passed the nation’s first permanent sales tax to preserve and maintain open space.

1974

The year the city developed an important open space plan. Purposes in the [plan were included](#) in the city charter in 1986.



Open Space Purposes

Specifically defined open space purposes in Section 176 of the Boulder City Charter set the vision for the work the Open Space and Mountain Parks does every day.

Sec. 176 Open Space Purposes-Open Space Land

Open space land shall be acquired, maintained, preserved, retained, and used only for the following purposes:

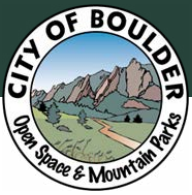
- Preservation or restoration of natural areas characterized by or including terrain, geologic formations, flora, or fauna that are unusual, spectacular, historically important, scientifically valuable, or unique, or that represent outstanding or rare examples of native species;
- Preservation of water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



Open space land may not be improved after acquisition unless such improvements are necessary to protect or maintain the land or to provide for passive recreational, open agricultural, or wildlife habitat use of the land. (Added by Ord. No. 4996 (1986), 1, adopted by electorate on Nov. 4, 1986.)



Master Plan Context



Master Plan Context

Focus Areas, Outcomes and Strategies

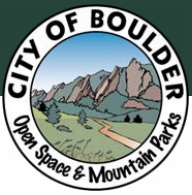
In September 2019, the Boulder City Council unanimously accepted and adopted Open Space and Mountain Parks' first [Master Plan](#). The plan sets the course for achieving a vision for integrated and responsible land management over the next decade and beyond.

The Master Plan is based on open space purposes in the city charter, already established community-wide goals and plans, citywide guidance and past OSMP recreation, ecological and agricultural plans.

The Master Plan's main framework consists of five focus areas. Under each focus area, there are desired, aspirational outcomes for the future of Boulder's OSMP system, along with more tactical strategies for how these outcomes can be achieved. The Master Plan's five focus areas are:

- **Ecosystem Health and Resilience (EHR):** Using the best available science, we protect healthy ecosystems and mend those we have impaired.
- **Responsible Recreation, Stewardship and Enjoyment (RRSE):** We are united by our connection to and enjoyment of nature and our obligation to protect it.
- **Agriculture Today & Tomorrow (AT&T):** Our legacy and future are based on working landscapes that are in harmony with nature.
- **Community Connection, Education & Inclusion (CCEI):**
Together, we build an inclusive community of stewards and seek to find our place in open space.
- **Financial Sustainability (FS):** We steward public funding to fulfill the City Charter purposes for open space.





Priority Strategies

There are 46 strategies across the five focus areas in the Master Plan, and they are all designed to guide our work over the next decade. Those strategies are on page 9 and 10 and are also detailed in the focus area sections of this report.

The OSMP Master Plan identifies a set of 10 priority Tier 1 strategies that will be accelerated and emphasized with more staff time and funding, especially in the first few years of Master Plan implementation. OSMP prioritized those strategies based on input from the community, the Boulder City Council and the Open Space Board of Trustees. See the following page to read priority Tier 1 Master Plan Strategies, along with Tier 2 and Tier 3 strategies.

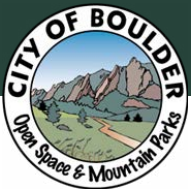


Community engagement for the Master Plan included seven community events and two drop-in listening sessions, which drew 900 attendees. Members of the public submitted more than 10,000 comments to help shape the plan. OSMP staff also engaged over 1,400 people who are not typically heard from during engagement processes, including members of the Spanish-speaking community, people experiencing disabilities and Boulder-area youth.



Master Plan Strategies

Tier 1	EHR. 1	Preserve and restore important habitat blocks and corridors
Tier 1	EHR. 2	Update and continue implementing system plans guiding ecosystem management
Tier 1	EHR. 3	Address the global climate crisis here and now
Tier 1	ATT. 1	Reduce maintenance backlog for agriculture and water infrastructure
Tier 1	ATT. 2	Increase soil health and resilience
Tier 1	ATT. 3	Address conflicts between agriculture and prairie dogs
Tier 1	RRSE. 1	Assess and manage increasing visitation
Tier 1	RRSE. 2	Reduce trail maintenance backlog
Tier 1	CCEI. 1	Welcome diverse backgrounds and abilities
Tier 1	CCEI. 2	Enhance communication with visitors
Tier 2	EHR. 4	Reduce undesignated trails
Tier 2	EHR. 5	Extend on-trail requirements
Tier 2	EHR. 6	Control invasive species
Tier 2	EHR. 7	Develop a learning laboratory approach to conservation
Tier 2	ATT. 4	Protect water resources in a warmer future
Tier 2	ATT. 5	Encourage diverse and innovative agricultural operations
Tier 2	RRSE. 3	Update guidelines and standards for quality trail design and construction
Tier 2	RRSE. 4	Encourage multimodal access to trailheads
Tier 2	RRSE. 5	Manage passive recreation activities requiring an OSMP permit
Tier 2	CCEI. 3	Connect youth to the outdoors
Tier 2	CCEI. 4	Support citywide engagement with federally recognized American Indian Tribes and Indigenous Peoples

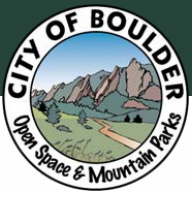


Master Plan Strategies

Tier 3	EHR. 8	Reduce impacts from noise, light and nearby land uses
Tier 3	EHR. 9	Reduce and offset OSMP greenhouse gas emissions
Tier 3	ATT. 6	Support the success of ranchers and farmers
Tier 3	ATT. 7	Integrate native ecosystems and agriculture
Tier 3	ATT. 8	Further reduce or eliminate pesticide use
Tier 3	ATT. 9	Enhance enjoyment and protection of working landscapes
Tier 3	RRSE. 6	Support a range of passive recreation experiences
Tier 3	RRSE. 7	Build new trails as guided by past and future plans
Tier 3	RRSE. 8	Provide welcoming and inspiring visitor facilities and services
Tier 3	RRSE. 9	Develop a learning laboratory approach to recreation
Tier 3	CCEI. 5	Foster wellness through immersion in the outdoors
Tier 3	CCEI. 6	Inspire environmental literacy and new involvement in OSMP
Tier 3	CCEI. 7	Cultivate leaders in stewardship
Tier 3	CCEI. 8	Heighten community understanding of land management efforts
Tier 3	CCEI. 9	Preserve and protect Boulder's cultural heritage
Tier 3	FS.5, FS.6, FS.7	Acquisitions



2022 Master Plan Highlights

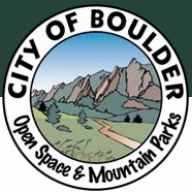


2022: Look Back

In 2022, Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) dedicated staff capacity toward over 300 distinct projects and ongoing services to fulfill outcomes and strategies outlined in the Master Plan. Through it all, a generous community continued to provide invaluable support in helping our community to enjoy and protect shared open space. The intent of this section of the annual report is not to list everything that was accomplished but rather highlight a few projects and initiatives of note.

Select 2022 Milestones and Events

January 1	OSMP continued closures as part of the Marshall Fire. Learn more about OSMP efforts to address damage and impacts from the fire throughout this report.
February 18	OSMP completed construction of the new 2.2-mile Anemone Loop Trail west of downtown Boulder.
March 15	City of Boulder and OSMP staff held a Tribal Consultation with federally recognized Tribal Nations to discuss a proposed Memorandum of Understanding.
March 26	OSMP Rangers evacuated visitors from trails during the NCAR Fire south of Boulder. Other OSMP "red carded" staff also helped battle the fire. Learn more.
April 26	OSMP worked with local ranchers to return cattle to open space south of Boulder as part of ongoing wildfire mitigation and natural ecosystem resiliency work .
May 28	The Eldo Shuttle began providing access to OSMP's Marshall Mesa, Doudy Draw and South Mesa trailheads.
July 11	OSMP invited public input on a staff evaluation of e-bikes on city open space and a preliminary staff proposal to allow them on 34 miles of trails. Learn more.
July 27	Tribal Representatives from Arapaho and Cheyenne Nations visited Boulder to help OSMP begin planning the future of the Fort Chambers-Poor Farm property .
August 18	OSMP's "Art Inspired by the Land" exhibit began with performances by musicians, songwriters, poets and filmmakers.
October 18	OSMP used a helicopter to move materials for repairs on the Mount Sanitas Trail. Funding for the work was supported by the Boulder Open Space Conservancy.
December 15	OSMP instituted extended wildlife closures to help protect nesting golden eagles on cliff formations along the Boulder Flatirons.



2022: A Look Back



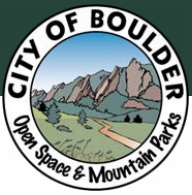
In **March 2022**, OSMP staff helped firefighters battle the NCAR Fire south of Boulder. In all, 40 OSMP staff members helped firefighters battle wildfires in 2022. OSMP Rangers also have played a critical role in helping visitors evacuate OSMP trails during fires. Learn more about how OSMP [addresses wildfire risks on open space](#).



In **August 2022**, Open Space and Mountain Parks invited community members to its ["Art Inspired by the Land"](#) community exhibition.



In **February 2022**, Open Space and Mountain Parks completed the new 2.2-mile [Anemone Loop Trail](#) west of downtown Boulder.



Ecosystem Health and Resilience

Using the best available science, we protect healthy ecosystems and mend those we have impaired.

What this Looks Like (Outcomes):

EHR.A) HIGH DIVERSITY OF NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS: OSMP lands support a high diversity of native plants and animals, expansive natural areas and some of the most critical wildlife habitat along the Front Range.

EHR.B) RESTORED, RESILIENT HABITAT: Degraded habitat with high potential to support native or extirpated (i.e., locally extinct) native species is restored and made more resilient to stressors like invasive species or direct and indirect human impacts.

EHR.C) CLIMATE ACTION: OSMP is a leader in helping native ecosystems withstand and adapt to the effects of the climate crisis.

EHR.D) INFORMED, SHARED STEWARDSHIP: OSMP and the community work side by side to develop a greater understanding of the land and to safeguard our natural heritage.

How this is Achieved (Strategies):

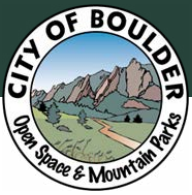
EHR.1) PRESERVE AND RESTORE IMPORTANT HABITAT BLOCKS AND CORRIDORS: Sustain, enhance, connect and restore habitat blocks with high ecological value and potential through conservation practices.



Two of the major ecosystems OSMP preserves are **grasslands** and **forests**. Both provide habitats for a wide diversity of wildlife and plant species.

EHR.2) UPDATE AND CONTINUE IMPLEMENTING SYSTEM PLANS GUIDING ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT: Update the Grassland and Forest Ecosystem Management Plans and continue managing entire ecosystems by considering all elements and processes of natural systems rather than focusing on one species or attribute at a time.

EHR.3) ADDRESS THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CRISIS HERE AND NOW: For the benefit of natural ecosystems and future generations, exhibit environmental leadership by taking immediate, targeted and unified action in response to ecosystem changes that the global climate crisis will bring about.



EHR.4) REDUCE UNDESIGNATED TRAILS:

Guided by best practices or area-specific plans, mitigate resource impacts by restoring, designating, re-routing or recategorizing undesignated trails, especially in sensitive habitat areas, while considering appropriate routes to serve desired destinations for visitors.

EHR.5) EXTEND ON-TRAIL REQUIREMENTS:

Through future area planning, reduce off-trail travel in targeted locations, especially in sensitive habitat areas.

EHR.6) CONTROL INVASIVE SPECIES: Prioritize management and control of species that have severe and/or widespread impacts, particularly those that are non-native and most likely to be controlled.

EHR.7) DEVELOP A LEARNING LABORATORY APPROACH TO CONSERVATION:

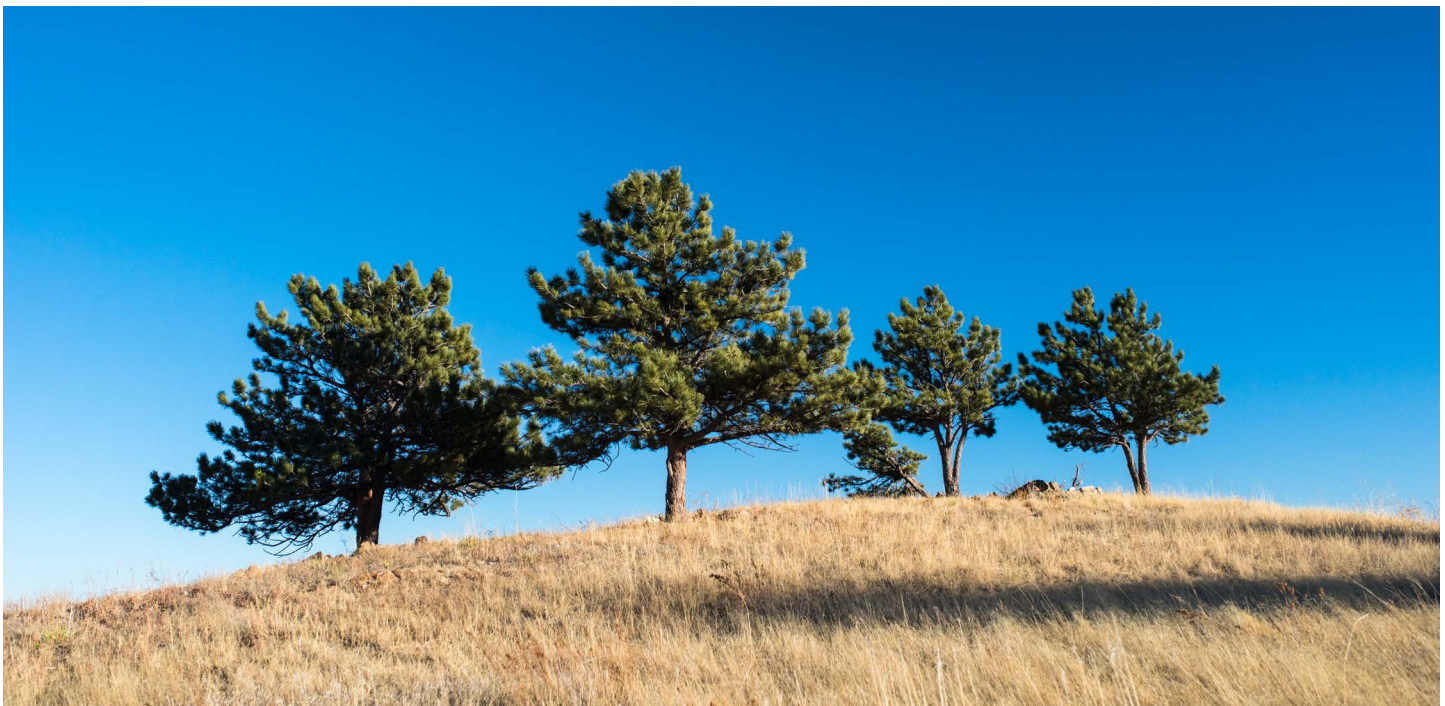
Conduct, support, apply and widely distribute the findings of long-term scientific research to inspire and engage community stewardship.

EHR.8) REDUCE IMPACTS FROM NOISE, LIGHT AND NEARBY LAND USES:

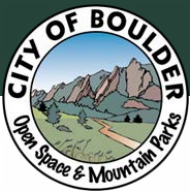
Mitigate impacts to wildlife, sensitive habitat areas, scenic character or natural soundscapes from noise pollution, light pollution and adjacent land uses.

EHR.9) REDUCE AND OFFSET OSMP

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: Support the citywide climate commitment by reducing and offsetting greenhouse gas emissions related to departmental operations.



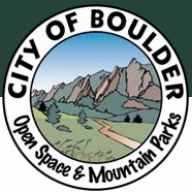
OSMP helps preserve important wildlife and plant habitats for many species, including 61 mammals, 1,046 native plants, 303 birds, 131 butterflies and skipper, and 21 reptiles and amphibians.



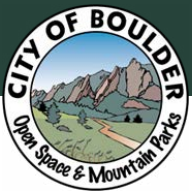
Ecosystem Health and Resilience

Notable 2022 Highlights

- **Forest Thinning.** OSMP staff spent more than 12,000 hours of staff time on forest health and fire mitigation on city open space. A total of 145 acres were thinned in a variety of priority project areas around the system. The work was partially funded by over \$90,000 in state and federal grant funds, and supported by 1,500 hours of time from Junior Rangers, volunteers and Ready to Work crews. **Master Plan Strategy EHR.1**
- **Tall Oatgrass.** Grazing [as a management tool for tall oatgrass](#) in the Shanahan area continued in 2022. About 500 acres were grazed by 65 head of cattle between April and June. The grazed areas also played an important role in the NCAR fire (March 26), where the reduced fuel loads helped firefighters hold the fire. **Master Plan Strategy EHR.1**
- **Funded Research Program.** OSMP lands are a magnet for scientific inquiry. In fact, researchers have written more than 400 reports based on their work on city-managed open space. In the last four years alone, city open space has helped researchers to develop 47 journal publications. In addition, more than \$1 million has been invested in small research grants since 1995. In 2022, OSMP funded nine research projects to investigate a diverse set of topics, such as wildfire risk reduction, invasive species management, drought impacts on grasslands and Marshall fire vegetation recovery. Visit our ["Journey into our Outdoor Learning Lab"](#) storymap and read our [research program webpage](#) to learn more. **Master Plan Strategies EHR.7 and RRSE.9**
- **Non-Native Vegetation Management.** OSMP dedicated a crew of 10 temporary staff to non-native species management. Over 50,000 individual [List A plants](#) were pulled and over 5,000 acres of treatments were completed across the system. OSMP staff also worked on various collaborative projects across area public lands with staff from the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Boulder County, Jefferson County and the Longmont Conservation District, with support from generous volunteers. OSMP received \$80,000 in state funding to support efforts on city lands. In 2023, the state provided an additional \$55,000 to help expand non-native species mapping and management across the system. **Master Plan Strategy EHR.6**
- **Raptors.** OSMP raptor monitoring and seasonal wildlife closures supported successful raptor breeding, with one successful Bald Eagle nest, three successful Golden Eagle nests and five successful Osprey nests. Unfortunately, a single Prairie Falcon and five Peregrine Falcon nesting attempts failed for unknown reasons. **Master Plan Strategy EHR.1**



- **Northern Leopard Frog.** OSMP staff conducted 350 visits to 133 wetlands to monitor amphibians. Staff detected the Northern Leopard Frog – a state Tier 1 species of greatest conservation need – at 39 wetlands, the most since monitoring began in 2006. Northern Leopard Frog breeding was confirmed at 14 sites, comprising 10 “territories.” OSMP supports all of the breeding sites for the animal in Boulder County. In 2022, OSMP staff – with help from the Ready to Work crew – removed 8 tons of cattails to help improve Northern Leopard Frog habitat. **Master Plan Strategy EHR.1**
- **Native Plant Material.** Locally collected seed and plant materials are an essential part of OSMP ecological restoration efforts. This material can be used in various projects and is essential in maintaining local native plant diversity. During the 2022 season, OSMP staff and volunteers collected 15 different seed species during 10 volunteer projects. Volunteers provided 650 hours of their time, with OSMP staff contributing an additional 100 hours. **Master Plan Strategy EHR.1**
- **Bear Canyon Trail Reroute.** Trail crews rerouted the Bear Canyon Trail to help protect sensitive wildlife habitat for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse and other important wildlife species. **Master Plan Strategy EHR.1**
- **Threatened and Endangered Species.** OSMP staff completed four weeks of small mammal monitoring to determine where Preble's meadow jumping mouse occurs. Preble's were captured along South Boulder Creek in federally designated critical habitat as well as an area known to historically support Preble's. **Master Plan Strategy EHR.1**
- **Restoring Undesignated Trails.** OSMP closed and restored undesignated, unmaintained trails in the Anemone Loop Trail area west of downtown Boulder. OSMP also conducted restoration efforts along miles of trails with the help of Boulder County Youth Corps and volunteers. **Master Plan Strategy EHR.4**
- **Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure.** The department installed infrastructure at the OSMP Hub, where most department employees work. OSMP ordered 10 electric trucks and took delivery of one truck. **Master Plan Strategy EHR.9**



Livestock grazing south of Boulder helps to remove invasive weeds and [vegetation that can fuel fires](#). Grazing and forest thinning in the area, combined with fast actions from firefighters, helped slow the March 2022 NCAR Fire and kept it from becoming a more intense fire.



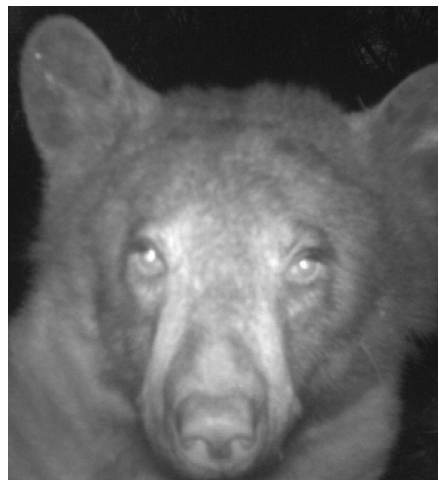
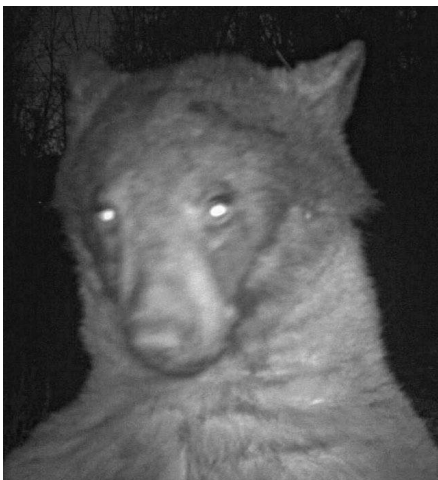
OSMP forests support a wide diversity of wildlife and plant species



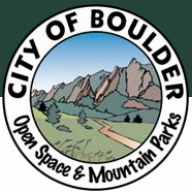
OSMP grasslands support wildlife and rare plant communities



OSMP supports more than 60% of native flora found in Boulder County



In November 2022, a black bear took an interest in an OSMP wildlife camera and captured around 400 "bear selfies." The bear pictures later went [viral on social media](#), with news outlets around the world clamoring to cover them. More importantly, OSMP used the viral images to show how we use wildlife cameras to [monitor and protect habitats](#).



Agriculture Today and Tomorrow

Our legacy and future are based on working landscapes that are in harmony with nature.

What this Looks Like (Outcomes):

ATT.A) VIABLE AGRICULTURAL

LIVELIHOODS: The city's ranchers and farmers are valued and supported in their contributions to the stewardship of Boulder's agricultural heritage.

ATT.B) SUSTAINABLE, PRODUCTIVE

AGRICULTURE: OSMP's agricultural lands and infrastructure remain productive and sustainable long into the future.

ATT.C) DIVERSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

FOR LOCAL MARKETS: A diversity of food and agricultural products is grown on suitable open space properties to better meet the changing demands of the local agricultural economy and the needs of ranchers, farmers and city residents.

ATT.D) HIGH-VALUE HABITAT ON RANCHES

AND FARMS: City agricultural lands provide high-value habitat for rare and native species, integrating both agricultural and ecosystem objectives.

ATT.E) SOIL HEALTH AND RESILIENCE:

Appropriate agricultural practices protect high-quality soils from erosion, improve productivity, maintain soil health and increase resilience in a changing climate.



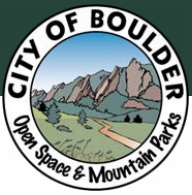
The [Boulder City Charter](#) supports the acquisition of land suitable for agricultural production and the preservation of agricultural uses on open space.

ATT.F) RESILIENT AND EFFICIENT WATER

SUPPLY: OSMP emerges as a leader in the acquisition and preservation of water assets and the application of innovative irrigation practices that anticipate environmental change.

ATT.G) APPRECIATION FOR WORKING

LANDSCAPES: Community members experience and better understand working landscapes, contributing to the preservation of Boulder's agricultural lands and heritage.



How this is Achieved (Strategies):

ATT.1) REDUCE MAINTENANCE BACKLOG FOR AGRICULTURE AND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE:

Focus investments on maintaining and improving existing agricultural infrastructure to standards – both water-related and structural.

ATT.2) INCREASE SOIL HEALTH AND RESILIENCE:

Manage agricultural activities in tilled lands and native grasslands to prevent soil erosion, maintain and/or improve soil health, sequester carbon and protect ecosystem function.

ATT.3) ADDRESS CONFLICTS BETWEEN AGRICULTURE AND PRAIRIE DOGS:

Maintain the viability of agricultural operations by reducing impacts from prairie dogs on irrigated lands while supporting ecologically sustainable prairie dog populations across the larger landscape.

ATT.4) PROTECT WATER RESOURCES IN A WARMER FUTURE:

Develop and implement a water resources management plan that balances sustainable agriculture, ecosystem stewardship, protection of water rights, efficiency of water use and resilience in a more variable climate.

ATT.5) ENCOURAGE DIVERSE AND INNOVATIVE AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS:

Partner with open space ranchers and farmers to analyze and, where appropriate, expand the variety of agricultural operations on OSMP lands, focusing on the infrastructure and technical assistance needed to support local food systems, including diversified vegetable farming, pastured livestock, micro dairies and taking products to market.

ATT.6) SUPPORT THE SUCCESS OF RANCHERS AND FARMERS:

Where appropriate, evaluate and pilot cost-sharing, partnerships and other mechanisms to encourage both responsible land stewardship and economic viability for a diverse range of current and future farmers and ranchers on OSMP lands.

ATT.7) INTEGRATE NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS AND AGRICULTURE:

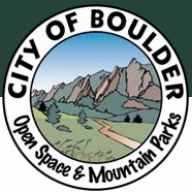
While maintaining the viability of agricultural operations, evaluate and increase the potential for improving the quality of habitat on agricultural lands through staff-led programs and partnerships with ranchers and farmers.

ATT.8) FURTHER REDUCE OR ELIMINATE PESTICIDE USE:

Reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides wherever possible. When reduction or elimination of pesticides is not possible, use the least toxic and least persistent pesticide that is effective.

ATT.9) ENHANCE ENJOYMENT AND PROTECTION OF WORKING LANDSCAPES:

Partner with community members, farmers and ranchers to maintain and enhance the condition of working landscapes, viewsheds and historic structures.



Agriculture Today and Tomorrow

Notable 2022 Highlights

- **Support Local Farmers and Ranchers.** OSMP administered leases on about 16,000 acres of land with 27 local farmers and ranchers. OSMP staff partnered with seven livestock producers to implement prescriptive grazing projects to enhance resource conditions on more than 600 acres of OSMP land. **Master Plan Strategies ATT.5, ATT.6 and ATT.7**
- **Marshall Fire Recovery.** The city awarded two contracts to replace and repair fencing damaged by the Marshall Fire. Approximately 23,500 feet of fencing was replaced and over 14,600 feet of fencing was repaired. OSMP staff also worked with FEMA to replace structures destroyed in the Marshall Fire. **Master Plan Strategies TT.1, ATT.6 and FS.4.**
- **Agricultural Land Restoration.** OSMP installed over 24,600 feet of barrier fencing and removed prairie dogs from 160 acres of irrigated land. OSMP completed restoration activities on over 70 acres and are in progress on about 90 acres to enhance agricultural production and improve soil health. **Master Plan Strategies ATT.2 and ATT.3**
- **Soil Health Treatments and Monitoring.** OSMP implemented soil health treatments on 300 acres of leased land and on 100 acres of unleased agricultural land. Treatments included compost applications, cover crop seeding, inter-seeding to increase diversity, key line plowing and targeted grazing management. **Master Plan Strategy ATT.2**
- **Water Resources Maintenance and Operations.** OSMP conducted an agricultural tenant survey to identify and prioritize irrigation infrastructure maintenance and improvement needs. OSMP staff completed 26 different maintenance projects to enhance water delivery through 18 miles of irrigation ditches. **Master Plan Strategies ATT.1 and ATT.4**
- **Agriculture and Water Infrastructure Improvements.** The department allocated over \$188,000 to 10 capital projects to design and improve irrigation diversion structures, install measurement devices, repair pipelines and replace culverts. Staff replaced or refurbished over 16,500 feet and conducted routine maintenance on nearly 36,000 feet of agricultural fencing. **Master Plan Strategy ATT.1**



OSMP agricultural staff collaborates with lessees to use [cattle to remove invasive vegetation](#) that can fuel wildfires. Cattle also help to remove invasive tall oatgrass weeds, which can harm resilient native grass species.



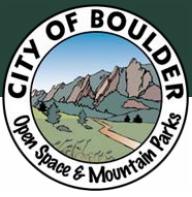
OSMP leases about 16,000 acres of agricultural land



30 OSMP-managed ditches help provide water to ag operations



27 farmers and ranchers conduct operations on OSMP-managed land



Responsible Recreation, Stewardship & Enjoyment

We are united by our connection to and enjoyment of nature and our obligation to protect it.

What this Looks Like (Outcomes):

RRSE.A) DIVERSE RANGE OF RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES: A fun and diverse range of passive recreational experiences inspire stewardship and contribute to our physical and mental well-being.

RRSE.B) ENJOYABLE, RESPONSIBLE RECREATION: Amid changing visitor use levels and patterns, ecosystem health is sustained, and visitor experiences remain positive.

RRSE.C) WELCOMING, ACCESSIBLE TRAILHEADS: Welcoming trailheads and supporting recreational facilities provide access to and highlight Boulder's scenic, natural and cultural landscape.

RRSE.D) GREAT EXPERIENCES FOR ALL: Visitors respect and care for each other and for the land, so all can enjoy themselves for generations to come.

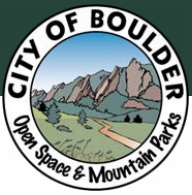
RRSE.E) HIGH-QUALITY TRAIL NETWORK: Visitors can enjoy OSMP lands and reach a range of recreational destinations through a well-maintained, connected network of local and regional trails that is welcoming and accessible to all.



Open Space and Mountain Parks provides access to a diverse range of visitor experiences and access to some of the most diverse natural areas in the western U.S.

How this is Achieved (Strategies):

RRSE.1) ASSESS AND MANAGE INCREASING VISITATION: Continue implementing measures from approved plans to mitigate impacts of increasing visitation in specific locations, while also updating the systemwide visitor use management plan to generate and implement ideas for understanding and addressing visitation growth throughout the system and to nurture stewardship and enjoyable visitor experiences.



RRSE.2) REDUCE TRAIL MAINTENANCE

BACKLOG: Using a prioritized, life-cycle approach to improving the condition of OSMP's diverse portfolio of historic and modern trails, develop and implement a maintenance approach to fix immediate needs and identify what is needed to manage the trail network long-term.

RRSE.3) UPDATE GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS FOR QUALITY TRAIL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION:

Design and construct quality trails that facilitate a range of experiences through a variety of landscape types, using design guidelines and construction standards that elevate the quality, sustainability and accessibility of trails and encourage the use of native materials that blend with natural surroundings.

RRSE.4) ENCOURAGE MULTIMODAL ACCESS TO TRAILHEADS:

Explore and partner on a range of coordinated transportation and design solutions to reduce parking congestion, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from visitor travel and promote active living, ecosystem health and public transportation.

RRSE.5) MANAGE PASSIVE RECREATION ACTIVITIES REQUIRING AN OSMP PERMIT:

Support enjoyable and compatible recreation experiences by periodically evaluating and refining management practices for use permits, off-leash dog visits and other related regulations to minimize resource impacts and ensure programs are easy-to-understand for visitors, manageable for staff and responsive to changing conditions.

RRSE.6) SUPPORT A RANGE OF PASSIVE

RECREATION EXPERIENCES: Continue to honor a diverse range of passive recreation opportunities that respect the unique character and history of the Boulder community and its surrounding open space lands, providing fun and memorable experiences.

RRSE.7) BUILD NEW TRAILS AS GUIDED BY PAST AND FUTURE PLANS:

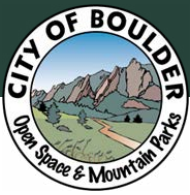
Implement past and future plans by constructing new local and regional trail segments where lands offer high recreation potential, especially when opportunities for citywide and regional partnerships leverage OSMP funding.

RRSE.8) PROVIDE WELCOMING AND INSPIRING VISITOR FACILITIES AND SERVICES:

For a range of visitor demographics, continue to provide and improve welcoming, sustainable and accessible trailheads and facilities that lay lightly on the land and inspire understanding of the surrounding landscape, such as the Ranger Cottage, Flagstaff Nature Center, Panorama Point, and other gathering areas or viewpoints.

RRSE.9) DEVELOP A LEARNING LABORATORY APPROACH TO RECREATION:

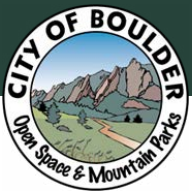
Combine community engagement results with scientific research and comprehensive data analysis to understand trends, develop and assess practical initiatives, and design management approaches that seek to improve community well-being, enjoyment, understanding and stewardship.



Responsible Recreation, Stewardship & Enjoyment

Notable 2022 Highlights

- **Trail Maintenance and Improvements.** OSMP staff, Junior Rangers, youth corps and volunteers conducted extensive trail maintenance efforts. Learn more about 2022 trail maintenance projects **on page 27**. At the height of the 2022 work season, the OSMP trails group had more than 100 people working on trail maintenance backlog projects during a single day. **Master Plan Strategies RRSE.2 and FS.4**
- **New Trail Construction and Design.** OSMP completed construction of the new Anemone Loop Trail. OSMP staff also conducted extensive trail design and permitting work for the North Sky Trail north of Boulder and a new loop trail on Gunbarrel Hill northeast of Boulder. **Master Plan Strategies RRSE.7 and EHR.4**
- **OSMP Evaluation of E-bikes on Trails.** OSMP conducted an evaluation of e-biking on OSMP lands, including analyzing three alternatives on which trails to consider if the current condition/status quo of no-bikes on open space were to be changed. OSMP gathered community input, which indicated there is majority support of the community for allowing e-biking on open space. OSMP staff developed a recommendation to allow e-biking as a passive recreational activity on open space and a preferred alternative to manage e-biking on Plains trails east of Broadway that allow biking and the Boulder Canyon Trail. The Boulder City Council will consider e-bikes on open space in 2023. **Master Plan Strategy RRSE.6**
- **Trailhead Maintenance and Improvements.** OSMP conducted major maintenance at the Four Mile Creek Trailhead to repair and resurface the asphalt parking lot. Staff continued trailhead closures to address and improve trailhead infrastructure. **Master Plan Strategy RRSE. 8**
- **New Trails Specifications and Standards.** OSMP staff developed guidance that provide standardized construction specifications and details to guide trail projects implemented by OSMP trail crews and contractors. **Master Plan Strategy RRSE. 3**
- **Updated Sign Infrastructure.** OSMP improved signs in the Mesa, Sanitas and Flagstaff areas to increase symbols and text size to accommodate various visitor types and backgrounds. Staff updated 12 deteriorating regulation boards to contemporary kiosks to allow for larger text, universal symbols and content on signs. **Master Plan Strategy RRSE.8**



- **New Education Signs.** OSMP signs staff developed and installed interpretive signs in key areas along South Boulder Creek to provide information about [New Zealand mudsnails](#), a highly invasive aquatic species. **Master Plan Strategy RRSE.9**
- **Public Opinion Visitor Experience Survey (POVES).** OSMP collected over 2,300 questionnaires from 192 active survey sites to understand and update trend information about OSMP visitors. That information included: Visitor attributes and demographics, trip characteristics and ratings of OSMP services and facilities. It also will include information on perceptions of interactions with other visitors, policy development, information preferences and potential management strategies. Information on visitation experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic are captured in both the recreation and land management-focused questionnaires. **Master Plan Strategy RRSE.1**
- **Trail Condition Monitoring.** OSMP completed field surveys and analysis for 31 miles of designated trails and another 6 miles of as-built surveys on Royal Arch, Bear Canyon and Anemone trails. Staff also mapped 26 miles of undesignated trails. **Master Plan Strategies RRSE.1, RRSE.2, EHR.4, EHR.1 and FS.3**
- **Visitation Statistics.** OSMP collected visitation data from 18 permanent trail counter locations and deployed 80 short-term counters to collect visitation counts across the system. **Master Plan Strategy RRSE.1**
- **Parking Studies.** OSMP staff completed two parking study reports to better understand trailhead parking lot utilization. OSMP also expanded the vehicle counter fleet, analyzed vehicle counter trend data, and conducted a study to assess nighttime parking on Flagstaff. **Master Plan Strategy RRSE.1**



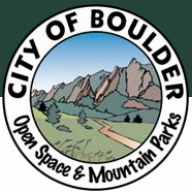
OSMP manages 37 trailheads and 76 designated access points



Learn about OSMP trails and closures at OSMPTrails.org



Text "OSMP" to 888-777 to receive texts on muddy trail closures



2022 Trail Projects

Ski Jump Trail Reroute	Doudy Draw Trail Repairs
Bluebell Mesa Trail Reroute	Marshall Mesa and Valley Trail Repairs
Flatirons Loop Trail Repairs	Crown Rock Picnic Loop Trail Repairs
Red Rocks Trail Repairs	Sawhill/Walden Bridge Replacement
Ranger Trail Repairs	Coal Seam Trail Repairs
1st/2nd Flatiron Trail Repairs	Bear Peak West Ridge Trail Repairs
Sage Trail Repairs	Mt. Sanitas Trail Repairs
Mallory Cave Trail Repairs	Mayhoffer-Singletree Trail Repairs
Skunk Canyon (Rock Climbing Access)	Darkside Bouldering Area



\$136,631

The total monetary value that volunteers contributed to help maintain and repair trails across OSMP's 155-mile trail system



7.5 miles

Of trail tread was constructed, maintained or repaired



52 tons

Of stone was helicoptered to Sanitas for trail repairs



3,000 Hours

Were spent on routine trail maintenance during spring and fall.



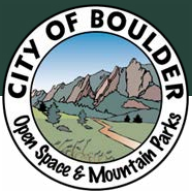
350

New timber steps and stone stairs were installed on OSMP trails



300

Tons of material was used to resurface city open space trails



Community Connection, Education & Inclusion

Our legacy and future are based on working landscapes that are in harmony with nature.

What this Looks Like (Outcomes):

CCEI.A) INSPIRING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: Visitors participate in education programs and other forums that deepen their sense of place and appreciation for Boulder's natural, cultural and scenic heritage and broaden their understanding of OSMP land and its management.

CCEI.B) FULFILLING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Community volunteerism, partnerships and neighborhood involvement serve an increasingly vital role in OSMP's fulfillment of the City Charter purposes for open space.

CCEI.C) LIFETIME CONNECTIONS WITH NATURE: Long-term connections with OSMP lands are strengthened and deepened over the course of our lives and across generations, in part to inspire response to the climate crisis.

CCEI.D) PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING: Increase awareness of the benefits of nature and the ways visiting OSMP lands can reduce stress and increase physical and mental well-being.

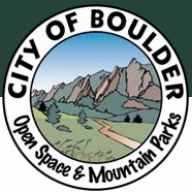
CCEI.E) ENGAGED YOUTH INSPIRED BY NATURE: OSMP is an emerging leader in promoting an increase in the time that youth spend outdoors and caring for their open space system.



OSMP staff and volunteers lead many nature and education programs to help youth create lifetime connections with nature.

CCEI.F) PROMOTING EQUITY AND INCLUSION: We are all part of an inclusive community where all people feel welcome, safe and able to enjoy the benefits of open space.

CCEI.G) CONNECTIONS TO BOULDER'S PAST: Cultural landscapes and historic resources on OSMP lands are preserved so that people can enjoy and understand the places and stories of Boulder's past.



How this is Achieved (Strategies):

CCEI.1) WELCOME DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS AND ABILITIES:

Improve understanding, services and facilities for underserved communities through outreach, collaborative partnerships, listening sessions, culturally- relevant programming, language translations, visual signs and materials, staffing and other creative means of empowering and engaging underserved members of our community.

CCEI.2) ENHANCE COMMUNICATION WITH VISITORS:

Foster discovery, enjoyment and stewardship through a coordinated effort to enhance signs, communications and media that incorporate effective design, messaging and languages for a range of audiences as well as increasing ranger and volunteer presence on the system to welcome and inform visitors.

CCEI.3) CONNECT YOUTH TO THE OUTDOORS:

Ensure youth get outside more by offering a continuum of educational and service-learning opportunities that fosters youth interest, competence and confidence in enjoying and conserving nature.

CCEI.4) SUPPORT CITYWIDE ENGAGEMENT WITH FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:

Support citywide efforts to work in partnership with federally recognized American Indian Tribes and other city departments through formal government-to-government consultations to support American Indian Tribes and Indigenous Peoples' connections to their ancestral homelands.

CCEI.5) FOSTER WELLNESS THROUGH

IMMERSION IN THE OUTDOORS: Working with schools and organizations, raise awareness of how open space improves physical and mental well-being.

CCEI.6) INSPIRE ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY AND NEW INVOLVEMENT IN OSMP:

Build the capacity of environmental education to inspire collective stewardship and climate action through comprehensive, collaborative programming across the system.

CCEI.7) CULTIVATE LEADERS IN

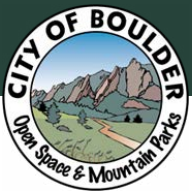
STEWARDSHIP: Advance skill-building and training for volunteers and stewards through expanded mentorship and leadership opportunities that increase OSMP's capacity to address needs and support career development in open space management.

CCEI.8) HEIGHTEN COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING OF LAND MANAGEMENT EFFORTS:

Heighten community and neighborhood understanding and involvement in OSMP management and planning efforts through targeted education, outreach and in-person engagements in support of on-the-ground action.

CCEI.9) PRESERVE AND PROTECT BOULDER'S CULTURAL HERITAGE:

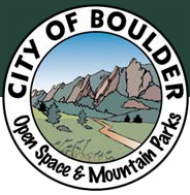
Complete and maintain a cultural resource inventory and management plan to improve the protection of cultural resources and landscapes and to connect all people with Boulder's past.



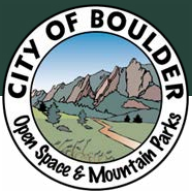
Community Connection, Education & Inclusion

Notable 2022 Highlights

- **OSMP Rangers and Protection of Land and People.** OSMP Rangers patrol open space in various ways, including by foot and on bike. Rangers patrolled 7,550 miles on foot in 2022 – that’s more than walking across the entire country twice! In 2022, they responded to over 300 incidents, including: 161 law enforcement calls, 27 fire calls and 147 search-and-rescue calls. In addition, Rangers made over 25,000 contacts with open space visitors. Most contacts provided open space information to visitors. Rangers also evacuated hikers, secured perimeters and joined wildland fire crews to fight the 2022 NCAR fire and the [Sunshine Wildland Fire](#). Thank you, OSMP Rangers, for your hard work in helping protect visitors and our shared public lands! **Master Plan Strategies CCEI.2, EHR.3 and FS.9**
- **Fort Chambers / Poor Farm Site Management Plan.** The City of Boulder purchased the Fort Chambers / Poor Farm property northeast of Boulder in 2018 to help preserve open space around Boulder and fulfill open space purposes in the city charter. OSMP staff extend their gratitude to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, the Northern Arapaho Tribe and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe for providing guidance on a planned site management plan for the Fort Chambers / Poor Farm property, which has a direct, local connection to the Sand Creek Massacre. Staff look forward to ongoing collaboration with Tribal Nations for this effort. Learn [more about this ongoing project](#). **Master Plan Strategy CCEI.4**
- **Planned Ethnographic Report with Tribal Nations.** City of Boulder staff recognize the interpretation and educational information describing city history is dominated by American-European perspectives and fails to include Indigenous perspectives adequately. The report will be informed by in-person interviews with Tribal Representatives and is intended to help the Boulder community learn about Tribal Nations' enduring traditional, cultural, historical and spiritual connections to the Boulder Valley. The planned ethnographic-education report also will help city and Tribal Nations to develop education and interpretation materials that provide accurate, truthful Indigenous Peoples’ stories – both past and present. City staff extend their appreciation to Tribal Representatives for their guidance in helping the city to develop the planned report. **Master Plan Strategy CCEI.4**



- **Proposed Memorandum of Understanding with Tribal Nations.** City staff and Tribal Representatives discussed a proposed MOU that consolidates past City-Tribal Nation MOUs, and seeks to set a foundation for future City-Tribal Nation collaboration and ongoing consultation. **Master Plan Strategy CCEI.4**
- **Cultural Stewardship and Tribal Consultation.** OSMP staff consulted with Tribal Nations on cultural resource management topics and associated archaeological documentation. **Master Plan Strategy CCEI. 4**
- **Thank You, Generous Volunteers!** Volunteer Visitor Ambassadors made 22,000 visitor contacts, Volunteer Trail Guides made 21,000 contacts and Flagstaff Nature Center volunteers made 3,800 contacts. Bike Patrol volunteers made 575 contacts. In 2022, 54 raptor and bat volunteers dedicated 3,355 hours to help OSMP observe and collect data to support OSMP resource management decisions. **Master Plan Strategies CCEI.2, CCEI.8 and EHR.7**
- **Bridgehouse Ready to Work Crews.** Crews supported Marshall Fire recovery efforts in addition to their traditional workplan. **Master Plan Strategies CCEI.8 and EHR.7**
- **Junior Rangers.** Junior Rangers supported Ski Jump and Bluebell Mesa trail reroutes at Chautauqua. Junior Rangers also worked on a Bear Peak West Ridge project, placing 75 timber steps and 42 rocks in eight weeks. They continued to implement more inclusive hiring practice, including a partnership with the Youth Services Initiative (YSI) program. **Master Plan Strategy CCEI.3**
- **"Art Inspired by the Land."** This community art exhibit had a theme of healing. Over 175 artists shared their creative work. **Master Plan Strategy CCEI 2**
- **Historic Facilities Rehabilitation.** OSMP staff started rehabilitation work on the Lewis farmhouse, which included planning for construction (architectural and engineering work and permitting), demolition and structural repair, and reinforcement of the foundation. The Lewis house will be leased to support local agriculture when completed. Other work included assessments of historic structures in the Marshall Fire area and applying for grants. **Master Plan Strategy CCEI.9**
- **Repository for Cultural Resources.** OSMP established a repository approved by the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation for the department's cultural resources collection. **Master Plan Strategy CCEI.9**



Free Community Education and Nature Programs

In 2022, OSMP staff and volunteers led hundreds of nature and education programs, reaching thousands of people. Information on upcoming programs is available on OSMP's [Nature Hikes and Programs webpage](#). [CCEI.2](#), [CCEI.3](#) and [CCEI.7](#)

Recreation/Environmental/History Hikes	OSMP hosts programs to inspire visitors, increase environmental literacy and help our community to enjoy and protect shared open space.
Spanish and Bilingual Hikes	Bilingual activities and hikes connect Spanish-speaking community members to shared public lands.
Accessible Opportunities	OSMP offers wheelchair experiential trainings, accessibility presentations, all-terrain handcycle experiences, guided hikes and accessibility events.
LGBTQA+ Programs	OSMP's Out in Nature series provides programs to help connect this historically under-represented population to the land and its healing qualities.
Youth Leadership and Building Stewards	OSMP staff and volunteers provide activities to reach children and parents through school and family programs.
Voice and Sight Program	Dog guardians who want to participate in a program that provides their dogs off-leash access on designated trails must take an online class.
Climate Change	Activities enable visitors to address global climate change and are focused on education at climate action volunteer projects and through out Junior Ranger Program.
Recreation and Wellness	Fun and memorable programs include Trails Challenge hikes, Full Moon hikes, Flatirons - Icons of Boulder hikes and collaboration hikes with Always Choose Adventures.
Wellness	Programs include yoga events, farm days and forest bathing activities to help increase social cohesion, team building and self-expression.



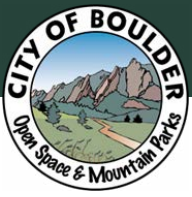
Public Contact
volunteers made 47,375
contacts with visitors



Raptor and bat
monitor volunteers gave
3,355 hours of their time



OSMP provided 55
bilingual nature
activities in 2022

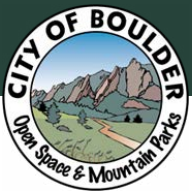


Webpage Hits

In 2022, hundreds of Open Space and Mountain Parks webpages and webmaps – maintained by OSMP Resource Information Systems staff – received **989,532 web hits. CCEI.2**

50 Most Popular OSMP Webpages in 2022

Webpage	Pageviews	Webpage	Pageviews
OSMP Interactive Webmap	205,941	South Mesa Trailhead	6,649
OSMP Trail Search Webpage	56,795	NCAR Trail	6,302
OSMP Department	42,858	Bobolink Trailhead	5,647
OSMP Parking Permits	42,315	Wonderland Lake Trailhead	5,009
OSMP Closures	37,278	Doudy Draw Trailhead	4,654
Chautauqua Trail	30,414	Red Rocks Trailhead	4,604
OSMP Osprey Camera	21,048	The Peoples' Crossing Trailhead	4,688
Voice and Sight Tag Program	19,768	Junior Ranger Program	4,843
Chautauqua Trailhead	17,230	Volunteer for OSMP	4,652
OSMP Dog Regulation Map	15,805	Flagstaff Trail	4,398
Royal Arch Trail	13,674	Wonderland Lake Trail	4,053
Boulder Falls Trail	12,814	Flatirons Loop Trail	4,169
Mount Sanitas Trail	10,913	OSMP Permits	4,176
Flatirons Vista South Trail	9,442	Bear Peak Trail	4,058
Marshall Mesa Trailhead	9,372	Sawhill Ponds Trailhead	4,078
Anemone Hill Trail	9,282	Black Bears and Mountain Lions	3,430
1st/2nd Trail	9,370	Commercial Use Permits	4,129
OSMP Trailhead Search Webpage	9,440	Muddy Trail Closures	3,506
OSMP Evaluation of E-Bikes Project	9,123	Fourth of July Trailhead	3,489
OSMP Wildlife Closure Map	8,403	Mallory Cave	3,334
Lost Gulch Overlook Trailhead	8,148	Gregory Canyon Trail	3,507
OSMP Rules and Regulations	7,440	Bear Canyon Trail	3,390
Dogs on OSMP	7,373	Lions Lair Trail	3,537
Flatirons Vista Trailhead	7,245	Boulder Valley Ranch Trailhead	3,246
Nature Hikes and Programs	6,545	Gregory Canyon Trailhead	3,136



Financial Sustainability

We steward public funding to fulfill the City Charter's purposes for open space.

What this Looks Like (Outcomes):

FS.A) LASTING VALUE FOR THE COMMUNITY:

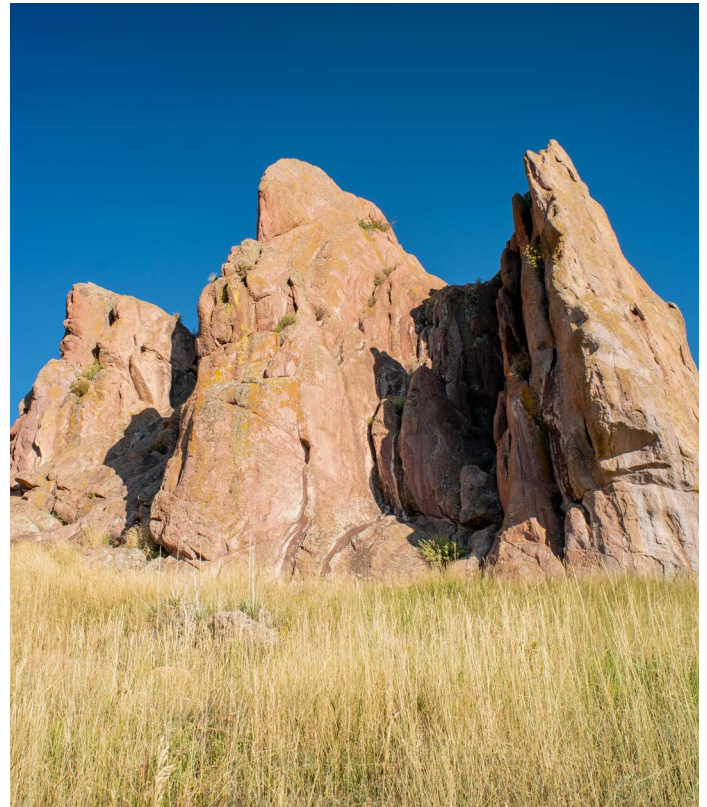
OSMP effectively and efficiently manages city taxpayer dollars to build both trust and lasting open space value.

FS.B) RESILIENCE TO CHANGE: Financial management strengthens adaptability and resilience to local, national and global market forces and environmental change.

FS.C) PROTECTED INVESTMENTS: The community's long-term investment in open space is protected or enhanced by prioritizing maintenance of OSMP properties and assets.

FS.D) PRIORITIZED ACQUISITIONS: Strategic acquisition of land, mineral and water interests continue to play an important role in preserving, enhancing and managing Boulder's legacy of preservation, agriculture and passive recreation.

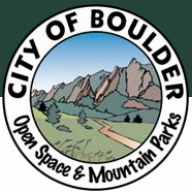
FS.E) EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION: Financial information is proactively and clearly communicated to promote accountability, increase community understanding of OSMP financial management, and ensure alignment of spending with community priorities.



OSMP develops budgets that anticipate major change drivers, such as extreme weather events and fluctuations in revenue and spending.

How this is Achieved (Strategies):

FS.1) STABILIZE FUNDING: Steadily generate funds through sales and use tax collections while strategically leveraging other revenue streams and local dollars to support OSMP's capacity to deliver open space services.



FS.2) BUDGET FOR FUTURE UNCERTAINTY:

Create, optimize, and manage budgets that anticipate major change drivers, such as extreme weather events and fluctuations in revenue and spending.

FS.3) UNDERSTAND TOTAL COST OF SYSTEM MANAGEMENT:

Adopt or create models to understand the total value and cost of managing the OSMP system and its many diverse assets, including impact and investment tracking for upfront and ongoing costs regarding land management, agriculture, trails and other infrastructure.

FS.4) TAKE CARE OF WHAT WE HAVE: Focus capital investments on retaining the health of ecosystems on OSMP properties, as well as maintenance of existing trails, amenities and agricultural infrastructure.

FS.5) PRIORITIZE ACQUISITIONS IN BOULDER VALLEY'S RURAL PRESERVATION AREA:

Prioritize opportunities to acquire land, mineral and water interests in the Area III - Rural Preservation Area – of the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan to advance its goals, OSMP Master Plan focus areas and City Charter purposes for open space.

FS.6) PARTNER TO PROTECT LANDS BEYOND THE PRIORITY AREA:

Consider acquisition of land, mineral and water interests outside the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan boundary where partnership opportunities help leverage costs and advance OSMP Master Plan focus areas and City Charter purposes for open space.

FS.7) PARTICIPATE IN OTHER ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITIES:

Consider acquisition of land, water and mineral interests within Area I and II of the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan only when coupled with planning, development or annexation projects or where citywide priorities or partnership opportunities emerge.

FS.8) EVALUATE EXISTING REAL ESTATE ASSETS ON OSMP LANDS:

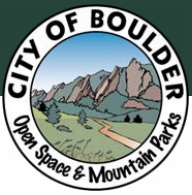
To improve the protection of, and align with, open space purposes in the City Charter, assess real estate assets and explore alternative preservation and stewardship options to better enable staff to steward and manage for those purposes.

FS.9) INVEST IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONAL NEEDS:

To provide effective management of the OSMP system over time, maintain a team-oriented workforce that benefits from experience and ongoing training and is equipped with adequate resources to meet the expectations of the community.

FS.10) UPDATE PLANNING FRAMEWORK:

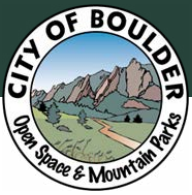
Refine OSMP planning methods and products to better inform and prioritize the efficient use of limited funding.



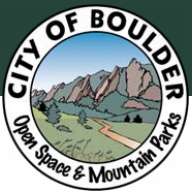
Financial Sustainability

Notable 2022 Highlights

- **Stabilized OSMP's Budget Amid COVID.** OSMP restored COVID-19 budget reduction and service levels across the department. Staff added more than \$500,000 to the budget to support Tier 1 Master Plan strategies. **Master Plan Strategy FS.1**
- **"Taking Care of What We Have."** The department continued conservation easement monitoring, access agreements, licenses and disposals, and conservation easement amendments. OSMP staff conducted ongoing stewardship of data and information to support effective decision-making. They also provided front-desk services, providing public information and management of OSMP programs, including Voice and Sight, facility rentals, permits and parking. In addition, staff managed third-party access and construction projects on OSMP lands. **Master Plan Strategy FS.4**
- **Addressing Climate and Wildfire Resiliency.** OSMP staff participated in a cross-functional citywide team to prepare for a 2022 climate-related ballot measure and to plan for the proposed tax, which city voters approved in November 2022. **Master Plan Strategy FS.1**
- **Marshall Fire Recovery.** OSMP Resource Information Services staff supported over 50 percent of emergency geographic information systems (GIS) work shifts at the Boulder County Emergency Operations Center during the Marshall Fire. This team helped provide up-to-date public mapping and geographic communication during the fire and led the department's damage assessment efforts. **Master Plan Strategy FS.2**
- **Racial Equity.** OSMP created a baseline equity assessment to be used by all departments in the city to help analyze the current state of city equity initiatives and track performance measures in the city's [Racial Equity Plan](#). The department supported OSMP staff members in completing racial equity trainings. All employees included a racial equity performance goal in their 2022 performance management objectives. **Master Plan Strategy FS.9**
- **Asset Management.** The department continued to implement a new software solution to help track assets. Those assets included trails, undesignated trails, signs, trailheads, ecological restoration, forestry, water resources and agricultural infrastructure, such as fences and gates. **Master Plan Strategy FS. 3**



- **Investments in Our Workforce and Ongoing Operations.** The city adopted an updated compensation and classification system. OSMP supported staff technology, work planning and needs for hybrid work. OSMP staff also launched an internal data portal to ensure data access to help staff support data-driven decisions and adaptive management. **Master Plan Strategy FS.9**
- **Ranger Patrol Log.** Rangers utilized data from RAPTOR – a mobile app developed and implemented by OSMP Resource Information Services staff in 2021 – to track trends and inform the Ranger Strategic Plan. Last year was the first full calendar year of ranger patrol log data. **Master Plan Strategy FS.9**
- **Grant for Lippincott Ranch Property.** OSMP and Jefferson County received a \$1 million grant from Great Outdoors Colorado to reimburse a portion of the purchase costs for the Lippincott Ranch Open Space property. The grant was awarded soon after the property was acquired in 2018 and funds were received in 2022.. **Master Plan Strategy FS.1**
- **Partnership with the Boulder Open Space Conservancy.** In 2022, the conservancy raised over \$48,000 through a project agreement to support Mount Sanitas restoration efforts. Funding from the conservancy went towards [a helicopter that moved materials](#) for repairs on the Mount Sanitas Trail. **Master Plan Strategy FS.1**
- **Other Grant Funding.** OSMP received \$277,000 in grants to support the deployment of OSMP staff on regional and national wildfire responses, address noxious weed mitigation on open space, help the Junior Ranger program, improve OSMP Ranger operations and enhance ongoing fire mitigation efforts. **Master Plan Strategy FS.1**
- **OSMP Staffing.** The department converted three positions from fixed-term to standard ongoing positions in alignment with recent direction from City Council to manage prairie dogs in irrigated areas. These positions will address soil health, prairie dog management and wildlife ecology. OSMP also converted two temporary positions to standard ongoing positions to support OSMP Human Dimensions and geographic information system needs. **Master Plan Strategy FS.1**
- **Real Estate Assets.** OSMP received OSBT recommendations regarding open space real estate transactions. **Master Plan Strategy FS.8**



2022 OSMP Funding

Sales Taxes Support OSMP Operations

Boulder residents have created a remarkable open space legacy for themselves and future generations by approving sales tax increases to acquire and maintain open space. Three approved sales tax increments accounted for about 90 percent of OSMP’s \$30,990,584 budget in 2022. Currently, the Open Space Fund is made up of the following three sales tax increments:

- 0.40-percent sales tax which has no sunset.
- 0.33-percent sales tax which was reduced to 0.22 percent on Jan. 1, 2019, to be reduced to .10 percent on Jan. 1, 2035, then exists in perpetuity.
- 0.15-percent sales tax which expires Dec. 31, 2039.

2022 Budget Overview

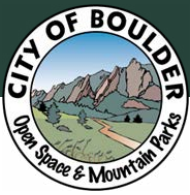
Open Space Fund dollars in 2022 supported the implementation of the fiscally constrained funding scenario detailed in the Master Plan. In 2021, OSMP participated in a city requirement to reduce 10% of the base budget. Reductions were made to ensure fund stewardship during a time of economic uncertainty during COVID-19 and were balanced across operating and capital expenditures. In 2022, improved revenue conditions allowed OSMP to restore COVID-19 budget reductions and make some enhancements to service delivery. Overall funding levels remained consistent with the fiscally constrained Master Plan funding scenario. However, projections for 2023 will allow for future budget increases more consistent with the action plan funding scenario.

Capital Investment Program

OSMP’s 2022 budget was aligned with Master Plan priorities and supported Tier 1 Master Plan strategies. Our 2022 Capital Investment Program funding – a city-wide, six-year plan for physical improvements to infrastructure – continued to invest heavily in Tier 1 strategies:

The Approved 2021 OSMP CIP Continues to Invest Heavily in Tier 1 Strategies

Master Plan Tier	2021 CIP	2022 CIP	2023 CIP
Tier 1	77%	72%	63%
Tier 2	18%	10%	14%
Tier 3	5%	18%	23%



2023 Budget

The 2023 budget was adopted by the Boulder City Council in October 2022. The department anticipates that 2023 revenues will increase above 2022 levels and OSMP will increase budget to support top Master Plan priorities.

During the 2023 budget development process, OSMP will make significant new investments in wildland fire response and climate resilience efforts, including the formation of a new Science and Climate Resilience program and the addition of a new position focused on wildland fire coordination. Additionally, multiple ballot measures passed at the city and county levels will provide new funding streams for wildland fire and climate work.



For every \$10 spent in Boulder, about 8 cents supports open space



OSMP's operating budget in 2023 will be \$36,219,207



In 2023, OSMP anticipates it will have 129 full-time staff



In 1967, Boulder community members voted to approve a permanent 0.4-cent sales tax to acquire and maintain open space. It was the first time in United States history that a city adopted an open space sales tax!