

2020 and 1Q 2021: OSMP Education and Outreach (E&O) Update

2020 was an unprecedented year that changed lives around the world. A robust year of E&O programming was altered drastically when the COVID 19 Pandemic hit Boulder. Starting in March, many programs were cancelled. But other programs were adapted, and some new programs thrived. The E&O team met challenges with caution, creativity, and practicality, with safety in the forefront of all we did. Here is a summary of this interesting and innovative year.

COVID Outreach - OSMP Master Plan CCEI 2

2021 First Quarter

Staff continue to work at trailheads and on trails throughout the system. The Ranger Cottage will be closed for the foreseeable future, with interpretive opportunities outside. We will be expanding the visitor ambassador program, folding in more of our existing volunteers. Messaging shifts every day, from be careful of the ice to please walk through the mud instead of around it, to protect the resources. Many skiers, snowboarders, and sledgers visited Chautauqua. Staff work to guide them to the correct area for such activities. Staff have also been assisting other work groups through shoveling, trail closures, stocking restrooms, New Zealand Mud Snails outreach, and rescues. As it becomes safer, we will continue more of our outreach programming. We will be hiring new outreach staff in early May. In quarter one, staff and volunteers made a total of **21,438 contacts** with the public. They handed out **492 face coverings**.

2020

In March, City facilities were closed, including the Chautauqua Ranger Cottage. Working closely with the rangers, E&O staff were trained to provide COVID Outreach. They worked both at trailheads and on trails, helping to keep visitors to OSMP safe. In June, OSMP trained Volunteer Visitor Ambassadors to assist with this outreach effort as well, with great success. In July, staff and volunteers started handing out free face coverings, and gave a total of 1,730 to visitors.

Impact: Altogether, staff and volunteers made 92,576 visitor contacts in 2020.



Volunteers Visitor Ambassadors helping at Chautauqua.

Bilingual Programming OSMP Master Plan CCEI 1

2021 First Quarter

To be of, by and for all in the community, we continue to work with local organizations serving historically under-represented communities. These collaborative efforts contribute towards a better understanding of what makes individuals and communities feel welcome and able to participate in outdoor activities and stewardship programs. In partnership with El Centro Amistad, we hired community liaisons who are helping with recruitment of Junior Rangers as well as advertising for and helping with our educational programs through the Nature Kids Boulder pilot program. OSMP also hired part-time temporary staff to help with all aspects of education and outreach programming, to advance accessible programming and relationships from within Spanish speaking communities. In Q1, we offered 5 programs for 53 participants.

In 2020 through the Equity Signs Project, partners helped us identify opportunities to improve OSMP signage. Based on recommendations from the Spanish speaking community, new signs were designed and installed at the Sawhill Ponds pilot site to make the area is more welcoming and accessible. Partners will continue to participate in implementing Education and Outreach Framework (EOF) recommendations.



Community Partners showing off the new signs.



Edgar Chavarria, OSMP Bilingual E&O Coordinator.

2020

Adhering to COVID protocol, OSMP staff provided 26 Spanish bilingual hikes, programs, and events, reaching 410 people. Partners in 2020 included EL PASO, Boulder Housing Partners, Youth Services Initiative, Family Resource Center, Intercambio, BVSD Latino clubs, and El Centro Amistad.

Impact: 26 Spanish bilingual hikes, programs, and events, reaching 410 people.



Juanita leading a hike for families.

Accessibility Programming OSMP Master Plan CCEI 1

2021 First Quarter

Topher met with partners who are working to make the Highline Canal more accessible. In addition to providing his professional expertise, he brought wheelchairs and accessible mountain bikes so these planners could get a firsthand feel of their trail and trailheads. For OSMP programming, we are planning for and delivering rides on the land for small groups, using safety protocols. In Q1 we gave 2 wheelchair accessible programs, with 5 participants, and 5 adaptive bike rides, with 10 participants.

2020

After a brief pause, we were able to continue to offer accessible programs with specific COVID protocols. 90 appreciative people got out riding on our all-terrain handcycles. Staff gave wheelchair trainings, accessibility programs, and consulted with other agencies needing advice on accessible trail building.

Impact: We gave a total of 54 programs reaching 348 people.



Accessible rides have enabled people to get out and try something new.

Youth Programming OSMP Master Plan CCEI 3

2021 First Quarter

Education and Outreach staff are continuing to prioritize reaching out to youth, our future stewards. One way we are getting kids back on the land is through the Nature Kids Boulder series. Several other multi-year initiatives and collaborations are described below. In Q1 we offered 30 programs for youth and families reaching 653 participants. Additionally, we launched a series of virtual learning resources for schools, promoted through BVSD: OSMP's [Activities for Kids](#) and [Resources for Educators](#). We are also on the [E Movement](#) website.

2020

We offered 124 youth and family programs in 2020, with 4,723 people participating. Programs were both in-person and virtual and included School Assemblies; the Wake up the Bear Event; a Thanksgiving Gratitude show; Nature Play Dates; Storytime Hikes; and classroom programs. Of these, our Winter Wildlife Education Program had a successful 53 programs reaching 1,392 students. Most of these were given before COVID limitations.

Impact: We offered 124 youth and family programs in 2020, with 4,723 people participating. For research on why it is so important to get kids outdoors, visit this website: [Children and Nature Network. Helping Children Thrive - Outside | C&NN](#)



Outdoor wildlife program at a local school.

Boulder Youth Nature Initiative (BYNI)/Iniciativa de Naturaleza para la Juventud de Boulder (INJB), is a new city-wide approach that aims to deliver nature programs for youth that inspire them to explore around their neighborhoods and build skills to eventually reach mountain tops. This family-integrated engagement builds community, care for nature, resiliency, and comfort in the outdoors. In 2020, five city departments worked together sharing resources, collaborating on programming, and finding ways to strategically advance youth connections to nature. BYNI has recently been working with key community partners: Growing Up Boulder (GUB), Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) and E Movement to look for ways better serve youth on a larger scale. This team applied for a grant from the National League of Cities and Children & Nature Network's (C&NN) [Cities Connecting Children to Nature Initiative \(CCCNI\) Green Schoolyards Technical Assistance cohort](#).

Through this work, we would hope to explore and advance:

- schoolyards as community natural areas
- public space offering a spectrum of access to nature and the outdoors for youth to learn, discover and play
- equity concerns
- systems-level strategies to sustain and enhance outdoor learning for Boulder youth
- leadership and innovation working to show the nation a replicable model for youth and the outdoors.

Wood Brothers Property Collaboration with BVSD And Growing Up Boulder

OSMP, GUB and Heatherwood Elementary School (BVSD) launched a collaborative project to explore design solutions for nature-based learning on OSMP's Wood Brothers property adjacent to the school. As part of the 2020-2021 4th grade science and social studies curriculum, students are learning about local ecosystems. They are developing ideas to encourage interactive nature discovery opportunities for youth, responsible recreation, and a

stewardship ethic. This spring, students will be creating artwork for signs to communicate the natural history and to inspire responsible recreation behavior in the adjacent Gunbarrel Hill area.



Students note their observations on a fieldtrip to the Wood Brother's property.

"I have been very disconnected and being in nature makes me feel grounded"
Jackelyn, 14 years old.

"I realize how much time I have spent in front of the electronics and how much I was needing to be out!" Elsa 13, years old.

Wellness Programming OSMP Master Plan CCEI 5

2021 First Quarter

Both physical and mental well-being are more critical than ever, and the land is regenerative in so many ways. We continue to plan for programs in 2021, working with partners to meet combined goals. In this quarter, programs focused on health and resiliency. We collaborated with Boulder County Health in their successful "Be Well" series. Two programs in this quarter reached 1,210 participants.

2020

Wellness programs have been growing in demand, both for physical and mental well-being. With COVID looming, we took a focused approach to help reduce stress and anxiety caused by the pandemic. From working with healthcare providers, to those in addiction/recovery, wellness programs celebrated the many benefits of getting outdoors. OSMP collaborated with Boulder Community Health to co-create a virtual program called the Be Well Series, which got 3,890 views. Combining this with the 13 other wellness programs we were able to offer, we reached 4,077 people.

Impact: 20 programs reaching 4,090 people.

OSMP and the Arts Programming (Wellness) OSMP Master Plan CCEI 5

2021 First Quarter

The Art Inspired by the Land art show has again been postponed due to COVID. We are planning for some restorative and inspirational art-based programs, including volunteer naturalists Jane Larson's Wabi Sabi: Finding Beauty in Imperfection; the Artistry of Yucca by Jill Powers; music, meditation, art and dance with The Mmmmwhah! Ensemble: Reweaving our Social Fabric; volunteer naturalist Diane Wells will be leading a Tribute to Mary Oliver; and Latino artist Arturo Garcia will lead a sketching class, Deambulando entre Gigantes, or Walking Amongst Giants. We are also working with a group called The Young Women's Voices for Climate Change.

2020

Seven artists offered hikes for the public. 55 participants, including kids and teenagers, came from all over the world. Participants were able to find solace, regain a sense of community and connect with themselves. We were also able to provide two art trainings for staff and volunteers.

Impact: 7 art hikes reaching 55 people.



Participant learning a new way of seeing the land.

Environmental Literacy Programming OSMP Master Plan CCEI 6

2021 First Quarter

We continue to provide both virtual education programs as well as limited interpretive hikes. Some of our programs in the first quarter included wildlife programs about bears, mountain

lions, winter adaptations, the prairie ecosystem, fires, winter adaptations, prairie dogs, raptors, seasonal changes, and outdoor safety. We offered 7 virtual programs reaching 645 participants.

2020

Staff got creative with programming. We adjusted size with strict COVID protocols and were able to provide limited outdoor interpretive programs. We also began planning for and delivering virtual programs including staff and volunteer training videos. Some of these videos captured the expertise of two very knowledgeable staff that retired in 2020. In addition, we provided 11 advanced trainings for our Volunteer Naturalists to keep them learning, connected, and engaged.

Impact: We offered 35 programs for 482 people.

Recreation Programming OSMP Master Plan RRSE 6

2021 First Quarter

Recreation programming was put largely on hold for the first quarter. One Wilderness Ethics presentation was delivered to 13 participants. We also had one training for 12 participants on Winter Hiking Essentials. We continue to build relationships with the recreation community. We plan to deliver several recreation programs focused on community relationships and social cohesion.

Impact: We offered 2 programs with 25 participants

2020

Before COVID hit, recreation programs were focused on community building and setting goals. From Sunrise Yoga to Trail Challenge Hikes, these programs aimed to showcase the diversity of locations, terrain, and trails OSMP has to offer.

Impact: We offered 10 programs with 176 participants.

Voice and Sight Classes OSMP Master Plan CCEI 8

2021 First Quarter

Online classes continue to be available. First-quarter online course completions total 2,004, which includes 5-year refresher completions.

2020

OSMP redesigned the in-person class and shifted to online offerings. 569 people attended in-person classes through March; 1,869 first time people attended the virtual class. In 2019, there

were 3,291 participants. OSMP worked closely with DocuPet to develop an updated tag administration interface that streamlined the process for signing up.

Impact: We continue to streamline our process to educate participants of the program.

Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) OSMP Master Plan CCEI 1

2021 First Quarter

Several OSMP staff members have led the development of a departmental equity assessment tool, called out in the citywide [Racial Equity Plan](#). The goal of this tool is to standardize reporting of departmental trends as they relate to citywide outcomes. OSMP will act as the pilot department in Q2-Q3.

The OSMP JEDI Team had a very busy Q1. The Communications Project team drafted a JEDI statement for internal and external use. They are in the process of designing a one-pager and organizational flow chart to assist public-facing staff in communicating about the work the city and department are involved in and directing inquiries to the appropriate people. The Training & Development Project team is creating an auditing guide to ensure consistent evaluation of equity trainings and created a survey to inventory OSMP employee training needs as it relates to JEDI.

In addition, staff also presented the JEDI portion of the first Seasonal & Temporary Employee Orientation and will continue to facilitate this training through May.

2020

OSMP has been very invested as an early adopter of the citywide Racial Equity work as outlined in the Racial Equity Plan. Staff members are already involved in carrying out several of the strategies highlighted in the plan, including the formation of our departmental JEDI team. In August 2020, thirteen department staff came together from every service area and all levels of leadership and lengths of service to form this team.

Education Outreach Framework – Our guiding document

The Education and Outreach Framework (EOF) is a tool we use to standardize and guide Education and Outreach Levels of Education Service for different OSMP sites. It guides interpretive themes; programming; interpretive facilities and amenities (e.g., signs); and print/web-based media for audiences across the OSMP system. It is used to inform long-term and annual on-the-ground planning efforts for E&O programs. This year, we are implementing the EOF at Gunbarrel Hill/Wood Brothers and Sawhill Ponds and in conjunction with BVSD,

creating new outdoor spaces to teach environmental literacy and to advance nature discovery opportunities for youth and families.

Here are the THEMES we use to tell our stories:

Care for the Land: OSMP lands preserve numerous fragile ecosystems and vanishing species, while hosting over 6 million annual visits. It is essential that all generations work toward resilient ecosystems, to care for, support and nurture OSMP lands for their sake and for future generations.

OSMP History & Conservation: Over generations, the vision, activism, and commitment of Boulder's community has created a unique system of protected public lands that strives to meet the needs of the community and local plants and animals.

Youth in Nature: Youth and families can discover the joy and wonder of nature on OSMP, developing a lifelong sense of place and personal ownership in their local environment.

Cultural History: For thousands of years, people living in the Boulder area have cherished the landscape of OSMP as a home rich in natural resources and as a place to connect to the outdoors.

Natural History: Millions of years of evolution, coupled with a unique climate and landscape, have endowed OSMP lands with an unprecedented richness of species.

Health and Wellness: The landscape of OSMP provides visitors with diverse opportunities to connect with and interact with nature.

Climate Change: The climate crisis is a serious global challenge that will have profound impacts on human and natural systems. OSMP is proactively managing these systems to withstand and adapt to the effects of the climate crisis, relying on good science and individual actions.

Social Equity and Justice: Many people throughout history, representing diverse cultures and backgrounds, have shaped the land we call OSMP. OSMP is public land belonging to all the people of Boulder, and serves everyone regardless of age, sex, ability, language, culture or religious affiliation.

Agriculture: OSMP lands foster the tradition of local agriculture as a facet of Boulder's landscape, to honor our heritage and history, and to feed our community.

Youth Leadership: The future of OSMP and the survival of its many species depend on committed and dedicated stewardship by today's youth as they grow into leadership roles to take their places as the authors of the next chapter of the land's story.

And the TOTAL numbers:

Total Number of 2020 Programs: 324

Total Number of 2020 Participants: 10,826