

# RANGER SERVICES SUMMARY

RANGERS CONTINUED TO IMPLEMENT MASTER PLAN STRATEGIES IN 2021

## RANGER PATROL BY THE NUMBERS

*Master Plan Strategy CCEI.2 Enhance Communication with Visitors*

A substantial portion of a Rangers' responsibilities is to patrol the extensive Open Space & Mountain Parks system. In July of 2021, Ranger staff implemented a new digital patrol log to collect data on their daily activities. Rangers are now able to report accurate information on their patrol miles, mode, and hours, as well as number and type of visitor contacts!

**17,000 CONTACTS**



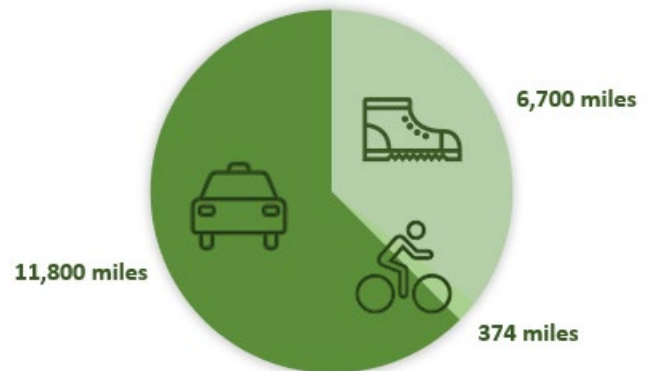
*Total number of Ranger contacts between July and December of 2021. Most contacts were providing visitors with general park information.*

## RANGER AWARDS

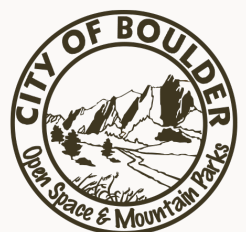
Ranger services are sometimes recognized for individual achievements and outstanding group work. We are proud of the nominations and awards earned by members of the team in the last year. These awards typify the outstanding service and the level of excellence we strive for every day. In addition to the awards received below, Ranger supervisors are currently considering Distinguished Service awards for Ranger staff that assisted in the evacuation of residents during the Marshall Fire, as well as a nomination from one of our Rangers recognizing two citizens that provided life-saving service to an injured visitor.



- 2 Medals of Valor
- 1 Lifesaving Award
- 1 Sheriff's Commendation
- 2 Distinguished Service Awards
- 3 Rocky Mountain Ranger Association Awards
- 2 Blue Grama Awards at the 2021 Colorado Open Space Alliance Conference



*Ranger patrol mileage by foot, vehicle, and bike from July through December, 2021*



# FEATURED RANGER PROJECTS

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

*Master Plan Strategy EHR.3 Address the Global Climate Crisis Here and Now*



OSMP Rangers bravely responded to the catastrophic Marshall Fire on December 30 in a multitude of ways: they performed emergency door-to-door neighborhood evacuations, worked overnight to save homes and property, closed trails, searched for missing pets, staffed road closures, and provided security for President Biden's visit to the area. Wildland fire response is part of the job, and Rangers dedicate time to advanced training and certifications each year to be able to provide this life-saving and protective service for the community. Also important is what happens after the fire - Rangers play an active role in managing trail and area closures to allow the natural resources to recover. Fire prevention is a critical aspect of daily ranger patrol. In 2021, Rangers issued dozens of summonses and warnings to visitors with illegal sources of ignition, including campfires and smoking.

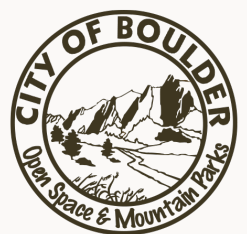
Rangers responded to the NCAR (above), Shanahan, and Bear Peak fires in March and April of this year as fire danger remains high in our area.

## YOUTH RANGER PROGRAM

*Master Plan Strategy CCEI.3 Connect Youth to the Outdoors*

Ranger Arian Hampel created the Youth Ranger (YR) program in 2017 based on the belief that the long-term solution to conserve open space involves creating environmental stewards for future generations and helping young people discover careers in natural resource protection. The YR program is a four-week environmental education and work program for youth ages 14 to 17. Participants are empowered to step into leadership roles, and they give back to the Boulder community by working on service projects. Because of the ongoing effects of the pandemic in 2021, program coordinators Arian Hampel and Melinda Markin focused on mental health for youth and fostering a safe environment for youths to connect with others. Arian and Melinda, along with crew leaders, participated in Mental Health First Aid for Youth training prior to the program, and they were better equipped to support the needs of the participants. At the COSA conference in 2021, the YR program was honored as the recipient of the Blue Grama Award for an Outstanding Visitor Engagement Program. Entering its sixth year in 2022, the YR program is the living embodiment of OSMP's values. What better way to facilitate a long-term solution in protecting Boulder's natural resources than by empowering young people to find their own passion and guide their professional development in the outdoors?

Watch [this video](#) to learn more about OSMP's Youth Ranger program!



## FLAGSTAFF MOUNTAIN IMPROVEMENTS

*Master Plan Strategy 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.*

Due to both an increase in visitation and changes in visitation, the OSMP properties along Flagstaff Road have seen a rise in illegal activities and resource damage. In response to these issues, Rangers increased evening/night patrols and updated the “No Parking” hours along Flagstaff Road to 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Rangers collaborated with fellow OSMP staff and the Chamber of Commerce to effectively manage the Boulder Star, including reducing the lighting hours by over 50% (to protect roosting raptors and comply with the city’s Nighttime Ordinance), and directing extra patrols in the area to enforce closures and keep the public safe. Rangers continue to patrol and protect the Flagstaff Mountain area by removing graffiti, addressing vandalism, hiking the trails, helping to coordinate trash pick-ups, enforcing parking violations, and working with OSMP staff to address overflowing and dangerous parking.

