



Parks & Open Space

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PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023

Location: Boulder County Courthouse
1325 Pearl Street, Third Floor, Boulder

TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
FROM/PRESENTER:	Justin Atherton-Wood, Planning Work Group Supervisor Tina Nielsen, Special Projects Coordinator
AGENDA ITEM:	The Boulder County Parks & Open Space Foundation: History, Successes, and Future Opportunities
ACTION REQUESTED:	Information Only

The Boulder County Parks & Open Space Foundation (<https://preservebouldercounty.org>) is a non-profit organization formed in 2004 to support the Boulder County Parks & Open Space Department. The Foundation's mission is to strengthen the connections between the public and BCPOS by raising private funds, supporting innovative projects, fostering partnerships and increasing community involvement in projects and programs on open space. For nearly 20 years, the Foundation has been an important partner of the department's supporting projects large and small.

In its early years, the Foundation conducted an annual year-end fundraising campaign aimed at friends of the department. Over the years, these campaigns have raised more than \$100,000 from small dollar donations and one-time donations. Funding has continually supported bus transportation that has made it possible each year for hundreds of students to experience hands-on learning and nature immersion each year at Walker Ranch, the Agricultural Heritage Center, and Walden Ponds. The Foundation was also an early supporter of the ranger-led Lefthand Outdoor Challenge program for teens that is now going on its tenth year! The Foundation has also supported community programs such as the Plein Air art show for many years and a woodworker art show held in 2020. And, through its Drop in the Bucket campaign, it lended support to various to trail construction projects such as the Wild Turkey Trail at Heil Valley Ranch and habitat restoration projects such as grassland conversions, Russian Olive removals, and embankment stabilizations in the early 2000s.

Since 2018, after receiving some significant donations and bequests, the scope and scale of projects has broadened. Over these past five years, the Foundation supporting nearly \$2 million dollars in projects and programs. This funding has supported a "call for projects" initiative that has supported staff-identified projects such as the replacement bridges at Heil Valley Ranch, new web cameras at the Fairgrounds osprey nest and many trailheads, grant-match for the new trail at Tolland Ranch, and the Native Seed Increase Project. Funding has also supported programs led by partners such as Explorandos Senderos, Southdown Indian

Mountain Healing, and Ocean First's Redbelly Dace reintroduction program in partnership with St. Vrain Valley School District and CU Boulder.

The Foundation is a grassroots effort guided by a volunteer board consisting of BCPOS staff, past POSAC members, and local community members. Current staff members serving on the board are Therese Glowacki, Tina Nielsen, D'Ann Lambert and Justin Atherton-Wood. Former POSAC members and community members serving on the board are Mary McQuiston, Melanie Muckle, Kate Kramer, and Jim Krug. Many members have served on the board with dedication for a decade or more, some since the very beginning!

As we approach the 20th anniversary of the Foundation and the 50th anniversary of the department, we have the opportunity to celebrate our many successes and look to future opportunities. We will use our time with POSAC to do just that. In addition, the Foundation is looking to add some new members to the board to help us build that future in support of the department's vision of leading the way to exceptional open space. This presentation will kick-off our outreach effort for identifying potential new board members. We look forward to sharing some inspiring stories with you!