



Parks & Open Space

5201 St. Vrain Road • Longmont, CO 80503
303-678-6200 • POSinfo@bouldercounty.gov
www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org

PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024

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

TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
FROM/PRESENTER:	Community Engagement Team: Emma Dhimitri, Community Health Specialist; Monserrat Alvarez, Bilingual Partnership Specialist; Sully Tun-Ake, Park Ranger, Community Engagement; Whitney May Taylor, Planner II; With support from Carlos Lerma, Natural History Program Coordinator; Juan Ocampo, Park Ranger; and Luiz Bertolo-Blanco, Youth Corps Program Manager.
AGENDA ITEM:	2024 Community Engagement Team Update
ACTION REQUESTED:	Informational Only

Introduction

The Boulder County Parks and Open Space Community Engagement team was formed at the end of 2023 in response to the need to better coordinate and support ongoing BCPOS community engagement work across multiple work groups. The team’s work is focused by our Desired Future Condition, which was developed during the 2023 team retreat:

Boulder County Parks & Open Space cultivates approachable, meaningful, and sustainable community engagement opportunities and programs with (co-created) and for the community with a focus on historically marginalized communities that leverage the community’s assets, build upon trusted partnerships, and make people feel they are a part of Parks & Open Space.

Why Does Parks & Open Space Need a Community Engagement Team?

In response to feedback received from community partners and BCPOS staff, it became clear there was a need for increased communication and support for ongoing and emerging community engagement programs. As a result of this feedback, BCPOS employees who regularly lead community engagement programs formed a team to reduce silos between work groups, offer support to one another for larger events, and build reciprocal and sustainable relationships with our community partners. The Community Engagement team works to coordinate community engagement efforts across five different work groups and divisions: Recreation and Facilities, Resource Protection and Rangers, Education and Outreach, CSU Extension and Planners.

Community Engagement in 2024

In the year that this team has existed, BCPOS community engagement events and collaborative programming has more than tripled – from nine events in 2023 to over 31 events in 2024. This work would not be possible without the support of community partners:

- Boulder County Public Health
- Cal-Wood Education Center
- Casa de Esperanza
- City of Longmont: Longmont Youth Center
- Cottonwood Institute
- Harvest of All First Nations
- Inspire Youth Connections
- Latino Outdoors
- Luna Cultura
- Nature Kids Programs (Thorne Nature Experience)
- San Lazaro Mobile Home Community
- Sister Carmen

Our team will highlight a few events and programs from 2024:

- Casa de la Esperanza partnership and overall support
- A la Montaña con la Familia
- Aventuras de San Lazaro
- The Zone Afterschool Program's Wellness Wednesdays
- Harvest of All First Nation's Corn Festival

Summary

The Community Engagement team will present the formation of the team and the goals the team aims to achieve. This presentation will also include highlights from the BCPOS community engagement events and programs of 2024.

This is an 'information only' item and no action by POSAC is needed.