

TOPS Stewardship Update 2022 Review

Parks Advisory Board
January 4th, 2023
Gillian Rossi – TOPS Senior Park Ranger



Fulltime Staff



Park Rangers: Wesley Hermann, Hayley Noneman, Joshua Joyner, Andrea Gonzales, Michael Bowman, Elaine Freeth, Madison Peddy **Bark Ranger:** Graham Thomas

Fulltime Staff



Trail Project Specialist – Dan Allen



Senior Park Ranger – Gillian Rossi

Resource Technicians

Winter 2021-2022 Seasonal Staff



Lindsey Meyers



Otzma Paz

- Assisted with open space and trail maintenance projects.
- Resource assessment – mapped rogue trail networks in Ute Valley Park, Blodgett Open Space, and Red Rock Canyon.
- GIS and map making.
- Conducted bird point count surveys.
- Vegetation mapping – surveying dominant species.

Education Technicians

Winter 2021-2022 Seasonal Staff



- Created weekly social media posts highlighting the Leave No Trace principles.
- Developed additional *Traveling Trunks* programs.
- Tabled at various TOPS properties and special events.
- Updated TOPS Interpretive Cache.



Alexander Kalna



Tierni Chun

Trail Technician

Summer 2022 Seasonal Staff



Responsibilities:

- Trail work
- Rogue trail restoration
- Daily rounds
- Mowing along urban trails
- Enrolled in Pikes Peak Regional Crew Leader Training

Accomplishments:

- 2 check dams constructed
- 456 feet of fence installed
- 7 steps constructed



Peter Chapman

Biological Technician

Summer 2022 Seasonal Staff



- Migratory Bird Treaty Act Surveys (35 days)
- Avian surveys (360 Point Counts)
- Wildlife monitoring
 - Prairie dog surveys
- Invasive weed mapping/spraying
- GIS and map making
- Akerman Fire Survey
- BioBlitz and City Nature Challenge coordination
- Natural Resource assessments

Anthony Dunnam

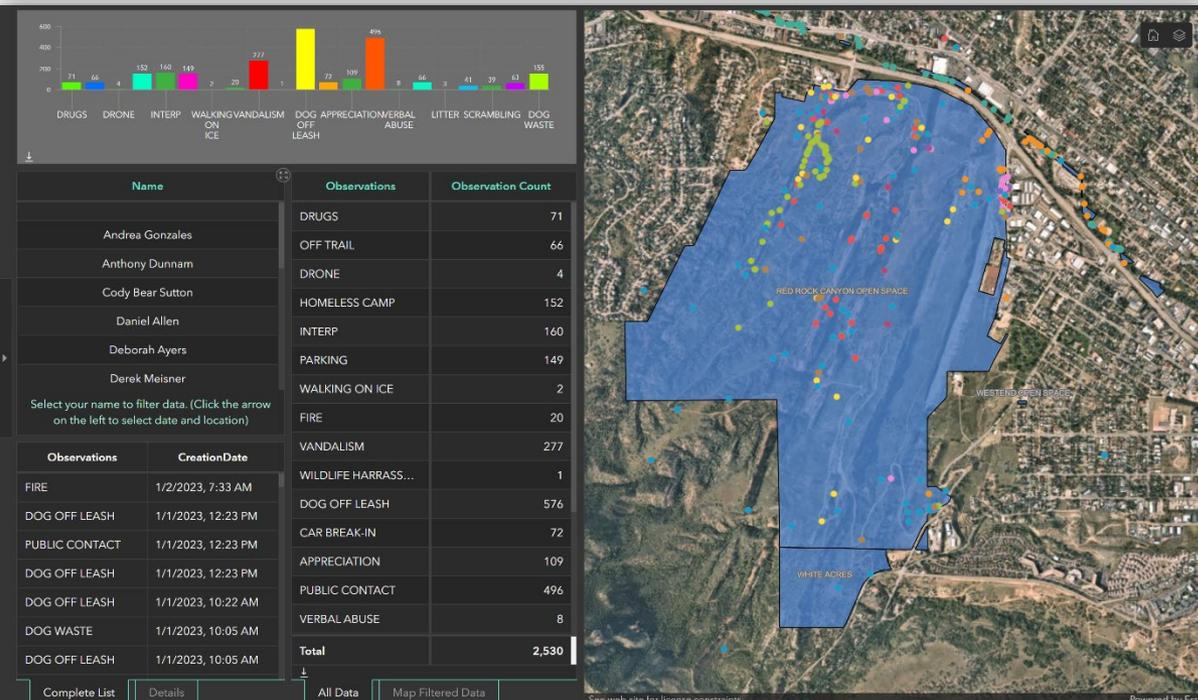


ArcGIS QuickCapture

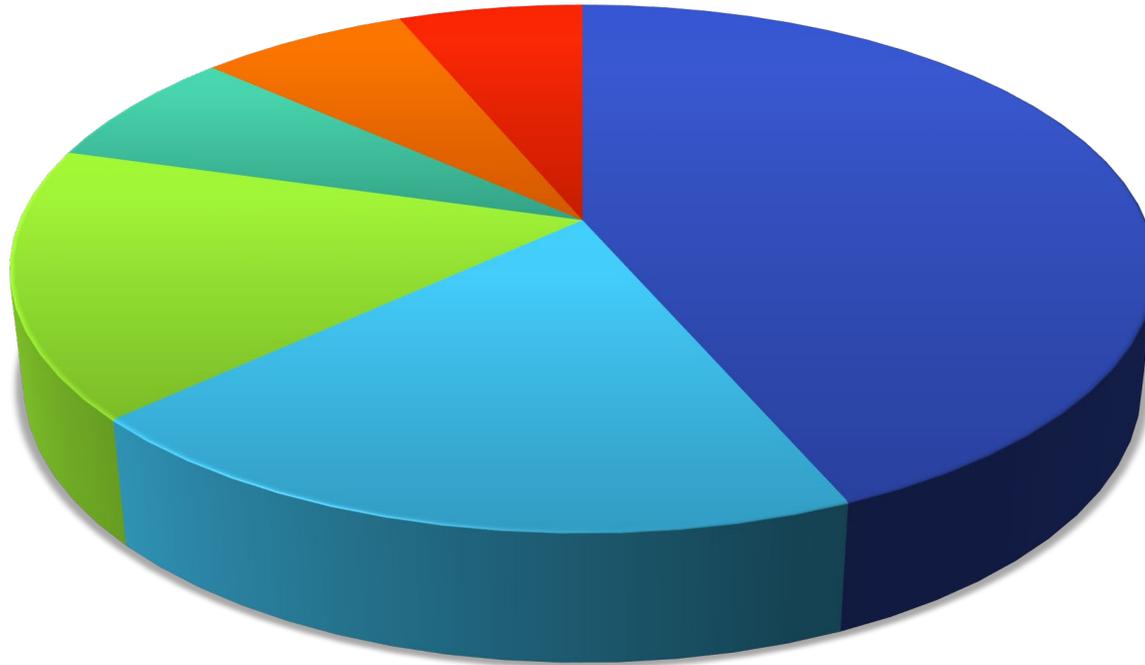
Launched in April 2022



- Project started by TOPS Resource & Biological Technicians
- Statistics can now be logged from the field
- Interactive database



2022 Most Recorded Statistics



■ Dog Off-Leash (939) ■ Appreciation (419) ■ Vandalism (355)
■ Off Trail (156) ■ Homeless Camps (152) ■ Vehicle Break-In (134)

Total Public Contacts = 7,072

Law Enforcement



CSPD Partnership Conservation Patrols

May - September

- Dogs Off-Leash
 - 28 Citations
- Parking Violations
 - 2 Citations
- Scrambling
 - 2 Citations



92 hours of patrols, 15 deployments

CSPD Vehicle Break-in Patrols

- 5 Deployments
- 33 Misdemeanor Arrests
- 108 Community Contacts



Program Statistics



- 69 programs/outreach events
 - 3799 public contacts
- 41 Traveling Trunks programs
 - 1164 students reached
- 6 Field Trips
 - 300 students reached



*TOPS' Leave No Trace Booth @
Outdoor Recreation Expo, June 2022*

Interpretation & Education

In-park Programming



Star Party
Blodgett Open Space



Geology Walk & Talk
Red Rock Canyon Open Space

Interpretation & Education

Guided Hikes & Tabling

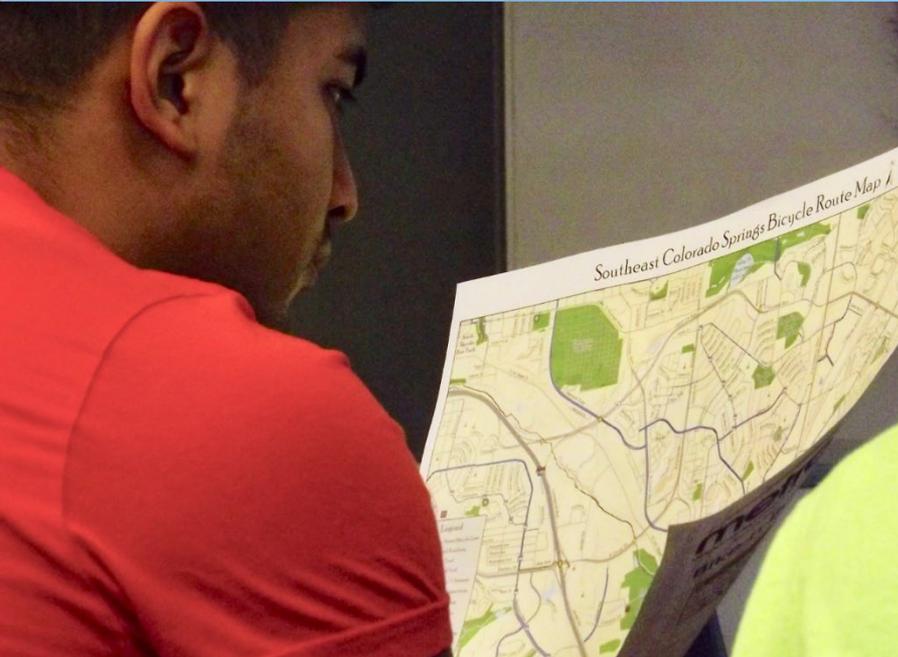


Guided Hike for *Hike It, Baby!*
Red Rock Canyon Open Space

Pet Safety Table
Stratton Open Space

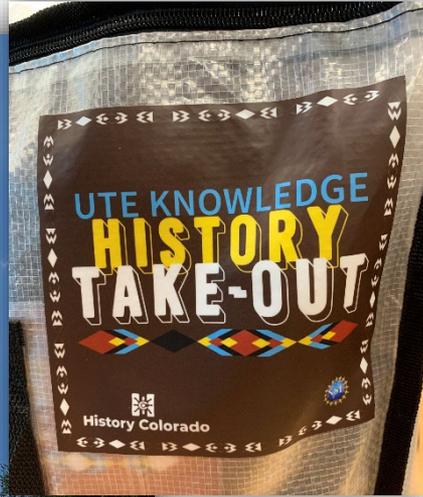
Interpretation & Education

“Urban Trails 101” Program Collaboration



Interpretation & Education

Ute Knowledge History Take Out Kit



Building Outdoor Leaders Today

“B.O.L.T.” *Program Collaboration*

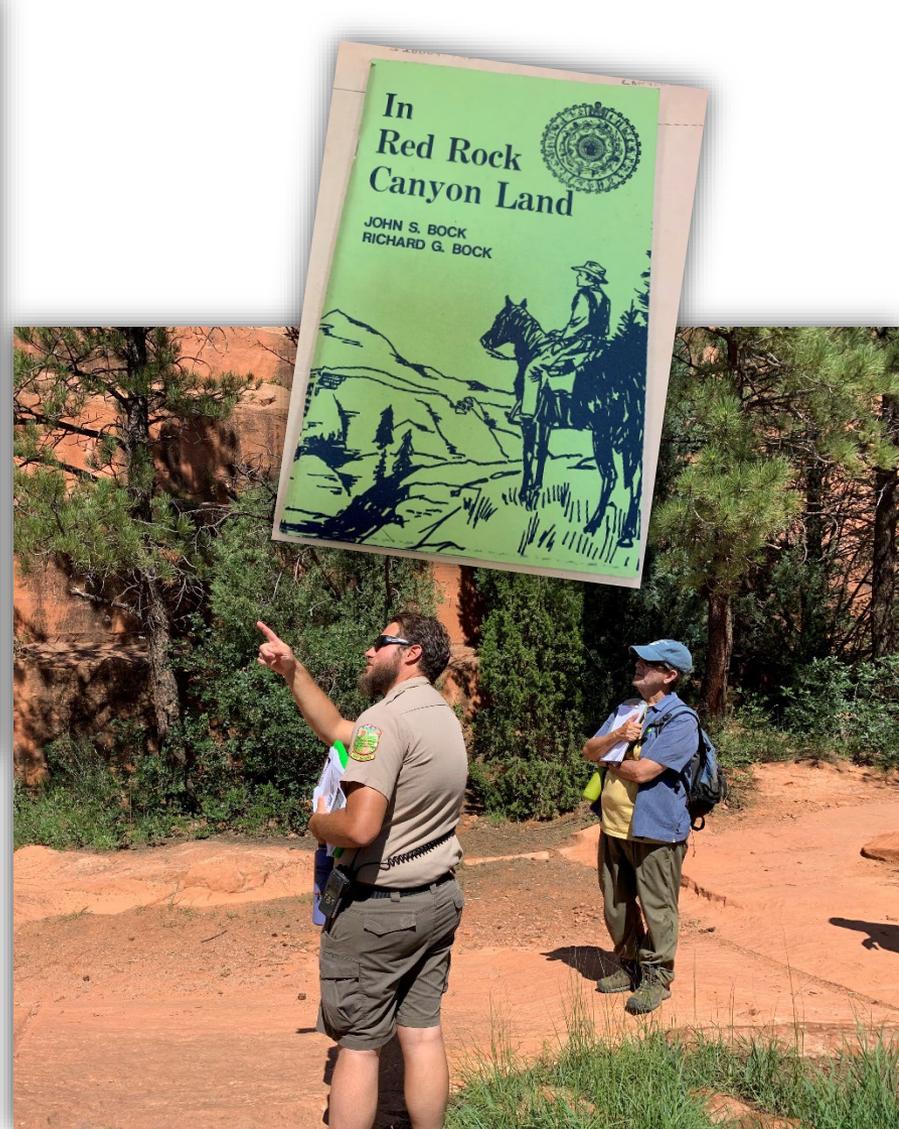


- Biking
- First Aid & CPR Certification
- Leave No Trace
- Natural resource management
- Ecological restoration
- Outdoor survival
- Photography
- Recreational activities
- Career Exploration



Red Rock Canyon Open Space

Geology and History Interpretive Loop Progress



2022 BioBlitz



- Public BioBlitz
 - Blodgett Open Space
 - August 5th, 2022



Corral Bluffs Open Space

Petrified Tree Removal



Volunteer Projects



"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart."
– Elizabeth Andrew

Stewardship Workday

Project Collaboration



Maintenance & Land Management



- Daily service of trailheads & parking lots
- Trails clear of hazards
- Fence construction
- Sign installation, Gate installation
- Gate-opening
- Removal of illegal camps & dumped items
- Graffiti removal

Maintenance & Land Management



- Notices of encroachment
- Undesignated trail closure and restoration
- Windstorm mitigation
- Wildfire mitigation
- Restroom cleaning, portalet monitoring
- Coordinating volunteer projects

Maintenance & Land Management



Staff Trainings

Attended



- **Wildland Fire Training**
- **Wilderness First Responder Recert**
- **S-212 Wildland Fire Chainsaw**
- **Ability Awareness Training**
- **American Sign Language Basics**
- **Verbal De-escalation**
- **Homeless Interaction Training**
- **Sander Training**
- **Leave No Trace Master Educator Course**



Staff Trainings

Hosted



Staff Trainings

Collaborative



Pikes Peak Crew Leader Training

- Hosted by UCCS, organized by RMFI, TOSC, and RPTOS
- Trail work and restoration workdays held at UCCS, Ute Valley Park, and University Park

Collaboration

Internal



Collaboration

External



Collaboration

Signage



SLOW DOWN

When hiking or biking slow down and move to the side of the trail.



public recreation cultural services

SAY, HELLO!

Talk. This calms the horse and reassures the rider.

SHARE THE TRAIL

Horses always have the right of way.



CO Trails Symposium



Colorado Springs hosted the 5th Annual Colorado Trails Symposium on September 28 and 29 at the El Pomar Conference Center. The two-day event provides agency trail managers with the ability to network and share ideas through presentations and field trips. 96 agency staff members from across Colorado attended. Dan Allen helped plan this successful symposium!

Contractor Accomplishments



Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado –Stratton Open Space, Gold Camp Path 2665 feet of new trail constructed, 5 steps, and 150 square feet of retaining wall built in April 2022

Single Track Trails – constructed 1800 feet of rough cut prior to VOC volunteer event



Rocky Mountain Field Institute



- Work completed at Stratton, Red Rock Canyon, Blodgett, and University Park
- **Engaged 140 volunteers over 11 volunteer days totaling 556 volunteer hours.**
- Total of 78 staff workdays.
- 3210 linear feet tread improved
- 8702 feet of rogue trail restored
- 218 square feet of tread armored
- 25 timber steps built
- 2907 feet of rogue trail decommissioned
- 464 linear feet of fence installed



Community Recognition



Rocky Mountain Ranger Association
Distinguished Service Award
Michael Bowman & Madison Peddy



Community Recognition



TOPS Staff at the July 2022 City Council Meeting for reading of resolution designating July as National Parks and Recreation Month

Leave No Trace

Stewardship Initiative Progress



- Gold Standard Site Visit from Leave No Trace
 - April 28th, 2022
- 7 Trainer Courses and Awareness Workshops
- 42 outreach events & programs (148.75 hours)
- 2,973 people reached!





parks · recreation · cultural services

REGIONAL PARKS, TRAILS
& OPEN SPACES



LEAVE NO TRACE
GOLD
STANDARD SITE



Leave No Trace

Stewardship is spreading! We're just getting started.



Objectives

Increase responsible recreation practices from park visitors and staff, turn park ultra-users into ultra-stewards, set the bar for other agencies to enhance stewardship efforts, and to foster a culture of stewardship across Colorado Springs.

TOPS Thanks You!

