



It's a new era of stewardship. Learn what we accomplished and how you can join us in 2021.

2020 YEAR-END REPORT www.voc.org

Dear Friends:

As the days shorten, trees shed their leaves, and snow falls, we can let out a collective sigh: 2020 is almost over. What a year this has been as we all adjusted to so much change – profound at times in its sadness and righteous in its anger – urging us to find new ways to unite even as we remain physically distanced.

The onset of the pandemic was like nothing we had ever experienced. While VOC's field season halted, we got to work: with a paramount commitment to the wellbeing of our volunteers, we modified project protocols to meet public health standards. VOC staff worked closely with land agency partners to accommodate reduced group sizes, prioritize projects, and address the impacts from rising quarantine-induced recreation. Several of our most dedicated volunteers also sprang into action, converting their garages and backyards into R&D facilities as they built hands-free sanitizing and hydration stations.

Thus, VOC's Pandemic Project Era (PPE) began. With a late start in July, we still engaged 823 essential volunteers in 56 projects – approximately half of our originally scheduled work. Despite these feats, there were also heartfelt hardships for many within the VOC community.

We lost two beloved long-time leaders: Jake Isaacson, a cherished mentor and master carpenter, and Robert "Rosie" Rosenzweig, a shorts-in-all-seasons Tool Manager extraordinaire. Many of our older, most seasoned volunteers were understandably reluctant to participate, and projects were simply not the same without them. Coffee pots, Dutch ovens, and roasting pans were shelved without Crew Chefs to fill them with delicious delights. VOC staff felt the furloughs of five colleagues amid uncertain funding.

The challenges of this year will not end when the clock strikes midnight. As the Greek philosopher Heraclitus once professed, "The only constant in life is change", and changes lie ahead for VOC in 2021. We will continue to adapt our work as the pandemic lingers into the New Year. Our board and staff are also working in earnest to further diversity, equity, and inclusion in the outdoors and our organization. Finally, as Ann prepares to retire, we are working to ensure a smooth leadership transition by April.

We stand ready. 2020 has shown the depth of our determination to care for Colorado, and that our work is only possible when we care for each other first. It is thanks to our donors, funders, volunteers, and partners that we were able to bring our team back together and successfully launch our field season with no COVID-19 exposures reported on any project.

Thank you all for what you have done this year to ensure VOC remains strong and ready to meet our state's most pressing stewardship needs. We could not do this work without the generous financial commitment so many of you make to VOC, and your support is needed now more than ever as we navigate both the certainties and uncertainties of the coming year.

Please join us in caring for all of Colorado, for all Coloradans. Please give generously by using the enclosed envelope or donate online at voc.org/supportVOC.

Gratefully,

Ann Baker Easley
Chief Executive Officer

Sun Baker Easley

Gerald Free 2020 Chair of the Board of Directors

Cerall Free



VOLUNTEERING ISN'T FREE.

Organizing and managing effective volunteer projects requires planning, time, and financial resources. From tools to transportation, the average VOC project can cost up to \$5,000 per day. It may sound like a hefty price tag, but each project delivers more than double its investment in donated labor to public lands.

VOC MEMBERS MAKE IT POSSIBLE.

Now more than ever, with slashed government budgets and sponsorship reductions, we must rely on the generosity of our members to propel our work forward and continue our mission to care for Colorado.

When you give \$40 or more, you automatically join a community of people invested in the future of our state's outdoors.

Call, give online, or use the enclosed envelope to become a VOC Member* and strengthen your commitment to Colorado.

As a VOC Member, you receive the following benefits:

- \$10 off an annual Colorado State Parks Pass when purchased through VOC
- Early registration on VOC projects
- VOC Member sticker to show your support
- Access to special discounts on outdoor gear

Not ready to give today? Schedule a donation for Colorado Gives Day, December 8th, at cogives.org/VOC and be part of the state's largest day of giving.

2020 Financial Overview

Revenue**

Government Agencies 28%
Corporations 23%
Foundations 21%
Individuals 21%
Earned Revenues 4%
Partner Organizations 2%



^{**}VOC received a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan to help sustain the organization during the COVID-19 crisis.

^{*}Your membership lasts for one year from the day you donate.

Adapting to the Pandemic Project Era (PPE)

On March 1, we launched our project season. On March 11, COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic. By April, we cancelled all field programs through June – half of our season.

As the state shut down, there was one place left for people to go: outside. Demand for our parks and trails skyrocketed, with State Parks reporting 300,000 more visitors in May compared to last year. Stories of widened trails, overflowing trash cans, crowded parking lots, and user conflicts followed.

VOC knew we could not afford to wait out the season. In short order, we rose to meet a challenge unlike any we had faced before.

By July, pick mattocks were back in action as projects returned with a new look: fewer volunteers, wearing masks and working six feet apart – with no Crew Chefs or culinary rewards in sight.



Yet the response

was overwhelming: projects filled quickly with waitlists and first-time volunteers lined up, eager to lend a hand. "Project Adopters", volunteers who independently lead VOC projects, stepped up to increase our response.

The challenges of COVID-19 – on our lands, in our communities, and at VOC – are not over. But with the support of our community, we stand ready to continue our stewardship mission.

Donate today at **voc.org/supportVOC** to help us plan a fun, safe, and successful 2021 season.









WITH:

44% fewer projects

80%

fewer volunteer days

88%

fewer unique volunteers 25%

reduced staff capacity

AND THE HELP OF:

739

823
Volunteers

WE...

CONTRIBUTED 6,864 volunteer hours

to 36 places across 56 projects

TRAINED 192 volunteers, agency staff, and youth corps members across 14 Outdoor Stewardship Institute (OSI) trainings, 107 of whom also took part in online OSI courses in partnership with Colorado Mountain College

ACCOMPLISHED:

- ✓ 20.6 miles of trail maintained \checkmark 2.5 miles of trail built
- ✓ **0.9** miles of user-created 'social' trail closed and revegetated
- ✓ **148 structures** installed or maintained to reduce erosion
- ✓ **94 steps** built or restored
- ✓ 2 bridges built
- ✓ **346** community science **observations** made
- ✓ 1,146 acres surveyed for Abandoned Mine Land Features



- √ 38 acres of invasive weeds mitigated
- ✓ **5.5 acres thinned** to improve forest health and mitigate fire risk
- ✓ 20 acres restored after the Elephant Butte Fire
- ✓ Built 350 feet of fence, repaired 3,000 feet of fence, and removed 3,428 feet of hazardous fencing

...Delivering a donated labor value of \$202,495!

Plus: 100% of post-project survey respondents said they felt safe on VOC projects.

Building a More Inclusive Future



As more people recreate outdoors, the stewardship community must grow to become a diverse and inclusive space for all.

As we witnessed the unfolding of racial and social unrest across the country, we quickly realized that continuing "business as usual" was not an option.

VOC's mission is about nature, but it is also about people. Thus, we must be an organization that openly welcomes, and actively engages,

individuals of all backgrounds in caring for Colorado.

This means taking a hard and honest look at our work, thoughtfully examining our culture

and operations to tackle disparities head-on. We are committed to improving our programs and behind-the-scenes structures to foster a more diverse stewardship community and support marginalized groups' access to outdoor recreation and environmental leadership positions.

VOC's Board has approved financial resources to formalize VOC's 2021 plan for creating a more diverse and inclusive stewardship community, further leveraging the 50% of proceeds from our Uniquely Colorado fundraiser that have already been allocated for this work.

We look forward to doing our part to connect all people with the joys of the outdoors and outdoor stewardship – for Colorado and everyone who calls it home.

Visit voc.org/inclusion to learn more.





Expanding Our Stewardship Approach

As we witness the impacts of climate change on Colorado's natural resources, we must take a "whole ecosystem" approach to stewardship.

VOC's work has often focused on trails, which serve the natural world by moving people through nature in a responsible and sustainable way. But Colorado's future depends on ensuring our larger ecosystems – watersheds, wildlife habitats, and grasslands – are also well cared for.



This year, we expanded our "ecosystem stewardship" efforts to include more community science projects and a new chainsaw program that will increase our capacity to keep forests healthy.

Redefining the 'Outdoor' in Outdoor Stewardship



Many imagine mountains when they hear of Colorado's "great outdoors". But to diversify who we serve and how we serve nature, we must also diversify where we work.

Nestled between the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains, Weld County is one of the fastest growing areas in the state. With bustling food processing and oil and gas industries, it is also home to important waterways and unique prairie ecosystems.

In 2019, VOC established a Partnership Office with Greeley Natural Areas & Trails, hiring a local VOC employee to strengthen stewardship in collaboration with Weld County land agencies.

The goal of this office is to engage residents – 30% of whom are Hispanic or Latinx – in caring for the county's "nearby nature", working with local organizations to improve recreational opportunities and bolster the health of natural areas.

In its inaugural year, local volunteers planted 80 trees in Brighton; built a trail to access the Glenmere Urban Wildlife Bird Sanctuary; removed invasive species from the Poudre Learning Center; and much more.



In 2021, we will continue to preserve urban nature for this growing population and connect residents to the natural wonders in their own neighborhood.

Contact Beth Ray, Weld County Volunteer & Partnership Coordinator, at beth@voc.org to learn more about Weld County opportunities.



Beyond our own projects, we continue to offer in-person and online training courses for other organizations to increase their impact in ecological, fire, and riparian restoration.

In 2021, 30% of our 65 volunteer projects will directly address restoration of Colorado's flora and fauna, and the protection of natural systems that sustain us.

As we broaden the ways in which we care for Colorado, we hope you join us in creating a healthy, nature-filled future for all Coloradans.

Sign up for our newsletter at voc.org to learn more about our 2021 field programs.



VOC 2020 Board of Directors

Alex Alma Allison Altaras Sean Bahoshy Amy Beatie Jim Bedwell Carolyn Burr Suzanne Connors Paige de Kock Gerald Free Jack Ihle Gina Lux Dara MacDonald Denny O'Malley Andy Rylance Jeff Trujillo Tarn Udall **David Welton**

Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado
2020 YEAR-END REPORT



Thank you to everyone who supported VOC during this challenging time. Whether you donated time, money, or services, it is your support that made our work possible.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

(from October 18, 2019 to September 30, 2020)

VISIONARIES (\$50,000+)

Johnson Foundation of the Rockies Mike O'Brien Living Trust

National Forest Foundation

STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY (\$25,000 - \$49,999)

Colorado Energy Foundation Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Noble Energy, Inc

US Forest Service - Rio Grande National Forest

US Forest Service - Rocky Mtn Region 2

Xcel Energy Foundation

TRUSTEES' CIRCLE (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Bank of America Charitable Foundation

Bureau of Land Management - Colorado State Office

Broe Family Foundation

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City and County of Denver Parks & Recreation

Colorado Lottery Colorado Native CORE Consultants Firman Fund

Fred & Jean Allegretti Foundation

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National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance

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REI

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Sandy Elliott

Wayne and Cathy Zahm

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

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Bureau of Land Management - San Luis Valley

The Boeing Company

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

Ken and Rebecca Gart Lockheed Martin

Marathon Petroleum Foundation

Mountain Area Land Trust Patagonia Denver Store

Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project

Salesforce

Schneider Electric

Suncor

Town of Castle Rock Parks & Recreation Department

Upper Rio Grande Partnership The Laura Jane Musser Fund

VF Foundation

CONSERVATORS (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Adobe

Andrew Eiseman and Brian Braa

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Burrell Family Foundation

CoBank

Colorado Springs TOPS Program Community First Foundation

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Credit Union of Colorado
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David and Nancy Marlow
Delta Dental of Colorado
El Pomar Foundation

HDR Ellen Urell

Empower Retirement Erik & Sarah Hagevik

FirstBank

George C Schamel II Gerald and Vivian Free

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James Borgel and Cynthia Wolf

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John and Mary Bayard Kristin Howland Lakshmy Foundation

Martha Records and Richard Rainaldi

Mary Agster Matthew Rutherford

Mike and Val Scott

Monarch Investment and Management Group Mount Evans Outdoor Lab National Park Foundation

NewGen Strategies & Solutions

One Tree Planted

Otten Johnson Robinson Neff +

Ragonetti PC Patagonia, Inc

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Stuart Miner and Mary Hashem

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The Altaras Family

The Humphreys Foundation
The Kroger Co Foundation
The North Face Denver Store

Todd Landrum UMB Bank William McIntyre **GUARDIANS** (\$500 - \$999)

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Dan and Jennifer Grooters

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Gary Nelson

Graham and Cathy Hollis Greg and Rebecca Watson

Guv Cornelius

Herrington Family Charitable

Foundation, a Donor Advised Fund of The U.S. Charitable Gift Trust

lake Isaacson Ian Schmidt

Jeff and Mia Trujillo

Jim and Kathy Emme

Jim Jacobson and Karen Schulz

Joe Chastain and Nancy Clark

Karl Zipf Kori McClurg Lisa Lewis

Maureen and Michael Allen

Pat McClearn

Patricia Elias Progressive Insurance Foundation

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Rocky Mountain Online Ventures

Rust-Oleum Cares Scott VanEvk Stephen Marsters

Steve Austin

Steve West & Ronda Rolain

Tania Landauer Terry Gimbel The Chappell Family The Denver Foundation The Garofalo Family The Ihle Family Tim and Sue Damour

Verizon Foundation

Visa

SUPPORTERS (\$250-\$499)

Alex Drexler

Alice and Steve Jennison

Alice Knox

AmazonSmile Foundation Andrew Couchman Anita and Michael Winter

Ann Baker Easley

Ann L Williams and Bob Findlay

Ann Stoenner Anna Zawisza

Barbara and Robert Reilly

Bill Barrett Bill Schroeder

Brian and Michel Crowe

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Dean and Sheila Winstanley

Deborah Pullev DeDe Williams Desirae McCutchen

Don Heppermann and Nancy Felker

Elizabeth Stands Elly Baldwin Erika Giovanetti Eugene and Louise Engel

Garden Club of Denver George and Dorothy Heyliger Gerald Barck and Barbara Ward

Gertrude Grant Greg Verschelden Grover Cleveland

Guff VanVooren and Vicki Raport Halvorson-Freese 21st Century

Ian and Meghan Thomas

Ivy Hastings

James and Mary Burger

lames Lawson

Jamie Burke and Monica VanBuskirk

leff Cornelius

Joel and Jean McCormack

John Fielder June M Cvelbar

Keith and Lindsay Campbell Kim and Chris Yuan-Farrell

Kimberley Sherwood

Lauren Steeb Lee Rimel

Lelia Coveney Linda Lee Lindy Webb

Lisa and Steve Thilker Lynn Formanek

Margaret A McKechnie

Martha Fulford

Matthew, Jennifer, Boden and Beck

Michelle Bergen & Lisa Hubchik Mike Papula and Chris Olsen

Mike Winter

Mimi and Courtney Pullen

Mira Fine Patty Caraway Rachel and Jeff Linger Raphael Gay

Robert Folzenlogen Robert Wilford Ir Rosa Foth Sally Isaacson

Sarah Rockwell & Mark Soane Senator Michael Bennett and Susan Daggett

Setlak Family

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Starbucks Foundation

Steve and lackie Norris Steve and Shere Davney

Steven Knoll T Burnett

Tarn Udall Ted Luecke

The Elliott Family

The Halverson Foundation

The Herbig Family The Poland Family

The Sidney B & Caleb F Gates Fund Thomas Gougeon and Donna

Middlebrooks

Tim Gardner and Deborah Froeb Tobin Osteen and Sabrina Molund

Tom and Ellen Fairley Traci Case and Pete Gotseff

UBS Viasat Inc

Wendy Hodges

Wesley Go and Sook Hee Lee

TRAILBLAZERS (\$249 & under):

690 individuals gave a Trailblazers level gift in 2020. Please accept our sincerest gratitude for your support of outdoor stewardship!

VOC MEMBERS (\$40 or More)

739 individuals invested in Colorado as a VOC Member in 2020. We are incredibly grateful for the support of this community!

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:

Beth Cordova Bruce Paton Charlie

Douglas Triggs

Drs Philip W Brow, Sr & Jr Ed and Idamarie Kolpack

Edward Keane

Edward McGourn Eric Zimmerman

Gilbert White lake Isaacson

Iames H Bedwell Ioanne Schwab

Ionathan Olson Lawernce Ott

Richard Spriggs Robert (Bob) Leatherwood

Roni Sherb Steve Boyle Vincent Wincelowicz

GIFTS IN HONOR OF:

Aimee Cichon Alec Moens Alex Williams Alice Jennison Ann Baker Easley Arvie Baie Asher Hoyt Austin Flanagan

Ben and Kathleen Ziff

Blake Boettcher Bruce and Kathleen Hupfer

Clint Jones

Dan and Colleen Harris Dan Henderson and Nicole Hanson

Dan Williams Dean Winstanley Debra Roy

Diane and Ken Hoagland

Dos Chappell Greg Verschelden Jackson Galloway Jake Issacson Jeff Cornelius Kelly Clouse

Lisa and Steve Thilker Mike Wilson Nora Mae Walsh Sandra & Ed Dahl Sigrid Freese

Steffan and Katie Custer Steve West Stuart Miner The Starbuck Family Tim and Carol Dee William Penberthy

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS

AhhVie Adohe Aetna Foundation Apple Inc

Bank of America Charitable

Foundation, Inc. CenturyLink

Charles Schwab Foundation DCP Midstream Matching Gifts

Program DocuSign

Empower Retirement Hercules Industries

LaCalle Group, LLC

NAMSA Matching Gift Fund of the Greater Toledo Community Foundation

National Renewable Energy

Laboratory Noble Energy, Inc

Oracle Patagonia, Inc

Progressive Insurance Foundation

Prologis

Rust-Oleum Cares

Salesforce

Shell Oil Company Starbucks Foundation The Boeing Company The Piton Foundation TIAA

UBS UMB Bank Verizon Foundation

Viasat Inc

Visa

Xcel Energy Foundation

IN-KIND SUPPORTERS (\$100+ Value)

4imprint Arapahoe Basin Backbone Adventures Big Ring Cycles Bing Beverage

Catherine Hansen-Stamp Clif Bar & Company Colorado Native Denver7

Easy Float Elevate Yoga Google

Joe Chastain and Nancy Clark King Soopers/City Market Noble Energy, Inc. Pablo's Coffee

Santiago's Snarf's Sandwiches The Bar Method

\$99 AND LESS

Thank you to all who provided product donations for VOC's 2020 season! Your support is greatly appreciated by our volunteers, partners, and employees.

2020 CORPORATE SWAT PARTNERS

Thank you to the following companies for supporting VOC through a custom Corporate Stewardship with a Team (SWAT) volunteer project.

Copley Equity Partners CoralTree Hospitality Delta Dental **HDR** Engineering

Liberty Latin America – Virtual Marathon Petroleum Corporation Monarch Investment Group Prologis - Virtual

Salesforce Schneider Electric - Virtual Xcel Energy

2020 PROJECT PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Bureau of Land Management - San Luis Valley Field Office

Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department

City and County of Denver Parks and Recreation

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

City of Brighton

City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Service

City of Evans

City of Greeley Natural Areas &

Colorado Fourteeners Initiative

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

- Castlewood Canyon State Park
- Chatfield State Park
- Golden Gate Canyon State Park
- lackson Lake State Park
- Mueller State Park - Roxborough State Park
- State Forest State Park
- Frisco Creek Wildlife Facility Friends of the Dillon Ranger District

Grow Local Colorado Mile High Youth Corps

Mountain Area Land Trust Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab School

Poudre Learning Center Purgatoire Watershed Partnership Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration

Project

Rocky Mountain Field Institute

The Urban Farm Town of Castle Rock Parks &

Recreation Department U.S. Forest Service

- Clear Creek Ranger District
- Dillon Ranger District
- Saguache Ranger District
- Divide Ranger District
- Dolores Ranger District
- Pawnee National Grassland
- Pikes Peak Ranger District
- Rio Grande National Forest - South Platte Ranger District

Weld County Public Works Wildlands Restoration Volunteers

2020 AWARD WINNERS

Curt Chitwood Volunteer of the Year: Cathy McCurdy Roni Sherb New Volunteer of the Year: Rachel Linger

Land Manager of the Year: Mountain Area Land Trust (MALT)

Partner Agency of the Year: Grow Local Colorado

Unsung Hero: David & Sean Kraemer

2020 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LDAC) MEMBERS

Rvan Durham Paige Pruisner Arthur Knapp Paul Smith Paul Meade Ellen Urell

DeDe Williams

2020 PROJECT ADOPTERS

Donna Driscoll Priscilla Marbaker Joe O'Brien Jim Garofalo Mike Mattice Paige Pruisner Terry Gimbel Erica Miller Steve West

2020 NEW VOLUNTEER LEADERS

Technical Advisors OSI Instructors Crew Leaders Rachel Linger Robin Donner Nate Wieland

Donna Driscoll

2020 VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS

F4D Studio David | Kennedy Cindy Bond Morgann Dulle Rafael Hernandez Julie Majors

2020 GROSSMAN SCHOLARS

Greta Cahill Joe Lavorini Preston Young

Blake Granquist Maya Velasco

MASKERAIDING AS UNIQUELY COLORADO ARTISTS

Anita Winter Gary Michael Janet Anderson Ann Lederer Janice Wright Anthony York Barbara Yates Beasley Joni N Emily Beth Sanders Julie Leidel Betsy Johnson Welty Kellie Johnson Kelly Shanafelt Betsy Keyes Brinkley Messick Laura Chappell Caroline Hanna Linda Strand Chervl St John Mara Stitt

Christine Hillhouse Mary Clark Colleen Smith Mary Elliott David | Kennedy Mary Steingesser Dolores Peterson Michael Keyes

Mimsi Milton Patricia Cook Patti Romano Ric Romano Rodney Buxton Rolf Dahl Sean Doherty

Steve West

Stacev Roberts Susan Alden Weingardt & Serena Weingardt

Teri Hendrix William Stoehr



