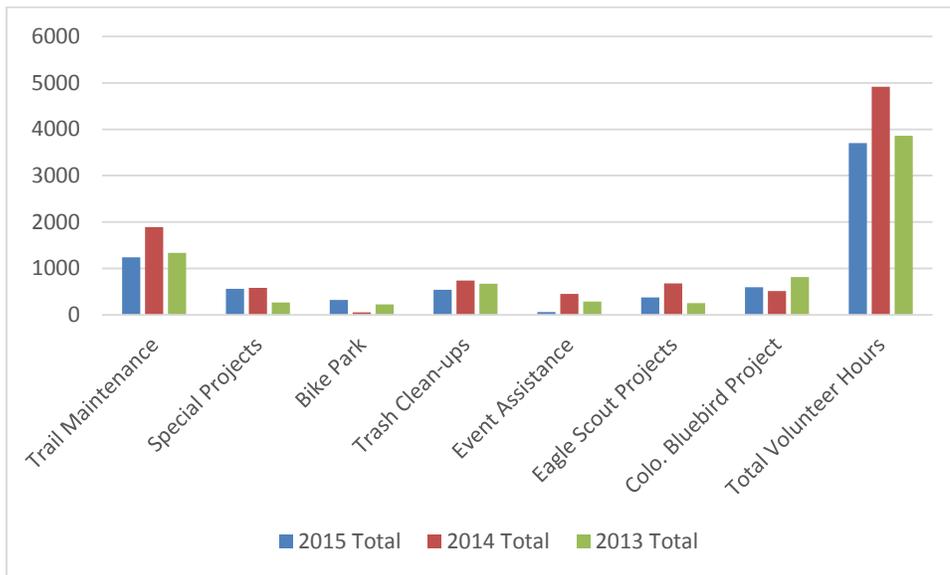


# 2015 Program Highlights

Volunteerism with the POST Partners was down slightly from last year, because we did have a park grand opening, like last year. POST logged 3701 volunteer hours this year, as well as coordinated another 1694 hours of volunteerism for five nights for the Castle of Terror. Those hours equate to approximately \$124,457 in estimated donated labor costs. *(Based on Independent Sector's Value of Volunteer Time at \$23.07 per hour.)* A summary of activities and yearend comparisons are detailed below.



**Trail Maintenance:** Trail maintenance continues to be POST's largest volunteer assistance category.

- Regular contributors to this category include Keepers of the Rock (616 hours), the Ridgeline Wranglers (190 hours), and the Atlas Bear Team at Mesa Middle School (165 hours).
- Three churches, Front Range Christian Church, New Hope Presbyterian Church, and Journey Church, on three different outings, helped to resurface the Blue Loop, which is the trail coming down from the top of the Challenge Hill, by adding crusher fines along the trail (215 hours).

**Special Projects:** After last year's 138% increase, we were pleased to see almost as many participants in this area of service as last year.

- We continued our trail building partnership with the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Castle Rock Elementary in the open space behind their school (227 hours).



## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

### Dog Waste Stations:

Blue Spruce Animal Clinic, Brooklyn Veterinary Clinic, The Buddy Center/Dumb Friend League, Plum Creek Veterinary Services, Scoop & Scrub, Sit Means Sit, Sparkle Bark Pet Grooming, Suzy's Doggie Delights, Tails Up

### Eagle Scout Projects & the Colorado Bluebird Project:

The Home Depot & Lowes

### Festival of Trees:

Blue Spruce Animal Clinic, Castle Rock History Museum, Castle Rock Martial Arts, Castle Rock 'n' Rollers, Castle Rock Zip Line Tours, Chick-fil-A, Engrave-Cave LLC, The Goddard School, Greater Castle Rock Art Guild, Guaranty Bank, Lowry Allstate Insurance, Meadows Orthodontics, Patriot Plumbing, Prairie Hawk Dental, Wag N' Wash, Wedding Treasures

### Memorial Tree Program:

Honey Locust from the Daughters of the American Revolution planted in the core plaza at Philip S. Miller Park.

### Operation Castle Bloom:

Dutch Heritage Gardens donated the flowers for the Town's 25 large planter boxes, as well as all of the planting and transportation of the flower boxes for the Downtown Merchants Assoc.

- Both Jeppesen Enterprises and Front Range Christian Church helped us removed old property line barbed wire fences from Philip S. Miller Park (93 hours).
- In partnership with the Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation, the Colorado Young Leaders helped resurface 100 of the Challenge Hill steps with additional Sta-Lok material (32 hours).
- Second grade Sage Canyon Elementary teacher, Laura Trimarco, presented the idea of installing 8 posts for a Wrangler Park Nature Trail, to the Parks and Recreation Board and Commission, which was then approved. Some of last year's 2nd grade students and parents installed the posts. Graphic plaques were produced using student artwork which corresponded to QR code signage leading visitors to a student maintained website containing nature information about the site. All of the TRES post and top-caps were donated by the families. The illustrations were selected by the teachers from artwork submitted by the students.



**The Bike Park at Rhyolite:** A couple of new father/son teams joined the Dirt Crew this year and volunteered regularly on maintaining the jumps at the Bike Park (120 hours). Members of the 6202 Cycling Club also donated 200 hours of their time making the Cyclocross course rideable all season long as well as preparing it for both the fall and winter races.

**Eagle Scout Projects:** Three Eagle Scout Projects were completed this year, while several more are in progress and scheduled for completion in 2016.

- Construction and installation of four split-log benches along Stewart Trail at Ridgeline Open Space – **Tanner Elliott, from Troop 637 in Sedalia** (100 hours). One of the unique things that happened during the course of Tanner's project was the incorporation of making one of his benches a memorial bench for the Newell family and the family helping out with his project installation.
- **Joe Gabrielse, from Troop 780** completed a trail reclamation project in the unnamed open space parcel behind Castle Rock Elementary School (104 hours). As part of that overall plan, POST has been working with several Eagle Scouts over the last two years to reclaim eroded portions of the trails and forge new segments that are more sustainable. Joe was also awarded the Hornaday Award from the Boy Scout of America Denver Area Council for his reclamation efforts.
- Boy Scout **Luke Ryneason from Troop 760** organized a trash clean-up in East Plum



Creek following the monsoon rains. The increased water level and flow subsequently eroded into an old dump site along the creek, dumping cases full of plastic sheets and bags long the creek near the confluence. Forty-eight volunteers helped collect and dig out trash in the creek bed and sand bars. They collected 58 bags of



trash, as well as many other miscellaneous debris items. Both concerned community members and troop members participated in the endeavor (171 hours).

- Boy Scout **Preston Smith, from the LDS Troop in The Meadows**, completed an Eagle Scout Project for the Community Garden at Glovers Park by building two new picnic benches for visitors to use.



**Colorado Bluebird Project:** The Town now oversees the nest-box monitoring of 27 sites, which is 4 more than last year and includes 13 new boxes. Ninety-two individual volunteers, plus the student partners from Castle Rock Elementary, Clear Sky Elementary, Flagstone Elementary, Renaissance Magnet School and Mesa Middle School contributed 567 volunteer hours to helping these native species. This year 735 birds successfully fledged from the boxes (see below breakout):



- Mountain Bluebirds: 309
- Western Bluebirds: 154
- Tree Swallows: 262
- Violet-green Swallows: 10

**Volunteer Connect Douglas County Website Update:**



Through the Partnership of Douglas County Government (or PDCG), The Town of Castle Rock continued to collaborate with staff members from Lone Tree,

Highlands Ranch, Castle Pines, Parker, Larkspur, Douglas County Libraries, Douglas County School District and Douglas County Government to implement a county-wide volunteer portal website, called VolunteerConnectDC.org . The development of this website was the goal of the managers and elected officials that make up the PDCG and was designed to bring organizations in need of volunteers in touch with the individuals in our community who are looking for ways to help. The website now has a part-time administrator and is primarily the responsibility of DC Libraries. Currently, the website hosts 1,080 volunteer opportunity postings and has 4,392 volunteers signed up through the system. The goal in 2016 is to open the use of the portal to the Chambers of Commerce’s and HOA’s during the first quarter and to a portion of wait-listed non-profits by the end of the year.

**Town of Castle Rock Specifics**

- As of the end of 2015, the Town had posted 74 opportunities, up from 29 last year, on the VolunteerConnectDC.org website.
- 865 volunteers registered through the system for those opportunity postings, up from 508 last year.
- Town departments utilizing the website as a recruitment tool for special events and volunteer positions include:
  - Parks & Recreation - POST, athletics, special events, and races
  - Police Dept. - office volunteers and Victims Assistance
  - The Senior Center - dining room help , the craft fair and shuttle drivers
  - Utilities Dept. - Spring Up the Creek & DC Chemical Round-up
  - Town Hall – Slide the City, Trick or Treat Steet and Season of the Star
  - Fire Dept. – Paint-a-thon and Castle of Terror

Thanks to these organizations who contributed their time and energy to the POST Program in 2015

- 6202 Cycling Club
- Amer. Heritage Girls Troop
- Cub Scout Pack 262
- Cub Scout Pack 764
- Cub Scout Pack 780
- Castle Rock Bike and Ski
- Castle Rock Elementary School
- Colo. Young Leaders
- Civitan
- DC High School Football Players
- Front Range Christian Church
- Girl Scout Troop 4576
- Jeppesen Enterprises
- Journey Church
- Keepers of the Rock
- Key Bank
- Men's Crisis Connection
- Mesa Middle School
- New Hope Presbyterian Church
- Rhyolite Bike Park Dirt Crew
- Ridgeline Wranglers
- Sapphire Pointe Seniors