

Memorandum

Date: October 1, 2025

To: Douglas County Advisory Boards

Through: Douglas J. DeBord, County Manager

From: Nick Giauque, CPRP, Parks Program Manager
Amy Knopp, Manager, Rueter-Hess
Morgan Morehart, LICT CPSI, Parks Operations Manager
Luke Thornton, CPRP, Parks Program Coordinator

CC: Steve Shoultz, Assistant Director of Parks, Trails, and Building Grounds

Subject: **Parks, Trails, and Rueter-Hess Update for September 2025**

PROGRAM UPDATE

Volunteer Update

The volunteer program hosted the Douglas County Leadership Academy at Whispering Pines Park on September 19th. These leaders of Douglas County spread 15 tons of sand for the volleyball court, 25 yards of mulch for the playground, 4 yards of mulch for the landscape beds, painted one shed, collected three bags of trash, and pruned numerous shrubs. 38 attendees provided 114 hours of service.





The volunteer program will offer the following events in October:

- October 9th – Tree Wrapping at Highland Heritage Regional Park
- October 15th – Tree Wrapping at Bayou Gulch Regional Park
- October 16th – Flower Planting at the Justice Center
- October 17th – Shoreline Cleanup at Bingham Lake
- October 22nd – Trash Pick-up at Challenger Regional Park
- October 29th – Trash Pick-up at Highland Heritage Regional Park

The volunteer program will host Cherry Hills Community Church at Bluffs Regional Park and Highland Heritage Regional Park on October 5th.

As a part of the Dougnad event on October 25th, the volunteer program will host the Douglas County Youth Commission at the Wilcox Building.

2025 Volunteer Statistics

2025	# of Hosted Events	# of Volunteers	Hours of Service	Bags of Trash Collected	Trees Planted	Beds Maintained	Mullein Weeds Eradicated	Culverts Painted	Miles of Trail Maintained
March	2	6	12	5	-	-	-	-	-
April	3	86	243	14	45	-	-	-	-
May	6	16	35	2	3	3	-	-	1
June	7	17	33	2	6	3	4,250	1	1
July	6	32	64	2	6	-	-	2	2
August	3	9	18	6	5	-	-	-	-
September	1	38	114	3	-	2	-	-	-
Totals	28	204	519	34	65	8	4,250	3	4

On September 22nd, the team hosted an informational table at the Fall Festival at Sandstone Ranch. Staff were able to talk to attendees about parks, trails, Ruter-Hess Reservoir, and project funding.



On September 23rd, Luke Thornton – Parks Program Coordinator, attended the Douglas County School District Community Resource Fair. He was able to talk to participants about the volunteer program. The event was attended by over 100 residents.

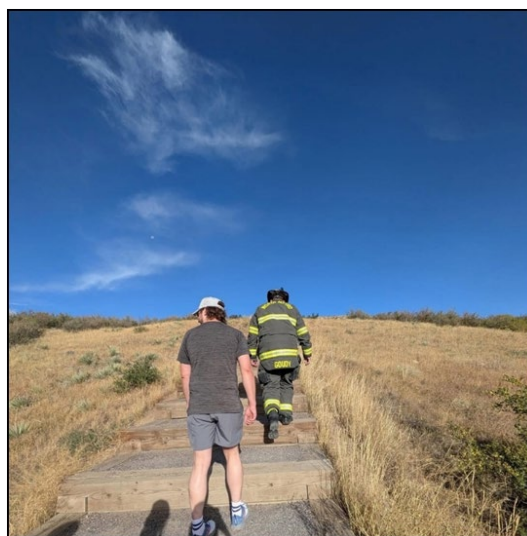
Counter Update as of 9/29/2025

Location	2024 totals through September	2025 totals through September
Bayou Gulch Regional Park – Dog Park	13,710	17,831
Bingham Lake	62,364	70,655
Bluffs Regional Park*	117,627	101,202
Cherry Creek Regional Trail – Pinery	22,682	32,005
East/West Regional Trail – Grigs Trailhead	36,155	32,369
East/West Regional Trail – High Point	-	33,507
East/West Regional Trail – Monarch Trailhead	14,842	16,082
East/West Regional Trail – Schweiger Ranch	11,365	11,846
East/West Regional Trail – Stepping Stone	30,576	38,542
Fairgrounds Regional Park – Dog Park	38,022	37,573
High Line Canal – East	-	8,673
High Line Canal – West	24,497	28,886
Rueter-Hess Reservoir – Coyote Run Loop	7,788	12,201
Rueter-Hess Reservoir – Incline Trailhead	54,738	56,178
Rueter-Hess Reservoir – Newlin's Gold	892	1,569
Totals	435,258	499,119
*Portions of Bluffs were closed in March and April 2025 for construction, including the counter location.		

RUETER-HESS UPDATE

9/11 Stair Climb Honoring Heroes

On Thursday, September 11th, Lone Tree Brewing Company hosted the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at Rueter-Hess Incline. This stair climb consisted of traversing the incline 11 times in honor of the first responders who scaled the World Trade Center's Twin Towers. The event honored both first responders and fallen heroes while supporting the Colorado State Fire Fighters Foundation. The event inspired other regular Incline visitors to attempt additional trips up the stairs that day. One local firefighter conquered the incline in his bunker gear (firefighting uniform). Lone Tree Brewing Company is interested in holding this as an annual event at Rueter-Hess.



Sonar Technology on Rueter-Hess Recreation Patrol Boat

A new advanced sonar system has been installed on the patrol boat at Rueter-Hess Reservoir to enhance public safety, support recreational activities, and improve angling experiences.

This sonar unit provides real-time underwater imaging and environmental data, enabling Park Rangers to:

- Support Anglers by identifying active fish habitats and sharing that information to improve fishing success.
- Enhance Visitor Safety by detecting underwater hazards and monitoring fluctuating water levels to ensure dock accessibility.
- Assist Watercraft users by providing up-to-date water temperature readings and conditions for safer recreation.

In addition to recreational benefits, the sonar system significantly strengthens emergency response capabilities. It allows Park Rangers and first responders to quickly locate missing persons or submerged objects, dramatically improving search and rescue response times.

This investment in technology reflects a continued commitment to public safety, environmental stewardship, and high-quality visitor experiences at Rueter-Hess Reservoir.



STATISTICS

Visitation	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	2025 Total
Reservations Made	2	3	130	140	312	819	1080	868	419	3,773
Total Visitors At Reservoir	9	14	223	224	544	1719	2292	1826	723	7,574
Total Trails Visitors	2894	4338	7571	7626	9230	10395	9194	9084	8461	68,793
Total Visitors	2903	4352	7794	7850	9774	12114	11486	10910	9184	76,367
Special Use	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	2025 Total
Total Special Activities/Events	0	0	0	0	4	28	33	15	0	80
Total People Attending Special Activities/Events	0	0	0	0	95	1334	843	718	0	2990
Fishing	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	2025 Total
Adult Anglers	0	0	94	114	189	266	376	457	148	1,644
Youth Anglers	0	0	37	26	48	133	155	176	51	626
Total Anglers	0	0	131	140	237	399	531	633	199	2,270
Watercraft Inspections	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	2025 Total
Total Watercraft Inspections	0	0	0	0	202	830	1242	987	259	3,520
Public Safety	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	2025 Total
Number Of People Helped To Recreate Safely	0	0	0	0	9	23	8	5	6	51