



The Front Range Climbing Stewards 1-2 Flatiron Trail Project Report September 9, 2020



Overview

The Boulder Climbing Community's (BCC) Front Range Climbing Stewards (FRCS) program has completed a 3-week trail work project on the 1-2 Flatiron trail in Chautauqua Park in partnership with City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP). The primary objective for this project was to address the impacts that hikers, including climber traffic, have on this very popular trail.

Project Synopsis

The 1-2 Flatiron Trail is one of the most hiked and challenging trails in the OSMP system, being used as a popular destination for views of Boulder and the Rocky Mountains as well as the main descent trail for climbers descending from the 1st and 2nd Flatirons. Due to the terrain in the flatirons, the trail is steep, narrow in various spots and utilizes many switchbacks to gain elevation, and as a result many of the historical trail structures are failing. City of Boulder OSMP has committed a large amount of resources to maintain the 1-2 Flatiron Trail over the years, having a 5-person trail crew working exclusively on the trail seasonally since 2016. For 2020, the FRCS crew was tasked with rebuilding in place one of the preexisting switchback turns that was becoming severely undercut and eroding (**Figure 1**).



Figure 1: Heavy erosion issues was causing the existing structure to become severely undercut.

Due to the steep terrain on this trail, and lack of available stone material near the work site, FRCS chose to quarry uphill from the site and utilize a high line rigging system to transport stone safely. By using a high line system, FRCS was able to aggressively quarry material out of sight from the trail, lowering their visual impact, and transport the stone without the risk of dislodging a rock on the hillside that could potentially tumble down the hill. In addition to the high line system, FRCS used traditional tools such as rock bars and a belay system to maneuver larger material down to the worksite (**Figure 2**).

Project Outcomes

At the end of the project 15 linear feet of durable and sustainable trail were rebuilt, including 13 stone steps and 83 ft² of retaining structure. Please see the labor and planning hours in **Appendix A**, full work metrics section in **Appendix B** as well as before and after photos in **Appendix C**.



Figure 2: FRCS crew using a belay system to lower a large rock down onto the worksite.

Appendix A: Labor and Planning Hours

Labor Type	Hours
FRCS Planning	15.5
FRCS Labor	538.5
Total	554

Appendix B: Complete 2020 Work Metrics

Project Outcome	Amount	Unit
Trail Improved	15	Linear ft
Rock Steps	13	#
Retaining Structure	83	Ft ²
Rubble Structure	15	Ft ²
Rocks moved via Rigging	60	#

Appendix C: Before & After Photos



Before



After



Before



After



Before



After



Before



After



Before



After