



## **Boulder Canyon Climbing Access Stabilization Project: Avalon Phase II**

### **Overview**

The Boulder Climbing Community's (BCC) Trail Program, in partnership with the US Forest Service (USFS) Boulder Ranger District, recently completed 6 weeks of climbing access trail work in Boulder Canyon, completing Phase II of the Avalon Climbing Area project. This project was funded by the BCC with help from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), The American Alpine Club (AAC), The Access Fund, Athletic Brewing, Movement Climbing and Fitness, REI Co-op, and Colorado Mountain Club (CMC). The overarching goal of the Boulder Canyon Climbing Access Stabilization Project is to address long term recreation sustainability on USFS lands. With the growth in climbing's popularity and increase in users, climbing access trails and staging areas for many of Boulder Canyon's crags are deteriorating at an increased rate equal to the growth of climbing.



*Figure 1: Trail reroute to more durable surfaces*

### **Project Synopsis**

Work on the Avalon Climbing Area began in 2021 with BCC's Trail Program building a sustainable trail to access the Middle Wall area of Avalon. In 2022, BCC continued work on the trail towards Middle Wall and beyond, constructing belay pads below two of the most popular routes in the area, Strange Science (5.11c) and Free Fall (5.12a). All the material for the various structures was quarried on site and transported to the worksite via human powered carries or highline system. The new section of trail

avoided parts of the old eroding trail and directed it through a more durable trail through more solid stone. Retaining structures were also put into place to protect the new trail and erosion from the old trail.

While BCC’s Trail Program was responsible for the design and construction of this new section of trail, volunteers played a huge part in the success of the project. Volunteer groups from RAB Equipment, Google, and community members contributed over 400 volunteer hours.



Figure 1: BCC Staff and RAB Equipment Volunteers at Avalon

**Project Outcomes**

At the end of the 2022 6-week work session, BCC’s Trail Program constructed 72 linear ft of new trail, including 344 ft<sup>2</sup> of stone retaining structure, and installed 32 stone steps. In addition to the scope of work, the BCC constructed 2 belay pads underneath the 2 most popular climbing routes (Strange Science 5.11c and Free Fall 5.12a). For full work metrics and project budget please refer to Table 1 and Table 2. Phase III of the Avalon Climbing Area project will take place in 2023 and will focus on constructing a durable trail through the talus field below the previous year’s work. Many climbers currently bypass the talus field by going on its right side and it has led to trail sections with severe erosion concern

**Table 1: Project Outcomes**

Project Outcomes	Amount	Unit
Trail Improved	72	Linear ft
Stone Steps Installed	32	#
Retaining Structure	344	ft <sup>2</sup>
Rubble Structure	100	ft <sup>2</sup>
Staging Area/Belay Pad	37	ft <sup>2</sup>
Rock Quarried	2,434	ft <sup>3</sup>
Rocks Moved via Rigging	147	#
Rocks Moved by Hand	30	#
Trail Restored	NA	Linear ft

**Table 2: Labor Type**

Labor Type	Hours	Cost
Total Volunteer Labor (in-kind contribution)	411	\$12,309.45
BCC Trails Program Staff	950.5	\$26,125.26
BCC Administrative Planning	31.5	\$1,174.32



**Before and After Photos**





