<table>
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<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>TIME OF YEAR</th>
<th># OF PEOPLE</th>
<th>MATERIALS NEEDED AND COST</th>
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| TRASH REMOVAL           | All year, except when snow is on the ground. | Any number, kid-friendly | No donation required, but always appreciated! | ● Trash grabbers  
● Trash bags  
● Gloves  
● Hi-vis safety vests  
● Map of priority areas  
Staff can help pass out materials and direct you to area, or trash pickup can be conducted independently | **LAKE:** All of our lake water comes from storm runoff in Aurora and Denver neighborhoods. The water enters our site through stormwater pipes and runs through the cattails before entering the lake. This means a lot of trash gets caught in the cattails and we always need help cleaning it up!  
**SAND CREEK:** A lot of trash also comes into the site via Sand Creek, which can be dangerous when we have students in the creek doing water testing and catching crawdads. The removal of trash protects wildlife health, water, and soil quality.  
**PRAIRIE:** Trash blows in from the adjacent street, and the prairie area is part landfill from when it was part of Stapleton airport. There is always trash to remove to protect wildlife that inhabit the prairie. |
| REALIGNMENT OF TRAIL BORDERS | Year round                  | Any number, kid-friendly | No donation required, but always appreciated! | ● Stones/rip rap for trail borders  
Staff will be with you to start to show the trails that need realigning | “Upstairs” garden: the garden next to the parking area has many criss-crossing trails, and each trail is lined with stones that mark the border between where visitors can walk and where is off limits. Some visitors ignore the boundaries, kick stones, or create piles. This leads to gravel entering the garden, and more foot traffic in areas meant for plants. Realigning these borders will help visitors remember to stay on trail.  
Creek trail: This trail also has stones lining the border, and these get kicked, thrown, or removed, leading more visitors to walk off-trail and down to the creek, which contributes to erosion. Realigning these borders will help visitors remember to stay on trail. |
| CLOSING SOCIAL TRAILS   | Year-round, except when snow is on the ground. | Any number, kid-friendly | No donation required, but always appreciated! | ● Natural materials from the site e.g. fallen branches, brush, stones  
Staff will be with you to provide materials and demonstrate how to close a social trail | Social trails form when visitors walk off trail and create an ever more-established trail through repeated off-trail travel. Social trails can destroy vegetation, lead to erosion, and disrupt wildlife in their dens, nests, or hunting/foraging areas. By closing social trails, we are protecting the integrity of off-trail habitat for plants and animals, and reducing confusion for the visitor about where they can go on the site. |
| TRAIL RESURFACING       | Late spring, early summer   | Any number, but above four is recommended | Gravel, road mix, trail mix for resurfacing different areas on the property | ● Buckets  
● Shovels  
● Rakes  
● Transport of material to work areas  
Staff will be with you to provide materials and demonstrate how to spread material over bare areas | In 2021, Bluff Lake had over 85,000 visitors at our site. That’s a lot of foot steps and stroller wheels! Over the course of the year, certain parts of trails get more worn than others, and the gravel and crushed stone covering the dirt underneath becomes removed. In the spring, as snow melts, the trails become muddy and they are damaged by heavy use. To prevent erosion and damage to the dirt underneath the trails, this project will cover bare areas of trail with more durable materials, and will improve the aesthetics of the site! |
| Adopt-A-Playstation     | All Year                     | Any number        | No donation required, but always appreciated! | ● Any tools needed to get the job done  
Staff will meet with you to help select a playstation to adopt and talk about the ongoing maintenance needed for that site. | In 2020, Bluff Lake installed five nature playstations to create opportunities for kids to get off trail in a safe way while exploring their relationship with the natural world through play! These playstations are well-loved, and need year-round maintenance to make sure they are usable by kids and aesthetically pleasing. In this volunteer opportunity, you will pick a playstation to visit at least once a month to perform light maintenance work, such as realigning the playstation boundaries, re-distributing soil that’s eroded, cleaning signage, picking up trash in the area, etc. |
### REMOVAL OF INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

**February to November**

- **Any number**
- No donation required, but always appreciated!
- **Gloves**
- **Trash bags**
- Basic hand tools when needed
- Staff will be with you to start showing which species to treat and how

Invasive plant species outcompete native plants for space, nutrients, and water, and can often take over entire areas if not controlled. By removing them, we are giving native plants a better chance at survival, and improving habitat for native wildlife by maintaining the landscapes they are familiar with.

Manually controlling certain species is highly effective and doesn’t require using herbicides, which ensures that other plant and animal species aren’t negatively impacted by our actions.

### BEAVER TREE PROTECTION

**All year**

- **Any number**
- **Cans of old latex-based paint (lead free)**
- **Sand**
- **Old paint brushes**
- No additional donation required, but always appreciated!
- **Buckets to mix paint**
- **Paint brushes**
- Staff will be with you most of the time showing what trees to work on

Beavers love to chew down our trees! While we love beavers, we also want to protect the trees on our site that provide habitat for many other animal species, provide shade for humans, and stabilize soils along the creek and lake. We will paint the bases of the trees with paint mixed with sand, which deters the beavers from cutting the trees down.

### TREE PLANTING

**Spring**

- **Any number**
- Requires a $500+ donation depending on group size.
- Donation will go towards BLNC purchase of desired trees for your group to plant.
- **Gloves**
- **Shovels**
- Staff person will be with you the whole time showing where to plant trees and assisting

While we love new trees on site, we also want to make sure these trees survive after planting. Watering is an ongoing job once a tree is planted! This volunteer project is a great option if you’d like to establish an ongoing relationship with Bluff Lake. We do not have irrigation on-site, so we will work with you to establish a plan for your volunteer group to water the trees you plant for the first year of their lives at Bluff Lake.

### Adopt-A-Tree or Adopt-A-Shrub

**Late spring, summer, or fall**

- **Any number**
- **Water**
- **Watering equipment**
- Volunteers will bring their own water to the site

One of the biggest challenges Bluff Lake faces when trying to increase the amount of vegetation on the property is the lack of irrigation. This opportunity helps us ensure new trees and shrubs are getting the water they need to get established, and you will feel ownership over a very real and tangible improvement to our site!

### SEED SPREADING

**Spring or Fall**

- **Any number, kid-friendly**
- Requires a $100+ donation depending on group size for purchasing seeds (1 pound of native seed mix is $20-60)
- **Seeds**
- Staff will be with you to start, showing you where and how to spread seeds

Certain areas of our site have lost vegetation due to erosion, visitors straying off trail, and the growth of the prairie dog population. Reseeding at Bluff Lake helps us to restore the health of the landscape, create habitat for wildlife, and assist native plants as they get re-established. Spreading seeds at Bluff Lake should only happen with the approval of BLNC staff, and should only ever involve native seed mixes. Please do not spread ornamental or non-native seed mixes on our site.