

Mail: 2519 S. Shields Street 1K-115, Fort Collins, CO 80526
Location: 720B East Vine Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80524
Office: (970) 484-7756 Raptor Help Hotline: (970) 222-0322
www.rmnp.org

Carin Avila – Executive Director

As a resident of Fort Collins for 34 years, I live just three blocks from the Hughes property and have a deep, personal investment in its future. I am also a proud Colorado native with a rich heritage encompassing Mexican, Jicarilla Apache, and European roots, among others. My ancestry is a testament to the diverse "melting pot" that defines the United States.

I am a passionate advocate for nature, wildlife, and outdoor recreation—values that allow me to fully appreciate and want to protect Colorado's wild animals and wild spaces. As a Colorado State University graduate, I developed a strong foundation in science, wildlife rehabilitation, and interpretive education. I earned a degree in microbiology with a minor in anatomy and neurobiology and was honored to be a member of the CSU WAC Champion Swimming and Diving team.

For the past 25 years, I have dedicated my career to the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program. I started as a volunteer and work-study student at CSU while considering my future in veterinary medicine. Over the last 22 years, I have had the privilege of serving as the RMRP's Director of Education and, since 2018, as the Executive Director.

As someone who recognizes the heavy and lasting imprint we make on the world, I am deeply committed to our responsibility to give back and try to make the world a better place for future generations. I believe educating ourselves and our community about the importance of environmental stewardship and the wildlife we share these beautiful lands with is crucial. This is a belief and a mission we must all urgently undertake.

About the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program

Our interest in the Hughes Property—we envision a wildlife rehabilitation, nature, and education center on a portion of the former Hughes Stadium property. This center, surrounded by natural space, is not just a use but a community endeavor. It will deepen our connection with the natural world, foster a better understanding of wildlife and conservation, and provide unique opportunities for volunteerism, education, internships, and professional wildlife rescue services.

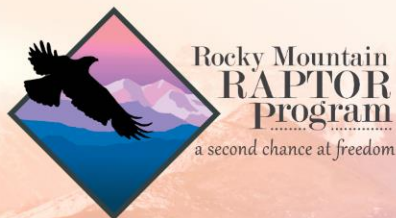
Since founding as a veterinary student club at Colorado State University (CSU) in 1979, the RMRP has served the Fort Collins community, providing life-saving rescue, rehabilitation, and release for sick or injured raptors. We also offer transformative educational outreach throughout the region and participate in scientific research projects, keeping raptors safer in the wild.

In 1987, we became a grassroots, volunteer-driven, nonprofit organization within CSU's College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. At that time, we began providing conservation education programs that featured species identification and natural history and promoted stewardship of the natural world. For 22 years, we also operated a secondary facility at the CSU Environmental Learning Center until biosecurity concerns and the well-being of our Educational Ambassador raptors required us to move all raptors to our current Vine Drive location.

Our Mission: To inspire protection and conservation of raptors and the environment through excellence in rehabilitation, education, and research.

Our Vision: We envision a world where people achieve a harmonious balance with wildlife and our environment.
Gifts to RMRP may be deductible under federal tax law. Federal Tax Identification Number 90-0131614.

Lifesaving Rehabilitation and Research ∞ Life-Changing Conservation Education



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In 2005, CSU informed us of their intention to expand the Vet hospital into our program's space. In response, we found a new home and, in 2007, relocated our operations to Vine Drive, just northeast of Old Town Fort Collins. We began envisioning a rehabilitation and education center that could be open to the public, which would showcase our vital work and enable our community to better understand and appreciate our mission of preserving raptors and the environment.

Today, RMRP admits more than 300 raptors each year and assesses scores more, allowing them to remain within their ranges in the community. Of the treatable cases that come through our doors, we release 75% of these birds for their "Second Chance at Freedom." To date, we have provided care for over 8000 raptors needing our caring hands and services.

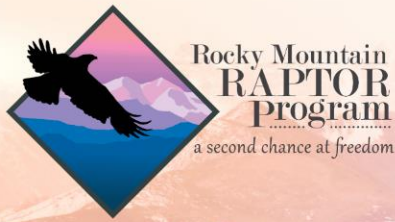
Our traveling outreach programs provide more than 250 days of educational engagement annually, reaching nearly 70,000 people through formal programs, including a wide range of K-12 presentations. Through informal educational efforts at events and festivals throughout Northern Colorado, such as the Boulder Creek Festival and downtown Fort Collins events, we extend our reach to more than 100,000 community members and visitors to our state.

To accomplish this, our team of 14 dedicated staff members—many of whom are licensed wildlife rehabilitators—works alongside more than 100 highly trained community volunteers. These volunteers are integral in caring for the raptors in our facility and sharing their knowledge through our educational outreach programs. Together, we continue to protect these incredible birds and inspire a deeper connection to our natural world.

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Key Takeaways

Raptors have been described as a gateway species that sparks curiosity and awe, prompting a desire to learn more about birds, wildlife, and their habitats.

Raptors are critical species that, as apex predators, create balance in ecosystems and help limit disease transmission within their prey species. This benefits human populations and our food sources.

Raptors are an indicator species that speak to the health of our environment and available resources.

Human-related activities, such as vehicle impacts, habitat loss, and energy development with petroleum, wind, natural gas, and electricity, cause 80% of wildlife injuries.

The facility would be an example of avian-safe design, sustainable building practices, and a design that works with the environment to create an eco-friendly experience for visitors.

The proposed location would be in the northeast portion of the property, shrouded by the existing rows of tall pine trees. It would blend with the existing urban threshold, creating a gentle transition to the natural landscape.

The facility would be funded through collaborative partners' efforts and private funding, limiting the financial burden on city funds.

The proposed wildlife rehabilitation, nature, and education center will provide exciting and experiential learning opportunities to make a lasting impression on visiting residents and students by increasing their knowledge about environmental stewardship, raptor and wildlife natural history, and identification and providing takeaways on how to create and foster conservation activities across the community and beyond.

The concerted effort of the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, and supporting partner Audubon Rockies will integrate our missions and expertise, allowing us to provide more profound experiences and connections with nature for the community, inspiring future educators, scientists, conservationists, and land stewards.

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