

USE PREFERENCES AND VISITOR EXPERIENCES OF PEOPLE  
WITH DISABILITIES ON PARKS & OPEN SPACE

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Online surveys and in-person interviews were conducted to gain a better understanding of the visitation patterns, amenity preferences, and visitor experiences of people with disabilities on open space properties.



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2017, Boulder County Parks & Open Space (BCPOS) conducted seven in-depth interviews with organizations that serve people with disabilities and visit open space properties. The results of these interviews helped inform an online survey.

The online survey for visitors with disabilities, as well as their families, friends, and those who work with people with disabilities, was open and promoted from July through October 2019. A total of 124 completed and usable surveys were collected, with 66 surveys (53%) filled out by people with disabilities and 58 surveys (47%) filled out by a family member, friend, or person who works with someone with a disability. The vast majority of respondents were Boulder County residents (85%), with only 15% of respondents living outside of Boulder County. No respondents lived outside of Colorado.

Both methods were used with the understanding that the needs, preferences, and experiences of individual people and groups of people may differ. The goal of the interviews and surveys was to develop a better understanding of the visitation patterns, amenities preferences, and visitor experiences on open space properties of people with disabilities and organizations that serve people with disabilities.

The majority of the organizations interviewed have not visited BCPOS. Only two participants reported visiting BCPOS properties. The reported barriers to visiting BCPOS properties by organizations include: getting permits, lack of information/knowledge of BCPOS, Medicaid funding requirements (organization located in a neighboring county), and limited outings to specific properties. Conversely, the vast majority of respondents (89%) to the online survey had visited open space in the past 12 months, and 97% reported that they had visited at least one BCPOS property in the past.

The interview and survey questions focused on experiences and preferences regarding open space and park properties in general. The key findings detailed in this report are not necessarily specific to BCPOS. People were told in the interview and in the survey that if they have visited any BCPOS properties, we would appreciate their sharing those experiences. But if not, they can still help by sharing their experiences at other open spaces and/or their views on what they would like to see when they visit open space.

## VISITATION PATTERNS AND ACTIVITY PREFERENCES

- Most organizations and survey respondents reported visiting open space at least once a month.
- Open space properties and trails near lakes, reservoirs, and creeks are most frequently visited by organizations.
- The BCPOS properties most frequently visited by survey respondents include Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat, Boulder Canyon Trail, Heil Valley Ranch, Betasso Preserve, and Caribou Ranch.
- The three most common activities organizations report are hiking, sports (soccer, kickball, catch, etc.), and fishing. The most common activities survey respondents report are walking or hiking on trails (includes using a walker, cane, etc.), viewing wildlife (e.g., birdwatching), bringing a dog, and gathering with family and/or friends.
- The types of visitor activities allowed do not affect most of the organizations' decision of whether or not to visit a property, but activities do strongly affect the majority of survey respondents' decision whether or not to visit a property.

## PRIOR EXPERIENCES RELATED TO PARKS AND TRAILS

- When reflecting upon a prior experience with their organization at an open space property, participants most commonly reference the scenery. Likewise, enjoying the views, beauty, and scenery are the most common positive memories mentioned by survey respondents.
- Supportive, friendly staff and people are important to a positive experience for organizations.
- The most common problems reported by organizations are logistical issues (parking, permits, organization's staffing, etc.). Similarly, insufficient parking or problems with parking are the most common problems mentioned by survey respondents.

## DESIGN FEATURES FOR PARK AMENITIES AND TRAILS

- The three most important amenities to the organizations are restrooms, trails, and parking lots. The three most important amenities to the survey respondents are trails, parking lots, and trail signage.
- Other amenities that the organizations reported looking for when choosing specific open space properties to visit include: water fountains, gathering areas for groups of people, accessible gates, shade, good trail maintenance, and information about accessible trails online.
- Other amenities survey respondents reported looking for when choosing to visit a park or open space to visit include: accessible trail design (smooth, handholds for inclines, easy trails), shade, accessible parking, access to parks using public transport, and places that provide easy accommodation for wheelchairs.

## AVAILABILITY AND USABILITY OF INFORMATION

- Organizations and survey respondents most often gather information about parks and open space online.
- Four out of the seven organizations reported having problems finding the information they need to plan a visit to open space. One out of five survey respondents reported having problems finding the information needed.

These themes and others are presented in the following report.

## INTRODUCTION

The total annual visitation to BCPOS in 2019 was estimated at 1.5 million visits. The number of visitors to BCPOS has increased by 28% since 2010. As visitation continues to grow, it is critical to regularly evaluate the needs of park visitors.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly one in five people in the United States have a disability.<sup>1</sup> The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines “disability” as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. In Boulder County in 2018, about 17,600 people under the age of 65 reported having a disability.<sup>2</sup> And although people of all ages have disabilities, older people are more likely to have a disability. Nearly 40% of people age 65 and older have a disability, with two out of three people having difficulty walking or climbing stairs.<sup>3</sup> By 2030, adults 65 and over are expected to comprise 20% of the population of Boulder County.<sup>4</sup>

BCPOS is committed to providing quality outdoor recreation opportunities for people of all abilities. The Parks and Open Space 2020 Vision includes nine strategic goals, including improving public access to lands, providing better information, and improving planning for demographic shifts in the community.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the study was to better understand the visitation patterns, amenity preferences, and visitor experiences of people with disabilities on open space properties, as well as the family, friends, and local organizations that visit open space properties with people with disabilities.

The results from the interviews and survey will help staff identify potential projects and improvements to our parks.

#### Research Objectives:

- Identify visitation patterns and activity preferences
- Understand prior experiences related to open space and trails
- Identify preferred design features for park amenities and trails
- Identify the availability and usability of information about properties
- Explore ways to improve visitor enjoyment

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Americans with Disabilities: 2010

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey: 2014-2018

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Older Americans with a Disability: 2008-2012

<sup>4</sup> Boulder County Trends: 2013

## METHODS

It is important to note that this is a qualitative study. The goal of the research was to gather feedback to identify opportunities for improvement, rather than to collect a representative sample.

### INTERVIEWS WITH ORGANIZATIONS

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The target population for the interviews was staff that work for an organization that serves people with disabilities in Boulder County and in neighboring areas along the Front Range.

Due to the specific and limited target population, we utilized non-probability sampling. We contacted organizations and groups that met our selection criteria and requested their participation.

The screening criteria for participants included:

- They must work for an organization that serves people with disabilities.
- The organization must offer opportunities to visit open space properties as a part of its programming.
- They are directly involved in developing and executing programming for educational and/or recreational activities at parks or trails.
- They must be at least 18 years of age or older.

In 2017, seven in-depth interviews were conducted between April and October. The interviews ran between 30 minutes to one hour in length. The interviews were recorded to ensure that all responses could be reported accurately and fully. Comments written in the results have been edited for both readability and to retain the information shared by the participants. Participants were ensured that their comments would be reported anonymously.

To ensure consistency in understanding during the interviews, parks, open spaces, and natural areas were defined as largely undeveloped public land. Participants were told to avoid discussion of urban and developed parks, such as school yards, playgrounds, sports fields, and public plazas. The goal was to steer conversation toward parks and open spaces similar to those managed by BCPOS.

Participants were provided with “A Guide to Your County Parks” brochure and a variety of pictures of BCPOS properties. If the organization had visited any BCPOS properties, respondents were told it would be appreciated if they would share those experiences. If not, they were told they could still help by sharing their experiences at other open space and park properties.

## ONLINE SURVEYS

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The online survey instrument was developed to complement the questions asked during the interviews with organizations and to capture additional information regarding visitation patterns and feedback about accessibility in parks. A copy of the interview questions and survey questionnaire is included in Appendix D (p. 67).

The target population for the online survey was people with disabilities, as well as their family, friends, and those who work with people with disabilities. In contrast to the interviews, input was requested from both people who have visited open space properties and those who have not.

The survey was posted on the BCPOS webpage from July through October 2019. The survey was widely promoted using a variety of channels, including online and newspaper press releases, social media (Facebook, Nextdoor, etc.), flyers on kiosks, and direct contact with organizations that serve people with disabilities.

No names and other identifying information were gathered. The time spent to complete the survey was typically 10 minutes. A total of 124 surveys were completed and usable, out of 168 survey respondents. Forty-four survey respondents were removed because they completed only the first one or two questions.

In the first question, people were asked to identify the option that best describes how they are responding to the survey--whether they are:

- A person with a disability
- A family member or friend of a person with a disability and helping them complete the survey
- Work with someone with a disability and helping their client complete the survey
- A family member or friend of a person with a disability and completing the survey from their perspective
- Work with someone with a disability and completing the survey from their perspective

Fifty-three percent (66 respondents) indicated they were a person with a disability or helping someone with a disability complete the survey, and 47% (58 respondents) indicated they were a family member, friend, or a person who worked with someone with a disability and completing the survey from their own perspective.

Of the 66 respondents, people with disabilities ranged in age from 15 to over the age of 65, with the average age between 45 and 64 years old.

Respondents were asked to describe their disability in their own words. The respondents reported disability was grouped into categories below. It is important to note that some people reported more than one disability and therefore, their disabilities are included in multiple categories.

Table 1: Respondents Reported Disability

	<b># RESPONDENTS</b>
<b>Mobility and Physical Impairment</b>	<b>66</b>
Use a wheelchair, electric trike, or motorized wheelchair	26
Difficulty walking, including balance or need to rest/sit frequently	18
Use a cane, crutches, walker, etc.	8
Other (neuropathy, general mobility challenges, Parkinson’s, arthritis, back/neck issues, fibromyalgia, etc.)	14
<b>Blind or Low Vision</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities</b>	<b>8</b>
Autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, and sensory and auditory processing issues	
<b>Heart condition</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Cancer</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Oxygen dependent or breathing challenges</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Brain injury or impairment</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Deaf or hard of hearing</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Diabetes</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Depression and PTSD</b>	<b>1</b>
	Total: 91
	Skipped: 33

If respondents indicated they were a friend, family member, or they worked with a client with a disability and were completing the survey from their own perspective, they were directed to refer specifically to their experiences on open space properties with their family member, friend, or client with a disability.

Eighty-five percent of the respondents live in Boulder County, and 15% of respondents live outside of Boulder County, but in Colorado. No respondents reported to live outside of Colorado. More information about survey respondent demographics can be found in Appendix C (p. 65).

Before participants began answering survey questions, they were provided with a definition of parks, open spaces, and natural areas. This description was also given to organizations for the interviews. Photos of various BCPOS properties were included. Respondents were asked to avoid discussion of urban and developed parks. Links to the BCPOS webpage and webpages of organizations that manage properties like BCPOS were provided.

For some questions, respondents were asked to “select all that apply.” When the total exceeds 100% in a graph or table for a multiple-choice question, it is because some respondents selected multiple categories. Answers for all questions were rounded to the nearest whole number. Due to rounding, some multiple-choice questions when only one answer could be selected may not total exactly 100%. Some questions throughout the survey were not asked of all respondents. Depending on how respondents answered questions, they were directed to answer additional relevant questions or to skip ahead to the next topic.

# RESULTS

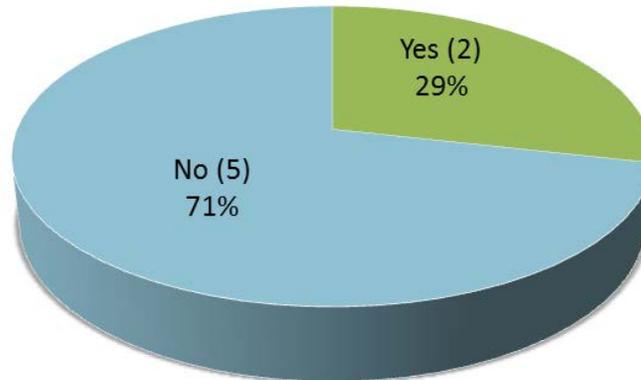
## VISITATION PATTERNS AND ACTIVITY PREFERENCES

### INTERVIEWS WITH ORGANIZATIONS

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#### Has your organization visited any Boulder County Parks & Open Space properties?

Figure 1: Visitation to BCPOS by organizations



All of the organizations interviewed offer opportunities for people with disabilities to visit open space properties as a part of their programming. Although five of the organizations are located in Boulder County, only two of the participants reported visiting BCPOS.

Detailed responses by organizations that have not visited BCPOS properties are included in Appendix A (Table 25, p. 38). Responses by organizations that have visited BCPOS properties are included in Appendix A (Table 26, p. 38).

For organizations that have not visited BCPOS, the reported barriers to visiting included:

- Medicaid requires that funds are used in Larimer County
- Getting permits
- Lack of information/knowledge of BCPOS
- Limit outings to specific properties that the organization manages

The two organizations that reported visiting BCPOS mentioned going to the following locations:

- Boulder County Fairgrounds
- Dodd Lake
- Flagg Park
- Lagerman Agricultural Preserve
- Mud Lake
- Pella Crossing
- Twin Lakes
- Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat

Participants gave the following reasons for choosing specific open space properties to visit:

- Accessibility
- Convenience (close, minimal driving time)
- Flat and paved
- Good amenities (benches, restrooms and picnic tables)
- Places to sit and rest
- Safe and hazard free
- Selected for an activity (picnicking, sports, fishing, all-terrain hand cycling, etc.)
- Shade

**Can you give some examples of other open spaces your organization has visited?**

The examples of open spaces visited by organizations varied widely, but properties with lakes, streams, and reservoirs are mentioned with the greatest frequency. The list of open space properties organizations reported visiting is included in Appendix A (Table 27, p. 39).

**ONLINE SURVEYS**

**Select all Boulder County Parks & Open Space properties you have visited.**

*Table 2: Parks visited by survey respondents*

	<b>% RESPONDENTS</b>	<b># RESPONDENTS</b>
Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat	52%	55
Boulder Canyon Trail	49%	51
Heil Valley Ranch	45%	47
Betasso Preserve	40%	42
Caribou Ranch	37%	39
Hall Ranch	36%	38
Walker Ranch	33%	34
Ron Stewart Preserve	29%	30
Mud Lake	28%	29
Twin Lakes	28%	29
Coal Creek Regional Trail	25%	26
Pella Crossing	25%	26
Bald Mountain Scenic Area	24%	25
Lagerman Agricultural Preserve	19%	20
LoBo Regional Trail	19%	20
Coalton Trailhead Area	16%	17
Legion Park	15%	16
Rock Creek Regional Trail	15%	16
Carolyn Holmberg Preserve	13%	14
Flagg Park	9%	9

Total: 105  
Skipped: 19

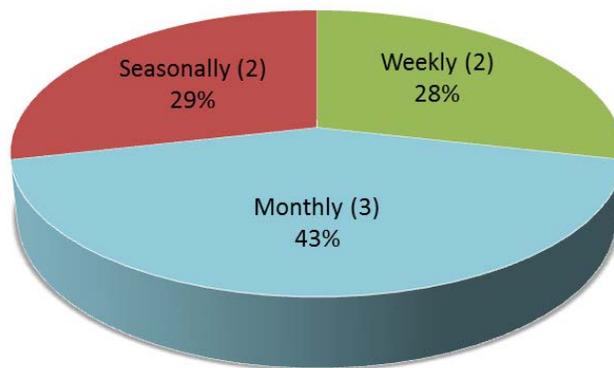
Seventeen respondents specified “other” properties. The “other” property responses that reported visiting the Meyers Gulch and Ethel Harrold Trailheads and the Singletree Trail were added to Walker Ranch and the Coalton Trailhead totals. All “other” properties were managed by other agencies, not BCPOS. The full list of “other” responses is included in Appendix B (Table 41, p. 49)

Only three respondents reported that they had not visited any BCPOS properties. The reasons given for not visiting any BCPOS properties include living far away and recently moving to the area.

INTERVIEWS WITH ORGANIZATIONS

**How often does your organization offer opportunities to go to open space?**

Figure 2: Frequency of visitation by organizations

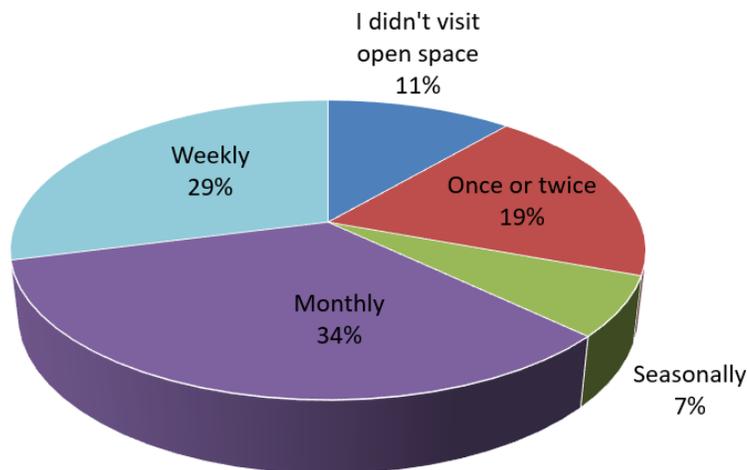


Organizations most often reported visiting open space and park properties once a month or more (five out of seven respondents). Three participants mentioned offering more outdoor opportunities during the summer months. Two participants offer trips only a few times a year or seasonally. Detailed responses regarding frequency of visitation to parks are included in Appendix A (Table 28, p. 39).

ONLINE SURVEYS

**In the past 12 months, about how often did you visit open space?**

Figure 3: Frequency of visitation by survey respondents



Eighty-nine percent of survey respondents visited open space in the past year. Of the 14 respondents that did not visit open space, the reasons given are listed in the table below.

*Table 3: Reasons for not visiting open space by survey respondents*

<b>RESPONDENTS SELECTED REASONS</b>	<b># OF REFERENCES</b>
Parks are not accessible	4
It is hard to get to parks	4
I don't have anyone to go to parks with	3
I do not have enough information about what parks will be like for me	3
Other (please specify) <sup>1</sup>	2
I do not feel comfortable at parks	2
I am not interested	2
I have had a bad experience at a park	1
I do not have access to information about parks	1

<sup>1</sup>The "other" two reasons specified include bikes or dogs can cause falls and that the individual uses a battery-operated scooter, which they think is not allowed on trails.

#### INTERVIEWS WITH ORGANIZATIONS

#### What activities do your groups most commonly participate in the outdoors?

The three most frequently referenced activities were hiking, sports (soccer, kickball, catch, etc.), and fishing. The outdoor activities related to sports were most frequently done at urban parks with manicured grass, rather than at open space properties. The list of outdoor activities organizations reported is included in Table 4.

*Table 4: Activity preferences at parks by organizations*

<b>OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES</b>	<b># OF REFERENCES</b>
Hiking <sup>1</sup>	8
Sports (soccer, kickball, catch, etc.)	6
Fishing	5
Biking <sup>2</sup>	3
Boating (Kayaking/Canoeing/Paddle boarding)	3
Rock climbing	3
Picnicking	2
Sightseeing	2
Snowshoeing/Cross-country skiing	2
Swimming	2
Camping	1
Horseback riding <sup>3</sup>	1

<sup>1</sup>Hiking also includes: wheelchair hikes, memory loss hikes, experiential wheelchair hikes, and low-vision sensory hikes

<sup>2</sup>Biking also includes: all-terrain handcycling, mountain biking, and commuter biking

<sup>3</sup>Horseback riding was done at a therapeutic riding center, not at an open space property

**Which activities do you typically participate in when you visit open space? (select all that apply)**

*Table 5: Activity preferences at parks by survey respondents*

	<b>% OF RESPONSES</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>
Walk or hike on trails (includes using a walker, cane, etc.)	81%	87
View wildlife (e.g. birdwatching)	53%	57
Bring a dog	43%	46
Gathering with family and/or friends	43%	46
Picnic	42%	45
Bike (includes all terrain handcycling, mountain biking, etc.)	30%	32
Use a wheeled mobility device on trails (includes manual or powered wheelchair, scooter, etc.)	28%	30
Photography/Art	26%	28
Educational program	18%	19
Fish	16%	17
Special event	13%	14
Run/Jog	9%	10
Other	9%	10
Ride a horse	7%	8
	Total: 107	
	Skipped: 17	

Table 5 shows responses from survey respondents that have visited open space. Fourteen respondents had not visited open space in the past 12 months. If those respondents were to visit an open space, the top five activities they would be interested in doing include: walking or hiking on trails (includes using a walker, cane, etc.), using a wheeled mobility device on trails (includes manual or powered wheelchair, scooter, etc.), picnicking, viewing wildlife (e.g., birdwatching), and gathering with family and/or friends.

INTERVIEWS WITH ORGANIZATIONS

**How do you get to open space properties?**

The majority of organizations provide transportation for their clients (four out of seven responses). For organizations with a fleet of vehicles, the type of transportation used to transport clients included vans, buses, and cars. Two of the organizations always meet at trailheads. Parking lots with enough spaces to accommodate the expected number of vehicles is a major factor in property selection for these groups. One organization contracts with Via Mobility Services to provide transportation for its quarterly field trips.

*Table 6: Transportation to open space by organizations*

<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b># OF RESPONDENTS</b>
Provide transportation from fleet of vehicles	4
Meet at the trailhead	2
Contract/pay for transportation	1

ONLINE SURVEYS

**How do you get to open space properties? (select all that apply)**

*Table 7: Transportation to open space by survey respondents*

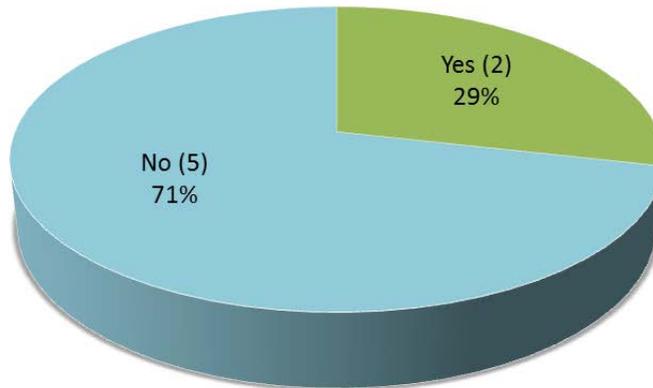
	<b>% OF RESPONSES</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>
Car	84%	92
Walk or Run (includes using a walker, cane, etc.)	30%	33
Bike (includes all terrain handcycling, mountain biking, commuter biking, etc.)	25%	27
Wheeled mobility device (includes manual or powered wheelchair, scooter, etc.)	8%	9
Organized group	8%	9
Other (please specify)	5%	5
Horseback	2%	2
Via Mobility Services	2%	2

Total: 110  
Skipped: 14

“Other” reported means of transportation include four respondents that use public transportation (RTD) and one respondent that was driven.

**Open space and park properties allow a variety of activities (such as hiking, biking, picnicking, relaxing, and dog walking). Do the types of activities allowed affect your choice whether or not to visit a property with your organization?**

*Figure 4: Do activities allowed affect choice to visit a property for organizations*



Organizations most frequently reported that the types of allowed visitor activities do not affect their choice whether or not to visit a property (five out of seven responses). Four participants cited support for multi-use trails and/or the benefits to their group of observing other visitor activities.

Other barriers that may affect their choice whether or not to visit a property include:

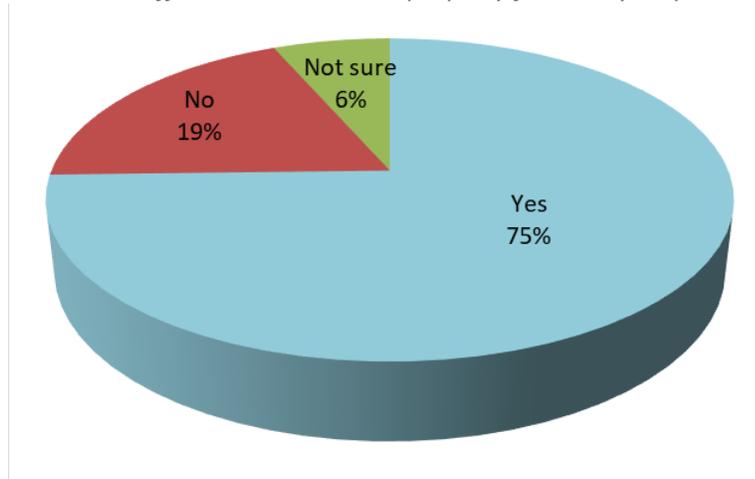
- Visitor experience and enjoyment
- Weather
- Crowding
- Accessibility

Two participants mentioned they may not choose to visit a property if a trail allows biking. One of those participants also mentioned that whether or not a trail allows horses may be a factor in their decision.

Detailed responses for whether or not the types of activities allowed affect an organization's choice to visit a property are included in Appendix A (Table 29 and Table 30, p. 40).

**Open space and park properties allow a variety of activities such as hiking, biking, picnicking, relaxing, and dog walking. Do the types of activities allowed affect your decision whether or not to visit a property?**

*Figure 5: Do activities allowed affect choice to visit a property for survey respondents*



In contrast to the interviews with organizations, 75% of survey respondents indicated that the types of activities do affect their choice of whether or not to visit a property.

Of those that indicated activities do affect their choice to visit, the most common reasons include:

- Need trails that are easily walkable or accessible to use with a mobility device in order to visit
- Go places where dogs are allowed
- Avoid areas with bikers or heavy bike use
- Decide based on activity preference depending on what is allowed

Detailed responses for whether the types of activities allowed affect a survey respondent's choice to visit a property are included in Appendix B (Table 39 and Table 40, p. 47).

## FORMER EXPERIENCES RELATED TO PARKS AND TRAILS

### INTERVIEWS WITH ORGANIZATIONS

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**Think back to your last recreational outing at an open space with your organization. What was that experience like? Did it meet your expectations? Why or why not?**

Participants were asked to think back to their most recent trip to open space with their organization and share that experience. The goal was to learn about the most memorable aspects of their trip to open space.

The following are common themes described in the participant's explanation of their last experience at open space:

- Scenery (nice views, wildflowers, take photos, and great setting)
- New experience or learning experience
- Had a picnic
- Accessible or accessible enough
- Clean/convenient bathrooms
- Friendly park staff and volunteers
- Predictable or not crowded
- Different activities available or different level of difficulty in close proximity

For more detail about the reflections, read the explanations in Appendix A (Table 31, p. 40).

**Tell me about a positive experience you've had during a visit to a park or open space.**

After reflecting on their most recent trip to open space, participants were asked to think about a particularly positive experience their organization had on open space.

The following are common themes described in the participant's explanation of a positive experience on open space:

- Park staff support/collaboration, friendly park staff and visitors
- Fishing experience with agency support
- Letterboxing
- Getting outdoors, fresh air, and exercise
- New experiences

For more detail about the reflections, read the explanations in Appendix A (Table 32, p. 42).

## ONLINE SURVEYS

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### **Tell us about a positive experience you've had during a visit to any park or open space.**

The following are the five most common themes described in the survey respondent's explanation of a positive experience on open space:

- Enjoying the views, beauty, and scenery
- Being outside and enjoying nature
- Positive interactions and conversations with other visitors
- Wildlife viewing and bird watching
- Well-maintained trails and parks

For more detail about the reflections, all responses can be found in Appendix B (Table 42, p. 50).

## INTERVIEWS WITH ORGANIZATIONS

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### **Tell me about a disappointment or problem you've had during a visit to a park or open space.**

After reflecting about a positive experience, participants were asked to tell us about a problem or disappointment their organization experienced during a visit to open space. The following are the problems or disappointments participants listed regarding a visit to open space:

- Logistical issues (parking, organization staffing, permits)
- Lack of time
- Rude park staff
- Poorly maintained/hard to access trails
- Poor signage about hazards (specifically rattlesnakes)
- The experience at the property does not match the description online
- Bathrooms not accessible

For more detail about the reflections, read the explanations in Appendix A (Table 33, p. 43).

## ONLINE SURVEYS

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### **Tell us about a disappointment or problem you've had during a visit to any park or open space.**

The following are the five most common themes described in the survey respondent's explanation of a problem or disappointment they experienced on open space:

- Not enough parking, or problems with parking
- Bikes, bikes too fast, or bikers' lack of communication
- Dogs off leash, or aggressive dogs off leash
- Uneven trails (ruts, hills, puddles, etc.), or trails not accessible for wheelchairs
- Dog poop, or poop bag on trail

For more detail about the reflections, all responses can be found in Appendix B (Table 43, p. 52).

## DESIGN FEATURES FOR PARK AMENITIES AND TRAILS

### INTERVIEWS WITH ORGANIZATIONS

A total of 10 park amenities were provided on cards with photos. Participants were asked to rank amenities based on a scale of importance to their experience. Each person rated the series of amenities without discussion. The results were tabulated and used as a basis for further discussion about preferred amenity design features.

Table 8: Organization ratings of importance for park amenities ordered by overall ranking

**Please rate the following amenities in order of importance to your organizations experience at open space.**

	Not important at all (1)		Of little importance (2)		Of average importance(3)		Very important (4)		Absolutely essential (5)		Total	Overall Ranking
	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#		
Restroom	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	14%	1	86%	6	7	4.9
Trails	0%	0	0%	0	14%	1	43%	3	43%	3	7	4.3
Parking Lot	0%	0	0%	0	29%	2	29%	2	43%	3	7	4.1
Picnic Shelter	0%	0	0%	0	43%	3	29%	2	29%	2	7	3.9
Fishing Pier	17%	1	0%	0	17%	1	50%	3	17%	1	6	3.5
Trail Signage	14%	1	0%	0	43%	3	14%	1	29%	2	7	3.4
Benches	14%	1	0%	0	43%	3	14%	1	29%	2	7	3.4
Trash/Recycling	0%	0	29%	2	43%	3	14%	1	14%	1	7	3.1
Trailhead Kiosk	0%	0	14%	1	71%	5	14%	1	0%	0	7	3.0
Educational Signs	0%	0	14%	1	71%	5	14%	1	0%	0	7	3.0

The three highest ranked amenities, based on an average overall ranking, are restrooms, trails, and parking lots. The three lowest ranked amenities, based on an average overall ranking, are trash/recycling, trailhead kiosks, and educational signs.

After ranking each of the amenities, participants were asked to discuss preferred design features for each of the amenities. The cards showing the amenities included a photo with an example of that specific amenity. Detailed responses regarding each specific amenity are included in Table 9 - Table 18 (p. 18 – 28).

**RESTROOM**

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*Picture 1: Image of restroom used during interview*

*Table 9: Respondent comments on design features and preferences for restrooms*

**RESTROOM DESIGN FEATURES AND PREFERENCES**

Men and women’s rooms should be located right next to each other and accessible to a wheelchair. This design in the picture is perfect. Running water would be very important to wash hands. A regular standard toilet is important. The majority of parks we visit have flushable toilets, but some only have an outhouse.

As mentioned above, it is important that the bathroom does not have a big lip at the entrance, has accessible handles, and the doors are not too heavy. Also, it is important that the trail leading to the bathroom is not too steep.

If a place does not have a restroom, I will not go there. Because of the group size that we bring, there is always someone who has to go to the bathroom. Accessibility is important, and that means having a family style size restroom. We have some people who we assist in the bathroom and we need to have room for two people and a wheelchair off to the side. There need to be no steps going into the restroom. A flushable toilet or sink is not needed. We always have hand sanitizer and wipes. Space and size is the most important feature. Water fountains are important in conjunction with that, to keep folks hydrated.

We don’t have people on our trips that have major bathroom accommodation needs. Not having a bathroom is not a deal breaker, but an important aspect we consider for a local ½ day program.

The restroom needs to be wheelchair accessible. For us, we might have folks with disposable undergarments and so we also need to have a place to leave those. It does not need to be in the restroom, but a trashcan somewhere would be nice. We can pack it in and pack it out, but it is easier not to do that.

Restroom should be wheelchair accessible. Our people always have to go to the bathroom. Put the bathroom near the parking lot.

The doors should not be too heavy; it should be wheelchair accessible. Being able to easily get to the restroom from the parking lot is very important.



Picture 2: Image of trail used during interview

Table 10: Respondent comments on design features and preferences for trails

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**TRAIL DESIGN FEATURES AND PREFERENCES**

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We prefer flat surfaces, but this picture looks potentially wheelchair accessible. Dirt trails are ok if there are not a lot of ruts. We have visited trails that are concrete and trails with dirt that are fine too. We use judgement – if it doesn't look safe we just don't go any further. It is not essential for the trails to be there. We prefer a wider trail.

I prefer trails that are crusher fine, hard packed, and well maintained. They have a more natural feel than paved trails. It is important that they don't have any major washouts, since that can prevent you from going as far as you planned on a trail. Trails should be 4 feet wide with a cross slope grade of 1-2% and an incline of no more than 8.3%, short sections can have an incline up to 10% grade. I also enjoy using boardwalks.

Should be wide enough for two people to walk next to each other, not single file. Labeling the trails based on how it's made is important. Tell us if there are big rocks and narrow hiking trails, so we can know who will be able to access it. Wide enough for two is what we need for people in a wheelchair. We always want one trail that is very low incline, but others can be more difficult. We are looking for that variable experience.

We want trails that don't have a lot of obstacles that are wide and smooth. Single track would not allow someone in a wheelchair to go with us. If the trails are overgrown that would be a problem. The trail access is the biggest part. Width is more important than grade. We can be prepared to go up a steep trail. But, for example, the Walker Ranch Loop is not accessible. There are too many rocks and a wall. Try to avoid rock piles.

Trails allow us to go on a little adventure. We want mostly flat trails. Dirt is fine; it doesn't have to be paved. If it is really gravelly that might be a challenge balance wise. Width of a trail should be just wide enough for a wheelchair.

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Accessible trails are very important. We look at the level beforehand. We want to make sure the group can stay together, both hikers and those using a wheelchair. Material doesn't matter as long as we can push them through it. Dirt paths work better than gravel or small rocks. Wheel chairs sink into it. If it is smooth enough and we are not running into gravel, a little up and down is fine. We get a more natural experience with that variation.

Make sure the slopes are ok. Make sure it is safe and there is shade. Not a lot of shade at Rabbit Mountain, so I would not take a group there because of that. Also, I would not take a group somewhere where there are too many rocks on the trail.

## PARKING LOT

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*Picture 3: Image of parking lot used during interview*

*Table 11: Respondent comments on design features and preferences for parking lots*

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### **PARKING LOT DESIGN FEATURES AND PREFERENCES**

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In parking lots we like everything very close. I prefer the parking lot and restroom are close together. Paved, gravel, and loose gravel are ok materials. Pea gravel is challenging.

For our programs, since people meet at the trailhead, it is important to have a parking lot. Parking along the road can be dangerous and difficult. Ideally the parking lot would be paved, since deep gravel in some parking lots can be challenging.

We do a lot of loading and unloading. We have parked on the side of roads before and that increases risk. A good parking lot that has enough room is ideal. Is there enough space to park and enough space to get people out of the car that are in wheelchairs? Gravel is fine. It doesn't need to be fancy, we just need the space. Boulder Canyon is not great, because we are not parking in a real parking lot.

We need accessible spots that have space for lifts to come down. Some parking lots have an accessible spot, but not enough space for lifts and ramps. You need the added space at the side and back. We have worked with unpaved lots. A flat surface is important. It is nice for it to be paved, but it requires more upkeep, so it wouldn't prevent us from going there.

Typically we unload at the entrance and then someone goes and parks the vehicle. So it is not usually too hard for us. Some of our buses are too big, so we have to go to the back of the lot. We don't need a paved lot. Having it not paved gives it more of a nature feel.

We need to be able to get a lift van in there. Staff will also come in a car, so we need space for that. It doesn't need to be paved.

I am thinking can I park a bus? Are we going to get locked in there with cars? How far away will I have to park on a weekend if it is busy?

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## PICNIC SHELTER

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Picture 4: Image of picnic shelter used during interview

Table 12: Respondent comments on design features and preferences for picnic shelters

### PICNIC SHELTER DESIGN FEATURES AND PREFERENCES

Picnic tables give us a safe place to eat, out of the wind and rain. From there you can enjoy the outdoors, but be in a safe location.

It is important to have shade and picnic shelters are great. For programs, these also serve as a good place to gather at the beginning or end of hikes, so it is nice to have them close to the trailhead.

Good for weather and to be on the conservative side of things. In a rainy situation, we want to stay safe. Some sort of shelter for lightning or rain is good. Having a place to keep dry that they can access does decrease risk.

We do provide lunch. It gives them a break. If it is too hot, they can relax a bit. We do work with adults and the elderly. You can be outside, but also in a secure place. Picnic tables should be close to the parking lot. And the path needs to be accessible to the tables.

A picnic shelter is a place to get away from the elements. Some of our folks are very sensitive to temperature so a place with shelter is nice.

Make sure the picnic tables have cut outs for wheelchairs. Is it clean? Is it safe?

Good if we want to eat lunch or take a break in a larger setting. For the activity itself, if some parts are more educational, people know this is where we will gather and learn.

## FISHING PIER

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*Picture 5: Images of fishing piers used during interview*

Five out of seven of the participants stated that they go fishing in Question 4. Fishing piers are considered of average importance to absolutely essential to five out of the six organizations interviewed (one organization did not rate fishing piers since it does not offer fishing to its clients). The one organization that rated a fishing pier as not at all important offers fly fishing in rivers.

*Table 13: Respondent comments on design features and preferences for fishing piers*

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### **FISHING PIER DESIGN FEATURES AND PREFERENCES**

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This particular pier has the safety rails and is accessible for wheelchairs. It provides more of a shelter or barrier to the actual water.

If we are going somewhere to go fishing, this would be essential. I like boardwalks since they still give a feeling of being out in nature, but I would prefer if it would go further out over the water.

A wheelchair accessible fishing pier is important. We don't need a fancy ramp, but we need a trail to get to the water's edge.

It is super fun to have one, which is why we went to Coot Lake. Although I am unclear about the rules regarding fishing licenses.

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## TRAIL SIGNS



Picture 6: Image of trail sign used during interview

Table 14: Respondent comments on design features and preferences for trails

### TRAIL SIGN DESIGN FEATURES AND PREFERENCES

Helpful to tell us about safety hazards and what is allowed. Trail signs are more important for individuals.

If I do lead a hike in an area I am less familiar, trail signage is essential to navigation on the trails. It is important to be able to navigate the trails effectively to ensure we are not going onto a trail that is too difficult or steep. Also, for people who want to come back on their own time, it is important for them to be able to easily navigate the area.

Teach the group about following a map and navigating, so if they wanted to do it more independently they won't get lost. So they can see that eventually they can do it without us.

Good for average people checking out the trail. We do research in advance online or with open space management, so as long we have a trail map we don't need that many signs.

We are not going that far in, so we don't need trail signs most of the time. We do short hikes only, so it is not relevant for our group.

Trail signs help us not get lost. We usually don't go that far, but it is nice to have.

Important so you don't get lost.



*Picture 7: Image of bench used during interview*

*Table 15: Respondent comments on design features and preferences for benches*

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**BENCH DESIGN FEATURES AND PREFERENCES**

Places to sit are important. They should not be off the beaten path, but right next to the path. Closer to the trail and clear of brush is best.

When we have hikes with seniors and/or people with a physical disability, they may need to stop and rest frequently. It can be very difficult for them to get up off the ground, so having benches is very important. Benches should be within 200-300 yards of one another, within eyesight from one bench to the next. Not in all locations, such as far into the trail system, but on shorter accessible hikes.

We take breaks and allow people to sit and take a rest. I don't really look for places that have benches. It is an added perk. We have blankets so we can sit on the ground.

If it's not natural, we don't use it, it would be better if it wasn't there. As far as accessibility goes, we will just sit on rocks.

Benches allow us to stop and rest. A small bench every  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile or  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile is good. It should be frequent enough they know it is coming up and can create small goals. We don't need to see the next bench, but the idea that one is coming up is helpful for older clients and clients with mobility issues.

Some sort of seating so that folks can take a rest is important. Some folks have a walker that they can make into chair, but not everyone does.

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Picture 8: Image of trash/recycling used during interview

Table 16: Respondent comments on design features and preferences for trash and recycling

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**TRASH AND RECYCLING DESIGN FEATURES AND PREFERENCES**

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Trash and recycling maintain nature and cleanliness. They teach individuals the importance of recycling and keeping areas clean.

Of course, it is always nice to have trash and recycling cans. It is not necessary because you can always pack it in and pack it out, but nevertheless it is a nice amenity to provide. It is especially important at picnic areas and trailheads.

We have trash bags and carry it out. We require all staff to carry trash bags with them.

Trash cans are good for dog poop. It is a big chore to collect the trash. It makes the area stink. We pack out. Most places we go don't have trash. Even at the picnic shelter, we are willing to pack out. With a large group we create a lot of trash so we always load it in a truck. As far as programs go, we don't need trash. If other programs don't pack out, maybe it is important to prevent dumping.

We always have trash from our picnics. A place to throw things away.

Helps to have trash. We can pack in and pack out, but it is certainly helpful to have.

Make sure that the trash/recycling cans are accessible, that people can get to it in a wheelchair.

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## TRAILHEAD KIOSK

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Picture 9: Image of trailhead kiosk used during interview

Table 17: Respondent comments on design features and preferences for trailhead kiosks

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### TRAILHEAD KIOSK DESIGN FEATURES AND PREFERENCES

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Depending, I can't say whether or not the individuals in our group understand. But staff can always provide that info to participants.

If I am leading a hike, I already know in advance about the property and the trails. Usually I have talking points and do not use the kiosk as a reference. However, if people come back on their own or if I go to properties for recreation, they are nice. I also like a good looking kiosk.

Allows you to communicate things, including potential threats or risks in the area. But it seems very showy to me. Simple is better. A sign with a map is sufficient. We want to keep things more rugged.

A kiosk is good for reading about the area. We can orient them to the plan for the day on the map. If they are nervous it can help calm them down.

We enjoy having the orientation to the setting.

That's what I liked about the sensory trail, everything was accessible. There was information in braille as well, so people with visual impairments can visit.

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Picture 10: Image of educational sign used during interview

Table 18: Respondent comments on design features and preferences for educational signs

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**EDUCATIONAL SIGNS DESIGN FEATURES AND PREFERENCES**

Educational signs are not important to participants, but nice for staff.

We don't often use these on hikes, but they are nice to have on a trail if participants want to return on their own time and learn more about the area. I personally always enjoy reading information about an area; there is always so much to know. It is a nice feature.

For our outings they have a guide. That is a big part of what they do. They share information with their participants, so we don't need it on a sign.

Our groups like to stop and read things, take in the scenery, and learn about what they are looking at. Dive in a little more. A little extra information they wouldn't otherwise receive.

Good to get context from the signs. People really enjoy getting more information about an area. If we run across a sign we will talk about it as a group. Keep the information simple.

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**Please rate the importance of the following amenities to your experience at open space.**

*Table 19: Survey Respondent ratings of importance for park amenities ordered by overall ranking*

**Please rate the importance of the following amenities to your experience at open space.**

	Not important at all (1)		Of little importance (2)		Of average importance(3)		Very important (4)		Absolutely essential (5)		Total	Overall Ranking
	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#		
Trails	1%	1	2%	2	4%	4	36%	35	57%	55	97	4.5
Parking Lot	1%	1	5%	5	24%	23	33%	31	37%	35	95	4.0
Trail Signage	5%	5	3%	3	19%	18	42%	40	31%	29	95	3.9
Trash/Recycling	5%	5	8%	8	15%	15	38%	37	32%	31	96	3.8
Restroom	3%	3	15%	14	25%	24	23%	22	34%	33	96	3.7
Benches	7%	7	9%	9	21%	20	36%	35	26%	25	96	3.7
Educational Signs	5%	5	9%	9	38%	36	32%	31	16%	15	96	3.4
Trailhead Kiosk	4%	4	11%	10	40%	38	31%	29	15%	14	95	3.4
Picnic Shelter	17%	16	20%	19	32%	31	19%	18	10%	10	94	2.9
Fishing Pier	45%	41	21%	19	18%	17	7%	6	3%	3	86	2.0

Total: 99  
Skipped: 25

Survey respondents were asked to list any other amenities that they look for when choosing a park or open space to visit. The top five most common responses were trail/path design (smooth, handholds for inclines, trail difficulty), shade, accessible parking, access to parks using public transport, and places easy for wheelchairs. All responses for descriptions of other amenities are included in Appendix B (Table 44, p. 56).

**Thinking about past visits to open space, to what extent were the following items a problem?**

*Table 20: Survey Respondent ratings for problems with amenities in parks*

**Please rate the extent the following items where a problem**

	Not a problem		A small or slight problem		Considerable problem		Severe problem		Total
	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	
Lack of accessible picnic shelters and/or table	38%	35	32%	29	20%	18	5%	5	87
Lack of accessible restroom	13%	12	44%	40	14%	13	24%	22	87
Lack of accessible parking spots	15%	14	32%	29	33%	30	17%	16	89
Lack of accessible trash/recycling containers	35%	32	38%	35	18%	17	4%	4	88
Lack of accessible fishing pier	59%	54	26%	24	7%	6	2%	2	86
Lack of accessible trails	22%	20	29%	27	28%	26	19%	18	91

Thinking about past visits to open space, please rate the number of the following amenities.

Table 21: Survey respondent ratings of importance for number of amenities

	Too few		About right		Too many		Total
	%	#	%	#	%	#	
Signs with information	24%	23	67%	63	2%	2	88
Signs with directions	30%	28	60%	55	2%	2	85
Benches or places to rest	57%	53	34%	32	0%	0	85

The majority of survey respondents (57%) thought there were too few benches or places to rest during past visits to parks.

#### INTERVIEWS WITH ORGANIZATIONS

#### Are there other specific amenities that you look for when choosing a park to visit?

The following are other specific amenities or qualities participants gave for choosing specific open space properties to visit:

- Water fountains
- Gathering areas for groups of people
- Accessible gates
- Shade
- Trail maintenance
- Better information about accessible trails online

More details about the reflections on additional amenities are included in Appendix A (Table 34, p. 44).

#### AVAILABILITY AND USABILITY OF INFORMATION

#### INTERVIEWS WITH ORGANIZATIONS

#### When your organization decides to visit a park or open space, what information do you look for?

The following is a list of the information that the participants look for when deciding to visit an open space property with their organization:

- Accessible restrooms and picnic areas
- Safety of the trails and trail details (length, cross slope, grade, difficulty, material, shade)
- Activities permitted (hiking, mountain biking, dogs, etc.)
- Property features, plants and wildlife
- Location of property
- Pictures or virtual tour of the property (trail, campsite, and parking lot)
- How busy/crowded

More details of information organizations look for are included in Appendix A (Table 35, p. 44).

**When you decide to visit a park or open space, what information do you look for? (select all that apply)**

*Table 22: Information about open space*

	<b>% OF RESPONSES</b>	<b># OF RESPONSES</b>
Location of the property	75%	69
Trail details (material, incline, width, etc.)	70%	64
Accessible trails	67%	62
Activities permitted (hiking, mountain biking, dogs, etc.)	64%	59
Property map showing facilities and trails	61%	56
How busy or crowded	57%	52
Accessible facilities (restrooms, picnic shelters, etc.)	55%	51
Property features, plants, and wildlife	41%	38
Safety precautions (warnings regarding weather, wildlife, terrain, etc.)	39%	36
Pictures or a virtual tour of the property	28%	26
Other	13%	12

Total: 92  
Skipped: 32

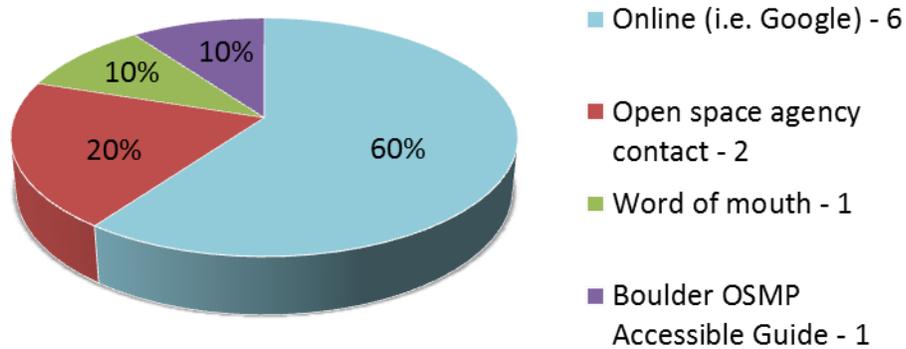
Detailed “other” responses for what information survey respondents look for is included in Appendix B (Table 45, p. 58).

Fourteen survey respondents had not visited open space in the past 12 months. If those respondents were to plan a trip to a park or open space, the top five types of information they would look for include:

- Accessible facilities (restrooms, picnic shelters, etc.)
- Accessible trails
- How busy or crowded
- Trail details (material, incline, width, etc.)
- Location of the property

**Where do you get that information?**

Figure 6: Information about parks



Organizations most often reported gathering information about parks and open space online (six out of seven respondents). Two participants mentioned having a trusted agency contact they work with to find properties to visit, and one participant mentioned word of mouth as a means to get information. Lastly, one agency uses the Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Accessible Trails and Sites Guide.

Detailed responses regarding where participants get information about parks are included in Appendix A (Table 36, p. 45).

ONLINE SURVEYS

**Where do you look for information about parks and open space? (select all that apply)**

Table 23: Where survey respondents get information about open space

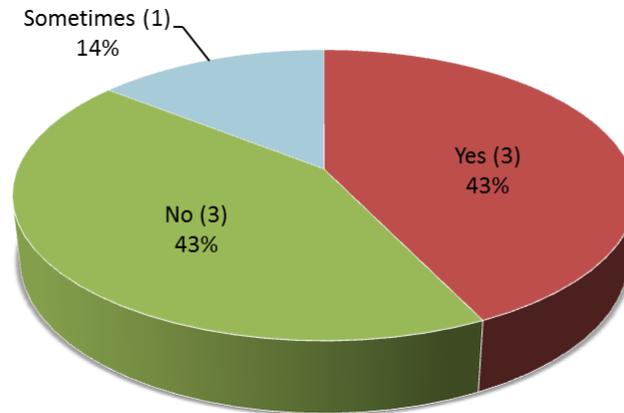
	% OF RESPONSES	# OF RESPONSES
Open space website	63%	59
A friend or family member	55%	51
Search engine (Google, Yahoo, etc.)	49%	46
Sign on road/trail	33%	31
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)	28%	26
Other (please specify)	22%	20
Brochure	17%	16
Newspaper	14%	13

Total: 93  
Skipped: 31

Survey respondents who have not visited a park or open space in the past 12 months were asked where they would get information, and the top three responses included the open space website, search engine (Google, Yahoo, etc.), and a friend or family member.

**Are you having any problems finding the information you need?**

Figure 7: Organization’s problems finding information about parks



Four out of the seven organizations reported having problems finding the information they need to plan a visit to open space. The information that was reported missing or challenging to find includes:

- Details about the trail (grade, slope, difficulty/rating)
- Photos and video of amenities and the trail (include photos of restrooms)
- No information about whether a property is accessible
- Agency staff unable to answer definitively whether a property is accessible

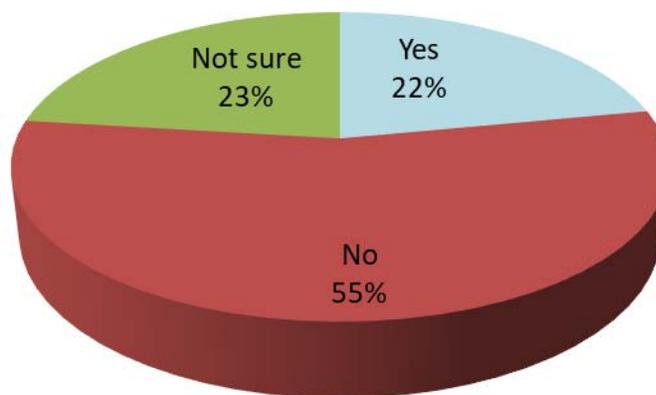
Detailed responses from organizations about finding information are included in Appendix A (Table 37, p. 45 and Table 38, p. 46).

ONLINE SURVEYS

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**Are you having problems finding the information you need to plan a visit to a park or open space?**

Figure 8: Survey Respondent’s problems finding information about parks



Total: 91  
Skipped: 33

About half of survey respondents (55%) are not having problems finding the information needed to plan a visit. For those that are having problems (22%) or were not sure (23%), when asked what information was missing or challenging to find, the most frequent responses included:

- Trail details (material, incline, width, etc.) and trail difficulty
- Accessible trails or wheelchair-accessible trails
- Activities permitted/offered activities (dogs allowed, dogs allowed off leash)
- Accessible facilities and location relative to parking

Detailed responses from survey respondents about what information was missing or challenging to find are included in Appendix B (Table 46, p. 58).

## VISITOR ENJOYMENT

### INTERVIEWS WITH ORGANIZATIONS

#### Is there anything else that we haven't talked about that would increase your group's or organization's enjoyment of parks and open space properties?

At the end of the interview, participants were asked if there was anything else they would like to share that was not discussed in the interview that would increase their enjoyment of parks and open space properties.

Table 24: Specific comments about anything that was not discussed during the interview

<b>RESPONDENTS COMMENTS ON ANYTHING NOT COVERED IN THE INTERVIEW</b>	
1	Experiences and the opportunities to go to those places. Bonus if they can do activities, but it is good to be out there and experience nature.
2	Would love to have some tacos and margaritas at the end of the trail...do you allow food trucks!
3	Honestly, just looking at the trails themselves and making sure they are accessible. We love the education side of things. Look for things that are inexpensive and making connections around the education side of stuff is really good. We are a non-profit so the partnership is good.
4	The places I have been that you guys manage are pretty good. I go to Walker Ranch every weekend. The bathroom was perfect, the parking lot was perfect. You guys are top notch. It is important to have the partnership with the agency where we have a personal contact and feel that we are welcome in the spot.
5	Knowing in advance what trails are accessible. Do you have that yet? It would help a lot to have specific photos of amenities at each park.
6	I can't think of anything. I don't want things altered enough, because we want them to feel natural. As long as we can get there and get out of our van we are pretty happy.
7	If you guys want to find out more. It would be cool to offer a hike and do it together with your staff. My group would have developmental disabilities. It is a lot of logistics to do fishing, so it would be great to have your help. Partner more with groups that are experts in that area.

**Are there any specific changes that would make open space more accessible for you (or for your family member, friend, or client with a disability)?**

The most frequent responses included:

- More accessible (wider, smoother, flat) trails or wheelchair accessible trails
- More benches/picnic tables
- Paved trails or parking lots
- More accessible parking
- More restrooms or accessible restrooms
- Trail etiquette education or separate use
- More posted rules and enforcement
- Better information about trails
- Offer more events or hikes

A full list of responses can be found in Appendix B (Table 47, p. 60).

**Is there anything else you want to share that would increase your enjoyment of parks and open space properties?**

At the end of the survey, respondents were asked if there was anything else they would like to share that would increase their enjoyment of parks and open space properties.

The most frequent responses included:

- Thank you and keep up the great work
- Build or buy more trails and parks or provide more accessible trails
- Manage to minimize conflicts with other visitors, specifically dogs and bikes
- Provide more shade or shelter
- Provide more transportation options to get to parks

A full list of responses can be found in Appendix B (Table 48, p. 63).

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were identified.

- Provide information directly to local organizations that serve people with disabilities about BCPOS parks that are nearby, accessible, and offer a variety of activities. When needed, assist organizations that have gatherings of more than 25 people with the special use permitting process. Build partnerships with the organizations and provide suggestions on places to visit, guided hikes, or fishing programs.
- Ensure that open space staff who have public contact (e.g., receptionist, rangers, education and outreach, maintenance staff, webmaster, etc.) are aware of which parks and trails are accessible, so they can be a reliable resource for organizations and visitors.
- Update and improve information about accessible parks and trails on the Boulder County website.
  - On individual property pages:
    - Add photos of the available amenities, including restrooms, parking lots, picnic shelter, and trails. Landscape photos are nice to include, but they do not provide these organizations with the information they need to make an informed decision about visiting the property.
    - Consider offering a close-up map or virtual tour of the trailhead facilities. This should include the parking lot, picnic area, and restrooms to help organizations with logistical planning for parking and staging a visit.
    - Include the number of designated accessible parking spaces and specify if restrooms and picnic shelters are accessible.
    - Add more trail details. Where appropriate, consider providing information about trail width, material, cross slope, and grade. If a trail is accessible, include that information.
  - On the Accessibility on Open Space page:
    - Provide a list of recommended properties and trails for people that use wheelchairs. This information could also be included on the “Hiking” webpage that currently lists easy, medium, and difficult hikes.
    - For easy, short, and accessible hikes, consider providing more information about benches or places to sit and rest.
    - Make locating the “Accessibility” webpage more intuitive. Add additional search terms and links to the page throughout the website.

- As possible, strategically update current amenities and trails to improve accessibility at BCPOS.
  - At properties where natural shade is not available, consider manufacturing shade at trailheads, picnic areas, and bench locations.
  - At select properties, install more benches or other areas to sit along the trail.
  - Pella Crossing is a very accessible and popular trail. Consider installing a wheelchair accessible fishing pier.
  - On properties where the trails are accessible, make sure that all gates are also accessible.
  - Install water fountains at properties where possible.
- During future planning processes for developing recreational opportunities at new properties and updates to existing management plans, reach out to organizations that serve people with disabilities to provide feedback about the proposed plans and design.
- Recreation and Facilities recommendations
  - Confirm current facilities are functioning related to accessibility
  - Present recreational opportunities during planning processes that expand offerings for people with disabilities
  - Change memorial bench guidelines to recommend more opportunities for benches and/or installing more benches at parks that meet the greater needs of people with disabilities.

## APPENDIX A: TABLES OF INTERVIEW RESPONDENT REFLECTIONS

### INTERVIEWS WITH ORGANIZATIONS

#### Has your organization visited any Boulder County Parks and Open Space properties?

Table 25: Participants that replied that they have not visited BCPOS were asked, “why not?”

NO	BARRIERS TO VISITING BCPOS
1	Our organization is funded with Medicaid dollars, which requires that the funds are used in your own county. That restriction was put in place in 2007. Prior to that, we used to go out of county to Wyoming, Adams County, and Boulder County. Now we are restricted to Berthoud, Loveland, and Fort Collins. This does limit opportunities for what we can do. Often we go to recreation centers and urban parks, such as a city park. We have very limited trips to parks. In winter the trips are even more limited. Usually we go during nice weather. We do have Colorado State Parks passes, so we go to Boyd Lake. Trips are few and far between and not on an ongoing basis.
2	We only provide programs and hikes on lands we manage
3	Our biggest barrier is getting proper permits. We have to have the permit and we have to have the transportation. We choose the low hanging fruit – the flatirons, etc.
4	I don’t know much about Boulder parks. We have partnered with Staunton State Park in the past. Knowing a location will work once we get there is a challenge.
5	We just started doing outings this past year. We have to contract a bus, since we don’t have a bus on hand. We went to NCAR and a pumpkin patch (Cottonwood Farms). The pumpkin patch was a popular outing.

Table 26: Participants that have visited BCPOS were asked, “which properties have you visited and why did you choose those locations?”

YES	BCPOS PROPERTIES VISITED
Pella Crossing	I really like Pella Crossing; it was one of my favorites. It is unfortunate that it has been closed for years due to the flood damage. I enjoy the water and the birdwatching. The trails are flat, well maintained, and easy to use.
Pella Crossing	We have done Pella Crossing, we used to go out there and take folks out there. It was accessible. I really miss that park.
Lagerman Agricultural Preserve	The trails are more challenging. Lagerman is good for picnicking and kayaking. The boat ramp is too steep. We have offered kayaking trips at Lagerman in the past.
Lagerman Agricultural Preserve	We used to go out to Lagerman and do veterans stand up paddle boarding.
Twin Lakes	Nice water and good for birdwatching. In general, we chose to visit properties due to their close proximity.
Boulder County Fairgrounds, Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat, Mud Lake, Dodd Lake, and Flagg Park	Mostly activity based, looking at the guides for hiking or fishing. When we are doing the nature education side of stuff, we look for more trails with more forestry type stuff going on at a property.

**Can you give some examples of other open spaces your organization has visited?**

*Table 27: Participants were asked to share other open spaces they have visited*

<b>OPEN SPACE PROPERTIES VISITED (LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)</b>			
1	Bobolink Trail (2 responses)	15	Horsetooth Reservoir
2	Boulder Canyon	16	Joshua Tree National Park
3	Boulder Valley Ranch	17	Lions Open Space
4	Brainard Lake	18	Marshall Mesa
5	Carter Lake	19	NCAR
6	Cathy Fromme Trail	20	Rocky Mountain National Park (4 responses)
7	Coot Lake	21	South Mesa Trail
8	Coyote Ridge Natural Area	22	Staunton State Park
9	Eldora	23	Swift Ponds
10	Eldorado Canyon	24	Ute Trail (2 responses)
11	Flatiron Reservoir	25	Watson Lake
12	Flatirons	26	Wonderland Lake Trail (2 responses)
13	Forest Service Trails	27	Yosemite National Park
14	Fossil Creek Reservoir		

**How often does your organization offer opportunities to go to open space?**

*Table 28: Specific comments about frequency of visitation to parks*

<b>RESPONDENTS COMMENTS ON FREQUENCY OF VISITATION TO PARKS</b>	
1	No more than 2 to 3 times a week. We have other activities that are priority over going to parks.
2	Offer 10 to 11 programs a year.
3	2 to 3 times a week, not just Boulder Parks and Open Space, but all parks. Probably more urban parks, but it depends on the activity we are doing. Summertime we do a weekly hiking class. Depends on the season. In the summer we use the outdoor open space more than in winter.
4	Fifteen days a year locally. However, we do trips out of state that total about 35 days.
5	Once or twice a month in the summer from July to November.
6	Quarterly outings. When we asked the participants, outdoor stuff has been the top of the list. They want to get out, see some birds, and get some fresh air.
7	Three times a year. We just aren't offering it much anymore. We offer hiking and people aren't signing up. Last summer I offered two summer hikes, back to back. We use a service-delivery model and we have to be able to justify programs. I have a strong personal interest in the outdoors. Most of the people in my group say they don't go out on their own. It is better when you go with a group and feel safe and supported.

**Parks and open spaces allow a variety of activities (such as hiking, biking, picnicking, relaxing, and dog walking). Do the types of activities allowed affect your choice whether or not to visit a property with your organization?**

*Table 29: Respondents that replied that other visitor activities do affect their choice of property were asked to please explain why.*

<b>COMMENTS ON ACTIVITIES THAT AFFECT CHOICE OF PROPERTY</b>	
1	I would prefer not to take a group hiking if there were bikers and horses. People bike really fast and they don't know when there is a group of people with disabilities on the trail. It is hard for our group to get over to the side of the trail quickly. Dogs seem to be ok, we haven't had any issues.
2	Whether or not a trail allows biking may be a determining factor, but all other activities occurring on the trail at the same time are not a deterrent.

*Table 30: Respondents that replied that other visitor activities do not affect their choice of property were asked to please explain why.*

<b>COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS THAT STATED THE TYPES OF ACTIVITIES ALLOWED DO NOT AFFECT THEIR CHOICE OF PROPERTY</b>	
1	That doesn't affect us, what affects us is the accessibility and if we know that person is going to enjoy it. We have people that don't like being outside. Weather is a huge factor too.
2	If I am looking for a park where something is allowed, I would go to that park. But it would not deter us. Exposure for us is huge. We want to have people who come to programs see what other people do for recreation.
3	Crowds would be a concern, because it is supposed to be therapeutic. I think it is good that trails are multi-use.
4	Not the activities, but the accessibility. The different activities just provide more options; it has not been a deterrent.
5	We might not be able to do everything that is offered, but we would love to see other people doing that.

**Think back to your last recreational outing at an open space with your organization. What was that experience like? Did it meet your expectations? Why or why not?**

*Table 31: Respondents reflections on their most recent trip to open space with their organization*

<b>REFLECTIONS ON LAST OPEN SPACE VISIT</b>	
1	I don't personally take groups out, so it is hard for me to answer that. I believe it was to access Swift Ponds, which is close to Weld County. That was the last major opportunity. They went fishing.
2	The last trip was an experiential wheelchair hike around Sprague Lake for participants to get an understanding of what it is like to use a wheelchair out on the trails. The outing did meet my expectations. It was a great setting and it can be eye-opening for people to experience the outdoors using a wheelchair. It was also good because it was not too

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easy, so people could experience the challenges of various grades and cross slopes. Reflecting further back, the previous outing prior to that was a wildflower hike on the Ute trail up on Flagstaff. That is a nice trail because it provides different scenery, hiking through a ponderosa pine forest with nice views of the high peaks. You can also do wildflower hikes later in the year at that site because of the elevation.

- 3 The last trip was in Eldorado Springs, it is a perfect spot. It is easily accessible and it is a predictable experience. We go on both weekdays and weekends. We work really closely with the state park and they are very accommodating. We did a trail work day. I feel that it probably wasn't a huge help to the state park, but it was a valuable learning experience for people to learn about making the trail. The people are friendly. The volunteers are friendly. The bathrooms are super clean. It is very multi-use. We can spend time outside, but can also picnic and grill. The climbing is the easiest part; but you have to be able to get the stuff to the location.
- 4 We went snowshoeing, but not at a Boulder Open Space. It went really well. We usually go up to Eldora since they have rental equipment available, but for this one they had to get the equipment in advance. The trail was great, it was accessible. The distance travelled is based on the individual and their physical needs. Some individuals went for 1 hour or 1.5 hours. Some just did the flat part at the beginning of trail. Some people need to take breaks. The trip was a total of 2 hours, but most people were not snowshoeing whole time. It met expectations. The biggest thing for trails and open space is accessibility. Don't want too many trees, rocks. Looking for trails with a lot of different skill sets in one area. Beginner trail to difficult trail.
- 5 Ute trail guided hike. The wildflowers were in bloom. It was really participant lead. It was cool for them to go up that high. To see the views and the wildflowers. We had a picnic up there. It wasn't crowded and the parking wasn't crowded. The bathrooms were right there and the trails were really maintained.
- 6 Went to NCAR. We did the inside tour, looking at the science exhibits. Then we had the beautiful view looking at the valley. It was nice to have the combo of both. We have taken kids and adults on our outings. We also have a couple dogs that come, so we have some canine friends. It was great to have the context; they gave us a tour and then talked about the weather. Then we went outside to use our own observation skills. Took a bunch of pictures and sent the photos home to families.
- 7 We went to Brainard Lake and did a short hike up around the water. We got photos at the shore. We were able to climb up on small boulders and take some pictures. It was a relaxing afternoon to do a picnic. The scenery and getting them to see things they don't normally see. The path wasn't completely wheelchair accessible, but they made it work. Before we went we had never heard of it, we were planning to go to Rocky Mountain National Park. Rocky ended up being too far. This was great, because they could do more than expected.

**Tell me about a positive experience you've had during a visit to a park or open space.**

*Table 32: Respondents reflections on a specific positive experience on open space*

<b>REFLECTIONS ON A POSITIVE PARK VISIT</b>	
1	Pella Crossing (parking a big bus was a little bit tight), but that was really cool because we used to have the letter boxing (like geocaching). You are going to find a letter box and get a stamp and then you left a message in there too. It used to be under a tree in the back corner. That was a cool thing we did a couple times. You can google it. You take your book and you stamp it.
2	Staunton State Park made it possible for our group. They made sure our group was accommodated for their needs. Led us on the path and made sure it was wheelchair accessible for them. They wanted us to point out a few things that weren't accessible. The volunteers with the fishing aspect, before they went down, they had training rigs with no hooks to teach how to cast. They helped with the hooks, bait, etc. and the participants enjoyed it.
3	Getting outdoors for folks is all positive. We have to be a little careful about temperature and make sure folks are comfortable, but it has all been good.
4	When we were at the Flatirons we had a media team come. We were not sure if it was ok to film. We had someone to call and they were super flexible. The program side of things is good, but it is the people on the other end who make the difference. Helping us know where to we park, etc. The support.
5	The fishing experience at Walden Ponds with BCPOS was awesome. Collaborating with other agencies that have the knowledge and equipment is great. Having multiple people to help to learn about tying knots, the area, learn about fish, sharing experience, etc. And getting kids to ask questions to people they don't know, so we want them to introduce themselves to people they don't know, to say goodbye, etc. They are very comfortable with me, but to see them go up to someone they don't know and ask a question is a huge step.
6	I usually always have a positive experience on open space. It is good to get out on a trail and get some fresh air and exercise. Also, people on the trails are usually very friendly and considerate. Maybe they are even more polite to me since I use a wheelchair. After a hike or a bike ride, I always feel reenergized.
7	They are all positive. It is not that they didn't have a good time. Park rangers, especially state parks, they are very open and kind. We get state parks passes so that's nice to have that opportunity. We get to experience new things and help make sure the community is educated.

**Tell me about a disappointment or problem you've had during a visit to a park or open space.**

*Table 33: Respondents reflections on a specific disappointment or problem during a park visit*

<b>REFLECTIONS ON A DISAPPOINTMENT DURING A PARK VISIT</b>	
1	It's mainly just making sure making sure my staff is all on the same page. Logistical issues. Pella Crossing was tight with a big bus; it is wider than a horse trailer.
2	The time crunch is the most difficult thing. We would like to stay a little longer. We are thinking of ways to stretch it, maybe doing a picnic lunch to make it longer. It has been more about timing than the park visit.
3	There was rude staff at an entrance gate. The first time we visited the property we got a discount because of disabilities. The next time, they charged us double for a minivan which had wheelchairs in it.
4	Logistics. Some things just don't go right. We have to jump through all kinds of hoops to get permits or they are expensive. We pay a lot for the permits sometimes. Rocky Mountain National Park said no, people with disabilities can't use their guide service, but they made us jump through hoops before letting up. North table down in Golden, the trails are not maintained well and hard to access. I am concerned with rattlesnakes and other things, but it is not clear whether or not they are there. There are guide dogs. There were no signs to tell us if there were snakes. Will not go there if rattlesnakes are active. As far as the agency goes, we had a dog on a non-dog trail. We had an aggressive staff person approach us and say there were no dogs and they asked to see its paperwork. It would be nice if we could be welcomed.
5	Joy of being community based is you can only plan so much. There are going to be things that happen that are out of our control. The largest issue is the accessibility side of stuff. You will research online and see they have this pier, pressed down sand, etc. Then you get there and it is loose sand or gravel. Not one particular experience, but the issue is you can only plan so much. Our staff is good at adapting. Sometimes we have to go to a different open space last minute. It works out typically pretty well.
6	Bathrooms can sometimes be a problem. A concrete lip that is too high at the entrance to the restroom can be frustrating. Also, if the door handle is not accessible or the door is too heavy that is problematic. It can cause you to get stuck inside the bathroom, which is stinky, or even pull you out of the chair. Also, if the inside is really dirty and has toilet paper all over the floor that can be gross. Then the toilet paper gets on the wheels of the chair.
7	Want to make sure that people know that the people we provide services to are just as integral to their community as the next person is. It is important to provide opportunities for people to get out and experience what the community has to offer.

**Are there other specific amenities or qualities that you look for when choosing a park to visit?**

*Table 34: Respondents reflections on additional amenities/qualities important to their experience*

<b>REFLECTIONS ON ADDITIONAL AMENITIES</b>	
1	Always nice to have water fountains. Also, gathering areas for groups of people: This could be a picnic shelter or an area with enough seating for a group.
2	Sometimes we do have folks with medications. We can bring our own, but access to water could be helpful. We would like a water fountain.
3	Ensure that gates are accessible (no more than 5 pounds of pressure) and wide enough for hand cycles to easily fit through (at least 3 feet wide).
4	It is important to provide shade, even if it is just a kiosk with an overhang. Manufacturing shade on trails where there are no trees could be beneficial for all visitors.
5	The most important thing is the trail maintenance. The trails need to be excellent. We would go anywhere if the trails were excellent. Spend more time on trails and less time on the amenities. The more amenities you have, the more crowded and touristy it becomes.
6	Mark which trails are accessible online. Are they wheelchair accessible or not. If we know in advance, then we would visit your parks. It doesn't have to be a bunch, but post the wheelchair symbol. Also, there are a lot of families that want to do recreation with their family. This symbol helps them find places to go more easily online.
7	Might not be practical, but in a perfect world, a water fountain would be there.

**When your organization or group decides to visit a park or open space, what information do you look for?**

*Table 35: Specific comments about where respondents get information about parks*

<b>RESPONDENTS COMMENTS ON INFORMATION ABOUT PARKS</b>	
1	Accessibility of restrooms, picnic areas, safety of the trails, and what there is to do there. A lot is the accessibility and safety piece. We are out there to enjoy it, not to participate in the activities they have there. We are interested in being there, experiencing the outdoors and the beauty of it. Gathering in the open space, enjoying time together, and providing opportunities for education and learning.
2	Important information includes: trail length, cross slope, grade, features, plants and wildlife, and difficulty.
3	Location of the property, we don't have all day to drive. We look for places that are equal distance for most people we are picking up. We need to know that there are restrooms for sure. Pictures of trails online, even if just an aerial map to see how big it is and how big the parking lot is. We also consider places we have been to before that a lot of people really liked.
4	Look for pictures and I feel like I can never find pictures of places. I find random landscape shots. I would like to have a virtual tour. We want to see the campsite, everything that is right around it. We want to be able to access everything we want from

one location. We do the research online and then do a site visit. Typically, we do a site visit after we have confirmed we are going on the trip. If we can't see photos, then we won't go there.

5 Is it accessible? What kind of trails? Is there a picnic area/shelter? Are there bathrooms? What is the length of the trail and difficulty? We want to make sure it is appropriate for everyone.

6 We visit in advance. I am not comfortable going unless I know everything we need is there - the bathrooms and the parking lot. We don't want to fumble around as staff.

7 How far of a drive is it? We don't want to spend a lot of time driving. Is there a bathroom? What is the trail made of? Is it flat or is it bumpy? Is there shade? Is there a way to do some education about flora and fauna? Is it super busy? Are there mountain bikes or dogs? Is it crusher fine, is it dirt, etc.? I always go out and scope it out beforehand.

### Where do you get that information?

Table 36: Specific comments about where respondents get information about parks

<b>RESPONDENTS COMMENTS ON INFORMATION ABOUT PARKS</b>	
1	Parks and Rec Department in Larimer county and City of Fort Collins. Googling things. Thinking about would this make sense for our groups?
2	Online. I usually google it.
3	Online. I go to the Boulder City Open Space or Boulder County website. I look at the specific agencies website depending on the location of the park.
4	Online. I Google it. I don't think we would go to the open space website; we would usually start with singletrack.com and read user reviews. After we do the research, we would ask if we can use their site and get a special use permit.
5	Websites and word of mouth. Researching it online.
6	I used the Boulder OSMP Accessible guide. I know there is a website to, so I would use that to figure out where to start.
7	Call Topher at the City of Boulder, and say this is what I want to do, where should I go? He suggested the Ute trail. There is parking, bathrooms, lots of shade, etc. He is really my go to. I also go to the website as well.

### Are you having any problems finding the information you need?

Table 37: Participants that replied they have are not having any problems finding information

<b>NO NOT HAVING PROBLEMS FINDING INFORMATION</b>	
1	No, the Larimer county website is pretty easy to use. I contact them for information and to learn about what is available. We don't usually meet anybody out on the trail.
2	Not really. It is good to have the relationship. It is good to have a representative of the agency there to meet the group and talk about the area.
3	No, I am still at the beginning of that process. So far it feels pretty user friendly.

Table 38: Specific comments about problems respondents have finding information about parks

YES	RESPONDENTS COMMENTS ON PROBLEMS FINDING INFORMATION
1	Sometimes. The Forest Service is usually pretty good. Sometimes I cannot find information about cross slope and grade. If that happens then I will look for a description of the difficulty or a rating. Although many organizations are moving away from rating difficulty of trails, since all people have different abilities.
2	Photos and/or video would be very helpful for visitors. The biggest problem is restrooms. Not just that there are restrooms, but how big are they. We need family style restrooms. That is where the pictures come into play. My definition of accessible versus your definition of accessible might be very different. I might be the person in the restroom with that person and I can look at a picture and say that is not going to work.
3	I think you guys could partner with the City of Boulder. That basic information, this is the grade. That would be great for families, for seniors, and for all sorts of people. It is not just for people with disabilities. Pella was great, but there is not a wheelchair accessible fishing pier. More family friendly hikes in Longmont would be great.
4	It is a little bit more difficult to find accessible trails. For Brainard, we researched, but didn't know what to expect. We asked the park ranger how far we could get, but there wasn't a lot of information. There is not much online, unless you dive into it and read reviews. It is not posted from the official sites letting us know if it is accessible. We do our best to get a hold of people. A lot of times they are not sure. They will say, "Oh I think so, I think you should be good." But there is a big difference between I think so and yes go for it.

## APPENDIX B: TABLES OF OPEN-ENDED SURVEY RESPONSES

### ONLINE SURVEY

**Open Space and park properties allow a variety of activities such as hiking, biking, picnicking, relaxing, and dog walking. Do the types of activities allowed affect your decision whether or not to visit a property?**

*Table 39: Comments from visitors that have not visited open space in the past 12 months*

<b>RESPONDENTS COMMENTS ON WHETHER ACTIVITIES IMPACT VISITATION</b>	
1	Dogs
2	I am on oxygen which makes these activities difficult for me
3	I must use a disability scooter to get around
4	I have been in a wheelchair for more than a year
5	We would like to attend the parks to participate in these activities at a location that is wheelchair accessible and has safe parking
6	Afraid of the bikes and dogs

*Table 40: Comments from visitors that have visited open space in the past 12 months*

<b>RESPONDENTS COMMENTS ON WHETHER ACTIVITIES IMPACT VISITATION</b>	
1	Loose dogs, especially if chasing wildlife are scary. Bikers hog some of the narrower trails and almost no bikers announce their presence: "On you left..." so we are taken by surprise.
2	We like our dogs to come with us. I need a wide firm path with mostly level ground for my Segway wheelchair.
3	I decide where to go based upon what I want to do there
4	I bike, hike and I am a dog owner so depending on what I'm doing I decide where to go
5	Hiking is not as enjoyable on a heavily biked area, so I choose my areas accordingly.
6	Because I can get along with everyone
7	I used to have a dog, so I go to those places. I have hearing loss, so I prefer a place without bicycles. I have hearing loss so runners coming up behind me mistakenly think saying on your left or on your right is all they have to do is enough are a real problem.
8	I can't be around pesticide spraying and also have a dog
9	I avoid trails with untethered canines.
10	My wife has cancer and I'm a diabetic. Outdoor exercise like biking, handball ,walking is very good for our health, why aren't there any outdoor handball courts in Colorado?
11	The more accessible space for activities the better. Motion is the potion.
12	Types of activities allowed do not reflect beauty of a site.
13	I go to the property & do what my ability allows. Not a victim.
14	I believe people should enjoy most all activities available on public land.
15	Want to take horses or dogs sometimes. Ride scooter.
16	If trail is NOT easily walkable, I can't use trail
17	If I can do something myself at home or just anywhere why travel for only one or 2 options?

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18	My main activities are dog walking and electric bicycling
19	I avoid trails with Dangerous aggressive cyclists
20	I prefer to avoid trails very heavily used by bikers & aggressive dogs.
21	Disabilities can be emotional, mental or physical, but all need the outdoors
22	I avoid places that allow biking
23	Disability limits many activities
24	Sometimes I have my mom who is in the chair that unfolds into a wheelchair
25	I avoid places with horses and ATVs that scare my child
26	If we can't do the allowed activities we don't visit
27	Depends on where I am going. Specifically, if I choose to hike with my dog on a trail that is frequented by mountain bikers and the trail is fast with poor sightlines it can be dangerous inconvenient. Alternatively, if I choose to ride a mountain bike trail and it has fast downhill regardless of sightlines and it has frequent hikers I will generally not choose to ride there or at specific times of day.
28	I use a handcycle and not every open space works for me
29	With a disability it is terrifying to cope with bikes and dogs.
30	I like to take my dogs. Sometimes I don't want to deal with bikes.
31	I CAN ONLY USE TRAILS THAT HAVE WHEELCHAIR ACCESS
32	If something I (we) want to do is not allowed, it influences our decision to go there.
33	I like to fly fish from my wheelchair.
34	Various reasons. If a trail is really crowded I might decline. If the trail is shady I might choose it due to heat factors. If I know there is a bathroom nearby, it probably is at the top of the list.
35	When it comes to hiking and biking trails, in general if mountain biking is allowed the trail is too difficult for my disability to navigate safely
36	I can only walk on flat surfaces due to fatigue with disability
37	I am not able to walk far.
38	Picnic areas are important for shade, rest, and an accessible place to eat lunch.
39	If the trails are steep and uneven I usually avoid them
40	Bikes often go very fast and do not warn that they are approaching. This is hard and can be dangerous for those with hearing loss.
41	It depends on what I want to do that day determines where I will go whether it's hiking, biking or taking my toddler on a creek/nature exploration
42	Mostly weather determines whether we visit.
43	Depending on what is in the mood to be encountered.
44	I avoid popular places with mountain biking because if I am on my horse or in my wheelchair, I am very vulnerable to being hit. Additionally, bikes sometimes don't acknowledge right of way.
45	Mountain bikers are aggressive
46	If no dogs are allowed we choose someplace else
47	I use a service dog
48	Never heard of it
49	I walk and bike
50	I use a wheelchair part time and busy paths are harder to navigate either way for me

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51	I have to be able to move around without upsetting other visitors and still be able to enjoy the visit.
52	Can I walk my dog?
53	I am mobility impaired.
54	I go to family picnics which I can access
55	I prefer to walk and I do not have a dog or bike. If an Open Space is available to the public, I assume walking is allowed
56	I drive to as many spots as I may to see as much as possible, and to enjoy just being in nature.
57	The areas chosen I accept the fact that others are there to enjoy as well.
58	We are never able to take my nephew in a wheelchair to the better areas
59	I have dogs
60	I look for a place that is safe for my wheelchair and me
61	Biking and hiking

**Select all Boulder County Parks & Open Space properties you have visited.**

*Table 41: Participants that replied they visited an "other" BCPOS property were asked to please specify.*

<b>OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)</b>	
1	Wonderland Lake in Boulder
2	I go mostly to the South Boulder Creek trail accessed from Baseline. I would suggest adding more benches along the trail so handicapped and those who would like to sit along the trail but can't just sit on a rock or a downed tree can rest and enjoy the environment.
3	Myers gulch and Ethel Harold
4	Settler's Park, Chataqua
5	Singletree Trail - remove cement statues/etc.
6	We ride all over on the trail system, Boulder Rez, Eagle Trail, around Niwot, Gunbarrel and Longmont
7	Boulder Valley Ranch; South Boulder (entrance off S. Broadway, before the trailer park on the west); White Rocks. (don't know what the official names are)
8	Dowdy Draw, Chautauqua
9	Wonderland
10	Teller Ponds
11	Boulder Valley Ranch
12	Visit a lot of city of Boulder properties
13	Sunflower farm
14	Button Rock
15	I was born and raised in Boulder, am 60 now. I used to hike, walk, and ride horses where all most all of Boulder has grown. So, to narrow it down to a few is hard, I used to ride horses in Eldorado springs, but we hiked as well.
16	I don't remember. I met with my daughter's family
17	Flatiron vista

**Tell us about a positive experience you've had during a visit to any park or open space.**

*Table 42: Respondents reflections on a specific positive experience on open space*

<b>REFLECTIONS ON A POSITIVE PARK VISIT</b>	
1	It's always positive when lots of birds are present.
2	The exchange of pleasantries with the young mountain bikers.
3	I really enjoy the Pella Crossing area, the views are terrific. My wife and I like bringing our two dogs with us.
4	Unexpected wildflower field as far as the eye could see!
5	Great interactions with Rangers. My children really enjoy some on the educational programs you put on.
6	Well maintained trails are great. Knowing that areas/properties are maintained with specific things in mind (trails that are groomed for biking, or that might be heavily trafficked by horses, no dogs allowed, bird watching structures, etc.). I also love running into a ranger or educator who wants to talk.
7	When I am on foot, it seems as if all users are happy and helpful
8	Enjoying our walks with our dogs and meeting people on the trail.
9	Fishing pier at Sawhill Ponds is very accessible to a wheelchair and easy access to parking.
10	Nature is healing
11	Air quality was good, weather nice, trail conditions smooth and uncrowded very early in morning. My husband opened gates for me on so bo creek trail. Others were patient.
12	As always the lovely view peace and quiet
13	Its clean, beautiful
14	The scenery
15	Groomed trails, available and frequent trash containers, clean restrooms.
16	Has been clean. Dogs have been on leashes/well controlled.
17	We have great parks that have driven up the costs of living here. I love the 'green donut' as much as I dislike it.
18	Ample parking
19	Enthusiasm and friendliness of other visitors.
20	Historic recognition of Superior
21	Ease of access to trails.
22	Getting to meet other people with my disability and getting to play with horses
23	Watching wildlife and enjoying the views.
24	I am 66 and currently have a torn MCL. If I could not ride my electric bike I would be extremely limited. MY hubby is also 66 and takes medicine for blood pressure - ditto on being able to ride electric bike.
25	It's usually positive
26	Seeing owls on the White Rocks trail late one fall evening.
27	I hike and enjoy time with my wife
28	I really love wildflowers, natural scenery and trails free of rocks
29	Few people around. Bathrooms available!
30	Boulder is so beautiful. Thank you for taking care of the land for us to admire!

31	We marveled at the heron rookery at Pella
32	Enjoy scenery, being outside
33	We are able to hike or bike together. The exercise works really well to control my husband's Parkinson's symptoms. He used to be an amazing athlete (competitive mountain bike racer), so being able to get out on a bike or hike is really important for his self-esteem as well.
34	Pretty much every experience I have at the open spaces are positive, from just getting out and getting some exercise to taking pictures or chatting with other people and they are almost always interested in talking when they see a guy in a chair rolling down the trail!
35	Poorly maintained trails (rocks, roots, lack of drainage, trail fall away, dangerous bridges or river crossings in spring, etc.)
36	I appreciate having well-spaced benches on open space properties so I can sit during my visit to the location.
37	Great opportunity to get kids out in nature so close to our house.
38	Benches and shade structures. but these are very limited.
39	Wonderful senior hike at caribou. Loved learning the history of the park.
40	It's beautiful! Love Walden Ponds. My husband used a wheelchair so we love to hike and picnic there.
41	Great to find nature spots tucked away among the suburban landscape.
42	The approach to a rock climbing wall was kept well maintained
43	The trails are nice to travel on.
44	I like how most of the properties have a covered picnic area. Gives me time to rest and cool down before getting in the car and driving back. I love being outside and I love all my visits (my mobility issues just limit the activities I can perform there or the length of time I'm capable of staying)
45	Enjoying the beauty and being in nature
46	I always enjoy being in the outdoors.
47	The accessible fishing piers are always a hit!
48	So many trails this spring and summer have been rewarding because the birding and wildflowers have been so great.
49	Lots of great experiences meeting other users of the open space. People are almost always courteous, friendly, and helpful.
50	Enjoy the sounds of the birds. Very stinky and dirty bathrooms at Boulder Valley Ranch trail.
51	Coal Creek trail is really accessible for someone who walks with forearm crutches
52	Anytime I'm outside seeing others recreate in our beautiful environment.
53	Beautiful
54	Most experiences I have are positive. There are many horse accessible trails that allow me to enjoy nature, and a surprising number of wheelchair accessible trails, especially when I use my all terrain attachment. I also love educational walks that are wheelchair accessible.
55	To be able to see a bird for minutes on end
56	Nothing specific.

57	Good trails allowing for wheelchairs (paved)
58	Visiting open space property gives me the chance to relax and get away from the stresses of everyday life.
59	Usually clean
60	Accessible parking is always a plus! I like the ramp up at mud lake, too
61	Walk with spouse
62	Seeing nature and getting fresh air. I can't go backwoods hiking or rough camping so I can get a taste of it.
63	Most of the positive experiences are in the past now, but anytime I see people playing and enjoying the places I watched being created is cool.
64	Nature. Ahhhhh.....
65	delightful family picnics
66	Generally nice people.
67	The accessible fishing pier at Sawhill Ponds is great. Easy parking and access to the pier with a cutout to fish from a wheelchair.
68	I have enjoyed driving up to the locations and the views along the way.
69	Parks have been well maintained, friendly and knowledgeable staff, clean amenities, well-lit communal areas.
70	See moose, deer, elk, wildflowers...
71	They were all positive we just need more area for the wheelchairs to be able to go. More stable places for people who can't walk with balance.
72	They are all generally positive
73	There was a very kind ranger from New Zealand!
74	Always good to be outdoors! When walking with a cane, finding a bench is always welcome!
75	I like being in nature. I don't often get that opportunity
76	Seeing Rocky Mountain Bluebirds in the spring, getting a great jog in.
77	Walden Ponds has platforms for kids with wheelchairs
78	Well maintained but not accessible

**Tell us about a disappointment or problem you've had during a visit to any park or open space.**

*Table 43: Respondents reflections on a specific disappointment or problem during a park visit*

<b>REFLECTIONS ON A DISAPPOINTMENT DURING A PARK VISIT</b>	
1	I called the police because of a woman allowing her huge pit bull to bark and growl at me. It was loose and she told me that we were in a "dog park, and I needed to leave." Had few problems with other people who own aggressive dogs and refused to call them, when they were asked. Most dog owners are respectable. The ones who allow or encourage their dogs to chase wildlife are very disturbing.
2	Even easy, flat trails are often times difficult for use of crutches.
3	I cannot always determine from the on-line descriptions of parks/open spaces if the path will be wide enough for my Segway wheelchair - I need at least 30" and no obstructions such as boulders or rocks or poles in the way. Since it is an effort to bring my Segway, unload it from the van, and transfer onto it, I want to be sure ahead of time I will have

	access.
4	Too much foot traffic
5	I'm a volunteer firefighter in Boulder, Gilpin, and Jefferson county and spend time protecting these areas. I don't love having to pay \$5.00 to go for a gorgeous trail run, but if that's what BCOS needs to protect the lands I guess I can get over it.
6	Really only unruly dogs off leash, and that is not much of an issue these days. I think it was a bigger issue in the past.
7	When I am on a bike, it seems as if there is a fair share of pedestrian traffic that are unwilling to share the trail, regardless of my approach
8	People on bikes riding too fast up behind us and not giving notice and then getting mad when we don't get out of their way fast enough. This happens both when we are walking and when we are riding horses and is dangerous.
9	The biggest problem is "accessible" trails that are not actually wheelchair friendly. It is difficult to push a 200-pound person in a wheelchair through gravel, even with a slight incline. We've also had problems with accessible parking not being close to other accessible services, like fishing piers.
10	Hard to find places that aren't sprayed ever. Really sad about that. It really does linger. Also, with more off leash with dog bc hard to manage while on leash although the dog had tags for off leash. Just not enough nearby places for that
11	Crowding, unleashed dogs, gates, speeding bicyclists, runners in groups not sharing trail, heavy unwieldy gates, parking
12	There are no outdoor handball courts at any of the locations we have visited
13	Parking
14	Ironically, cyclists riding too fast while e-bikers ride with care.
15	Sometimes you see dog poo in plastic bags left along trails.
16	I get tired of all the 'PC' involved in these processes.
17	Un-even walking path, pooling water on trail
18	None
19	Cement statues west of bridge on Singletree Trail
20	Bicycles on the trails.
21	Bad parking. Feces. Too hilly. Bad terrain. Prairie dogs.
22	Sometimes bicycles are traveling too fast and we need to move out of the way quickly
23	A big red sign saying not to ride electric bikes there even though these bikes are not self-propelled - they must be pedaled. I believe that is from a huge lack of knowledge regarding the vehicle.
24	There is a serious lack of bathrooms/outhouses in general on open space.
25	A dog bit me and the owner was clueless and careless. A friend's car was broken into & purse stolen.
26	I am unable to forage for fauna (hunt) I can't even cross open space to access Forest Service land to hunt denying my use of public lands that belong to all US citizens.
27	Using an e-bike and being prohibited on some trails.
28	Average citizens or those without computers (yes not all have these) don't always know of the location of open spaces and parks
29	No bathrooms, and not enough parking

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- 30 People had their dogs off lease.
- 31 Closures
- 32 We don't have a problem or disappointment. As his symptoms progress, he is less able to bike (weakness, fatigue etc.). So being able to use an electric bike is going to be very important. I was so thankful to learn recently that he will be able to use an e-bike because of the medical exemption. Thank you so much for making the trails accessible for everyone.
- 33 Bald Mountain has some stairs going directly west of it...
- 34 Dog poop bags lining the side of trails
- 35 Dislike having to pay to park if you aren't a boulder resident. Some places have steps and other inaccessible things that a handcyclist can't do
- 36 I've stopped going to certain BCPOS properties because of off leash dogs and bikes going too fast. Several serious run-ins with both.
- 37 More shaded areas needed for sitting. More seating along paths. More areas to picnic with family near trailheads.
- 38 Dog poop bags left on the trail, not recycling cans at all trailheads, and no running water.
- 39 I wish that Walden would connect to Sawhill and both could be wheelchair accessible for a longer hike.
- 40 Would rather take the bus to get to some of these spots (especially on weekends). Any way to work with RTD to create a special circular route on weekends that would allow us to not crowd the limited parking and access several open space properties?
- 41 It's difficult to get to if you cannot drive
- 42 I don't need a concrete pad with a railing by the rivers. They get in the way of casting. Just access to flat areas bordering the river with parking off the highways. Prior to the floods there used to be numerous pull-offs down to the rivers. Many of those were not replaced, just steep rocky roadsides.
- 43 More frequent benches would make a world of difference for me. I have to use a cane, trekking poles or forearm crutches depending on the day. Benches provide a 5-minute rest that recharges my body and allows me to walk further on the property and leave the whole experience less exhausted than properties with very few benches. A bench at the end of a more difficult stretch (big incline, extra rocky surface) would be appreciated because I would know if I push through the tough spot I would have a place to recover safely
- 44 Finding it has more than just a very small amount of incline on the trail and I can't do it
- 45 The gravel in the parking lot is difficult to walk across. It would be nice if the lots were paved, or at least if the area between the handicapped parking areas and the shelter were paved.
- 46 The accessible parking spots are not identified as "van accessible," so our lifts have been blocked by another vehicle.
- 47 No parking available closed for repairs or construction materials in trails
- 48 When I walk or bike on some of the flat trails like Bobolink I am often uncomfortable because of the bikes speeding along these trails. With poor hearing this can be scary.
- 49 Too much fencing, too much closed off from trail. I get the want to limit access for
-

environmental protection, but too much inhibits learning and enjoyment to certain types of recreation like hiking and biking instead of exploring a small area like a creek or wooded area. This is much more an issue with Boulder City OSMP than county.

- 50 Can't think of any except the Ann U. White trail still being closed.
- 51 Some kind of fencing would be nice to avoid tripping down the side when someone is vision impaired. Accessible warning signs for wildlife or anything else would be helpful as well too
- 52 RUTS! These are especially bad when the ground dries after heavy rains on dirt trails. Crutches get caught in ruts and can cause falls. Sometimes there's no way to get around them so you just have to turn around and end the hike.
- 53 Trash in the park areas, dog feces, parking availability. Challenges for folks with disability issues.
- 54 Handicap fishing dock was for other people who didn't want to move. Bikers acted like wheelchair shouldn't be on the trail that handicap fishing pier was for other people who didn't want to move. Bikers acted like wheelchair shouldn't be on the trail at Cetera so I have only been back once.
- 55 Almost all negative experiences are due to overzealous bikers. I have been run into a couple times in my chair, and my horse has been spooked many times when bikes come by quickly and too closely without announcing themselves. Most bikers are great, but the ones that aren't are dangerous.
- 56 Restrooms not available or under par
- 57 Lack of car parking.
- 58 Gravel trails, or poorly maintained trails
- 59 Problem or disappointment is that there are not enough of these areas, combined with surprisingly few of them are legitimately accessible.
- 60 Sometimes no "poop" bags or trash cans FULL!
- 61 Dogs off leash. I use a service dog and free-range dogs can be a problem
- 62 Can't go far and can't take my service animal
- 63 People blocking trail
- 64 Cyclists going too fast and not being able to yield quick enough.
- 65 Not having full access is very disappointing to me since I can no longer go to all the places I used too. Blue Bell is a good example, I am one of the few people alive who still remember what it is like to drive up there, now I can't go there. I would say the whole lack of including people with disabilities and boulder natives in designing access has made it hard to get around in most of the parks I used to visit.
- 66 Not able to find a close enough space to park so had to leave
- 67 Limited mobility -- can't park close enough or access from parking is too long
- 68 Sometimes connections are missing or not safe. Example: the portion of LoBo trail on Jay Rd.
- 69 Generally disappointed with the lack of accessible fishing opportunities. Also need to open up open space trails to e-bikes for people with disabilities who use them to fully experience the open spaces.
- 70 Sometimes the accessible parking is inconvenient to the facilities provided. Placement

sometimes assumes that the accessibility is only for those in wheel chairs and not for those who can still walk but not far distances or all at once-no benches handy.

- 71 Some of the handicapped parking areas were too small and made it difficult to park as there wasn't sufficient space to comfortably back into and then access/egress campsite.
- 72 Lack of informational and educational signage. Not enough benches to rest.
- 73 If I had a disability, there are many parking areas and areas that access onto trails that might be impassable. Making these areas harder surface would help due to erosion.
- 74 Can't go far
- 75 Occasionally there are too many people about.
- 76 E-bikes would allow people with heart problems to enjoy biking on the beautiful open spaces!
- 77 Not enough shade
- 78 I cannot do much without assistance because trails are not smooth macadam.
- 79 Lack of access to many areas around Lyons

**Please list any other park amenities that you look for when choosing a park or open space to visit.**

*Table 44: Respondents reflections on preferences for additional park amenities or features*

<b>ADDITIONAL REQUESTED PARK AMENITIES</b>	
1	Are dogs allowed? Does anything block access to the trail from the parking space (pole or bar in the way of a wheelchair)? Is the trail firm dirt/stone or pavement? How hilly is the trail?
2	Family friendly, technical level and exposure
3	Trails that are truly accessible - meaning paved and flat. Accessible parking with loading zones for wheelchairs.
4	No herbicide or pesticide biggest issue impacts my health even if weeks earlier
5	Enforced regs Ranger presence or parking lots patrolled to discourage break ins How about faux cameras or signs warning that lots are surveilled even if not?
6	Signs that encourage people to carry out what they carry in would be nice.
7	Long & wide parking spaces for oversized vehicles.
8	Dogs required to be on-leash
9	None
10	Literature about activities available and how to get them or what I am allowed to do there. Proper ground to roll wheelchair onto independently without being stuck or exhausted
11	If it's walking distance from an RTD stop. Bring back route 201 to Mt Sanitas and route 210 to Chautauqua.
12	Handicap parking places
13	Dispersed camping
14	W/c or walker access ability. At the top of Flagstaff it is helpful to have railings to help for most seniors and children too.
15	None

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16	Shade and dog poop bags
17	Accessibility to persons with disabilities. Smooth walkway or trail and benches. I don't fish, but if a fishing pier would allow a person with disability to fish, then that is important.
18	Dogs allowed, and bikes biking in one direction or only on certain days.
19	Smooths surface
20	Level trails (for accessible devices) and drinking fountains.
21	Accessible via public transport
22	Access to rivers or ponds, lakes, etc.
23	Difficulty rating of trail so I can easily choose a trail for the day based on my level of disability (each day is different, some days I'm much more capable than others, disability accessible signage, disability bathroom stall (or if not possible grab bars installed in non-handicapped stall-after hiking my legs are weak and standing back up in the bathroom independently is almost impossible without grab bars)
24	Shaded areas near the picnic shelter
25	Information needs to be clear. Trail signs readable. Bear proof trash containers clearly marked. Pack it in pack it out
26	Can't think of any
27	Wide trails for those with disabilities so we can be side by side
28	When working with blind athletes and family members, we look for a wide enough trail for the guide to be side-by-side with the athlete.
29	Audio/tactile signage and emergency call phone booth
30	Handicap parking so there's enough room to get out of the vehicle. Easy/moderate terrain to avoid super steep hills. Prefer crushed rock to dirt trails. Nice weather! Trails are slippery even when the rain is light.
31	Different activities clearly stated, clear area mapping and educational boards. SOLID TRAILWORK whether accessible or not. There are many trails esp. in mountains that need work to improve latent drainage issues and revegetate damaged areas.
33	I think there should be many more signs explaining right of way, especially in relation to horses and wheelchairs.
34	Ones without a lot of mountain bikers
35	Ability for shade when it is hot out.
36	Bathrooms that are roomy enough to assist someone with mobility challenges. Also changing facilities in men's and women's restroom or a family restroom.
37	Any or all aspects that make the area more accessible/enjoyable
38	Accessible parking i.e. handicap parking.
39	I don't personally have a dog anymore, but I think it's great to have pet bag/waste stations frequently to encourage their use.
40	Handicap parking
41	Handicapped trails. More wheel trail accessible trails like Buttonrock would be wonderful!

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42	Shade, pleasant surroundings for picnic tables
43	Knowing what type of terrain it has, how the icy conditions are. Dog bags available.
44	Layout of the parking and facilities areas. Handholds for inclines (not necessarily handrails) Some trails that are shorter (less than a mile) and not all dirt and with benches.
45	Accessible parking, accessible restrooms
46	Clean potable water.
47	Scenic views and wildlife viewing opportunities
48	Places that are easy for people in wheelchairs
49	Frequent benches for people with disabilities to use and rest are very important.
50	Dogs allowed, shaded areas
51	Trail only work if it is smooth, not stone or little gravel
52	Access

**When you decide to visit a park or open space, what information do you look for?**

*Table 45: Participants that replied they look for “other” information were asked to please specify.*

<b>OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)</b>	
1	Not sprayed and dog friendly
2	Views are the biggest draw, close in town (lower elevation), wide flat trails, maintained if natural, are ideal
3	Handball courts
4	Degree of difficulty - are there steep bits.
5	Bus routes
6	When hiking I look for dog/bike free trails or places that allow off trail hiking.
7	Access to public transit
8	Shade
9	Your not going to like this but going off trail is fun. Being able to safely do that for those who can walk and get around (I have friends who are in chairs and scooters). I can no longer go to the area where I learned to fish on Boulder Creek because someone put big chains and now want me to walk on trails that go nowhere near where I want to be.
10	Parking
11	I go where the family wants to meet
12	Safety from wildlife and humans

**What information about parks and open space properties is missing or challenging to find.**

*Table 46: Missing and hard to find information when planning a visit to a park or open space property*

<b>HARD TO FIND OR MISSING INFORMATION ABOUT PARKS</b>	
1	Width of trails, hilly, dogs allowed
2	Signage to ask runners to pass on the right or something to alert them to the need to be sure their warnings when coming up behind someone are heard.

- 3 The material and incline of an accessible trail. Saying there is only a 30-foot elevation gain doesn't mean anything when the trail requires you to gain and lose the same 30 feet over and over.
- 4 Off leash and not ever sprayed or spraying schedule in same place as trails. Also, signs are horrible re spraying bc they take them down too fast
- 5 Virtual tours of trails would be fabulous to determine width, elevation changes, blind corners, etc.
- 6 Handball courts
- 7 Nothing comes to mind.
- 8 Information in our mountain towns is limited.
- 9 Offered activities and accessible options
- 10 Not sure
- 11 Location of various open spaces and parks; Chatauqua is way too crowded now!!!
- 12 Roughness of terrain. How well the trail is actually marked.
- 13 Perhaps this exists, but I'm not aware of an accessibility map and brochure for BCPOS properties.
- 14 More directional signs with mileage needed. Not just arrows pointing to the name of the trail.
- 15 Wheelchair access
- 16 Trail conditions
- 17 Accessible sites with decent fly-fishing stretches.
- 18 Incline info very hard to find
- 19 NA
- 20 Accessibility. Hours open
- 21 I usually get the info I need
- 22 Public transportation (RTD) access to a trail
- 23 Some trails that are considered not wheelchair accessible are doable with my terrain chair. However, it's difficult to get info on specifics of the trail (incline, stairs, how rocky) if the trail is not specifically for chairs. I often need to send out a friend as a scout.
- 24 How busy and restroom locations
- 25 Park rangers do not always have a firm grasp on what is meant by "accessible."
- 26 Nothing
- 27 Everything mentioned
- 28 Sometimes I can't tell until I get there if I should even bother going.
- 29 Real time conditions
- 30 If there is some statement a to the varying levels of physical activity that are required to enjoy the park or open space.
- 31 Accurate information about accessibility. For example, an accessible fishing pier that isn't located anywhere near parking is not helpful.
- 32 Accessible Trails and Sites guide like Boulder OSMP has
- 33 Terrain info. Trail surface
- 34 I typically don't look up the park. I just show up

**Are there any specific changes that would make open space more accessible for you (or your family member, friend, or client with a disability)?**

*Table 47: Specific changes to improve accessibility of parks for individuals*

<b>MODIFICATIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS</b>	
1	More posted rules: prohibiting dogs from chasing wildlife; dogs must be on voice commands; owners must call dogs if someone tells them to; and more rules prohibiting humans from taking plants etc. from open space.
2	Caribou looks like an easy one to make accessible. The trail from the parking lot to the railway is pretty flat already. A little smoothing, a little fill, and a few more benches would really open up this special place.
3	Better photos of trails or better descriptions of the trails: width, surface, inclines, distance.
4	Additional trails that are wider, less rugged, and have more of a gradual grade
5	Sensory trails
6	No
7	Add benches along trails. We aren't all 30 something athletes in Boulder.
8	Better education especially with who has the right of way and trail etiquette. My main concern is with bicyclists.
9	More paved trails on open space to make them more accessible to wheelchairs.
10	No more herbicide spraying and if have to than better signs for longer and notices online with trail info and for those who need to be with a dog more off leash
11	Remove gates on south boulder creek trail or chain them open when possible Ranger enforcement of regs, police presence or warning in parking lots, signs that encourage runner groups to share the trail, additional wide, flat trails close to or just outside town like hogan pancost open space
12	Add outdoor handball courts
13	No, the trails are already much too crowded
14	None come to mind
15	Yes. Any and all assurances that Oil and Gas Fracking will never occur on open space properties.
16	No
17	Host events for adaptive recreation
18	Electric bikes (class 1) allowed on all trails
19	Allow disability motor scooters
20	Yes, I would run more local bus routes directly to trail heads. Also, I would install more public restrooms where feasible.
21	Wide trails with minimal rocks & tree roots are preferable as I walk with a cane.
22	Allow E bikes on designated bike paths
23	Transportation to these places
24	More bathrooms
25	N/A
26	No - being able to use the electric mountain bike is going to really help us. Thank you.
27	No

- 28 Class 1 e-assist acceptance needs to be expanded though I know Boulder County is very progressive in this area. This would be specific to individuals with permanent disabilities riding specifically built adaptive bikes. Other typical 2 wheeled e-bikes with disabled riders should have a process of acceptance as well
- 29 Designate some more accessible trails and properties bike and dog free so persons with disabilities do not have to deal with those conflicts.
- 30 More space for all ages near the trail heads. Some folks want to sit and enjoy being in nature, others hike. More shaded picnic area. More signage on bikes yielding to hikers. More hikes focusing on the mental health benefits of being outside.
- 31 More disability picnic tables and wider pathways from the handicap parking space to the trailhead.
- 32 Connect with adaptive rec orgs and have them send out info to those of us that can use it and share opportunities that are available
- 33 Eliminate gates or make them accessible
- 34 Parking (or bus access).
- 35 Accessible by public transportation
- 36 Pull offs down to the rivers without large overgrowth and decent fishing water. Pools, etc. With flat areas not too rocky or muddy.
- 37 More options for e-bikes.
- 38 More benches (especially after hard stretches of trail)
- 39 More trails with no or very little incline in areas that are beautiful and not just on farmland
- 40 I would like accessible trails
- 41 Paved parking lots would be very helpful, because I am unsteady on my feet. When I use a wheelchair, my 85-year old wife has to push me, so she would appreciate paving also.
- 42 Sometimes the bridges are pretty sketchy to get on to with a motorized wheelchair. Cattle guards/Cattle gates are challenging to navigate independently in a wheelchair (but necessary, I know!) :)
- 43 More benches accessible toilets
- 44 More parking spaces
- 45 I think the county has made improvements to accessibility for people with disabilities but it seems like there needs to be more overt outreach.
- 46 Not that I can think of
- 47 Bench or picnic seating at trailhead of Eagle/Sage in Boulder Valley Ranch. (end of Longhorn rd.).
- 48 Fencing around strep edges, audible signage, app for the trail that specifies every detail for the trail
- 49 Handicap parking with enough space on passenger side of vehicle for easy transfer. Paved trails with reasonable incline. Bathrooms that are large enough for wheel chair access
- 50 Improve ease of opening gates from a chair, include more right of way explanation signs, and have bike free days on popular trails
- 51 An easy walk with no bikes and dogs only on leash

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- 52 I do not know trails that are accessible to me. Safety is an issue, a homeless man was touching me on Boulder Creek Trail and I am not able to run. I need trails for walkers.
- 53 More ADA parking
- 54 Many people are becoming seniors in Boulder County
- 55 Paved areas leading to picnic areas
- 56 A LOT more of it. With at least a good portion of the areas being reasonably accessible.
- 57 The handicap parking at Caribou is tight. That curb restricts pulling in. Forces car too close to able body parking space
- 58 Better trails and restrooms for ADA
- 59 I will always say closer parking with more locations, however wouldn't want to pave all the nature I'm going to see
- 60 Stop sterilizing my home town.
- 61 Perhaps not realistic, but maybe have a day where people with mobility issues or sensory integration issues could have a trail to themselves.
- 62 Provide info on whether an area is wheelchair accessible or not. Which parts of an area are accessible, etc.
- 63 Develop a real time app with all features of the open space and trail conditions (weather).
- 64 Benches, shade and restrooms. Handholds along ramp areas greater than 15%.
- 65 It would be great if some trails could be paved for wheelchair access. More benches are essential. E-bike access on all trails for those with disabilities.
- 66 Though the situation is getting better more wheelchair accessible areas and ramps are needed. Thanks.
- 67 More benches
- 68 Making the trails better for people in wheelchairs or making special trails for them. They all would love to go farther into the mountains
- 69 Harden access points and accessible parking areas from erosion. Add bright colors for trail intersections where visually impaired might miss the area.
- 70 Accessible transit access on weekends and evenings, recreational programming that directly targets older adults and people with disabilities, more wheelchair friendly trails, more benches
- 71 E-bikes would allow people with cardiovascular problems to enjoy the bicycle trails.
- 72 Clear roots and large rocks so that I can climb steep trails on my Segway/AddSeat.
- 73 I am afraid to go alone because I do not feel safe in my wheelchair sitting somewhere in a park and having to wait for a return bus pickup. If an unsavory stranger would approach, I do not have any place to go and cannot move anywhere quickly because of accessibility issues and my own body issues
- 74 Offer programs for children with learning disabilities
- 75 Education and available access
- 76 Board walks flat no rocks
- 77 No
-

**Is there anything else you want to share that would increase your enjoyment of parks and open space properties?**

*Table 48: Anything else open-ended responses*

<b>ANYTHING ELSE REFLECTIONS</b>	
1	Thanks for providing open space and not building on it. We appreciate it Tremendously!
2	Only, thanks for asking.
3	Trees and shade on trails for warm summer months.
4	No, I feel so lucky to live in a county that makes OS a priority and has such gorgeous places to spend time in the outdoors!
5	Let us have more trails to access more of the properties we already own
6	No
7	Thank you for the opportunity
8	Increase dog license fees and regs so that they don't overpopulate trails so many dogs so much barking - maybe more dog parks instead of allowing on trails?
9	Add outdoor handball courts
10	Park Wardens and Rangers we've been in contact with have been knowledgeable and professional. Kudos.
11	Keep up the great work to keep properties clean and convenient to use!
12	Spend our tax dollars wisely & offer more safety education.
13	No ...and thank you for your survey
14	Close 3rd Ave Trailhead SOON- Superior!!! - when OSAC parking area open on McCaslin
15	Doing something in conjunction with the Paralympics or adaptive sports
16	Thank you for this survey!
17	Via thinks my time is worthless but I can only afford so many LYFT's. There is a lack of transportation options for disabled people who aren't interested in a social hike.
18	Soon you will have to set speed limits & safety laws for bicycles and enforce these laws by giving tickets. Ditto dog misbehavior. Please start planning & budgeting for this.
19	Hunting is conservation.
20	No
21	N/A
22	Thank you for maintaining Open Spaces
23	More of them!
24	Fewer crowds! I've given up trying to enjoy nature on BCPOS properties and have switched to city parks and greenways instead. I'm not sure there is a fix for this.
25	Specific programming for minorities and some signs in Spanish.
26	Partner with the city of boulder to make a joint parks map, so there is less confusion.
27	Work with adaptive orgs to implement accessible rec programs and to bring in unique things like charging stations for all to use
28	Hold on to what you've got and buy more before the developers get it!!!
29	Love that we have open space in Boulder available to all.
30	No, thanks!
31	Thank you for considering people with disabilities when planning access to natural areas!

- 
- 32 Better signage and information with accessible trails
- 33 I've never lived in a place that puts more emphasis on providing opportunities to be in nature. Also, I appreciate the guided programs you provide.
- 34 More affordable transportation options that pick and drop at the trailhead
- 35 Just an observation -- dogs off leash tend to be challenging, especially with inattentive owners. Maybe part of the communications on leash laws could reinforce courtesy for trail users with disabilities.
- 36 Keep some of the wheelchair trails closed to bikes, at least some of the time. Adding biking restricts accessibility for people like me.
- 37 Thank you for all you have provided. Having been to a few areas in the Midwest, I feel blessed with what you have done—not complaining.
- 38 Build more. Legion park needs more policing. Odd things happen there. No coverage or bathroom.
- 39 Keep pushing for more protected accessible open space!
- 40 Thanks for asking
- 41 More information
- 42 Thank you.
- 43 It would be highly appreciated if you would make more places where we can go in our wheelchairs without having to have conflicts with able-bodied runners and cyclists just to get some fresh air and exercise. (I know. Welcome to the club.) I live in the mountains west of Boulder, love all the wonderful things you've done, and hope you can find your way to offer a bit more to the handicapped.
- 44 When restrooms are available-clean ones.
- 45 Overall the beauty and cathartic enjoyment of all the parks we visit is phenomenal. Keep up the good work. 👍
- 46 Don't allow bicycles on walking-hiking trails. They go too fast and come up with no warning.
- 47 More shade trees and trails with less ruts on them
- 48 I am very appreciative that this is a discussion. Even if I don't go alone, any changes to make things more accessible also helps my daughter and her family. As they try to maneuver me on gravel and for her baby's stroller also. They go almost biweekly to some park and accessibility for the stroller is as much of an issue for her as it is for my wheelchair.
- 49 Providing shuttle access to some trailheads would make it possible for people who are unable to drive to get to these places. Also providing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to work either as volunteer or paid staff would be a huge step forward for the Downs Syndrome community.
- 50 Shelter for picnic and rain
-

## APPENDIX C: DEMOGRAPHICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Table 49: Choose the option that best describes how you are responding to this survey

	% OF RESPONDENTS	# OF RESPONDENTS
Person with a disability	53%	66
Family member, friend, or work with someone with a disability (Completed survey from their perspective)	47%	58

Total: 124

Table 50: Where do you live?

RESIDENCY	% OF RESPONDENTS	# OF RESPONDENTS
Boulder	29%	31
Longmont	16%	17
Outside Boulder County, but in Colorado	15%	16
Unincorporated Boulder County	10%	11
Louisville	9%	10
Lafayette	6%	6
Lyons	4%	4
Nederland	4%	4
Erie	3%	3
Superior	2%	2
Niwot	1%	1
A town in Boulder County not listed	1%	1
Outside of Colorado	0%	0

Total: 106  
Skipped: 18

Table 51: Which of the following best describes your race or ethnicity? (select all that apply)

ANSWER CHOICES	% OF RESPONDENTS	# OF RESPONDENTS
White or Caucasian	76%	78
I prefer not to answer	14%	14
Hispanic or Latinx	7%	7
Asian or Asian American	3%	3
Black or African American	1%	1
American Indian or Alaska Native	1%	1
I prefer to self-describe (please specify)	1%	1
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0%	0

Total: 103  
Skipped: 21

Table 52: What is your age?

Age	% OF RESPONDENTS	# OF RESPONDENTS
under 10	0%	0
10 - 14	0%	0
15 - 19	2%	2
20 - 24	0%	0
25 - 44	24%	25
45 - 64	46%	49
65 and over	28%	30

Total: 106  
Skipped: 18

## APPENDIX D: INTERVIEW SCRIPT AND SURVEY INSTRUMENT

### INTERVIEW SCRIPT

#### INTERVIEW INTRODUCTION

Good afternoon and welcome. Thanks for taking the time to meet me to talk about use preferences and experiences of people with disabilities at open space and natural areas.

#### OVERVIEW OF THE TOPIC

You were invited because you work (or volunteer) for an organization in the area that serves people with disabilities and you offer opportunities to visit parks and open space. We want to know what you like, what you don't like, and how parks might be improved for your clients.

#### GROUND RULES

There are no wrong answers. I am here to ask questions, listen, and learn from your experiences.

You've probably noticed the microphone. We're tape recording the session because we don't want to miss any of your comments. People often say very helpful things in these discussions, and we can't write fast enough to get them all down. No names will be included in any reports. The report will help county staff determine potential projects and improvements to parks.

#### OPENING QUESTION

Alright, let's get started. Tell me a little bit about the organization where you work (or volunteer), the services you provide and the people you serve.

#### DEFINING PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

(Show pictures of BCPOS parks and urban parks)

For the purpose of this discussion, I want to define what we mean when we say parks, open spaces, or natural areas. These areas are largely undeveloped public land. Open spaces may offer hiking, biking, or horseback riding trails on the plains, in the foothills, or in the mountains. Some areas have lakes or streams for fishing, boating, and birdwatching. This may also include regional trails, a series of soft-surface multi-use trails that connect communities as both transportation and recreation corridors. Some examples of other organizations that manage properties with qualities similar to Boulder County Parks and Open Space include The Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Colorado State Parks, and Rocky Mountain National Park.

We want to avoid discussion of urban and developed parks such as school yards, sports fields, and public plazas. Urban parks with concrete paths and playgrounds also are not part of today's discussion.

In front of you there is “A Guide to Your County Parks” brochure which outlines all of Boulder County’s Parks and Open Space properties. I also sent this to you electronically in an email. As a reminder, if your organization has visited any of our properties, we would appreciate you sharing those experiences. If not, you can still help us by sharing your experiences at other open spaces. Please take a moment to look at the brochure and review.

## LINE OF INQUIRY

### A. VISITATION PATTERNS AND ACTIVITY PREFERENCES

1. Has your organization visited any Boulder County Parks and Open Space properties?  
If no, why not?  
If yes, which ones? Why did your organization choose to visit those properties?
2. Can you give some examples of other open spaces your organization has visited?
3. How often do you go to open space?
4. What activities do your groups most commonly participate in the outdoors?
5. How do you get to open space properties? Do you carpool, drive a van or bus, or meet onsite?
6. Parks and open spaces allow a variety of activities (such as hiking, biking, picnicking, relaxing, and dog walking). Do the types of activities allowed affect your choice whether or not to visit a property with your organization?

### B. FORMER EXPERIENCES RELATED TO PARKS AND TRAILS.

7. Think back to your last recreational outing at an open space with your organization. What was that experience like? Did it meet your expectations? Why or why not?
8. Tell me about a positive experience you’ve had during a visit to a park or open space with your organization.
9. Tell me about a disappointment/problem you’ve had during a visit to a park or open space with your organization.

### C. DESIGN FEATURES FOR PARK AMENITIES AND TRAILS

10. Various park amenities (parking lots, restrooms, picnic areas, trash/recycling, trails) will be written on cards with photos. Respondents will be asked to organize the amenities into a hierarchy based on importance – putting them in differing categories of importance (from most to least important). Each person rates the series of amenities without discussion, and then the results are tabulated and used as a basis for further discussion.
11. Why did you rate these amenities as very important?  
Probe for: specific reasons and preferred design features
12. Why did you rate these amenities as least important?  
Probe for: specific reasons and preferred design features

13. How important are park amenities in your decision for your organization to visit a parks and open space property? Are there specific amenities/qualities that you look for when choosing a park to visit? How important are accessible trails (or trails with gentle grades/slopes) to your group?

#### **D. AVAILABILITY AND USABILITY OF INFORMATION**

14. When your organization decides to visit a park or open space, what information do you look for?

Probe for: the type, level, and details of information desired

15. Where do you get information?

Probe for: lists of specific places, agencies, websites, contacts, etc.

16. Are you having any problems finding the information you need?

#### **E. VISITOR ENJOYMENT**

17. Is there anything else that we haven't talked about that would increase your organizations enjoyment of parks and open space properties?

#### **CLOSING**

Thank you all for taking the time out of your busy schedule to talk with me today. We will be meeting with other groups and then compiling a report that highlights what we heard and what we plan to do based on the findings.

We also plan to use the information we learn from these interviews to inform an online survey for people with disabilities and/or their caretakers to complete. Once we get to that point, if you are willing to include information about this survey in a newsletter or email to help us get more feedback, we would really appreciate it.

All right, thank you again for participating!

## SURVEY INSTRUMENT

The online survey instrument was developed to complement the questions asked during the interviews and was implemented using SurveyMonkey. Some questions throughout the survey were not asked of all respondents. Depending on how respondents answered questions, they were directed to answer additional relevant questions or to skip ahead to the next topic.

**We value your opinion. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey to tell us how we can improve parks and trails for people with disabilities. The survey usually takes no more than 15 minutes to complete. No names or other identifying information will be gathered.**

**The information collected from this survey will help Boulder County Parks & Open Space staff identify potential improvements to our open spaces. Thank you for your help!**

\* 1. Choose the option below that best describes how you are responding to this survey.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> I am a person with a disability.  | <input type="radio"/> I work with someone with a disability and am helping my client complete this survey.     |
| <input type="radio"/> I am a family member or friend of a person with a disability and am helping them complete this survey.          | <input type="radio"/> I work with someone with a disability and am completing this survey from my perspective. |
| <input type="radio"/> I am a family member or friend of a person with a disability and am completing this survey from my perspective. |  |

\* 2. In the past 12 months, about how often did you visit open space?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> I did not visit open space in the past 12 months | <input type="radio"/> About once a month    |
| <input type="radio"/> Once or twice                                    | <input type="radio"/> About once a week     |
| <input type="radio"/> About once a season                              | <input type="radio"/> More than once a week |

3. Why haven't you visited open space in the past 12 months? (select all that apply)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have enough time             | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't have anyone to go to parks with                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am not interested                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks are not accessible  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I do not feel comfortable at parks    | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have enough information about what parks will be like for me |
| <input type="checkbox"/> It is hard to get to parks            | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have access to information about parks                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have had a bad experience at a park |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)                |  |

4. Open space properties allow a variety of activities such as hiking, biking, picnicking, relaxing, and dog walking. Do the types of activities allowed affect your decision whether or not to visit a property?

- Yes  Not sure  
 No

Why did you answer that way?

5. If you were to visit an open space, what activities would you be most interested in doing? (select all that apply)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walk or hike on trails (includes using a walker, cane, etc.)                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Ride a horse                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use a wheeled mobility device on trails (includes manual or powered wheelchair, scooter, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike (includes all terrain handcycling, mountain biking, commuter biking, etc.)                | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography/Art                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Run/Jog  | <input type="checkbox"/> Special event                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bringing a dog   | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational program               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish   | <input type="checkbox"/> View wildlife (e.g. birdwatching) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gathering with family and/or friends   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)   |  |

6. Where would you look for information about parks and open space? (select all that apply)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open space website                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Search engine (Google, Yahoo, etc.)               | <input type="checkbox"/> Brochure           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A friend or family member                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sign on road/trail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)                            |   |

\* 7. What information would you look for when planning a trip to a park or open space? (select all that apply)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accessible facilities (restrooms, picnic shelters, etc.)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Property features, plants, and wildlife    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accessible trails  | <input type="checkbox"/> Location of the property                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety precautions (warnings regarding weather, wildlife, terrain, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pictures or a virtual tour of the property |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail details (material, incline, width, etc.)                           | <input type="checkbox"/> How busy or crowded                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Activities permitted (hiking, mountain biking, dogs, etc.)               | <input type="checkbox"/> Property map showing facilities and trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)   |   |

8. How do you get to open space properties? (select all that apply)

- Car
- Horseback
- Bike (includes all terrain handcycling, mountain biking, commuter biking, etc.)
- Organized group
- Walk or Run (includes using a walker, cane, etc.)
- Via Mobility Services
- Wheeled mobility device (includes manual or powered wheelchair, scooter, etc.)
- Other (please specify)

9. Open space and park properties allow a variety of activities such as hiking, biking, picnicking, relaxing, and dog walking. Do the types of activities allowed affect your decision whether or not to visit a property?

- Yes
- Not sure
- No

Why did you answer that way?

10. Which activities do you typically participate in when you visit open space? (select all that apply)

- Walk or hike on trails (includes using a walker, cane, etc.)
- Ride a horse
- Use a wheeled mobility device on trails (includes manual or powered wheelchair, scooter, etc.)
- Picnic
- Bike (includes all terrain handcycling, mountain biking, commuter biking, etc.)
- Photography/Art
- Special event
- Run/Jog
- Educational program
- Bringing a dog
- View wildlife (e.g. birdwatching)
- Fish
- Gathering with family and/or friends
- Other (please specify)

\* 11. Select all Boulder County Parks & Open Space properties you have visited.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bald Mountain Scenic Area                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Legion Park   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Betasso Preserve                             | <input type="checkbox"/> LoBo Regional Trail   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boulder Canyon Trail                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Mud Lake  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caribou Ranch                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Pella Crossing  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Creek Regional Trail   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coal Creek Regional Trail                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coalton Trailhead Area                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Twin Lakes  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flagg Park                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hall Ranch                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Walker Ranch  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heil Valley Ranch                            | <input type="checkbox"/> I have not visited any Boulder County Parks & Open Space properties |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lagerman Agricultural Preserve               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)                       |  |

12. Why haven't you visited any Boulder County Parks & Open Space properties? (select all that apply)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have enough time   | <input type="checkbox"/> I have had a bad experience at a Boulder County Parks & Open Space property                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am not interested   | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't have anyone to go to Boulder County Parks & Open Space with                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have access to information about Boulder County Parks & Open Space | <input type="checkbox"/> Boulder County Parks & Open Space properties are not accessible                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I do not feel comfortable at Boulder County Parks & Open Space              | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have enough information about what Boulder County Parks & Open Space will be like for me |
| <input type="checkbox"/> It is hard to get to Boulder County Parks & Open Space properties           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)  |  |

13. Tell us about a positive experience you've had during a visit to any park or open space.

14. Tell us about a problem or disappointment you've had during a visit to any park or open space.

15. Please rate the importance of the following amenities to your experience at open space.

	Not important at all	Of little importance	Of average importance	Very important	Absolutely essential	Not sure
Restroom	<input type="radio"/>					
Trails	<input type="radio"/>					
Parking lot	<input type="radio"/>					
Picnic shelter	<input type="radio"/>					
Fishing pier	<input type="radio"/>					
Trail signage	<input type="radio"/>					
Benches	<input type="radio"/>					
Trash/recycling	<input type="radio"/>					
Trailhead kiosk	<input type="radio"/>					
Educational signs	<input type="radio"/>					

16. Please list any other amenities that you look for when choosing a park or open space to visit?

17. Thinking about past visits to open space, to what extent were the following items a problem?

	Not a problem	A small or slight problem	Considerable problem	Severe problem	Not sure
Lack of accessible trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of accessible parking spots	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of accessible picnic shelters and/or table	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of accessible trash/recycling containers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of accessible restroom	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of accessible fishing pier	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18. Thinking about past visits to open space, please rate the number of the following amenities.

	Too few	About right	Too many	Not sure
Signs with information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Signs with directions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Benches or places to rest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19. Where do you look for information about parks and open space? (select all that apply)

- Open space website
- Search engine (Google, Yahoo, etc.)
- A friend or family member
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)
- Other (please specify)
- Newspaper
- Brochure
- Sign on road/trail

20. When you decide to visit a park or open space, what information do you look for? (select all that apply)

- Accessible facilities (restrooms, picnic shelters, etc.)
- Accessible trails
- Safety precautions (warnings regarding weather, wildlife, terrain, etc)
- Trail details (material, incline, width, etc.)
- Activities permitted (hiking, mountain biking, dogs, etc.)
- Other (please specify)
- Property features, plants, and wildlife
- Location of the property
- Pictures or a virtual tour of the property
- How busy or crowded
- Property map showing facilities and trails

21. Are you having problems finding the information you need to plan a visit to a park or open space?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

22. What information is missing or challenging to find?

---

23. Where do you live?

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Boulder    | <input type="radio"/> Niwot                                   |
| <input type="radio"/> Erie       | <input type="radio"/> Superior                                |
| <input type="radio"/> Lafayette  | <input type="radio"/> A town in Boulder County not listed     |
| <input type="radio"/> Longmont   | <input type="radio"/> Unincorporated Boulder County           |
| <input type="radio"/> Louisville | <input type="radio"/> Outside Boulder County, but in Colorado |
| <input type="radio"/> Lyons      | <input type="radio"/> Outside of Colorado                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Nederland  |   |

24. Which of the following best describes your race or ethnicity? (select all that apply)

- White or Caucasian
- Hispanic or Latinx
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Asian or Asian American
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- I prefer not to answer
- I prefer to self-describe (please specify)

25. What is your age?

- |                                |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> under 10 | <input type="radio"/> 25 - 44     |
| <input type="radio"/> 10 - 14  | <input type="radio"/> 45 - 64     |
| <input type="radio"/> 15 - 19  | <input type="radio"/> 65 and over |
| <input type="radio"/> 20 - 24  |                                   |

26. Are there any specific changes that would make open space more accessible for you (or for your family member, friend, or client with a disability)?

27. How would you describe your disability (or how would you describe your family member, friend, or client's disability)?

28. Is there anything else you want to share that would increase your enjoyment of parks and open space properties?