

# The Public Information Corporation

609 W. Littleton Blvd. / Suite 101 / Littleton, CO 80120 / (303) 347-0048

## A Study of Attitudes of Boulder, Colorado Residents Regarding City Open Space Issues

---

**August, 1999**

---

***Conducted for***

***City of Boulder Open Space Department***

**Volume I – Analysis**

Information To The Public . . . Information From The Public

# The Public Information Corporation

609 W. Littleton Blvd. / Suite 101 / Littleton, CO 80120 / (303) 347-0048

## **How the Survey Was Conducted**

This study of attitudes of voting-age residents of the City of Boulder, Colorado, is centered on open space public policy issues. It was commissioned by the City of Boulder Open Space Department and was conducted by The Public Information Corporation of Littleton, Colorado.

A total of 410 interviews were conducted between July 27 and August 4, 1999. Demographic balancing assured that the respondents, collectively, closely resembled the voting age population of the city in terms of age, gender and political party affiliation.

The confidence factor in a 410-interview representative sampling is 4.7 percent, plus or minus.

Respondents were randomly selected from voter registration lists provided by the Boulder County Elections staff. All interviews were conducted by telephone from The Public Information Corporation's offices in Littleton.

## About the Format

The Analysis book presents the complete city-wide results in text and tabular form. Sometimes the results of several related questions are presented in consolidated tables for comparison purposes. Tables dealing with single questions also present breakouts of responses according to how long respondents have lived in Boulder.

“Demographic anomalies” are instances in which individual demographic grouping responses to particular questions deviated from the city-wide results by 9 percent or more, and we feel that cumulatively they provide a good focus on how those groupings’ perceptions vary from those of the 410-respondent totals. These anomalies are mentioned in the analysis unless we felt that they did not seem to be useful.

“Emergent open-ended categories” refers to very similar responses that we group for data processing purposes. We seldom try to guess what responses will turn up with a survey’s open-ended questions before the interviews begin. Rather we initially scan about 50 completed questionnaires, observe what issues seem to be turning up most frequently, and group them in related categories that haven’t “emerged.” We are able to add categories if they begin to form in the later interviewing phases of the project.

“Collapse” refers to instances in which similar open-ended categories are combined, usually to allow comparisons with previous surveys that were coded a bit differently, or if we feel that the combined result will provide a more understandable focus on issues.

“Collapses” are denoted by brackets, which show the individual categories that are included.

Dashes in tables (--) indicate categories where responses are less than half of one percent but not zero.

The Executive Summary presents results that would seem to be of greatest interest to the City of Boulder.

Executive Summary

# **A Study of Attitudes Of Boulder, Colorado, Residents Regarding City Open Space Issues August, 1999**

## **Executive Summary**

The Public Information Corporation of Littleton, Colorado, conducted a telephone survey of voting-age residents of the City of Boulder, Colorado, in August, 1999, centering on open space public policy issues. The study was commissioned by the city's Open Space Department.

A total of 410 interviews were conducted. Demographic balancing was utilized to assure that the sampling was representative of the full universe. Confidence factor with a 410-interview sampling is 4.7 percent, plus or minus.

This Executive Summary presents highlights of responses to a questionnaire that contained 37 issue questions. Copies of the full analysis are available at the offices of the Open Space Department.

---

### **Primary Purpose of Open Space**

The first question asked: "What do you think is the primary purpose for having Open Space?" Identical questions were asked in similar surveys in 1992 and 1994. The following table provides comparisons, and indicates that there have been fluctuations but no major trends.

#### ***A Comparison of Trends Since 1992***

	<b><u>1999</u></b>	<b><u>1994</u></b>	<b><u>1992</u></b>
Buffer/Growth management	<b>39%</b>	45%	30%
Recreation	<b>23</b>	20	22
Preserve wildlife and habitat	<b>23</b>	18	29
Quality of life	<b>7</b>	4	N/A
Aesthetic purposes	<b>5</b>	7	12
Miscellaneous/other purpose	<b>2</b>	2	2
No response/don't know	<b>1</b>	3	4

## Personal Uses of Open Space

In 1999 and 1994 respondents were asked to describe specific purposes for which they personally use open space. Both times hiking, walking and running responses dominated. The only substantial difference was with responses called “general recreation” in 1994 and “miscellaneous” in 1999, but such questions don’t lend themselves to trends analysis. In both surveys multiple responses were accepted, and accordingly both columns total more than 100 percent.

### *A Comparison of Trends Since 1994*

	<u>1999</u>	<u>1994</u>
Hiking/walking/running	78	84
Aesthetic purposes/nature studies	22	17
Biking/mountain biking	20	20
Walking dogs	10	7
General recreation/miscellaneous/skiing	8	26
Doesn't use Open Space	8	11
Picnicking	3	3
Fishing	3	1
Photography	1	1
Horseback riding	--	1
Hang-gliding	--	--

## Quality of Current Open Space Experiences

Asked to describe the quality of their experiences when visiting open space areas, 93 percent indicated satisfaction. Fifty-eight gave “excellent” marks and another 35 percent said “good.” Four percent responded “fair” and fewer than one-half of one percent described their experiences as “poor.”

## Activities That Are in Conflict

The statement was made: “Sometimes different recreational activities in an open space area conflict and result in unpleasant encounters.” Then respondents were asked “what specific recreational activities would you say are in conflict with other specific activities?”

Twenty-seven percent said the conflict centers on bicyclists, and usually hikers, walkers or joggers were mentioned as the other side of the conflict. Twenty-six percent said it was dogs, or their droppings, on one side and the full array of open space visitors on the other.

Receiving mention in single-digit percentages were horseback riders versus other kinds of visitors, rollerbladers versus other kinds of visitors, and anything motorized versus other kinds of visitors. Thirteen percent indicated that conflicts are minimal or rare.

### Dealing With Conflict or Crowding

Nine methods that have been suggested to deal with conflict or crowding were described to respondents, and they were asked if they feel that each is extremely appropriate, somewhat appropriate, not very appropriate or not appropriate at all.

Leading in “extremely appropriate” responses were buying additional open space for passive recreational use, at 67 percent, and more public education on trail etiquette, at 57 percent. Enforcing existing regulations more vigorously” was ranked third, with a 41 percent “extremely appropriate” rating.

### Mitigation of Plant and Wildlife Habitat Impact

Respondents were asked how appropriate six possible management actions would be if plants and wildlife habitat definitely are being impacted from recreational use.

All but one of the possible actions were viewed as appropriate by 90 percent or more of all respondents. Highest ranked were public education about how to cause less environmental impact, which received 95 percent appropriate marks, 70 percent of which was “extremely appropriate,” and closing areas to recreational use during time periods when impacts are greatest, at 93 percent, with 65 percent “extremely appropriate.”

Least popular -- although positive and negative responses still were 51-to-48 percent, respectively -- was requiring permits to control the number of people who enter, with an “extremely appropriate” response of only 15 percent.

#### ***Frequency of Visits To Open Space Areas***

Respondents were asked how many times per month they visited open space areas during the past year. The following table indicated the pattern of visits.

<u>Visits per Month</u>	<u>% of All Respondents</u>
Less than 1	8
1 to 3	30
4 to 5	18
6 to 10	17
11 to 20	17
21 to 29	4
Every day	5

*The mean frequency of visits per person per month is 4.7. In the 1994 survey it was 4.0.*

## Condition of Open Space in 25 Years

Respondents were asked if they believe that conditions in Boulder’s open space areas will be better, about the same or worse than they are today. Forty-two percent responded “about the same,” but almost as many -- 37 percent -- said conditions would be worse. Only 15 percent believe conditions will be better.

The main reason given for “better” responses was a belief that Boulder attracts the kind of people who care about the environment. The main reason given for “worse” responses was that there will be a lot more people than there are today and consequently open space areas will be overused.

## Balancing Environment Preservation and Recreation

Two questions dealt with balances between environmental preservation values and recreation values in open space management decisions and policies.

One question asked how important consideration of recreation-related impacts on plants and wildlife in open space areas should be in management decision making. Sixty-two percent said it should be very important, and another 31 percent responded “somewhat important.” Four percent responded “not very important” and only 1 percent chose the “not important at all” response category.

The other question asked whether management balance is (1) about right, (2) if there is too much emphasis on preserving the natural environment and not enough on providing recreation, or (3) if there is too much emphasis on providing recreation and not enough on preserving the natural environment.

The following table presents the results:

	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
About right	<b>62%</b>
Too much emphasis on environment	<b>11</b>
Too much emphasis on recreation	<b>20</b>
Not enough information	<b>3</b>
No response	<b>4</b>

Analysis

## Primary Purpose of Open Space

Question 1: First of all, what do you think is the primary purpose for having Open Space?  
*(Open end. Probe.)*

	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>Years Lived in Boulder</u></b>				
		<b><u>Less Than 1</u></b>	<b><u>1 to 5</u></b>	<b><u>6 to 10</u></b>	<b><u>11 to 20</u></b>	<b><u>21 or More</u></b>
Stop development	19%	16%	16%	23%	18%	21%
Buffer zone for city	10	--	6	10	12	14
Control growth	7	8	4	6	5	9
Elbow room	3	4	2	3	3	3
Enjoy outdoor exp.	12	8	14	13	13	10
Recreation	10	24	12	6	12	8
Enjoy hiking	1	4	2	--	--	--
Preserve nat. envir.	22	20	22	31	23	19
Wildlife	1	--	5	--	--	1
Quality of life	7	4	8	3	9	6
Quiet places	4	8	1	2	4	6
Enjoy views/aesthetic	1	--	4	--	3	--
Miscellaneous	2	--	2	3	--	3
No response	1	4	3	--	--	--

## ***Discussion***

The largest single-subject category to emerge was preserving the natural environment, at 22 percent. Stopping development was next at 19 percent.

Four related emergent response categories that have to do with growth management and providing buffer zones between urban growth areas account for a “collapsed” total of 39 percent of all responses.

Collapsing also resulted in two groups totaling 23 percent.

One involved the perception that the primary purpose is either passive or physical outdoor recreation. The other centers on preserving wildlife and the habitat that supports wildlife.

The thought that open space is an integral part of Boulder’s quality of life was volunteered by 7 percent, and another 5 percent saw aesthetic values as the primary purpose.

## ***Demographic Anomalies***

Two anomalous groupings are considerably more likely than the 410 respondents as a whole to consider preserving the natural environment as the primary purpose. Whereas the citywide response was 22 percent, the response was 31 percent in a grouping made up of persons who have lived in Boulder between 6 and 10 years, and in a grouping made up of persons who are 18 to 24 years of age.

Persons who have lived in Boulder for less than a year were considerably more likely to see the primary purpose as recreation than were those in any other grouping -- 24 percent compared with 10 percent citywide.

***A Comparison of Trends Since 1992***

<b><u>Primary Purpose of Open Space</u></b>			
	<b><u>1999</u></b>	<b><u>1994</u></b>	<b><u>1992</u></b>
Buffer/Growth management	<b>39%</b>	45%	30%
Recreation	<b>23</b>	20	22
Preserve wildlife and habitat	<b>23</b>	18	29
Quality of life	<b>7</b>	4	N/A
Aesthetic purposes	<b>5</b>	7	12
Miscellaneous/other purpose	<b>2</b>	2	2
No response/don't know	<b>1</b>	3	4

The identical question was asked in similar surveys of Boulder residents in 1992 and 1994, and all three involved about 400 telephone interviews. As the table above indicates there have been fluctuations but no significant shifts in perceptions of the primary purposes of open space over the years.

## Personal Uses of Open Space

Question 2: For what specific purposes do you personally use Open Space? (*Open end. Probe. Accept, but do not solicit, multiple responses.*)

	<u>Years Lived in Boulder</u>					
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Less Than 1</u>	<u>1 to 5</u>	<u>6 to 10</u>	<u>11 to 20</u>	<u>21 or More</u>
Hiking/walking	<b>67%</b>	60%	66%	71%	73%	65%
Enjoying beauty	<b>22</b>	20	19	16	23	26
Biking	<b>20</b>	28	20	28	21	16
Mountain biking	<b>2</b>	--	2	5	4	1
Running	<b>11</b>	8	18	15	13	5
Walk dog	<b>10</b>	4	14	10	18	4
Don't use/seldom use	<b>8</b>	12	4	6	3	15
Miscellaneous	<b>8</b>	12	8	10	4	8
Picnic	<b>3</b>	4	1	2	4	6
Fishing	<b>3</b>	4	3	5	--	4
Photography	<b>1</b>	--	1	3	--	1
Inline skating	--	--	1	--	--	--
Horseback riding	--	--	--	--	1	--
Hang gliding	--	--	1	--	--	--
No response	<b>1</b>	--	1	2	1	--

## ***Discussion***

Multiple responses were accepted from respondents with this question, and thus the “Total” column comes to 154 percent.

Two-thirds of all respondents mentioned hiking or walking as a way they personally use City of Boulder open space areas. Twenty-two percent of respondents enjoy it for scenic beauty, bird watching or nature studies, with bicycling close behind at 20 percent.

Two other substantial categories that emerged were walking dogs, 10 percent; and miscellaneous, made up of general statements but including a few who said skiing and climbing, 8 percent.

Another 8 percent said they seldom or never visit the city’s open space areas.

## ***Demographic Anomalies***

Open space uses that resulted in significant positive demographic anomalies, with citywide percentages listed in parentheses, were:

**Hiking/walking (67%):** Visit 21 or more times per month, 76%; visit 4 or 5 times per month, 82%.

**Running (11%):** 25 to 34 years of age, 22%; visit 6 to 10 times per month, 35%.

**Biking (18%):** Resident less than a year, 28%; visit 6 to 10 times per month, 35%.

**Walk dog (10%):** Visit 21 or more times per month, 29%.

Also, we noticed that two groupings that had especially low frequency in several of the “how do you use” categories.

Persons 65 and older were particularly less likely than other age groupings to take part in hiking/walking, in running and in biking, although hiking/walking still was mentioned by 55%. And, persons who visit open space areas fewer than once per month are comparatively low in frequency of hiking/walking, running, biking, enjoying beauty and walking dogs.

## ***A Comparison of Trends Since 1994***

Personal Use of Open Space		
	<u><b>1999</b></u>	<u><b>1994</b></u>
Hiking/walking/running	<b>78</b>	84
Aesthetic purposes/nature studies/bird watching	<b>22</b>	17
Biking/mountain biking	<b>20</b>	20
Walking dogs	<b>10</b>	7
General recreation/miscellaneous/skiing	<b>8</b>	26
Doesn't use Open Space	<b>8</b>	11
Picnicking	<b>3</b>	3
Fishing	<b>3</b>	1
Photography	<b>1</b>	1
Horseback riding	--	1
Hang-gliding	--	--

A similar question was asked in the 1994 survey, but not in 1992. Both times hiking, walking and running responses dominated, totaling 84 and 78 percent respectively.

There was only one major difference in the results over the five-year period, and it is not instructive inasmuch as it is a category called “general recreation” in 1994 and “miscellaneous” in 1999. We believe that one reason for the difference is that the 1994 survey was conducted during ski season, and the 1999 project was not.

## Future Conditions of Open Space Areas

Question 3: What do you think Boulder’s open space areas will look like about 25 years from now? Do you believe that their conditions will tend to be better, about the same or worse than they are today?

	<u>Years Lived in Boulder</u>					
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Less Than 1</u>	<u>1 to 5</u>	<u>6 to 10</u>	<u>11 to 20</u>	<u>21 or More</u>
Better	15%	16%	16%	19%	13%	15%
About the same	42	44	42	32	46	44
Worse	37	32	42	44	36	33
No response	5	8	1	5	5	8

### *Discussion*

More than one-third of the Boulder respondents believe that, in about 25 years, open space areas conditions will tend to be worse than they are today, which is more than twice as many as believe that conditions will tend to become better.

### *Demographic Anomalies*

Only one important demographic anomaly was observed. Fifty-four percent of persons 18 to 24 feel conditions will be worse. It is 37 percent citywide.

## Reasons for Feelings About Future Conditions\*

Question 4: What is the main reason you feel that those open space areas will be \_\_\_\_\_ than they are today? (*Read choice from q. 3. Open end. Probe*)

	<u>Years Lived in Boulder</u>					
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Less Than 1</u>	<u>1 to 5</u>	<u>6 to 10</u>	<u>11 to 20</u>	<u>21 or More</u>
<b><u>“Better” responses</u></b>						
Care for environment	<b>18%</b>	25%	17%	21%	18%	15%
Willing to pay money	<b>4</b>	8	5	3	--	6
Awareness value OS	<b>3</b>	--	3	3	3	3
More trees	<b>1</b>	--	3	--	3	--
Improve vs. buy more	<b>1</b>	--	--	3	--	3
Miscellaneous better	<b>1</b>	--	--	--	3	2
Mother nature fix	--	--	--	3	--	--
<b><u>“Worse” responses</u></b>						
Overuse/more people	<b>42</b>	33	36	50	51	38
Will be built on	<b>21</b>	33	24	11	15	25
People care less	<b>3</b>	--	3	3	5	2
Funding inadequate	<b>3</b>	--	3	5	--	5
Planet is in decline	<b>1</b>	--	5	--	--	--
Miscellaneous worse	<b>1</b>	--	--	--	3	2
No response	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0	0

\* Asked only of those who responded “better” or “worse” in question 3.

## ***Discussion***

Persons who answered either “better” or “worse” to question 3 were asked to explain why, and their responses together total 100 percent.

**“Better” response comments** resulted in only one significant emergent response category. Eighteen percent made comments to the effect that Boulder has a strong ethic of caring for the environment, and that will result in improving conditions over the years.

**“Worse” response comments** resulted in two significant categories, both of which were greater than 18 percent. Forty-two percent believe that pressure of ever-increasing population will result in overuse and, with it, deteriorating conditions in open space. Another 21 percent feel that some of the current open space areas will be consumed by development -- in other words, it isn't really set aside in perpetuity.

## ***Demographic Anomalies***

### **Reasons given for “better” responses:**

**Boulder people care about the environment (18%):** 55 to 64 years of age, 29%.

### **Reasons given for “worse” responses:**

**There will be more people and overuse (42%):** Resident 6 to 20 years, 51%; 45 to 54 years of age, 51%; visit 11 to 20 times per month, 56%.

## Meaning of 'Passive Recreation'

Question 5: One of the purposes of Boulder's Open Space listed in the City Charter is to provide what is termed "passive recreation." What does passive recreation mean to you? (*Open end. Probe.*)

	<u>Years Lived in Boulder</u>					
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Less Than 1</u>	<u>1 to 5</u>	<u>6 to 10</u>	<u>11 to 20</u>	<u>21 or More</u>
Aesthetic values	19%	12%	19%	32%	22%	14%
Bird watching	1	--	--	3	3	1
Quiet, leisure walks	18	20	21	15	13	21
Low impact environmt	9	8	10	5	12	8
Picnics/benches/grass	4	8	6	2	5	3
For sleeping/reading	4	--	7	5	3	4
No structured uses	17	32	14	15	20	16
Miscellaneous	8	4	4	11	8	10
Biking/hiking	6	8	5	8	5	6
Habitat for wildlife	1	--	1	--	1	1
Limited uses	--	--	1	--	--	1
No response	11	8	13	5	9	15

## ***Discussion***

The City Charter lists “passive recreation” as one of the purposes of Boulder’s open space areas. The Charter gives several examples, and in question 6 they are listed. Project officials wanted to determine what the term means to Boulder residents without prompting, and question 5 was the result.

Half of respondents made comments that fall into six related categories describing activities that require little or no effort, such as leisurely walks, sleeping and reading, picnics and park benches, and uses that are “not structured or organized.”

Another 20 percent mentioned visual and other aesthetic values, such as “nice views” and “bird watching.”

### ***Demographic Anomalies***

**Aesthetic values etc. (20%):** Resident 6 to 10 years, 35%; visit 11to20 times per month, 37%.

**Quiet, leisurely walks (18%):** Visit 21 to 29 times per month, 27%.

**No structured uses (16%):** Resident less than a year, 28%; visit less than once per month, 25%.

**Sleeping, reading (4%):** 18 to 24 years of age, 13%.

## Criteria to Determine Appropriateness of Other Uses

As I just indicated, a purpose of Boulder’s Open Space is preservation of land for passive recreational use, and examples are hiking, photography, and nature study in open space areas and, if specifically designated, bicycling, horseback riding or fishing. What should be used as criteria when deciding what other activities are appropriate? Should the following criteria for evaluating be considered extremely appropriate, somewhat appropriate, not very appropriate, or not appropriate at all? What about: ***(Rotate q. 6 through 10. Re-read response choices as necessary.)***

		<u>Extrm. Approp.</u>	<u>Smwht. Approp.</u>	<u>Not Very Approp.</u>	<u>Not Approp. at All</u>	<u>No Response</u>
6.	Benefit of the activity to the community?	35%	50%	9%	4%	3%
7.	Negative impacts on vegetation and wildlife?	68	22	5	3	2
8.	Increased conflicts among visitors?	22	45	15	9	9
9.	That an activity could increase people’s appreciation of nature?	57	35	4	3	1
10.	Negative impacts to views or other aesthetic values?	56	26	7	6	5

### ***Discussion***

All five of the criteria that were presented to respondents as possible determinants as to whether open space activities not mentioned in the charter would be appropriate to some degree received positive support from at least two-thirds of the respondents. However, three of the criteria received “extremely appropriate” ratings from more than half of the respondents, and two did not.

The strongest support was consideration of negative impacts on vegetation and wildlife, with a 68 percent “extremely appropriate” response.

Next came a positive criterion -- that an activity could increase peoples’ appreciation of nature, with 57 percent responding “extremely appropriate.”

Close behind was whether there would be negative impacts to views or other aesthetic values, 56 percent.

Least-supported was whether an activity would increase conflicts among visitors, with only a 22 percent “extremely appropriate” response. This criterion also received the highest negative ratings of the five questions -- although it evoked relatively modest 15 percent “not very appropriate” and 9 percent “not appropriate at all” comments.

The fifth criterion, a positive one that would weigh benefit of the activity to the community, received relatively lukewarm 35 percent “extremely appropriate” responses. However, it also received a very high “somewhat appropriate” rating of 50 percent.

### ***Demographic Anomalies***

#### **Q6. Community benefit:**

**Extremely appropriate (35%):** 65 or older, 45%.

#### **Q7. Wildlife/vegetation:**

**Extremely appropriate (68%):** Women, 77%; resident less than year, 80%; resident 6 to 10 years, 79%; 18 to 24 years of age, 82%.

#### **Q8. Increased conflicts:**

**Not very appropriate (15%):** Visit 21 times or more per month, 37%.

#### **Q10. Impacts on views:**

**Extremely appropriate (58%):** 25 to 34 years of age, 65%; visit 11 to 29 times per month, 67%.

## Quality of Open Space Experiences

Question 11: When you visit open space areas, would you describe the quality of your experiences as usually being excellent, good, fair, or poor?

	<u>Years Lived in Boulder</u>					
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Less Than 1</u>	<u>1 to 5</u>	<u>6 to 10</u>	<u>11 to 20</u>	<u>21 or More</u>
Excellent	<b>58%</b>	68%	61%	53%	59%	54%
Good	<b>35</b>	20	35	42	36	35
Fair	<b>4</b>	4	2	2	3	8
Poor	<b>--</b>	4	--	--	1	--
No response	<b>3</b>	4	2	3	1	3

### *Discussion*

“Excellent” and “good” descriptions of the quality of experiences in open space areas totaled 93 percent. The Boulder residents were forthright about it, with fewer than one-half of one percent of the 410 respondents rating the quality of experiences as “poor,” and a very low 3 percent unresponsive factor.

### *Demographic Anomalies*

**Excellent (58%):** Visit 6 to 10 times per month, 73%; resident less than a year, 68%.

## Quality of Open Space Facilities

Question 12: Taken as a whole, would you describe the facilities in Boulder’s open space areas such as trails, parking lots, signs and trash cans as being excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Years Lived in Boulder</u>					
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Less Than 1</u>	<u>1 to 5</u>	<u>6 to 10</u>	<u>11 to 20</u>	<u>21 or More</u>
Excellent	<b>39%</b>	52%	39%	39%	45%	34%
Good	<b>50</b>	48	50	48	51	49
Only fair	<b>9</b>	--	11	10	3	11
Poor	--	--	1	--	--	--
No response	<b>3</b>	--	--	3	1	6

### *Discussion*

Whereas the previous question dealt in rating generalized experiences in open space, question 12 focused on specifics -- various kinds of facilities.

While there was a substantial shift from “excellent” to “good,” comments, compared with question 11 results, still a very solid 89 percent offered distinctly positive responses, and fewer than one-half of one percent gave “poor” ratings.

Again only 3 percent were unresponsive.

### **Demographic Anomalies**

**Excellent (39%):** Resident less than a year, 52%; 25 to 34 years of age, 54%.

## Suggested Facilities Improvements\*

Question 13: If there is any one thing among open space area facilities that is in most need of improvement, what would it be? (Open end. Probe)

	<u>Years Lived in Boulder</u>					
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Less Than 1</u>	<u>1 to 5</u>	<u>6 to 10</u>	<u>11 to 20</u>	<u>21 or More</u>
Build/maintain trails	12%	--%	9%	10%	10%	17%
Dirty trails	4	4	5	10	4	2
Everything is fine	10	8	15	8	6	9
Parking inadequate	9	8	15	5	10	6
Miscellaneous	9	--	8	15	5	10
Enforce leash rules	7	4	1	6	5	12
Better trash pickups	7	8	9	8	13	3
Improve signs	6	--	6	6	6	6
Dirty rest rooms	5	4	2	8	5	6
Better maps/info	1	--	2	--	1	--
No response	33	64	29	26	38	31

\* Asked only of persons who responded in question 12.

### Discussion

Question 13, which asked respondents what one thing among open space area facilities “is in most need of improvement,” resulted in the most diffuse comments of any open-ended question in this project. Only eight percentage points separated the nine top emergent categories. The top suggestion was for more and better trails, at 12 percent. Interestingly, the second-largest emergent category, at 10 percent, consisted of remarks

indicating that the facilities aren't particularly in need of improvement. Calls for more parking facilities, more trash receptacles and better pick-up service, better signage, more and better-maintained rest rooms, and doing something about dirty trails also received mention.

It's worth noting, particularly in view of the prominence of complaints about dogs later in the interviews that the fifth most-mentioned "facilities" suggestion wasn't about facilities at all. It was a call for enforcement of leash rules, and while it accounted for just 7 percent we feel that the fact that it is so clearly out of context underlines just how volatile the issue of dogs in open space areas is.

With many questions in our surveys high "no response" factors are negatives. With question 13 we don't feel that way. As noted 10 percent of respondents commented that things are in good shape -- that they see little or no need for improvement. Our interviewers reported that most of the 33 percent who had no response did not do so because of lack of information, but rather because nothing specific came to mind. In other words, they are not dissatisfied.

### ***Demographic Anomalies***

**Dirty trails (4%):** Visit 21 or more times per month, 13%.

**Parking inadequate (9%):** Visit 6 to 10 times per month, 20%.

**No response (33%):** Resident less than a year, 64%; visit less than once per month, 66%.

## Rate Open Space Visitor Services

Question 14: We asked you about open space facilities. Now, let's look at visitor services. Taken as a whole, would you describe the adequacy and quality of visitor services such as information and interpretive services, emergency response and law enforcement as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Years Lived in Boulder</u>					
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Less Than 1</u>	<u>1 to 5</u>	<u>6 to 10</u>	<u>11 to 20</u>	<u>21 or More</u>
Excellent	<b>20%</b>	8%	20%	23%	26%	18%
Good	<b>45</b>	48	48	47	44	44
Only fair	<b>12</b>	--	17	18	5	13
Poor	<b>2</b>	--	3	--	4	1
No response	<b>21</b>	44	13	13	22	25

### *Discussion*

Perceptions of the adequacy and quality of open space visitor services are not nearly as well-focused as was the case with the facilities question, with 21 percent not responding, compared with 3 percent for question 12. Some said they did not see much distinction between facilities and services and did not respond to question 14.

Still, it is a very positive picture, with 65 percent offering “excellent” or “good” ratings versus 14 percent “only fair” or “poor.”

### **Demographic Anomalies**

No important demographic anomalies were observed.

## Suggested Services Improvements\*

Question 15: If there is any one thing among Open Space services that is in need of improvement, what would it be? (*Open end. Probe*)

	<u>Years Lived in Boulder</u>					
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Less Than 1</u>	<u>1 to 5</u>	<u>6 to 10</u>	<u>11 to 20</u>	<u>21 or More</u>
Public information/ signs	<b>20%</b>	16%	20%	24%	21%	18%
Everything's fine	<b>12</b>	12	12	11	12	13
More law enforcement	<b>11</b>	8	7	15	18	9
Miscellaneous	<b>6</b>	--	5	3	4	10
Just improve it all	<b>2</b>	--	1	2	5	2
Handicapped areas	<b>1</b>	--	2	2	--	1
Interactive services	<b>1</b>	--	2	2	--	--
No response	<b>47</b>	64	51	42	41	47

*\* Asked only of persons who responded in question 14.*

### *Discussion*

There are even fewer specific suggestions for open space services than there were with the facilities question, but again we regard that as positive. Forty-seven percent did not offer suggestions, and 12 percent made “everything’s fine” types of comments.

Even so, we believe that question 15 is quite instructive, because of 41 percent who did make suggestions about services that are in need of improvement, 20 percent mentioned public information issues, including perceived needs for more educational material, better maps, more and better signs, etc.

Also emerging as an important category, at 11 percent, was a call for enhancement of law enforcement, mostly in the form of more patrolling, more rangers and guides, and better enforcement of dog regulations.

***Demographic Anomalies***

**Law enforcement (11%):** Visit 21 times or more per month, 27%

**No response (47%):** Resident less than a year, 64%.

## Using Open Space Areas Less or Not at All?

Question 16: Are you using a particular Boulder Open Space area less often, or even stopped using it entirely?

	<u>Years Lived in Boulder</u>					
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Less Than 1</u>	<u>1 to 5</u>	<u>6 to 10</u>	<u>11 to 20</u>	<u>21 or More</u>
Less often	<b>9%</b>	--%	3%	13%	13%	10%
Stopped entirely	<b>10</b>	4	2	10	9	19
No	<b>80</b>	92	95	77	78	69
No response	<b>1</b>	4	--	--	--	2

### *Discussion*

There isn't much attrition in patronage of particular Boulder open space areas, with 80 percent indicating that such usage hasn't changed. Only 10 percent indicated that they have stopped using an area entirely.

### *Demographic Anomalies*

**Stopped entirely (10%):** Resident 21 years or more, 19%; visit less than once per month, 25%.

## Reasons Usage Has Stopped or Has Decreased\*

Question 17: What one reason mostly caused you to stop visiting that particular Boulder Open Space area, or use it less often? (*Open end. Probe*)

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Years Lived in Boulder</u>				
		<u>Less Than 1</u>	<u>1 to 5</u>	<u>6 to 10</u>	<u>11 to 20</u>	<u>21 or More</u>
Getting too crowded	36%	--%	40%	57%	22%	36%
Outside factors	21	--	--	7	28	26
Dog issues	19	100	--	14	17	21
Miscellaneous	10	--	40	7	17	5
Conflicting activity	7	--	--	7	6	10
Rollerbladers	2	--	--	--	6	2
Closed to mtn bikes	2	--	20	--	6	--
No response	1	--	--	7	--	--

\* Asked only of persons who responded "less often" or "stopped entirely" in question 16.

### *Discussion*

Crowding, and the perception that there are too many people using a particular open space area, account for 36 percent of reasons given for using a particular open space area.

Next largest category was what we call "outside factors," and it's made up of reasons that are not connected with open space. Most of such responses had to do with age and health problems, having moved to another part of Boulder, or employment-related time conflicts.

We also noted that dog issues surfaced once again, with 19 percent blaming unleashed and/or menacing animals, and dog droppings on trails and in other facilities.

***Demographic Anomalies***

**Outside factors (age etc.) (21%):** 65 and older, 71%.

## Activities That Are in Conflict

Question 18: Sometimes different recreational activities in an open space area conflict and result in unpleasant encounters. What specific recreational activities would you say are in conflict with other specific activities? (*Open end. Probe.*)

	<u>Years Lived in Boulder</u>					
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Less Than 1</u>	<u>1 to 5</u>	<u>6 to 10</u>	<u>11 to 20</u>	<u>21 or More</u>
Bikers vs. others	27%	4%	28%	24%	31%	29%
Dogs/droppings	26	24	16	29	28	30
Conflicts minimal	13	24	15	18	9	10
Miscellaneous	8	4	12	8	6	8
Horseback vs. others	6	16	7	8	3	4
Any motorized uses	5	8	5	2	3	6
Rollerbldrs vs. others	4	--	3	--	10	2
No response/don't use	12	20	15	11	10	11

### *Discussion*

Bicyclists versus other trail users, and dogs and/or their droppings versus a variety of other open space users, were volunteered by a total of more than 50 percent of all survey respondents as being in conflict and resulting in unpleasant encounters.

Those two dominant issue categories were nearly tied, with conflicts involving bicyclists at 27 percent and conflicts involving dogs at 26 percent.

A quarter of all respondents either had no response or stated that conflicts are minimal.

### ***Demographic Anomalies***

**Dogs/dog droppings (26%):** 65 and older, 36%; visit 21 times or more per month, 35%.

**Horseback riders (6%):** Resident less than a year, 16%.

**Conflicts minimal (13%):** Resident less than a year, 24%

## How Crowded Are Open Space Areas?

Question 19: Would you say that the open space areas that you visit are not crowded at all, moderately crowded, crowded or extremely crowded?

	<u>Years Lived in Boulder</u>					
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Less Than 1</u>	<u>1 to 5</u>	<u>6 to 10</u>	<u>11 to 20</u>	<u>21 or More</u>
Not crowded at all	<b>23%</b>	28%	19%	24%	22%	26%
Moderately crowded	<b>56</b>	36	64	58	51	56
Crowded	<b>15</b>	28	14	13	19	13
Extremely crowded	<b>1</b>	--	--	5	--	1
No response	<b>4</b>	8	3	--	8	5

### *Discussion*

Most respondents don't regard the Boulder open space areas that they visit as being particularly crowded, and nearly one-fourth said those areas are not crowded at all. Of equal interest is the fact that only one percent selected the "extremely crowded" response category.

### *Demographic Anomalies*

**Not crowded at all (23%):** 36 or older, 34%.

**Moderately crowded (56%):** Visit 21 times or more per month, 65%.

**Crowded (15%):** Resident less than a year, 28%; visit 6 to 10 times per month, 25%.

## Why Open Space Areas Crowded/Not Crowded\*

Question 20: What have you observed that led you to say that those open space areas are \_\_\_\_\_? *(Read choice from q. 19. Open end. Probe)*

	<u>Years Lived in Boulder</u>					
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Less Than 1</u>	<u>1 to 5</u>	<u>6 to 10</u>	<u>11 to 20</u>	<u>21 or More</u>
<b><u>“Not crowded”</u></b>						
Not many people	<b>20%</b>	31%	17%	20%	17%	20%
Time of day used	<b>13</b>	9	12	10	12	15
Misc. “not crowded”	<b>4</b>	4	1	6	5	4
Plenty of parking	--	--	--	2	--	--
<b><u>“Crowded”</u></b>						
More people using it	<b>34</b>	26	30	27	47	32
Foot traffic increased	<b>11</b>	9	16	6	8	13
Weekends crowded	<b>8</b>	13	12	6	5	5
Parking problems	<b>6</b>	4	8	10	5	2
Misc. “crowded”	<b>2</b>	--	2	3	--	2
No response	<b>3</b>	4	1	--	1	6

**\* Asked only of those who responded in question 19.**

### ***Discussion***

As was the case with question 4, two series of emergent categories -- one made up of reasons given for “not crowded” responses and the other of “crowded” responses -- are on a single table totaling 100 percent. This is done in order to make side-by-side amplitude comparisons of both kinds of responses valid.

We need to note that as the interviewing progressed it was obvious that some respondents clearly regarded “moderately crowded” as being a degree of “not crowded” and others clearly regarded it as being a degree of “crowded.” The sub-headings of the response categories in the table above acknowledge that fact.

On the “not crowded” side of the table uncomplicated statements to the effect that there aren’t all that many people, or that there is plenty of room, make up the top response category, at 20 percent.

Perhaps the most interesting category (at least to us) came in at 13 percent, and it consisted of statements that respondents don’t perceive much crowding because they avoided areas that they know to be busy or they use open space during hours they know that particular areas will be only lightly used.

The top “crowded” response category also was uncomplicated and consisted of observations that “the number of people is increasing,” “more people are using open space,” etc. Thirty-four percent made such comments.

The second most important “crowded” category was one that pertained only to trails. It included comments such as “crowded with runners,” “there are people every 20 feet,” etc., and it was mentioned by 11 percent of respondents.

### ***Demographic Anomalies***

#### **“Crowded” responses**

**More people using it (34%):** 45 to 54 years of age, 44%; visit every day, 50%.

#### **“Not crowded” responses**

No significant demographic anomalies were observed.

## Methods of Dealing With Conflict or Crowding

Several methods have been suggested to deal with conflict or crowding. I will describe them. Please tell me if you feel that each is extremely appropriate, somewhat appropriate, not very appropriate, or not appropriate at all. What about: ***(Rotate q. 21 through 29. Re-read introductions or response choices as necessary.)***

		<u>Extrm. Approp.</u>	<u>Smwht. Approp.</u>	<u>Not Very Approp.</u>	<u>Not Approp. at All</u>	<u>No Response</u>
21.	Constructing more trails and entrances?	28%	41%	17%	10%	4%
22.	Controlling the number of people who enter crowded areas?	16	34	28	19	2
23.	Charging fees to people who live outside the county?	19	30	22	27	3
24.	More public education on trail etiquette?	57	32	4	4	2
25.	Limiting groups of 25 or more?	29	36	17	16	2
26.	Limiting <u>commercial users</u> such as horse liveries and companies which teach outdoor activities like climbing or hang gliding?	23	45	17	11	5
27.	Buying additional Open Space for passive recreational use?	67	20	3	7	2
28.	Limiting types of recreational activities that are likely to cause conflicts?	35	42	11	6	5
29.	Enforcing existing regulations more vigorously?	41	39	10	5	5

## ***Discussion***

Buying more land, at 67 percent “extremely appropriate,” and public education on trail etiquette, with 57 percent “extremely appropriate,” are rated the most acceptable of the nine methods to deal with conflict or crowding in open space areas that were described to respondents.

In analyzing responses to the other seven “methods” questions we noticed that the five that posited specific limitations or mitigations received strong “appropriate” marks, whereas the two that would impose general limitations did not.

The latter were question 22, which suggested controlling the number of people who enter crowded areas, and question 23, which mentioned charging fees to people who live outside the county. In both cases “appropriate” responses were almost exactly tied with the “not appropriate” ones.

## ***Demographic Anomalies***

### **q21. More trails and entrances.**

**Extremely appropriate (28%):** Resident less than a year, 48%; visit 6 to 10 times per month, 37%.

**Not appropriate at all (10%):** Visit less than once per month, 19%.

### **Q22. Numbers control.**

**Extremely appropriate (16%):** Resident less than a year, 28%; 55 to 64 years of age, 29%; visit less than once per month, 31%.

### **Q23. Non-resident fees.**

**Extremely appropriate (16%):** 55 to 64 years of age, 32%; visit every day, 36%.

**Not appropriate at all (27%):** visit 11 to 20 times per month, 37%.

### **q24. Trail etiquette.**

**Extremely appropriate (57%):** 35 to 44 years of age, 68%.

**Q25. Limit 25+ groups.**

**Extremely appropriate (29%):** 55 to 64 years of age, 39%.

**Not very appropriate (17%):** Resident less than a year, 28%; visit 21 or more times per month, 32%.

**Q26. Limit commercial users.**

**Extremely appropriate (23%):** 55 to 64 years of age, 32%; visit less than once per month, 38%.

**Not very appropriate (17%):** 18 to 24 years of age, 33%.

**Q27. Buy more open space.**

**Extremely appropriate (67%):** Women, 75%; resident 1 to 5 years, 76%; 18 to 24 years of age, 77%.

**Not appropriate at all (7%):** 65 or older, 23%; visit less than once per month, 28%.

**Q28. Limit activities causing conflicts.**

**Extremely appropriate (35%):** Resident less than a year, 48%; 55 to 64 years of age, 51%; visit 21 days or more per month, 49%.

**Q29. Enforce existing regulations.**

**Extremely appropriate (41%):** 55 to 64 years of age, 56%; visit 6 to 10 times per month, 54%.

## Importance of Considering Negative Impacts of Recreation

Question 30: Recreation use can negatively affect or impact plants and wildlife in open space areas. Recreation also provides many community benefits. How important do you believe recreation-related impacts are when making decisions on how to manage Open Space? Would you say they are very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all?

	<u>Years Lived in Boulder</u>					
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Less Than 1</u>	<u>1 to 5</u>	<u>6 to 10</u>	<u>11 to 20</u>	<u>21 or More</u>
Very important	<b>62%</b>	60%	63%	58%	63%	64%
Somewhat important	<b>31</b>	32	31	39	28	31
Not very important	<b>4</b>	4	2	3	5	5
Not important at all	<b>1</b>	--	3	--	1	1
No response	<b>1</b>	4	1	--	3	--

### *Discussion*

The table above reinforces a theme that runs through the survey -- that recreation in open space -- although not specifically passive recreation -- can have environmental quality consequences.

This question doesn't really pit recreation gains against environmental losses, nor was it intended to. Question 31, which follows, does just that.

### *Demographic Anomalies*

**Very important (62%):** Women, 70%; 55 to 64 years of age, 75%; visit 21 days or more per month, 76%.

## Recreation vs. Environment Preservation

Question 31: In order to protect the natural environment and provide high quality recreational experiences, a careful management balance is required. Do you think Boulder Open Space management balance is about right, or is there too much emphasis on preserving the natural environment and not enough on providing recreation, or is there too much emphasis on providing recreation and not enough on preserving the natural environment? (**Accept, but do not read, "I don't have enough information"**)

	<u>Years Lived in Boulder</u>					
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Less Than 1</u>	<u>1 to 5</u>	<u>6 to 10</u>	<u>11 to 20</u>	<u>21 or More</u>
About right	<b>62%</b>	64%	62%	63%	68%	57%
Too much emphasis on environment	<b>11</b>	12	13	8	9	13
Too much emphasis on recreation	<b>20</b>	8	20	23	21	20
Not enough info	<b>3</b>	4	2	5	3	3
No response	<b>4</b>	12	3	2	--	6

### *Discussion*

Responses to this question clearly point to satisfaction among most Boulder citizens with the current balance in open space management between providing recreation on one hand, and preserving the natural environment on the other. Nearly two-thirds of all respondents said they feel that way.

However, among the remaining one-third there is twice as much support for the premise that currently there is too much emphasis on providing recreation than there is for the other side of the coin -- that there is too much emphasis on preserving the environment.

### *Demographic Anomalies*

**Not enough information (3%):** 65 or older, 13%.

## Appropriateness of Possible Management Actions

If plants and wildlife habitat definitely are being impacted from recreational use, how appropriate do you believe the following management actions would be in areas where impacts are unacceptable? Would you say extremely appropriate, somewhat appropriate, not very appropriate or not appropriate at all? What about: ***(Rotate q. 32 through 37. Re-read response choices as necessary)***

		<u>Extrm. Approp.</u>	<u>Smwht. Approp.</u>	<u>Not Very Approp.</u>	<u>Not Approp. at All</u>	<u>No Response</u>
32.	Public education about how to cause less environmental impact?	70%	25%	3%	1%	1%
33.	Limiting use to only designated trails?	61	30	5	2	2
34.	Requiring permits to control the number of people who enter?	15	36	24	24	2
35.	Relocating activities or trails to less sensitive areas?	55	35	5	3	1
36.	Limiting recreational activities that cause the greatest impact?	57	34	4	2	3
37.	Closing areas to recreational use during time periods when impacts are greatest?	65	28	4	3	1

### ***Discussion***

All but one of the six possible management actions described in this series of questions were viewed as appropriate by 90 percent or more of all respondents.

One of them -- “public education about how to cause less environmental impact,” was particularly well-supported, receiving “extremely appropriate” ratings from 70 percent. This mirrors a result in an earlier and somewhat similar series of questions -- 21 through 29 -- that

asked about appropriateness of nine possible ways to deal with conflict or crowding in open space areas. In that case “more public education on trail etiquette” came out on top with 89 percent indicating that it’s appropriate.

Returning to this series, it was question 34 that lagged the rest, with 51 percent indicating that requiring permits to control the number of people who enter open space areas and nearly as many -- 48 percent -- saying that it is either not very appropriate or not appropriate at all. That, too, repeated a pattern that was observed with questions 21 through 29. In that case 50 percent said it would be appropriate to control the number of people who enter crowded areas but 47 percent responded either “not very appropriate” or “not appropriate at all.”

In neither case did mandated limits to entry receive clearcut support.

### ***Demographic Anomalies***

#### **Q32. Public education.**

**Extremely appropriate (70%):** Women, 79%; 18 to 24 years of age, 82%.

#### **Q33. Designated trails only.**

**Extremely appropriate (61%):** Women, 72%; visit every day, 73%.

#### **Q34. Permits to control numbers.**

**Extremely appropriate (15%):** Resident less than a year, 24%; 55 to 64 years of age, 24%; visit less than one time per month, 28%.

**Not very appropriate (24%):** Visit 21 days or more per month, 40%.

#### **Q35. Relocating activities.**

*No important anomalies were observed.*

#### **Q36. High impact activities.**

**Extremely appropriate (57%):** 55 to 64 years of age, 69%.

#### **Q37. Close when impacts are greatest.**

*No important anomalies were observed.*

## Frequency of Visits to Open Space Areas

Question 38: Please estimate how many times per month, on the average, you have visited City of Boulder Open Space areas during the past year.

	<u>Years Lived in Boulder</u>					
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Less Than 1</u>	<u>1 to 5</u>	<u>6 to 10</u>	<u>11 to 20</u>	<u>21 or More</u>
Less than 1	<b>8%</b>	12%	4%	6%	4%	13%
1 to 3	<b>30</b>	20	25	29	32	36
4 to 5	<b>18</b>	20	28	19	15	12
6 to 10	<b>17</b>	28	19	10	18	17
11 to 20	<b>17</b>	8	18	27	18	13
21 or more	<b>4</b>	--	5	5	1	4
Every day	<b>5</b>	12	2	3	10	5
No response	--	--	--	--	1	--

### *Discussion*

We calculated the mean frequency of estimated visits to open space areas per month, and it is 4.7.

### *Comparisons with Previous Surveys*

Questions asking respondents to estimate how often they had visited the city's open space areas per month were asked in both the 1992 and 1994 survey projects. However, neither of those surveys provided true trend baselines for 1999 survey analysis because (1) respondents were asked only about the previous six months, (2) they did not ask about the

same six months and (3) both surveys included some late fall and early winter months in the six-month spans.

Despite that fact the mean frequencies in 1994 and 1999 were similar -- 4.0 visits and 4.7 visits respectively. We were beginning to believe that the six-month span ending with late fall and winter months could have accounted for the fact that there were seven-tenths of one fewer visits per month in 1994. However, that appears unlikely in view of the fact that in 1992 the mean frequency was calculated at 6.7 visits per month, and the methodology was similar to that in 1994

To see trends here would be a mistake, in our opinion. Still, both 1999 and 1994 can be said to be in the same general range -- on the order of visits once per week.

### ***Demographic Anomalies***

**Visit less than once per month (8%):** 65 or older, 27%.

**Visit 4 to 5 times per month (18%):** Resident 1 to 5 years, 28%.

**Visit 6 to 10 times per month (17%):** Residents less than a year, 28%;  
18 to 34 years of age.

**Visit 11 to 20 times per month (17%):** 11 to 20 years of age, 27%.

Emergent Open-Ended  
Categories

**Question 1: First of all, what do you think is the primary purpose for having Open Space? (*Open end. Probe.*)**

1. People can enjoy outdoor experience/enjoy beautiful areas/environmental enjoyment
2. Control growth/keep population down
3. Stop development/keep people from building on it/keep developers away/keep land undeveloped/prevent urban sprawl
4. Preserve the natural environment/experience environment way it used to be/ protect environment/enjoy undeveloped land/save mountains and plains
5. Buffer against cities growing together/keep buffer zone/greenbelt
6. Elbow room/keep city breathable/places free of urban congestion
7. Important to Boulder quality of life/preserves high quality of living
8. Quiet places/place to think/to be free/keeps us from going insane/meditation/ escape from people/peace of mind
9. Recreation/recreational enjoyment
10. Wildlife/wildlife habitat
11. Enjoy hiking/walking/running
12. Enjoy views/aesthetics
13. Miscellaneous
14. No response

**Question 2: For what specific purposes do you personally use Open Space?  
(Open end. Probe. Accept, but do not solicit, multiple responses.)**

1. Hiking/walking
2. Running/jogging
3. Mountain biking
4. Biking/cycling
5. Inline skating
6. Enjoying beauty/enjoying environment/look at scenery/peace of mind/nature watching
7. Photography
8. Walk dog
9. Don't use/seldom use
10. Picnic
11. Fishing
12. Miscellaneous/recreation/exercise
13. Horseback riding
14. Hang-gliding
15. No response

**Question 4: What is the main reason you feel that those open space areas will be \_\_\_\_\_ than they are today? (Read choice from q. 3. Open end. Probe.)**

### **“Better” responses**

1. Boulder cares about the environment/the type of people Boulder attracts/people are committed to them/public support
2. Awareness of values of open space growing
3. There will be more trees
4. Boulder people willing to pay money to maintain/they'll get more money/will add to open space
5. Will improve conditions rather than buy land
6. Mother nature will fix
7. Miscellaneous “better”

### **“Worse” responses**

8. Overuse/more and more people using/parks are filled up/over population
9. Will be built on/developers will take it over/will have shrunk/Boulder will sell to developers/hard to keep land undeveloped
10. People care less and less
11. Planet is in decline
12. Funding will be inadequate
13. Miscellaneous “worse”
14. No response

**Question 5: One of the purposes of Boulder's Open Space listed in the City Charter is to provide what is termed "passive recreation." What does passive recreation mean to you? (*Open end. Probe.*)**

1. No organized or structured uses/leaving no trace/no organized sports/leave way it is/leave in natural state/no change
2. Low impact on environment/recreation that doesn't hurt environment/not destructive
3. Limited uses/not many activities allowed
4. Quiet, leisurely walks/hiking and walking only/strolling/lounging around/walking dog
5. Picnics/benches and grass for elderly
6. For sleeping/reading books/sit quietly/relaxing/ lounging around
7. Nothing as intense as horses, dogs, bikes
8. No motorized vehicles/biking and hiking
9. Aesthetic values/having a nice view/visual/nice to look at/aesthetic purposes/look at beauty/walking or driving past
10. Bird watching
11. Habitat for wildlife
12. Miscellaneous/horseback riding/contradictory statement/playing in park
13. No response

**Question 13: If there is any one thing among open space area facilities that is in most need of improvement, what would it be? (*Open end. Probe*)**

1. Parking inadequate/accessibility poor/more parking/parking in Flagstaff
2. Enforce dog leash rules on trails/more control over dogs/areas exclusively for dogs
3. Dirty trails/dog droppings
4. Build more trails/trails too crowded/trail maintenance/improve quality of trails
5. Signage poor/more signs/better signage/signs about dog usage/better signs at trailheads
6. Dirty rest rooms/more rest rooms/running water for toilets
7. Everything's in good shape/nothing needed
8. Better trash pickup in remote areas/more trash cans/better location of garbage cans/pick up litter
9. Better maps and information
10. Miscellaneous/need more/off trail usage/water fountains/more open space
11. No response

**Question 15: If there is any one thing among Open Space services that is in need of improvement, what would it be? (Open end. Probe)**

1. More public information/more educational material/community newsletter/lack of communications/better maps
2. Law enforcement poor/patrolling needed/more rangers and guides/better coordination with police/traffic enforcement/enforce dog laws
3. Enhance awareness of areas for handicapped
4. Signage about dog rules/signage with information phone number
5. Interactive service/signs identifying wildflowers
6. Just improve everything
7. Everything's fine/nothing needed
8. Miscellaneous/limit number of people/warnings of dangers of wildlife
9. No response

**Question 17: What one reason mostly caused you to stop visiting that particular Boulder Open Space area, or use it less often? (*Open end. Probe*)**

1. Conflict between bikers and walkers
2. Getting too crowded/too many people
3. Outside factors/because of my age/not as active anymore/because of work/don't have time
5. Too many dogs/problems with dogs/dog droppings
6. Because of rollerbladers
7. An area was closed to mountain bikes
8. Miscellaneous
9. No response

**Question 18: Sometimes different recreational activities in an open space area conflict and result in unpleasant encounters. What specific recreational activities would you say are in conflict with other specific activities? (*Open end. Probe.*)**

1. Bikers versus walkers and joggers/bikers versus other users/cyclists versus pedestrians/bikers versus wheelchairs
2. Horseback riders versus all other trail users
3. Dogs off leash versus people/dog walkers versus bicycles/dogs versus children/dogs versus all other uses
4. Rollerbladers versus walkers and bikers
5. Rollerbladers versus all other trail users
6. Mountain bikes and any other use/mountain biking versus bikers
7. Any motorized uses/motorcycles vs. hikers
8. Miscellaneous/quiet time vs. radio noise/too many people conflict with one another
10. Conflicts are minimal/conflicts are rare/ haven't experienced conflicts/no conflicts
11. I don't use Open Space
12. No response

**Question 20: What have you observed that led you to say that those open space areas are \_\_\_\_\_? (Read choice from q. 19. Open end. Probe)**

*“Not crowded” or “positive moderately crowded” responses*

1. Use daily with no problems
2. The time of day I use it/depends on the day/avoid weekends/not many people in off hours
3. I avoid the busy areas
4. Never had a negative experience/no sign of crowding
5. Only a couple of people on trail/not many people
6. More than enough open space/plenty of room
7. Plenty of parking
8. Miscellaneous

*“Crowded” responses*

9. More people are using it/the number of people increasing/too many people/a lot of people/everyone visits
10. Sometimes crowded with runners
11. The foot traffic on trails increasing/Boulder Creek path more crowded than it used to be/now have to move off trails to allow others to pass/traffic on paths/people every 20 feet
12. Miscellaneous/what he’s seen/more dogs
13. Weekends are crowded/too many people in a.m.
14. Parking problems/parking lots full
15. No response

## The Questionnaire

# City of Boulder Open Space Questionnaire

## D R A F T 7.1

**(Note: all bold and italicized items are instructions to interviewers.)**

**(Ask for target respondent by name. If person is not at home, ask for any other person in the household who is on the list. Once a qualified respondent is on the line, begin interview.)**

“Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I’m a public opinion interviewer with The Public Information Corporation. We're conducting a public opinion survey of voting age residents for the City of Boulder Open Space Program. We are not talking about Boulder County government’s Parks and Open Space, or national parks or national forests. The results will be used in developing a Visitor Plan that is intended to preserve recreational experiences and the natural environment of the City of Boulder’s Open Space.

1. First of all, what do you think is the primary purpose for having Open Space? **(Open end. Probe.)**

---

---

2. For what specific purposes do you personally use Open Space? **(Open end. Probe. Accept, but do not solicit, multiple responses.)**

---

---

3. What do you think Boulder’s open space areas will look like about 25 years from now? Do you believe that their conditions will tend to be <u>better</u> , <u>about the same</u> or <u>worse</u> than they are today?	Better .....	1
	About the same .....	2
	Worse .....	3
	No response .....	4

**(If they say better or worse to q. 3, then ask q. 4. If “about the same” or “no response,” SKIP to q. 5)**

4. What is the main reason you feel that those open space areas will be \_\_\_\_\_ than they are today? **(Read choice from q. 3. Open end. Probe)**

---



---

5. One of the purposes of Boulder’s Open Space listed in the City Charter is to provide what is termed “passive recreation.” What does passive recreation mean to you? **(Open end. Probe.)**

---



---

As I just indicated, a purpose of Boulder’s Open Space is preservation of land for passive recreational use, and examples are hiking, photography, and nature study in open space areas and, if specifically designated, bicycling, horseback riding or fishing. What should be used as criteria when deciding what other activities are appropriate? Should the following criteria for evaluating be considered extremely appropriate, somewhat appropriate, not very appropriate, or not appropriate at all? What about: **(Rotate q. 6 through 10. Re-read response choices as necessary.)**

	<u>Extremely Appropriate</u>	<u>Somewhat Appropriate</u>	<u>Not Very Appropriate</u>	<u>Not Appropriate at All</u>	<u>No Response</u>
6. Benefit of the activity to the community?	1	2	3	4	5
7. Negative impacts on vegetation and wildlife?	1	2	3	4	5
8. Increased conflicts among visitors?	1	2	3	4	5
9. That an activity could increase people’s appreciation of nature?	1	2	3	4	5
10. Negative impacts to views or other aesthetic values?	1	2	3	4	5

11. When you visit open space areas, would you describe the quality of your experiences as usually being excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Excellent..... 1  
 Good..... 2  
 Fair ..... 3  
 Poor ..... 4  
 No Response..... 5

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 12. Taken as a whole, would you describe the facilities in Boulder's open space areas such as trails, parking lots, signs and trash cans as <u>excellent</u> , <u>good</u> , <u>only fair</u> or <u>poor</u> ? | Excellent ..... 1<br>Good..... 2<br>Only fair ..... 3<br>Poor ..... 4<br>No response ..... 5 |
|--|--|

13. If there is any one thing among open space area facilities that is in most need of improvement, what would it be? **(Open end. Probe.)**

---



---

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 14. We asked you about open space <u>facilities</u> . Now, let's look at visitor <u>services</u> . Taken as a whole, would you describe the adequacy and quality of visitor services such as information and interpretive services, emergency response and law enforcement as <u>excellent</u> , <u>good</u> , <u>only fair</u> or <u>poor</u> ? | Excellent..... 1<br>Good..... 2<br>Only fair ..... 3<br>Poor ..... 4<br>No response ..... 5 |
|--|---|

15. If there is any one thing among Open Space services that is in need of improvement, what would it be? **(Open end. Probe.)**

---



---

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 16. Are you using a particular Boulder Open Space area <u>less often</u> , or even <u>stopped using it entirely</u> ? | Less often ..... 1<br>Stopped using it entirely ..... 2<br>No..... 3<br>No response ..... 4 |
|---|---|

**(If response is "no" or "no response" SKIP to q. 18)**

17. What one reason mostly caused you to stop visiting that particular Boulder Open Space area, or use it less often? **(Open end. Probe.)**

---



---

18. Sometimes different recreational activities in an open space area conflict and result in unpleasant encounters. What specific recreational activities would you say are in conflict with other specific activities? **(Open end. Probe.)**

---

---

19. Would you say that the open space areas that you visit are not crowded at all, moderately crowded, crowded or extremely crowded?	Not crowded at all.....	1
	Moderately crowded .....	2
	Crowded .....	3
	Extremely crowded .....	4
	No response .....	5

**(If response is “no response,” SKIP to q. 21)**

20. What have you observed that led you to say that those open space areas are \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
**(Read choice from q. 19. Open end. Probe)**

---

---

Several methods have been suggested to deal with conflict or crowding. I will describe them. Please tell me if you feel that each is extremely appropriate, somewhat appropriate, not very appropriate, or not appropriate at all. What about: (***Rotate q. 21 through 29. Re-read introductions or response choices as necessary.***)

	<u>Extremely Appropriate</u>	<u>Somewhat Appropriate</u>	<u>Not Very Appropriate</u>	<u>Not Appropriate at All</u>	<u>No Response</u>
21. Constructing more trails and entrances?	1	2	3	4	5
22. Controlling the number of people who enter crowded areas?	1	2	3	4	5
23. Charging fees to people who live outside the county?	1	2	3	4	5
24. More public education on trail etiquette?	1	2	3	4	5
25. Limiting groups of 25 or more?	1	2	3	4	5
26. Limiting <u>commercial users</u> such as horse liveryes and companies which teach outdoor activities like climbing or hang gliding?	1	2	3	4	5
27. Buying additional Open Space for passive recreational use?	1	2	3	4	5
28. Limiting types of recreational activities that are likely to cause conflicts?	1	2	3	4	5
29. Enforcing existing regulations more vigorously?	1	2	3	4	5

30. Recreational use can negatively affect or impact plants and wildlife in open space areas. Recreation also provides many community benefits. How important do you believe recreation-related impacts are when making decisions on how to manage Open Space? Would you say they are very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all?

	Very important .....	1
	Somewhat important.....	2
	Not very important .....	3
	Not important at all .....	4
	No response .....	5

31. In order to protect the natural environment and provide high quality recreational experiences, a careful management balance is required. Do you think Boulder Open Space management balance is about right, or is there too much emphasis on preserving the natural environment and not enough on providing recreation, or is there too much emphasis on providing recreation and not enough on preserving the natural environment?

	About right .....	1
	There is too much emphasis on preserving the natural environment and not enough on providing recreation .....	2
	There is too much emphasis on providing recreation and not enough on preserving the natural environment.....	3
	Not enough information .....	4
	No response .....	5

***(Accept, but do not read, "I don't have enough information")***

If plants and wildlife habitat definitely are being impacted from recreational use, how appropriate do you believe the following management actions would be in areas where impacts are unacceptable? Would you say extremely appropriate, somewhat appropriate, not very appropriate or not appropriate at all? What about: (**Rotate q. 32 through 37. Re-read response choices as necessary**)

	<b><u>Extremely Appropriate</u></b>	<b><u>Somewhat Appropriate</u></b>	<b><u>Not Very Appropriate</u></b>	<b><u>Not Appropriate at All</u></b>	<b><u>No Response</u></b>
32. Public education about how to cause less environmental impact?	1	2	3	4	5
33. Limiting use to only designated trails?	1	2	3	4	5
34. Requiring permits to control the number of people who enter?	1	2	3	4	5
35. Relocating activities or trails to less sensitive areas?	1	2	3	4	5
36. Limiting recreational activities that cause the greatest impact?	1	2	3	4	5
37. Closing areas to recreational use during time periods when impacts are greatest?	1	2	3	4	5

38. Please estimate how many times per month, on the average, you have visited City of Boulder Open Space areas during the past year.

---

39. How long have you lived in Boulder?

Less than 1 year.....	1
1 to 5 years.....	2
6 to 10 years.....	3
11 to 20 years.....	4
21 years or more .....	5
No response .....	6

40. How old are you? 18 to 24 ..... 1  
*(Read brackets if necessary)* 25 to 34 ..... 2  
35 to 44 ..... 3  
45 to 54 ..... 4  
55 to 64 ..... 5  
65 or older ..... 6  
No response ..... 7

***(Thank respondent and then complete the information from your calling sheet. Double check to make certain that you got all of them.)***

41. Gender: Male..... 1  
Female ..... 2

42. Political affiliation: Republican ..... 1  
*(For demographic use only)* Democrat ..... 2  
Unaffiliated ..... 3

43. Precinct Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Calling sheet number: \_\_\_\_\_

“I certify that the responses on this interview worksheet are complete and accurate, as presented by the respondent.”

INTERVIEWER’S INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_ INTERVIEWER’S #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 1999

