

Comment Compendium Last Updated 2.14.2020

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
1/16/2020	Cynthia	Hutchison	<p>Hello Fellow Boulderites.... Please Please Please do not develop Wonderland Lake, which is not only an animal sanctuary, but a human sanctuary where locals go to walk and pray and meditate and be quiet, taking in quiet nature, the water, the sky, the clouds, the birds, the grasses and mountains and trees....</p> <p>I do support the name being referred to as a sanctuary.... and I did attend one of the gatherings several months ago. Thank you....</p>
1/16/2020	Susan	Jeter	<p>Keep wonderland lake natural and allow environmental protection to plants and animals for the mental health of all boulder citizens. No man made structures to inhibit freedom of God's wilderness design.</p>
1/12/2020	Terry		<p>Hi OSMP. After reviewing the survey results from engagement #2, it appears the only items there is broad support for is trees and existing trail maintenance. I would also like to add the social trails on the peninsula are growing in number, and suggest as part of existing trail maintenance to install the wooden blockades that have been used in the past, to block the use of social trails. Thank you, Terry</p>
1/8/2020	Samagra	Melville	<p>Currently we have a very well used wildlife area with Wonderland Lake. Many of the people who frequent Wonderland Lake arrive here on foot or bike or through the two Boulder City parks on either side. The neighborhood surrounding the lake is densely populated and includes a diverse mix of single family homes, trailer parks, schools (including pre schools). The area also includes a good amount of permanently affordable housing which is inclusive by design.</p> <p>There are hundreds of proposed infill units within a mile of Wonderland Lake. And Wonderland Lake is small.</p> <p>Since the city's goal of creating additional density within the city is often stated "to promote less use of cars", and since there are other much larger open space areas with larger ponds and facilities for buses east of here, maybe we don't need to bus people in to this one small area.</p> <p>Since there are going to be increased numbers of people living within walking or biking distance, and since Boulder has a fabulous city bus system which stops across from the nature center, and since I believe most people have said in previous surveys, that parking is not an issue, perhaps we don't need to create more parking.</p>

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
12/15/2019	Matthew	King	<p>I wanted to share an update as relates to the petition for Wonderland Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. It has reached nearly 900 signatures, a significant increase from when the results were initially shared with you last summer before the new Phase I public input process commenced.</p> <p>I'd like to submit this as additional evidence for the name change and have it fully considered by those responsible for the final decisions after the Phase II questionnaire response period closes on December 16th.</p> <p>Link to the Petition: 896 signatures at the time of sending this email.  <a href="https://www.change.org/p/sign-to-formalize-the-name-wonderland-lake-wildlife-sanctuary-for-our-beloved-wonderland-lake-in-boulder-co-let-s-keep-this-ecosystem-thriving?recruiter=935885049&amp;utm_source=share_petition&amp;utm_medium=copylink&amp;utm_campaign=share_petition">https://www.change.org/p/sign-to-formalize-the-name-wonderland-lake-wildlife-sanctuary-for-our-beloved-wonderland-lake-in-boulder-co-let-s-keep-this-ecosystem-thriving?recruiter=935885049&amp;utm_source=share_petition&amp;utm_medium=copylink&amp;utm_campaign=share_petition</a></p> <p>A number of people have reached out and asked why they need to reiterate their stance vis a vis the questionnaire when they've already made their position clear as relates to the name change when signing the petition.</p> <p>I addressed that question by making clear that the City operated in good faith by including it in the Phase II questionnaire after OSMP restarted the process following public demand last January. I communicated that OSMP graciously included the name change as a part of Phase II without it having to be a part of Phase I of the current process due to the high demand for the name change vis a vis the petition.</p> <p>In turn, I encouraged folks to complete the questionnaire now and stated that it provides the City with valuable input on all facets currently under consideration for the area following the input from Phase 1 that occurred over the summer.</p> <p>Some folks mentioned that the short time frame to respond to the questionnaire is an issue. Given the two-week window provided for input at one of the busiest times of year, I made clear that I would pass along the concern as well as update both of you on the current number of petition signatures. I also reiterated that OSMP has communicated these dates and consistently updated citizens in advance of the Phase II questionnaire.</p> <p>I hope, along with others, that the City of Boulder and OSMP will officially record that 900 or so people have responded in the affirmative to rename the area Wonderland Lake Wildlife Sanctuary.</p> <p>Finally, I'd be interested in knowing how many people responded to the questionnaire after you've had a chance to tally the results. I'd</p>

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
			<p>also love to see the full results and data when possible for both Phase I and Phase II.</p> <p>Thanks for all of the hardworking that you're doing to improve the area in a manner consistent with public input.</p>
12/15/2019	Seth	Chernoff	<p>I know you are collecting surveys but I wanted to share an email with my vehement opposition to a second trail through the wilderness area to create a loop. I have seen coyotes, hawks, an eagle a bear, endless deer and many other animals in the space between the houses on redwood and the existing trail...I would not want to do anything to affect that.</p> <p>If I may, there are two things that would enhance the trail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FIX the trail so it actually goes around the lake without having to exit onto UTICA – not sure how one house was able to force the trail onto the road but that's very unfortunate and creates an awkward starting and stopping to the trail.</li> <li>• Secondly, just put a little section like this: <a href="https://www.evernote.com/l/AAmI7YuFS-RL14j33q3c8BPPisQlwz13QAM">https://www.evernote.com/l/AAmI7YuFS-RL14j33q3c8BPPisQlwz13QAM</a>– which would make for an easier path to the left around the lake.</li> </ul> <p>Otherwise, do nothing to the location of the existing trail. I'm sure my vote isn't worth much but I wanted to reach out anyway.</p>
12/14/2019	Sally	Thorner	<p>Just home from the dog park in North Boulder where I got an earful about OSMPs plans for Wonderland. Everybody there was fretting about proposals to make the lake "more accessible " by adding trails, etc. I missed the last meeting but was under the impression further development of this sanctuary had already been shot down by residents for a variety of concerns.</p> <p>I'd like to add my name to the growing list of neighbors who love Wonderland as is.</p> <p>Even if your motivation is honorable (to share the natural beauty and wildlife with the rest of Boulder,) I believe you and your colleagues are misguided.</p> <p>We don't need another park a quarter mile away from Foothills, we need to protect the ecosystem we have left.</p> <p>Please improve the existing trails and enforce the current rules (more rangers!) and protect our little slice of heaven from a hellish fate.</p>

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
12/14/2019	Brian	Rosenfeld	<p>as a resident of North Boulder I am writing to actively resist any new trails near the Lake. The loop around the Lake is sufficient and there are so many access points for parking and creating your own loop that we do not have to 1) destroy the natural habitat for many animals that I routinely see in the field and 2) you will be providing another location for people to go off trail and smoke and readily hide in the wetlands swale. I'm not sure why you and your colleagues persist in trying to turn this spot into Epcot when the neighborhood has and will continue to actively resist these endeavors. More Rangers to patrol and improve the current trails is what is needed, not more trails and development that will harm the animal life and their movement.</p>
12/13/2019 0:00	Michelle	Evans	<p>I am writing as a concerned citizen of boulder county regarding the possible addition of another trail south of the creek running east of the lake. I strongly disagree with this possible trail addition. I feel this will not add any benefit to human trail use (it seems lazy that the current trail isn't enough), while harming the wildlife in the area. Boulder is a very fit community and I think we can all agree, if using the trail, an additional several hundred feet of walking on the current trail is good for your health &amp; good for the wildlife around us. Let's keep Boulder beautiful &amp; not add this unnecessary trail. Thanks for your time.</p>
12/13/2019 0:00	Sally	Rainey	<p>Although I filled out the survey on Wonderland development, I was unable to attend the most recent meeting due to a conflict. I am concerned about some of the ideas embedded in the survey. The multiple choice answers did not lend themselves to much nuance and so I am writing to express those concerns.</p> <p>Despite the negative public reaction to the initial Wonderland proposals, there seems to be an underlying institutional "bias" for lack of a better word to "improve" the Wonderland area through additional facilities and uses. I believe that these will have the effect of turning what is currently a fragile open area into just another city park. The southeast side of the lake already has paved sidewalks and a playground. Foothills Community Park with its restrooms, soccer fields, dog parks, parking lots, and hockey rink is just a few blocks away. North Boulder does NOT need another playground. Most residents crave the opportunity to get close to nature; Wonderland is a little slice of that within the city. It is already under pressure from current use alone. I do not believe that it can successfully absorb more without damage. Less in this case is more.</p> <p>I understand the need to improve maintenance of the current trail and support some wheelchair access if it doesn't involve large swaths of land being paved over. However, adding a trail to the south side of the creek to create a looped trail is a terrible idea. The current path, on the north side, keeps walkers, dogs (and their waste), and cyclists to one side of the open area. Adding another path would put additional pressure on area wildlife. The meadow and dry creek bed south of the current path and east of the dam is a wildlife corridor. It is already narrow and fraught with danger because of its proximity to Broadway. Narrowing it further would not serve the OSMP mission to protect and preserve.</p>

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
			<p>In addition to the herd of deer that frequents that area, I've seen coyotes, bobcats, foxes, and an enormous bear. Hawks and owls also hunt in that meadow. (I've attached a few photos I've taken over the past year or two.) These animals tend to stay close to the creek bed, especially south of it, to avoid the people on the trail. If you add another trail, their territory will be severely compromised. Trail users can already do a short loop — up to the dam area and around the point and back. We don't need another trail.</p> <p>I'm not sure where this pressure to add and improve comes from. It is not coming from residents. Once you add something — it won't be taken away. And once you ruin something by trying to fix it, it's gone.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and attention. Please please please consider the wildlife in the area.</p> 
12/13/2019 0:00	Susan	Jeter	<p>Please keep wonderland lake a nature preserve. We have recreational facilities north as well as directly south with playgrounds climbing wall picnic tables and parking. The lake allows all ages to enjoy peace and serenity while protecting birds and habitat from encroachment.</p>

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
12/13/2019 0:00	Nora	Cooke	<p>I am writing to add some additional comments to the survey about Wonderland.</p> <p>First, I very much hope that OSMP is still taking into account the multitude of comments they have already received on this issue. The community has spoken out very strongly on this already, and to keep requiring input should not mean ignoring prior comments, since people get weary of continually adding the same feedback.</p> <p>Second, the community made it abundantly clear at the meeting held earlier this year that turning Wonderland Lake into a recreation area is not favored. I find it unbelievable that artificial shade structures, picnic areas, additional trails into sensitive wildlife habitat, and a greatly expanded nature center are still being considered after the response you received.</p> <p>The proposed new trail into the large meadow between Redwood and the main trail is particularly troubling: that meadow often contains coyotes, bears, deer with young fawns, and red-tailed hawks hunting for snakes, etc.</p> <p>Wonderland is a gem that the community treasures, as is. I'm sure whatever funds are seemingly burning a hole in OSMP's pocket could be better spent elsewhere, especially on maintaining existing trails and facilities.</p> <p>Once you intrude into wildlife habitat and beautiful scenery by adding new trails and building new structures, there is no going back-it is gone forever. Please think about the long-term consequences of your actions and leave things as they are. Boulder is being built-up left and right, and Wonderland is one of the few simple, beautiful, calm sanctuaries left.</p>
12/13/2019 14:53	Heather	Dupre	<p>This area should be preserved, not further "developed". It is an area of natural beauty and a haven for wildlife. This is NOT a recreation spot. It is a spot to observe and appreciate the natural environment unspoiled by garish signage, or anything humanly artificial, including a "nature center". It is a spot for humans to be quietly respectful of nature and wildlife and not to interfere with it in any way. Keep it natural! Do not destroy one of the last beautiful water and open grassland spots in Boulder. Do not obstruct or keep the animals away.</p>
12/11/2019 0:00	David	Schaldach	<p>Thank you for your continued availability for receiving input on the subject of Wonderland Lake. I have participated in your current questionnaire as well as all of the prior surveys and questionnaires since becoming aware of proposed changes last year.</p> <p>As a very frequent visitor to the lake and also as a certified arborist, I wanted to give you additional input with my specific interest and expertise in mind.</p> <p>My hope is to influence the desire for shade on the peninsula in particular towards the planting of trees. Trees not only create shade, but also provide structure, food and protection for even more wildlife.</p>

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
			<p>Currently on the peninsula there are viable cottonwood, juniper (trees), siberian elms, and willows. There is an apple tree and choke cherries. Native trees which could be introduced would be hackberry trees, gamble oaks, and box elders all of which self seed readily given favorable conditions. The rocky mountain sumac and native Hawthorne's would be good choices for shrubs. There are some ash trees all around th lake which will be dying soon given the emerald ash borer, however in a natural environment, dying trees again add organic matter to the soil and therefore are a benefit to the ecosystem. Planting before the ashes die might be advantageous because the moisture levels will decrease once the shade of the ashes is gone, making reforestation potentially more difficult.</p> <p>Just outside the peninsula I am aware of three young ponderosa pines which have volunteered within 20 feet of the shoreline on the south side. There is currently a bramble of three leafed sumac and hackberry trees at the south end of the dam.</p> <p>If the trail on the peninsula were covered in soft absorbent wood chips - spread by junior rangers perhaps, the trail would be less muddy and the chips become a host for fungi and soil invertebrates. The idea is that organic matter added to the soil is the bottom of the food chain for a soil ecosystem which supports plant life. Then the interior of the peninsula could be closed off while it became reforested with native trees and understory. This could be accomplished in a couple of ways one of which is broadcasting thousands of seeds. Planting larger trees would make a difference sooner but require maintenance, i.e. irrigation.</p> <p>The model should be introducing plant specimens that can be part of a self perpetuating system, keeping in mind that all of the existing trees have apparently self-seeded. As the wild places around the world become compromised I imagine this little sliver of habitat becoming an example of what can happen with the focus on protection of nature. And as our Boulder urban canopy is under attack by exotic pests and development, what better gift can we give to the Boulder community than a vibrant sanctuary for wildlife.</p>
12/9/2019 22:05	Stephen	Traum	<p>I see the area as quite pristine and peaceful and would not like to see any further trails going across the open space from east to west south of the existing trail. That would just add to the traffic and disturb what is just a beautiful and pleasant vista. Better maintenance of existing trails and more frequent repairing of erosion would serve the Wonderland Lake Open Space much more fully.</p>
12/9/2019 0:00	Friends of Wonderland Lake		<p>A summary of the following position paper is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Friends of Wonderland Lake is a volunteer, ad hoc group of Boulder citizens concern for the future of Wonderland Lake. The group organized to address issues of development proposed in the Wonderland Lake ISP (WL ISP), a subsection of the larger OSMP North Trails Study Area (NTSA).</li> <li>2. While many items in the WL ISP were of value, there were a number of proposed changes that were deemed unacceptable in an area that had always been viewed as a wildlife sanctuary, under the protection of OSMP. Those changes included a fishing pier, board walks into protected wildlife habitat, a hardened wading area into the lake, additional trails into wildlife habitat, recreational facilities, bird blinds, shade structures, and a great increase in parking and facilities at the Broadway trail head.</li> </ol>

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
			<p>3. Citizen pushback has resulted in some items being “taken off the table” to quote communication from OSMP. Those items include the fishing pier, boardwalks and the wading area. While heartened, we are still concerned that there is a movement to develop WL into a more active recreational facility rather than to keep it as a natural habitat.</p> <p>4. The history of Wonderland Lake, From at least the 1970’s on, was that it was to be a natural habitat supporting wildlife. As North Boulder evolved into a semi-urban residential/commercial area, WL retained its aura as a quiet, contemplative nature preserve. OSMP supported the idea of WL as a wildlife sanctuary by posting signage that said: “This is a Wildlife Sanctuary”.</p> <p>5. Friends of Wonderland Lake would like to see the area continue to be treated as a natural habitat sanctuary as covered in OSMP Charter Section 176. Further, we would like to see the proposed name change to Wonderland Lake Wildlife Sanctuary be officially adopted. The proposed name change was submitted to the City with 675 individual signatures along with many organizations also in support. Numerous surveys, including surveys sponsored by OSMP, have shown overwhelming support for treating and protecting Wonderland Lake as a natural habitat.</p> <p>6. Our position is that we would like to see the City Council and OSBT govern to preserve Wonderland Lake as the Boulder success story it is; a natural habitat accessible to all and a wildlife sanctuary inside the City of Boulder. The following position paper is respectfully submitted by Friends of Wonderland Lake.</p> <p>SEE ATTACHED</p>

## **From Friends of Wonderland Lake: Position Paper Regarding Future Development at Wonderland Lake, aka Wonderland Lake ISP of the NTSA**

Addressed to the

Members of the Boulder City Council and Open Space Board of Trustees  
Boulder, Colorado

December 9, 2019

A summary of the following position paper is:

1. Friends of Wonderland Lake is a volunteer, ad hoc group of Boulder citizens concern for the future of Wonderland Lake. The group organized to address issues of development proposed in the Wonderland Lake ISP (WL ISP), a subsection of the larger OSMP North Trails Study Area (NTSA).
2. While many items in the WL ISP were of value, there were a number of proposed changes that were deemed unacceptable in an area that had always been viewed as a wildlife sanctuary, under the protection of OSMP. Those changes included a fishing pier, board walks into protected wildlife habitat, a hardened wading area into the lake, additional trails into wildlife habitat, recreational facilities, bird blinds, shade structures, and a great increase in parking and facilities at the Broadway trail head.
3. Citizen pushback has resulted in some items being “taken off the table” to quote communication from OSMP. Those items include the fishing pier, boardwalks and the wading area. While heartened, we are still concerned that there is a movement to develop WL into a more active recreational facility rather than to keep it as a natural habitat.
4. The history of Wonderland Lake, From at least the 1970’s on, was that it was to be a natural habitat supporting wildlife. As North Boulder evolved into a semi-urban residential/commercial area, WL retained its aura as a quiet, contemplative nature preserve. OSMP supported the idea of WL as a wildlife sanctuary by posting signage that said: “This is a Wildlife Sanctuary”.
5. Friends of Wonderland Lake would like to see the area continue to be treated as a natural habitat sanctuary as covered in OSMP Charter Section 176. Further, we would like to see the proposed name change to Wonderland Lake Wildlife Sanctuary be officially adopted. The proposed name change was submitted to the City with 675 individual signatures along with many organizations also in support. Numerous surveys, including surveys sponsored by OSMP, have shown overwhelming support for treating and protecting Wonderland Lake as a natural habitat.
6. Our position is that we would like to see the City Council and OSBT govern to preserve Wonderland Lake as the Boulder success story it is; a natural habitat accessible to all and a wildlife sanctuary inside the City of Boulder.

**The following position paper is respectfully submitted by Friends of Wonderland Lake.**

## **Friends of Wonderland Lake Position Paper, December 2019**

Friends of Wonderland Lake is an ad hoc group of Boulder residents that formed in December 2018 after an editorial seen in the Daily Camera revealed plans for extensive infrastructure development around Wonderland Lake (WL). The Wonderland Lake area or Wonderland Lake ISP as it has become known is part of the Northern Trails Study Area (NTSA) and is now incorporated into the OSMP Master Plan. The NTSA plan for Wonderland Lake originally included such things as a fishing pier, hardened wading areas, boardwalks, additional trails into sensitive wildlife habitats, and structural shade shelters. Those of us that have interacted with the Wonderland Lake area for decades were shocked to think that an area believed to be a wildlife sanctuary and protected by OSMP's charter to preserve and protect could be slated for such development.

The group began meeting with OSMP trustees, City Council Members and OSMP staff to determine how this had come to be and express our concerns regarding development at WL. As it turned out, the ISP for WL plans had been developed and included in a much larger study approved by City Council in 2016. In 2016, Boulder was still recovering from and dealing with rebuilding efforts from the floods of 2013 so it was likely that this study did not get the scrutiny it may have deserved. Regardless, the outpouring of public sentiment by January 2019 was obvious to City Council and OSMP resulting in OSMP declaring emphatically that the fishing pier and boardwalks were "OFF THE TABLE". Further, OSMP was going to reopen the whole ISP to public input. While Friends of Wonderland Lake and the constituency we represent, are heartened by this, there is still a concern that some of these items may be re-introduced and that a number of items such as additional trails into sensitive habitat, bird blinds, picnic tables and grills, structural shade shelters are still being actively pursued. We were relieved to hear that the hardened wading area, which would have inevitably led to swimming and significant health, safety risks and enforcement challenges, has now also been taken off the table due to health concerns after an outbreak of blue-green algae.

### **History of Wonderland Lake and why the citizens of Boulder are so concerned.**

The Wonderland Lake loop and its habitat area is a Boulder success story. It is a prime example of wildlife preservation surrounded by neighborhoods; a wildlife sanctuary in a semi urban setting with a City park on the south west corner and the 65-acre Foothills Community Park, just to the north. But the lake itself and the area immediately around it, including the open space to the east of the dam, is still primarily a wildlife habitat, and hence very much as it was envisioned by Jim Crain, director of the City's open space program in the 1970's and Jim Leach, developer of the Wonderland Hills housing area and the owner of the land around and including WL. Working with Jim Crain, Jim Leach gave the lake to the City and sold the City about 100 acres around it. In a February 16, 2019 editorial Jim Leach wrote,

*"The final vision that we all shared for the lake and surrounds was a combination of a natural area around the lake that would support wildlife with an active city park adjacent to it and a system of native short grass prairie open space linkages with walking trails linking the new Wonderland Hill developments and future neighborhoods to the north. The intent was to create a major public open space and park amenity for North Boulder, which is fairly much what it has evolved into over the past 40 years through the good stewardship of the city, the Wonderland neighbors, and others."*

Wonderland Lake was built in 1907, making it almost 50 years older than the Boulder reservoir. It was originally part of the Silver Lake ditch system and still receives water from Silver Lake ditch. It is a man-made lake just as virtually all lakes along the Front Range are, but at over 100 years old it has become an amazing eco system.

In the 1980's OSMP must have felt the need to heighten awareness of the unique habitat of Wonderland lake and posted signs around the lake and at entrances saying, "Welcome to Wonderland Lake This is a wildlife sanctuary". These signs were up until sometime in late 2018 when, for some reason that has never

been explained to our satisfaction, the signs were removed. This seems to have coincided with the more public awareness that WL was about to have a major makeover to enhance its "recreational and educational" value. OSMP was asked by City Council member Lisa Morzel during a City Council meeting, to put the signs back up, but so far, the signs have not replaced.



Friends of Wonderland Lake filed an application to rename the area Wonderland Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. As a commemorative name change, this would not affect the legal status of the area but would once again raise the awareness of those using it. We believe replacing the signs would heighten respect towards the area just as they did for almost

forty years. The petition to change the name was submitted with 675 individual signatures along with the support of numerous organizations. That application was forwarded by the City Manager to OSMP and while it has not been acted upon, OSMP included the name change idea in the current and ongoing public engagement process.

In January 2019, OSMP invited the public to a gathering at the North Boulder Rec Center to hear and give feedback on the proposed development at WL. So many showed up that people were being turned away. The room was packed beyond standing room capacity. Virtually all were adamantly opposed to developing Wonderland Lake. The vast majority said to leave it alone. The meeting was open to all and people from all over Boulder showed up. The citizens of Boulder are very concerned about protecting and preserving our natural habitats. Witness the vote just this November on 2H; 86% voted to keep taxing ourselves to fund OSMP. By the time of this meeting, OSMP staff and trustees had received enough feedback from the public that Dan Burke, OSMP Director, stated definitively that the fishing pier and boardwalks were off the table.

It seems that there is a fairly small number of people that want to develop Wonderland Lake into a more recreational area, whereas there is a vast majority of Boulder citizens that loves Wonderland Lake for what it is as it is. During the meeting in January, OSMP stated that items such as the fishing pier and boardwalks would be taken off the table. Further communication with OSMP has been full of assurances that there would be a complete resetting of the community engagement process, which would strive to “find alignment with the community on actions for the Wonderland Lake ISP that fit the character of the Wonderland Lake area”. That community Engagement Process is still ongoing and is scheduled for OSBT consideration between April and June of 2020. However, the Boulder Open Space Master Plan recently submitted to the City Council had many references to the original North TSA Plan including the Wonderland Lake ISP, without any reference to the ongoing Public Engagement process with the Wonderland Lake ISP.

Once again City Council appears to have enthusiastically endorsed this Master Plan. Just as the NTSA ISP for Wonderland Lake approved in 2016 contained items that members of the City Council later claimed they did not realize they were approving in their vote, we are concerned that the same is happening again. Councilman Yates is on-record as stating that Council never intended the North Trail Study Area process to be a plan for changes at Wonderland Lake. We would hope the new Council would understand that consensus and will revisit all proposed improvements that are inconsistent with the Open Space Charter, protective policies, and community sentiment.

Most recently, OSMP announced that the “hardened area for a wading beach” was to be removed as an enhancement at the peninsula area of Wonderland Lake. Our group had been arguing against this all along. We voiced the health safety issues, the encroachment on wildlife issue, the financial burden on the city for monitoring, the fact that wading would inevitably lead to swimming and pointed out that swimming is not a use permitted by OSMP charter - nor is wading for that matter. Yet it was still being promoted by some until recently. What killed it was an outbreak of cyanobacteria, aka blue green algae, in Wonderland Lake this past summer, which was reported by the Denver Post. Cyanobacteria is dangerous to people and animals. OSMP posted signs around Wonderland Lake alerting people to this danger.

We continue to be opposed to the construction of shade structures (plant trees instead – you get shade plus additional habitat for wildlife), the addition of trails into wildlife habitat east of the dam, Picnic tables and BBQ pits/grills (the bears ought to love that) and to the great increase of parking at the Broadway trailhead and parking area.

## **Open Space Mountain Parks is charged with Preserve and Protect**

Two points that come up over and over are the OSMP Mission statement and Charter which states as follows:

### **OSMP Mission:**

The Open Space and Mountain Parks Department preserves and protects the natural environment and land resources that characterize Boulder. We foster appreciation and use that sustain the natural values of the land for current and future generations.

And from the OSMP charter

## **Sec. 176. Open space purposes - Open space land.**

Open space land shall be acquired, maintained, preserved, retained, and used only for the following purposes:

- (a) Preservation or restoration of natural areas characterized by or including terrain, geologic formations, flora, or fauna that are unusual, spectacular, historically important, scientifically valuable, or unique, or that represent outstanding or rare examples of native species;
- (b) Preservation of water resources in their natural or traditional state, scenic areas or vistas, wildlife habitats, or fragile ecosystems;
- (c) Preservation of land for passive recreational use, such as hiking, photography or nature studies, and, if specifically, designated, bicycling, horseback riding, or fishing;
- (d) Preservation of agricultural uses and land suitable for agricultural production;
- (e) Utilization of land for shaping the development of the city, limiting urban sprawl, and disciplining growth;
- (f) Utilization of non-urban land for spatial definition of urban areas;
- (g) Utilization of land to prevent encroachment on floodplains; and
- (h) Preservation of land for its aesthetic or passive recreational value and its contribution to the quality of life of the community.

Open space land may not be improved after acquisition unless such improvements are necessary to protect or maintain the land or to provide for passive recreational, open agricultural, or wildlife habitat use of the land. (Added by Ord. No. 4996 (1986), 1, adopted by electorate on Nov. 4, 1986.)

Nothing in the Mission Statement or in the Charter would give license to adding infrastructure to Wonderland Lake except for the purpose of maintaining the area as it current is for the preservation of the asset and the enhance the habitat for wildlife as is has been expressed ever since it was conveyed to the City over forty years ago.

### **Why Wonderland Lake?**

We are not 100% sure what the driving force is behind developing Wonderland Lake beyond that which is provided for in the OSMP charter of protection, preservation and possibly improving for “passive recreation” as defined in Section 176 of the OSMP charter. It seems that a small number of people want to improve access for educational experiences for children. We find that interesting in that infrastructure to facilitate large groups of school age children already exists at a number of areas around Boulder; for example, Walden and Sawhill Ponds, Sombbrero Marsh where Thorne Institute has a facility, and Teller Lake. Currently, groups of children and people of all ages access Wonderland Lake to see a

habitat area that has not been developed with piers, boardwalks and other infrastructure invading the natural habitat. When you build into wildlife habitat, the wildlife moves. They may not leave the area, but you are not going to get closer to them by building into their home. They move. Currently, volunteer guides bring children to Wonderland Lake. Children get to see what is possible if you don't pave over paradise and build a parking lot.

And a small number of people want to expand the recreational opportunities beyond merely "passive recreation" as defined in OSMP Charter section 176. And again, there are already significant facilities available at Foothill Community Park just to the north of WL and a smaller Boulder City Park with playground on the south side of WL. Wonderland Lake is the nature/wildlife habitat area bordered by City parks and semi urban residential neighborhoods. Much as it was originally envisioned in the 1970's.

## People like it the way it is

Currently, The Wonderland Lake Loop is the second highest accessed OSMP trail in Boulder, second only to Chautauqua. We don't know, nor would we be qualified to guess what the maximum carrying capacity is without significant degradation, but it certainly seems that the Wonderland Lake ISP area may be approaching it.

OSMP requested feedback from citizens from November 19, 2018 through January 15, 2019. They posted the comments received. There are 49 pages of comments, which can be viewed at

[https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/Record\\_of\\_Public\\_Comments\\_from\\_Email\\_and\\_City\\_Webforms\\_11-30-2018\\_-\\_1-22-2019-1-201905091602.pdf?\\_ga=2.117354498.569253836.1574788841-1114786240.1538760002](https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/Record_of_Public_Comments_from_Email_and_City_Webforms_11-30-2018_-_1-22-2019-1-201905091602.pdf?_ga=2.117354498.569253836.1574788841-1114786240.1538760002)

After the first four positive comments, the next 35 are negative with one neutral. Looking at the first 20 pages of comments, 95 are against making changes to the Wonderland Lake area with 12 for and 3 neutral. That's 86% against making changes to the WL area.

While many comments were simple statements like:

- Boulder does not have many natural sanctuaries; Wonderland Lake is close to being one. People visiting the area are, for the most part, respectful of the fragile nature of the birds and wildlife there. More visitors would disrupt that stability and tranquility. I am strongly against any "development" of the Wonderland Lake location. Please respect what we have.
- These plans are absurd. What is driving the requirements and the perceived 'need' for changes or improvements to this area? The park seems to fit the needs of the community as it is. It is a haven for many types of wildlife. Also, we have plenty of existing alternatives within the current OSMP system to serve the proposed function. If the lot is full, I move on to a Plan B and walk/hike someplace else. We don't need to overrun this area as has been done in so many other areas, like Sanitas.
- We feel that Wonderland Lake is a wonderful place just as it is. There are so few places in Boulder anymore that have a feeling of wildness, that aren't overly manicured, and where children and others can feel a sense of closeness to nature. Please do all you can to leave it natural and wild.

Many were lengthy, well thought out comments such as:

- I am writing to express my extreme disappointment upon learning of your plans to develop Wonderland Lake. I am heartsick imagining the permanent changes that will forever alter what is one of the few remaining open space gems located in the city. There are many areas in Boulder that already have the facilities you plan on adding here: in fact, literally less than five minutes away is Foothills Park, which has ample parking, bathrooms, shade structures, a playground, picnic tables, etc. There is easy walking access to Wonderland from Foothills Park for most people. If you wish to make this area more accessible, even out several small parts of the path and it will be ready to go. There are already handicap parking options, and you could increase those spaces if you wish. Others who are unable to find parking there can park elsewhere and walk (there is already a handy underground pass under Broadway), park at Foothills, take the bus, or come back another time. Sometimes you just have to accept that things work just fine the way they are; not everything has to be "improved." Wonderland is one of, if not the only, the most undisturbed locations left in Boulder and it would be a travesty to turn it into yet another "attraction." People love, and already heavily use, Wonderland because of what it is. It does not need improving; it needs protecting. The mission of Boulder's Open Space Department is to protect and preserve, and these plans seem to run exactly counter to that mission. Encouraging people to congregate around the lake and wade (which will, without question, lead to actual swimming and people letting their dogs swim) will have a profound impact on the ecosystem and on the character of the area. It will be forever changed; and not for the better. You are proposing changes that will lead to more trash, more noise, and more harm to the fragile ecosystem. The uninterrupted views of Wonderland from Broadway, the trails, and the neighborhoods on either side of the lake are iconic Boulder images. It is unthinkable that OSMP would consider adding shade structures and a pier (not to mention the nature center) that would ruin views from every angle. Shade structures already exist; they are called trees, and they are plentiful. Please do not pour cement and remove trees to create something that already exists. This is not a city park; it is an open space, and it should be treated as such. The idea that the city needs an outdoor educational center (in a very small space like Wonderland of all places) seems seriously misguided. The best way to teach children and others to enjoy and respect open space is to actually take them outside; children do not need to sit in a room to learn about open space. This is a seriously misguided use of your resources, and I beg you to reconsider your plans. Once you do this, you cannot go back. You will have permanently altered one of the most serene and beautiful places in Boulder, and you will be accountable to everyone who lives near or visits Wonderland, not to mention future generations who will never get to experience its unadulterated beauty. If OSMP decides to change its mind, forego these plans, and put its resources into a more sensible project, the vast majority of the community will be forever grateful and will remember OSMP as actually doing what it was designed to do: prevent plans like this from coming to fruition and prioritize the preservation of a beautiful and fragile ecosystem that attracts countless happy visitors just as it is. Thank you for taking the time to read this and to actually consider changing your mind.

More comments sent to OSMP by a group called "Keep Wonderland Lake Wild" included 75 unsolicited

[https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/Keep\\_Wonderland\\_Lake\\_Wild\\_Petition\\_Comments-1-201905131144.pdf?\\_ga=2.209633174.569253836.1574788841-1114786240.1538760002](https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/Keep_Wonderland_Lake_Wild_Petition_Comments-1-201905131144.pdf?_ga=2.209633174.569253836.1574788841-1114786240.1538760002)

Examples include:

- Keep Wonderland Lake a wildlife preserve for enjoyment by all!

- Wildlife matters.
- I do not favor the addition of trails leading down to the creek. This encroaches on the area used by wildlife including coyote, deer, bobcat and mountain lion. They are already pushed enough out of their habitat.
- I strongly object to anything that detracts from the long-standing environment of Wonderland Lake as a wildlife refuge and a peaceful, natural setting.
- Keep Wonderland Lake as a sanctuary for wildlife and people. There should be no structural development like piers, boardwalks, shade shelters or picnic tables.

Even our group “Friends of Wonderland Lake” received 221 comments on our website [www.wonderlandlake.com](http://www.wonderlandlake.com) during the month of January 2019 of which, no more than a few were in favor of infrastructure development. The vast majority voiced to preserve and protect the character and quality of the natural habitat.

Along with all these comments that speak to the overwhelming interest of the citizens of Boulder to keep Wonderland Lake as natural as possible, there was also the petition to make a commemorative name change to Wonderland Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, which was submitted to the City with 675 individual signatures and numerous organizations in support.

In conclusion: we ask that this paper along with our introductory summary, be put into the public record. We certainly hope that the City Council and OSBT will govern to preserve Wonderland Lake as the Boulder success story it is; a natural habitat accessible to all; a wildlife sanctuary inside the City of Boulder. And we thank City Staff, City Council and OSMP for staying engaged in what we hope will continue to be a thorough and well vetted process.

Terry Staarman	Roy McCutchen
Samagra Melville	Judith Ansara
David Schaldach	Ina Robbins
Amanda Crandall	

Friends of Wonderland Lake  
Boulder, Colorado  
December 9, 2019

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
12/6/2019 0:00	S.	Rainey	<p>First, I am sorry to contact you through Nextdoor, but I couldn't find any email contacts for OSMP staff. If you are not the person I should address these concerns to, please let me know whom I should contact. I filled out the survey on Wonderland, but I am particularly concerned about some of the ideas floated in the survey and the multiple choice answers don't lend themselves to much nuance.</p> <p>My over arching concern is a fear that there is a wish (not necessarily overt or planned) to develop the Wonderland open space -- add facilities and other "improvements," encourage additional uses etc. -- that will have the effect of turning Wonderland into just another city park. I don't think that's what most area residents want. The southeast side of the lake already has paved sidewalks and a playground; Foothills Community Park is just a few blocks away. We don't need another recreational playground in North Boulder. Sometimes less is more. We crave getting close to nature; Wonderland is a little slice of that within the city. One proposal that struck me as a terrible idea was adding a trail on the south side of the creek to create a looped trail. I'm sure there are a few people who would like that.</p> <p>BUT and it's an important but, doing so would put additional pressure on wildlife in the area. That expanse of meadow and dry creek bed south of the current trail from Broadway to the dam is a wildlife corridor. In addition to the herd of deer that frequents that area, I've seen coyotes, bobcats, foxes, and one absolutely enormous bear. These animals tend to keep close to the dry creek bed, especially south of it, because of the people, dogs, and bicycles on the current trail. (There are also several red tail hawks that hunt there.) If a second trail is added that cuts through that open area to the south, those animals' territory/safety zone will be severely compromised. I just don't think there is enough of a need or demand for a loop to make that worthwhile. One of the lovely things about walking on that trail is looking across a nice expanse of undeveloped land.</p> <p>I don't want to look across and see more walkers and bikers instead of deer and other animals. I'm also concerned about the emphasis on increasing fishing in the lake given the recent appearance of so many migratory ducks. I think that deserves a lot of study. I understand everyone's heart at OSMP is probably in the right place. But my fear is once you start adding things, they don't get taken away. Once something quiet and tranquil is lost, it's gone. (In that vein, one of the things the city could do to improve enjoyment of the park would be to install some native bushes or something along Broadway to muffle and hide some of the traffic. At some times of day, you can easily hear it all the way to the beach/point. Of course, that could be difficult bc of the deer crossing issue.) Thank you for your time.</p>

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
12/6/2019 17:16	Jennifer	Hudson	I am extremely disappointed in the 2nd phase survey that has been put out to the public. For one, you are asking the same questions again, the same ideas and plans that were so severely rejected by the majority of the users of the site in phase 1. You are just proving again that you talk a lot, but you don't listen to the public. Once you have decided you are going to ruin another area of Boulder, you plow ahead, no matter what we do to try and stop you. In addition, your questions are phrased so badly that you did not give the public any chance to say what is needed in Wonderland lake. The need a Wonderland Lake is the same as it has been for years, you need to maintain the area. Please consider maintaining the trail so it's not a not muddy mess the minute it snows. Please consider maintaining the trail so it doesn't wash away every time we have a thunderstorm. We don't want you to build new manmade things, we want to be able to use the trail. Please try to listen this time.
12/5/2019 9:28	Susan	berman	I encourage the placement of benches, either traditional or large flat rocks for seating. The future of these easily accessed Open Space locations needs to upgrade the options for elders who need to rest, as well as encourage us all to slow down and take in the view or a quiet moment. In Europe I was astonished by the invitation to come sit, by a tree or a view or a meadow. There are bench formats frequently in large cities, that get used by everyone. In the case of the Lake, frequent benches will allow longer forays for elders. Also, someone took away the picnic table in the meadow, it needs to be returned. In fact, put in 2, so we can have more than one family use the meadow for a meal at the same time!
12/4/2019 13:46	Conrad	Lattes	Please keep in mind that Wonderland Lake is an artificial pond within a city and it will never be wilderness. An artificial pond in an urban area can be a great space for passive recreation and environmental education. Any plan for this area should allow for improvements that enhance the experience of visitors and aid in interpretation of environmental/habitat issues. Trying to impose conditions that preclude use for education and recreation would be a mistake.
12/4/2019 9:18	maureen	arthur	I was glad to see no boardwalk or pier will be built. Leave Wonderland "wildlife refuge" alone.I could barely understand the information posted as it is so convoluted. Write in plain English. I feel like this was a waste of time for Open Space and the intent was to create jobs and problems to solve that don't exist. I like Wonderland trail the way it is. Thanks

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
12/3/2019 16:30	Elizabeth	Moody	<p>Dear OSMP,</p> <p>I have just completed the survey regarding proposed improvements at Wonderland Lake. Since there are no opportunities to comment further on the survey itself, I would like to add the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I strongly oppose the building of any additional structures at the site.</li> <li>2. There is no reason to attempt to increase the density of use by visitors. The primary focus should be on preservation of wildlife and native plants and trees.</li> <li>3. I favor only those few improvements which would enhance the ease with which handicapped folks can enjoy the site.</li> <li>4. At the nature center, it would be helpful to have a kiosk with info on the site, its history, and what wildlife might be seen there.</li> <li>5. Even if there were no danger from algae, there should be no wading permitted.</li> <li>6. If you overdevelop this site, the wildlife you want people to enjoy will go elsewhere. We already have seen many examples of this.</li> <li>7. You already have difficulty maintaining the restrooms at the Foothills trailhead, so why would you want to add to the maintenance problems by adding more facilities?</li> </ol>
12/3/2019 14:55	Bev	Halwa	<p>I just made an effort to do the questionnaire. I haven't been involved in all the details so, for example, what would it look like if erosion was managed to minimize sedimentation? I left many blank cause I didn't really understand what you are getting at. Does this site "qualify" as a "wildlife sanctuary", whatever those qualifications might be? I'm wondering if a name change is really part of a plan of certain interest groups for increased exclusion. I'm wondering if the questionnaire, as is, will really serve you.</p>
12/3/2019 11:58			<p>Hello, we have received feedback that the link to the questionnaire is not very obvious, that is, underlining 'this questionnaire' is not obvious to people that this is a link to click on to take you to the questionnaire. Can it be more clearly spelled out. Thank you</p>

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
12/3/2019 11:37	Ms	H	<p>I think it is vitally important to consider we have an ongoing consistent and high hazard problem with homeless individuals trying to camp overnight in the upper mountain trails of the Wonderland area at night and sleep in the brush on the peninsula and in areas of the upper mountain trails in the daytime. Some are starting campfires. Many are not mentally well and have serious substance abuse problems and these folks are a threat to the safety of our neighborhood children and all individuals potentially. The shelter and expanding housing is just blocks North of Wonderland and is accessible from the trailhead at Lee Hill. As the local fire department will inform you the vast majority of Boulder city foothill fires that have threatened the entire city and foothills nearby homes have been started by the homeless. Adding benches and picnic tables provide sleeping areas/shelter areas, and bathrooms provide an attractive amenity for the homeless. Most regular /heavy users of this open space are within easy walking distance of home, and the park like most neighborhood open space parks was never intended to be a Disneyland like city wide park space with large numbers overcrowding it with busloads of people versus a quiet wonder-land park space for exercise, contemplation and observation/appreciation/preservation of nature and wildlife. As our population continues to grow we need to remember our goals of creating open space accessible to local neighborhoods in each neighborhood. Wonderland is not sizeable enough to consider amenities more appropriate for a much larger park like Chautauqua. Let's keep it simply back to nature and improve trail maintenance which has been woefully inadequate given the number of users and large amount/percentage of taxes paid by the Boulder community in this area.</p>
12/3/2019 8:21			<p>Where is the Wonderland Lake Survey. I went to this address, but couldn't find a survey.  <a href="https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/wonderland-isp?utm_source=godaddy&amp;utm_medium=redirect&amp;utm_campaign=wonderlandlake.info%20Wonderland%20Lake%20Integrated%20Site%20Project%20(ISP)">https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/wonderland-isp?utm_source=godaddy&amp;utm_medium=redirect&amp;utm_campaign=wonderlandlake.info%20Wonderland%20Lake%20Integrated%20Site%20Project%20(ISP)</a></p>
12/2/2019 15:12	Susan	Jeter	<p>Return signage "Nature Preserve"          Thanks for hearing overwhelming support for no human building encroachment. Let nature be.          All ages welcome. Seniors, parents with strollers, dog walkers (please enforce leash laws) the only recommendation would be for maintenance such as paths and fences. Perfect as is.</p>

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
8/15/2019 21:43	Stephen	Joffe	Seems the City is really struggling with the Park. There are numerous pot holes in the field, from trees that died & were removed; or were just cut off at the base. These are great for stumbling into, twisting an ankle or knee; stubbing a toe. The pile of sand that's been in the field for no reason for almost a year, ensured the "under construction" feeling that everyone enjoys in a park... those workmen responsible for the park have been told this! Both large trees are dying.. You ought get some professionals on this. You've got the funding ~ and these fellas driving their trucks around messing the place up? Very far from a sanctuary.
7/9/2019 7:45	Regina	Bock	I wrote a letter to OSMP back before the project was "paused". I still feel that Wonderland lake is a special place AS IT IS. Still natural with a small play ground. I love walking around the lake and enjoying the beauty and saying hello to the people. Occasionally I ride my bike around it. I do not have a dog. I like the dogs on leash. Keep it natural. Thank you.
7/9/2019 0:32	Carol	Baskin	Wonderland Lake should not be disturbed or changed in anyway. Please leave it in the pristine state it's presently in. Less is more. Particularly in nature.  Thank you,  Carol Baskin
6/26/2019 18:49	Beth	Bowman	Please leave the lake as a wildlife experience
6/25/2019 18:58	Richard	Smith	There are a lot of people in Boulder who love Wonderland Lake Park just the way it is. I'm one of them and I'm strongly opposed to building a fishing dock, adding more parking, and so on. It's OK to leave beautiful places the way they are.

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
6/25/2019 18:52	Joan	Smith	<p>We live less than a mile, but not facing, Wonderland Lake. We support leaving Wonderland as a natural habitat. It has a beautiful and varied ecosystem which could easily be unbalanced by further development. We take our dogs walking there as many days as we can. Additional human-made development will spoil its character and the elements made by nature that make our hearts sing. I can no longer hike long distances in the mountains, and many who walk the paths at Wonderland are in equal or worse condition than I am. Please leave us a place where we can commune with nature without the commotion and hustle and bustle of a man-made park. A "wading beach" would allow toxic chemicals from human body care products to enter the lake. No telling how that would affect the ecosystem.</p> <p>There are a lot of trails into the park from all directions, none of which are ever congested, so we see no reason to change park access. Most people walk to it anyway.</p> <p>We are very opposed to increasing activity around the lake by alterations for wading, fishing, building, or any other intrusions that will cause commotion or noise, increased trash, and affect the aesthetics of this beautiful environment. The highest and best use for this rare gift of a place is just what it is now. Yes, the trails need to be kept up and fixed where they wash out, debris could be removed. More shade would be wonderful, but not in the form of a pavilion or man-made structure. Plant more native trees for more shade! There is plenty to do at the lake already. There is a playground, great trails for walking with or without pet friends! A variety of wildlife that changes seasonally! Open, mowed space perfect for picnics, yoga, tai chi, or playing games with kids or dogs. Not every square inch of land needs to be "developed" or "improved." I think we are in the majority who believe that peace, tranquility, and natural habitats need no more development than nature provides. Please let's leave Wonderland Lake close to nature and far from human-imposed activities that disturb its beautiful solitude. This is Boulder's "Walden Pond." Let's take a lesson from the real one and not mess it up!</p>
6/23/2019 16:46	Margaret	Donharl	<p>No increased human encroachment at the lake. Having much of it off limits to humans to protect the wildlife is crucial.</p> <p>No fishing except at the dam and peninsula.</p> <p>No new trails in the wetlands. Sign are OK for education. No huge parking lot addition.</p> <p>Mostly existing conditions are desired/adequate. Could use more ranger enforcement for people who ignore the keep off signs. Keep it wild, don't make it a city park.</p>

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
6/21/2019 18:07	Susan	Jeter	The mtg was a farce and waste of time. Public comment has already been given and we were not allowed to speak tonight. It feels clear that decisions have been made and open space is trying to show merely that they followed a process. Clear majority wants lake to remain a nature preserve but open space powers that be want it to be commercialized and made into an educational center. Kids can learn about sanctity of nature without destroying it.
6/21/2019 11:27	Richard	Berman	To protect the Wildlife Sanctuary, please: 1. Complete the split-rail fence along the path south of the lake to make clear that the area between the south side path (North of Quince Circle) and the lake is off-limits to people and pets. 2. Upgrade signage along the fence to be simple and crystal clear--No people or pets beyond this point. In English AND Spanish. 3. Maintain path--after rain, there are numerous large deep puddles; fill with crushed rock. 4. No wading (pets or people) in lake 5. No fishing please; leave fish for wildlife. 6. Ban use of fertilizers/herbicides and pesticides in areas that drain into the lake. CONTROL EUTROPHICATION. 7. Ban lights near lake. Especially old yellow street light on utility pole at 400 Utica.  Above all, maintain as WILDLIFE SANCTUARY. No new structures or paths, please.
6/18/2019 17:27	Karen	Weber	We would love to see some benches at the following places. Two, at least, on the small peninsula on the north side of the dam. One at the top of the hill on the trail north toward North Community Park. A place to catch your breath and to overlook the lake and city to the south.
6/18/2019 12:40	Harriet	Hall	The west side of the lake is in need of more gravel as there are many parts that "flood" when it rains. If you smooth out the paths and make them more wheelchair friendly that would be good. Otherwise keeping the area as natural as possible would be wonderful. It is such a peaceful place to walk - and I have not seen the crowds that have been mentioned in the past.
6/18/2019 8:34	William	Lotko	I visited the website WonderlandLake.info to learn what changes to the lake and trails are now being proposed, but I could not find a link to this information. Is it available online?
6/15/2019 13:54	Barbara	Fahey	I would like to see Wonderland Lake remain and be named a wildlife sanctuary and be preserved for passive, non motorized recreation. I'd like to see an expanded nature center with year round nature programming be there.

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
6/15/2019 13:02	David	Chicoine	I believe Wonderland Lake should officially be declared a nature sanctuary in order to protect this invaluable resource for future generations. Also, I am very disappointed that the City did not purchase the home and property that had been for sale on the north western side of the lake. This property was a prize well worth short term financial sacrifice. The home could even perhaps have been used to house a more robust Nature Center. Shame on whoever made this terrible decision. Finally, Wonderland Lake is unofficially already a nature sanctuary offering beauty, serenity and wonderfully expansive, unDisneyfied views. PLEASE keep it that way. Thank you
6/15/2019 10:55	Jean-Pierre	BRIANT	DO NOT CHANGE ANYTHING. The site is perfect the way it is. I do have, though, reservations about the huge construction project on the west northwest side of the site next to Utica Avenue.
6/12/2019 20:21	Scott	Morlando	Please preserve the integrity of Wonderland lake as wildlife sanctuary. Put back up the signs that call it a Wildlife Sanctuary so visitors know it is a special place and they are visitors. No new development at wonderland lake - visitors already don't clean up after their dogs, and the biodiversity of the lake has only increased over the years - there are more song birds, birds of prey, herons and other animals than there has ever been. It is a beautiful place and should not be made into a Disney World experience. No new development!
6/12/2019 15:53	Elizabeth	McClain	Any chance that a restroom/porta-loo be put at the Wonderland Lake trail head that is on Broadway? It would be so nice to have a loo somewhere in the vicinity - or maybe by the playground?
6/10/2019 12:05	Harry	Ross	I am opposed to any site improvements at Wonderland Lake including: pavement, added buildings, fishing piers. This is one of the last natural locations in the city. Leave it alone. Harry Ross

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
6/10/2019 9:33	Susan	Berman	<p>First off, I could not find WOnderlandlake.info with any way to give feedback. It took me awhile to find this site, via that weblink.. I'm concerned that a bathroom be accessible at the parking lot on Broadway, not at the Lake, itself.</p> <p>There is already increased traffic, simply a close accessible site to visit, and homeless folks are sometimes by the lake, and sometimes in the foothills!</p> <p>Also I would like the lake to be a sanctuary, not a playground. There is a playground near the lake, which is enough. The Foothills Park is not that far away and a great site for gatherings, well suited for parties etc. the lake is a zone of walking, fishing and contemplation. Groups often picnic, and children come from schools, but please no beach, or further building along the lake.</p> <p>We have ice skated in mid winter and been told that it disturbs the wildlife. However, a beach and fishing dock and more people coming to the lake is far more impactful!</p> <p>How did the new home with twice the footprint of the home it replaces get a permit on the north shore? Ridiculously close to the Lake edge, (yet we can't ice skate under our own safe eval of conditions?)</p> <p>Can BOulder Open Space save us from further houses on the lake? it is a sad sight for all of us...</p>

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
6/7/2019 8:34	Matthew	Cooke	<p>How much more evidence do you need? The vast majority of the community spoke out strongly and clearly earlier this year and showed their oppositions to your ill-conceived "improvements" to Wonderland. Please do your job, listen to the community you serve, and leave it alone. Wonderland is special because it is quiet, peaceful, simple, and allows people to feel like they are in nature despite being in the middle of town.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Adding artificial shade structures (quite likely the worst idea the city has ever conceived of when these things called TREES exist)</li> <li>-more trails in the tranquil meadow rather than using the perfectly good, not overcrowded main trail that already exists</li> <li>-adding a wading beach or changing the peninsula, disrupting the birds and other wildlife and changing a quiet spot for reflection into a city park</li> <li>-adding a nature center: this area is not large enough to support a nature center. The view of the open space between Broadway and Wonderland is one of the most special spots in the city, please don't destroy it.</li> </ul> <p>Clearly people working for the city have become fixated on the idea of throwing money at a project and have decided this is what they want to do.</p> <p>But you serve the people and you also are supposed to be protecting open space and wildlife. In a day and age where climate change is destroying our planet, do we really need to build more in a beautiful, perfect, quiet spot?</p> <p>The idea that this will teach children to respect and enjoy nature is utterly absurd. Taking children into nature and letting them experience it unspoiled, rather than while sitting on a concrete pad under a "shade structure" is what teaches them to respect and enjoy it. Let children do what children have always done: play in the dirt, the sun, sit under a tree if they need shade, and just be kids.</p> <p>Please reconsider your destructive and ill-conceived plans. The majority of the community will never forgive you if you ruin Wonderland.</p>

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
6/6/2019 21:25	Nora	Cooke	<p>I am flabbergasted that you are still considering/promoting the idea of fundamentally altering Wonderland Lake. This is a treasured destination in Boulder precisely because of its quiet, simplicity, and natural feel. Adding artificial shade structures, a wading area, a nature center, more trails through the delicate ecosystem, etc. is truly appalling. Coyotes, deer, mountain lions, and countless bird species have made this area their home and their corridor and these project ideas can only cause harm. Children do not need artificial 'shade structures' in order to enjoy the outdoors. There are trees on the peninsula. There is a grassy park with shade across the lake. There is a playground. There are plenty of other open space areas in Boulder with similar facilities. Wonderland is a small gem in North Boulder and your plans, once enacted, will fundamentally and permanently alter that experience for so many people and so much wildlife. Please take your budget and do something else productive. The community has clearly spoken out largely against this, yet you are still pushing these plans. Learn to serve the community properly and to respect the land you are supposed to be promoting and protecting. This fixation on providing alleged facilities to encourage youth education is a ridiculous facade. Leave well enough alone.</p>
6/6/2019 16:57	Jennifer	Hudson	<p>Please do not add any infrastructure at what is supposed to be a wildlife area. The ISP process should have identified from the beginning that what is needed at Wonderland Lake is actually maintaining the current infrastructure and maintaining the current rules and guidelines. The majority of the use in the area is on the paths and the fact that these are so very poorly maintained should have been identified by OSMP. Every single time it rains more of the trail is washed out and made dangerous with rivers and cuts in the path. The trail on both sides of the lake has been turned into a tunnel that holds all water. The west is worse than the east, but both need maintenance. In the winter, the path is one large puddle of dangerous ice, in the summer, huge puddles of water. There is absolutely no drainage. Every single time your trucks drive on the trail on the south west corner of the lake that is too narrow for where they turn around they cause additional damage. The hill going north from the lake is an absolute disaster, there is no trail surface left and it becomes a mud mess every time it rains. The far north bridge that was washed out by the flood was never replaced, so cyclists have to get off and carry their bikes. The dog users in the area never follow the rules, because there is no one to give tickets and require them to follow the rules. I walk the trail daily and dogs off leach are very common, dog mess left is very common, dogs chasing wildlife is very common. Please consider using our tax dollars to take care of what we have given you instead of planning to add more that is not needed or wanted.</p>

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
5/31/2019 12:56	Rafal		I would like to express some ideas for the Wonderland Lake area. I have been living near the lake for the last 5 years and I think that the whole area needs some serious consideration. It is so beautiful but so poorly used. The recreation is very limited and honestly, you only see dog walkers and sometimes runners using those trails. Boulder has such a treasure, and it is so close, but there is not much done to make the space available and attractive for recreation. I think you should look a little out of the box, take lesson from smart towns in Switzerland, Austria, Italy or Spain. Create some infrastructure and make these places interesting. Do not make Boulder a museum. There is so much wealth around, but nothing is done to really keep people to recreate here. People leave for weekends, get stuck on I70 and spend all this money for gas instead at home. For example, open all the trails for bicycles, create some interesting concepts to recreate. Please, do not waste this land. Thank you for listening.
5/30/2019 17:13	Matt		I'm broadly supportive but am hoping we can share ideas on the Be Heard Boulder website so I can see what others are suggesting
5/24/2019 22:25	Jane	Cunningham	I am curious why the city is still pushing its agenda to develop the Wonderland Lake area when you received an overwhelming response that we do not want our Lake area changed at the last meeting. We do not want more development. Why is this continuing? Are you not listening to our feedback?
5/19/2019 14:12	Kathy	Stoltz	I want to thank you for repairing all the broken fencing and improving the path around the peninsula. FYI: Over the last few weeks I've seen people smoking on the peninsula. Plus, children wading into the water. There are small signs posted at the north trail-head but most people do not notice them or they enter from another direction. Having signs at the entrance of the peninsula or along the fencing might be more effective. With fire season coming up fast it scary to see people smoking around Wonderland Lake, especially in open space.
5/18/2019 14:42	Karen	Weber	One big setback to the Lake area as a wildlife sanctuary is the new construction of a massive private home near the shoreline on the north. I am personally sad that the city did not purchase this property for open space. Are there any other areas of similar worth to the city that are up for sale in the near future? What about the one other private home on the Lake's north side?
5/17/2019 22:04	Judith	Ansara	Thanks to the OSMP team for hearing the community concerns and doing an information and process "re-do". We complained and revved up a lot of community energy, so I just want to make sure you get the well deserved acknowledgments as well. Hope to see you on June 19th.

Comment Received	First Name	Last Name	Comment on the Wonderland Lake ISP
5/17/2019 18:44	Ann	Blonston	hi, i am sorry that the fishing pier has been nixed (I don't fish but i love to see parents introducing kids to fishing), but maybe a smaller "platform" that is kid-friendly, or a small stone "beach" would sub for this. A picnic pavilion would be nice. For the record, all i do is walk my dog in a loop then leave, but I think it would be nice if there were a spot or two to linger.
5/17/2019 18:37	Nathalie	Smith	<p>Hi -</p> <p>We are the house that backs up to the area where the Boulder Junior Rangers meet. Over the winter there was significant and very upsetting activity in the land behind our house due to an Open Space maintenance remodel elsewhere. This included warming up trucks behind our house and causing toxic fumes in our backyard and house and we do have children and animals. There were also prisoners and port-o-lettes in our back yard. We are VERY concerned about the development in our back yard, especially after dealing with this past winter. The city has not been the best of neighbors. I would be content with the traffic returning to normal - and the normal amount of traffic behind our house. An installation of a public bathroom near the public parking (it really sucks to look at a port-o-lette all day)- perhaps in the nature center that is already there. And otherwise, maintain the trails and structures that are already there which look like they are about to blow over.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention -Nathalie</p>