COMMUNITY MEETING: COMMENT CARD INPUT
January 15, 2019
WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR WONDERLAND LAKE??

Ecosystems and Wildlife

- A quiet wildlife area for citizens and animals to be free.
- A preserve for the flora and fauna. An undeveloped, pristine natural preserve! Please do not develop this beautiful piece of nature.
- To allow it to remain as is, a natural habitat sanctuary.
- Open space!!! The preservation of land, water, flora, and fauna. Recreation should be very limited: new bike and walking trails, but no access to water, no parking lots, piers, etc.
- To protect this open space and sanctuary! For it to remain a wildlife refuge, not a developed, shrunken piece of land between housing developments. People can take the RTD bus to Wonderland Lake.
- A beautiful natural, park and refuge.
- Maintain the water quality to attract wildlife and as an area of peace and enjoyment for Boulderites and others.
- A thriving natural habitat.
- To stay a wildlife sanctuary for ducks, geese, eagles, coyotes, deer, mountain lions, osprey, bears, etc.
- (From one adult and three kids): To have it be a healthy ecosystem with animal habitats as a priority; more flowers.
- Protect riparian areas.
- Preservation of the open space. Certainly, making Wonderland more accessible to the broader community (parking) with zero alteration to the waterfront/shoreline.
- A protected wildlife refuge! Don't allow it to be trampled by overuse. Allow walking trails on perimeter only and protect our special ecosystem and its tranquility.
- First, protect the environment.
- A nature preserve, as it has always been.
- That it continues as a wildlife sanctuary. Although it was man-made it has been a wildlife sanctuary for most of its history and has been an inspiration to many as such.
- That the lake and its environment remain a "natural" environment for fauna, flora, and people.
- A beautiful, natural space for wildlife and also for providing the opportunity for people and children to engage with nature.
- Wildlife sanctuary; a wilderness preserve. Boulder already has many parks. Do not scare the animals away.
• To maintain and sustain the wildlife sanctuary component. Keep the successful combination of recreation and wildlife sanctuary. Improve the trail system, signage, and enforcement.
• That the wetlands are preserved, and the wildlife are protected in perpetuity. That the birds who have left (bluebirds) return. That the public has access via a path around the lake as long as there are no negative effects on the land or wildlife.
• Wildlife sanctuary. Pedestrian walkway. No access to the water, which is there for the animals. Any structures or improvements for human comfort should be by Broadway or in park land.
• Maintain Wonderland Lake as a wildlife sanctuary. Keep trails as they are and do not create more artificial trails from Broadway. Protect the natural beauty and wildlife without human interference.
• This is a wildlife sanctuary, not a school.
• An urban/wildlands wildlife haven.
• Open space, nature conservancy, and maintained trails.

Education and Youth
• A wild area where everyone (kids, adults) can learn about and appreciate the natural Colorado landscape without additional structures and paths in protected areas.
• Nature education center.
• I envision somewhere in Boulder where youth can touch and experience nature. Built structures invite all people to use it. There are a few improvements that could increase access.
• People, especially children, connecting freely with nature. Open play.

Infrastructure
• Don’t build things.
• Move the benches for contemplation of nature’s beauty onto the beach area on the west and south sides of the lake.
• Not the current bird, etc. walk AT ALL. Eliminate that or use the area for animals that are alive and unbothered for the most part.
• No expansion, no dogs off-leash, additional bike access to trails in the foothills.
• Redevelop it but keep the wetlands: no bird blind and no pier.
• Let it remain natural (no new structures); absolutely no fishing pier!!!
• Plant shade trees where appropriate.
• Leave the lake alone; spruce up the peninsula with benches and plantings.

Maintenance and Park Management
• I still see people go into protected areas or on the ice. Maybe more barriers or patrols. Nature trail and trail signage.
• Maintain the existing parking, trails, and open space.
• Not to develop it. To maintain what is there!
• Not seeing people taking photos or otherwise ignoring fences for animal habitat and the fragile shoreline. More presence from Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Naturalness and Tranquility/No Need for Change
• I think it should be kept in its pristine state as much as possible.
• Keep it as it is, natural, and the wildlife sanctuary that it is.
• A beautiful natural area in which people can observe nature and appreciate it.
To maintain a natural environment.
A simple open space area with minimal intrusion by humans in areas that are off-limits. An educational area or center might be nice so long as no more big structures or trails are added.
My vision for Wonderland Lake is for it to remain the same for my grandchildren to enjoy.
For the lake and surrounding open space to remain pretty much as it is and for improvements to be made in support of area’s wildness and signification as a Wildlife Sanctuary.
A quiet, natural place where people can go to walk, bike, hike, and see wildlife.
Wonderland Lake should be left alone! No additional fencing; it will affect animals’ ability to graze, hunt, and drink water.
To leave the lake alone!!!!
My vision has less to do with creating a new vision for Wonderland Lake and more to do with preserving Wonderland Lake as the SANCTUARY for ALL LIFE FORMS (HUMAN, ANIMAL AND PLANT LIFE) that it already is.
Leave it as is!
Maintain it as it is.
Leave it like it is.
Keep Wonderland Lake wild and natural.
Leave it as is: protect and maintain the wildlife and bird habitat. Do not expand the trails.
Keep it the way it is.
To keep it as natural as is possible
I love it as it is.
Keep it wild. Protect what we have there.
For it to stay the nature sanctuary it is: beautiful and peaceful. For the trails to be maintained and for there to be no expansion or intrusion on the lake itself, e.g., no more fishing, docks, or construction between the trails and the water.
Wonderland Lake is a well-used nature preserve that functions well as it is.
Remain a quiet, wild area. It is a gem in the middle of our urban landscape.
That it will be as it is now for the next 50 years, at a minimum.
Keep it as a quiet and undeveloped sanctuary!
My vision for Wonderland Lake is to remain exactly the same: no new trails, no wading space, no fishing piers, and no damage/reduction of wetlands.
This is one of the most pristine, beautiful wildlife places; don’t destroy it. Our trails are enough, they are not crowded, and you do not need to add on them.
To leave in a natural state with access for all.
Tranquility; nature; undeveloped.
Please keep it as it is!! I’ve lived in Spring Valley for nearly 50 years; first, riding our horses at Wonderland, then walking our dog there, and then running my three miles as often as possible.
Keep the lake a nature reserve: no dock or boardwalk.
You must keep it wild! That is the beauty of the area.
Keep it natural; no artificial (dock, etc.) additions, do not increase the number of people with reason. Keep it as it is with MINIMAL, if any, changes. It is PERFECT NOW.
To keep it natural and undeveloped.
That it stays as a wildlife sanctuary with little or no change.
Keep it as it is. Maybe add parking.
A naturally preserved patch of nature (wetlands) in north Boulder. Maintain its usage as a place for people to walk, bike, and run through.

I'm pretty happy with it the way it is. It's not perfect, but it seems to be a good balance.

Not another Chautauqua! More trails and more development are not better. Keep the space open and available for wildlife. Maintain the same and limit “expansion” on any level.

To maintain it just as it is; no growth. Let’s not interrupt the wildlife or the human experience.

Keep it as it is; a peaceful place to walk without crowds or distractions. Not every open space needs to be developed. Consider the fragile nature of the environment. I have lived at Wonderland Lake when it was only a narrow single path, but it keeps getting wider. Now, it is as wide as a road.

Keeping it as it is. Leave it alone and wild.

To leave it alone.

My vision is for Wonderland Lake to remain as natural and undeveloped as possible while being well-maintained and cared for as the absolute treasure that it is today.

Peace. A wild, tranquil refuge.

Keeping it as "natural" and "unDisneyfied" as possible. It is awesome just as it is.

Leave it to develop naturally; only do the work necessary to enhance that process.

I don’t know, except that it must remain as close as possible to how it currently is; while outdoor education is a priority, the Wonderland Lake area would seem a last resort for Junior Rangers, etc. only if there are absolutely no logistical options at Sawhill Ponds and Open Space trails/habitats with less congestion or ability to handle more capacity.

Preserve and protect it as it is.

It seems like it should be left alone.

Preserve the simple beauty and natural environment without development. Do a better job with trail maintenance and have more rangers present. More trees could be okay.

Process

I have a basic, fundamental question: Why is there any discussion of revising or shifting the status of Wonderland Lake? This entire discussion must have been catalyzed by something, but it isn’t clear what. I would appreciate City Council getting to the core of this question, as it is what is driving everything.

Additional comments requested.

Trails, Hiking, and Walking

- Trail connections and open space.
- A place to hike, walk, and run, where the lake area continues to be a refuge for migrating birds (i.e., swimming and other in-lake activities are not allowed).

WHAT IS GREAT ABOUT WONDERLAND LAKE NOW?

Access

- Very accessible, but not pristine.
- It’s a welcoming place to many with a good balance of natural needs versus the visitors’ needs.
- Its size is perfect for bringing guests of all ages to walk along or around it or just for me to do that. The view of the foothills is exquisite. It is fairly natural, and one often sees wildlife and birds of prey as well as water birds.
• Proximity to ever-more congested north Boulder, pristine views including wildlife habitat, and flat trails (important, especially for those whose health is compromised for steeper open space areas in Boulder County.)
• The location means lots of people use and enjoy the place.
• It is beautiful, but there is nowhere for kids to play and engage with nature.
• It is not a destination, rather a place to enjoy going through. High usage, but low impact because people move through.
• Natural, park-like place for people and families.
• A way to enjoy undeveloped NATURE inside of the city of Boulder for those of us unable to drive out into the country.

Ecosystems and Wildlife

• A low key, good place for seeing wildlife.
• A wildlife sanctuary that is relatively not overused.
• Its beauty and wildlife (we were some of the people who had seen the bald eagle near the lake that Tuesday).
• The return of wildlife (fox, coyotes, mountain lions, bears, and deer) and the accessible lakeside path.
• The view. I can always see wildlife from my window and on walks. Deer, coyote, rabbits, eagles, all kinds of birds, occasional snakes, etc. The deer love to rest and eat in my yard and grassland. With more traffic, benches, etc. the deer will be scared off. They were at Wonderland Lake before people were.
• I have great respect for the natural environment. The wetlands take priority for wildlife. The ravine with the creek leading from the lake to Broadway should be reserved for wildlife. A non-motorized trail connecting to north and south foothills.
• A wildlife sanctuary which interfaces safely with members of the public. So far, there have not been too many people to adversely affect wildlife.
• Wildlife, waterfowl, and serenity.
• A wildlife sanctuary. It is in harmony with the surrounding hills and provides a rare, peaceful, and natural environment for residents and visitors.
• Birds, the variety of recreational activities, and access to trails north of Lee Hill and over to Boulder Reservoir. Access from bike paths and neighborhoods. Terrain is accessible to many people and activities.
• Biodiversity of birds, songbirds, and waterfowl.
• We can see wildlife everywhere; it is peaceful and beautiful. Let’s protect the ecosystem.
• The habitat for wildlife, the abundant wildlife, and the leash law around the lake.
• Wildlife.
• The birds. Friendly walks. Dog walkers have improved in leash compliance over the last few years (though not always on clean-up).
• The peacefulness of the bird life; I feel very lucky to live in Wonderland Lake and enjoy the paths around the lake and mountain. To see the wild lake swam through.
• Water, fish, birds, wetlands.
• Wildlife, views, quiet, trails, birds/animals, peaceable people enjoying it.
• Wildlife are in ever more abundance. There is quiet and a diversity of visitors; seasonal, cyclical beauty and consistency; and safety around water and night time activity.
• A quiet wildlife sanctuary.
• The flourishing ecosystem, the accessibility, the peaceful environment, the people-to-nature ratio. The wildlife and waterfowl!
• The natural habitat: the ducks, geese, mountains lions, etc. Please do NOT urbanize Wonderland Lake!
• Water.
• Wild, birds, cattails.
• Abundant habitat for birds, animals, insects, and fish, peaceful escape close to neighborhoods.

Infrastructure

• No new buildings and no expanded parking; just maintain existing parking.
• Just get rid of the old concrete.
• The fact that it remains untouched by added features, such as more signage, piers/docks, shade shelters, and the like.

Maintenance and Park Management

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Naturalness and Tranquility/No Need for Change

• It feels wild and remote even though it is in town.
• Few people, few developments, wild birds, and ice skating; fun and great. Doesn’t interfere.
• Its natural beauty.
• The natural beauty and wildlife.
• That the community has a nature reserve left intact with no development. This is a peaceful sanctuary.
• It is not congested! Wildlife have an opportunity to be relatively undisturbed.
• Currently, it is natural and serene; a peaceful reprieve from work and everyday stress.
• The natural beauty; we hike there every weekend, at least. We often see neighbors and friends.
• The simple beauty. It offers something for everyone in its simplicity: the single track foot trail up the foothills, the mixed used trail around the lake, and the connecting trail to Foothills Community Park area. The lake is a community and neighborhood “happy” place.
• Gorgeous views, wildlife, and areas to be quiet and observe birds. It also supports a lot of visitors. Because most people are moving through rather than staying for a long time, it doesn’t feel overly crowded.
• Unspoiled nature. A wildlife preserve providing sanctuary to an unlimited variety of animals (flora and fauna). It is a respite from the busy developments in North Boulder.
• So much nature without buildings; hikes and animals.
• Quiet. Wild. Full of birds. Lots of spots to be in peace with the view.
• Quiet and undeveloped; a peaceful place to walk/run.
• A quiet pedestrian area where the wilderness around the lake is protected.
• The natural spaces, untouched wetlands, views, spaces for walking, running, fishing, etc. that are not built out. It is well used in its current state.
• It is not developed. Peaceful, quiet way to access nature. It is a jewel as it is.
• That it is peaceful and serene.
• It’s absolutely super as it is!
• The beauty, the trails, the bird life, and seeing so many people enjoying the lake and the hills.
• It feels wild and undeveloped and the trails feel like trails.
• Natural; beautiful; great trails; safe.
• The serenity and natural beauty of the lake area. Presence of people and community feel but at the same time not crowded. Walking around the lake is a meditative experience for me.
• Beautiful!
• The neighborhood is pristine. Please keep it that way.
• That it is very natural now and over the past year a wider variety of water birds are coming to the lake.
• It's wild.
• Wild, natural feeling, peaceful, and lots of birds.
• Peace, birds, fish, and nature. I saw a bald eagle in a tree today hiking.
• Open. Sometimes wild. Leave it alone! People and animals flow naturally around the lake. Sometimes the path is wet and/or eroded by storms, etc. Leave it (except for erosion).
• The simple tranquility.
• The views! The lake. The raw, wild, openness of it available to local wildlife. We need undeveloped wild lands for our human mental health!!
• The amount of wildlife that are not impacted by people leaving the established trails.
• So much of Boulder is now highly developed and becoming more so all the time. Let's keep Wonderland undeveloped and beautiful as it is. Let's protect the wildlife, not increase traffic.
• Peaceful. A wonderful spot to breathe and enjoy a little oasis in Boulder. This is one of the remaining natural spots (I know, I know with a man-made lake) to be enjoyed.
• Green, animals, quiet, and easily accessible.
• It's perfect.
• The natural landscape, the wildlife, and the unencumbered beauty.
• Tranquility, birds (more each year), wildlife, quiet.
• Its natural state.
• It’s natural!
• Quiet, tranquil, incredibly beautiful. Most people using the area are very respectful. Migratory and natural wildlife.
• The serenity and vast amount of diverse wildlife.
• Quiet.
• The wild, unconstructed character; even though it is in a populated area, it feels remote. The sanctuary aspect for birds, waterfowl, deer, coyotes, etc.

**Trails, Hiking, and Walking**

• Connections to other parts of the trail system; quiet and close to the city.
• Trails, access, available for paragliding, hiking, socializing, and enjoying nature.
• People move through it (i.e., walking or running), so the quantity of people does not overwhelm the wildlife. The wading area, etc. would lead to people lingering.
• Great trail.
• Nice trails with good access to nature, wonderful site for wildlife, nice community-located access point for people in the area to be outdoors in a beautiful natural environment.
• Relatively natural trail system, for hiking and running. It allows for some natural open space within the residential Boulder community. It is a place for migrating birds to rest, due to minimal human intrusion on the lake system.

Other Recreation
• I do not paraglide, but I love the access that these people have.

WHAT CHANGES, IF ANY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AT WONDERLAND LAKE?

Access
• More access for unstructured play.

Crowding, Parking, Traffic, and Trash Concerns
• Parking expansion (yes) and trail maintenance (grading/surface leveling).
• NO expanded parking: it’s easily accessible as it is. There has NEVER been a problem finding parking. No new buildings: I totally support nature education for children. 100%. But I feel they need to get outside in nature and out of the classroom, not into another “classroom” at Wonderland Lake. They can do that component of nature education (if needed) elsewhere. Come to Wonderland to experience nature viscerally in the outdoors.
• Add BIKE parking: NO more car parking and advertise bus routes to the area.
• Improve existing parking and do not expand mountain trails.

Ecosystems and Wildlife
• Save the lake and wetlands.
• Maybe an effort to control invasive plants but without disturbing the existing nature.
• Make it even more hospitable for wildlife, keep the current trail in good shape, and make the buildings near Broadway more useful.

Education and Youth
• I would like kids to be able to engage with and develop love for nature and earth stewardship (not just on walking trails).
• A modern nature center with great programming for kids and families. A full-time ranger.
• Upgrade the current scene and continue to engage youth in maintenance.

Infrastructure
• Two or three benches on the peninsula.
• No new development. No shade structure or bird blind. Shade trees and trail repair are okay.
• Bathrooms.
• Move the benches for contemplation of nature’s beauty onto the beach area on the west and south sides of the lake. Make some playground improvements and move the picnic table (with shelter) to the southside.
• Don't build things.
• A few minor things: I agree with improving signage and the planting of shade trees on peninsula. Adding public restrooms by the parking lot area would be nice.
• I would like to see more shade trees planted by the playground and picnic areas. I would like to see signs indicating that the lake is a wildlife/bird refuge. The other day I saw a bald eagle; not everyone realizes that by keeping people out of the lake itself, birds feel comfortable resting in the area. I am against increasing the parking lot, the pier proposal, and more construction in general. The area is already very busy, and this would take away from the open space feeling of the area.
• The only added changes I would like to see are the cultivation of an area with native plants and trees, and perhaps a longer, old split rail wood fence, especially on the south side of the lake along north-facing Quince Circle residences to prevent people from walking through that area on their way to the park. The preservation of the Silver Lake ditch area on the west side of the lake trail system and renovations to the building facility at the parking area for Wonderland Lake off Broadway for nature programs would also be welcome, provided it doesn’t mean making the parking area larger!
• Maybe add a fishing pier for kids from the dam.
• Add more trees, improve steps to cottagers, better maintain fencing, provide more accessibility along trails, and grade to dry but low spots. No more trails on eastern hillside. Ice skating and snow sledding should be allowed. No bird blind! Maybe smooth out the path to the upper area-northwest trail going toward Foothills Park.
• More trees, more sitting rocks on the peninsula, and better maintenance.
• No fishing pier, no beach, and no more trails.
• Do not bus people into the nature center; no nature center.
• The peninsula needs a walking area to eliminate overuse.
• Sustainable trails, boardwalks, and piers would help focus traffic so that people could use the area without damaging nature.
• Some educational signage wouldn’t hurt.
• Plant more shade trees. Please bring back the signs that used to be there saying Wonderland Lake is a wildlife area. It was quite alarming when those were suddenly and silently removed at the same time as the online survey gave only choices between fishing piers.
• Restrooms and parking near Broadway; good signage.
• Public bathrooms open during the day could be added to existing buildings so people won’t poop on open space. A pedestrian crosswalk at Sumac is needed. People park on Sumac, which is okay with me (I am a 14-year resident on the first block of Sumac).
• I would recommend changes be kept to bare minimum. If you want shade on the muddy side of lake, plant some trees. If fishermen need better access, reorient some of the rocks on the east dam so they are easier to sit on and some can be reoriented to make access easier. Expanding the parking lot is a bad idea; you should encourage walking and biking to the lake, NOT driving.

**Maintenance and Park Management**

• Trails should be maintained, and leash laws should be enforced.
• Preserve it but prevent erosion on the peninsula.
• Nothing structural. I would like to see more patrols for off-leash dogs.
• Not many: maintaining the trail in good condition and more signage or enforcement of dog owners not picking up dog feces.

**Disclaimer:** Peak Facilitation Group sorted comments in broad categories based on the primary theme of each comment. OSMP staff and council are encouraged to read all the comments in their entirety for a full understanding of the nuances of each comment.
• Better signage on the rules of lake. Education to neighbors on soil care of lawns/yards that run off to the lake.
• More subtle signage indicating encouraged pathways to get to the lake and why it is best to stay away from certain areas. Subtle “leave no trace” signage, especially along the east end of lake, where garbage and fishing items are often left behind.
• Keep fishing on the east side, as was done previously. No fishing off of the peninsula. Fences need fixing. Correct the damage done from the Boulder floods.
• Include more signs indicating that it is a wildlife sanctuary.
• Enforcement of trespassing in nesting areas. I wish that bikes using the lake as a peloton track at 50 miles per hour were not allowed. Enforce the leash law. Do not add structures; keep it as it is.
• I’d like to see the trail, fencing, and the parking areas well-maintained, as well as the lake and habitats.
• Houses close to the lake should be limited in size and impact on land, water, and wildlife. A balanced way for children to be educated around the lake about wildlife and to better appreciate our world without any negative impact should be found.

Naturalness and Tranquility/No Need for Change

• None.
• None.
• No changes whatsoever!! It is not broken, so do not fix it! There is another, developed park two blocks north of the lake. No more development is required or desired by neighbors.
• No changes!
• None.
• None.
• Really none. There is ample parking at or near the trailhead and a great bus service.
• None.
• None and no fishing pier! Maybe open a community restroom at the parking area and post more "dogs on-leash only" signs.
• None to the restricted lake areas.
• None!!
• None; just leave it, it's working.
• None, thanks!
• None.
• It's NATURAL.
• As little as possible please. Let us have this rare jewel as a place to connect with nature!
• Absolutely none.
• None.
• None.
• NO changes.
• None.
• Pretty much none!
• None.
• None.
• None.
• Personally, not much; I like it the way it is. Better education or keeping people on the trails when muddy could be good. Keep dogs on-leash.
• NONE.
• None.
• NONE.
• None.
• None. Keep greenspace green and open.
• None. Maybe an "outhouse" bathroom facility at most and, good maintenance of trails
• None. Simply preserve native species. Keep non-native plants under control. That’s it and maintain trails without more concrete.
• None. There are many other parks and facilities already that offer other "entertainments."
• None; we don’t need to develop green space! The parking footprint should stay exactly as it is. Existing buildings could be improved on.

**Trails, Hiking, and Walking**

• The only change I would like to see is to improve the path on the peninsula so that there is less mud to walk through and so that the path is not widened due to people avoiding the mud.
• Some trail and pavement repair. Widen the short sidewalk towards Quince Avenue, which is dangerously narrow. More trails! Especially below the dam to the east. Benches please!
• Sound trail surfaces for walking and biking.
• Regrade trails and make the peninsula more protected (trails are all over and at present are washing out).
• Please restore the Anne U. White Trail and the bridge north on this trail towards Lee Hill before any structures are built here. The concept is: take care of what we have before acquiring more.
• There is a need to improve the pathway at the peninsula; it is muddy now.
• Maintenance of existing trails.
• Maintenance on trails, but little else.
• More gravel on paths.
• All the trails should be cared for.
• Better maintained trails.
• Add better signage on the trails leading west into the hills. Well maintained foot paths. I don’t really know why people ride bikes in the area, especially where there are so many walkers. There are plenty of bike paths on Broadway, Lee Hill, Quince, etc.
• Better trail connections to reach elevation.
• Fix the flood damage from 2013 on the existing Foothills Trail that the city never repaired. It is a major danger to bikers. Start there!
• Improvements in trails should be made where they become muddy and rutted. There should be more ranger presence and enforcement of leash laws for dogs.

**HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ENGAGED BY OSMP REGARDING WONDERLAND LAKE IN THE FUTURE?**

**Email/Social Media**

• Email.
• Email.
• By email.
• Email.
• Email.
• Email, signs around the lake, notifications of public meetings, focus groups, etc.
• To be informed by email and made aware of community meetings.
• Yes! Email.
• Email is great.
• Email notification of meetings. I would participate in community focus groups.
• Planning and feedback via email.
• Email.
• Newsletter updates by email or internet (website, Nextdoor).
• Send emails.
• Email.
• Through email notification when changes are being considered.
• Email is good.
• I live in the neighborhood (had not heard anything about previous plans) and have given my email. Email anything is better than nothing.
• Email or rooms we can get into IF we show up on time; I was five minutes early.
• Email; meetings.
• Email and public meetings
• Email and public meetings
• Email updates about any proposed changes/improvements. There should be solicitation of feedback from me and other community members BEFORE any decisions are finalized. There should be genuine consideration of this feedback, especially from those living close to the lake.
• Email, Twitter, Facebook, etc.
• Email, Twitter, Facebook, and the news.
• Email; meetings.
• Notification on our local concerned website

Meetings

• Attend meetings and provide comments.
• Meetings; email.
• I will attend meetings and protest!
• I would come to meetings to express my opinions on any proposed changes.
• Attend meetings. I would like to be involved in the planning. I am not sure what jobs need to be done. I am not able to do manual labor, though.
• Attend open meetings.
• Via Nextdoor.com, this has been very effective.
• The community events we do are great!
• Community meetings.
• These meetings are helpful. Also, an ongoing email exchange would be wonderful and a lot less effort!

Not Sure/ Not Needed

• Not needed.
• Not sure I’m open; I’m retired.
• Not sure what is available or needed.
• Maybe, if OSMP actually listens to the community. My impression is it does not.
Postings and Public Notices

- Public notices, public signs on trails.
- To be consulted. I walk there almost daily, often with my dog.
- Postings on boards, press releases, and email blasts.

Requests for More Engagement

- Provide feedback regarding expansion.
- If needed.
- Accept community input.
- Public comments/feedback should be asked for more and appreciated.
- Programmatic planning.
- Proposals, specifically stated, should be made be available to the public especially those in neighborhood.
- OSMP should engage in a formal process with the community, especially with those most impacted by the proposals and plans like these.
- Please solicit neighborhood (north Boulder) input. We all cherish the Wonderland area. Please hold another meeting in a larger venue.
- To hear of any future proposed changes.
- I’d like to stay informed by OSMP as to the future plans.
- Be invited into the conversation.

Volunteering/Offer to Help

- I would volunteer a little. I would like my opinions considered. I am over there almost daily.
- I would volunteer for a neighborhood advisory board or committee overseeing the lake.
- If I can be helpful, I am happy to give some (limited) time, as I am more than fully employed.
- By helping to preserve the nature as a citizen. As a professional, large scale project management can help facilitate community. My family also would help maintain trails.
- I am happy to be involved, but you need to select meeting places with enough parking. I’m parked about 20 minutes’ walk away. People are involved.
- However I am needed!
- I would consider being part of a committee and would like to be aware of ongoing meetings.
- I am available to help work out a reasonable solution.

Other

- More is not better.
- A voice from the public who educates others about protecting the land, water, and wildlife.
- Get rid of old concrete and restore the lake to its natural state as much as possible.
- I am a lifelong birder. We do not need a bird blind! Safe distance from wildlife and human is needed on both the east and the west sides of the lake.
- I am grateful that, according to the fact sheet handed out, the fishing pier and boardwalk are on hold. Please ditch these concepts completely.
- I live directly on the lake! (I look over it).
- Yes.
- If the stated purpose of open space is the protection of wild space and shorelines, the concept of getting more folks into these spaces seems like a poor fit.
Please leave as is.
There’s so much development in Boulder, why develop Wonderland?
There are jurisdictions with so many opportunities: can they work together?
I will fight to keep it as it is.
Just commenting, I have lived in the Wonder Lake area since 1987.

WHAT OTHER THOUGHTS DO YOU WANT TO SHARE?

Access
- Please improve access for people with disabilities.
- At the moment, access to nature is unequal. This plan was student-driven and helps provide access to students who don’t have the opportunity. An education center would open up opportunities for students in an environmentally friendly way.

Education and Youth
- Kids have the ability to engage with nature MORE with the lake as it is; boardwalks through the cattails are not necessary for kids to be able to experience the nature available. The trails around the lake need improvement (especially on the hill to the north coming down to the lake and the west side trails).
- Education signage.
- Can this project leverage Foothills Community Park for the education/nature center proposed??

Crowding, Traffic, and Parking Concerns
- We have too many people now!
- More development (then more people) will drive away any wildlife. Don’t turn it into a "park" like Viele Lake.
- I am very concerned about the wildfire potential from people throwing cigarettes and from fireworks. As you know, this has happened before. Litter in the area has increased. On every walk I find myself picking up litter. More people mean more litter. There are not enough trash cans at the entrances.
- If the traffic at the North Boulder shopping center presently is any indication of the expected increase in potential Wonderland use, capacity concerns should be a significant consideration.
- Any changes that caused more crowding would concern me.
- Improving parking and access would be fine. Other improvements should be within reason while maintaining a natural habitat.

Ecosystem and Wildlife
- People come from all over to enjoy the birds and the wildlife and hike; let's keep this pristine.
- The cattails on the northside are so lovely. Please don’t change that!!!
- It is fine to improve parking along Broadway, but please leave the area around the lake alone. Leave the shoreline, the cattails, the nesting birds, and the migratory birds alone.
Education and Youth

- Education is always good, so use the current building off of Broadway at the trailhead to the lake to improve education about the importance of living in balance with nature. No fishing dock! This does not increase education. Let the nature that is there be. We have enough human use of the land. We don’t need more ways to utilize the land to our benefit or for recreation.
- Connection = conservation.
- I think that it is unnecessary to build any structure for nature education for kids. Such education can be provided by local schools or with classroom visits by Rangers on OSMP staff. That money can be better spent elsewhere in my opinion.
- I’ve reached out to OSMP and asked for and read all youth feedback collected and reports. A few points: Very few kids mentioned fishing. I only comments I saw about fishing were from pre-school kids. OSMP needs to stop saying “we’re all old/rich/white so X is justified even though public feedback is negative without collecting data on non-white/poor/young people. It is irresponsible to attribute inconvenient opinions to a group you have not connected with. Junior Rangers had feedback that was not aligned with the representation I’ve heard. Saying that three-year old kids want to grab frogs so we should let them is ridiculous. Wonderland Lake’s water quality is not safe. Growing-Up Boulder did not conduct meaningful research on race or income. They cannot responsibly speak to it. Give that, Boulder should not contract with Growing-Up Boulder.
- No putting nature behind glass, on a pedestal, or in a museum; this does not foster earth stewardship. Kids need to be able to play, get dirty, and engage with nature to be able to love it, learn from it, and want to protect it in the future.
- With the kids using the lake: I have been dismayed that they trample through the grounds by the shore to break the cattails with Open Space guides present. Do not bus people in! No wading beach!!
- The simplicity of Wonderland Lake is a learning experience for kids to understand the importance of preserving our natural environment. No wading beach.
- Children have walked to the lake for years and in the process have experienced all of the meadows and fields on the way. I have lived here since 1973 and watched and talked to many. This "lake" is unique in this capacity.

Infrastructure

- No additional playgrounds, no more dog park, and no building of structures.
- I’ll make comments at the meeting. I am very against the bird blind, pier, structures, and new trails and I am pro-habitat restoration.
- A fishing pier seems reasonable, as do more learning opportunities for children.
- I do not see that improvements made in the parking lot and structures area will have a negative impact on the park and lake. Better junior ranger facilities are a good thing. Share the good stuff.
- Please, no dock!
- No structures.
- Open space should be open. There should not be new buildings ever.
- Please, no wading beach.
- Limit structures; preferably, add none.
- Don’t put developments into the lake or marsh land. Education for kids is okay for improvement, but not for impacting wildlife. Piers are not that good as an impact. Look at Coot Lake with its pier and dog swimming; there is not much wildlife there.
• It would be good to put bathrooms in the nature center.
• The permanent construction features as the pier, boardwalk, and wading feature with hard surfaces are inappropriate.

Maintenance and Park Management
Please keep dogs on-leash! Too many are aggressive, especially towards other dogs.

Naturalness and Tranquility/No Need for Change
• I go to the lake every single day to connect with nature. This natural preserve is an incredibly important asset to Boulder, and the ONLY way for many of us to experience nature!
• I see nothing “broken” with this area, so I wonder where and why these proposed changes are from. The current trails are fine as they are; both the cement and crushed gravel trails. Adding more trails, along with widening trails, seems counterproductive to what is currently on site.
• Boulder is a special place because of its open space. I vote for less construction around Wonderland Lake and for keeping it more “wild” and “natural.”
• Please do not develop the west end of the lake! Please do not bottleneck Broadway to lake with building and parking. Wildlife need this corridor and habitat. DO NOT develop peninsula! No pier! It cannot take development. Use the existing building as a small nature center. OSMP should buy open property at Utica and Broadway for parking. Fines for people who leave poop bags on the trail (I am a dog owner!) The Thorne ecological and OSMP “Natural Selections” programs offer many additional educational opportunities for kids.
• There is too much developing of every piece of land :( 
• This is one of the few places in Boulder area that is not “parkified”: it is natural, calming, and enjoyable as is. Study first how this asset is used before prescribing “fixes.” Explore Coot Lake to exploit it as a destination.
• I want to keep Wonderland Lake as natural as possible with the least amount of human structures around it.
• It is not a large lake, more like a pond. Today, I photographed a bald eagle at Wonderland Lake. Please don’t make any changes that would disrupt its routine.
• I moved to a house on Locust Avenue when I was five years old. I came home and bought a house on the same block in 2017. I love the lake, grew up on the lake, and want it to stay wild.
• Changes here seem like change for change’s sake. It seems fine now as it is.
• Let’s keep it beautiful and inviting to the wildlife.
• Wonderland Lake is a great Boulder asset; keep it as it stands currently! No development!
• Wonderland Lake works well already and is well-loved as is. Why mess with it?
• The lake is a beautiful place. Let’s keep it that way for decades and centuries.
• I love Wonderland Lake park. I use the park daily as a place to relax and engage with nature.
• As is, Wonderland is a local treasure. Let’s not change or impact the simplicity and beauty of this beloved open space
• DO NOT CHANGE WONDERLAND LAKE.
• Keep the environment simple and non-developed. A lake, a trail, fences, and a bridge. Extend fences to protect the environment. Add electric currents for people with cameras who ignore fences (just kidding).
• Please leave this gem alone!
• Just because something isn’t developed doesn’t mean it is missing something.
Process

• Thanks for listening to our community, especially those of us who lives nearby the lake.
• The definition of open space...Does the size of this lake warrant increased use (more people), damage, etc. Was a study made?
• This process has caused me great distress. I cherish the Wonderland Lake SANCTUARY as if it were another living being and the prospect of it being harmed in any way is something I would put my body in the way of to prevent from happening. It is unfortunate that communications led so many to believe that decisions had been made without our input I am hoping that will not be the case moving forward.
• I am getting tired of the constant development and "improvements" in Boulder. Stop looking for things to do.
• Boulder should not have wasted money on this.
• No plans would be best for now.
• Start over!
• Please resist the impulse to change something that doesn’t need changing just for the sake of it. My experience is that the city does surveys like this after they have decided to make changes, thinking the public will feel better venting. Then the city goes ahead with whatever plans they had to begin with.
• Why are you not asking about our concerns on this questionnaire? In the data I have seen thus far, there is no environmental impact analysis of the type any commercial build would be required to provide with data. There was no data on impact to ducks, bears, foxes, coyotes, eagles, red tail hawk, geese; all who live and are using this space. The addition of people will impact these animals and today it is already heavily used.
• Thank you for humbly slowing this process down.
• Why ask children about the lake’s future before asking the adults? (That is the process that I believe has happened. I apologize if I am misinformed.)
• Staff have gone rogue.
• Thanks for involving community members in the discussion.
• This expansion is ridiculous. Even the January 15 meeting shows how out of touch the Boulder government is. At least 50 people were turned away because the room wasn’t big enough.
• I do not approve of spending our taxes on unnecessary and disruptive development that the community has been opposing for a while!
• Please choose an appropriate, safe space for meetings at the lake.
• Reschedule this meeting at a bigger venue.
• Thank you for calling a community meeting.
• I am curious as to what evidence there is of this need. I am concerned that there are already overuse issues.
• These projects are better done at Walden Ponds/Sawhill Lakes.
• This is another case of giving people what they don’t want.
• Boulder should apply its resources to more urgent needs: homelessness, low-cost housing, street repair, etc. The proposed project is not only unneeded, but also unwanted! More development will harm property values.
• How will the mindset of "more development is better" be changed for not only Wonderland but all parks? Parks are supposed to be an escape.
• I am VERY concerned by how this whole process and proposal went sideways. Who or what issues evolved into the infrastructure proposal?
• Don’t let the tail wag the dog! Maximize protection and education.
• This feels sprung on us out of nowhere. This is open space and new buildings should not be included.

Recreation
• No bicycles; I’ve been run down more than once.
• I love open space for recreation.

Trails, Walking, and Hiking
• I walk that trail TWICE EVERY DAY and it is never crowded. I do not see the need to add more trails.
• Better trail repair after the floods, if possible.

WHAT, IF ANY, QUESTIONS DO YOU STILL HAVE?

Ecosystem and Wildlife
• Why does anything have to change to a wetlands preserve? Kids can get experiences on their own and/or school or family.
• What changes could increase the diversity of wildlife? For example, would an osprey nesting platform be successful?
• Can we keep the lake environment as natural as possible?
• How do we make the lake more hospitable to birds and wildlife? How do we prepare for and protect against drought? Can fishing continue without a negative impact on fish and birds?

Education and Youth
• What are OSMP’s educational goals for Wonderland Lake OSMP? What are the consequences of imposing these on our lovely Wonderland Lake OSMP?! Our kids need protected, undeveloped lands!
• How are Boulder Reservoir, reservoirs to the east, etc. being used by youth serving facilities/schools or not? Where are the links regarding present sites for outdoor education (Junior Rangers) in the County? What, if any, gaps would Wonderland Lake fill?

Need for Change
• LEAVE IT AS IT IS. Build a small, fishing pier, a birding spot!
• Why do you want to change it now?
• Why does it need to change at all? How will proposed changes affect the wildlife?
• Why Wonderland Lake? Its size not present itself to increased usage and encroachment.
• What is driving this change? Is there money that needs to be spent? Is there currently overuse or misuse?
• What prompted these proposed changes? Was there an overwhelming number of people expressing concerns that this area needs to be changed as proposed?
• Is it possible to just maintain the lake versus "upgrading" it with changes?

None
• None.
• None.
• None.
• None at the moment.

Process

• Why did the City departments proceed to do this in such a fashion?
• How did the proposal get so far without consulting the people who live in the neighborhoods around the lake and in the vicinity?
• How can we help you?
• I would like to know what the city is planning to do.
• What changes are being proposed??
• How did such a crazy (and house-value reducing) notion get enough momentum in the first place?
• Why did this process start? Who wanted this?
• How can I be further involved?
• We need to have a Council Member at community meetings so that there is no doubt about the community feeling. Wonderland Lake is already heavily used without busing people in.
• Why expansion? Why hold the meeting in a room that is too small?
• What exactly is now being proposed? What was dropped?
• What is the plan from here?
• Who felt this area needed development? There is a great community park (Foothills) with all kinds of shelters, picnic areas, child play areas, sledding hills, etc. This is all part of this Wonderland area. More does not mean better. Also, the microphone volume should be adjusted at meetings for such large crowds.
• When will decisions be made?

Other

• Several.
• Why do we spend so much time/energy on prairie RATs (not dogs); they are rodents. Thank you for at least trying to give us a change; I am disappointed not to be able to attend.
• I was with the planning office in the 1970s and my husband was with Downing and Leach (the "developers"). This change was never the intent of the future; these are not midwest, east, or west things. There was a struggle to survive: "Do not walk on tundra" when expansion was planned for transportation the "advisers" wanted to remove trees (same thing).
• Just be very conscious of people that live there. We pay taxes and for me Wonderland Lake has been my walk multiple times per week. I run, hike, and bird watch there all the time.
• We back up to the Junior Rangers lot and had no ideas of this until recently. No new buildings!!!!! Please.
COMMUNITY MEETING: ADDITIONAL SUBMITTED DOCUMENTS
January 15, 2019
Community Meeting January 15th Wonderland Lake

My name is [redacted] I have lived adjacent to Wonderland Lake for 29 years. I have been a birder for 32 years, as well as camper and hiker, and feel a passionate stewardship of this precious natural resource. Wonderland Lake distinguishes itself in Boulder as having a wildlife preserve adjacent to a park and recreation area. For all these years these two environments have co-existed harmoniously side by side, with people who visit knowing where to recreate, and where to appreciate and revere the gifts of the natural world.

I would like to address several of the items on the proposed Integrated Site Plan on behalf of a group of concerned citizens:

1. There is no need for a bird blind around the lake. Anyone interested in birds can see them with binoculars or scopes, and there is ample naked-eye viewing from the dam and the peninsula. I also want to point out that the diversity of bird species and size of flocks has been the largest this year in the entire time I’ve lived by the lake. Hundreds of Canada geese are regularly seen, but most notably instead of only mallards, and the occasional grebe, there are large flocks of widgeons, redheads, and ring-neck ducks for the first time. I attribute this in part, to the cattails that protect nesting areas and the safe distance between the birds and humans who visit the lake.

2. There is no need for a man-made shade structure on the peninsula. It would be too small to provide any meaningful sun protection for very many people. Rather, planting more shade trees on the peninsula would be a natural way to both provide shade and stabilize the soil.

3. There is no need for additional access trails from Broadway. The proposed trails would disrupt a habitat that provides natural shelter for deer, fox and other species.

4. What this Wildlife Preserve DOES need is: improvements to the peninsula shoreline and path, better trail maintenance to correct ruts and puddles after run-off, more signage about proper usage (including reminders of restricted areas, leash laws, poop pick-up, and biking etiquette), and mostly importantly, full-time ranger coverage to enforce existing regulations and encourage mindful and respectful use of the lake area.

We believe the size of the Wonderland Lake nature preserve is such that cannot tolerate much more volume of traffic and sustain its conservation mission. It is already over-used and often abused.

We are not here addressing the development of the Foothills Nature Center, but do encourage thorough community engagement in any planning. We ask that city, county and open space better coordinate resources for providing excellent educational opportunities for the community, especially our kids. Perhaps Walden Ponds, which already has much of the necessary infrastructure in place, could be further developed to become the Flagship Nature Center for Boulder’s youth.

2 Minutes and 40 seconds!!
Wonderland Park is indeed a natural treasure.

I must admit to concerns about this increased development in this natural environment.

Primarily the boardwalk through the cattails – this will certainly disturb the numerous red winged blackbirds and ducks who proliferate that area. And they can be easily seen from the short trail along the peninsula.

However, a fishing bridge could possibly eliminate the erosion from the east bank into the lake caused by fisher people who fish there by clambering down the embankment, flattening and killing the grasses there and turning that area into a dirt and mud fishing place.

Could a hiking trail or sidewalk be constructed to connect from the Broadway sidewalk to the hiking trail along the south east side of the lake? This would make walking there so much nicer and more open than the proposed “connector” bits of trail near the Nature Center. And why can’t a trail be constructed to go through the area just north of the Lake to eliminate the need to walk thru a neighborhood traversed by driveways and fed ex and mail trucks and cars in order to arrive at the next trail along the north side of the Lake? Can you imagine needing to walk thru a busy neighborhood at Chautauqua or Rocky Mountain in order to continue your hike? Such a detour completely distracts from the feeling of wilderness and quiet that is so important to one’s psyche and sense of well being – which is one reason why we hike.

Please eliminate these neighborhood surrogs from this beautiful natural Park.
January 15, 2019

Wonderland Lake area, to OSMP’s credit, has strongly emphasized being a wildlife habitat and natural area. Its wonderful! The lake and its close-in wetlands and tall grasses attract many, many birds all year long, as well as other animals. The perimeter paths are all very far from water’s edge, which if course are the most sensitive places for wildlife. Other than the dam, the Peninsula is the Only place for people to quietly experience the birds up close, the nesting which occurs in the cove north of the peninsula, and the low flyovers which occur at the east end of the Lake.

Please Do Not Destroy the Wildness of the peninsula with OSMP’s proposed recreation structures, fishing pier, boardwalk, and a wading beach! Those will drive away the wonderful wildlife in this sensitive viewing area! The wading beach would also encourage swimming in the lake, which is very- importantly prohibited now! We also would prefer that the straight trail on the dam top east of the peninsula remain where it is — the large trees there buffer the many people and dogs on the main trail from the sensitive natural area which is the peninsula.

Thank you!

The proposed trails down into the drainage basin east of the dam would very likely drive away the many animals there. Great habitat! Please remove those from Plan.

Proposed facilities near Broadway are fine with us.
NOTES ON WONDERLAND LAKE - January 15, 2019

GENERAL ITEMS;
- Identify what is unique about Wonderland Lake today
- Look for opportunities to enhance this uniqueness
- Understand the “carrying capacity” of the asset
- Avoid the “build it and they will come” mentality
- Just because it can physically accommodate something, doesn’t warrant the need
- Maintain variety in open space areas- create differentiators

WONDERLAND LAKE SPECIFICS;
- Wildlife corridor and habitat preserve
- Book-ended by Wonderland Lake Park & Foothills Community Prk
- Clarify metrics that support the needs for expanded programming
- ADA access enhancement- Yes, in 2 locations
- Parking efficiency and increases- Yes, up to 70 spaces within existing footprint
- Shade structures- Yes, at trail head parking as gathering spot/ educational programming
- Existing structures- Yes, look for opportunities to reposition and re-purpose
- Impacts to lands at trailhead- No, look to reduce footprint of impacts by 1.0 acres
- Public restrooms- Yes, fit within context and scale of existing structures.
- Maintain, or replace existing structures to screen parking expansion
- Community Center (9,000 sf)- No, not supported by existing needs
  - Community Room
  - Kitchen and wet storage areas
  - Public restrooms
  - Outdoor patio areas
- Fishing pier into lake- No, initial impacts during construction as well on ongoing impacts from use
- Wetland/ Cattail walkway- No, initial and long-term impacts (20-meter impact zone)
- Wading beach improvements- No, health, shoreline impacts and trash
Issue: Proposed development is controversial in several areas.

Need statement:
1. Summarized, the needs appear to be: better access and improved opportunity for education.

2. More specifically, the needs appear to be:
   a. Parking
   b. Safe crossing of Broadway
   c. Fishing - more places
   d. Education
   e. Dog use
   f. Views/experience/shade
   g. Meeting space
   h. Increased access to landscape

Solutions:
   a. Parking: Open the maintenance parking lot west of the farm house. There is adequate space for an additional 10 vehicles in the maintenance lot (in addition to the maintenance vehicles spaces) which is currently closed due to "emergency access." The emergency access can still be maintained, as additional access is already present using the 6-foot wide pedestrian paths. Relocate openly stored wood and debris.

   b. Safe crossing of Broadway at Sumac: Paint and sign a pedestrian crossing. The Lake entrance does not need to be realigned. There is a sidewalk on either side of Broadway, or just slightly angle the pedestrian crosswalk.

   c. Fishing: The entire dam, and much of the peninsula is already open for fishing. No apparent need for a pier.

   d. Education: current ranger programs seem to be running sufficiently well out of the trailhead. If more room is needed, reutilize park/vehicle storage areas by relocating current Parks and Recreation storage/vehicle parking elsewhere. Foothills Community Park, already well-developed, can also site the junior programs and is a short distance away and has much more room for expansion as well as parking.

   e. Dog use: Wonderland Lake is less than a five-minute drive and 15 minute walk from the two-arena dog park in Foothills Community Park. Dogs seem to be counter to waterfowl and animal co-existence - that they will remain on a leash if they go in the lake seems a stretch. If a dog water play area is important, consider adding it to the current dog parks at Foothills Community Park.
f. Views/experience/shade: already happening. The views noted on the maps are already present. Additionally, there are several large shade trees at the trailhead. All that's required are a couple picnic tables.

g. Meeting space: several structures already exist at the trailhead on Parks and Recreation property: Refurbish. Other meeting space exists in: Foothills Community Park, North Boulder Recreation Center, the proposed NoBo Library among other spaces.

h. Increased access to landscape: There are over 20 Parks and Recreation signs surrounding Wonderland Lake cautioning citizens that the "Lake shorelines are extremely fragile. They are the primary feeding and nesting sites for aquatic birds and animals. Please do not disturb these areas." People respect the shoreline and adjacent areas by avoiding them. The plans signal a shift away from this respect and toward a much smaller protected area in the name of experience and education. Thereby disturbing the very fragile shorelines and feeding/nesting areas that have been protected and honored.

Additional Issues:
1. Zoning: Part of the design encroaches on land zoned as Agriculture. This use is defined in Boulder City Code Title 9, Chapter 5, Section 2 Paragraph c as "Agricultural areas in a natural state or in which the growing of crops, flowers, and trees or other farming activity is actively practiced." Keeping Wonderland Lake in a natural state is a supported, and historical policy.

2. Cost. There will be associated costs with annual maintenance, repair, administrative, and ranger costs, in addition to the fixed costs for improvement.

3. Clean-up; with a pier, community center, kitchen, patio et. al. there will be additional usage and commensurate trash, wear et. al.

Recommendation: I am for the improvement solutions outlined above, e.g., improved parking, pedestrian crossing at Sumac, etc.

Other thoughts:
1. First, do no harm.
2. The ecosystem is already in balance - nature, people, wild and domestic animals, plants - why make any major changes.
3. It seems an effort to "pave paradise and put up a parking lot," a bit of a nature Disneyland.
4. Leave the natural terrain as-is. The education aspect might be fulfilled by: we decided to just let nature be.
5. Will these "improvements" lead to higher house values for the surrounding area? If so, this only increases Boulder's unaffordability - a key concern of citizens and the City Council.

Thank you for your time.
Zoning

- BC-1 Business - Community 1 (CB-D)
- BC-2 Business - Community 2 (CB-E)
- BCS Business - Commercial (CS-E)
- BR-1 Business - Regional 1 (RB-E)
- BT-1 Business - Transitional 1 (TB-D)
- BT-2 Business - Transitional 2 (TB-E)
- BR-2 Business - Regional 2 (RB-D)
- BMS Business - Main Street (BMS-X)

Sources: Ersi, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, InCREMENT P Corp., GEBCO, USGS.
Planning & Development Services
City of Boulder 2019
COMMUNITY MEETING: VERBAL COMMENTS
January 15, 2019
Wonderland Lake Integrated Site Project (ISP)
Public Meeting
January 15, 2019
Location: North Boulder Recreation Center
Verbal Comments

Note: This document provides a record of verbal public comments provided by community members at a public meeting on January 15, 2019, on the subject of a proposed project at Wonderland Lake. For ease of reference, the comments have been grouped broadly by the topic primarily addressed in each comment, although there is some overlap between categories within most comments. The comments are included in their original form with occasional corrections for spelling, grammar, commenter anonymity, acronyms, and abbreviations.

PLAN FOR COMMUNITY INPUT
• The written summary of this meeting will be provided to Open Space and Mountain Parks' (OSMP) staff, and they will provide it to Boulder City Council.
• Lisa Morzel and Bob Yates both wanted to attend this meeting and passed along their gratitude for everyone’s participation. City Council will be discussing this issue during their February 5 meeting. They are specifically interested in hearing about what members of the community would like to see at Wonderland Lake and how they would like to be engaged in the future.
• Community members are welcome to attend the Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) meetings. The OSBT is meeting on February 13, March 13, and April 10 at 6:00 pm. The April 10 meeting will include a discussion about Wonderland Lake.

OSMP STATUS AND FEEDBACK TO DATE
Dan Burke, OSMP Interim Director, shared the current status of Wonderland Lake planning and summarized the community feedback that has been received.
• OSMP recognizes that a lot of the community comments tonight will likely be concerns. Dan acknowledges full responsibility for the way OSMP launched this process and initiated public outreach. Dan apologized for the angst and consternation that the process has caused. OSMP has clearly not met the expectations of members of the public. Dan has led conservation organizations for the past 20 years; there is no better feeling than when the organization accomplishes something magnificent, and there is no worse feeling than when the organization takes missteps.
• OSMP is setting aside all alternative designs that were presented in the Fall. There will be no implementation of any activities in 2019; all activities will be geared toward engaging the community. OSMP is waiting to receive guidance from City Council during the February 5 meeting.
• In terms of feedback already received from the community, there were several proposed activities that have caused particular consternation. OSMP received enough comments about the pier/boardwalk onto Wonderland lake that the department has decided to take that option off the table. OSMP has received over 450 different pieces of input (from the OSMP website, direct emails to council, emails to OSBT members, and responses to the questionnaire released in the Fall). It is clear there is overwhelming concern in the community about the potential increased use and impact of new structures on the scenic beauty of the lake. OSMP has also heard concerns about loss of tranquility and peace at the lake. There were also a lot of comments about the impacts to the ecosystem (wildlife,
vegetation, etc.) and the detrimental relationship between increased use and water quality. OSMP also received comments about maintenance needs near the lake.

- OSMP hopes that this meeting will help to reset the relationships between OSMP and community members. Wonderland Lake is an important piece of open space.

**NEIGHBOR PERSPECTIVES**

A panel of representatives of a small group of community members who care about Wonderland Lake shared summary statements about what they have heard from other community members. This ad hoc group was alarmed by the preliminary proposed plan for Wonderland Lake and volunteered to step in.

- A small group of community members had meetings with Tom Isaacson, Lisa Morzel, and Kelly Wasserbach. The group decided to launch a website (www.wonderlandlake.com) and solicit comments from other community members. The group also distributed over 300 flyers door-to-door and launched a petition on NextDoor. The group would like to thank Dan Burke for his comments and City Council for paying attention to the community reaction.

- This entire conflict came from a fundamental misunderstanding between staff, OSBT members, and City Council. The community gives these people the benefit of the doubt and is here to try to move forward and input their vision. Continued community engagement will be key moving forward.

- The Wonderland Lake website comment section has received 155 comments in opposition to the plan, ten comments in favor of it, and 13 people with mixed positions. In general, it was clear that people may not have read the plans in depth. A lot of people identified that they did not live near the lake, so this is not only an issue for people who are neighbors to Wonderland Lake. The community is not opposed to youth education opportunities; there is a strong distinction between wanting to use the land as a way for kids to appreciate nature and building structures to attempt to achieve that goal.

- Community representative Ina Robbins has lived adjacent to Wonderland Lake for 29 years and feels a passionate stewardship for it. Wonderland Lake is a wildlife preserve adjacent to a park/recreation area. These two environments have coexisted because the people know where to recreate and where to appreciate the gifts of the natural world.

  1. There is no need for a bird blind along the lake; there are already ample opportunities for naked viewing. The diversity of bird species and the size of flocks has been the largest this year. Hundreds of geese and large flocks of ringneck ducks, widgeons, and other species are seen regularly. This diversity can be attributed in part to the cattails and the safe distance kept between birds and humans. Today, a bald eagle was seen at the lake.

  2. There is no need for a man-made shade structure on the peninsula. Planting more trees would be a natural way to provide shade, enhance wildlife, and stabilize the soil.

  3. There is no need for additional access trails from Broadway; the trails would disrupt habitat that provides shelter for deer, fox, and other species.

- What Wonderland Lake does need is improvements to the peninsula and the shoreline, better trail maintenance, more signage about proper usage (including reminders of restricted areas, leash laws, biking etiquette, poop pickup, etc.), and most importantly, a full-time ranger to enforce existing regulations and encourage respectful use of the area. The nature preserve is big enough, and it cannot tolerate more usage. In fact, it is already overused.
• The City of Boulder should help coordinate staff and resources for better nature education programs. Perhaps Walden Ponds could be further developed to be the flagship nature center for Boulder’s youth.

• Some of the suggestions by OSMP have merit. The removal of the pier/boardwalk is a huge step in the right direction, as they would have encroached on nature and have been ripe with environmental and safety issues. The paved path is well-used by people of all ages. As long as the masses keep moving, the nature-to-people balance works. No structures that invite all-day use should be built on this fragile shoreline. Because of the dense use, people often want to go off-trail into areas populated by wildlife. There are small signs that are often covered by weeds that indicate that the area is a wildlife refuge. A similar sign has been at the west entrance and was recently removed. The community's message to OSMP is “yes to preservation.” The split-rail fence needs to go all the way around the lake. The proposed wading area is objectionable, and hopefully, further consideration of the stagnation of the lake will lead to this option getting taken off the table as well.

• Rachel Hanzlik is 13 years old; when she asked why she could not play in Wonderland Lake, her parents told her that it is a place where the animals need to be protected. She immediately understood. She now takes the children she babysits there, and they have fun watching the wildlife. If a wading beach were installed, it would be a distraction from the observation of the true beauty of nature. If structures were built, it will steal the rawness of nature. We live in a developed world, and people miss raw nature.

• Kristen McCormack studies environmental policy at Harvard University, and she grew up going to Wonderland Lake frequently. It is OSMP’s job to help children observe the wild, and manmade structures are not needed to enjoy it. OSMP’s community questionnaire asked people to rate how their experience would change if various activities in the North Trail Study Area Plan were implemented (fishing pier, tree removal, signage changes, refurbished education center, habitat restoration). It showed that people are generally excited about habitat restoration and maintaining the current structures but think that additional structures would make it worse. OSMP should pay attention to its own data and focus on what people do want.

• McCormack created a petition that calls on Boulder to use its resources to protect wildlife rather than disturb it; it has 390 signatures so far. The vast majority of participants have indicated their desire to keep Wonderland Lake as a wild place. Many people were discouraged by their interactions with OSMP staff; it has been difficult to obtain data, and the process was not transparent. Staff should pay attention to feedback from tonight to make changes to the plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT
If people indicated that they would like to offer public comment, they were given a number at the sign-in table. Starting with the lowest number, community members were each given two minutes to speak. After the meeting, the comments were sorted by general themes.

Preserve and Protect the Natural Environment
• As a neighbor of Wonderland Lake for 30 years, I have had a long relationship with the OSBT; it has been a partnership and collaboration, and while there has been conflict, it has always been resolved by referring to the mission statement for OSMP, which is to "preserve and protect the natural environment, and foster appreciation and use that sustain the natural values of the land." This mission has always been a common ground. Now, the phrase "develop the natural values" has been added to the statement. City Council must reconsider the addition of development into the mission statement.
• There should be an independent environmental impact assessment of wildlife and vegetation at Wonderland Lake. There are many access points to this area, and I do not understand why there needs to be more accessibility, as this will likely harm the environment.

• OSMP is a Boulder success story. Wonderland Lake is a Boulder success story. The fact that keeping the human footprint small has been the main OSMP goal is one of the reasons Wonderland Lake is a success. It is important to remember OSMP's mission statement. Section 176 of the City's Charter specifically says: “OSMP land may not be improved after acquisition unless improvements are necessary to protect or maintain the land or to provide for passive recreation, open agriculture, or wildlife habitat use of the land.” It is not clear how the boardwalk, picnic tables, etc., fit into the Charter. Maintain Wonderland Lake as a natural habitat—it is a place of serenity and nature surrounded by urban neighborhoods.

• Wonderland Lake is not “mine,” or “yours;” it is a City of Boulder asset. Community concerns are not coming from a “not in my back yard” perspective. The original proposal was a Disney version of Wonderland Lake. There must be greater diversification of city outdoor spaces (urban parks, nature sanctuary, etc.). The priority of Wonderland Lake should be to preserve it as a wildlife sanctuary.

• Wonderland Lake is an oasis. Its serenity and natural beauty should be preserved. Less is more. I am not familiar with legal distinctions; I share the concerns about overuse but want to be objective in defining the term “overuse.” An environmental impact assessment is a good idea. While I like the idea of getting kids close to nature, I am not sure this is the best place to do that. Keep the magic at Wonderland Lake.

• The southwest area by the lake should be protected. The flyer for this event said that we would address “conceptual ideas,” but there is something about the non-conceptual quality of nature that is powerful. Imposing our conceptual ideas on it is a mistake. Building any structure by Wonderland Lake is not a great idea.

• I am a landscape architect and planner and moved near Wonderland Lake because it is unique. We should look at opportunities to enhance the qualities that make Wonderland Lake unique and should not automatically program it for structures or improvements. OSMP should closely evaluate the existing structures, repurpose them, and potentially develop the trailhead, but should also understand that there is a caring capacity to any parcel of land: you can get over the tipping point. It is important to step back and see what is unique now.

• The increased use of Wonderland Lake has had a huge impact. It needs to be preserved and protected, not improved. We are loving our natural spaces to death. Once they are gone, they are gone forever.

• Our kids need to get their hands dirty, but they do not need to get dirty in a protected wetlands environment. Giving kids a hands-on experience does not require destroying the value of what we have created at Wonderland Lake.

• There are a lot of places for kids to get dirty (Mesa Trail, South Boulder, etc.). Once you make changes, the original natural state is gone, and it will not come back.

• My children got full nature exposure growing up. Increased screen-time is a new issue, but I would like to keep Wonderland Lake in its natural state because the lake provides us with so much. I Hope we find a reasonable compromise.

• There are creatures like black bears who live along the lake who cannot speak for themselves. People should not tread near the lake more than needed. The area beyond the lake is a watershed, so it is important to be mindful about the chemical runoff from
herbicides applied to the park and surrounding private properties. Parking around the lake should not be added because it would become a drive-to destination.

- As an arborist, I know that a certain percentage of trees will soon be lost at Wonderland Lake. The emerald ash borer is here, and the plan should consider the replacement of trees, especially on the peninsula. If too much sun opens up, it will be hard to get new trees started. The foot traffic around the lake will increase, so it is important to think about preserving the space and protecting it from foot traffic. There may be a way to use boardwalks to lessen foot traffic in some areas.

**Provide Hands-On Nature Experiences to Children**

- Growing Up Boulder is an organization based out of the University of Colorado Boulder. It has worked with 150 young people (pre-school- through high school-aged) in 2015 to collect their input. These young people asked for the fishing pier and boardwalk. They want to be engaged with nature by touching it. They want to be able to pull apart a cattail or put their hand in the water to try to catch a frog. There are not many opportunities for children to do this because so many spaces have been preserved. There are few spaces left to get dirty and muddy. It is important for children to get up close to nature. The opinions of these young people must be heard.

- Wonderland Lake could change the lives of children and connect them with nature. The kids need places to get muddy, and we need to provide that. This meeting is missing any sense of equity and inclusion; we need to engage the voices of children, people with disabilities, the elderly, and teachers in this process. There are thousands of ponds and lakes in Colorado, but this one happens to have public access in the middle of the city. It is a perfect place to give children the experience and inspiration in nature.

- Think about when you were a kid; what is it that connected you to nature? What experiences allowed you to engage with nature? Kids are spending over 40 hours a week on screens and getting outside for less than 20 minutes a day. It is important to create spaces for kids to connect with nature because without getting them connected to nature, we cannot ask them to protect nature. I would love to see kids playing and getting dirty in Wonderland Lake; it is an incredible urban space. We should consider future generations and engage them in this process.

- As the founder of Thorne Ecological Institute, I support the idea of connecting kids to nature. I want to encourage kids to come and get wet, muddy, and happy.

- I teach my children the principles of “leave no trace.” As a result, my children do not have the same experience with nature when they are on the Wonderland Lake trail as when I give them the chance to slow down and get dirty. Trails do not give people the same experience. Areas on the eastern shoreline do provide the opportunities to slow down. I take my children there year-round to experience the ecosystems and understand how they change season-to-season. They find animal footprints, abandoned wasp nests, and they watched an osprey for half an hour last weekend. If we had been on the trail, they would not have had that experience. It is critical to mesh the ideas: getting kids to Wonderland Lake to observe nature and also protect and preserve it.

- When the older generation was young, it was different than what kids get now. I founded the Kiva Center to provide kids with structured environments to get outside. Kids are not getting outside like their parents and grandparents because spaces are not as open or accessible. It is important to protect natural environments while integrating hands-on experiences.

- Research has shown that the number one indicator for becoming a steward is repeated authentic interactions with nature at a young age. Those interactions are different today,
both in terms of access and in terms of what kids want. We need to listen to them. We need
to honor their wishes to get muddy and dirty and figure out how to achieve that in a way
that is acceptable to the community. I want to create opportunities for them to become
stewards.

Access Around Wonderland Lake
- I am concerned with the multi-generational/multi-mobility capacity of the lake as it
currently exists. It is difficult to get around; people who have mobility issues can find the
muddy walkways difficult.
- My brother is a paraplegic, and he has fallen twice.

Maintain the Park and Enforce Current Rules/Regulations
- I am the poop fairy and would appreciate everyone’s help picking up the dog waste when
you see it. Eventually, people will start to respect the area.
- I am grateful to OSMP for their effort in recovering Wonderland Lake from the 2013 floods.
There are also a few neighbors who have taken it to heart to think of Wonderland Lake as
their responsibility. There are other opportunities that OSMP could spend money on
besides developing Wonderland Lake. There is maintenance work on Wonderland Hill that
needs to be done (e.g., broken concrete that is a hazard). Surrounding the lake with fencing
seems anti-wild and would make it look too urban.
- I have noticed a huge improvement in trail maintenance. The trails on the north side still
need attention. We need to keep the trails accessible for people with mobility issues; it is
the only flat space in Boulder near nature where you can walk. As the plan develops, it is
important to continue to prioritize maintenance and not use all the resources on a one-time
development. There should also be more ranger traffic.
- OSMP should fix the trails, but there are sloped places that get icy which may not be able to
get fixed for access. A lot of money was wasted doing architectural design; we should use
that for things that need to be fixed. A lot of people have started to walk across areas that
did not have a trail before (e.g., on the north side of Wonderland Lake), and OSMP has added
concrete trails to those places. We do not need more concrete trails.
- My biggest concern is that OSMP will get stymied in the process and stop making
improvements while everyone debates what should happen. The trails need to be filled in
with the proper sand. All the theater trails above the lake are getting wider and wider.
OSMP should put some money into those improvements and continue to make the
structures around the lake work so people can access it by foot, not by car.
- Trail improvement is critical because runoff is bad.

Commit Resources to Other Issues
- This meeting has focused on Wonderland Lake, but it is important to broaden the concept.
The City of Boulder is fortunate to have financial resources to devote to different projects.
There are other demands that overwhelm any needs at the lake (e.g., homelessness, street
repairs, transportation demands, etc.). If some of the resources that were going to be put
toward this project could be attributed to those issues, that would be great. Let nature take
its course but help it along.
- OSMP should consider purchasing the open lot on the corner of Broadway and Utica and
potentially use it for a nature center. It is an important wildlife corridor that has already
been shrunk on the other side of Broadway.
Develop Nature Education Programs

- Regarding youth, how can we make Wonderland Lake a great place for programs but also jurisdictionally work with other areas here (e.g., reservoirs, etc.)? How can programs with a youth-serving mission be integrated into different areas? Changes at Wonderland Lake are not needed unless the development can be managed logistically.
- More kids should be brought into the area, but they will have to be managed when they go to the lake.
- Since the early 1980s, we have been trying to develop the Foothills Nature Center, but it is not currently suitable for a modern environmental education program. There needs to be a facility with books, nets, etc., and the Foothills Nature Center would be a great place to do that.
- People should think about the value of the programming, which is the most important need. The ability to get kids and families experiencing natural beauty is key. Wonderland Lake is different—it is right in the heart of North Boulder and is accessible to a lot of different people. Teaching kids to appreciate nature does not happen by magic; we need to make it happen.
- I have had a long-time vision of creating a nature center. I worked with Jim Crain to develop funding and exhibits for a nature center, but it did not happen. We have worked with OSMP and the Audubon Society to develop some education programs and would like to get kids to walk to the nature center to take classes. I would like to make sure that future generations are involved in natural history.
- People should continue to use the Thorne Nature Experience and the OSMP natural selections programs for hands-on programming.
- I believe in the power of environmental education. It is not just our children who need to learn how to be better stewards. I have gone to more natural selections programs than you can imagine. The more I learn, the better prepared I am to appreciate and care for the asset. For 51 years, Boulder has been acquiring land, and the plan to acquire is complete. Now is the time for all of us to get educated. I watched the Comprehensive Plan process and the identification of the five focus areas. Education addresses all of these focus areas: responsible recreation, environmental responsibility, wise fiscal stewardship, etc. We need an education center to deal not just with our kids but with the 6.5 million visitors. Wonderland Lake probably is not the place for an education center like that, but we can find out where to develop one.

Thoughts in Favor of or in Opposition to the Pier/Boardwalk

- The mud is pure shale, so it will always be muddy. That is why we need boardwalks. It is hard to get down into the water because you end up in ankle-deep mud. The boardwalk needs to be reconsidered. Finally, we need to work on habitat and support the animals as well.
- I strongly oppose the boardwalk through the cattails. That area is the best habitat for songbirds around the lake. The redwing blackbirds are there but will be gone if a boardwalk is built. Do not reconsider the boardwalk. I also am not in favor of the shade structure planned for the beach; it will attract a lot of people to go swimming and pollute the water.
- I think the pier would be good and would encourage people to go out and fish. However, we should not provide access to the marsh because we would be intruding in the home of all the wildlife in the cattails.
- I would encourage people to go to Tantra Park. There are integrated boardwalks and fishing decks, and the redwing blackbirds are alive and well. Please do not just throw out the idea that a fishing dock under the premise that it will ruin habitat.
• My young children get a nature experience at Wonderland Lake just as it is. If we want more, we go to Thorne Nature Experience. We do not need to build a big structure; I am not in support of the pier/boardwalk. I want to give voice to families whose kids are already getting a great nature experience.

**Provide Recreation Opportunities Around/On the Lake**

• I practice catch and release fishing. Wonderland Lake should be strictly catch and release and flies and oars only. There should be signage with those regulations. There is a great fishery there that just needs to be preserved, not developed. The no-wading policy is good. On the dam side of the lake, if several of the rocks were flipped and rearranged it. Would be easier to access and go up/down without having any environmental impact.
• We should be able to go ice-skating; it brings joy.
• I am 13 years old and disagree with the prohibition of ice skating. I see that as a way to connect with families and the neighborhood. While I am happy people are speaking up for kids, kids need to speak for themselves.
• People fish on the east side of the lake; they do not need more space. We should not allow them to use lead sinkers because if the filament breaks, the lead is left in the lake.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

• The OSMP Master Plan is being developed, and there are a lot of pristine areas under threat in that plan. The concerns and comments about restoration and tree-planting are great.
• We moved from Maine and bought a house on Wonderland Lake three years ago. My dog went swimming, and I did not know there was a rule prohibiting that. When I heard about this plan, I did not understand why they would now be encouraging people to wade in the lake. I understand the concerns about the lack of access to nature and I would also encourage us to keep it in its natural state.
• There needs to be public restrooms available during the day.
• The City used an excellent public engagement process for the 19th Street development (door-knocking, individual tours, interactive map-based presentations).