KEEP WONDERLAND LAKE WILD PETITION COMMENTS
Wonderland Lake Integrated Site Project (ISP)

Keep Wonderland Lake Wild Online Petition Results

Note: This document provides a record of public comments submitted as part of a community petition ("Keep Wonderland Lake Wild") on the subject of a proposed project at Wonderland Lake. For ease of reference, the comments have been grouped broadly under each survey question by the topic primarily addressed in each comment, although there is some overlap. The comments are included in their original form with occasional corrections for spelling, grammar, commenter anonymity, acronyms, and abbreviations.

**Overdevelopment, Crowding, Parking and Traffic Concerns**

- This is an awful idea. The Wonderland Lake area is already heavily used. Do we need to have “DisneyLake” in north Boulder?
- Giving up open space for more parking is a terrible idea! There are too many humans, roads, cars, and houses!
- What is the point of this wasteful and unnecessary construction? You can’t improve a natural area by putting in dozens of parking spaces and buildings. The area does not need more visitors. It is already at maximum capacity most days when the sun is out. Encouraging more people to come to Wonderland is just a bad idea no matter how it is achieved. I am very concerned about the path that Boulder is on: unchecked growth and a desire to build on every little bit of open land left.
- Please don’t add more traffic to what is already a highly used and thus crowded trail. More parking is not the solution.
- There is already too much traffic through areas which should be prohibited. These areas should be maintained for wildlife!
- Too much rampant and rapid development in N. Boulder. Wonderland Lake is one of the few remaining places of refuge. Let it remain so in the future!
- I used to enjoy Eben G Fine Park and Chautauqua, but for many years they have become so crowded that Wonderland Lake trail is one place I can still enjoy walking in nature in Boulder. I am concerned it will become another county destination for fishing that results in overcrowding.
- I am concerned about the extra traffic and parking in an already crowded park.
- Please listen to the concerns of the people who actually live in the Wonderland Lake area. We will be negatively impacted by the city’s so-called improvements. We have lived here since 1989, and in the last few years, the cars and foot traffic have greatly increased. It’s now difficult to drive down our street. People let their dogs off leash, don’t pick up after the dogs, toss trash, smoke, throw rocks at the wildlife, go off trail into open spaces, wade into the lake, and make noise. It’s scary how many people shoot fireworks over the lake too. The signs are so small people don’t even notice them, plus there’s very little enforcement. The deer herds have decreased too. I asked a wildlife officer about this, and she said it’s because of the negative human impact.
- While I do not live in the Wonderland Hills neighborhood, the Wonderland Lake area is a frequent part of my regular walks. This bit of open space and natural beauty serves more than this one specific neighborhood. As the city naturally densifies, please protect this area!

**Ecosystems and Wildlife**

- There is plenty of parking available and plenty of trail options. There is no need to take away protected areas for the wildlife in order to make more trails and fishing areas available for use. One of the most beautiful things about Colorado, especially Boulder, is the...
amount of land designated to wildlife. Please leave Colorado wild and not continue to take away the beauty of nature by imposing on it.

- I cannot see how this helps the wildlife in the area. Also, placing this on page 90 of the North Trail Study Area (the focus of which was a trail on the north edge of the city) seems disingenuous.
- When an area is disturbed, wildlife eventually disappears because it no longer feels safe and protected. That is precisely why Maroon Bells has parking a mile away from the lake and busses people in. This is a sanctuary. That is why there are now preserves in Africa, and we have zoos.
- 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 grew up right on Wonderland Lake since 1990 where my family still lives. I now live around the corner. This is one of most pristine, quiet wildlife sanctuaries in Boulder. It is special because the wildlife dominates, it is serene, and there are not large groups of loud visitors hanging out and tons of developed human structures. There are so many places like that in Boulder already, and this area is one of the very few relatively untouched places to become immersed in nature.
- Wildlife was here first. Humans need to stop encroachment. Leave Wonderland Lake Area ALONE. PEACE AND SERENITY EXIST NOW. What you propose will turn paradise into purgatory.
- I strongly object to anything that detracts from the long-standing environment of Wonderland Lake as a wildlife refuge and a peaceful, natural setting.

**Infrastructure**

- Please leave Wonderland Lake in its current natural state. Do not ruin the natural aspect by installing a dock/pier or a bird blind or a shade structure. The wetland area is not large enough to need a boardwalk, let the ducks enjoy the little wetlands; people can see from the trail. Do not build a nature center; just put some signposts by the parking with wildlife information. Children can't wade there; it is dangerous because of past fishing debris which could puncture their feet. Planting a few trees is okay. A few benches are okay.
- Any structures including benches and permanent overhead shelters are inappropriate. Any additional seating should be crafted from the abundant stone of our Rocky Mountains. Also, I do not support enlarging the parking lot.
- I’m signing this petition because the logic of the plan and its goals seems flawed. It seems flawed to suggest creating specific structures and designations, such as a dock and wading area, will "help ensure the conservation of the area’s special natural resources" and "sustain diverse resources on the city’s northern open space." It seems that when you add nature centers, designated wading areas, etc., you are purposefully inviting more people (you are making the area more of a destination park). In short, I think the plan is not aligned with the goals and/or the information on the site (https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/integrated-sites-projects).
- Someone suggested making a boardwalk on top of the concrete to the east of the current path on the east side of the lake. That’s the only change I would support. The rest of the suggestions will only diminish the tranquility and natural beauty of the lake, as well as disturbing wildlife there. So, please don’t make any of those proposed changes.
- The fishing pier, boardwalks, bus parking, wading, and built structures do not belong!
• I am very distressed by the proposed changes, especially the fishing dock, increased parking (it’s hardly ever full), shade area, etc.
• Right now, Wonderland Lake is a relaxing get-away. Having more structures doesn’t make it better. Don’t turn it into an urban park. We have a park just a few blocks north.
• The proposal to build a dock into the lake is the most objectionable part of this staff proposal. Some additional development adjacent to Broadway for the Junior Ranger program, if properly designed, is acceptable.
• Adding a few more trees and some benches to quietly sit and enjoy the view sounds lovely, and maybe a few other small changes could be okay, but the boardwalk and fishing pier (beyond the toxic chemicals leached into the water) are huge incursions in the wildlife and view and will invite SO much more traffic and gatherings. Once this place is developed, we can never go back. It is a stunning oasis. Let’s not ruin it by over-developing it!
• I agree with some objections, especially the fishing dock. Bird blinds should be in the southwest corner of the lake, not where it is currently proposed. The fishing dock is unnecessary and would cheapen and commercialize a natural area.
• No man-made structures at Wonderland Lake!
• Simply having preserved land is enough; adding more car infrastructure and human structures diminishes what this is worth.
• Keep Wonderland Lake as a sanctuary for wildlife and people. There should be no structural development like piers, boardwalks, shade shelters or picnic tables.

**Maintenance and Park Management**

• OSMP should just work on the muddy spots on the trail? Also, it would be great if OSMP made sure the lake has a natural inflow and outflow so that it stays healthy.

**Naturalness and Tranquility/No Need for Change**

• The lake is just fine the way it is. Who comes up with these schemes? I have been very frustrated with the decisions and direction of this town for years now. Could you just leave this little corner alone?
• I strongly think we should keep Wonderland Lake undeveloped. It is a natural treasure as-is!
• Please leave our neighborhood as it is. As residents of Wonderland Lake, my family values the wildlife and quiet of the neighborhood. We do not want to disturb the wildlife or increase the foot traffic, let alone bring in busloads of people. It is beautiful the way it is.
• This plan takes direct aim at undermining the tranquility and open space that is afforded by the lake and surrounding hills and trails. This will not serve the residents of the area and will open it to a significant increase in traffic and use which on the surface will destroy the current aspects that make it so wonderful.
• There is a very nice urban park just up the hill from the lake with plenty of structures and parking. This area should not be developed as yet another park but preserved in its natural state to the extent that still exists now.
• I am very concerned that suggested changes will negatively affect the sense of natural beauty and ruin habitat. Why do we need these changes and who proposed them? It sounds like a waste of taxpayer dollars to me.
• This is a special bit of wildness in Boulder. Please don’t change it!
• There is no need to build anything here!
• Wonderland Lake is naturally serene; any changes must preserve what makes it special, like the opportunity for uninterrupted lake reflection, the feeling that it is a wonderful habitat for birds and wildlife, and the trail system that is well integrated into the natural features.
• Wonderland Lake is fine the way it is. I think any additions in the area would reduce property value and decrease the quality of life of the people who live near the park.
• PLEASE KEEP WONDERLAND THE WAY IT IS.
• Wonderland Lake is a beautiful place. Please keep it the way it is.
• I truly enjoy the simplicity of the landscape and nature being so beautiful!! You don't need any of these rocks and buildings to clutter up the views of this gorgeous environment!!!
• Wonderland Lake is a valuable, fragile preserve. The proposed changes are not improvements; rather, they will jeopardize the natural environment of the area and change the character of the neighborhoods surrounding the lake. North Boulder has suffered enough with the dismantling of its rural zoning, the homeless shelter, and overuse of the trails. The Foothills Community Park is already a city park with all the amenities needed for visitors. To change the character of Wonderland Lake would be a disservice to the North Boulder community, reinforce citizens' suspicion and distrust for the people who are allegedly representing us, and confirm that the city, including Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, are more interested in the Boulder brand than in the actual experience of its residents. This project diminishes the Lake and diminishes the North Boulder experience.
• Please preserve the natural beauty and nature of Wonderland Lake!
• Wonderland Lake does not need to be fixed. Please find better ways to spend our tax dollars.
• I wish to keep Wonderland Lake as it is.
• I walk here every day and live in this neighborhood. Please don’t destroy the open space.
• Please leave Wonderland Lake as it is. It’s great. Don’t mess with it!! Thank you!
• Please do NOT develop Wonderland Lake any further!
• Stop this needless “development.” Keep it NATURAL! Don’t drive the wildlife away!
• Keep Wonderland Lake natural without more human-made structures near it.
• Who asked for these “improvements” at Wonderland Lake? Was there a neighborhood request for additional development? Or is this the brainchild of an open space functionary who can’t leave things alone? The city should be required to calculate and declare the carbon footprint of this construction work and all city-funded projects.
• We must preserve what mother nature has given us.
• Please leave Wonderland Lake as-is and use the money for more important purposes: homelessness, street repair, low-income housing, police, and more!
• Not all tax-supported open space needs to be developed as an outdoor playground space. Leave it alone.
• I was extremely disappointed to hear of the plans for the redevelopment of Wonderland. It is one of the few mainly pristine areas left in town and is home to many varieties of wildlife. It is enjoyed by so many people in its current state; it seems absurd to think that it is necessary to add a fishing dock and covered structures. People love Wonderland and use it heavily in its current state; there is NO reason to diminish its natural beauty with permanent structures. It will ruin the beautiful views and completely change the character of it. Also, there is plenty of parking available across the street, easily accessed by the tunnel under Broadway, so the idea that there is a need to add additional parking just seems silly. This seems to be a case of doing something just for the sake of ‘doing’ it--sometimes things are better left alone. So much of Boulder has changed, please, please, please leave this one thing as-is. (On a related note: the city decided to add a bunch of covered structures, apparently to entice more people, to the park in front of our house in the Holiday neighborhood. All it is has done is create an unsightly mess and having watched the park from my window all summer; it did absolutely nothing to encourage people to use the park.)
People don’t need artificial structures and shade added to perfectly nice outdoor spaces; let people enjoy the outdoors without trying to ‘improve’ it with all of these artificial structures.

- We need natural spaces---both for humans and other creatures. We do not need more structures --we need space for us and our children to see real things--and to be able to see growing things and the horizon. No structures, no lawns, no more parking, unless it’s for bikes. If we want faux open spaces, we will move to Texas.
- I grew up next to Wonderland Lake. It was great to be able to explore such a natural area, and I’m very concerned that Boulder is planning to make it more manicured.
- I’m confused as to why anyone thinks these changes are necessary or desired. What is wrong with leaving nature natural? The existing park is available to people to walk, hike, bike, etc. It doesn’t need to be paved or enhanced for people to enjoy it as-is. If someone requires a picnic pavilion in order to enjoy a place, then there are plenty of places they can go that will accommodate that. It is a good idea to let some places remain as they are. There is a lot of wildlife living around Wonderland Lake and the adjacent foothills. I can’t see how bringing exponentially more people into the area can possibly be good for the wildlife and the environment. A lot of people enjoy it the way it is. I don’t understand why the decision was made that it has to change. If it ain’t broke, for goodness sake don’t go out of your way to break it.
- As Joni Mitchell sang, “you don’t know what you got till it’s gone”
- Yes, please leave this area as it is! The "enhancements" are not enhancements.
- I have lived in the area for 24 years. The lake is a treasure as it is!
- I cannot for the life of me figure out who or what entity came up with this "solution" to a very non-problem. Do we want our little Wonderland Hill Lake gem to end up looking like Louisville’s Harper Lake?
- There are more priorities that the council needs to consider (e.g., homelessness, food security, affordable housing, etc.). Keep Wonderland Lake wild; leave it alone.
- Some modest improvements at Wonderland Lake might be acceptable, but this proposal goes too far and would essentially turn the Lake area into a city park, not a natural area and wildlife preserve, which it is now.
- I drive in to purposely walk Wonderland every morning. With all the development in Boulder, we must check ourselves and remind ourselves what makes Boulder special. The foresight of those who came before us in creating the open space is on us who enjoy it to preserve it for those to follow us. Please prioritize the long-term view over monetary gains, please.

**Trails, Hiking, and Walking**
- The new trails that are being proposed as well as some things like the bird blind were not part of the original North TSA plan and should not be added.

**Other Recreation**
- Fishing is detrimental to wildlife; do not encourage more fishing. Fishermen leave fishing debris (such as lures, lines, and weights) in the water that harms and kills marine life and birds. Let the fish be for wildlife to eat; humans can buy their own fish at a store.