



Young People's Vision



★ **Boulder Journey School: Nature through the Lens of a Bug**

Approximately 15 students from Boulder Journey School have been exploring insects this year. GUB's partnership brought them to Coot Lake (managed by City of Boulder Parks and Recreation) and Wonderland Lake (managed by City of Boulder OSMP) for further insect investigation.

In order to prepare for their trip to Coot Lake, students researched insect anatomy and designed bug costumes. Their costumes were designed as an expression of empathy toward the impacts, and to minimize how much large human visitors might frighten the bugs. Students also thought about the impacts of recreation on bugs, asking questions such as how might human visitation affect their habitat? They also made field journals to document their observations.

When Boulder Journey School students explored insects at Wonderland Lake, they learned about habitat requirements, life cycles, and body parts of insects.

How might human visitation affect bug habitat?

- Students liked seeing dragonflies and moth cocoons
- They want to protect the bugs
- They'd like to get to play with the bugs more, or live with them
- They'd like to swim, fish and get their hands and feet wet in the lake
- They'd like to be able to touch the plants more
- Teachers recommended having more pictures on the signs so they're easier to understand for younger kids
- Our own observations included the need for more pullouts along the trail and by the water to accommodate tour/school groups, some with shade.

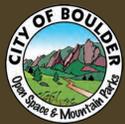
★ **OSMP's Junior Ranger's Visions and Recommendations**

Three Junior Ranger crews (approximately 35 young people) have contributed their vision for Boulder's open space and developed recommendations for trail access and management.

Junior Ranger Recommendations include:

- Well-placed interpretive materials to foster appreciation and knowledge of nature
- Effective and simple signage with positive messaging because we want to encourage positive behaviors and too many signs are ineffective
- Take-along trail maps with trail distance, difficulty and natural history features because it is hard to hold all this information in your head from the trailhead and we like to learn about nature along the way
- An app that includes trail distance, difficulty, and natural history features for the same reasons as above, but can carry it on our phone
- Natural trail maintenance to preserve and maintain ecological processes
- New trails away from development to decrease trail crowding and improve experiences of nature
- More benches for resting, slightly off trail for a more pleasant experience





City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

North Trail Study Area Plan

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Some of the ideal experiences include:

- Hikes that include water, streams and lakes
- Shaded trails
- Hammocking
- Biking
- Hiking in remote areas
- Diverse nature experienced through all the seasons
- Quiet picnicking and hiking areas

