

Growing Up Boulder Interim Report



Summary of Family Day Findings, August 3, 2015

Exploring children's ideas for the North TSA

Growing Up Boulder (GUB) is a child- and youth-friendly city initiative established in 2009 as a formal partnership between the City of Boulder, Boulder Valley School District, and University of Colorado's Program in Environmental Design. In 2015, GUB began working with Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) to engage children and youth in the North Trail Study Area (North TSA) planning process. Participants include children from the Boulder Journey School, a preschool in north Boulder that uses Wonderland Lake for educational purposes; 5 OSMP Junior Ranger crews; and approximately 20 families at a weekend Family Day. All engagement activities have been held at the Wonderland Lake trailhead facilities but have also emphasized all areas of the North TSA. This report summarizes findings from the Family Day. A final report will summarize all outreach activities and outcomes.

The Family Day was held on July 11, 2015 and offered indoor stations for children and families to share their views. The stations included a "draw your vision" station, a "keep, change or add" mapping area, and a graphic facilitation station. Interpretation staff from OSMP also set up a station at the Wonderland Lake trailhead to engage children in learning about special natural features of the North TSA. In total we estimate the following participants:

- Approximately 25 children ages 3-17 (20 families) at the Family Day planning tables
- Approximately 56 visitors to the Family Day interpretive station

The Boulder Family Nature Club set up a special scavenger hunt and hike around Wonderland Lake to bring families from Boulder Journey School and other club members to the event.

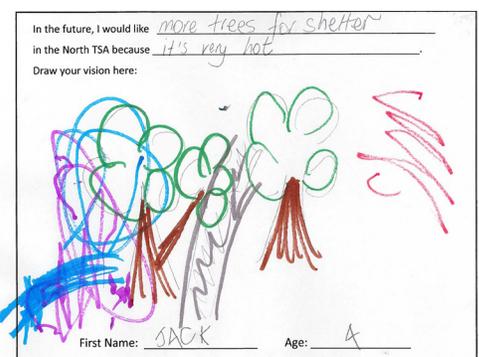
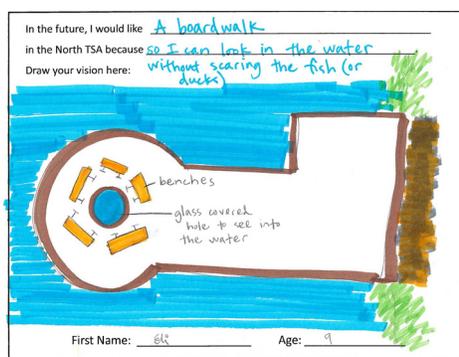
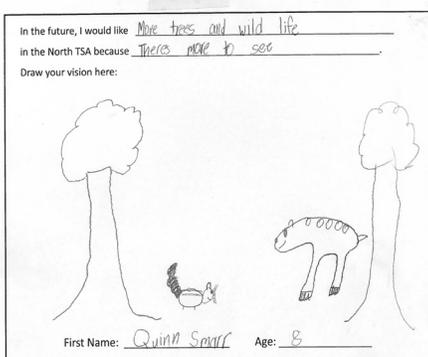
Summary of Children's Ideas

In general, children expressed a desire for a balance of use and protection. Children want to touch grasses and get wet. They want to be free to look for bugs and explore. They want to protect and enhance wildlife. Specific recommendations include:

- More opportunities for interaction with water
- Enhanced lake access, with sand play, boardwalks and clear trail access
- Protecting and increasing wildlife
- More trees for shelter and shade
- More rocks for climbing
- Places for children and parents to play together

"People are always telling us to get out and enjoy nature, but then we can't do anything with it but walk."

- 9 year old participant

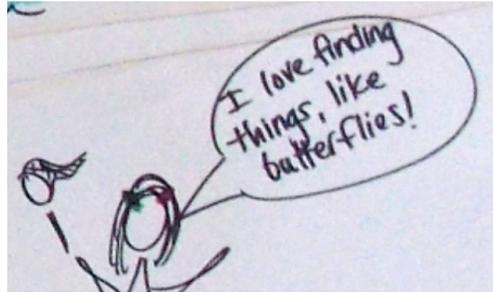


Keep, Change, Add Maps

The “keep, change, add” station provided maps of the North TSA with colored dots that indicated things visitors would like to keep (green), change (red), or add (blue) to the area. The majority of comments were placed on the Wonderland Lake/Four Mile Creek/Foothills map and are summarized below:

- Improved water access at Wonderland Lake (6 respondents)
- A wooden pier into Wonderland Lake (2 respondents)
- Provide increased weed control at Wonderland Lake and Nelson Road areas (2 respondents)
- Protect native plants and animals at Wonderland Lake and in the entire North TSA (2 respondents)
- Bathrooms and drinking water at Wonderland Lake
- Fix bridge and maintain a wading area for water play at Four Mile Creek
- Create a single track mountain bike trail east of Hogback Ridge
- Require dogs on leash or no dogs in Foothills area

Family Day Quotes and Images



“Keep water access: We float boats!”

“Algae is fascinating!”

“A boardwalk with viewing hole so I can watch the fish and ducks without scaring them.”



“More trails along creeks.”

“I love finding things like butterflies!”

“I like seeing prairie dogs. Protect the prairie dogs!”



Photographs courtesy of Phillip Yates; Graphic Illustration courtesy Deryn Wagner. City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

More information can be found at the GUB website at www.growingupboulder.org/currentprojects. For more information please contact GUB coordinator [Tori Derr, victoria.derr@colorado.edu](mailto:victoria.derr@colorado.edu). Special thanks to Deryn Wagner, Open Space and Mountain Parks, for making this engagement process possible.