**Project Overview:**

Wonderland Lake Open Space is 56.5 acres, including an 18-acre lake, and is managed by City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks. The site also has an old farm house and outbuildings, which are currently used as a nature center and meeting space, and for the Junior Ranger program; a 22-car paved trailhead parking lot; a large gravel parking and materials storage area; and unpaved and natural surface trails that loop around the reservoir.

An Integrated Site Plan comprehensively considers all aspects of a specific site to define physical, programming and management actions that should occur for a specific site. The Visitor Master Plan (2005), North Trails Study Area Plan (2016), and Grassland Ecosystem Management Plan (May 2010) established the framework and some specific recommendations at Wonderland Lake. This Integrated Site Plan process refines them, establishes the education/interpretive plan and operational requirements, and develops cost estimates and phasing plans for implementation in the future.

**Location:**

![Map of Wonderland Lake](image)

**Schedule:**

- **Data Collection, Mapping** — June – October 2018
- **Alternatives** — October – November 2018
- **Finalize Plan** — February – April 2019

**Project Team:**

- **OSMP Project Manager** - Kelly Wasserbach, WasserbachK@bouldercolorado.gov
- **Consulting Team:**
  - Logan Simpson – Landscape Architecture/Environmental Planning, Team Leader
  - JVA – Civil Engineering
  - The Architect’s Studio – Architecture
  - Noble Erickson – Education / Interpretive Plan
  - Aloterra – Restoration Ecology

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**OVERVIEW**

Wonderland Lake Integrated Site Plan

14 November 2018
Project Goals and Policies:

1. Provide recommendations to manage the resources and provide enjoyable experiences at Wonderland Lake using the North Trail Study Area (NTSA) Plan as a guide.
2. Collaborate with Parks and Recreation to support nature play experiences in Wonderland Lake Park, and regarding other future development proposals to ensure integration between properties.
3. Ensure the cultural, scenic, and ecological integrity of the site are maintained, including the farmstead feel and agricultural components.
4. Keep youth engagement as a focus of the area, including the Junior Ranger Program and other OSMP youth engagement programs.
5. Rehabilitate Foothills Nature Center for Jr Ranger programs operations and education programs, including improving function and energy efficiency while respecting the historic character of structures and the setting.
6. Coordinate with City Transportation to improve safety at the Broadway pedestrian crossing.
7. Construct a shade structure near Wonderland Lake Trailhead.
8. Explore ways to provide access to wetlands for environmental interpretation and wildlife observation. Provide access to the cattail marsh on north side of the Peninsula if feasible.
9. Enhance visitation through accessible infrastructure guided by the Forest Service Trails Accessibility Guidelines and infrastructure projects identified in the NTSA Plan. Designate the undesignated trail on north edge of site.
10. Do not provide access to Wonderland Lake’s south, west and north shores.
11. Dogs must be on-leash at all times throughout the site, and bicyclists are not allowed in the Peninsula area.
12. Prohibit boats, belly boats and ice skating on Wonderland Lake.
13. Investigate the feasibility of allowing sledding on Wonderland Lake dam.
14. Explore ways to provide educational programming in the Peninsula area. Establish hardened pullout areas on the Peninsula for educational programming and a hardened wading access for people and dogs on-leash. Control wading access points to the water to protect vegetation and reduce use conflicts with fishermen.
15. Create a Wonderland Lake accessible fishing pier (or other feature that is compliant with floodplain and wetlands regulations.)
16. Encourage integrated opportunities across the major community service delivery areas: Recreation and Skill Building; Volunteering and Service Learning; Youth and Families; Environmental Education and Outreach; and Inclusive Opportunities for All.
17. Enhance education and natural play opportunities through interpretive facilities, trails and amenities. Highlight the theme of water including: the importance of Wonderland Lake; how it functions as a reservoir for the City and an area to recreate; and how the development of the reservoir led to the creation of a shoreline with valuable wildlife habitat.
18. Assess feasibility of recommendations in the NTSA Plan in conjunction with City of Boulder permitting processes and development standards.
19. Improve entrance access and orientation to Wonderland Lake for visitors.
20. Consider relations outside of OSMP, especially with neighbors in the local community and other surrounding organizations.
21. Develop the projects and maintenance needs identified in the most recent dam inspection report, and consider dam maintenance, operation and safety in the planning process.
22. Develop maintenance and standard operating procedures for the area to improve facility and infrastructure sustainability, and open space management efficiency and efficacy.
EXISTING SITE PHOTOS

Wonderland Lake Integrated Site Plan

Wonderland Lake from southwest corner of Open Space.

Southwestern entrance.

Wonderland Lake Trail looking south.

Peninsula from Dam.

Water access at Peninsula.

Cattails near overflow weir.

Utica Ave. entrance.

Fishing on dam.

Wonderland Creek on east side of dam.

Broadway Ave. trailhead parking.

Historic root cellar.

Historic farmhouse.
The City of Boulder Open Space Jr. Rangers program maintains their operations and administration at Wonderland Lake and promotes stewardship through service learning and career development.

Public programs inspiring connection to nature and sense of place are offered at Wonderland Lake Open Space.

Pre-K - 12th grade field trips at Wonderland Lake utilize the Open Space as a Learning Landscape to educate about watersheds, ecology, and the past and present interactions between people and nature.

Wonderland Lake Open Space provides wildlife observation opportunities and captures views of the surrounding foothills.

Major program themes include:
- Water - Past/Present
- History - Agricultural Past/Present
- Ecology - Nature and People

A boardwalk creates a community recreation experience.

Wonderland Lake Open Space offers nature play opportunities to the community.
What are the best ideas you see here? Write your feedback on this board: