

Wonderland Lake Engagement Window #1 Comments not included in “matrix of options”

| Comment/Idea | How OSMP is addressing or will address these comments/ideas | Reason the comment/idea is not in the matrix of options |
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| Wetland and Shoreline Habitat and Wildlife Conservation and Protection | | |
| Consider designating the Wonderland Lake area as a Natural Area or Habitat Conservation Area (HCA). | The Wonderland Lake area was designated as a Passive Recreation Area as part of the Visitor Master Plan approved by City Council in 2005. The North Trail Study Area Plan approved and confirmed Management Area Designations for properties acquired after the Visitor Master Plan and were approved by OSBT and Council in 2016. Changes to Management Area Designations are not within the scope of an area or site planning process. | Broader than an on-the-ground action and/ or not within the scope of this planning process. |
| Consider addressing light pollution. | Light pollution is being addressed by the City of Boulder through its outdoor lighting ordinance designed to prevent light trespass, reduce light pollution, reduce excessive glare, promote energy conservation, and improve safety and security. | |
| Any changes to Wonderland Lake should maintain the primary goal of wildlife protection and conservation. | As part of the Visitor Master Plan approved in 2005 Wonderland was designated as a Passive Recreation Area with one of its goals being to maintain or improve passive recreational and educational opportunities, while protecting and preserving natural lands and resources. | |
| This lake is the only in-city wildlife habitat; it should be protected as critical habitat. | | |
| Ensure that Wonderland Lake remains a quiet and peaceful place for wildlife and walking. | | |
| The area was originally intended for recreation. | | |
| Wonderland Lake is man-made. While it is important to maintain healthy water, OSMP should not over protect the area. | | |
| It is important to create a healthy wetland area to help support birds, wildlife, fish, and plants. | OSMP’s management actions adhere to the City Charter which defines eight purposes for open space. One of the purposes is the preservation of natural areas with features or species of special value while another is the preservation of water, landscapes and ecosystems. Wildlife protection is one of numerous purposes that is being addressed and will continue to be addressed as part of any changes to Wonderland Lake. | |
| Consider letting nature be for the sake of nature. | OSMP staff conduct waterfowl surveys at Wonderland Lake and other bodies of water on OSMP for ducks during spring and fall migration. OSMP’s waterfowl surveys are done as time allows and in coordination with other priority systemwide wildlife monitoring. | |
| Consider tracking bird usage and migration in the lake area. | The City of Boulder participates in the “Keep It Clean” Partnership made up of seven partner communities to collaborate on stormwater management and broader watershed level efforts. This partnership provides information to community members on the impacts that fertilizer and other yard maintenance can have on water quality. | |
| Educate to stop fertilizer in the lake drainage area. | Multiple ranger patrols occur at Wonderland Lake each week and OSMP’s seasonal rangers provide focused patrols in this location. Patrol frequencies are influenced by staffing limitations and the need to patrol across the system. Rangers work every day of the week and target 70 percent of their time in the field patrolling and providing customer service to the community. | |
| There should be more ranger presence to enforce regulations, like staying on the trails, leash laws, and pet waste pickup. | Dredging the lake is costly, would require additional water rights which are not available to OSMP, and may not result in enhanced habitat quality. Dredging the wetland and shoreline habitat to create more open water habitat would likely result in long-term impacts to the plants and animals that depend on that habitat such as young fish and ducks. In addition to impacting animals that depend on wetland vegetation for food and shelter, dredging the shoreline will likely reduce shoreline stability, increase shoreline erosion and, as a consequence, degrade water quality in the lake. Dredging also results in short-term impacts such as increased turbidity, reduced oxygen levels, and the potential for release of biologically available nutrients which could lead to more algae blooms. Some very limited dredging may be necessary in some limited situations to protect water rights and for dam safety as required by the state dam inspector. | Infeasible |
| Dredge the lake to bring in more habitat. | Additional water rights, which would be required to increase flows, are not available to OSMP. In addition, flushing water through the lake would not necessarily reduce nutrients, water flowing into the lake may have higher concentrations of nutrients compared with the water already in the lake. | |
| Divert water rights from the Silver Lake Ditch to sustain or increase water flow to the lake to reduce nutrients. | The spillway is designed to carry a certain amount of maximum flow during large storm events and runoff. For dam and public safety it is imperative it is kept clear of trees and other vegetation as to not impede the flow of water or back the water up to the reservoir in a high water event. The state dam inspector requires us to clear any vegetation from the area in the approach to the spillway, spillway itself and downstream concrete section each year. | |
| Modify spillway as a seasonal wetland. | | |

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| Monitor water quality for Nitrogen PO4, E. coli, Salmonella, and Campy. | The city, including OSMP, cannot monitor water quality regularly because of the many lakes and ponds it manages but may monitor when blue-green algae is reported. The City of Boulder continues to track and assess reports of blue-green algae and will provide additional notices if it is found at city lakes and ponds. | |
| Enforce a closure to the area east of the dam to protect sensitive habitat. | The area east of the dam is not a wetland, shoreline or sensitive habitat. OSMP enforces a closure to Wonderland Lake's south, west and north shores to protect sensitive wetland resources. | Inconsistent with OSMP systemwide management / best management practices |
| Consider seasonal trail closures to support wildlife. | OSMP closes areas adjacent to trails to support nesting raptors, ground-nesting birds, burrowing owls, and bat maternity colonies, but since none of these situations are present at Wonderland Lake, no trail closures are active here. | |
| Install bird and bat boxes. | OSMP does not install bird or bat boxes due to the likelihood of non-native species taking over the boxes and out-competing native cavity nesters, and the risk of predation to the species using the boxes. | |
| Enforce the closure/no off-trail access to sensitive habitats, including wetlands, shorelines, and wildlife corridors. | In order to protect sensitive wetland resources on the south, west, and north shores of Wonderland Lake those areas currently are signed to encourage the public to stay out. OMSP will reinforce the signs by putting in place a regulatory closure that can be enforced by ranges. | Consistent with existing or planned OSMP management of the area/current best practice |
| Limit fertilizer/herb/pesticides in the lake drainage area. | OSMP has not applied fertilizer and has no plans to apply fertilizer in the Wonderland Lake drainage area. | |
| Allow for Nature Play | OSMP will collaborate with City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department to support designed nature play experiences on Parks and Recreation properties. For a number of years, OMSP has offered nature plan programs at Wonderland Lake that support children connecting with nature. OSMP will continue to provide these opportunities without additional infrastructure on OSMP lands. | |
| Remove invasive species. Replant with native species to attract and support wildlife. | OSMP's vegetation management program mitigates the impacts of invasive plant species to Boulder's open space lands by promoting healthy ecosystems that provide greater natural diversity. The program's long-term, high-level goal is to establish and maintain diverse stands of native plant species that are most resistant to noxious and invasive plant species, more adaptable to change and respond positively following disturbance. This program also tracks and manages noxious weed species as defined by the Colorado Noxious Weed Act, which prioritizes management goals (eradicate, contain, suppress) for species on the A, B, C and Watch lists. Most of these mandated species are managed individually via mechanical means. | |
| Remove any man-made structures within close proximity of the lake. | No man-made structures such as piers, boardwalks, or bird blinds currently exist near Wonderland Lake. Only trails and trail related infrastructure exist in this area as well as fencing and signs intended to protect the sensitive habitat on the west, north and south shores. | "Maintain existing conditions" is an option provided in the matrix of options. |
| What caused the most recent algae bloom? | Blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, naturally occurs in aquatic ecosystems and can appear rapidly – especially during the summer with hot weather and in slow-moving water bodies, such as lakes, according to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment . Some cyanobacteria species can produce cyanotoxins during algal blooms which can be harmful at elevated levels if ingested by dogs, wildlife and humans, or during wading and other recreational contact with water. The toxicity of a cyanobacteria bloom is difficult to predict because a single species can have toxic and non-toxic strains, and toxic strains do not always produce toxins. | Question |
| Does OSMP monitor water quality? If so, what metrics does OSMP monitor? | No, the City of Boulder, including OSMP, does not monitor water quality and it does not test for blue-green algae regularly because of the many lakes and ponds it manages but may monitor when blue-green algae is reported. Because swimming, boating and wading are prohibited in the Wonderland Lake and Thunderbird Lake areas, the city does not anticipate conducting additional testing in those locations. However, the City of Boulder stresses that visitors and residents should exercise caution and keep children and pets out of the water in those areas or any areas where algae are observed. The City of Boulder continues to track and assess reports of blue-green algae and will provide additional notices if it is found at city lakes and ponds. | |
| Trail/Trailside Improvements | | |
| Replace the bridge that was destroyed by the 2013 flood. | The Wonderland Lake Integrated Site Project (ISP) area includes the Wonderland Lake Loop Trail (on OSMP lands) and area that encircles Wonderland Lake, and the Wonderland Lake Trailhead, with associated Foothills Nature Center. Map of the Wonderland Lake ISP project area  . | Out of geographic scope |
| Develop the social trails that go up the hillside on the west side of the lake into more sustainable trails. | | |
| Manage the trail to the hang-gliding area. | | |

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| | The bridge near the Fourmile Creek Trailhead is in the process of determining the most feasible option for being replaced. This ISP does not include the trail improvements identified in the North Trail Study Area (TSA) for the foothills west and north of the lake, although the North TSA Plan includes planned trail improvement for that area. | |
| Trail design should consider conflicts between bicycles and hikers. | Some of the trail design techniques that OSMP uses to minimize conflict on multi-use trails include trail width that allows adequate room for passing, pinch points to decrease visitor speed, and clear sight lines so visitors are prepared for and expecting to encounter other visitors. | |
| Consider monitoring bike/walking use on the trails. | OSMP does conduct both visitation and trail monitoring systemwide. There is currently a directional visitation counter at Wonderland Lake and the data collected from this during OSMP's 2016-2017 Visitation Estimate can be viewed here: https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/visitation-estimate-explorer . Our most recent visitor survey which includes data related to visitor activities such as biking and walking can be viewed here: https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/2016-2017_VisitorSurvey_Report-1-201808011504.pdf?_ga=2.26352957.1815642328.1571089142-937961798.1536367612 OSMP staff monitor visitor infrastructure and trail conditions on a five year cycle. | Broader than on-the-ground action |
| Consider buying trail specific wheelchairs to loan rather than building trails for conventional-use wheelchairs. | In addition to designing our accessible trails to conform to accessibility standards, OSMP also provides the opportunity for people to use free power assist all-terrain handcycles on rides with experienced OSMP staff.. For more information or to schedule a ride, please see our website: https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/visitors-with-disabilities | |
| Enforce e-bike restrictions on OSMP trails. | E-bikes are currently prohibited on OSMP trails, as is shown on the map of the city e-bike trail system here . An exception being for people experiencing disabilities who may use mobility devices, such as e-bikes, as provisioned under the Federal ADA act. Technological changes create challenges for rangers to easily identify e-bikes, but rangers will contact those riders and have a full range of enforcement options available to them from education to issuing a ticket. | |
| New trails will encourage people to go off trail and may disrupt wildlife. | As part of the Visitor Master Plan approved in 2005, the Wonderland Lake area was designated as a Passive Recreation Area and as such off trail use while not encouraged is generally allowed. OSMP will reinforce signs by establishing a regulatory closure to Wonderland Lake's south, west and north shores to protect sensitive wetland resources. | |
| The maintenance trucks do not stay on the trails, and they damage the grass and trail sides. | Parking city vehicles off trail is generally permissible under certain conditions. Guidance is provided to OSMP employees to reduce impacts. OSMP will continue to provide trainings and work to increase compliance with guidelines. | |
| Create a trail on the north side of the lake so visitors do not have to travel along Utica roadway when circling the lake. | This was considered during the NTSA process. The area on the north shore of Wonderland Lake was instead closed to public access to protect the wetland and wildlife habitat in this area. | Inconsistent with NTSA guidance |
| Add mountain bike trails. | The North TSA process focused on the types of activities allowed on trails and new trail opportunities for this area, balancing and taking into consideration decisions made across the TSA. | |
| Create a separate path for bikes on the east, north, or west side trails for safety reasons. | OSMP's best management practices typically call for multi-use trails. Across our system we are continually assessing conflict and if this area exceeds thresholds or is experiencing increasing conflict we may consider a suite of implementation strategies to reduce conflict. | Inconsistent with OSMP systemwide management / best management practices |
| Consider addressing trail sustainability with natural solutions. | OSMP will work to find site specific sustainable solutions for erosion and drainage mitigation. | "improving trail sustainability" is included in the matrix of options. The specific techniques to address trail sustainability will be evaluated and selected by staff with technical expertise. |
| Consider improving trail sustainability with material that is hard but absorbent, like the trails in Chautauqua. | | |
| Consider improving trail sustainability by constructing small sections of boardwalk. | | |
| On the west side trail, the Silver Lake ditch leaks. What strategies are available to address this and reduce the overflow of water onto the trail? | OSMP staff were made aware of the Silver Lake Ditch leakage west of the reservoir this season by the ditch company who owns the ditch. The ditch company believes the leakage was due to backups in the ditch from extensive vegetation growth. In September of 2019, OSMP partnered with the ditch company on a cleanout project, providing over 40 volunteers and staff resources to help the ditch | Question |

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| | company to remove vegetation and small trees growing within the ditch near and downstream of the locations of concern. Ideally, the work done will alleviate the issue, but the ditch company and OSMP will continue to monitor the area. | |
| OSMP's own website rates Wonderland Lake as a 5 out of 5 for accessibility. What else is needed? | The Wonderland Lake Trail has been identified as a trail that is suitable for improving ADA accessibility due to its grade, out-slope, trail width and lack of obstacles in the trail tread which would result in more inclusive access to all types of visitors. ADA accessibility could also be improved at the trailhead. | |
| Educational Experiences and Signs | | |
| Walking on the trails is an education in and of itself. | OSMP recognizes the cognitive and neurological benefits of unstructured time in nature and manages the land to provide access for all to improve community wellbeing through opportunities to be on the land and connect with nature. | |
| Guided tour via phone/app | | |
| Make education guides/ brochures and/or a guidebook available at the Nature Center that can be accessed and returned. | One of the strategies of OSMP's Master Plan is to enhance communication with visitors. To do this, OSMP will be taking a comprehensive look at opportunities to enhance signs and media such as print and web-based guides, brochures, and guidebooks that support educational experiences. | |
| Build a website for people to educate themselves. | | |
| Record podcasts and play them in schools. | | |
| Signs and educational experiences should be bilingual to create access for diverse audiences. | Two of the strategies of OSMP's Master Plan are to 1. enhance communication with visitors and 2. welcome diverse backgrounds and abilities. To do this, OSMP will be taking a comprehensive look at opportunities to enhance signs, messaging and languages for a range of audiences and improve understanding and services for underserved communities through culturally-relevant programming and language translations. | |
| Consider limiting educational experiences to one busload of children/adults at the lake at any given time. Educational experiences will only increase traffic in the area. | Wonderland Lake is a good local site for interpreting water, ecology, history and the wildland/urban interface. OSMP offers educational programs to the public, schools and community groups, up to 75 students at a time. Currently, OSMP does not have regulations limiting the number of school buses for permit holders (programs not led by OSMP), here or at any site on OSMP lands. | |
| Send out educational reminders about how to be good stewards of the open space. | Educational programs and/or service-learning opportunities focused on stewardship efforts are shared with community members via OSMP's Field Notes and the OSMP Natural Selections email lists. Many of these are listed at naturehikes.org | |
| Make education a permit-based activity and leave environmental education to permitted groups. | Currently, non-OSMP environmental education providers (e.g. Thorne Nature Experience, Wild Bear, and Avid for Adventure) are required to apply for permits to conduct programming on OSMP lands. OSMP staff do not need a permit for programs. | Broader than on-the-ground action / Programmatic |
| Rent out nets, binoculars, field guides, etc. | OSMP currently provides adventure backpacks with tools for nature discovery such as binoculars and field guides at the Chautauqua Ranger Cottage only. | |
| Use the lake and beach as a place for small groups of K-2 to learn with naturalists/rangers/teachers. | OSMP offers programming at Wonderland Lake using the lake and beach as an educational setting. It provides an excellent space for young children to learn with OSMP education staff, volunteer naturalists, rangers and teachers. | |
| Develop partnerships for public engagement (early childhood, youth, multi-cultural) | OSMP partners with several educational institutions and organizations to enhance connections with the land for youth and the Latinx community. Examples include the E Movement, a community wide effort to provide Boulder County youth with the knowledge, care, skills and connection to place required to become stewards of the environment; Walk to Connect, a walking platform for people, places and community; Youth Services Initiative (YSI); Boulder Housing Partners, Head Start Boulder County, I Have a Dream, and more. | |
| Focus educational experiences at other sites such as Sombrero Marsh or Saw Hill Ponds. Organize a Sunday children's nature club | OSMP partners with the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) and Thorne Nature Experience on the Sombrero Marsh field trip program. This program offers marsh education experience to all BVSD 2 nd grades. OSMP provides educational nature programming for youth and families at Sawhill Ponds and other locations on OSMP lands throughout the week and on weekends. Wonderland Lake is also a good location for programs as it is accessible on a bus route and within walking distance of many schools and resident communities. It is a good option for people with limited transportation. | |
| Add interpretive presentations with rangers or volunteers. | OSMP's educational and interpretive programs enable all visitors (including youth, families, and underserved members of our community) to learn about and connect with OSMP's lands while serving the health and well-being of participants and encouraging them to follow an ethic of land stewardship including the teaching of Leave No Trace methods. | |
| Increase education about wildlife for families, kids, and all ages. | | |

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| Organize small group educational experiences with a guide/naturalist. | OSMP also offers service-learning opportunities where community members can participate in stewarding the land through trail monitoring, agricultural ditch maintenance, environmental education, bike patrol (including trail etiquette education of others), wildlife observation, plant monitoring, outreach events and more. The Junior Rangers program which provides an opportunity for teens ages 14 to 17 years old to work on a variety of natural resource projects and develop work skills while maintaining and stewarding Boulder's public lands is also based out of Wonderland Lake. OSMP's educational opportunities also include ways for visitors to connect with nature through programs such as OSMP and the Arts where artists teach techniques in various art mediums such as sculpture, watercolor, dance, writing, music, science illustration and nature journaling. The goal is to connect people to nature in a very personal way. | |
| Allow more access for children through field trips and visits. | | |
| Organize programming for people to connect to nature | | |
| Smoking is an issue in the lake area. Post more and larger "No Smoking" signs. | OSMP has standard regulatory signs that are used across the OSMP system. Deviating from the size and design of these standard signs would have cost implications and create inconsistency across the system. | Inconsistent with OSMP systemwide management / best management practices |
| Install larger "No Swimming" signs. | | |
| Install signs to remind bikers to slow down. | | |
| Decrease the size of the signs. | | |
| Add a small boardwalk in an area not near houses for educational programs. | In recognition of community concerns and with City Council support and direction, addition of a boardwalk has been removed from consideration. | Does not honor past process |
| Who is the target audience for educational experiences? | Educational experiences at Wonderland Lake are available to all members of the community. OSMP provides a majority of our programs for the following target audiences: youth and families, aging members of the community, traditionally underserved community members, and people of diverse backgrounds and abilities. | Question |
| What would be the educational content of more signs and educational experiences? | Wonderland Lake is an excellent location to interpret wetlands ecosystems; the urban/wildlife interface; water resources; and Leave No Trace principles (including educational fishing materials). | |
| Access to Wonderland Lake | | |
| Do not encourage more car traffic to the area. | OSMP is trying to determine on-the-ground actions that allow people safe access to Wonderland Lake via multiple modes of transportation. | Broader than on-the-ground action |
| Consider investing in efforts that encourage people to walk or take public transit to Wonderland Lake. | | |
| More access and people in Wonderland Lake will hurt the wildlife. | As a Passive Recreation Area, the Wonderland Lake area is managed with the goal of maintaining or improving passive recreational and educational opportunities, while also protecting and preserving natural lands and resources. The goals of the North TSA Plan also balance access with habitat protection by preventing access to the southern, western and northern shores of the lake, which support the most diverse vegetation and wildlife communities, to public access. | |
| Wonderland Lake is public land, owned by all of us. Make sure it is accessible to more than just those who live nearby. | The Wonderland Lake Integrated Site Plan is intended to meet a variety of interests and visitors, including visitors from the immediate and not so immediate area, recreationists of all different types including anglers and others who frequent the area and folks involved in the many educational and other programming offered at the Foothills Nature Center and Wonderland Lake. | |
| All OSMP spaces are seeing an increase in use, not just Wonderland Lake. The focus should be on how to manage Wonderland Lake effectively and responsibly, not limit access. | | |
| Add a pedestrian crosswalk at the Wonderland Lake parking lot at Broadway. | The OSMP and Transportation Departments will collaborate to determine what treatments should be installed to improve safety for those crossing Broadway at Sumac and the bus stop to Wonderland Lake Trailhead. Evaluation to determine the appropriate treatment is guided by the city's Pedestrian Crossing Treatment Installation Guidelines, with thresholds related to vehicular volumes/speed and crossing volumes. | Additional citywide evaluation and coordination is needed to evaluate feasibility of suggested actions. |
| Add a pedestrian crosswalk across Broadway at Utica. | | |
| Add a pedestrian crosswalk at Violet and Broadway. | | |
| Add a pedestrian crosswalk at the trailhead. | | |
| Add a pedestrian crosswalk at the bus stop. | | |
| Add a lighted warning signal to crosswalks. | | |

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| <p>Add yellow lights at the crosswalk, like at Poplar.</p> <p>Add a light at Sumac and Broadway.</p> <p>Add "Yield to Pedestrian" Signs.</p> <p>Where would the crosswalk be on the east side of Broadway?</p> <p>Did the city consider the impact on rush hour traffic if there's an additional crosswalk across Broadway?</p> <p>Adding crosswalks could be dangerous for pedestrians given the traffic speed on Broadway. Drivers are not likely to abide by the crosswalks.</p> <p>Adding a Broadway crosswalk will make parking on the east side of Broadway an issue for residents.</p> <p>Move the crosswalk that is at Waldorf School 50 yards toward Wonderland Lake.</p> | | |
| <p>Add a bus shelter on the west side of Broadway to protect public transit users.</p> <p>Add a bus stop adjacent to the underpass.</p> <p>Install directional signage around the underpass.</p> | <p>The OSMP and Transportation Departments will collaborate to determine what treatments should be installed to improve multi-modal transportation to Wonderland Lake Trailhead. Evaluations to determine appropriate infrastructure are guided by thresholds related to ridership numbers.</p> | |
| <p>Develop a ramp to the underpass on both sides.</p> | <p>The City is in the process of conducting an ADA Self-Evaluation of its transportation system (sidewalks, curb ramps, multi-use paths, traffic signals/pedestrian crossings and bus stops) which will inform creation of an ADA Transition Plan to guide future accessibility improvements and related program work. Folks can learn more on the website or contribute to the Accessibility Barriers Questionnaire/Map to note areas of concern (open through the end of 2019).</p> | |
| <p>Restrict access along Poplar.</p> | <p>The city's Neighborhood Speed Management Program (NSMP) implements engineering, education and enforcement to slow speeding traffic on residential streets. The NSMP accepts applications from community members year-round. Learn more on the program website.</p> | |
| <p>Limit parking to those using the lake area.</p> | <p>Trailhead parking is available to all visitors to the Wonderland Lake area.</p> | <p>Infeasible</p> |
| <p>There's already an underpass and a crosswalk to the lake. Why do we need more crosswalks?</p> | <p>The goal of another crosswalk is to encourage and support creating a safer and more visible way to cross Broadway for visitors accessing Foothills Nature Center and Wonderland Lake by bus that would not require walking a distance along Broadway.</p> | |
| <p>How many people access Wonderland Lake by bus?</p> | <p>We do not know the exact number of people accessing Wonderland Lake by bus, though during a visitor survey done in 2016-2017 none of the respondents indicated that they arrived by bus.</p> | |
| <p>Users of the space tend to use Wonderland Lake as a throughway rather than a stopping destination. Are there studies that confirm this conclusion?</p> | <p>No studies specifically confirm that Wonderland Lake is used as a throughway rather than a stopping destination, though 2016-2017 data that OSMP has for Wonderland Lake gathered via a visitor survey does show the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a "throughway" is considered in terms of bikers, 7% (11 out of 149 respondents) said their primary activity that day was biking. • 58% of respondents walked or ran to the trailhead, 37% arrived by car and 5% biked. | <p>Question</p> |
| <p>How would adding more access impact the adjacent neighborhoods?</p> | <p>OSMP visitation is increasing systemwide, including at Wonderland Lake. OSMP's focus is on equitably providing access to an array of visitors and the broader community to Wonderland Lake while developing a site plan design that is sensitive to the neighborhood context.</p> | |
| <p>What are the usage statistics for Wonderland Lake?</p> | <p>Based on trail counter data collected during OSMP's 2016-2017 Visitation Estimate the average number of daily visits to the Wonderland Lake area (calculated at an annual scale) is 1,433 visits. This number represents the visits rather than the number of visitors.</p> | |

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| Trailhead and Foothills Nature Center/Facilities Improvements | | |
| Use the existing farmhouse as affordable housing for city staff. | OSMP's management actions adhere to the City Charter for Open Space which defines eight purposes for open space. Providing affordable housing is not one of OSMP's charter purposes. | Out of scope |
| Consider Nature Center improvements in the context of the projected 30% reduction in revenues for the department. | In early Nov. the Boulder electorate voted to extend and dedicate a sales tax for open space purposes. The department will be operating in the years ahead under a reduced funding scenario, but not the anticipated 30% reduction. All improvements to the Wonderland Lake area will be made in the context of current and future available funding. | Broader than on-the-ground action |
| Wonderland Lake is supposed to be a natural area, not an entertainment center. | As a Passive Recreation Area, the management goals for Wonderland Lake emphasize providing a high level of public access, accommodating high levels of visitor use, and maintaining or improving passive recreational and educational opportunities, while protecting and preserving natural lands and resources. The goal is to balance the maintenance of healthy ecosystems with providing high levels of access and recreational opportunities. | |
| More facilities will only bring more traffic. | OSMP's focus is on equitably providing access to an array of visitors to Wonderland Lake while developing a site plan design that is sensitive to the neighborhood context. | |
| Concern that people experiencing homelessness will use a bathroom facility if OSMP constructs one. | OSMP's facilities and restrooms are open to all members of the public. | |
| OSMP should budget for maintenance if they construct a bathroom facility. | Taking care of what we have is one of the strategies of the OSMP department. We focus capital investments on retaining the health of ecosystems on OSMP properties as well as maintenance of existing trails, amenities and agricultural infrastructure. Lifecycle and maintenance costs will be incorporated in cost considerations. | |
| Update the Nature Center so that it welcomes all kids from all cultures. | The Wonderland Lake integrated site plan is intended to meet a variety of interests and visitors, including visitors from the immediate and not so immediate area and folks involved in the many educational and other programming offered at the Foothills Nature Center and Wonderland Lake. | |
| Develop the Nature Center at Walden Ponds. Isn't there already a nature center on Broadway that could serve as an activity center? | OSMP does not intend to remove the historic buildings, including the Foothills Nature Center, at Wonderland Lake. The Foothills Nature Center houses the Junior Ranger program which provides an opportunity for teens ages 14 to 17 years old to work on a variety of natural resource projects and develop work skills while maintaining Boulder's public lands. Additional uses may be considered in the future. Walden Ponds is an open space area managed by Boulder County. | Question/clarification |
| How much do people currently use the Nature Center? | The Foothills Nature Center does not currently function as a nature center. Instead it houses the Junior Ranger program which provides an opportunity for teens ages 14 to 17 years old to work on a variety of natural resource projects and develop work skills while maintaining Boulder's public lands. | |
| The Nature Center always looks closed or as if it is only used for maintenance. | | |
| What studies did OSMP complete on the facilities before recommending improvements? And what improvements to the facilities have been suggested or recommended? | No improvements are being recommended at this time. The preliminary concepts introduced last fall have been set aside. | |
| Add more ADA parking | Per legal requirements OSMP will be adding ADA parking spaces and make the trailhead compliant with accessibility laws. | Consistent with OSMP management of the area/current best practice |
| Pave the trailhead | Trailhead is paved. | |
| Access to, Conservation of, and Activities on East Side | | |
| Add access for ice skating in the winter. | Adding ice skating in winter is inconsistent with the North TSA goal to "create consistent visitor access regulations and increase visitor safety". | Inconsistent with NTSA guidance |
| Limit biking to certain days. | The North TSA planning process focused on types and frequency of activities allowed on trails. Across the OSMP system, we are continually assessing conflict and if this area exceeds thresholds or is experiencing increasing conflict we may consider a suite of implementation strategies to reduce conflict. | |
| Connect more bike trails to the area. | There are currently bike trails that connect into the Wonderland Lake trail system. | Out of geographic scope |
| Consider not allowing human or dog entry into the lake or stream. | Investigating the feasibility and requirements to allow wading in Wonderland Lake was among the staff work in preparation for Community Engagement Window #2. In light of the recent increase of potentially harmful algae blooms at lakes and ponds across the City and Colorado, including Wonderland Lake, no further consideration of potentially allowing wading will occur; wading has been determined not to be a feasible activity to manage. The cyanotoxins produced by harmful algae blooms can be harmful if ingested by | Consistent with OSMP management of the area/current best practice |
| The peninsula is not safe for wading because there are fishing hooks in the area. | | |

| Comment/Idea | How OSMP is addressing or will address these comments/ideas | Reason the comment/idea is not in the matrix of options |
|--|--|---|
| | humans or during wading and other recreational contact with water. The city does not test for blue-green algae regularly because of the many lakes and ponds it manages and regular testing at Wonderland Lake was determined to be inconsistent with OSMP's current land management practices. Wading will not be among the potential actions or activities presented in Engagement Window #2, or otherwise further considered. Wading will continue to be prohibited at Wonderland Lake. Learn more about blue-green algae. | |
| There are other places around Boulder where people can go for activities other than Wonderland Lake. | OSMP offers many locations throughout Boulder where people can engage in passive outdoor activities, connect with nature, and participate in educational and interpretive experiences. | |
| The priority of Wonderland Lake should be given to the ecosystem. | As a Passive Recreation Area, the management goals for Wonderland Lake emphasize providing a high level of public access, accommodating high levels of visitor use, and maintaining or improving passive recreational and educational opportunities, while protecting and preserving natural lands and resources. The goal is to balance the maintenance of healthy ecosystems with providing high levels of access and recreational opportunities. | Broader than on-the-ground action |
| The area is flood prone. OSMP should not make improvements that will be destroyed in the next flood and/or encourage people to be in the flood-prone area. | OSMP will work to find sustainable solutions for any on-the-ground improvements being made. | |
| Fishermen etiquette is appreciated. Please address fishermen casting their lines as people are walking. | Rangers and other OSMP staff promote safety and provide education on courtesy and responsible recreation to OSMP visitors. Several on-the-ground actions included in the questionnaire address options for improving fishing access at the dam. | |
| Consider more regularly checking fishing licenses. | OSMP's rangers check fishing licenses while they are on patrol. Multiple ranger patrols occur at Wonderland Lake each week and OSMP's seasonal rangers provide focused patrols in this location. | Broader than on-the-ground action |
| Why is OSMP looking to add activities to the east side? | OSMP is considering adding activities on the east side of Wonderland Lake to increase opportunities for education and interpretive, especially for families and youth. The east side of the lake is the only location where these activities could be considered in order to protect the sensitive wetland resources on the south, west and north shores of Wonderland Lake. | question |
| Is it possible to add access and activities in a way that is protective? | As a Passive Recreation Area, one of the management goals for the Wonderland Lake area is to maintain or improve passive recreational and educational opportunities, while protecting and preserving natural lands and resources. | |
| Maintain fishing on the lake. | OSMP staff is in agreement with these suggestions. Fishing access via the dam has been allowed for a long time at Wonderland Lake and no North TSA recommendations suggested changing fishing access. | No change to existing conditions |
| Limit fishing to the dam. | | |
| Add a pier; add a boardwalk | In recognition of community concerns and with City Council support and direction, addition of a pier and boardwalk have been removed from consideration. | Does not honor past process |
| Add wading | Investigating the feasibility and requirements to allow wading in Wonderland Lake was among the staff work in preparation for Community Engagement Window #2. In light of the recent increase of potentially harmful algae blooms at lakes and ponds across the City and Colorado, including Wonderland Lake, no further consideration of potentially allowing wading will occur; wading has been determined not to be a feasible activity to manage. The cyanotoxins produced by harmful algae blooms can be harmful if ingested by humans or during wading and other recreational contact with water. The city does not test for blue-green algae regularly because of the many lakes and ponds it manages and regular testing at Wonderland Lake was determined to be inconsistent with OSMP's current land management practices. Wading will not be among the potential actions or activities presented in Engagement Window #2, or otherwise further considered. Wading will continue to be prohibited at Wonderland Lake. Learn more about blue-green algae. | Infeasible |
| Plant trees along dam | Native trees may be planted in the Wonderland Lake area, however not along the dam as the roots may compromise the integrity of the dam. | |
| Empty the dog poop can and trash can by the Utica entrance more often. | OSMP maintenance occurs at regularly scheduled intervals based on level of use. | |
| General Concerns | | |
| Change zoning from agricultural to some type of protected zoning. | As part of the Visitor Master Plan approved in 2005 Wonderland was designated as a Passive Recreation Area with one of its goals being to maintain or improve passive recreational and educational opportunities, while protecting and preserving natural lands and resources. | Broader than on-the-ground action / out of scope |

| Comment/Idea | How OSMP is addressing or will address these comments/ideas | Reason the comment/idea is not in the matrix of options |
|---|--|---|
| Add a coffee shop. | OSMP's management actions adhere to the City Charter which defines eight purposes for open space. The addition of a coffee shop would not be allowed on OSMP lands because it would not fulfill a charter purpose. | |
| Use the money and manpower to address Boulder's many more pressing needs (homelessness, traffic, low-income housing, etc.). How can OSMP make renovations to Wonderland Lake when they are \$40 million under budget to maintain existing trails? | OSMP's management actions adhere to the City Charter which defines eight purposes for open space on which OSMP's money can be spent. Addressing homelessness, traffic, and low-income housing are not among OSMP's charter purposes. OSMP intends to fulfill its goals as it relates to previously approved plans while also working towards its Master Plan strategies of "taking care of what we have" including existing trails and "reducing the trail maintenance backlog". | |
| Move the Junior Ranger program to a space at the old community hospital or Mapleton hospital. | OSMP has a long history of housing the Jr Ranger program at the Foothills Nature Center. Any move would be evaluated based on programmatic and administrative needs. | |
| Consider regular (weekly/monthly) monitoring to address problems (social trails, fences down, etc.) in a timely manner. | Multiple ranger patrols occur at Wonderland Lake each week and OSMP's seasonal rangers provide focused patrols in this location. During patrols rangers look for social trails and downed fences and then work with other OSMP staff to address these issues in a timely manner. | |
| I am concerned that the staff might ignore all the previous feedback that the community has provided. | This re-designed process will honor what we heard from the community and focus this process moving forward around hearing community ideas. | Process Question |
| Have a community meeting once a year to go over concerns and plans for the future. | The Wonderland Lake integrated site plan process will include three engagement windows and take about a year to complete. The first window was focused on gathering community ideas for the area. During the second engagement window, the ideas heard during the first window of engagement will be shared and feedback on preferred actions or ideas will be gathered. OSMP staff will then take these preferred actions/ideas and create a package of actions or an on-the-ground plan and present it to the community for feedback. The plan will then be refined based on feedback and taken to OSBT for their consideration. City Council will also be kept in the loop. | |
| Use a sticker voting system in the next round of community meetings to cast votes to rank, order, and prioritize ideas. | Community ideas for on-the-ground actions gathered during engagement window 1 have been placed into a "matrix of options". During engagement window 2, community members will be asked about which options/actions are preferred or supported. This is how community support will be gauged. | |