



# Parks & Open Space

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## PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, April 28, 2022

Location: Virtual Meeting

<b>TO:</b>	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
<b>FROM/PRESENTER:</b>	Michelle Marotti, Tori Guesman
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>Five Year Visitor Study</b>
<b>ACTION REQUESTED:</b>	Information Only

Every five years, Boulder County Parks & Open Space (BCPOS) conducts a system-wide demographics and satisfaction survey. These Five Year Studies (5YS) complement the regular annual studies and look at long-term trends in visitor demographics, preferences, attitudes, and behaviors.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the study was delayed a year, and surveys were collected during the spring and summer of 2021. Trained BCPOS staff and volunteers collected 2,261 surveys (response rate 72%) at 15 BCPOS park properties. Surveys for BCPOS regional trails and neighborhood trails will be collected in the spring and summer of 2022.

The key findings from this survey indicate that the average visitor to BCPOS park properties:

- ▶ Lives in Boulder County (76%) and has lived there for 10 or more years (46%)
- ▶ Likely lives in Boulder (24%) or Longmont (20%)
- ▶ Is between 25-44 years-old (39%) or 45-64 years-old (36%)
- ▶ Self-identifies as white (93%)
- ▶ Traveled to a BCPOS park by car (89%)

Visitors to BCPOS park properties tended to visit either with family (44%) or by themselves (33%). If it was not their first time visiting a park (31%), they generally visited the trails frequently (44% visited monthly, weekly, or more than once a week).

The visitor was primarily hiking (55%) or biking (21%). Moreover, the average visitor did not experience conflict with other visitors on the trail (95%), and three out of four visitors did not feel crowded while at the trailhead or on the trail itself. On a scale of 1 (poor) to 10 (excellent), visitors rated BCPOS parks an average of 9, which is a slight increase from 2015's 5YS rating of 8.7.

Regarding social preferences, visitors reported they support or strongly support multi-use trails (63%). Whereas views on trails for a single activity, and specific days for different activities, were more mixed at 54% and 41% support or strongly support, respectively. In reference to the park they were visiting, 69% of visitors described the number of trail miles as being about right. Lastly, 47% of visitors reported they prefer trails that are wide enough for two people side-by-side, and 29% of visitors prefer trails wide enough for three people side-by-side. These data and more are presented in this report.