

## Open Space Questionnaire

1. Survey after survey has shown that people who get out into nature have a stronger desire to save the environment. Fostering this love of nature means finding ways to excite people with different backgrounds who may not simply want to slowly hike through our open spaces. But, we know that more users means more impact. Where do you draw the line in terms of increased access for groups who may want to enjoy our open spaces in different ways like picnic areas, biking trails, fishing, etc? Can we increase and improve the recreation opportunities on Boulder's open space and also save our more-wild places like designated wilderness areas?

I think our current issue is we don't have enough funding to keep up with the necessary upkeep for existing trails and uses on Open Space. I strongly support 2H on the ballot to ensure Open Space will get the funding it needs to maintain our current level of service. Once we can ensure that we can begin talking about potential expansion of trails. In general I think it's clear that our Open Space system is as popular as ever, and the need to protect environmentally sensitive areas currently outweighs the need to expand additional usage. Attracting more people with increasing usage we can't pay to maintain will just hurt both the current experience and long-term sustainability of Open Space.

2. The North Sky Trail, a vital multi-use connector trail between Boulder City and open space areas to the north, was approved after lengthy discussion during the North Trail Study Area process but has been stalled for nearly five years. If elected to council, how would you unstick this process and complete the trail within your first term?

First I think it's important to note that this trail will be much easier to build if Open Space is funded with the 2H tax. I would then talk with our Open Space board and staff to see what prioritization could be done to see how to move the process much quicker. This is an important trail for the safety of our bicyclists and should be completed quickly.

3. What is your position related to acquisition versus maintenance of our current OSMP land stock? On what grounds should we acquire new properties?

I think we have reached the point where Boulder should switch to maintenance of OSMP land. We have tens of millions of dollars in deferred maintenance, so keeping what we have usable for the public should be the top priority. Only very small parcels that will help connect existing OSMP land and areas of extreme environmental sensitivity should be considered for future acquisition. This would fit in line with our values as a city.

4. How would you address increased visitation of OSMP?

First of all funding for OSMP land is critical, which is why I'm in favor of ballot measure 2H. Without future guaranteed funding further increased visitation will become unmanageable. I would also encourage that we focus on maintenance, not expansion or acquisition. Also, I think it's important that we put more signage about best practices in high-traffic areas and do more marketing around proper

usage of OSMP lands. That way as more people know the rules more people will be available to help enforce them.

5. What role does recreation play in a healthy society? How would you support that in future policy?

Recreation is critical to both physical and mental health. Boulder has very little problem convincing people to recreate. However, I want to ensure that we keep the areas that are most heavily visited for recreation accessible and desirable for all future residents and visitors of Boulder. This requires the steps I outlined in previous questions. I would also be interested in usage fee kiosks in some of the most heavily concentrated parking areas. That would help people commit to an alternative transit to get to Open Space and raise some more money to maintain our trails.

6. Where do you see yourself on the conservation vs. recreation spectrum with regards to Open Space? Specifically, as a council member would you likely vote against an OSMP-recommended new trail or other recreation facility because of conservation or environmental concerns, or would you support it if the research showed that those concerns were insignificant or could be mitigated?

This is completely dependent upon each specific case, but I do believe until we catch up with maintenance needs further expansion of the system is unwise.

7. Do you feel that hikers, mountain bikers, trail runners, equestrians, and other trail users can all have a positive experience on a shared multi-use trail in OSMP?

This is dependent upon the trail and instances of usage, as some are more damaging and require more maintenance than other. I do believe that given the right rules, signage, and self-enforcement that multi-use trails can be a positive experience. I'm also in favor of specific-use days on some trails so that they can be enjoyed but different types of users that have safety concerns about other usages.

8. Several multi-use regional trails have been proposed over the years (including the Front Range Trail, the Boulder-to-Erie Union Pacific Rail-Trail conversion, and others) but the connectivity stalls when there is a need to include OSMP land in the process. Would you support these regional trails, and why or why not?

This is tough to answer as each trail is a case by case basis. The environmental impact and cost are my biggest concerns when addressing new trail options. Again, current trail maintenance is a top priority so that we can continue utilizing what we already have.

9. One of BATCO's initiatives is the Trail Around Boulder, a 34 mile multi-use trail encircling the City of Boulder, which would allow access to, and appreciation of, Boulder's amazing geographic setting. It would connect neighborhoods and would offer transportation alternatives to the car, encourage a healthy lifestyle, attract visitors to Boulder, and make trails fun again. It would link existing trails, 80% of which are already in place, and would require only about 7 miles of new trails all of which could be carefully designed to avoid sensitive habitats. Yet the City of Boulder (OSMP) has resisted all attempts to

complete the Trail Around Boulder. Would you support this trail, and why or why not?

I think the trails are still pretty fun! Otherwise they wouldn't be utilized nearly to the level they are which is stressing the current system. OSMP gets to make those environmentally sensitive judgements which often lead to trails stalling, and I think it's an important role. While I'm open to the potential of a connection, I don't believe that more necessarily means better, especially if there are environmental impacts. There should always be a good balance between recreation and existing environment.

10. Recent articles in the local media have spotlighted communication issues within several City departments, including Planning, Public Works, and Transportation. A consulting firm hired by the City found that arduous, slow, and unpredictable decision making, a lack of discipline in implementing procedures, and lack of support from Council, resulted in staff dissatisfaction. The same problems plague Open Space and Mountain Parks but the issue is much larger than staff dissatisfaction. Many members of the public have contributed thousands of hours of volunteer time, expertise, and effort to OSMP management -- only to experience similar frustration with Council overriding sensitive negotiations in seemingly arbitrary votes that promote a different preconceived agenda. As a Council member, how would you improve relations between the City and the public?

I think one of the foundational issues here is so few staff members can afford to live in Boulder. This means there's a disconnect between resident's desires and how staff goes about accomplishing projects. This is evident when projects are brought before Council for approval and a large segment of residents comes to speak against them. Clearly a disconnect lies in the interpretation of the BVCP between Council, staff, and residents. My aim would be to try and increase our number of permanently affordable housing units so that in the long term we can house more staff members and make them part of the community that they work so hard for. In this way the connection to residents concerns will be every-day and natural, not pent up for public comment periods that end up grinding projects to a halt.

I also think it's very important that future Council members give a clear view of how they intend to reach important goals. Currently we have a lot of priorities that can shift every two years, so having a good mission statement with measurable goals and a clear definition of completion is critical to keep everyone on the same page when changes in the make-up of Council occurs. Council is a representation of the people's desires, so as those desires change it's important to ensure the way those desires are stated and executed doesn't change every time too.

11. Do you feel that recreation is adequately represented on the current OSBT? Why or why not?

In most cases yes. Currently we're at our highest usage of Open Space yet, which means we need a conservationist approach to Open Space so that the desirability and accessibility we currently have does not degrade. Boulder's Open Space lands are a true treasure, and I want them to be kept up so that all of our residents and visitors will have the same great experience they have provided for decades. Perhaps once we've caught up to our current level of need to maintain what we have we can shift back towards finding new environmentally-conscious ways to recreate.