



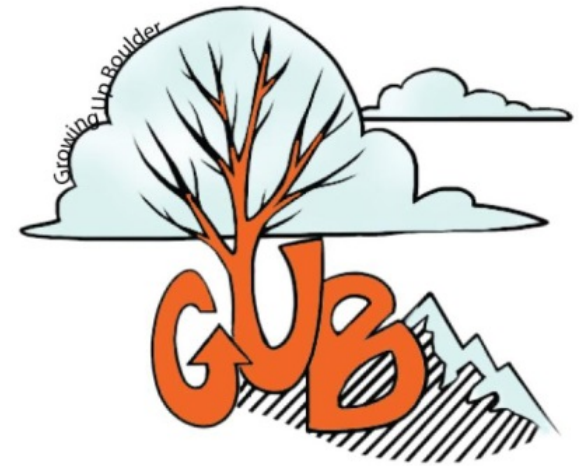
COSA 2017

***Growing Up Boulder and the City of Boulder's
Open Space and Mountain Parks Department
present:***

Young Trail Blazers



Growing Up Boulder (GUB) is Boulder's child and youth-friendly city initiative



Mission: To empower Boulder's young people with opportunities for inclusion, influence and deliberation on local issues that affect their lives

Partnership since 2009: Between CU's CEDaR Center, City of Boulder, and Boulder Valley School District

Growing Up Boulder's Framework

Based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Uses the participatory planning approach of Growing Up in Cities

Child and youth-friendly cities exist worldwide



Child-Friendly Cities Provide Young People with:

- Access to health & basic services
- Natural, safe & diverse green spaces
- Freedom of movement (independent mobility)
- Integration into their community, not just child-designated spaces
- Opportunities to participate in the design, planning, and care of their community



Research for Why Youth Voice Matters

- Kids are current and future citizens
- A child-friendly city is a city that is friendly to all (seniors, disabled, other species)
- It make sense to include the end-user in the design process
- Children design for all ages
- Young people are more creative and flexible than adults
- Everyone involved benefits from dialogue and compromise

Who is involved?

- Students of different ages
- Experts in the field
- Decision-makers
- Undergraduate design students
- Parents and families
- Teachers, GUB staff, university instructors



Funding

City of Boulder:

- Planning, Housing and Sustainability
- Parks and Recreation
- Transportation
- Open Space and Mountain Parks

University of Colorado:

- In-kind support
- University grants

Other:

- Private donations
- School district



GUB Works in Two Ways with Young People

- We collaboratively create a curriculum with input from educators and the city which we implement directly with established groups of children.
- We connect our city partners with our community partners so they may work together directly



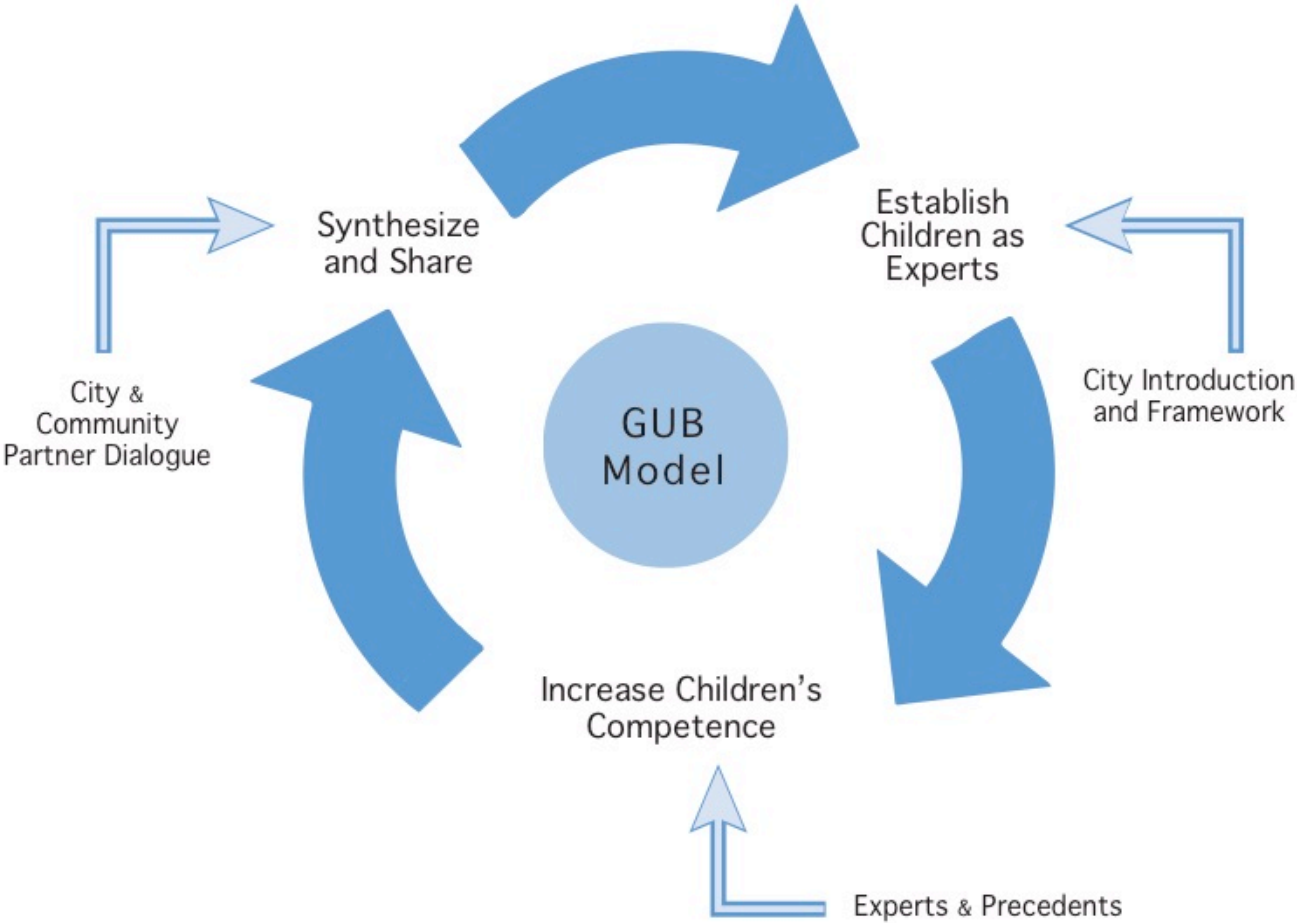
Methods of Engagement

- Art: photography, drawing, modeling, drama
- Mapping
- Writing
- Critical review of design scenarios
- Interviewing
- Multi-age community dialogues
- Experiential
- Surveys

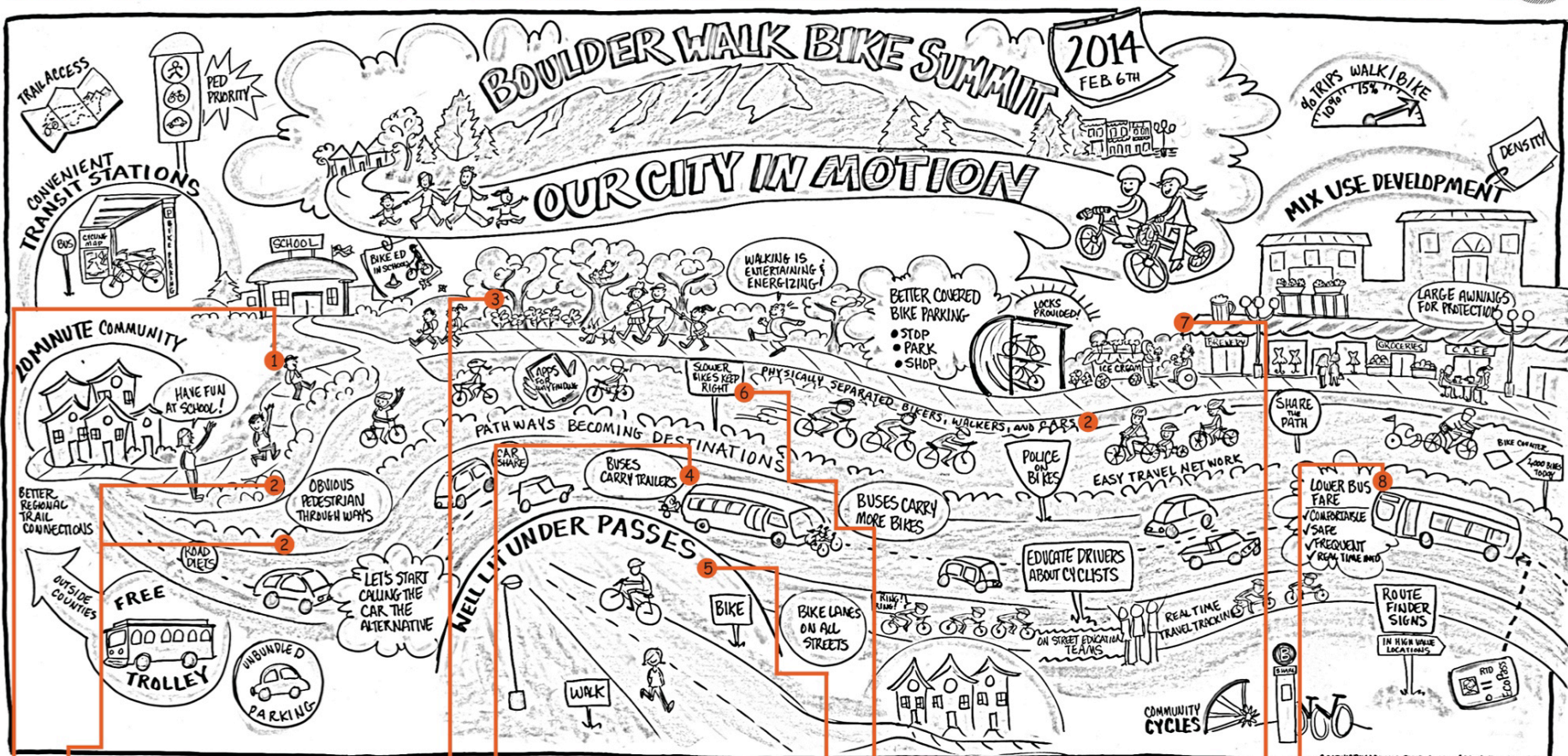




Growing Up Boulder Model

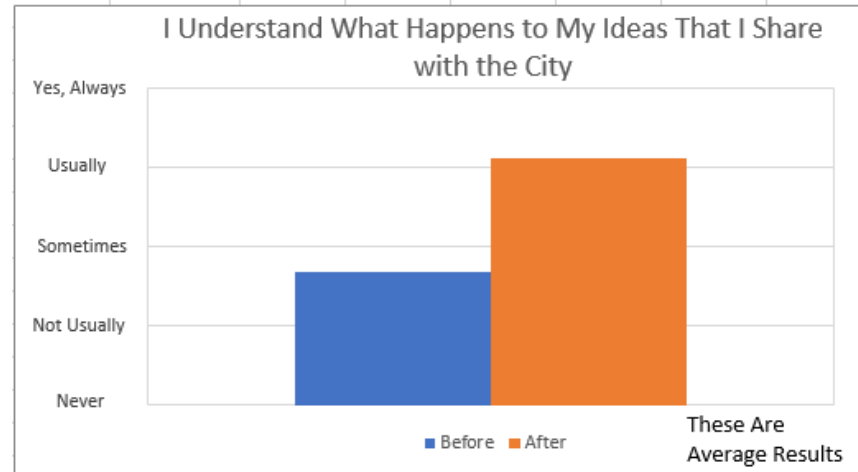
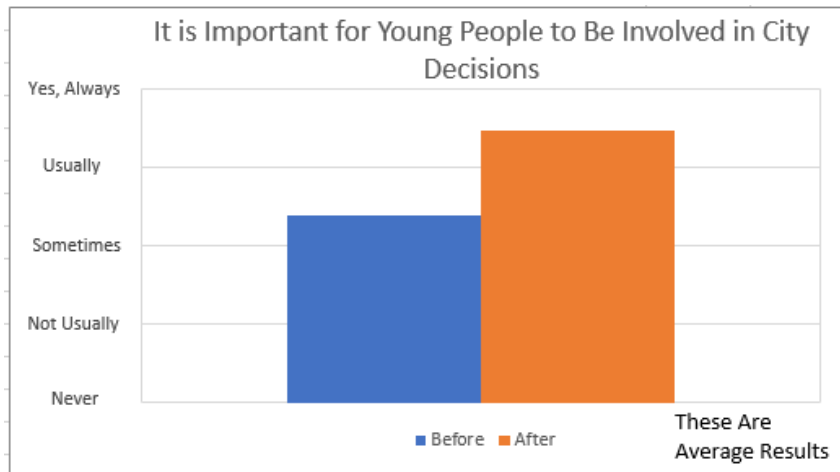
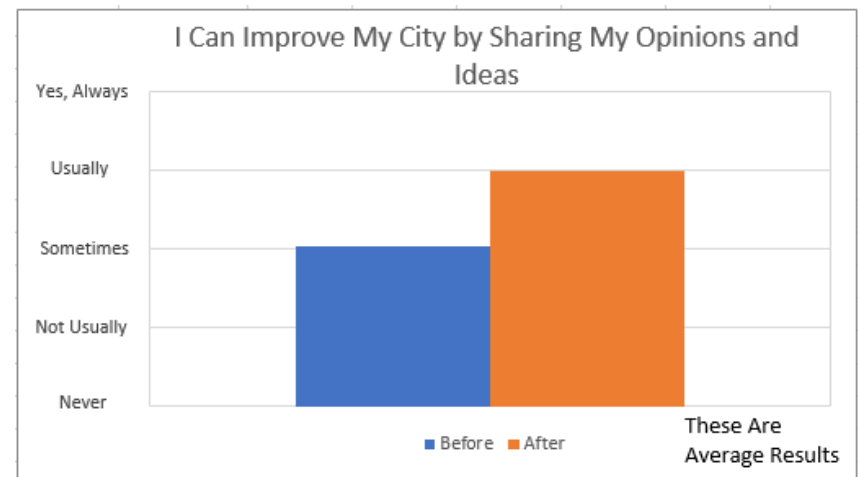
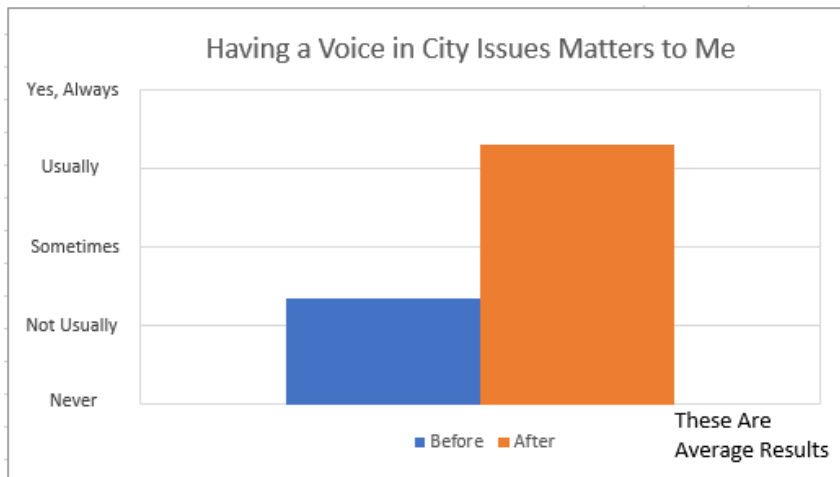


HOW KIDS' IDEAS INFLUENCED THE VISION



- 1 KIDS ARE ABLE TO WALK FROM HOME TO SCHOOL ON THEIR OWN
- 2 BIKERS AND PEDESTRIANS ARE SEPARATED FROM TRAFFIC BY A PHYSICAL BARRIER
- 3 FLOWERS DECORATE THE PATH
- 4 FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ARE ABLE TO CARRY BIKE TRAILERS ON THE BUS
- 5 PROVIDE LIGHT IN UNDERPASSES
- 6 BIKING SPEEDS SEPARATED
- 7 SHADE STRUCTURE
- 8 PROVIDE FREE BUS FARES TO HELP LOW INCOME FAMILIES AND ALL KIDS

Results of Pre Vs. Post Youth Engagement Process Surveys



Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) Youth Engagement



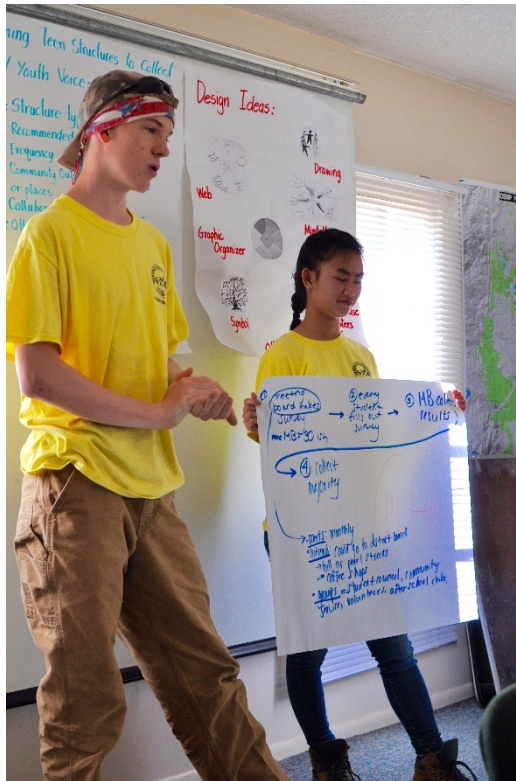
Messages from Youth

- Public lands and youth experience on open space matter
- Youth appreciate being included and heard
- Stewardship experiences build belonging and value



Building a Culture of Youth Leadership

“As a Junior Ranger I know that I am helping create a sense of belonging for future generations. I am part of something bigger than myself.”





City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

North Trail Study Area Plan

Improve visitor experiences

Increase the physical and environmental sustainability of

Trails (19 miles)

Trailheads and

Other Visitor Infrastructure

Conserve

Natural

Cultural and

Agricultural resources



Engaging Children and Youth in the North Trail Study Area Planning Process



10 Boulder Journey School students (ages 4-5)



25 children (ages 3-17) at **Family Day**

56 visitors at **Family Day** OSMP interpretive tables



60 **Junior Rangers** (ages 14-18) and 10 Crew Leaders

Boulder Journey School Approach and Activities

Spring 2015

Reggio Emilia approach: child-centered learning, promotes children's active citizenship

Insects major focus of exploration in 2014-2015

Visited Wonderland Lake to look for insects, share ideas and learn from OSMP interpretive staff



Family Day Approach and Activities

July 11, 2015

- Interpretive station with OSMP educators
- Scavenger hunt
- Draw your vision station
- Keep, change or add mapping area
- Graphic facilitation station



OSMP Junior Rangers

June and July Crews 2015



OSMP Junior Rangers: In Depth Engagement

Two Crews (One in June, One in July)

- Overview of planning process
- Photovoice
- Graphic facilitation to develop ideal vision
- Synthesized ideas into final recommendations
- Voted on recommendations to establish “top priorities”



OSMP Junior Rangers: Follow Up Crews

Three Crews (Two in June, One in July)

- Shared in depth engagement outcomes
- Crews responded to peers' ideas
- Developed their own recommendations
- Voted on recommendations to establish “top priorities”



Co-Design Exercise

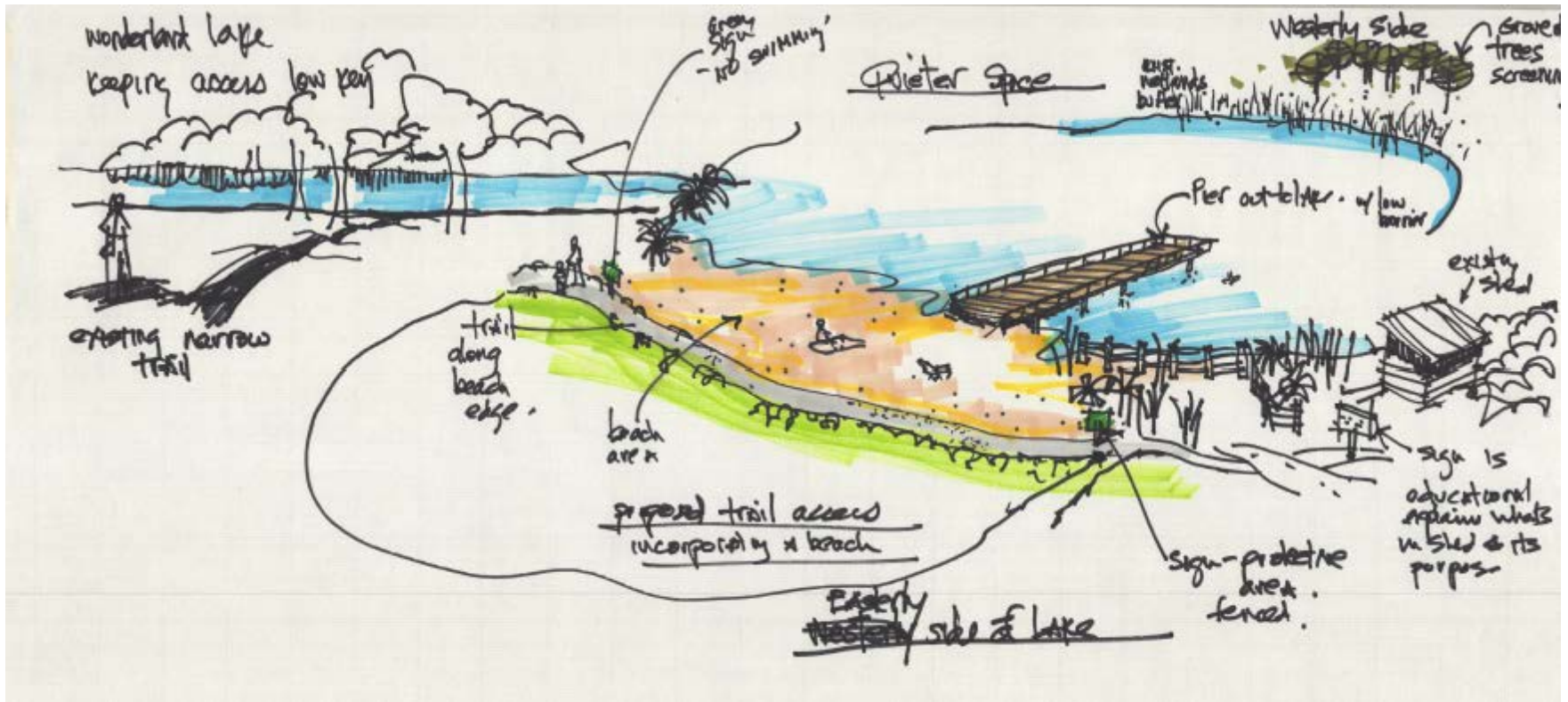


Illustration Simon Bialobroda from Junior Rangers visioning exercise

“Here is what we heard. Did we get it right?”



City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

Open Space and Mountain Parks
66 S. Cherryvale Road, Boulder, CO 80303;
303-441-3440
<http://www.osmp.org>



October 8, 2015

Dear Junior Ranger,



Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) and Growing Up Boulder (GUB) really want to thank you and all the junior ranger crew members and crew leads who shared ideas about the North Trail Study Area (North TSA)! We were inspired and energized by your participation. Your unique perspective on resource management and recreation and your ability to dialogue around different viewpoints were impressive! We hope the stewardship values you developed as a junior ranger extend past your employment, and that you stay involved in the community planning process for the North TSA.



Boulder Journey School Observations

Consistent empathy and care:

“We want to protect the bugs.”

“... And live with them.”

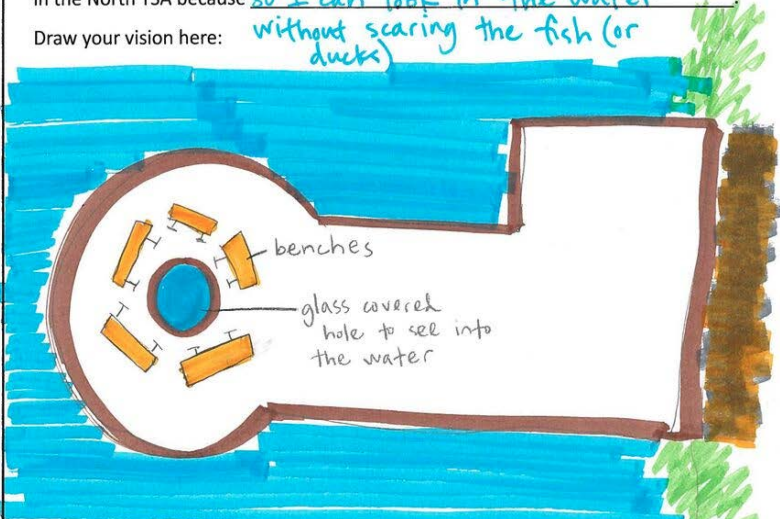


Family Day Observations

“People are always telling us to get out in nature, but then all we can do is walk.” - 9 year old

“I would like to see _____ in North TSA because _____.”

In the future, I would like A boardwalk
in the North TSA because so I can look in the water
Draw your vision here: without scaring the fish (or ducks)



benches
glass covered hole to see into the water

First Name: eli Age: 9

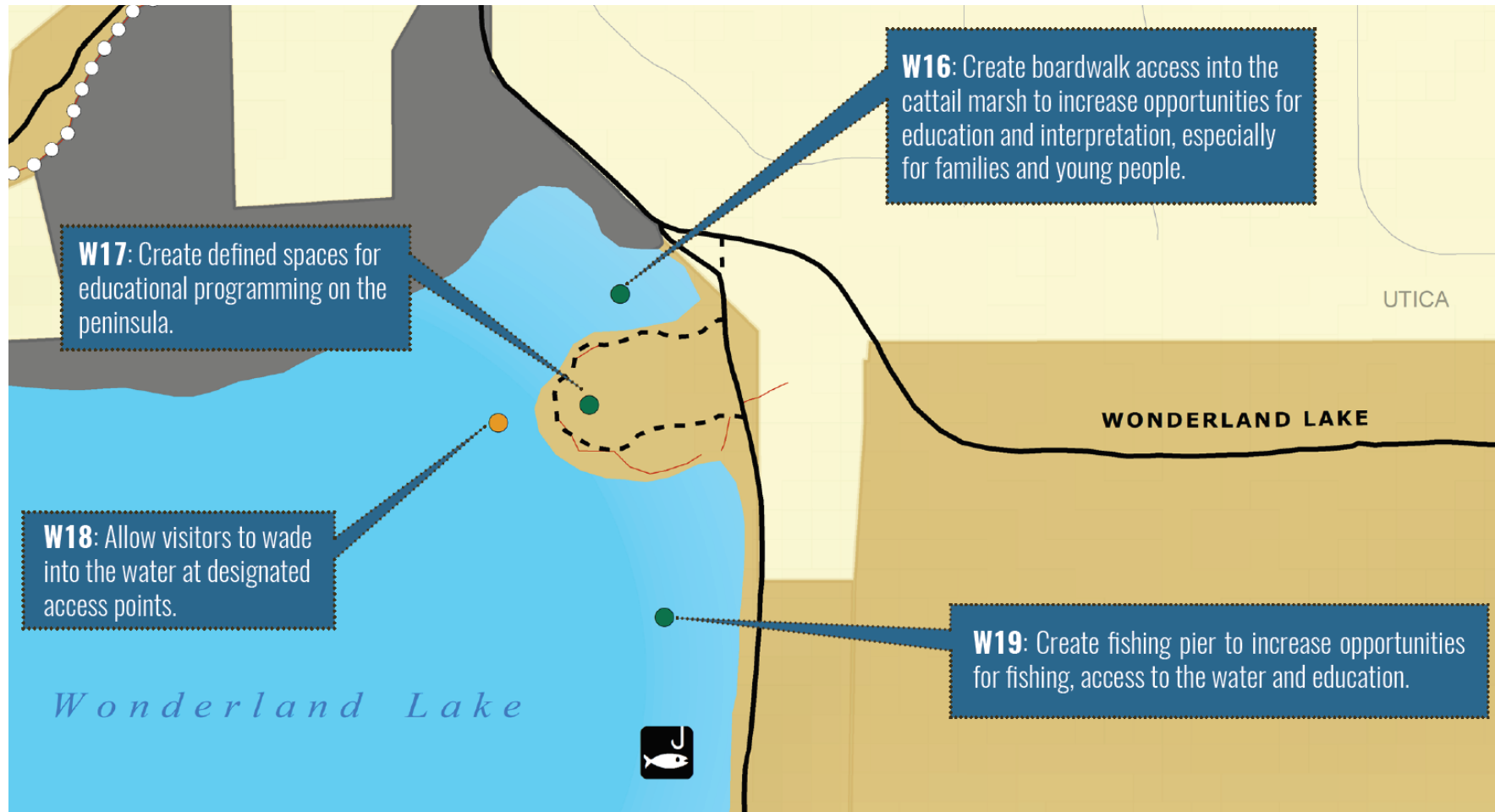


Junior Ranger Observations

- Maintenance
- Social trails
- Signs
- Water and diverse habitat
- Wildlife
- Invasive and non-native species



Lasting Youth Impact at Wonderland Lake



Lasting Youth Impact at Wonderland Lake



- Shade structure near Wonderland Lake trailhead
- Improve safety and accessibility via public transportation

Lasting Youth Impact North TSA-Wide

- Maintenance to bring all trails, trailheads and access points up to standards.
- Designation and management of some social trails.
- Natural revegetation or restoration of remaining social trails.
- Assessment and prevention of introduction of invasive plant species.



Continued Partnership with GUB for Upcoming OSMP Youth Engagement

- System-wide Master Plan
- Integrated Site Plans (Wonderland Lake and North Foothills)
- Community Engagement Visitor Experience Framework
- And lots more!





“We felt honored . . .”

“... We felt like our voices were being heard...”

“We learned how much time and detail and effort goes into the planning process.”



Questions?

Thank you!

Mara Mintzer, Director
Growing Up Boulder

Halice Ruppi, Youth Programs Coordinator
City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

Deryn Wagner, Senior Planner
City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

Juliet Bonnell, Associate Planner
City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks



Additional Resources

- Children, Youth and Environments Article:
Honoring Voices, Inspiring Futures: Young People's Engagement in Open Space Planning by Victoria Derr, Halice Ruppi and Deryn Wagner
<http://www.jstor.org/journal/chilyoutenvi>
- Creating Better Cities with Children and Youth: A Manual for Participation by David Driskell
- Growing Up Boulder
<http://www.growingupboulder.org/>
- National Youth Leadership Council
<https://nylc.org/>
- Nature Kids Lafayette
<http://naturekidslafayette.org/about/our-work/>