



# 2013 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SURVEY

## –SUMMARY REPORT–

AUGUST 26, 2013



Research, Policy and Planning Unit

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## OVERVIEW

This report provides a summary overview and analysis of the 2012 Local Government Survey responses received by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) for the 2014 Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) update. Surveying local governments (municipalities, counties and recreation districts with outdoor recreation-related missions) is an important part of the SCORP, and provides valuable data for reference and comparison purposes among participating local government agencies.

The SCORP update is required every five years for Colorado to maintain eligibility for Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) allocations. A central goal of the SCORP is to identify outdoor recreation trends, needs and issues that will help direct each state's use of its LWCF apportionment, which is allocated annually by Congress.

## METHODS

For the 2014 SCORP update, CPW asked 396 local government agencies to weigh in and respond to key questions to help better understand and quantify key issues related to outdoor recreation. In an effort to ensure that survey questions were representative of the many varied local governments (i.e., municipalities, counties and recreation districts) with outdoor recreation-related missions, CPW worked with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Colorado Parks and Recreation Association and the Colorado Open Space Alliance to review the draft survey and help develop the final survey instrument. These partners also helped provide contact information for local government representatives that were best suited to complete the survey.

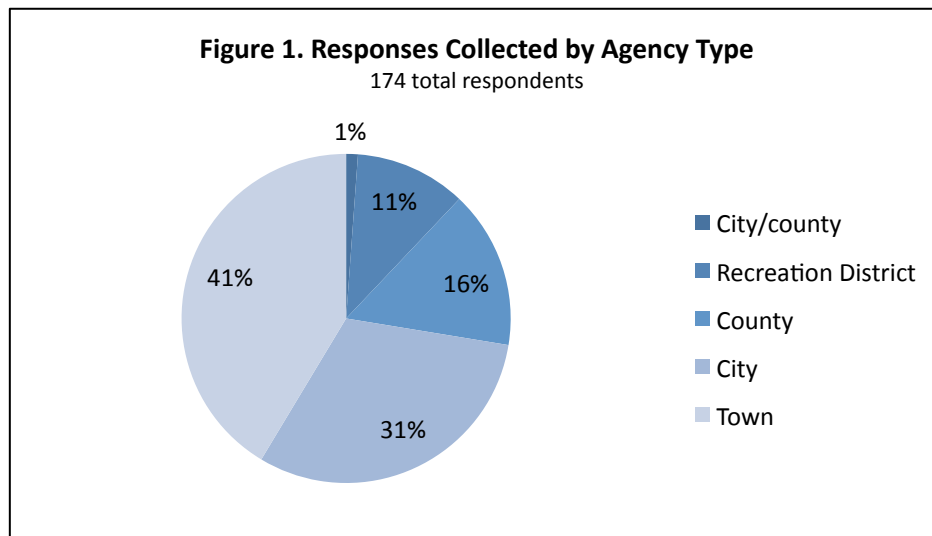
A list of local government agencies or programs with outdoor recreation focus was assembled. These governments were contacted via e-mail on October 24, 2012, and were asked to respond online, via a SurveyMonkey® link by December 19, 2012. A total of 174 agencies responded to the online survey, representing a response rate of 44.6 percent. Of the 174 surveys received, 143 (81.2 percent) were completed in full. A copy of the survey and results is included at the end of this report.

## RESULTS

### Agency Characteristics

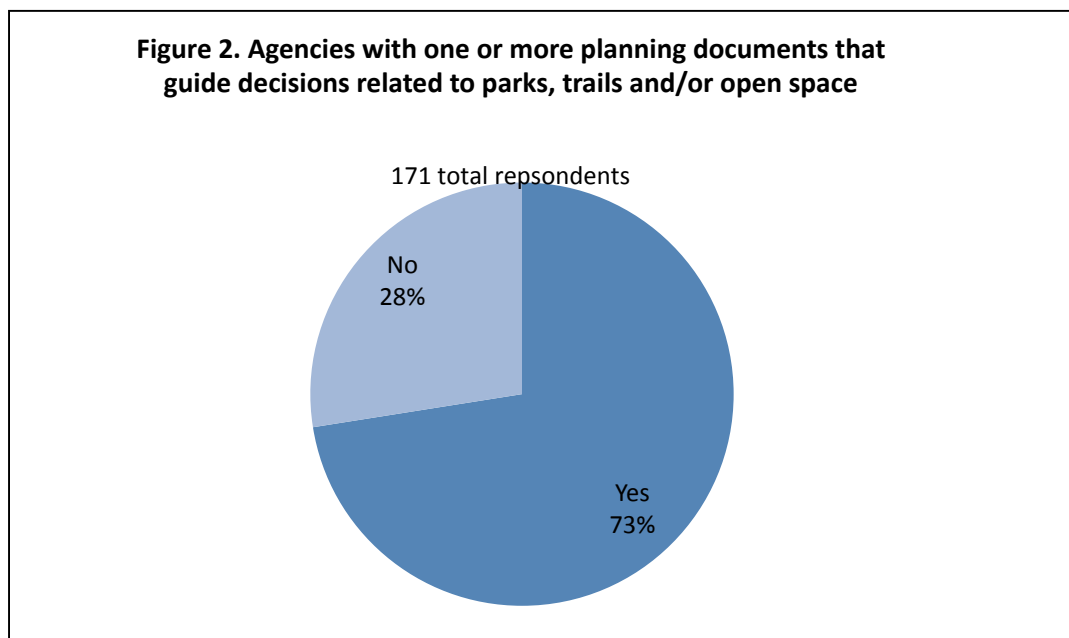
#### **Agency Type:**

Nearly half of the 396 local government agencies that were notified of the online survey were towns. The other half was relatively evenly split among parks and recreation districts, county open space departments, and city parks and recreation departments. Of the 174 collected surveys, 41 percent were received from towns, 31 percent from cities, and the remainder from counties, recreation districts, and city/counties. These percentages were proportionally in-line with the surveys that CPW sent out. A list of responding agencies or departments is included in Appendix B.

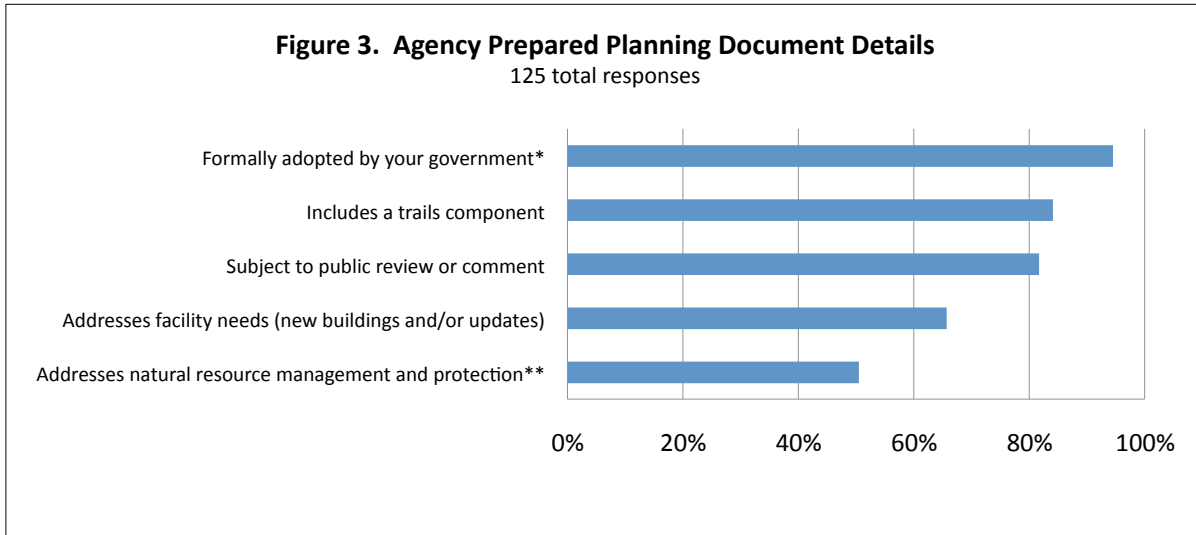


**Does your agency have one or more planning documents that guide decisions related to parks, trails, and/or open space? (Question 5)**

The majority of responding agencies (124 of 171, or 72.5%) indicated that they have one or more planning documents that guide decisions related to parks, trails, and/or open space. Five respondents skipped this question.



**Which of the following characterizes your agency’s prepared planning document(s)? (Question 6)**



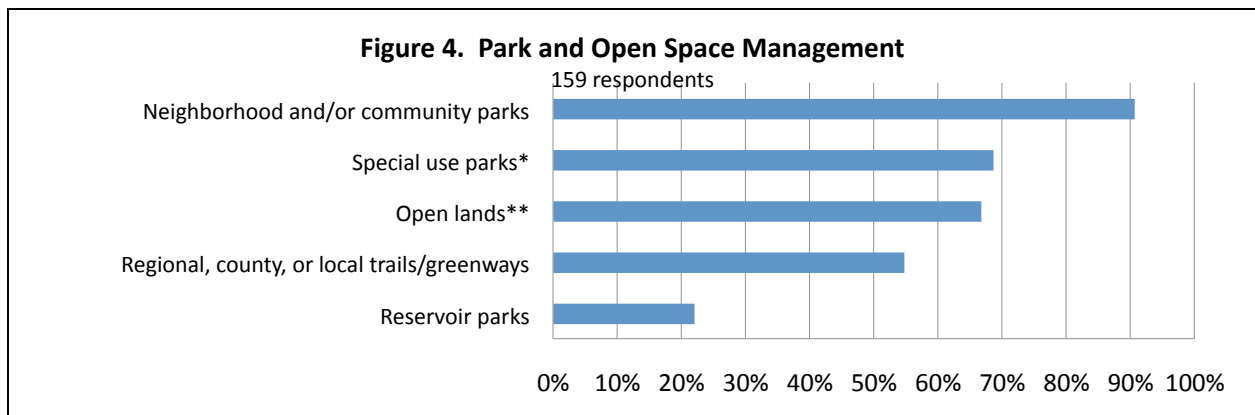
\*Government adopting entity may include City Council, County Commissioners, Board of Directors, etc.

\*\*Natural resource management and protection includes noxious weed management, erosion control, habitat restoration, etc.

**Outdoor Recreation Profile**

Local government agencies play an important role in providing outdoor recreation opportunities to the citizens of Colorado. These outdoor recreation opportunities may look very different depending on factors like location in the state or the agency/department’s mission. Understanding the breadth of outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the entire state helps to more accurately portray the various types of recreation infrastructure that are provided by local governments throughout Colorado.

**Please select the class of parks and/or open space that your agency is responsible for managing. (Question 7)**



\*Special use parks include: dog parks, skateboard parks, playgrounds, etc.

\*\*Open lands include: open space, natural areas, mountain parks, and other relatively undeveloped lands

**Please estimate the acreage of parks, open space, and/or miles of trails that you manage within your jurisdiction. (Question 8)**

A total of 124 agencies responded with information about the acreage of parks and/or open space they manage. While neighborhood/community parks only account for 25,844 acres, more than 90 percent of the respondents reported that they manage at least some neighborhood/community park acreage.

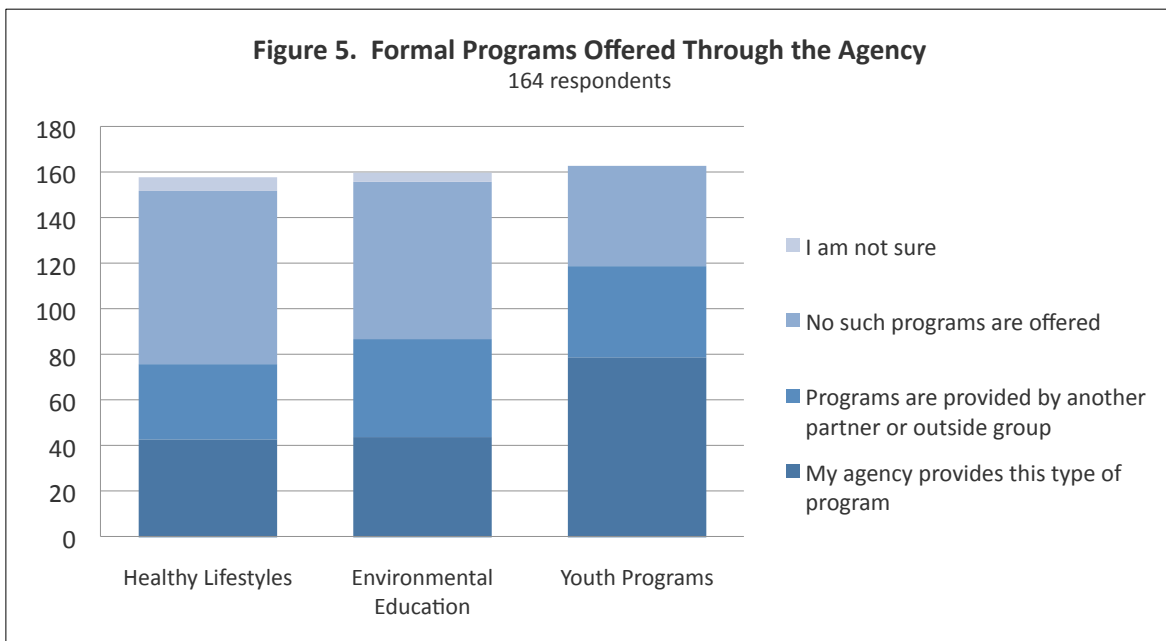
Although local government agencies that manage open space are a relatively small portion of the total, respondents from these agencies managed over 81 percent of the reported acreage. Open space programs typically manage larger land bases for outdoor recreation pursuits such as hiking, mountain biking, equestrian use, and often camping.

**Table 1. Estimated acreages of parks, open space and/or miles of trails.**

Neighborhood / Community Parks	Special Use Parks	Open Lands	Reservoir Parks	Trails
25,844 acres	7,753 acres	337,827 acres	23,950 acres	3,826 miles

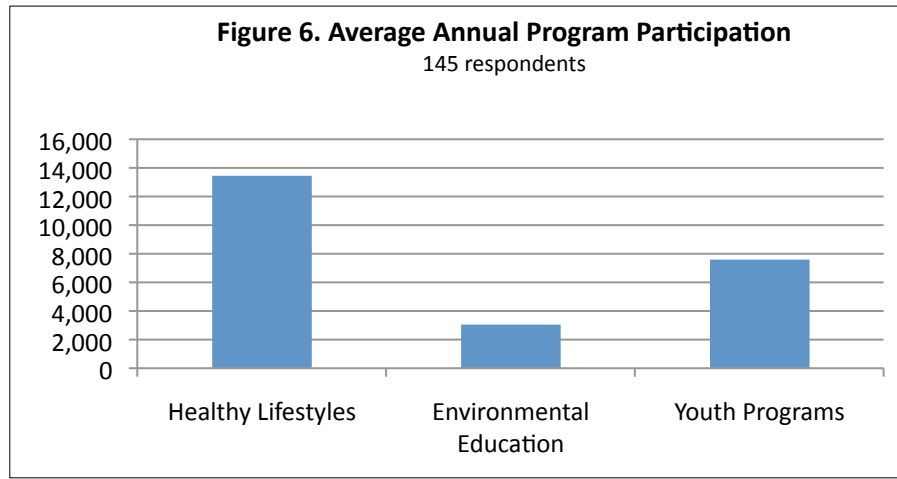
**Does your agency offer formal programs related to the following? (Question 9)**

- Educating the public about healthy lifestyles through nutritional guidance, weight loss initiatives, or other similar programs
- Interpretive, outdoor, or environmental education programs
- Youth sports or other outdoor recreation programs for youth



In the 2008 SCORP, 67 percent of the responding agencies reported offering youth sports or other outdoor recreation programs. In 2012, 72 percent of responding agencies offer youth programs internally and/or work with an outside partner to ensure youth engagement. In a shifting trend, only 16 percent of respondents offered interpretive, outdoor, or environmental education in 2008. That number has increased to 53 percent reported in 2012.

**About how many people attend the following types of programs offered by your agency annually? (Question 10)**

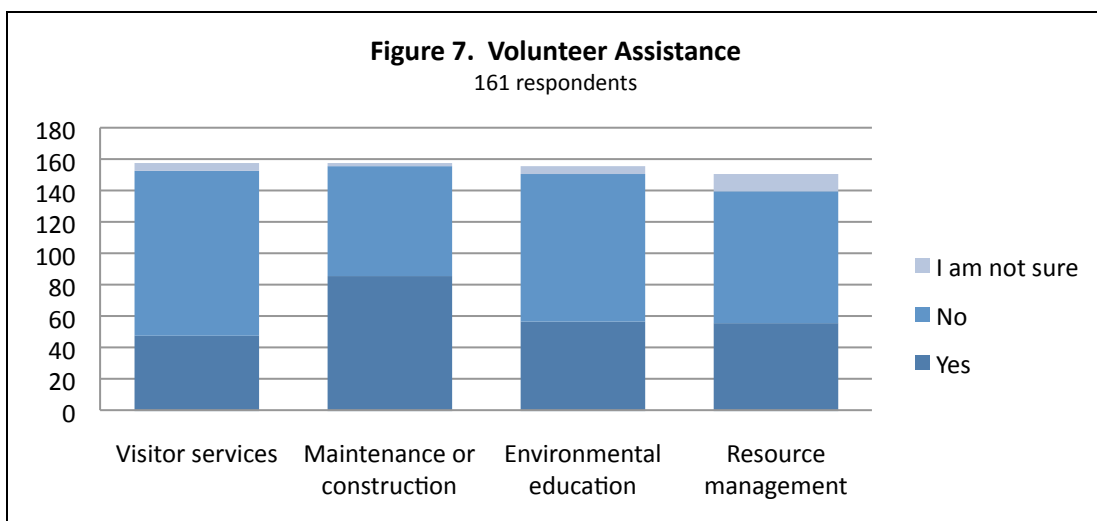


Healthy lifestyle and youth programming provide the highest levels of participation among the reporting agencies. Of the 145 agencies that answered the question, youth programming reported just over 1.08 million participants and healthy lifestyle programs saw over 1.75 million participants. The growing participation of environmental education saw over 378,000 participants.

## Volunteers

Volunteers increasingly play a vital role in supporting outdoor recreation opportunities at many different levels. The following results provide an indication of some of the areas where volunteers are helping various agencies.

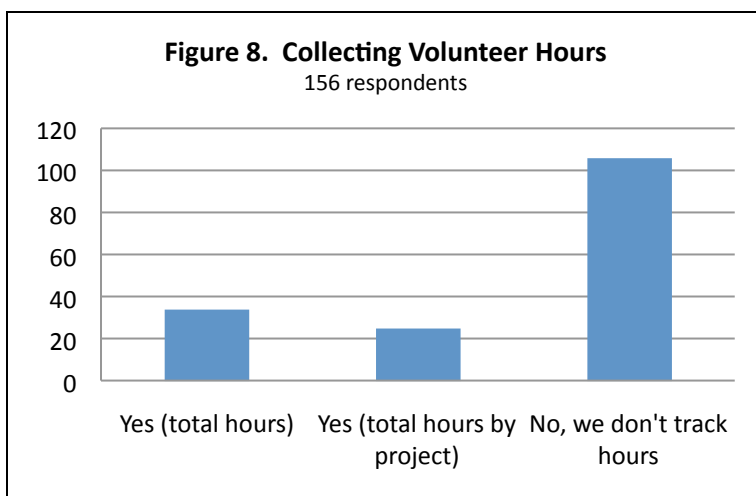
**Do volunteers assist your agency in providing any of the following? (Question 11)**



In addition to the above reported volunteer opportunity categories, agencies reported some of the other areas where volunteers typically provide assistance:

- Citizen advisory board
- Youth sports coaches
- Recreation center and museum helpers
- Special event support
- Master gardeners
- Open space monitoring

**Does your agency track annual volunteer hours? (Question 12)**



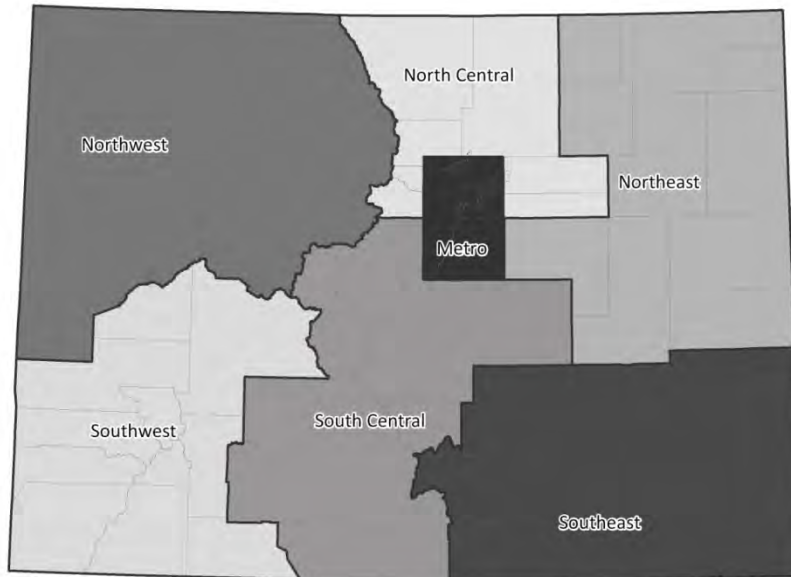
**If your agency tracks annual volunteer hours, please estimate the total number of annual volunteer hours for 2011. (Question 13)**

Of the 60 respondents that answered this question, the average amount of volunteer hours reported was 12,438 hours per year. Throughout the state, a total of 746,250 hours of volunteer time was reported at the local government level. An important consideration is that almost 65 percent of local government agencies indicated that they do not track volunteer hours.

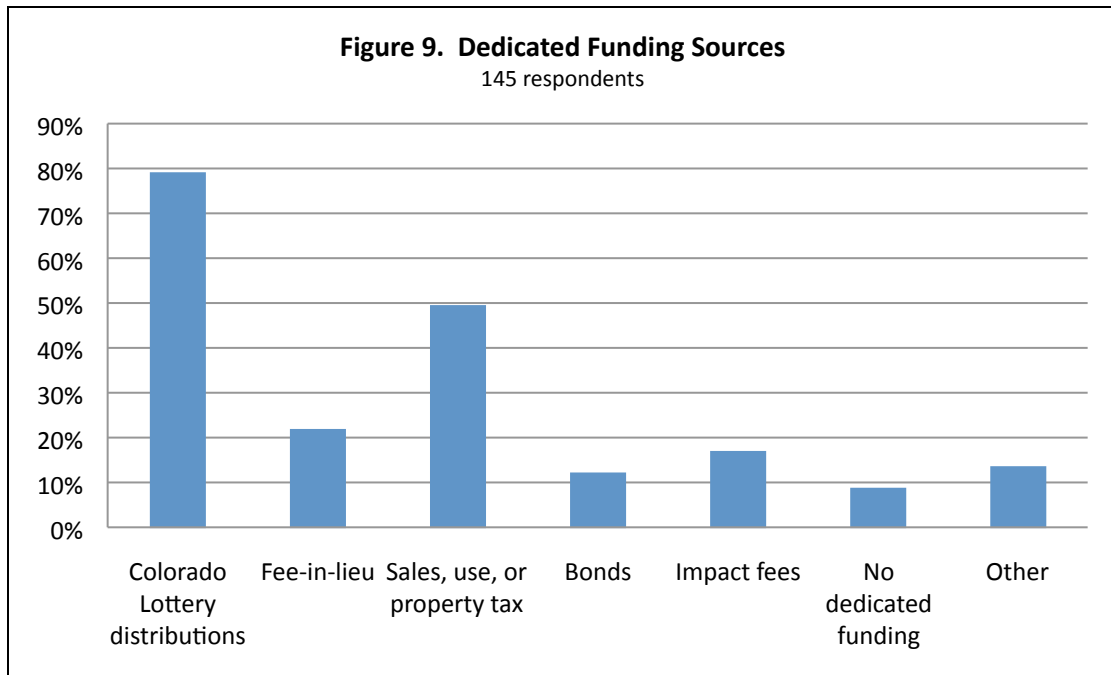
**Funding & Investment Needs**

Understanding financial projections, budgets, and shortfalls is necessary to better plan funding and investment needs across all local government agencies. Using historical data, current reports, and future projections, CPW asked local governments to provide estimates of total outdoor recreation revenue sources over the last several years, as well as projected investment needs. While the following data does not capture the needs of all local government agencies statewide, it at least provides a snapshot or frame of reference in which to compare and better understand the magnitude of needs across Colorado's seven tourism and outdoor recreation regions. A geographical representation of these regions is presented on Map 1.

**Map 1. Colorado's Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Regions**



**Does your agency receive dedicated funding for park, open space, and trail investments through any of the following? (Question 14)**





In addition to the options provided, respondents mentioned these as other sources of dedicated funding:

- General Fund money
- Real Estate Transfer Tax
- County shareback and grant funds
- Revenue from fees and charges
- Fees collected for public fishing and hunting access on private lands
- Recreational sales tax
- Occupational lodging tax
- Specific ownership tax
- Scientific and Cultural Facilities District
- County Open Space tax distributions
- Facility use fees, dedicated trails, open space and parks sales tax
- Gaming funds

**What was your agency’s total revenue over the past three years from dedicated funding sources noted above excluding revenue from state lottery distributions? If unknown, please leave blank. (Question 15)**

Funding for open space and park and outdoor recreation ranges widely across the state. Of the 60 agencies that reported dedicated funding from 2011-2013, total funding (minus Colorado Lottery distributions) equals just under a quarter million dollars. The median reported revenue for outdoor recreation is just under \$800,000. As expected, large county open space systems with significant recreational lands and dedicated open space funding typically fall at higher ends of the revenue spectrum, while a small town may only receive a few thousand dollars to operate open space, parks, and trails.

**Table 2. Reported total revenues from dedicated funding sources (excluding state lottery distributions).**

	2011	2012	2013*
Total Dedicated Funding (excluding Lottery distributions)	\$234,390,799	\$250,741,321	\$216,142,234
Average Funding (70 responses)	\$3,348,440	\$3,582,019	\$3,087,746
Median	\$799,000	\$760,000	\$760,000
Maximum	\$56,850,000	\$52,140,000	\$51,240,000
Minimum	\$1,390	\$1,200	\$1,200

*\*Figures reported in late 2012. 2013 figures reflect projected estimates.*

**Following is a list of commonly mentioned priorities for outdoor recreation providers. Please estimate the total dollar value of 2012 unmet need for your agency or department in terms of these priorities. (Question 16)**

The statewide unmet funding needs reported by 66 agencies totaled \$963 million. The breakdown of the individual priorities is shown in Table 3 below. Capital development is by far the most underfunded category. Park, open space and trail maintenance and land acquisitions are other substantial unmet needs.

**Table 3. Total Reported Dollar Value of Unmet Need by Funding Priority Area (2012).\***

Capital Development	Park and Open Space Maintenance	Ecological Restoration	Monitoring	Land Acquisition	Trail Maintenance
\$773,148,730	\$78,799,500	\$13,107,000	\$1,836,000	\$74,653,000	\$22,251,500

\*A total of 66 agencies responded

A regional look at the same data shows that the Metro region reported the largest shortfall in needed funding, about \$544 million (Table 4). This rather large number likely reflects the need to provide facilities and trails in the heavily-populated metro region corresponds to the large volume of highly trafficked parks and open space areas. About 85 percent of the Metro region’s shortfall was seen in the capital development category, and this was generally consistent with other regions as well.

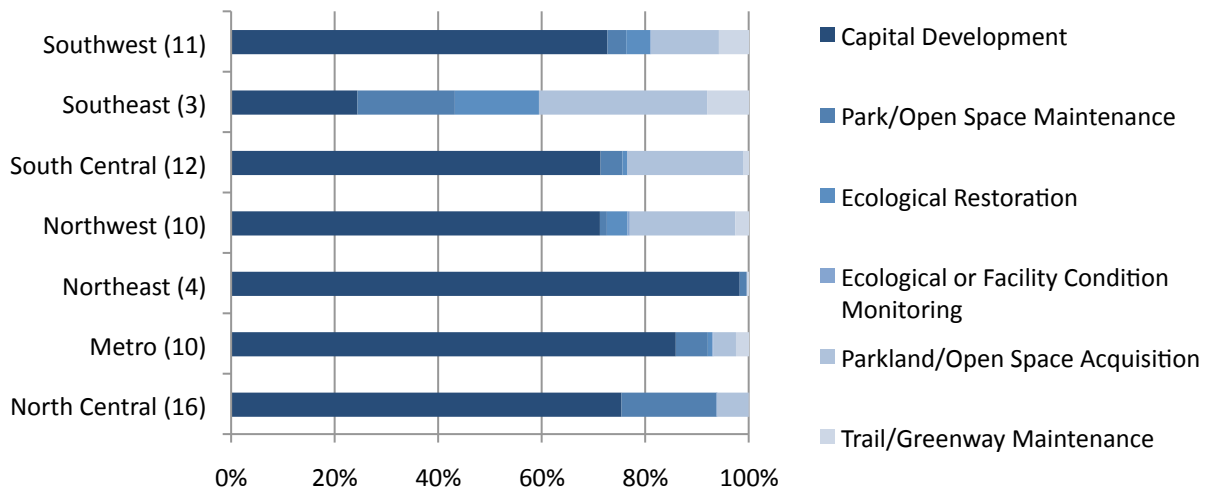
**Table 4. Total Reported Dollar Value of Unmet Need Broken Down by Region (2012)**

North Central (16)**	Metro (10)	Northeast (4)	Northwest (10)	South Central (12)	Southeast (3)	Southwest (11)
\$205,571,500	\$544,396,000	\$1,095,000	\$68,884,500	\$45,787,730	\$6,158,000	\$91,903,000

\*\**(n)* corresponds to number of agencies reporting.

Figure 10 shows a percentage breakdown of the needs by category for each region. The Southeast region reported the largest need for park and open space acquisitions (\$14 million), behind the Metro region (\$23.5 million). The North Central region has a large (\$37.7 million) unmet need for park and open space maintenance.

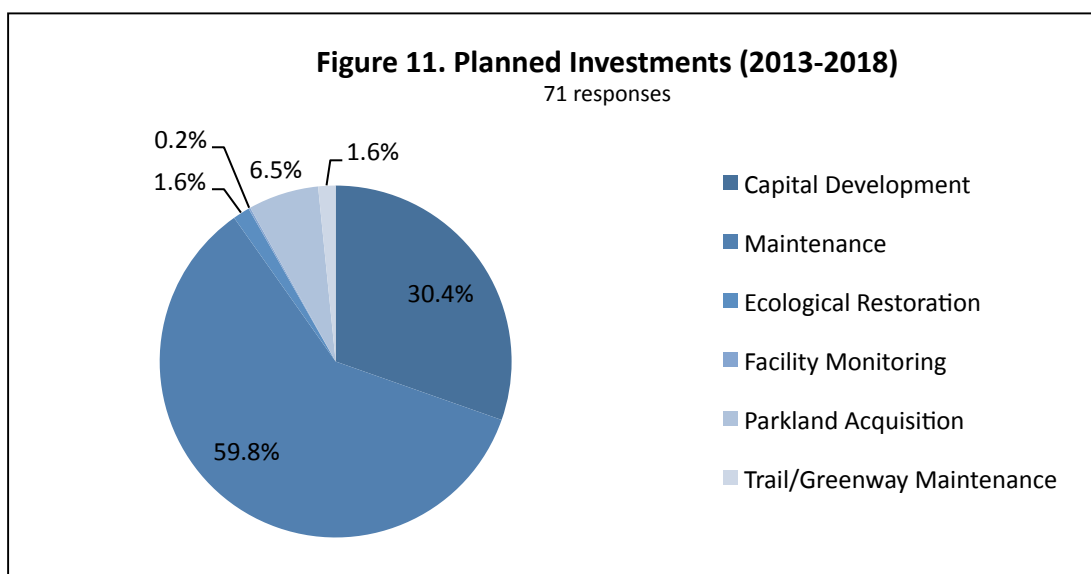
**Figure 10. 2012 Unmet funding need**  
66 respondents



**Please estimate the total dollar value of the following types of investments planned by your agency for the five year period of 2013-2018. (Question 17)**

A total of 71 respondents reported their five-year projections of planned investments, amounting to a total of \$2.16 billion. In most cases, the SCORP regions align with jurisdictional boundaries. However, in those cases where boundaries did not align (most of which occur in the Metro Region) totals were included in region where the majority of county lands were situated (e.g. Metro region). As expected, the Metro region has the highest reported investment need (amounting to \$1.4 billion, or about 63 percent of the total).

Statewide planned investments are represented below. Maintenance and capital development make up 90 percent of the statewide projected budget over the next five years. Comparing Question 16 to Question 17, it could be concluded that even though there is a large need for capital development, the majority of local governments are spending their money on park and open space maintenance.



## Management Issues

Local governments were asked to rank a variety of operational and management issues. Rating of various outdoor recreation issues helps point to some of the more significant challenges related to managing outdoor recreation. Outdoor recreation issues are the challenges or concerns confronted when trying to provide high-quality outdoor recreation experiences to the public.

**Top five most significant Management issues: (Question 19)**

1. Maintaining existing recreation infrastructure or resources
2. Trail connectivity
3. Creating or updating your agency's parks, trails, and/or open space plan
4. Coordination/cooperation with other agencies that manage outdoor recreation
5. Vandalism

**Top five most significant Visitor Services issues: (Question 20)**

1. Promoting tourism and economic development
2. Offering recreation programs for youth
3. Visitor safety and protection
4. Providing adequate trail and interpretive signage
5. Access for people with disabilities

**Top five most significant Funding issues: (Question 21)**

1. Insufficient resources to fund your agency's budget
2. Year to year stability of your agency's budget
3. Decrease in dedicated local tax revenue
4. Need to create a dedicated funding source for acquisitions and facilities
5. User fees for recreation facility use

**Top five most significant Natural Resource issues: (Question 22)**

1. Water availability/conservation
2. Invasive species management
3. Protecting unique species and ecosystems
4. Staff training for natural resource management
5. Riparian restoration

In addition, respondents noted the following other important issues:

- Cultural and historic resources protection and education
- We are a very small recreation & park district and only have control of a small (1/2 acre) lake within the district's boundaries. The only recreation we offer is fishing/picnicking near the lake. Currently, the lake is almost empty due to the drought.
- We do not have an open space program and thus rely heavily on outside agencies to provide resources and management.
- The decline in the number of visitors for recreational use of lands is due to the over regulation of lands.
- We're a small town up in the mountains in Summit County. We have some issues with motorized trail users, but they're generally manageable. We are strongly affected by USFS decisions.
- Parking for recreation (lake) and public land access
- Preserving access to public lands for motorized uses. Keeping existing roads open on public lands. Providing opportunities for single track motorized recreation. Repurposing existing roads and railroads grades for 50 inch or less trails and creating trail loops.
- We contract all of our athletic recreation programming to 15 different user groups
- Finding resources for updating the master plan for the department.
- Oil and gas- related issues

## Outdoor Recreation Needs

**Top five most significant Investment needs: (Question 24)**

1. Community trail systems
2. Regional trail systems
3. Additional trail corridors, conservation easements, and/or rights of way
4. Team sports facilities
5. Additional opportunities/access for water-based recreation

**Additional investment needs (Question 25) that were noted one or more times include:**

- Off-leash dog areas
- Camping facilities
- Golf course operations, campground operations/facilities, outdoor adventure parks
- Regional type parks that accommodate special events
- Potential trailhead facilities
- Additional parking access to federal public land
- Motorized trail uses and road access. Existing roads should be open to motorized travel

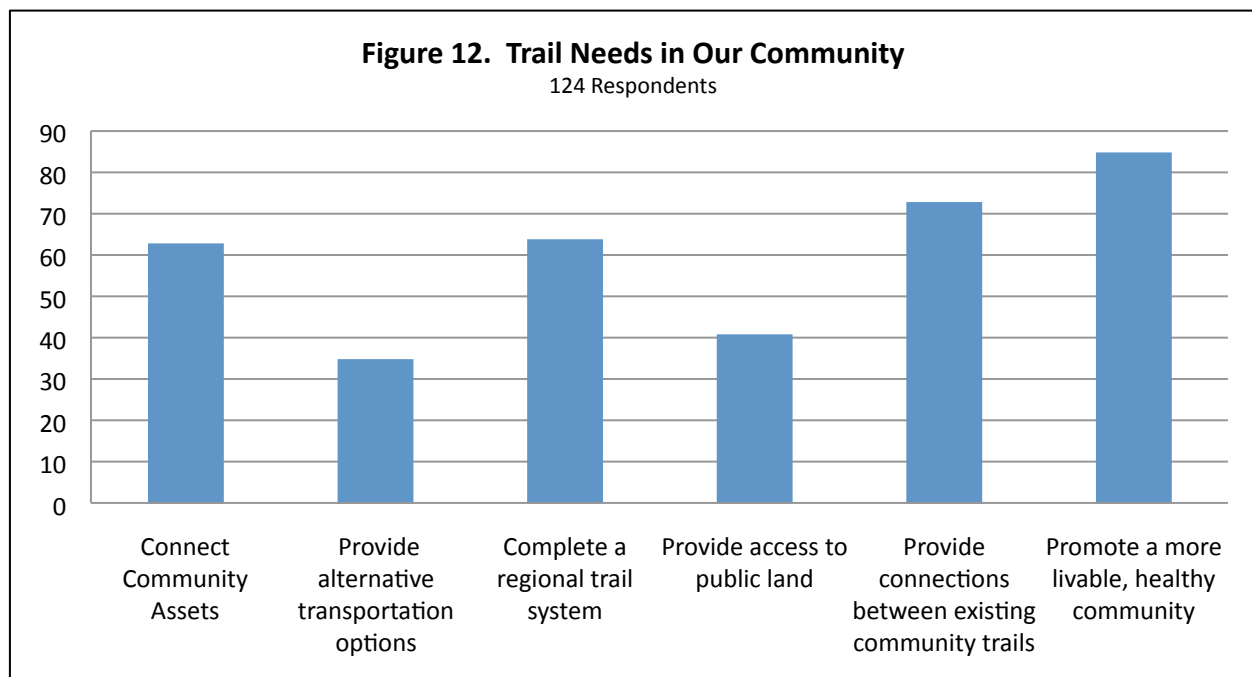
## Trails

Previous SCORP research has shown that walking, hiking and jogging represent the most popular outdoor recreational activities in Colorado and across the United States. As part of the 2012 Local Government Survey, CPW included three supplemental trail questions that provided insight on critical missing trail links or gaps, associated tread width, trail surface and trail user type. This information has been compiled and will be used to help inform statewide trail planning efforts; however, much of this data is too extensive to be included in this summary report.

Summary results from Question 28, which was a multiple selection question that corresponds to the perceived need for community trails, is provided below.

**Please mark three of the following statements that most closely reflect the need for trails in your community. (Question 28)**

- **Connect community assets**
- **Promote a more livable, healthy community**
- **Provide alternative transportation options**
- **Complete a regional trail system**
- **Provide access to public land**
- **Provide connections between existing community trails**
- **Other**



## APPENDIX A: LOCAL GOVERNMENT SURVEY INSTRUMENT

### 2012 Local Government Survey Questions and Results

1. Agency or Department Name – 174 respondents
2. Name – 174 respondents
3. Title – 174 respondents
4. Email – 173 respondents

#### Agency Characteristics

5. Does your agency have one or more planning documents that guide decisions related to parks, trails, and/or open space? (Please check one.) – 171 respondents

**72.5%** Yes  
**27.5%** No

6. Which of the following characterizes your agency's prepared planning document(s)? (Check all that apply.) – 125 respondents

**81.6%** - Subject to public review or comment  
**94.4%** - Formally adopted by your government (e.g. city council, county commissioners, board of directors)  
**84.0%** - Includes a trails component  
**50.4%** - Addresses natural resource management and protection (i.e. noxious weed management, erosion control, habitat restoration, etc.)  
**65.6%** - Addresses facility needs (new building and/or updates)

#### Outdoor Recreation Profile in your Community

7. Please select the class of parks and/or open space that your agency is responsible for managing. (Check all that apply.) – 159 respondents

**90.6%** - Neighborhood and/or community parks  
**68.6%** - Special use parks (e.g. dog parks, skateboard parks, playgrounds)  
**66.7%** - Open lands (e.g. open space, natural areas, mountain parks, and other relatively undeveloped lands)  
**22.0%** - Reservoir Parks  
**54.7%** - Regional, county, or local trails/greenways

8. Please estimate the acreage of parks, open space, and/or miles of trails that you manage within your jurisdiction. If unknown, please leave blank. – 124 respondents

	Response Average	Response Total
Neighborhood/Community Parks	<b>226.70 acres</b>	<b>25,844 acres</b>
Special use parks	<b>96.91 acres</b>	<b>7,753 acres</b>
Open lands	<b>3,519.03 acres</b>	<b>337,287 acres</b>
Reservoir Parks	<b>399.17 acres</b>	<b>23,950 acres</b>
Trails/Greenways	<b>45.01 miles</b>	<b>3,826 miles</b>

9. Does your agency offer formal programs related to the following? – 164 respondents

	My agency provides this type of program	Programs are provided by another partner or outside group	No such programs are offered	I am not sure
Educating the public about healthy lifestyles through nutritional guidance, weight loss initiatives, or other similar programs	<b>27.2%</b>	<b>20.9%</b>	<b>48.1%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
Interpretive, outdoor, or environmental education programs	<b>27.5%</b>	<b>26.9%</b>	<b>43.1%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
Youth sports or other outdoor recreation programs for youth	<b>48.5%</b>	<b>24.5%</b>	<b>27.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

10. About how many people attend the following types of programs offered by your agency annually? If your agency does not offer a particular type of program, please enter N/A. – 145 respondents

	Response Average	Response Total
Healthy lifestyle programming	<b>13,472.2</b>	<b>1,751,386</b>
Interpretive, outdoor, or environmental education programming	<b>3,077.82</b>	<b>378,572</b>
Youth programming	<b>7,615.27</b>	<b>1,088,983</b>

**Volunteers**

11. Do volunteers assist your agency in providing any of the following? – 161 respondents

	Yes	No	I am not sure
Visitor services	<b>30.4%</b>	<b>66.5%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
Maintenance or construction	<b>54.4%</b>	<b>44.3%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
Interpretive, outdoor, or environmental education programs	<b>36.5%</b>	<b>60.3%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
Resource management/stewardship	<b>37.1%</b>	<b>55.6%</b>	<b>7.3%</b>

12. Does your agency track annual volunteer hours? – 156 respondents

**21.8%** - Yes, we track total hours only

**16.0%** - Yes, we track total hours by volunteer project type

**67.9%** - No, we do not track hours

13. If your agency tracks annual volunteer hours, please estimate the total number of annual volunteer hours for 2011. – 60 respondents

	Response Average	Response Total
Annual volunteer hours	<b>12,437.50</b>	<b>746,250</b>

### **Funding and Investment Needs**

14. Does your agency receive dedicated funding for park, open space, and trail investments through any of the following? (Please check all that apply.) – 145 respondents

**79.3%** - Colorado Lottery distributions

**22.1%** - Fee-in-lieu

**49.7%** - Sales, use, or property tax

**12.4%** - Bonds

**17.2%** - Impact Fees

**9.0%** - My agency does not have any dedicated sources of funding for park, open space, and trail investments (please skip to question 16)

**13.8%** - Other (please specify)

- As needed funding from General Fund
- RETT
- County Shareback and grant funds
- Revenue from Fees and Charges
- Fees collected for public fishing & hunting access on private lands
- fees and charges on recreation programs and facilities
- \$0.5 (1/2 penny) dedicated Rec. Sales Tax
- Occupational lodging tax
- Specific Ownership Tax
- Adams County Opens Space distribution and grant
- Jeff Co. Open Space and SCFD
- RETT, Business License Fees
- Adams County Open Space Tax Distributions
- Initial GOCO grant for construction of Elk Ridge Park
- Facility use fees, dedicated trails, open space and parks sales tax
- Jeff Co. open space sales tax 1/2cent per capita
- open space and parks are different town departments and i am only responding on behalf of the recreation department
- Real Estate Transfer Tax
- Impact fees adopted but not collected; have used GOCO funds
- Gaming funds

15. What was your agency's total revenue over the past three years from dedicated funding sources noted above excluding revenue from state lottery distributions? If unknown, please leave blank. – 79 respondents



16. Following is a list of commonly-mentioned priorities for outdoor recreation providers. Please estimate the total dollar value of 2012 unmet need for your agency or department in terms of these priorities. If unknown, please leave blank. – 66 respondents

	Capital Development	Park/Open Space Maintenance	Ecological Restoration	Ecological or Facility Condition Monitoring	Parkland/Open Space Acquisition	Trail/Greenway Maintenance	Total
North Central (16)	\$154,890,000	\$37,741,500	\$5,000	\$52,000	\$12,703,000	\$180,000	\$205,571,500
Metro (10)	\$467,250,000	\$33,695,000	\$4,652,000	\$1,374,000	\$23,550,000	\$13,875,000	\$544,396,000
Northeast (4)	\$1,075,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$1,095,000
Northwest (10)	\$49,030,000	\$925,000	\$2,750,000	\$300,000	\$14,050,000	\$1,829,500	\$68,884,500
South Central (12)	\$32,648,730	\$1,937,000	\$400,000	\$10,000	\$10,300,000	\$492,000	\$45,787,730
Southeast (3)	\$1,500,000	\$1,158,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$500,000	\$6,158,000
Southwest (11)	\$66,755,000	\$3,328,000	\$4,300,000	\$100,000	\$12,050,000	\$5,370,000	\$91,903,000
Total (66)	\$773,148,730	\$78,799,500	\$13,107,000	\$1,836,000	\$74,653,000	\$22,251,500	\$963,795,730

17. Please estimate the total dollar value of the following types of investments planned by your agency for the five year period of 2013-2018. If unknown, please leave blank. – 71 respondents

	Capital Development	Park/Open Space Maintenance	Ecological Restoration	Ecological or Facility Condition Monitoring	Parkland/Open Space Acquisition	Trail/Greenway Maintenance	Total
North Central (16)	\$51,231,368	\$78,543,995	\$5,575,000	\$430,000	\$23,145,000	\$4,360,000	\$163,285,363
Metro (17)	\$213,738,550	\$1,129,073,103	\$9,510,000	\$1,335,000	\$40,715,164	\$17,116,760	\$1,411,488,577
Northeast (5)	\$1,350,000	\$105,000	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$1,462,500
Northwest (11)	\$103,692,594	\$15,294,905	\$2,426,377	\$667,443	\$10,169,123	\$2,302,040	\$134,552,482
South Central (19)	\$222,618,000	\$54,157,810	\$10,200,000	\$200,000	\$19,575,000	\$4,110,000	\$310,860,810
Southeast (3)	\$25,500,000	\$5,201,000	\$2,650,000	\$1,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$44,351,000
Southwest (10)	\$37,215,000	\$7,625,000	\$3,100,000	\$0	\$41,075,000	\$1,510,000	\$90,525,000
Total (71)	\$655,345,512	\$1,290,000,813	\$33,463,877	\$3,632,443	\$139,679,287	\$34,403,800	\$2,156,525,732

18. Of the five-year activities your agency has planned (based on question 17), what percentage of the total cost can be funded by existing resources? If unknown, please leave blank. – 52 respondents

### **Management Issues**

19. Please specify the relative significance of the following Management issues for your agency (1 being least significant, 5 being most significant)

	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure	Not Applicable
Coordination/Cooperation with other agencies that manage outdoor recreation	7.0%	11.3%	19.0%	26.1%	23.9%	4.9%	7.7%
Capacity to serve a growing population	10.6%	14.1%	23.9%	22.5%	16.9%	2.8%	9.2%
Adapting to changing user demographics	10.6%	15.6%	31.2%	19.9%	12.1%	4.3%	6.4%
Maintaining existing recreation infrastructure or resources	2.1%	2.1%	13.3%	25.2%	53.1%	2.1%	2.1%
Creating or updating your agency's parks, trails, and/or open space plan	10.5%	9.1%	18.9%	21.0%	32.9%	2.8%	4.9%
Staff training for recreation services	12.8%	15.6%	27.0%	18.4%	8.5%	2.1%	15.6%
Crowding/overuse of parks and/or trails	24.1%	25.5%	19.9%	9.9%	5.0%	4.3%	11.3%
Conflicts among trail users	21.8%	23.9%	19.0%	8.5%	4.9%	4.9%	16.9%
Off-highway vehicles (OHVs)	33.8%	17.6%	9.9%	3.5%	6.3%	4.9%	23.9%
Off-leash dogs	13.4%	16.2%	28.9%	20.4%	9.9%	3.5%	7.7%
Engaging volunteer assistance for programs or maintenance/construction work	13.5%	17.7%	26.2%	18.4%	13.5%	2.8%	7.8%
Capacity to manage volunteers	16.9%	14.8%	28.9%	17.6%	7.7%	3.5%	10.6%
Utilizing youth corps for park/trail maintenance or construction work	16.8%	13.3%	22.4%	18.9%	6.3%	7.0%	15.4%
Vandalism	12.7%	14.8%	27.5%	16.2%	21.8%	2.1%	4.9%
Educating public on user ethics	14.2%	22.0%	24.8%	17.0%	9.9%	5.0%	7.1%
Recreational access to rivers	15.8%	6.5%	10.8%	12.2%	22.3%	3.6%	28.8%
Adequate water for lake or river recreation	16.9%	9.9%	14.8%	9.2%	23.2%	3.5%	22.5%
Trail connectivity	11.3%	2.8%	8.5%	23.2%	35.9%	3.5%	14.8%

20. Please specify the relative significance of the following Visitor Services issues for your agency (1 being least significant, 5 being most significant)

	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure	Not applicable
Providing recreation programs and opportunities for seniors	4.9%	11.3%	26.8%	21.1%	19.0%	4.2%	12.7%
Offering interpretive and outdoor education programs	13.4%	12.7%	23.9%	20.4%	8.5%	7.0%	14.1%
Access for people with disabilities	6.4%	10.6%	23.4%	27.0%	22.0%	4.3%	6.4%
Offering recreation programs for youth	5.6%	7.0%	15.5%	19.7%	37.3%	4.2%	10.6%
Providing public information about facilities and programs	9.2%	9.9%	25.5%	24.1%	19.1%	3.5%	8.5%
Providing adequate trail and interpretive signage	7.0%	7.0%	25.4%	21.1%	21.1%	2.8%	15.5%
Assessing visitor satisfaction and expectations	8.5%	12.0%	28.2%	24.6%	14.1%	3.5%	9.2%
Visitor safety and protection	8.5%	7.0%	17.6%	23.9%	33.1%	4.2%	5.6%
Promoting tourism and economic development	6.3%	4.9%	20.4%	20.4%	36.6%	1.4%	9.9%

21. Please specify the relative significance of the following Funding issues for your agency. (1 being least significant, 5 being most significant)

	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure	Not applicable
Insufficient resources to fund your agency's budget	9.2%	9.2%	18.3%	18.3%	41.5%	2.1%	1.4%
Year to year stability of your agency's budget	8.5%	18.4%	17.7%	23.4%	28.4%	2.1%	1.4%
Liability protection for your agency	17.1%	27.9%	22.9%	11.4%	13.6%	3.6%	3.6%
User fees for recreation facility use	12.1%	15.6%	23.4%	17.7%	11.3%	4.3%	15.6%
Public/private cost-sharing for recreation	17.3%	15.1%	22.3%	15.1%	10.1%	7.9%	12.2%
Need to create a dedicated funding source for acquisitions and facilities	15.6%	6.4%	16.3%	19.1%	24.8%	5.0%	12.8%
Funding for partnerships with volunteer and/or youth organizations	14.2%	12.1%	27.7%	17.7%	12.8%	6.4%	9.2%
Decrease in dedicated local tax revenue	13.5%	12.8%	11.3%	17.0%	29.1%	5.7%	10.6%

22. Please specify the relative significance of the following Natural Resource Management issues for your agency. (1 being least significant, 5 being most significant)

	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure	Not applicable
Protecting unique species and ecosystems	10.6%	15.6%	22.7%	19.1%	12.8%	3.5%	15.6%
Staff training for natural resource management	11.4%	17.1%	27.9%	17.1%	5.7%	4.3%	16.4%
Invasive species management	9.2%	16.3%	17.7%	28.4%	9.2%	4.3%	14.9%
Forest management	18.4%	12.1%	17.0%	14.2%	7.1%	3.5%	27.7%
Grassland reclamation	26.2%	19.1%	13.5%	9.2%	1.4%	5.0%	25.5%
Riparian restoration	15.6%	15.6%	17.0%	14.2%	11.3%	5.0%	21.3%
Wildlife conflict/damage/disease	17.1%	20.0%	18.6%	13.6%	7.1%	5.7%	17.9%
Water availability/conservation	5.0%	13.5%	17.0%	17.0%	29.1%	3.5%	14.9%

23. Please list any other significant issues that are not listed above and are important to your agency.

- Cultural and historic resources protection and education
- We are a very small recreation & park district and only have control of a small (1/2 acre) lake within the district's boundaries. The only recreation we offer is fishing/picnicking near the lake. Currently, the lake is almost empty due to the drought.
- We do not have an open space program and thus rely heavily on outside agencies to provide resources and management.
- The decline in the number of visitors for recreational use of lands due to the over regulation of lands.
- We're a small town up in the mountains in Summit County. We have some issues with motorized trail users, but they're generally manageable. We are strongly affected by USFS decisions.
- Parking for recreation (lake) and public land access
- Preserving access to public lands for Motorized Recreation. Keeping existing roads open on public lands. Providing opportunities for single track motorized recreation. Repurposing existing roads and railroads grades for 50 inch or less trails and creating trail loops.
- We contract all of our Athletic Recreation programming to 15 different user groups
- Finding resources for updating the master plan for the department.
- N/A
- Oil & Gas related issues

**Outdoor Recreation Needs**

24. Please choose the degree of priority your agency places on the need to invest in the following types of outdoor recreation sites and activities in order to meet demand. (1 being least significant, 5 being most significant)

	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure	Not applicable
Additional open lands	22.9%	12.9%	17.1%	17.1%	14.3%	2.9%	12.9%
Additional community parks	18.7%	15.1%	23.0%	18.0%	14.4%	2.9%	7.9%
Additional neighborhood parks	19.3%	17.1%	20.0%	21.4%	10.0%	2.1%	10.0%
Additional special use parks or facilities	15.1%	13.7%	21.6%	24.5%	15.1%	2.9%	7.2%
Additional trail corridors, conservation easements, and/or rights of way	10.7%	7.1%	15.0%	20.7%	35.0%	0.7%	10.7%
Additional opportunities/access for water-based recreation	15.1%	13.7%	14.4%	13.7%	21.6%	2.9%	18.7%
Additional opportunities for hunting and/or fishing	24.5%	19.4%	12.9%	13.7%	7.9%	4.3%	17.3%
Community trail systems	7.9%	5.0%	13.6%	25.0%	35.7%	1.4%	11.4%

Regional trail systems	9.3%	5.0%	12.9%	17.1%	37.9%	3.6%	14.3%
Team sports facilities	15.7%	7.9%	15.0%	20.0%	22.9%	5.7%	12.9%
Outdoor interpretive/educational facilities	12.9%	21.6%	25.2%	16.5%	6.5%	6.5%	10.8%
Community gardens	15.1%	15.8%	27.3%	19.4%	7.9%	5.0%	9.4%
Swimming pools/water play parks	22.1%	7.1%	15.7%	12.1%	23.6%	2.9%	16.4%

25. Please list any other significant needs that are not listed above and are important to your agency.

- in a recent survey we are finding increasing interest in providing off-leash open space areas, interest in increased camping facilities was also noted
- We need to replace our swimming pool but don't have any source for funding.
- Golf Course Operations Campground Operations/Facilities Outdoor Adventure Parks
- Regional type parks that accommodate special events.
- Potential trailhead facilities
- Additional parking to access Georgetown Lake and public land recreation
- Motorized trail & road access. Existing roads should be open to motorized travel. We are not advocating creating new routes except for single-track motorized or 50 inch trails unless needed to create logical loops.
- Its hard sometimes to convince the board of trustees of how important this things are, the answers above to all questions are not the attitude of the department, but that of the direction of the board.

### **Trails**

26. Please indicate the three highest priority gaps in your community's trail system by entering the trail name and a brief location description below. If unknown, please leave blank.

*Results available upon request*

27. For each trail gap identified in question 26, please indicate proposed tread width, trail surface, and primary user group. If unknown, please leave blank.

*Results available upon request*

28. Please mark three of the following statements that most closely reflect the need for trails in your community.

*Results available upon request*

**APPENDIX B: RESPONDENT AGENCIES OR DEPARTMENTS**

Region		Agency or Department Name
Primary	Secondary	
Front Range		Boulder County Parks & Open Space
Front Range		Town of Erie Parks & Recreation Department
Front Range		Town of Empire
Front Range		Larimer County
Front Range		Town of Coal Creek
Front Range		Estes Valley Recreation and Park District
Front Range		Bennett Park and Recreation District
Front Range		Town of Milliken
Front Range		Town of Windsor
Front Range		Clear Creek County Open Space
Front Range		Town of Georgetown
Front Range		City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Dept.
Front Range		Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District
Front Range		City of Fort Collins Colorado
Front Range		Gilpin County Parks and Recreation
Front Range	Northeast	Weld County Government
Front Range		Fort Lupton Parks and Recreation
Front Range		City of Longmont
Front Range		City of Idaho Springs
Front Range		Lafayette Parks, Open Space and Golf
Front Range		City of Black Hawk
Front Range		Central City
Front Range		City of Dacono
Front Range		Town of Frederick
Front Range		Town of Lochbuie
Front Range		Town of Nederland
Front Range		City of Greeley
Metro		Denver Parks and Recreation
Metro		City of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department
Metro		Arapahoe County Open Space
Metro		City of Arvada, Department of Parks, Golf and Hospitality
Metro		Town of Castle Rock
Metro		Town of Parker Parks and Recreation
Metro		Apex Park and Recreation District
Metro		City of Cherry Hills Village
Metro		City of Louisville Parks and Recreation Department
Metro		City of Greenwood Village
Metro		Town of Bow Mar

Metro		Town of Larkspur
Metro		Foothills Park and Recreation District
Metro		Hyland Hills Park and Recreation District
Metro		Town of Morrison
Metro		City of Westminster
Metro		Douglas County Parks, Trails and Building Grounds
Metro		South Suburban Park and Recreation District
Metro		City of Lone Tree Public Works
Metro		Commerce City Parks and Recreation
Metro	Front Range	Adams County Parks and Open Space
Metro		Arapahoe Park and Recreation District
Metro		City of Littleton
Metro		CITY OF FEDERAL HEIGHTS
Metro		City of Lakewood Department of Community Resources
Metro		City of Englewood Parks and Recreation
Metro		City of Northglenn
Metro		City of Castle Pines
Metro		City and County of Broomfield
Metro		Town of Mountain View
Metro		City of Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation
Metro		City of Golden
Metro		City of Centennial
Metro		Columbine Knolls Grove Metro Recreation District
Metro		City of Edgewater
Metro		City of Brighton Parks and Recreation
Metro		Jefferson County Parks
Northeast		Town of Haxtun
Northeast		City of Brush
Northeast		Town of Hillrose
Northeast		Town of Stratton
Northeast		Town of Sedgwick
Northeast		Washington County
Northeast		City of Yuma
Northeast		Town of Akron
Northeast		Activities Department - City of Burlington
Northeast		City of Sterling Department of Parks, Library and Recreation
Northeast		Town of Elizabeth
Northeast		Town of Limon
Northeast		Town of Kit Carson
Northeast		Town of Fleming
Northeast		Town of Julesburg
Northwest		City of Steamboat Springs
Northwest		Vail Recreation District
Northwest		Town of Dinosaur



Northwest		Arapahoe Lakes Public Park District
Northwest		Aspen Historic Parks and Recreation
Northwest		Town of Silverthorne
Northwest		Berthoud Parks and Recreation Department
Northwest		Town of Winter Park
Northwest		Town of Palisade
Northwest		Town of Walden
Northwest		Town of Snowmass Village
Northwest		Town of Dillon
Northwest		Town of Montezuma
Northwest		Routt County
Northwest		City of Rifle - Parks and Recreation
Northwest		Town of Vail
Northwest		Western Rio Blanco Metropolitan Recreation & Park District
Northwest		Town of Red Cliff
Northwest		Town of Carbondale Parks & Recreation Dept.
Northwest		Summit County Open Space and Trails
Northwest		Town of Collbran
Northwest		Town of Frisco
Northwest		Town of Grand Lake
Northwest		Town of New Castle Recreation Department
Northwest		Town of Breckenridge
Northwest		Town of Kremmling
Northwest		Fraser Valley Metropolitan Recreation District
Northwest		Glenwood Springs Parks and Recreation
Northwest		Mesa County
Northwest		City of Fruita, Parks and Recreation
Northwest		Town of Meeker
Northwest		Breckenridge Recreation Department
Northwest		Eagle County Open Space
Northwest		Moffat County Government
Northwest		Craig Parks & Recreation
South Central		Town of Moffat
South Central		El Paso County Parks
South Central		Town of La Jara
South Central		Canon City Area Recreation and Park District
South Central		Echo Valley Estates Metropolitan Recreation & Park District
South Central		Town of Brookside
South Central		Cheyenne Creek Metropolitan Park & Water District
South Central		City of Creede
South Central		Town of Alma
South Central		City of Fort Morgan Parks Department
South Central		Town of Fairplay

South Central		City of Monte Vista Recreation Department
South Central		Park County Community & Recreation Development
South Central		Town of Rockvale
South Central		City of Salida
South Central		Teller County
South Central		City of Leadville
South Central		City of Florence
South Central		City of Woodland Park
South Central		Town of Manassa
South Central		Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
South Central		Town of Westcliffe
South Central		City of Alamosa
South Central		Town of Palmer Lake
South Central		Town of Crestone
South Central		City of Cripple Creek Parks and Recreation
South Central		Lake County Recreation
Southeast		Kiowa County Central Recreation District
Southeast		Town of Pritchett
Southeast		Town of Wiley
Southeast		City of Pueblo - Parks and Recreation
Southeast		Town of Haswell
Southeast		Crowley County
Southeast		Town of Rye
Southeast		Town of Manzanola
Southeast		Pueblo County Dept. of Public Works
Southeast		City of Lamar, Colorado
Southeast		Town of Eads
Southwest		Town of Mountain Village
Southwest		City of Montrose Community Development Department
Southwest		Delta County GIS
Southwest		Town of Ignacio
Southwest		La Plata County Public Works
Southwest		Town of Hotchkiss
Southwest		Montezuma County Community Services
Southwest		Town of Pagosa Springs
Southwest		Town of Bayfield Parks and Recreation
Southwest		City of Durango
Southwest		City of Gunnison Parks and Recreation
Southwest		Town of Paonia
Southwest		Town of Crawford
Southwest		Gunnison County
Southwest		Town of Telluride
Southwest		San Miguel County Open Space and Recreation Dept.
Southwest		Town of Silverton

Southwest		Town of Mancos
Southwest		City of Delta Parks Department
Southwest		Town of Crested Butte
Southwest		Archuleta County
Southwest		Gunnison County Metropolitan Recreation District

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