


## Appendix E. Public input on the draft Golden Gate Canyon State Park Management Plan

The draft management plan was released via CPW's website on March 15, 2023. A public comment period from March 15 - April 15, 2023 was advertised using a press release, information posted on CPW's website, social media, and through State Parks e-news. A flyer was also posted at the Visitor Center at the Park, and an announcement was published in Denver Post's outdoor newsletter, "Adventurist." An overview of the management plan was given to the public and Parks and Wildlife Commission (PWC) on March 15, 2023 at the PWC's meeting in Aurora, CO. CPW received public comments through an online comment form. Thirty four members of the public submitted feedback.

**Flyer posted at Golden Gate Canyon State Park's Visitor Center during the comment period:**

C O L O R A D O P A R K S & W I L D L I F E

## Help shape the future of YOUR Golden Gate Canyon State Park!




CPW is updating the **Golden Gate Canyon State Park Management Plan**. Containing more than 12,000 acres of beauty ranging in elevation from 7,280 to 10,388 feet, Golden Gate Canyon State Park offers a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities within a 1-hour drive of the Denver metro area. GGSCP is Colorado's third largest State Park and welcomes over 1.5 million visitors per year.

The draft Management Plan is a 10-year plan that sets goals for the Park and provides direction on preserving high quality visitor experiences into the future while conserving the Park's natural and cultural resources.

**You can help shape the future of Golden Gate Canyon State Park.**

We are accepting public comments through March 15 - April 15, 2023 at:

[cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/Parks/GoldenGateCanyon](http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/Parks/GoldenGateCanyon)



# Screenshot of Golden Gate Canyon State Park's website during the comment period:

The screenshot shows the Colorado Parks & Wildlife website for Golden Gate Canyon. The top navigation bar includes 'HOME', 'Calendar', 'Contact Us', and a search bar. The main header reads 'COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE'. Below this, there are tabs for 'Things To Do', 'Learn', 'Places To Go', 'About Us', and 'Buy & Apply'. The breadcrumb trail indicates the location: 'Colorado Parks and Wildlife > Places To Go > Parks > Golden Gate Canyon'.

**Golden Gate Canyon**

- Camping, Cabins, Yurts & Guest House
- Fees
- Group Camping & Facilities
- Jobs
- Local Attractions
- Maps and Directions
- Nature
- Park Activities
- Park Conditions
- Park Facilities
- Publications
- Traffic
- Volunteer

**Park Office:**  
75 Coated Oak Road  
Golden, CO 80463

**Park Hours:**  
8 AM - 10 PM

**Office Hours:**  
Visitor Center is Closed Due to Construction. Please Visit The Reverend's Ridge Campground Office.

**Campground Office Hours:**  
Open: Tuesday-Sunday  
Non-Open

**Campground:**  
(303) 642-3900

**Phone:**  
(303) 642-3767

**Email:**  
GoldenGatePark@State.Co.US

### Golden Gate Canyon

**Like Us On Facebook!**

Golden Gate Canyon State Park  
1,000+ Followers

Follow Page

Selfie Photos and...

**Events**

Earth Day Celebration  
Saturday, April 22

Save the date and come celebrate Earth Day with us! On Saturday, April 22nd, we will be having an Earth Day celebration with nature based activities and a ranger led guided hike. Fun for all ages! If you and your family and friends are interested, sign up with the google form link below. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Visitor Center**

**! PARK ALERT !**

The visitor center will be closed due to construction starting Monday, April 10th. For any park information and needs please visit the Reverend's Ridge's Campground Office from 9am-4pm, Tuesday-Sunday or call: 303-642-3854.

**Road Delays and/or Closures**

**Drew Hill Road**

Jefferson County Road and Bridge will be replacing a culvert on Drew Hill Road - Southeast entry of the park - starting March 16. Expect delays and possibly a full closure. Please contact Jefferson County Road and Bridge at 303-271-5200 for further details.

**Mountain Base Road**

Mountain Base Road will be closed for the season starting November 16, 2022.

Directions to Gap Road to access Reverend's Ridge Campground, Panorama Point, and multiple trailheads during closure: From the intersection of Mountain Base Road and HWY 46, follow HWY 46 west for four miles to HWY 119. Take a right on HWY 119 and head north for three miles then turn right into Gap Road.

**Golden Gate Canyon State Park**

**Input Needed - Golden Gate Canyon State Park Management Plan**

**Deadline:** All comments are due by April 15, 2022.

Please review the [draft Golden Gate Canyon State Park Management Plan](#) and [submit your comments online](#) by the deadline.

Thank you for taking time to comment. Your opinion is important to us.

Comment Form (available via Google Forms):

# Golden Gate Canyon State Park DRAFT Management Plan

Thank you for taking time to comment. Your opinion is important to us.

\* Required

1. Approximately how often do you visit Golden Gate Canyon State Park? (Please select one.) \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Once a week
- Once a month
- Once every few months
- Once a year
- Once every few years
- I have never visited

2. What activities do you enjoy at Golden Gate Canyon State Park? (Please check all that apply.) \*

*Check all that apply.*

- Camping (nonelectric)
- Camping (electric)
- Walking/hiking
- Leaf Peeping
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Watching wildlife
- Picnicking
- Other trail use (bike, horse)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Where is your primary residence? (Please select one.) \*

*Check all that apply.*

- Golden
- Denver Metro Area
- Boulder
- Fort Collins
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Please indicate whether you disagree or agree with the following statements about \* the draft management plan. (Please select one response per row.)

*Mark only one oval per row.*

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
<b>It is clear to me what CPW may do at Golden Gate Canyon State Park in the coming years.</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>I am satisfied with the long-term management approach to balance resource protection and provide quality visitor experiences</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>I believe the plan appropriately supports CPW and Park Goals</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. A majority of the park land is zoned "natural" or "protected," as seen in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 discusses how these areas and resources will be protected in to the future. Do you have other ideas or priorities that CPW should consider in regards to the park's wildlife, plants, water and other natural resources?

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6. Do you have ideas for improving or maintaining the park that you did not see in the draft plan?

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7. What additional information can Golden Gate Canyon State Park and CPW provide in the future that would be useful for planning your visit?

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8. How would you prefer to receive updates and information on Golden Gate Canyon State Park?

*Check all that apply.*

- Through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Website
- Social Media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- Email
- Signage at Golden Gate Canyon State Park
- Mail/Flyers
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Please provide any additional comments you have on the draft management plan.

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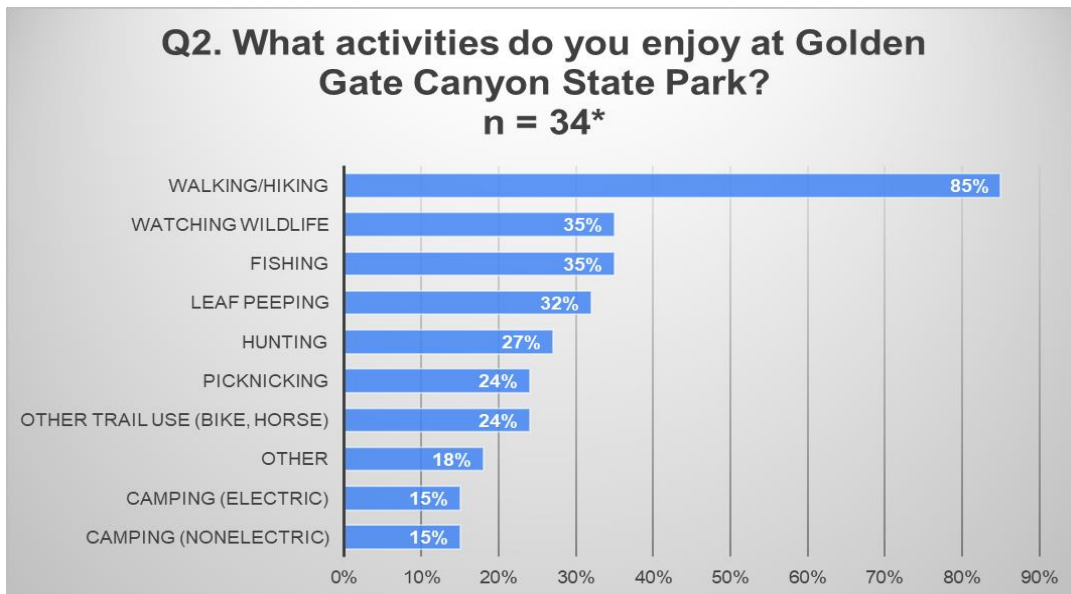
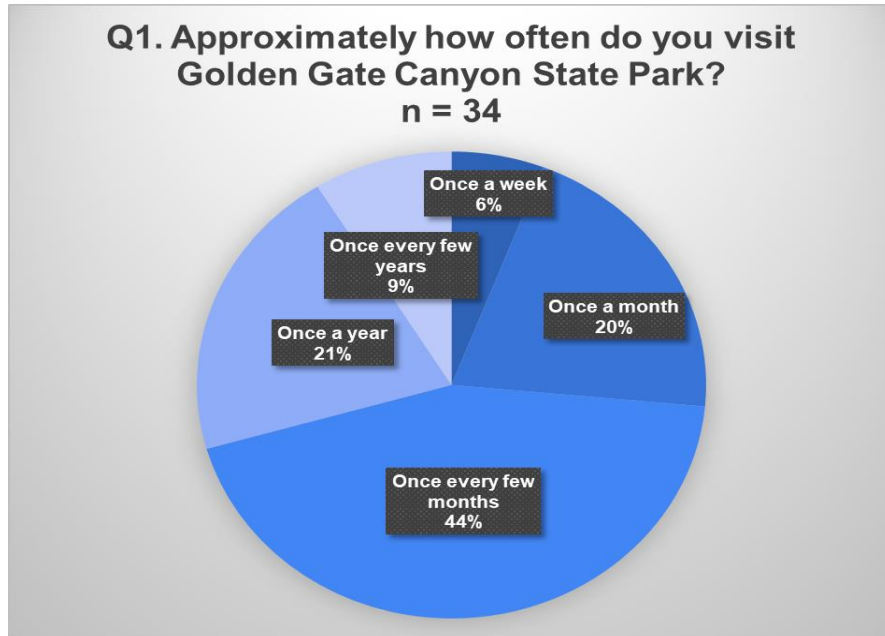
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**Results:**

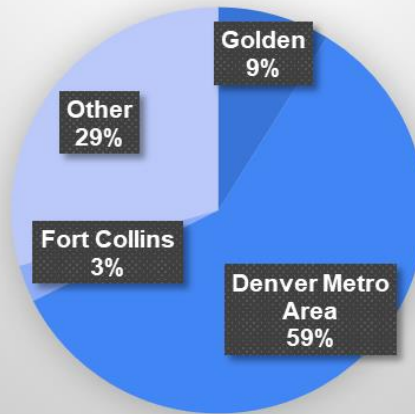
The input received via the comment form was greatly appreciated. The comments were positive and supportive of CPW, Golden Gate Canyon State Park, and the draft management plan.

Q1-Q3. Information about respondents



\* Respondents could check all that apply

### Q3. Where is your primary residence? (n=34)

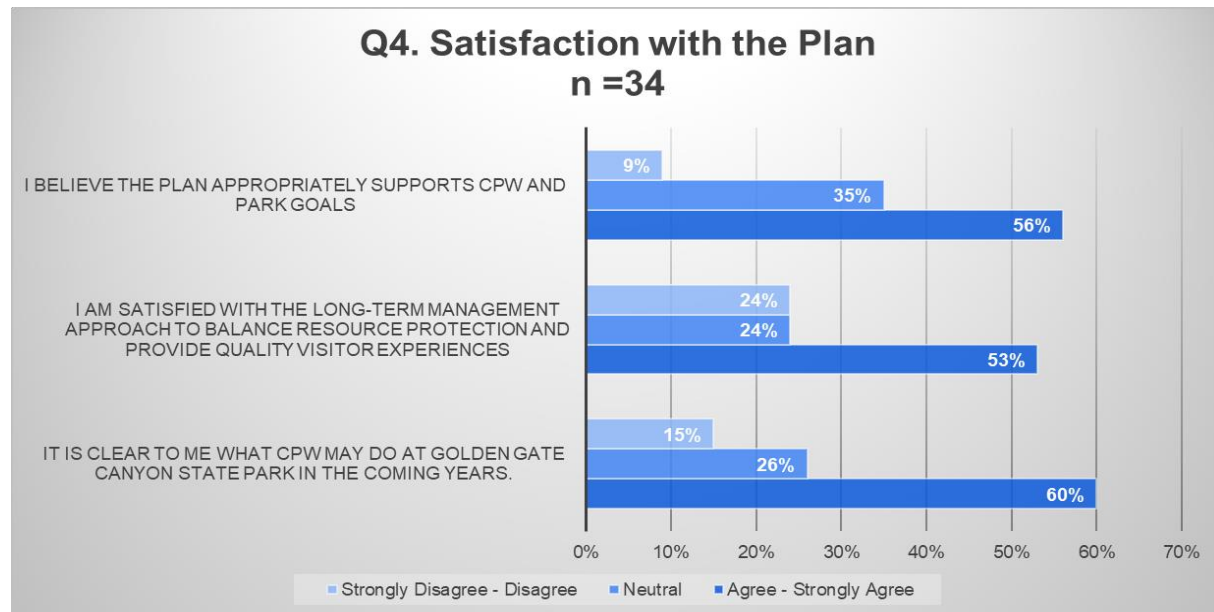


When asked the location of their primary residence, most respondents selected the Denver Metro Area. Of the 29% that selected Other, 40% wrote in locations near the park (e.g. Coal Creek Canyon, Black Hawk) with the remaining writing in various locations along the Front Range from Longmont to Colorado Springs.

### Q4. Overall response to draft plan

All 34 respondents submitted answers to all options in this question.

### Q4. Satisfaction with the Plan n = 34



A majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with all statements indicating high satisfaction with the management plan.



## Open-ended comments (Questions 5,6,7 & 9)

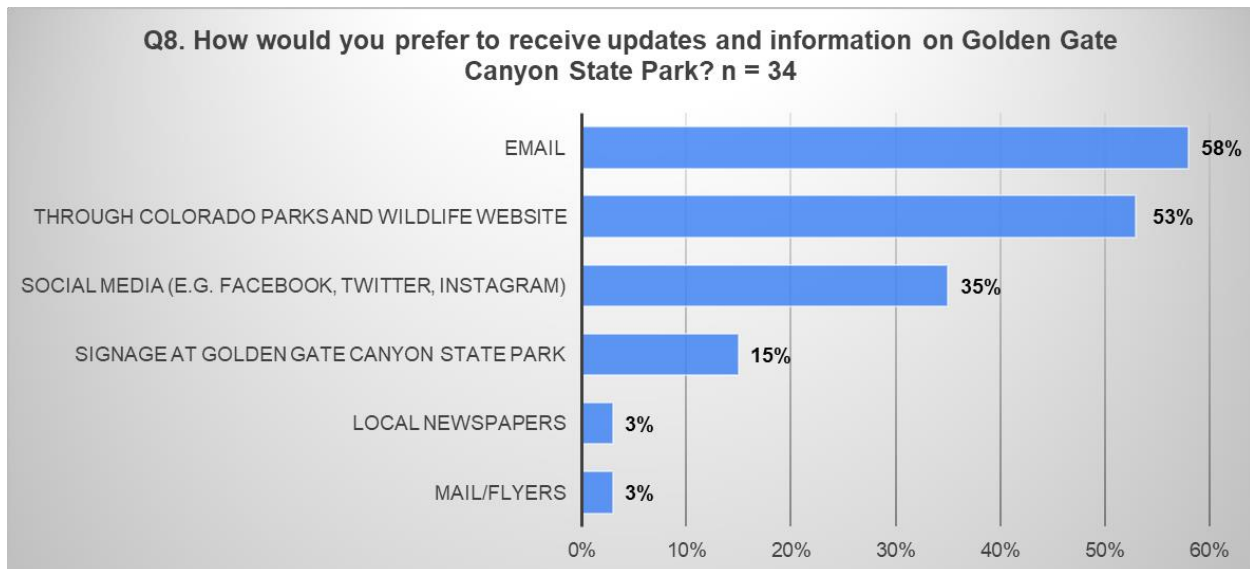
Respondents provided many additional comments for open-ended questions. These questions garnered 13 - 19 responses which generally supported the management approach put forth in the draft plan. Several individuals thanked CPW for their efforts to continue improving the park and for the opportunity to submit public comments. In general comments supported the following:

- Long-term protection for Green Ranch and other areas of the Park zoned “Protected” and “Natural”
  - In addition, some comments reflected support of continuing natural resource management through forest management and improving the fisheries at popular ponds.
- Limiting future development and new infrastructure
- Maintaining hunting opportunities
  - A few people would like expanded opportunities including a suggestion of a Spring Turkey season on Green Ranch
  - One person did ask for a ban on all hunting in the Park
- Increasing “people power” (i.e., more staff and volunteers) to enforce dog off leash regulations, maintain and improve trails, monitor natural resources, inform visitors about cleaning up fishing lines and campsites, surveillance for accidental fires, etc.
- Increasing and improving trail signage
  - Suggestions include: more signage at intersections, using QR codes, promoting COTREX (CPW’s trails app)
  - One person noted that the emergency locator signs in the backcountry (every tenth of a mile on some trails) detracted from their visual experience
- Increasing information about when and where the Park is busy
  - Five respondents indicated that they were satisfied with the updates that the Park currently provides. Three respondents indicated that they would like updates concerning crowding or parking availability. Other desired information includes trail conditions such as mud or changing leaf colors in the fall.
- Concerns for the trail system
  - There is support to reduce social trails, increase maintenance and consider changing management of multi-use (i.e., hiking and biking on the same trails)

Most of the comments asking for more information or those with concerns were outside of the scope of this plan and are related to larger scale issues for Colorado and CPW’s statewide park system. These topics included:

- Improving cell phone coverage (primarily for emergencies) in the backcountry
- Limiting the number of visitors to parks (overall visitation and via group size limitations)
- Addressing the implementation of the “Keep Colorado Wild” pass and its associated funding
- Allowing a lottery for popular campsite reservations

## Q8. How respondents would prefer to receive park updates



- Overall, a majority of respondents would prefer online methods for receiving news updates.
- Physical methods – such as flyers and signage – were less popular.

### **Management Implications:**

As a result of the input that CPW received, several changes have been made to the final management plan. The plan will now include a Management Initiative (see Chapter 5) regarding a trails plan/assessment; clarification that Panorama Point's deck (location of the Ken R. Larkin Overlook) will be upgraded, not replaced; adding unknown impacts of "Keep Colorado Wild" implementation to "Management Considerations" and bolded text on where to find information about the indigenous peoples and history of the park.