William F. Hayden Park Plan

Phase 1 Engagement Summary

July – August 2025

Overview

The goal of Phase 1 outreach was to gather community input on how people use the park, what improvements they want, and their vision for the park's future. Through this effort, we engaged more than *2,500 community members*.

Date	Engagement Opportunity	Page
July 9th	Field Survey #1	4
July 19th	Field Survey #2	10
June 20th - August 4th	Neighborhood Online Survey	16
June 20th - August 4th	Public Online Survey	36

Key Takeaways

Phase 1 engagement revealed that visitors value recreation, nature, and convenient access, with most coming to hike, bike, run, or walk dogs. Experiences were largely positive, highlighting the park's peaceful atmosphere and scenic views. Park users expressed overcrowding during peak seasons and on weekends, with some conflict between bikers and hikers. Community input emphasized small-scale improvements while underscoring the need to preserve open space, protect ecology, and avoid overprogramming or overdevelopment.

Combined Field Survey Takeaways:

The project team conducted field surveys at two primary Hayden Park trailheads: Rooney Road Parking and Florida Parking on July 9th and July 19th. A total of 126 participants (67 participants at Rooney Road parking and 59 participants at Florida parking) provided input to help capture on-the-ground park use patterns and supplement trail counter data provided by the City. The field survey was designed to gather insights on how the park is used today, what improvements visitors would like to see, and the broader community's goals for the future of the park.

Park users value recreation opportunities, interaction with nature and wildlife, and the park's proximity to home and work. Most visitors take a loop route on Green Mountain Trail, John O. Hayden Trail, or Rooney Valley Trail, with hiking, biking, running, and dog-walking as the most common activities.

Top-supported park management strategies include maintaining multi-use trails, promoting trail etiquette, and designating trail uses where needed. Visitors overwhelmingly report positive experiences, praising the park's peaceful atmosphere, scenic views, and well-maintained trails. The park is especially valued for its convenience, routine use for exercise and wellness, and easy access from home and work.

Crowding is most common on weekends and near trailheads, though most visitors describe interactions as respectful and manageable. Desired improvements focus on amenities and safety, such as restrooms, benches, shade, clearer signage, ongoing maintenance, and enforcement. Visitors also support practical management measures, like education, ranger presence, and clear communication, to preserve the park's welcoming environment.

Neighborhood Online Survey Takeaways:

To gather localized input, the City of Lakewood conducted a neighborhood survey from June 20th to August 4th through a targeted postcard campaign to residents within 2,000 feet of the park boundaries. A total of 3,542 postcards were mailed to these households. The effort resulted in 333 survey responses.

Of the 333 neighborhood survey respondents, most are hikers who visit the park several times a week, typically entering through nearby neighborhood access points. The valued park assets include the multi-use natural surface trails, enforcement of park regulations, and park signage. Most respondents are highly satisfied with their park experience.

Their top priorities for future improvements include maintaining existing trails, developing new trails, creating designated wildlife or conservation areas, and providing designed-use trails. The most important long-term goals for the park are preserving wildlife, promoting low-impact recreation, and preventing overuse and environmental damage.

Public Online Survey Takeaways:

The City of Lakewood launched a broad online public survey from June 20th to August. In total, 2,057 community members participated in the survey. Survey respondents were more regional, with participation nearly evenly split between Lakewood residents and non-residents, while the majority, 80%, live within Jefferson County.

Of the 2,057 public survey respondents, the majority are mountain bikers who visit the park less frequently, either once a month or a few times in total, typically entering through Rooney Road and nearby neighborhood access points. The valued park assets include the multi-use natural surface trails, enforcement of park regulations, and parking availability. Most are satisfied with their park experience. Those who visit less often cite the trails do not meet their needs, overcrowding, and lack of time as the main reasons.

Their top priorities for future improvements include developing new trails, providing designated-use trails, maintaining existing trails, and wildlife or conservation areas. The most important long-term goals for the park are preserving wildlife, promoting low-impact recreation, and preventing overuse and environmental damage.

Public comments overwhelmingly noted the lack of intermediate mountain biking trails in the Denver metro area, highlighting Hayden Park as a rare and valued destination for this activity. There were also persistent requests for more mountain bike trails with technical features, downhill runs, and flow elements to better serve intermediate and advanced riders.

Appendix

William F. Hayden Park Plan

Field Survey Pop-Up #1 Summary

July 9th, 2025: Hayden Park

Summary

The project team conducted field surveys at two primary Hayden Park trailheads: Rooney Road and Florida. A total of **45 participants** provided input to help capture on-the-ground use patterns and supplement trail counter data provided by the City. The survey questionnaire was designed to gather insights on how the park is used today, what improvements visitors would like to see, and the broader community's goals for the park's future.

Results

Question 1: What makes this area special to you?

"Other" write-in responses emphasized the area's **convenient location**, easy access from home and work, and its peaceful landscape. Visitors also highlighted its value for routine **exercise and wellness, with scenic views, wildflowers**, and a strong sense of **safety** contributing to a positive experience.

Question 2: How was your experience at the park today?

1. Overwhelmingly **positive experiences** with users frequently describing visits as "good," "great," "positive," and even "amazing" or "spiritual."
2. High satisfaction with **parking availability, safety, and signage**.

Question 3: Typical trail route?

Top 3 most used trails:

Green Mountain (59.6%)
Rooney Valley Trail (26.9%)
John O. Hayden Trail (17.3%)

This count also included the dots collected on the boards. See appendix.

Question 4: Mode of travel?

Question 5: Have you previously experienced overcrowding or trail conflicts at the park?

"Other" responses emphasized positive experiences with **minimal crowding or conflict, even during peak times**, and **interactions between hikers and bikers are generally respectful**. **Parking is typically available**, and while some mention **occasional congestion** or large bike groups, it's considered manageable compared to other parks.

Question 6: What management strategies are you in support of exploring for reducing trail conflicts, if any?

Designated usage= Only one specific user type (Hikers only, Bikers only, Horses only)

Alternate Day Use= Ex: Hikers even, Bikers odd

"Other" responses expressed interest in **more amenities like bathrooms, benches, and shaded seating**, as well as **clearer signage** and **better communication about closures**. Some requested **expanded trail access**, especially on the north side, and **raised concerns about off-leash dogs, e-bikes, and trail safety**. Overall, many appreciated current park maintenance but saw room for **improvement in enforcement, infrastructure, and user experience.**

Appendix

Boards:

Dots were placed on the Hayden Park Map to indicate which trails visitors frequently use.

Florida Trailhead:

William F. Hayden Park on Green Mountain
TRAIL MAP KEY
GREEN MOUNTAIN TRAIL: 6.5 MILE LOOP
JOHN O. HAYDEN TRAIL: 1.68 MILES
ROONEY VALLEY TRAIL: 3.43 MILES
SUMMIT LOOP TRAIL: 2.95 MILES
NORTH ACCESS TRAIL: 1.98 MILES
BOX O' ROX TRAIL: 2.09 MILES
NARROW POINT TRAIL: .87 MILES
BOX O' ROX CONNECTOR
ROONEY VALLEY TRAIL CONNECTOR
ACCESS TRAILS
C-470 BICYCLE TRAIL
POINTS OF INTEREST
Green Mountain Summit (6,854 ft)
Radio Tower
ACCESS POINTS
Pedestrian & Bicycle Access
Parking & Trail Access
Primary Vehicle Access
Rooney Trailhead
1000 S. Rooney Rd.
Trail Elevation Profiles
Elevation (ft)
6,800
6,600
6,400
6,200
6,000
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
N
70
470
470
Summit Loop Trail
North Access Trail
Rooney Valley Trail
Green Mountain Trail
John O. Hayden Trail
C-470 Trail
Box O' Rox
Thunder Valley Motorcycle Park
Narrow Point Trail
Mom's Hill
Union Square Park
Foothills Park
Mountaindale Park
Peterson Park
Lakewood Skatepark
Green Mountain Recreation Center
Beech Park
Ravines Open Space
Hutchinson Pathway
Lite Trail Lower Ravine
Forsberg Park
Sonterra Central Corridor
W Alameda Pkwy
W Exposition Dr
W Cedar Dr
W Bayaud Ave
W Maple Ave
W Ohio Ave
W Mississippi Ave
W Louisiana Ave
W Green Mountain Dr
W Idaho Dr
W Florida Dr
W Hawaii Ave
W Montana Ave
W Montana Pl
W Montana Dr
W Utah Ave
W Utah Cir
W Warren Ave
W Evans Ave
W Evans Cir
W Dakota Pl
W Alaska Pl
W Virginia Dr
W Cedar Pl
W Ellsworth Ave
W Archer Ave
W Archer Cir
W Bayaud Dr
W Maple Cir
S Rogers Way
S Kipling St
S Tupine St
S Holman Way
S Sheridan Blvd
S Dover Way
S Dafrane St
S Zang Way
S Zang St
S Van Gordon St
S Kendall St
S Kipling St
S Kenton Ct
S Van Gordon Ct
S Wright St
S Wadsworth Blvd
S Yarrow St
S Yukon St
S Xanadu St
S Wyandot St
S Cody St
S Chase Dr
S Brentwood St
S Arvada St
S Value St
S Foothill Dr
S Birch Ct
S Ammons St
S Ivy St
S Ivy Ct
S Yarrow St
S Yukon St
S Xanadu St
S Wyandot St
S Wright St
S Wright Ct
S Yarrow Ct
S Yukon Ct
S Xanadu Ct
S Wyandot Ct
S Wadsworth Blvd
S Van Gordon Ct
S Kendall St
S Kipling St
S Kipling Ct
S Kenton Ct
S Van Gordon Ct
S Wright St
S Wadsworth Blvd
S Sheridan Blvd
S Moss St
S Mc Intyre St
S Mc Intyre Ct
S Dover Way
S Dafrane St
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Rooney Trailhead:

William F. Hayden Park on Green Mountain
TRAIL MAP KEY
GREEN MOUNTAIN TRAIL: 6.5 MILE LOOP
JOHN O. HAYDEN TRAIL: 1.68 MILES
ROONEY VALLEY TRAIL: 3.43 MILES
SUMMIT LOOP TRAIL: 2.95 MILES
NORTH ACCESS TRAIL: 1.98 MILES
BOX O' ROX TRAIL: 2.09 MILES
NARROW POINT TRAIL: .87 MILES
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Green Mountain Summit (6,854 ft)
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Rooney Trailhead
1000 S. Rooney Rd.
Trail Elevation Profiles
Elevation (ft)
6,800
6,600
6,400
6,200
6,000
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
For more trail information, please visit Lakewood Trail Explorer.
Lakewood
Parks
Summit Loop Trail
Rooney Valley Trail
North Access Trail
Green Mountain Trail
John O. Hayden Trail
Box O' Rox
Narrow Point Trail
Mom's Hill
Union Square Park
Mountainside Park
Foothills Park
Peterson Park
Lakewood Skatepark
Green Mountain Recreation Center
Beach Park
Ravines Open Space
Hutchinson Pathway
Ute Trail Lower Ravine
Forsberg Park
Solterra Central Corridor
Thunder Valley Motorcycle Park
C-470 Trail
Alameda Parkway
Kipling Parkway
Sheridan Blvd
Wadsworth Blvd
Simms St
Kipling St
Yarrow St
Youngfield St
Green Mountain Dr
Alameda Ave
Colfax Ave
Cedar Ave
Hampden Ave
Exposition Dr
Mississippi Ave
Ohio Ave
Alaska Pl
Dakota Pl
Cedar Dr
Maple Ave
Bayaud Ave
Archer Ave
Ellsworth Ave
Holman Way
Campus Loop Dr
Sand Way
Louisiana Ave
Idaho Dr
Florida Dr
Hawaii Ave
Montana Ave
Montana Pl
Montana Dr
Utah Ave
Warren Ave
Evans Cir
Sundance Dr
Sierra St
Moss St
Sheridan Blvd
Kipling Parkway
Wadsworth Blvd
Yarrow St
Youngfield St
Simms St
Kipling St
Sheridan Blvd
Wadsworth Blvd
Kipling Parkway
Alameda Parkway
Green Mountain Dr

William F. Hayden Park Plan

Field Survey Pop-Up #2 Summary

July 19th, 2025: Hayden Park

Summary

The project team conducted field surveys at two primary Hayden Park trailheads: Rooney Road and Florida. A total of **82 participants** provided input to help capture on-the-ground use patterns and supplement trail counter data provided by the City. The survey tool was designed to gather insights on how the park is used today, what improvements visitors would like to see, and the broader community's goals for the park's future.

Results

Question 1: What makes this area special to you?

"Other" write-in responses emphasized the area's **proximity to their home or work**. Visitors also highlighted its value for routine **exercise, scenic views, and well-kept maintenance of the trails**.

Question 2: How was your experience at the park today?

1. Visitors consistently had positive experiences at the park, frequently describing it as "great," "wonderful," and "excellent," with many praising the well-maintained trails and peaceful atmosphere.

2. Some noted occasional challenges like parking congestion, trail conflicts, or muddy conditions.

Question 3: Typical trail route?

Top 3 most used trails:

Green Mountain (62.2%)
John O. Hayden Trail (41.5%)
Rooney Valley Trail (34.1%)

Question 4: Mode of travel?

Question 5: Have you previously experienced overcrowding or trail conflicts at the park?

"Other" responses expressed experiencing **overcrowding**, especially on weekends and near trailheads, with some noting it has increased since COVID. However, several respondents said **early mornings or weekdays offer a more peaceful experience**, and trail conflicts are **generally minimal and respectful.**

Question 6: What management strategies are you in support of exploring for reducing trail conflicts, if any?

“Other” responses expressed **strong appreciation for the park** and its current trail system, while offering thoughtful suggestions to enhance safety, comfort, and user experience. Key concerns included **blind corners, trail maintenance after rain, dog waste, and limited amenities** like shade and restrooms. While there was only moderate support for more managed use of trails, many supported practical improvements such as **better signage, yield education, and increased ranger presence** to preserve the park’s welcoming and respectful atmosphere.

Appendix

Boards:

Dots were placed on the Hayden Park Map to indicate which trails visitors frequently use.

Florida Trailhead:

Rooney Trailhead:

William F. Hayden Park Plan

Current Use and Future Vision Survey – Postcard/Neighborhood

Survey Promotion

To gather localized input the City of Lakewood administered the Hayden Park Current Use and Future Vision Survey using a targeted postcard campaign focusing on residents living within a 2,000-foot distance from the park boundary. A total of **3,542 postcards** were mailed to these households, inviting them to share their perspectives on how the City of Lakewood could best serve the growing park community while protecting its natural resources. The effort resulted in **333 survey responses**, between June 20th and August 4th, 2025, from residents living close to the park.

Demographics

Of the 333 neighborhood survey respondents, nearly all **(99.6%) are Lakewood residents**, with 100% living in Jefferson County. A large majority **(88.97%) reside in Ward 4,** and **99% reported 80228** as their Zip Code. Most respondents **(84%) self-identified as white.**

Most survey responses come from respondents with deep roots in the area: **40% have lived in Lakewood for over 20 years**, 22% for 10–19 years, 20% for 5–9 years, 15% for 2–4 years, and just 2% for one year or less. Respondents tend to be older, with **36% over age 60, 37% between 41–60**, 21% between 31–40, and only 6% between 18–30. Additionally**, 73% reported having no children under 18 in their household.**

Key Takeaways

Of the 333 neighborhood survey respondents, most are **hikers** who visit the park **several times a week**, typically entering through nearby **neighborhood access points.** The valued park assets include the **multi-use natural surface trails, enforcement of park regulations, and park signage**. Seventy-five percent are highly satisfied with their park experience; those who visit less often cite lack of time and age or mobility limitations as the main reasons.

Respondents generally seek park information onsite or through the website and are satisfied with the quality of that information. Their top priorities for future improvements **include maintaining existing trails, developing new trails, creating designated wildlife or conservation areas, and providing designed-use trails**. The most important long-term

goals for the park are **preserving wildlife, promoting low-impact recreation, and preventing overuse and environmental damage.**

Survey Results

Question 1: In the past 12 months, how often have you visited Hayden Park?

Question 2: How many people are typically in your group when visiting Hayden Park?

Question 3: In the past 12 months, how have you primarily spent time at Hayden Park?

"Other" responses expressed primarily spending their time at the park engaging in outdoor recreation such as hiking, mountain biking, walking, and enjoying nature, often with family, pets, or for relaxation.

Question 4: How do you typically enter Hayden Park?

The most frequent neighborhood entrances are:

- Green Mountain Estates (Virginia/Exposition/Dakota/Cole cluster)
- South Foothill Dr (Cedar/Alkire/Ohio connections)
- Solterra & Forsberg Park Tunnel
- Florida Lot / Utah Trailhead
- Center Drive access points
- North Access Trail (Indiana / Mesa View area)

Question 5: Please rate how important the following are to your current experience when visiting Hayden Park. (Very important, Somewhat important, Not important)

Results: **Multi-use natural surface trails, enforcement of park regulations,** and **signs and information kiosks** were ranked the most important.

Question 6: How would you rate your current level of satisfaction with your experience at Hayden Park and why?

"Other" responses expressed deep appreciation for the park's **natural beauty, accessibility, and well-maintained trails**, while also highlighting concerns about **crowding, off-leash dogs, safety conflicts** between bikers and hikers, and a desire to preserve the park's peaceful, undeveloped character. Suggestions included **better signage, shade, trail maintenance, safer crossings, and more considerate trail use** to improve safety and enjoyment for all visitors.

Question 7: Why don't you visit Hayden Park more often? (Select all that apply)

"Other" responses expressed concerns about **extreme heat, lack of shade, and the presence of rattlesnakes**, particularly in the summer, which limited their frequency of visits. Some noted personal constraints such as **age, illness, mobility issues, or busy schedules**, while others mentioned a **preference for variety, seasonal use, or discomfort with trail conditions, bike congestion, or safety concerns.**

Question 8: Where do you prefer to look for information about Hayden Park? (Choose all that apply)

Question 9: How would you rate the City of Lakewood in providing information about Wiliam F. Hayden Park?

"Other" responses expressed **little need or interest in seeking information about the park,** often because they live nearby, visit regularly, or were unaware resources existed. Some noted **difficulty accessing accurate or timely updates**, especially about trail closures.

Question 10: What would you most like to see improved or added to William F. Hayden Park? (Rank top 3 ONLY)

Increased interpretive or educational signage
Accessible facilities and trail experiences
Designated wildlife or habitat conservation areas
Restrooms facilities
A parking monitoring system to provide real-time parking availability
Ranger/park staff presence
Incline steps feature
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
First choice
Second choice
Third choice

Results: The **improved maintenance of existing trails** (1st priority), **development of new trails** (2nd priority), **and designated used trails** as well as **designated wildlife or habitat conservation areas** (3rd priority) were ranked as the highest priorities.

Question 11: How important are the following goals for the future of the park? (Rank each)

Results: **Preserving wildlife habitat** and **promoting low-impact recreation and protecting against overuse and environmental damage** are the top two most important goals.

Question 12: What makes this area special to you? What would you want to preserve at Hayden Park?

293 comments

1. **Proximity and Access**
    - **a.** Many respondents deeply value the park's close access from their homes and neighborhoods, describing it as their "backyard" and a key reason for living in the area.
    - **b.** Accessible paths and amenities allow people of different abilities and ages to enjoy the park.

   c. Appreciation for the quiet, non-commercial environment that allows diverse activities to coexist.

2. **Wildlife and Natural Beauty**
   a. There is a strong appreciation for the park's wildlife, native plants, and natural features, with calls to preserve its ecological integrity and protect habitats.
   b. Views were often called "peaceful," "beautiful," and "a retreat from the city."
   c. Support for keeping the park's rustic, low-impact feel rather than making it more developed or "programmed."
3. **Park Cleanliness and Responsible Use**
   a. Many note the park is generally kept clean and respected by visitors.
   b. Fear that new amenities or larger parking capacity will attract significantly more visitors, stressing trails, facilities, and natural areas.
   c. A desire to maintain or improve visitor education on "leave no trace" principles.
4. **Trail Use and Etiquette**
   a. Trails are frequently mentioned as beloved assets, with interest in maintaining or enhancing them while minimizing user conflict (especially between bikers and hikers), enforcing closures, and reducing trail widening or erosion.
   b. Suggestions for clearer trail etiquette education, enforcement of leash laws, speed limits for bikes, and signs.
5. **Community Connection and Local Value**
   a. The park is seen as a peaceful, quiet refuge from city life, valued not only for recreation but for mental well-being, solitude, and as a cherished community asset.
   b. Many see the park as a place to connect with nature close to home without the need for major travel.
   c. Fear that increased tourism might shift the park's identity away from being a community resource toward becoming a regional attraction.

Question 13: What is your level of support for each of the following focus areas at Wiliam F. Hayden Park?

Question 22: Provide any other comments you want to share regarding William F. Hayden Park.

126 comments

1. **Preserve the Natural Character and Wildlife**
    a. Strong opposition to development, new infrastructure, and increased programming.
    b. Deep appreciation for the wild, natural state of the park and its value as a habitat for wildlife.
    c. Repeated calls to "leave it alone", maintain current access, and avoid urbanizing the park.
2. **Manage Overcrowding and Maintain the Visitor Experience**
    a. Concerns about overcrowding, particularly since the COVID pandemic.
    b. Mixed views on parking: some want more parking, while others worry it would draw too many visitors.
    c. Many caution against expanding parking lots, adding picnic tables, or new trails that could change the park's character or damage wildlife.
    d. Recognition that the park is already well-used and works best when left relatively simple.
3. **User Conflicts and Trail Etiquette**

a. Ongoing tension between hikers and bikers, especially regarding trail safety, speed, and right of way.
b. Suggestions for separating trails by user type or direction (e.g., bike-only/downhill-only trails).
c. Concerns over e-bikes' speed and trail damage, off-leash dogs chasing wildlife, and bike safety (danger to hikers and pets).

4. Requests for Improved Maintenance, Safety, and Amenities

a. Trail maintenance and erosion control are needed, especially on steep or heavily used trails.
b. Desire for better communication on trail closures (e.g., due to mud), signage for animal sightings, and information about trail conditions.
c. Safety improvements like pedestrian crossings or underpasses at busy access points (Alameda and Utah/Florida entrances).
d. Some want modest amenities like nicer bathrooms, shaded rest areas, and family gathering spots that fit the natural theme.
e. Requests to control undesirable activities: loud partying, off-leash dogs, drone use, and loitering.

Appendix

Question 14: Are you a Lakewood resident?

Question 15: If you are a Lakewood resident, what ward do you live in?

Question 16: Are you a Jefferson County resident?

Question 18: How long you resided in the area?

Question 19: What is your age?

Question 20: Children under 18 in the household?

Question 21: What category best describes you?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
White	84.51%	240
Black or African American	0.35%	1
Hispanic, Latino	0.70%	2
Asian	1.06%	3
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.00%	0
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.70%	2
Some other race, ethnically or origin	0.70%	2
Prefer not to say	11.97%	34
TOTAL		284

William F. Hayden Park Plan

Current Use and Future Vision Survey - Public

Survey Promotion

The City of Lakewood launched a broad public survey to gather community input on current use of the park and the vision and goals for the park into the future. The survey was promoted across all City communication channels, including social media platforms, the Friday Report and Community Resources e-newsletters, Lakewood Channel 8, the LakewoodTogether.org e-newsletter, posters in City facilities and parks, Nextdoor, and the *Looking @ Lakewood* publication. The goal was to capture diverse perspectives to help guide decisions that will meet the needs of a growing park user community while safeguarding its natural resources. In total, **2,057 community members** participated in the survey, from June 20th to August 4th, 2025.

Demographics

Of the 2,057 survey respondents**, 54% were Lakewood residents**, with 80% living within Jefferson County. The majority **(65%) reside in Ward 4** and **37% reported the 80228 Zip Code**. Most respondents **(81%) self-identified as white.**

Survey respondents are long-term residents of Lakewood and newcomers: **29% have lived in Lakewood for more than 20 years**, 25% for 10–19 years, 23% for 5–9 years, 20% for 2–4 years, and 4% for one year or less.

Respondents represented diverse age groups, with 16% over age 60, **44% between 41 and 60,** 32% between 31 and 40, 7% between 18 and 30, and 1% under 18. Additionally, 64% reported no children under 18 living in their household.

Key Takeaways

Of the 2,057 public survey respondents, the vast majority are mountain **bikers** who visit the park **less frequently, either once a month or a few times in total**, typically entering through **Rooney Road** and **nearby neighborhood access points.** The valued park assets include the **multi-use natural surface trails, enforcement of park regulations, and parking availability**. About 65% percent are highly satisfied with their park experience; those who visit less often cite the trails do not meet their needs, overcrowding, and lack of time as the main reasons.

Respondents generally seek park information onsite or through the website and are satisfied with the quality of that information. Their top priorities for future improvements

include developing new trails, providing designated-use trails, maintaining existing trails, and wildlife or conservation areas. The most important long-term goals for the park are **preserving wildlife, promoting low-impact recreation, and preventing overuse and environmental damage.**

Public comments overwhelmingly noted the lack of intermediate mountain biking trails in the Denver metro area, highlighting Hayden Park as a **rare and valued destination** for this activity, a sentiment strongly reflected in survey response, along with persistent requests for more mountain bike trails with technical features, downhill runs, and flow elements to better serve intermediate and advanced riders.

Survey Results

Question 1: In the past 12 months, how often have you visited Hayden Park?

Question 2: How many people are typically in your group when visiting Hayden Park?

Question 3: In the past 12 months, how have you primarily spent time at Hayden Park?

"Other" responses expressed a wide variety of recreational uses in the park, with many visitors engaging in **both hiking and mountain biking**, often alongside activities such as running, walking dogs, birdwatching, photography, and viewing wildflowers and wildlife. Several noted they use the park **year-round** for **multi-use purposes**, including e-biking, snowshoeing, family outings, and enjoying scenery and nature.

Question 4: How do you typically enter Hayden Park?

The most frequent neighborhood entrances are:

- Green Mountain Estates (Virginia/Exposition/Mountainside/Foothills cluster)
- Solterra via Forsberg Park tunnel under Alameda
- Mesa View Estates / North Access Trail (Indiana / 6th Ave West)
- Bear Creek Blvd & Alameda/Jewell intersection
- Florida Lot / Utah Trailhead (Alameda & Utah)

Question 5: Please rate how important the following are to your current experience when visiting Hayden Park. (Very important, Somewhat important, Not important)

Results: **Multi-use natural surface trails, enforcement of park regulations, and parking availability** were ranked the most important.

Question 6: How would you rate your current level of satisfaction with your experience at Hayden Park and why?

"Other" responses expressed strong appreciation for the **park's accessibility, scenic beauty, and generally well-maintained trails**, with many noting its value as *a close-to-home* recreational resource. However, common concerns included **overcrowding**, user conflicts, particularly between hikers and mountain bikers, calls for bike-only or hiker-only trails, directional routes, or alternating-use days, as well as requests for more trail variety, **improved signage, expanded maintenance, and better enforcement of rules** such as leash laws and trail etiquette.

Question 7: Why don't you visit Hayden Park more often? (Select all that apply)

"Other" comments expressed appreciation for **the park's scenery, wildlife, and convenient location**, but several said they avoid visiting due to heavy **overcrowding**, fast or frequent mountain bike traffic, and the need to constantly step off the trail. Some cited **user conflicts**, overuse, and a lack of tree cover for shade, which makes the park hot and exposed in summer, as well as muddy, slick conditions after rain. Others preferred quieter locations or noted that the park feels too busy for activities like photography, wildlife viewing, or walking with dogs, and a few mentioned concerns about rattlesnakes during warmer months.

Question 8: Where do you prefer to look for information about Hayden Park? (Choose all that apply)

Question 9: How would you rate the City of Lakewood in providing information about Wiliam F. Hayden Park?

"Other" comments expressed that many visitors **rarely or never seek information** about the park and are often unaware of where to find it, with several noting they do not follow the City of Lakewood or have never seen updates. Some rely on third-party sources like Trailforks, MTB Project, Facebook groups, or COMBA posts instead of official city channels. Others felt trail closure information, especially for mud, was difficult to find, not timely, or unclear, with occasional frustration about confusing or outdated maps and websites. A few mentioned they only look for updates after rain or snow, while others said they've never needed information because they live nearby or know the park well.

Question 10: What would you most like to see improved or added to William F. Hayden Park? (Rank top 3 ONLY)

Results: The **development of new trails** (1st priority), **designated use trails** (2nd priority), **improved maintenance of existing trails** (3rd priority – tied), **designated wildlife or conservation areas** (3rd priority – tied) were ranked as the highest priorities.

Question 11: How important are the following goals for the future of the park? (Rank each)

Results: **Preserving wildlife habitat** and **promoting low-impact recreation and protecting against overuse and environmental damage** are the two most important goals for the future of the park.

Question 12: What makes this area special to you? What would you want to preserve at Hayden Park?

1,788 comments

1. **Accessibility and proximity**
    a. Visitors expressed strong appreciation for the park's proximity and ease of access, noting it is a beautiful and accessible gateway to the foothills.
    b. They value being able to reach the park quickly from home, enter from multiple neighborhoods, and enjoy challenging outdoor activities without traveling far.
2. **Scenic beauty and views**
    a. There is deep appreciation for the park's scenic views, seasonal wildflowers, and rugged natural landscape.
    b. Many praised its unobstructed vistas and proximity to the city while urging that the natural ecosystem be preserved and protected from overdevelopment.
3. **Wildlife protection**

   a. Respondents emphasized the importance of protecting and preserving habitats for elk, deer, foxes, coyotes, and birds.
   b. They value opportunities to observe wildlife and expressed concerns about disturbances, especially from off-leash dogs, threatening these species.
4. **Recreation and trail use**
   a. The park is seen as a premier destination for mountain biking, hiking, and trail running, with many calling it home to the best intermediate bike trails in the area.
   b. Users appreciate its value for beginners and experts alike, while also requesting more bike-specific and downhill trails, improved maintenance, and preserved trail access.
5. **Community connection**
   a. The park inspires a strong sense of local pride, serving as a shared neighborhood resource and daily destination for many residents.
   b. People highlighted the dedication of volunteers, the friendliness of trail users, and the park's role in drawing them to the neighborhood, stressing the importance of maintaining access for future generations.
6. **Preservation and sustainable use**
   a. There is a clear call to protect the park from overuse, erosion, and environmental damage.
   b. Respondents urged sustainable recreation practices, enforcement of trail closures during muddy conditions, and a commitment to keeping the space open and undeveloped to preserve its beauty and ecological health.

Question 13: What is your level of support for each of the following focus areas at Wiliam F. Hayden Park?

Question 22: Provide any other comments you want to share regarding William F. Hayden Park.

778 comments

1. **Trail Improvements, Expansion, and Maintenance**
    - **a.** A large portion of respondents requested more mountain bike trails with technical features, downhill runs, and flow elements to better serve intermediate and advanced riders.
        - **i.** Rooney Trail and lower Box O'Rox were frequently selected for downhill bikers.
    - **b.** Many pointed out erosion issues on neighborhood access trails, especially where steep grades and high trail traffic converge. There were repeated calls for trail rerouting, more sustainable design, and ongoing maintenance.
    - **c.** Ideas included bike-only or directional trails, upgrades to existing routes for variety and challenge, and better drainage in muddy areas. Several

respondents noted that “trail widening” was an issue and should be avoided to preserve the park’s character.

2. **Managing User Conflicts and Trail Etiquette**
    a. Conflicts between bikers and hikers, especially on narrow or busy trails, were mentioned frequently. Many suggested directional trails or alternating-use days to reduce collisions.
    b. While some supported alternating days, others opposed it, citing access restrictions and fears it would discourage park use.
    c. There was also discussion about limiting e-bikes or restricting them to certain trails to reduce wear and maintain safety.
    d. Multiple comments emphasized the need for education campaigns on trail etiquette, including safe passing, speed control for bikers, and leash compliance for dog owners.
3. **Wildlife and Natural Area Preservation**
    a. Many respondents expressed deep appreciation for the park’s wildlife, coyotes, raptors, deer, and stressed the importance of minimizing human disturbance.
    b. Suggestions included limiting new construction, avoiding trail expansion into undisturbed areas, and ensuring seasonal closures to protect sensitive habitats.
    c. There was a strong sentiment to maintain the open, undeveloped character of the park and avoid changes that could invite overuse or diminish habitat quality.
4. **Accessibility, Amenities, and Infrastructure**
    a. Free parking was appreciated, but respondents wanted more safe street crossings, especially across Alameda Avenue.
    b. Requests for infrastructure improvements included ADA-compliant facilities, clean bathrooms, water fountains, and shade structures at trailheads and rest points.
    c. Better wayfinding signage, including mileage markers, directional signs, and clear dog-leash reminders, was a common suggestion.
    d. Several comments asked for improved trailhead access from surrounding neighborhoods and better integration with existing bike path networks.
5. **Community Engagement and Stewardship**
    a. Many people expressed willingness to volunteer for trail work and participate in stewardship programs.
    b. Respondents valued being included in the planning process.

   c. There were repeated calls for educational outreach, such as on-site signage about trail etiquette, workshops for bikers and hikers, and community days focused on restoration projects.

6. **Opposition to Overdevelopment and Infrastructure Expansion**
   a. Many respondents opposed adding large-scale amenities such as expanded parking lots, picnic shelters, or permanent event spaces, citing risks of overcrowding and environmental impact.
   b. Concerns were voiced about the park "losing its balance" between recreation and nature if infrastructure grows too much.
   c. These respondents preferred a "light-touch" approach, focusing only on maintenance and selective, low-impact improvements.

Appendix

Question 14: Are you a Lakewood resident?

Question 15: If you are a Lakewood resident, what ward do you live in?

Question 16: Are you a Jefferson County resident?

Question 18: How long have you resided in the area?

Question 19: What is your age?

Question 20: Children under 18 in the household?

Question 21: What category best describes you?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
White	81.38%	1,412
Black or African American	0.40%	7
Hispanic, Latino	3.17%	55
Asian	1.67%	29
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.46%	8
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.06%	1
Some other race, ethnically or origin	0.92%	16
Prefer not to say	11.93%	207
TOTAL		1,735