

APPENDIX A

Public Engagement Executive Summary

Public Engagement Window #1 Summary:
Community Input and Concept Design

Public Engagement Window #2 Summary:
Design Alternatives

Public Engagement Window #3 Summary:
Preferred Plan

SEPTEMBER 2025

BIJOU BASIN OPEN SPACE
MASTER PLAN

**PUBLIC
ENGAGEMENT
EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY**



ARAPAHOE COUNTY



ASSOCIATES

Public Engagement Executive Summary

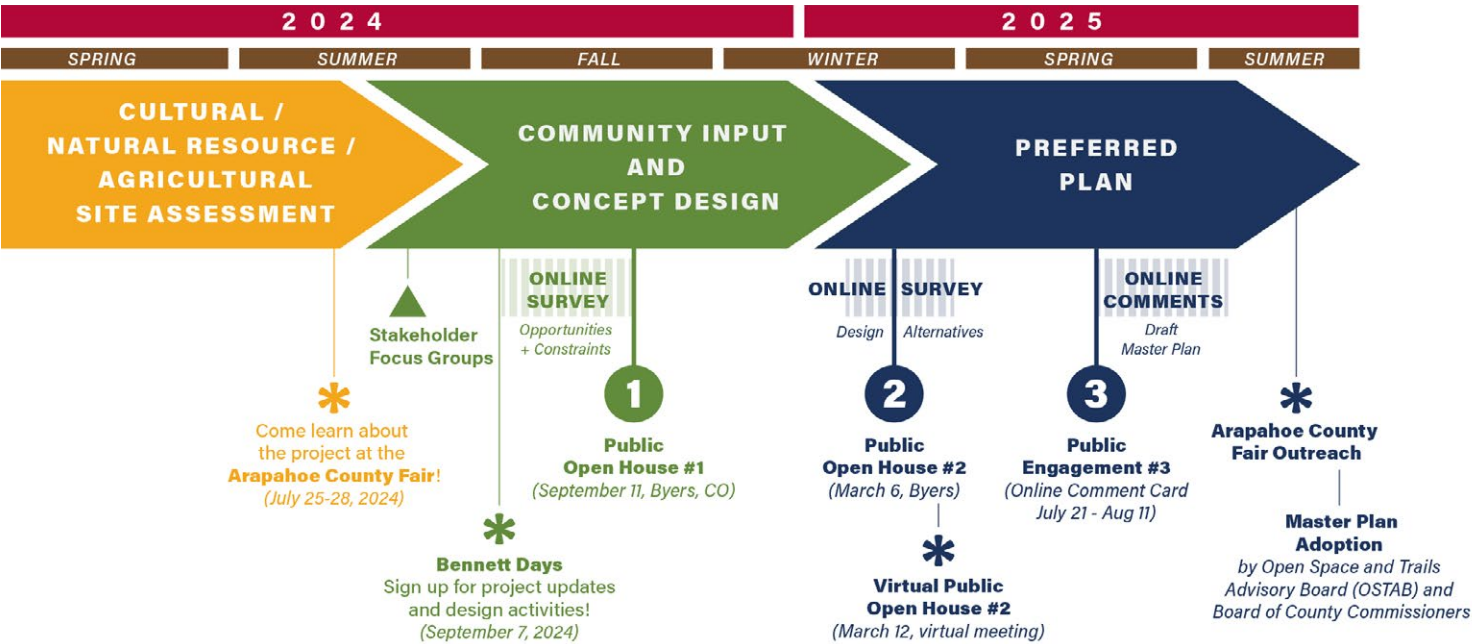
OVERVIEW

Through a year-long community engagement process, the project team connected with eastern residents of the County and provided multiple opportunities for both the local and broader communities to be heard and provide feedback on the future design of Bijou Basin Open Space. Three public engagement windows helped to inform the creation of a master plan for the site.

The first window of engagement raised awareness of the project and the County’s intention to open a portion of the 3,000+ acre property for public access while minimizing ecological impacts and maintaining active grazing and agricultural operations on the property. The feedback collected in this window informed the creation of three design alternatives for the community to view and provide additional input in a second window of engagement. From this input, a preferred preliminary master plan for the open space property was created and presented for a third round of public comment.

Outreach included a range of targeted and broad methods, such as a project website with ongoing updates; direct letters to and phone calls with adjacent residents; online surveys; staffing tables at local and County fairs and festivals; and in-person and virtual community meetings. Outreach activities were promoted using postcards mailed directly to County residents within six miles of Bijou Basin Open Space, social media, news articles, emails to a growing list of people signed up to receive project updates, yard signs placed in the four local communities of Byers, Bennett, Deer Trail and Strasburg; and calls and emails to civic and community groups such as local school district leaders, birding groups, local town councils, and local fire departments.

Many positive comments were received throughout the process in online surveys, direct emails, at community meetings, and in the final comment card. People appreciated the multiple opportunities to stay in touch and provide ongoing input toward the creation of the master plan.



GOALS FOR ENGAGEMENT

1. *Listen to the community.*
2. *Communicate vision and decision-making process.*
3. *Create opportunities for the community to provide their feedback on the master plan.*



POINTS OF CONTACT

- 3,761** *Project Web Visits*
- 3,447** *Project Postcards Sent*
- 636** *Comment Card/Online Survey Responses*
- 363** *Mailing List Sign-Ups*
- 96** *Stakeholder Letters Sent*
- 7** *Phone Interviews with Lessees and Adjacent Landowners*
- 6** *Engagement Events*

Public Engagement: Events



Public Engagement Window #1 Events

ARAPAHOE COUNTY FAIR - Aurora, CO
JULY 25-28, 2024 - Project Announcement

BENNETT DAYS - Bennett, CO
SEPTEMBER 7, 2024 - Interactive Pop-Up

OPEN HOUSE #1 - Byers, CO
SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 - Local Event

Team members attended the Arapahoe County Fair and Bennett Days, and hosted the first public open house in Byers, CO. These events provided opportunities for sharing information on site opportunities and constraints, and gathering input on desired activities and amenities. Feedback was gathered from 30 attendees at the first open house and 432 online survey responses.



Public Engagement Window #2 Events

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2 - Byers, CO
MARCH 6, 2025 - Concept Alternatives

VIRTUAL PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2
MARCH 12, 2025 - Concept Alternatives

The second open house was held at the Kelter Library in Byers. Three alternative design concepts were presented and feedback was gathered from approximately 30 attendees. The team also facilitated a virtual public open house to present design alternatives. Approximately 15 people attended. Additionally, public input was received via 160 online survey responses.



Public Engagement Window #3 Events

ARAPAHOE COUNTY FAIR - Aurora, CO
JULY 24-27, 2025 - Presented Preferred Plan

Returning a year later, the Preferred Plan was on display to the general public at the Arapahoe County Fair. An estimated 75 attendees visited the table and feedback was gathered from conversations with approximately 30 attendees. The Preferred Plan was also posted to the project website and 44 comments were received via the online comment card.



Public Engagement: What We Heard

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The following themes emerged during the engagement process and were carried into the Preferred Plan.

1. Protection of natural resources remains the top priority.

- Balancing the impacts from opening recreational access with the protection of natural resources, wildlife, and existing agricultural operations on site remained the most important public concern throughout the engagement process.
- Public support varied for bikes and dogs on site. The County assessed its operational capacity to manage on-leash dogs and bikes in a manner that protects active grazing, agricultural uses, and sensitive habitats on site, especially those within conservation easements. Based on management needs it was determined that bikes and dogs will not be allowed on site. This decision is proposed to limit conflicts on trails, protect livestock, respect the rural working lands, and ensure that the conservation values of the property are protected.

2. Respect local agricultural and rural communities.

- The public is concerned with issues such as trespassing, misuse, and rule enforcement. Suggestions included incorporating signage on property rules and providing staffing to manage the security and maintenance of the site.
- When developing plans to open the site to public recreation, consider impacts on local traffic from increased visitorship to the area.
- Based on public interest, the County is considering a limited hunting program carried out in partnership with a non-profit partner that focuses on mentor hunting and education. Potential programming would be limited to chaperoned trips, hunting safety, and ethics. Additional research and stakeholder discussions are underway to determine feasibility and next steps.
- As horseback riding is a common pastime in local communities of eastern Arapahoe County, there is strong interest in equestrian trails. The public is interested in separate equestrian trailer and vehicular parking, regardless if they are in the same location, to ensure the safety of all visitors.

3. Celebrate the eastern Colorado landscape through passive recreation.

- A variety of trail experiences was preferred by the public. The public is interested in incorporating rest areas, such as benches, along trails.
- Provide educational opportunities through programming, special events, and educational signage about the site's history and ecology.

4. Overall feedback about the preferred plan and trails was positive.

- Some community members expressed interest in additional trail mileage. Extending trail lengths could be a consideration for the future, pending operational feasibility.

OCTOBER 2024

BIJOU BASIN OPEN SPACE
MASTER PLAN

**PUBLIC
ENGAGEMENT
WINDOW #1
SUMMARY**

*Community Input
and Concept Design*



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

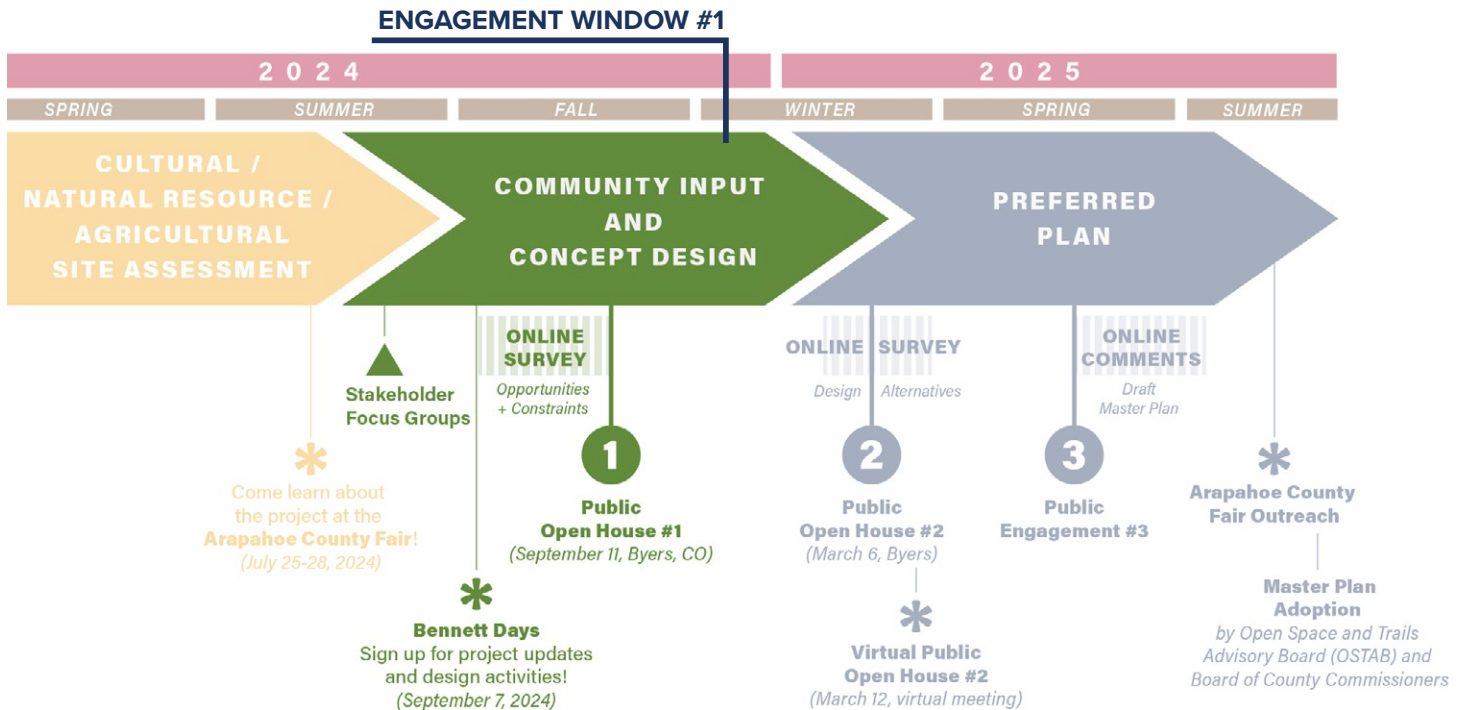


ASSOCIATES

Public Engagement Window #1 : Summary

OVERVIEW

Engagement for the Bijou Basin Open Space Master Plan began in early summer 2024. The first round of engagement efforts included the roll-out of the project website, key stakeholder outreach, interactive engagement events in eastern Arapahoe County, and an online survey. The feedback gathered in this first engagement window will inform the design alternatives.



GOALS FOR ENGAGEMENT

1. Listen to the community.
2. Communicate vision and decision-making process.
3. Create opportunities for the community to provide their feedback on the master plan.

POINTS OF CONTACT

2,120 Project Postcards Sent
1,979 Project Web Visits
432 Online Survey #1 Responses
286 Mailing List Sign-ups
30 Stakeholder Letters Sent
3 Engagement Events

Public Engagement Window #1 : Events



County Commissioner Jeff Baker visits the Arapahoe County Open Spaces table at the Arapahoe County Fair.



County project manager Josh Garcia speaks with local residents about the Bijou Basin Open Space at Bennett Days.



Planning team members welcome local residents to Public Open House #1 in Byers, CO.

ARAPAHOE COUNTY FAIR

AURORA, CO

JULY 25-28, 2024 - PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT

County team members set up a booth at the Arapahoe County Fair to inform local and regional community members about the start of the Bijou Basin Open Space Master Plan project and provided information on how to follow the project and stay involved.

BENNETT DAYS

BENNETT, CO

SEPTEMBER 7, 2024 - INTERACTIVE POP-UP

The project team set up a booth at the Bennett Days fair to share information on site opportunities and constraints, gather feedback on desired activities and amenities, and publicize the first online survey.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1

BYERS, CO

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 - LOCAL EVENT

The project's first open house was held at the Kelter Library in Byers. The project team shared information about the Bijou Basin site, history, opportunities and constraints, and potential amenities. Many area residents attended, voting on desired amenities and providing valuable, local knowledge of the property and its history.

* See pages 7-12 for online survey results.

Public Engagement Window #1 : What We Heard

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The following Key Takeaways summarize public feedback from all outreach efforts including Online Survey #1, stakeholder phone calls and emails, the Bennett Days pop-up, Public Open House #1, and emails to the project email.

- 1.** Prioritize trails for walking, hiking, and running that minimize ecological impacts and disruption to existing agricultural site uses.
- 2.** Support recreation with low-impact amenities such as bathroom facilities, a gravel parking area, a trailhead shade structure with picnic tables, and wayfinding/trail signage.
- 3.** Prohibit the use of public motorized vehicles on trails.
- 4.** Honor the site's ecology by providing wildlife and creek viewing opportunities without disturbing critical natural resources.
- 5.** Provide educational opportunities to learn about the site's ecology, plants, and wildlife. Consider interpretive trails and educational programming.
- 6.** Preserve grazing and agricultural practices on site while integrating low-impact recreation and amenities.
- 7.** Adjacent landowners expressed concerns about open space visitors trespassing onto abutting land.
- 8.** Evaluate compatibility of community preferred activities with existing agricultural and grazing land uses on site, especially when considering hunting, astronomy, and allowing dogs on property. Consider developing educational programming or special events for uses not compatible with daily site operations.
- 9.** Consider neighbors' concerns about trash, security, and maintenance in the development of the master plan and design concepts.

Stakeholder Engagement : Neighbors and Lessees

NEIGHBORS AND LESSEES ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

The County sent letters explaining the master-planning project to approximately 30 property owners with land abutting Bijou Basin and two lessees at Bijou Basin. The letter asked for the opportunity to speak with people directly and invited these stakeholders to call the community engagement representative.

Seven property owners and lessees responded and engaged in phone calls. One stakeholder opted not to have a phone call, expressing that they did not feel impacted by the project, while another property owner was opposed to opening the area for public access and did not respond to an offer to talk.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Overall, there was general support for opening the property to the public, though concerns were raised about the potential impacts of visitors. These concerns include:

- **Motorized vehicles:** Respondents are concerned about potential fire hazards caused by motorized vehicles and the damage they can cause to fragile land. This led to support for a designated parking area near the property entrance limiting the extent of vehicle access.
- **Misunderstanding rural living:** Respondents are concerned that visitors are unfamiliar with the practices of rural living. Potential impacts include dogs attacking livestock, trespassing onto abutting land, and not keeping safe distances from livestock notably during calving season.
- **Misunderstanding agricultural practices:** Respondents are concerned that visitors might misunderstand agricultural processes, such as crop spraying, and therefore may have concerns.
- **Wildlife hazards:** Rattlesnakes on the property pose a danger to people wandering onto the land.

Respondents also expressed the benefits they see from opening the area to the public. These benefits include:

- **Educational opportunities:** Respondents are generally supportive about the project being an opportunity to educate visitors on rural lifestyles, grazing, agricultural practices, and food systems. Additionally, residents see the value of schools using this area for field trips to learn about shortgrass prairie and ecological habitat.
- **Preservation:** Residents are happy that the land is being preserved and not developed into a residential community.
- **Equestrian use:** Residents are supportive of Bijou Basin allowing equestrian uses; they feel that this is part of the longtime culture of the area.

Site Familiarity

QUESTION 1 : Are you familiar with Bijou Basin Open Space?

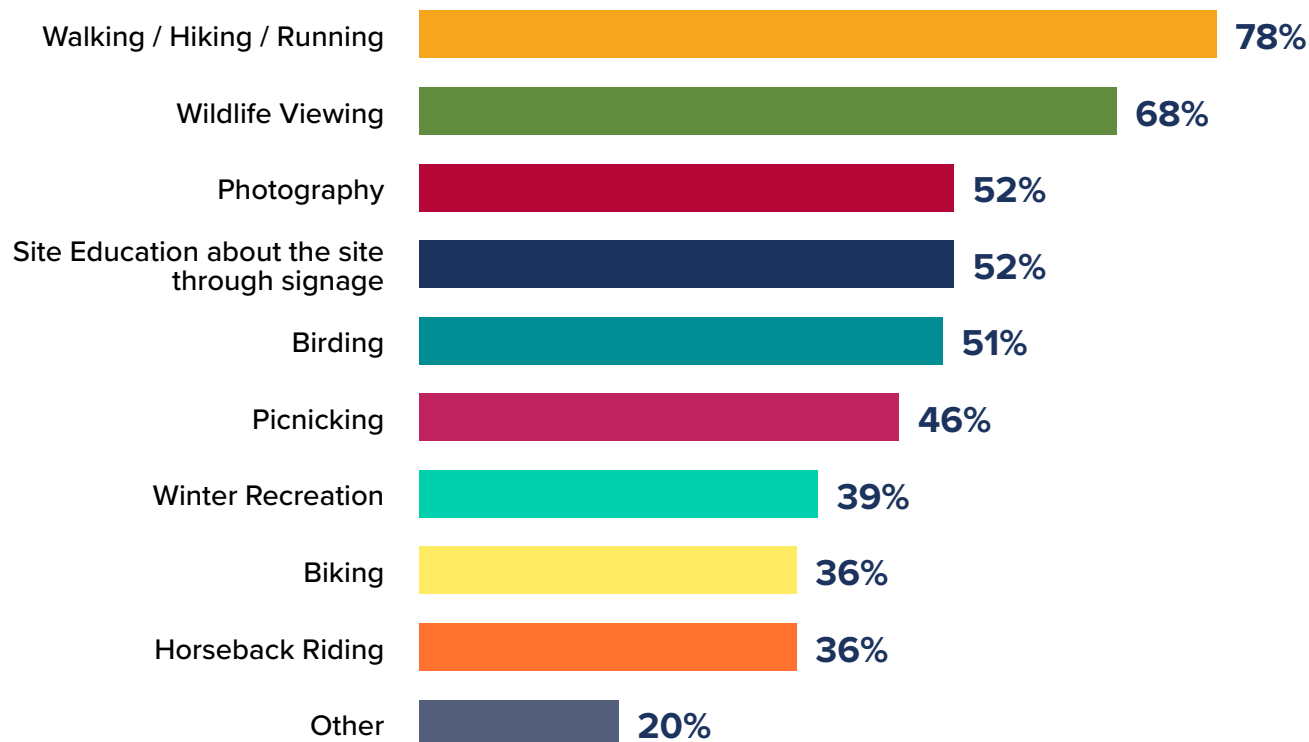


QUESTION 2 : If yes, how did you hear about Bijou Basin Open Space?
(Write in responses.)

- 113 Promotional Advertisements (Newspaper articles, newsletters, flyers, yard signs, postcards, emails, social media/social networks)
- 44 Neighbors
- 30 Word of Mouth
- 24 Know the Property
- 3 Project Public Engagement Events
- 3 N/A (Learned of property via this survey)

Recreational Activities

QUESTION 3 : What kind of recreational activities would you like to do at Bijou Basin Open Space? (Choose all that apply.)



OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

Of the 80 survey respondents that wrote in additional comments, the TOP THEMES were related to:

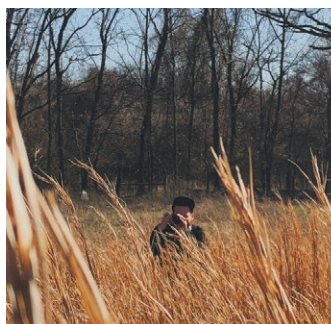
- 21%** Hunting
- 12%** No Change/No Development
- 9%** Astronomy Nights/Dark Sky Reserve
- 9%** Dogs
- 9%** Wildlife Habitat
- 6%** Keep Low Impact



Walking / Hiking / Running



Birding / Wildlife Viewing

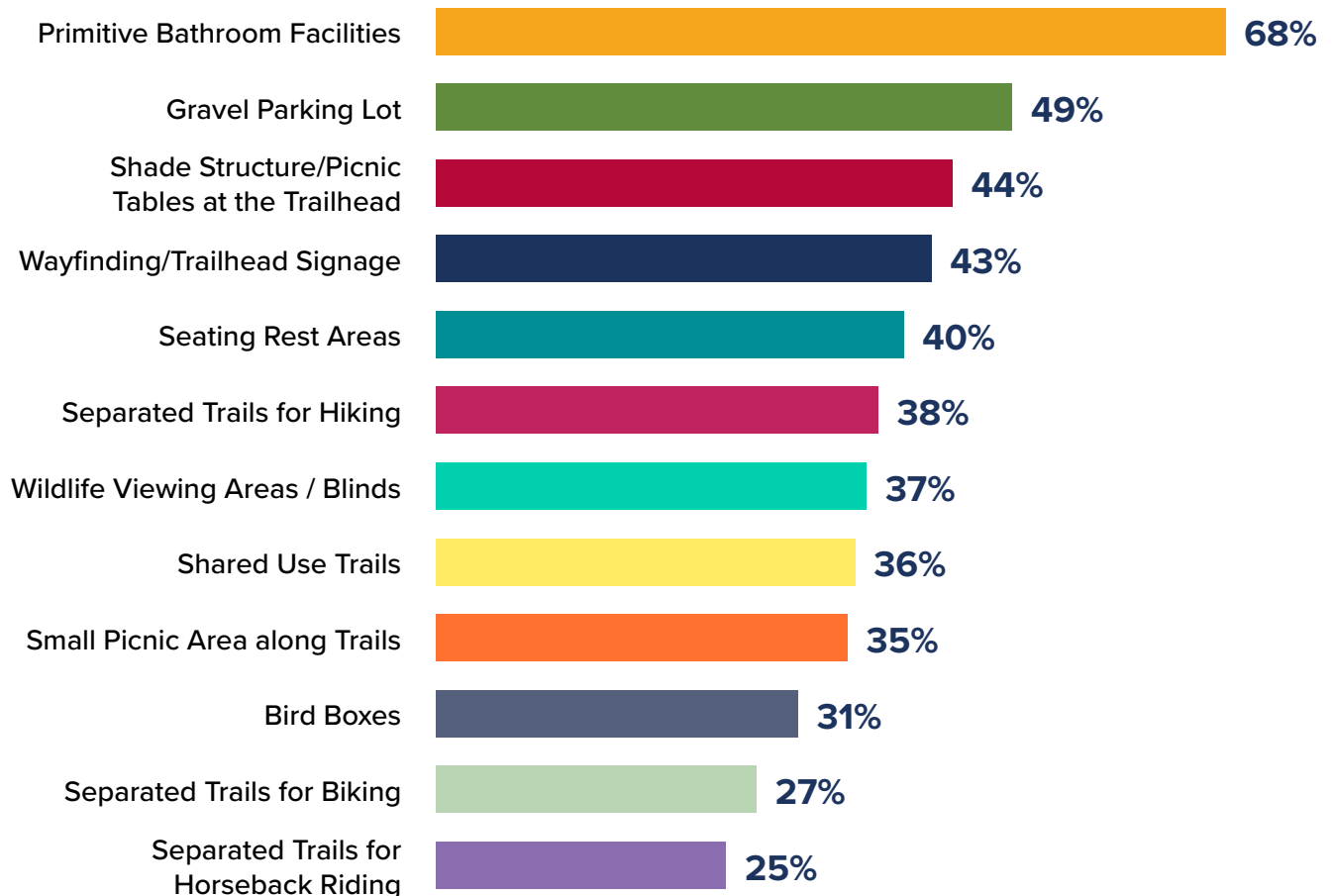


Photography



Educational Signage

QUESTION 4 : What types of infrastructure would you use to support low-impact recreation on site? (Choose your top 3 interests.)



Primitive Bathroom Facilities



Gravel Parking Area



Shade Structure / Picnic Tables at the Trailhead



Wayfinding / Trailhead Signage

Creek Corridor Amenities

QUESTION 5 : Knowing that the creek is prone to seasonal flooding and has low water flow during the late spring and summer months, what amenities would you like to see related to the creek corridor? (Select all that apply.)



Educational Signage

QUESTION 6 : If an educational signage program is developed, what would you like to learn most about the site? (Please rank the options.)

Respondents ranked the education signage program focus as follows:

	RANK			
	1	2	3	4
#1 : Wildlife and plants	54%	26%	15%	5%
#2 : Ecology of shortgrass prairie	22%	38%	28%	12%
#3 : Ecology of a riparian/creek corridor	13%	24%	45%	18%
#4 : Agricultural education (sustainable grazing and dryland farming)	10%	13%	12%	65%

Concerns

QUESTION 7 : What concerns, if any, do you have about opening Bijou Basin up to public recreation? (Write in response.)

The table below illustrates the larger themes that came out of the general public comments and suggestions. The table includes comments that received at least 5 mentions.

KEY WORDS/THEMES	QTY. OF POSITIVE COMMENTS	QTY. OF CONCERNS
Impacts to Ecology and Cultural Resources	0	53
Security/Maintenance includes concerns about vandalism, crime, maintenance, and enforcement of rules.	0	48
Trash	0	35
Increased Traffic	0	31
Low Impact	18	0
Bikes includes mountain bikes and e-bikes	1	17
Motorized Vehicles	0	15
Area Roads includes concerns about the condition and capacity of roads with increased traffic	0	11
Trespassing includes into park property when closed and onto adjacent property	0	11
Dogs includes concerns about dogs off leash disturbing wildlife, cattle, and waste	1	7
Wildfire	0	7
Hunting includes both concerns about and requests for allowing hunting on property	3	4
Shared Trails includes concerns about conflicts between user groups and trail maintenance	0	6
Homeless Encampments	0	6
Prairie Education	5	0

The following is a sample of write-in comments and suggestions provided through the public survey.

“Destruction of important bird habitat if too developed.”

“Grass fires, noise, trash, impact to wildlife, road maintenance on CR30.”

“With grazing and equestrian usage, only specific portions of the space should allow dogs on leash.”

Ideas / Wants

QUESTION 8 : What other ideas do you have for Bijou Basin Open Space?

(Write in response.)

The table below illustrates the larger themes that came out of the general public comments and suggestions. The table includes comments that received at least 3 mentions.

KEY WORDS/THEMES	QTY. OF POSITIVE COMMENTS	QTY. OF CONCERNS
Wildlife Habitat includes prioritizing protection of existing habitat and improvements	18	0
Hunting includes hunting education programs and seasonal hunting access	14	0
No Change/No Development	0	13
Educational includes education programs and events about nature and site history	12	0
Astronomy	11	0
Low Impact	11	0
Dogs includes comments about dog parks and allowing dogs off-leash	10	1
Guided Tours	6	0
Fishing	5	0
Accessibility	4	0
Family/Kids Play	4	0
Separate Trails	4	0
Education - Cultural History	3	0
No Motorized Vehicles	0	3
Phasing includes comments about slowly developing recreational amenities on site	3	0
Water Stations	3	0
Shooting Range	3	0

The following is a sample of write-in comments and suggestions provided through the public survey.

“Thank you for working with the landowners/easement holders to acquire this acreage, and make it accessible to the public. Please consider its conservation values as a priority.”

“I am generally most interested in the passive recreation potential and keenly interested in people throughout the county and region understanding the ecology of the shortgrass prairie. I would like to see the County do more education where this is concerned.”

“Nature education classes; stargazing outings; weather watching.”

FAQs from Public Engagement Window #1

1. Will the existing uses on site be maintained?

Yes, protecting and maintaining the existing grazing and dryland farming on site is a primary project goal and priority for the County.

2. Will motorized vehicles be allowed on the property?

Motorized vehicles will not be allowed on property beyond a small parking area likely on the north end of the property.

3. How will the property be secured and maintained?

Arapahoe County Open Spaces Operations staff will be responsible for regular maintenance of the open space. To report a maintenance concern (trash, vandalism, etc.), the public is encouraged to contact the Arapahoe County Open Spaces department at 720-874-6540 or email askopenspaces@arapahoegov.com. For emergencies, call 911. Report any criminal activity or misuse to the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office at 303-795-4711.

4. Will dogs be allowed at the Bijou Basin Open Space?

The appropriateness of dogs at Bijou Basin is being evaluated. If dogs are permitted, design concepts will prioritize efforts to mitigate potential conflict between dogs, agriculture, and wildlife on site. Separation of cattle and dogs are necessary to protect active cattle grazing on the property and surrounding private land. Dogs that disturb cattle can cause some, especially mothers with calves, to become aggressive. As many of the adjacent landowners manage cattle on their land as well, it is important that visitors understand the importance of adhering to and respecting rules about dogs on the property. Off-leash dogs can also negatively impact wildlife, including ground-nesting birds and big game species such as antelope.

BIJOU BASIN OPEN SPACE

BIJOU BASIN OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
WINDOW #1 SUMMARY**

Community Input and
Concept Design



ARAPAHOE COUNTY



ASSOCIATES

BIJOU BASIN OPEN SPACE



ARAPAHOE COUNTY



ASSOCIATES

APRIL 2025

BIJOU BASIN OPEN SPACE
MASTER PLAN

**PUBLIC
ENGAGEMENT
WINDOW #2
SUMMARY**

Design Alternatives



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

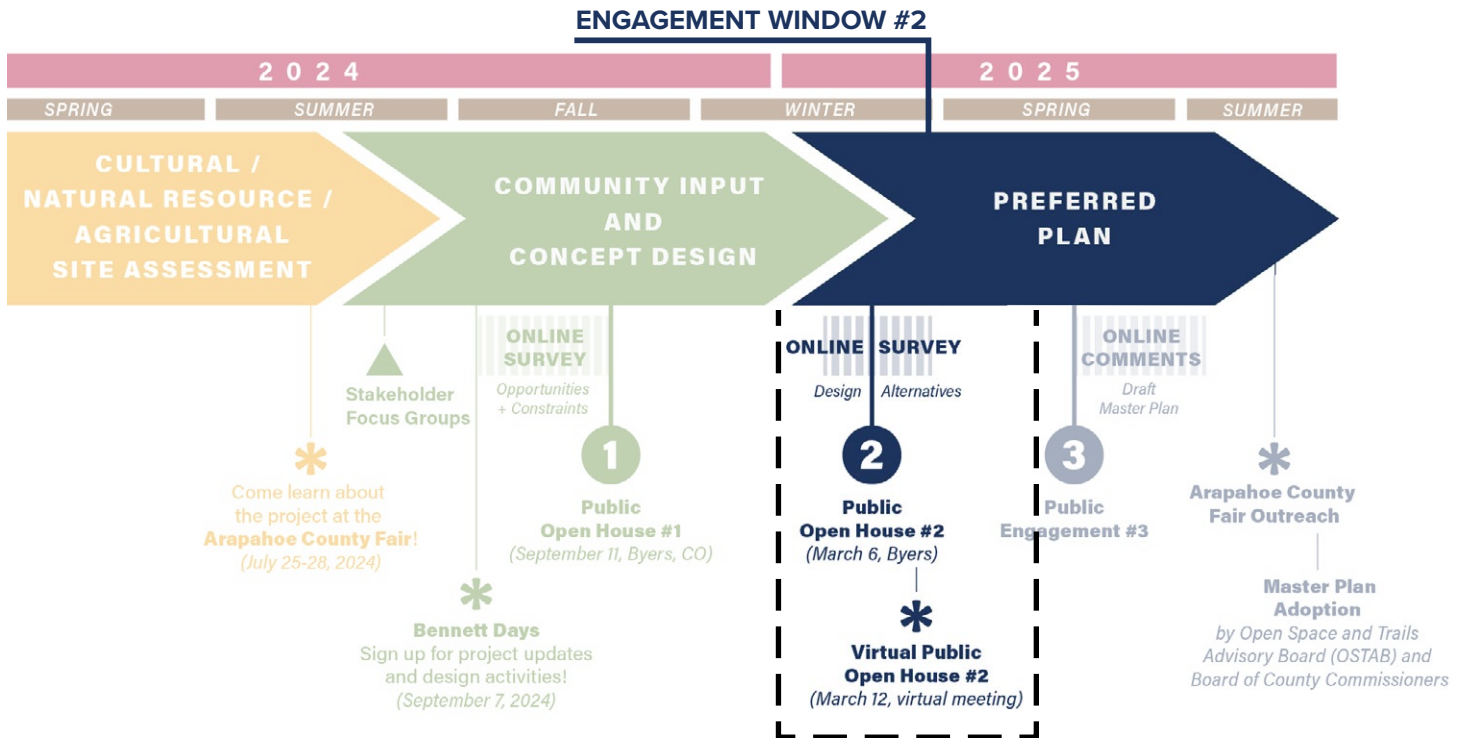


ASSOCIATES

Public Engagement Window #2 : Summary

OVERVIEW

Public Engagement Window #2 for the Bijou Basin Open Space Master Plan began in late February 2025. The second round of engagement efforts included website updates, key stakeholder outreach, a virtual public meeting, an in-person open house, and an online survey which ran from February 20 to March 16. The feedback gathered in this second engagement window will inform the preferred plan.



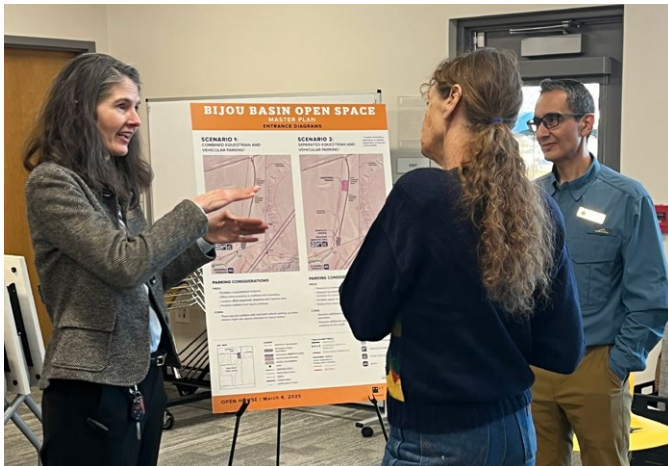
GOALS FOR ENGAGEMENT

1. Listen to the community.
2. Communicate vision and decision-making process.
3. Create opportunities for the community to provide their feedback on the master plan.

POINTS OF CONTACT

1,782 Project Web Visits
1,327 Project Postcards Sent
160 Online Survey #1 Responses
61 Mailing List Sign-ups
30 Stakeholder Letters Sent
2 Engagement Events

Public Engagement Window #2 : Events



PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

Byers, CO

MARCH 6, 2025 - Concept Alternatives

The project's second open house was held at the Kelter Library in Byers. The project team shared three alternative concepts and gathered feedback from approximately 30 attendees. (See following page for concept alternatives.)



VIRTUAL PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

MARCH 12, 2025 - Concept Alternatives

The project team provided a 30 minute presentation of project and the three concept alternatives. The question-and-answer session followed with approximately 15 attendees.

Concept Alternatives

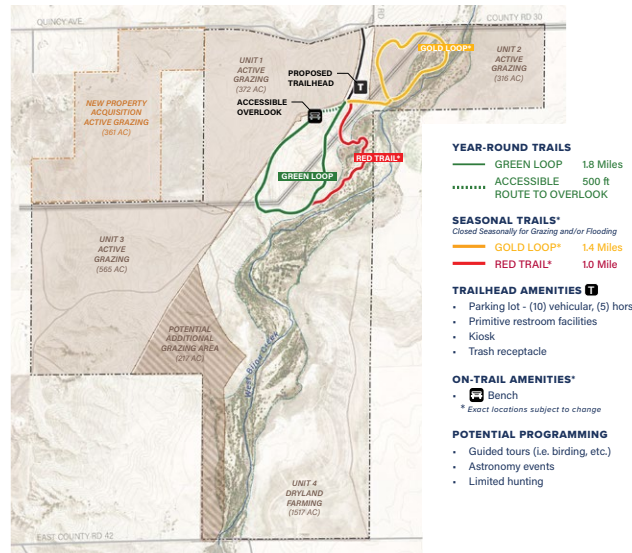
LOW RECREATION

Northern Trails

~ 4.2 Total Miles

CONCEPT HIGHLIGHTS

- Trails are accessible to hikers and equestrians only to reduce potential visitor conflicts and impacts to grazing operations and to protect natural resources.
- Consolidates trails to the northern portion of the site, which minimizes maintenance for operations staff.
- Preserves existing grazing and farming operations and potentially increases total grazing acreage by 217 ac.
- Provides highest level of natural resource protection.



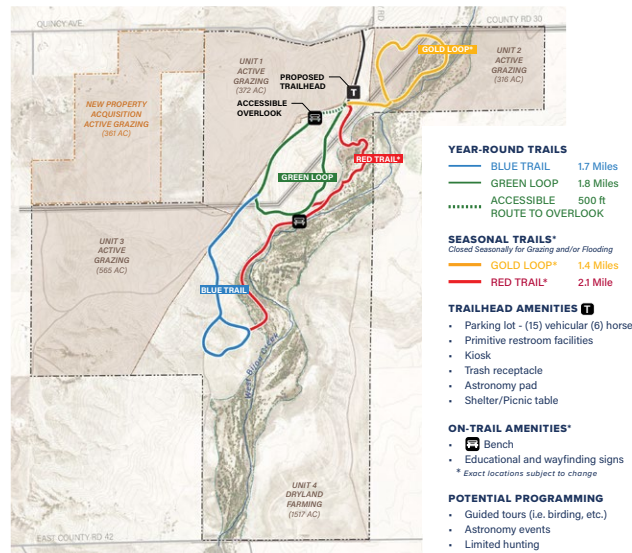
MEDIUM RECREATION

Expanded Trails

~ 7 Total Miles

CONCEPT HIGHLIGHTS

- Trails are accessible to hikers and equestrians only to reduce potential visitor conflicts and impacts to grazing operations, and to protect natural resources.
- Expands trails to the south to increase total trail mileage.
- Preserves existing grazing and farming acreage and operations.
- Provides medium level of natural resource protection.



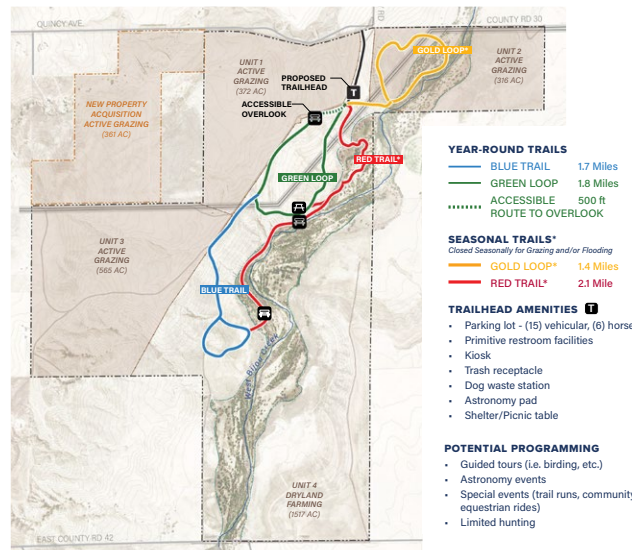
HIGH RECREATION

Expanded Multi-Use Trails

~ 7 Total Miles

CONCEPT HIGHLIGHTS

- Trails are accessible to hikers, equestrians, bikers, and dogs on leash.
- Expands trails to the south and broadens user types to increase total trail mileage and to create the most recreational opportunities.
- Preserves existing acreage for grazing and farming but potentially has the highest impact on grazing and farming operations.
- Potential highest impact on natural resources due to expanded users.
- Increases potential programming.



Public Engagement Window #2 : What We Heard

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The following Key Takeaways summarize public feedback from the outreach efforts during Public Engagement Window #2.

- 1.** Balancing recreation, preserving agriculture practices on site, and limiting disturbances to the site's ecology and wildlife continue to be important.
- 2.** A variety of trail experiences and the longer mileage option trail was preferred.
- 3.** Provide a separate equestrian trailer parking lot and a vehicular parking lot, regardless if they are in the same location.
- 4.** Evaluate the feasibility of allowing dogs and bikes on the property to ensure a healthy ecosystem and wildlife.
- 5.** Consider a limited hunting program that provides benefits for a healthy wildlife system and is managed properly by the County. This merits further evaluation by the County.
- 6.** Provide educational opportunities through special events, such as astronomy and guided hikes, that inform visitors about the contiguous, conserved open space in Eastern Arapahoe County.

Select Survey Questions

QUESTION 2 : Please choose your preferred concept.

Low Recreation:
Northern Trails

23%

Medium Recreation:
Expanded Trails

36%

High Recreation:
Expanded Multi-Use Trails

41%

QUESTION 3 : What features make this your preferred concept and why?

Write-in comments for Question #3 were categorized and put into common themes.
The table below is a summary of those comments.

		Concept Alternative					
		# of Votes					
		Low Recreation Northern Trails		Medium Recreation Expanded Trails		High Recreation Expanded Multi-Use Trails, More Trail Amenities	
		33		54		61	
Comment Category	Comment Themes	Low Rec Tally	% of Low Rec Votes	Med Rec Tally	% of Med Rec Votes	High Rec Tally	% of High Rec Votes
User Groups	Allow Dogs					34	56%
	Off Leash Dogs					3	5%
	No Dogs	1	3%	3	6%		
	Allow Bikes					23	38%
	No Bikes	1	3%	18	33%		
	Equestrian Trails	1	3%	2	4%	11	18%
Trails	More/Variied Experince of the Trails			11	20%	6	10%
	Longer Trails			10	19%	9	15%
Amenities	Trailhead Amenities			2	4%	2	3%
	On-Trail Amenities			2	4%	2	3%
Impacts	More Protection of Natural Resources	22	67%				
	Balance Impact/Recreation			11	20%	2	3%
	Balance Impact/Ag			18	33%		
Programming	Falconry						
	Birding			1	2%	1	2%
	Hunting					2	3%
Concerns	Concern-User Conflict			2	4%	2	3%
	Concern-Pet Waste			1	2%		
	Concern-Rule Enforcement					2	3%
	Concern-Traffic						
	Concern-No Motorized Vehicles						
	Leave Site Alone/No Public Access	3	9%				

Highlighted are the top themes provided for concept preference.

Select Survey Questions

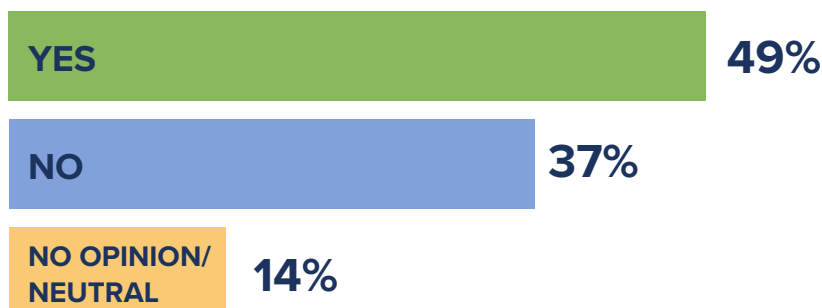
QUESTION 4 : Do you have additional comments on any of the proposed concepts?

Comment Categories	Comment Themes	Qty of Comments
User Groups	Allow Dogs (on leash)	1
	Off-leash dogs	3
	No Dogs	5
	No Bikes	3
	Allow bikes/no dogs	1
	Allow On-leash dogs/no bikes	2
	Equestrian Trails	3
Trails	More/Varied Trails	2
	Longer Trails	2
	Different uses on different trails	3
Amenities	Add more On-Trail Amenities	3
	Leave No Trace	2
	OHV (ATV's, etc.)	2
Impacts	More protection of cultural resources	1
	Balance Impact/Recreation	3
	Provide more educational signage to encourage protection	1
	Minimize users / less road congestion in rural area	1
	Low Recreation not worth it/want more opportunities	3
Programming	Falconry	2
	Hunting	1
	Bird Dog Training Program	1
	More Special Events	1
	Astronomy	5
	Educational Programming/Signage	3
Concerns	Concern-Pet Waste	2
	Concern-Rule Enforcement	3
	Concern-No Motorized Vehicles	1
	Leave Site Alone/No Public Access	6

Select Survey Questions

QUESTION 5 : The County is considering a hunting program that would start with a limited number of hunts through a non-profit partner that focuses on mentor hunting or similar rather than immediately opening the property to the general public for hunting. This will most likely require some closures of the property when hunting is occurring (likely limited to the month of December).

Would you support this use of the property?



COMMENTS RELATING TO QUESTION 5

Write-in comments relating to Question #5 were put into common themes. The table below is a summary of those comments.

Comment Themes	YES	NO	NEUTRAL	Total votes
	77	58	23	
Archery	2			
Falconry	5			
December Only / Strict Enforcement	4			
Make it more available (seasonal or programs)	4			
Hunting has positive impact to wildlife	3			
Opportunities elsewhere in the state		5		
High impact over time		4		
Hunting has negative impact to wildlife		7		
Phase later		2		
Trust the County to determine the benefit			3	

Select Survey Questions

QUESTION 7 : Do you have any comments on the parking concepts?

Preference for Scenario 2
Separated equestrian and vehicular parking locations

SCENARIO 2

58
responses

Preference for Scenario 1
Combined equestrian and vehicular parking location

SCENARIO 1

18
responses

No preference

NO PREFERENCE

34
responses

Total responses to Question 7 : 110

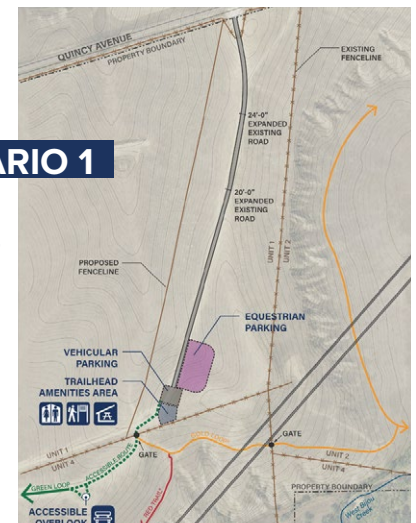
THEMES RELATING TO QUESTION #7

Key Words/Themes	Qty. Of Comments	Notes Relating to Comments
Trailer/car conflict	23	Limits activity around horses, calmer horses, safer environment, space to unload
Less impact	9	Less active areas with combined; smaller footprint; (1) for less impact when separated, minimize grading
Separate uses but in a combined area	8	(preference towards separated)
Expansion potential	6	
Protection of people/horses	5	
Dog/horse/children conflict	2	
Limit wildlife impacts	2	
Allow trailers to navigate both lots	2	
Safety	2	
Deter vehicles from using trailer spaces	2	
Provide a place for trailers to park	2	
Determine need based on the horse demand	2	
Close to restrooms/provide restrooms at both	2	
Provide signage to mitigate conflicts	1	
No parking on property	1	
Prevents overcrowding	1	

Open Space Entrance Scenarios

SCENARIO 1

Combined equestrian and vehicular parking location



SCENARIO 2

Separated equestrian and vehicular parking locations



BIJOU BASIN OPEN SPACE



ARAPAHOE COUNTY



ASSOCIATES

AUGUST 2025

BIJOU BASIN OPEN SPACE
MASTER PLAN

**PUBLIC
ENGAGEMENT
WINDOW #3
SUMMARY**
Preferred Plan



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

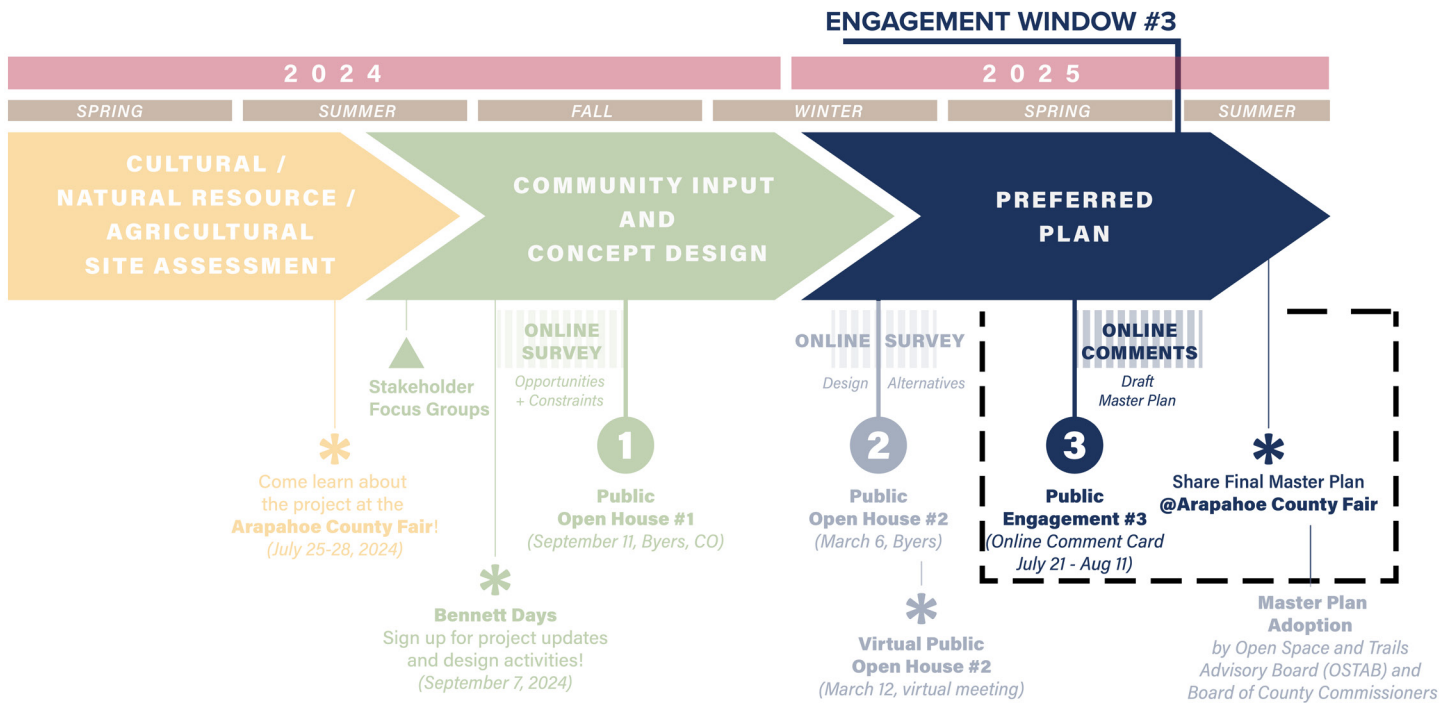


ASSOCIATES

Public Engagement Window #3 : Summary

OVERVIEW

Public Engagement Window #3 for the Bijou Basin Open Space Master Plan began in July 2025. The third round of engagement efforts included website updates, key stakeholder outreach, posting the Preferred Plan at the Arapahoe County Fair, and an online comment card which ran from July 21 to August 11. The feedback gathered in this third engagement window will inform the final iteration of the preferred plan and management decisions.



GOALS FOR ENGAGEMENT

1. Listen to the community.
2. Communicate vision and decision-making process.
3. Create opportunities for the community to provide their feedback on the master plan.

POINTS OF CONTACT

- 857** Project Web Visits
- 44** Comment Card Responses
- 36** Stakeholder Letters Sent
- 1** Engagement Event (Estimated 75 visitors)

Public Engagement Window #3 : What We Heard

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The following Key Takeaways summarize public feedback from the outreach efforts during Public Engagement Window #3.

- 1. Overall feedback about the preferred plan and trails is positive.
- 2. Protection of the native lands remains important to people.
- 3. There is interest from some survey respondents to allow bikes and dogs.
- 4. There is interest from some survey respondents to extend the trails for additional mileage.

Online Survey #3 - Comment Card

Total survey responses: 44

QUESTION 1 : Do you agree with the overall direction of the preferred plan?



QUESTION 2 : Do you have any comment on the preferred plan?

Write-in comments for Question #2 were categorized and put into common themes. The table below highlights the top common themes of respondents who both agreed and disagreed with the overall direction of the plan.

“This plan looks like a very good use of the land.”

“Wow! This is fantastic! You really nailed what the community is looking for.”

“Hope to see it completed.”

“Good job, really happy about this plan!”

Top 3 Common Themes	Respondents who disagreed with overall direction of the plan	Respondents who agreed with overall direction of the plan	Total
Would like bikes allowed	5	2	7
Would like to see longer trails	1	3	4
Would like dogs on-leash allowed	1	2	3

Expressed support for the plan shown		7	7
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Public Engagement Window #3 : Events



ARAPAHOE COUNTY FAIR

AURORA, CO

JULY 24-27, 2025 - PREFERRED PLAN

The Preferred Plan was shared with the public at the Open Spaces Department table at the Arapahoe County Fair. The project team estimated 75 attendees visited the table and gathered feedback from approximately 30 attendees. The Preferred Plan was also posted to the project website to coincide with the online comment card.

BIJOU BASIN OPEN SPACE



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