

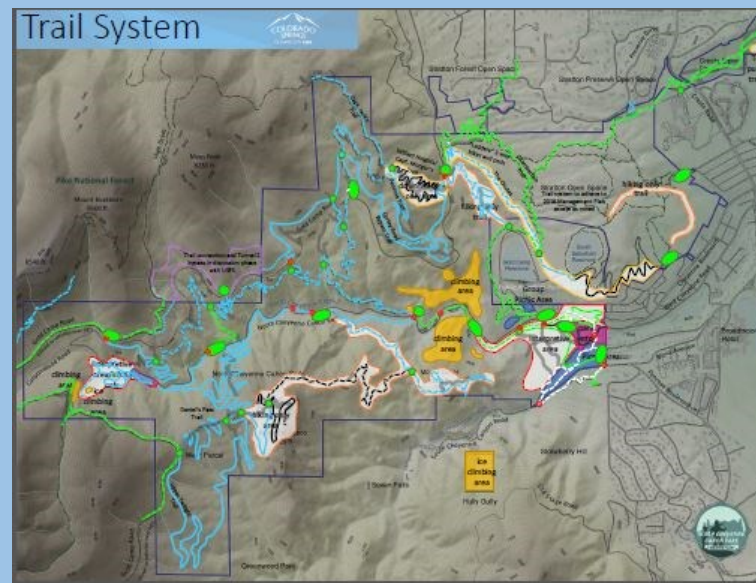
Proposed Trails System Group Responses

After presentation of a proposed trail system for the Park and questions for clarification of the presentation, 170 workshop participants worked in small groups to review the trail system maps and provide group responses to the following questions: What does your group particularly like about the proposed trail system? and What concerns does your group have about the proposed system and why? Groups were encouraged to indicate likes/concerns on their maps. A total of 28 group maps were submitted.

Summary of Responses

Particularly like...

- * The increased mileage in the proposed system, going from the current 19.1 miles of trails to a proposed 35.4 miles.
- * Connectivity improvements and increases between trails in the system.
- * The new Corley Mountain Bypass Trail, primarily because it gives non-motorized users an alternative to dealing with the traffic on Gold Camp Road.
- * Maintaining the currently designated dedicated hiking-only trails on Mt. Cutler and Mt. Muscoco and in Stratton Open Space.
- * Dedicated downhill-specific mountain biking trails in the Gold Camp Road Chutes area.
- * The new, multi-use Creekside Trail.
- * New and improved trails in the Helen Hunt Falls area.
- * The new mountain bike tot pump track for skill development.



“Overall, new trails, trail connections, trail improvements and repairs sound wonderful! Just what the Cañon/Stratton need!

Quote from a group response form

“[Concerned about] Cost of building the trails — will they ever be built? How will trails be prioritized for deciding what is built first?”

Quote from a group response form

Have concerns about...

- * Making the current and new downhill trails too easy, specifically the Daniels Pass Trail and the Captain Morgan’s Trail.
- * A need for more trails than are currently proposed in the system, especially downhill-specific mountain bike trails.
- * Making changes to the Daniels Pass Trail, primarily because it is currently one of only a few expert mountain-biking trails.
- * Construction and maintenance costs for making the new trail system a reality.
- * The mix of trail difficulty levels proposed, with a desire to have more emphasis on difficult level trails.
- * Proposed removal of some existing trails.
- * The environmental impact on the Park of constructing new trails, such as the Creekside Trail.
- * The skills and qualifications of those tasked with building and maintaining sustainable trails.

Interpretive Program Individual Responses

Selecting from the list of 15 services and options below, each workshop participant was asked to indicate which of those they believe their out-of-town visitors would like/need from the Starsmore Visitor and Nature Center and from the Helen Hunt Falls Nature Center. They were then asked which of those they believe they themselves would like/need from the two Centers.

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| - General interpretation | - Kids' programs | - Interactive "how to plan your trip" | - Water | - Shuttle hub |
| - Rotating interpretive/art exhibits | - Adults' programs | (timeframe, exertion level, topic) | - Restrooms | - I would not take my |
| - Wayfinding information (maps, | - Guided interpretive hike | - Interaction with an informed ranger | - Food | visitors/go to this |
| | - Opportunities to get involved | - Get out of the weather | | Center |

Visitors' Needs/Wants

- * There is a great deal of similarity in the priority needs/wants that were cited for out-of-town visitors at both Park facilities. In selecting priorities, the five most mentioned for both facilities were (in descending order of mention): restrooms, water, wayfinding, general interpretation, and interaction with a ranger. These priorities comprised approximately 60% of the responses.
- * The least-mentioned needs/wants for Starsmore Center were (in descending order): opportunities to get involved, shuttle hub, and would not take visitors to this Center.
- * The least-mentioned for needs/wants for the Helen Hunt Falls facility were (in descending order): shuttle hub, adult programs, and would not take visitors to this Center.

Local Residents' Needs/Wants

- * Workshop participants selected the same six priority needs/wants for each interpretive center for local residents. While selected in a slightly different order, the most-mentioned for both facilities were (in descending order): restrooms, water, wayfinding, general interpretation, get out of the weather, and interaction with a ranger. These priorities comprised approximately 65% of the responses.
- * The least-mentioned needs/want for the Starsmore facility were (in descending order): food, would not go to this Center, and shuttle hub.
- * The least-mentioned for the Helen Hunt Falls Center were (in descending order): interactive plan, would not go to this Center, and shuttle hub.

Comparison of Needs/Wants

- * Clearly, the necessities come first for both out-of-town and local visitors to the Park. Restrooms and water were the most often mentioned categories for both populations at both visitor facilities.
- * Other priority needs/wants are very similar when comparing the two populations, with getting out of the weather as more of a priority need/want for locals than for out-of-towners.
- * There is little support for a shuttle hub at either facility for either out-of-town visitors or locals.
- * Very few workshop participants indicated they would not take visitors or go to the Centers themselves (approximately 2% of responses).
- * Workshop participants indicated they are slightly more likely to take their visitors to one or both of the centers than they are to go themselves.

Comments about the Interpretive Program

The final question posed to individual workshop participants regarding Park interpretation was: *Is there anything else you would like to add regarding the interpretive program in the Park? Approximately one-third of the participants responded, submitting 75 comments, either in response to this question or written somewhere else on the forms.*

- * Twenty-five percent of the comments related to the role of the program. Some questioned the need for it, preferring instead to have people "enjoy nature naturally." Others objected to the use of electronic technology as part of the interpretive program, while others saw the program only as a means to generate revenue.
- * Some (19%) suggested additional interpretive services/topics, such as water bottle-filling stations, hikes highlighting plants, historical displays, and more products for sale.
- * Park access comments made up 17% of the responses. About half of those expressed a preference for no shuttles/shuttle stops in the Park.
- * Management and operations-related comments (17%) focused on police presence in the Park and the need for more Park guides and on the need for more trash cans.
- * Sixteen percent of the responses related to Park signage for wayfinding and interpretation. Some expressed concern about sign pollution and sign accuracy/vandalism.