

FISHERS CANYON OPEN SPACE MASTER & MANAGEMENT PLAN



Engagement Summary

June 19, 2025

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

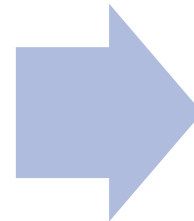
Engagement Findings



Previous Engagement



2021
City Council unanimously approves proposal to acquire Fishers Canyon Open Space. Completed public process with TOPS and PAB.



2023
Fire mitigation neighborhood communication. Regional agencies collaborated to complete fire mitigation of 89.3 acres.

Engagement by the Numbers



Over 2,500 participants directly engaged.

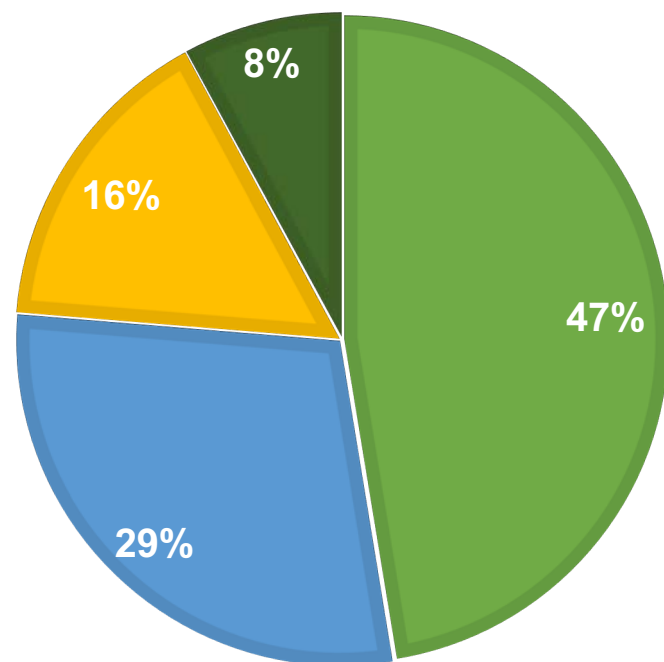
- Focus Groups.....60 participants from 33 organizations
- Online Survey #1.....950 participants
- Community Meeting #1.....123 participants
- Online Survey #2.....228 participants
- 2024 Youth Engagement.....177 participants from 4 organizations
- Neighborhood Site Tour #1.....90 participants
- Community Meeting #2.....105 participants
- Online Survey #3.....495 participants
- Draft Plan Open House.....82 participants
- Online Survey #4.....152 participants
- One-on-One Stakeholder Meetings..25 participants
- Neighborhood Site Tour #2.....35 participants
- 2025 Family Engagement.....60 participants
- 2025 TOPS and PAB Public Comment, Emails and Letters

Current Plan Media Metrics



MENTIONS BY NEWS MEDIA TYPE

■ Online ■ Print ■ Radio ■ TV



- **897 postcards mailed to surrounding neighborhood**
- 250 newsletter subscribers
- Digital impressions (total views).....58,000
- Media mentions.....122
- YouTube views of community meeting presentations.....633

April – May 2024 Engagement



- Community Meeting #1.....123 participants
- Online Survey #2..... 228 participants

Spring- Summer 2024 Youth Engagement



• Youth Engagement177 participants

Site Tour Engagement – Aug. 2024



- Site Tour.....70+ participants

Current Plan Staff & Partner Engagement



- Focus Groups with over 33 agencies
- PRCS Staff Technical Advisory Committee and site evaluations
- Collaboration with partners including City Traffic Engineering, City Public Works, City Police and Fire Department, Colorado Springs Utilities, Colorado Parks and Wildlife



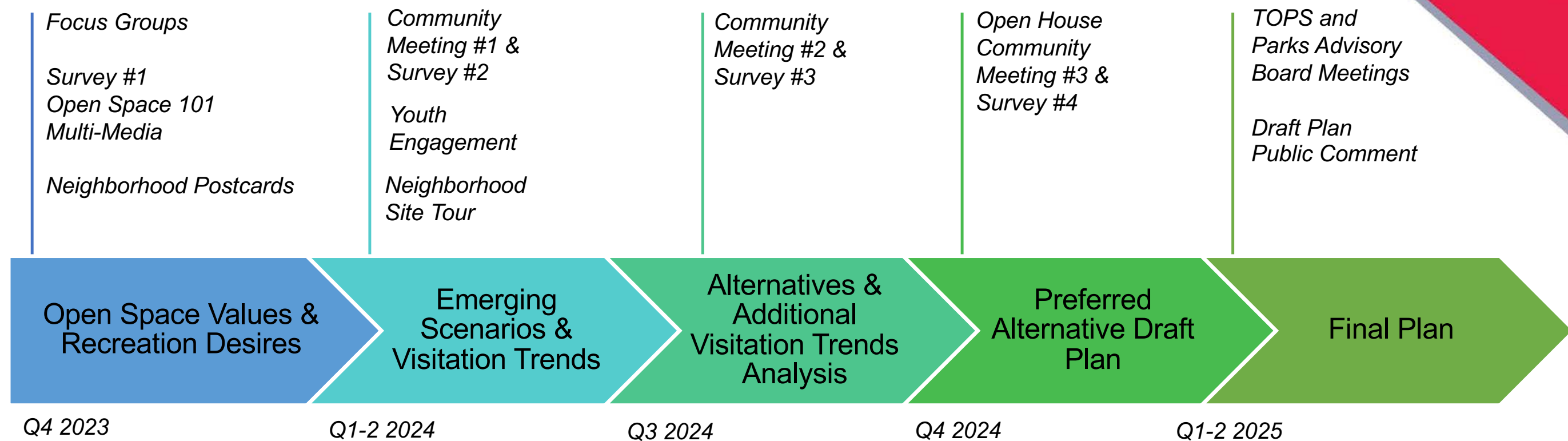
Engagement Findings: 2023 Stakeholder Focus Groups



Aiken Audubon
Broadmoor Resort Community HOA
Cheyenne Mountain Propagation Antenna Farm
Cheyenne Mountain Space Force Station
Cheyenne Mountain State Park
City of Colorado Springs Forestry Staff
City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Staff
City of Colorado Springs Public Works Staff
City of Colorado Springs Therapeutic Recreation Staff
City of Colorado Springs Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS)
City of Colorado Springs, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Park Board
Colorado College
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau
Colorado Springs Fire Department
Colorado Springs Utilities
Deerfield Hills Community Center

El Paso County Parks
Equestrian Advocacy
Fort Carson
Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park
Independence Center
Local Historian
Meadows Park Community Center
Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates
Mountain Metropolitan Transit
Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance
Spires HOA
Star Ranch HOA
Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC)
US Forest Service

Engagement Phases

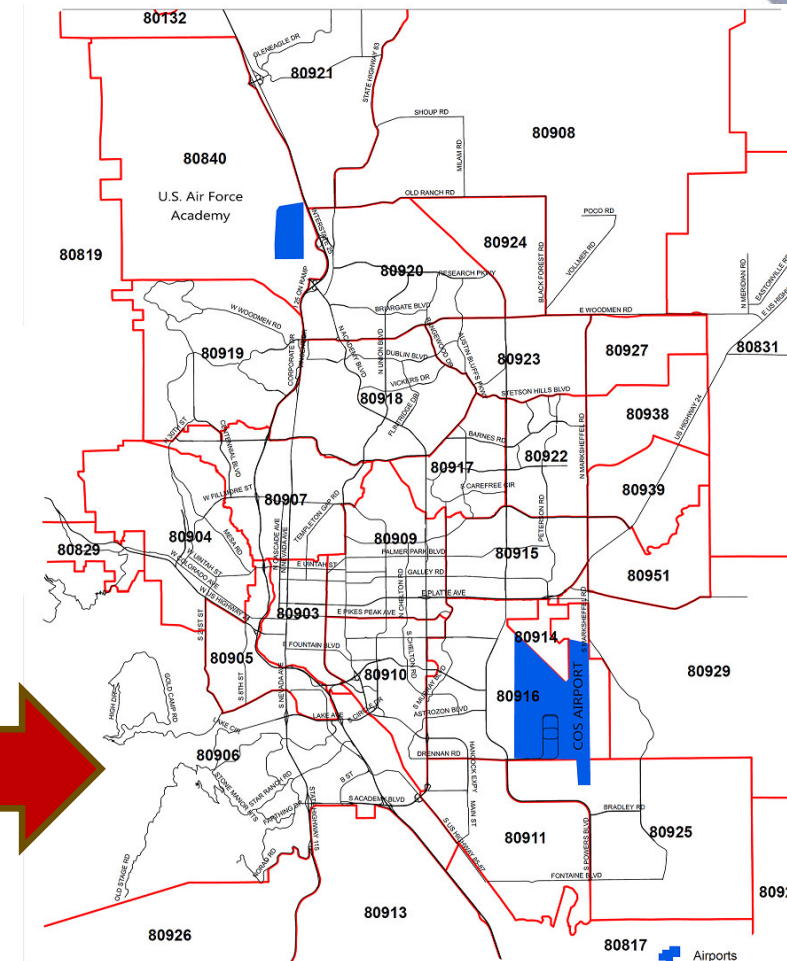


Engagement Findings: Methodology Community & Subgroups



- Engagement appendices **includes verbatim comments** and copies of emails.
- Planning team uses Qualtrics survey software that can filter out bots and “ballot stuffing” from survey results. Overall, **good survey data quality**.
- Qualtrics also enables reports to compare community as a whole with **subgroups** (e.g., youth, neighborhood responses, etc.).
- For pop-up events including youth and neighborhood outreach, same questions asked as in survey for comparison analysis.
- Overall, most input has come from residents within the **80906 zip code**.

qualtrics^{XM}

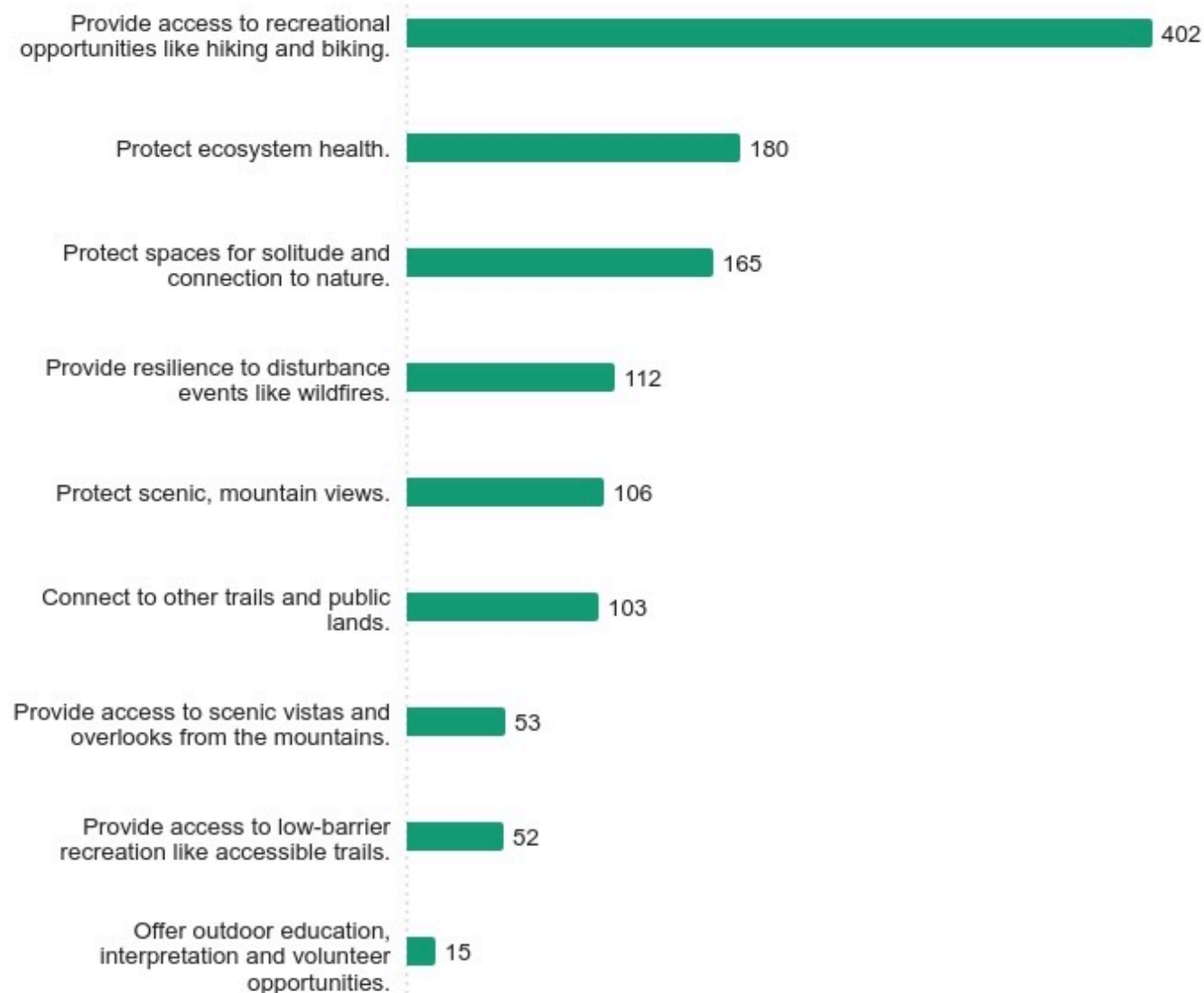


Engagement Findings: Open Space Values Top Results (Online Survey #1)



- Response to question:
When thinking about Fishers Canyon Open Space, how important are following opportunities to you? (Please rank your top three using 1, 2, 3 with 1 being the highest priority to you)
- **Protecting ecosystem health and providing recreation access** are two core values that resonate with all engagement subgroups.

RESULTS FOR 1st CHOICE 946 Responses



Engagement Findings: Open Space Values Comparison



Comparison: Online Survey and Neighborhood Tour Top **Open Space Values**

Adult Participant Top Values *Online Survey #1 Results*

- 1. Provide access to recreation like hiking and biking
- 2. Protect ecosystem health
- 3. *Protect spaces for solitude and connection to nature*
- 4. Provide resilience to disturbance events like wildfires
- 5. Protect scenic mountain views

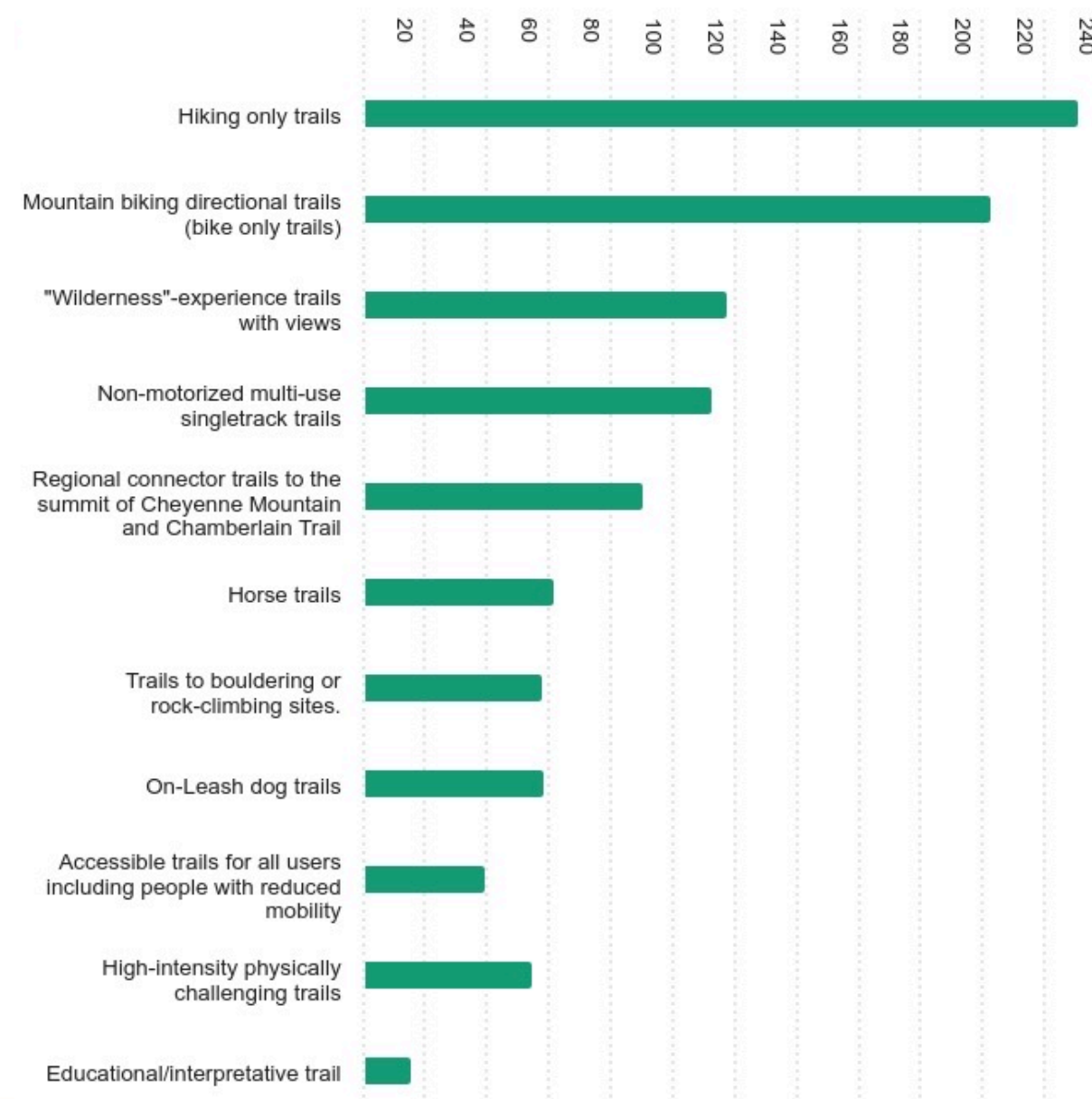
Neighborhood Site Tour Top Values *Paper Survey Results*

- 1. Protect ecosystem health
- 2. Provide access to recreation like hiking and biking
- 3. Provide resilience to disturbance events like wildfires
- 4. Protect scenic mountain views

Engagement Findings: #1 Recreation Desires (Online Survey #1)



- Response to question: The planning team is currently identifying ecologically sensitive areas of the property. If portions of the property can sustainably support the following types of recreational trails, which are you most likely be interested in? *(Please rank your top three using 1, 2, 3 with 1 being the highest priority to you)*
- Survey respondent's top desires are for **single-use trails** and **"wilderness"-experience trails**



Engagement Findings: Recreation Desires Comparison



Comparison: Youth and Adult **Top Recreation Desires**

Adult Participant Top Values

Online Survey #1 Results

1. Hiking only trails
2. Mountain biking directional trails
3. Wilderness experience trails with views
4. Non-motorized multi-use singletrack trails
5. Regional connector trails to the summit of Cheyenne Mountain and Chamberlain Trail

Youth Participant Top Values

Pop-up Events Results

1. Loop trails to walk on-leash dogs
2. Hiking or biking on accessible (low slope) trails
3. High-intensity physically challenging trails
4. Trails to bouldering or rock-climbing
5. Horseback Riding trails (tied with) Regional connector trails to the summit of Cheyenne Mountain and Chamberlain Trail

Recreation Experiences: Synthesis of Subgroup Responses



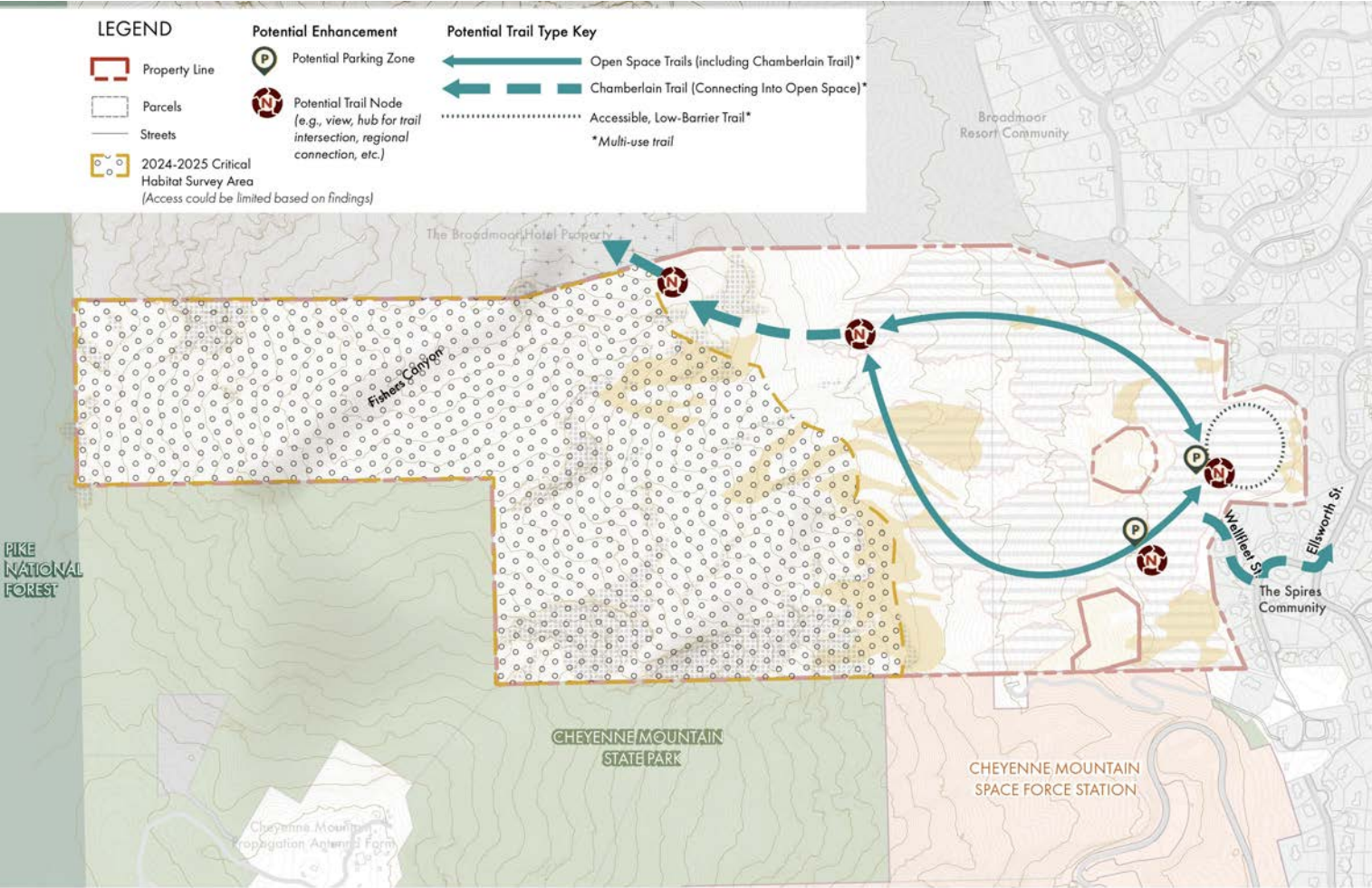
- Fishers Canyon Open Space has a **diversity of possible recreation experiences**:
Everyday Explorer
Joyful Observer
Naturalist
Adrenaline Junkie
- A synthesis of subgroup preferences reveals **different priorities**.
- Advocacy groups** have participated throughout the process and shared their top recreation desires.
- Recreation enjoyment must be **balanced with more operations and maintenance resources**.

Table 3.2: Fishers Canyon Open Space Community Recreation Desires Snapshot Collated from Qualitative and Quantitative Engagement Data. Sources: Appendices: Community Engagement Summaries.

Recreation Experiences

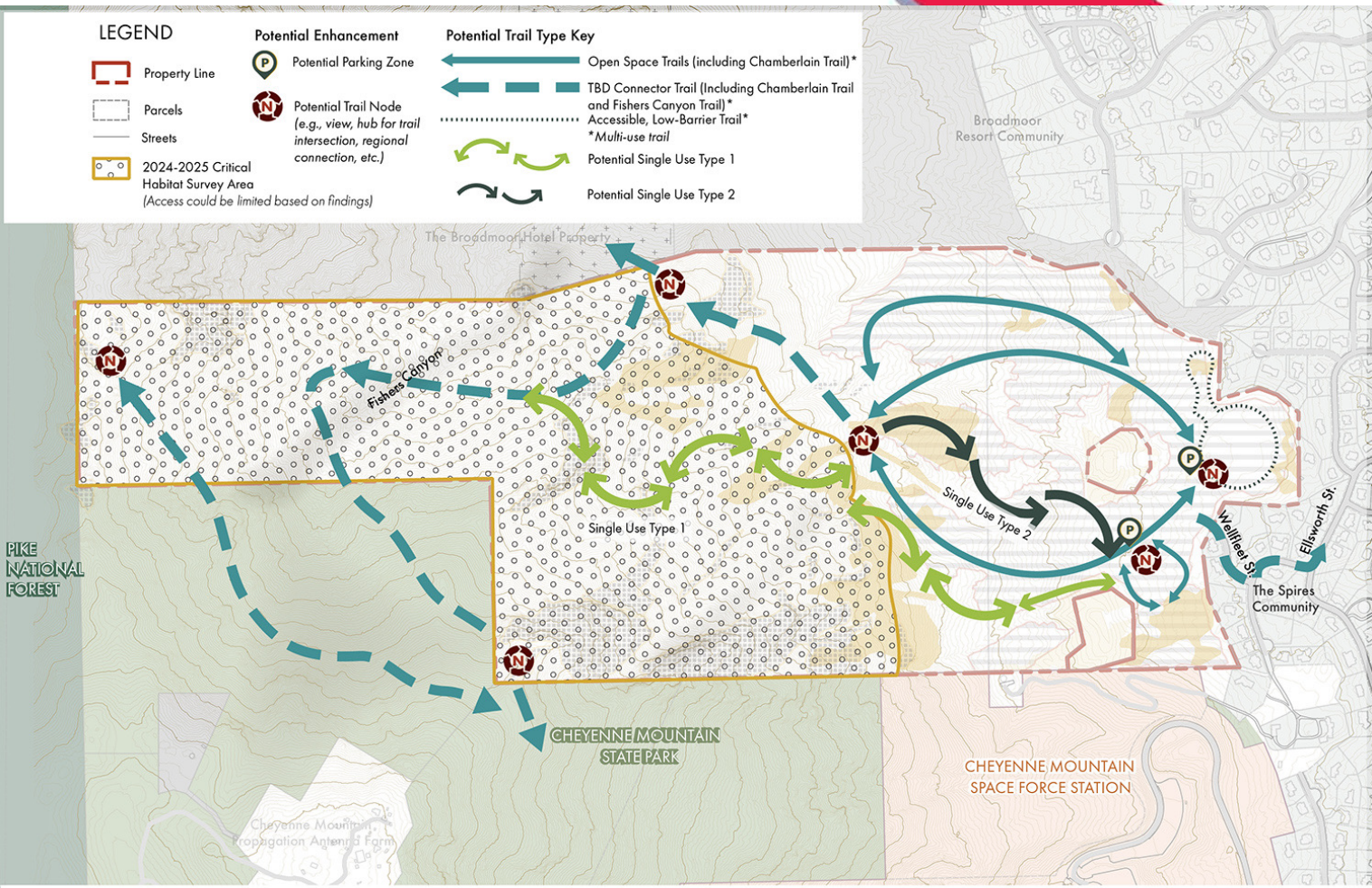
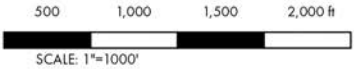
Constituent Ranking of Recreation Desires	The Everyday Explorer Cross country mountain biking, daily dog walking, hiking, loop trails, etc.	The Joyful Observer Low-barrier accessible trails, picnicking, less remote nature experiences, etc.	The Naturalist Horseback riding, hiking to scenic views, wilderness, regional trail connections and remote nature, etc.	The Adrenaline Junkie Downhill mountain biking, rock climbing, rigorous trails, etc.
Youth	1	2		3
Neighbors	2	3	1	
Community		3	2	1
Priority for Recreation Advocacy Groups	Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates and COSMBA	Families, Disabled Veteran Groups, City of COS Therapeutic Recreation and Community Centers	Cheyenne Mountain State Park, Equestrian Community	Rock Climbing Community, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates and COSMBA
Operations and Maintenance Thresholds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended increase in current number of full time operations and maintenance staff per miles of trail. The upcoming system-wide master plan should provide additional direction and priorities. 			

Engagement Findings: Emerging Scenarios 1 & 2 April 2024



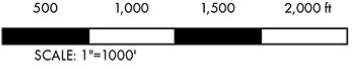
FISHERS CANYON OPEN SPACE
Emerging Scenario 1

City of Colorado Springs
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Consultant Team: Studio Campo, GEI, Atkins
April 2024



FISHERS CANYON OPEN SPACE
Emerging Scenario 2

City of Colorado Springs
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Consultant Team: Studio Campo, GEI, Atkins
April 2024



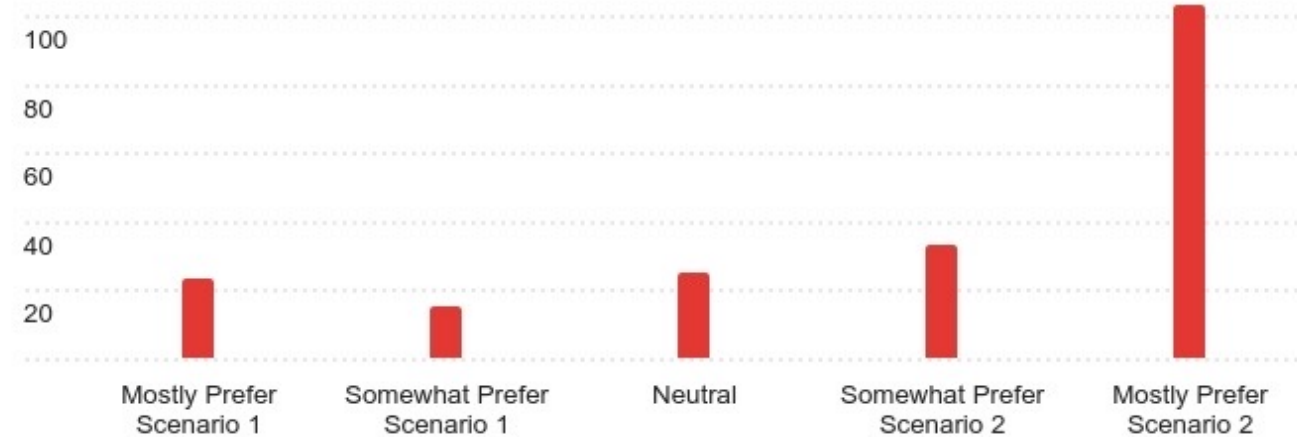
Engagement Findings: Emerging Scenarios Online Survey #2 and Meeting Preference



Comparison: Community Meeting & Online Survey Participant Preferences

Online Survey Participant Preference

Q5_1 - What scenario do you prefer?
199 Responses



Community Meeting Small Group Preference

Q8 - Our group preference was in support of:



Emerging Scenarios: Neighborhood Comments



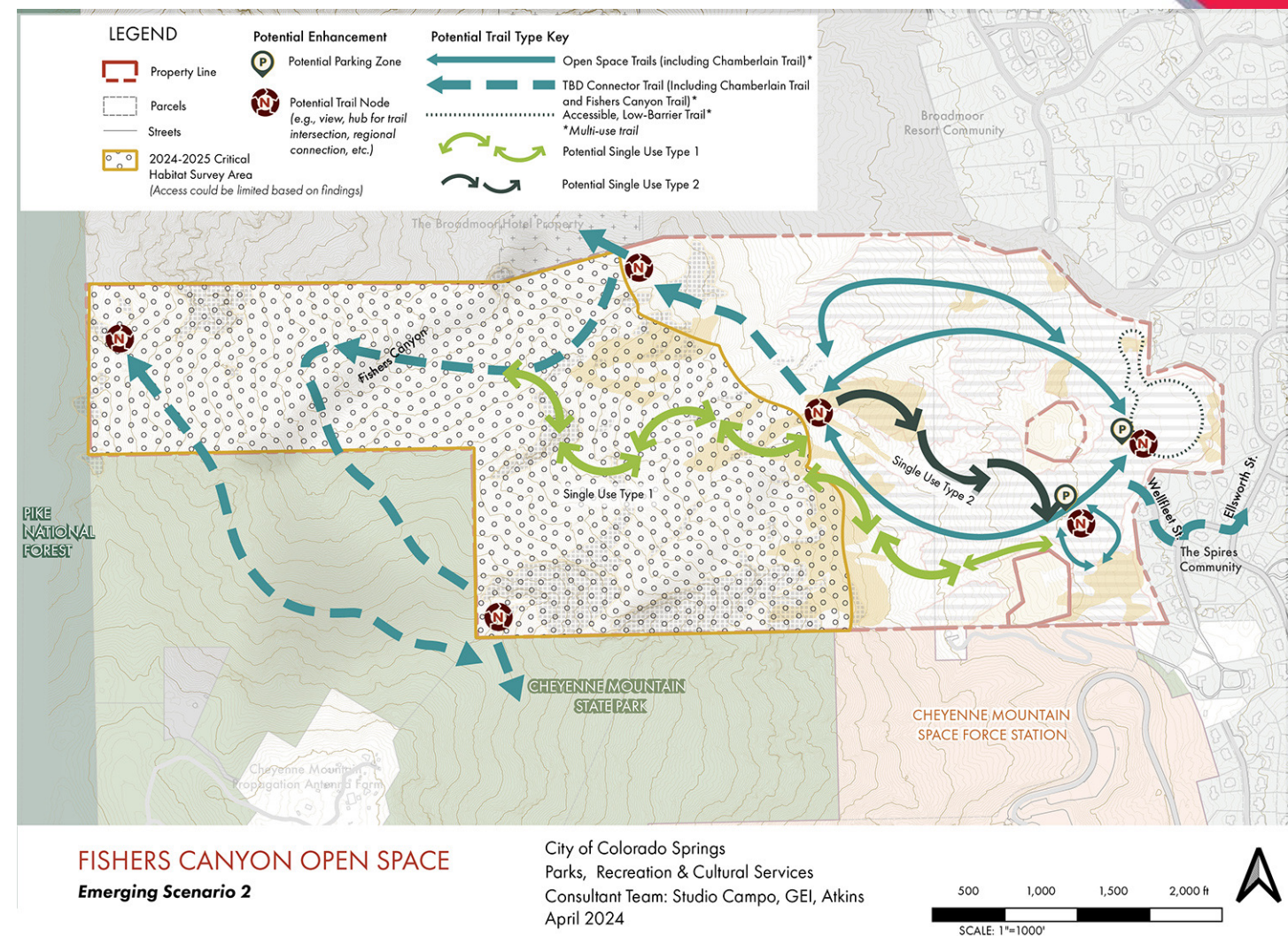
Neighborhood Comments from Community Meeting #1

Concerns

- Parking and disturbance from traffic
- Strong dislike of single access point from Wellfleet
- Safety risks from potential fires and people experiencing homelessness

Opportunities

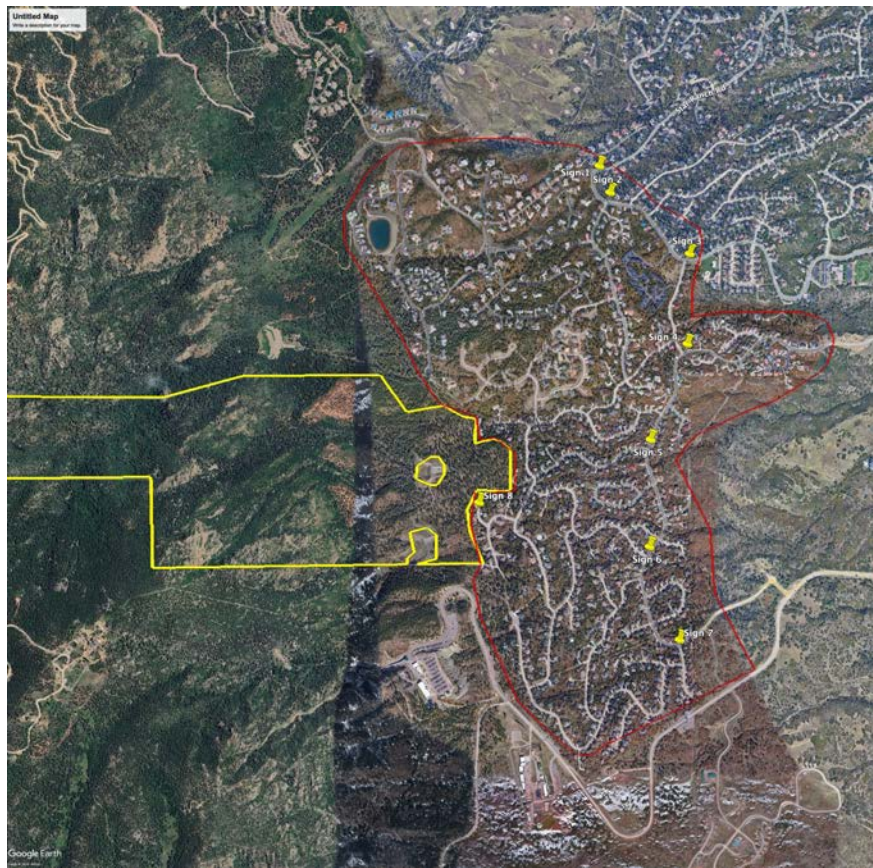
- Support of trail improvements like dog-walking on leash and connections to regional trails and destinations
- Desire to explore other ways to access site (e.g., leveraging parking and infrastructure from neighboring Cheyenne Mountain State Park).



Adaptive Engagement: Added Neighborhood Site Tour August 2024



Transparent Engagement: Neighborhood Site Tour to Address Concerns



Site Tour Catchment Area



Example Yard Sign Promotion

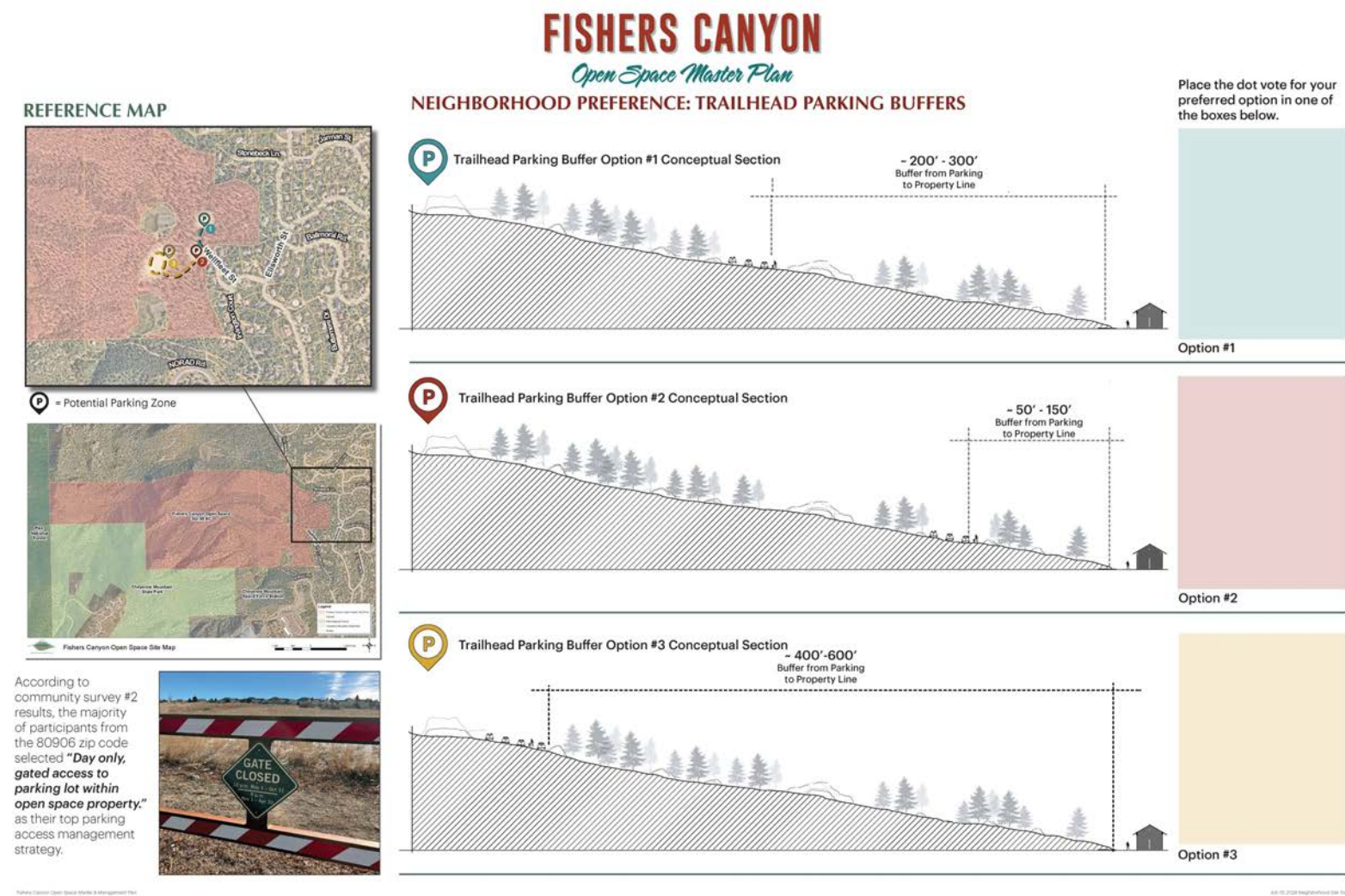


90 Participants including Families

Neighborhood Site Tour Parking Preference Exhibit



Transparent Engagement: Neighborhood Site Tour to Address Concerns



The site tour consisted of:

- **Three potential areas for parking** with description of parking strategy
- Workshop posters with visuals showing **conceptual sections of buffers** for each parking site
- **Voting opportunities** for community to weigh in on preference
- Discussion of potential **recreation opportunities**
- Discussion of **environmental conservation** and impacts

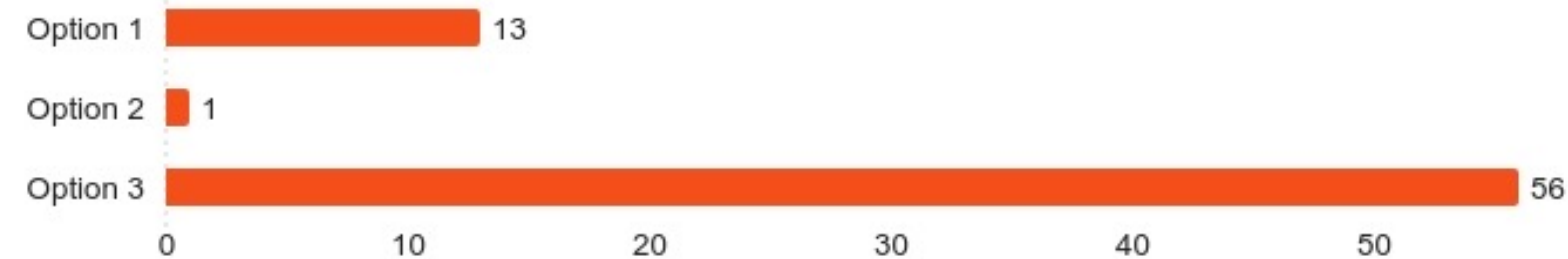
Neighborhood Site Tour Results Impacted Where Parking is Sited



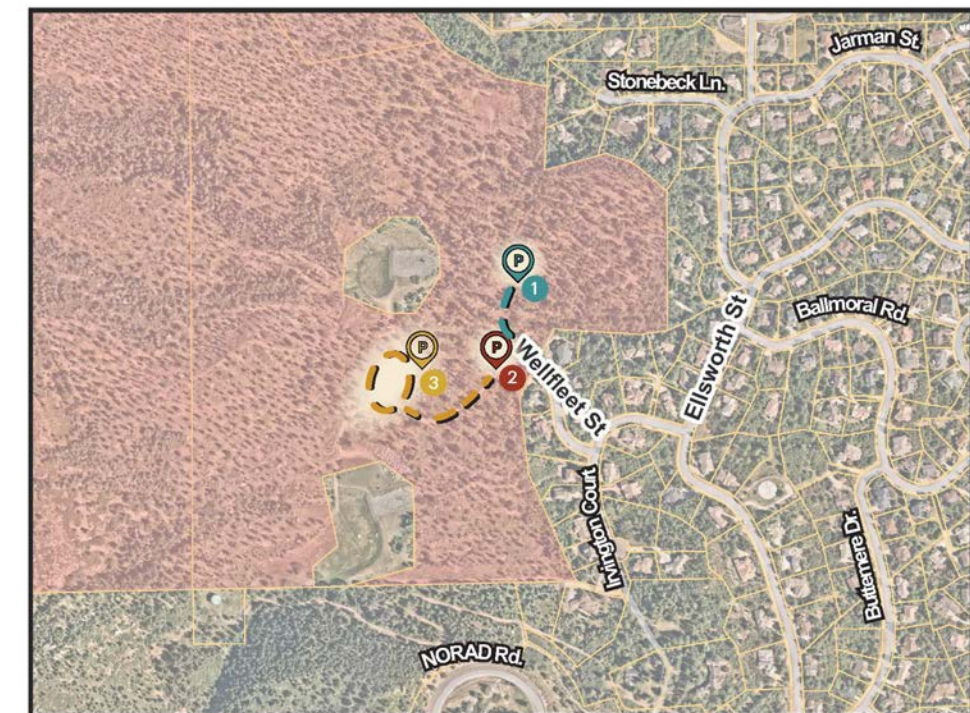
Transparent Engagement: Neighborhood Site Tour Preference on Parking & Access

Q8 - Which parking option would you prefer? *Reference image on page 3 of engagement report for option location and conceptual sections.*

70 Responses

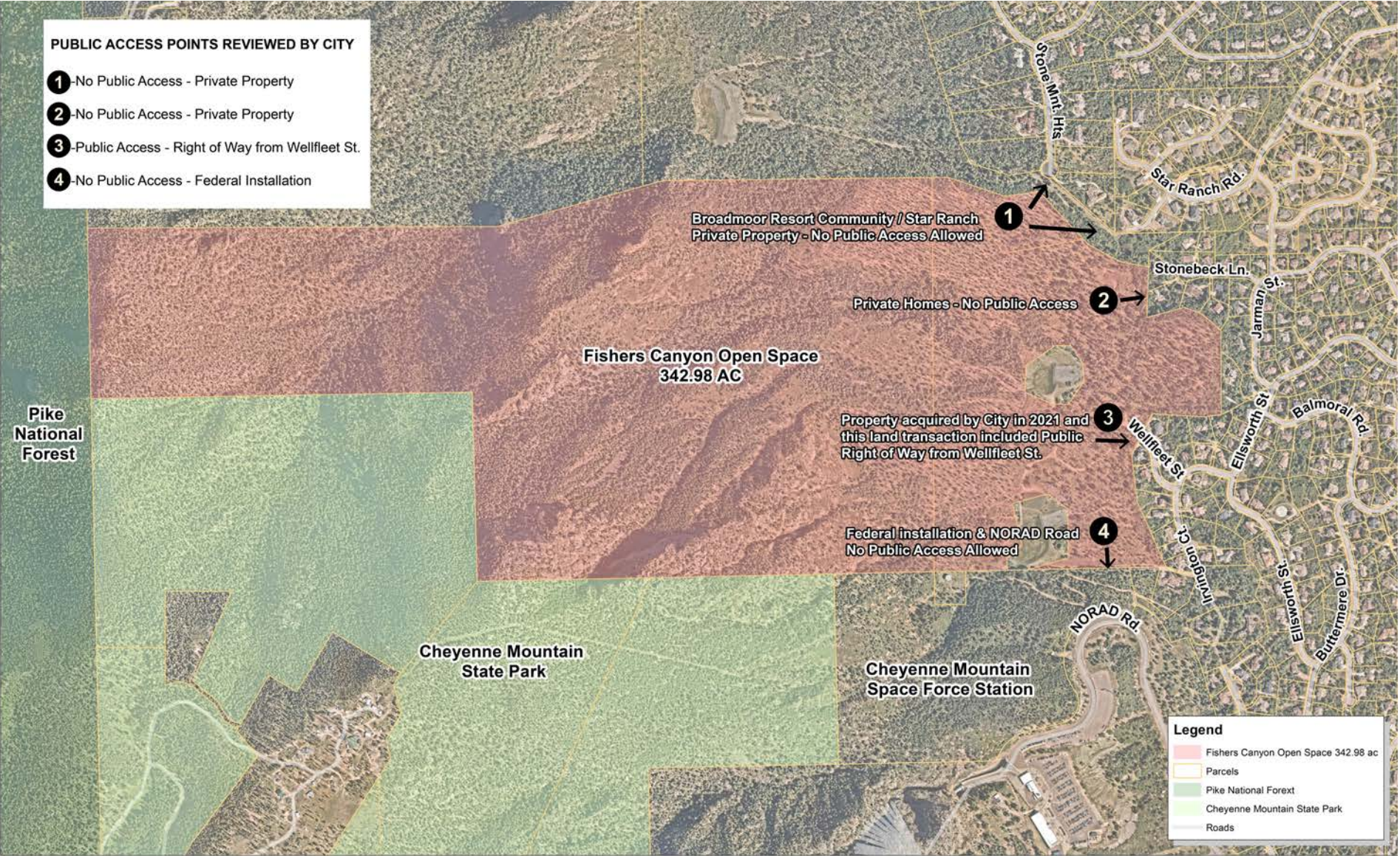


REFERENCE MAP



= Potential Parking Zone

Site Access Given: Wellfleet Public ROW



Fishers Canyon Open Space Site Map



Neighborhood Site Tour Access Route Preference

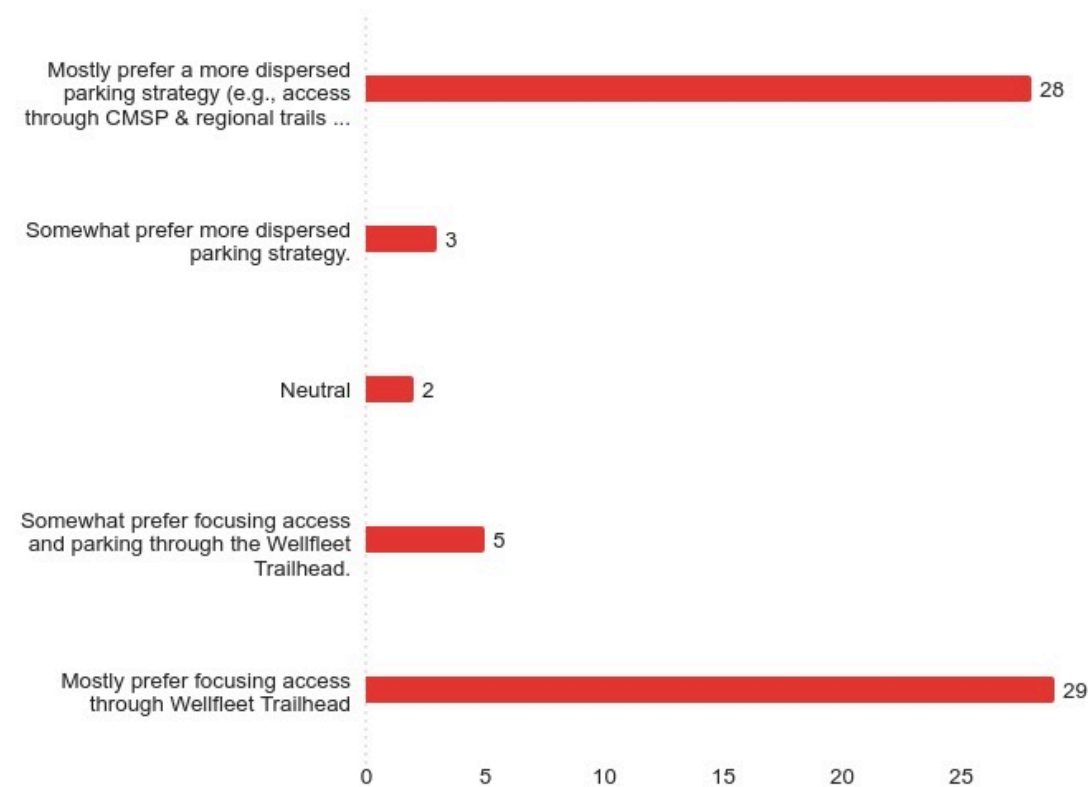


Transparent Engagement: Reflecting Neighborhood Suggestions

Q9_3 - Which overarching parking strategy do you prefer?

67 Responses

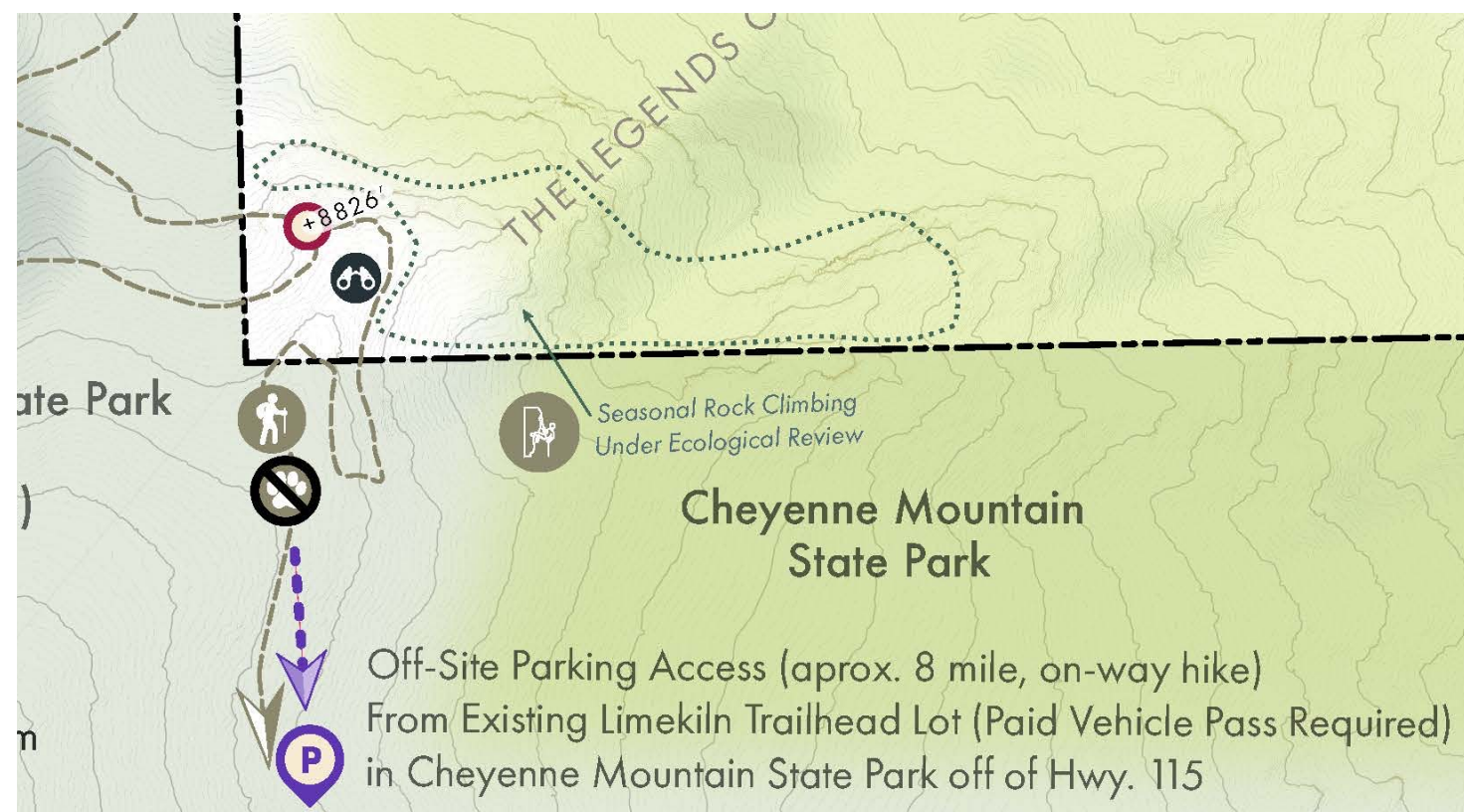
Choice Count



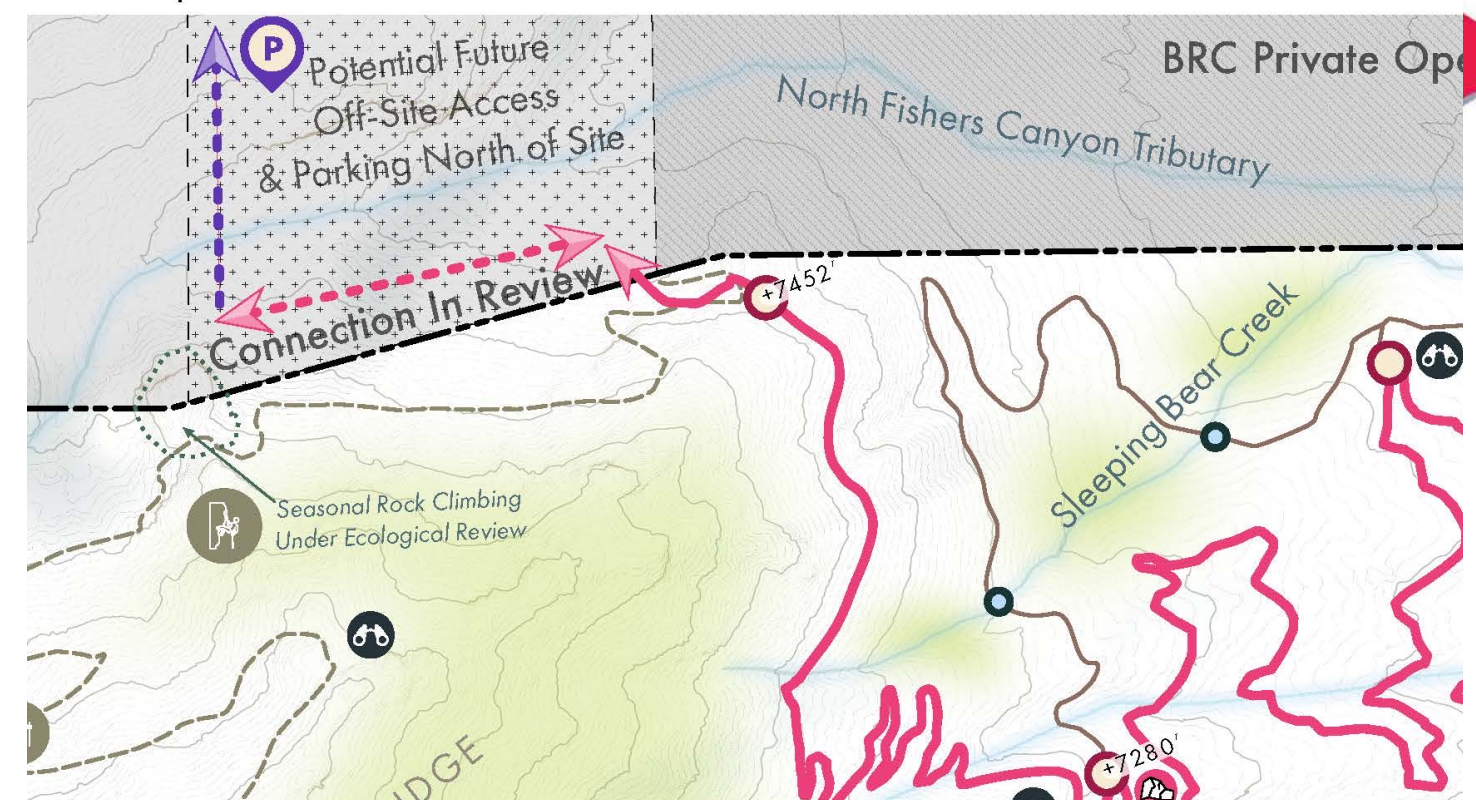
Neighborhood Site Tour Resulted in Two Additional Access Routes



Access Routes Added to Exhibits in November 2024 Alternatives Engagement:



South Access: 16-Mile Round Trip Access from Limekiln Trailhead Lot in Cheyenne Mountain State Park

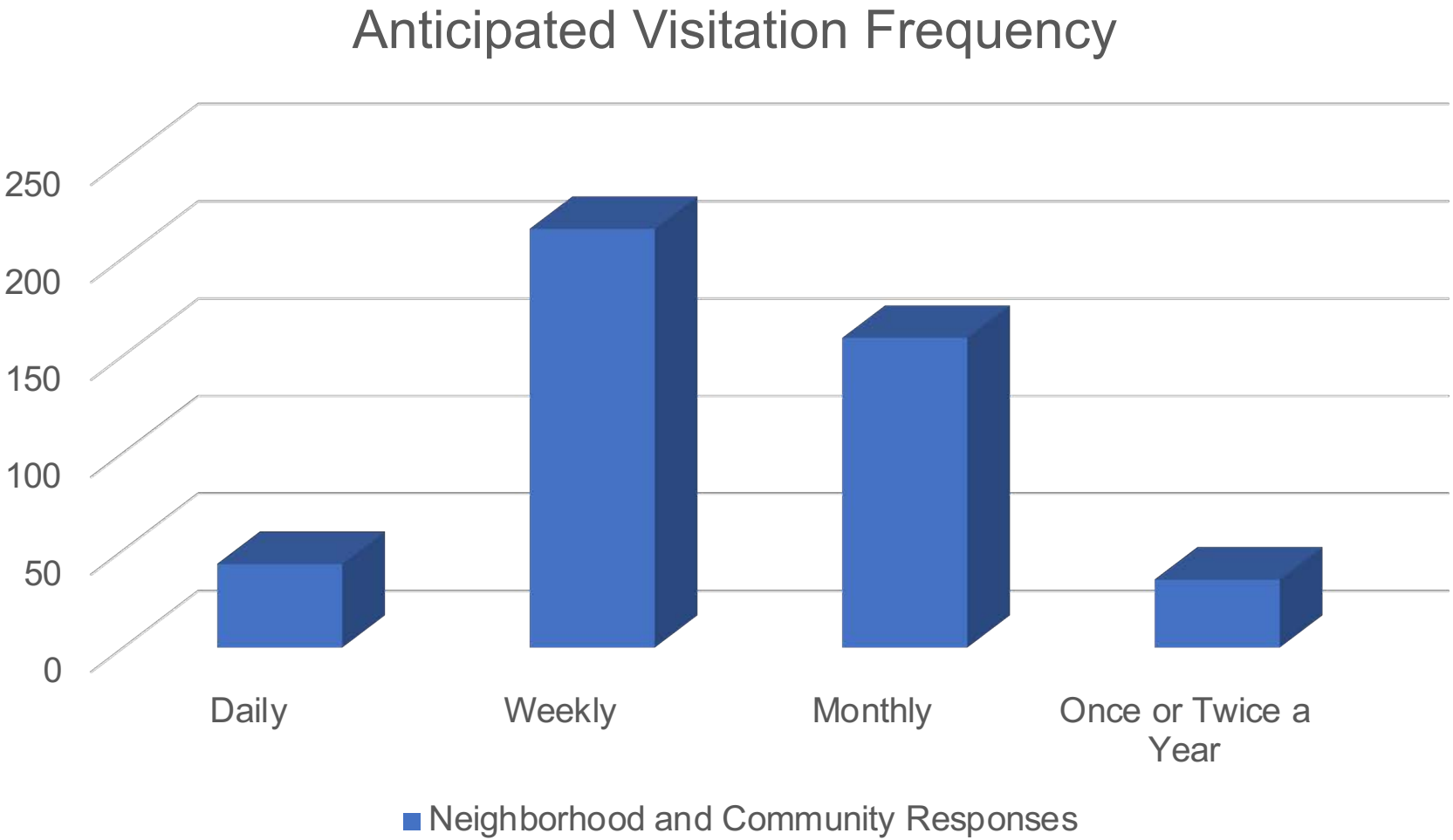


North Access: Potential Future Off-Site Access & Parking North of Site Along Future Chamberlain Trail Improvements

Engagement Findings: Visitation Trends-Frequency



How often might you visit Fishers Canyon Open Space?

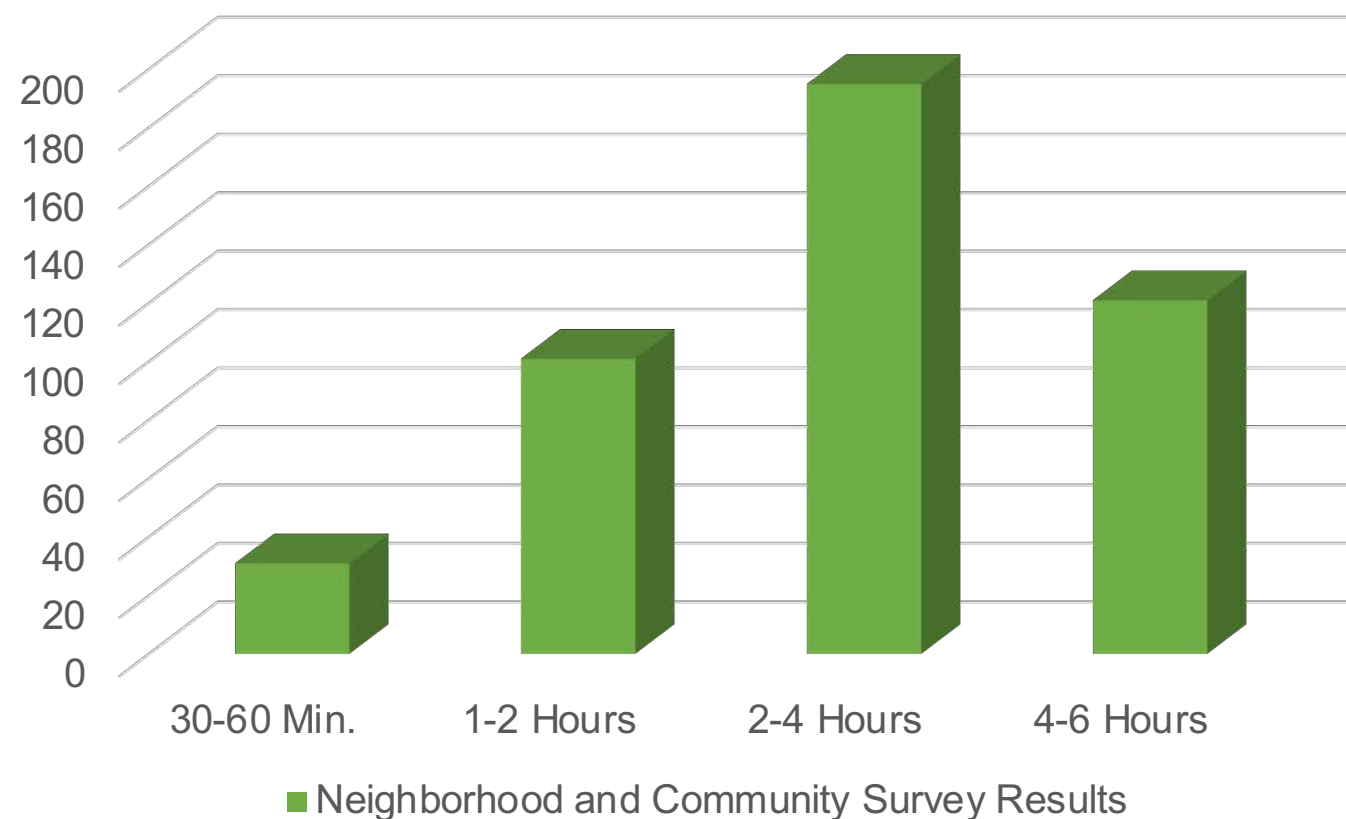


Engagement Findings: Visitation Trends-Duration

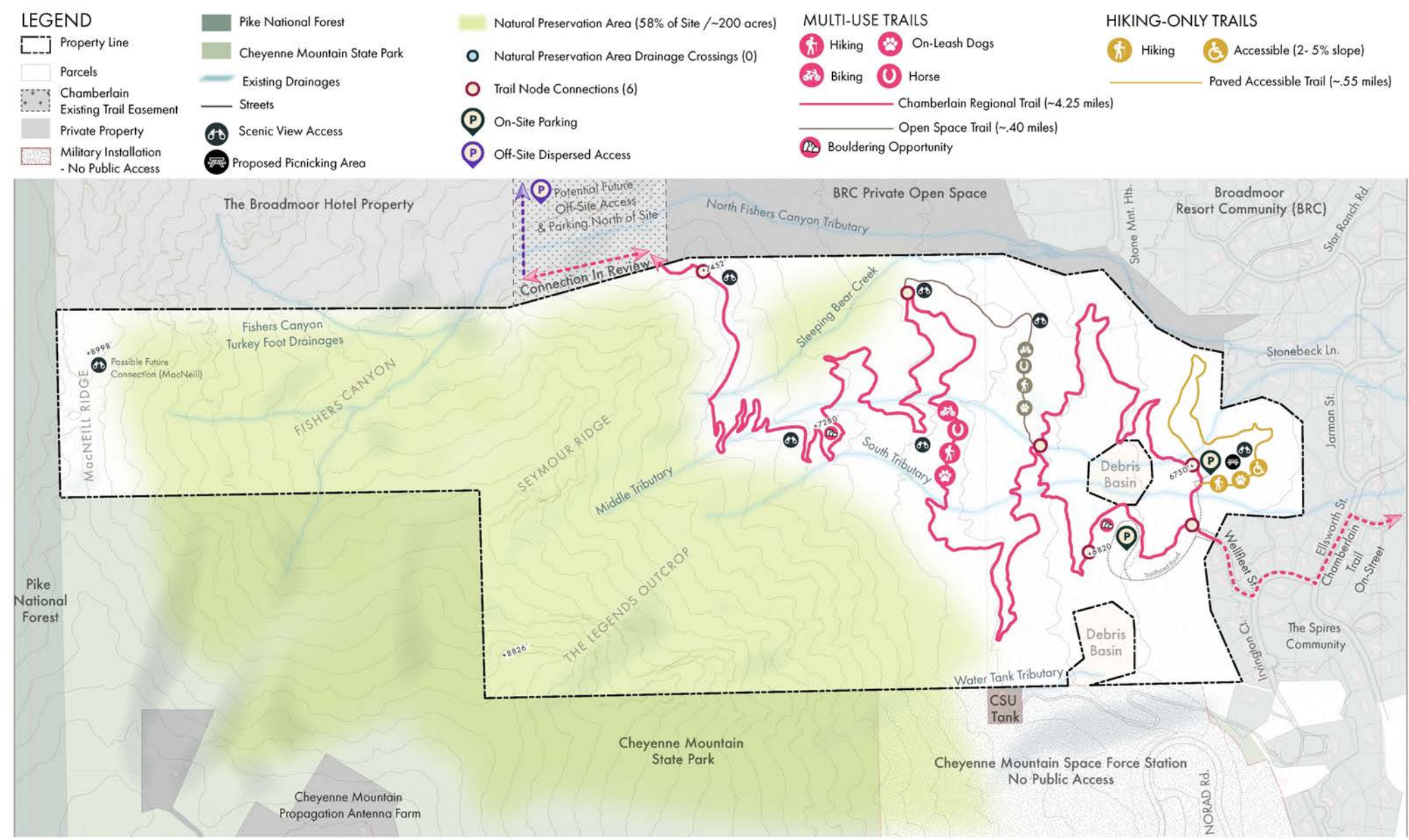


During a visit, how much time might you spend at Fishers Canyon Open Space?

Anticipated Visitation Duration



November 2024 Engagement Alternative 1



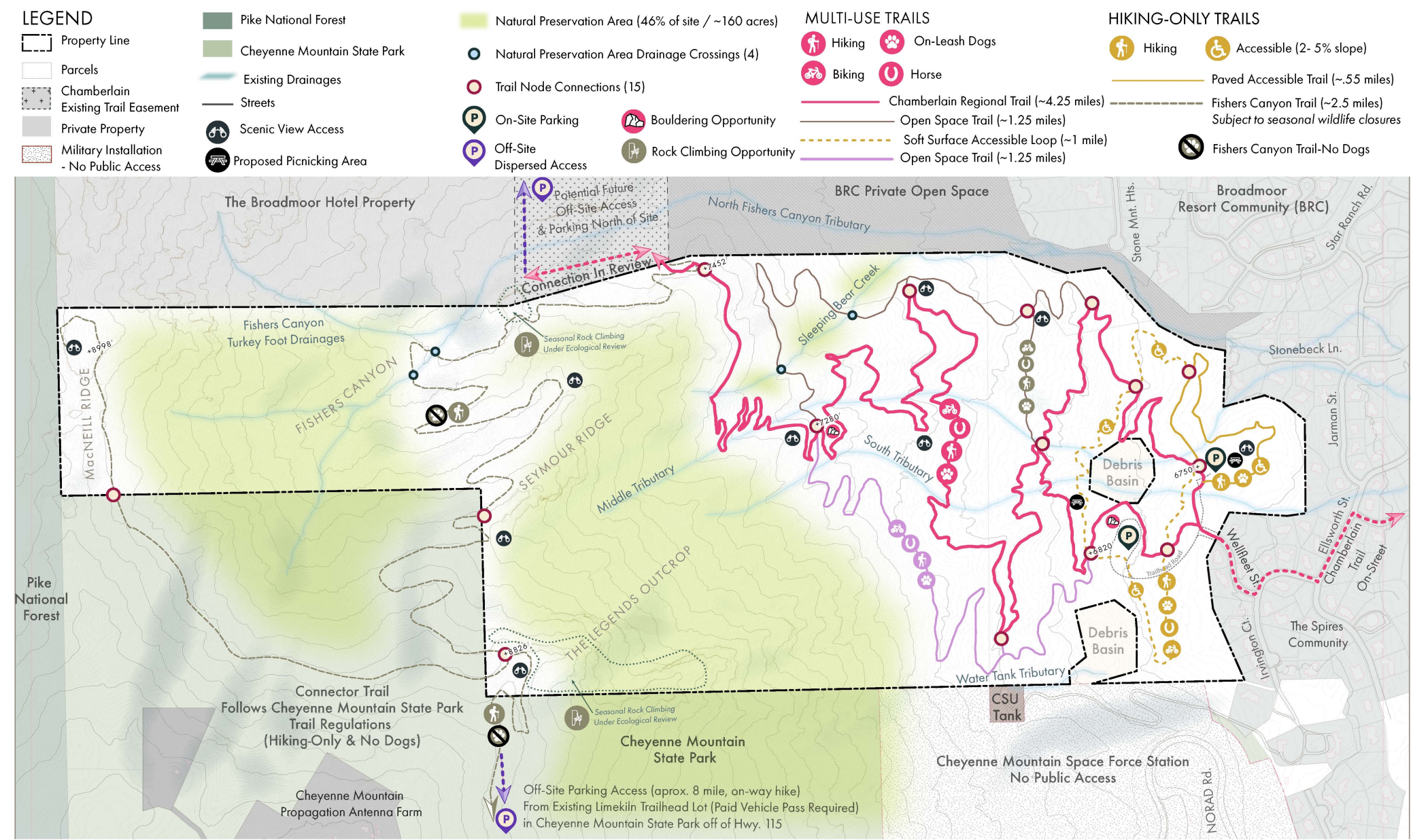
FISHERS CANYON OPEN SPACE
Trail Master Plan Alternative #1
Total Approximate Trail Mileage in Alternative #1 = 5 to 6 miles

City of Colorado Springs
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Consultant Team: Studio Campo, GEI, Atkins
November 2024



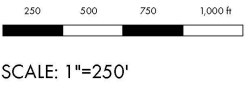
November 2024 Engagement

Alternative 2



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Trail Master Plan Alternative #2
Total Approximate Trail Mileage in Alternative #2 = 10 to 11 miles

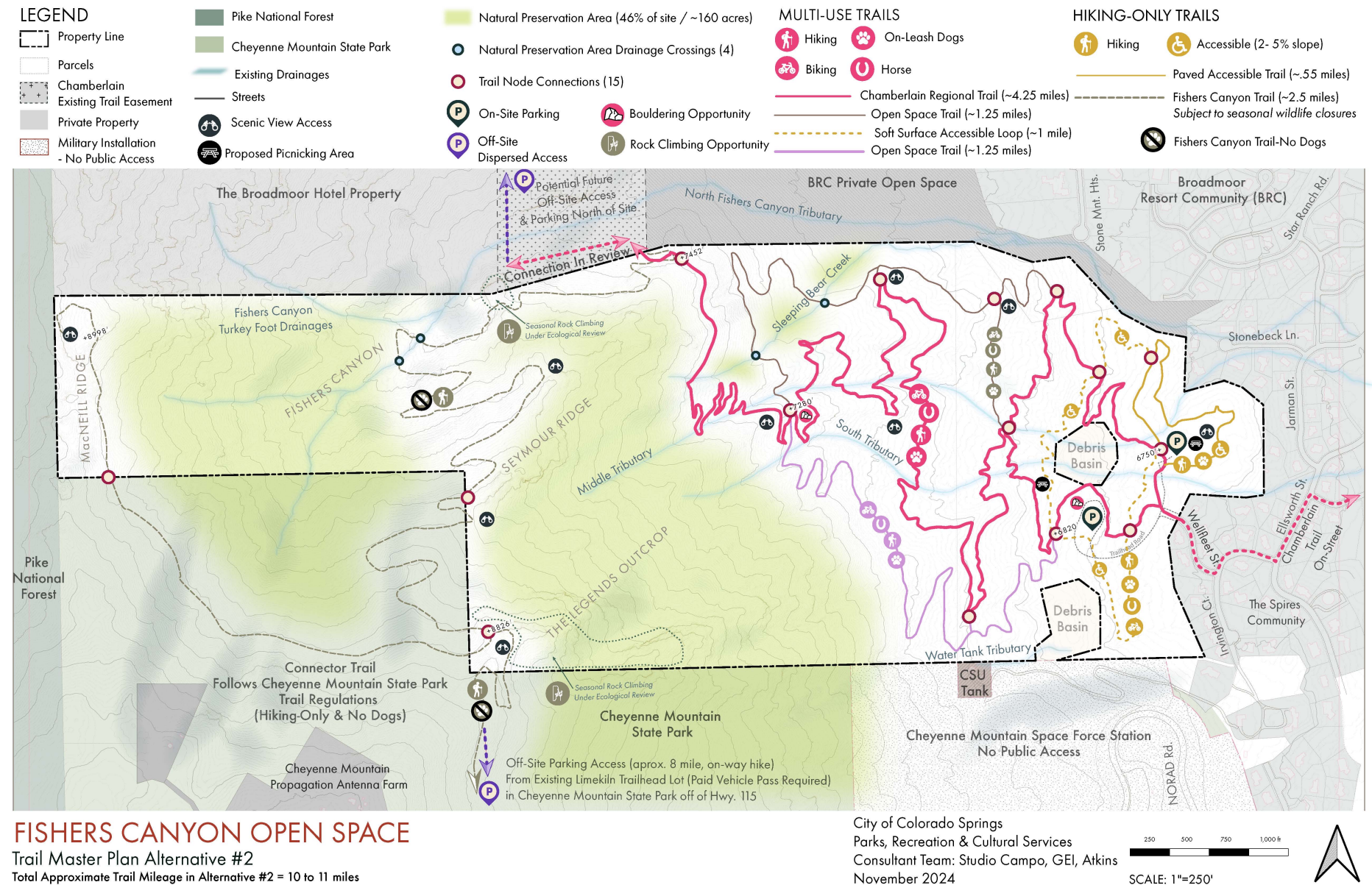
City of Colorado Springs
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Consultant Team: Studio Campo, GEI, Atkins
November 2024



November 2024 Engagement Findings: Alternatives Preference



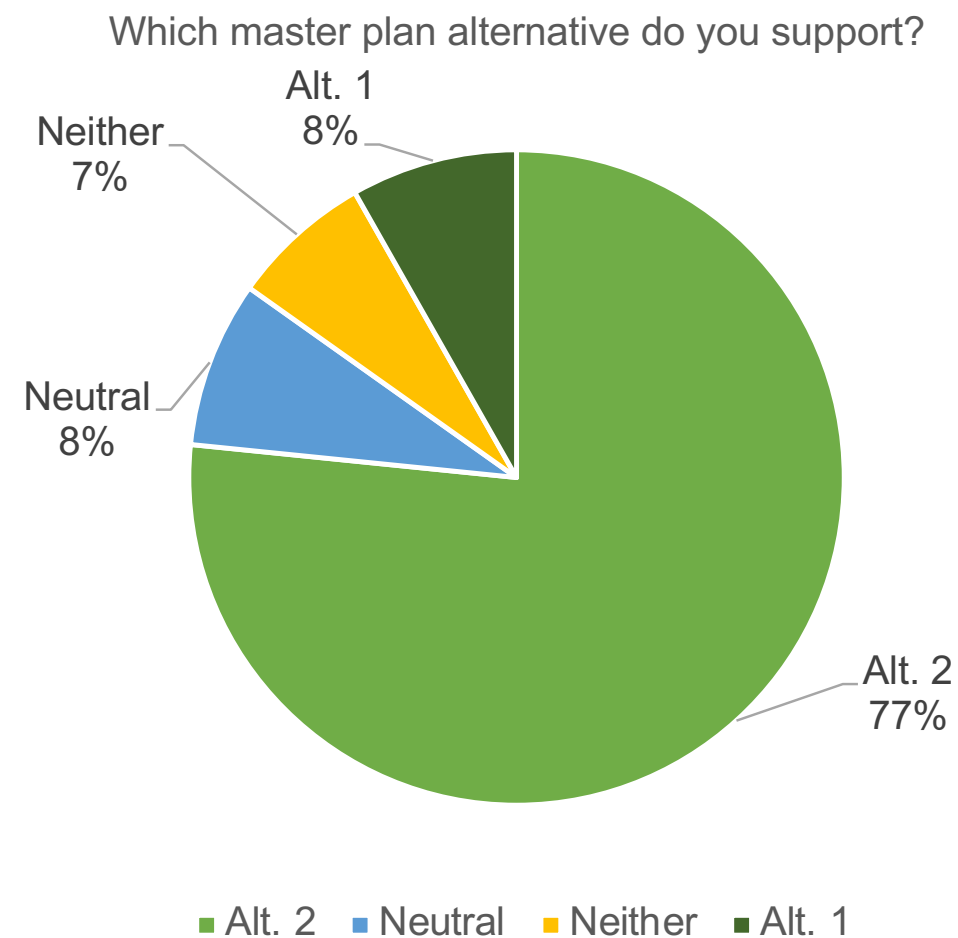
- 77 % of the community survey respondents **supported alternative 2** that has more site enhancements than alternative 1.
- 50% of the community workshop small table groups **preferred alternative 2** and an additional 42% supported either.



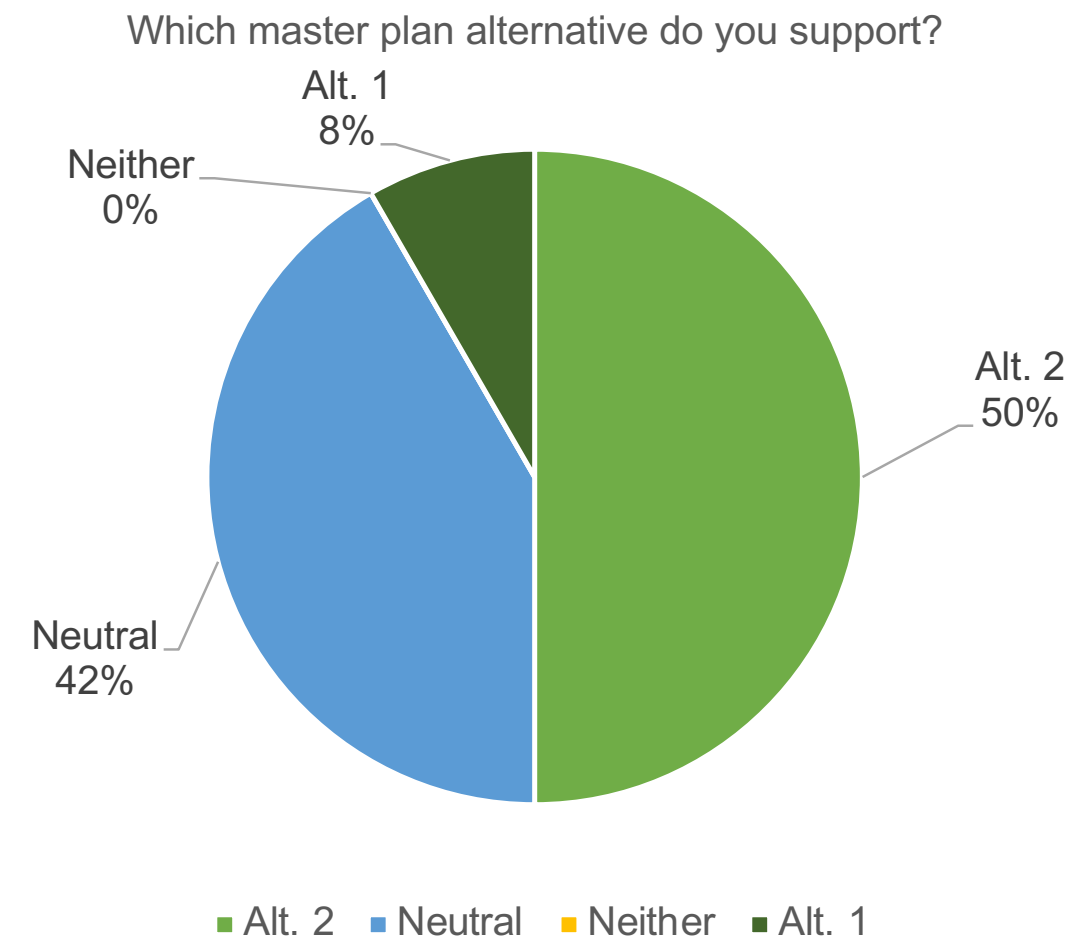
Engagement Findings: Alternatives Plan Preference



Online Survey Participant Preference



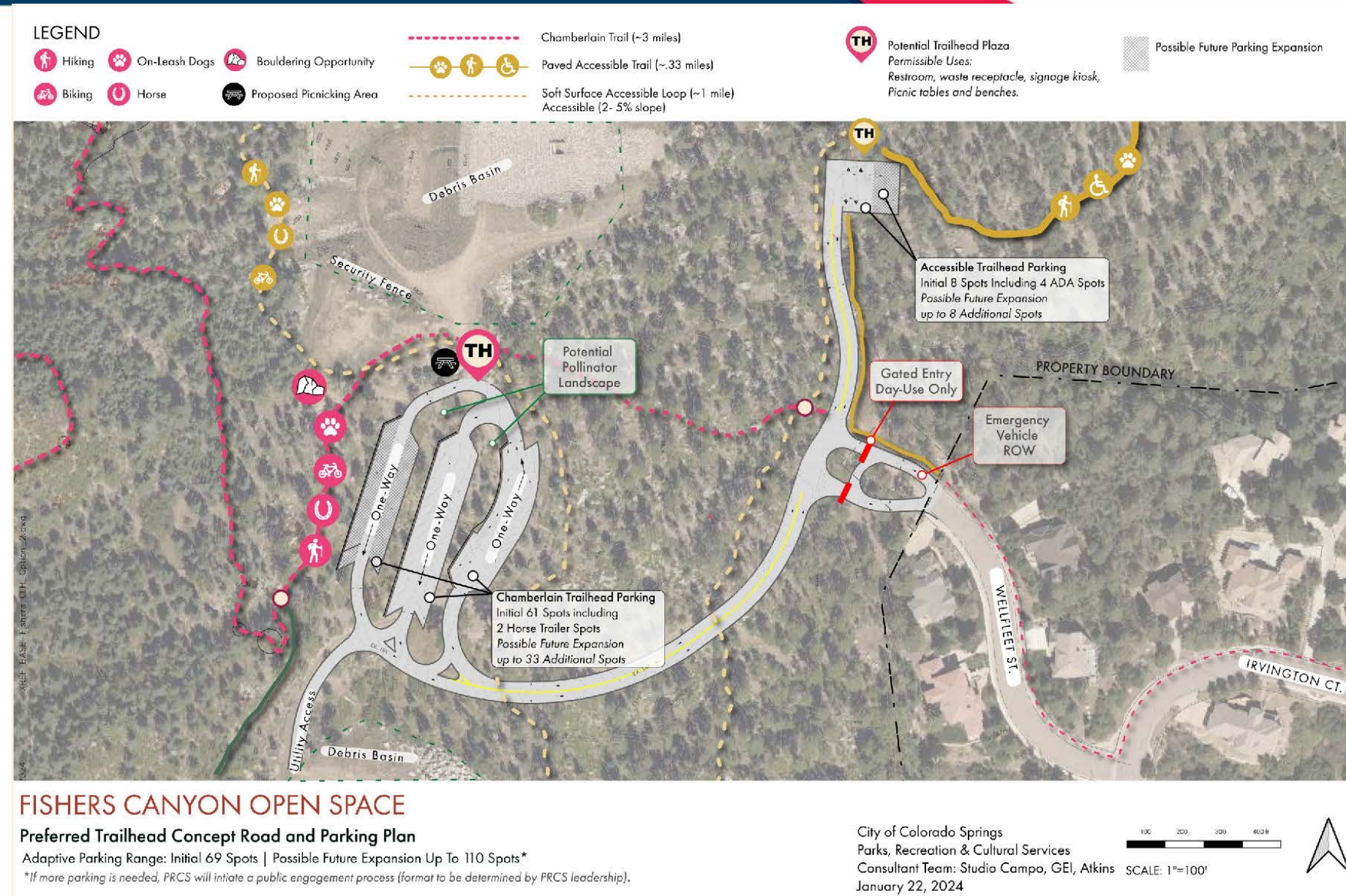
Community Meeting Small Group Preference



November 2024 Engagement Findings: Alternatives Preference



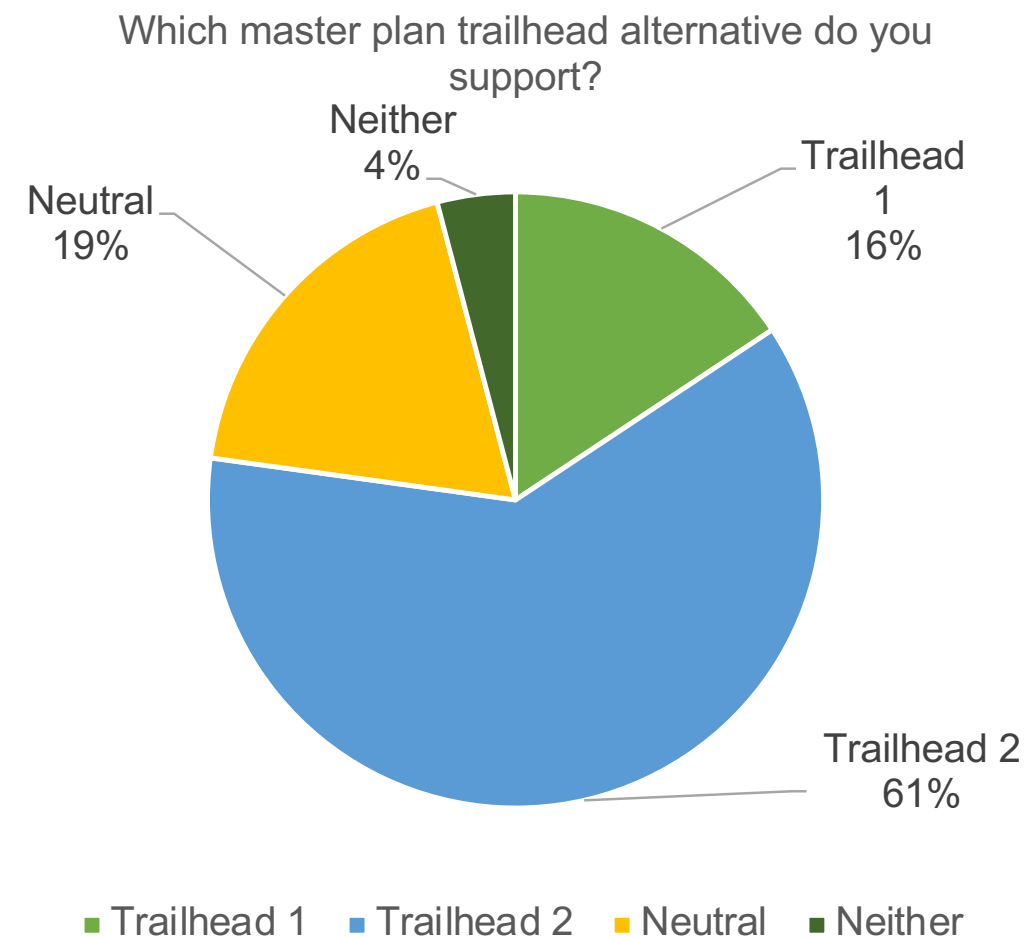
- Additionally, 61% of the community survey respondents and 67% of the community workshop small table groups supported an adaptive trailhead parking range of 60-110 spots as represented in this map.



Engagement Findings: Alternatives Trailhead Preference



Online Survey Participant Preference



Community Meeting Small Group Preference

