



PUBLIC MEETING #1 SUMMARY

March 24, 2003

On February 20th, the first of five scheduled public meetings was held at the City of Longmont Public Works Department. Approximately 175 area residents participated in the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the public with the opportunity to express their concerns and desires related to the McIntosh Lake Master Plan. After a brief presentation explaining the project process, schedule and existing site conditions, meeting participants were separated into four groups. Over the course of the next hour and a half, each of the four groups were asked to brainstorm the existing qualities of the site, issues or concerns they had regarding existing or future activities, and ideas or dreams they had for McIntosh Lake.

In addition to the meeting, the City received feedback from the public through other sources. These included questionnaires that were made available at the meeting and on the City's website as well as numerous e-mail letters sent to City staff. The public's input from the meetings, questionnaires, and letters will help guide the development of the master plan.

The following summary provides a description of what the Project Team heard during the public scoping process. This summary highlights the responses heard most often. Since it was impractical to mention every comment, less frequently mentioned issues and ideas were recorded and will be considered in the development of the master plan.

WHAT WE HEARD FROM YOU

The public was first asked to identify the qualities that are most important and that should be preserved at McIntosh Lake.

Wildlife was the quality that most respondents felt was important to the site. The public described a wide array of wildlife that could be seen at the site and special qualities of the natural environment. Open space, views and peace and quiet were also consistently mentioned. Sunsets, wetlands and the unique aspect of the water body itself also were also deemed significant.



Others felt the passive recreation opportunities of the site were the most important quality. Activities mentioned most included walking, jogging, fishing and recreation within the adjacent parks. The proximity to schools, regional trails and the Boulder County Agricultural Heritage Center were also important qualities.

The overall quality of life in nearby neighborhoods was also mentioned repeatedly. People referred to the lack of traffic, people and the relative safety of the neighborhoods as important attributes.

Secondly, the public was asked to identify issues or problems to be addressed during the planning effort.

Of utmost concern to the public (near the lake) was access through neighborhoods and the lack of parking around McIntosh Lake. Others expressed concern over increased traffic, speeding and the loss of privacy in adjacent neighborhoods. For many, safety and neighborhood security was a major concern. Several people cited the lack of law enforcement and multiple jurisdictions within the project area as a primary concern.

Others conveyed problems associated with previous activities at the lake including: noise, wildlife disturbance from people and boats, hunting near residential areas, alcohol and drug consumption, unleashed dogs, loitering, littering, fires and vandalism.

Many people expressed concern over the protection and preservation of site resources including open space, wetlands, wildlife and views. The public also raised concerns regarding air, water and light pollution if recreation development occurred.

Several people suggested that water depths in the lake and the low refilling priority posed significant limitations to water-based recreation. Many people felt there was a need to develop lake carrying capacity limits, control access points and limit the types and hours of usage. Other issues to be addressed included liability, staffing, fees and permits.

Lastly, the public was asked to generate ideas or dreams they had for what McIntosh Lake should be in the future.

The vast majority of meeting and questionnaire participants expressed a desire to see wildlife preserved and protected at the site. Wildlife viewing was stated as the most desired use at the lake. Many suggested that all or portions of the site be established as a wildlife refuge. Numerous people wanted the site preserved in its natural state, while others wanted habitat improvements to the



resource including trees and expanded wetlands. Many respondents wanted the site to remain as peaceful and quiet as possible.

Trails were the recreation amenity requested most often. However, there were varying opinions about whether or not the trail(s) should be multi-use, encircle the reservoir, or be paved, unpaved or a combination of both.



There were numerous proposals for how boating might work on the reservoir. Many people liked the idea of permitting non-motorized boating from designated launch sites. A few people suggested motorboats and jet skis be permitted during restricted hours. Several suggested motorboating would work better at Union Reservoir. Still others wanted no boating whatsoever.

Many respondents expressed the desire to permit fishing at the reservoir, including improved habitat and fishing piers. Others wanted fishing permitted at designated locations only, while some wanted no fishing at all.

Several members of the public felt it was important that the site remain day-use only. The public mentioned that fees and permits might need to be established and that careful management of any in-water uses from swimming to boating would need to be carefully considered.

There were several respondents that did not want McIntosh Lake to change at all. Some suggested that no recreation improvements or activities should be accommodated at the site. Others wanted no public access at all.

There were several other uses and activities mentioned less frequently including ice-skating, a dog park, interpretive stations and wildlife viewing blinds. All of these suggestions will be considered in the planning effort.



NEXT STEPS

All of the issues and ideas gathered from the public meeting, questionnaires and letters will be utilized in the development of Master Plan Alternatives. A range of alternatives will be presented at the next public meeting.

The next public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, **April 15, 2003** at the Senior Center, 910 Longs Peak Ave. From **6:00 pm to 6:30 pm** an open house will take place followed by a meeting from **6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**. At this meeting several alternative plans will be presented and feedback will be gathered on which plan or combination of plans is preferable.

Thank you for participating in the process