Engaging an Urban Community in a Wild Space
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Introduction
The City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks provides preserved and protected wilderness land adjacent to a large metropolitan area. This urban-wilderness relationship presents both unique difficulties and opportunities for our organization. Boulder OSMP has worked to bridge the gap between nature and city by developing novel programming and focusing on the symbiotic relationship between human and environmental health. This poster examines how Boulder OSMP engages an urban community in a natural space while simultaneously dealing with the pressures an urban area puts on protected lands.

About Boulder OSMP:
- 45,000 acres, 155 miles of trails
- 6.25 million visits a year
- Adjacent to metropolitan area of 3.1 million people
- City of Boulder population - 107,000+
- Owned by city, paid for through sales tax
- A land system which will not expand as quickly as population and recreational demand is predicted to increase

Programming
- Our education and outreach team is dedicated to providing unique programming that reaches a diverse range of public interest.
- We work to engage all members of our community including: outdoor newcomers, outdoor enthusiasts, underrepresented outdoor communities, children, locals, and tourists.
- Example Programming:
  - Bilingual/Spanish programming
  - Physical and mental wellness programming
  - Kids programming
  - Educational programming
  - Visitor engagement programming

Human & Environmental Health
- Boulder OSMP recognizes the importance for it's visitor’s to have a shared stewardship ethic.
- OSMP strives to foster this stewardship ethic through positive experiences and healthy activity on our protected lands.
- We work to foster a relationship with our lands among the local constituency. This is represented through our expansive volunteer community.
- Community members serve a vital role in stewarding open space through volunteerism and service learning.
  - ~1800 volunteers in 2017
  - ~17,000 hours

Bridging the Gap
- Boulder Open Space is a unique situation in which there is an abrupt change from city to nature. This leads to the existence of urban issues in a wild setting.
- OSMP works with community members and organizations to model and encourage behaviors aimed at reducing visitor conflict, impacts on our resources, and negative human/wildlife interactions.
- This includes:
  - Voice and Sight off leash dog program
  - Large Outreach effort making sure visitors are informed
  - Education on wildlife interactions
  - Protection of soundscapes
  - Transportation management