

Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

Garden of the Gods Park Restroom Facilities Improvement Plan

Engagement Process -- Summary Report

November 2017

The goal of the public engagement process for the Garden of the Gods Park Restroom Facilities Improvement Study is to collect input from visitors and stakeholders that will help inform the plan. Visitors and stakeholders were engaged in the following ways:

- Stakeholder input meetings Tuesday, Oct. 19 and Thursday, Oct. 21 (Approximately 18 participants)
- Park on-site surveys – Saturday, Sept. 23 (150 completed surveys)
- Public Meeting #1 – Tuesday, Oct. 24 (Approximately 25 community members)
- On-line survey – 175 completed surveys
- Public Meeting #2 – Scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 30

Stakeholder meetings: (Key take-aways from stakeholder input meetings)

- North Main – Demolish and rebuild – current location – increase capacity – industrial strength – “It’s about appearance”
- Scotsman – Improve this location – open year round – potential to connect two parking lots
- Parking Lot 4 (Previously Hidden Inn) – lots of space to expand – room for roundabout – ADA lot is very important
- Parking Lot 7 – Addresses the concern for those in Central Garden – fairly heavily traveled spot – emergency access good
- Parking Lot 10 – Lots of trailer users – South of the park has appeal – seems like the best location
- Other suggested locations – Balanced Rock (Trading Post nearby) – Rockledge (GOGVC nearby)
- Restrooms should be located wherever shuttle stops.

On-Site Surveys (150 completes) were conducted Saturday, Sept. 23 at Garden of the Gods Park at the North Main Parking Lot. Many of the respondents visited the restroom at that location that day. More than 70% of the visitors that day indicated they have used the restroom facilities at the park and more than 66% rated the facilities fair and poor, 15% did not rate them due to not being familiar with the facilities. More than 90% of the visitors that day felt that the North Main Restroom is located in a good location.

The five restroom features most important to the visitors (148):

- Clean and well maintained
- Safe at all times
- Can be used in the evenings or on weekends
- Conveniently located in places you visit in the park
- Enough toilets to minimize waiting/queues

Approximately 100 respondent provided input on future restroom locations in the park. These respondents were split fairly evenly between Parking Lot 4 and Parking 7 as their preference for a new restroom.

The top three new restroom design features ranked by the respondents were water conservation, low impact design and energy conservation.

On-line Surveys (242 started survey with 175 completes)

An e-blast flyer was distributed to approximately 850 email addresses that publicized the public open house and included a link to the website/survey. In addition, information was emailed to approximately 37 organizations to post on their website or distribute through their social media channels.

Approximately 86% of the respondents indicated they have used the restrooms at the Park and more than 49% rated the facilities fair and 35% poor.

The five restroom features important to the visitors (175):

- Safe to use at all times
- Clean and well maintained
- Pleasant or neutral smell
- Can be used evenings/weekend
- Free of graffiti or damage

When respondents were asked about placement of an additional restroom location, 92 selected Central Garden/Parking Lot 7, and 47 Central Garden/Parking Lot 4.

The top three new restroom design features ranked by the respondents are:

- Water conservation
- Complement and blend design to surrounding environment
- Low impact design

Public Meeting – Tuesday, Oct. 24 (Approximately 25 community members)

An e-blast flyer was distributed to approximately 850 email addresses that publicized the public open house and included a link to the website/survey. In addition, information was emailed to approximately 37 organizations to post on their website or distribute through their social media channels. In addition, the public meeting was promoted on community and media calendars.

Location input from participants:

- North Main convenient location, but needs to be expanded
- Most participant felts Scotsman is a bad location due to lack of parking, but should be kept open year-round
- Generally, participants felt there should be at least two more year-round restroom locations
- Most participants agreed that Lot 10 should be the first location
- Participants were split: 2/3 preferred location Lot 7, and 1/3 preferred location Lot 4

Facility features important to participants:

- Proximity to parking
- Stall doors
- Hand dryers
- Baby changing tables

Design features important to participants:

- Pleasing design
- Low maintenance