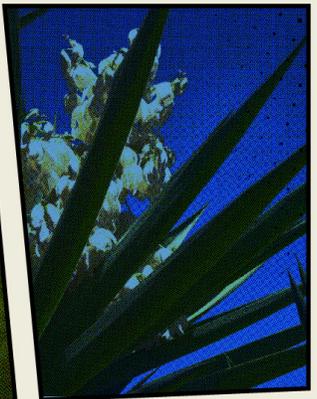
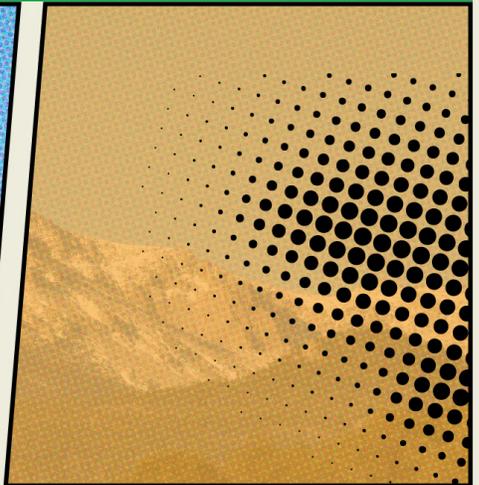
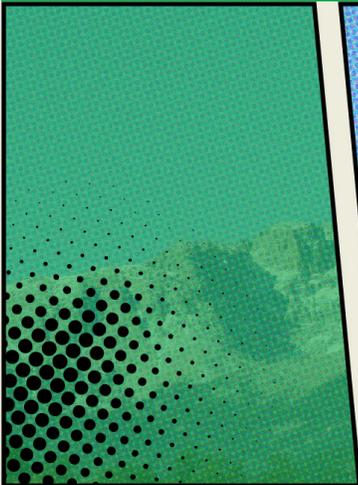
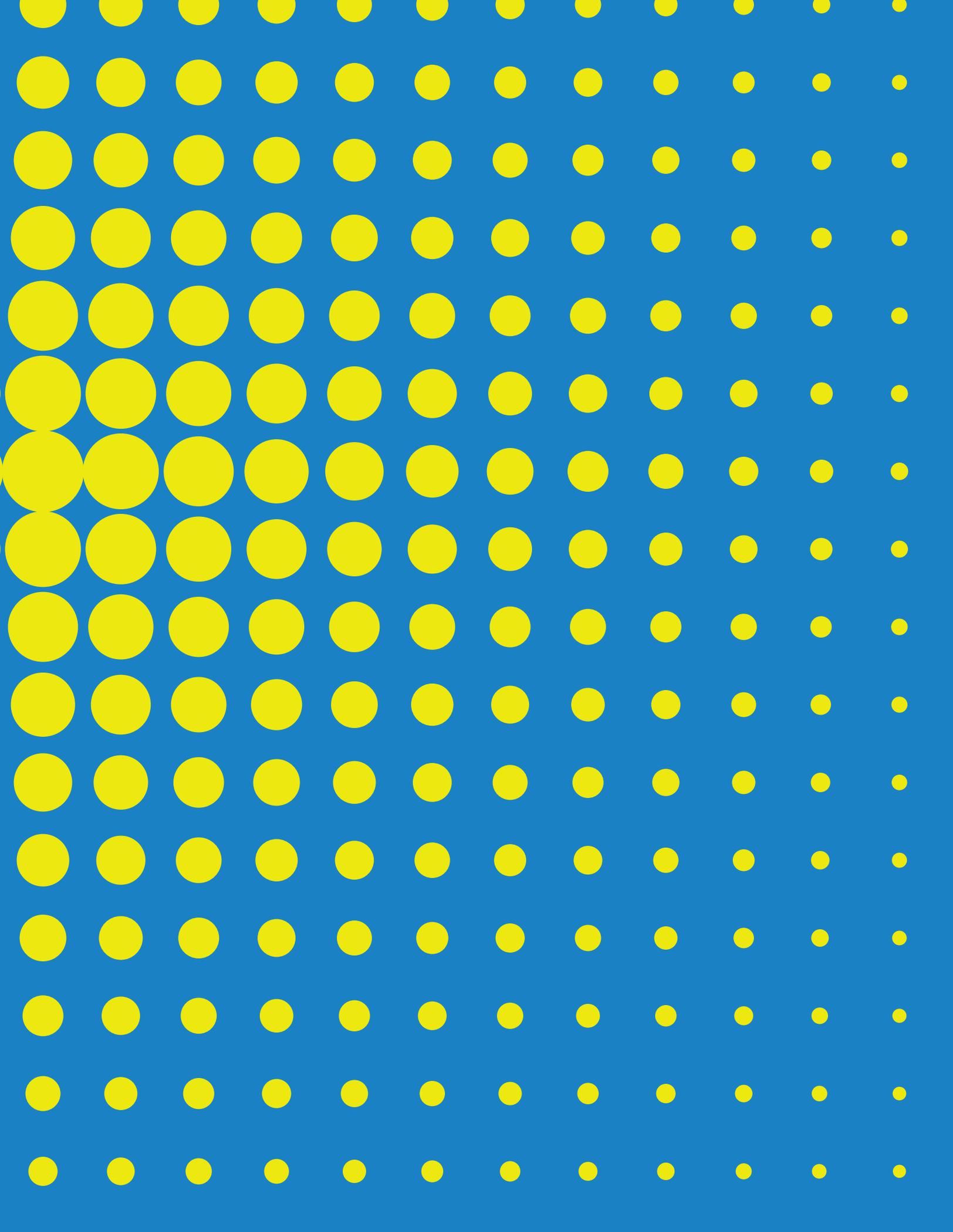


pikespeak

OUT THE DOOR!





SURVEY SUMMARY

OUT THE DOOR PIKES PEAK! SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

SURVEY SUMMARY

BACKGROUND AND INTENT

The Pikes Peak Inspire Coalition is undertaking a planning process to identify barriers and opportunities to engaging youth and families in the outdoors. As a part of this process, an online survey was carried out as one of the first steps in engaging both youth and adult Colorado Springs residents. The survey provides insight into current youth and adult behaviors and values regarding interactions with nature and the outdoors; opinions regarding barriers to spending more time in nature, and what future changes could help encourage or facilitate enhanced experiences in the outdoors and natural settings within the city and beyond.

METHODOLOGY AND SAMPLE SIZE

An online survey was utilized which was made publicly available and widely advertised from June 14 through July 20, 2016. The survey was designed with two separate sets of questions to gather responses from both youth ages 7 to 19 and adults 19 and over with targeted questions aimed at each demographic. Skip logic was used within the survey to direct respondents to questions based on their answers, therefore not everyone who took the survey responded to each of the questions.

A total of 1,069 survey responses were collected, with 263 youth surveys and 803 adult survey responses. A significant number of surveys were collected from those with a connection to the target opportunity area with 285 surveys, 140 from youth and 145 from adults.

A non-probability sampling method was used to collect responses from the Colorado Springs population, with specific emphasis placed on targeting responses from the southeast Colorado Springs opportunity area which is the cultural and social focus of the Out the Door Pikes Peak! Initiative. This opportunity area was defined by the major roadways it is bound by including the area east of Nevada Avenue, west of Powers Boulevard, south of Pikes Peak Avenue and north of Lake Avenue/Drennan Road/Milton E Proby Parkway. The non-probability sampling method is typically used in this type of exploratory research as way to approximate the facts. While efforts were made to collect a representative sample of the population the results should not be generalized to the Colorado Springs population as a whole; rather the findings provide useful insight and information based on the sample that was collected.

The coalition promoted the survey through a variety of networks. Coalition members shared the survey with their individual stakeholders and members, shared the survey via social media, and encouraged the Youth Council members to devise ways to share the survey through their networks. Youth participants in community center programming provided feedback to paper surveys and flyers were mailed to the households identified in the Hillside map. Additionally, AmeriCorps Summer Associates canvassed the Hillside neighborhood and distributed surveys to residents.

SURVEY RESPONSE REPRESENTATION

YOUTH SURVEY

Over 260 surveys were collected from youth (under 19 years old). Within this group a diverse age range was represented with responses from youth ages 7 to 19. The survey had wide representation from both boys and girls with 46 percent male responses and 54 percent female responses. The responses were collected from residents of all areas of the City of Colorado Springs with close to half (42 percent) collected from those who live within the southeast and downtown quadrants of the city, which encompasses the initiative opportunity area. Over half (53 percent) of youth survey respondents either live, play, work, or attend school within the smaller identified opportunity area. The survey respondents correspond with the city's ethnic composition with the majority identifying as White/Caucasian (46 percent) and a strong representation from those identifying as Black/African-American or Hispanic/Latino, with 22 and 17 percent respectively. 15 percent of youth surveyed speak Spanish or another language at home.

ADULT SURVEY

Over 800 surveys were collected from the adult demographic representing persons over age 19. The 344 adults with youth living at their home had a fairly even representation of younger and older children (81% have a child/children under 11 years old and 78% have a child/children that are teenagers).

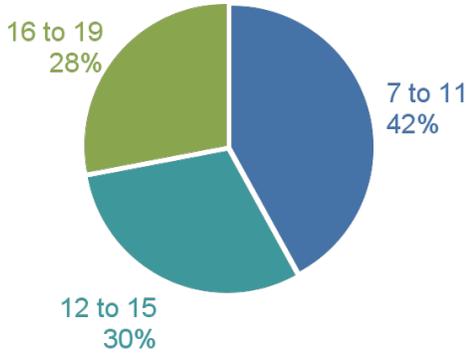
Close to half (48 percent) of the adults who responded to the survey have a youth under the age of 19 that lives at their home at least part-time.

Surveys were collected from residents of all areas of the City of Colorado Springs; however, while the youth survey collection targeted the southeast and downtown areas of the city, the adult survey had only 20 percent of responses from residents of this area of the city. 18 percent of the adults surveyed responded that they do have a connection to the opportunity area in that they either live, play, work or attend school within this area. The adult survey respondents are disproportionately representative of the White/Caucasian ethnic group with 86 percent of the total responses, only 6 percent identified as Hispanic/Latino and 2 percent as Black/African-American. There were similarly few non-English speaking households represented in the adult responses.

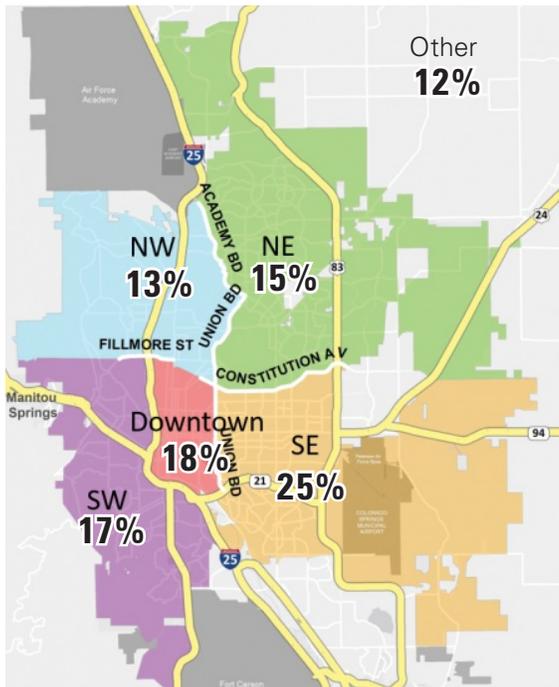
Figure 1: Demographic Comparison, Youth and Adult Surveys

YOUTH

Age groups represented

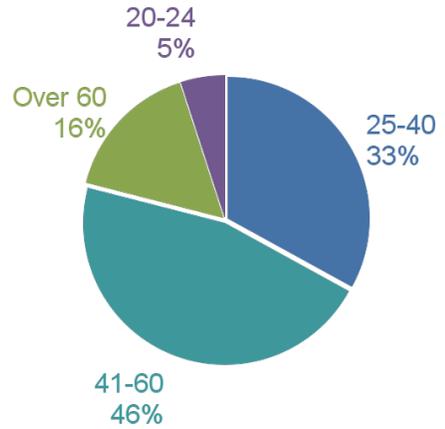


Where respondents live

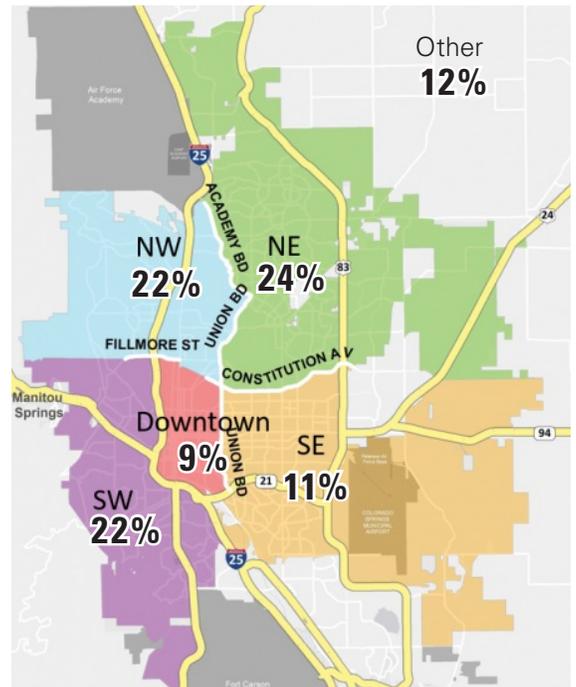


ADULTS

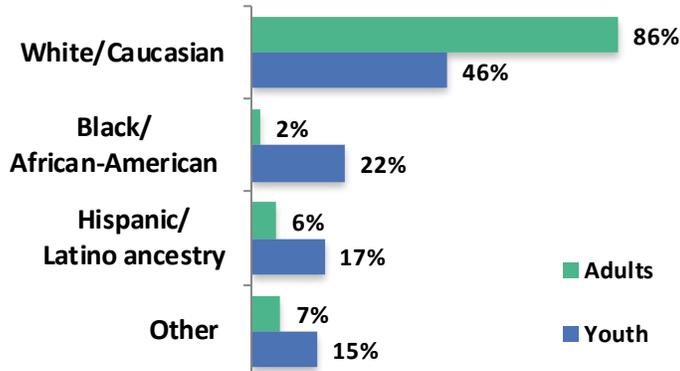
Age groups represented



Where respondents live



Ethnic Identification



SURVEY SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

EXISTING BEHAVIORS / NATURE EXPERIENCES

Where do you experience nature?

Overall, the most common location where youth engage with the outdoors and nature is within their own yards, closely followed by neighborhood parks and on dirt trails.

For the adult population, the top three responses are more broad with mountains/national forests, large parks and resident's yards as the top three locations where people are regularly spending time in nature.

The link between age groups and outdoor experiences follows the spectrum of parks to peaks, as younger children grow up they move from experiences within their own yards, to exploring parks within their neighborhood, to venturing further from home into the backcountry or surrounding areas. The cross-tabulations chart in the Appendix illustrate this pattern of location based experiences based on age.

Southeast opportunity area comparison: In evaluating the top four locations where youth are engaging with the outdoors, there are notable difference in those with a connection to the opportunity area in comparison to those without a connection to the area as shown in the Figure to the right. The responses indicate that youth with connections to the opportunity area have natural experiences much more localized than other Colorado Springs Youth. It is also interesting to note that nine percent of the youth with a connection to the opportunity area responded that they "don't spend much time outside in nature" whereas no respondents without a connection to the study area chose this response.

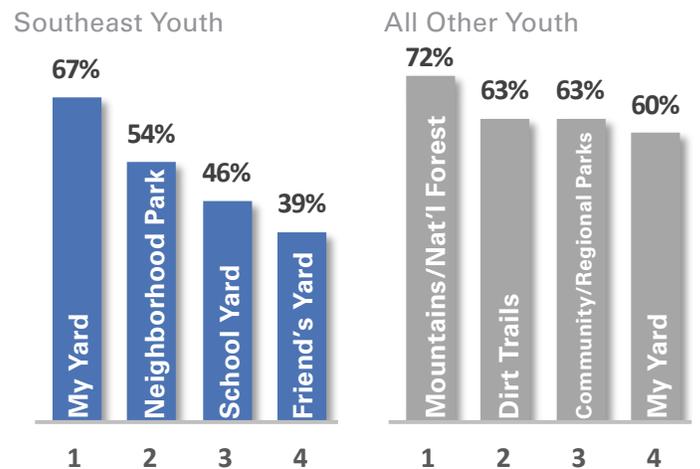
When are people getting their nature fix?

The survey sought to understand the different contextual environments in which youth and families engage with nature. Youth responses showed that they spend time in nature or playing outside primarily with family or friends visiting local parks, which is closely followed by outdoor experiences during school recess and in organized sports activities. Although the number is low, it is notable that six percent of the youth surveyed expressed that they tend not to spend time outdoors (Appendix - Youth Survey Question 3). Only 28 percent of youth surveyed spend time in nature during school (Appendix - Youth Survey Question 4). During summer break and on weekends are the most common times when adults identified that youth in their households to spend time in nature. 45 percent of adults with children identified youth in their household spend an hour or less outdoors on a weekday.

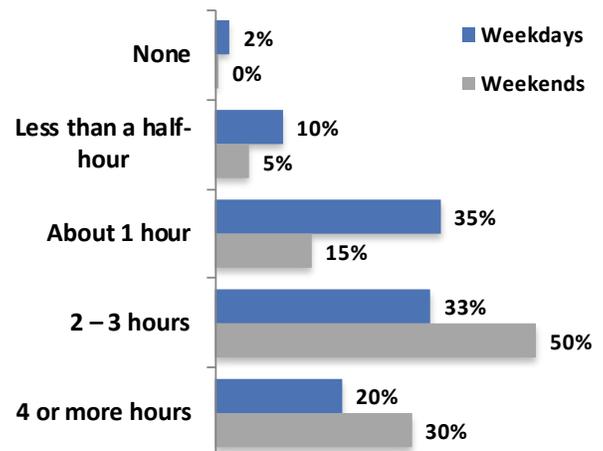
Where youth are regularly spending time in nature (youth survey)



Southeast Opportunity Area Comparison: Where youth are regularly spending time in nature - top 4 responses (youth survey)



Time children spend outdoors (adult survey)



EXISTING BARRIERS

What’s preventing youth from spending more time in nature?

The number one reason that youth who were surveyed say prevents them from spending more time in nature comes down to the common challenge that they are simply “too busy”, with just over 40 percent of youth who feel this way. The top reason adults feel youth are not spending more time in nature is that youth prefer to spend time indoors or enjoying screen-time. Only 16% of youth respondents felt that their preference for the indoors and screen time was preventing them from getting outside, indicating that adults may have some misconceptions about youth motivations. Youth and parents seem to agree that common barriers preventing youth from spending more time in nature includes not having anyone to go with, not having a way to get there and not knowing where to go.

Overall youth responses show only a small portion of youth feel uncomfortable in nature because they don’t see other people with whom they can relate to, however youth living in the southeast quadrant of the city are more than twice as likely to feel this way than youth living in other parts of the city.

EXISTING VALUES AND ATTITUDES TOWARD NATURE AND THE OUTDOORS

How important is spending time in nature?

When the responses are evaluated together, the experience of spending time in nature expressed by both youth and adults is greatly valued by both youth and adult survey respondents. 70 percent of the youth surveyed feel that spending time in nature in the Pikes Peak region is either “important” or “very important” with most choosing the latter. An even higher number of adults, 94 percent, feel that time in nature is “important” or “very important.” Less than one percent do not feel time spent in nature is important.

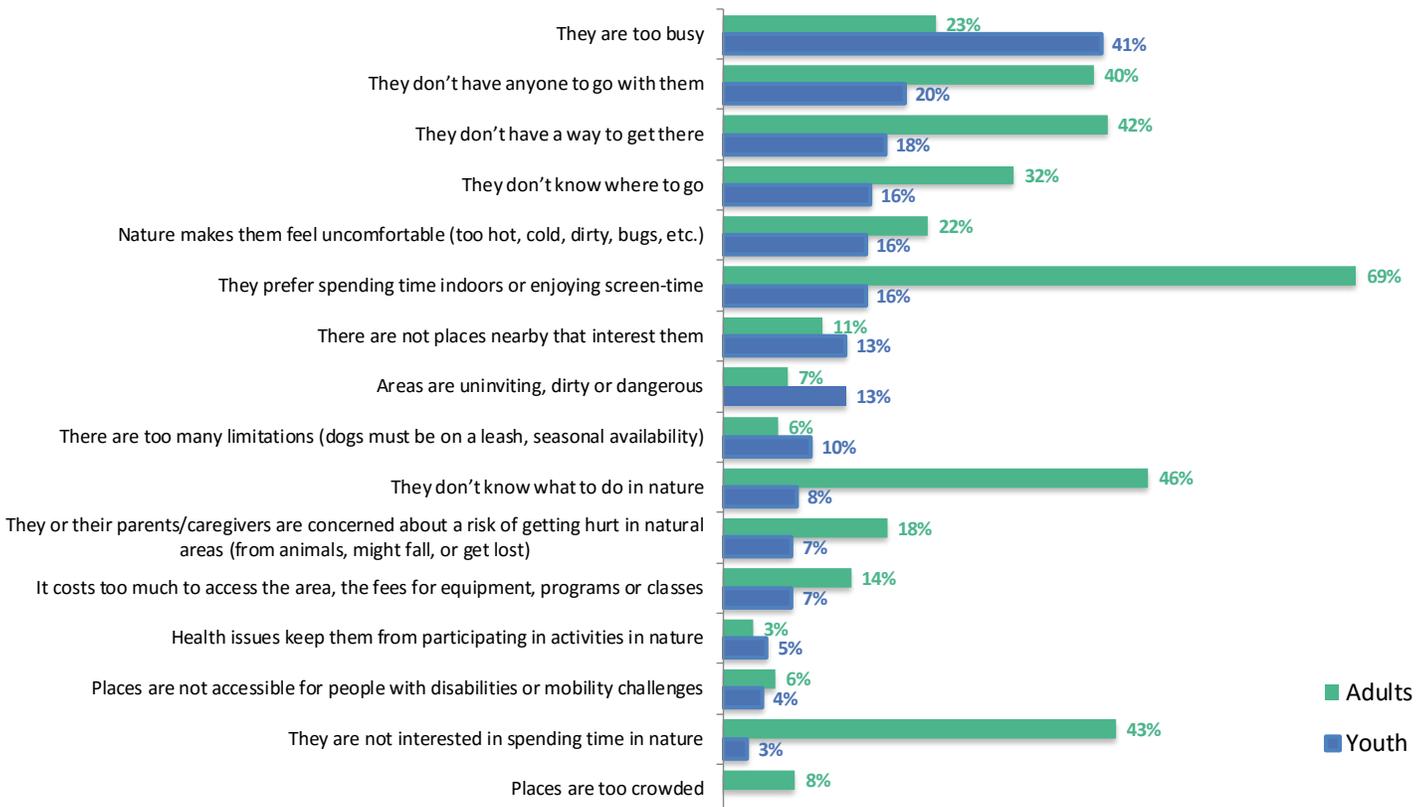
93% I would like our community’s youth to spend more time in nature than they currently do. (adult respondents)

81% I would like my child/children to spend more time in nature than they currently do. (adult with children respondents)

74% I would like to spend more time in nature than I currently do. (youth respondents)

65% I would like to spend more time in nature than I currently do. (youth respondents that have a connection to the opportunity area)

Reasons youth are not spending more time recreating outdoors (adult and youth survey)



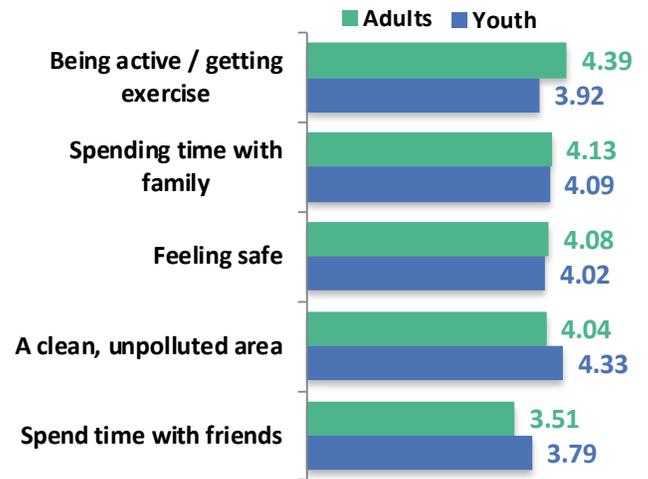
Formative Experiences and Impressions:

The graph to the right shows the average ranking of different elements based on what is important when spending time outdoors in nature. Both youth and adults ranked highly, having a clean, unpolluted area to go outdoors, followed by spending time with family and feeling safe. For people caring for children, the most important reason was for the child to be active and get exercise.

Parents/care givers see themselves as the most influential person in encouraging their child to spend time in nature above both peers and the kids themselves. Youth respondents showed a relatively even spread between who influences them to spend time in nature.

13 percent more adults than youth have had an experience in nature that made them appreciate it.

What is important for youth spending time in nature? Rated on a scale of 0 to 5 with 5 being "most important" (adult and youth survey)



Youth Survey Results
Total Completed Surveys: 272
Age 19 and Under



Adult Survey Results
Total Completed Surveys: 804
(Age 19 and over)

Is spending time in nature in the Pikes Peak region important to you?



FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS/CHANGES DESIRED

Changes to the Built Environment

While both youth and adults responded that a vehicle is the most common transportation choice for getting to nature, and that it is generally easy for children or family members to travel to natural places; both groups agree that trails and pathways connecting to outdoor areas would make getting to them easier.

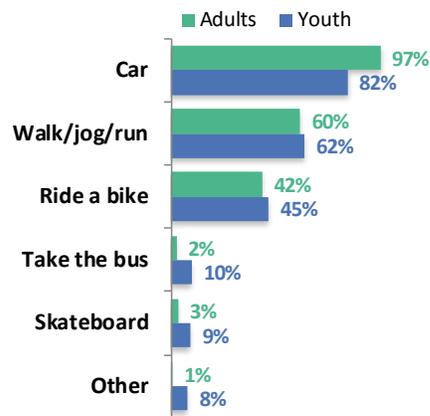
While 80 percent of adults felt that it is easy for youth to travel to natural places, only 65 percent of youth feel the same way.

Asked in a slightly different way, providing more nature trails and pathway connections both rise to the top of the list of potential improvements to get both adults and their families as well as youth to spend more time in nature. The youth respondents placed a higher priority on cleaner and/or safer outdoor areas than adults while both groups showed support for adding natural areas and play features to existing parks and school yards. Interestingly, providing more nature learning centers and educational facilities was at the bottom of both respondents' lists, with only 25 percent selecting this option.

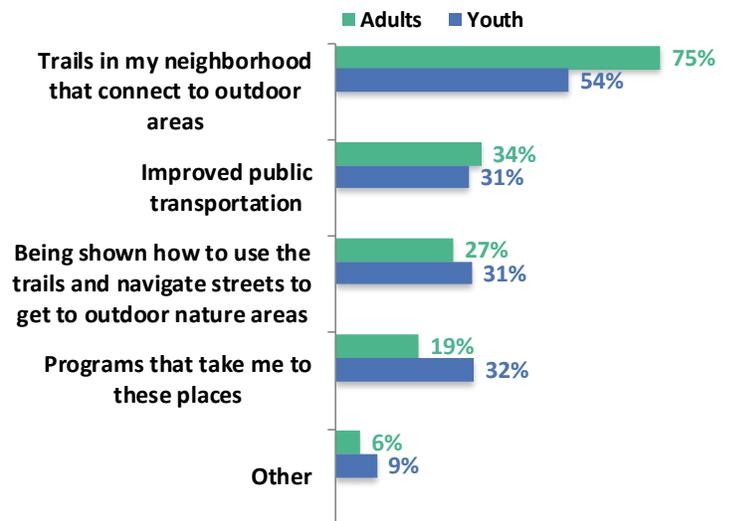
Generally, the majority of both youth and adults are satisfied with the places available in the community to enjoy nature, however there is a segment of both demographics (17 percent of the youth and 12 percent of adults) who are not satisfied with the places available. There are some differences in responses from comparing southeast Colorado Springs residents to those living in other parts of the city.

70 percent of the youth who live outside of the southeast quadrant of the city are satisfied with the places available in the community to enjoy nature, only 56 percent of youth residents of the southeast area have the same level of satisfaction.

If you spend time in nature, how do you get there? (youth and adult-parents only survey)



If you have a hard time getting outdoors because of limited transportation, what would make it easier for you? (youth and adult-parents only survey)



Activities and Programmatic Changes

The top 10 activities parents/care givers and youth age seven to 19 would like to do in nature are similar. Each groups' top 10 list is captured in the graph to the right with the most popular choice being "play and explore." When it comes to specific types of programs or classes respondent's are most likely to attend both youth and adults prioritized outdoor recreation programs such as archery, fishing, boating, etc. as well as extended outdoor festivals or events with a focus on nature. Day camps were the most popular type of program among the youth respondents with support from 43 percent of the youth.

Hillside Neighborhood priority locations for improvements

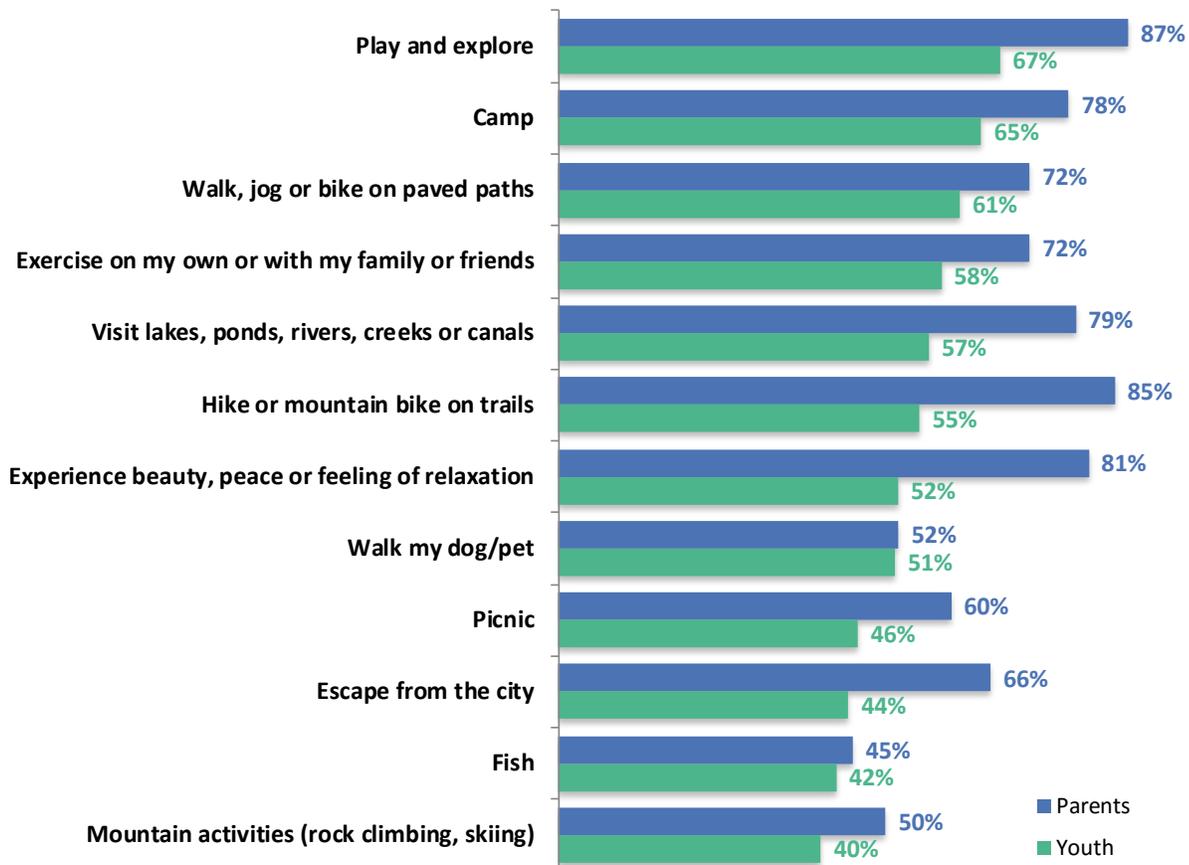
Respondents that live, play, go to school or work within southeast Colorado Springs were asked to click on the map (focused on the Hillside Community) and indicate locations (up to 10) that they would like to have more opportunities or improved places to spend time in nature. The aggregate of their responses is displayed in the heat map to the right. The darker red shades indicate the most popular locations selected and the yellow and green areas were selected less often.

The youth responses center in Memorial Park (selected 77 times) and the Hillside Community Center (selected 34 times) primarily. Adams Elementary School and locations along Shooks Run Trail present some interest as well. Adults selected these same areas but with more emphasis on the Shooks Run Trail corridor (selected 66 times) and Hunt Elementary School. Many of the write-in comments have commonality, suggesting interest in cleaning up the area and making it safer, connecting trails, improving lake facilities and water activity opportunities (primarily fishing), connected trails and adding walkways, a nature center and more places to play.

Getting information

A higher percentage of youth than adults (23 percent vs. 10 percent) responded that they don't know how to find out about nature places or programs. Websites, smart phone applications, and neighborhood signs directing people to parks and trails were the top three ways both youth and adults would like to find out about more places and programs to engage with nature.

Activities parents and youth would like to do in nature? (youth and adult-parents only survey)



Heat Map priority locations to create more opportunities or improved places to spend time in nature

YOUTH



ADULTS

