



# 2020 Devil's Backbone Open Space Visitor Use Study

## Summary of Key Findings



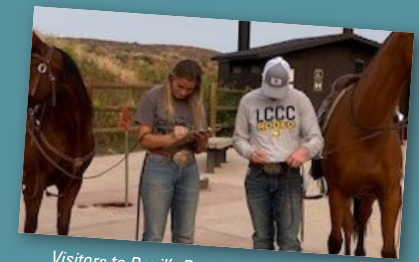
Colorado State University

 **99%**  
**OVERALL SATISFACTION**  
*Rating of "GOOD" OR "EXCELLENT" AT DEVIL'S BACKBONE*

Larimer County Natural Resources is committed to maintaining a balance between conservation of natural and cultural resources and providing appropriate recreation on parks and open spaces. Over the past decade, visitation to Larimer County properties has steadily increased, with more occurrences of trailheads and parking areas reaching capacity, especially near urban areas.

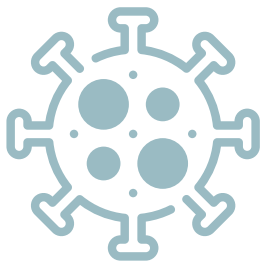
In the fall of 2020, the department conducted a visitor study at Devil's Backbone Open Space. The objectives of the study were to learn about visitors' experiences

and satisfaction, visitation levels, and assess crowding and conflict at the open space. The department partnered with Colorado State University to develop and implement a statistically valid study. According to CSU, the study's results have yielded a 95% level of confidence.



Visitors to Devil's Backbone Open Space complete a survey for this study.

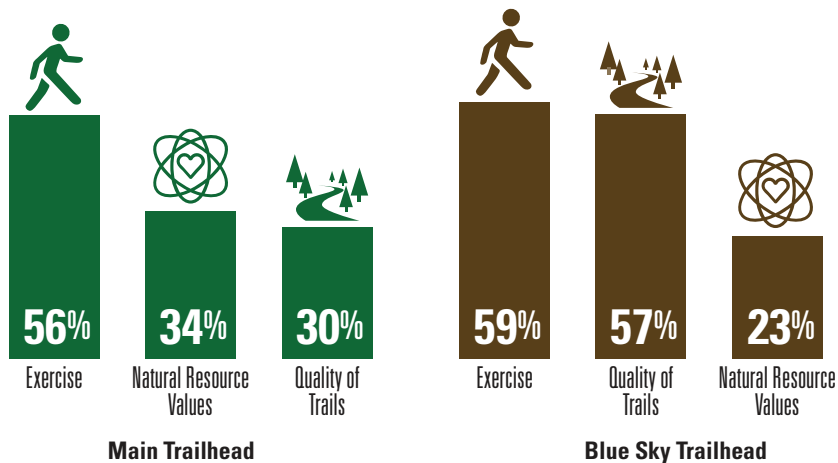
## Frequency of Visits During COVID



**58%** No Change  
**22%** Decreased Visitation  
**20%** Increased Visitation

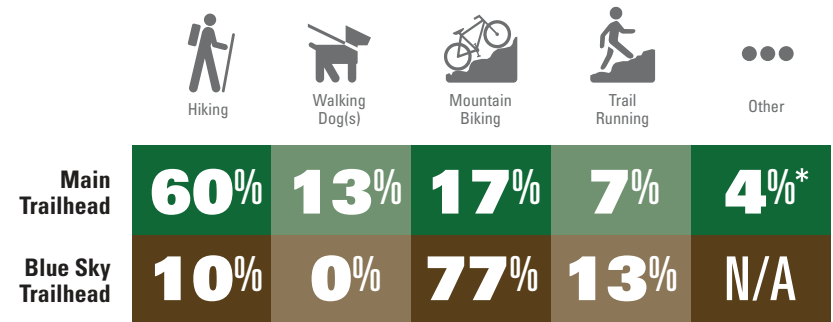
\*The response pattern by visitors did not differ by gender, age, primary residence, and survey location at Devil's Backbone Open Space.

## Why do Visitors Choose Devil's Backbone Open Space?



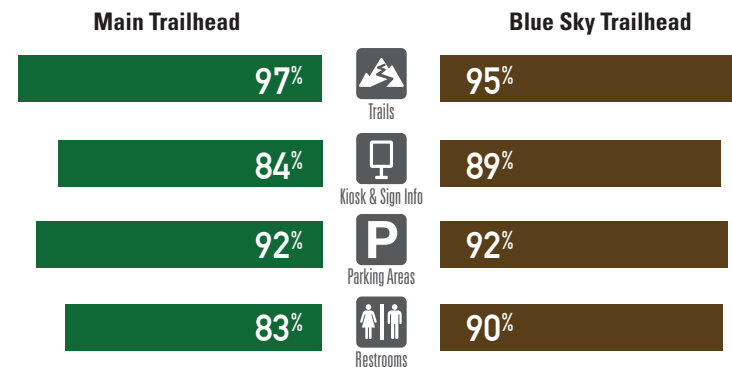
On-site exit surveys were administered by county staff and conducted at Devil's Backbone Open Space from September to October 2020. The surveys were collected at two locations; the Main Trailhead in west Loveland and the Blue Sky Trailhead in Fort Collins.

## What Are the Primary Activities Reported by Visitors?



\*Other activities include horseback riding, wildlife viewing, and e-biking.

## How Satisfied Are Visitors with the Amenities at Devil's Backbone Open Space?

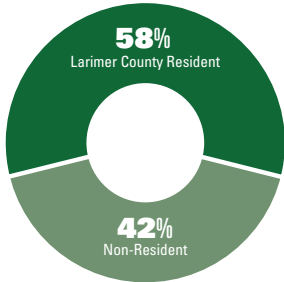


This graphic shows the percentage of visitors who rated amenities as "Good" or "Very Good".

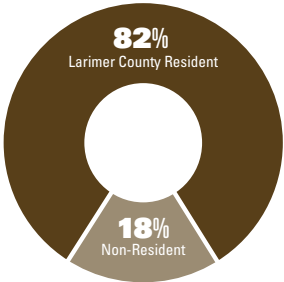
Cover photos: Devil's Backbone Open Space © Brendan Bombaci.  
 Interior photo: Devil's Backbone Open Space © Jenn Almstead.

# Where Do Visitors Live?

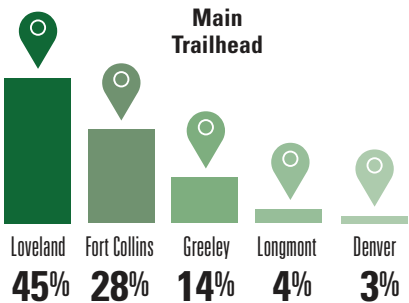
Main Trailhead



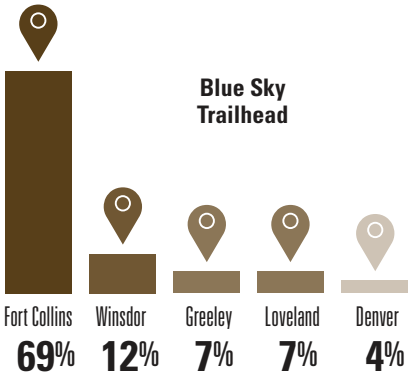
Blue Sky Trailhead



Main Trailhead

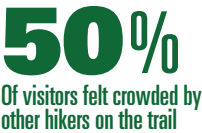


Blue Sky Trailhead

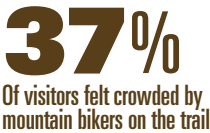


# Do Visitors Feel Crowded?

Main Trailhead



Blue Sky Trailhead



To review the full report of the 2020 Devil’s Backbone Open Space Visitor Use Study, please visit the Plans, Reports, and Advisory Boards webpage at: [larimer.org/naturalresources](http://larimer.org/naturalresources)

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