

# RESIDENT ATTITUDES TOWARD STAPLETON'S STORMWATER PARKS

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**1 ABSTRACT**

*The past few decades have experienced an increase in the implementation of multifunctional stormwater management systems. This emerging trend can, in part, be attributed to more recognition that stormwater infrastructure, when designed and engineered with utility and amenity in mind, can have added community values such as aesthetics, recreation, and wildlife (Echols and Pennypacker, 2008; Stahre, 2008; Meyer, 2008). Few studies, however, reveal user attitudes for large scale, multifunctional stormwater management systems. Stapleton, in Denver, Colorado, has multifunctional stormwater management systems in several of its community parks. Stapleton's stormwater parks integrate native/naturalized vegetation, critical habitat, and passive recreation amenities alongside stormwater infrastructures. Given that stormwater parks are an atypical urban park typology, resident attitudes and use habits for these parks become important. By understanding the nuances behind resident attitudes, we can better plan and design communities that combine natural systems and stormwater infrastructure with amenity in parks. To understand how stormwater parks are perceived within the urban community of Stapleton, we conducted a structured mail survey in May 2011, followed by in-depth walking-interviews in May 2012. This paper presents findings from our in-depth walking-interviews, revealing why Stapleton residents enjoy their stormwater parks.*

**1.1 Keywords**

Stapleton, preference, walking-interview, stormwater, parks, multifunctional