Big Thompson Watershed Coalition –

Stream Management Plan Maptionnaire Write-Up

https://app.maptionnaire.com/en/8324/

Maptionnaire is a community-engagement platform which provides its customers with a set of tools to create interactive surveys to collect location-specific data from a given community or stakeholder group. Big Thompson Watershed Coalition (BTWC) identified Maptionnaire from a CSU student who was using the program for their thesis project. It's easy-to-use interface and ability to add general survey questions in addition to mapping questions, immediately made the program a stand-out for collecting Community Benefits Assessment data as part of our Stream Management Plan.

BTWC began our Stream Management Plan Community Benefits Assessment (CBA) process in the midst of COVID-19. Initially, we started with Zoom-based stakeholder focus group meetings to gather feedback and insight from diverse community members, but consistently saw low-turn out to these focus groups. Given this low attendance and the expectance of prolonged limitation of direct and personal engagement during COVID-19, BTWC staff members pivoted and decided that our Maptionnaire survey would be the main data collection method.

The online mapping survey was developed by staff with guidance of the Community Benefits working group subset of advisory committee members. It was designed to gather information on how water users currently connect to the river and water system and how they envision the future of the river system through the city of Loveland. In total, there were 9 general survey questions, ranging from identification of stakeholder type to ranking how well the river is currently meeting their needs. This was critical information to collect, but the main component were the 2 mapping questions. We asked respondents to select and drop points across the 15-mile stretch of river our SMP is looking at. Respondents were able to drop points related to 8 identified values and 15 identified improvements.

The survey link was made publicly accessible through the circulation of project flyers, social media posts, listserv distribution, local news contacts of BTWC, and project partner distribution.

The survey was closed after an approximately 2-month public comment period. In total, BTWC was able to collect feedback from 273 community members. Those 273 respondents dropped 982 data points on the map, many with additional comments. As in our other engagement methods, general community members and recreationists were the primary stakeholder groups represented. While all 9 identified stakeholder groups participated in the survey, gaps remain in representation of agriculturalists, water rights owners, development, business, and local government. This gap in representation will guide more focused outreach toward these groups in further rounds of stakeholder outreach.

Data provided from the survey has allowed BTWC and project partners to better understand:

- How Big T River system is currently meeting people's needs and uses (quantitative);

- How and where people value (use and connect to) the river system (quantitative and qualitative);

- Priority concerns for or needs of the river system (qualitative);

- Preferences for/support of different types of improvement projects (quantitative);

- How and where people would like to see improvements along the river system (quantitative and qualitative).

It should be noted that while Maptionnaire does allow you to download all collected data, including .shp files, you lose access to the data and system once your contract closes with Maptionnaire. BTWC had to hire a GIS consultant to convert all the point data into an ArcGIS online webpage so that we could continue to share and interact with the data past our Maptionnaire contract.

Homepage of BTWC's Maptionnaire survey
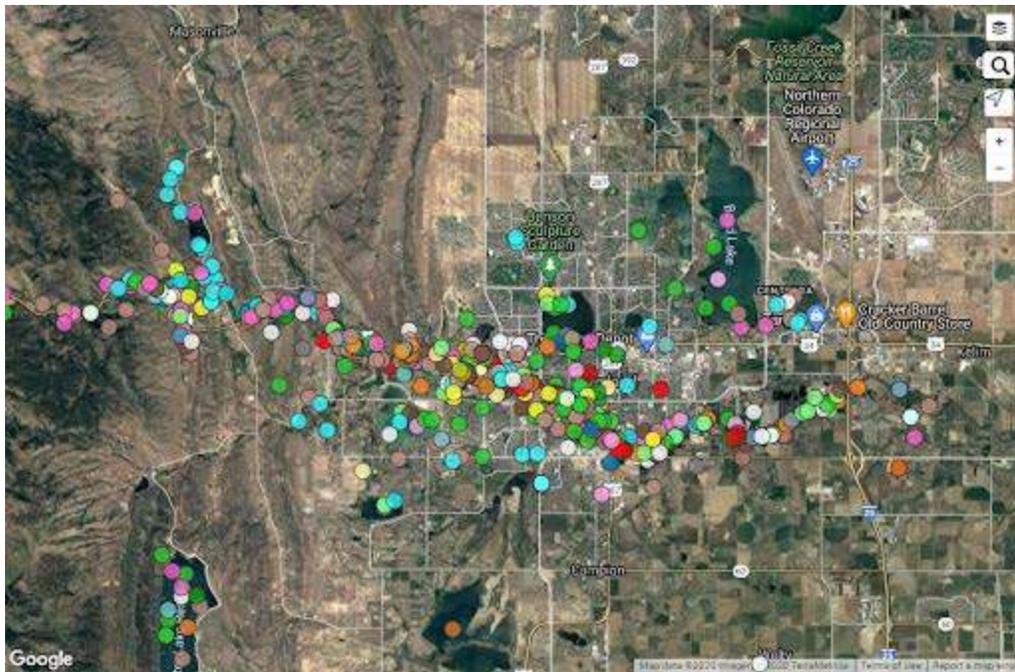
All collected value and improvement points
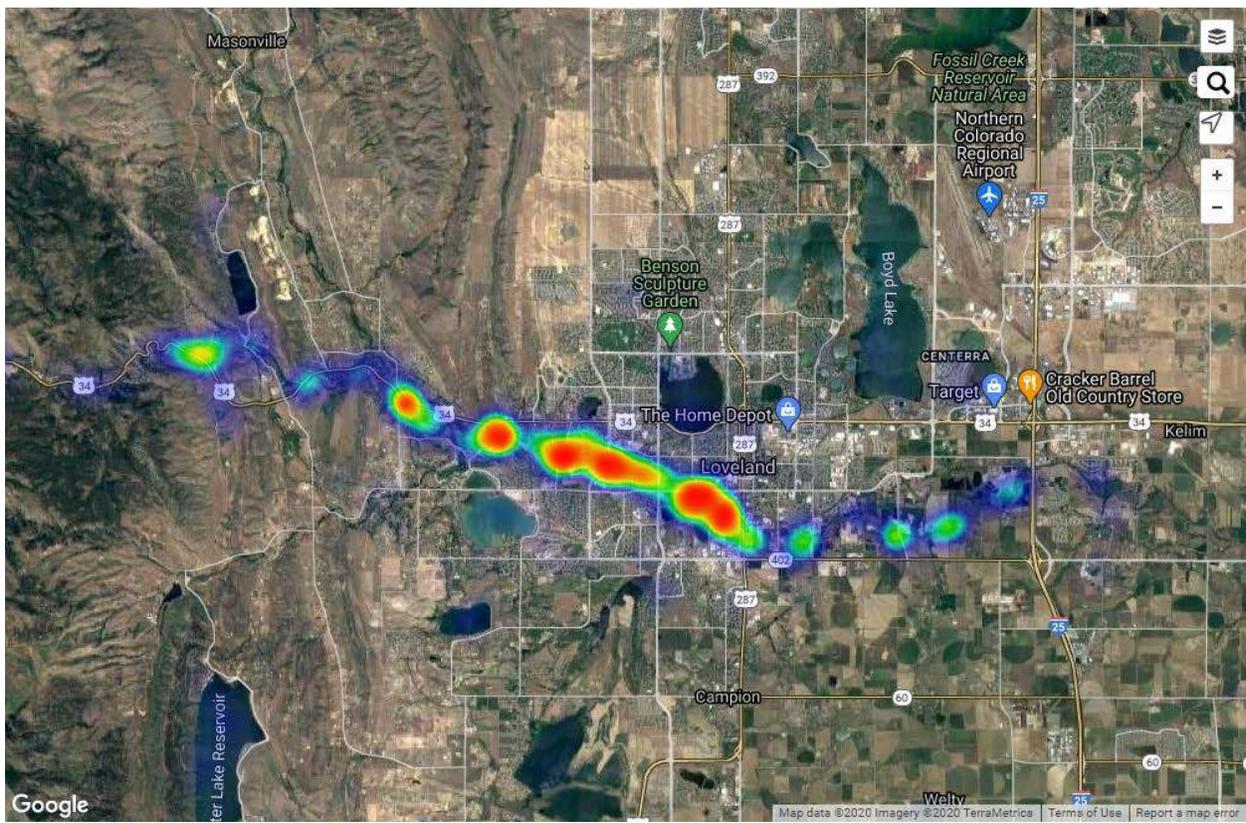
Heat map of all collected value and improvement points