



**TO:** Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

**FROM:** Jeff Dillon, Director, Parks and Recreation  
Yvette Bowden, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation  
Jeff Haley, Parks Planning Manager

**SUBJECT:** Consent Agenda

**DATE:** December 15, 2014

**A. Minutes - Approval of minutes from October 27 and November 24, 2014**

**B. Parks and Recreation Development Update**

**Planning**

The following projects are currently in the planning process that involves research, alternatives development, public involvement and development of planning documents to guide decision making and future capital improvements:

- **Valmont City Park (VCP)** - Development of an update to the 2008 concept plan for VCP focusing on the south side of Valmont Road.

Recently, the staff held a series of neighborhood and round table meetings in an effort to gather more input from communities surrounding the park and to continue engaging with community members and user groups.

On December 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, neighborhood meetings for the San Lazaro, Vista Ridge, and King's Ridge communities were held. An interpreter was made available at each of these neighborhood meetings. On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the department again engaged select user groups and community members at a round table meeting.

At both the neighborhood meetings and the round table meeting, staff reviewed the outreach and data gathering efforts to date, provided a summary and analysis of findings from these outreach efforts, and took comments and feedback on the draft concept plan.

A third and final public meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2014 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Municipal Services Center. This public meeting will be an opportunity for the public to learn about the outreach efforts, data that has been gathered and provide feedback on the draft concept plan.

- **Aquatics Feasibility Plan (AFP)** - Development of recommendations to provide innovative and vibrant aquatics facilities and management strategies for the community.

Recently, staff and consultants hosted a series of workshops and public open houses to gather input from the community regarding aquatics programming and facilities. In addition, a survey is available on the AFP webpage. The PRAB also shared thoughts around desired outcomes and needs for aquatics at the November 24 business meeting.

Key themes from the community engagement to date include:

- A desire for a 50 meter competition pool suitable for hosting competitions
- Additional lap swimming
- Amenities to serve youth as they “age out” of Boulder’s leisure pools
- A desire for an outdoor leisure pool
- A desire for environmentally friendly pools and also pool infrastructure that allow reduced chlorine usage
- A desire for a warm water facility that would meet therapeutic needs as well as facilitate aquatics lessons and experiences for the young and those with physical and mental disabilities.
- General support for current facilities and operations (e.g. variety of locations and amenities and customer service levels) while recognizing opportunities for improvement

The community’s input is a critical component to ensuring that any future enhancements, or the development of any new facilities, meet community needs. These community engagement efforts will continue throughout the AFP process, including a January 28, 2015 Open House where the community will have the opportunity to discuss draft plan recommendations. The PRAB will review and discuss the draft recommendations at the January 2015 business meeting.

### **Design**

The following projects are currently in the design phase involving the community in developing final plans for critical improvements to park amenities:

- **Knollwood Tennis Courts** – Two tennis courts located near Spruce St. and 4<sup>th</sup> St. in central Boulder.

The City is still in negotiations with FEMA on what portion of the court renovation will be covered and which portion will be paid for by the City. It has been determined that the courts will be raised two feet and reconstructed on a post tension concrete slab. Drainage will be improved to prevent ponding on the courts in future storm events. ADA access will also be provided to the courts.

It is anticipated that construction will begin earlier in 2015 and be completed by mid Summer 2015.

### **Construction**

The following projects were recently completed or are under construction and anticipated to be completed by late fall 2014:

- **Crestview Park** - A neighborhood park located adjacent to Crestview Elementary School between Upland Avenue and Sumac Avenue in north Boulder.

Bids for the Crestview Park renovation project were received on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Construction is expected to begin in January 2015 and be completed in the spring 2015. The plans are consistent with the approved concept plans presented to the neighborhood earlier this summer and include replacing the play area, turf and irrigation upgrades, various new site furnishings, accessibility improvements and a looped-path throughout the park.

- **Harlow Platts Community Park** – A community park located on Gillaspie Drive in south Boulder.

Construction plans for the Harlow Platts improvement project are complete. Staff is currently in the process of selecting a contractor to begin construction.

The current plan, approved by the community and presented to the PRAB, includes a new shelter and plaza area near the existing warming hut, new permanent restroom near the parking lot and two smaller shelters near the existing play area. The project is expected to be completed in late spring 2015.

- **Evert Pierson Kids' Fishing Ponds** – Boulder's only kids' fishing pond located adjacent to Boulder Creek.

Bids for the Evert Pierson Kids' Fishing Pond renovation project were received on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The general contracting firm of Colt and Steel has been awarded the construction contract. Construction is expected to begin in January 2015 and be completed in the spring 2015.

Renovations and improvements include the repair or replacement of damaged fishing docks and bridges, enhancing water quality and fish habitat, addressing accessibility issues, and providing educational and interpretative signage.

### **Urban Resources**

The following initiatives are currently underway:

- **Foothills Prairie Dog Relocation** – A joint Parks and Recreation and Open Space and Mountain Parks prairie dog relocation project.

The prairie dog project is still in progress, however, the trapping and relocation portion concluded in November. A total of 647 prairie dogs were trapped from the Foothills area and relocated to the OSMP Waneka release site. Approximately four prairie dogs were known to be onsite in the beginning of November. Despite best efforts, no additional prairie dogs were trapped and none were sighted during the last two weeks of trapping. The prairie dogs may have moved on, perished or were underground.

Staff is currently finalizing a post-relocation plan for monitoring protocols, next steps and restoration of the site during 2015. The plan will include the process for future prairie dog removal. No additional effort will be made to trap these “untrappables” on site, and if prairie dogs are observed during monitoring, staff will submit an application to the City Manager to perform lethal control by a ground fumigant. Regular updates will continue to be provided until the project is completed.

- **Integrated Pest Management**

The natural area at the Pleasant View Fields Sports Complex consists of multiple acres of wetland and a riparian area along Four-Mile Canyon Creek as seen on the map below. This area was impacted by the 2013 flood. Several weed species will likely be promoted due to the disturbance including state-mandated or watch list species such as hairy willow-herb, common reed and purple loosestrife. Using this as opportunity, staff has taken several actions to better restore the area to a more native status. Urban Resources staff has coordinated with Open Space and Mountain Parks and Greenways staff to assess the area, perform increased weed control including utilizing goats and plan for restoration. As part of this process, in the coming weeks, a contractor has been hired to remove crack willow near the east side of the parcel along 47<sup>th</sup> Street.

## **C. Parks and Recreation Operations Update**

### **Programming**

- **Avid4Adventure Service Agreement for Valmont Bike Park**

Valmont Bike Park (VBP), located at 3160 Airport Road, has been open and operational since 2011. Avid4Adventure (Avid) has provided the city’s cycling programming from 2012-2014 under separate one-year agreements. Their services supported all cycling disciplines, ages and riding abilities. Additionally, the organization has offered a high quality progression of skills and techniques for various riding surfaces, amenities and elements.

Previously, Avid’s pilot services arrangement with the city was documented in one year agreements with no extension options. Based on the city’s experience with cycling instruction, it was deemed desirable to execute an agreement longer than one year in duration.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued on September 15, 2014 seeking contractors to provide programming services for the community at the VBP and to take part in the department’s community growth and opportunity to help nurture, grow, and sustain existing camp programs by providing the highest levels of knowledge, staffing, experience and planning capabilities. Three proposals were received by the October 15, 2014 deadline and a staff committee reviewed the proposals and selected Avid based on their thorough proposal and past experience in cycling programming.

The department and City Attorney staff negotiated in good faith with representatives from Avid to develop the service agreement which goes forward to the City Manager for execution as of January 1, 2015.