



TO: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

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

SUBJECT: Consent Agenda

DATE: April 27, 2015

A. Minutes Approval of minutes from March 23, 2015

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:

- **Civic Area Park Site Plan**

The Civic Area Team held three meetings in March for stakeholders, the public and a joint board meeting. Feedback on the park site plans and east/west bookend development options presented was accepted until Monday, March 30 prior to a Study Session with City Council the following evening. .

City Council generally indicated that the key characteristics presented in the current park site plan (most green space, dynamic topography, most access to the creek, largest entrance to promenade, enhanced circulation, increased plaza spaces, relocated Bandshell, expanded Farmers' Market loop) were appropriate. The discussion that followed involved several aspects of the plan including the Bandshell, circulation, and parking.

Council asked about 2A ballot funding, the timing of implementation and the extent to which funding is sufficient for the proposed park site improvements. Staff indicated that everything is still included, will be refined and prioritized based upon final design and a refined estimate and schedule will be presented for review and consideration at the June council meeting.

Staff will incorporate City Council's feedback from the March 31 discussion and revise the Park Site Plan and Civic Area Master Plan accordingly. The updated Civic Area Master Plan will be presented to the Planning Board as a public hearing item on May 21, 2015 for a recommendation to the City Council. It is anticipated that the Civic Area Master Plan will then be presented to City Council as a public hearing item for review and consideration on June 16, 2015. During the fourth quarter of 2015, the Park Site Plan will be brought to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Planning Board and City Council for review and consideration.

- **Nature Play Symposium** – Two-day event about nature play, that promotes daily contact with our natural environment and outdoor spaces.

The department looks forward to hosting a Nature Play Symposium with Robin Moore, Ph.D. and Louise Chawla, Ph.D. on June 10-11, 2015. Dr. Moore is a world-renowned nature play educator from North Carolina State University and Dr. Chawla is a professor at CU Boulder’s Environmental Design School and working with Growing up Boulder (GUB). Drs. Moore and Chawla will share their expertise on the importance of nature play opportunities in the urban setting. The two-day series will include:

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| June 10, 5:30-8:30 p.m. | Public workshop with round table discussions to help develop nature play concepts for identified areas within the civic area using drawings, modeling and other media to illustrate ideas. |
| June 11, 11-1 p.m. | Staff workshop including multiple city departments and partners who impact nature play learning opportunities or plan nature play spaces to discuss the importance and benefits of nature play with consideration of maintenance and risk management. |
| June 11, 6-9 p.m. | Public lecture followed by a panel discussion to be based on the research about the importance of access to nature play, case studies and local opportunities. |

Design

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

- **Knollwood Tennis Courts** – Two tennis courts located near Spruce Street and 4th Street in central Boulder.

Plans for the tennis courts are in final review by the department before submission for permitting. Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2015 and be completed by mid to late summer 2015.

- **Flatirons Event Center** – Event center located at the Flatirons Golf Course

Planning and permitting for demolition are underway. The anticipated demolition is in mid to late summer.

Construction

The following projects were recently completed or are under construction and anticipated to be completed by late spring 2015:

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

Construction is underway with anticipated completion in spring 2015. Renovations and improvements include replacing the play area, turf and irrigation upgrades, various new site furnishings, and a 3' wide soft-surface looped-path throughout the park. Connectivity and accessibility will be improved with a 8' wide sidewalk connection to Tamarack Avenue to the west and a new sidewalk, curb and gutter along Sumac Avenue on the south side of the park.

- **Eben G. Fine Park** – Boulder's westernmost park along Boulder Creek.

Flood damage repairs are complete. Final touches include installation of turf and irrigation.

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

Earlier this month construction crews encountered materials that are likely remnants of old smelting activities during the restoration of the Evert Pierson Kids' Fishing Pond. The slag-type material, which is a by-product of a metals smelting process, was uncovered in a construction area between a walkway adjacent to Boulder Creek and the Boulder County Justice Center parking lot. Testing indicates the material does not pose a public health risk.

The city retained an environmental consultant, Casey Resources Inc., to further inspect the work site and advise the city on the disposition of the material. Testing did confirm the material contained some concentrations of lead and other heavy metals. Sand and gravel soils adjacent to the material did not exhibit any elevated concentrations with regard to metals. The city is taking the necessary precautionary steps to ensure the materials are disposed of properly.

The area remains closed for flood repairs, which will now include the removal of this slag material. After the additional work is completed, flood repair landscape work will resume.

The Evert Pierson Kids' Fishing Pond was destroyed during the 2013 flood. The 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.

For additional information on the slag removal or the restoration of Evert Pierson Kids' Fishing Pond, visit <https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/kids-fishing-pond>.

- **Columbia Cemetery** – A historic and cultural resource with markers from many of the city's founders and pioneers located at the intersection of 9th Street and College Avenue.

Renovation of the historic shed is nearly complete. Roof installation, including special order shingles, should complete the project by early spring. Funded headstone repair is complete.

- **Elks Neighborhood Park** – A Neighborhood Park located along north 28th Street in north Boulder

The artistic wheelhouse arbor approved in the original park plan is in the permitting phase. The construction completion of the arbor is anticipated for mid to late summer.

Urban Resources

The following initiatives are currently underway:

- **Birds of Special Concern Closures Implemented** – An annual effort to protect nesting sites of bird species listed by various local, state and federal agencies as species of concern.

The department worked with OSMP to implement the [annual closures](#) around the Boulder Reservoir that began on March 15. The Reservoir area sites include:

- Dry Creek East, northwest corner of the Boulder Reservoir, east of 51st Street. The Boulder Aeromodeling facility will remain open with modified flight restrictions;
 - Axelson (OSMP), northwest of the reservoir, west of 51st Street. Portions of this property will be closed;
 - Little Dry Creek East, southwest corner of the Boulder Reservoir, east of 51st Street. ;
 - Little Dry Creek West, west of 51st Street between the Boulder Reservoir entrance and the Eagle trailhead; and
 - Coot Lake wetland, immediately west of Coot Lake. The trail surrounding the wetland is open with voluntary leash recommendations in effect.
- **Species of Special Concern Closures** – An annual effort to protect breeding sites of species listed by various local, state and federal agencies as species of concern.

The annual training for volunteer monitors of the department's birds of concern (osprey, bittern, harrier and burrowing owls) closures at the Reservoir will occur Saturday, April 25. Monitoring will continue throughout the closure time period of mid September. The Boulder Aeromodeling Society has been informed that the same conditions apply to their use of the site as last year.

Staff will once again be monitoring for Northern leopard frogs at various wetland locations throughout the department's system. Monitoring will begin after the summer seasonal crew starts this week.

- **Thunderbird Lake Monitoring** – An annual effort to manage the lake conditions.

Biohabitats, Inc. has been hired to evaluate the water level data and asked to provide the department with a proposal for a short report updating the current conditions of the lake and next steps to long term maintenance per Council's recommendations. Ottertail Environmental Inc. has been asked to provide the department with a proposal to continue the annual addition of microbes to the lake to deter algal blooms and to monitor lake conditions. Staff is working with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to address the koi/goldfish population expansion.

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

Staff finalized a [post-relocation plan](#) which outlines the monitoring protocols, next steps and restoration of the site throughout 2015. The plan includes detailed information about the lethal control process for prairie dogs found on site this year. During monitoring, staff identified three prairie dogs on site and multiple active burrows. It is likely these are the few prairie dogs that weren't trapped but had gone underground in torpor until activity at the site calmed down.

The post-relocation and Urban Wildlife Management plans are being followed and next steps include submitting a special permit to the City Manger for lethal control, sending a Head's Up to council, updating the Urban Wildlife website and IPM hotline for lethal control via ground fumigant to be performed around the first week of May based upon permit approval, weather and contractor availability.

- **Integrated Pest Management** – Restoration project and goats for weed control.

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 such as hairy willow-herb, common reed and the state mandated, A-listed 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 and plan for restoration. As part of this process, a goat contractor has been hired to perform weed control at this site and various other sites including Eaton Park where the goats will be located the week of April 20th.



- Legend**
- Creek_Ditch
 - Wetlands
 - Park Boundary

