



**TO:** Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
**FROM:** Jeff Dillon, Interim Director, Parks and Recreation Department  
**SUBJECT:** Matters from the Department  
**DATE:** April 28, 2014

#### **A. BVSD Capital Improvement Subcommittee**

The department continues to work closely with the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) in collaborating to provide the community with recreation opportunities through a Joint Use Agreement with between the city and the school district to share access and maintenance of specific recreation facilities. The BVSD and the department are currently working on several concurrent and related initiatives that will allow continued partnership between the BVSD and the city. The table below indicates the distinct projects currently underway:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
Athletic Facilities Needs Assessment (District-Wide)	BVSD	Complete by summer 2014
City Athletic Fields Feasibility Study (As part of Valmont Planning)	BPR	Complete by summer 2014
Aquatic Facilities Feasibility Study	BPR	Complete by end of 2014
Update Joint Use Agreement	Shared	2015
GOCO Schoolyard Improvement (Horizons, University Hill)	BPR	Ongoing
Capital Improvement Bond (Crestview, Columbine)	BPR	Complete Spring 2015

Most recently the BVSD has completed a draft needs assessment of recreation facilities throughout the district and the report (to be distributed at the meeting). Additionally, representatives from the BVSD will be present at the April business meeting to discuss the report's key findings and respond to questions addressing areas for continued partnership.

#### **B. 2014 Emerald Ash Borer Workplan**

In late September 2013, the department's Forestry staff discovered an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation within the city. The subsequent delimitation survey showed that EAB is well established within a corridor in central Boulder. Over the next 15 years, EAB management, including tree removal, tree replacement, wood disposal and pesticide treatments will have a

significant direct budgetary impact to the city and private residents. The loss of tree canopy will have considerable economic, social, and environmental impacts for decades. In April, an Information Item detailing the 2014 Emerald Ash Borer work plan was sent to City Council. This detailed information can be found [here](#).

Staff has collaborated with leading EAB experts from across the US and Canada to develop an EAB emergency. The 2014 EAB work plan includes:

- The formation of an Interdepartmental EAB Working Group;
- Tree removals, replacements and limited pesticide treatments.
- Community outreach;
- Collaborative research projects;
- Asset Management; and
- Ongoing monitoring

The Interdepartmental EAB working group will meet over the next year to discuss EAB management on a city-wide scale and ensure consistency across departments. This group will develop a series of recommendations that will be presented to boards and city council during the first quarter of 2015.

### **C. North Boulder Park Art Update**

Department staff has worked closely with the U.S. Cycling Monument (USCM) Development Team to determine a location within North Boulder Park for the installation of the proposed monument. Representatives from the USCM Development Team will be available at a future meeting to present the latest site plan options, proposed images of the monument, and to discuss current project funding.

### **D. Valmont City Park Planning**

#### Project Kick-off Meeting

On January 22, 2014, a project kick off was held by staff and the consultant, MIG, and their sub-consultant team. The objective of the meeting was to introduce the Senior Team and the Staff Working group team to the Consulting team.

#### Community Survey

Commissioned by the city, the National Research Consultants developed and implemented a community survey to understand the public's perspectives and preferences for recreation opportunities at Valmont South.

In January, a survey was mailed to 3,000 randomly selected Boulder households. A total of 621 surveys were completed representing a 22 percent response rate (with a margin of error of plus or

minus four). The survey results were weighted to reflect the demographic profile of all Boulder residents.

#### Technical Expert Roundtable meetings

Staff is working with the MIG Concept Planning Team to schedule a series of six, 2.5 hour roundtable meetings. The roundtable groups will be comprised of approximately 8-15 people that are technical experts in areas that will be important in the planning of South Valmont. Information gleaned from the roundtable meetings will be shared with the PRAB.

#### Athletic Field Needs Assessment Focus Group Meetings

In September 2012 a focus group meeting was held, and an on-line survey distributed, to help the department identify system-wide sports field deficiencies and needs. This February, a follow-up focus group meeting was held. In addition to identifying system-wide needs, the focus group meetings will help guide what athletic field needs could and should be accommodated at South Valmont.

#### Youth Engagement

Growing Up Boulder, part of CU Environmental Design, completed a one day activity at the park site to engage elementary age children in the design and planning of the park. The goals for this outreach were to:

- i) Solicit ideas from children about the concept plan and potential for development of Valmont City Park.
- ii) Produce materials that can be shared at a spring 2014 community meeting.
- iii) Use a variety of methods allowing children to engage with and think differently about the site. The day was a huge success and the outcomes of the activities will be presented at the upcoming community meeting.