



TO: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

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

SUBJECT: Consent Agenda

DATE: September 28, 2015

A. Minutes Approval of minutes from August 24, 2015

B. Parks and Recreation Development Update

Construction

The following projects were recently completed or are under construction and anticipated to be completed by late spring 2016:

- **Chautauqua Park:** The Chautauqua Park arbor renovation is complete. The aged wood timbers were removed and replaced.
- **Evert Pierson Kids' Fishing Pond:** The Evert Pierson Kids' Fishing Pond Re-opening celebration brought out over 100 community members to enjoy the new amenities. Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff also joined the celebration by giving away youth fishing gear to the first 40 kids. The link below is video coverage from the recent celebration event that was well attended and proves the benefit the ponds have on creating opportunities for youth activity and connection with the natural ecosystem along Boulder Creek. <https://vimeo.com/137851945>
- **Harlow Platt Park Restroom and Shelters:** Construction is underway on two new picnic shelters, a playground shade cover and a restroom at this heavily used south Boulder park site. The new shelters will be located outside of the wetland buffers. The new restroom will provide a much needed asset near the picnic shelters and playground. Work is anticipated to be completed by the end of October 2015.
- **Knollwood Tennis Courts:** The Knollwood Tennis Courts were heavily damaged in the 2013 flood. Working with both FEMA and city funding, the courts will be renovated to provide an improved drainage system and two post tension concrete slab courts with new fencing and equipment. Improvements will also include a new ADA accessible walkway ramp and stairs will be installed to improve court access. Amenities not covered by FEMA will be supported by grants of \$25,000 from the United States Tennis Association (USTA) and an additional \$5,000 from the Colorado Tennis Association and Intermountain Tennis Foundation as presented to City Council on Sept 15, 2015. Ongoing partnerships support for youth tennis in Boulder is being developed as an outcome of the grant support. Construction on this project has begun and is anticipated to be completed by spring 2016.

Urban Resources

The following initiatives are currently underway:

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

A lethal control permit was issued by the City Manager's Office and on August 6th, control was performed with a Pressurized Exhaust Rodent Controller (PERC), a carbon monoxide delivery system. Monitoring showed a few open burrows, but no prairie dogs. Follow-up treatment was performed on August 19. In an effort to allow potentially skittish prairie dogs that may have survived to resurface, staff has not been on-site. Monitoring will begin again in the next couple of weeks.

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

The closures are open as of mid-September. A report is being prepared to summarize the nesting success and will be included next month.

- **Integrated Pest Management** – An annual effort to restore native areas, control noxious weeds and comply with regulations.

The Urban Resources group remains committed to complying with the Colorado Noxious Weed Act and providing quality natural habitat throughout the system. An integrated approach (biological, cultural, chemical and mechanical) is utilized to maximize effectiveness while working within the city's ordinances and programs. Staff is currently working with the Colorado Department of Agriculture to control state listed species that are summer/autumn bloomers such as purple loosestrife. They are also performing the 2nd or 3rd round of control on previously managed sites that have re-sprouted. Goats continue to be utilized at certain sites. Sites that were closed for species of concern are now open and able to be treated so staff is also focusing on those in order to provide the best habitat possible.

C. Parks and Recreation Operations Update

Asset Management Update

- **Asset Management:** The department has been working on a multi-year process to develop and implement an Asset Management Plan (AMP) that meets industry standards and best practices. This plan will provide support to all facets of the department and foster decision making based upon data that allows the prioritizing of resources to those assets based on a Facility Condition Index (FCI) and an Asset Priority Index (API) score. The AMP is an initiative under the 2014 Master Plan Theme 2: Taking Care of What We Have.

- The AMP objectives include:
 - Inventorying and electronically inputting all data for major assets of the system;
 - Identify criteria for prioritizing maintenance and capital improvement using asset management best practices including the FCI and API scores
 - Provide economic strategy for life cycle and priority funding to inform the CIP and R&R processes.

The following items have been completed or are near completion:

- Acquisition and installation of GIS based Asset Management Software (Lucity) for pilot trial - with the first group of field staff using this beginning in the fall;
- Inventory all major assets throughout the system (not including buildings which will be captured during the Recreation Facility Plan) – data was captured and classified into the GIS database to input into the Lucity software;
- Current asset value and deficiency figures by major asset type (See the summary table on Asset Settings; and
- Develop Cost Estimating protocols and Project Management Approach for future projects.

The AMP, in conjunction with the recently completed General Maintenance and Management Plan, The Aquatics and Facilities Strategic Plan, Urban Forest Plan, and other strategic practices will help the department have a comprehensive understanding of the system inventory/needs, maintenance and replacement requirements, resource allocation, asset prioritization, commitments for future projects among other strategic practices. The plan will be fully implemented by the next year’s round of CIP and budget cycles.

Staff presents Emerald Ash Borer update during recent to City Council Study Session

- The September 8, 2015 City Council Study Session included an update on Boulder’s Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation, the department’s planned response and long-term proposals to enhance the sustainability of the City’s urban tree canopy. Council was receptive and appreciative of the research depth and supportive of the strategy (alignment with City resilience goals and recently enacted protocol on pesticide use, emphasis on system-wide diversification, and priorities in community engagement). They encouraged continued awareness/education efforts and exploration of negotiated discounts for the community as well as the feasibility of a tree trust. The entire Council study session package and additional department resources concerning EAB can be found at: <https://bouldercolorado.gov/pages/emerald-ash-borer>