

Evert Pierson Kids' Fishing Pond



PRE FLOOD CHARACTER

SITE RESTORATION AND ENHANCMENT - DESIGN INTENT

The Evert Pierson Kids' Fishing Ponds is a beloved spot where young anglers have come to learn to fish since 1949 when the ponds were converted from an old university owned gravel pit. The ponds which were originally converted through the work and efforts of the Boulder Fish and Game Club and are currently managed by the City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department. Fish are stocked and maintained from a nearby Boulder Fish and Game Club Facility.

Site and Landscape Design

The rehabilitation and enhancement of the Evert Pierson Kids' Fishing Pond is in response to damage due to flooding that occurred in the fall of 2013. This project aims to repair the functionality of the ponds and enhance the utility and quality of the ponds with respect to fishing access, water quality, water control, and habitat value. The flood damage is primarily characterized by sediment deposits and damaged structures including the fishing piers, bridges and water control structures.

Fishing Access:

The intent is to provide ideal fishing platforms from which young anglers will be able to stand or sit on a stable platform and fish comfortably. The design of the existing fishing piers is not ideal for anglers or for fish health. The guardrails are high, limit visual and physical connection to the water and require fish to be lifted on the line over the rails. These structures also have a high visual impact due to their guardrails and boxy design. The rails also gather debris during flooding and may impact water flow. Ideally, anglers should be able to reach the water and wet their hands before handling fish and be able to ease fish onto land to unhook the fish without lifting the fish on the line over a guardrail. New fishing piers are designed to allow access to the water and will not require guardrails as the topography surrounding the piers are designed to meet building code requirements. The edge of the piers will have a curb to indicate the edge and help prevent unintended entrance into the water.

Water Quality:

Water quality is important for fish health and for the fishing experience. Clearer and cleaner water is better for fishing, more appealing and better for the overall ecosystem. While sediment suspended in the source water may be inevitable, stagnation and temperature increases may be reduce through improved design. The intent for this project is to reestablish the source of water at a point along Boulder Creek that will allow for fresh water to circulate through the ponds during the fishing season and potentially year around depending on flows in Boulder Creek. Fresh clean water from the creek will likely improve oxygenation and flush sediments more frequently. Additionally this project proposes to establish some areas of wetland plantings which will further improve the habitat and water quality within the ponds.

Water Availability:

Currently the water available to the ponds is dependent on flows reaching the inlet valve at the west end of the west pond. There is a head wall and valve at this location that is intended to control the source of the water. When the level of the creek does not reach this valve, no water is available to fill the ponds or to circulate the water within the ponds. Between the two ponds is another headwall and valve that controls the water surface elevation of the west pond. There is an auxiliary overflow pipe that allows water to flow into the east pond along the south side of the pond. At the east end of the east pond, there is a valve to allow for pond drainage and an overflow flume with a trash rack that controls the water surface elevation of the east pond. These structures and valves will be repaired and or replaced as needed in order to function properly and to improve site safety.

Habitat Value:

The Evert Pierson Kids' Fishing Pond is integral to the riparian corridor along Boulder Creek near the mouth of Boulder Canyon. Prior to the flood this area had a high ecological value with mature canopy trees, established understory and healthy ground cover plantings. Most of the mature plant material remained after the flood but much of the understory, ground cover and pond edge plantings were adversely affected by the flood. This project proposes to reestablish some of the understory planting and ground covers as well as some wetland areas within the ponds. The goal is to reestablish the high ecological value of the site and enhance the diversity of the plant material across the site.



2013 FLOOD



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS - EXAMPLES

