



**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:** October 27, 2014

**A. Minutes** Approval of minutes from September 22, 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:

- **Boulder Reservoir Site Management Plan (SMP)** – Development of a site plan and comprehensive management plan for the Boulder Reservoir.

Staff held two meetings (Sept. 25 and Oct. 1) to offer multiple opportunities for community members to review and discuss the current draft management actions. The draft management actions, developed with community support over the past two and half years, focus on four main areas of use: boating, connectivity, facilities upgrades, and special events. The intention of the management actions is to provide a clear and concise direction for the management of the Boulder Reservoir as part of the Site Management Plan. The management actions, based around the Adaptive Management Process, will rely on monitoring and examining changing use patterns throughout the reservoir to provide the highest quality service to visitors and neighbors with consideration for the associated natural lands.

The information displayed at the recent public meetings is available on the [Boulder Reservoir Site Management Plan web page](#). Additional community comments can be submitted via the web page for those community members unable to attend. Staff will review and consider all comments as they apply to the draft management actions in preparation for finalizing the management actions.

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

The department held a second community meeting on October 2, 2014. The meeting was a chance for the public to learn about the department’s outreach process and comment on the data and findings that were compiled prior to the second community meeting. It was also an opportunity for the public to participate in an activity that evaluated possible program elements and looked at their potential trade-offs.

Roughly 60 people attended the second community meeting. The department and the consultant presented data that identified preliminary levels of support for different programmatic elements (as obtained through a number of different outreach efforts). Through an interactive key pad polling activity, the public was asked to respond to a series of questions regarding five different scenarios that looked at how programmatic elements could be incorporated into the design for VCP.

Over the next several weeks, the department will work closely with the consultant team to develop a series of concept alternatives for the park based on all of the feedback and data that has been compiled. Ultimately, one draft concept plan will be prepared and shown to the public at a final public meeting tentatively planned for early December 2014.

- **Youth Opportunities Advisory Board (YOAB)** - YOAB promotes the youth voice in the community, provides opportunities for city youth, and advises the municipal government on youth-related policies and issues.

Three members of YOAB have committed to working on a youth engagement plan with Parks and Recreation as their focus through January 2015. The specifics of the youth engagement strategy project will be developed in partnership with the YOAB and department staff. As a final product, the students will present their youth engagement findings and recommendations to the Board in January 2015.

## **Design**

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

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

The final construction documents for the park renovation have been completed. Bidding is expected to be completed by early November with contractor selection before the Thanksgiving holiday.

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. Construction is expected to be completed in spring 2015.

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

This project is in the final design phase to develop construction documents for bidding and construction beginning this fall. 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.

The department is currently planning for a design to renovate and, where appropriate, improve the Evert Pierson Kids Fishing Pond. Proposed 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. The project is expected to go out to bid in fall 2014. Construction is expected to last through winter 2015.

## Construction

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

- **Bill Bower Park**, formerly Mesa Memorial Park – A small neighborhood park located along Table Mesa between Hartford and Yale in south Boulder.

Bill Bower Park construction has been completed. A park opening and dedication was held on October 9, 2014 at Bear Creek Elementary School. The park's design includes a children's play area, a large multi-use turf field for un-programmed recreation activities, a community gathering space, and areas for picnicking.

- **Horizon K-8 / Burke Park GOCO School Yard Grant** – A school yard adjacent to a neighborhood park located at the intersection of Mohawk and Sioux Drive.

Construction at Horizon K-8 / Burke Park Playground has been completed. The playground is now open to the public when school is not in session.

The completion of the project represents over a year of planning, design, and working with a wide cross section of the community including Horizons K-8 School, Growing Up Boulder, CU students and staff, Great Outdoors Colorado, and others.

This school play yard playground was the first phase of a joint school/park visioning process that will provide the neighborhood access to a traditional and natural play area.

## **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 Foothills area joint Parks and Recreation and Open Space and Mountain Parks prairie dog relocation project is still in progress. As of October 17, 2014 there have been a total of 641 prairie dogs trapped from the Foothills area and relocated to the OSMP Waneka release site. The amended contract amount has not been reached and the Prairie Dog Coalition (PDC) has agreed to continue to trap until the amount is reached, which will likely be at least through October. Staff is working to coordinate a volunteer effort to remove remaining prairie dogs through most of November. There are estimated to be at least 20, and likely more, prairie dogs remaining. As the numbers become lower, trapping can become more challenging. Regular updates will be provided until project completion.

- **Integrated Pest Management**

The Parks and Recreation Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Conservation Crew continue to work toward control of various state-listed weed species. The crew will continue to perform Russian Olive (RO) removal at various locations in accordance with our Three Year Management and RO removal plans.

The crew has also begun the annual autumn mapping of all of the department's prairie dog colonies which last year consisted of over 550 acres. Most of the acreage is around the Boulder Reservoir (approximately 360 acres), but ~135 acres is located at Area III and ~50 acres at Valmont City Park (south), with the remaining acreage found at other park sites. Detailed information can be found in the [2013 Prairie Dog Status Report](#).

- **Boulder Reservoir 2014 Birds of Special Concern Monitoring Report** - An annual report prepared by Stephen Jones.

Nearly 400 hours of volunteer monitoring were logged this year for monitoring report detail. Details can be found in the full [Boulder Reservoir 2014 Birds of Special Concern Monitoring Report](#). Some highlights from the report include:

*Bittern* - Dry Creek and Little Dry Creek areas were the more active for bittern than in the history of this program. This was the first year since 2009 and only second year out of eleven years that Coot Lake was inactive for bittern.

*Harrier* - This was the first year since 2010 that a successful harrier nest was identified. The nesting area located at the Little Dry Creek became a closure through emergency rule in 2014 and plans are in place to formalize this area as an annual closure in the coming years. Coot Lake Wetland has been inactive for harrier since 2005.

*Burrowing Owl and Osprey* - Both burrowing owl and osprey success has declined in recent years across all sites. The [Boulder Reservoir 2013 Biological Survey and Recreation Impact Assessment](#) makes recommendations for these areas to be protected and/or enhanced in the coming years and staff is looking forward to timely completion of the site management plan to provide more detailed guidance on how to best manage these areas and species.