



Crestview Park
City of Boulder

Neighborhood Meeting No. 1

Location: Boulder Friends Meetinghouse
February 1, 2014

Attendees: See sign in sheet
Doug Godfrey, Project Manager, Parks Planner, City of Boulder
Jeff Haley, Parks & Planning Manager, City of Boulder
Mike Lamb, Parks Project Manager, City of Boulder
Tina Briggs, Community Engagement, City of Boulder
Jesse Clark, Stream Design
Kerry White, Urban Play Studio

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Comments:

1. The meeting began with introductions of City staff involved with the project, the design team and key members from the neighborhood who will serve as liaisons for the residents and Crestview Elementary.
2. The Crestview Park renovation project is a capital improvement bond project to address 'critical deficiencies' throughout the park including safety and compliance, accessibility, and outdated equipment and park features. These improvements preliminary will include:
 - New playground equipment & elements to meet current guidelines - ADA, ASTM & CPSC.
 - Replace outdated site furnishings.
 - Improve park access, pedestrian circulation & play surfacing for accessibility.
 - Ballfield and irrigation improvements to update park features and equipment.
 - Drainage improvements.
3. Project schedule includes a second Neighborhood Meeting in March or April to review concept plans that will incorporate input gathered at this meeting. The design and construction drawings and documents will be developed through the end of May with construction beginning in August. The goal is to have the park opening in November of 2014.
4. Existing park conditions include:
 - 'The Habitat' outdoor nature classroom which is on City property and part of the park but has been adopted and primarily used by Crestview Elementary. It includes native and wetland plantings, an amphitheater, boardwalks and pathways. It was heavily damaged during the September floods. The Habitat is separated from the park with a fence but has several access points into it from the park.
 - The open field area which is intended to be a multi-use field has two outdated backstops, poor quality grass for sport use and no irrigation. The field has thistles and other weeds. It is approximately 350' x 350' or 142,000 sf.

- The existing playground, approximately 1,850 square feet, consists of a very small play 'structure' with integrated tot swings, a teeter totter/spring rider, diggers and boulders over pea gravel surfacing.
 - Adjacent to the playground is a small plaza area with a picnic table, shade trees and a planting bed.
 - 'The Knoll' is the taller grass mound/hill at the southeast corner of the site and is an important unique feature of the site. There are a few informally created dirt paths across the knoll with boulders used as seating and nice mature trees including evergreens.
 - There is an existing 6' wide sidewalk that runs diagonally across the site from Sumac northeast to Upland. And a 4' walk off of the main walk between the Knoll and the Habitat heading east and providing access to the elementary school.
 - Parking is provided on-street on Sumac and Upland.
 - There is unimproved access from Tamarack into the park. Many students use Tamarack as a safe route from the neighborhood across the park and to the school.
 - There is an unprogrammed area of grass at the southwest corner of the site.
 - The adjacent school site provides plenty of traditional, post and platform play equipment and a sodded multi-use field.
5. The concept of nature-based play presented as being an ideal play type for this park. Natural play to replace the existing playground would compliment the Habitat and the Knoll. Natural play would also support the new park and recreation master plan in the areas of community health and wellness and youth engagement and activity by better engaging children to spend time in the outdoors playing in a more natural, unprogrammed environment.
6. Next, an activity was done with the group to help determine desired level of development for the park. The park can be left more undeveloped and more closely like 'wilderness'; or more developed with an urban feel. Or developed somewhere in between. Open space and mountain parks land was given as an example of 'wilderness' level development and Pearl Street Mall as 'urban'. Another option was to cross out the element completely if someone felt it was something that shouldn't be in the park at all. Images were shown for each element as examples of each end of the development spectrum. Results of the survey are as follows:

	wilderness				urban	do not include
	1	2	3	4	5	
1). Recreation field votes: <i>images ranged from turfgrass field with no other improved elements to a skinned infield ballfield with dugouts and backstop</i>	(5)	(2)	(4)	0	(1)	(2)
2). Playground Option A <i>images were all manufactured play equipment from faux climbing boulders to contemporary metal and plastic play equipment</i>	(7)	(2)	(3)	0	0	(4)
3). Playground Option B <i>images ranged from real wood stumps and logs in a natural setting to new alternative play equipment made from cable ropes</i>	(6)	(3)	(3)	0	(1)	
4). Picnicking votes: <i>images ranged from a blanket on the ground to a permanent shade shelter structure with picnic tables</i>	(2)	(4)	(6)	(2)	(1)	
5). Walks & pathways: <i>images ranged from single track dirt path to a wide paved concrete walk</i>	0	(2)	(5)	(1)	(5)	(1)
6). Pets / dogs votes: <i>images ranged from leash walking to a fully developed dog park</i>	(9)	(4)	0	0	0	(1)
7). Gardens & plantings: <i>images ranged from native plantings to decorative/ornamental plantings beds or a community garden</i>	(5)	(4)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(1)

It was asked if the park could be left as is. What if the majority felt that it did not need any improvement? Yes, no development could be considered except for the basic improvements needed to replace worn equipment and updates required to bring specific elements up to current codes and standards.

In general, the wilderness-urban survey indicates a desire for a less developed, more natural park.

7. Additional comments written on the surveys include:

General & misc comments

- Maintain the rural feel that the park has historically had.
- Maintain the existing park character.

- Add a drinking fountain.
- Expand the Habitat. (2 comments)
- Address drainage issues.

Multi-use field

- Need a safe, even surface in the field for unprogrammed play. Just a field is adequate; do not need further improvements so the area can be used for any type of play.
- Need a nicer grassy area for play. Make the field useful for kids – soccer, baseball, Frisbee. Not just for dogs.
- Do not want rec league play at the park. However, it does need to be well maintained. Weeds, thistles and uneven surfaces are dangerous for play.

Walks & pathways

- Pathways need to at least have a covering to keep down the mud. (2 comments)
- Provide a mix of trail types – paved and more natural, soft trails. (2 comments)
- Would like a paved loop walk around the park.
- No new concrete paths. (2 comments)
- Existing walks and paths are fine as is. (3 comments) No loop path.
- Walks should accommodate kids' toys, bikes, wagons and strollers.
- Perhaps groom a ski trail in the winter. (2 comments)

Picnicking

- Prefer picnicking with tables and shade trees. (4 comments) Trees need to be big enough to provide shade.
- For picnicking provide (2) shade shelters, (4) picnic tables, and BBQs.

Playground

- Would like a variety of play elements / equipment. Need more challenging play elements (similar to Melody Park).
- Provide a different and unique play opportunity for children.
- Prefer climbing rocks, wood features, climbing for playground. (3 comments) School already provides 'urban' play equipment. (2 comments)
- Prefer the most natural playground option. (4 comments)
- Natural play in the knoll area, big climbing rock pile.
- Provide a small playground for young children, 2-5 year olds, with an open area and shade trees.
- Take advantage of doing something great and different at this park than other Boulder parks.
- Compliment the school play equipment, don't duplicate. (2 comments) Don't make the playground too dominate so it takes over the park.
- No manufactured play equipment, use natural materials.
- A water play feature would draw kids to play.

Dogs

- Current dog accommodations are adequate. Need more waste clean-up.
- No dog runs or fencing.
- Need a dog waste pick-up station with bags and a trash receptacle. (4 comments)

Gardens & plantings

- Maintain the existing gardens but provide more maintenance.
- Overall prefer more natural plantings except at the multi-use field which needs more upkeep.
- Add shade trees. (3 comments)
- Plantings in the children area only; native plants for pollinators, water-wise plantings, trees on far west side only.
- Small flower gardens throughout.
- Bee and butterfly gardens. (3 comments)
- No community gardens.
- Love the idea of a community garden for this park.
- Park should be for use of people, dogs, and wildlife, too. Bees need wildflowers, even dandelions.
- Orchard with apple and peach trees.

8. Additional general discussion items included preference for minimal development especially anything that would require irrigation, pesticides, disturbance of wildlife, etc. Several feel the existing condition of the field is fine for children and others to use. It was suggested not to assume anything needs to be added to 'improve' the park.

9. There were a few comments that possibly existing park facilities would be better utilized with some associated improvements such as a drinking fountain, benches, trash receptacles, and bags for dog waste pickup. Some new amenities may better serve neighbors that have not yet been considered.
10. A neighbor with young kids often drives to other parks in Boulder despite this being their neighborhood park. The existing playground does not offer enough activities for her kids. She would like to see a larger, improved playground.
11. Staff followed up with some clarifications and information:
 - A turfgrass field for multi-use play cannot be properly maintained for play and recreation such as for soccer or other sports without irrigation. In Colorado's challenging climate, irrigation is needed to maintain healthy sod with no weeds. Worn spots lead to divots and uneven surfaces.
 - Boulder does not apply any pesticides on City property. They do use herbicides.
 - Orchards do not fall into allowable park amenities as they attract wildlife such as bears that are undesirable in the City.
 - Trees take a long time to provide adequate shade.
12. Meeting attendees were then divided into two groups to develop conceptual bubble diagrams for proposed park improvements. See attached plans.

Group #1 Plan

- Minimal improvements – existing concrete walks are in the right place; leave the area at the southwest corner of the site as is; on-street parking is adequate (though clean-up debris from flooding along Upland), no off-street parking needed.
- Minimally improve the field – no irrigation, clean up weeds, fill in uneven surfaces, no herbicides. Remove both backstops.
- Use the multi-use field at the school for sport and recreation.
- Provide an improved access to Crestview Elementary from Tamarack east across the site, though offset walk from the path that goes up and over the Knoll. Prefer to have main access to school across the site utilize the 4' concrete walk around the Knoll so the Knoll does not get overly worn from too much through traffic.
- Playground to remain in about the same location but slightly larger and add a natural play area along the edge of the Knoll.
- No shade shelter, shade trees ok. In fact, develop the entire park as an arboretum.
- Provide benches along main walkway, no loop path around the field area.

Group #2 Plan

- Many similarities to the Group #1 plan.
- Medium level improvements – existing concrete walks are in the right place; leave the area at the southwest corner of the site as is; on street parking is adequate though add a bridge to cross the culvert along Upland, no off-street parking needed.
- Provide an improved portion of the multi-use field to include irrigation, minor regrading and turfgrass upgrades. Locate the improved portion of the field closest to the main walk on the east side of the field. Incorporate one of the backstops.
- Provide a crusher fines path connection from the school to Tamarack. Also create a loop path around the field.
- Keep the Knoll native. Add a nature play area within the Knoll.
- Improve and slightly enlarge the playground area.
- Separated by the east-west pathway, provide an informal picnic area north of the play area. Include a shade shelter.
- Add shade trees and a planted buffer on the west side of the park between adjacent neighbors and the park.

13. The next steps will be for the design team to create more detailed concept plans for the park taking the input from this meeting. Neighbors will be invited to attend the second Neighborhood Meeting. Additional comments, especially for those not being able to attend today's meeting, will be able to find information on a dedicated website for the park. Comments may also be emailed to Doug Godfrey, project manager.

Clean up from flood for on-street parking

Minimal open field improvements

- non-irrig
- clean up weeds
- fill in
- no herbicides

remove both buckets

the Habitat

play

natural play

enhance vegetation, move native

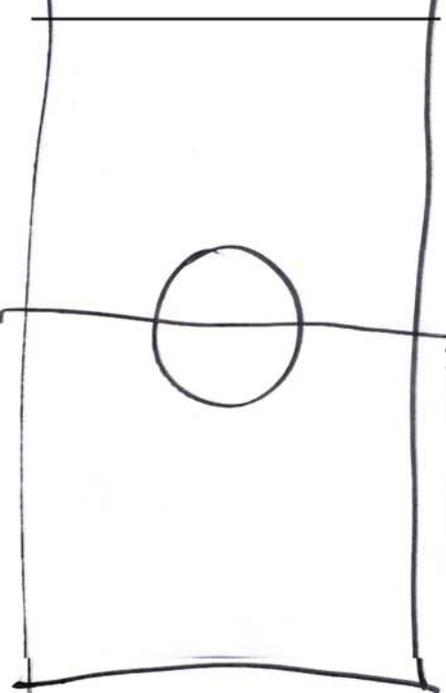
as is dirt path or crusher fines to better define

more formal route to school

concrete

leave as is

on-street parking

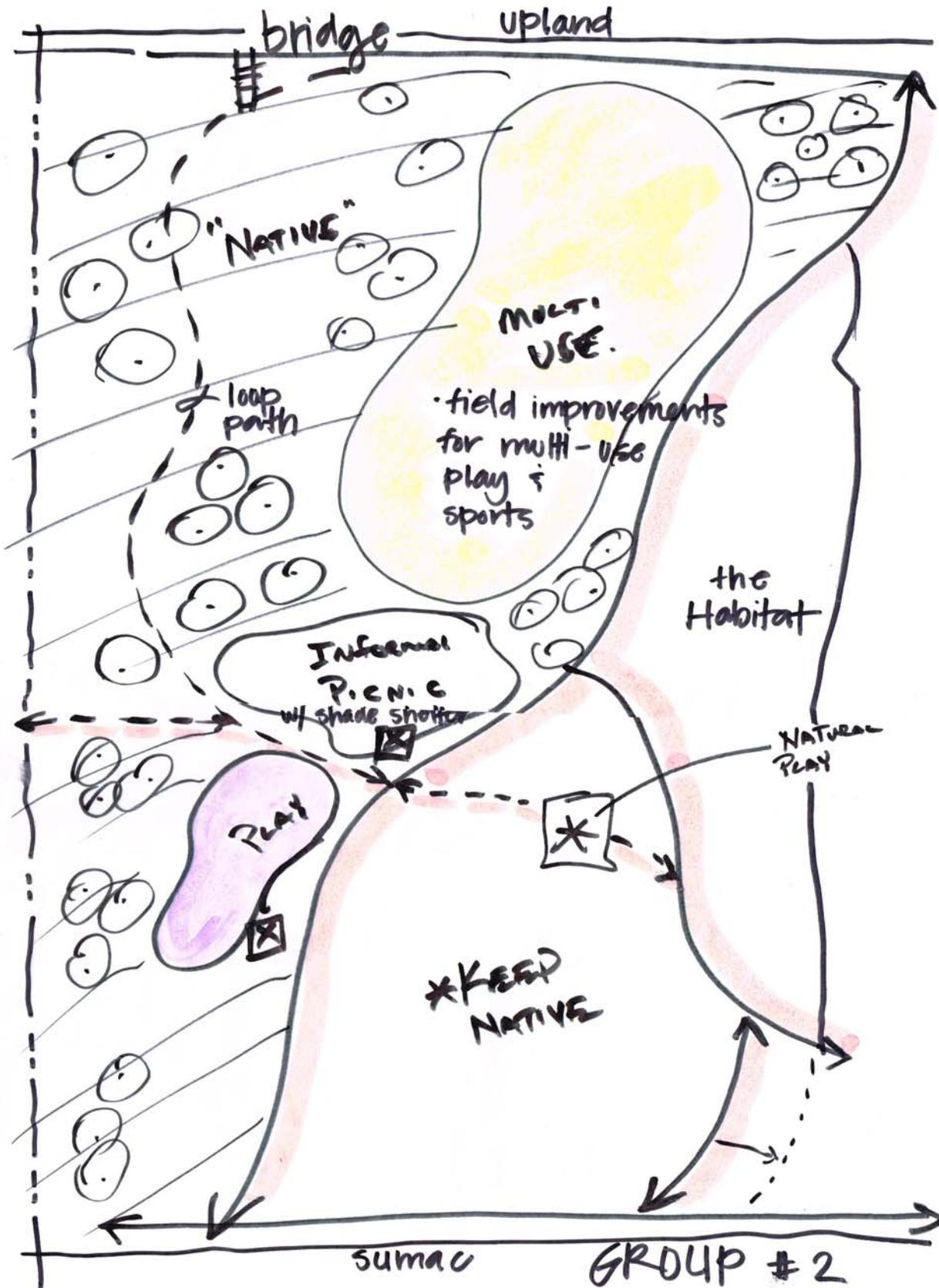


Use multi-use field at Crestview Elementary

the Park as an arboretum

GROUP #1

Crestview Park Group #1 Plan
 Neighborhood Meeting
 February 1, 2014 scale: 1" = 40'



Crestview Park Group #2 Plan

Neighborhood Meeting

February 1, 2014

scale 1" = 40'