

City of Boulder Parks & Recreation



*2012 Annual Report
to the community*

Directors Message



Thank you for supporting Boulder Parks and Recreation in 2012. We truly love seeing you enjoying our parks, playing ball on our sports fields, swimming in our pools, boating at our reservoir and working up a sweat in our recreation centers. We exist to serve this community and we're continually inspired by how you embrace what we offer.

We are also elated by Boulder voters, who last November, overwhelmingly supported (85% voted for) the Parks and Recreation .25 sales tax renewal funding initiative. This fiscal support will enable us to continue bringing you the finest parks, programs and facilities possible.

While this report highlights some of the more visible and impressive achievements of 2012, I want to share two less known ways we serve this community. Unless you have a friend or family member living with a disability, you may not know about EXPAND (Exciting Programs, Adventures and New Dimensions). This department program provides social, physical and recreational programs for people living with disabilities.

EXPAND provides fun, appropriate specialized and inclusion programs ranging from waterskiing to dance; bowling to Bolder Boulder preparation. This past year, EXPAND helped conduct a comprehensive analysis and draft an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Transition Plan that will lead to an increasing inventory of accessible parks and facilities for all residents.

In 2012, this "seldom seen" program was awarded the National Recreation and Park Association's "Excellence in Inclusion Award." This award recognizes programs that provide inclusive opportunities to children, youth and adults with physical and developmental disabilities. We were humbled to learn we offer one of the finest programs in the nation.

Our Urban Forestry unit provides a glimpse into another less obvious way we serve Boulder. Urban Forestry not only plants several hundred trees per year (in parks and public rights of way), they also inspect, monitor, and tend thousands of mature trees. As trees reach the end of their life expectancy, disease and decay cause structural weakness making them susceptible to breaking in one of Boulder's wind or snow storms.

Because most tree damage is internal and hidden from view, Forestry uses special equipment and techniques to determine when an old tree is no longer safe and needs to be removed. By removing potentially dangerous trees before they topple, the department helps prevent human injury and property damage.

We believe creating a safe, healthy and vibrant community is our mission, whether it's our work keeping urban trees safe or creating inclusive opportunities for all people. These are just two examples of the many programs we have that serve the community.

The success of our department is a direct reflection of your engagement with and enthusiasm for our parks, programs and facilities! Thank you for all the ways you support the health, quality of life and community in Boulder. Please enjoy this summary of our accomplishments in 2012.

In the Spirit of Community,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Kincannon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kirk Kincannon, CPRP, Director
City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department

Mission

The mission of the City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department is to provide safe, clean, and beautiful parks and facilities and high-quality leisure activities for the community. These services shall enhance residents' health and well-being and promote economic vitality for long-term community sustainability. We will accomplish this through creative leadership, environmentally sustainable practices, and the responsible use of available resources.

Vision

Strive for excellence in our parks and recreation system to reflect and serve the unique values and qualities of our community.

2012 City Councilmembers:

Matt Appelbaum – Mayor
Lisa Morzel – Deputy Mayor
Suzy Ageton
KC Becker
Macon Cowles
Suzanne Jones
George Karakehian
Tim Plass
Ken Wilson

2012 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Members:

Bob Yates – Board Chair
Michelle Estrella – Board Vice Chair
Mike Conroy
Myriah Conroy
Michael Guzek
Richard Thayer
Kelly Wyatt

Jane S. Brautigam
City Manager

Paul J. Fetherston
Deputy City Manager

Boulder Reservoir infrastructure improvements.



2012 Department Achievements

Parks & Planning



**Capital Improvement Bond (CIB)
Round 1 projects.**



Boulder Reservoir infrastructure improvements

A project kick-off celebration in October initiated a series of improvements, which include a new entry station; roadway and parking lot work; water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure improvements; landscaping work; installation of a raw water irrigation system; and upgrades to the aquatic nuisance species (ANS) inspection station.



Columbia Cemetery improvements

A new fence on the west side of the property was completed, and future improvements include headstone restoration, irrigation ditch improvements and installation of a new water wise irrigation system.



Park shelter renovations and installations

New shelters were installed at East Palo Park, Valmont Dog Park, Foothills Dog Park and Valmont Bike Park.



Facility renovations

Major park renovation projects were completed at Canyon Park, Columbine Park and East Palo Park. The improvements included playground replacement, installation of water wise irrigation systems, turf and playing field improvements, ball court resurfacing, sign installation and replacement of some concrete walkways.



South Boulder Recreation Center floor replacement

The floors in the gym, racquetball court and multipurpose room were replaced. Users report improved play and performance. These areas also received access enhancements to achieve compliance with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements.

Valmont City Park

Boulder's largest park (132 acres) received additional improvements and garnered a number of accolades in 2012. The park is located on the north and south side of Valmont Road near Airport Road.

Dog Park

The dog park re-opened in October after an extensive redesign and renovation that included the addition of new shelters; separately fenced areas for large and small dogs; new picnic tables; a compostable dog waste station; water wise drip irrigation system; seasonal water fountain; and grass and natural surfaces.

Disc Golf Course

Boulder's first 18-hole interim disc golf course opened in December, offering 18 holes for recreational play across 14 acres (south of Valmont Road). Additional improvements to the disc golf course area included prairie dog relocation, installation of a prairie dog fence and installation of a multi-use path connecting to the Goose Creek Greenway. A team of volunteers dedicated 300 hours to this project.

Bike Park

- Valmont Bike Park won a bid to host the 2014 USA Cycling Cyclocross National Championships. USA Cycling cited the park's exceptional design as a factor in selecting Boulder for this event, which is expected to bring between 2,500 and 5,000 athletes and spectators to Boulder.
- The Valmont Bike Park also played significant role in Boulder receiving the Platinum Level Bicycle Friendly Community designation from the League of American Bicyclists; #1 on the "10 Best Bike Cities in North America" by Outside magazine; and #3 on the "50 Best Bicycling Cities" by Bicycling magazine.
- Two additional bridges were installed at Valmont Bike Park in 2012, and a pilot volunteer bike patrol program designed to assist, educate, and inform mountain bikers and other trail users was established with the National Mountain Bike Patrol, a service branch of the International Mountain Bicycling Association based on the highly successful model of Nordic ski patrols.

Historic train

- Extensive restoration efforts were completed on the city's historic engine and rail cars, which include Locomotive #30, Rio Grande Southern Caboose #04990 and Denver & Rio Grande Western Coach #280. These assets were originally purchased in the 1950s by residents of Boul-

der, led by CU professor and Boulder historian John B. Schoolland. They are currently on loan and displayed at the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden, CO.

- The department celebrated the restoration of Boulder's train with a ribbon-cutting and spike driving ceremony at the Colorado Railroad Museum in August. Participants received a special booklet outlining the train's history and enjoyed entertainment and rides in the coach.

Boulder Water Conservation Fair, turf and xeriscape demonstration gardens

The Parks and Recreation department, along with the city's Public Works, Communications, LEAD (Local Environmental Action Division) and Community Planning and Sustainability departments, provided residents with fun ways to learn about conserving water at home and how the city's parks are reducing their water consumption. The event, held at the East Boulder Community Park, included the latest lawn and garden irrigation techniques, water conservation strategies, and a tour of the city's new turf and xeriscape demonstration gardens.

Pearl Street Mall compost bins

The department teamed up with the city's LEAD (Local Environmental Action Division) to install compost bins at three existing waste collection stations on the Pearl Street Mall.

Parks planning/public outreach

- **Admiral Arleigh A. Burke Park /Thunderbird Lake school/park partnership**
The department collaborated with Horizons K-8 School, Growing Up Boulder, Biohabitats, Inc., Keep it Clean Partnership, Frasier Meadows and the city's Watershed Outreach Program to re-envision the future of Burke Park and the adjacent Horizons K-8 playground. In 2012, this extensive partnership process involved public engagement, habitat exploration and collaborative design development. Following final design approval, construction is scheduled to begin in 2013.
- **Mesa Memorial Park**
An extensive neighborhood/community input process to design the future Mesa Memorial Park took place in 2012. Highlights included an all-ages park design workshop; establishment of a community-led fundraising committee; and partnerships with the University of Colorado Environmental Design students, Growing Up Boulder and the PLAY Foundation. Final park concept designs are being revised and construction is scheduled to begin in 2013.

• Elks Park

Design plans were finalized for Elks Park, which will be developed in 2013 following environmentally sustainable park development and management practices. Planning highlights from 2012 included public input; inter-agency design of a multi-modal trail to connect to the park; and organization of an art selection panel, which chose the art to be installed in the park.

Urban Forestry

- A 2012 mayoral declaration designated “**Sakura Day**” to honor the Sister City relationship between Boulder and Yamagata, Japan. More than 200 Somai Yoshino cherry trees have been donated to the City of Boulder over the past six years and planted in the Municipal Complex and Scott Carpenter, North Boulder and Martin parks.
- 378 trees were planted in city parks and street rights-of-way; 1,674 public trees received professional tree care (pruning, clean-up from storm damage or safety removal); 170 public trees received formal safety inspections; 500 resident tree service requests were completed; and 5 honeybee colonies were relocated.

Integrated Pest Management

The department launched a “Healthy Parks=Healthy People” organic park turf and landscape bed initiative and education program at six park locations, eliminating the use of synthetic inputs in those areas. Department staff spoke at the Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association’s annual conference in December about this successful program.

Columbia Cemetery

- The Columbia Cemetery storage facility was acknowledged as a special preservation project during the City of Boulder Landmarks Board Heritage Preservation Awards celebration in May. The facility—a collaboration with the University of Colorado’s College of Architecture and Planning, Division of Environmental Design—was constructed in 2011 for protective storage of broken grave markers awaiting repair.
- Columbia Cemetery received grant funding from the State Historical Fund and City of Boulder totaling \$100,000 (\$70,000 from the State Historical Fund for the repair and conservation of 54 grave markers, and a \$30,000 cash match from the city).
- A successful “Meet the Spirits” event, held in October at Columbia Cemetery, was co-sponsored by the department and Historic Boulder, Inc. Approximately 800 participants enjoyed “visits” from Boulder residents buried at the cemetery, ghost hunting demonstrations, Victorian mourners, funeral music, vintage hearses and a re-enactment of a solemn Masonic burial service.

Urban forest’s environmental impacts

Boulder’s urban forest provides many environmental benefits to our community, aside from the obvious aesthetic benefits.

Trees within our urban forest contribute in the following ways:

- Sequester and store carbon supporting the city’s Climate Action Plan;
- filter pollutants from the air;
- protect our water by decreasing stormwater runoff and increasing water quality; and
- save energy by keeping our buildings and environment cooler.

Tree protection

The goal is to preserve trees as long as possible in order to maximize their benefits and minimize the risks to the public. Silver maples, willows and cottonwoods are fast-growing trees that are prone to internal decay. A tree that may be green and appear healthy on the outside can have serious internal decay, making it susceptible to winds and storm damage. The department’s Urban Forestry workgroup provides tree safety inspections, monitoring large trees with major internal decay and structural problems. A tree with significant structural deficiencies may be pruned or removed to protect public safety.

Water Conservation and Innovation in City Parks

The department strives to ensure that Boulder parks and athletic fields are managed through proper water conservation methods and all efforts are aligned with the City Council’s environmental goals. Highly-trained staff, extensive research and forward-thinking programs have helped to establish a water-saving technology control system and irrigation improvements. The department is proud to employ highly-educated, innovative water managers who have undergone rigorous water management training and testing to become Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditors. Low-water, turf and irrigation demonstration plots are located at the East Boulder Community Park.

Did you know?

Pilot dog waste composting program. As part of a pilot dog waste composting program at Valmont Dog Park, 1.5 tons of dog waste was diverted from landfills in just the first four months.



Renovated Valmont Dog Park



The SBRC had new gymnasium, multipurpose room and racquetball court floors installed as part of the Capital Improvement Bond projects.

Recreation

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) transition plan.

The department's ADA transition plan was finalized in 2012, and establishes guidelines, policies and procedures for parks and recreation facilities to ensure accessibility for everyone. As part of the plan, all parks, playgrounds and facilities were assessed and public outreach was conducted to determine the best plan. The department began transition plan improvements in 2012. The plan can be viewed at www.BoulderParks-Rec.org > EXPAND.

Therapeutic Recreation - EXPAND

- Served more than 630 local individuals with disabilities in specialized and inclusive situations;
- Provided over \$12,000 in scholarships to participants who could not afford recreation programs;
- Raised over \$22,000 at the EXPAND Duck Race® to fund therapeutic recreation programs;
- Began a new adaptive sport program for blind and visually impaired individuals in cooperation with the United States Association of Blind Athletes; and
- Supported 55 athletes with developmental disabilities and seven athletes with physical disabilities to complete the Bolder Boulder.

Adaptive Fitness Equipment

The East Boulder Community Center received new adaptive fitness equipment as part of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) transition plan. The equipment is easily accessible, low to the ground and adapts to each individual. Each piece has brightly-marked levers that allow for quick adjustments, provides arms for support and has user-friendly consoles with large display buttons. The locker rooms at EBCC were also extensively remodeled, adding three family locker rooms – two of which are accessible to people with disabilities. Additional work included replacement of all tile, fixtures, counter tops and sinks in the men's and women's locker rooms as well as improvements to the leisure pool, dinosaur slide and steam room.

Recreation Facilities

- Energy efficiency. All three recreation centers installed new human-powered treadmills and additional human-powered cardio equipment, and high efficiency LED television sets.
- Scott Carpenter Pool. The outdoor pool received a new hot water system.

- North Boulder Recreation Center (NBRC). A gym divider was installed at the NBRC during its annual maintenance shutdown, allowing for more activities to take place in the facility. The outdoor childcare area at NBRC also received a new poured-in-place safety surface, play features and sandbox.

eGauge energy savings tracker

An eGauge real-time energy tracking web tool was made available on the Parks and Recreation website to track energy savings at the three recreation facilities, following extensive energy efficiency upgrades that were completed in 2011. In just one year, \$35,000 was saved and 270 megawatt hours of energy were generated at the three recreation centers.

Boulder Reservoir

- The Boulder Reservoir Master Plan was completed and accepted by City Council in January 2012. The plan establishes management goals and objectives for the reservoir (including Coot Lake) that will guide future management and investment strategies. As follow-up to the plan, department staff conducted five public walk-about events to discuss implementation of the plan with reservoir users.
- Recorded a record number of water sports camp participants, with nearly 800 participants (an increase of more than 300 from 2011);
- Maintained its Clean Marina certification from the Colorado Marina Association;
- Detected no aquatic nuisance species.

Flatirons Golf Course

- Completed the bunker renovation/playability project in March, with a total of 19 new bunkers installed;
- Initiated a tee renovation project that includes complete renovation of 42 tee boxes, allowing players five different distances and strategies for course play;
- Hosted two national championship qualifier events and
- Was designated an Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuary for the third year in a row.

Gymnastics

- Enrolled more than 5,000 children and teens in its programs, and more than 150 participants in gymnastics camps;
- Renovated gymnastics bar equipment and replaced the facility's carpeting;
- Hosted two large competitions, with more than 540 participants and 1,000 spectators.

Dance

- Expressions Dance Company participated in five regional events, and several individual dancers were selected to compete nationally.

Boulder B-Cycle

- A Boulder B-Cycle station was installed at the North Boulder Recreation Center, providing another exercise and transportation option for center visitors.

Sports

- 4,229 kids participated in the department's Spring Break, Summer, Thanksgiving and Winter Break camps.
- The department welcomed Denver Nuggets' player Arron Afflalo to the Denver Nuggets Summer Camp for kids ages 7 to 15 in August.

Sports complexes

- Pleasant View Fields hosted the NCAA National Ultimate Tournament for the second consecutive year.
- Department sports fields hosted the National 4th of July Louisville Slugger girls softball tournament.
- Organic turf care was initiated at Foothills, Columbine, Greenleaf and Shanahan Ridge parks and field # 3 at Stazio Ballfields.
- Sport field renovation projects were completed at Harlow Platts, Columbine, Foothills and East Boulder Community parks and at the Aurora 7 Park baseball fields.



John Orozco, Olympic gymnast visits NBRC, September 12, 2012.

Did you know?

The department welcomed John Orozco to the North Boulder Recreation Center gym in September. Orozco, also the 2012 VISA National Gymnastics Champion, spoke about his career and his experience competing in the 2012 London Olympics, answered questions from the audience and signed autographs.



4,229 kids participated in the department's Spring Break, Summer, Thanksgiving and Winter Break camps.

Let's Move!

Parks and Recreation continued its involvement with the *Let's Move!* campaign by hosting two events in 2012. *Let's Move!* is a national campaign aimed at solving the problem of childhood obesity by providing nutritional guidance and physical activities for young people.

Pottery Lab

In February, participants of the department's community roundtable reviewed recommendations from the Pottery Lab Management Assessment and established a Pottery Lab Working Group comprised of 12 members from the Boulder community, Parks and Recreation staff and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB). The working group explored issues and options related to the future of the Pottery Lab, and recommended that the department explore a public-private partnership.

Youth Services Initiative (YSI)

YSI provides youth living in subsidized housing with meaningful social, academic and cultural after-school activities.

- Helped promote healthy lifestyles and lifelong habits among participants by participating in healthy cooking and eating courses, fitness activities and safety courses;
- Hosted the third-annual YSI Art Show with local artist Paula Kehoe in May;
- Together with members of the Boulder Fire Dept. and donations from the community, provided more than 475 children with gifts during the holiday season;
- Guided participants in providing over 650 hours of volunteer service to various projects in the community;
- Provided \$2,800 to participants who would have been unable to afford recreation programs.

Veterans Pass

The department initiated a special, discount-rate recreation facility pass program for veterans, active duty and reserve military personnel.



The department's Urban Forestry workgroup provides tree safety inspections, monitoring large, aging trees for structural deficiencies.

Awards

- The National 2012 Excellence in Inclusion Award-Agency Award by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) for providing inclusive opportunities to children, youth and adults with disabilities.
- Recreation Administrator, Teri Olander, received the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) Fellow Award, the highest honor bestowed upon a CPRA member, recognizing her excellence in leadership, strategic thinking and planning, partner/coalition building and innovation.
- Recreation Coordinator, Content VonRoenn, received the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) Fitness Professional of the Year award.
- Dance Program Coordinator, Cynthia Burdine, received the prestigious Educator Award from Co. Dance at its event in Denver – the only Educator Award presented at the event.
- Youth Services Initiative (YSI) Program Coordinator, Alex Zinga, received two prestigious community awards. Her “Women Who Light the Community” award from the Chamber of Commerce recognized her significant contributions to address a meaningful business or community need; and her Boulder Housing Partners’ (BHP) Partnership Recognition Award acknowledged her outstanding work to enhance BHP residents’ quality of life.
- Flatirons Golf Course Superintendent, Dave Brown, was named “Golf Person of the Year” by the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame.
- The City of Boulder was named a “Tree City USA” for the 28th consecutive year by the National Arbor Day Foundation in honor of the city’s commitment to community forestry.
- Valmont Bike Park received the “Best Cyclocross Course” award from CyclingDirt.com.
- Flatirons Golf Course received the Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary designation for the third consecutive year from the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP). Flatirons received this designation by meeting the program’s rigorous standards regarding wildlife habitat, water conservation and environmental turf-management.
- The City of Boulder received the Well Workplace Gold Level Award from the Wellness Council of America for its efforts to maximize the health and well-being of its employees.
- Boulder was named: One of America’s Healthiest Metros (#3) (*The Atlantic Cities*, Jan. 2012); the Skinniest City in America (*Gallup*, March 2012); a Top 10 Cities for Well-being (#5) (*Gallup*, March 2012); and one of the Nine Fittest Towns of the West (#3) (*Sunset*, June 2012).

- East Boulder Recreation Center received a Best of the West award from Yellow Scene Magazine; Flatirons Golf Course was named Boulder's best golf course by the readers of the Boulder Weekly and the Pearl Street Mall was named best place to entertain kids and best shopping destination by readers of the Boulder Daily Camera.

Community Involvement

Master Plan public outreach

In 2012, the department hosted three public open house meetings, conducted a community survey and launched a community involvement web portal for an update to the Master Plan. The Master Plan's purpose is to identify the needs of the community and address them with actions that create inclusive, cost-effective, and sustainable parks, recreation facilities and programs.

Public Meetings:

The department hosted 22 public meetings in 2012. Most notably:

- Seven Capital Improvement Bond project meetings were held to engage neighbors and the community about upcoming projects;
- Five interactive tours of the Boulder Reservoir and Coot Lake were conducted as part of the Boulder Reservoir Site Management Plan process;
- A public roundtable was held to discuss the Pottery Program Management Assessment and solicit feedback and suggestions for next steps in creating a successful future for this program;
- A public open house on the department's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan was held;
- Conducted 15 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) meetings. The public is always welcome to attend all Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings, held the fourth Monday of every month.

Volunteer service

3,400 volunteers contributed approximately 40,000 volunteer hours.

Major volunteer projects:

- Community Cleanup Day
- Sakura Day Somai Yoshino cherry tree planting
- National Public Lands Day
- Boulder Creek Festival®

- Valmont Bike Park race series
- Valmont Park disc golf course installation
- Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) myrtle spurge removal collaboration

Community service

347 court-referred volunteers contributed to the Parks and Recreation Department through 4,818 hours of community service work.

Ready to Work

The department utilized the Bridge House program to provide litter removal, debris cleanup, graffiti removal, landscape bed maintenance, trail work and snow removal.

Electronic and social media communications

- Recorded more than one million unique page views to Parks and Recreation web pages;
- Launched the Parks and Recreation Facebook page, and grew the Twitter account to 2,100 followers;
- Grew the email database by 5,200 email addresses; and kept in touch with the community through monthly email newsletters that generated nearly 15,000 clicks to department web pages.



Burke Park public meeting

Did you know?

Community interaction. The department had more than one million interactions with the Boulder community in 2012, and more than 90% of the community uses the department's services and facilities.



An estimated 600 residents and dignitaries attended the 50th anniversary celebration and Scott Carpenter Park re-dedication event in September.

Community Events

• **Scott Carpenter Park re-dedication event**

The department hosted a 50th anniversary celebration and park re-dedication ceremony with Commander Scott Carpenter (USN, Ret.) in September. An estimated 600 residents and dignitaries attended. Carpenter, a Boulder native, was the second American to orbit the Earth in 1962, as part of Project Mercury.

• **Adult Dance Days**

More than 250 residents participated in two free Adult Dance Days held in January. The community was invited to sample a variety of dance styles and classes.

• **East Boulder Community Center open houses**

Three free open houses were held at the East Boulder Community Center in January, February and September. Hundreds of patrons enjoyed free access to the center in September to try out new accessible fitness equipment and experience improvements to the center's locker rooms, pools and steam room.

• **Free Denver Nuggets skills challenge for kids**

The department hosted a free skills challenge for children in January to test their skills in dribbling, passing and shooting.

• **Father and Daughter Dance**

More than 450 fathers, grandpas, uncles and their young sweethearts attended the annual Father and Daughter Valentine's Dance at the North Boulder Recreation Center in February.

• **2012 Boulder Paralympic Experience**

In February, the department's EXPAND Paralympic Sport Club, in conjunction with U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee, introduced people with physical disabilities to Paralympic sports.

• **YSI art show and opening**

The department's Youth Services Initiative (YSI) program hosted its third annual art show opening in May at the North Boulder Recreation Center. The show featured dozens of pieces of art from participants, ages 7 to 18.

• **Community Cleanup Day**

400 volunteers helped beautify Boulder parks, creeks and greenways in May.

• **Let's Move!**

National Kids to Parks Day. The department hosted family fitness activities and provided healthy snacks, conservation information and hands-only CPR training at East Boulder Community Park in May.

- **Scott Carpenter Pool free day and family nights**

The department held a free day at Scott Carpenter Pool in May to celebrate the official start of the summer season and the pool's 50th anniversary. Several family nights were held at the pool over the summer, where families enjoyed movies and swim time together.

- **EXPAND Duck Race®**

7,000 rubber ducks raced down Boulder Creek during this annual event held on Memorial Day, with more than \$22,000 raised to help fund therapeutic recreation programs.

- **First Friday concerts**

Four free concerts were held over the summer in conjunction with the Library and Arts Department.

- **Boulder Concert Band Concerts in the Parks**

Eight free concerts were held over the summer at parks around the city.

- **Hook the Chinook disc golf tournament**

The department's fifth annual disc golf tournament was held in June at Harlow Platts Community Park with more than 40 participants.

- **Water Conservation Fair**

100 participants learned how city parks are conserving water and how they can apply these techniques and technologies to their properties. The free event was held at the East Boulder Community Park and Recreation Center in July.

- **Historic train restoration ceremony in Golden**

The department celebrated the restoration of the Boulder's historic train with a ribbon-cutting and spike drive ceremony in August at the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden, CO.

- **Bike Community Day**

300 participants enjoyed free bike clinics and vendor booths at Valmont Bike Park in August.

- **Tulip bulb give-away**

More than 10,000 tulip bulbs were given away on the Pearl Street Mall in August.

- **Dog Dayz**

More than 1,500 dogs enjoyed a splash in Scott Carpenter Pool during this annual end-of-pool season event in September.

- **Free Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day**

This free family event, part of the department's partnership with the *Let's Move!* campaign, was held in October with 30 participants, and featured mountain bike instruction by experts.

- **Boulder Reservoir site improvements kick-off celebration**

A groundbreaking celebration was held at the facility's main gate in October.

- **East Palo Park re-opening celebration**

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in October to celebrate completion of the city's first Capital Improvement Bond park renovation.

- **Valmont City Park improvements celebration**

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in October to celebrate Valmont Dog Park renovations and the addition of three bond-funded shade shelters located throughout the park.

- **Halloween Carnival**

Hundreds of children attended this annual event in October, where they enjoyed crafts, activities and fun at the South Boulder Recreation Center.

- **Free South Boulder Recreation Center open house**

A free open house was held in October in conjunction with a public input session on the department's Master Plan.

Sponsorships:

Boulder Green Streets

Several city departments, including Parks and Recreation, were major sponsors of the third annual Boulder Green Streets Ciclovía Streets event in September. The North Boulder Recreation Center hosted a major activity zone for the event and provided free entry to the recreation center. The event, which promotes active, healthy living, sustainability and strong community, featured three miles of car-free roads, live music, dance, fitness activities, food and more.

Did you know?

Scott Carpenter named his space capsule Aurora 7 after the streets near his childhood home (at 7th and Aurora). The park and pool were originally dedicated to honor Commander Carpenter's historic space flight in May 1962.



Scott Carpenter Park

Parks & Recreation 2012 - By the numbers

100 *parks and public sites maintained* by Parks and Recreation. These include parks, sports facilities and public areas, such as the Pearl Street Mall, Chautauqua Park, Columbia Cemetery, Pottery Lab, Dairy Center grounds, the Municipal Complex, and Stazio, Pleasant View and East Mapleton ball fields.



1,800 *acres* of parkland managed and maintained, plus 1,005 acres of natural areas.

236 *miles* of multi-use paths and walks maintained.



45,000 *flowers and tulips* planted annually on the Pearl Street Mall, 25 adopted parks and 27 adopted flower beds. 10,000 tulips given away to the public at the Annual Tulip Bulb Give-Away in August.

41 *playgrounds* maintained for active play and safety.



36,000 *trees* inspected and maintained.

4 *dog parks* totaling 12 acres.

100 *outdoor ball courts* (basketball, handball, tennis and volleyball) maintained for community play and safety. 15 outdoor sports fields and facilities.



2,200 *volunteers* contributed

38,000 *volunteer hours* on Department projects.

45,000 *visitors to Valmont Bike Park*, which also hosted 6 events, totaling 2,370 participants

725,600

visits to our recreation centers.



23,092

participants in our recreation programs.



4,229

participants in our summer and school day-off camps.

43,974

rounds of golf at Flatirons Golf Course.



77,441

visits to our outdoor pools.

238,265

visits to the Boulder Reservoir, which also hosted 29 events, totaling 23,416 participants.



15,128

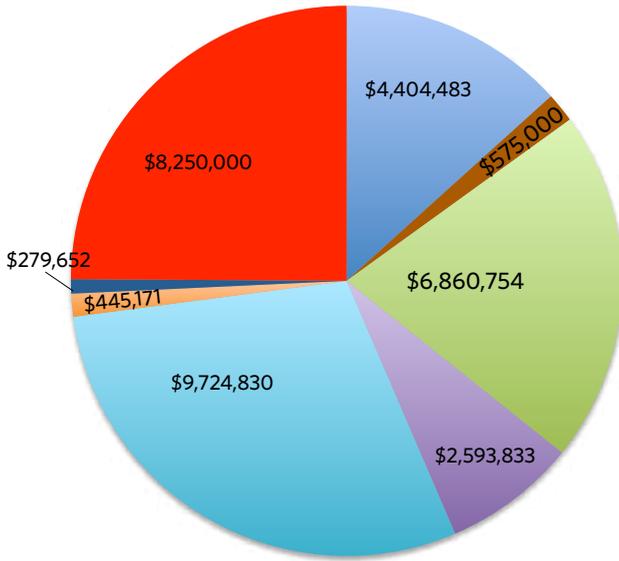
participants in our adult sports leagues, totaling 175,543 participation hours. 22 regional and national events held on our sports fields, attracting more than 15,000 visitors to Boulder.

1,567

dog swim entries during Dog Dayz at Scott Carpenter Pool.

Parks & Recreation - 2012 Funding Sources

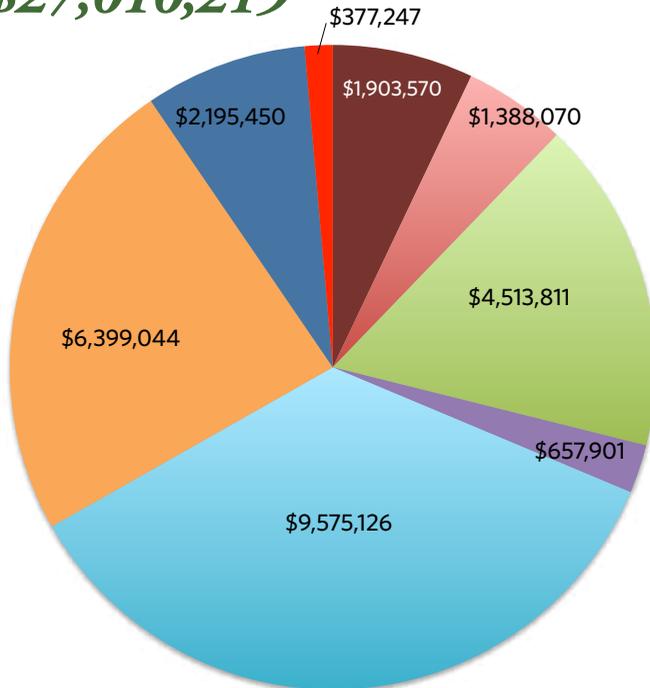
\$33,133,723



- General Fund • \$4,404,483
- Colorado Lottery • \$575,000
- .25 Cent Sales Tax • \$6,860,754
- Permanent Parks and Recreation Fund • \$2,593,833
- Recreation Activity Fund • \$9,724,830
- Capital Development Fund • \$445,171
- Boulder Junction Fund • \$279,652
- 2011 Capital Improvement Bond Fund • \$8,250,000

Parks & Recreation - 2012 Expenses

\$27,010,219



- Department Administration • \$1,903,570
- Urban Resources • \$1,388,070
- Park Operations • \$4,513,811
- Planning and Construction • \$657,901
- Recreation • \$9,575,126
- Capital Improvements & Refurbishments • \$6,399,044
- Debt Service • \$2,195,450
- Transfers to other Depts • \$377,247

Financial Summary for 2012

Financial Summary

2012 brought some positive revenue gains for the department. City sales and use tax collections increased by 3.97% over 2011, which positively affected the department's .25 Cent Sales Tax Fund. Revenues increased in the department's Recreation Activity Fund by 8.27%, increasing by almost \$800,000 over 2011. Expense reduction strategies implemented over the past few years continue to benefit the fund's ongoing balance. For the long term, the department will continue its conservative revenue projections while developing strategies to reduce the gap between revenues and expenses over both the short and long term.

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) funding

Each year, the department receives funding for Capital Improvement Projects, such as major park or facility renovations and construction projects. Funds allocated for Capital Improvement Projects must be used for their designated purpose and cannot be used to fund daily operations.

EXciting Programs, Adventures and New Dimensions (EXPAND)

- Received \$94,000 in grants and donations—including a \$20,000 grant from the United States Olympic Committee funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to continue serving injured military men and women with recreation programs.

Youth Services Initiative (YSI)

- Received \$13,000 in grants and donations.

Quick Guide to Funding

Parks and Recreation is funded by five primary funding mechanisms—each serving specific and sometimes dedicated purposes.

1. General Fund

The city's General Fund is supported by fees, sales, property and other taxes. General Fund dollars are allocated to city departments and projects by City Council through an annual budget process. Parks and Recreation primarily uses its allocation to fund park and forestry operations and department administration.

2. Recreation Activity Fund (RAF)

The RAF is used to operate and maintain the department's many recreation, fitness and sports facilities and programs. RAF funds are largely derived from program and facility use fees with some supplemental funding from the General Fund (primarily to fund subsidized programs for individuals with disabilities and youth from families with low incomes).

3. Permanent Parks & Recreation Fund

This is the department's capital improvement and acquisition fund. It is funded specifically from property and development impact fees for the dedicated purpose of acquiring land and renovating or improving existing parks and recreational facilities. It may not be used to fund operations or routine maintenance.

4. Dedicated Sales Taxes

The department receives voter-approved sales tax funds (.25 cents) that are dedicated to acquiring, developing and maintaining parks and recreation facilities.

5. 2011 Capital Improvement Fund

Issued in 2011, this \$48 million city-wide ballot initiative was passed to address significant deficiencies in the city's existing infrastructure. \$8.2 million has been allocated to Parks and Recreation for improvements over the next three years at the Boulder Reservoir, upgrades to existing park and recreation facilities, upgrades to neighborhood park shelters, and upgrades to the Columbia Cemetery.



Valmont Dog Park Renovation



Community Cleanup Day



East Palo Park Renovation



Summer Camps

2013 projects

- Admiral Arleigh A. Burke Park/
Thunderbird Lake development
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Capital Improvement Bond projects
(Boulder Reservoir improvements and
park shelter renovations)
- Mesa Memorial Park construction
 - Elks Park construction
- Pearl Street Mall irrigation system replacement



New Shelter at Valmont Bike Park



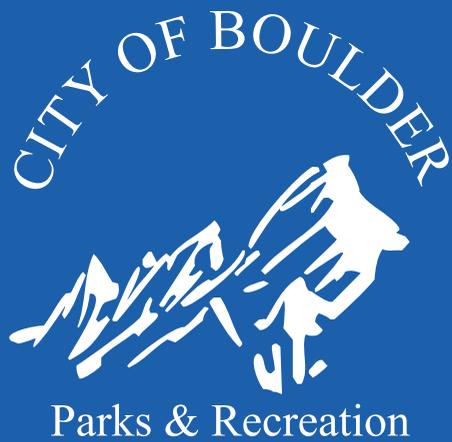
Pearl Street Mall



New Adaptive Fitness Equipment



Green Streets at NBRC



To provide feedback on the 2012 City of Boulder Parks and Recreation
Annual Report, visit www.BoulderParks-Rec.org.