



**TO:** Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

**FROM:** Jeff Dillon, Interim Director, Parks and Recreation  
Yvette Bowden, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation  
Jeff Haley, Parks Planning Manager

**SUBJECT:** Consent Agenda

**DATE:** March 23, 2015

**A. Minutes** Approval of minutes from February 23, 2015

**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:

- **Civic Area Park Site Plan**  
The Civic Area Team held three meetings last week for stakeholders, the public and a joint board meeting. Feedback on the park site plans and east/west bookend development options presented will be accepted until Monday, March 30.

Follow the below links to provide input:

- Park Site Plan options
  - [See draft plans and comment](#)
  - [Rate the Park Site Plans on Inspire Boulder](#)
  - [Take a preference survey](#)
  -
- East and West Bookends options
  - [West End Development options 1, 2 & 3](#)
  - [East End Development options 1&2](#)
  - [East End Development options 3&4](#)

If you would like to download the boards displayed at the open house, visit the [open house web page](#).

All feedback collected will be used to inform the council discussion at its regular Study Session on Tuesday, March 31. [See the council web page for the Study Session Packet](#).

We will also post a complete Public Feedback report from all the March engagements after the council Study Session.

- **Nature Play Symposium** – Two-day event about nature play, that promotes daily contact with our natural environment and outdoor spaces.

The department looks forward to hosting a Nature Play Symposium with Robin Moore, Ph.D. and Louise Chawla, Ph.D. on June 10-11, 2015. Dr. Moore is a world-renowned nature play educator from North Carolina State University and Dr. Chawla is a professor at CU Boulder’s Environmental Design School and working with Growing Up Boulder (GUB). Drs. Moore and Chawla will share their expertise on the importance of nature play opportunities in the urban setting. The two-day series will include:

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|-------------------------|---|
| June 10, 7-9 p.m.       | Public lecture followed by a panel discussion to be based on the research about the importance of access to nature play, case studies and local opportunities.  |
| June 11, 11-1 p.m.      | Staff workshop including multiple city departments and partners who impact nature play learning opportunities or plan nature play spaces to discuss the importance and benefits of nature play with consideration of maintenance and risk management. |
| June 11, 5:30-8:30 p.m. | Public workshop with round table discussions to help develop nature play concepts for identified areas within the civic area using drawings, modeling and other media to illustrate ideas.  |

**Design**

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

- **Knollwood Tennis Courts** – Two tennis courts located near Spruce Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Street in central Boulder.

Plans for the tennis courts are in final review by the department before submission for permitting. Construction anticipated to begin in early 2015 and be completed by mid to late summer 2015.

**Construction**

The following projects were recently completed or are under construction and anticipated to be completed by late spring 2015:

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

Construction is underway with anticipated completion in spring 2015. Renovations and improvements include replacing the play area, turf and irrigation upgrades, various new site furnishings, and a 3’ wide soft-surface looped-path throughout the park.

Connectivity and accessibility will be improved with a 8' wide sidewalk connection to Tamarack Avenue to the west and a new sidewalk, curb and gutter along Sumac Avenue on the south side of the park.

- **Eben G. Fine Park** – Boulder's westernmost park along Boulder Creek.

Final flood damage repairs are underway. Final touches include installation of a 12' rail and repair to construction damaged turf and irrigation. Construction completion is anticipated by early April.

- **Evert Pierson Kids' Fishing Ponds** – Boulder's only kids' fishing pond located adjacent to Boulder Creek.

Construction is currently underway. Renovations and improvements include the repair or replacement of some of the fishing docks and bridges, enhancing water quality and fish habitat and addressing accessibility issues. In addition, the department is coordinating with Greenways to replace parts of the flood damaged path along the pond. The goal is to have the fishing ponds open prior to the annual fishing derby at the end of May, weather permitting.

- **Columbia Cemetery** – A historic and cultural resource with markers from many of the city's founders and pioneers located at the intersection of 9<sup>th</sup> Street and College Avenue.

Renovation of the historic shed is currently underway. Final grading and roof installation should complete construction by early spring.

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

The bid process for construction of the new shelter, restroom and shade structures is underway.

- **Elks Neighborhood Park** – A Neighborhood Park located along north 28<sup>th</sup> Street in north Boulder

The contract for the artistic wheelhouse arbor approved in the original park plans is nearly finalized. The anticipated construction completion of the arbor is mid to late summer.

### **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.

Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP), the city's Urban Wildlife Coordinator and the Parks and Recreation Department are finalizing the post-relocation plan for monitoring protocols, next steps and restoration of the site during 2015 that is in alignment with the city's ordinances and Urban Wildlife Management Plan Prairie Dog Component and OSMP's Grassland Ecosystem Management Plan. The plan includes the process for future prairie dog removal.

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

The department worked with OSMP to implement the [annual closures](#) around the Boulder Reservoir that began on March 15. The Reservoir area sites include:

- Dry Creek East, northwest corner of the Boulder Reservoir, east of 51<sup>st</sup> Street. The Boulder Aeromodeling facility will remain open with modified flight restrictions;
- Axelson (OSMP), northwest of the reservoir, west of 51<sup>st</sup> Street. Portions of this property will be closed;
- Little Dry Creek East, southwest corner of the Boulder Reservoir, east of 51<sup>st</sup> Street. ;
- Little Dry Creek West, west of 51<sup>st</sup> Street between the Boulder Reservoir entrance and the Eagle trailhead; and
- Coot Lake wetland, immediately west of Coot Lake. The trail surrounding the wetland is open with voluntary leash recommendations in effect.

## C. Parks and Recreation Operations Update

### Water Safety Operations

The Aquatics Feasibility Plan scope of work included an assessment of current operations as well as a review of best practices in water safety. The project team identified several areas where Boulder Parks and Recreation can improve water safety and promote a positive experience for users. In addition to improvements to the training and management of the water safety team (lifeguards, swim instructors and pool managers), the project team is recommending that the following water safety guidelines be updated. With this in mind, staff will be implementing three operational changes with the start of the summer season.

- 1) Hot Tub Age Requirement: Hot tub usage will be limited to ages 6 and up. While hot tubs can be therapeutic and relaxing for adults, [the CDC](#), [the Red Cross](#), [the American Pediatric Journal](#) and many [Children's Hospitals](#) advise that any child under the age of 6 should be excluded from spa or hot tub use due to increased risks of overheating, infection and/or injury.
- 2) Slide Height Requirements: The department will extend its minimum height requirement of 48" for solo riders to East Boulder Community Center and Scott Carpenter Pool. This requirement already exists at North Boulder Recreation Center.

- 3) Non-swimmer Protection: The department will implement swim testing requirements for children 12 and under to access the deep water zones at North Boulder Recreation Center, South Boulder Recreation Center and Scott Carpenter Pool. Testing will be in-line with similar practice already in place at the Reservoir

These changes will be effective beginning Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Staff will communicate and educate the community about these improvements to water safety practices in the Summer Parks and Recreation Guide (published May 5, 2015), at Kids to Parks Day on May 16, 2015, and through outreach at the opening of the outdoor pools. The water safety team will be trained in these protocols during summer training so that they can support a positive experience for users at department pools.