

**CITY OF BOULDER
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

MEETING DATE: October 27, 2014

AGENDA TITLE: Valmont City Park Update

PRESENTERS:

Jeff Dillon, Director, Parks and Recreation
Jeff Haley, Parks Planning Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Parks and Recreation Department is currently in the process of updating the 2008 concept plan for the undeveloped portions of Valmont City Park (VCP). The original concept plan, developed with significant community input, has served as a guiding document for park development including the successfully completed Valmont Bike Park (VBP), Valmont Dog Park (VDP) and the temporary Valmont Disc Golf Course (VDGC). The goal of the current project is to update the original concept plan to ensure it continues to meet the community's needs. The update process includes the administration of a statistically valid community survey, an industry trend analyses, an athletic field study, stakeholders meetings, outreach sessions with community youth groups, community meetings, and regular updates with City Council and the PRAB. Through extensive data gathering, analysis, and a public outreach process, the goal for this project is to develop an updated concept plan for the undeveloped portion of VCP that will garner wide community acceptance and can be used to help develop future partnerships, funding opportunities, and support for possible bond consideration.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Most recently, the second of three VCP community meetings was held on Thursday, October 2, 2014. Roughly 60 people attended the public meeting. The meeting featured an open house segment, a formal slide presentation, and an interactive key pad polling and question session. The open house and slide presentation allowed the public the opportunity to view and provide feedback on exhibits detailing the department's community outreach efforts, a summary and analysis of data that has been gathered subsequent to the first public meeting, and research that was conducted looking at specific program elements that could potentially become part of the final VCP concept plan. The interactive key pad polling part of the meeting was an exercise where the public was asked a series of question trying to ascertain preferences as it relates to the

allocation of different program elements. The exercise also asked the public to evaluate the potential trade-offs of having one program element over another.

In addition to the October 2 public meeting, the Department also held a second sports group focus group meeting on August 19, 2014. The purpose was to present the findings of the study and to outline the draft policy and renovation recommendations found in the report. As part of this presentation, sports group members were asked to provide feedback on what they believe are the top eight recommendations that the department could engage in the next 3 years to begin to address issues highlighted in the draft report.

ANALYSIS:

Feedback that was gathered at the second community meeting through open discussions, written comments, and the key pad polling exercise, has provided critical data that will help the team as concept alternatives and ultimately a draft concept plan are prepared. Key themes that emerged or were reinforced from the open discussions and written comments during the second meeting include the following:

- VCP should be a park where there are many active recreation opportunities.
- Opportunities for disc golf, running, and athletic field activities continue to receive high levels of support.
- There should be a focus on youth activities.
- There should be an emphasis on multi-use recreation facilities that are open to the public, but that can also be reserved.
- A balanced approach should be taken when considering all of the possible program elements for VCP. However, it is also important to take a holistic, system-wide view to see if elements that cannot or will not be located at Valmont can be accommodated elsewhere.

The interactive key pad polling part of the meeting was an exercise where the public was shown four possible development scenarios and asked to respond to a series of questions about the scenarios. The exercise was meant to determine what the community feels is an appropriate fit and scale for proposed elements in the park. Generally, the key pad polling yielded the following information:

- The majority of people in attendance indicated that there were mostly interested in active recreation opportunities at VCP.
- The 2008 plan and scenario D (the something for everyone plan) most closely match how respondents believe program elements should be allocated at VCP. However, respondents indicated that scenario D was the plan that best represented the best balance for addressing Boulder's community recreation needs.

NEXT STEPS:

Over the next several weeks, the Department will be working with the consultant team to complete the Athletic Field Report and to develop a series of concepts and alternatives that integrate all of the data and feedback that has been received over the course of the project. From these alternatives, a draft final concept plan will be developed. This draft final concept plan will be presented to the public at a third VCP community meeting that will be held in early December of 2014. With comments from the public, a final concept plan will be prepared and then presented the PRAB at a Public Hearing in February of 2015.

ATTACHMENT A: Community Meeting 2 Presentation Material

KEY FINDINGS SUMMARY

2014 VALMONT CITY PARK CONCEPT PLAN UPDATE

2014 COMMUNITY SURVEY

- Most residents are satisfied with the park and recreation facilities in the City.
- Boulder's park and recreation facilities are well used. Over 80% have used paths, natural areas, and grassy lawns at least once in last year.
- Multi-use turf sees heavy use and is something most residents would like to see in the park.
- Scenic and community gardens, swimming pools, children's play grounds, picnic shelters, and outdoor event areas were considered desirable facilities.
- Tennis and volleyball courts, leisure pool, and disc golf were next on the list of desired facilities for Valmont City Park.

PUBLIC COMMUNITY MEETING # 1

- Keypad Polling:
 - Support for an active park vs. a traditional / passive park.
 - Provide facilities for Boulder residents first but include uses that could have a regional / national draw.
 - Highest support for: Nature play, small group picnic shelters, skate park, disc golf, multi-use turf, large group picnic shelters, soft surface paths.
 - Lowest support for: Farm-to-table plots, pickleball, water-based play area, farmers market, tennis courts, splash pad, amphitheater,
- Disc golfers see the need for a tournament-quality course.
- Requests for more sports fields for adults and children
- Running community requested a dedicated running track and trail system

ALL OF THE KEY FINDINGS INFLUENCE THE...

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

- Valmont City Park should be multi-generational, multi-use, and accessible to all, including alternative modes of travel.
- A balanced park is important: Active vs. passive recreation / community-based amenities vs. facilities that would have a regional / national draw.
- Most felt VCP is Boulder's last chance to address active recreation needs.
- Partnerships between the City, School District, CU, and private business are very desirable and should be encouraged.
- Sustainability for natural systems, park systems, and maintenance is important.

VISUAL PREFERENCE WEB SURVEY

- Strong support for an active, sports oriented park
- Respondents suggested that Valmont City Park should provide uses and activities for Boulder residents, as well as uses that will attract visitors.
- General park features, such as passive recreation and multi-use paths scored exceptionally high.
- Some specialized uses, such as a tennis complex and pickleball received lower support.
- Uses, such as space for farmer's markets and natural landscapes received moderate support.

2014 CONCEPT PLAN UPDATE

SITE ANALYSIS: OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

- The park's size and features are generally well suited for a major city park.
- The Wonderland Creek Channel is site's most valuable natural resource.
- The Multi-Use Field and Park and Forestry Operations Building represent significant investments that will require careful consideration if converted to another use.
- The site has two major regional trails and a network of on-site trails.
- Areas occupied by the Goose Creek Channel and utility easements will have limitations for park use.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- Active Adventure Play is strongly supported by children, youth and their parents.
- Incorporating nature into play, through nature-play structures, as well as through open fields and natural vegetation is important.
- Access to and through the park are primary concerns.
- Non-traditional play elements are preferred within traditional passive park space.
- Introducing artistic elements, through way-finding markers, play elements, and pavement choices.

ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY GENERAL APPROACHES

- Making policy changes to better address current field allocation and reservation policies needs.
- Renovating existing fields and building out current facilities.
- Building new fields as necessary.
- Foster and build partnership opportunities with other athletic field providers throughout the community.

RELEVANT MASTER PLANS

- BPRD will plan South Valmont City Park for development with a balance of active and passive multi-use facilities, assuming a fiscally constrained outlook.
- South Valmont City Park will be planned but will not be developed without additional funding.
- South Valmont City Park will be planned and some community and multi-use facilities ... will be developed (approximately 30 acres).
- South Valmont City Park will be planned with balance of community use facilities and athletic fields will be developed (approximately 90 acres).

PROGRAMMING CHRONOLOGY

- Some needs, identified in previous plans, have already been met through Phase 1 of Valmont City Park, such as the Dog Park and Bike Park.
- Historically, support for baseball, softball nor disc golf has grown incrementally
- Due to a lack of current support, some historic program elements are not being considered, such as a small lake, or an outdoor water park.
- Major indoor facilities, such as an aquatics facility have received moderate support historically.
- Multi-use paths, multi-purpose fields and play features have received consistently high support.

PROGRAMMING CHRONOLOGY MATRIX

2014 VALMONT CITY PARK CONCEPT PLAN UPDATE

INTRODUCTION

The **Programming Chronology Matrix** summarizes the relative range of support for the park facilities and amenities (program elements) considered for Valmont City Park between 2001 and 2014.

The **goal is to identify programming trends**, not complete a scientific analysis.

Source of information: **public opinion surveys, assessment studies, and master plans.**

The **list of program elements considered varied** with each study, plan, or opinion survey.

- Not all of the program elements were considered in all of the surveys, plans and studies.
- If the program element was not considered in a specific survey, plan or study, the associated box on the matrix is shown in gray.

The **community's level of support** for each program element is presented in the matrix with the intersection of the program element row with the survey / plan / study column.

- The program elements with the **highest levels of support** according to the associated survey, plan, and study are shown in **green**.
- The program elements with the **lowest levels of support** according to the associated survey, plan, and study are shown in **yellow**.
- The program elements considered in the associated survey, plan, and study but did not receive either highest or lowest levels of support are left white.
- For example:

Multi-purpose fields and multi-use paths received high levels of support consistently over the years.

Tennis complex received relatively lower levels of support.

Youth baseball / softball received lower levels of support in the early 2000s but higher levels of support recently.

Community gardens received higher levels of support in the early 2000s but lower levels of support recently.

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| General Park Features (with High Support) | | | | | | |
| A | Multi-Use Paths | | | | 1 | |
| B | Multi-Purpose Fields (including Outdoor Soccer Fields) | | | | | 2 |
| C | Small Lake | | | | | |
| D | Passive Recreation (including Picnic Areas/Structures) | | | | | |
| E | Adventure Play (including Nature Play, and Nature/Adventure Play Features) | | 3 | | 4 | 5 |
| F | Shaded Play | | | | | |
| G | Natural Landscapes | | | | | |
| Specialized Outdoor Recreation Amenities | | | | | | |
| H | Dedicated Field Sports (Includes: Lacrosse, Football, Rugby) | | | | | |
| I | Lighted Artificial Turf Field (including Lighted Outdoor Fields/Courts) | | | | | |
| J | Outdoor Performance Area (including Amphitheater) | | | | | |
| K | Single Track Mountain Bike Trail, Cyclocross Course, or Cycling Terrain Park | | | | | |
| L | Bike Racing Facilities (including Paved Cycling Loop) | | | | | |
| M | Youth Baseball/Softball | | | | | |
| N | 18 Hole Disc Golf Course | | | | | |
| O | Skate Park | | | | | |
| P | Outdoor Basketball Courts | | | | | |
| Q | Outdoor Sand Volleyball Courts | | | | | |
| Major Indoor/Outdoor Facilities | | | | | | |
| R | Indoor Ice Area (including Covered Outdoor Ice Rink) | | | | | |
| S | Indoor Performing Arts Center | | | | | |
| T | Aquatic Facility (Indoor and/or Outdoor: including Swimming Complex, Lap Swimming, Water Exercise, etc.) | | 6 | | | |
| U | Outdoor Water Park | | | | | |
| V | Recreation Center (including Indoor Basketball/Volleyball and/or 'Field House') | | | 7 | | |
| W | Tennis Complex (including Indoor and/or Outdoor, and Pickleball) | | | | | |
| Other Park Uses (with Varying Support) | | | | | | |
| X | Cross Country Ski Trails | | | | | |
| Y | Fenced Dog Park | | | | | |
| Z | Community Gardens (including Farm-to-Table plots, Scenic Gardens) | | | | | |
| AA | Farmer's Market Space | | | | | |
| BB | Prairie Dog Preservation | | | | | |
| CC | Water-Based Play | | | | | |
| DD | Education Signage | | | | | |
| EE | Standard Play Equipment | | | | | |

KEY/LEGEND

- Program Element Considered
- Program Element **Not** Considered
- Highest Support
- Lowest Support

UNPROGRAMMED / PASSIVE PARKLAND:



Small Picnic Shelter



Multi-use Path



Open Turf



Large Group Picnic Shelter



Soft-surface Trail

UNPROGRAMMED ACTIVE RECREATION AREAS:



Basketball



Sand Volleyball



Public Running Track



Large Adventure Playground



Small Playground



Skate / Bike Park



Obstacle Course



Covered Foam Pit for Emerging Sport Practice



Slackline

PROGRAMMED ATHLETIC FIELDS:



Overlapping Fields For Shared Use / Maximum Efficiency



Baseball / Softball Diamond 4-Plex



Multi-purpose Field (Synthetic Turf ?)



Multiple Field Complex

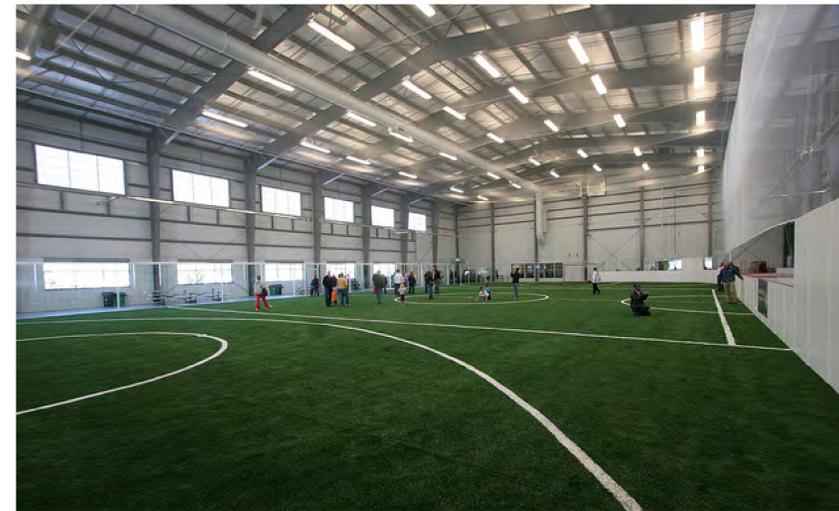
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Disc Golf in Naturalized Setting

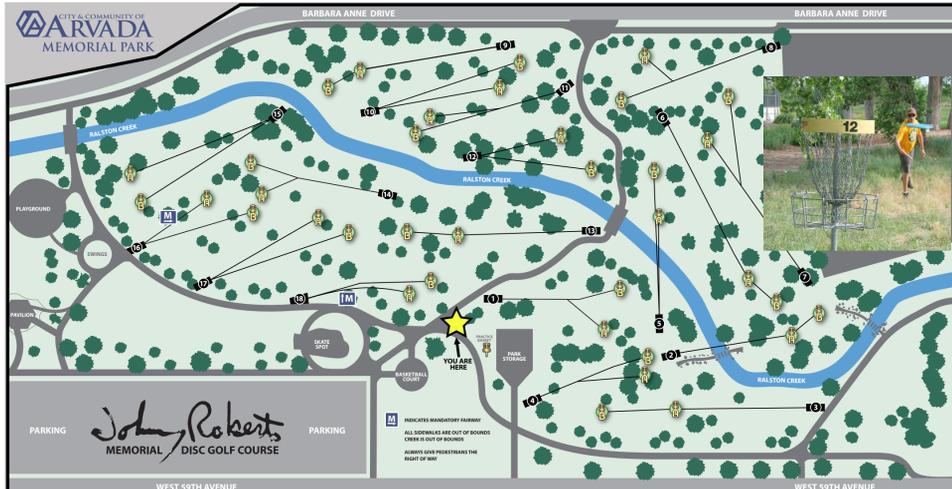
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Indoor Synthetic Turf Field



Re-purposed Parks Maintenance Building as Community Meeting Rooms



Local Disc Golf Course Layout



Apex Field House in Arvada



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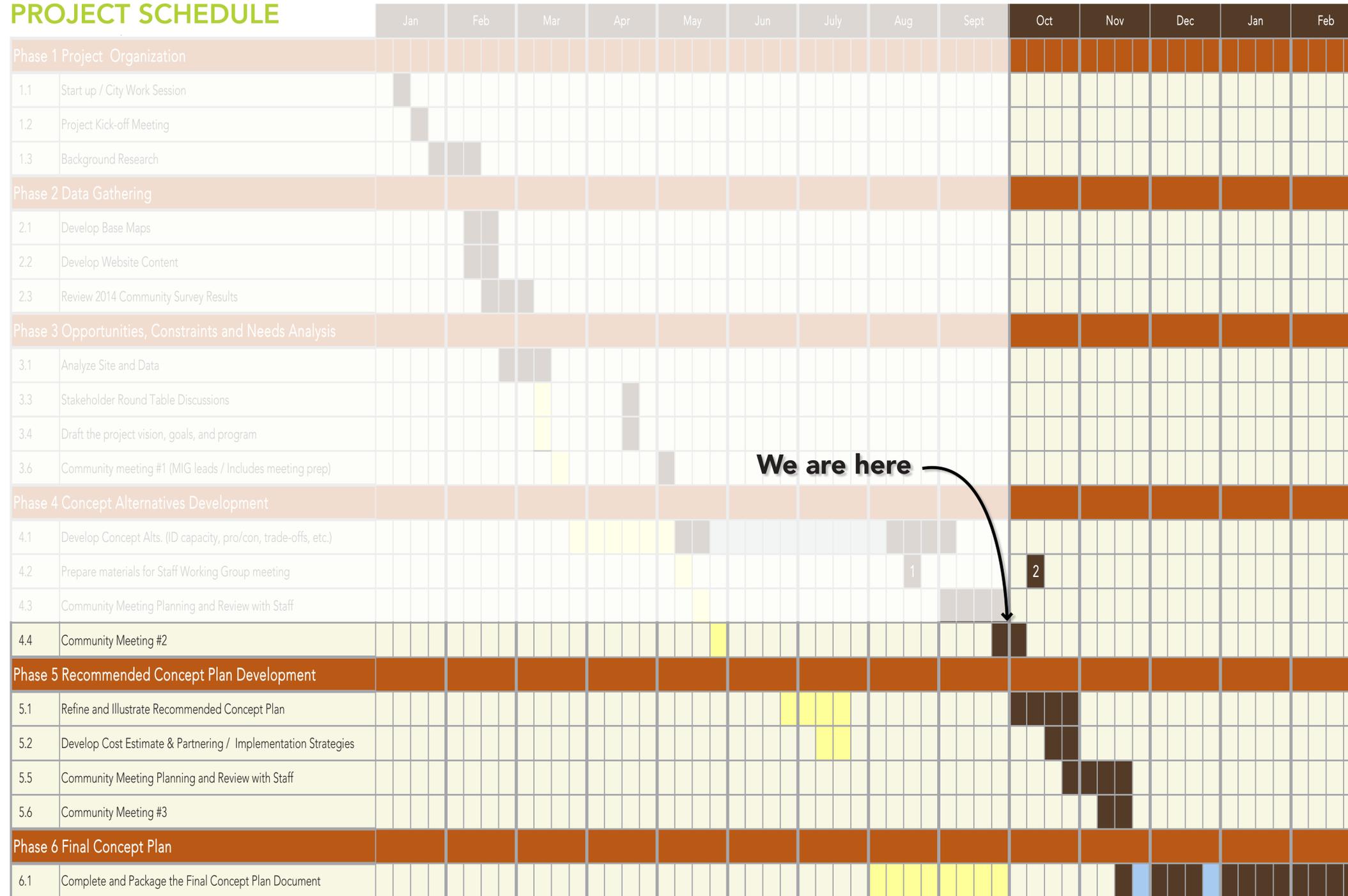


Veteran's Memorial Aquatic Center (Thornton / Adams 12 School District)

SCHEDULE AND GOALS

2014 VALMONT CITY PARK CONCEPT PLAN UPDATE

PROJECT SCHEDULE



We are here

PROJECT GOALS

Create an "awesome" facility, a model park that:

- Balances regional/national pull with city-specific demand
- Has a high level of design, concept, and finish
- Is truly multi-generational, for all community users
- Becomes a success story
- Meets unmet community recreation needs
- Secures funding and public/private partnerships
- Engages user groups and other community partners for implementation and operations
- Creates multi-use destination where uses can co-exist and avoid multi-use conflicts
- Allows for flexibility of future uses/changing community desires
- Creates inclusive community gathering places for large and small community events
- Encourages efficient maintenance
- Includes all-weather facilities
- Includes permeable material for event parking
- Has a wide range of uses that generate revenue
- Addresses environmental issues (prairie dogs, wildlife, wetlands, floodplain, etc.)
- Includes concepts that support sustainability
- Considers connections/access

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS – SEASONS OF PLAY

Organized sports teams are playing year round.

Baseball and football leagues tend to play one season during traditional time-frames.

Other leagues reported year-round activity.

Peak Demand Periods:

- Multi-Use Fields: Spring and Fall
- Ball Fields: Spring (though some leagues play multiple seasons)

There is a ‘lull’ in the summer for all leagues.

Some BVSD and CU fields are available when there are no classes.

Unmet demand during winter months.

PROJECTION OF FUTURE ATHLETIC FIELD NEEDS

At a minimum Boulder should maintain the current field supply

Based on field demand and current trends, the Department should consider increasing multi-use field Levels of Service to 1 field in 4,100, similar to diamond fields

By 2030, an additional 4 multi-use fields will be needed to meet projected population increases.

By 2030, an additional 5 diamond fields will be needed to meet projected population increases.

Percentages of Youth and Adult Demand in Weekly Field Hours for Diamond Field Sports

- 280 hrs. demand per week by youth leagues: 65%
- 150 hrs. demand per week by adult leagues: 35%

Percentages of Youth and Adult Demand in Weekly Field Hours for Rectangular Field Sports

- 203 hrs. demand per week by youth leagues: 77%
- 62 hrs. demand per week by adult leagues: 23%

GENERAL APPROACHES TO ADDRESSING FIELD DEFICITS

- Making policy changes to better address current field allocation and reservation policies needs.
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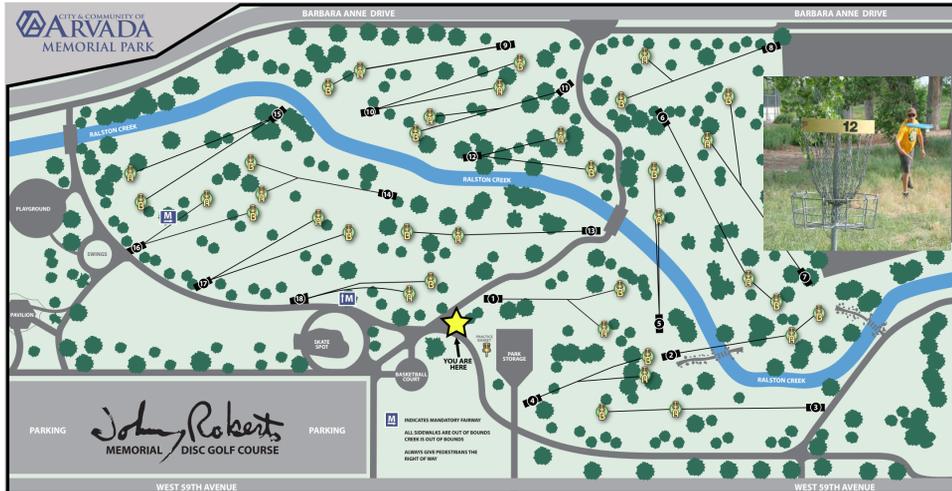
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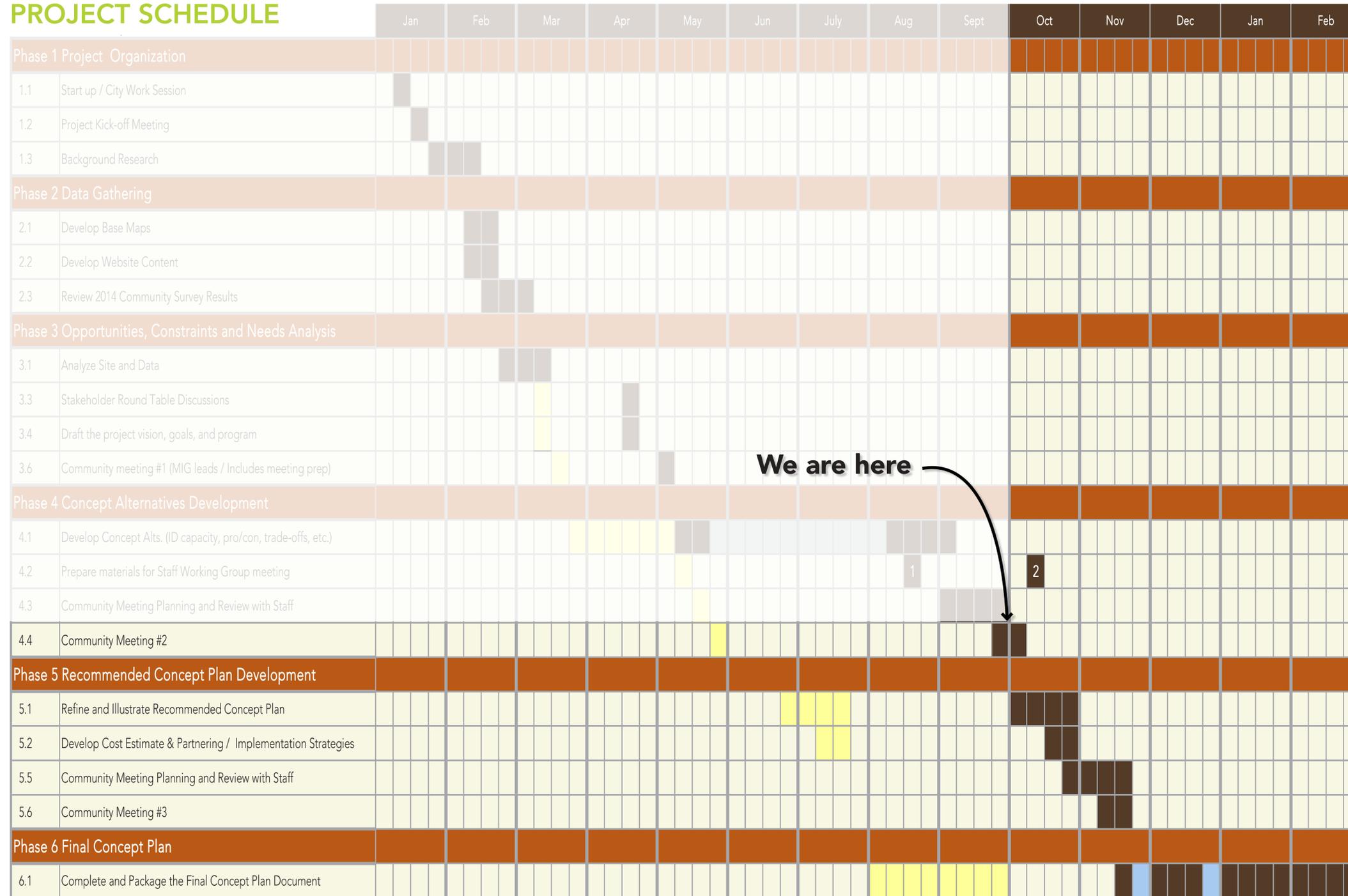


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Percentages of Youth and Adult Demand in Weekly Field Hours for Rectangular Field Sports

- 203 hrs. demand per week by youth leagues: 77%
- 62 hrs. demand per week by adult leagues: 23%

GENERAL APPROACHES TO ADDRESSING FIELD DEFICITS

- Making policy changes to better address current field allocation and reservation policies needs.
- Renovating existing fields and building out current facilities.
- Building new fields as necessary.
- Foster and build partnership opportunities with other athletic field providers throughout the community.

