

Boulder Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

Open House feedback

All feedback below was received at a series of Open Houses held in October, 2012 to solicit feedback on key themes that will inform the department's Master Plan Update. Feedback is unedited, and recorded here as it was written by the member of the public or employee recording their comments.

New Ideas

1. "un-underground" Good Creek at North Boulder Park
2. Phillip Miller Park at Castle Rock (Many new ideas)
3. Louisville community park
4. Learning landscapes
5. Mile markers along paths that loop: Coot Lake, Bear Creek, Bldr Creek, Broadway Path, Greenbelt, Marshal, Single Track, Coalton, etc
6. Better toilets @ popular running spots: Rez entrance, Bear creek, Greenbelt
7. Indoor 50m competition aquatic center: upgrade existing rec ctrs (South or East), or work w/private donars (there are lots) to develop, youth year-round swim teams ALONE could fill to capacity.
8. Cross country course – run – ski-jog, multi-purpose course
9. Encourage use of Viele Lake for skating when ice is thick enough. Could sell hot choc in pavilion
10. Build experimental swales in tree lawns to on-site use of storm water
11. Add a swim & beach area to Viele Lake to be used in summer time and do allow skating during cold winter periods, when the ice has been tested to be safe.
12. Provide a room for seniors to meet (seniors could walk to facility without driving to East or West)
13. Add a dog park – fenced in for dogs to run un-leashed <here, at S Bldr Rec> with grass YES! (if enough space)
14. Promote a city wide bus pass for residents to access city parks and rec facilities. Not everyone can afford to use the bus.
15. Would love B-Cycle on the south end of town
16. Ditto – Dog park for South Boulder (currently drive 8-10 mins one way to existing grass for small dogs) Grass areas portable fencing enclosure for small dogs, move as it ??? it grass
17. Hitching post area for dogs
18. Arts dept/Oil painting class
19. Outdoor pool w/10 m platform diving
20. Grooming for x-country skiing
21. Fireworks/late night (after 11pm) activities additional patrols?
22. At Emerson 3 way stop should add walk in direct line w/cross walk/poor lighting & drainage

Recreation Programs

1. More classes (Pilates, Master Swim) at South Boulder Recreation Center.
2. Adapted triathlon program with Fast Forward Sports.

3. Yoga is a great program for including all levels of users. Beginner through advanced users are all challenged.
4. More educational EXPAND classes such as cooking or educational (health, social topics).
5. Universal design helps everyone, not just for people with disabilities. It is a great community builder. It involves everyone.
6. More attention to competitive swimming programs-facilities are key here, but there should be additional support from programs if and when we can build additional facilities. Thanks!
7. Mileage Markers for runners around lakes, in parks, along paths. Areas for runners to stretch in Parks are great. Potentially partner w/Bldr Running Co
8. Tour of facilities via bike path, run, walk
9. Auction of program instructors
10. Provide many services (swim lessons, yoga, dance, etc) at market rates and have scholarship/subsidy programs for those in financial need.
11. Recreation programs should be affordable for all city residents.
12. Would like add'l rec center hours: ie: outdoor pools: loves Fri nights @ NBRC, weekends @ South
13. Keep recreation programs "general" – leave specialized/advanced for other program need to work for the general population.
14. Important to offer programs, even if they are offered elsewhere. Role of municipal services should, in part, be to provide lower-cost programming to appeal to most demographics as possible.
15. More drop-in classes (I rarely afford because offerings are too limited: consider having Silver Sneakers accepted at the South Center (Ditto)
16. Continue supporting aquatic programs
17. Demographic of So Bo is a lot younger now – need kids programs for swimming (Leisure Pool!) child care, FUN stuff for younger (3-10) kids. Maybe South Boulder biking programs, 3 elementary schools right here – after school programs?
18. Offer kids nite out again! (perhaps at South)
19. Kids dance parties
20. Swim Lessons : SBRC pool too cold!, Too hard to register!
21. Why charge \$35/year per windsurf boards? (Bart Windrum 303 499-8120)
22. Expansion of Silver Sneakers program to South Boulder
23. Indoor walking program – esp in winter – maybe in gym – Silver Sneaker to drop-in
24. Drop in classes are great! Have more drop in at South for Silver Sneakers
25. Water Aerobics – water fitness classes – expand close times
26. Walking for fitness program, fitness assessment program, set up outdoor walking track in the park – Harlow Platts
27. Class times – tax dollars going to dog parks
28. Incentives at open house events; Fundraising in terms of discounted memberships, Art Auctions, Program Auctions
29. Look at where participants are coming from & adjust programming to reduce driving

Youth Activity

1. Allow cycling on trails after dark perhaps allow certain days of the week where riding is permitted. Please work with open space/mtn parks about this.
2. Interpretive trails for youth in natural areas to help them connect with the natural world, become stewards, and avoid nature deficit disorder.
3. Consider safe corridors/connectivity for youth to get to school and recreation centers.
4. Collaborate w/BVSD in on-site programs after school
5. Adventure play opportunities: Natural Experience/Features
 - Close to home natural areas
 - Biking options in S. Boulder
6. Support trail around Boulder to the extent it overlaps Parks and Rec
7. 50m indoor aquatic enter for year-round swim teams/waterpolo/HS teams – either upgrade South or East OR work w/community donars to build a “Boulder-Worth” 50m indoor pool
8. Offer family rec activities, not just particular age groups. Example: canoes on Viele Lake (good for parents & children)
9. Pool activity/facility for 10-14 years old (rope swing, big kids slide) must be lost of “cheap” things that are fun for 10-14
10. Stroller-c12 programs in gymnasium and around lake
11. More rec Center programs for early teens 10-14
12. After elementary school programs (shuttle, etc for 3 elementary schools here)
13. Maybe partner with the schools to do more PE/Educational things – all or most the schools are empty at night & on weekends.
14. Priority should be to children
15. Kiddie triathlon
16. Improve pool facilities – make more useable for young kids
17. More after school programs, ie: basketball, floor hockey, etc
18. Need more “places” to engage youth (more ballfields/diamond-rectangle) Practice space, games/tournaments, tension from low-inventory to facilitate capacity
19. More fields – more “youth engaged”
20. More fields will not encourage more participation (research driven) The city should consider ways to create equity in access. What drives as active community is balance/social issues & location (eg: Socio Economic Status, accessibility & affordability) Universal design of spaces

Columbine Park

1. Original conveyed use of park was as neighborhood park not rented fields. Suggestion to use Salberg for rentals, has parking and bathroom.
2. Columbine park preserved as neighborhood park and not rented out to youth soccer groups. Neighborhood kids unable to use park for “free play” due to field rentals. Need park rules sign.

Valmont Bike Park

1. I wanted to voice support for the bike park being used for cycle cross events like the BOULDER CUP. The Boulder Cup has a huge turn out of junior racers which helps keep youth active, healthy, and involved in sports.

Community

1. Parks and Recreation helps to create a healthy, happy, and compassionate community for everyone.
2. Promote (marketing/PR, Etc) parks as a better alternative to current trends (tv, www, “the couch!”).
3. Better traffic (non-car) control on university corridor (along Broadway b/w Baseline and University) bike paths.
4. Promote use of parks by not renting parks to specialized use.
5. Engage community groups, like the Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance, through volunteer opportunities
6. Engage local experts at organizations, like Access Fund, International Bike Association, Bikes Belong, Leave No Trace (all based in Boulder), for trends/best practices.
7. It is very important to ensure all spaces are accessible. Possibly a sensory park built with disabilities in mind.
8. Use of bandshell/city park for Out Boulder Pridefest working great—good to make things easy for small non-profits
9. Community Outreach: Social Media, Marketing/Advertising ←Do More
 - Fund raising events/ “free day” open house
10. What about art auctions to support programs
11. Open houses w/instructors, free classes, open up centers
12. Programs associated w/RTD to promote equal access (marketing, programming, information)
13. Allow S Bldr Rec to be open for community meetings & gatherings – we need a meeting place
14. Have walking groups be able to gather for coffee afterward at SBRC
15. Events for adults non-seniors & seniors (not always for children)
16. Coffee shop at rec center
17. Maybe we could add programs or keep rec centers open longer (for example,, outdoor pools) by using volunteers for certain tasks
18. Provide enough parking for patrons who cannot walk to facility
19. Provide programs for teen pick-up games for sports: Flag football, soccer, baseball/softball/basketball, ultimate. For 9th grade & above, there are no options outside of club & HS teams (which many kids do not make)
20. Class for people who need to do exercise seated or standing (ie not able to get up & down form a mat) good example: Seated yoga
21. Info about potential epidemics
22. Ventilate the building better during chemical use & keep the drains from smelling in the locker rooms – (check SBRC ladies)
23. Restrict parking at rec centers to encourage neighbors to walk to their exercise
24. Public health is of high priority: offer healthy diet classes
25. Put in rubberized walking/jogging paths everywhere! That are separate from the bike paths

26. Classes are too expensive (need more affordable senior classes) Better quality in Sr classes offered
27. Reduce driving required for classes – improve air quality & usage – at little cost – just good planning
28. Work with Go Boulder to coordinate bus timing (EX: class ends at 10 am – bus goes by a 9:50 am)
29. Promote public fitness through strong affordable available classes – top goal

Environment

1. Cleaner beach (or expanding beach) at Reservoir.
2. Creating and promoting a volunteer program in which parks and areas can be cared for that would not impact finances.
3. Promote multi-use trail connections
4. Adequate bike parking
5. Use of porous pavers at parking lots
6. Support dog waste composting to continue & increase awareness
7. Consider by-car entry fee of Rez to encourage car pooling. Also reduced fee for pedestrian/cyclist access
8. Be responsible for our pets' poo! Pets (dogs,cats,etc) are a vital part of our community! & here to stay
9. "Goose Poo" is a major issue City could explore different grasses that geese don't eat. That would detract from them coming.
10. Supply trail heads with biodegradable dog poo bags & figure out a way to keep it out of the landfill.
11. More drought resistant grass seeds in parks -> less water use
12. Relocate Geese
13. Receptacles for composting poop (just read about it in the Camera)
14. Reduce use of pesticides -> weeds affect people w/allergies
15. Use less water – plant xeric when possible
16. Manage geese population & their impacts (making green space un-usable)
17. Offer similar kids stuff @ So Bo Center to prevent driving
18. Analyze member/card holder address for what center they use, one closes to vs. the one they most often to go
19. Protect as much open-space as possible
20. Have NO DOG areas (I'm always attacked by dogs, tired of dog poo everywhere)
21. Be the leader, partner w/other agencies, initiate the conversation but don't be directed by squeaky wheels
22. Stay course of analyzing chemicals and continue minimizing

Finance

1. There should be no difference between resident and non-resident fees. Representing the disabled population, often times these individuals do not choose where they live, but they still enjoy recreation with their established peers in Boulder.

2. There should also be more emphasis on an inclusive atmosphere. EXPAND is a wonderful program, but what about creating classes that bridge the disabled population with other populations.
3. Fund raising events: Run/Walk/Bike to visit facilities
 - Artwork/Pottery Auctions
 - Open House ‘Free Day’ at facilities, giving opportunities to become a member at discounted rate
4. Resource utilization examination
 1. Spent vs individual/unique user
 2. pottery lab needs to be sustainable
 3. pottery lab could be done by private enterprise
 4. pottery lab belongs in Arts not Parks
5. Health clubs pay property taxes, sales taxes, corporate income taxes and their owners pay taxes on dividends received from the facility. It is unfair for Boulder Rec Centers, who compete against health clubs to lose large amounts of money. Public policy should limit the amount of tax money used to support the Rec Centers
6. City should have less earmarked taxes
7. General facilities/programs support the community, promote better citizens
8. Physical health of residents is a great investment (esp. seniors)
9. Specialty programs should not be subsidized/people should pay for it. Anything not for community good
10. Facility maintenance covered by general taxes
11. Financial sustainability should be achieved by living within revenue sources during lean and surplus cycles. This can be achieved by not using surplus to expand facilities and programs that can’t be sustained during down markets. More pay as you go and use could help.
12. Offer the classes on a fee basis that says a minimum of \$___ + maximum of \$___ so wealthy people could pay more & middle income could pay the low fee while still subsidizing low income people.
13. Keep trails & parks free
14. Maybe do some really FUN fundraising events
15. Could slightly increase cost of some classes, but increase flexibility to make up classes as needed
16. Make system more efficient – it’s all cheaper in dif communities ie: busses & classes. Why is it so expensive here?
17. Reduce amount of subsidy to those services that can & are provided by other entities in the community – eliminate duplication
18. Make “smarter” budget decisions concerning direction of tax dollars – do not subsidize services for elite swimmers at the expense of directing dollar to low-income youth & facilities
19. Re-think “youth” & “senior” fees. Why subsidize based upon AGE rather than NEED. (65 & over have more discretionary income than any other pop.)

1. I'd love to advocate for a new aquatic center, a 50m x 25yd indoor pool to be used for lap swimming, swim meets, and competitive swim practices. We are so short of pool space that most aquatic groups are feeling very stressed trying to find pool times. As a lap swimmer, I'm acutely aware of how much use all of our pools receive. As a parent with a competitive swim team, I'm also aware that kids in other sports don't have to drive to Fort Collins or Colorado Springs for all of their competitions.
2. Please help us benefit all of the aquatic groups by building a new 50mx25y aquatic center. Ideally with parking! Attaching it to Fairview High or EBCC might help on that front. Thanks!
3. More lanes/pool.
4. Buoy line at rez and/or more swimming times/areas
5. Would like to see more restrooms (or porta potties) @ facilities & along trails (like @ Coot Lake) – like @ the Rez (off season)
6. Pools! 50m natatorium w/moveable bulkhead for groups, leaving rec. centers for lap swimmers, swim lessons, etc
7. Small bike park features on the south side of the city. Suggestion: pump track
8. Make SBRC a pool for older kids; rope swim, fun for kids 10-14 years
9. SBRC under used – more fun activities, expand facility – more kid friendly
10. When facilities are promised, please follow through and do them East Park – BOCCE CT
11. Do remodels (EBCC) the right way – everything completed the right way Locker room project
12. Make SBRC silver Sneakers site
13. Longer summer hours – Sat
14. It is important to maintain the assets that you/we already have
15. Assets also include stellar personnel. Kepp training up-to-date
16. Small dog park – South Bldr – with grass
17. I would suggest revising this map to show the public the “so What” – tell us what you're trying to show, ie. are some lands/facilities/etc under-served on the trasp. System? Are there certain hot spots to address/confirm? How will transportation/parking needs be affected when the RTD smart card program is operational and the emphasis of RTD's pass (NECO pass especially) becomes a fee collection program instead of a get onto the bus instead of your car system?
18. In addition to the fact ?? facilities are not used “To Capacity”, does not ?? a financial investment at this critical “Economic Time” make sense
19. Focus on maintaining Existing Infrastructure & avoid enabling special interest who are demanding specialized facilities. Unless you can show a solid ROI
20. Improve Foothills dog park with amenities like Valmont dog park
21. Put in a shade structure at Holiday neighborhood park in NoBo
22. Mitigate erosion on north side of Coot Lake using volunteers fro FIDOS as well as other groups.
23. Geese make park grassland unusable
24. Improve existing facilities/parks to meet new demographics (all new kids in So Boulder)
25. Focus on maintaining what you have, we have a lot of great parks, do we need more?

26. Need more ballfields
27. Better maintenance of existing fields (esp. NBP and Tom Watson)
28. Boulder should focus on renewing and maintaining existing infrastructure before adding new amenities
29. Are high cost specific use facilities///investments: NO!!
30. Maintain existing facilities – YES
31. Plan for graying of community – YES
32. Plan for 50m indoor pool
33. Dog park for South Boulder – YES
34. Boulder should focus on community “need” (Not interests) & avoid over-emphasis on benchmarking/ ?? against other communities. With the # of rec facilities (city owned & non-city owned) in the community

Support

1. Hosting world class Cycle Cross events at Rez and Valmont
 - i. Promoters support and need venues
 - ii. Community support events
 - iii. Increased revenue
 - iv. Strategize with department staff
2. Facilitate more volunteer connections and opportunities with bike organizations. Support maintenance of Valmont.
3. Develop relationships with riding club/organization to educate on responsible use and increased access to park land (communicate to public of allowed use).

Need

1. Better access to trails (single track) in city limits.
2. Connectivity (bike)
 - a. East/West paths
 - b. North/South paths
3. Pump tracks throughout community (more parks) and better access (volunteer opportunities)
 - a. Attracting Talent
 - b. Economic vitality
4. More venues/access for cyclocross (Rez)
5. Stand-up paddling access increased @ Rez
6. Cyclocross @ Viele Lake
7. World Class triathlon/running ; City needs 50 meter indoor pool
8. X-coutry course designed – constr in Boulder (South Valmont? Flatirons GC ?