Valmont City Park
2015 CONCEPT PLAN UPDATE

Valmont City Park - Outreach and Community Engagement Timeline

Valmont City Park
www.boulderparks-rec.org

Timeline

2014 First Quarter		Second Quarter		Third Quarter		Fourth Quarter		2015 First Quarter
Jan		April		July		Oct		Jan

DATA GATHERING → OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS ANALYSIS → CONCEPT ALTERNATIVES → PREFERRED CONCEPT PLAN

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Survey
- Mailed-Jan
- Results-April 4

Athletic Field Study
- Focus Groups – Meeting-Feb 26
- Focus Groups – Meeting-Aug 19
- Draft Athletic Field Report
- Final Athletic Field Report

Outreach
- Web Update 1st qtr
- Web Update 2nd qtr
- Round-Table #1 – Meeting-April 22-23
- Community Mtg. #1 – May 1
- Web Update 3rd qtr
- Web Update 4th qtr
- Community Mtg. #2 – Oct 2
- Open House – Dec 4 & 6
- Round-Table #2 – Meeting-Dec 8
- Community Mtg. #3 – Dec 16
- Inspire Boulder
- Pop-up Open House – EBCC Jan
- Pop-up Open House – SBRC Jan
- Pop-up Open House – NBRC Jan
- Pop-up Open House – LIB Jan
- Web Update 1st qtr

KEY FINDINGS

Relevant Master Plans → Site Analysis → Youth Engagement → Community Survey Results → Round Table #1 Feedback → Community Meeting #1 Feedback → Visual Preference → Programming Chronology → Draft Athletic Field Feedback → Community Meeting #2 Feedback → Open House Feedback → Round Table #2 Feedback → Community Meeting #3 Feedback → Final Plan

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).

Site Analysis
- 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.

Community Survey Results
- 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 playgrounds, 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.

Round Table #1 Feedback
- 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.

Community Meeting #1 Feedback
- 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 and 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

Visual Preference
- 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.

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.

Draft Athletic Field Feedback
- 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.

Community Meeting #2 Feedback
- 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 be accommodated elsewhere.

Open House Feedback
- There should be an opportunity for 'open', unscheduled play on athletic fields.
- Passive recreation opportunities like walking are important.
- Lighted fields may be a disturbance to adjacent neighborhoods.
- Plan needs to address community connections and neighborhood access to park and playground.
- Traffic and congestion is already a problem. It needs to be further addressed in the updated plan.
- Re-purposing the 'pavilion' area for parking, restroom, concessions is a desired.
- Community improvements should be at the core of the updated plan.

Round Table #2 Feedback
- Generally, the draft concept plan provides a good mix and balance of uses and amenities.
- There is a need to compromise so that the park is a City Park that serves the greater community while providing excellent amenities for specific uses.
- Fields at VCP could be designed as intermediate size (70' / 80') baselines that could serve all ages of youth baseball.
- Overlapping fields may present safety concerns as well as programming / scheduling conflicts.
- Make the 'tough decisions' as to what number and use of fields in the update plan.

Community Meeting #3 Feedback
- Direction of plan is appropriate.
- Layout of athletic fields and disc golf must be addressed

Final Plan

PRAB & COUNCIL

Reminder: PRAB Meetings are open to the public

- PRAB – Meeting-May 19 (Discussion Item)
- CC – Information Packet – June 12
- PRAB – Meeting-Aug 25 (Discussion Item)
- PRAB – Meeting-Oct 27 (Information Item)
- PRAB – Meeting-Nov 24 (Information Item)
- PRAB – Meeting-Feb 23 (Public Hearing and Recommendation)
- CC – Information Packet – March

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

- Park amenities should first and foremost address the needs of the Boulder community
- Access to and through the park are important and should be emphasized
- There should be an emphasis on youth and youth activities
- Opportunities for disc golf, running, and athletic fields continue to receive high levels of support
- A balanced approach should be taken when considering all of the possible program elements for VCP. However, it is also important to take a wholistic, system-wide view to see if elements that cannot be accommodated at Valmont can be accommodated elsewhere.
- There is still a desire for more 'traditional' park amenities for passive recreation such as walking paths and open turf areas
- There should be an emphasis on non-dedicated, multi-use recreation facilities that are open to the public, but that can also be reserved.
- Partnerships between the City, BVSD, CU, and private businesses should be encouraged.

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Parks Planning
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