

Appendix H - Summary of Public Comments

The Parks and Recreation department invited the public to provide feedback during the master plan process. The department announced public meetings on its website, in *Daily Camera* advertisements, and with printed materials available at recreation centers and other public facilities. The department provided opportunities for public comment at meetings listed below:

- *Fourteen PRAB study sessions and monthly updates at PRAB business meetings*
- *Seven public open houses*
- *Survey sent to 1,200 households; 402 responses received (37%)*
- *Nonscientific "gap analysis" web survey sent to community groups, sports associations, neighborhood associations, response boxes in recreation centers, posted on website; 272 responses*
- *Master Plan DVD shown on Channel 8*
- *Presentations to the following groups:*
 - o Immigrant Advisory Committee*
 - o Latino community*
 - o Youth Opportunities Advisory Board*
 - o Senior Community Advisory Committee*
 - o Neighborhood associations*

Public comments are organized by subject area and include relevant master plan recommendations. Subject areas are listed alphabetically.

Athletic Fields

Public Comments

- Need more multi-use fields for soccer, practice, competitions, baseball, and softball
- Lack of adequate field space is deterrent to hosting larger events
- Improve quality of turf
- Need lighted fields
- Solve prairie dog issues in fields

Master Plan Recommendations

- Monitor use and revenue potential of recreation facilities to help determine future needs.
- Identify sites for five new multi-purpose practice fields.
- Evaluate feasibility of synthetic turf on playing fields.
- Prepare management plans, including financial strategies, operations, event management, concessions, hardscapes, and landscapes.
- Build up to five new multi-purpose fields.
- Renovate sports fields (turf and irrigation) at East Boulder Community Park.
- Replace natural turf with synthetic turf at two or three locations.

Summary of Public Comments, cont'd

- Prepare management plans for all developed outdoor recreation facilities, including financial management, operations, event management, hardscapes, turf management, other plant materials (horticulture, IPM, forestry), and water resources.
- Evaluate potential for consolidated sports field complexes to increase operational efficiency and improve league play.
- Make Pleasant View improvements, including: shade structure, permanent bleachers, playground, artificial turf at main field, and additional parking.
- Negotiate equitable joint-use agreement with Boulder Valley School District.
- Implement a wildlife management plan to protect facilities with ongoing prairie dog issues (including Tom Watson, Boulder Reservoir, Valmont, Foothills, and East Boulder Community Park).
- Develop sustainable management options for Tom Watson Park.

Budget

Public Comments

- Need better funding for parks and recreation
- Less money for Open Space, allocate more money to Parks and Recreation
- Don't spend so much money on prairie dogs

Master Plan Recommendation

- Adopt a cost-recovery policy based on the Core Services Business Model.
- Evaluate other facilities for revenue potential, including dog parks.
- Evaluate the structure and adequacy of the development excise tax (DET).
- Restructure Recreation Activity Fund financing.
- Secure additional new funding sources to reduce identified facility and program fees.
- Explore the concept of a regional special-taxing district.
- Research "unrestricting" funds.
- Work with city leadership to achieve a more creative menu of fundraising strategies.
- Evaluate the department's contribution to city sales-tax revenues derived from special events and tourism.
- Implement new creative fundraising strategies.
- Implement a wildlife management plan to protect facilities with on-going prairie dog issues (including Tom Watson, Boulder Reservoir, Foothills, East Boulder Community Park).

Cycling

Public Comments

- Need velodrome/cycling facility
- More venues for mountain bikers (off-road and multi-use trails)

Master Plan Recommendations

- Provide on-going forums for public input regarding new or improved recreation facilities and parks.
- Conduct feasibility studies of identified specialized facilities and programs.

Disc Golf

Public Comments

- Need 18-hole course
- Not adequate field space for play in Boulder

Master Plan Recommendations

- Update Valmont City Park site plan (Note: please refer to the Disc Golf Study, Appendix L for further information).

Dog Parks

Public Comments

- Need more dog parks
- Improve condition of existing parks
- Provide more off-leash areas

Master Plan Recommendations

- Build permanent dog parks.
- Improve maintenance levels in parks, especially in turf areas, focusing on plant health and weed management.

Flatirons Golf Course

Public Comments

- Needs major improvements: Club House, pro shop, increased parking, better turf
- Need more youth programs
- Need additional golf course in city

Master Plan Recommendations

- Prepare management plan for Flatirons Golf Course, including financial strategies, operations, event management, hardscapes, turf management, other plant materials (horticulture, IPM, forestry), and wildlife management, and water quality.
- Offer programs not traditionally accessed by under-served families and youth (examples: sailing, tennis, golf).
- Provide a comprehensive year-round recreation program for under-served families and youth at low or no cost.

General

Public Comments

- Emphasize conservation efforts and education
- Need more facilities/programs/fields for youth
- More Spanish instruction for classes, especially for kids
- Program guide/brochure in Spanish
- Information at recreation center front desks in Spanish
- Flyers for classes in Spanish at Sacred Heart
- Consider an “adopt-a-family” program

Summary of Public Comments cont'd

- Don't place such a high emphasis on prairie dogs
- Maintain and protect green/open space
- Emphasize safety for all

Master Plan Recommendations

- Develop a comprehensive public information campaign to promote the department's impact and role in the community's quality of life.
- Implement a comprehensive public information and evaluation program.
- Provide Spanish instruction for some programs.
- Create continuing education opportunities for staff to increase the number of bilingual staff.
- Identify sites for new multi-purpose practice fields.
- Build up to five new multi-purpose fields.
- Renovate sports fields (turf and irrigation) at East Boulder Community Park.
- Prepare management plans, with community involvement, for all developed and undeveloped park lands including hardscapes, plant materials (horticulture, IPM, forestry), playgrounds, natural lands, and water resources. Develop consistent practices with other city departments that manage lands and water.
- Create at least one additional volunteer coordinator position, and provide resources for volunteer program.

Ice Rink

Public Comments

- Need a year-round ice rink/facility

Master Plan Recommendations

- Review proposals from user groups for specialized recreation facilities.
- Coordinate public-private partnerships roundtable to find solutions to partnering on city land.
- Conduct feasibility studies of identified specialized facility sites, including an analysis of costs and environmental and wildlife impacts.

Parks

Public Comments

- Improve maintenance at all parks
- Develop undeveloped parklands
- Improve restroom facilities
- Seek more public/private partnerships (such as Holiday)
- Promote Adopt-A-Park program to large civic groups
- More safe parks
- Need lights for night
- More restrooms in parks
- More playgrounds

Master Plan Recommendations

- Improve maintenance levels in parks, especially in turf areas, focusing on plant health and weed management.
- Increase staff for park maintenance.
- Build four new pocket parks and one new neighborhood park and allocate maintenance dollars for them.

- Complete Foothills and East Boulder Community Parks and allocate maintenance dollars for them.
- Build one additional neighborhood park, and remaining pocket parks, and allocate maintenance dollars for them.
- Complete Valmont City Park.
- Acquire and develop a pocket park in the Gunbarrel retail core.
- Acquire and develop a pocket park and/or plaza in the Transit Village.
- Develop conceptual plans for Area III with community involvement.
- Replace restrooms and picnic shelters at North Boulder Park and Martin Park.
- Build restrooms and replace shelters at Scott Carpenter Park and Harlow Platts Park.
- Pursue collaborative opportunities for park acquisitions and development, including community education on creating collaborative relationships.
- Pursue new partnerships with private donors and organizations to plant additional trees in city street rights-of-way.

Pools/Aquatics

Public Comments

- Need 50 meter pool
- Lower prices for groups and teams
- Extend summer hours

Master Plan Recommendations

- Operate facilities at existing levels of service.
- Adopt a cost-recovery model based on Core Services Business Model.
- Prepare a systemwide analysis of community aquatic needs.
- Make Spruce Pool improvements, including spray amenities, updated signage and entrance, and concessions.
- Make Scott Carpenter Pool improvements, including spray amenities, slide, increased pool length (to 50 meters), updated signage and entrance, parking, weight-training area, concessions, and lounging area.

Pottery Lab

Public Comments

- Has passionate, loyal following; do not close facility
- 50-year tradition in Boulder/huge historical and cultural value
- Only facility of its kind in Boulder
- Utilize more volunteers; very willing constituents

Master Plan Recommendations

- Evaluate programs that increase revenues at the Pottery Lab.
- Implement new creative fundraising strategies.
- Develop a Recreation Program Plan that assesses trends, issues, strengths, weaknesses, and demographics, and provides statistical analysis of the existing program and strategies for future years.
- Develop recreation programs identified through the Recreation Program Plan as high-community-need activities and services.
- Make Pottery Lab improvements, including overall aesthetic enhancements, additional program, office and storage space, and visible display area.
- Monitor use and revenue potential of recreation facilities to help determine future needs.

Recreation

Public Comments

- Extend hours at recreation centers
- Eliminate non-resident fees
- More youth sports opportunities
- More parking
- Centers are clean, up to date
- Weight rooms are too crowded
- Do not close South Boulder Recreation Center
- Update South Boulder Recreation Center
- Sliding scale for fees at recreation centers - more affordable
- Consider single-purpose recreation center passes at a lower cost (for example, for pools only)

Master Plan Recommendations

- Increase hours of operation at recreation centers to meet public demand.
- Offer programs not traditionally accessed by underserved families and youth (examples: sailing, tennis, golf).
- Implement recreation programs identified throughout the Recreation Program Plan as high-community-need activities and services.
- Provide a comprehensive year-round recreation program for under-served families and youth.
- Prepare a parking study to determine if fees could help fund enhancements.
- Operate facilities at existing levels of service.
- Make South Boulder Recreation Center improvements, including: leisure and therapy pool, additional gymnasiums, indoor running track, high-tech teen area, concessions, and additional program and office space (requires significant additional square footage).
- Accelerate renovation and refurbishment schedule at recreation centers.
- Make East Boulder Community Center improvements, including: additional gymnasium space, multi-purpose art room, outdoor covered patio, concessions, expanded leisure pool and weight room, and additional program and office space.
- Make North Boulder Recreation Center improvements, including: concessions, improved parking, and additional program and office space.