

Fort Chambers / Poor Farm Concept Plan Feedback

Long Comment Summary: Unique Ideas and Themes

An online questionnaire was developed to receive community feedback on the city's collaboration with Tribal representatives and the recommendations presented in the draft Concept Plan. To supplement the questionnaire, longer comments were accepted via an online comment portal. Comments received during the March 25 – April 14, 2024 engagement period were grouped into categories with unique ideas presented below. Similar ideas were tallied together with individual comments shown *in italics*.

Tribal Collaboration/Indigenous Rights	Count	% of Respondents
Support for honoring Tribes / Indigenous People in stewardship/decision-making process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Sand Creek Massacre Foundation is deeply appreciative of the City of Boulder's collaboration with the Arapaho and Cheyenne tribes on this historically and culturally significant project.</i> • <i>It is crucial that the plan implement any recommendations from the tribal representatives, and we must fully understand what they would like this site to include.</i> • <i>Involving the tribes in the plan can't fix what happened historically, but it is the right thing to do.</i> • <i>I love this coming together for everyone. Peace will follow collaboration.</i> 	20	36.4%
Treaty violations/Land belongs to tribes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>It's also important to acknowledge that all this land is stolen and by treaty belongs to the Arapaho and Cheyenne but even more, there needs to be acknowledgment of the problematic nature of these sorts of treaties themselves and how they were often signed in coercion</i> • <i>We need to convey how Boulder's prosperity partly rests on treaty violations and on the murder of Indigenous people.</i> 	10	18.2%
Concerns that Tribal perspectives not fully represented <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>First, I believe that OSMP is making a good faith effort to include Tribal perspectives in the site management plan. Still, I have heard from connections in the Native community that "collaboration" thus far has been insufficient in their view, and that statements on the planning site indicating full support of the Tribes thus far may be somewhat inflated.</i> • <i>The Fort Chambers Management Plan indicates that Boulder OSMP has collaborated with Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal leaders. This is somewhat misleading because, while consultation has happened, OSMP has often been unresponsive to the wishes of the tribes.</i> 	6	10.9%
Allow Tribe-specific use of site (gathering, ceremonies, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Are the tribal reps interested in allowing for some form of sacred site use e.g. a sweat lodge on the property or some other facility that would be primarily for tribal use? A mourning area just for tribal use? I don't know what the tribes would consider appropriate, but please have this discussion and listen to them and be willing to think outside the box to accommodate them.</i> • <i>I hope this history and healing project will have space so that the tribal people can use it for ceremonies, meet ups, and cultural rebuilding</i> • <i>include the opportunity for tribal people to convene meetings, camps, education, erect teepees etc</i> 	5	9.1%

Tribal Collaboration/Indigenous Rights	Count	% of Respondents	
Support for land back/monetary reparations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Please give the Arapaho and Cheyenne people of Boulder Valley the right to decide what will be done with their land...what should be taught to visitors and whether this portion of their land should be restored to them or whether they prefer monetary reparations made to them for this grave injustice.</i> <i>Whatever it is that [the tribes] want, fund and support that while simultaneously returning them their rights to self-governance and autonomy over their own homelands.</i> 	5	9.1%	
Support for Tribal rights, justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I will be disappointed if there is anything less than a full tribute to Ute, Arapaho, and Cheyenne people...It is time to take responsibility.</i> <i>Please help correct the terrible treatment of the Native Americas.</i> 	4	7.3%	
Inclusion of indigenous Boulder residents in planning/reparations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>It is especially important for the Indigenous people living in the Boulder Valley to have an opportunity to comment on the concept plan. How has the city reached out to them?</i> <i>What I miss most are the Native people themselves in Boulder – high rents, historical and other realities have pushed them out! Getting the Fort Chambers site “right” by the Arapaho and Cheyenne is therefore a high priority; along with bringing Native people into visible participation, voice, with paid positions in Boulder.</i> 	3	5.5%	
Total Comments:		53	96.4%

Ecological Restoration	Count	% of Respondents	
Support for environmental restoration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I fully support the following: "Prioritizing future stewardship on ecological restoration and exploring opportunities for indigenous plantings and harvesting by Tribal members." ... Also support removal of invasive species.</i> 	4	7.3%	
Specific restoration suggestions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Options for Northern leopard frog habitat? Consider some native plant pollinator landscaping on the site where visitors will see it.</i> <i>Take land back to a natural grassland with the possibility of adding a few buffalo.</i> 	3	5.5%	
Total Comments:		7	12.7%

Healing Trail / Education & Interpretation / Recreation	Count	% of Respondents
Mark/rebuild the fort/provide visual representation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>We support the tribes' desire to have the location of Fort Chambers identified in the plan and we believe a visual marker must be provided so that all will remember the significance of this property.</i> <i>The tribal representatives want the fort's location to be a visual reminder of the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre. To ignore their request is shameful. Admit our crimes by honoring their perspective.</i> <i>We need a replica, sculpture or a memorial structure (ideally a replica) to remind us of the part the Boulder played in this shameful historic event.</i> 	21	38.2%

Healing Trail / Education & Interpretation / Recreation	Count	% of Respondents
Support for education/learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>We are unfortunate inheritors of that history and need to stand in healing responsiveness to it. There is much specific healing that needs to take place. It begins with education and awareness!</i> • <i>I hope that the spirit of this project is to really educate the public about the true depth of the crime committed against innocent people who had lived and hunted, prayed and played in this very environs.</i> 	11	20.0%
Support for healing concept / healing programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The concept centered on healing the people, healing the land is inspiring and comforting.</i> • <i>The name of the plan "Healing the People, Healing the Land" is a good one. Don't overlook this opportunity to start the healing in the exact place that the pain and injury to the Cheyenne, Arapahoe, and people of Boulder began.</i> 	6	10.9%
Reinstall stone marker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Why remove the inaccurate stone marker? Alongside the wrong "Chambers Indian war" marker there should have been an accurate marker depicting the truth.</i> • <i>Fred Mosqueda (S. Arapaho) has also asked that the marker that was placed in 1959, citing the "Indian uprising", be replaced...People need to know that the citizens of Boulder still believed there was an "uprising" in 1959 and many years after that.</i> 	6	10.9%
Support for Native people sharing perspectives/teachings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Let [the indigenous people] design or write the interpretive materials if they want. Perhaps let them re-name the property?</i> • <i>I would welcome some interp info about the tribes as they are today – where they live, what they are doing, present tense stuff, etc.</i> • <i>Truth and reconciliation meetings with Indigenous People, as they desire, could/should be held on this property.</i> • <i>Make sure Native American people can be on site to educate so we can all work toward connecting, learning from each other and becoming a we instead of us and them.</i> 	6	10.9%
Comments questioning focus on/depiction of the fort <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Granted that the Sand creek massacre was horrific, but the purpose that Fort Chambers was build is the protection of local families and they are the ones that built the fort. There was no organized militia at that time...Fort Chambers is not a tie in to the Sand Creek massacre any more that was Julesburg, Denver, Boulder or any other place that assisted or provided men for the the purpose of 'destroying' the Indian.</i> • <i>Relatively speaking, [Fort Chambers] played al very small role in the Sand Creek Massacre...All who live in Boulder are a part of a tragic history, so why do we absolve ourselves of that history and just focus on a relative few who volunteered and went to a inconsequential sod fort that didn't last long?</i> 	2	3.6%
<i>I believe the Fort Chambers plan is inadequate to accomplish the healing that is listed as a goal of the plan...How miserly and greedy are we that there cannot be a portion of this open space dedicated to [the Cheyenne and Arapaho's] use.</i>	1	1.8%
Total Comments:	59	107.3%

Agriculture / Farmstead Structures	Count	% of Respondents
Opposition to any non-Tribal focus (agriculture, building restoration, ecological restoration) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>With an additional agricultural focus, I am concerned that the current plan doesn't put reparations work and the needs/desires of the tribes as primary.</i> <i>...the most important part of the project should be to designate space for indigenous people to gather and heal, and to clearly convey the history of what happened at Fort Chambers and the impact on Indigenous people. I think land restoration and agriculture should be secondary to these goals.</i> <i>It is unclear what a farm and restored victorian home have to do with Tribal perspectives.</i>	5	9.1%
Support for sustainable, or specific agricultural practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Do restorative agriculture to set example for global climate change problem.</i> 	4	7.3%
<i>Please restore that gorgeous old house.</i>	1	1.8%
<i>My only other comment is to express disappointment that the house or dormitories won't be restored to provide housing for Cheyenne and Arapaho and or Native students attending CU...or to create a Native American Knowledge Center.</i>	1	1.8%
Total Comments:	11	20.0%

General Comments	Count	% of Respondents
Support for plan / good idea / right step / overdue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>As the current residents of Boulder, this is a critical opportunity to honestly and appropriately reckon with our nation's crimes of racism, genocide, and colonization is happening in many places around the country. We should set a good example for others to follow.</i> 	14	25.5%
Would like to volunteer / help with project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I'd like to volunteer, if you can use "a little old lady in tennis shoes."</i> <i>Wildlands Restoration Volunteers is a nonprofit focusing on ecological restoration and trail construction...If WRV can help expand the capacity/ funding needed to complete these plans, we would love to do so.</i> 	10	18.2%
Would like to be kept up to date on project	6	10.9%
Opposition / general criticism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Develop it. It is not historically significant.</i> <i>The 'poor farm' was so long ago AND No one is 100% sure that location was ever the fort. Plus, this is ignored but It was the Wells farm property for 100 years!</i> 	2	3.6%
<i>There are financial considerations which must be openly addressed by taxpayers before any final plans are developed.</i>	1	1.8%
Total Comments:	33	60.0%

Questionnaire	Count	% of Respondents
Comment window too small <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The 100 character limit on comments within the questionnaire is unreasonable and clearly inadequate to facilitate meaningful comments.</i> 	4	7.3%
Feedback timeframe too short <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The 2 week comment period is too short, especially because one of those weeks was spring break.</i> 	4	7.3%
<i>I'm curious around why the survey was designed in a way that seeks feedback from all people? ...it isn't truly equitable to ask all of Boulder to decide on an issue that disproportionately impacts Native people.</i>	1	1.8%
Total Comments:	9	16.4%