



Bill Bower Park - Interpretive Display

Bill Bower Park



Interpretive Display Area



Rendering of Proposed Improvements (looking SW)



Rendering of Proposed Improvements (looking NW)

Elements in the Interpretive Area

Interpretive Sign

The central feature of the interpretive area is a cast bronze plaque mounted on a metal pedestal. The plaque is consistent with interpretive displays used in Boulder parks, such as the 36" x 24" plaque at Scott Carpenter Park.

Artwork

B-25 Propeller Blade approximately 6 ft tall and 11.5 inches at the widest part of the blade. Similar to the propeller blade Bill Bower had in his yard.

Winter King Hawthorne Trees (exact species based on availability)

The Winter King Hawthorn is cherished for its beauty and resilience, particularly during the winter months. Its branches become adorned with bright red berries that persist through the cold months – offering both a pop of color and a food source for birds. In the spring, clusters of delicate white flowers emerge, attracting other pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

Eastern Redbud Trees (exact species based on availability)

Known as the harbinger of spring, the Eastern Redbud's delicate blossoms and buds are one of the season's most dramatic displays. The early blossoms draw in nectar-seeking insects, including several species of early-season butterflies. Northern bobwhite and a few songbirds, such as chickadees, will eat the seeds. It can be used for nesting sites and nesting materials, and it also provides shelter for birds and mammals.

Autumn Magic Chokeberry Shrubs (exact species based on availability)

In fall this tree becomes a blazing red beacon, because the leaves turn excellent shades of bold, vibrant red and rich, deep purples. A single bush is self-pollinating and carries a large crop. The berries are a valuable winter food for native birds.

Ground Cover

Flowering ground cover, grasses and wildflower mix.

The project is sponsored by and funding raised through the Admiral Arleigh Burke Chapter (AABC) of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).



Welcome to Bill Bower Park. The Park honors Colonel Bill Bower's service to our country and to our community.

The Doolittle Raid, named for its commander, Lt Col Jimmy Doolittle, boosted American morale after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Lt Bill Bower was the aircraft commander of Doolittle Raider #12. On April 18, 1942, 16 B-25B bombers launched from the USS Hornet to carry the war in the Pacific to the Japanese homeland. After attacking his target, Lt Bower bailed his crew out over China and his aircraft crashed. He made his way back to the USA and the nation awarded him a Distinguished Flying Cross at a White House ceremony.

Colonel Bower retired from the Air Force in 1966 and built a home in the Table Mesa neighborhood where he lived until his death in 2011. Colonel Bower volunteered with Community Food Share and Meals on Wheels. He founded the Central Optimist Club of Boulder, was President of several Veterans organizations, and served on several City of Boulder planning committees. The Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame inducted him in 2004 for his service as a Doolittle Raider and as USAF liaison to the Colorado Air National Guard and the Colorado Civil Air Patrol. The B-25 propeller blade in the display is a replica of the blade Colonel Bower kept in his yard for 45 years.



The Boulder Park named in Bill Bower's honor opened in 2014.

Interpretive Sign Text (vetted by City of Boulder Communications team and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team)



Project sponsors and volunteers helping keep the park beautiful now and into the future.