

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Fully Hybrid Meeting

6:00 p.m., April 27, 2026



AGENDA

All agenda times are approximate

- I. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** (2 mins)
- II. **MATTERS FROM THE BOARD** (15 mins), Page 2
 - A. Procedural Items
 - i. Induct new members (5 mins)
 - ii. Welcome new members (5 mins)
 - iii. Officer elections (5 mins)
- III. **FUTURE BOARD ITEMS AND TOURS** (2 mins), Page 3
- IV. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** (15-30 mins)
 - A. This portion of the meeting is for members of the public to communicate ideas or concerns to the Board regarding parks and recreation issues for which a public hearing is not scheduled later in the meeting (this includes consent agenda). The public is encouraged to comment on the need for parks and recreation programs and facilities as they perceive them. All speakers are limited to three minutes. Depending on the nature of your matter, you may or may not receive a response from the Board after you deliver your comments. The Board is always listening to and appreciative of community feedback.
- V. **CONSENT AGENDA** (5 mins), Page 4
 - A. Approval of Minutes from March 23 and March 31, 2026, Page 5
 - B. Updates from the Director of Parks and Recreation, Page 10
 - C. Parks and Recreation Operations Updates, Page 10
 - D. Parks and Recreation Planning, Design and Construction Updates, Page 13
- VI. **ACTION ITEMS**
 - A. None
- VII. **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION**
 - A. None
- VIII. **MATTERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT** (90 mins), Page 18
 - A. Consult Civic Area Naming Process (30 mins)
 - B. Budget 101 (60 mins)
- IX. **MATTERS FROM THE BOARD**, Page 41
 - A. PRAB Handbook Public Comment Amendment
 - B. PRAB Matters (verbal)
- X. **NEXT BOARD MEETING:**
 - A. May 18, 2026

Boulder Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Members 2026-2027

Channing Benson
Andrew Bernstein
Yvonne Castillo
Dana Riess
Jennifer Robins
Michael Schreiner
Kyra Siegel

Mission Statement

BPRD will promote the health and well-being of the entire Boulder community by collaboratively providing high-quality parks, facilities and programs.

Vision Statement

We envision a community where every member's health and well-being is founded on unparalleled parks, facilities and programs.

Goals of the Master Plan

1. Community Health and Wellness
2. Taking Care of What We Have
3. Financial Sustainability
4. Building Community
5. Youth Engagement
6. Organizational Readiness





Boulder Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

TO: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

SUBJECT: Matters from the Board

DATE: April 27, 2026

A. Induct new members (5 mins)

B. Welcome new members (5 mins)

C. Officer elections (5 mins)

Current nominations for PRAB Officers for the 2026-2027 term:

- Chair: Bernie Bernstein
- Vice Chair: Jenny Robins

Other nominations may be made during the PRAB meeting on April 27 before voting occurs.

PRAB Future Board Items Agenda

	May	June	July
	Fully hybrid for members, staff and community.	Fully hybrid for members, staff and community.	Fully hybrid for members, staff and community.
<u>Regular Mtg (c)</u>	1) ATB1 – Adjustment to Base 2) Summer Operations 3) City Council Updates 4) Downtown Development Authority 5) Courts Update – East Boulder Community Park & Tom Watson	1) Civic Area Nature Play updates 2) Valmont Park Signs 3) East Boulder Community Center Update 4) Courts Update – East Boulder Community Park & Tom Watson 5) Chautauqua Update	1) Courts Update – East Boulder Community Park & Tom Watson 2) Barker Park Refresh 3) 2027 Budget Process
<u>Regular Mtg (a)</u>	PRAB Handbook Public Comment Amendment	1) Harbeck-Bergheim House Lease 2) Recommended Renaming for Civic Area	
<u>Regular Mtg (d/i)</u>	Harbeck-Bergheim House Lease		
<u>Regular Mtg (md)</u>	1) Recommendation on Civic Area Renaming Resolution	1) 2027 Budget – review of proposed budget as submitted to EBT, significant revenue or fee changes, Capital Improvement Program 2) Inform on Chautauqua Concept Plan Update 3) Civic Area East Bookend P3	1) SAMPS Overview 2) Consult on Future of Parks System Overview: Kick-off and Process
<u>Regular Mtg (mb)</u>	1) Inform on East Bookend RFI/RFP		1) CIP Tour scheduling
<u>Other Mtgs or Topics</u>	May 14: City Council Study Session: Financial Forecast, LTFS Update and Ballot Measures	Mid-June: City Council: LTFS and Ballot Measure Check-in Late June through mid-July: Council Summer Recess begins	
<u>Dept Events & Items of Interest</u>	Early May: Scott Carpenter Lap Pool opens for shoulder season Memorial Day weekend: Outdoor Pools open	<i>Bill Bower interpretive area opening celebration</i>	Arts in the Park

AGENDA SETTING

The PRAB Chair, PRAB Vice Chair and BPR staff set the agenda for the next month on Thursday directly following the regular PRAB meeting. PRAB members can submit agenda requests to the Chair and Vice Chair by Wednesday following the PRAB regular meeting for consideration. If time-sensitive matters arise, PRAB Chair and Vice Chair may amend the agenda as needed.

LEGEND

Action Item (a): A public hearing item to be voted on by the Board (public comment period provided).

Procedural Item: (p): An item requiring procedural attention.

Consent Item (c): An item provided in written form for consent, not discussion by the Board; any consent item may be called up by any Board member for discussion following the consent agenda.

Discussion/Information Item(d/i): An item likely to be a future action item (or council item) and/or that benefits from an in-depth discussion.

Matters from the Department (md): Items that will be reviewed and discussed during the meeting but not requiring as much in-depth analysis.

Matters from the Board (mb): Items initiated by the Board that will be reviewed and discussed during the meeting but not requiring as much in-depth analysis.

City Council Item (cc)

Other Boards and Commissions (obc)

Community Engagement and/or Events (e)

Holiday/Closure (h/c)

Italics indicate a tentative date or plan.

TO: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Alison Rhodes, Director of Parks and Recreation
Bryan Beary, Senior Manager, Community Building and Partnerships
Mark Davison, Senior Manager, Planning
Denise Dawson, Senior Manager, Urban Parks
Jackson Hite, Senior Manager, Business Services
Matt Gazdik, Acting Senior Manager, Recreation
Scott Schuttenberg, Deputy Director
Erynn Simone, Senior Manager, Regional Facilities

SUBJECT: Consent Agenda

DATE: April 27, 2026

A. Approval of March 23 and March 31, 2026, Minutes

**CITY OF BOULDER
BOULDER, COLORADO
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING MINUTES**

To listen to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings in their entirety, please go to the following link: www.boulderparks-rec.org

Name of Board/Commission: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Date of Meeting: March 23, 2026
Contact Information Preparing Summary: Clarisa Collins; 720-564-2147
Board Members Present: Bernie Bernstein, Yvonne Castillo, Jennifer Robins, Michael Schreiner, Kyra Siegel
Board Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Jennifer Bandoni, Bryan Beary, Clarisa Collins, Tina Dalton, Denise Dawson, Kate Hernandez, Jackson Hite, Stacie Hoffmann, Shihomi Kuriyagawa, Megann Lohman, Jake Minden, Charlotte O'Donnell, Chris Passarelli, Matt Pilger, Ali Rhodes, Scott Schuttenberg, Bill Wildenberg
Guests Present: Chris Ranglos, Tucker Horsch
Type of Meeting: Regular
<p>Agenda Item 1: Call to Order</p> <p>The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. A quorum was present for the conduct of business. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Bernstein and seconded by Castillo. The motion passed 5-0.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 2: Future Board Items and Tours</p> <p>Rhodes, Director of Parks and Recreation, reviewed upcoming items, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 31 PRAB study session on recreation facility investment scenarios. • April 9 City Council study session on the citywide facility portfolio. • Anticipated May discussion on 2026 ballot measures. • East Boulder Community Center reopened following maintenance closure. • Seasonal operations underway for summer programming. <p>Bernstein noted his upcoming absence from the March 31 study session.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 3: Public Participation</p> <p>In-Person Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Bergal (Boulder Tennis Association): Raised concerns about delays to the East Boulder Community Park (EBCP) racquet court project and impacts to the Austin Scott Tournament. • Catherine Sundvall: Spoke regarding Boulder Botanic Gardens at Hogan-Pancost. • Alia Ghandour: Expressed support for new tennis courts at EBCP. • Mary and Eric Durham: Commented on Hogan-Pancost annexation, land use and potential botanic garden and sculpture park. • Judith Dack: Shared feedback on North Boulder Park, including appreciation for community-responsive planning and concerns about ballfield orientation changes. • Mike Stabler: Raised concerns about costs and maintenance at South Boulder Recreation Center pickleball courts. • Grace Thomson (BOCO Pickleball): Discussed EBCP court delays, maintenance needs and North Boulder Park planning. • Caren Phillips: Commented on North Boulder Park elements, including ballfields and playgrounds.

- **Chief Phillip Whiteman Jr. (Northern Cheyenne):** Spoke on the cultural significance of the Hogan-Pancost site and a proposal related to ancestral land.
- **Nicole Schabus (pooled time):** Supported consultation and consent related to the Hogan-Pancost site and tribal interests.
- **Christine Brescoll:** Commented on public participation time and South Boulder Recreation Center.
- **Heather Smith:** Raised concerns about EBCP tennis court delays and tournament impacts.
- **Mo Siegel:** Expressed concern about lack of dedicated pickleball courts and past project delays.
- **Mary Szniewajs:** Commented on discussions in the February PRAB meeting.

Virtual Speakers:

- **Zach Maiorca (BOCO Pickleball):** Discussed EBCP delays and advocated for dedicated pickleball courts.
- **Robert Batchelder:** Commented on Hogan-Pancost as a public park.

Board members had the following questions and comments:

- Board members asked clarifying questions related to procurement processes, including open bidding requirements.
- Questions were raised regarding land use considerations at Hogan-Pancost, including the relationship between proposed court development and potential botanic garden uses.
- Board members inquired about how BVSD courts are considered in community supply.
- Staff shared that updates to public comment procedures must first be reviewed and approved by the City Attorney's Office and have not yet been implemented.

Agenda Item 4: Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes from February 23, 2026

- A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Schreiner and seconded by Bernstein. The motion passed 5-0.

B. Updates from the Director of Parks and Recreation

C. Parks and Recreation Operations

D. Planning, Design and Construction Updates

- Board members asked clarifying questions related to summer hiring efforts.

Agenda Item 5: Action Items

A. None

Agenda Item 6: Matters for Discussion/Information

A. None

Agenda Item 7: Matters from the Department

A. Draft Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan Review

Chris Ranglos and Tucker Horsch presented this item.

- Board members emphasized including recreation centers as community hubs, improving measurability within the Parks and Recreation section, strengthening community outreach, and incorporating long-term planning concepts such as mixed-use spaces and 15minute neighborhoods. They also highlighted the importance of beginning the document with a land acknowledgment

B. North Boulder Park Renovation

Bill Wildenberg and Shihomi Kuriyagawa presented this item.

- Board members asked clarifying questions about prior community engagement and if staff had followed up with the Teens on plan refinements. They also asked about the need for ballfield adjustments, how drainage and user needs were balanced, and the schedule for implementation. Additionally, staff confirmed that the park renovation will include more trees, nature play elements and other site improvements.

C. Court System Update (East Boulder Community Park and Tom Watson)

Jake Minden and Tina Dalton presented this item.

- Board members asked clarifying questions about process following annexation, project timelines, funding and phasing, restroom availability, and community concerns regarding communication and pace. They also emphasized the importance of maintaining flexibility to balance planned court development with potential alternative uses such as the Hogan Pancost Botanical Garden concept.

Agenda Item 8: Matters from the Board

A. PRAB Orientation/Mentoring

- The Board discussed upcoming onboarding and mentorship for new board members.

B. Chair & Vice Chair Selection Process

- The Board discussed the Chair and Vice Chair selection process that will occur at April’s meeting.

C. PRAB Matters (verbal)

- Castillo raised concerns about a student proposed reflexology walking path at Harlow Platts, asking about the approval process and long-term maintenance, and staff will provide an update in April’s consent agenda. Castillo also asked for clarification about Chautauqua Courts donation.
- Schreiner asked for information on the proposed Downtown Development Authority and PRAB’s role.
- Robins shared an update that PLAY Boulder has formed a development committee, including ideas such as donor supported tree gifts, with a meeting planned next month.

Agenda Item 9: Next Board Meeting

- March 31, 2026 – Virtual Study Session
- April 27, 2026 – Regular Meeting (Hybrid)

Agenda Item 10: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Approved by:

Attested:

Jennifer Robins
Board Member

Clarisa Collins
BPR Staff

Date: _____

Date: _____

**CITY OF BOULDER
BOULDER, COLORADO
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING MINUTES**

To listen to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings in their entirety, please go to the following link: www.boulderparks-rec.org

Name of Board/Commission: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Date of Meeting: March 31, 2026
Contact Information Preparing Summary: Clarisa Collins; 720-564-2147
Board Members Present: Yvonne Castillo, Jennifer Robins, Michael Schreiner, Kyra Siegel
Board Members Absent: Bernie Bernstein
Staff Present: Bryan Beary, Clarisa Collins, Tina Dalton, Mark Davison, Matt Gazdik, Jackson Hite, Stacie Hoffmann, Kate Hernandez, Megann Lohman, Chris Passarelli, Ali Rhodes, Scott Schuttenberg, Erynn Simone
Guests Present: Michele Crane, Joanna Crean, Kristin Sealy, Leana Evenson
Type of Meeting: Special / Study Session
Agenda Item 1: Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. A quorum was present for the conduct of business.
Agenda Item 2: Items for Discussion <p>A. Facility Funding Scenarios Presentation</p> <p>Ali Rhodes and Michele Crane presented facility funding scenarios for Boulder’s three recreation centers: North Boulder Recreation Center, East Boulder Community Center and South Boulder Recreation Center.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board discussed key considerations, including costs, funding gaps, environmental impacts, and community input. • Board members emphasized that maintaining current service levels across all three facilities is a top priority and expressed no support for options that would reduce service levels. • Aquatics access was identified as a major community priority. The Board raised concerns that reducing pool access could negatively affect equity and conflict with environmental goals, particularly if it results in increased travel and traffic. • Board members noted that some scenarios did not clearly communicate the value of proposed improvements and recommended more clearly articulating community benefits. • At 7:26 p.m., the Board unanimously agreed to extend planned adjournment to 8:30 p.m. to allow for further questions and discussion. <p>Board Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in all three recreation centers is essential, with aquatics identified as a critical community need. Reducing pool access at any site may disproportionately impact children, seniors and those with limited transportation, while undermining climate and equity goals. • Planning should account for both best- and worst-case funding scenarios, including exploration of public-private partnerships and alternative funding strategies. Public dialogue should remain constructive and grounded in accurate information. • The community’s interest in maintaining and expanding services across all three centers was affirmed, alongside the need to plan for Boulder’s long-term population growth and aging demographics.

- A system-wide, equity-focused approach should guide decision-making, with community needs driving outcomes. Concerns were raised that South Boulder scenarios lack the same level of innovation as those for North and East, and that data presented to Council should include full context to avoid misrepresentation.
- The Board supported the recommendation to further study the options to determine feasibility for major investments in all three recreation centers.

Agenda Item 3: Next Board Meeting

Next Board meeting:

- Monday, April 27, 2026 – Hybrid

Agenda Item 4: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Approved by:

Attested:

Jennifer Robins

Board Member

Date: _____

Clarisa Collins

BPR Staff

Date: _____

B. Updates from the Director of Parks and Recreation

On Thursday, April 9, 2026, City Council participated in a Study Session to discuss the city's Facilities Investment Strategy. Materials from that meeting are available online [here](#). The discussion focused on the scope and condition of city-owned facilities, with a focus on 15 buildings in critical condition. The presentation included a highlight on the three recreation centers, which are included in that list of 15 buildings in critical condition. The discussion by City Council will inform the May 14, 2026 Study Session where the council will receive the current Financial Forecast and explore potential 2026 Ballot Measures.

C. Parks and Recreation Operations Updates

Forestry

The Arbor Day Foundation has recognized the City of Boulder with the Tree Cities of the World designation for the seventh year in a row. Boulder is one of 283 cities from 24 countries recognized, and one of 59 cities in the U.S. Boulder, Denver and Fort Collins are the only recognized cities in Colorado. The international program celebrates cities that meet core standards for the care and planning of urban trees and forests. To achieve recognition, the city met the five core standards: establish responsibility, set the rules, know what you have, allocate the resources and celebrate achievements. The vision of the Tree Cities of the World program is to connect cities around the world in a network dedicated to sharing and adopting the most successful approaches to managing city trees and forests. More information is available at [Tree Cities of the World](#).

The Tree Cities of the World program is built off the success of the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program, which has provided recognition to cities within the United States for 50 years. In addition to the Tree Cities of the World designation, Boulder has been named "Tree City USA" for 42 consecutive years.

Boulder Forestry is celebrating Arbor Day with events in April and May. Boulder Forestry staff teamed up with the [PLAY Boulder Foundation](#) to give away 300 tree seedlings to Boulder community members on Saturday, April 18 at Boulder Farmers' Market. Several planting events are also planned with Bear Creek Elementary school and volunteer groups.

Parks and Recreation Drought Plan

This update provides information on 2026 water supply and demand conditions and the city's drought stage determination procedures as set forth in the citywide [Drought Plan](#). The city declared a Drought Watch on April 1, which involves voluntary reductions in water use throughout the community. In compliance with the city Drought Plan, Boulder Parks and Recreation (BPR) will update its department drought plan. The current departmental drought plan is over ten years old. An update will ensure the department is implementing leading practices in urban park management in the west during periods of water supply concerns.

In 2022, the City of Boulder updated its Drought Plan, which is used to guide drought recognition and response. The Drought Plan defines Drought Alert Stages according to drought severity and recommends actions to be taken to respond to each stage. The

Utilities department provided the Water Resources Advisory Board (WRAB) a water supply update for the April 20, 2026 meeting; that full update is available [here](#). In the memo the various drought stages are explained:

The Drought Plan includes a formula called the Projected Storage Index (PSI) that is used as an indicator of droughts that will affect Boulder’s water supply. The PSI is a ratio of key storage parameters to projected demand. Staff apply the formula each year in early May when relevant water supply information becomes available. The Drought Alert Stages and corresponding PSI values, which are derived from modeling of Boulder’s water system, are shown in Table 1 below.

PSI	Drought Alert Stage	Annual Citywide Water Demand Reduction Goals	Response Overview
As Conditions Warrant	Watch	-	Water conservation is encouraged. This is a pre-declaration communication tool to raise public awareness of conditions.
0.85 to 0.56	1	Up to 20%	Limitations are placed on lower-priority outdoor uses.
0.55 to 0.41	2	Up to 30%	Additional limitations are placed on lower-priority outdoor uses to allow higher-priority uses.
0.4 or Less	3	Up to 50%	Additional limitations are placed on outdoor water uses; some indoor use limits may be required to prioritize health and safety.

Table 1. Projected Storage Index, Drought Alert Stages and Demand Reduction Goals (City of Boulder Drought Plan, updated 2022)

The WRAB update also indicated that thresholds for Drought Stage 1 are expected to be triggered. Utilities staff anticipate a Drought Watch and voluntary reductions in water use to help preserve water supply as dry conditions continue.

Utilities staff will continue monitoring drought, water supply and demand conditions throughout the summer, adapting community messaging as needed to meet conservation goals. BPR will update its department drought plan that follows the requirements of the citywide drought plan while also recognizing the health and wellness benefits parks provide. In addition to modifying public land management practices during a drought, the city will continue to implement leading practices in waterwise urban park management and consider how park design and development can support water supply management.

Thunderbird Lake Status Update

Community members may notice low water in Thunderbird Lake in Admiral Arleigh A Burke Park. This body of water was constructed prior to 1918 as a reservoir to hold water for livestock. It was previously fed by a tile drain that now has houses built on top of it. The site has been evaluated multiple times over the past decade to assess lake conditions and identify options for maintaining water levels. Current conditions reflect

two compounding factors: ongoing regional drought and a policy decision made more than 10 years ago to stop supplementing lake levels with dechlorinated potable water. That decision was made following a comprehensive review of available options and was supported by elected and appointed officials based on economic and environmental sustainability considerations.

Due to prolonged drought conditions and the absence of supplemental potable water, water levels at Thunderbird Lake have continued to decline. Without significant investment in infrastructure and/or additional resources, this trend is expected to continue.

Staff continue to implement routine maintenance and water quality management practices at the site, including:

- Application of microbes to manage algae blooms (every two weeks, April through September)
- Vegetation management to support maintenance/view corridors
- Maintenance of aeration systems to support water quality
- Removal of noxious weeds in upland areas

Some community members have expressed concern about impacts to fish in the water. Recent observations indicate that the fish in the water appear to be illegally released pet goldfish. Goldfish are a non-native and invasive species in Colorado and their release into natural water bodies is prohibited.

Staff will continue to monitor conditions at the site.

Summer Pool Operations

BPR will make several adjustments to outdoor pool operations for the 2026 summer season. Scott Carpenter Pool will open on May 15 for lap swimming, with leisure pools and features opening May 23. To align staffing with demand (expressed through visitation), the outdoor lap pool season at Scott Carpenter is expected to end around September 20. Leisure pool operations will shift to weekends only after August 11 when students return to school. Spruce Pool will operate Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, with modified hours after school resumes.

These changes reflect a data-informed approach to outdoor aquatics, concentrating service during peak demand hours while reducing costs during historically low-attendance periods. These summer pool operations are designed to align operating hours with available budget while maximizing community access and overall usage. Users who relied on early morning or extended evening hours at Spruce Pool, or shoulder season access at Scott Carpenter, are encouraged to explore alternative options including BPR's indoor aquatic facilities. Staff will closely monitor attendance, pass usage, and community feedback throughout the season, and that information will directly inform operational planning for 2027.

D. Parks and Recreation Planning, Design and Construction Updates

The following information is intended to provide the PRAB with relevant updates on specific projects as they reach major milestones. This section is not all inclusive of all current projects and only illustrates major project updates. For a complete list of all current projects and details, please visit www.BoulderParkNews.org.

Overview of Major Projects

Staff continue to work on the following projects and will update the PRAB as major milestones are achieved, as outlined in Table 2:

Projects	Status	Next 2026 PRAB Milestone
System Planning		
Park System Plan Overview	Planning	October
Park & Facility Renovation Plans		
Boulder Junction Park	Design	Q4
Chautauqua Updates	Design	June
Civic Area Renovation and Renaming	Design	April
East Boulder Community Center Renovation	Design	Q3
North Boulder Park Renovation	Design	Q4
Pearl Street Renovation	Design	Q3
Primos Park: Opening a New Park	Design	September
Barker Park Renovation	Design	July
Park Asset Management		
Bill Bower Park: Interpretive Area	Completed	April
Boulder Reservoir: ADA Dock Replacement	Construction	Q3
East Boulder Community Park: Racket Courts	Design	Q3
Tom Watson: Pickleball Courts	Permitting	Q3
Valmont Park: Signs	Design	October

Table 2. Overview of Major Projects

Bill Bower Park Interpretive Area

The Bill Bower Park Interpretive Area is a donation-based project sponsored by the Admiral Arleigh Burke Chapter (AABC) of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). The project goal was to include an interpretive display to honor Bill Bower’s service as a World War II military hero and active community leader who lived in the upper Table Mesa neighborhood for many years. The interpretive sign and propeller blade sculpture shown below were installed the first week in April to complete the construction of the donated Bill Bower Interpretive Area. The donors with support from the Parks Construction Team installed the irrigation, planting beds, concrete flatwork, and interpretive feature footings this past fall. The donor, MOAA, will hold a private dedication on April 18. A family-friendly public celebration will be hosted by BPR in the summer, once the new vegetation beds shown below are established.



Photo 1 (left): Interpretive Sign and Sculpture at Bill Bower Park

Photo 2 (right): Vegetation beds as part of the Interpretive Area at Bill Bower

Harlow Platts Reflexology B(e)ar(e) Foot Path

At the March meeting, a member of the PRAB requested more information about a proposed walking path at Harlow Platts Park. This update provides a brief project overview and status update.

A local high school student proposed the idea of a reflexology path for Harlow Platts Park. Like the Bill Bower Park Interpretive Area, this project was initiated by a community member but is not identified in the six-year work plan. Community-initiated projects are strongly aligned with BPR's department plan, which encourages partnerships for park improvement, and guided by BPR's External Funding Strategy. Projects are considered for the community needs they could meet and are contingent on fundraising for the installation and long-term maintenance. A limited number of projects are advanced each year based on feasibility and staff capacity.

A donor interest form and donor worksheet have been completed by the applicant. The applicant is also working on a website, social media, statistics and case studies, a community flyer, petition, presentation and fundraising for the project. Additionally, the applicant has conducted several outreach efforts within her school and local community, including tabling at the SBRC Re-Opening celebration in (November 2025). The target audience for the path is all ages.

Staff are in the process of reviewing project feasibility, evaluating potential implementation sites and identifying a timeline for installation. Once a cost estimate and timeline have been determined, a donor agreement will be facilitated by the PLAY Boulder Foundation to ensure funding milestones are met before the project moves

forward. The PRAB and the community will be updated once a concept design has been confirmed.

The proposed project name B(e)ar(e) combines “Barefoot” and “Bear.” “Barefoot”: the activity itself. “Bear”: honors Boulder’s wild spirit and natural beauty. Photos 3 and 4 below show examples and potential benefits, as provided by the applicant.

Combined image: Example Reflexology Track next to a Diagram of the Benefits of Reflexology



Photo 3. Example reflexology track

Photo 4. Diagram showing benefits of reflexology

Courts Update

Tom Watson:

Updated site plans were submitted to the Planning and Development Services team for review by early May. If approved with this submission, the Tom Watson Courts Project will proceed to construction with an anticipated groundbreaking in late May.

In prioritizing delivery of the pickleball courts, staff are focused on constructing the 12 lighted pickleball courts, three court shelters, and the walkways immediately adjacent to the courts.

The estimated construction timeline is approximately five to six months, allowing for a November opening. The following Figure 1 shows the proposed site plan for Phase 1 improvements.

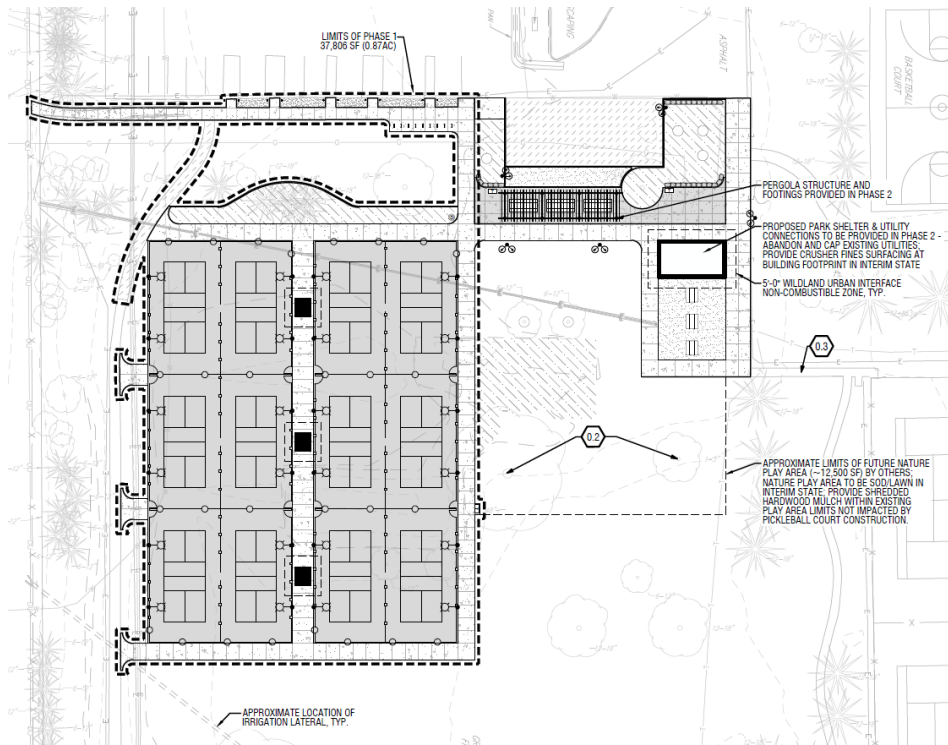


Figure 1: Site plan showing the updated limits for Phase 1 of the Tom Watson Courts Project including 12 pickleball courts and adjacent concrete walkways

The next phase of the park project will include additional amenities that support the park as a whole and the pickleball courts, including:

- Replacing the permanent restroom (the current facility is closed due to condition; in the meantime, the site will be supported with portable restrooms)
- Replacing the shelter attached to the permanent restroom with a Community Gathering & Food Truck Area
- Repaved and Expanded Parking
- Replacing the Play Area; current play area is 23 years old, and due to its poor condition, the playground requires high levels of maintenance to be safely used.³

East Boulder Community Park:

East Boulder Community Park (EBCP) currently has five courts. The three courts on the west side will be converted to six dedicated pickleball courts. The two existing courts on the east side will remain dedicated tennis courts. An additional eight outdoor tennis courts are planned for the southern portion of EBCP, the property formerly known as Hogan Pancost.

The southern portion of EBCP was acquired by the city in 2019 for stormwater and flood management, parkland, and open space purposes. The land was previously outside of city limits and needed to be annexed before courts could be built on a portion of it. The annexation process was approved with a unanimous vote by City Council at the public hearing on Feb. 19, 2026

Staff have received communication offering ideas from the community about a Botanic Garden and Indigenous Cultural Center at the recently annexed property. Staff will continue to engage with those interested and work to help structure these ideas into a proposal. If a proposal is submitted, it will be reviewed and considered through the department's partnership program for feasibility.

Staff continue to actively monitor the site's ecological conditions to support overall environmental well-being, with a focus on wetland health and wildlife activity. This includes professional groundwater monitoring and wildlife observations in 2026 to ensure this project balances the natural land and active recreation needs of our community's health and wellness.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the East Boulder Community Park Racket Courts project was posted in early April. A consultant is expected to be selected by mid-May. Staff are meeting with colleagues from Planning and Development Services (P&DS) through a pre-application process to discuss permitting requirements and opportunities for efficiency. More information on the project's construction schedule is available on the [City of Boulder project webpage](#).

Harlow Platts Park (SBRC):

The multi-use courts at the South Boulder Recreation Center are in poor condition. While the best long-term solution is to completely rebuild them with a post-tensioned concrete slab, that investment should wait until decisions are made about investments in the South Boulder Recreation Center. In the short-term, the city has identified funding to resurface the courts and is working to schedule repairs for 2026. Users will receive appropriate notice before work begins.

TO: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Alison Rhodes, Director of Parks and Recreation
Bryan Beary, Senior Manager, Community Building and Partnerships
Mark Davison, Senior Manager, Planning
Denise Dawson, Senior Manager, Urban Parks
Jackson Hite, Senior Manager, Business Services
Matt Gazdik, Acting Senior Manager, Recreation
Scott Schuttenberg, Deputy Director
Erynn Simone, Senior Manager, Regional Facilities

SUBJECT: Matters from the Department

DATE: April 27, 2026

A. Civic Area Design and Renaming Updates

The intent of this item is to update the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) on the project status and renaming progress. As the board has authority over naming parks, this is an opportunity to ensure understanding of the naming process.

QUESTIONS FOR PRAB

- Does PRAB have feedback or questions on the Renaming Process?
- Does PRAB have feedback or questions on the names that came out of this process?

Background

2022 BPR Department Plan: Key Themes Advanced:

- *Community Health and Wellness*
- *Youth Engagement and Activity*
- *Community Building*

The Civic Area Phase 2 Project builds on the [2015 Park Plan](#), continuing the transformation of this important public space into a vibrant hub of urban life, cultural events and natural connections - while honoring the full history of the area and serving the Boulder community. Investment in this key downtown space addresses some of the most dated and highly utilized infrastructure in Boulder's park system while also contributing to Boulder's economic vitality and quality of life. Approved by City Council with the 2024 budget and following a multi-year engagement and design process, the investments in the space include replacing dated park infrastructure, improving gathering areas and transportation connections, building a permanent nature play area, and festival street enhancements along 13th Street. Funded by the 2021 Community, Culture, Safety and Resilience (CCRS) tax, construction on these elements is anticipated to begin in 2027.

During the past two-and-a-half-year process, community input, along with city policy and research, resulted in a concept plan for the whole park. As shared with [PRAB \(starts on page 50\)](#) and City [Council](#) in Fall 2025 and given current funding that City Council has approved, Phase 2 improvements are focused within the Central Park area and include

park amenity improvements, festival street enhancements along 13th Street, multiuse connections, gathering areas and play elements just south of the Bandshell, as well as wayfinding and signage throughout the whole park (see Figures 2 and 3). These enhancements will help support bringing community back to this area, restore space activation and bring an overall sense of vibrancy back to the urban center of Boulder.

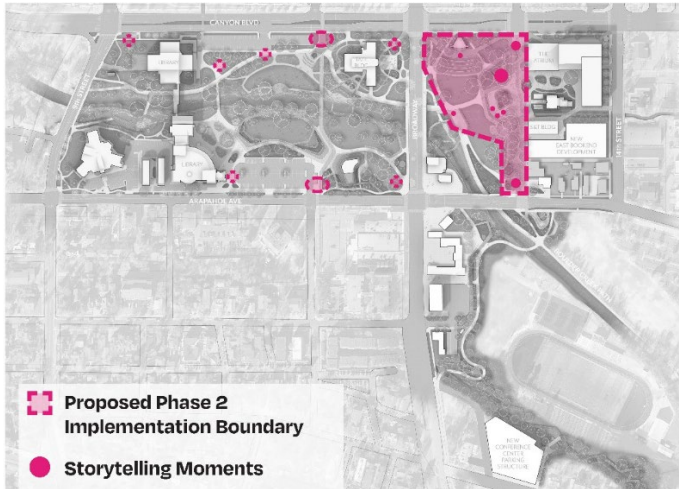


Figure 2: Phase 2 Funded Improvements: Map of the Boulder Civic Area showing the proposed Phase 2 implementation boundary highlighted in pink on the east side, with multiple pink areas marking “storytelling moments” and wayfinding elements distributed throughout the park.

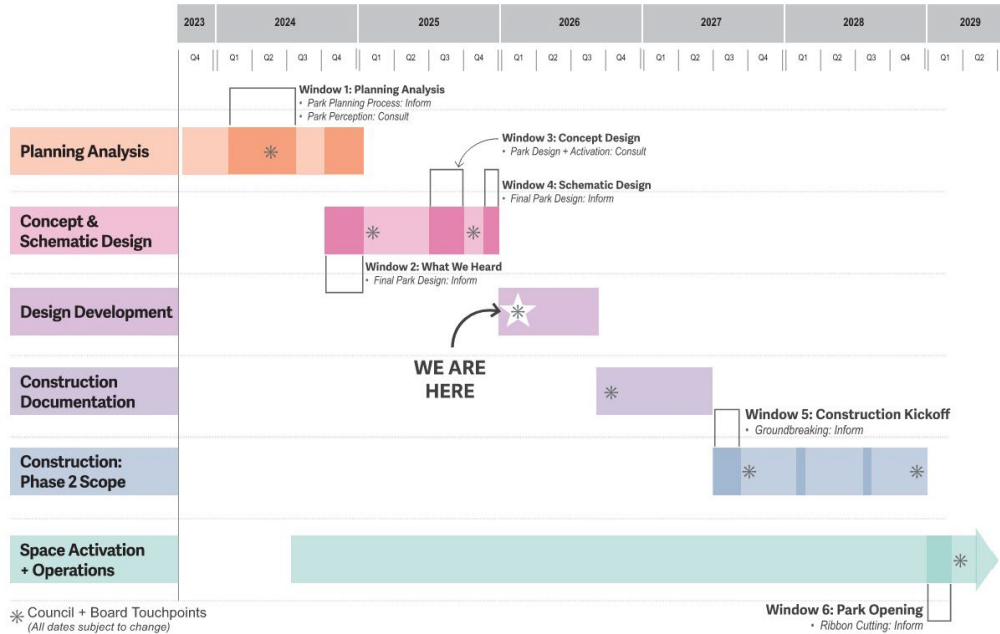


Figure 3: Final Schematic Design: Detailed site plan of the East End illustrating festival street, expanded flexible green space, gateway pavilions, water play area, nature discovery zone, and connections to surrounding streets and park features.

Figure 4: Project Schedule

Project Schedule

The project completed the concept & schematic design phase in 2025. Now it is entering into the Design Development phase in 2026, with construction anticipated to begin in mid 2027.



The project timeline in Figure 4 shows the work completed to date for Planning, Concept and Schematic Design. The project is now moving into the Design Development and Construction Documentation phase, with construction starting potentially in mid-2027. The City of Boulder is required to meet all regulatory codes that govern safety, land use and design standards – this task has been accounted for and is subject to change due to the complicated and technical nature of this project. Specifically, this project encompasses parkland that sits adjacent to Boulder Creek and within the High Hazard boundaries of Boulder’s floodplain, which requires very careful planning to ensure improvements do not create a flood rise or impede any potential floodwaters. In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) must be consulted for floodplain modifications, and this portion of the federal government is currently shut down. The team has estimated these processes to the best of their abilities.

Both through renaming and physical renovations, the city aims to create a more cohesive and vibrant park space in the heart of downtown where all community members feel welcome.

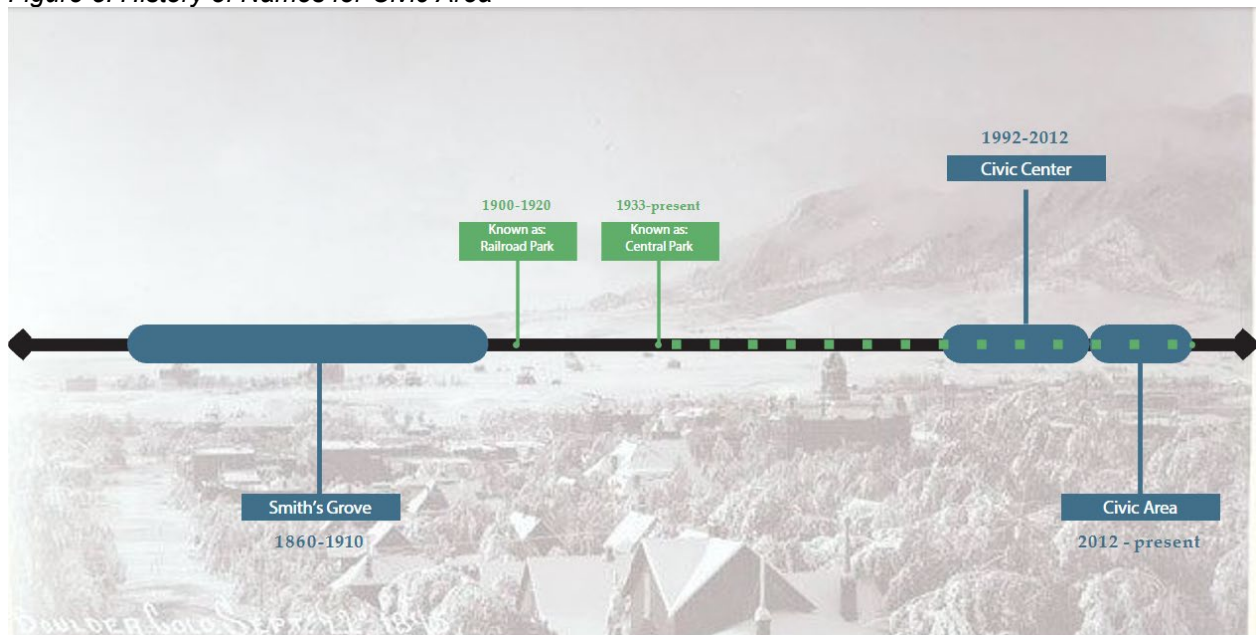
Mustard’s Last Stand: Recent media coverage has included some inaccurate information about the status of the city space that is leased to Mustard’s Last Stand. The impacts to Mustard's are the result of the building being in a high hazard floodplain, not a desire to redesign the park. The city has been talking publicly and with this business owner about safety concerns and the need to demolish the building for over a decade. The city has been talking publicly, and with this business owner, about safety concerns and the need to demolish the building for over a decade.

The city recognizes Mustard's Last Stand as a valued locally owned business. There may be alternatives for this business in the Civic Area. The city has communicated with the business owner about their space needs and has started to research alternative locations to propose. The city has a track record of helping displaced businesses find suitable location options, including some reasonable relocation cost assistance, as demonstrated by efforts related to the Hill hotel development project. As a next step, the Office of Cultural and Economic Development will convene a multi-departmental group of staff to discuss the situation and meet with the business owner.

Park Renaming: Phase 2 engagement revealed most community members do not use the term Civic Area and do not understand what space this name refers to or where it is in the city. Renaming the space gives the community a chance to find a name that best reflects the values and hopes for this park. This process will include keeping the names of designated historic landmarks. As shared in [the January 2026 PRAB packet \(starts on page 12\)](#) introducing this element of the project, the PRAB has authority over park naming as outlined in the Park Naming Policy.

Building off a [collaborative system-wide research project with the University of Colorado-Boulder History Department](#), city staff researched the history of names used for this area. Figure 5 shows the major known formal and informal names used for this space including: Smith's Grove, Railroad Park, Central Park, Civic Center and Civic Area. Since the city adopted the name Civic Area in 2012, the name has not been widely used by community members.

Figure 5: History of Names for Civic Area



As outlined in the January 2026 PRAB packet, the project team and Growing Up Boulder worked with teens through the Zonta Club at Boulder High School to brainstorm park name recommendations. The process builds on successes from the Primos Park project and highlights the city's commitment to being a [Child-Friendly City](#), one where young people's voices are elevated and reflected in local decision-making.

In February and March 2026, students participated in five collaborative and creative sessions to explore how the values and themes expressed in earlier engagement could be translated into names for the space. Themes included storytelling, arts and culture, important landmarks and nature. Many of these teens have participated in design feedback sessions during previous engagements and, with their school situated a short walk from the park, hold a deep understanding of the project and space. Zonta club members shared their experience working on the renaming process [in this video](#).

Ultimately, four name recommendations from the Boulder High teens were selected to move forward for community-wide voting. Several additional name suggestions emerged through earlier engagement and work with the University of Colorado Boulder's Department of Environmental Design. Community members can now weigh-in on their favorite names to replace "Civic Area". The eight name ideas are:

- Creekside Park
- Civic Soul Park
- Heart Park
- Sunset Plaza
- Peace Park
- Populus Park
- Boulder Central Park
- Boulder Creek Park

Community members can respond via [an online feedback form](#) or in person at BMOCA's Dia del niño event on Saturday, April 25, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Bandshell. Respondents can also suggest additional names. Following community responses, the project team will review the input on suggested names and any additional ideas received to inform a recommendation to PRAB for discussion in May and consideration of approval in June.

NEXT STEPS

The Civic Area Phase 2 improvements are now in the design phase. The PRAB's next expected update on the project is Spring 2027.

For park naming, community members can [weigh-in online](#) through May 4. The project team will bring a recommended name to PRAB as an Item for Discussion in May 2026. The PRAB will consider adopting a new name as an Action Item at the June 2026 meeting.

B. 2027 Budget Development Strategy; 2027 – 2032 Capital Investment Program

The purpose of this item is to orient the PRAB to Boulder Parks and Recreation funding, introduce the 2027 Budget Development Strategy and to initiate the first touch of the 2027 - 2032 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

PRAB's formal role for the budget development comes from the [City of Boulder Charter, Section 160](#), which describes the board's functions as:

(b) Shall make recommendations to the council concerning any expenditure or appropriation from the permanent park and recreation fund pursuant to [Section 161](#) of this charter

(d) Shall review the city manager's proposed annual budget as it relates to park and recreation matters and submit its recommendations concerning said budget to the council.

PRAB holds formal approval authority for expenditures from the Permanent Park and Recreation Fund and serves an advisory role in shaping Boulder Parks and Recreation's (BPR) annual operating budget. Staff will consult with PRAB through the budget development process with planned PRAB items in May, June, August, and September. At the September PRAB meeting, the PRAB will consider the City Manager's Recommended Budget, and staff will ask for the board to consider 3 motions:

1. Motion to recommend the 2027 City Manager's Recommended Budget for the Parks and Recreation Department of \$xx million
2. Motion to approve the 2027 recommended expenditures of \$x million from the Permanent Park and Recreation Fund to City Council for Appropriation
3. Motion to recommend the 2027 – 2032 Parks and Recreation Department Capital Improvement Program (CIP) of \$xx million to Planning Board and City Council for approval and adoption.

BACKGROUND

Each year, BPR staff develops the department budget based on direction from the City Manager's Office and the Finance Department. The budget is informed by several guiding documents, including the [Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan](#), [the city's 2024 – 2026 Strategic Plan](#), the [2022 BPR Department Plan](#), and other citywide policies such as Budgeting for Resilience and Equity. Ultimately, City Council is responsible for approving the budget in October at two public hearings.

As part of the 2027 budget development process, staff will continue to align with the city's [Long-Term Financial Strategy \(LTFS\)](#), which is focused on addressing structural funding gaps, refining fee structures, and identifying sustainable funding approaches over time. [Community engagement](#) associated with the LTFS called [Fund Our Future](#) wrapped up on April 19.

BPR's financial structure is supported by a diverse portfolio of funding sources, including dedicated sales and property taxes, user fees, and General Fund support. The history behind these funds and allowable uses is described on pages 46 and 47 of the [2022 BPR Department Plan](#). Understanding this range of funding streams is a key first step in developing the 2027 budget. The approved [2026 BPR Budget](#) is available in the city's online budget book, along with [BPR's Capital Improvement Program \(CIP\) for 2026–2031](#). For a summary of BPR's primary revenue sources and expenditures in 2026, please refer to **Attachment A: 2026 BPR Sources and Uses of Funds**.

General Fund: The city's General Fund is supported by fees, sales, property, and other taxes. General Fund dollars are allocated each year to city programs and projects by City Council through the annual budget process. BPR primarily uses its allocation to fund park and forestry operations and department administration. The General Fund also supports a subsidy to the Recreation Activity Fund.

Permanent Park and Recreation Fund: Funded by property taxes, the fund is dedicated to acquiring land and renovating or improving existing parks and recreational facilities. It may not be used to fund daily operations or routine maintenance. This fund is used primarily for the Capital Investment Program, and supports the operating budget for Planning, Design & Construction given the nature of this work is on renovating and improving parks and facilities.

Recreation Activity Fund (RAF): BPR manages the RAF as a social enterprise, with the goal of meeting cost recovery targets established in the 2023 BPR Fee Policy while maintaining broad and equitable community access. Any excess revenues are reinvested to support community benefit programs, including financial assistance for low-income residents, age-based discounts, and inclusive programming for individuals with disabilities.

Given its reliance on fee-based revenue, the fund requires close monitoring. In stronger financial years, surplus revenues are reinvested to expand access and community benefits; in weaker years, the .25 Cent Sales Tax Fund may provide subsidy support to help maintain service levels and affordability.

However, as sales tax revenues flatten, this subsidy creates a growing tradeoff between supporting recreation programs and investing in core system needs such as park operations, maintenance, and capital improvement projects. Balancing these competing priorities will be a key consideration in the 2027 budget development process.

.25 Cent Sales Tax Fund (.25ST): This voter-approved sales tax, renewed through 2035, supports the acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.

The fund is increasingly constrained, as sales tax revenues are flattening and not keeping pace with inflation. It provides both ongoing and contingency subsidies to the Recreation Activity Fund (RAF) to support community benefit programming and maintain financial stability. This support creates a key tradeoff: allocating .25 Cent Sales Tax Fund resources to sustain recreation programs reduces funding available for park operations, maintenance, and capital investment. Over time, this can contribute to deferred maintenance and increased long-term costs.

Lottery Fund: The Lottery Fund is a special revenue fund that accounts for state conservation trust fund monies allocated to local governments based on population. State conservation trust fund monies are dedicated to parks, recreation, and open space site maintenance and capital improvements. The city receives lottery money on an annual basis from the state and allocates money to the department based upon a percent allocation.

By law, 40% of all state lottery proceeds are directed to the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF). Local parks and recreation providers receive CTF funding proportionally, based on population, ensuring that every city, town, county, and special district across Colorado benefits. These funds must be used for purposes such as open space and land acquisition, equipment purchases, facility development, park maintenance, and renovation or restoration of local facilities.

Other Funds: The department receives additional funding on a limited basis from the Capital Development Fund, General Fund Capital, Boulder Junction Capital Improvement Fund and Community, Culture and Safety (CCS) capital improvement bond (2012 and 2017, which was reapproved by voters in 2021 as the Community, Culture, Resilience, and Safety tax (CCRS).

These funds are intended for one-time capital investments and should not be considered ongoing funds. The funding source for each of these varies. BPR only looks at what the citywide allocation is to BPR for distinct projects in the CIP.

Table 3 – Summary of BPR Funds, identifies for each of the funds whether the funds are restricted, how the funding mechanism was created, whether it supports capital or operating dollars, and who is responsible for revenue and expense development.

Fund	Restricted Use	Created By	Use	Budget Development	
				Revenue	Expense
General*	No	City Voters	Operating & CIP	Budget Office	BPR Staff
Permanent Park and Recreation	Yes	City Voters	CIP; minimal operating	Budget Office	BPR Staff
Recreation Activity	Quasi	City Council	Operating	BPR Staff	BPR Staff
.25 Cent Sales Tax*	Yes	City Voters	Operating & CIP	Budget Office & BPR Staff	BPR Staff
Lottery*	Yes	State Voters	CIP	Budget Office	BPR Staff
Capital Development*	Yes	City Council	CIP	Budget Office	BPR Staff
Boulder Junction Capital Improvement*	Yes	City Council	CIP	Budget Office	BPR Staff
Community, Culture, Resilience and Safety Tax*	Yes	City Voters	CIP	Budget Office	BPR Staff

Table 3 – Summary of BPR Funds

* Denotes funds that are shared across multiple budget programs. BPR develops and manages its portion of expenditures but must coordinate and balance funding decisions with broader citywide priorities through the help of Budget Office.

To submit a balanced budget, BPR must ensure that each fund remains financially sustainable, with expenditures being less than revenues over both the current year and a five-year planning horizon. While operating budgets are expected to balance annually, capital spending may exceed revenues in a given year due to the planned use of accumulated fund balances or prior year savings for major investments. Operating reserves are not intended to fund routine, ongoing expenses. Rather, they are maintained to address unexpected needs, manage revenue volatility, and ensure continuity of essential services during emergencies or economic downturns.

The Finance Department contracts with CU's Leeds School of Business for citywide revenue projections. Revenue projections in the RAF are developed in partnership with the Finance Department, informed by historical visitation and participation and planned charges for services. Expenditure assumptions are based on historical trends, inflation, and contractual obligations.

The 2027 budget development process is grounded in the priorities and recommendations outlined in the 2022 BPR Plan, particularly within the Financial Sustainability and Taking Care of What We Have themes. Staff are not seeking new policy direction through the 2027 budget development process. The 2022 BPR Plan provides clear and comprehensive guidance, informed by extensive community engagement and formally reviewed by both PRAB and City Council. Instead, the focus of the 2027 budget is on implementation and alignment with this adopted policy framework

Key strategies include:

- **Realign Existing Resources**
 - *Goal 3.1: Establish a transparent process for financial decisions to communicate to staff and the community.*
 - How: In a constrained revenue environment, prioritize the highest and best use of existing funds, which may require service reductions or reallocation.
- **Pursue Non-Traditional Funding**
 - Goal 1.1: Evaluate and pursue non-traditional funding sources.
 - How: Explore grants, partnerships, sponsorships, and other innovative funding sources to supplement limited revenues.
- **Prioritize Equitable Access**
 - *Goal 2.1: Employ equity-focused budgeting principles.*
 - How: Apply equity-based budgeting tools to ensure investments align with community needs and access goals.
- **Refine Fee Structure and Cost Recovery**
 - *Goal 2.5: Regularly assess total cost of services for budgeting and fee setting.*
 - *Goal 2.6: Track and compare annual cost recovery targets with actuals.*
 - How: Continue evaluating fees and cost recovery targets to align with service delivery costs and policy direction.
- **Advance Asset Management and Capital Planning**
 - *Goal 2.7: Collaborate with the Budget Office on capital funding strategies.*
 - *Taking Care of What We Have Goal 3: Budget for the operation, maintenance, and replacement of existing assets.*
 - How: Update and prioritize capital maintenance needs based on asset condition, replacement value, and long-term cost of ownership.

These strategies reflect a continued focus on financial sustainability, system stewardship, and equitable service delivery within the existing policy direction.

BPR Fee Policy Alignment

The 2027 budget development will also be guided by the **Attachment B – BPR Fee Policy**, approved by PRAB in July 2023 following extensive community engagement and PRAB review. The policy establishes a clear framework for pricing services based on the balance of community and individual benefit, with defined cost recovery targets. A

simplified version of the [Fee Policy](#) is also available on a dedicated webpage to promote transparency and public understanding for individuals and user groups.

Under this framework, services with broad community benefit are subsidized through public funding sources and services with primarily individual benefit are expected to recover the full cost of service through user fees. The policy also reinforces BPR's commitment to equitable access, including financial assistance, age-based discounts, and inclusive programming for individuals with disabilities and low-income residents.

Each year, BPR develops a comprehensive Fee Schedule outlining all service fees and charges. While PRAB provides input on proposed fees, the Fee Schedule is implemented administratively under City Manager Rule in accordance with [Boulder Revised Code 8-3-8 \(c\)](#) and does not require PRAB or City Council approval.

As part of the 2027 budget process, revenue projections and any proposed fee adjustments will align with the adopted Fee Policy. Staff will keep PRAB informed of impacts to cost recovery targets and access considerations throughout the process and will present proposed fee updates in August to provide transparency on pricing changes and their potential community impacts.

Capital Investment Program

The Capital Investment Program (CIP) is a six-year workplan that prioritizes capital projects exceeding \$50,000 for the acquisition, construction, and major replacement of BPR assets.

The CIP is primarily funded through the Permanent Park and Recreation Fund, the .25 Cent Sales Tax Fund, and the Lottery Fund. Additional, more limited funding sources, such as General Fund Capital, Community, Culture, Resilience and Safety Tax (CCRS), and voter-approved capital funds, are leveraged when available, though these are often limited in use and not solely controlled by BPR.

To strengthen near-term planning, BPR utilizes a Capital Investment Strategy (CIS), which identifies a focused two-year implementation plan within the broader six-year CIP. Informed by the 2022 BPR Plan, asset management data, and system and park planning efforts, the CIS defines priority projects with clear scope, schedule, cost estimates, and purpose.

Together, the CIP and CIS provide a framework for balancing immediate needs with long-term system investment, while aligning limited resources with adopted priorities.

Historically, the CIP has been organized into three categories: asset management, park renovations, and system planning. As part of the 2027–2032 CIP, staff are proposing refinements to improve clarity, alignment with asset management practices, and long-term planning.

CIP Maintenance Fund: Focuses on ongoing investment to “take care of what we have,” including both major (\$50,000+) and minor maintenance. Priorities are informed by the Asset Management Program, park management plans, and safety considerations.

Asset Management: Focuses on maintaining, enhancing, or replacing existing assets by category (e.g., courts, athletic fields, irrigation systems, parking lots, accessibility improvements, and playgrounds). Prioritization is data-driven, based on condition assessments and lifecycle needs, with courts being the most current priority and play areas identified as the next priority.

Park Zone Refreshes: Staff are proposing a new category that organizes capital planning by geographic zones, generally aligned with subcommunity areas. This approach is similar to practices used by Utilities and Transportation and Mobility, which allows BPR to plan and invest holistically across multiple parks within a zone on a rotating basis over a six-year horizon, recognizing how parks function as a connected system. Staff will continue with the prioritized park refreshes over the next few years, transitioning to this new approach in 2029 following the next department plan with identification of needs and prioritization within this plan.

System Planning: Provides a long-term, systemwide perspective (5+ years), informed by the 2022 BPR Plan, facility and park plans, and future system planning efforts. This category supports strategic decision-making on major assets and long-term investment needs.

[Figure 6 – Recommended CIP Workplan Categories](#) below highlights the four categories and provides a brief description of their purpose.

Recommended CIP Workplan Categories



Figure 6 – Recommended CIP Workplan Categories

The CIP implements the 2022 BPR Department Plan’s priorities for parks and facilities (see Figures 7 and 8). The department aims to complete all projects listed in the “fiscally constrained” category; however, it recognizes that economic changes since 2022 have made even some of those targets out of reach with current funding.

As additional one-time funding becomes available, such as CCRS funds for the East Boulder Community Center renovation and Civic Area Phase 2, BPR can pursue

“Action” and “Vision” level projects. While there is strong community interest in these higher-tier amenities, current funding limitations prevent widespread implementation.

PARKS			
PLAN ALTERNATIVES			
PROJECTS	FISCALLY CONSTRAINED	ACTION	VISION
Park Maintenance -BPR Asset Management Program	Maintain Well at FCI .07, Develop Violet Park	Enhance and add trending amenities	Full concept plan implementation for all planned parks
Playgrounds	1-2 Parks/Playgrounds per year refurbished (25-30 year)	Playground enhancement accelerated (20 year)	N/A
Restrooms - Pending LOS Evaluation	Maintain current LOS, transitioning to universal restrooms as facilities are built or replaced	Add more to appropriate parks, accelerate transition to universal restrooms	N/A
Valmont Park - 2015 Concept Plan	Phase 1 development of adventure and nature play elements	Phase II development, including disc golf, athletic fields	Full concept plan implementation, including infrastructure for community recreation facilities
Urban Canopy - Urban Forest Strategic Plan	Focus on health of current canopy through IPM, Tree Safety, EAB response, and public tree protection—Some canopy growth through tax investment, philanthropy and partnership	Improved rotation for street trees, increased planting to support 16% canopy cover by 2027. Carbon credits could create additional funding source.	Industry standard rotation for all public trees, sufficient planting to achieve urban canopy goals.
Civic Area	Activation w/ Operations Focus	Phase II development	N/A
Area III	Complete Baseline Urban Service Plan and develop concept plan, but nothing is developed	Build core elements	Full park development

Figure 7: Guidance for Park Investments from the 2022 BPR Department Plan

FACILITIES			
PLAN ALTERNATIVES			
PROJECTS	FISCALLY CONSTRAINED	ACTION	VISION
Athletic Fields - 2015 Athletic Field Study	Optimize usage through partnerships, maintenance and conversion to artificial turf	8th Field at Stazio, Redevelopment at Mapleton and Tom Watson to optimize usage	Build fields at Valmont City Park
Recreation Centers - 2022 Facility Needs Assessment	EBCC & NBRC - Maintain Well SBRC - Retire past useful life facility but not replace; citywide facility feasibility study for SOBO area facilities	Enhance Facilities	Modernize EBCC & NBRC; Design/Build South Boulder facility
Courts - Study pending	Maintain Well. Court study to identify LOS—Seek opportunities to maximize community benefit through Joint Use Agreements/ partnerships	Enhance for increased durability, some additional facilities	Additional new facilities may be developed
Aquatics -2015 Aquatics Feasibility Study	Maintain current service levels and pools	Enhance Spruce Pool	Build aquatic training facility at Valmont City Park
Reservoir -2018 South Shore Capital Strategy	Improve existing site connections and circulation	Additional shade structures and group picnic areas, children’s play and outdoor education	Marina facility includes meeting/event space, boat storage/maintenance facilities

Figure 8: Guidance for Facilities Investments from the 2022 BPR Department Plan

Rising construction costs and the aging condition of BPR assets continue to place significant pressure on limited capital resources. As a result, it is unlikely that all projects identified in the fiscally constrained category of the 2022 BPR Plan can be delivered without additional funding.

Staff are proactively communicating that some priorities may be delayed or remain unfunded. This approach aligns with the city's Long-Term Financial Strategy (LTFS), which is focused on developing more sustainable and transparent funding solutions for both current needs and long-term capital investment.

BPR continues to evaluate deferred maintenance and asset replacement needs, and the backlog of improvements remains significant. Current funding levels are not sufficient to maintain all assets in good condition, requiring staff to make strategic tradeoffs in project selection and timing.

To maximize impact of available resources, the department applies industry best practices, including:

- **Project prioritization:** Reducing the number of projects to focus on highest-impact investments
- **Value engineering:** Refining scope to align with available funding
- **Phasing:** Delivering projects in stages over time
- **Target budgeting:** Aligning project scope with realistic funding levels
- **Economies of scale:** Bundling projects to improve cost efficiency

These strategies are intended to maintain as much of the system as possible in acceptable condition while advancing priority investments within constrained resources.

PRAB Engagement:

PRAB plays an important advisory role throughout the budget development process, providing input at key decision points to ensure alignment with community priorities and the 2022 BPR Plan. The following outlines upcoming milestones and PRAB's role:

May 2026: Staff will share a routine consent item for an Adjustment to Base 1 related to grants, donations, and carryforward appropriations from the 2026 budget.

PRAB Role: No formal presentation will be given, and questions can be addressed as part of the consent agenda. Item is provided for informational awareness of additional 2026 revenues received since 2026 budget adoption.

June 2026: Staff will present the department's proposed budget as a Matters from the Department item, including revenue and expense projections, potential high level fee adjustments, and CIP projects. This reflects the preliminary department budget submitted for internal review by the Executive Budget Team (Finance Department, City Manager's Office, and cross-departmental leadership).

PRAB Role: Provide early advisory input on the proposed budget approach to priorities, including how the budget is balanced in alignment with citywide guidance and the 2022

BPR Plan. Input received will be shared with Executive Budget Team at budget review meetings.

August 2026: Staff will present current fees and proposed updates for 2027, including any significant changes and associated community impacts, in alignment with the 2023 BPR Fee Policy.

PRAB Role: Provide input on the proposed fee structure that revenues are based on.

September 2026: The City Manager's Recommended Budget will be released by August 31. Staff will present the recommended BPR budget for PRAB consideration.

PRAB Role: Provide a formal recommendation and action as part of the city's budget approval process. PRAB's input will be shared with City Council for consideration during public hearings in October.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PRAB:

- Does PRAB have any questions or guidance on its role in the 2027 budget development process?
- What additional data or information would help PRAB provide informed guidance throughout the budget process?

Attachments:

A: 2026 BPR Sources and Uses of Funds

B: BPR Fee Policy

Parks & Recreation 5 Main Funds - 2026 Approved - Sources: \$44.8 Million / Uses: \$44.4 Million

Main	1100 - General Fund	2110 - Lottery Fund	2180 - .25 Cent Sales Tax Fund	2300 - Recreation Activity Fund	3300 - Permanent Park & Recreation Fund	Other Capital Funds
Desc.	Governmental Fund accounts for the revenues and expenditures necessary to carry out basic governmental activities of the city which are not required to be accounted for in another fund.	Special Revenue Fund accounts for State Conservation Trust Fund proceeds to be utilized for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of new conservation sites or for capital improvements or maintenance for recreational purposes on any public site.	Special Revenue Fund accounts for earmarked sales tax authorized by the voters in 1995 for Parks & Recreation operating and capital needs.	Special Revenue/Quasi-Enterprise Fund to account for fees and services related to the provision of recreation, reservoir and golf course services/programs.	Capital Improvement Fund accounts for dedicated property tax for the acquisition of park land or permanent improvements of park and recreation facilities.	Other Capital Improvement Funds account for the permanent improvements of park and recreation facilities.
Summary of Sources of Funds	<p>General Fund \$6,489,602 100%</p>	<p>Colorado Lottery Fund \$1,500,000 100%</p>	<p>Interest \$304,366 2% Valmont City Park \$80,000 1% Sales and Use Tax \$11,569,978...</p>	<p>Golf \$2,361,914 15% Reservoir \$1,665,000 11% Transfers - General Fund Subsidy \$1,377,713 9% Other Transfers \$2,122,551 14% Other Revenues \$141,442 3% Recreation Facilities \$4,669,242 30% Recreation Services \$2,995,720 19% Access & Inclusion \$225,000 1%</p>	<p>Property Tax \$4,570,000 96% Interest \$188,732 <1%</p>	<p>CCRS \$4,500,000 100% Bldr Junction \$0 0% CDET \$0 0%</p>
	\$6,489,602	\$1,500,000	\$11,954,344	\$15,558,582	\$4,758,732	\$4,500,000
	<p>City wide fund comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sales Tax • Property Tax • Fees • Other taxes (accommodations, admission, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of Colorado distributes revenue to entities on a per capita basis • Parks & Recreation receives a portion of the City of Boulder's annual contribution. Remainder shared with Open Space & Mountain Parks and Greenways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund specific to Parks & Recreation • Approved by voters in 1995 for a 20 year period was extended by voters with an approval of 85% through 2035. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund specific to Parks & Recreation • Grants/donations, user and participation fees • Subsidy transfer provided by the General Fund and .25 Cent Sales Tax Fund for community benefit programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund specific to Parks & Recreation • The City of Boulder receives \$.14 of every property tax \$ collected in City of Boulder. Out of the \$.14, Parks & Recreation receives \$.01 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Parks & Recreation CIP • Parks & Recreation receives a portion of the City of Boulder's annual contribution based on approved CIP for one-time projects.
Summary of Uses of Funds	<p>Natural Resources, ... \$1,228,261 17% Dept Admin \$1,085,578 17% Planning & Construction \$47,614 1% Park Operations \$3,903,502 60%</p>	<p>CIP \$1,500,000 100%</p>	<p>Volunteer Svc & Partnership \$660,263 5% Valmont City Park \$557,303 5% R&R \$250,000 2% CIP \$535,000 4% Planning & Construction \$793,076 7% Admin Allocation & Transfers \$3,778,573... Dept Admin \$1,228,261... Park Operations \$2,810,240 23% Natural Resources \$1,604,479 13%</p>	<p>Access & Inclusion \$1,162,498 7% Golf \$2,166,317 14% Reservoir \$1,397,102 9% Facility Operations \$127,947 <1% Recreation Services \$2,785,972 18% Recreation Facilities \$7,824,533 51%</p>	<p>R&R \$151,604 4% CIP, \$1,925,000 46% Park Operations \$128,438 3% Planning & Construction \$1,578,746 37% Admin Allocation & Transfers \$437,346 10%</p>	<p>CDET \$0 0% Bldr Junction \$0 0% CCRS \$4,500,000 100%</p>
	\$6,489,602	\$1,500,000	\$12,217,202	\$15,464,369	\$4,221,134	\$4,500,000
	<p>Operations and Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Park Maintenance & Management • Playground and Shelter Maintenance • Horticulture, Turf and Irrigation Maintenance • Pearl St. Mall and Boulder Creek Path • Trash and Snow Removal • Forestry • Urban Ranger Program • Historic Assets <p>Administrative Support Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of the Director • Business and Financial Management • PRAB Support 	<p>Capital Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIP Maintenance • Park Zone Refresh & Asset Management Cat. • System Planning 	<p>Operations and Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Park Maintenance & Mgmt. • Horticulture, Turf and Irrigation Maint. • Forestry • Natural Lands <p>Regional Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valmont City Park <p>Administrative Support Services</p> <p>Volunteer Services & Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Events • Community Outreach & Volunteerism <p>Renovation and Refurbishment</p> <p>Capital Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIP Maintenance • Park Zone Refresh & Asset Management Cat. • System Planning <p>Cost Allocation</p>	<p>Recreation Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East, North & South Recreation Centers • Aquatics (Indoor & Outdoor Pools) • Health & Wellness <p>Recreation Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admin Support & Marketing • Gymnastics • Camps • Sports and Sports Turf (Ballfield Maintenance) • Contracted programs <p>Regional Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boulder Reservoir • Flatirons Golf Course <p>Access & Inclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Therapeutic Recreation (EXPAND) • Youth Services Initiative 	<p>Acquisition and Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of Park Land • Planning • Park Development/Construction <p>Renovation and Refurbishment</p> <p>Capital Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIP Maintenance • Park Zone Refresh & Asset Management Cat. • System Planning <p>Cost Allocation</p>	<p>2026 Funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community, Culture, Resilience, and Safety Tax - Civic Area Phase II, Pearl Street Mall Refresh <p>2025 Carryforward Funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boulder Junction - Pocket Park • Capital Development Fund - Primos Park
Restrictions	The General Fund allocation supports basic functions of Parks and Recreation. Note: The General Fund Subsidy allocation dedicated for Recreation is provided through an annual transfer to the Recreation Activity Fund.	Funding can be used to acquire, develop, or maintain conservation areas, as well as for capital improvements and maintenance of public recreation sites.	Supports park maintenance, facility and park renovations, and maintenance of recreation facilities. Also provides a subsidy to the Recreation Activity Fund to support community access and benefit programs.	The department manages its expenses and receives revenue from grants, donations, and user fees for recreation, reservoir, and golf services. It also relies on support from the General Fund and the .25 Cent Sales Tax Fund to provide community benefit programs.	Appropriations of the fund must be approved by the PRAB. The fund shall not be used for any purpose other than for the acquisition of park land or permanent improvements of park and recreation facilities.	Funds can only be used for approved projects; and have certain restrictions based on the funding sources.



City of Boulder Parks & Recreation

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Policy Title	Boulder Parks & Recreation Fee Policy
Administrative Policy Number	05-02
Effective Date	July 24, 2023
Last Amended	N/A
Review Cycle	Every 2 years
Inactive/Repealed	N/A
Primary Audience	BPR Staff and Supervisors with Fee Based programs
Policy Sponsor	Jackson Hite, Parks and Recreation Sr. Manager – Business Services
Director Approval	Alison Rhodes, Parks and Recreation Director
Related Policies	
Included Procedures, Workflows, or other materials	

I. Purpose of Policy:

The purpose of the fee policy is to establish clear and consistent guidance for how fees are set and subsidies are awarded. In establishing a fee policy, BPR intends to create a standard approach for all fees collected, develop transparent fee categories and definitions of the types of access or programs which are subject to various fees, and create clear cost recovery targets. The Fee Policy should be applied equitably to all programs, with an understanding that additional support may be provided based on General Fund Subsidy as called for in the 2022 Parks and Recreation Plan. In determining the subsidy levels, BPR will provide subsidies based on the level of funding available and the level of community benefit each program provides.

II. Background:

The City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department promotes the health and well-being of the entire Boulder community by collaboratively providing high quality parks, facilities and programs.

BPR operates from five primary funds. These funds are the Recreational Activity Fund (RAF), .25 Cent Sales Tax Fund (.25ST), General Fund, Permanent Park and Recreation Fund, and Lottery Fund.

Recreation Activity Fund: A special revenue/quasi-enterprise fund that is specific to the Parks and Recreation Department. The fund is the primary funding mechanism used to support recreation centers and facilities and subsidize fees for services related to the provision of recreation, reservoir and golf course services/programs that do not cover all their direct costs. This fund is supported through user and participation fees, grants and donations, and an annual subsidy transfer from the General Fund.

.25 Cent Sales Tax Fund: A special revenue fund that is specific to the Parks and Recreation Department. The fund is primarily supported through a designated sales tax that was approved by voters in 1995. In 2013 voters renewed the sales tax through 2035, with 85% of votes supporting the tax. The fund supports multiple aspects of the department, including operations



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and maintenance, administrative support services, renovation and refurbishment, and capital improvements.

General Fund: The city's largest fund that serves as the primary funding source for most governmental services. BPR uses its portion for park operations, forestry and department administration. The general fund is mostly supported through a blend of taxes, permits, fees, and intergovernmental transfers. As a result of the fund's heavy reliance on tax revenue and pressure from other departments, the fund's revenues, and ability to contribute to the department's budget can fluctuate, although it has been relatively stable over the years.

Permanent Park and Recreation Fund: A fund specific to the Parks and Recreation department, this source of funding is permanent according to the City of Boulder's charter and is supported through earmarked property taxes, with the Parks and Recreation Department receiving \$0.01 for every dollar of property tax collected by Boulder County. These funds are limited to the acquisition or permanent improvement of parkland, renovations, and refurbishment of recreation facilities, and is a source of funds for capital improvements.

Lottery Fund: A special revenue fund that accounts for State Conversation Trust proceeds that are distributed to municipalities on a per capita basis. Money from the Lottery Fund must be used only for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of new conservation sites or for capital improvements or maintenance for recreational purposes on any public site.

III. Definitions:

Residency:

Resident: any individual who lives at an address located within the City of Boulder service area.

Non-Resident: any individual who lives outside of the City of Boulder.

Resident/Worker: individuals who live or work in the City of Boulder are eligible for Resident/Worker rates for facility entry. Resident or non-resident status applies for all other types of programs.

Age Based Fee Groupings:

Youth: participants between 3 and 18 years old.

Adult: participants between 19 and 59 years old.

Senior: participants who are over the age of 60.

Household: any adults, seniors or youth residing at the same address. Proof of address is required and no more than 8 members aged 19 or older.

Costing Definitions:



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Cost Recovery: the collection of revenue to pay for the direct and/or indirect costs of providing a service or program. The level of cost recovery will vary based upon the service, type of program, program category benefit level, targeted skill level, market costs and other factors.

Direct Costs: The costs directly related or attributed to providing a specific service. Direct costs include staff time, materials and supplies directly related to providing the service.

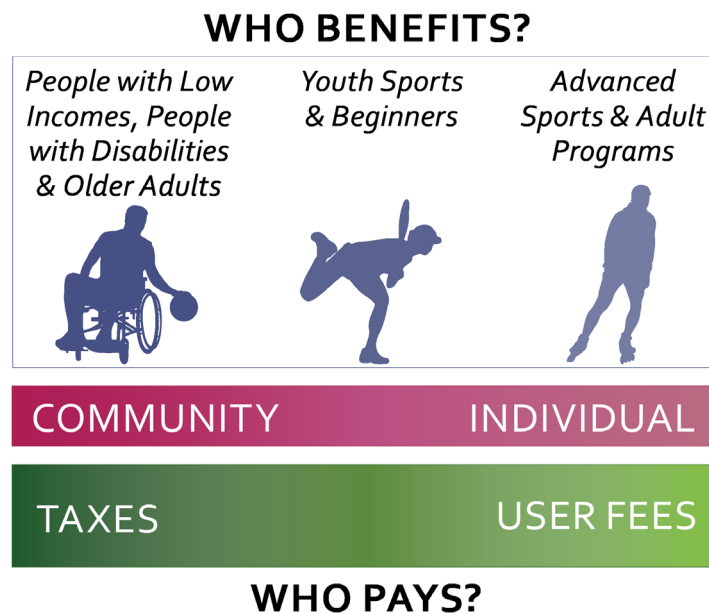
Indirect Costs: Costs incurred across the department that are not directly attributed to a specific service but benefits the department as a whole. Indirect costs typically include marketing expenses, software, utilities, space allocation, and management staff that support a variety of services or programs.

Market Analysis: A point-in-time analysis or survey of prices charged by other agencies, public and private for a similar service. Market Analysis is typically limited to benchmark communities, local private business and non-profit organizations.

Subsidy: Funding provided by the city to offset the costs of a service to support a higher level of community benefit. Based upon community input, subsidies are typically awarded to programs that support low-income residents, people with disabilities, older adults and youth.

Discounts: Discounts may be provided associated with marketing and/or volume-based discounting to provide benefits to participants who are regularly using a service or program.

Program Benefit Categories:





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Community: Services that enhance the health, safety and livability of the community and therefore require minimal obstacles to participation.

Recreation: Services that benefit a broad range of users and are targeted to promote physical and mental well-being.

Individual: Services targeted to specific individuals or user groups with limited community benefit.

IV. Policy:

The Department of Parks and Recreation's Fee Policy represents a standardized approach to program categorization and definitions, while aligning a clear subsidy level based on the level of community benefit provided. Fees are an efficient and equitable way to distribute the costs associated with providing services that exceed the ability of the tax base to support the costs. This comprehensive policy will promote community understanding with clear fee practices and financial sustainability. This Fee Policy was developed through the documentation of previous policy guidance from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, includes guidance received from the 2022 Parks and Recreation Plan, along with significant input from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Community Connectors in Residence and City Council. This Fee Policy identifies and informs the program types and a consistent method to assign services to those types and includes the appropriate benefit level of subsidy and cost recovery target that should be achieved. Tax subsidy provided each year from the General Fund and/or other sources such as .25 Cent Sales Tax Fund should be allocated in a way that supports the cost recovery targets based on available funding, which then directs the corresponding pricing strategy each year.

The concept of cost recovery involves setting fees based on the total cost of providing the service and factors in the program category benefit level so that the total funding received (Taxes and User Fees) equals the total cost of providing a particular service. This is critical to the financial sustainability of public parks and recreation.

V. Procedure:

The department will review fees and charges for all programs and services along with cost recovery performance at least every two years as part of the annual citywide budget development process. Once the cost to provide services is analyzed, each service area will review cost recovery performance compared to stated goals within the Fee Policy. Total cost of service as well as the department's Service Delivery Model, market analysis, and feedback from staff and participants, will inform any recommendations to the Department Director to update fees.

The Department's pricing strategy is based on several considerations:

- Level of Community Benefit
- Supply and Demand
- Market Comparisons
- Residency/Non-residency priority



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- Age-based prioritization with an emphasis on youth and seniors
- Accessibility and health promotion
- Value of Program (availability of alternative providers, quality of program)
- Cost recovery philosophy
- Availability of subsidy to support age-based discount, community benefit recreation and financial aid.

Each activity will be sorted into a program type. Each program type will have a minimum cost recovery rate and a target cost recovery rate. Programs that are being introduced will likely be at the minimum cost recovery rate; over the lifecycle of the program, the goal will be to achieve the target cost recovery rate. While setting rates, staff must evaluate market rates and demand for the activity to determine price sensitivity for any proposed price adjustments. If the price is too high and/or there is little demand for the program, staff must consider the feasibility of reducing costs, reducing fees or propose the elimination of the program. To minimize impacts to participants, fee increases may be limited to 10% in a year for any community or recreation level programs. Fee increases may be phased in over a 2-to-3-year period to minimize impacts to participants.

When establishing fees, BPR will support fees that the market will bear, even if this exceeds the cost recovery targets. Additionally, BPR will not undercut the market as it is not a good use of subsidy and jeopardizes the overall health of the market. Programs with high demand should also evaluate fee increases to improve cost recovery. Both tactics will allow the department to reinvest in other program areas with lower cost-recovery goals, in turn allowing the department to reduce the reliance on tax subsidy and reinvest in priority programs. During future updates to the Fee Policy, BPR will adjust the cost recovery targets accordingly based on actual performance.

To ensure there is equitable access for populations the community has prioritized, the department will continue to subsidize access for low-income individuals, people with disabilities, youth and seniors. The department is committed to maintaining financial aid programs to qualifying Boulder residents, providing subsidized access to facilities and programs, as funding allows.

All fee updates will be reviewed annually by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and for consideration by City Council with the adoption of the operating budget each year. The City Manager shall give notice regarding changes in fees by filing a schedule of fees with the City Clerk and displaying the changed fees on the City's website. Increases shall not take effect until at least two weeks have passed since notice was given. Fees shall be in effect as of the effective date specified in the schedule.

Fees may be temporarily discounted or reduced through special promotional pricing as warranted. The City Manager may reduce fees from time to time as market conditions warrant, and may also raise them again, so long as the fee never exceeds that specified in the fee schedule.



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Below are the program types with associated category benefit level and cost recovery target goals, definitions and examples of activities. These are examples of various types: they are not all-inclusive lists and program offerings change over time.

Program Type	Program Category Benefit Level	Cost Recovery	Program Definition	Examples of Services Included
Open Access	Community	0%	Access to parks, park amenities, pathways and natural areas. Open access allows for self-directed activity and does not include supervision or oversight by staff.	Pocket, neighborhood, and community parks, skateparks, playgrounds, multi-use paths, non-reserved outdoor courts, dog-parks
Grants, Philanthropy & Donations	Community		Grants, philanthropy and donations which further the mission of the department by providing outside funding for a specific focus which increases access and/or removes barriers to participation	Health Equity Funds, Grants, Memorial Benches, Tree Donations, Project Specific Donations
Special Events	Community	10%+	Large-scale events that appeal to a broad portion of the community.	Snow Much Fun, Holiday Lights
	Recreation	70%+	Large-scale events produced by the department and/or city intended for a specific demographic within the community.	Drive-in movies, Sweetheart Dances, Halloween Carnival
	Individual	100%+	Large-scale events with pre-registration required for a niche market or specific interest. Typically provided by non-department organization	Organized races
Recreation Services	Community	50%+	Foundational classes, leagues and workshops which include instruction	Facility childcare, beginner level sports, fitness orientations,



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			and the primary goal of introducing participants to basic skills at a “learn to” level; programs which facilitate access to other program types	EXPAND programs, Youth Services Initiative (YSI), aquatics clinics
	Recreation	70%+	Classes, leagues, clinics and workshops with instruction provided at an intermediate level	Intermediate level sports, enrichment classes, youth sport leagues, camps
	Individual	100%+	Classes, leagues, clinics and workshops with instruction provided at an advanced level of training and development; private or semi-private setting to meet unique needs of an individual or small group	Advanced level sports, specialty fitness, adult sports leagues, competitive team events, boating
Facility Entry	Recreation	90%+	Access to recreation centers, indoor & outdoor pools, outdoor swim beaches and passive recreation at Boulder Reservoir where monitored access is provided for self-directed activity with general supervision and oversight provided by department staff	Facility admission, drop-in classes, swim beach, passive recreation at Boulder Reservoir
Resale Items	Individual	100%+	Consumable and non-consumable goods available for purchase	Swim diapers, locks, food or concessions, clothing, pro-shop items
Contracted Programming	Individual	100%+	Registered programs offered by a non-city/department agency that operate under a revenue share/profit split	Specialty summer camps, Tennis lessons
Golf Course	Individual	100%+	Utilization of golf course and related amenities	Driving range, rounds of golf, cart rentals, tournaments
Rentals	Individual	100%+	Space, facility, equipment, park and shelter reservations for a	Field rentals, court rentals, facility rentals, shelter rentals, lane rentals,



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			use by an individual, group or organization.	private access rentals
Commercial Use	Individual	100%+	Fee based instruction, education, care or supervision on park land provided by an individual, group or organization.	Yoga in a park, summer camps or nature programs held exclusively at a park.

Attachments:

- Attachment A – Parks and Recreation Department Fee Schedule



Boulder Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

TO: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

SUBJECT: Matters from the Board

DATE: April 27, 2026

A. PRAB Handbook Public Comment Amendment

In accordance with the [Parks and Recreation Advisory Board \(PRAB\) Handbook](#), any recommended revisions to the PRAB Handbook must be provided in writing to both PRAB and the City Attorney's Office at least 15 days before the meeting at which a vote may be taken. PRAB will be asked to vote on the proposed revisions at the May meeting. If the changes are approved, the updated handbook language will take effect beginning with the June meeting. The current language and the proposed updated language are included below for reference.

Section F. Public Comment Current Language:

Public comment allows members of the public to speak to the board on matters that concern BPR or PRAB business not otherwise scheduled for a hearing in the agenda. Instructions for public comment are provided on the PRAB's web page, which is managed by the City of Boulder. **Speakers must sign up to speak to the board by a certain time before the meeting.**

The PRAB may, by majority vote, allow members of the public to speak to the PRAB at a meeting even if the speaker failed to follow the instructions for public comment. It has been the practice of the PRAB to allow speakers to address the board even if they fail to follow those instructions unless the speaker has repeatedly failed to follow such instructions.

Following public comment, the chair shall ask for and allow discussion from the board on any matters raised during public comment. Any member of the PRAB may also ask that BPR staff address a specific issue raised during public comment. The chair may also, at his or her discretion, ask that a representative of the Department, usually the Director, to follow up with a specific speaker or speakers concerning matters raised during public comment.

Proposed Updated Language (changes noted in bold):

Public comment allows members of the public to speak to the board on matters that concern BPR or PRAB business not otherwise scheduled for a hearing in the agenda. Instructions for public comment are provided on the PRAB's web page, which is managed by the City of Boulder. **Members of the public may sign up to speak either in advance or during the public comment portion of the meeting. Each speaker is allotted two minutes to address the board, and there is no overall time limit for the public comment period.**

The PRAB may, by majority vote, allow members of the public to speak to the PRAB at a meeting even if the speaker failed to follow the instructions for public comment. It has been the practice of the PRAB to allow speakers to address the board even if they fail to follow those instructions unless the speaker has repeatedly failed to follow such instructions.

Following public comment, the chair shall ask for and allow discussion from the board on any matters raised during public comment. Any member of the PRAB may also ask that BPR staff address a specific issue raised during public comment. The chair may also, at his or her discretion, ask that a representative of the Department, usually the Director, to follow up with a specific speaker or speakers concerning matters raised during public comment.

Additional Public Comment Procedure Updates

In addition to the handbook amendment, staff will implement two operational updates in June to align more closely with City Council's public comment practices and improve clarity for community members. Advance sign-up will close at 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting instead of 4 p.m. to allow staff adequate preparation time – this is important to support hybrid public participation where people engage both in person and virtually. Advance sign-up will also shift from email to a Formstack online form, mirroring City Council's process and providing clearer instructions and consistency for community members and more reliable access for staff. These operational updates do not require a handbook amendment and are provided for PRAB's awareness. All updates, including the handbook revision and these operational changes, will take effect beginning with the June meeting.

B. PRAB Matters (Verbal)