

SKATE PARK IMPROVEMENTS AND PUMP TRACK PROJECT

PHASE 1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

DECEMBER 5 - 19, 2019



CITY OF BOULDER
PARKS AND RECREATION
JANUARY 23, 2020



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INTRODUCTION

This is a summary of the first round of community engagement for the Skatepark Improvements and Pump Track Project at Scott Carpenter Skate Park (aka Boulder Skate Park) and Valmont City Park. Understanding that existing skate and bike facilities in Boulder don't meet the recent trends and demands for skaters and riders within the community, staff initiated this project in Fall 2019 with a goal to create flexible and multi-use features that accommodate a variety of skill levels and abilities while also ensuring innovative design ideas that provide features that aren't available in nearby parks.

Through the first phase of engagement, staff shared a foundation of information and presented options with the intention of involving the community early in the decision-making and design process of the new and renovated amenities at Scott Carpenter Park and Valmont City Park. Several stakeholder groups, a community meeting and digital outreach targeted to younger community members demonstrate the outreach effort in the first round of engagement. The first phase of engagement occurred from December 5- 19, 2019. A second round of community engagement will follow to share the draft design of a preferred concept plan with the intention of consulting with the community to ensure the community voice was heard and represented.

OUTREACH

Many non-profit and private partners were utilized to organize outreach. These partners helped identify known needs and issues in Boulder's Skatepark and Pump Track communities, as well as assisted in identifying and contacting members of the community that staff were unable to reach.

Partners included:

- Raul Pinto, Satellite Boardshop and Green Block DIY
- Square State Skate
- 303 Boards
- Avid for Adventure
- 303 Dirt
- Boulder Mountainbike Alliance
- Boulder Junior Cycling
- The Fix
- PLAY Boulder Foundation
- Cripsin Porter & Bogusky
- Null Skateboards
- Coda Skateboards
- And more

Skatepark and Pump Track Public Meeting



Discuss improvements to Boulder Skate Park at Scott Carpenter Park and a new skate park addition and pump track at Valmont City Park

**Thursday, December 5
5:30-7 p.m.
5050 Pearl St, Boulder**

boulderparknews.org

MEETINGS

On Thursday, December 5th, multiple meetings were held to work with targeted groups. These meetings were facilitated by staff and two expert contractors, Velosolutions and Evergreen Skateparks, and were intended to discuss the project in detail as well as receive feedback regarding:

- Funding Distribution
 - Should we limit or increase funding for Scott Carpenter Skate Park (aka Boulder Skate Park) or Valmont City Park?
 - What activities should be prioritized over others? (such as improving Boulder Skate Park or building a new skate park at Valmont City Park)
- Needs
 - What groups are underserved? (such as beginner options for new skaters)
 - What styles or features are not currently provided in Boulder?
- Design
 - What styles or features are preferred or most reasonable?
 - What concerns should we be aware of when designing Valmont City Park improvements around a new pump track or skate park? (such as walkways to the Valmont Dog Park or popular meeting spots for groups)

A meeting was first held with Parks and Recreation (PR) staff that work with Scott Carpenter or Valmont City Park, as well as relevant user groups, to identify needs from this project. Staff discussed known constraints on the sites or common requests and concerns heard from the communities they work with.

Two separate stakeholder meetings – one with pump track stakeholders and one with skatepark stakeholders – were conducted to hear known needs and issues from partners and stakeholders that work closely with their specific communities. Those that attended included private shops or venues that cater to skating or biking specifically, as well as organizations or individuals that work with youth or adult skaters or bikers. Roughly five stakeholders within the Boulder biking community and 15 members of the skating community attended each respective meeting.

In the evening a public meeting was held to present the project to community members and to receive preferences and ideas regarding funding allocation and park designs. At least 39 community members attended the meeting, where they were able to meet with both the pump track and skatepark contractor teams to ask questions, express preferences, and provide other feedback. A large dry-erase board was available in the center of the room for attendees to write comments (an image of the board from the end of the meeting is provided on page 17), and comment cards and paper surveys were available to provide individual feedback for more targeted questions. A digital version of the paper survey was available online from December 6th to December 19th. A summary of the survey comments is provided in the Community Survey section of this document.

COMMON THEMES

Between the stakeholder meetings, survey responses and other commenting sources, common ideas we heard the most were:

- Boulder Skate Park needs some repair, but a new skate park would be preferred.
- Both Boulder Skate Park and Valmont City Park (specifically Green Block) needs lighting.
- Safe places to learn biking and skating skills are needed.
- More “pocket parks” distributed throughout the city is desired, and the Green Block’s “DIY” style could serve as a model.
- The proximity of the skateboards and bikes to the Valmont Dog Park entrances needs to be considered carefully – dogs are usually uncomfortable being too close to boards or bikes.

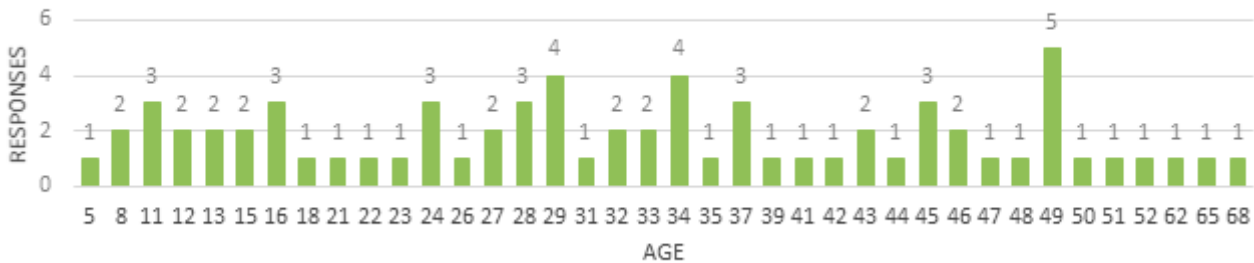
COMMUNITY SURVEY

62 Total Survey Responses (Paper and Electronic)

The survey was available in paper version at the December 5th meeting, and then an electronic version was made available online from December 6 to 19, which was accessible via the project website or direct link. The results from both paper and electronic version were combined and are summarized below. Some questions may have more than 62 responses due to multiple answers from individuals. Open-ended questions and write-in responses are provided as written. A copy of the paper survey, which contains the same questions as the electronic survey, can be found at the end of this report.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

Age:









I Live:

Value		Percent	Responses
in Boulder	<div><div></div></div>	75.4%	52
in a surrounding area (Louisville, Longmont, etc)	<div><div></div></div>	18.8%	13
outside the Boulder area	<div><div></div></div>	5.8%	4
Totals: 69			

EXPERIENCE AND OTHER GENERAL QUESTIONS








I prefer to ride: (check all that apply to you)

Value		Percent	Responses
a skateboard		55.1%	38
a scooter		5.8%	4
BMX		34.8%	24
I only watch others		11.6%	8
I want to learn, but don't board/ride yet		2.9%	2
Other - Write In		23.2%	16

"Other – Write In" Responses:

- Mountain Bike
- Mountain bike
- dirt jumper
- DJ Bike
- Dirt jumper
- Kids scooter and bmx
- Watch my 2 kids aswell
- Dirt Jumper
- bikes
- mountain bike
- mountain bike, but will use the pump track w/ my son
- mountain bike, dirt jumper
- mt bike
- my kids skateboard/bike
- roller skate
- walk

If you do not currently board/ride but want to, what has stopped you from learning?

Value		Percent	Responses
The parks are too far away		22.2%	4
Not sure where to start		11.1%	2
Need lessons		11.1%	2
Intimidated by parks/others		11.1%	2
Not enough time/too busy		11.1%	2
Injury/Illness		11.1%	2
Other - Write In		38.9%	7

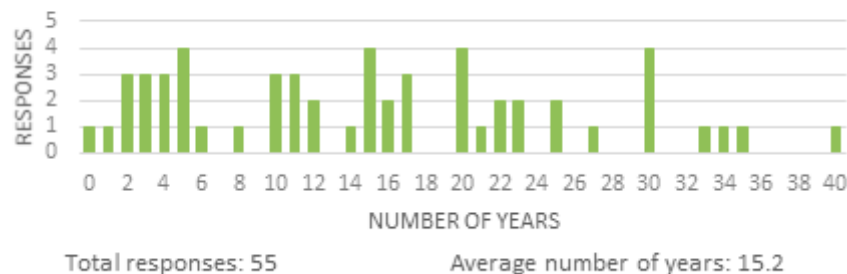
“Other – Write In” Responses:

- Concerned with teaching young children to ride bikes
- Girls need to feel more welcome in skate parks
- I ride the pump tracks at Valmont Bike Park
- not interested
- old
- too old :)

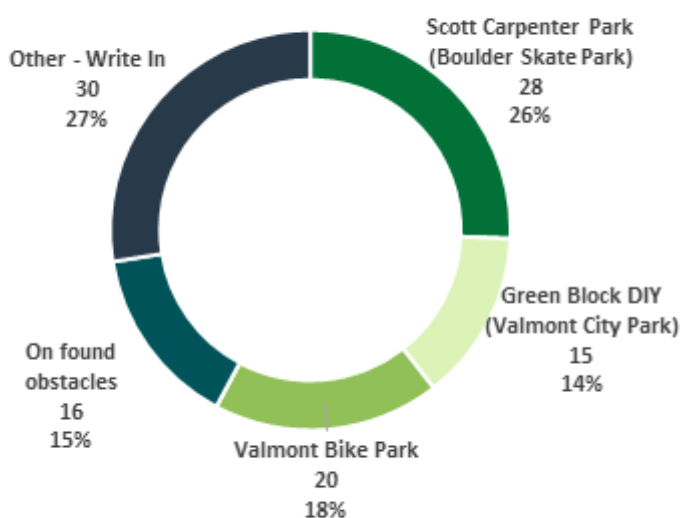
If you do not plan to use the skate or bike facilities (or watch others) at Scott Carpenter or Valmont City Park, please tell us why you are here:

- I live in Lakewood, CO and do plan to head out to Boulder to use the park. Already drive to Boulder for road riding and to use other Valmont amenities.
- protect the dog park
- Oh, I have 3 sons and I skate and BMX! I'd be there to attend, watch, support and have fun.
- I'm here because I agree with adding pump tracks to City of Boulder Parks.
- This is a great place for young people . I have Grandchildren . I would like to do my part to make sure it is done correctly . I do not want it to turn out that it is a place where druggys hang out . This is a great place also for teenagers . The adults can take care of them self . We have to protect our young .
- I used to use the skate park more but it got boring with lack of features
- Too far from south boulder
- My kids and family are interested
- Would like to advocate for a pump track in South Boulder. There is ample space at Harlow Plats Park (recently a skate rink was converted to a third parking lot) for a local track. This would allow local user (especially children) to practice biking skills without having to get into a car and drive to North Boulder\Valmont to obtain the same facilities. The proximity of the park to other play areas and schools makes it an ideal location for local users. Existing two parking lots is\has been more than enough for park users.
- I think the city needs to focus its resources on creating a facility to support our local roller derby leauge (The Boulder County Bombers.) There are already facilities to support skaters in skate parks, which are predominately used by males. We need to support women/girls in sports.
- i live right down the street from the park and am curious on updates
- I'm a parent of a skateboarder and we love greenpark. It allows my son to be social, independent and active. Please continue this program/location.
- In support of skaters
- For a friend.

How many years have you been boarding/riding?



Where do you usually board/ride?



Other:

Arvada Skatepark	3
Lafayette	3
Louisville	2
Square State Skate/ Square House	2
all except bike park	1
Denver	1
Erie	1
Lyons BP, Trails, other pump tracks	1
my backyard	1
Northglenn	1
Other cities parks and DIY spots	1
Superior Bike Park	1
the streets and parks in other towns	1

Total Responses: 109 (Respondents may have selected more than one option)

About how far do you usually travel to board/ride? About ____ blocks OR About ____ miles (Number of responses)

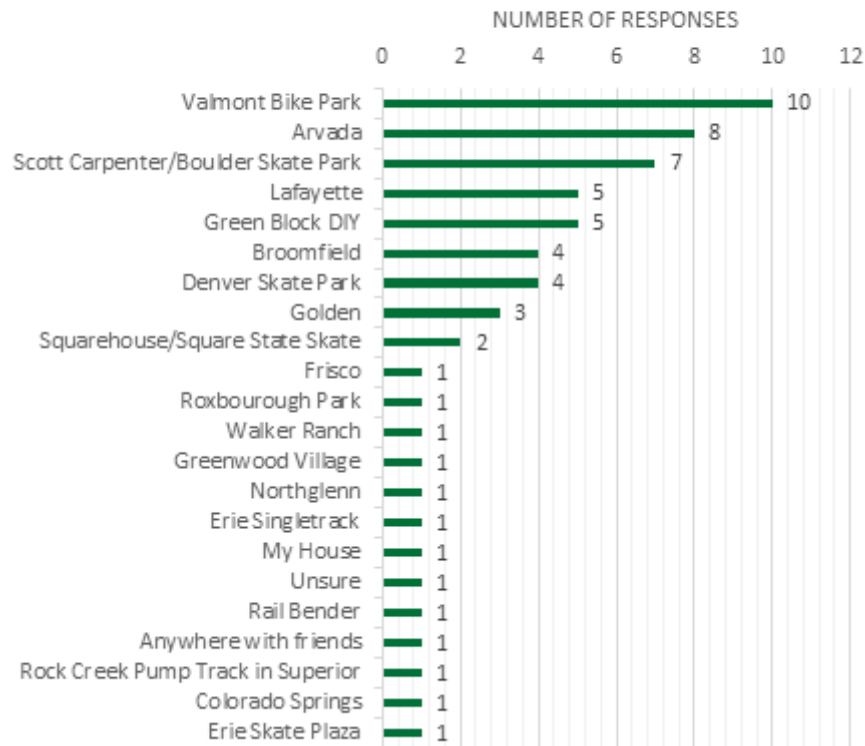
Blocks			Miles		
Range	Responses		Range	Responses	
1 to 5	5		1 to 5	20	
6 to 10	4		6 to 10	17	
11 to 20	3		11 to 20	11	
21 or more	1		21 or more	4	
Total	13		Total	52	

When you want to board/ride, how do you get there? (check all that apply to you)

Value		Percent	Responses
Drive		79.3%	46
Walk		10.3%	6
Bus		15.5%	9
Skate		31.0%	18
Bike		36.2%	21

What is your favorite park or place to board/ride within the Front Range region?

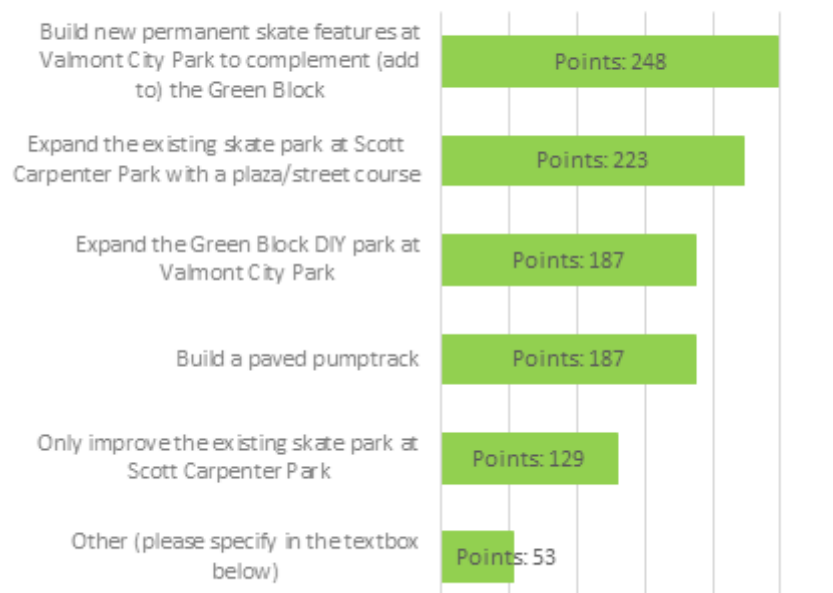
Total Responses: 61



How would you choose to provide new boarding/riding options in Boulder?

Rank from 1 to 6, where most preferred is ranked 1 and receives 6 points, and least preferred is ranked 6 and receives 1 point. The option with the highest number of points is the most popular.

by Total Points Received







“Other” responses and priority ranking

(The “Other” option was ranked against the other five options using the same rank-and-point system, but write-in responses vary widely and similar responses could have been ranked high or low by different individuals. For this reason, each write-in answer is provided as received, followed by the rank and number of points given to the “Other” option by that respondent in parenthesis.)

- Building multiple smaller spots in under used spaces. In existing parks with lights (ranking: 1, 6 pts)
- Lights @ Scott Carpenter & Valmont (ranking: 1, 6 pts)
- Build a big paved pump track at Valmont (ranking: 2, 5 pts)
- lights at Scott Carpenter (ranking: 2, 5 pts)
- A park for ALL SKATERS (ranking: 3, 4 pts)
- Don’t touch the current Scott Carpenter and ADD LIGHTS (ranking: 4, 3 pts)
- if there is additional space/money add to 1,2,&3 (ranking: 4, 3 pts)
- Consessions- drinks food chax (ranking: 4, 3 pts)
- Let skateboarders weigh in on design and how to implement a skatepark that would get used frequently (ranking: 4, 3 pts)
- other small skate spots at other parks (ranking: 5, 2 pts)
- Lights at Scott Carpenter (ranking: 5, 2 pts)
- Add skateable features along bike path (ranking: 5, 2 pts)
- BMX track on the south side of Valmont (comment only – no rank provided)
- I would like to see (and would volunteer) a pump track built at Harlow Platts Park. I already know neighborhood support would be overwhelming. (comment only – no rank provided)
- Do as much as possible with all the room at valmont! (comment only – no rank provided)
- A classic Pool with tile and concrete coping would be great (comment only – no rank provided)
- Work on a long term green block/pocket park plan (comment only – no rank provided)
- Add lights at Scott Carpenter Skatepark & a Quarter Pipe that you can transfer into from the biker gap (comment only – no rank provided)




SKATEBOARDING-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

How often do you ride?

Value		Percent	Responses
Every day		32.7%	18
A few times a week		49.1%	27
Monthly		7.3%	4
Every once in a while		10.9%	6

Totals: 55

How many different skate parks have you been to?

Value		Percent	Responses
More than 20		50.9%	27
Between 10 and 20		22.6%	12
Between 1 and 10		26.4%	14
Totals: 53			

What are your favorite transition elements in skate parks?

Jumps and transfers



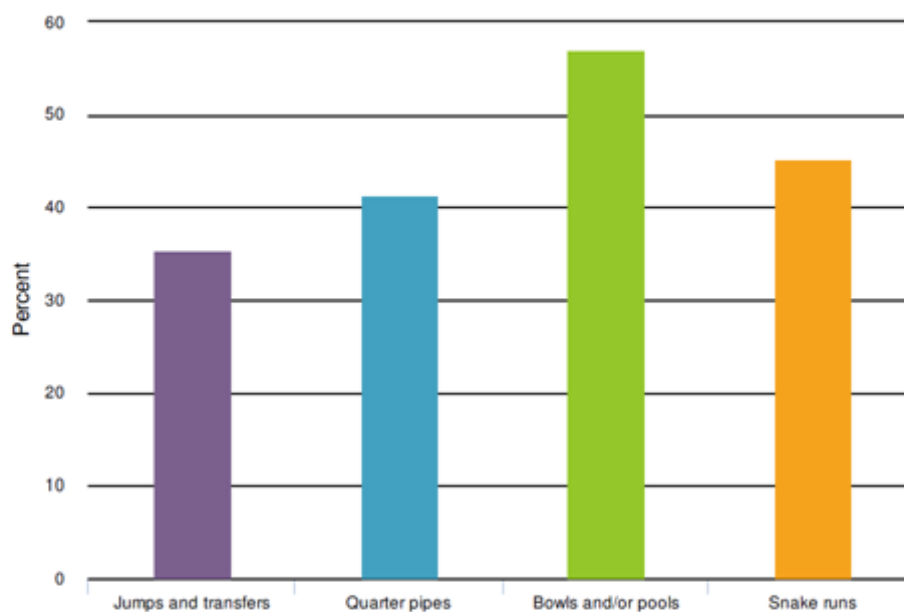
Quarter pipes







Bowls and/or pools

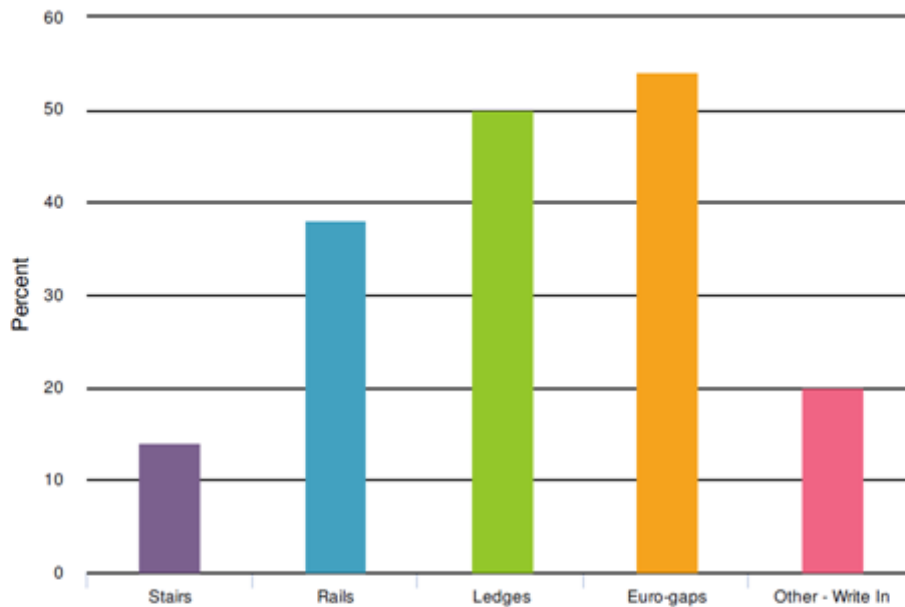


Snake runs



Value		Percent	Responses
Jumps and transfers		35.3%	18
Quarter pipes		41.2%	21
Bowls and/or pools		56.9%	29
Snake runs		45.1%	23

What are your favorite street elements in skate parks?

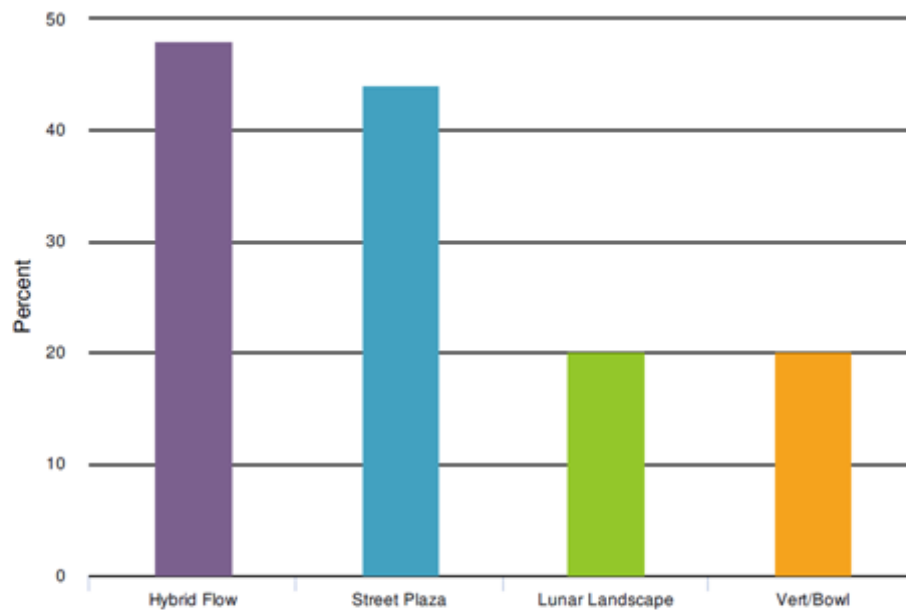


Value		Percent	Responses
Stairs	<div><div></div></div>	14.0%	7
Rails	<div><div></div></div>	38.0%	19
Ledges	<div><div></div></div>	50.0%	25
Euro-gaps	<div><div></div></div>	54.0%	27
Other - Write In	<div><div></div></div>	20.0%	10

"Other – Write In" responses:

- pyramids
- Curbs
- Banks & wall rides
- hips! and for rails, 6-7 stair rail, round, 40 degree angle
- Sequential dips like Denver
- weid sh*t
- mellow hips
- transition
- Banked-based obstacles
- curbs

What kind of skate park style would you prefer for the new skate park at Valmont?



Value		Percent	Responses
Hybrid Flow	<div><div style="width: 48%;"></div></div>	48.0%	24
Street Plaza	<div><div style="width: 44%;"></div></div>	44.0%	22
Lunar Landscape	<div><div style="width: 20%;"></div></div>	20.0%	10
Vert/Bowl	<div><div style="width: 20%;"></div></div>	20.0%	10

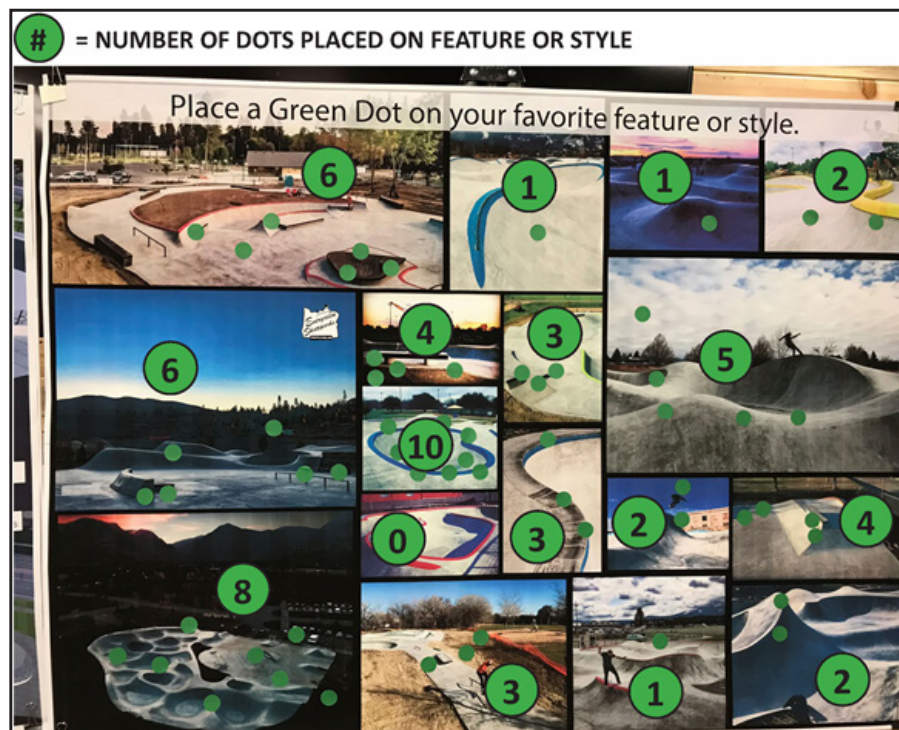
Pick your favorite feature or style:

This survey item was asked both on the electronic survey (participants clicked on parts of the image that they liked most) and during the public meeting (participants placed a green dot on the board to indicate features or styles they liked most). Evergreen Skateparks facilitated this exercise and will use this feedback to help design the Boulder Skate Park and Valmont City Park skate park improvements.

Electronic Survey Results (red = locations on image with highest number of clicks)



In-Person Responses from Meeting Exercise:



PUMP TRACK-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Which pump track style do you like the most?

This question was available on the paper and electronic survey, as well as at the public meeting via a dot exercise, but feedback differed slightly between formats. Both the survey and dot exercise asked for favorite track style, but the survey asked for descriptions of favorite features while the dot exercise asked for dots to be placed on favorite features on the boards. The results are described below.



	Votes from Online Survey	Dots Placed on Boards at Meeting	Total	Percent of Total
A	11	6	17	21%
B	14	12	26	32%
C	27	11	38	47%
Total:			81	100%

What do you like most about that style? (such as certain features, symmetry for racing, etc.)

Comments from those who picked “A”:

- straigh shots/speed!
- size, variety of features
- I like how there are different sections
- Freedom

Comments from those who picked “B”:

- flow
- symmetry for racing
- Transfers and jumps potential
- symmetry for racing, but add more transfer options
- symmetry for racing
- Bigger is better, the track @ Superior is crowded, multi path is the way to go.
- Looks the coolest!

Comments from those who picked “C”:

- Racing
- downhill at the bottom of banks
- the flow
- 1st simple and the bridge is cool. Also it has nice burms.
- curves look fast & smooth, also like the unique bridge/tunnel feature
- the ramps
- Rollers that can be doubled/tripled

- I like how it has a bigger roller-double that you can jump & go high
- Tunnel/bridge
- simple, not too big
- [NOTE FROM STAFF: circled the bridge/tunnel]
- unique
- I have not ridden any paved pump tracks, so it is hard to guess. my favorite pump tracks are those with different line options and options to jump or gap different parts of the track.
- Smooth track
- It's hard to tell from the photos. At Valmont Bike Park, I like the upper pump track. The lower one is fun, too!
- It looks the fastest with the best banked turns
- over and underpass

Comments from those who picked more than one option:

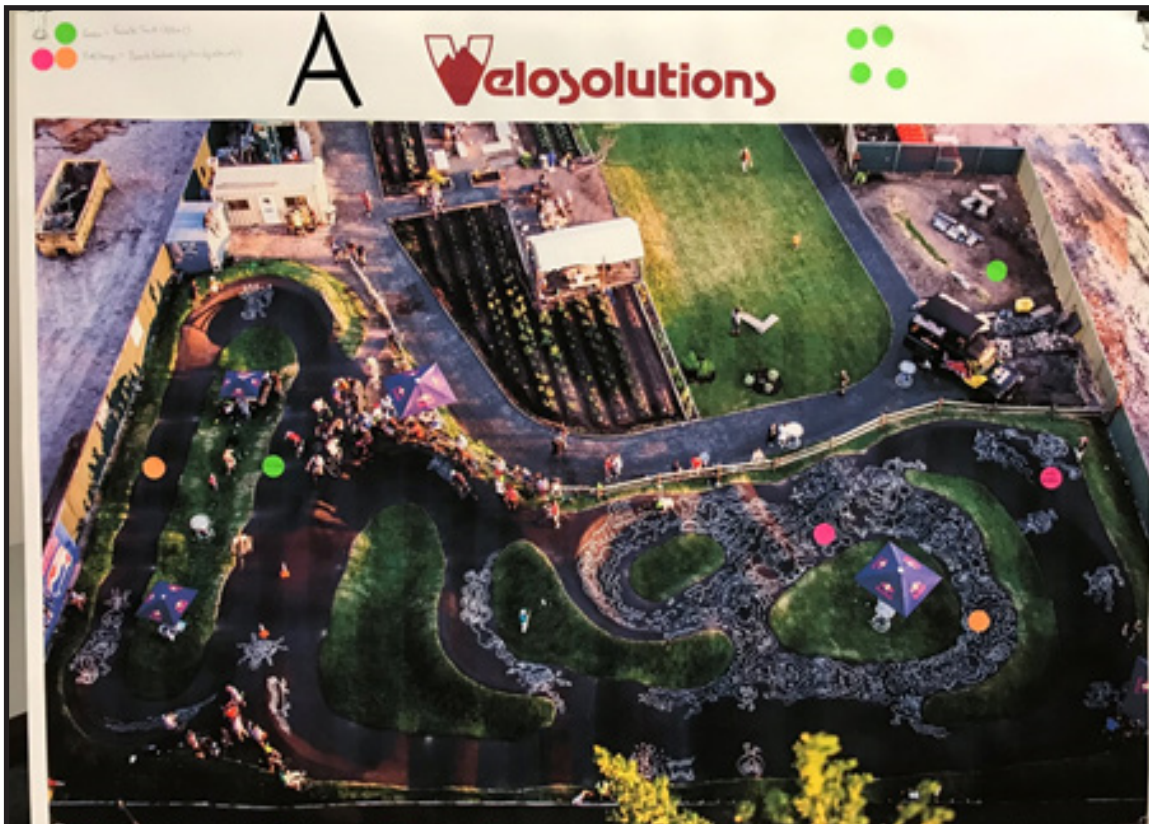
- [picked all three] opportunity for racing
- [picked A and C] if it had more transfers and curbed areas I think it would be more skateable
- [picked A and C] bridge, symmetry

Results from In-Person Meeting Exercise

This exercise was only available at the public meeting and although it showed the same track style images as the survey, participants were not able to verbalize likes and dislikes. Instead, pink and orange dots were placed on favorite features on the boards. The following images show the results of the in-person meeting exercise. Velosolutions will use this feedback to help design the pump track.

Instructions:

- Place a green dot on the track that you like most (A, B, or C).
- Place a pink or orange dot next to features you like most.



B veloyolutions



C veloyolutions



OTHER COMMENTS

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS RECEIVED IN SURVEY

- Involve SKATEBOARDERS in this. We all have input to be heard but skateboarders are notorious for not getting involved with anything political. Let other skateboarders implement this and help with getting feedback / amenities / design. Make this accessible to anyone who wants to get involved.
- [regarding question about volunteering] help build but a bit far for maintenance.
- love Valmont. Thanks.
- Please consider building a pump track at Harlow Platts. There are many adults and kids in Table Mesa who would support a pump track and would ride there. I ride my bike to Valmont Bike Park from S. Boulder, but I expect many drive there. I would be very interested in volunteering before AND after installing of a pump track at Harlow Platts.
- Primary interest is a bike track for children and young adults in the South Boulder \ Harlow Platts Park. This would be a place for the community children\young adults to develop off road bike skills.
- As a skater and a father it will be great to see more beginner friendly and progressive elements added to the community, our family is eagerly awaiting improvements!
- Thank you for the support with outdoor biking and skating
- Thank you so much! Boulder needs a street plaza style park!

COMMENT CARDS RECEIVED AT DECEMBER 5TH MEETING

- We really need lights at at least one of the spots.
- Yay for more skate & bike opportunities in Boulder! Our family will especially use the pump track. But we do have a 12 year old the frequents Scott Carpenter & other parks throughout the Front Range. It would be great to drive less & stay within the community. Thank you!
- A sessionable skate park
- We have an incredibly supportive & excited community around skating. These additions could make a big difference for people and will not be taken for granted.
- When designing the new pump track, please note that traditional asphalt, when exposed to the sun, tends to get softer. With the urethane wheels that skateboarders use, the hot asphalt becomes softer & actually slows the rider down. Defeating the entire purpose of a pump-track. Superior's new pump track is a prime example- Cannot be skated/pumped after noon on a summer day.
- For online comments- mention Velosolutions built Superior & Broomfield. Specifically ask what people like/don't like about those tracks.
- Heated pump track to melt snow :) Don't eliminate the southern end of the pavillion. Once you lose space to parking its not coming back. Use the parking over by the disc golf as designated overflow (will need to be redesigned). Definitely do not want dog owners (and I am one) walking between skate park & pump track to access dark park. Option 1- entry through southern corner. Option 2- Walk around perimeter to access dog park from northern side. Water fountains!! Shade. Grassy areas to hang out on. roof over the pavilion so can ride all weathers- maybe add lighting? Ambulance access AND into bike park
- Pump tracks are fun for a few minutes on a skateboard, but will likely help to absorb younger scooter riders who like to go around in laps, chasing each other anyway. Pump track should include a few flyout lines for the scooters as well. This will leave the skate park available for more serious users. At least one of the skate park should be level with the surrounding sidewalk so it can be accessed by the city's sidewalk plows. This area should drain downhill so other areas with snow melting won't make it wet and it can easily be dried and used after the snowstorms.



City of Boulder Parks and Recreation SKATE PARK AND PUMP TRACK PUBLIC MEETING SURVEY

The following survey will help design:

- Improvements to existing and addition to the skate park at Scott Carpenter Park (a.k.a. Boulder Skate Park)
- New pump track and skate park, plus other park amenities to Valmont City Park

Please answer any of the following questions about yourself as they apply. The survey can be taken online until **December 19th**.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- Name: _____ 2. Email address: _____
- I am _____ years old. 4. I want to receive email updates on this project: ☐ Yes ☐ No
- I live: (check ONE) ☐ in Boulder ☐ in a surrounding area (Louisville, Longmont, etc) ☐ outside the Boulder area
- I prefer to ride: (check all that apply to you)
☐ a skateboard ☐ a scooter ☐ BMX ☐ Other: _____
☐ I only watch others ☐ I want to learn, but don't board/ride yet.
- If you do not currently board/ride but want to, what has stopped you from learning? (check all that apply to you)
☐ Parks are too far away ☐ Not sure where to start ☐ Need lessons ☐ Intimidated by parks/others
☐ Not enough time/too busy ☐ Cost ☐ Injury/Illness ☐ Other: _____
- If you do not plan to use the skate or bike facilities (or watch others) at Scott Carpenter or Valmont City Park, please tell us why you are here: _____
- Would you be willing to volunteer to help keep the new skatepark clean, safe, and a nice place?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe. Tell me more.

If you skate, bike, ride, or want to learn, continue below.

If you do not, (i.e. you are a spectator, guardian, or use the park in other ways), please turn to the next page.

- How long have you been boarding/riding? About _____ years.
- Where do you usually board/ride? (Check one)
☐ Scott Carpenter Park (Boulder Skate Park) ☐ Green Block DIY (Valmont City Park) ☐ Valmont Bike Park
☐ On found obstacles ☐ Other: _____
- About how far do you usually travel to board/ride? About _____ blocks OR About _____ miles.
- When you want to board/ride, how do you get there? (check all that apply to you)
☐ Drive ☐ Walk ☐ Bus ☐ Skate ☐ Bike ☐ Other: _____
- What is your favorite park or place to board/ride within the Front Range region? _____
- How would you choose to provide new boarding/riding options in Boulder? (rank from 1 to 6)

1-6 Only Improve the existing skate park at Scott Carpenter Park

1-6 Expand the existing skate park at Scott Carpenter Park with a plaza/street course

1-6 Expand the Green Block DIY park at Valmont City Park

1-6 Build new permanent skate features at Valmont City Park to complement (add to) the Green Block

1-6 Build a paved pumptrack

1-6 Other (please specify: _____)

1 → 6

your favorite your least favorite

To take the survey online, visit BoulderParkNews.org

SKATE PARK AND PUMP TRACK PUBLIC MEETING

SURVEY PAGE 2

If you do not skateboard or plan to use the skate parks, please move on to the next section.

SKATE PARK QUESTIONS

16. How often do you ride?

☐ Every day

☐ A few times a week

☐ Monthly

☐ Every once in a while

17. How many different skate parks have you been to?

☐ More than 20

☐ Between 10 and 20

☐ Between 1 and 10

☐ Never been to a skate park

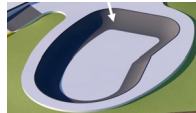
18. What are your favorite transition elements in skate parks?

☐ Jumps and transfers

☐ Quarter pipes

☐ Bowls and/or pools

☐ Snake runs



19. What are your favorite street elements in skate parks?

☐ Stairs

☐ Rails

☐ Ledges

☐ Euro-gaps

☐ Other: _____



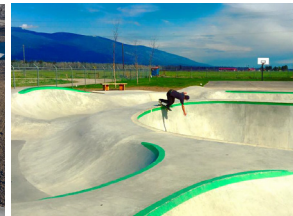
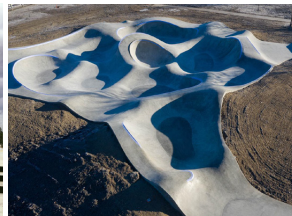
20. What kind of skate park style would you prefer for the new skate park at Valmont?

☐ Hybrid Flow

☐ Street Plaza

☐ Lunar Landscape

☐ Vert/Bowl



If you do not bike or plan to use the pump track, you are finished with the survey.

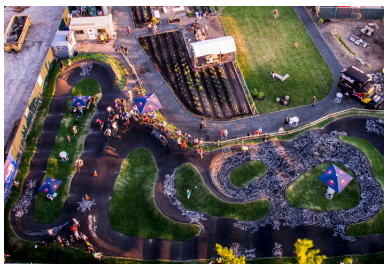
PUMP TRACK QUESTIONS

21. Which pump track style do you like the most?

☐ A

☐ B

☐ C



What do you like the most about that style? (such as certain features, symmetry for racing, etc.) _____

To take the survey online, visit BoulderParkNews.org