



# BOULDER PARKS AND RECREATION Master Plan Update

## Project Updates

The following is all updates published on <https://bouldercolorado.gov/projects/parks-and-recreation-master-plan-update> during the course of the Master Plan update process 2020-2022.

### June 7, 2022 Update

The Master Plan is nearing completion. The project team facilitated productive discussions with City Council on April 26 and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) on May 23.

The fourth and final engagement window closed on May 4 and during this engagement window, the community could review the first draft of the Master Plan and provide their comments.

Based on the input from these sources, final edits are currently in progress.

Here is the timeline for the Master Plan process:

- **PRAB - Public Hearing**  
Monday, June 27 at 6 p.m. - online meeting  
Visit the [PRAB web page](#) for latest information and link to the meeting.  
**Community Participation:** Public comments before PRAB meetings are always welcome. Please review the [guidelines for public comment](#). To sign up for public participation at the upcoming PRAB meeting, please email [PRABadmin@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:PRABadmin@bouldercolorado.gov) before the meeting.
- **Planning Board - Public Hearing**  
Tuesday, July 19 at 6 p.m. - online meeting  
Visit the [Planning Board web page](#) for latest information and link to the meeting.  
**Community Participation:** For comment during a Planning Board hearing, please review the [guidelines for public comment](#) in a virtual meeting. To sign up for public participation at the upcoming Planning Board meeting, please email [spencec@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:spencec@bouldercolorado.gov).
- **City Council - Public Hearing**  
Thursday, August 4 at 6 p.m. - online meeting  
Visit [the City Council webpage](#) for latest information and link to the meeting.  
**Community Participation:** To comment during this public hearing, read the guidelines and [sign up online ahead of time](#).

## April 19, 2022 Update

Following the March 16 special study session with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the project has entered the final phase: Master Plan Acceptance. Documents from the Implementation Plan Phase of the project can be found below under Related Documents.

The project team will be presenting [the first draft of the 2022 Master Plan PDF](#) to City Council on Tuesday, April 26. This draft is 80% complete with additional text, graphics and photos to be added later. This draft plan incorporates the research, policy direction and community engagement compiled over the past 18 months.

This first draft of the 2022 Master Plan is available for review through Wednesday, May 4. We encourage community members to review its alignment with the needs and desires of the community.

## Upcoming Meeting

- **City Council Study Session**  
Tuesday, April 26, 2022  
6 p.m.  
Online meeting, visit [the City Council webpage](#) for latest information and link to the meeting.  
**Community Participation:** There will not be verbal public participation during this study session

## March 14, 2022 Update

We're almost there! We have put together a Draft Implementation Plan for the Master Plan Update, which includes revised goals and initiatives and reflects community feedback on how to prioritize the department's work for the next five years.

- [Draft Implementation Plan \(starting on page 9\)](#)

The plan will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) on Wednesday, March 16 at 6 p.m.

- [Watch the PRAB study session](#)

Community members can listen in to the presentation, however there will not be verbal public participation during this study session. The public can provide input by emailing the board at [PRAB@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:PRAB@bouldercolorado.gov).

You can view all Master Plan Update materials on this page.

## **February 16, 2022 Update**

The most recent window of community engagement closed in early February. Thank you to those community members that chose to participate through either the activity posted on [BeHeardBoulder](#) or the virtual open house. This process is successful thanks to the valuable feedback from our community.

Based on months of research, policy guidance, and community engagement, the project team has developed draft goals and initiatives for the Master Plan Update. We are analyzing the community feedback received relative to those goals and initiatives to ensure our alignment with community values.

The project team will be presenting the draft Implementation Plan at a special Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting on March 16. This document will include revised goals and initiatives and reflect community feedback on how to prioritize the work of the next 5 to 7 years.

Stay tuned as the project continues towards a full Master Plan Update document later this spring!

## **December 15, 2022 Update**

The Implementation Plan phase of the project kicked off in November. The project team hosted workshops in November with department stakeholders and staff to brainstorm ideas for the goals and initiatives that will propel BPR to meet the needs identified in the Needs Assessment Report. Since then, the project team has been working to categorize, organize, and refine those ideas into an outline of potential goals and initiatives.

The project team discussed the general outline of goals and initiatives of the Implementation Plan with the PRAB in December. The memo containing that information is linked below.

The community will have an opportunity in January to weigh in on the proposed goals and initiatives for the Master Plan Update. This is the community's chance to influence BPR's priorities for the next five to seven years, shaping how they recreate throughout the BPR system in parks, recreation centers, and other facilities. Stay tuned for additional details on how to provide that input in January.

### *Recent PRAB and Council Documents*

- [December 2021 PRAB- Discussion Item PDF – p. 120](#)

## October 20, 2022 Update

The Needs Assessment Phase of the Master Plan Update has been completed. A [study session](#) held with City Council in late July provided the final input on this phase of the project. Following the guidance from City Council, the project deliverables were completed and are now available in the Document Highlights section below. These include the full Needs Assessment Report with supporting documentation from the Facilities Assessment, Community Survey Report, and Financial Analysis. Engagement Window 2 Summary describes and analyzes the input received from the community during the second engagement window.

The current phase of the project is the Implementation Plan, which is critical to ensure the long-term success of the department in meeting the needs and desires of the community determined through the needs assessment. This phase will result in a balanced approach of themes, policies, goals and initiatives that align with the vision and mission of BPR and carefully draw the road map to how staff and the community will prioritize actions to meet the needs of Boulder. The relationship of the themes, policies, goals and initiatives is carefully informed by each other to ensure focus and consistency to stay targeted to the needs. This phase of the project will include extensive BPR and city staff engagement, stakeholder engagement, and another window of community engagement.

The project team will be discussing the initial components of the Implementation Plan with the PRAB in October.

### *Upcoming Meeting*

#### **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting**

Monday, October 25, 2021

6 p.m.

Online meeting, visit the [PRAB web page](#) for latest information and link to the meeting.

**Community Participation:** Public comments before PRAB meetings are always welcome.

Please review the [guidelines for public comment](#). To sign up for public participation at the upcoming PRAB meeting, please email [PRABadmin@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:PRABadmin@bouldercolorado.gov) before the meeting.

## July 23, 2021 Update

On July 12, 2021, the PRAB was provided an update on the [Master Plan Update project](#) and the Needs Assessment phase of the project. This update included information on various data analysis completed and community engagement to date.

At an upcoming study session with City Council, the project team will provide a similar [update](#) and facilitate a discussion to get policy guidance from City Council.

## *Upcoming Meetings*

### **City Council Study Session**

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Online meeting. Visit the [City Council web page](#) for latest information and link to the meeting.

**Community Participation:** Study sessions are open to watch live and recorded for the community member convenience. There are not opportunities for the community to speak before or during study sessions.

### **June 25, 2021 Update**

Thank you to everyone who was able to make it to the Boulder Parks and Recreation Master Plan Open House on June 24, 2021. The meeting presentation and all of the *community feedback opportunities are open through July 12*. Please click on the links below to participate in the same feedback opportunities that were provided in person. This is an important part of the process that will shape the future.

*Click the links below to participate in the feedback activities by July 12, 2021.*

- [See the boards from the open house](#)
- [Read a summary of feedback the city received when engaging with community members](#)
- [See an overview of the current state, key themes and trends of the Master Plan update](#)

[Watch the video of the presentation](#) by clicking below



[Share your thoughts on Be Heard Boulder!](#)

We need to hear from you by July 12 to include your thoughts in this engagement window. We would love to hear from you by July 12, but this is not the last opportunity for community feedback. Please make sure to sign up for e-mail updates to stay informed.

*Upcoming Meetings*

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting and Study Session**

Monday, July 12, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Online meeting, visit the [PRAB web page](#) for latest information and link to the meeting.

Community Participation: Public comments before PRAB meetings are always welcome. Please review the [guidelines for public comment](#). To sign up for public participation at the upcoming PRAB meeting, please email [PRABadmin@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:PRABadmin@bouldercolorado.gov) before the meeting.

**City Council Study Session**

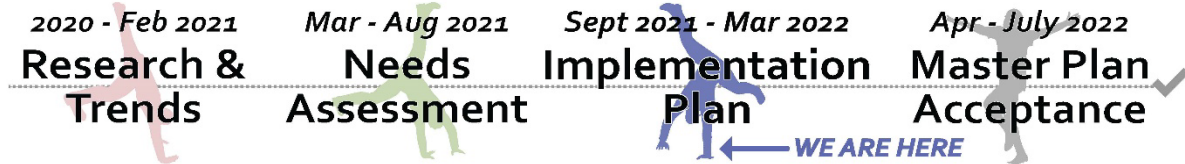
Tuesday, July 27, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Online meeting, visit the [City Council web page](#) for latest information and link to the meeting.

Community Participation: Study sessions are open to watch live and recorded for the community member convenience. There are not opportunities for the community to speak before or during study sessions.

## Project Timeline



## Other Related Projects

The Parks and Recreation Department owns and manages twelve culturally relevant and historically designated resources. The Historic Places Plan (HiPP) will serve as a guide for the department in stewarding these resources to ensure their vibrant integrity and preservation within the community. Visit the HiPP project web page [HiPP project web page](#) for more information.

## June 11, 2021 Update

We'd like to announce our first open house! On **Thursday, June 24 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Municipal Services Center at 5050 East Pearl Street, Boulder, CO 80301** . This open house will be **in person** , but we will also provide all of the materials and a copy of the presentation online for those who cannot or do not wish to attend. All feedback opportunities will also be provided digitally to ensure we hear from everyone via Be Heard Boulder **through Monday, July 5.**

The meeting will cover information that's been gathered, including the community feedback received to date. That input has helped shape the current phase of the project and identify the needs and desires of the community related to the facilities, programs and services provided by BPR.

- [Read a summary of feedback the city received when engaging with community members](#)
- [See an overview of the current state, key themes and trends of the Master Plan update](#)

After the open house and engagement period, BPR will finalize the needs assessment and identify strategies and initiatives that meet the community's needs and desires. The community will be asked later this year for additional feedback to guide BPR's investments and day-to-day decision making.

Staff will also introduce the Historic Places Plan (HiPP) at this meeting. This is a separate plan with a related process. [HiPP Project Page](#)

## April 2021 Update

Thank you to the 463 community members and BPR staff who participated in our first questionnaire in February! Your feedback helped us identify how the Master Plan's key themes were serving the community, and how we could build upon them in the next five to seven years. We also heard hopes and concerns relating to all sorts of issues within our system, but most particularly relating to:

- Concerns about homelessness, unsanctioned camping and the specific challenges related to parks and recreation.
- Impacts of a growing and changing population on the overall parks and recreation system including the need for additional facilities.
- Challenges with resources and capacity related to sustainable funding.

### [The Engagement Summary for Window #1 PDF](#)

The project team presented these results and a more comprehensive project update to PRAB on April 12.

### *Next Steps*

To start off Engagement Window #2, approximately 4000 randomly-selected Boulder households were mailed postcards this week with a PIN for a statistically valid survey to help BPR better understand community needs and desires. The community is also invited to take the survey without a PIN, although those who have received one are encouraged to enter it to help ensure accuracy. The survey ended on May 9 - stay tuned for the results.

Engagement Window #2 will also include a virtual public open house (details to be announced) and supplemental mini polls on [Be Heard Boulder](#) and social media. To receive the latest information on how to participate, please [sign up for our email updates](#) .

Project staff will continue to work on a needs assessment of BPR facilities, parks, programs, operations, and finances as part of the second project phase.



## February 2021 Update

### Share your input on the themes that guide the Boulder Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update!

Community members were invited to share input through a [Be Heard Boulder](#) questionnaire on the themes that guide how the department prioritizes facility renovations, recreation programs and its operations. These themes are:

- **Community Health and Wellness:** Ensure public health and wellness through parks, facilities, and programs to keep Boulder a healthy and vibrant community.
- **Taking Care of What We Have:** Prioritize investments in existing parks and facilities to ensure the long-term viability of the park and recreation system.
- **Equity:** Provide safe, inclusive, culturally relevant, and welcoming parks, facilities and programs in a way that works to address systemic and historic inequities.
- **Resilience :** Create a parks and recreation department that is prepared to absorb the shocks and stressors of environmental and societal changes.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Balance multiple and increasing demands within existing resources, recognizing the limits of public funding and the need to focus on core services.
- **Building Community Relationships:** Build community engagement and cultural activities through outreach programs and initiatives. Promote a healthy community to address social and cultural inequities.
- **Youth Engagement and Activity:** Engage youth with parks, facilities and programs that provide direct experience with nature, experiential learning and opportunities to close the educational achievement gap.
- **Organizational Readiness:** Leverage the use of new technologies, data driven decision-making and collaborative decision-making tools to respond to changes over time within the parks and recreation industry.

The questionnaire was available through **February 28, 2021** . [Be Heard Boulder](#) has several other activities as well to share with the project team your favorite Parks and Recreation places and memories.

## December 2020 Update

Since the project kick-off in September with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB), staff and the consultant team have been hard at work in the Research & Trends phase of the Master Plan Update, including an evaluation of previous research and the development of the public engagement plan for the project.

At the Nov. 23 PRAB meeting staff presented a progress report on the project and requested feedback on the detailed public engagement plan. Staff reviewed the 2014 white papers, as well as two new topics for consideration: equity and resilience. More information: [Access PRAB meeting agendas and materials](#)

On Dec. 8, a study session was held with City Council. Staff presented the project approach and engagement plan, key themes from 2014, and a brief overview and approach to equity and resilience. Overall, council was supportive of the process and approach as presented and indicated that it was appropriate to look further into equity and resilience as additional key topics. Council members identified key groups of stakeholders that may have been overlooked previously, including residents versus non-residents, as well as unhoused individuals. It was also stressed that Parks and Recreation should be sure to coordinate with other city departments to ensure city-wide topics such as equity, resilience and homelessness are treated similarly across departments. More information: [Access PRAB meeting agendas and materials](#)

On Dec. 15, staff from all parts of the Parks and Recreation department came together for a three-hour conversation focused on identifying specific accomplishments and areas for improvement related to the existing and new white papers. The charette was kicked off with keynote speakers from Vancouver, San Diego and Denver, who discussed their lessons learned from incorporating equity into their parks and recreation master plans and everyday work. Breakout sessions then focused on asset management, recreation programs and services, resilience and equity. Staff identified specific accomplishments, areas for improvement, information or data gaps, areas for greatest impact, and big ideas for each of these topics. The results of the workshop will directly inform the development of the System Overview Snapshot.

### Next Steps

After the first of the year, staff will be gearing up for the first community engagement window in late-January and February. The public will be provided the System Overview Snapshot and be asked to provide their feedback on how the department has accomplished its goals from the existing Master Plan and set the stage for moving forward with the update. Specific stakeholder groups will be consulted during this engagement window to begin their engagement in the process and provide input.

## **October 2020 Update**

The Boulder Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update officially kicked off work in September, hosting internal meetings to ensure staff and the consultant are set up for success to tackle this important project. The first phase of the project involves gathering information that has been developed since the previous Master Plan and incorporating that into a document summarizing the current state of the department. Work is also on-going to review and update technical content that was developed to support the previous Master Plan. This technical content, in the form of white papers, lays the foundation for discussing needs and priorities within the Master Plan for topics like financial sustainability and taking care of what we have.

Please sign up for email updates below to keep up to date on what's going on with this project as we move toward more active engagement with the community.