

TO: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

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SUBJECT: Consent Agenda

DATE: June 28, 2021

A. Approval of [Minutes May 24, 2021](#)

B. Parks and Recreation Development Update

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.

Planning and Design

The following projects are currently in the planning and design process that involves research, alternatives analysis, public involvement and development of planning documents and design plans to guide decision making and future capital improvements.

- **Flatirons Golf Course Facility Design**

Staff submitted plans for a land use review as a Minor Amendment in May. Comments from the Planning and Development Services (P&DS) department resulted in a request for revised submission for a Minor Modification under administrative review. There are less requirements from P&DS through the Minor Modification submission, but staff will continue to plan the project with the goal of setting an example of citywide energy and resilience goals while remaining fiscally responsible.

As promised, staff will continue to share the details as they are developed. Last month’s highlights included the building materials, elevations, and the floor plan. This month, we will focus on access and circulation.

The approved concept plan showed a sidewalk extending along the driveway to Arapahoe Avenue. Many installation options and alignments were reviewed. The feasibility analysis resulted in a priority to protect the large significant trees lining the driveway during this phase of construction. The sidewalk alignment will remain on the concept plan for consideration in phase 2 or when broader access improvements on the south side of Arapahoe Avenue are considered feasible.

The parking lot improvements will include:

- vegetation islands
- standard and compact car parking spaces to match current code requirements.
- electric vehicle parking spaces
 - 2 spaces with installed charging station
 - 2 spaces with wiring and junction box, ready for station installation
 - 12 spaces planned with conduit, ready to wire and install.
- bike parking spaces
 - 8 u-rack spaces
 - 4 enclosed bike locker spaces
- wider pedestrian walkway through center of parking lot
- drop-off area



Flatirons Golf Course
Click to enlarge

Improvements in the parking lot, such as adding vegetation islands and standardizing parking space sizes, will result in a decrease in overall number of parking spaces to 230. A parking analysis confirmed that the number of spaces will be sufficient to accommodate all concurrent planned uses of the facility.

Low level lighting in the parking lot is under consideration for safety of pedestrians crossing the parking lot during the early evening use of the bar/restaurant hours through the winter with the earlier sunsets. The lighting under consideration will be dark sky compliant with timers set to minimize impact to the surrounding neighborhood.

A drop-off area has been integrated to accommodate events and deliveries. The area will allow efficient logistic coordination and ease of access for the community during events. It is also intended to serve as a drop area for golf equipment and easy access needed for youth programming.

The access and flow for golf carts and staging is similar to the current configuration. The staging area has been increased to match the ability to host tournaments. A food and beverage pick-up window and centrally located restrooms are intended to increase user experience.

Golf services will remain in the existing building with improvements made to extend the life and experience in and around the building. PRAB can look forward to more information about the existing building improvements next month.

- **Planning Projects Underway:** Staff or contractors continue to work on the following projects and will update the PRAB as major milestones are achieved:
 - Historic Places Plan (HiPP)
 - Master Plan Update

Construction

The following projects are scheduled for construction, under construction or have been recently completed. For additional details please visit www.BoulderParkNews.org.

Howard Heuston Mini Skate Area Update and Staff Recommendation

Staff held a community meeting about the proposed mini skate area at Howard Heuston Park on Thursday, June 17 to ensure the neighborhood is familiar with background information about the project, review approved plans and listen to feedback and ideas from neighbors.

Those who were not able to attend can review [presentation materials from the meeting](#).

On Friday, June 18, staff sent a follow up email with information and a [link to provide additional comments and feedback](#) and staff will be accepting feedback until Friday, June 25th.

Over 30 people attended and shared their thoughts and ideas about the project.

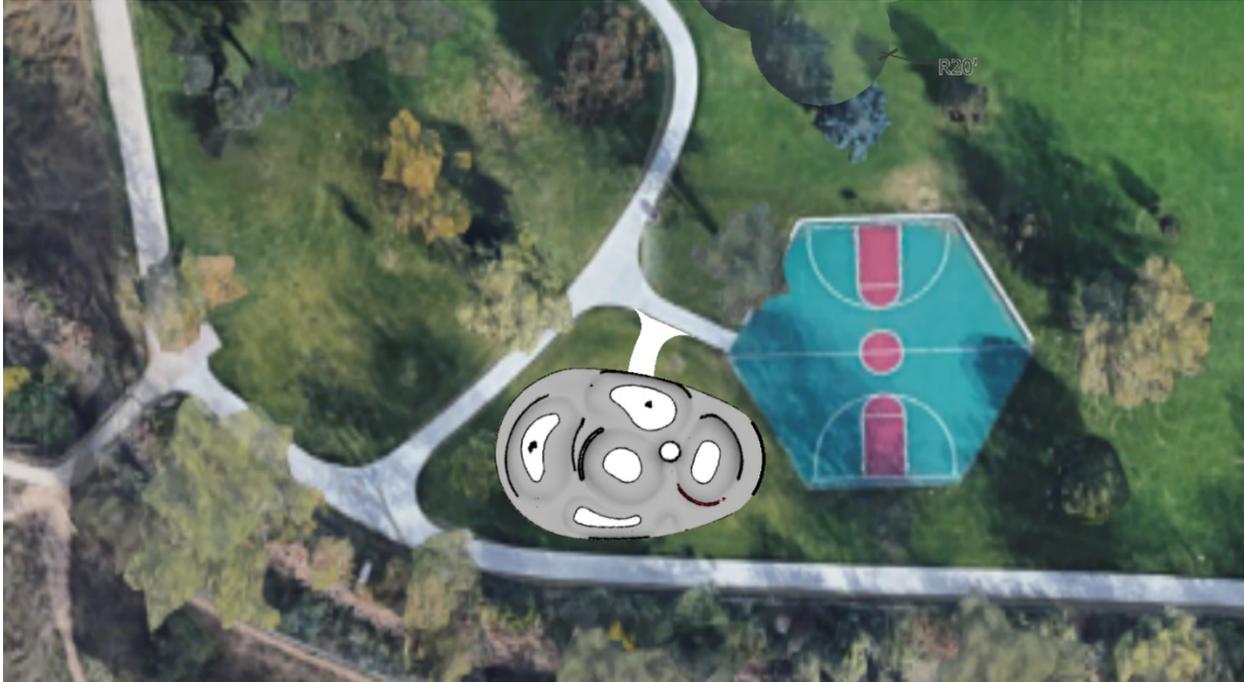
As a result of the meeting, staff is recommending the proposed mini skate area should remain where it was originally approved as part of the concept plan in 2016 illustrated below (next to the basketball court at south end of the park) and not deviate from the approved plan to relocate the skate area near the playground and dog park.



FINAL CONCEPT PLAN



More detailed plan for the new mini-skate area that is smaller than originally proposed and near the basketball court:



Key takeaways from the research and neighborhood input that led to this decision include:

- Master Plan direction and policy guidance supports youth activity and engagement and providing low-cost opportunities for recreation in all parks that are appropriately scaled for neighborhoods, especially adjacent to neighborhoods that might not have resources and opportunities that others might have. This neighborhood has approximately 250 children and youth within the service area.
- Master Plan direction also prioritizes “Community Health and Wellness” by giving youth options to get outside, meet new friends, and be active, which is especially important coming out of the pandemic when mental and physical illness are at record levels due to isolation.
- After several years of research and engagement with youth, skate areas are typically a top attraction given the low cost and individual use that doesn’t require teams, costly equipment or memberships.
- Many parks in Boulder already have unique play opportunities for youth, such as slack lines, pump tracks, mini skate bowls, and zip lines.
- Howard Heuston is similarly a unique neighborhood park since it has the only off-leash dog area in the city other than the three city/community parks.
- Neighborhood parks often serve as one’s yard, especially in dense residential areas with multifamily developments. This proposed feature in the park would allow “close to home” experiences for children and youth without having to drive or ride across the city.
- Regarding the ratio of green space to paved area, 91% of the park will remain green, soft, natural and unpaved after the installation of the proposed mini skate area.

During the neighborhood meeting, community members had a variety of input that has helped shape the process to ensure Howard Heuston Park is as successful as possible for all park users.

Staff will update the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board through the consent agenda at the upcoming meeting on Monday, June 28.

Since the plan was already approved and no changes are being proposed to the approved plan, construction will move forward soon to try and remain on schedule with the current contractor and not incur additional expenses.

Summary of feedback

Below is a comprehensive summary of the feedback received and information staff has considered to recommend supporting the neighborhood and revising the location to the originally approved plan.

Conflict in uses and incompatibility:

- While some neighbors were absolutely opposed to the skate area, most of the feedback from the neighbors related to the potential conflict between off-leash dogs and the skate area use. While many neighbors discussed the tranquility of the park and the green space, the overarching comments were related to concerns for their dog's behavior and how the new activity and use would impact their experience with their dog.
- There were a few assumptions and misinformation discussed at the meeting and staff were able to clarify and dispel some of the false information. Most notable were thoughts that the dog area was going to be completely fenced in. Staff will not be fencing anything near the dog area and would not do anything new to the dog area without engaging the community. In fact, staff would enjoy hearing about other opportunities to improve the dog area or other spaces within the park, if the neighbors have ideas.
- The previously approved site (that is being followed) near the basketball court (proposed location) is as far from the dog area as possible and combines the more active uses of the court and mini skate area. The skate area will likely not be any louder or more active than a game of basketball happening. In fact, the basketball/skate area is almost not visible from the dog area.
- Several neighbors agreed that a skate area would add a nice opportunity to ensure all neighbors have an activity to enjoy if it is done responsibly and compatible with existing uses.
- One neighbor facilitates a juggling program each week and explained that a mini skate area would add another nice amenity to the park that is compatible with other uses.
- Fencing can also be incorporated into the new skate area to ensure no basketballs or dogs come into the skate area. It will separate uses for safety.
- The proposed skate area will be smaller, approximately 3,000 to 4,000 square feet and can only support one or two riders at a time. This will not be a large, busy skatepark and the presentation boards illustrate the size differences. The new skate area will be similar size to a 5–12-year-old play area and is not even as large as the current basketball court.
- The skate area is multi-use and supports bikes, scooters, skateboards, roller blades, skates, wheelchairs, etc. This equipment can be easily acquired by anyone and local shops and organizations already provide free equipment to youth in Boulder.

Additional Improvements and Programming

- Staff also heard many thoughts and comments about “who will be using this new skate area” and “folks can't afford skateboards, bikes or other equipment.” Many local shops and organizations already go to great lengths to introduce kids and youth into the sport and provide lessons,

equipment, etc. [Square State Skate](#) and the [Chill Foundation](#) are examples of local programs that will be engaged in this location.

- A few neighbors specifically mentioned support for the area if it will be used and especially if opportunities exist for kids that might not have the resources to buy gear.
- Staff also propose future improvements to the existing basketball court with new goals and upgrades to support youth and others who already enjoy the court.
- Staff will also be planting new trees within the park in the future to increase shade and provide additional screening/buffer between park areas.

Skate Park and Pump Track - Scott Carpenter Park and Valmont City Park: The construction of a skate park at Scott Carpenter Park is complete, and work on the skate park at Valmont City Park continues. More information on the status of Howard Heuston can be found in this Consent Agenda.

The addition of the new skate features and the pump track at the parks are supported by community members and stakeholder groups and will greatly increase the amount of skateable space in the city for users of all abilities. It will also provide much needed outdoor, socially distant recreation opportunities and beginner skate features for those starting to learn. Each of the locations will be accessible to all community members.

Scott Carpenter Park: The new skate park at Scott Carpenter is complete and is now open to the public. The new design integrates approximately 5,300 square feet of skateable area with the existing skate park. The new park is designed for beginner and intermediate users and includes smaller, low-impact street features.



Valmont City Park – Skate and Pump Track: A new 10,000 square foot skate park is currently under construction at Valmont City Park. The skate park is designed for all skill levels and includes bowls, transition elements, and street features.



A new beginner level bike pump track was also recently completed at Valmont. This new 10,000 square foot track is comprised of rolling asphalt trails. Previous PRAB updates incorrectly stated that the track would also include a slant wall and hammock riding features. These features were included in the design as alternates and would only be constructed if funds were available. While funds were not available to include as part of the initial construction project, the department is currently looking into other opportunities to fund some of the elements.





While the pump track construction has been completed, the track will remain closed to allow for grass establishment on the slopes and interior areas of the track. It will be opened as soon as possible and when the grass has taken root.

General information on the skate park improvements and pump track project can be found [here](#).

The following projects are focused on habitat and wildlife management in an urban environment.

- **Natural Lands Operations:**

Thunderbird Lake: The Natural Lands team, in partnership with Park Operations, continues to perform annual maintenance activities at Thunderbird Lake in Admiral Arleigh A Burke Park to ensure water quality. These activities include:

- Clearing of vegetation from maintenance corridors near gazebo, headgate and outlet.
- Removing noxious weeds.
- Maintaining the aerators for water quality.
- Adding microbes for water quality/algae control mid-April to late September.

Due to high temperatures, low precipitation and to minimize the potential for algal blooms, microbe treatments were added early this year on April 4. Those efforts have been successful with no algae present upon the most recent inspections. Currently the water level is higher than it has been in several years, likely due to above average spring precipitation and ground water. The water level is above the highest reading on the staff gauge (see photo on the left below).



In 2020, a summary report was completed by Biohabitats with findings from monitoring water levels from 2016 through 2019 and providing potential alternatives for long-term management given current conditions. Later this fall, staff will be engaging the community, neighbors and the PRAB to evaluate these proposed alternatives to determine a preferred long-term management strategy for Thunderbird Lake. In the near-term, staff will be meeting with a group of neighbors to understand immediate concerns and further outline the plan and process for the engagement this fall.

Natural Lands Projects Underway: Staff or contractors continue to work on the following projects and will update the PRAB as major milestones are achieved:

- Volunteer Programs.
- Urban Wildlife Management.
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Restoration.
- Visitor Management; and
- Boulder Aeromodeling Society coordination.

C. Operations Update

The following information is intended to provide the PRAB with relevant updates on specific BPR services in the parks or facilities. This section is not all inclusive of all current operations and intends to provide awareness on key accomplishments, new happenings, service level adjustments, or other information impacting operations.

COVID-19

The latest information and results of recovery efforts can be found at <https://bouldercolorado.gov/coronavirus>.

City of Boulder COVID-19 Recovery: As public health orders are lifted at the state and county levels, the city's Response and Recovery Team, in partnership with the City Attorney's Office, is assessing remaining city emergency orders to prepare to repeal those that no longer apply and plan to transition long-term recovery programs and services to their applicable city departments.

Facility Masking Requirements: As of June 10, the Boulder County Public Health Order expired and the county is now fully aligned with the current state masking requirements. Boulder County Public Health provided the following graphic to assist businesses and the public with masking recommendations. In line with recommendations, the department is currently requiring youth participants in registered programming such as summer camps and gymnastics to mask when indoors. Staff facilitating these programs are also required to mask to model behavior.

BOULDER COUNTY MASKING RECOMMENDATIONS



**BOULDER COUNTY'S FACE COVERING ORDER EXPIRES ON JUNE 10.
BCPH STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

INDIVIDUALS



- Individuals 2+ continue to socially distance, wash hands frequently and wear a mask around people of other households who are not fully vaccinated*
- Children under 2 should socially distance from people who are not fully vaccinated* outside of childcare or school settings



BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS & INDOOR SPACES

Consider waiting until 80% of the total BoCo population has been fully vaccinated* before removing masking requirements.

Jails & Prisons

require masks unless proof of full vaccination is provided



Schools, Childcare & Summer Camps (including extracurricular activities)



- Unvaccinated individuals ages 2+ wear a mask when indoors
- Allow individuals to remove their masks only with proof of full vaccination
- When one or more students are unvaccinated, adults in the room wear a mask as modeling behavior



Healthcare Facilities

masks be worn indoors for ages 2+ except

- Staff may remove their face covering with proof of full vaccination when in non-public portions of such facilities
- For outpatient facilities, medical providers can permit a patient or other individuals to remove their face covering in a private room with proof of full vaccination



Non-public-facing businesses

- Individuals who are not fully vaccinated wear a face covering whenever they are around other individuals who are not fully vaccinated.
- Implement policies to allow individuals, particularly those who are unable to get vaccinated (e.g. due to age) or who have compromised immunity, to assess their own risk.



Public-facing businesses

Unvaccinated staff wear a face covering when interacting with others indoors

If staff is fully vaccinated and they are allowed to remove their masks per that business, post a notice at the entrance to inform the public why staff are not wearing masks



Require facial coverings for the public while indoors if proof of vaccination is provided or if the business is unable to request vaccination status



* In general, people are considered **fully vaccinated**:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, like Pfizer or Moderna
- 2 weeks after a 1-dose vaccine, like J&J

Operations

Boulder Reservoir Update:

Driftwind Operations: Driftwind at the Rez is semi-operational as a concession, with full operations limited by some logistical challenges that are frustrating but typical with new construction. As shared previously and following the withdrawal of the permanent liquor license application, Driftwind is focusing on a successful first summer within currently allowed activities. Driftwind's Dinner on the Beach series is designed to "showcase and support the abundant work of local non-profits, helping to raise financial resources and awareness, bringing together the community in a wholly unique dining experience." On June 17 and at a [special hearing](#), the Beverage Licensing Authority reviewed Special Event Liquor License applications for six non-profit organizations for the first six of the events, scheduled for weekend evenings in July. 17 neighbors submitted comments for the hearing and several spoke at the meeting. Their comments generally express concern that these events would be unsafe, lead to drunk driving and/or unsafe activities at the Reservoir, and negatively impact their neighborhood. After asking many questions of the applicants to understand the nature of the events, including security protocols and measures to prevent overconsumption, the BLA approved all six applications.

Despite approval through this process, some neighbors have still expressed dissatisfaction with plans and BPR is working with partners to determine the best way to respond.

Sound Monitoring: BPR purchased sound equipment to continuously monitor and record sound levels at the front gate. This equipment is also utilized at Chautauqua to monitor for sound intrusion to nearby neighbors and will help BPR ensure commitments about sound levels are fulfilled.

Pool Operations: Staff continue to balance and prioritize operations while facing a national lifeguard shortage. Additional onboarding and training of new lifeguards is taking place continuously and staff intend to reassess and make any possible changes to summer operations for the second half of summer by July 12. The following is a list of facilities and amenities that are currently operational. Full pool schedules are published online and updated each Friday with any changes and can be found [here](#). Additional amenities are made available at facilities as staffing allows.

- **Scott Carpenter Leisure Pool Features:**
 - Shallow areas and splash pad: 7 days a week: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Lazy river: 7 days a week: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 - Water slides: 7 days a week: noon to 5 p.m.
 - Deep pool: 7 days a week: 2-6 p.m.

- **Scott Carpenter Lap Pool:**

- Monday – Friday: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 - Saturday – Sunday: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **East Boulder Community Center Leisure Pool:**
 - Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 - Saturday: 9 a.m. to noon
 - Sunday: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 - **East Boulder Community Center Lap Pool**
 - Monday – Friday: 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 - Saturday – Sunday: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - **North Boulder Recreation Center Lap Pool:**
 - Monday – Friday: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Facility Opening Celebrations: Now operating at increased capacities after a season of limited operations, the department held celebrations to commemorate the completion of the Scott Carpenter Pool renovations and the remodeled Visitors Services Center and restaurant at the Boulder Reservoir.



To celebrate the Visitors Services Center opening, members of the Parks and Recreation and Advisory Board (PRAB), City Council and city staff held an event on Friday, June 11, at the outdoor dining area with views of the reservoir and Flatirons. A ribbon cutting ceremony officially opened the center and restaurant to the community.

The celebration at Scott Carpenter Pool on Saturday, June 12 included members of PRAB, City Council and city staff

who thanked all involved in the project. The event was a chance to hold a ribbon cutting and see all the new features in action, while enjoying refreshments from the new Bellyflop concession area at the pool.



