Recommendations
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Summary

City Park will be preserved and improved according to recommendations presented in this Master Plan Update and as guided by Design Guidelines. Recommendations will protect historical and environmental resources including the urban forest and park features and spaces. Road and trail improvements will offer access for park users and all modes of transportation. Park facility enhancements and a few additions will meet community needs. Recommendations will be implemented with a multi-year strategy to ensure improvements, use, and management follow priorities and available funding.

An improved review process will integrate the city’s existing Engineering, Regulatory, Analytics (ERA) and Public Engagement, Communication and Notification (PECAN) processes. This improved process will add design review provided by a new design advisory committee to ensure proposed modifications are consistent with the Master Plan Update and Design Guidelines. This committee will consist of design professionals, park advocates, neighbors, and park users who will review projects / priorities, and provide recommendations to the department’s Executive Director. The improved project review process will be open to the public with community input at project milestones.

City Park’s composition will be preserved by protecting and enhancing the park’s significant spaces, features, and relationships, and by managing the urban forest for longevity and rejuvenation. The park’s variety of small and large spaces of meadows and lakes defined by forested groves and tree-lined winding roads will remain and be improved. Views and vistas and features that contribute to park character will remain. New features will be placed with respect to the park composition.

A comprehensive system of movement and connection will improve circulation. It will be of a cohesive aesthetic, easy to navigate, offer experiences and access for all users, and be safe for all modes. Upgrades to physical infrastructure will build upon City Park’s characteristic hierarchy of roads and trails and provide a consistency in materials. Park roads will be upgraded along established alignments. Existing trails will be improved, and new trails added to access park destinations and follow missing historic routes. The south road will become a park promenade for shared use by pedestrians, bicycles, and park users. North Park Road will be redesigned to a park-like aesthetic with narrow travel lanes for shared bicycle and vehicular travel.
Small roundabouts and raised pedestrian crossings will ensure safe pedestrian / bicycle travel. City Park’s diverse trees, meadows, and gardens will be improved and managed for historic integrity, aesthetics, tree health, and ecological diversity. A successional approach will be implemented to reestablish historic spatial and vegetation patterns while protecting established, significant, and notable trees. Living collections and gardens will be repaired and select new gardens added. Plantings along lake edges and in the park’s southeast corner will provide bird, aquatic, and wildlife habitat; increase biological diversity; and ensure an ecologically functional landscape.

City Park’s park buildings and structures will be preserved and repaired. City Park Pavilion, Graham / Bible House and Barn, Elephant House, and Bungalow Fire Station will be preserved and repaired for possible park-related community use. New park buildings and structures will be added in select locations to accommodate park uses, i.e., public restrooms, gathering spaces, and picnic facilities. All will be designed to complement, and be subordinate to, existing park buildings and structures. Existing structures and gateways will be repaired, and new gateways added at key entrances into City Park from East 23rd Avenue. New gateways will continue the tradition of accentuating primary park entrances. A maintenance building will be added for improved park operations.

The interface of the Zoo with City Park will be improved. It will be designed as a cohesive aesthetic that reflects the Zoo’s location within City Park and acknowledges its importance as an institution. The improved Zoo edge will have some variety but will be designed as a composition that addresses views, conditions, and experiences. Within the Zoo’s boundaries, new ‘zooconic’ buildings and exhibits, as viewed from City Park and East 23rd Avenue, will be expressive and identifiable as Zoo features.

City Park’s current variety and balance of passive and active uses and experiences will continue and be enhanced. All uses and experiences will be designed to be integrated with the park. Existing park facilities, features, and spaces will be improved, and a few new features added. Improved roads and trails will offer safer and more enjoyable walking, running, and bicycling. Improvements to play spaces and consideration of future new amenities will enhance active use. Improvements to picnicking, fishing access, and wildlife viewing will enhance passive use. As habitat is improved, more opportunities for viewing wildlife will occur. Improved circulation will better accommodate park users and those who visit each institution. Basic amenities including lighting, drinking fountains, seating, bicycle parking, and trash and recycling receptacles will be improved.
South Meadow and the park’s southeast corner will be enhanced to be a more ecologically diverse landscape. Naturalistic features and exploratory park experiences will respect the park composition. This area will become more naturalized in a setting compatible with the park’s established forested groves and meadows. A more balanced inside/outside connection will be made with the Museum, and new experiences will be integrated with Box Canyon Waterway, the Pinetum, and Lily Pond. South Meadow will become a unified experience where ecology, biological diversity, play, and passive use are accommodated in a variety of linked spaces.

The park’s northwest corner will be improved for enhanced play, court sports, and passive uses. A new restroom will replace the outdated structure. Park maintenance and operations will be relocated to a new building and site. Dustin Redd Playground will be replaced with new play experiences, integrated with the surrounding meadow, and improved park roads. New open-air shade pavilions will provide respite and shade.

East 23rd Avenue will be improved to have a more park-like character with park gateways at York Street and Colorado Boulevard. The upgrades will accommodate all travel modes, improve wayfinding at park entrances, provide grand and welcoming gateways, and enhance the road’s character by adding trees and accentuating views. The improved aesthetic will provide visual and physical connectivity between City Park and City Park Golf Course.

Recommendations will be implemented according to priorities and available funding. The implementation strategy presented in this document directly addresses needs and desires expressed by the community, Stakeholder Working Group (SWG), and DPR staff. Projects were weighed relative to one another, and are presented as Priority #1, #2 or #3. Projects include deferred maintenance, 2001 Master Plan actions that have yet to be implemented, and new projects identified by this planning process to meet evolving needs and preserve park character. The implementation strategy addresses the community’s desire for all projects, no matter the scale or scope, to reflect the character of City Park. To achieve this, the implementation strategy will be used in tandem with the Design Guidelines and the improved design review process.
City Park’s distinct composition will be maintained by managing the urban forest, and by preserving and enhancing the spaces, features, and relationships that it creates. The park’s variety of small and large spaces of meadows and lakes defined by forested groves and tree-lined winding roads will be preserved and enhanced. Views and vistas and features that contribute to the park character will remain. New features will be placed with respect to the park composition.

**Principle: Protect and enhance City Park’s distinct composition of spaces along with views, topography, and individual features that define these spaces.**

- Respect established and historic patterns, sequences, openings and enclosures, spaces and relationships, and topography.
  - Preserve historic spaces and relationships.
  - Place new vegetation, or selectively thin or remove vegetation, to complete missing or diminished historic patterns, and to repair views or vistas that link park spaces or movement.
  - Place new park buildings and structures, vegetation, or features to enhance the park composition and views.

- Repair the established and historic pattern and variety of park spaces through vegetation management and placement of features.
  - Restore views at roundabouts by selective thinning, pruning, removing select trees, or adding new trees.
  - Repair the relationship between tree-lined winding roads and park spaces by replacing missing trees in established tree allees along park roads and by opening views between spaces.

- Define the park edges with new tree plantings to enhance the park as a refuge from the busy city and surrounding neighborhoods.
- Preserve and repair existing park features that contribute to the definition of park spaces.

- Respect the vista point on the west side of the Museum as an important view towards the Rocky Mountains.
  - Place new vegetation along the edges of this viewshed to enhance and frame the vista.
  - Preserve the topography and park features that create the vista point and viewshed.

- Preserve historic views within and to City Park, including the following.
  - between City Park Pavilion and Martin Luther King Jr. Monument
  - Ferril Lake view
  - between Ferril Lake and Elephant House
  - between City Park Pavilion and Elephant House
  - between Burns Garden and Duck Lake
  - into North Meadow from East 22nd Avenue, East 23rd Avenue, and Colorado Boulevard
  - into 1950s Botanic Garden from North Park Road
  - into the park at East 21st Avenue from York Street at McLellan Gateway
  - into the park at Sopris Gateway from East 17th Avenue

- Repair missing historic views within and to City Park.
  - Repair missing views into the park from York Street, East 17th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard by selective thinning, pruning, removing select trees, and planting new trees where necessary to frame views.
  - Repair missing views to Box Canyon Waterway, at Steele Street entrance, and the Pinetum by selective thinning, pruning, removing select trees, and planting new trees where necessary to frame views.