

City of Boulder Parks & Recreation



Valmont Bike Park Opening



*2011 Annual Report
to the community*

Directors Message



2011 was a wonderful year for the City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department! Thousands of residents enjoyed our parks, playgrounds, sport fields, pools and recreation programs and facilities. Seeing the diverse range of people enjoying themselves and staying active because of what we do is always the single most important highlight of my year.

In 2011, we also completed and opened the latest addition to our parks: Valmont Bike Park. Since opening on June 11, this park has become an instant hit with families, adults and youth of all ages. This one of a kind, natural-surface bike park features amenities for all abilities and riding styles – away from auto traffic, yet right in town. Built with the tremendous support of the community and Boulder Mountainbike Alliance, this park showcases what we can achieve when we work together.

Every day, our employees strive to make your parks, athletic fields, recreation facilities and programs the most accessible, safe and enjoyable they can be. Our singular focus is on enhancing the quality of life in Boulder by providing the highest quality programs and facilities available.

We are honored to present you with the Department's 2011 Annual Report, summarizing last year's accomplishments. Our hope is that you continue to visit the parks and facilities we provide for your health, recreation and enjoyment.

In the spirit of community,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Kincannon", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Kirk Kincannon, Director
City of Boulder Parks & Recreation

Mission

The mission of the city of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department is to provide safe, clean, and beautiful parks and facilities and high-quality leisure activities for the community. These services shall enhance residents' health and well-being and promote economic vitality for long-term community sustainability. We will accomplish this through creative leadership, environmentally sustainable practices, and the responsible use of available resources.

Vision

Strive for excellence in our parks and recreation system to reflect and serve the unique values and qualities of our community.

2011 City Councilmembers:

Susan Osborne - Mayor
Crystal Gray - Deputy Mayor
Suzy Ageton
Matt Appelbaum
KC Becker
Macon Cowles
George Karakehian
Lisa Morzel
Ken Wilson

2011 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Members:

Todd Bryan – Board Chair
Pete Webber – Board Vice Chair
Myriah Conroy
Michelle Estrella
Marcelee Galapp
Richard Thayer
Bob Yates

Jane S. Brautigam
City Manager

Paul J. Fetherston
Deputy City Manager



2011 Department Achievements

Parks & Planning

- **Valmont Bike Park opened June 11.** This 40-acre, natural-surface facility (located at the corner of Valmont and Airport roads) was designed to offer terrain, trails, features and structures for several off-road cycling styles/disciplines. It offers amenities for all ages and abilities and instantly became one of the leading municipal bike parks in the United States.

- **East Boulder Community Park.** The latest development of East Boulder Community Park was completed and the park was re-opened in August. The project included addition of two multi-sport synthetic turf fields, renovation of the dog park, lighting and resurfacing of five tennis courts, and improvements to many park amenities as well as landscaping and irrigation improvements.

- **Family Gathering Place.** Major renovation of the Family Gathering Place on the Pearl Street Mall (an outdoor play zone popular with young children) was completed in May. The area was improved by removing deteriorating wood timbers, upgrading safety surfacing and including ADA accessibility.

- **Water conservation.** Significant irrigation system and turf upgrades were completed at the following parks and facilities:

- Municipal Complex;
- Gerald Stazio Softball Fields;
- Aurora 7 Park;
- Harlow Platts Community Park;
- Foothills Community Park Athletic Field;
- Boulder Reservoir;
- Dairy Center for the Arts;
- East end of the Pearl Street Mall.

These are part of an ongoing effort to upgrade all city park irrigation systems and improve water conservation and efficiency. Using the newest in irrigation technology, turf varieties and landscaping materials (especially those suited to our dry, low precipitation environment) we are reducing our domestic water consumption. Even with the addition of several new park areas, the department has decreased water use by 12.6% since 2008.

These irrigation upgrades include conversion to the Baseline Irrigation Controller System that incorporates soil moisture sensors for more accurate and effective irrigation.

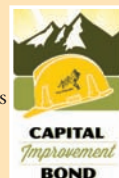
- **Arrowwood Park:** Completion of new pedestrian bridge connecting north and south areas of park.

- **2012 project planning.** Planning began for several park development projects scheduled to begin in 2012. These include:

- **Mesa Memorial Park** (Table Mesa Dr. at Yale Rd.)
– new park development on undeveloped site;
- **Elks Park** (between 26th and 28th Sts. Near Pampas Ct.) – new park development on undeveloped site;
- **Valmont Dog Park** (Valmont Rd. near Sterling Cir.)
– renovate existing dog park;

- **2012 Capital Improvement Round 1 Bond projects:**

Boulder Reservoir Infrastructure Improvements
Columbia Cemetery Upgrades/Enhancements
Park Shelter Replacements/Improvements
Parks & Recreation Facility Renovations
South Boulder Recreation Center Floor Replacement.



- **Urban Forestry:**

- 904 trees were planted;
- 2,329 public trees received professional tree care (pruning, clean-up from storm damage or safety removal).



Did you know?

The Department collaborated with the University of Colorado's College of Architecture and Planning, Division of Environmental Design to design and construct a storage facility at Columbia Cemetery. It is primarily used for protective storage of approximately 250 broken grave markers awaiting repair.

Recreation

- **B-Cycles.** The department partnered with Boulder B-Cycle to provide docking station sites for this popular automated bike share program at 3 park sites.
- **Scott Carpenter Pool.** Major renovations to the pool were completed in May, including installation of stainless steel gutters and a surge tank, energy efficient boiler, deck drains and life-guard stands, ADA-accessibility improvements and a re-finish of the water slide.

Did you know?



Expressions Dance Company won the 2011 National Dance Championship at the Hall of Fame Dance Challenge. The competition was held in February at the Vance Brand Civic Auditorium in Longmont.



The Parks and Recreation Department has utilized goats to control weeds at the Boulder Reservoir for 11 consecutive years. 300-350 goats graze at the Boulder Reservoir for approximately one week in the summer. The use of biological controls, such as goat grazing, is an important tool for combating weeds without the use of herbicides.

- **Flatirons Golf Course.**
 - Began the course bunker renovation/playability improvement project.
 - Flatirons received the Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary designation for the second consecutive year from the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP). Flatirons received this designation by meeting the program's rigorous standards regarding wildlife habitat, water conservation and environmental turf-management.
- **Recreation Centers.** The North Boulder Recreation Center, East Boulder Community Center and South Boulder Recreation Center received significant Energy Performance upgrades and renovations. These included installation of solar photovoltaic (electric) panels and solar thermal systems (for water heating), as well as more energy-efficient lighting, air and water circulation systems. This work was done as part of a broad City of Boulder project to bring energy efficiency upgrades to 66 city facilities. The overall project, part of a partnership with the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) through an Energy Performance Contract (EPC) was designed to ensure that upgrade costs are covered by the long-term energy cost savings.
 - Annual maintenance at the three recreation centers included replacing carpets, painting and resurfacing gymnasium floors, and re-finishes the water slide at the East Boulder Community Center.
- **Boulder Reservoir.** The Boulder Reservoir Master Plan was completed and accepted by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in 2011 (and accepted by City Council in January 2012). The plan establishes management goals and objectives for the Reservoir (including Coot Lake) that will guide future management and investment strategies.
- **Tennis.** East Boulder Community Park's five tennis courts were renovated, including resurfacing and lighting the courts.
- **Camps.** More than 2,500 kids participated in the Department's Spring Break, Summer, Thanksgiving and Winter Break camps.
- **Let's Move!** Parks and Recreation offered more than 100 *Let's Move!* programs and events in 2011. *Let's Move!* is a national campaign aimed at solving the problem of childhood obesity by providing nutritional guidance and physical activities for young people. The initiative was launched by First Lady Michelle Obama.
- **Pottery Lab.** A management assessment was conducted in an effort to maximize the value of the Pottery Lab to the broadest segment of the community and to address cost-recovery goals.





- **Therapeutic Recreation.** EXPAND is the Parks and Recreation Department's program offering therapeutic recreation for patrons living with disabilities. In 2011:

- EXPAND's Paralympic Sport Club participated in the Boulder Boulder.
- The annual EXPAND Duck Race® – raised funds for the program at the city's Boulder Creek Festival®.
- An EXPAND athlete was selected to compete in the 2011 Special Olympics in Athens, Greece.
- EXPAND served more than 485 individuals by providing specialized programs and inclusion assistance into regular recreation classes.

- **ADA Audit.** Parks and Recreation staff performed an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Audit to comply with the Department of Justice (DOJ) final accessibility guidelines for parks and recreation facilities, policies and procedures. A transition plan is being developed in 2012.

- **Youth Services Initiative (YSI).** YSI provides youth living in subsidized housing with meaningful after-school activities and cultural activities. In 2011, YSI:

- Was selected as the beneficiary of the Grass Roots Ultimate Frisbee tournament for the second consecutive year.
- Helped provide more than \$9,000 in scholarships to participants who would have been unable to afford recreation programs.
- Together with members of the Boulder Fire Department, provided more than 450 children with gifts during the holiday season.

Did you know?

Angel "Nacho" Ramirez, a Youth Services Initiative (YSI) participant, received the 2011 Outstanding Youth Volunteer Award from the City of Boulder's Youth Opportunities Advisory Board. Ramirez was nominated for his volunteer service, which includes helping organize and assemble race materials for fundraising sports events, mulching trees and plants for Boulder Housing Partners and Growing Gardens, and helping chaperone YSI overnight trips for the Department.



Awards

- Parks and Recreation received the 2011 Barb King Environmental Stewardship Award from the National Recreation and Park Association.
- The City of Boulder was named a “Tree City USA” for the 27th consecutive year by the National Arbor Day Foundation.
- The Boulder Reservoir received Colorado’s first Clean Marina certification from the Colorado Marina Association.
- The Department was awarded the 2011 Colorado Parks and Recreation Association Columbine Award for Recreation Facility Design at Valmont Bike Park.
- The Department received a 2011 Colorado American Society of Landscape Architects Professional Design Merit Award for Valmont Bike Park design.

Community involvement

Public Meetings:

- **Pottery Lab.** A public workshop was held in January to gather ideas on how to increase the community benefit and improve the efficiency of the Pottery Lab. An open house was held in November to present the management assessment of the pottery program and gather feedback and suggestions about possible next steps in creating a successful future for the program.
- **Use fees.** A public administrative hearing on Parks and Recreation fees was held in May to discuss proposed parks and recreation facility use fee increases.
- **Reservoir Master Plan.** A public meeting was held in November to give the public an opportunity to review and discuss the final draft of the Boulder Reservoir Master Plan.

Volunteer service

3,179 volunteers contributed to 38,091 volunteer hours.

Major volunteer projects:

- Community Cleanup Day
- Sakura cherry tree planting
- National Public Lands Day
- EXPAND Duck Race®
- Boulder Creek Festival®

Community service

325 court-referred volunteers contributed to the Parks and Recreation Department through community service work.

Ready to Work

The Department partnered with the Bridge House, a day shelter for the homeless, to create a pilot program for the Ready to Work Crew. Parks staff assisted in the initial training of the crew and provided tasks for the crew at the Pearl Street Mall and the Downtown Municipal complex.

Did you know?



Parks and Recreation maintains the flowers, trees and outdoor areas of the Pearl St. Mall. Each fall, we plant about 15,000 new tulip bulbs. After the spring bloom, the bulbs are removed to make way for summer plantings.

As a major city attraction and vital business hub, Parks and Recreation changes the variety and color of the tulips planted on the Pearl Street Mall every year to provide a unique and impressive display each spring.



The Urban Forestry unit coordinates with local beekeepers to relocate honeybee colonies when they are found in public trees that must be removed (or pruned) for public safety. Hollow sections of limbs or trunks attract honeybee colonies.

In 2011, Urban Forestry relocated six honeybee hives to a safe place on park property.

Community Events

- **East Boulder Recreation Center Open House.** A free open house was held at the East Boulder Community Center in January. Area residents were encouraged to tour the center, sample classes, swim and work out.
- **Adult Dance Days.** Two free Adult Dance Days were held in January. The community was invited to sample a variety of free dance classes, allowing residents to experience different styles of dance and instruction.
- **Father & Daughter Dance.** The annual Father and Daughter Valentine's Dance was held at the North Boulder Recreation Center. Fathers, grandpas, uncles and their little sweethearts enjoyed an evening of dancing and refreshments.
- **Community Cleanup Day.** Volunteers helped clean up Boulder during Community Cleanup Day in May.
- **National Kids to Parks Day.** Children and adults enjoyed games, prizes, demos and more during our *Let's Move!* and Kids to Parks Tennis Day at East Boulder Community Park in May.
- **Scott Carpenter Pool.** Children and adults attended the free Scott Carpenter Pool grand re-opening event at the end of May.
- **EXPAND Duck Race®.** 7,000 rubber ducks raced down Boulder Creek during the EXPAND Duck Race® on Memorial Day, with an estimated \$25,000 raised. Proceeds benefit the therapeutic recreation (EXPAND) program.
- **Valmont Bike Park.** About 2,500 people attended the grand opening of Valmont Bike Park in June.
- **Boulder Reservoir Clean Marina flag-raising.** Children and adults attended the Boulder Reservoir Clean Marina flag-raising event in July.
- **Boulder Creek Flood Marker.** The Department provided land and guidance for the development and installation of the Gilbert White Flood Marker, located in Central Park on the northern bank of Boulder Creek. A dedication event was held in July.
- **Tulip bulb give-away.** Parks and Recreation hosted the annual tulip bulb give-away on the Pearl Street Mall in August.
- **Greenovation Event.** Harlow Platts Park and the South Boulder Recreation Center hosted local, state and green energy leaders to celebrate the city's successful energy-efficiency upgrades in August.
- **East Boulder Community Park.** City council members, children, adults and dogs attended the park's grand re-opening in August.
- **Take a Kid Mountain Biking.** Kids and parents enjoyed a day of free instruction, demonstrations and expo at Valmont Bike Park in October.
- **Columbia Cemetery.** The Department celebrated the opening of a new 340-square-foot storage building at Columbia Cemetery in October.
- **Halloween Carnival.** This popular annual indoor event attracted hundreds of kids for Halloween crafts, activities and fun at the South Boulder Recreation Center.
- **Boulder Cup CycloCross.** The Department hosted this popular race at Valmont Bike Park in October.
- **Free concerts.** Eight free Performances in the Parks events were held over the summer.
- **Family Nights.** Family fun, movies and games were held at Scott Carpenter Pool every Friday throughout the summer.
- **Dog Dayz.** Dogs came to swim and frolic for several days at the end of the outdoor pool season at Scott Carpenter Pool.

Sponsorships:

- **Colorado Children's Day.** Several city departments, including Parks and Recreation, were major sponsors of Colorado Children's Day on the Pearl Street Mall in April.
- **Boulder Green Streets.** Several city departments, including Parks and Recreation were major sponsors of the annual Green Streets event in September. The event promotes active, healthy living, sustainability and strong community by bringing people together through temporary street liberation projects.



Parks & Recreation 2011 - By the numbers

100 *parks and public sites maintained* by Parks and Recreation. These include parks, sports facilities and public areas, such as the Pearl Street Mall, Chautauqua Park, Columbia Cemetery, Pottery Lab, Dairy Center grounds, the Municipal Complex, and Stazio, Pleasant View and East Mapleton ball fields.

1,770 *acres* of parkland managed and maintained, plus 1,005 acres of natural areas.

236 *miles* of multi-use paths and walks maintained.

45,000 *flowers and tulips* planted annually on the Pearl Street Mall, 25 adopted parks and 27 adopted flower beds.

41 *playgrounds* maintained for active play and safety.

36,000 *trees* inspected and maintained.

4 *dog parks* totaling 9 acres.

100 *outdoor ball courts* (basketball, handball, tennis and volleyball) maintained for community play and safety.

2,200 *volunteers* contributed

38,000 *volunteer hours* on Department projects.



413,000 *visits* to our recreation centers.

20,000 *participants* in our recreation programs.

2,500 *participants* in our summer camps.

40,000 *rounds of golf* at Flatirons Golf Course.

53,000 *visits* to our outdoor pools.



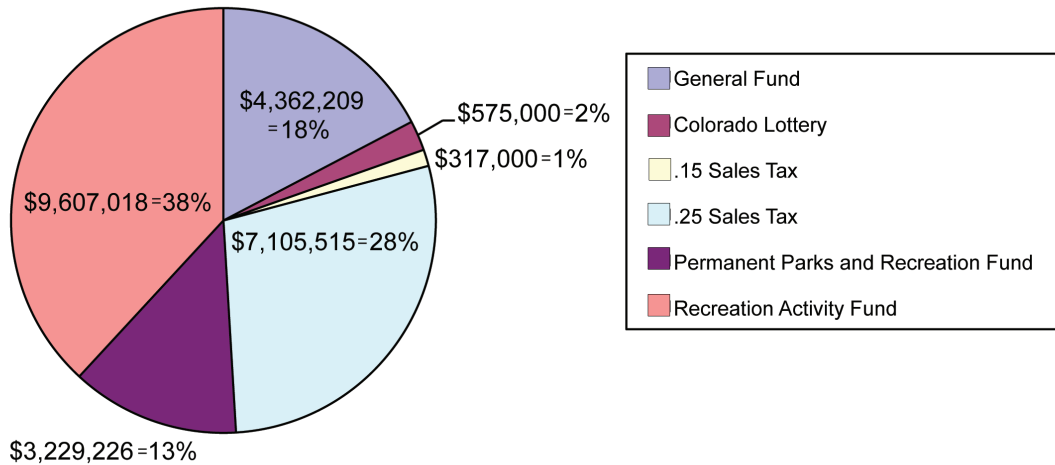
300,000 *visits* to the Boulder Reservoir, plus hosted 35 events.

15,000 *participants* in our sports leagues, plus more than 50 contract organizations that held events on our sports fields. 20 regional and national events held on sports fields brought approximately 20,000 visitors into Boulder.

1,500 *dog swim entries* during Dog Dayz at Scott Carpenter Pool.

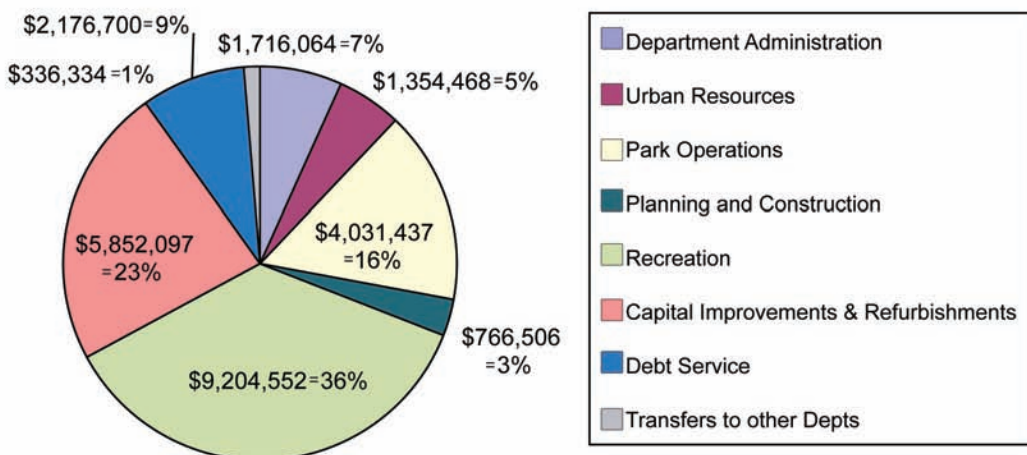
Parks & Recreation - 2011 Funding Sources

\$25.2 million



Parks & Recreation - 2011 Expenses

\$25.4 million



Financial Summary for 2011

Financial Summary

2011 brought some positive revenue gains for the Department. City sales and use tax collections increased by 6.7% over 2010, which positively affected the department's .25 Cent Sales Tax Fund. Revenues also increased in the department's Recreation Activity Fund for the first time in several years, while expense reduction strategies (implemented over the past few years) also benefited the fund's balance. For the long term, the department will continue its conservative revenue projections while developing strategies to reduce the gap between revenues and expenses over both the short and long-term.

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) funding

Each year, the Department receives funding for Capital Improvement Projects, such as major park or facility renovations and construction projects. Funds allocated for Capital Improvement Projects must be used for their designated purpose and cannot be used to fund daily operations.

2011 Grants and Donations

Valmont Bike Park

- Received \$45,000 in grant funding.
- Received \$48,624 in donations

EXciting Programs Adventures and New Dimensions (EXPAND)

- Received \$116,991 in grant funding—including \$20,000 from the United States Olympic Committee funded by Veterans Affairs to continue serving injured military men and women with recreation programs.
- Received \$3,270 in donations.

Youth Services Initiative (YSI)

- Received \$22,907 in grant funding.
- Received \$1,772 in donations.

Quick Guide to Funding

Parks and Recreation is funded by four primary funding mechanisms—each serving specific and sometimes dedicated purposes.

1. General Fund

The city's General Fund is supported by fees, sales, property and other taxes. General Fund dollars are allocated to city departments and projects by City Council through an annual budget process. Parks and Recreation uses its allocation to fund park and forestry operations and Department administration.

2. Recreation Activity Fund (RAF)

The RAF is used to operate and maintain the Department's many recreation, fitness and sports facilities and programs. RAF funds are largely derived from program and facility use fees with some supplemental funding from the General Fund (primarily to fund subsidized programs for low-income youth and individuals with disabilities).

3. Permanent Parks & Recreation Fund

This is the Department's capital improvement and acquisition fund. It is funded specifically from property and development excise taxes for the dedicated purpose of acquiring land and renovating or improving existing parks and recreational facilities. It may not be used to fund operations or routine maintenance.

4. Dedicated Sales Taxes

The Department receives voter-approved sales tax funds (.25 cents) that are dedicated to acquiring, developing and maintaining parks and recreation facilities.

2012 projects

- Waterwise Turf Garden at East Boulder Community Park
- Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan update

Capital Improvement Bond projects:

- Boulder Reservoir Infrastructure Improvements
- Columbia Cemetery Upgrades/Enhancements
- Park Shelter Replacements/Improvements
- Parks & Recreation Facility Renovations
- South Boulder Recreation Center Floor Replacement



To provide feedback on the 2011 City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Annual Report, visit www.BoulderParks-Rec.org.