

Lasley Park Improvement Plan

Final Revisions. August, 2016

Background

Lasley Park, at 6677 W. Florida Ave. is a 10-acre property assembled over many years through various acquisitions. The eastern portion of the site was acquired by the South Jefferson County Metropolitan Recreation and Park District (now Foothills Parks and Recreation District) in 1960. This area was developed in 1967 with a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Improvements included a shelter, irrigation, tennis courts and volleyball court. The western portion of the site was acquired in 1970 and was improved with irrigation and some scattered playground equipment. In 1984 the play equipment was consolidated into the existing play area. In 1985 the basketball courts were built, and in 1994, concrete pathways were added to the site and a picnic shelter was constructed on the west end of the park.

In 2000, the site was deeded to the City of Lakewood. The City replaced some of the playground equipment in 2006, replaced the eastern picnic shelter in 2008, and added a port-a-let enclosure in 2011. The tennis courts have been resurfaced in recent years and new trees have been planted in the north eastern portion of the park.

The history of the park's acquisitions and subsequent developments have resulted in the somewhat haphazard distribution of amenities. To help remedy this situation, the Lasley Neighborhood Plan was put into motion in August of 2001 which unfortunately, was never completed. Over the last few years, neighborhood residents have made requests for upgrades to the park which include an update and expansion of the playground, the addition of fitness equipment, more seating, more effective lighting and additional trails and plantings. This has led the City to reimagine the park and to address the concerns of the neighborhood and the foreseeable needs of the community.

2016 Planning Efforts

In early 2016, the City of Lakewood partnered with the University of Colorado Denver's graduate landscape architecture program through an innovative program called the Hometown Colorado Initiative. The partnership involved the students, under the guidance of a licensed landscape architect, to undertake a planning process to include neighborhood meetings, design concept development and recommendations aimed at developing a feedback-driven final site plan for Lasley Park.

The planning effort led by the students included public meetings to gather input and comments from the neighborhood. Specific issues raised by approximately 50 residents included playground safety, lighting, distribution of amenities (including a porta-let, benches and picnic shelters), lack of shade, lack of signage, additional plantings and parking.

Six student teams developed concept plans addressing the issues and concerns gathered from residents and were presented at a meeting on March 3, 2016. The plans varied in terms of approach and ideas, and meeting participants were asked to identify which plan elements they preferred as opposed to selecting any one particular concept. Looking at areas of consensus, staff undertook the development of the proposed improvement plan.

On June 23, 2016, residents gathered at Lasley Park to discuss the proposed improvement plan. Lively conversation and "tours" of the park resulted in some changes to the proposed plan; specifically removing a parking lot on W. Florida Ave. and eliminating the field regrading based on feedback from the public.

The final improvement plan is described visually and in narrative form in the pages that follow.





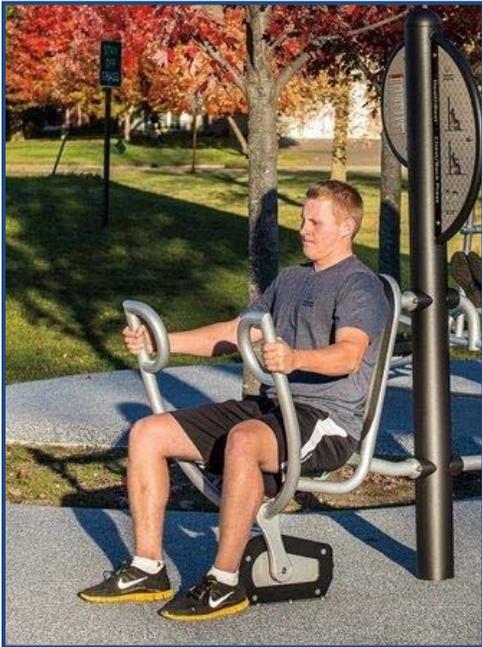
Lasley Park Site Plan

August 2016

SYMBOLS LEGEND

-  Existing Deciduous Tree
-  Proposed Deciduous Tree
-  Existing Conifer Tree
-  Proposed Conifer Tree
-  Proposed Deciduous Tree
-  Park Bench
-  Picnic Table

Proposed Playground



Med Ornamental Tree
 Med Shrub
 Bench
 Table



Lasley Elementary School



W. Florida Avenue

S. Marshall Street

S. Lamar Street



1" = 40'



Final Lasley Park Improvement Plan

The site plan illustrated here has been developed using feedback gathered during the public input process along with recommendations from the City of Lakewood's Community Resources Facility and Park Site Plan.

The proposed plan focuses on neighborhood concerns over safety, lighting, playground improvements, plantings and pathways for walking and exercise. Specific enhancements include:

- A more centrally located playground, incorporating separate areas for the 2-5 year old age group and the 5-12 year old age group. The volleyball court has been relocated to the south to make way for the new playground.
- An exercise/fitness area provides activities for adults in proximity to the playground taking child supervision into account.
- A tall pyramid net structure provides fun climbing activity for all ages and a great perch for views of the mountains to the west.
- The old playground area has been transformed to include several horseshoe pits and a corn hole game to augment opportunities for park patrons and larger groups using the adjacent picnic shelter.
- The narrow 5' wide sidewalk along Florida has been upgraded to an 8' wide path and configured to provide a looped system for walking and running.
- A porta-let and enclosure has been added on the west side at Otis St.
- Planting beds, trees and seating areas are included to satisfy desires for more color and shade throughout the park.



Additionally, please note:

- Park neighbors made suggestions for additional amenities that are included in this plan. They include a drinking fountain near the playground, bulletin board kiosk for neighborhood use, and additional shade and seating areas.
 - To enhance accessibility, the addition of designated handicapped parking spaces is under consideration in the area of the north east corner of the park, where the street currently ends.
 - To promote water conservation practices, turf area has been reduced by incorporating native grasses along the northern property lines where the existing path layout and tree plantings limit functional use of the area. An upgraded irrigation system will also contribute to water savings for the City.
- Old wood post mounted street lights along the northern path will be replaced by solar powered lighting throughout the park, incorporating the City's plan to promote energy efficiency and to provide for enhanced security in the park.
 - A centrally located focal point for artwork, as yet to be determined, incorporates Lakewood's plan to integrate public art into the City's park system.

As envisioned here, Lasley Park can meet the diverse needs of the neighborhood, providing a reinvigorated mix of recreational amenities, a landscape with diversity in shape, color and interest, and an example of how to incorporate sustainable design as we rebuild for the future.

Cost Estimate, Timeline and Next Steps

The cost to implement this plan is estimated between \$1 million and \$1.2 million based on the current construction climate. Construction drawings will be developed over the 2016 winter months with construction occurring in spring and summer of 2017, pending budget approval.

303-987-7800 | CRInfo@Lakewood.org
www.Lakewood.org/Projects



Lakewood
Community Resources