

Prairie Vista Park Management Plan Additions

Formerly known as Windemere Park
Drafted 2017 June

Refer to Holistic Monitoring Plan and Testing Questions Always, and resources on park tablet
“Assume the current practice is incorrect, not perfect, and that we are watching to improve”

- ❖ Grass proliferation and dirt coverage with Denver Water Temporary Irrigation Approval
 1. Fall 2017 Photograph zone transects identified in pilot biological monitoring day
 - a. Spring seed coverage survey—with Denizen to assess coverages
 2. With Savory Institute (measure square footage per use type, decide on temporary irrigation timing and efficacy, goat mow timing)
 3. Monitor weather
 4. Re-seed placement—specific areas
 5. Ask for new irrigation exemption from Denver Water, if necessary and continue monitoring through August 2018
 6. Schedule goat mowing timing—schedule the “Meet and Bleet” when needed
 7. 2019 go to as-needed watering
- *Need seed mix, and final irrigation plans and current usage program schedule.

- ❖ Trees: watch and remove dying deciduous trees
 1. Prioritize large elm near gazebo
 2. Prioritize the perennial garden
 3. Monitor pine/and spruce
 4. Protect new plantings with metal mesh not fabric
 5. Consider male cottonwood in future are west end near boulders—could be a wildlife video site

- ❖ Install final signage and dedication ceremony
 1. Final walk-through with ACOS
 2. Dog station installation
 3. New and replacement signs (leash laws, clean up yourself and pets, educational signage, flower species signs, kiosk, entrance and watershed sign)
 4. Hawk perches and bollards
 5. Contact scouts/youth to install and monitor
 6. Establish wildlife camera site?

- ❖ Grass and flower maintenance:
 1. Spring/Fall Survey to assess coverage
 2. Assess coverage and re-seed as needed
 3. Allow grass to grow—no mowing as the goal is soil coverage and conversion to native through weed cycles and focused use on trails, picnic areas and playground
 4. Hand-weed perennial gardens
 5. Assess weeds in field and return to pull noxious weeds on bi-weekly basis
 6. Weekly clean and policing and trash removal
 7. Monitor weed growth to assess ongoing need
 8. Continue edge mow 4X annually on north side along Prairie Vista proper
 9. Continue edge mow 4X annually along both sides to east up to second bridge across Cottonwood Creek and to west up to Peakview Park

- ❖ Continue monitoring twice annually with Savory
- ❖ Animal Maintenance Plan
 1. Encourage birds and birds of prey
 2. Enforce and discourage off-leash dogs (illegal per county laws)
 3. Encourage walking along pathways but off seeded field and gardens
 4. Consider short fencing that incorporates black erosion screening to discourage walking along seeded areas and encourage walking along pathways. Gates and fabric for access to walking could also discourage prairie dog overpopulation
 5. Prairie dogs are not a central problem—they are a key species to native black-footed ferrets for food but need to be in balance. Consider maintaining healthy populations with assistance from Boulder County, Arapahoe County, Rocky Mountain Raptor Program, other Environmental consultants.
 6. Hole filling for first year is key in seeded areas, especially on East side near active human areas, fill with existing dirt to level grade and re-seed, monitor
 7. Monitor population numbers for all animals to maintain balance
 8. Install raptor perches to encourage population control
 9. Remember: balance is key and grass rehabilitation is key, a multi-faceted approach is important but there is no “fix.”
- ❖ Spring 2018: Survey with Savory to assess actions to over-seed grass, reseed/replant flowers animal population and online photo archive)
- ❖ Plan and manage adjacent lots for similar and shared management practices, continue contact with realtor and Arapahoe County regarding purchase, easements, access
- ❖ Additional monitoring and photos posted on web archive and collaborate with Arapahoe County Master Gardeners, Audubon Society, others?
- ❖ Considerations and ongoing activities: online image management, edge mowing, communication and education with HOA's and residents, playground and irrigation long-term maintenance and budgeting, best practices sharing with others to help develop more parks of like management style and learn from others, prairie dog maintenance plan, goat mowing plan, raptor rescues and perches

Contacts:

- ❖ Cherry Creek Vista Park and Recreation
District Board and Managers: Sarah Shepherd and Lindsey Reese
- ❖ JBK Landscape Inc.
- ❖ HOA's in area and district residents