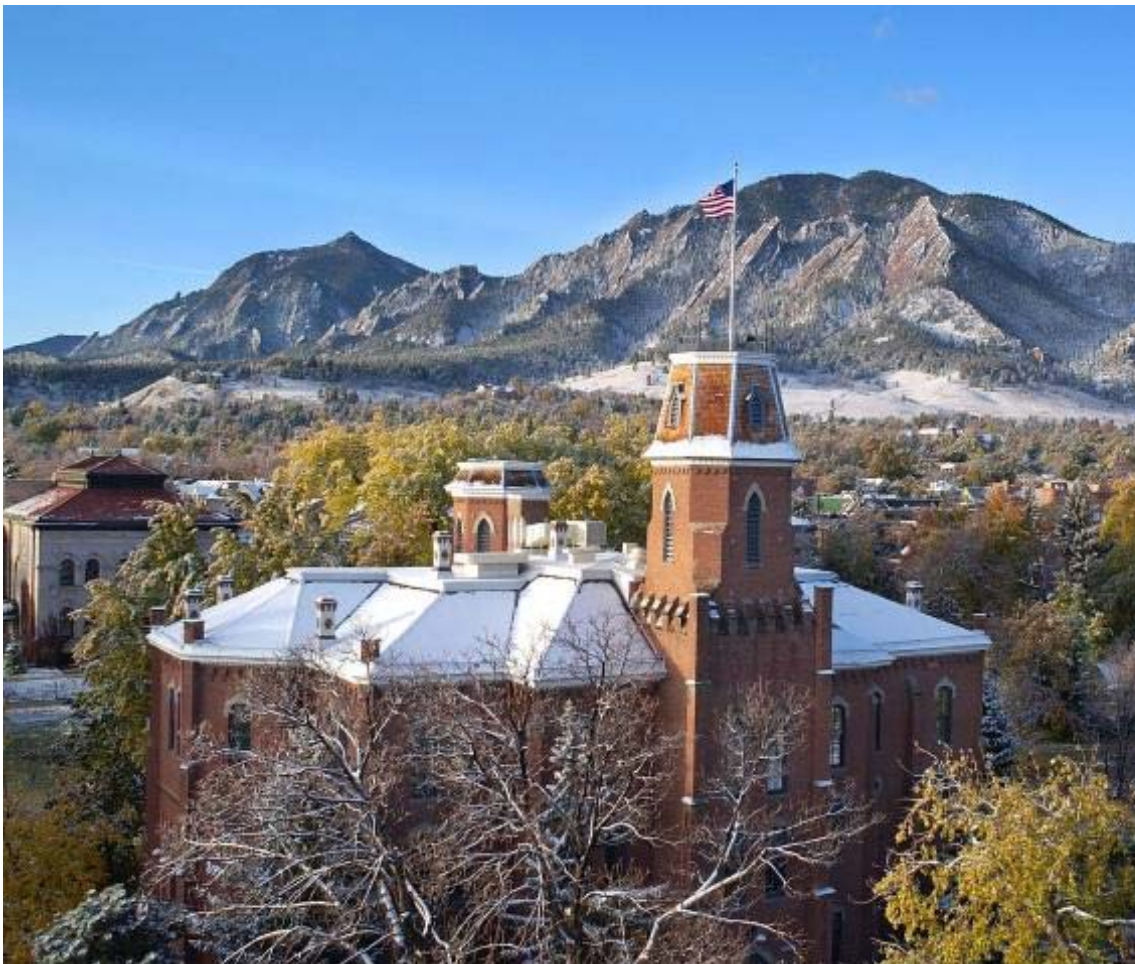


TASK FORCE REPORTS

CAMPUS MASTER PLAN



Colorado
University of Colorado at Boulder TM

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RECREATION, OPEN SPACE & ATHLETICS



"The university consists of all who come into and go forth from her halls, who are touched by her influence, and who carry on her spirit. Wherever you go, the university goes with you. . . . Wherever you are at work, there is the university at work."

—George Norlin, CU President, 1917–39

Report of the Task Force on Enhancing Recreation, Open Space and Athletics

January 2010

Introduction:

The membership included representatives from the CU Department of Athletics, CU Recreation Services, City of Boulder Parks & Recreation Department, CU Planning Department, CU Facilities Management, as well as faculty, staff and student representation.

Task Force Membership: Ceal Barry (Chair), Maren Additon, Tommy Detmer, Eric Economy, Clayton Hamilton, Tom Higginbotham, Don Inglis, Tim Jorgensen, Cheryl Kent, Herb Kienle, Kirk Kincannon, Tom McGann, Ashley Michelson, Richelle Reilly, Rob Schubert, Theodore Snow

Task Force Initiative and Work Plan:

The Task Force was charged with making recommendations on five initiatives presented by the Chancellor to assist in the preparation of the new CU-Boulder *Campus Master Plan*. The questions and areas that the Task Force was asked to consider related to recreation and athletic facilities needs, and open space requirements to plan for increasing enrollment between 2010 and 2030. The committee was asked to look at the best ways to utilize existing campus open space and to create partnership opportunities with the City of Boulder. The Task Force met twice monthly from October 2009 through January 2010. Meetings included productive discussions, reports from various Task Force members, and a walking tour of existing athletic and recreation facilities. The Task Force created a value statement which led to a set of guiding principles to move the study forward. After consensus on the principles, the focus shifted to identification of specific space needs.

Value Statement:

Boulder's population has been recognized as one of the healthiest in the country. Due in part to this fitness culture persona, student demand on recreation center square footage, recreational sport opportunities and access to open and passive spaces on campus is well-documented. Daily exercise benefits CU students by lowering stress levels, encouraging the productive use of leisure time, and the development of healthy habits which can enhance academic productivity. Likewise, nationally competitive athletic teams competing in first-class facilities attract current students, faculty, alumni, potential donors, prospective students and community members to campus and websites. Connections made through participation in recreational sports and athletic events contribute to overall satisfaction and connectivity to the campus. Investing resources in recreation centers, athletic facilities and open space will result in powerful recruitment and retention tools.¹

¹ Kent J. Blumenthal. 2009 Collegiate Recreational Sports: Pivotal Players in Student Success. *Planning for Higher Education* 37 (2): 1-62.

Guiding Principles:

- Athletic and recreational facilities contribute to a campus environment that is intellectually stimulating, academically challenging, welcoming, supporting and conducive to personal growth.
- Preservation of open space is a primary concern as the main campus approaches “build out.”
- Equitable training and athletic facilities for women is a Title IX mandate.
- Planning for new fields, facilities, and open space requires commitment to sustainability goals such as: low water usage, recycling, composting, and minimal chemical application maintenance.
- Future growth in student enrollment and corresponding increases in faculty and staff, directly correspond to additional square footage requirements for recreation facilities, fields and campus open space.
- Opportunities for partnership between Athletics, Recreation and the City of Boulder exist.
- If athletic fields and facilities cannot be preserved in their current space, relocating and building new ones becomes a Master Planning effort.
- Co-locating athletic facilities will promote synergy, student-athlete welfare, and efficiencies in cost.
- Planning for spectator sporting events includes provision for accessibility and parking support.



Challenges:

Recreation Services

The CU Recreation Center draws a wide range of students for fun, fitness, non-credit instruction, and organized sport specific activities. Facilities are open 119 hours per week, serving 880,000 student visits and 88% of full-time CU students annually.

The limited size and current condition of the Student Recreation Center and outdoor recreation facilities present challenges in efforts to meet this high student demand. These conditions combined with a 20% growth in student enrollment over the past two decades have placed extreme pressures upon existing facilities which now require immediate attention. CU has dropped below its regional and national competitors in the amount of both indoor and outdoor space. CU is currently last in the Big XII in terms of outdoor field space and basketball courts, and the amount of fitness and conditioning space is well below the national average. Although CU is fourth in enrollment within the Big XII, it ranks 8th in the amount of dedicated indoor recreation space per student.

As CU Recreation facilities are a key component in the recruitment and retention of students and as the current size and condition of these facilities falls far below our Big XII and national competitors, investment in these crucial campus resources is vital.

Athletic Department

The goal of the Athletic Department is to sponsor nationally competitive teams in all 16 of its varsity sports. Membership in the Big 12 Conference raises the bar significantly, due to expenditures by competing institutions on home venues, amenities tied to support services, and upgraded practice facilities in all sports. State-of-the-art athletic facilities result in competitive excellence through the recruitment and performance of top student-athletes. Synergy in co-locating coaches' offices with administrators, team locker rooms next to training room, weight room, and practice facilities increase efficiency in operations and enhance the overall presentation of the Athletic Department. In addressing equity issues, Title IX mandates are the responsibility of the institution, not solely the Athletic Department. Equitable locker room and training facilities for women's teams must be planned for in Master Planning efforts.

Currently, ten head coaches' offices are located in seven different locations surrounding the football stadium in Gate 1, Gate 5, Gate 10, East Campus, the Events Center, Balch Fieldhouse and in Dal Ward. Administrators are similarly spread out, as are competition and practice venues. The condition and availability of locker rooms, other than for football and men's and women's basketball, are embarrassingly substandard. Of the 16 sport teams offered by CU, six teams are combined under one head coach in the cross-country and track and field programs. Updated competition, practice, and locker room facilities are an expectation for this program.



Campus Open Space

The Boulder Campus includes a total of 567 acres, spread over three developed campuses, and the future development of another 308 acres at South campus. Starting with Day & Klauder's 1919 Campus Development Plan and continuing with the Sasaki Walker & Associates 1963 Campus Development Plan, buildings were sited along the edges of open space creating a variety of outdoor rooms from large quads to small intimate courtyards. These areas include the breathing room between buildings and fields for athletic practice and recreational play. They include natural areas, a green buffer between the university and the city and welcoming entrances. As the University grows, so does the demand on the existing green open space and integral facilities that support health and well being. The 2001 Master Plan included a goal to improve outdoor spaces. The current master plan should preserve these existing spaces, maintaining current setbacks and open space ratios set forth for Main Campus and Williams Village as other campuses are planned. This challenge of maintaining the current quality of the open spaces on campus creates a balance between the built environment, recreational and athletic field requirements with equal access for all.

Recommendations:

Indoor/Outdoor Facilities and Open Space Needs:

Indoor Facilities:

- Add a minimum of 160,000 assignable square feet of new construction through a combination of expansion of the Student Recreation Center and satellite venues on campus to meet existing enrollment needs. The

current standard used for indoor space is 12 square feet per enrolled student.²

- Completely renovate or replace the existing Student Recreation Center (220,000 gross square feet).
- Construct a permanent indoor practice facility for football with a 300 meter 8 lane flat racing track.
- Expand Dal Ward to include women's locker rooms for soccer, tennis, and men's and women's locker rooms for golf, track, cross-country, and ski teams. Build office space for all seven head and assistant coaches.

Outdoor Facilities:

- Add a minimum of 6 lighted natural turf multi-purpose sport fields or 4 lighted synthetic sport fields or a combination of both.
- Add a minimum of 4 lighted natural turf softball fields and one lighted baseball field.
- Add ancillary facilities to support existing and new venues for both athletics and recreation.
- Plan for the “build out” of East Campus, by relocating soccer competition and practice venues and outdoor track and field venues. Possible sites are north of Boulder Creek and/or CU Boulder South.
- Invest in improvements to the cross-country “Buffalo Ranch” course on South Campus by clearing away rocks, adding top soil, seeding and providing water.

² National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (2009). *Campus Recreational Sports Facilities: Planning, Design, and Construction Guidelines*. Champaign, Illinois: Human Kinetics

Callender, M. (2009). *Space Planning Guidelines for Campus Recreational Sports Facilities* (Brown, T., & Haines, D.). Champaign, Illinois: Human Kinetics.

Standards for indoor space of 12-13 asf/student enrolled was recommended in our master plan are based upon the text author's recommendation of 10-12 sf per student enrolled plus 1-1.5 sf per faculty/staff employed and 5-7 sf for alumni memberships sold. Also factored in is our high level of usage among our currently enrolled full-time students.

Note that the current CU Master Plan (March 2001-present, Page 43) uses the 12.1 asf per student.

- Find a new location for the Challenge Ropes Course, as east of Bear Creek is developed for student residential housing and other purposes.

Open Space:

- Maintain building to open space ratios and setbacks currently used on Main Campus for future development of remaining campus properties and building sites. Size new outdoor spaces appropriately to accommodate a variety of uses for maximum student benefit.
- Preservation of existing open space, quads, and natural areas is imperative to the welcoming image and recreational use of the Boulder campus.
- Reinforce campus entrances with unifying signage and landscape components to create welcoming first impression and strengthen ties for campus properties. Continue consistent way finding within each campus.
- Evaluate all outdoor areas for sustainable design, including plant material, water conservation, and maintenance practices and minimizing chemical applications.
- Gain Campus Arboretum designation which will add additional educational opportunities and partnerships with campus departments.



Further Recommendations:

- An initial investment in facilities is needed within the next five years in order to achieve a standard of excellence equivalent to or surpassing our peers within the Big 12 and AAU comparison institutions.
- Continue to invest in capital improvements in recreation and athletic facilities over the next two decades to accommodate demand and capitalize on unique opportunities that may arise.
- Capture space north of Boulder Creek as it becomes available. This space is in the flood plain and/or flood way. Building sport fields for both Recreation and Athletics in this area will not violate codes. Varsity athletic and club teams such as soccer, track and field, tennis, lacrosse, rugby, baseball, and sand volleyball have the potential to utilize this space.
- As negotiations on South Campus evolve, discussion about recreation, athletics and open space usage should be part of the plan for resolution.
- In accordance with Title IX and NCAA requirements, there is the potential for adding up to two additional women's sports.
- Consider placement of recreational facilities to be in close proximity to future student residential housing.

Opportunities to Partner with the City of Boulder and the Community:

Given the current economic environment, the University of Colorado at Boulder should seek out partnership opportunities sharing recreation facilities with the City of Boulder, Colorado school districts, private schools, and the CHSAA. Leasing CU facilities for high school state and regional competitions are revenue producers for the campus.

Related to collaboration between the City of Boulder and the University of Colorado at Boulder, several potential opportunities presented themselves during the task force discussion. The highlighted shortage of available sports fields and recreation facilities at the University present a future opportunity for collaborative use of City facilities in order to meet current and future demand on these facilities.

Given that the City has three recreation centers, there is a possibility to create a partnership related to use of the City recreation centers for students and faculty while long term solutions to the University recreational short fall is addressed.

There are also possibilities for potential partnerships with the City that would address the University shortfalls as related to sports fields. Given the unmet demands related to recreational and athletic field space, which will be present over the next several years, and the planned implementation of the City's Valmont park over the next few years, the site will

present the ability for the University to potentially partner with the City on the development of the athletic fields that are planned for the park site.

In addition, as the City looks to make improvements on park land such as new and improved athletic fields (synthetic turf) there is potential for partnership with the University. A partnership would address the University need to increase recreational field capacity as well as help to meet the City needs in these same areas.

While most near term collaboration opportunity points to sports fields and recreation center use, there are other opportunities that may be present in the future. These relate to joint use and construction of additional recreational amenities shared by the City of Boulder and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Currently the City has no plans or funding identified for the following facilities, however as long term needs evolve, there may be ways to partner on the development of future recreational facilities such as: an indoor tennis facility, competition swimming pool, outdoor running track, and indoor multi-use field facility with an indoor track and a full-size ice rink.