

to adapt and grow from those experiences. Resilience is becoming an increasingly important issue as climate change and weather events continue to worsen. Parks and public spaces should be prepared for these extreme events and their long-term impacts. By creating resilient places there can be other economic and social benefits as well.

Parks play a huge role in building climate resilience, and therefore parks and recreation departments are on the front lines of climate change. To mitigate the impacts of climate change, resilient parks integrate approaches like living shorelines, wetland habitats, greenways, and adaptive recreational amenities. When these places are developed it is also necessary to address the need to increase the park departments' capacity and budget accordingly to properly maintain and care for these spaces over the long term. While money seems to flow freely for capital improvements, funding for maintenance and operations is often less tangible and less appealing. Therefore, in order for parks and recreation departments to act and prioritize climate resilience as part of their mission largely depends on the availability of resources; creative funding approaches to maintenance, operations, and programming; and the willingness of leaders to prioritize and include parks in resilience conversations (NRPA Magazine, 2019, What Constitutes a Resilient Park).

Not only environmentally resilient, parks can also address social resilience by creating neighborhood gathering places and opportunities for diverse community members to interact, prior to and after a disaster. Community resilience considers environmental resiliency and cultural resiliency. Cultural resilience can also be wrapped into physical space, especially parks by achieving these four goals (Kofi Boone):

1. Build a sense of community that brings all people together as stewards
2. Create places where everyone belongs and that have opportunities for shared experiences among all
3. Increase access to nature and create environmentally friendly places easily reached by walking, biking or transit
4. Encourage additional investments in neighborhoods

NEXT STEPS

The project team will finalize the review and the update of the identified white paper topics. Shortly after the start of 2021, a draft System Overview Snapshot that summarizes those findings will be available for the public as part of Engagement Window #1. The System Overview Snapshot provides a foundation of understanding and shared learning, from which future discussions for the Master Plan Update can build. During Engagement Window #1, the community will be invited into the process to evaluate the key themes and focus areas.

Following the conclusion of Engagement Window #1, the Needs Assessment phase will get underway. The Needs Assessment phase will take a holistic view of the facilities, assets, programs and services of the department. Successful identification of these needs will inform the strategies and initiatives the department should pursue over the next five to seven years.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:
Chris Ranglos, Planner I, Comprehensive Planning
ranglosc@bouldercolorado.gov