

November 10, 2015

Dear Council Members,

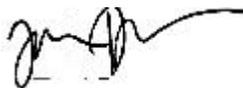
We are writing to thank you for taking seriously the ideas of Boulder's young people in the redesign of the Civic Area and to specifically highlight ways that the ideas generated through Growing Up Boulder have been incorporated into the master plan. These are summarized below and annotated on the attached plan. In addition, we have highlighted areas where young people's ideas could further be integrated, as detailed designs develop.

The master plan features many ideas generated during Growing Up Boulder's outreach. Some of these features include interactive artwork, a performance space, a picnic area with wifi and nature integrated, separated bike and pedestrian paths, a prettier bridge that is safer and lights up, increased visibility in areas of dense vegetation along the creek, integration of flowers and vegetation throughout the site, and places for food trucks. Within the nature play area particularly, the plan also features children's requests for a climbable tree structure, splash pads, soft fall zones, seating integrated into play areas for parents and grandparents, water play, and better creek access with safe zones or "beaches" for young children to safely play.

A few areas that could be developed into detailed designs include animal elements (climbable sculptures, benches, or interactive art pieces with animal themes, particularly representing Boulder's wildlife, such as river otters); parkour elements (of particular interest to middle school students); underwater viewing stations at the creek; a toy boat launch; and bird watching areas. Other elements include shelter from the rain and treehouses for teens. Boulder High students also asked what had happened to the train car and wondered if it could be brought back to the area for some purpose – a coffee shop or other function. They liked the connection to Boulder's history but did not care for its previous location or fencing. One specific feature that was very important to high school students both in the 2012 visioning process and the 2014 design process was the idea of including some physical representation of Boulder's cultural diversity. They specifically requested an honorable recognition of Arapaho people as well as a representation of Boulder's contemporary cultures, including Mexican-, Tibetan-, and Nepalese-Americans. They felt that some physical representation would symbolize the value these cultures bring to our community. Finally, a group of middle school students requested a sanitation station for the homeless. During their design process, this group spent all their "budget" on this single item stating that this was the greatest need for the area.

Some of the elements young people requested were for specific types of programming. These included a lending library or outdoor connection between nature and books; sports areas for activities such as ping pong; rental equipment for kayaking or other games; bean bag chairs for comfortable outdoor seating; and a chalkboard for inspirational interactive conversations (similar to Bot Joy).

When we assess our work, we consistently see significant gains in young people "feeling heard by city government." The young people who have participated in this project represent many wonderful ideas for making our community more welcoming, playful, inclusive and sustainable. Thank you for taking the time to listen!

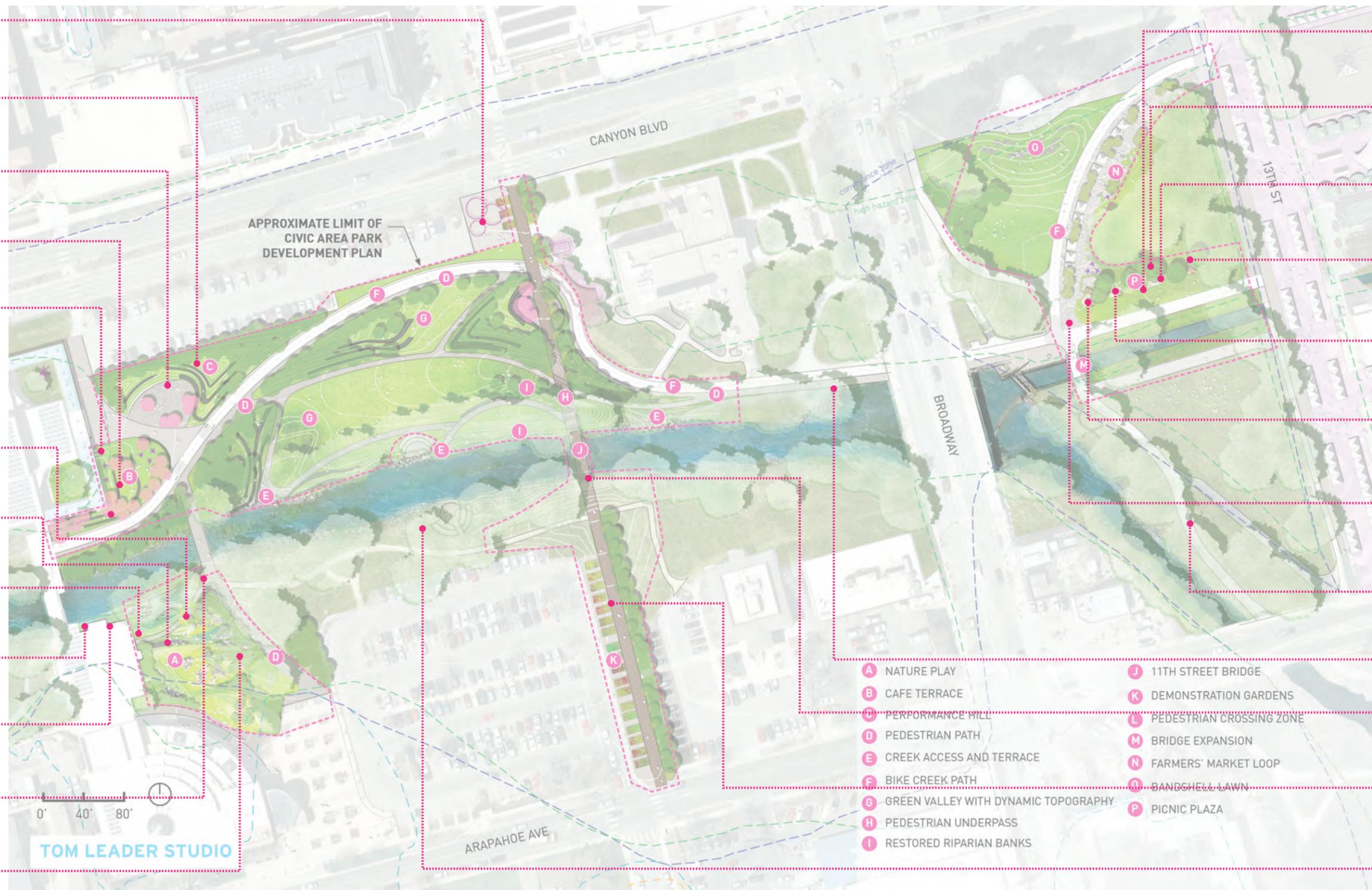


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HOW YOUNG PEOPLE'S IDEAS ARE REPRESENTED IN THE MASTER PLAN

CIVIC AREA | GROWING UP BOULDER | BOULDER, CO | 2012 - 2015

- interactive artwork
- performance space
- places to hangout
- beach area
- flowers and grasses
- tree house
- climbable structures
- seating to watch kids
- splash pad
- sandy beach area
- more & safer creek access
- ground padding



- picnic area with tables
- food trucks
- shade trees
- internet access
- seating area
- add cultural history
- improved benches
- separated paths
- restored riparian area
- lights on the bridge
- prettier bridge
- increase visibility

● one age group's recommendation ●● two age groups' recommendation ●●● three age groups' recommendation