

Vanderbilt and Johnson-Habitat Parks Vision

The redevelopment of Vanderbilt and Johnson-Habitat Parks will inform children and adults of the important role that the South Platte River plays in nature and their daily lives. By celebrating the rich history and valuable resource the River offers, Denver will enjoy a new and significant environmental educational facility, diverse recreational area, and national model of community cooperation and success.

The Parks are intended to be interactive and hands-on, while providing a sense of adventure for visitors. Activities that are inviting, exciting, and fun enhance learning and fitness, including the award winning SPREE (South Platte River Environmental Education) Program. This vision takes advantage of two existing parks and links them into one. With the thoughtful closure and realignment of West Exposition Avenue, a pedestrian underpass at Santa Fe Avenue from Vanderbilt Park to the River, and access to both banks of the River at Johnson-Habitat Park with a rope bridge crossing, River access is dramatically improved.

The new rope bridge will provide access to the east side of the River, currently an inaccessible resource. The existing river banks will be restored using native vegetation, while new fish habitat will be created wherever possible along both banks of the River.

By reducing paved areas and using wetland filtration areas and bio-swales to treat all run-off before it flows into the River, the park will be a model for water quality.

Recreational and educational highlights of

Vanderbilt and Johnson-Habitat Parks include an outdoor classroom, riverbank and upland area enhancements, boating and fishing access improvements, river overlooks, an urban tent camping area, interpretive trails including low water use planting information, an improved Greenway trail that includes a 12' wide paved trail in combination with a 4' wide soft surface trail, pond access, public gathering space, soccer field, playground and the current softball field.



Photo courtesy of SPREE

Estimated Costs

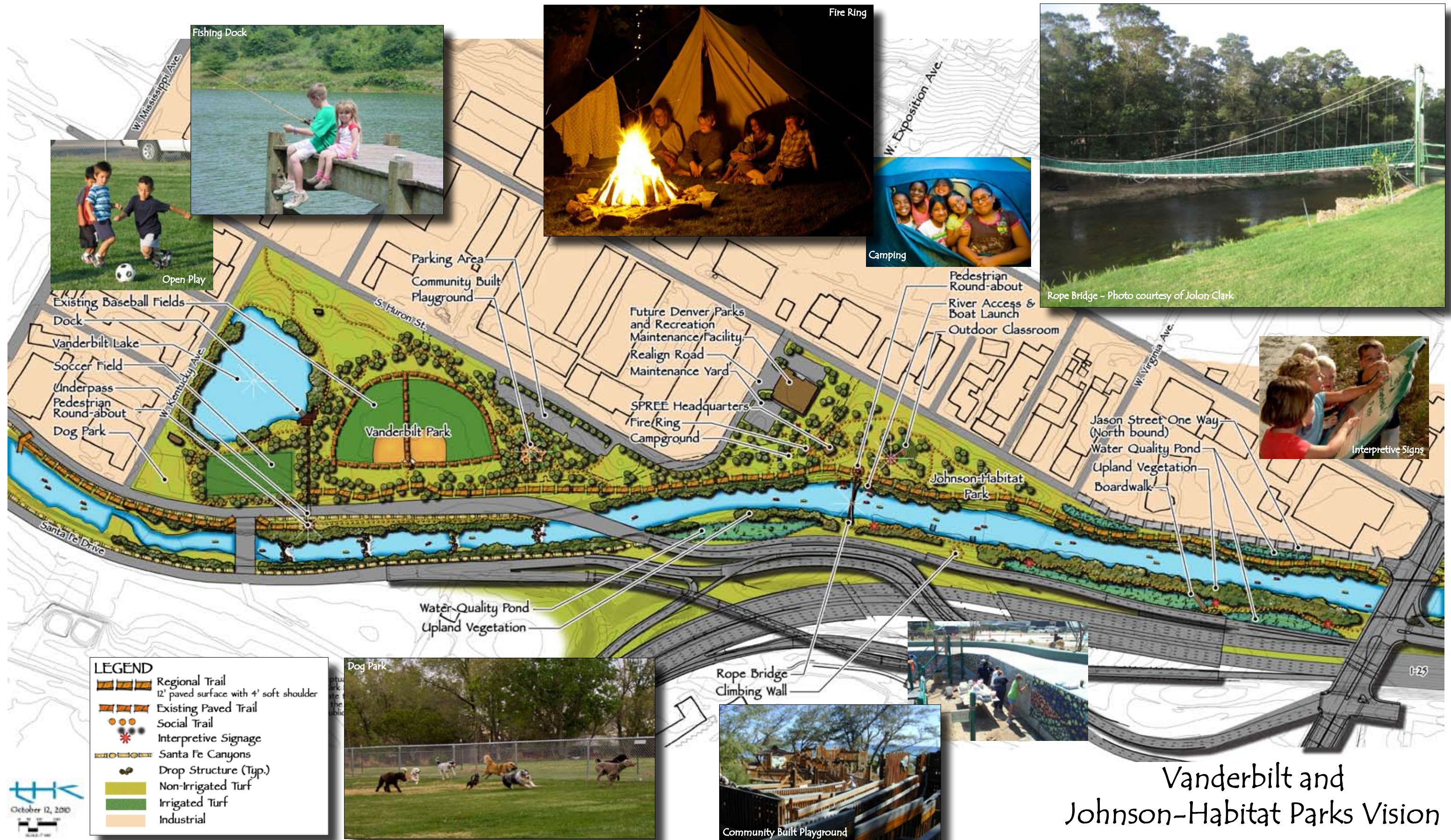
Vanderbilt Park	\$1,663,373.00
Johnson-Habitat Park	\$3,158,264.89
South Platte River Trail	\$2,367,431.95
River Corridor Improvements	\$13,823,265.17
Subtotal	\$21,012,335.01
10% Contingency	\$ 2,101,233.50
TOTAL	\$23,113,568.51

Vanderbilt and Johnson-Habitat Parks Community Park, River Access, and Educational Improvements



Johnson-Habitat Park





Fishing Dock



Fire Ring



Camping



Rope Bridge - Photo courtesy of Jolon Clark



Interpretive Signs



Open Play

LEGEND

- Regional Trail
12' paved surface with 4' soft shoulder
- Existing Paved Trail
- Social Trail
- Interpretive Signage
- Santa Fe Canyons
- Drop Structure (Typ.)
- Non-Irrigated Turf
- Irrigated Turf
- Industrial



Dog Park



Rope Bridge Climbing Wall



Community Built Playground

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