

Bear Creek Park Master Plan

Public Engagement Phase I - FAQs

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Q1) What is the status of E. coli in Bear Creek - where does it come from and where are the warning signs?

A1: Denver Department of Public Health and Environment (DDPHE) tests the water quality of Bear Creek near the Picnic Shelter at Bear Creek Park weekly between May and October each year. A warning sign is located near the picnic shelter. We can infer the main sources of E. coli into the creek system are through stormwater runoff which carries oil, chemicals, pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste, trash/debris and sediment directly into storm sewers that discharge directly to our streams. More information regarding water quality in Denver can be found here: <https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Public-Health-Environment/Environmental-Quality/Water-Quality>.

Q2) Will this project address the bridges over the creek – either address the state of disrepair or add new crossings?

A2: Yes, the project team will be assessing the structural condition of the existing bridges against current park bridge standards, as well as analyzing the potential for new creek crossings to help alleviate conflict points between regional trail users and other park activities/users.

Q3) Will there be an opportunity to consider additional active uses in the park like disc golf, pickleball, or a dog park?

A3: Yes, additional active uses will be considered and analyzed within the context of Bear Creek Park. This analysis will directly influence the park concept alternatives that will be presented at Community Meeting #2 planned for summer 2022. Per the request of Councilman Flynn the team will perform an analysis of the Dog Park criteria to determine the suitability for a dog park at this location. Other active uses shared through public comments, the community survey, and Community Meeting #1 will be considered and analyzed.

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Public Engagement Phase I Summary

Q4) Will there be an opportunity to increase the presence of rangers in the park in order to address safety concerns and trash?

A4: Increasing ranger presence is not a typical outcome of a Park Master Planning process. However, the project team will engage the southwest district park rangers as well as a representative from Denver Police Department to provide feedback and input into the planning process and concept alternatives. The concept alternatives will be analyzed through the lens of ranger patrolling and may consider the principles of crime prevention through environmental design.

Q5) How will this planning process address the trails in the park - surface, locations, conflicts with the playground, conflicts b/w bikers/walkers?

A5: The master planning process will review and analyze the entire park including all levels of the existing trails, walks, and informal pathways. The project team will determine which sections of trails do or do not meet current Denver Parks Standards, identify maintenance concerns and conflict points, and analyze informal pathways to understand how park users attempt to traverse the site. The master plan concept alternatives will reflect this analysis and additional feedback from the community.

Q6) Bear Creek Park is such a wonderful natural open space, tranquil stream corridor and unique landform, I often feel like I'm not in the city anymore. Will the park master plan impact the natural open space and tranquil feelings of this unique park?

A6: The master planning process will have an extensive ecological and water resources component. The Consultant Team includes water resources engineers and ecologists who will review and analyze the stream, ponds, and natural open space areas of the park. The goal of this master plan is to maintain a balance between active park uses and the unique natural open space of the park. The master plan will prioritize high quality native areas and critical habitat for protection and preservation, as well as identify areas for environmental improvements to ensure the natural landscapes are healthy and sustainable long term. The Master plan concept alternatives will reflect this analysis on balance with feedback form the community.