EXISTING CONDITIONS

The limits of the planning area for Centennial Center Park Plan include the following existing elements of the park:

1. Core Play Area
2. Splash Pad
3. Plaza and Shelters
4. Restrooms
5. Butte
6. Colorado Blooms Garden
7. Amphitheater
8. Perimeter Landscape
9. Parking
10. Centennial Rotary Xeriscape Garden
11. Meadow Picnic Shelter
12. Meadow
13. Lone Tree Creek Drainage

Also included in the Park Plan is City-owned property west of the Centennial Civic Center Building.
Through outreach regarding the future of Centennial Center Park, Centennial residents praised the quality of the park facilities, amenities and maintenance, indicating a high level of satisfaction with the playground, splash pad, amphitheater and associated congregatory areas.

When asked what improvements may enhance the experience, respondents noted a desire for the following:

- Additional shade
- Active areas for adult users
- Quiet, passive spaces
- Sledding hill
- Gardens/plant identification

Recommendations for the expansion of the perceived park footprint include a passive zone, comprised of three improvement areas across 8.71 acres to the southwest of the existing park, and a 1.96 acre active zone due west of the Civic Center. Reflecting community input, these zones include the following:

- Sledding Hill: located on the Butte and consistent with community feedback related to both the original park master plan and this update, the Park Plan recommends the intentional use of the Butte as a sledding hill during the winter.
- Passive Park: At the location of the existing Meadow, a multi-purpose manicured lawn removed from the bustle of the Childrens’ Play area is recommended for passive users.
- Community Hub: Adjacent to the Civic Center Building, a community hub with gathering spaces and community gardens is recommended.
- Riparian Area: Running along the Lone Tree Creek drainage, the riparian area celebrates the connection to Cherry Creek State Park.
PARK PLAN

The overall Master Plan for Centennial Center Park expands the park area and provides additional facilities and amenities for Centennial residents. An overview of recommendations includes the following:

1. Parking Expansion and Drop-off
2. Community Pavilion
3. Restrooms
4. Events Lawn
5. Gazebo
6. Garden Path with Landscape Screening
7. Lone Tree Creek Trail Extension
8. Multi-Purpose Lawn
9. Picnic Grove
10. Sledding Hill

All recommendations have considered the original park planning and design and are meant to provide complementary features to appeal to all citizens of Centennial.

More detail regarding these and other facilities and amenities may be found on the following pages.
PASSIVE ZONE

The southwestern portion of the park provides areas for flexible use, contrasting the heavily programed playground and amphitheater. The Park Plan features an open lawn, a potential sled hill, a shaded picnic grove, and an area for native plant restoration. Largely sitting below Arapahoe Road, the Passive Zone can offer a protected, quiet park experience that may appeal to segments of the Centennial population that may not use the play spaces within the park.

1 Riparian Area
The riparian area includes lands between the alignment of the Lone Tree Creek Trail and western property line. This area includes the 100-year flood plain and existing site detention. Efforts should be made to highlight natural ecology through restoration with native planting. The City is currently preparing plans for enhancements to the Lone Tree Creek; all future improvements should be consistent with this project.

2 Butte/Sledding Hill
The current Butte is an ideal location for use as a sledding hill during the winter months. Little effort is needed to market the north facing side of the hill for open sledding in times of snow coverage.

3 Potential Storm Water Detention
To accommodate additional water detention needs caused by proposed new hardscape areas, an additional expanded facility is recommended near the existing facility, outside of the 100 year floodplain.
PASSIVE ZONE

4 Picnic Shelter
To bring additional gathering space to the western portion of the park, a second picnic shelter is recommended.

5 Multi-Purpose Lawn
Serving as a flexible space for impromptu activities and lounging, the multi-purpose lawn provides a venue for visitors that want to be in the park but away from the bustle of the play areas.

6 Picnic Grove
With a dense overhead canopy of trees above multiple seating options set in an organic ground plane, the Picnic Grove provides a transition from the existing park to the passive spaces of the park expansion while offering additional shade and seating that park visitors crave.

7 Garden Path with Landscape Screening
At the park perimeter adjacent to Arapahoe Road, informal tree groupings with understanding planting are recommended to provide areas of protection from the elements and comfortable places to sit while buffering the passive park from vehicular traffic.

8 Lone Tree Creek Trail
The Lone Tree Creek Trail extension provides a transition between the natural riparian areas of the drainage and the manicured multi-purpose lawn.

Precedent Imagery

Scott Carpenter Park, Boulder, CO
Riparian landscape and detention, Westerly Creek, Denver, CO
Open lawn at Commons Park, Denver, CO
Shaded grove at Commons Park, Denver, CO
ACTIVE ZONE

The southeastern portion of the park provides areas for community gathering and activities that may appeal to Centennial’s adult population. The Active Zone includes a community pavilion and events lawn, community gardens and a landscape buffer to Arapahoe Road. With the adjacency to the Civic Center and location overlooking much of the park, this zone can enhance Centennial Center Park’s civic image and identity.

1 Expanded Parking and Drop-off
   In order to provide near-in parking for users of the Active Zone, a drop-off area with expanded parking are recommended at the northern portion. This area would serve as dedicated food truck parking during City events and provide power and optional water supply.

2 Community Pavilion
   An open air covered pavilion with space for up to 180 people, the Community Pavilion may serve as a destination for community gatherings and reservable space for private events.

3 Restrooms
   Located adjacent to Parking and the Community Pavilion for public use.

4 Events Lawn
   To the east of the Community Pavilion, the Events Lawn provides a spill-out space during events as well as a casual seating area at other times of use.
5 Gazebo
A seating area with a shade structure adjacent to the Civic Center Building.

6 Garden Path with Landscape Screening
An extension of the garden path in the Passive Zone. The landscape treatment provides a natural backdrop to events in the pavilion while buffering traffic on Arapahoe Road. Berming could also be utilized to help mitigate sound from Arapahoe Road.

7 Pergolas
Overhead structure provide shade and seating at the perimeter of the Events Lawn.

Pavilion at Stapleton Central Park, Denver, CO

Modified Park Shelter providing shaded seating.

Garden Path with Landscape Screening

Shade Pergola at Center City Park Pavilion, Greensboro NC.
The phasing plan was developed through conversation, activities, and presentations to the City’s Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB), Planning and Zoning Commission, and City Council.

Phase One
1. Expanded Parking and Drop-Off
2. Restrooms
3. Sledding Hill

Phase Two
4. Community Pavilion
5. Events Lawn with Pergolas
6. Gazebo

Phase Three
7. Garden Path with Landscape Screening
8. Picnic Grove
9. Multi-Purpose Lawn
10. Additional Shaded Seating

*Tree planting will be provided with each phase, where feasible, to not interfere with construction of future phases.
We believe that when environment, economics, art and community are combined in harmony with the dictates of the land and needs of society, magical places result — sustainable places of timeless beauty, significant value and enduring quality, places that lift the spirit.

Design Workshop is dedicated to creating Legacy projects: for our clients, for society and for the well-being of our planet.