



Union Reservoir Master Plan Update Public Meeting #1

LOCATION: Parks Administration Building (Sunset), City of Longmont

DATE: July 26, 2007

ATTENDEES (City Staff & Consultants)

Paula Fitzgerald, *City of Longmont Parks & Open Space*
Steve Ransweiler, *City of Longmont Parks & Open Space*
John Brim, *City of Longmont – Union Reservoir*
Erin Fosdick, *City of Longmont Planning & Dev. Svcs*
Ken Huson, *City of Longmont Water Resources*
Rob Layton, *Design Concepts*
Emily Patterson, *Design Concepts*
Scott Hodson, *Design Concepts*
Todd Bjerkaas, *Design Concepts*
List of Attending Stakeholders is attached

General Comments & Discussion

1. There exist a series of annexations pending approval east of WCR 1
2. There are four improvement projects in water resources master planning to accommodate the city population at build-out. Currently the city uses ~18,000 acre/feet of water. At full build-out, it is estimated that Longmont will require ~35,000 acre/feet of water resources. This total volume can be achieved through:
 - a. Water rights
 - b. Windy Gap Firming Project
 - c. Union Reservoir Enlargement
 - d. Ralph Price Reservoir Enlargement
3. WCR 26 is proposed as aligned for two reasons: 1) to line-up with an extended 9th Avenue and 2) smooth out some of the tighter curves that currently exist
4. West Union Development is required to have 10 acres worth of park per the City's park land benchmark. These ten acres are proposed to be split into three areas along the western edge of Union Reservoir
5. The City's 'Primary Greenway' classification includes the purposes of stormwater management and recreational activities
6. The buffer zone around the reservoir would likely consist of the wildlife management plan's required minimum 150' setback from edge of riparian vegetation and an additional 50' trail corridor as the Primary Greenway



7. The design session for the night allows citizens to view the reservoir as three general zones for potential recreational activities: The West Union zone, the existing recreational area zone and the entire reservoir area zone.
8. The master plan update will include in its scope cost estimates for improvements and phasing schedules

Design Session Presentations

Presentation A

General

1. Create bicycle path and multi-use paved trail around the circumference of the reservoir
2. Allow water uses such as canoeing, kayaking, windsurfing, and sailing

Zone 1

3. **SW** - On the southwestern edge of the reservoir will include:
 - a. Concessions
 - b. Entry
 - c. Development facilities
 - d. Boat rental
 - e. Trailer parking
 - f. Boat storage
 - g. Boat ramp
 - h. Changing rooms
 - i. Public art
 - j. Group camping
 - k. RV camping
 - l. Remote control airplane – this area should be moved further from the reservoir than it currently exists
 - m. Information kiosk
 - n. Water play feature
 - o. Swimming
 - p. Ranger facilities
 - q. Skating
 - r. Rock climbing
4. **W** - Just to the north and west should be a fishing pier, performance area, and community garden
5. There should be no private marina with public control. A private development should not regulate access to the reservoir. A purely public marina is OK.

Zone 2

6. **NE** – more primitive forms of activity:
 - a. Dirt ramp for small boats
 - b. Primitive camp sites
 - c. No septic or water – use port-a-lets
 - d. Staging for wildlife viewing/walk
 - e. Parking
 - f. Unregulated swimming



Zone 3

7. **NW** – reserved for wildlife:
 - a. No solid development
 - b. Too much variation in water flow/level
 - c. Natural areas, wetlands, and wildlife viewing

Presentation B1

General

1. Concept: low impact activities
2. Enhance natural areas and wildlife
3. Berm along reservoir western shore can be used as a turf area in the summer and sledding or sliding hill during the winter
4. No remote control airplanes

Zone 1

5. No trail along the northwestern edge: habitat
6. Buffer between the habitat and park to the south
7. No marina within the park
8. All kids play on the west side - swings
9. Fenced dog park

Zone 2

10. Fishing, swimming, and boats on the south
11. Parking restrooms, concession, tent camping, RV camping, group camping, and boat storage on the southeast.

Presentation B2

Zone 1

1. Protect eagle winter roost site in southwest portion of reservoir
2. Canoeing in West Union development

Zone 2

3. Include scout circle
4. Large amphitheater at the highest area to the east-southeast of reservoir
5. Protect and create prairie dog habitat for wintering raptors
6. Protect eagle roost site in southwest portion of reservoir
7. Fishing, swimming and boating located at the entrance
8. General uses of wildlife areas, wildlife viewing areas, and restrooms

Zone 3

9. Protect and create prairie dog habitat
10. Create wetlands
11. Create eagle habitat on east side
12. Incorporate interpretive signs for natural resources, plants, and wildlife
13. Unpaved trail

Presentation C

General

1. Water surface: sailing, crew, kayaking, wind surfing, canoeing
2. Water surface is a wildlife area



3. Accessibility to all areas
4. Bike trail around entire zone

Zone 2

5. On the east and northeast: natural areas with eagle nesting, habitat and wetlands
6. Primitive tent camping, wildlife viewing of birds and insects, interpretive signage
7. To the southeast is a community garden that acts as an entrance to the wildlife area.
8. An unpaved path would connect these areas to the south
9. The southeast and southwest would be for more active uses
10. The southern edge of the reservoir would include uses such as:
 - a. Boating & boat storage
 - b. Beach
 - c. Concession building with outdoor patio
 - d. Water play feature
 - e. Distance swimming
 - f. Triathlon
11. A boardwalk, lined with public sculptures, art and ornamental/display gardens would connect this active area to:
 - a. Changing rooms
 - b. Restrooms
 - c. Parking
 - d. Information kiosk
 - e. Marina
 - f. Dock
 - g. Boat ramp
 - h. Boat storage
 - i. Sailing club
12. Result: separate bare feet from hooks

Presentation D

General

1. Paved bike/hike trail circumnavigating entire reservoir
2. Fitness course along paved trail
3. Soft surface along trail for joggers
4. Wildlife viewing walkways or boardwalks that extend into marsh/wetlands
5. Restrooms (varying styles) scattered around the lake
6. Picnic tables all around lake
7. Nesting platforms and boxes
8. Expand covered picnic/pavilions
9. Benches around lake
10. Water fountains/pumps around lake besides picnic/swim area
11. Additional trash receptacles around entire property
12. \$5,000 fine & 1 yr jail for littering; \$10,000 and 2 yr in jail for discarding monofilament lines



Zone 1

13. Marina should have:
 - a. Largest buffer possible between reservoir and West Union development
 - b. No shops or restaurants, but yes to concessions

Zone 2

14. Playgrounds and other related sports (basketball, volleyball, etc)
15. Camping – and some sites with electricity
16. Picnic area
17. Dog area
18. Restrooms/changing rooms
19. Boat rental and/or bike rental
20. Boat storage

Reservoir

21. Sailing, canoeing, windsurfing, boating, belly/kickboating, pontoon boats
22. Fishing
23. Dock/pier in each zone
24. Beach/swimming
25. Distance swimming docks (boat exclusion zone)

Presentation E

General

1. Viewed lake as 1 unit/1 large facility – 730 acres – larger than Boulder Reservoir
2. Reservoir is drawing more rowers – City should help facilitate these uses
3. Wakeless aspect has opportunity for reservoir to:
 - a. Embrace clubs and organizations such as rowing, triathletes, etc.
 - b. Support/Nurture/Propagate these clubs
4. ‘Fishing is Fun’ aspect where multiple generations within a family enjoy the reservoir. Fishing is the common denominator, and should be allowed/promoted on the lake, rather than only on the edge of the lake. Opportunities for grant funding from Fishing is Fun program.

Zone 1

5. A marina-like facility; will have different needs and serve the local population more than the east-side marina which has regional service
6. Ability to affect the direction of the West Union marina, not simply throwing it out
7. Facilities can include:
 - a. Ranger facilities
 - b. Performance space
 - c. Public art
 - d. Marina
 - e. Changing room
 - f. Boat ramp
 - g. Playground
 - h. Dock



- i. Barge for fireworks
- j. Boat rental – including for fishing
- k. Boat storage

Zone 2

8. The park on the south is very functional the way it is – it only needs augmentation
9. Include:
 - a. Changing areas
 - b. Distance swimming
 - c. Information kiosk – announcing reservoir events and information for local clubs
 - d. Bus stop with bike rack resulting from the 9th street extension into WCR 26
 - e. Beach
 - f. Swimming
 - g. Dog swimming area
10. On the southeast, include a breakwater for two purposes
 - a. Calm water around the sailboat marina
 - b. Provide ADA fishing pier
11. Keep sailing club in its current location.
12. Southeast could include:
 - a. Ranger facilities
 - b. Information kiosk
 - c. Boat ramp
 - d. Sailing & rowing clubs
 - e. Bus stop and bike rack
 - f. restrooms
13. On the east, include a grassy knoll on the French property
 - a. Excellent views
 - b. Double as a sledding hill in winter
14. East can include:
 - a. Boardwalk from the south to an outdoor classroom or amphitheater
15. On the northeast, no set hard paths. Earthen paths instead. Include Port-a-lets
16. Northeast and northwest should have wildlife habitats, wetlands, wildlife viewing and interpretive signs

Presentation F

General

1. Don't raise the lake. It seems to makes sense to dredge the lake instead. There is 100 years of silt build-up that should be removed
2. With 6.5 miles of trails, big opportunity for many types of trails
3. Keep trails back from wildlife habitats
4. Phase the development of Union Reservoir re: rise of water
5. Plan on low water mark as temporary
6. Plan for the high water level as permanent



Zone 1 – The urban edge

7. Design as an urban edge with water deep enough to easily get boats out of the marina.
8. Mixed use trail with a hard surface – boardwalk
9. Facilities include:
 - a. Marina
 - b. Retail opportunities for those who want to view the lake but not participate/pay the fee - think “cocktails and ice cream”
 - c. Dock
 - d. Public art
 - e. Wildlife viewing area
 - f. Large fishing pier

Zone 2 – The beach edge

10. Facilities include
 - a. Ranger facilities
 - b. Parking
 - c. Information kiosk
 - d. Boat ramp
 - e. Wildlife viewing
 - f. Beach
 - g. Camping
 - h. Restrooms

Zone 3 – The agricultural edge

11. Soft trail
12. Facilities include wildlife habitat
13. Boat ramp

Reservoir

14. Surface should include canoeing, wildlife, kayaking and wind surfing

Closing Comments & Discussion

1. Photoshop in the dam structures onto the site map to show where the hard edge will be
2. Future edges allow opportunities for different types of dam structures, including stepping plateaus up
3. Fluctuation in the reservoir will be minimized with reservoir enlargement
4. Existing house sites are not grandfathered in. There are not currently any homes with permitted direct access to the reservoir
5. The Union Reservoir Company is committed to the recreation opportunities as much as the storage and functional aspects of the reservoir
6. The dam along the southwest edge of the reservoir in future expansion is planned to be located on the Reservoir side of the line of cottonwoods so that they are preserved. The east side is planned to have a soft edge and the City has already started reestablishment of that tree line.



Individuals Attending:

Councilman Doug Brown
Councilman Fred Wilson
Maryann Wilson
Dennis Thompson
Dale Bruns
Gary Bogott
Tina Bogott
Mary Neal Brown
Ruby Bowman
Jim Buck
Ivan Andrade

Phil Willis
Avana Andrade
Fred Clark
Schneider/Coop Cooper
Jerome d Portz
Council member Karen Benker
Roberta Nagy
Della Donaldson
Daniel Ibanez
Shawn Montz
Tom Kammer