

CSRP Project News

The Chatfield Reservoir Mitigation Company held the first of two Open House events late last month at ThunderRidge High School in Highlands Ranch. It was well attended; more than 200 people came to see the final designs for recreation modifications and environmental mitigation.

You can learn more about all of the recreation and environment projects on our new website www.chatfieldreallocation.org. If you go the RECREATION or ENVIRONMENT page, you get a list of the projects with plus signs on the left side of the list. Click on the plus sign and it will take you to the project description. Scroll down to see the rendering. Each page on the website has a box at the bottom where you can contact us if you have questions.

Here is one example:

SWIM BEACH

STATUS: All Chatfield State Park Facilities will be open during the 2017 season.

EXISTING FACILITY: The Swim Beach provides facilities for year-round recreation activities, including swimming and paddle boarding during the summer season, ice fishing and wind sailing during the winter, and picnicking during favorable weather periods. Facilities include: a shower and restroom, first aid station, Park office, concessionaire building, paved parking, picnic tables with grills, benches, portable toilets and an expansive sand beach.

RECREATION MODIFICATIONS: The Swim Beach recreation area and the Park perimeter road will be moved to the west and elevated to provide access and in-kind flood protection. Reconfiguration of the Swim Beach area will increase available parking, provide more detail to the buildings and sand beach, and improve the connectivity throughout the site. All existing recreation facilities and opportunities will be re-established to in-kind level of service, except that the distance from the buildings to the shoreline will increase from 130 to 340 feet due to greater fluctuations in the Reservoir water levels, but this will also provide more beach area. Landscape will be restored in a native condition similar to what exists today.



Project renderings displayed on the new website include the Swim Beach (and updated restrooms), North Boat Ramp, 11 day-use areas, the bicycle and pedestrian trails and the marina. Many of the people who attended the Open House were marina and boat launch users. Others were more interested in how camping will be affected (not at all) as well as other recreational amenities.

Environmental mitigation final designs drew another group of people. We believe they were very pleased with the plans for Plum Creek. They were also very interested in the Tree Management and Vegetation Management plans.

The original Tree Management Plan along the reservoir was to clear cut all the trees within the new fluctuation zone (5,432 – 5,444), which has been changed to an annual tree monitoring effort, to assess tree health and boater safety. Only those trees determined to be unhealthy or pose a threat to boaters will be removed. It is anticipated that far fewer trees will need to be removed under this revised Tree Management Plan. In addition, hundreds of new trees will be planted.

The good news about the environmental mitigation projects at Chatfield is that far more of the mitigation credits or Ecological Function Units (EFUs) will be realized on-site than offsite, which is long-term benefit to the park and its users.

Environmental mitigation work along Plum Creek could start as early as September 2017.

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