

FORT COLLINS FOOTHILLS MULTI-USE SITE PHASE 1 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK PROJECT OVERVIEW

Updated 04.14.2026

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

In November 2025 the Fort Collins community overwhelmingly approved a ballot initiative supporting a 164-acre Foothills Multi-Use Site on the site of the former Colorado State University's Hughes Stadium. The election results culminated a multi-year public engagement effort.

The Phase 1 Conceptual Framework Project builds on the community's priorities for this site identified in the November 2025 ballot initiative and develops a preliminary, high level site plan that supports further planning and eventually construction of the site's amenities and features. The deliverables for this Phase 1 project include:

Plan for near term management including municipal code enforcement, ranger presence, removal of existing fencing and other materials, temporary signage, vegetation management, and other priorities as identified.

Comprehensive programming list including planned uses and program requirements for each site amenity across the Site.

Inventory and analysis of existing conditions will influence decisions about where to locate various site amenities and support future development review process(es).

Holistic conceptual plan that will identify general areas for each site amenity, access and circulation considerations, and other key attributes that will inform further planning and ultimately guide construction.

The Phase 1 project will be led by the City of Fort Collins Park Planning and Development staff, with support from a core team including Natural Areas, City Manager's Office, and Communication & Public Involvement Office staff. The core team will engage additional City departments who will be involved with the project from either a programming or development review perspective, as well as external community groups that represent key Site stakeholders. It is anticipated that future project phases will include:

Phase 2: Design and Permitting: Each site amenity will need to complete 100% design for the specific area, resulting in more specific cost estimates, internal and external outreach, construction document preparation, and will support future grant applications.

Phase 3: Construction: This will result in implementation of design and plans for site amenities. When possible, site amenities may be constructed simultaneously to reduce impacts and efficiently use City resources.

Phase 4/Ongoing: Operation and Maintenance Plan Development and Implementation: Each area of the site will need operations and maintenance plans tailored to specific amenities; when possible, these plans need to coordinate with and complement one another.

PHASE 1 PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Process appropriately builds on past engagement and honors the 2025 2H ballot.
- Deliverables result in site-wide continuity and support efficient and effective planning, design, permitting, and construction of site amenities.
- Site-wide planning reflects other City of Fort Collins plans and priorities.
- Final concept plan reflects and supports the needs of users of diverse ages, abilities and backgrounds, and supports visitors' safety.

PHASE 1 PROJECT TIMELINE

DATE	KEY ACTION	DESCRIPTION
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Q2 2026	Kick Off Project	Complete charter Convene Core Team Convene City support team Initial partner engagement, see list below Develop Our City or project web page
Q2-Q3 2026	Analyze Existing Conditions	Access and circulation Cultural and historic assessments Current and adjacent uses, i.e., trails, sidewalk, disc golf, parking Drainage Geotechnical report Right of way and traffic studies Topographic survey Tribal engagement and consultation Utilities Vegetation Visitation trends
Q3 2026	Assess Future Site Needs	Parking Needs (individual vs share parking) Partner programming need identification Proximity to/buffer from adjacent roadways Proximity to/buffer from adjacent properties/uses Topography Tribal engagement and consultation Vehicular access
Q4 2026	Create Conceptual Plan	Develop visual showing use areas for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bike and pedestrian access and circulation ● Bike Park (up to 35 acres) ● Buffers ● Conservation campus (education/rehabilitation, up to 30 acres) ● Other parkland, including community celebration space ● Natural Areas (up to 60 acres) ● Parking ● Stormwater detention ● Trails ● Vehicular access and circulation ● Others, tbd
Q4 2026-Q1 2027	Finalize Conceptual Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inform and consult with public and partners, see list below, to help finalize conceptual plan ● Share GIS StoryMap, project web page, or other similar products to inform public of high-level site plan ● Finalize Conceptual Plan: Identify plan for securing external funding to support future project phases

PHASE 1 PROJECT TEAM

Project Core Team

Jennifer Torey, City of Fort Collins (CFC) Park Planning and Development, Lead Specialist and Project Manager

William Bevil, CFC Communications and Public Outreach Lead

Julia Feder, CFC Natural Areas Lead

Ginny Sawyer, CFC City Manager's Office Lead

Jill Wuertz, CFC Park Planning and Development Lead

Project Support Team

City Manager's Office: *Tribal engagement, City leadership perspective, partnership agreements*

Engineering Staff: *Survey, traffic, capital project engineering expertise*

Natural Areas and Forestry Staff: *Botany, cultural resource, finance, municipal code enforcement, Tribal consultation and engagement, visitor use safety and planning, vegetation management, and wildlife planning expertise*

One Water Staff: *Stormwater infrastructure and permitting requirements, water availability*

Operations and Real Estate Service Staff: *Lease agreements, long-term facility operations and maintenance, and real estate subject matter expertise*

Parks and Park Planning and Development Staff: *Bike Park, finance, long-term operations and maintenance, park planning, trails expertise*

Planning and Development Services Staff: *City and County regulations, development review process expertise*

External Partners and Consultants

Bike Park community representatives

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

City boards and commissions, as appropriate

Civil engineering consultant

First People's Community Center

Geotechnical engineering consultant

Larimer County Engineering staff

Rocky Mountain Raptor Center

Traffic engineering consultant

Others to be determined