



District/Governor's/Rotaract Grant Final Report 2021-2022

This report must be completed and uploaded on matchinggrants.org within 30 days after completion of the project but no later than 2 years after the date of approval of the project. For scholarships, the report is due 30 days after payment of funds.

District Grant # (from matchinggrants.org) P-3082

Rotary Club: Fort Collins, After Work

Project Title: Eastside Community Park

Project Description:

1. Is this a scholarship governor's grant report? Yes No (If yes, go directly to line 16)
2. Briefly describe the project. What was done and where did the project activities take place?
Explain how the beneficiaries and other community members were involved?

The Eastside Community Park, located adjacent to Laurel Elementary School in Fort Collins, needs revitalization to transform the area into a safe and meaningful community space. There have been school lock-downs, sexual assaults, and transient issues that have created concerns for the safety of students and residents and created an unappealing environment. The City of Fort Collins is collaborating with community businesses and organizations to design and reconstruct the park. The project has the coaching and support of CityGive; a newly-launched initiative within the City of Fort Collins to support philanthropic community activities. Local and neighborhood businesses and organizations are interested in supporting this project. Presentations are being made to the four Rotary Clubs of Fort Collins to determine interest in becoming one of the sponsors of this project.

Project objectives include:

1. Transform an existing, dated park into a vibrant community space through open spaces and greenways.

2. Improve community space in a commitment to reduce negative park activity and strengthen community safety.

3. Spark neighborhood connections and sense of community through neighborhood events.

4. Leverage the newly-launched City Give as a vehicle to serve the community and engage traditional and nontraditional donors across our community.

5 Improve, maintain and program an existing park in a commitment to promote a sense of neighborhood, and invite increased use and social belonging.

The overall project budget is \$245,000. The Rotary funded portion of this project is \$6,000. This \$6,000 will fund a specific item within the project such as two picnic tables at \$2,250 each and up to three bicycle racks at \$500 each for a total of \$6,000. The project must also be sustainable. The Rotary donation is contingent on all Fort Collins Rotary Clubs participating and the City also committing its portion of funding along with a city approved plan for sustainability. Each Rotary club may also support this project individually if desired.

Each of the four Fort Collins Rotary clubs is asked to fund the project at a level of \$1,500 to include \$500 in club funds and \$1,000 is DDF designated through a governor's grant. This will be reflected in the project financing section. One exception for funding is that funds from the Rotary Club of Fort Collins, After Work will use DDF awarded to this club from the Literacy Challenge. The Fort Collins Rotary Clubs will also support this project with voluntary labor.

3. How many Rotarians participated in this project? Rotarians from all four Fort Collins clubs participated. During the initial deconstruction 26 Rotarians participated in removing the old softball backstop.
4. What did they do? Please give at least two examples. Rotarians assisted from a labor and administrative perspective. The initial deconstruction was one example of Rotarians providing labor to tear down and remove an old softball backstop. Another example is administrative, particular on the part of Stacy Plemmons from the Rotary club of Fort Collins. Stacey worked with the organizing entity, the First united Methodist Church, to obtain funding from several organizations in the community. Bill Emslie worked with the four Rotary clubs in Fort Collins to put together a cooperative funding effort from Rotary.
5. How many non-Rotarians benefited from this project? Several hundred students and the schoolteachers and administrative staff at Laurel school, which is adjacent to the park, benefited due to the reduced risk of lock-downs, sexual assaults, and transient issues. Members of the general community benefited because the park can now be utilized as a safer community space.
6. Who are the beneficiaries and what is the expected long-term community impact of this project? The beneficiaries described above will be able to enjoy long term impacts of a community park that will have fewer issues regarding homelessness, assaults and resulting school lockdowns.
7. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was their role? The First United Methodist church was the catalyst for obtaining support from many community organizations and business who funded the project. The City of Fort Collins coordinated the construction of the improvements since the City has title to the park.

8. Income:

Income Source	Amount
Rotary Club of Fort Collins, After Work	\$ 500
Rotary Club of Fort Collins, Foothills	\$ 500
Rotary Club of Fort Collins	\$ 500
Rotary Club of Fort Collins, Breakfast	\$ 500
Rotary District 5440	\$4,000
Total Project Income	\$6,000

9. Expenditures: (number receipts starting with one and indicate a receipt # (s) for each expenditure) (Do not include travel expenses)

If international project convert amounts to US dollars	Receipt # (s)	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount
Two Picnic Tables	See Attached PPD Cost Reporting Document	\$4,500	\$4,500
Three Bicycle Racks	See Attached PPD Cost Reporting Document	\$1,500	\$1,500
Total project expenditures		\$6,000	\$6,000

10. Please explain any variance of more than 5% between the budgeted amount and the actual amount including the reason for the variance and why the alternative was chosen.

11. Project score (5=strongly, 4=agree, 3= neutral, 2=disagree, 1=strongly disagree)

	Project Score	Comments
The overall project was successful	5	
The grant process worked well	5	
My interaction with partner clubs was good	5	
We achieved the results we expected	5	

12. Did you upload photos in your project on matchinggrants.org under the Photos tab? (If not, please do so)

Yes

13. What worked well on this project and why?

We had good cooperation between the four Fort Collins Rotary Clubs through our Quad Club monthly meeting. Stacy Plemmons from the Fort Collins Rotary Club coordinated the Rotary and other funding of the project through the First United Methodist Church, who coordinated the overall project fundraising and input to the scope of the project. The City of Fort Collins conducted and managed the project.

14. What did not work well and how would you suggest improving it?

The project was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were still able to complete the project, however.

15. How was this project publicized?

The First United Methodist Church publicized the project with the attached documents which were made available to the public.

16. Scholarship Governor’s grant only

- a. Name of scholarship awardee _____
- b. Current school _____
- c. University of college they will be attending _____
- d. Course of study _____
- e. Starting date _____

Project Inventory

Please list all items provided in this grant that are over \$500 in value and are not expendable.

Item Purchased	Date of Purchase	Cost	Initial Destination/ Location	Comments
2 Picnic Tables	August 2020	\$4,500	Eastside Community Park	Permanently installed in the park.
3 Bicycle Racks	August 2020	\$1,500	Eastside Community Park	Permanently installed in the park.

By signing this report, I confirm that to the best of my knowledge these District Grant funds were spent only for eligible items in accordance with Trustee-approved guidelines, and that all the information contained herein is true and accurate. Receipts for all grant-funded expenditures are attached. I also understand that all photographs submitted in connection with this report will become the property of RI and will not be returned. I warrant that I own all rights to the photographs, including copyright, and hereby grant the District, RI and TRF a royalty free irrevocable license to use the photographs now or in the future, through the District and the world in any manner it so chooses and in any medium now known or developed. This includes the right to modify the photographs as necessary in the District’s and RI’s sole discretion. This also includes, without limitation, use on or in the web sites, magazines, brochures, pamphlets, exhibitions and any other promotional materials of the District, RI, and TRF.

Please attach all receipts or an invoice and a copy of the check used to pay the invoice. Funds over \$100 not used must be returned to the district grants treasurer.

Certifying signature of primary contact:

Date: 11/16/2021

Print name _William A. Emslie_

Upload this report on matchinggrants.org in .pdf format only

**Rotary Project Budget
P-3082 Eastside Community Park**

Project Expenses

Item	Estimated Cost	Quantity	Total
Picnic Bench	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 2.00	\$4,500.00
Bicycle Rack	\$ 500.00	\$ 3.00	\$1,500.00
Total			\$6,000.00

Project Income

	Club Funds	DDF	Total	Comments
Rotary Club of Fort Collins	\$ 500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	Governors Grant Requested
Rotary Club of Fort Collins, After Work	\$ 500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	DDF from Literacy Challenge Award
Rotary Club of Fort Collins, Breakfast	\$ 500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	Governors Grant Requested
Rotary Club of Fort Collins, Foothills	\$ 500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	Governors Grant Requested
Total	\$ 2,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$6,000.00	

EASTSIDE PARK IMPROVEMENT - PPD CATEGORY EXPENSES**8/2020**

Design, Construction Plans, GC Services	\$ 20,000
Demolition Removal of t-ball backstop and benches, concrete wall and railing	\$ 12,000
Site Lighting Conversion of existing lights to LEDs, addition of 2 new walkway lights	\$ 20,000
Site Furnishings Benches, game board tables, bike racks, picnic tables	\$ 58,000
Irrigation Modifications	\$ 15,000
Landscaping, Soft Surface Paths and Seating Areas	\$ 40,000
Landscape Improvements Demolition, turf and irrigation	\$ 15,000
Bidding / Construction Administration	\$ 20,000
Contingency/Applied to Rehab of Additional Acreage/ Land Acquisition (Century Link corner)	\$ 20,000
TOTAL	\$220,000

Playground Equipment, Edging and Surfacing	\$125,000 - \$150,000
PHASE 2 PLAYGROUND - OPINION OF PROBABLE COST	
Landscaping	\$15,000 - \$20,000
Site Furnishings	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$145,000 - \$175,000



Rotary Clubs of Fort Collins – Making a Difference

By PDG Bill Emslie, President Rotary Club of Fort Collins, After Work

On Saturday, October 19, 2019, several Rotary Clubs in Fort Collins came together to help start a community project, Renovation of the Eastside Community Park.

The Eastside Community Park needs revitalization to transform the area into a safe and meaningful community space. The adjacent Laurel Elementary school went into 'lock-out' mode five times during the past school year because of unsafe and threatening behavior in the park. In the past, the park has seen sexual assaults, drug use and other negative behavior causing both elementary students and neighbors to feel unsafe. To address the issue, the oldest and first church in Fort Collins (First United Methodist Church - 1869) is spearheading a partnership with the City of Fort Collins and the local community to re-design and upgrade the park. The four Rotary Clubs of Fort Collins have joined with 17 other local businesses and organizations to help the church and city bring this project to fruition.

The four Fort Collins Rotary Clubs will support of the project both with hands on service and financially. On October 19 approximately 15 Rotarians from several Fort Collins clubs started the official park renovation by assisting in the removal of an old T-Ball backstop and benches. This was done in just a few hours. The photos below show this work.

Rotary also supports the project financially. Past District Governor Bill Emslie led the four clubs in receiving approval for a District Governors Grant totaling \$6,000. Proceeds of this grant will fund specific improvements such as new park benches, game tables and bicycle racks in the park. The Rotary contribution is part of the \$245,000 budget for park renovation which is funded by individuals, businesses and community organizations.

Leadership and a champion for the Eastside Community Park renovation is Rotarian Stacy Plemmons, who has coordinated fundraising for the project city wide. Stacy is member of the Rotary Club of Fort Collins. Thank you, Stacy and the Rotarians of Fort Collins, for your support of this worthwhile community effort.



Rotarians from Fort Collins and other community volunteers gather around the backstop to be removed as part of the renovation of the Eastside Community Park.



Rotarian Ralph Smith from the Rotary Club of Fort Collins; 1918, removing backstop fence.



All eyes on one man!



Rotarian Stacy Plemmons (on ladder), who organized the Rotary workday, readies backstop fence for removal.



Rotarians and volunteers in action!



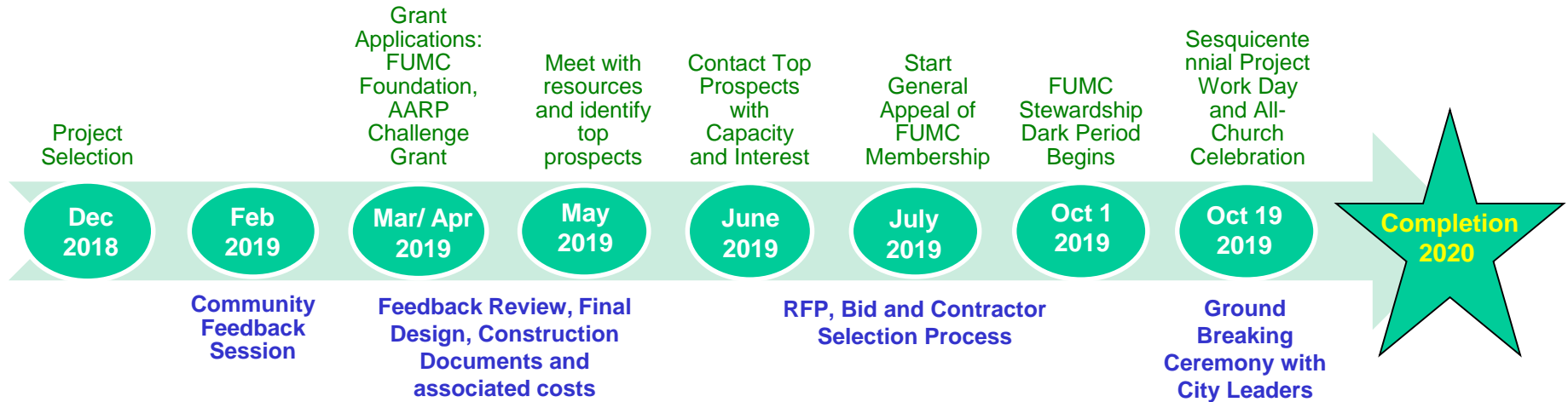
Rotary coordinator Stacy Plemmons celebrates with Pastor Melanie Rosa from First United Methodist Church and Fort Collins Mayor Wade Troxell.



Mission accomplished. Backstop removed.

Eastside Project Timeline

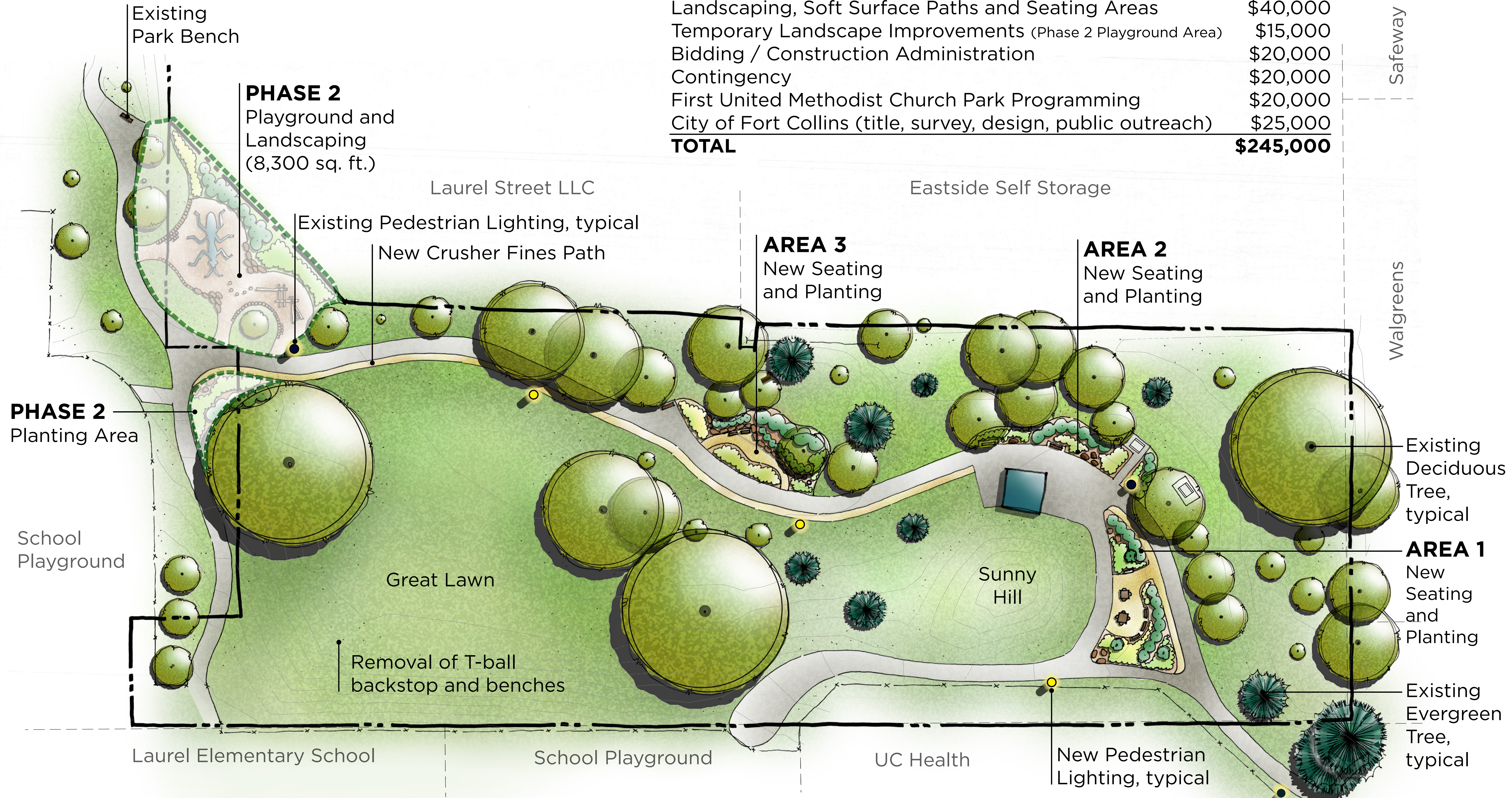
FUMC-LED ACTIVITIES



CITY-LED ACTIVITIES

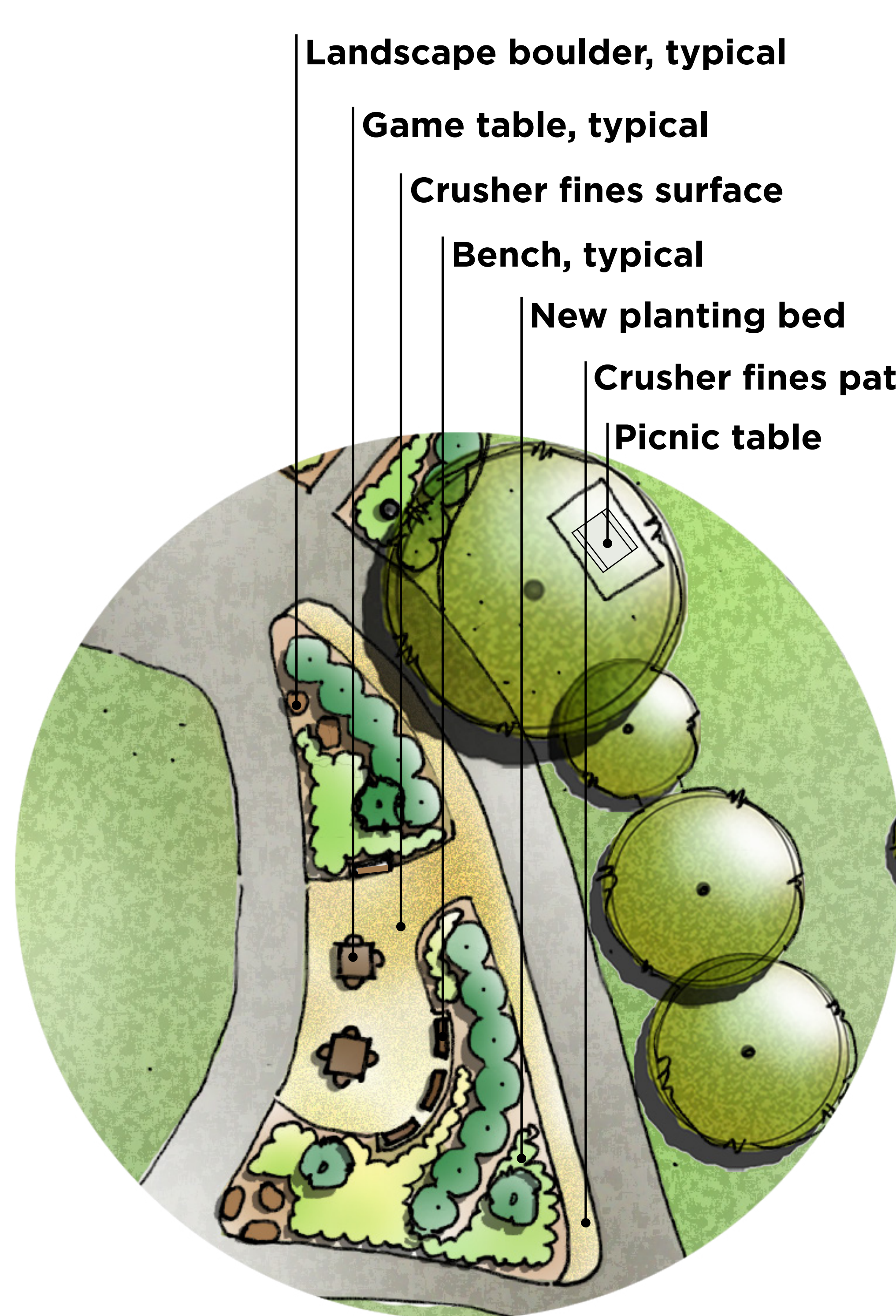
PARK IMPROVEMENT COST ESTIMATE

Demolition	\$12,000
Site Lighting	\$20,000
Site Furnishings	\$58,000
Irrigation Modifications	\$15,000
Landscaping, Soft Surface Paths and Seating Areas	\$40,000
Temporary Landscape Improvements (Phase 2 Playground Area)	\$15,000
Bidding / Construction Administration	\$20,000
Contingency	\$20,000
First United Methodist Church Park Programming	\$20,000
City of Fort Collins (title, survey, design, public outreach)	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$245,000

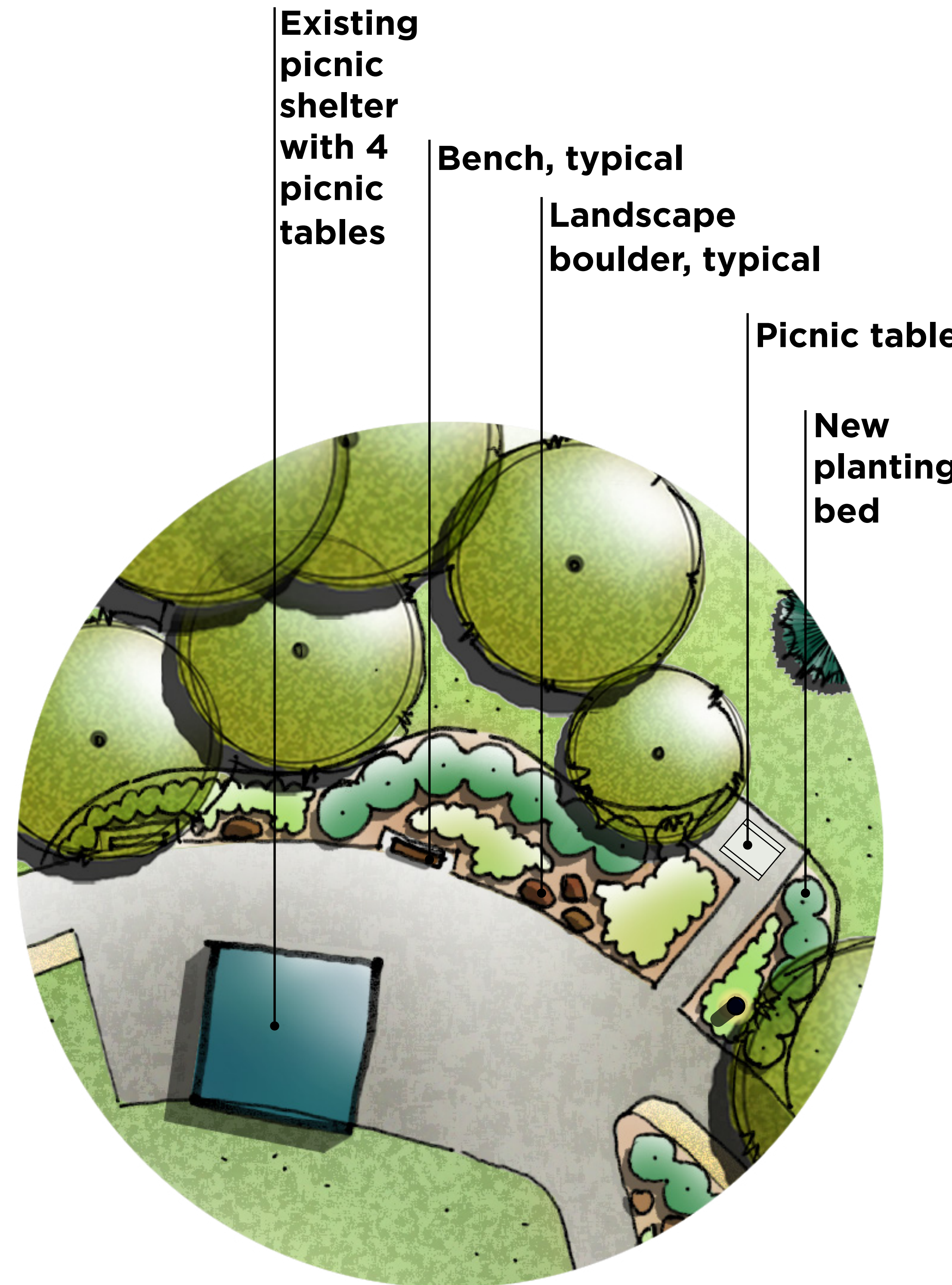


SITE FURNISHING COST ESTIMATE

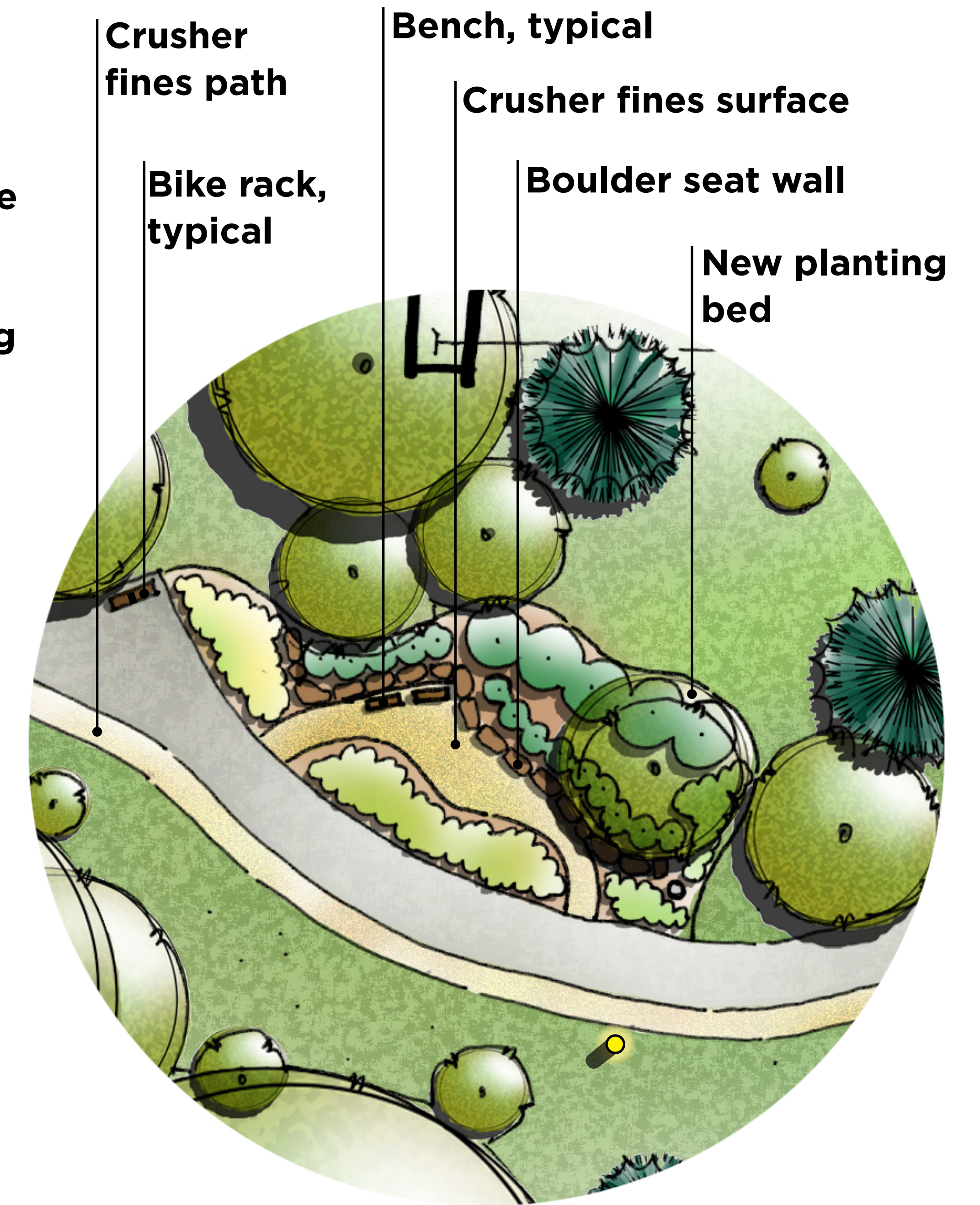
- 8 benches	\$2,250 each
- 2 game board tables	\$4,250 each
- 2 bike racks	\$500 each
- 6 picnic tables	\$4,800 each



- AREA 1**
- 4 new benches
 - 2 new game board tables
 - 1 existing picnic table replaced



- AREA 2**
- 2 existing benches replaced
 - 5 existing picnic tables replaced



- AREA 3**
- 2 new benches
 - 2 existing bike racks replaced

Transient troubles plague Fort Collins neighborhood park

[Cassa Niedringhaus](mailto:cniedringhaus@coloradoan.com), cniedringhaus@coloradoan.com Published 6:56 p.m. MT July 19, 2016 | Updated 4:29 p.m. MT March 8, 2018

Residents of a quiet Fort Collins neighborhood near a park and elementary school are upset about what they claim is an increase in transient troubles that threaten the safety of the area.

The increasingly unsafe conditions have become a concern to Laurel Elementary School staff, bordering businesses and the surrounding neighborhood and serve as a microcosm of citywide concerns about the transient population.

Eastside Park, 100 Locust St., has seen numerous sexual assaults, including one recently that allegedly involved a child, aggravated assaults and aggressive transients, some of whom neighbors said urinated and defecated on their lawns, were drunk on their property and were seen having sex in the park.

Resident Lisa Cunningham said the problems have worsened.

“My son, when he was in second grade, was commuting by himself to Laurel (Elementary School),” Cunningham said. “Just in the past couple years, I haven’t had that comfort level with my daughter because there has been an increase in transients in that park. At the same time, I’m of the belief that it’s a public park, and it’s for everybody. It’s a complicated issue.”

The frustration came to a head in June when nearby residents were invited to a neighborhood meeting at the school to discuss the safety of the park. Poudre School District officials, city officials and police were also in attendance, along with more than 50 neighbors.

At the meeting, Laurel Principal Tommi Cox introduced the idea of a fence the district began discussing more than a year ago. The proposed fence would follow the property line of the school, and its gates would be locked during daytime hours to ensure a greater level of safety for children. The fence was proposed in part in response to four incidents on school property in the last year, including one in which two people were reportedly having sex in the park.

Despite acknowledging park safety concerns, residents at the meeting expressed frustrations that they were introduced late to the proposed fence conversation. Some disliked that the fence would cut through the heart of the park and across its small hills where families like to sled. It would also create a bottleneck on the north side of the park, residents said, because the path already runs along another fence.

“I’m not saying how it will look in the end,” said Pete Hall, PSD executive director of operations. “There may be a compromise fencing solution. It gets beyond the fence. The fence is a barrier. Use, awareness, patrols, neighborhood involvement — it’s a multifaceted approach.”

Many people argued the fence doesn’t address the larger issue at hand — trouble-causing transients.

“That’s our take: the safety and security of the students,” Hall said. “We heard the safety and security of the park (at the meeting). That’s where we’ll have a blending.”

UCHealth’s Family Medicine Clinic, located on the southeast edge of the park at 1025 Pennock Place, installed a security fence around its property this spring in response to safety concerns over the last year.

In the past five years, the small park tucked behind the school at Lemay Avenue and Elizabeth Street has seen two sexual assaults, four aggravated assaults, eight complaints of vagrancy and 31 liquor law violations, according to Fort Collins Police Services.

In 2013, Raymond Aaron Brown, 32, was arrested for [allegedly pinning down a stranger in the park and sexually assaulting her](#).

Fort Collins Police Sergeant Adam Ruehlen, who leads the Neighborhood Enforcement Team, said his team has stepped up its presence in the park since the community meeting. Before that, it had an increased presence in the park. Now, an officer visits the park nearly every day. He said though this problem is not unique to Eastside, no other park in the city currently gets as much attention from his team.

“The only time that we can really do something is when somebody is committing a crime or an act that gives us the authority to cite them and move them along out of the park,” Ruehlen said.

He suggested the importance of a community presence in the park. That is a catch-22 for residents. Their presence would make it safer, but they don’t feel comfortable being there.

“It would help if us parents would actually interact in that park,” Cunningham said. “People just walk by and avoid eye contact.”

The park is small, hilly and lacking in parking, so it’s not particularly well-suited to the programming that makes larger parks more active and safer, such as the various sporting events that often fill other neighborhood parks. No teams have reserved its space this year, said city Director of Parks Mike Calhoun.

Another community meeting is scheduled at Laurel at 5:30 p.m. on July 25.

Photos of Completed Eastside Park Renovation



Eastside Park Entry Sign



New picnic shelter and benches

Photos of Completed Eastside Park Renovation



New picnic table of the type funded by Rotary



Two new bicycle racks, in foreground, funded by Rotary.

Photos of Completed Eastside Park Renovation



Rotary funded bicycle racks.



Picnic tables under new shelter.

Photos of Completed Eastside Park Renovation



Garden area in park.



Pre-existing shelter with new picnic tables.

Photos of Completed Eastside Park Renovation



Visitor to park giving his dog a workout.



New benches along main park walk.