



PUBLIC WORKS & NATURAL RESOURCES

PARKS, OPEN SPACE & TRAILS

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LOOMILLER PARK RENEWAL

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOOMILLER POND & MANAGEMENT OF CANADA GEESE

CURRENT CONDITIONS / ISSUES:

- Loomiller Pond is currently aerated year round for water quality. In the winter, the pond is aerated at a minimal level, just enough to keep the pond from completely icing over. This is done to prevent fish kills.
- Loomiller Pond is not currently managed as a fishery. There are some fish in the pond and fishing is not prohibited, however it is not managed or stocked. Nearby water bodies that are managed as fisheries include Izaak Walton Pond, Golden Ponds, and Fairgrounds Lake.
- The water coming in to Loomiller Pond is primarily stormwater with runoff from over 900 acres coming into the pond via six pipes of various sizes and types. There is also a small amount of raw water coming into the pond. The pond serves as a small holding vessel and combines flows from the varying sources. There is a gate that is manually operated to maintain the water level. Due to the manual operation of the gate, the park sometimes sees minor flooding in large storm events.
- Due to year-round access to water and mowed turf right up to the pond edge all the way around the pond, the park has attracted a significant population of Canada Geese, especially in the winter.
- Due to the urban runoff coming into the pond as well as the large population of geese, the water quality of the pond is perceived to be poor, however it has not yet been tested by the City.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CITY OF LONGMONT TECHNICAL STAFF (Open Space, Water Resources, Storm Drainage & Park Maintenance) AND THE CONSULTING TEAM (Confluent Design, Martin/Martin Engineers):

- Keep aerating the pond for water quality purposes; however turn aeration off in the winter to allow the pond to freeze over. This will result in some fish kill of larger fish such as carp, however it will no longer be a year round open body of water and will attract significantly less geese in the winter.
- Obtain baseline water quality testing to monitor water quality over time. The Parks, Open Space & Trails Division will coordinate with Environmental Services to obtain annual water quality samples and interpret the results. All affected divisions (Parks, Open Space & Trails, Water Resources, Storm Drainage Engineering & Operations) will collaborate on management decisions based on the results.
- Convert portions of the pond edge to native vegetation & wetlands to filter runoff and improve water quality. Taller vegetation at the pond edge will also discourage geese

which tend to forage in areas with open sightlines and avoid areas where predators are able to hide.

- Encourage hazing through the City's geese hazing program. Per City Ordinance 7.04.200 the City manages a program to license dogs to legally haze (chase) geese on City golf courses, as well as Loomiller, Dawson and Kensington City Parks between August 1 and March 31 from sunrise and sunset.
- Post signage regarding the City ordinance prohibiting the feeding of wildlife or waterfowl, including ducks or geese.
- Evaluate the feasibility of raw water irrigation at Loomiller Park, which would provide a seasonal flow of raw water into Loomiller Pond which is much cleaner water than stormwater runoff and would keep fresh water circulating through the pond. If raw water irrigation is recommended through the feasibility study, complete the design for the conversion to raw water and implement.