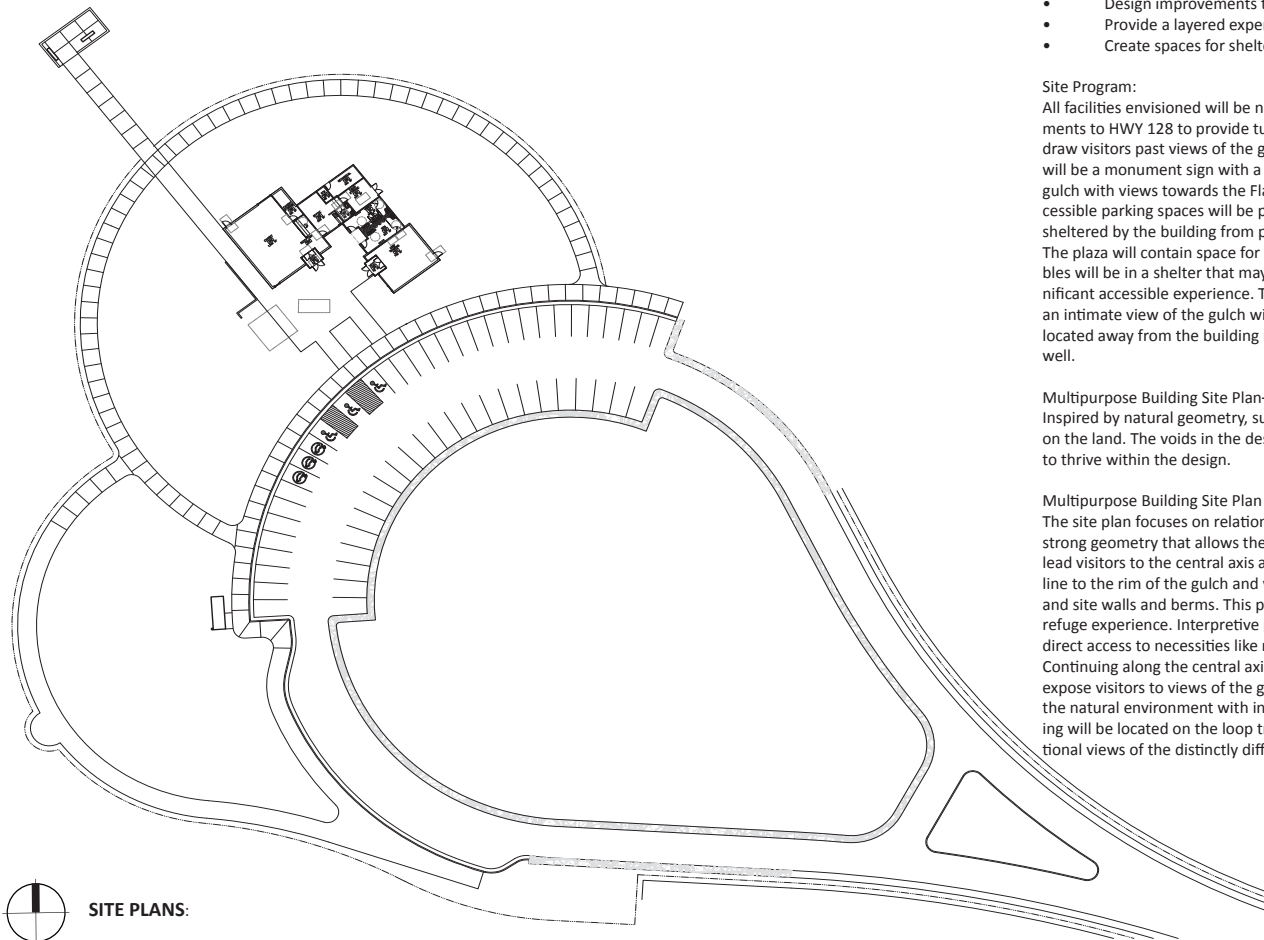




ROCKY FLATS MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING | *SCHEMATIC DESIGN*

Executive Summary | November 23, 2016



SITE PLANS:

SITE NARRATIVE

Site Planning – Design Goals:

- Expose visitors to the deep draws and expansive plateau of Rocky Flats
- Design improvements that rest lightly on the landscape
- Provide a layered experience that allows people to enjoy as many of the stories and resources at Rocky Flats as they wish
- Create spaces for shelter from the elements, and provide interpretation opportunities

Site Program:

All facilities envisioned will be new and specifically designed for this project. Beginning at the site entry, there will be road improvements to HWY 128 to provide turning motions in and out of the refuge. An asphalt park entry road will connect to HWY 128 and draw visitors past views of the gulch and across the plateau to the multipurpose building. Near the beginning of the entry road there will be a monument sign with a vehicle pull off. This road will end at a one-way loop at the Multipurpose Building near the rim of a gulch with views towards the Flatirons and El Dorado Canyon. The one-way loop provides parking for 54 cars and 3 busses. Four accessible parking spaces will be provided. This parking will be connected to the multipurpose building with concrete walks and a plaza sheltered by the building from prevailing winds.

The plaza will contain space for interpretation and seating in the form of benches or seat walls as well as picnic tables. The picnic tables will be in a shelter that may also cast shade into the plaza. Other concrete walks will loop through the landscape to provide significant accessible experience. These loops also connect to hiking trails that will cover much of the refuge. A small overlook providing an intimate view of the gulch will be located near the rim along these loops. Other site elements in the program are a vault toilet, located away from the building near the southern end of the parking. A trash/recycling enclosure and bike racks will be provided as well.

Multipurpose Building Site Plan– Concept:

Inspired by natural geometry, such as a spider web, the site plan seeks clear structure and strength of purpose while resting lightly on the land. The voids in the design become as important as the structure because they allow opportunities for the natural systems to thrive within the design.

Multipurpose Building Site Plan – Design:

The site plan focuses on relationships between desired experiences and practical necessities while utilizing the concept of light but strong geometry that allows the native landscape to grow throughout this new facility. Walkways along the edge of the parking lot lead visitors to the central axis and plaza. This axis ties many important elements together and physically expresses a natural desire line to the rim of the gulch and views to the mountains. Along this axis, we have a plaza sheltered from the wind by the building and site walls and berms. This plaza is the functional heart of the Refuge. Groups will gather here at the beginning and end of their refuge experience. Interpretive programming will begin in this space, and continue in the building and on the walks. The plaza has direct access to necessities like restrooms, useful features like the shaded picnic area, and learning experiences like the exhibit hall. Continuing along the central axis toward the mountains, loop trails are introduced for those seeking an easy, short walk. These loops expose visitors to views of the gulch, and mountains, as well as the prairie ecosystem. The loops provide an accessible experience in the natural environment with interpretation facilities. Trailheads connecting the larger hiking trail system to the multipurpose building will be located on the loop trails. Finally, the axis terminates in an overlook near the edge of the plateau. This allows for exceptional views of the distinctly different ecosystem in the gulch below, as well as open views of the Rocky Mountains.

COST SUMMARY

Highway 128 Improvements	\$0.45M
Site Improvements	\$2.59M
Building	\$1.56M
Interpretive Exhibits	\$0.66M
TOTAL BASE COST	\$5.26M

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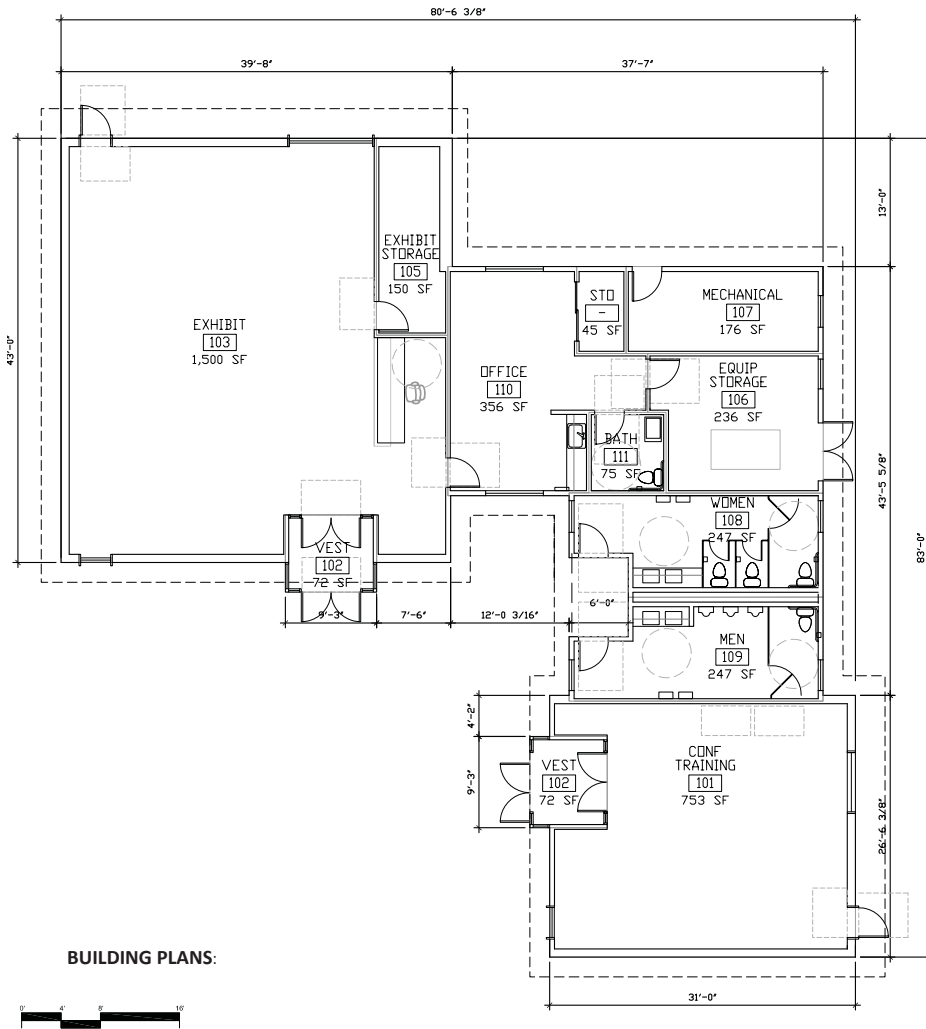
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BUILDING NARRATIVE:

Floor Plan – Design Goals:

- One contiguous building
- Durability, low maintenance materials
- Create simple, traditional building forms
- Delineate a clear entry for the Exhibit Hall
- Context:
 - Respond to view of the Rockies
 - Mitigate wind
 - Orient the building for net zero energy
 - Provide shade and picnic zone

Building Program:

The building contains two main public functions with the Exhibit Hall and the Conference/Training Room. These spaces are supported by restrooms, staff office area, equipment storage and mechanical spaces. The original program had the Conference/Training Room as a separate building, but through the Value Engineering Analysis meetings the direction has shifted to design a single contiguous building. In addition, the square footage allocated for the exhibit hall has increased to 1500 sf with a 150 sf storage room.

Floor Plan – Concept:

Conceptually, the building is focused on the idea of transformation and return to nature. The building forms recall the intermittent use of the land having inhabitants. Transitioning materials, from stone, to wood, to hardie-paneling, to metal panel on the buildings, attempts to illustrate the change of the site use over time, while providing variety of material. Views to and through the building frame the mountains beyond and connect to the grassland. This in turn allows the building to nestle into the land, respecting the landscape and allowing it to overlap with program. The project is sited to sit close to the gulch edge overlooking the Rocky Mountains, providing a place to ponder and have the opportunity to reflect on the long history of the site. Inside, the exhibit hall will provide a place to review the history of the site and allow visitors to reflect on the transformation this site has seen over time. Outside, the building is encircled with a walk path, representing the tall grass prairie that has always been present on the site. The buildings integration into the site plan is based on site orientation to provide the best result for solar access, wind protections, creation of a shared plaza, and views to refuge features and distant vistas.

Proposed Floor Plan – Design/Materials:

The final proposed floor plan is a 3,920 sf building divided into 3 components and shaped into a compact, embracing footprint. With the Exhibit Hall and Conference/Training room separated by the support spaces, the overall form reveals a visual hierarchy with the building mass and roof forms. The main functions of the building have corresponding single sloped roof forms that orient to the south and west opening to the mountains and orienting inward toward the entry plaza. The support spaces in the connecting building are lower in height and take a more traditional form with a gable roof. The exterior skin is clad in a variety of wood, hardie panel and lap metal panel with some wood and stone details. A light colored standing seam metal roof reflects heat helping to minimize heat gain. Roof overhangs emphasize a traditional form while providing for solar and weather protection. The color palette is grey and tan muted tones to blend with the grass and local stone. This patterning provides a modern interpretation of weathered wood slats that resemble the farm house on the Refuge. The Exhibit Hall entry projects outward and upward from the building form and rises above the roof line. The interior and is detailed with an Alaskan Yellow Cedar wood panel continuing the story of transformation. Some complementary color accents will be added to highlight the entry areas and the Exhibit hall entry will have a more prominent presence over the Conference/Training room. A simple, singled sloped shade structure adjacent the building, stands to the west and helps to frame the plaza. The shade structure is constructed of steel, but has wood detailing that responds to the building materials and correlates with the concept of transformation. The building form and color are intended to fit in and connect with the landscape.

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