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THE MILE HIGH CITY

City and County of Denver
Parks and Recreation

Jill McGranahan, PR and Marketing
Director

O. 720.913.0633

jill.mcgranahan@denvergov.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Restored City Park Electric Fountain To be illuminated on May 22, 2009

DENVER, CO — May 18, 2009 — The City Park Electric Fountain, reconstructed for its 100th anniversary in August 2008, will be turned on for the 2009 season on Friday, May 22, 2009 at Noon.

The Electric Fountain is capable of producing the incredible light and water shows that made it a Denver destination years ago. Originally constructed in 1908 for the Democratic National Convention, the fountain had not been fully operational for decades. The Fountain was a centerpiece of Denver life, drawing literally thousands of visitors to watch its amazing water and light shows while listening to concerts in City Park.

With permission from the Landmark Preservation Commission, Denver Public Works demolished the old concrete fountain vault in order to construct a sound, fully-functional replacement utilizing current technology and materials that will sustain the Fountain into the future. The portion of the Fountain visible above the water is virtually identical to the original structure. After the vault and deck of the Fountain were completely restored in April of 2007, the final piece of the project was to add the working labyrinth of plumbing and nozzles, complete with multi-hue colored lights for fountain show performances.

This remaining work demanded the installation of an enormous amount of complex plumbing, electrical, mechanical and computer features to create numerous geysers and light displays in a synchronized fashion. The majority of the work was done thanks to the tremendous synergy between Denver Public Works and Parks & Recreation, with Parks supplying the knowledge and Public Works providing the facilities to complete the project and bring the Electric Fountain back to life. The Colorado Historical Society, Denver Water and other independent contractors also contributed to the completion of this historically significant Denver landmark.

Today's Electric Fountain proudly uses modern technology, including energy-saving LED lights, and will be around for future generations to enjoy. After its initial illumination on May 22, shows will be every 5 -10 minutes from 7p.m. to 11p.m. with lighted shows starting at dusk. During the day, the fountain will change patterns every 5 minutes with short fountain shows on the hour.

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Background information:

The original fountain was the result of a fortuitous nexus of events and people. Mayor Robert Speer was working on his City Beautiful plan. The Democratic National Convention was coming to town in

the summer of 1908 and Frederic W. Darlington had built a reputation of creating fountains with colored lighting (receiving the first patent for his work in 1899) and water shows, pre-dating the Disney and Las Vegas era of show fountains by well over sixty years.

Denver is the only city with a Darlington Electric Fountain to tackle the extremely daunting task of creating a historically accurate but modern version of his pioneering work. Of the many Darlington fountains built around the world, the original Electric Fountain in City Park was the last known surviving, relatively intact example of his work when it was demolished in late 2006.

On May 30, 2008, Denver marked the 100th anniversary of the original dedication of Darlington's Electric Fountain No. 33 in City Park with a demonstration of the progress in the reconstruction of the fountain.

The new Electric Fountain features the 12 water display effects of the original fountain but there are now three times as many automatic valves to give dramatic new flexibility in controlling the displays.

City Park Fast Facts:

- **370:** Total acreage of the park
- **3:** manufactured bodies of water located in City Park
 - **Ferril Lake** (1896)
 - **Duck Lake** (1891)
 - **Little Lake** (1896)
- **2:** Equipped playgrounds
- **14:** Tennis courts
- **5:** Baseball Fields
- **6:** Soccer Fields
- **1:** Lacrosse Field
- **4:** Group picnic areas with tables