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DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY



Denver
Parks + Recreation



Denver Parks and Recreation Newsletter

Editorial Calendar - Upcoming Issues

January - Golf/Parks

February - Natural
Areas/Forestry/Mountain
Parks

March - Recreation

April -

Planning/Marketing/Manager's
Office

May - Golf/Parks

June - Natural
Areas/Forestry/Mountain
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July - Recreation

August -

Planning/Marketing/Manager's
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September -- Golf/Parks

October - Natural
Areas/Forestry/Mountain
Parks

November - Recreation

December -

Planning/Marketing/Manager's
Office

January 2009

Happy New Year! There are many exciting things happening in the parks & recreation department, starting with Ruby Hill Rail Yard which opens on January 17.

We look forward to our continued commitment to the citizens of Denver in 2009.

Denver Parks and Recreation

Come Ride the Rail

Ruby Hill Rail Yard Returns

Denver Parks and Recreation and Winter Park Resort team up again to bring winter sports to the City



Returning for its third year, Ruby Hill Rail Yard brings the excitement and energy of



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skiing and snowboarding to Denver with a one-of-its-kind ski and ride urban rail yard.

Scheduled to open on January 17, 2009, Ruby Hill Rail Yard will feature six rails of varying configurations and levels of advancement. Weather permitting, the rail yard will be open through the end of February 2009. To prepare the park for the rail yard, snowmaking equipment will pump out more than an acre of snow.

Opening day will feature demonstrations by Winter Park athletes, live music and guest appearances by KTCL 93.3, giveaways and free snowboard lessons for local youth interested in trying a new sport or fine tuning their already learned techniques.

New this year, Denver Parks and Recreation is teaming up with Christy Sports to provide Free ski and snowboard equipment at the park every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 3:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. and every Saturday from noon - 8 p.m. Geared toward ages 8 - 16, youth who want to use equipment must have a parent present to complete a release and waiver. Forms will be kept on file at Ruby Hill throughout the entire railyard season, so only need to be completed once for each participant.

Returning for the second year is Jibbin' for the Kids in partnership with Snowsport Outreach Society (SOS). Every Tuesday and Wednesday from January 27 through the end of February, SOS and Denver Parks and Recreation's outdoor recreation team will provide lessons to local teens. Lighting and generators will be at the park every evening until 9 p.m., facilitating evening access for youth and parents who want to come with the children after work.

Ruby Hill Park is located off of South Platte River Drive and West Florida Avenue. The Rail Yard will be open every day from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Ruby Hill Rail Yard is made possible by the generous support of Winter Park Resort, Burton Snowboards, Christy Sports, Johnson Controls, S.O.S., 93.3 KTCL and Wahoo's Fish Tacos.

Quieter course thanks to new brem



Overland Park Golf Course Noise Improvements

Overland Park Golf Course finished construction and growth of the 700 yard berm along Santa Fe Drive. The berm is designed to reduce traffic noise along hole #3. It also creates a native un-mowed corridor along Santa Fe Drive that will take less water to maintain than irrigated and manicured turf. To book a 'quiet' day of golf, click [here](#).

Recreation Task Force Recommendations

In a series of two-part community meetings, the Denver Recreation Task Force asked what you wanted in a recreation center and you responded. Come join them for the second phase in planning the future of our recreation centers. Meetings will be held throughout the Denver metro area starting in February 2009.



2/3/2009

Martin Luther King
3880 Newport St
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

2/4/2009

East high School (Lunchroom)
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

2/5/2009

Swansea
2650 E 49th Ave
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

2/10/2009

Harvard Gulch
550 E Iliff Ave
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

2/11/2009

Barnum
360 Hooker St
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

For more information call (720)913-0689 or email to davis.talley@denvergov.org

Donate a Bike for Kids' Sake

For various reasons, hundreds of bicycles in our community are at this very moment languishing in alleys, basements, hallways, attics and garages. Give your bike the circle of life by donating it to Denver kids in need of a bike.

Rude Recreation Center and Recycles Bicycles have teamed up to fix bikes for some of Denver's youth. Rude Recreation Center recruits 12-15 kids every other month to participate in the event.

Recycles Bicycles will teach the kids basic care and maintenance of their bicycles as well bike safety tips. Each participating youth will receive a bike helmet to go along with their new bike.

The next **Build a Bike** day will be held on January 31, 2009, from 1-3pm at Rude Recreation Center, 2855 West Holden Place.

So clean out your garage and donate a bike or bike parts. To donate, contact Dave Bauer at (303)788-0672. For more information on participating in the program, contact either Ken or Martin at Rude Recreation Center, (720) 865-0570.

2009 Urban Lens Calendar

Denver: Through the Eyes of Our Youth

2009 Urban Lens Calendar available now



The 2009 Urban Lens Calendar offers 12 very unique and hip, black and white photographs taken by Denver area youth. These one-of-a-kind images highlight Denver through the eyes of young photographers.

Calendars may be obtained through the month of December for a small donation of \$10, which goes to support future after school programs. To purchase a calendar please call (720) 913-0689 or email to davis.talley@denvergov.org.

Recreation Happenings

Platt Park Senior Center

1500 South Grant Street
(303)698-4965

Water Exercise Class

Tue/Thu - 10:05-11:00am
held at Washington Park

Yoga

Mon 4:30pm-5:30pm
Wed 8:45am - 9:45am

Stretch & Strength

Tues/thurs 8:45am - 9:45am

Tai Chi

Mon 8:45am-9:45am
Fri 8:45am-9:45am

Free Hand Weights Training

Tue 10:00am -10:45am

Weight Training

Mon or Fri 8:30am-10:00am

Line Dancing

Tue 11:00am
Thu 10:00am

Ballroom Dancing

Thu 1:00pm-3:00pm

Outdoor Recreation

Locations vary
(303)370-6669

Genessee park**"Snowshoeing 101"**

For those who have always wanted to try snowshoeing, this is a great introduction. We'll provide the needed gear, along with basic instruction and helpful tips to make your experience more enjoyable. If you can walk, you can snowshoe. The learning curve is minimal and you'll discover an exhilarating new world of winter fun. Bring a lunch, we'll provide the hot cocoa.

Cost: \$20

Date: 1/13/09

Day/Time: 8:00am-4:30pm

Deer Mountain**(Rocky Mountain National Park- West Side)**

Rocky Mountain National Park is spectacular any time of year, but is particularly magical in winter. The crowds are gone, the elk roam freely, and birds of prey hover above. We will explore the lower portion of the Deer Mountain trail, which features super views and moderate climb.

Cost: \$20
Date: 1/28/09
Day/Time: Wed 7:30am-5:00pm

Valley/River Trail Loop

You'll enjoy gently rolling terrain on this "easy" rated snowshoe trail on the west side of the park. This mellow looped trail just east of the Colorado River provides excellent snow and fine views.

Cost: \$20
Date: 2/10/09
Day/Time: Tue 7:30am-5:00pm

College View

College View's Western Potluck
 2525 S. Decatur Street
 (303) 937-4630

Cost: \$3 plus a dish
Date: 1/8/09
Day/Time: Thu 10:30am-12:30 pm
 Don Garcia will provide the entertainment
 Please call 3/937-4630 to reserve a spot.

Fountain Feature

Babi-Yar Fountain

The fountain at Babi-Yar is made of a simple granite slab with a triangular notch carved in the top that allows for a small bubbler of a fountain. The Babi-Yar fountain rests in the center of a quiet grove of trees planted to memorialize those who died at Kiev.



The installation sits atop a giant Star of David formed by the sidewalks located within the park at Havana and Dayton.

On September 29 and 30, 1941, over 34,000 Jewish citizens of Kiev were gunned down and buried in a Ravine called Babi-Yar on the outskirts of Kiev Ukrain.

In the months following, thousands more innocent people, including Jews, Gypsies, Russian prisoners and Polish officials were similarly executed and buried in the ravine. When the killing was over on November 6, 1943, the ravine held the bodies of between 100,000 and 200,000

people. The Fountain at Babi-Yar Park is dedicated to those thousands of people who were executed by the Germans during their occupation of Kiev in the 1940s. Babi Yar Park was officially dedicated in 1970 and opened in 1983. It has been recently remodeled to improve parking and add some new features. The 26 acre park is set to be the home to a future museum.

Critter Corner, by Ashley DeLaup

Interpreting Encounters with Wildlife in the City

The same words and actions have different meanings to different people. This is often the case when examining interactions with our urban wildlife. Increasing our skill at reading a wild animals behavior increases our understanding of how to respond and interpret a chance encounter.



Animals will have typical responses to a person they meet. Often when humans and animals cross paths they both may be startled. The four most common reactions are:

- An animal retreats at the sight of a person, such as a rabbit is startled and takes off.
- An animal takes an initial aggressive stance followed by retreating or relaxing, when a raccoon hisses and growls, fur on its back (hackles) rises up, but then turns and runs when the person moves away.
- An animal stays put when there is no aggressive behavior from the person, when a fox squirrel watches a gardener in their yard.
- An animal shows signs of curiosity when there is no aggressive behavior from the person. A red fox sniffs the area just vacated by a child.

Managing our own behaviors around animals is critical. Aggressive or predatory behavior can be triggered by how a person responds to a wild animal's presence. An animal may feel the need to protect itself when a person feeds it, startles it, throws items (including food!), corners, injures or even runs away from it. Less commonly, unacceptable interactions occur and can be initiated by the animal or the person involved. These more unusual wildlife behaviors can occur when wild animals feel threatened or lose their natural fear of humans.

- An animal bares teeth and snaps or lunges towards a person when provoked, for example a raccoon cornered in a trash can lunges at person looking in.

- An animal takes an aggressive stance and does not retreat if person becomes aggressive, when a coyote bares teeth and growls when yelled at and approached by a person.
- An animal lunges or snaps at a person without being provoked. While walking past some dense shrubs a fox darts out and nips at a walker.
- An animal exhibits predatory behavior towards a person. Watch for an animal who follows a child by staying low to the ground, moving through dense vegetation and freezing when child looks back.

By defining types of animal behavior we can feel more comfortable about our wildlife interactions. An animal encounter is defined as an unexpected meeting between a person and an animal occurs without a problem. An animal incident indicates that an unsafe situation or abnormal animal behavior occurred. Signs of curiosity include an animal watching a person without retreating, following at a distance without trying to hide, and sniffing areas recently used by a person. Signs of aggression include arching back and raising hackles, hissing or growling, baring teeth, lunging or snapping towards a person. Aggressive actions are often used by animals as a warning, and usually they stop when the person has moved away. Predatory behavior includes animal following while staying down low in the vegetation, freezing when looked at and continuing to follow when not watched. If you are concerned about an incident report it to the Natural Areas program to ashley.delaup@denvergov.org. We want all your wildlife interactions to be positive, allowing you a chance to appreciate our amazing urban critters.

Tree Bank- Investing in Urban Forest



Our cities and towns are growing at unprecedented rates, and satellite photos dramatically show they are turning gray. Gray is the color of the surfaces and rooftops of our built environment. At the same time, the green is disappearing. If you are interested in reducing energy costs, increasing property values or just want to support the environment, TreeBank branches make it easy! Visit us at our web

site at www.treelink.org or contact us at pepper@treelink.org

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

Come Help Re-design the New Play Areas at Argo, Pferdesteller and Elmendorf Parks!

Denver Parks and Recreation needs your help to determine the future designs for play areas at Argo, Pferdesteller and Elmendorf Parks. These three playground projects are part of the "Better Denver" bond program approved by City residents in 2007. Share your best ideas to help us create a fun-filled playground for your neighborhood. We encourage you to bring your children and to invite your neighbors to give us your input on the concept designs for your new neighborhood play area. To give input or to view concept designs go on-line to www.denvergov.org/parksandrec

Argo Park Play Area

Wednesday, January 13th from 6:30 p.m.
Holy Transfiguration of Christ Cathedral

Elmendorf Park Play Area

Postponed until further notice!

For more information, please email Nicole Hadley at nicole.hadley@denvergov.org

Sloans Lake Marina and Boat House Public Meeting

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Denver Parks and Recreation invites all residents interested in attending an initial public meeting for the implementation of the Sloan's lake park master plan in the marina area.

This open house is to provide input on detailed elements of the Marina design, including the jetty ; marina lake edge; future public use type in the boathouse and the architecture and location of the irrigation pump house. Public meeting will only focus on the redevelopment of the Marina, not large park ideas.

This meeting will be held **on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the **Scheitler Recreation Center**, located at **5031 W. 46th Avenue**.

Benedict Fountain Park Public Meeting

Thursday, January 29

Denver Parks and Recreation invites all residents interested in discussing future enhancements for Benedict Fountain Park. DPR's goal is to provide a forum where individuals will have an opportunity to provide input on preferences and priorities for future improvements to the park.

This meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 29, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the **Community Recreation Center**, located at **1849 Emerson**.

Upcoming Park Events

Date	Park	Time	Event
1/1-3/7/09	Ruby Hill	9am-5pm	Ruby Hill Rail Yard
1/10/09	Echo Lake	8am-5pm	Winter Trails
1/17/09	City Park	5am-1pm	MLK Clean-up Program
1/19/09	Civic Center	5am-3pm	MLK Parade Celebration
1/19/09	City Park	5am-1pm	MLK Parade
1/25/09	Washington	6am-11am	Polar Bear Run

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