



**City and County of Denver**  
Parks and Recreation

Jill McGranahan  
Director of Marketing &  
Communications  
O. 720-913-0633  
[jill.mcgranahan@denvergov.org](mailto:jill.mcgranahan@denvergov.org)

Scott Dissel  
O. 303-867-2337  
[Scott.Dissel@tpl.org](mailto:Scott.Dissel@tpl.org)

---

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Celebrate Denver's Newest Park...for One Day Only! National Park(ing) Day Highlights Need for Urban Parks**

**Denver, CO, September 9, 2009** – Celebrate Denver's open space and support efforts for more parks on **Friday, September 18, 2009** during National Park(ing) Day in downtown Denver. Several metered public parking spaces in LoDo will be transformed into temporary public parks to showcase the positive impact and need for more park space in Denver as well as other cities across America. **Denver Parks and Recreation Manager Kevin Patterson** and Trust for Public Land Colorado State Director **Tim Wohlgenant** will relax in one of the parks and show their support for sustaining and expanding Denver's park system at an 11:00 AM press conference.

The **Trust for Public Land (TPL)**, a national conservation nonprofit, is spearheading this exciting event. It is part of National Park(ing) Day, an annual event with over 50 cities participating nationwide this year, including New York, Boston, Cleveland, Austin, Minneapolis, Washington D.C, Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

"Park(ing) Day provides us with a unique opportunity to rethink the way streets are used, celebrate parks and spotlight the need for more city parks to improve the quality of urban living" said Kevin Patterson. "Today's event emphasizes this need and compels us to find every opportunity we can to preserve and add open space."

Denver's "new" park is on Larimer Street between 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Streets, where DPR Manager will address park lovers at 11:00 AM. The public is invited to visit and relax in Denver's newest open spaces from 9AM to 5PM.

"This is Denver's second year participating in National Park(ing) Day and the Colorado TPL team is excited to be on board," said TPL Colorado State Director Tim Wohlgenant. "While TPL is widely recognized for protecting Colorado's iconic wilderness and working landscapes, we want people to know that we are just as committed to creating and enhancing urban parks so that everyone can experience nature close to home. This message is especially important now, in light of a recent study that reveals Denver's park acreage per resident is well below the average reported by similarly dense cities like Phoenix and Houston."

Paige Heydon-McCrary, Executive Director for the Park People, added, "Parks are a critical component of Denver's livability. They are places for recreation and relaxation. They are spaces

where individuals and families can interact and neighbors can build community.

Our urban open spaces are also important resources for physical fitness and mental health. It's crucial that we recognize parks as important resources integral to the fabric of our city, and advocate for these special places."

Park(ing) Day is an opportunity for all Denver citizens to celebrate their parks system and to promote the need for more park space. In 2007, National Park(ing) Day helped to initiate more than 200 new parks in more than fifty cities nationwide and around the world. The Trust for Public Land, a national conservation nonprofit founded in 1972, sponsored National Park(ing) Day 2008 and is participating in cities across the country in 2009.

The concept was created by San Francisco art collective Rebar in 2005 to re-imagine the potential of the metered parking space. In 2006, in collaboration with TPL, REBAR launched "PARK(ing) Day", a global exploration of the creative potential of streets. The goal: to transform parking spots into a PARK(ing) spaces, thereby temporarily expanding the public realm and improving the quality of urban human habitat -- at least until the meter runs out.

For more information and a list of participating cities, please visit [www.tpl.org/parkingday](http://www.tpl.org/parkingday).

# # #

**The Trust for Public Land (TPL)** is a national, nonprofit, land conservation organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, community gardens, historic sites, rural lands, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. Since 1972, TPL has protected more than two million acres nationwide. TPL depends on the support of individuals, corporations, and foundations.

**Denver Parks + Recreation (DPR)** facilities are unrivaled in the Rocky Mountain West. The DPR system spans over a 138-year history from the first park created in 1868 to nearly 15,000 acres of urban parks and mountain parkland today. It embraces nearly 3,000 acres of "traditional" parks and parkways, 2,500 urban natural acres and close to 8,000 acres of urban forest within the city alone. The system has evolved from the early years of jungle gyms and swings to 29 recreation centers and 17 outdoor pools offering high-quality programs.

**The Park People** is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, enhancing and advocating for Denver's parks, recreation resources, open space and urban forest. We pursue this mission by raising private funds for capital projects and through our flagship program, Denver Digs Trees, which adds thousands of trees to the city's forest each year.

# # # -