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Denver Parks and Recreation Newsletter

Dog Bowl Constr Workers Denver Skate Pk

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 Parks
July - Recreation
August - Planning/Marketing/Manager's Office
September -- Golf/Parks
October - Natural Areas/Forestry/Mountain Parks
November - Recreation

October 2009

Parks Photo in Camera Obscura Photography Competition

Mark Upshaw, an Architect and Planner for Denver Parks and Recreation, entered photos of the Denver Skate Park construction into this years Camera Obscura Juried Competion. One Photo was accepted and is part of the month long exhibit at the Camera Obscura gallery. The photo is atop the newsletter this month. Congratulations Mark!!

Please View the exhibit at:

The Camera Obscura
September 18 - October 24, 2009
1309 Bannock St.
10:00 am to 6:00 pm

December - Planning/Marketing/Manager's Office

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or online at www.cameraobscuragallery.com

"Dog Bowl - Construction workers, Denver Skate Park Colorado" is a celebration of construction workers who are highly skilled with great endurance and passion for good work. The construction technique, although simple and "primitive" was invented (or reinvented) by Hallmark Construction on site for this project. The construction method and sinuous forms were new to Denver in 2001 when the project was designed and constructed. The vision, design and work to manifest this project, demonstrates Denver's undying commitment to building places of play and beauty for her citizens and visitors- it continues Denver's story of making a "great city". -Mark Upshaw

The First Tee of Denver Casino Night & Costume Party

Have a fun filled night while supporting Denver Youth with poker, craps, roulette, and blackjack. Top ten chip earners will receive prizes at the conclusion of the night. Prizes will include a flat screen TV, golf clubs, free rounds of golf around Denver and at other private exclusive courses, a signed copy of Elway by John Elway, a Yakima car rack system, and much more!

The First Tee of Denver Casino Night and Costume Party
Brooklyn's at The Pepsi Center
901 Auraria Parkway
Friday Oct. 16, 2009
6 p.m. - ?

For just $60 you can gamble, eat, drink and dance!
Entry includes:
One drink ticket good for any beverage in the bar
Complimentary beer all night long
FREE PARKING if you register before October 9th
Heavy hors d'oeuvres (shrimp, crab cakes, meatballs and more!)
DJ and dancing

Raffle tickets $5 each or 5 for $20. Raffle will be held at the conclusion of the night. Raffle items include 4 tickets for the Nuggets Bench Experience that includes 4 lower level tickets to a mutually agreed upon Denver Nuggets game and time on the Denver Nuggets Players' bench during pre-game warm up!

Dress in your favorite costume from the 50's, 60's, 70's or 80's! A Prize will be awarded for best costume.

Must be 21 or older to attend this event.

To register on-line go to
www.thefirstteeofdenver.com/casinonight.html

Denver Dollar Recipients

DPR Staff,

The following individuals are the recipients for the 2nd quarter Denver dollar employee recognition program. Congratulations to all the recipients and thank you for going above and beyond.

Susan Fry
Ranger Program
For coordinating the Smart Cycling Traffic Skills 101 Bike Safety Course and for providing bicycles to the Denver Forestry Division.

Dave Quintana
20th Street
Thank you Dave for offering your time as a blackjack dealer at our Las Vegas/St. Patrick's event at Platt Park. You helped make it a success.

Sheryl Menger
Washington Recreation
Thank you Sheryl for helping us at our Las Vegas/St. Patrick's Event. Your help at our special events helps make it a success. Thanks.

Bill Culkin
Washington Recreation
Bill is a great mentor with any help I need and I greatly appreciate it. Thanks Bill for the use of your swimming pool each week for our swimnastics class.

Anthony Terry
Rude Recreation
Anthony continues to go above and beyond what is expected from a full time recreation instructor. In addition to organizing for the boys sports that our center officers, he works to well fulfill his other duties. Examples include signing up over 350 kids from his partner school, CMS elementary school, with their My Place memberships. This has helped Rude Rec to constitute 1 in 5 My Place administered across the 29 centers (over 1600 of 8000). In addition, his close partnership with the Sports Authority has yielded over 10K dollars in supplies donation.

Gayle Weinstein
Natural Areas
Supported various matters and tasks on a terminating contract, so that the contractor was saved time & effort. This also, provided me with teamwork & provided good customer service.

Kris Katzenmeyer
Natural Areas
Supported various matters and tasks on a terminating contract, so that the contractor was saved time & effort. This also, provided me with teamwork & provided good customer service.

Barnum Rec. Staff
Barnum Recreation
The center housed the summer camp training, up to 170 staff, for the final day of training. They also assisted with the wall climbing workshop. They provided supported for the Training and Development Committee. They were a great help because we did not have a space to run training on the last day and we needed some team building workshops as well. We appreciate it!!!

Mike Keyser
Southwest Parks
Stepping up and helping Rivers & Trails with supervision until their interim arrived. Great job Mike!

Axum Park Renovations Become a Reality

First documented through the camera lenses of Park Hill residents, the disrepair of the City of Axum Park at MLK Boulevard and Cherry Street was unmistakable.

The picture will change considerably when volunteers show up in force to build a multi-use perimeter path around the park. All Denver residents are invited to bring friends, family and a picnic lunch from noon to 3 p.m. on Oct. 10 as we celebrate the completion of the new path.
In Summer 2007, the City of Axum Park was identified by local residents through Park Hill Thriving Communities, a program of Denver's Environmental Health, as a "trouble spot" and underutilized community resource. Thanks to the 2007 voter-approved Better Denver Bond Program, and in-kind support from Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC), Park Hill Thriving Communities (PHTC) and LiveWell Colorado, Denver's Parks and Recreation was given the go ahead to make the Axum Park redesign, renovation and construction a reality.
Tom Kupcho, Senior Landscape Architect with Denver Parks & Recreation describes the new and improved park as a "win-win" all around. "It's a great example of a collaborative effort between citizens, the city, and outside

partners such as LiveWell Colorado," said Kupcho. "Everyone shared a common goal of health and wellness, and now we've got a place where people can recreate and realize that goal."
October 10 marks the beginning of the first phase of renovations, a $500,000 trail throughout the park. Other landscaping and facility improvements include a new playground and picnic pavilions, which will be completed by fall of 2010.
The City of Axum Park is named for Denver's Sister City of Axum, Ethiopia, a city over 2,500 years old located in the northern Ethiopian region of Tigray. In November 1995, a delegation of Denver officials visited Axum, Ethiopia. As a result of the visit, street was named after Denver.

For more information on the park renovation and October 10 festivities, please contact the City and County's Department of Environmental Health at 720-865-5463.

Federal Boulevard Public Meetings

Denver Parks & Recreation, in conjunction with Denver Community Planning and Development and Denver Public Works, are hosting two public meetings regarding proposed regulatory changes affecting properties along Federal Boulevard. One public meeting will be held in the southern portion of the Federal Boulevard corridor area, and the other will be in the northern section. Properties along Federal Boulevard are subject to a parkway setback requirement, which is a regulation that governs the area between the property line along Federal Boulevard and the building line. This meeting will explain proposed changes to the setback regulations, and provide opportunity for public comment.

Northern Federal Boulevard corridor public meeting
Tuesday, October 27, 2009, 6:00pm
Ashland Recreation Center, 2475 W. Dunkeld Place

Southern Federal Boulevard corridor public meeting
Thursday, October 29, 2009 6:00pm
Lincoln High School, 2285 S. Federal Blvd

October Public Meeting Schedule

City Park Circulation Plan update
October 14th, 2009
6pm to 7:30pm
Denver Zoo Norgren Hall at the Gates Education Center
2nd public meeting to present a proposal for vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian circulation improvements in the park.

Cherry Creek Trail Complete

After five years of design, planning and construction, the section of Cherry Creek Trail between Holly Street and Oneida Street was officially opened today, Saturday, October 10, 2009. The celebration will take place at 9 a.m. on the Cherry Creek Trail next to the Holly Street Bridge and Cherry Creek Drive South.

This long-anticipated, 1.25-mile section of Cherry Creek Trail runs from the pedestrian bridge at Place Middle School, along the south side of Cherry Creek, under Monaco Parkway and continues along the southern edge of the Creek to where it passes under the new Holly Street bridge connecting to existing Cherry Creek trail. The completed project eliminated six hazardous street-level crossings. The $1.6 million project was funded by the City & County of Denver, the Better Denver Bond Program, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, Great Outdoors Colorado and The Greenway Foundation.

"This exciting project is long awaited and much anticipated" said Jeff Shoemaker, Executive Director of The Greenway Foundation. "This much needed improvement will allow trail enthusiasts and user groups of all ages a much safer and more enjoyable experience as they traverse along this invaluable urban amenity."

Commuters, recreational users and children traveling to school (three schools-McMeen Elementary School, RockyMountainSchool for expeditionary Learning and PlaceMiddle School) are close to the trail) will benefit from this new addition.

The new trail was primarily funded by a $725,000 Grant from Great Outdoors Colorado and the Better Denver Bond Program, with additional support and funding by the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District and The Greenway Foundation.

"We continue to see the benefits of partnering with like-minded agencies to accomplish more for Denver Parks and Recreation, and ultimately, the citizens of Denver," said Kevin Patterson, Manager of Denver Parks and Recreation. "By working cooperatively with Urban Drainage, GOCO and The Greenway Foundation, we are able to provide this amazing new amenity to the City."

Better Denver, the City of Denver's $550 million voter-approved bond program, works to improve, preserve, renovate and create amenities that touch citizen's lives - including roads, libraries, parks, recreation centers, child care sites, hospitals, public safety, City buildings and cultural facilities.

Critter Corner

Fall in the City

As the weather gets cooler, many young animals begin the search for their own territories and resources. Currently young fox kits, raccoons, skunks and coyotes are branching out so you may see animals more frequently or in areas they hadn't been in before as they search for new suitable habitat, out of the way of the local dominant adults. Be particularly aware when driving late evening to early morning hours when less human activity may encourage inexperienced animals to dash across the road.

New visitors to your backyard may be more common, so if you DON'T want new neighbors look around now to see if you may have attractants! Bird feeders are one of the most common animal attractants; almost all of our local small and midsized mammals enjoy snacking on some free bird seed, and also like grabbing up the birds and rodents on the ground underneath. If you maintain bird feeders keep the ground clean beneath them. Keep pet food and water inside; as vegetation goes dormant animals begin to search for more alternate sources of food.

Wood piles, thick vegetation and piles of debris also provide both shelter and potential food sources for wildlife. Insects and rodents hiding in and underneath piles can also make easy meals for hungry raccoons, skunks and foxes. Trim shrubbery off the ground so you can easily see underneath, and animals can't find hiding spots. If you have low spots under your fence where animals can easily slip in and out you can build up the soil or close the gap with inexpensive chicken wire. This is a good time of year to finally seal under patios and decks, making sure animals are out first!

If you do get a new critter moving in, responding quickly and appropriately can move it back out again. The longer it has to settle in, the more persistent you'll need to be in your efforts to discourage it. Leaving ammonia soaked rags near resting sites, removing food and water sources

and making areas less accessible can all send the message for an animal to move on. You can find species specific tips at denvergov.org/wildlife, click on the links about the animal you're living with.
Don't mind the local urban wildlife? Then enjoy! This is a great time of year to observe interesting and beautiful local wildlife right in your backyard. Most animals don't cause problems for people and pets, and are just looking for a safe haven in our busy city! Now's a great time to visit our 200+ city parks and natural areas to experience the wilds of Colorado right here at home!

Thank you John Cassidy

Denver Parks & Recreation would like to recognize John Cassidy Asst. Golf Professional at Wellshire Golf Club for his outstanding fundraising for Patriot Golf Day. On one of the hottest days of the year he stood on # 9 tee-box at the Wellshire Golf Club for over eight hours soliciting money from local golfers, with his diligence and innovative ideas he collected over $4500.00 for the Folds of Honor Foundation, which provides post-secondary educational scholarships for children and spouses of military service men and women killed or disabled while serving our Great Nation.

Thanks from Denver Health

Over the past four years, or so, the Denver Health outpatient Physical Therapy Clinic has worked closely with the staff of Denver Parks and Recreation to develop a referral process to the Denver Parks and Recreation community exercise programs for patients being discharged from Denver Health physical therapy.

We are extremely grateful to the staff of Denver Parks and Recreation for their tremendous work transitioning therapy patients to community based exercise programs. Matt Miller and his colleague Kelly Stevenson have been particularly helpful for establishing a user-friendly referral process for Denver Health providers and patients. They have also demonstrated outstanding support for patients in need of special attention.

The value of Denver Parks and Recreation exercise programs to post-therapy patients has been enormous. The high quality and excellent customer service offered through your structured exercise programs has been instrumental to patients maintaining function and independence.
Our sincere thanks to all!

Best,
Pete Metropulos, PT

Upcoming Events

College View Recreation Center
Oktoberfest Luncheon
October 8, 2009
Enjoys Brats and lively music. Bring a dish to share.
10:30 - 12:30 pm
Cost: $3

Hoops Fundamentals
October 16 - November 13, 2009
Learn the 'cross over' like Iverson. Shoot baskets like Kobe.
Pass like Nash, and dunk like Lebrun!
Ages: 9 -14
Fridays, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Halloween Fun
October 29, 2009
Bake a bat cookie, tell scary and fun stories!
Ages: 5 - 9
Thursday, 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Please RSVP by Tues, 10/27

Platt Park Recreation Center
FLU SHOTS
October 9, 2009
10:00am - Noon
Accupunture Class- FREE
Wed, October 21, 2009
10:00 - 11:00am.

Dance to Live Music:
1st, 2nd, 3rd, Mondays -
7:00pm - 9:30pm.
$4.00 per person includes dance lesson from 6:00-7:00pm
refreshments provided

Oct. 5th - Tom Yook
Oct. 12th - Terry Norona
Oct. 19th - Rhythm of Life
Tea Dance - Live Music
Last Friday of the month.
1:00pm - 3:15pm
$4.00
refreshments provided

Oct. 30th - Tom Yook "HALLOWEEN DANCE"

Cooking Classes
10:00am - Noon
Cost : $6.50

October 16, 2009
Hens de Potato

Oct. 28, 2009
Taco Soup/ Jalapeno Corn Bread

Food Bank
October 9th and November 6th
1:00 pm
$2.00

Line Dance - Tuesday 11:00am - 12:30pm and Thurs. 10:00am - 11:30am $2.00 senior/$3.00 under 65. Drop in

Ballroom Dance - Thursday 1:00pm - 3:00pm $2.00 senior/$3.00 under 65. Drop in

Bingo - Tuesday 1:00pm - 3:00pm $2.00 senior/$3.00 under 65. Drop in

Other Classes
Call for dates and times: 720-865-0630
Exercise Classes: Yoga, Tai Chi, Stretching, Swimnastics, Weight Training
Language Classes: Spanish, German, French
Craft Classes: Jewelry, pottery and more

Artreach: What a great Program - Don't miss the chance to get tickets weekly to sporting events, symphony etc.

Cards: Bridge, Pinochle

Central Denver Recreation Center Update

Last November, when Denver voters said yes to a tax increase to fund Infrastructure projects, $11 million was allocated for land acquisition and design services for a new recreation center to serve the central Denver area.

Denver Parks and Recreation and Councilwoman Carla Madison and Councilwoman Jeannie Robb met on Tuesday, September 15 from 6 - 8 pm at the Denver Botanic Gardens, Mitchell Hall at 1005 York Street for a public meeting and open house to gather public input on site selection for a new recreation center in the central Denver area. Citizens were asked to discuss your preferences for use of "Better Denver" bond dollars for either new construction surrounding the Congress Park pool or

acquisition of a new site.

Over 70 Denver residents attended the initial public meeting on the central Denver recreation center bond project on April 1, 2008. Citizens were introduced to current trends and facilities located in today's state-of-the-are public recreation centers. They also participated in a 'Build-a -Recreation Center' workshop where groups designed their ideal recreation center with a hypothetical fixed budget. At the end of the session, each group described their key activities and discussed their opinions and suggestions for desired facilities and programs. This meeting helped Parks and Recreation determine what they're building - aquatics, gyms, meeting rooms, fitness - so that they knew the necessary requirements for the site.

If you were unable to attend the meeting, the video is available online on Denver 8 TV by clicking here and then selecting Central Denver Rec Center Public Planning Meeting at the bottom of the list.

A 2006 Recreation Needs Assessment Survey showed there to be a gap in recreation center service for central Denver. To view maps of the central Denver need click here and for a more centralized map click here.

Last year, I wanted feedback on the issues that were discussed at the central Denver recreation Center public meeting, so I asked some survey questions in April 2008's e-Talk in 10. Here are some of the results from my survey:

Do you currently regularly participate in indoor recreational activities?
78% Yes
22% No

If you were to use the proposed central recreation center, what would be your preferred mode of transportation? Please select one (1).
43.8% Walking
30.3% Bicycle
19.1% Car
6.7% Bus or other public transportation

What are the TOP FIVE (5) priority indoor activities or programs that you would like to see included in a centrally located recreation center?
The top five responses were:
Large Fitness Center
Group Exercise Studio (wood floor)
Gymnasium (1, 2, or 3 courts)
Indoor 10 lane 25 Yard Lap Pool
Indoor Combo Leisure/6 Lane 25 Yard Lap Pool

The City of Denver's $550 million voter-approved Better Denver Bond Program is working to preserve, renovate and create amenities that touch citizen's lives - including roads, libraries, parks, recreation centers, child care sites, hospitals, public safety, City buildings and cultural facilities. Over 280 projects are part of this effort; more than 55 are complete, another 60-plus are in construction, and many more are in planning or design. The improvements are scheduled for completion by 2012. Projects are being accelerated as possible, with many of them slated for completion by 2011. The Bond Program will pump millions of dollars into the economy and help to preserve and create jobs across the region. For more information see www.denvergov.org/betterdenver.

Four More Denver Parks Converted to Recycled Water

Four parks in the Lowry area were converted to recycled water this summer as part of Denver Water's growing effort to free up more water for drinking purposes by using recycled water for irrigation needs.
Crescent, Denison, McNichols and Verbena parks were added to Denver Water's recycled water system this summer.

Recycled water is wastewater treated to Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment standards and can be used for irrigation and industrial purposes. By reusing treated wastewater for irrigation in areas such as parks, Denver Water keeps enough pristine water in its reservoirs to serve about 40,000 households.

Lawns, parks and golf courses that use recycled water are clearly marked with signs. In addition, valve boxes and some sprinkler heads are purple, which is the same color as the pipes used to transport recycled water. Though recycled water is highly treated, it should not be consumed because it does not meet drinking water standards.

The conversion also is part of Denver Parks and Recreation's ongoing commitment to conserving water and being responsible stewards of the environment. These four parks added to the 552 acres of parks using recycled water. In addition to recycled water conversions, Denver Parks and Recreation is improving irrigation systems at 37 parks through the Better Denver Bond Project, an infrastructure bond program. Through these irrigation improvements and upgrades to recycled water in these 17 parks, more than 450 million gallons of drinking water will be saved annually.

The complete list of parks that use recycled water are:

Swansea Park and Rec Center
Schaefer Park
Dunham Park
Russell Square Park
Stapleton Central Park
Westerly Creek
Greenway Park
McNichols Park
Crescent Park
Denison Park
Verbena Park
Lowry Sports Park
Jackie Robinson Field
Great Lawn Park
Yosemite Linear Park

For more information, visit www.denverwater.org or call 303-628-7071.

Volunteers Needed

Put The Beds to Bed (PTBTB)
Groups, families, and individuals from the neighborhood and surrounding area are encouraged to participate. Volunteers ages 9-17 must be supervised by an adult.

Over 300 volunteers are needed at City Park, Chessman Park, and Washington Park on Saturday, October 24, 2009 from 8:30 am- 12:30 pm to remove annual flowers, drag tarps, load flowers in trucks, over-turn dirt, and dig dirt at our annual PTBTB event.

All tools will be provided for the project. It is suggested you bring your own gloves and water bottle. Dress for any weather. Do not bring pets.

Please call our volunteer hotline at 720.913.0330 or email: dprvolunteers@denvergov.org to register. Please specify the location you are interested in and the number of volunteers.

In Memory of Jesse Lovato

Denver Parks and Recreation would like to remember a loyal and dedicated employee, Jesse Lovato. Jesse passed on August 7, 2009 after a long battle with cancer.
He worked as a horticulturalist with Denver Parks and Recreation for 32 years. Our thoughts go to his brother Andrew Lovato and the rest of his family, friends and all those who loved him.

New Cardio Equipment at Denver Recreation

Centers

Several Denver Recreation Centers will receive new cardio equipment as part of a new lease program which includes treadmills, cross trainers, and upright and recumbent bikes. Some centers will receive all new cardio equipment while others will get replacements. This will assist in meeting our customer demands and hopefully generate more interest and participation.

Recreation Centers with new Cardio equipment are:
Martin Luther King
Montbello
Rude
20th Street
Washington Park
Cook Park
Hiawatha Davis
Green Valley Ranch
Harvard
Gulch
Harvey Park
Southwest
La Familia

Great Pumpkin Harvest Festival

Four Mile Historic Park's annual Pumpkin Harvest Festival is back - and this year it is bigger and better than ever! We have expanded this popular event to two days! We have also added a county fair area where you can enter a pie eating contest or win something yummy in a old-fashioned cake walk. Of course, all the favorites are back too! Find the perfect pumpkin in the patch, create your very own scarecrow, listen and dance to old time music, play historic games or make a historic craft. There will be plenty of food available including homemade caramel apples, authentic Native America fry bread and other goodies. Be sure to visit the mountain men and Native American encampment, take a horse-drawn ride and tour Four Mile House, Denver's oldest standing structure, as the Booth family prepares for the harvest.

Where: Four Mile Historic Park
715 S. Forest St., Denver

When: Saturday AND Sunday, October 3 & 4, 2009
10:00am - 4:00pm

Admission: FREE!
There is a charge for pumpkins and some activities.

Parking: FREE!
Information for general public:
720-865-0800

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