Celebrate City Park

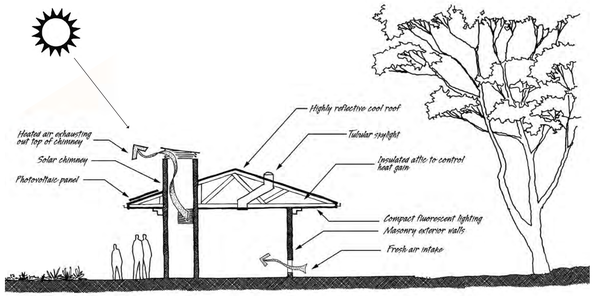
City Park Improvements

The Better Denver Bond Program is funding improvements to the historic City Park, which has been a Denver jewel since the 1880s. The renovations help make the park more enjoyable to use, easier to maintain, more sustainable, and better for bird habitat. About $2.9 million dollars in Better Denver Bond funding is being invested in City Park.

Celebrate City Park

New Restroom

Net-Zero Energy Building

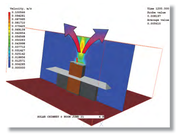


New Restroom designed by SLATERPAULL Architects. Diagrams & information on the Net Zero Restroom courtesy of SLATERPAULL Architects

The design and construction of this restroom is based on the concept of a net-zero energy building; a building that contributes as much electrical energy to the utility grid as it uses over the course of a year. Photovoltaic (PV) panels provide power to the restroom. When the power generated by these panels exceeds the power used by the building, the excess power is returned to the utility grid. The site of the restroom allows for great solar exposure. Even when the building is unoccupied during the winter months, the PV panels will still generate power that will be retuned to the utility grid. Sustainable strategies used to minimize energy use in the new restroom include natural ventilation, daylight, efficient electric lights, and a cool roof. Along with the restroom's low water fixtures, these strategies make this a "green" building.

Solar Chimney

The restroom uses natural ventilation so the mechanical fans do not have to run as often to bring in fresh air. As the walls of the restroom chimney warm up, hot air rises through the chimney and out the top, and fresh air is pulled through the restroom. The openings on the opposite side of the building bring the fresh air in, creating an exhaust system that does not require any electricity.



Photovoltaics (PV)

The restroom photovoltaics convert solar radiation into electricity and produce 1.6 kilowatts of power annually; enough to supply the power demands of the restroom for the year.

Electric Lighting

The new restroom lighting is controlled by sensors so lights are turned off when they are not needed. Compact fluorescent lights placed around the exterior provide a bright output while using 75% less energy and lasting 10 times longer than an incandescent bulb.

Daylighting

Daylighting brings sunlight into a room to reduce the need for electric lights. The skylight tube has a highly reflective interior which increases the light brought into the restroom.

Cool Roof

A "cool roof system" helps the new restroom to stay cooler in the summer. The roof is made of special granules that reflect the sun's heat and emit the absorbed heat back into the atmosphere.

Wise Water Use

The new restroom toilets use only 1.6 gallons of water per flush, and the urinals use only 1 gallon per flush. The sinks have special faucets that automatically shut off after a few seconds of use.

Mile High Loop, Promenade and Circulation Improvements

A new loop trail was constructed in the park. The Mile High Loop reaches a one-mile elevation at points. Better Denver funded construction of the sections of trail which wind along Colorado Boulevard and south of the museum.

Bond funding will also be used to construct a pedestrian promenade, and to make circulation upgrades so that routes for pedestrians, runners, cyclists and vehicles are more compatible. Gates that run across park roads will be replaced with bollards to allow easier passage of bicycles. All these changes, funded with $800,000 in bond funds, will make traveling through City Park even better.

Mile High Loop
Front (L to R): Annie Levinsky, City Park Alliance Councilwoman Carla Madison, Mayor John Hickenlooper Back (L to R) Councilman Doug Linkhart Kevin Patterson, Manager Parks & Recreation

Bandstand Renovation

The rehabilitation of the City Park Bandstand was done with a Better Denver Bond budget of approximately $100,000. The old wood deck floor was replaced with new, more durable Trex deck flooring. The face stone of the foundation piers were repaired, and the structure was patched, repaired, reinforced and painted. The design and look of the structure remained the same, but the work made the structure fresher, and will help preserve it for years to come.

City Park Bandstand

Irrigation Upgrade

The old, antiquated irrigation system at the park was upgraded with an automated system to achieve greater water efficiency and to reduce the time and expense of maintenance and repair. The new irrigation system will also help to keep the park greener. About $650,000 in bond funds were budgeted.

Irrigation Upgrades

Duck Lake Enhancements

Major work at City Park Duck Lake is underway and will be on-going through fall of 2010. The Better Denver Bond Program is providing t $560,000 in funds for this work, which will preserve a significant bird habitat and improve the lake's poor water quality. The project will also enhance visitors' experience by providing wildlife observation platforms, a boardwalk and environmental education signage. The lake has been drained to allow a major renovation of the lake edges and the island. The lake will begin to be refilled starting in November and will be full by spring 2011.

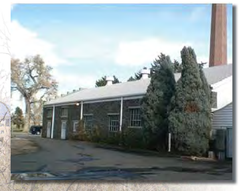
Rending of Duck Lake Shoreline Improvements

Project Scope:

- Drain the lake and removing some of the sediment and built-up organic debris
- Remove dead trees on the island and replanting new trees
- Restore the island edges; correcting erosion by placing new boulders and riprap
- Renovate the south shoreline: removing the concrete edge and replacing it with a slope planted with wetland species
- Install wildlife observation platforms along the south edge and a boardwalk along the zoo edge
- Provide environmental education signage about the water quality, bird species, and the lake/wetland habitat in general

Greenhouse Efficiencies

The City Park Greenhouse provides flowers and plants for many parks across the city. This historic facility was upgraded to a state-of-the-art greenhouse. New greenhouse glass was installed along with a new water service, and a new heating and cooling system. The upgrades enable more efficient and sustainable operations, and easier maintenance. Additionally, the boiler house has been transformed into a community meeting space able to accommodate groups of up to about 100 people. $650,000 in Better Denver bond funds, as well as Capital Improvement Program money funded this work.



City Park Greenhouse