DPR Acquisition Program Update
February 8, 2023

With the passage of the Parks Legacy Fund, a voter-approved 0.25 percent sales tax supporting the improvement of our city’s park system, Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR) has established an Acquisition Program to grow and expand the parks and recreation system. Since the program began in 2019, DPR has made significant progress in the following areas:

**Staffing**
In 2019, DPR hired a real estate project manager that focuses on park acquisitions, resulting in several successful acquisitions over the past three years.

**Strategic Planning**
Adopted in 2021 after extensive community engagement, DPR’s Strategic Acquisition Plan identifies six focus areas:

1. Equity
2. Closing the 10-minute walk or roll service gap
3. Mountain parks
4. DPR facilities
5. Resilience, habitat restoration & waterway health
6. Downtown, high-density & growth areas

DPR has made acquisition advancements across all 6 focus areas of the plan. The plan was recognized in fall 2022 by the Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association with an Honor Award.

Learn more about Denver’s Strategic Acquisition Plan.

**System Growth**
Since 2019, more than $7.3M of the Parks Legacy Fund has been spent on land acquisition expenses and other funding sources and acquisition tools have been utilized resulting in:

- 473 acres added to Denver’s urban park system, including 29 acres to serve as active parks and 444 acres to serve as open space.
- 448 acres added to Denver’s mountain park system
- 5,500 additional Denver households soon to have new access to nearby parks (see figure 1)

**Next Steps**
Currently, there is about $25 million in the Legacy Acquisition Fund with about 24 acres in the negotiation process (expected cost of $10 million, see figure 2). DPR staff continues to work closely with the development community to help grow the parks system as the city grows and will soon receive about 20 acres in developer dedicated parkland. Additionally, 0.8 acres of future parkland in Globeville will come from the City and County of Denver’s Division of Real Estate and will help close the 10-minute walk or roll in that neighborhood. Denver Parks and Recreation is actively considering and pursuing additional acquisition opportunities that we hope to announce in 2023. Learn more about recently completed and current acquisition projects.
Figure 1: 10-Minute Walk or Roll Park Service Areas for New Parks:
Figure 2: DPR’s Acquisition Program in the past year: