

# Downtown Denver Parks

## 2023 Highlights & 2024 Look Ahead

This annual report from Denver Parks & Recreation shares the highlights of the downtown parks planning, design, and construction projects that happened in 2023, and a guide to the exciting projects to keep an eye out for in 2024.

### TEN HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

#### Skyline Park Takes its First Steps Toward Transformation 1

The [overall vision](#) for all three blocks of Skyline made its way towards becoming reality with the development of more [detailed design ideas](#) of the first phase area, which was revealed at a public open house.



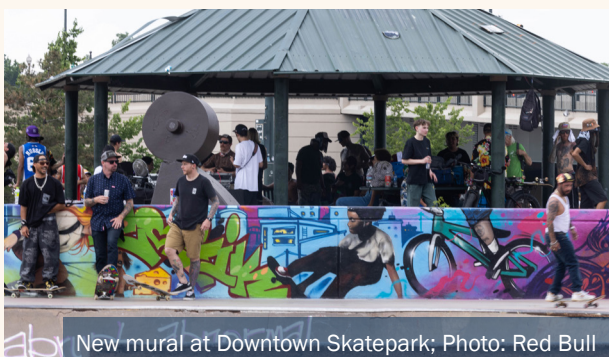
Rendering of a future ice rink at Skyline Park

#### Zeckenbark Dog Park Pops Up in Cap Hill 2

A new pilot dog park opened at Zeckendorf Plaza Park along Speer Boulevard.

#### Fresh Art and Repairs at the Downtown Skatepark 3

[New murals](#) that celebrate skate culture by Denver artists Jeremy “Jolt” Ulibarri and Chris Haven were unveiled at “DPark” in the summer, followed by concrete repairs around the skatepark.



New mural at Downtown Skatepark; Photo: Red Bull



Planting day at Quality Hill Park

#### Native Plants Take Root at Quality Hill Park 4

The pocket park in the Cap Hill neighborhood became one of the first areas of bluegrass to native conversion in downtown – it was planted with native flowers and grasses that will begin to grow next spring.



Tree planting at Commons Park

#### Growing More Trees at Commons Park 5

Twenty-five new trees were planted in Commons Park, boosting the resilience of the park’s landscape, improving our urban canopy, and increasing much desired shade cover in the summer.

#### Electrical Improvements at Civic Center Park 6

Repairs to the electrical infrastructure in Civic Center were completed. These improvements will allow Civic Center to continue to be one of Denver’s premier outdoor event spaces.

#### Disability Rights History at Civic Center Park 7

Denver was selected to receive [\\$2.3 million from the Mellon Foundation](#) to examine the existing monuments and to create a new commemoration to the disability rights movement as part of the plaza to the south of the Greek Theater.



Bannock St. Mural; Photo: Pat Milbery

#### Bannock: From Street to Art to Park 8

Bannock Street in front of the City and County Building received [a mural update](#) by artist Pat Milbery in Summer 2023. Also, the former street officially became parkland after many years of planning.

#### A Community Dream for La Alma-Lincoln Park 9

The [Vision Plan for La Alma-Lincoln Park](#) was completed in Summer 2023, which includes a new exercise and cultural art loop path, expanded skate features, improved access around the recreation center and much more.



La Alma-Lincoln Park conceptual rendering

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## Denver Community Life!

The real pulse of downtown public parks comes from the people who love and use them! 2023 was another year filled with unique events, everyday activations, and huge celebrations that brought Denverites together.



Denver Nuggets championship rally; Photo: The Denver Post



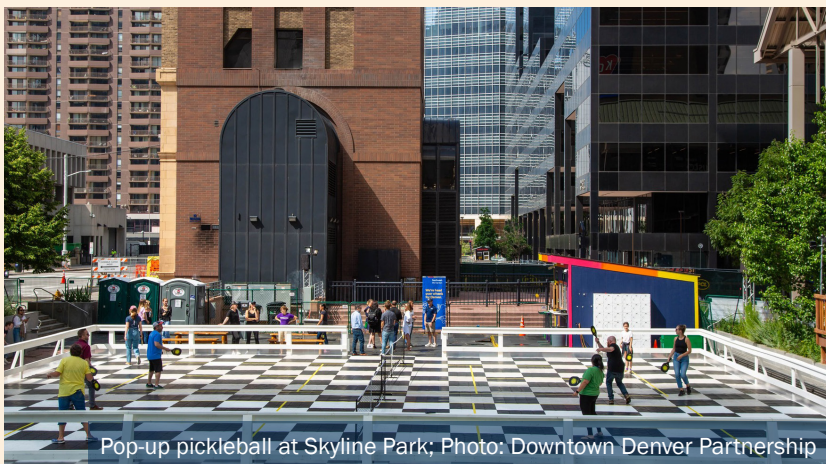
Lessons at Denver Skatepark for Go Skate Day



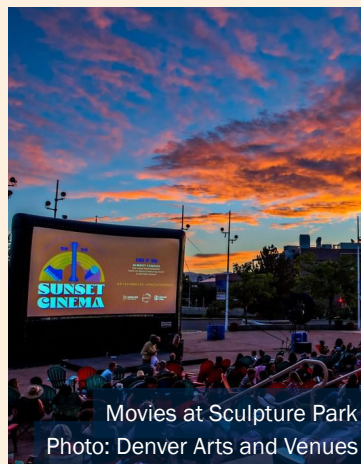
Block party at La Alma-Lincoln Park



Crosscurrents festival at Confluence Park; Photo: Two Parts



Pop-up pickleball at Skyline Park; Photo: Downtown Denver Partnership



Movies at Sculpture Park Photo: Denver Arts and Venues

## ...AND MORE

- Civic Center received a [\\$750,000 Save America's Treasures grant](#) from the National Parks Service to go towards the rehabilitation of the central promenade, recognizing the park's historic importance.
- A CMGC (Construction Manager/General Contractor) team was selected for [Skyline Park](#), preparing Block 2 to move into construction in 2025.
- The NACTO (National Association of City Transportation Officials) Conference was in Denver this spring, where planners from across the country heard about the plans for Skyline Park, Bannock Street, and La Alma-Lincoln Park.
- [Larimer Bridge](#), located by Creekfront Park which connects the AHEC campus and downtown opened in November with an improved experience for pedestrians and cyclists.
- The [selection of internationally recognized design firm](#) Studio Gang Architecture to lead the Civic Center Next 100 Plan's first phase of implementation was approved and announced.
- The vision planning for [Speer Boulevard and Cherry Creek](#) kicked off this year, looking at long-term transformative improvements to the boulevard, creek, and parks along downtown's central parkway.
- An irrigation project was completed to support the everyday maintenance of planted areas around Speer Boulevard and Market Street.
- Sparking downtown revitalization is a continued role for parks, and this year was no different with efforts in partnership with the Mayor's Office, city agencies, and community-facing organizations, such as the [Dynamic Downtown Grant Program](#).

## COMING UP IN 2024

Keep an eye out for opportunities to share your input – community ideas are critical to the evolution of downtown parks!

### South Cap Hill Parks Vision Plan

A vision planning process will kick off in early 2024 for the parks around Denver's most dense neighborhood, leading to conceptual design improvements for both [Governor's Park](#) and [Quality Hill Park](#). Get updates by joining the [project e-list](#).

### Downtown Skatepark

A plan for [DPark](#) will explore ways to add new skate features and improve amenities to make the skate park more welcoming. [Sign up to get updates](#) on this project and other news about Denver's skate parks.

### Civic Center Next 100 Project - Phase 1

The detailed design for Phase 1 of improvements to [Civic Center](#) will kick off this spring – this includes the Greek Theater, Central Promenade, and South Plaza. Check back for the latest information on the [project website](#).

### Sunken Gardens

The detailed design for the first phase of design improvements for [Sunken Gardens](#) will be developed in 2024. Check out the Vision Plan that was created in 2021 on the [project website](#).

### Reimagine Skyline Park – Phase 1

The final design for the first phase of [Skyline Park](#) improvements will continue through 2024. This phase includes the central block (between the 16th Street Mall and 17th Street). Look out for additional opportunities to engage with the plans in 2024. See the 30% design progress and the feedback received so far on the [project website](#).

## STAY IN THE LOOP

Make sure you don't miss the latest on what's going on with parks downtown! See project updates and sign up for the e-list so you never miss an opportunity to share your feedback at [www.denvergov.org/theoutdoordowntown](http://www.denvergov.org/theoutdoordowntown).