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Denver Parks and Recreation Newsletter



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

December -

Planning/Marketing/Manager's Office

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August 2009

Berkeley Park, Cook Park pools go to the dogs August 16 for DogaPOOLooza

Denver Outdoor Pools end the season by offering dog swim day.

Help your pooch escape the dog days of summer by taking them for a swim at Berkeley Park or Cook Park Pools Aug. 16, 2009 at the City & County of Denver's annual DogaPOOLooza event.



Sponsored by Denver Parks & Recreation, Denver Environmental Health Animal Care & Control, DogaPOOLooza takes place the day after pools close for the summer to human swimmers.

The event this year will be held at two locations:

Berkeley Park
5031 W. 46th Ave (46th and Sheridan)

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Cook Park
7100 Cherry Creek South Drive.

Two swimming sessions will be held-9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pool capacity is approximately 100 dogs and admission is first come, first serve. Dogs must be vaccinated and licensed to participate in dogaPOOLooza.

The cost is \$5 per dog, each session. Donations will also be accepted for the Denver Municipal Animal Shelter and Denver Kids Prime Time.

Denver Parks & Recreation planning staff will be on-hand to answer questions and solicit input on the Dog Park Master Plan and Policy Recommendation process currently underway.

Denver Animal Care & Control staff will also be at the Berkeley location with animals available for adoption.

For more information, call 720.865.0660 or visit www.denvergov.org/parks.

City Park Electric Fountain Update

Work Continues on Electric Fountain in City Park
100 Year Old Fountain Struck by Lightning

The Darlington Prismatic Electric Fountain, built in 1908 for the first Democratic National Convention in Denver and reconstructed last year, was hit by lightning on Friday, June 26. After assessing the damage, it has been determined that the fountain can be repaired, but that replacement parts needed from overseas will prevent the fountain from doing any more light shows for the remainder of the summer. Water shows will resume as soon as possible.

Approximately 84 LED lights were damaged in the strike, which will need to be purchased and shipped from Germany. Because there is a 10-12 week lead time on getting the replacement lights, evening light shows will not be possible for the remainder of the summer.

Fountain History

The original fountain was supported by Mayor Robert Speer's City Beautiful plan and the Democratic National Convention coming to Denver during the summer of 1908. The fountain was a centerpiece of life in Denver, drawing thousands of visitors to watch the water and light shows while listening to concerts in City Park. The fountain, which predates the Disney and Las Vegas era of show fountains by over sixty years, was created by engineer Frederic W.

Darlington. It was called the Prismatic Electric Fountain because of the rainbow of colored lighting effects created by the special apparatus patented by Darlington in the late 1890's.

Toward the end of the 20th century, necessary repairs became too frequent and the fountain shows were discontinued. After multiple attempted repairs, the deteriorating fountain was torn down and a 20-month project to build a historically accurate replica of the original fountain began in January 2007. The original Darlington Electric Fountain in City Park was the last known surviving, relatively intact example of Darlington's work when it was demolished. Denver is the only city with a Darlington Electric Fountain to undertake the daunting task of creating a historically accurate yet modern version of his original work.

The new Electric Fountain vault was designed to match the dimensions of the original fountain based on measurements taken before the demolition. The new fountain vault is constructed with re-bar and a special mix of concrete for strength. The new fountain features the 11 water display effects of the original fountain, but there are now three times as many automatic valves to give dramatic new flexibility in controlling the displays.

The new fountain, constructed at a cost of \$3.2 million, is run by computer software. In keeping with Denver's greener image, the fountain uses LED lights that consume about 80 percent less energy than incandescent lighting would require. These state-of-the-art lights are saving over 40,000 Watts of power during the peak demand portion of a fountain show.

The fountain recycles between 600 and 4,000 gallons of Ferril Lake water per minute, depending on which water features are active and how high they shoot. The center geyser is designed to shoot to a height of 90 feet. Along with providing visual entertainment, operation of the fountain also aerates the lake water, which reduces algae growth and is good for the fish stocked in the lake.



Thousand Cankers Disease a Threat to Denver Black Walnuts

A black walnut in Boulder showing typical patterns of decline.

Black walnut trees in Denver are facing a very serious new threat called thousand cankers disease. This recently recognized problem has already devastated black walnut trees in Colorado Springs and Boulder and is believed to have been active in Denver for at least three years.

Thousand cankers disease is caused by a newly discovered fungus that is carried to trees by a tiny twig beetle. "The fungus then colonizes and kills a small area of the bark surrounding beetle galleries," said Ned Tisserat, a plant pathologist at Colorado State University, who first identified the fungus last summer. "The number of beetle galleries and associated dead bark, called cankers, in a tree is enormous. Cankers eventually fuse and girdle limbs and the trunk so that nutrients can no longer move in the tree."

Trees typically die within a couple of years after they first show symptoms of leaf yellowing and branch dieback.

The walnut twig beetle, a native insect of the Southwest, usually associated with the Arizona walnut tree, to which is not harmful. The beetle is, however, harmful to the black walnut tree which is highly valued as an ornamental tree. Although the black walnut tree is native to the East, it has been planted extensively throughout the West.

Jude O'Connor, City Forester for Denver, states, "The most immediate concern in Denver is the loss of this valued tree from our community forest canopy, although the bigger concern nationwide is, if thousand cankers disease moves east where black walnut is a common forest species, this tree may be lost entirely."

"I think thousand cankers disease has the potential to devastate black walnut just as Dutch elm disease nearly wiped out American elm and chestnut blight eliminated

American chestnut," said Whitney Cranshaw, an entomologist at Colorado State. "Right now, the disease is contained in the West but all it would take is one careless individual moving a walnut log with the beetles, and we could have an outbreak that could quickly spiral out of control."

O'Connor reminds residents, "Early detection and prompt sanitation are keys to slowing the spread of this disease. Denver residents with walnuts showing these symptoms should call the City Forester's Office at 720-913-0651 to schedule a free inspection of their tree." No walnut logs with bark intact should be allowed to move further east than where the disease is currently known to prevent this disease's spread. As many as 30,000 adult beetles can be contained in a log as small as 6" in diameter and 18" long - an astounding 90 beetles per square inch.

For more information, please visit

www.denvergov.org/forestry or

www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/0812_alert.pdf.

College View Recreation Center Special Events

August 13, 2009

Intergenerational Potluck

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

\$3 plus a dish

Bring your grandkids and enjoy the El Jebel clowns. Bring a newcomer and they are free.

August 14, 2009

Ice Cream, Ice Cream!!!

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

\$1 per person; All ages invited.

Face painting, Ladybug the clown

Make your own sundae!

Please call 303-937-4630 to RSVP for these events.

Critter Corner

No Need To Fear Snakes



The beady eyes and shiny scales, lack of legs and undulating movement of snakes seem to draw more fears and concerns than just about any other type of animal.

around, but is there really a lot of danger to people from our local snakes? Here are some things to know about our cold blooded residents to help calm concerns.

Snakes are shy, they feel or "hear" vibrations and movement through their jawbones, and when they can feel a person moving close to them they will either move the opposite direction or freeze, hoping to avoid detection. Recall that when you've spotted a snake, you usually see his tail end!

The fastest snakes in Colorado can move about 8 mph, the average person can run 10 mph, and since usually we are moving in opposite directions it is easy to stay away from each other. Additionally snakes are actually very fragile animals; their skeletons are composed of a few skull and jaw bones, a long backbone and hundreds of tiny ribs. Since they can sense our size, snakes will instinctively want to avoid conflict. Just hitting a snake with a rock can do enough damage to kill it. Having "cold blood" means snakes heal very slowly, and even tiny wounds can become infected easily and lead to death. There is no advantage to a snake or reason for it to approach or bite person.

And we smell bad! Snakes have remarkable senses of smell. All scents are actually teeny, tiny particles of an item moving through the air. A snake gathers these tiny particles with its tongue, and inserts them into two holes the roof of its mouth, called the Jacobson organ (aka its nose). They are able to analyze the particles to determine if what they smell is food. People regularly use shampoo soaps, toothpaste, sunscreen, lotions, cosmetics and more that let off these scent particles and we don't smell like anything a reptile (or any other animal for that matter) would want to put its mouth on!

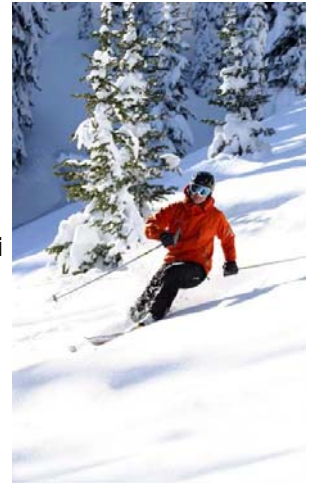
In Denver we can find 11 of the 28 species or types of snakes that live in Colorado. Ten of these are completely harmless, actually providing benefits by eating animals that can cause problems, such as the abundance of rodents that like to live near people. Only one of these species is venomous, or potentially dangerous to people, the prairie rattlesnake. Human bites from rattlesnakes are rare, remember that the main reason a rattlesnake HAS venom is to help it catch its food. Wasting venom to protect itself isn't ecologically the best idea, although if forced to it will defend itself. The fearsome "rattle" is a warning-"STAY AWAY" so the snake won't have to protect itself, we'll avoid contact from the start. The most common victims of snake bites are dogs, who don't recognize the warning and continue to approach and from the snake's point of view threaten the animal. Teaching children to watch snakes from a distance and be aware of

their surroundings keeps kids out of danger. Most human bites occur when someone tries to handle or catch a snake.

Alien appearance aside, snakes provide great benefits to an urban ecosystem while posing very little danger. So watch your step and know they really do want less to do with you than you do with them!

Winter Recreation Just Around the Corner

It's not too early to start thinking about the upcoming ski season! Outdoor Recreation, Denver Parks + Recreation, will offer several winter snowsport programs for Denver area youths.



Outdoor Recreation's "Learn to Ski and Snowboard" program gives groups of first-time and beginner-level skiers and snowboarders, ages 7-17, an opportunity to enjoy a day at Winter Park Resort. The cost of the program will vary from \$15-\$25 per student depending on the transportation needs of your group. The registration fee includes transportation, rental gear, lift tickets, all-day lesson, and appropriate winter clothing.

The "Urban Riders Snowsports Club" targets high school aged Denver Public School students. Groups of 13 first-time and beginner-level skiers or snowboarders will receive multiple-day instruction over several weeks from the professional staff at the Winter Park Ski & Ride School. The \$50 registration fee per student for the five week program includes transportation, rental gear, lift ticket, a day lesson, and appropriate winter clothing. Club members will also learn about different aspects of the snowsport industry.

The "Discovery Snowshoe Program" gives kids ages 10-14 a chance to explore the Mount Evan's Echo Lake area on snowshoes. This awesome environmental education program provides a fun, healthy, and educational way for students to be active outdoors while enjoying the natural beauty of the Colorado Rockies in winter. Our team of outdoor professionals focuses on environmental topics that meet Colorado state curriculum standards. Snowshoes and hot cocoa are provided.

For adults and seniors, this fall Outdoor Recreation will feature trips to Rocky Mountain National Park to enjoy Elk Bugling in September, as well as a visit to the Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs in October. For the winter we will partner with several Denver Recreation Centers to offer a variety of snowshoe programs.

Call Outdoor Recreation at 303 370 6668 or email us at outdoor.recreation@denvergov.org for more information on upcoming programs.

Last chance to Enjoy Movies in the Park this Summer

The 2009 season of Movies in the Park has kicked off, bringing people outdoors to enjoy movies, beautiful summer weather, and many of Denver's urban parks. At the showing of *The Princess Bride* in Cheesman Park on June 19th, 1000+ people came out for a night of fun. With inflatable screens over 24 ft wide, coupled with high quality sound systems, the movie viewing experience is one-of-a-kind. Each movie includes free popcorn, snow cones and cotton candy. Other concessions are also available for purchase.

Sponsors of the 2009 Movies in the Park are Denver Community Credit Union, Downtown Denver Business Improvement District and Denver Botanic Gardens.

Friday, July 31 Barnum Kung Fu Panda, PG

Saturday, August 1 Skyline Park Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, G

Friday, August 7 Cheesman Park Jurassic Park, PG-13

Saturday, August 8 Skyline Park The Wizard of Oz, G

For a complete list of park addresses or more information visit www.denvergov.org/parksandrec

Denver 8 Earns Eight National Nominations for Government Programming

Denver 8 TV, the City and County of Denver's municipal access television channel, has received national award nominations for seven video productions ranging from a feature on Community Planning and Development to city event and program promotions, to community meeting coverage. The channel was also nominated for the prestigious Programming Impact Award which demonstrates government programming's positive impact on the community. Denver 8's programming in this category was the overall coverage and variety of program

produced in conjunction with last year's Democratic National Convention held in Denver.

The award nominations were made by the National Association of Telecommunication Officers and Advisors (NATOA). The nominations were announced Monday, in Washington, D.C. in advance of the group's 24th annual conference and awards presentation to be held later this year in New Orleans. The competition is among similar services from jurisdictions across the United States.

"Denver 8 staff worked exceptionally hard to bring the DNC to our residents-not just promoting the event, but showing off the City in a way that no broadcast station provided," says Darryn Zuehlke, Director of the Office of Telecommunications and Denver 8 TV, "I'm truly pleased that our work has been recognized on a national level..

"These national award nominations bring home the quality of our video services to Denver residents. Denver 8 provides the unique opportunity for the City to explain to citizens what happens in their community. And the NATC awards demonstrate the high-caliber of programs we produce to do that. " adds Zuehlke.

In its effort with the DNC, Denver 8 partnered with Visit Denver and the DNC Host Committee to produce over 25 programs in a wide variety of formats. The station also developed a statewide network of similar channels where DNC related programs could reach almost 90% of cable households statewide. And all programming was available at anytime on the channel's city website www.DenverGov.org/Denver8TV (and still can be seen there).

Other local productions recognized included a feature focusing on Denver's Community Planning and Development Department. In this video piece, Planning, Building and Maintenance of an Outstanding Denver, the Planning Director and staff walk viewers through the essential aspects of the planning and development process.

Promotions for Denver services also were recognized. Nominations were received for spots about Parks and Recreation Membership, Denver Public Library's Summer Reading, and the Office of Economic Development's Denver Workforce Centers.

Meeting coverage continues to shine as well. This year two new groups garnered award nominations.

The Office of Independent Monitor's Citizen Oversight Board focuses on providing Denver's Safety Department

with effect civilian monitoring, policy guidance and disciplinary review. The Citizen Oversight Board was established to take public complaints and commendations. Their quarterly meetings are held in various locations around the community and often deal with difficult and at times volatile emotions.

And the Auditor's Independent Audit Committee is one of the watchdogs of Denver City Government - probing how tax money is being spent. Sometimes audits of various City agencies find anomalies, and the Committee is responsible for holding city feet to the fire to solve the problem.

Parks and Recreation Staff Utilize City B-cycle Program

On Wednesday June 17, the members of Denver Parks and Recreation's Planning Committee left the car keys in the office and pedaled to their group meeting on bicycles.



As an opportunity to have discussions about their current design requests and proposals for Jefferson Park onsite, the team arranged to hold their meeting at the park and ride the short distance together on bicycles.

Colorado has joined a nationwide effort to encourage people to get on their bikes and experience bicycling for transportation, fun and health by designating June as Bik Month. The highlight event of the month was Bike to Work Day, which was held Wednesday, June 24. According to David Marquart, senior planner, the committee rode their bikes to Jefferson Park as part of this initiative.

"We are trying to be more green and sustainable," said Marquart. "Whether it is through our work and proposals or our means of transportation, we wanted to do our part by leaving the cars at the office and biking together as a group."

While some members of the planning committee brought their own bikes for their trek, many utilized Denver B-cycle, the citywide bicycle sharing program that allows city employees to check out bikes for both business and recreational use. This alternative transportation system was started to allow city employees to lead by example in

promoting greener and healthier lifestyles. The bike sharing program also supports the goals of improved air quality, less traffic congestion, saving energy and encouraging healthy routines.

When looking to future meetings, Marquart notes that his team will look into renting and riding bikes again.

"I could definitely see us doing this again in the future," said Marquart.

For more information about the B-Cycle program, email [BikeLoaner@denvergov.org](mailto: BikeLoaner@denvergov.org) or call (720) 913- 1999.

Recreation Center Happenings

Montclair 303-364-8607

NOTICE: Montclair Recreation Center will be closed August 31st - September 7th for gym floor refinishing, carpet cleaning, painting, pool cleaning and general maintenance.

Platt Park 720-865-0630

NOTICE: Platt Park will be closed for cleaning/maintenance August 17th - 21st.

Dance to Live Music:

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

Aug. 3rd - Tom Yook

Aug. 10th - Terry Norona

Aug. 17th - No Dance - Center is closed

Tea Dance - Live Music on the last Friday of the month.

1:00pm - 3:15pm \$4.00 includes refreshments.

Aug. 28th - Bev Bucci

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

Wednesday, August 12th - Yummy Chicken Dish

Food Bank is August 14th at 1:00pm \$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

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

Public Outreach Meeting

River South (RISO) Greenway Master Plan Public Outreach Meeting

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Overland Golf Course Clubhouse
1801 South Huron Street

The public is invited to hear about general planning concepts being envisioned for the RISO Greenway Master Plan area and to seek public input.

The objective of the River South Greenway Master Plan is to generate a park, recreation and open space plan that sets a vision for the South Platte River and creates development, financial and regulatory guidelines for parkland along the River between 20th Street to the Denver-Englewood/Sheridan city limits on the south. The project boundary for developing master planning proposals is defined as the South Platte River and all properties located adjacent to and/or contiguous with the River, approximately 200 feet from the top of the riverbank in either direction. Consideration will be given to opportunities brought about by river improvements in the area between Federal Boulevard on the west to Broadway on the east.

For more information, contact Jeff Shoemaker:
303-818-8078

Hats Off to Denver Trails

Named best trails Park

Parks & Recreation, the official publication of the National Recreation and Parks Association named Denver as having the Best Trails Parks in its July issue. Calling Denver a "...hiker and biker's dream come true," the article highlights Denver's expansive trail system and connectivity of the system.

Pizza Party at Rude on August 3

Papa Murphy's joins with Food Bank of the Rockies

Rude Recreation Center will host a pizza party on Monday August 3 at 11a.m. Rude Recreation Center is located at 2855 W. Holden Pl., just off of 10th Avenue and Federal Blvd. The fun mid-morning event is being sponsored by Food Bank of the Rockies and Papa Murphy's pizza. All are welcome.

Free and low-cost trees

Denver Digs Trees to provide large shade trees for Denver residents' yards

Each spring The Park People's flagship program, Denver Digs Trees, offers free and low-cost street trees to residents. Thanks to a grant by EnCana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc., this fall, they're offering medium and large sized trees that, once strategically planted in yards, will help Denver residents save money and fight global warming by providing valuable energy-saving shade for residents' homes. These trees are FREE to residents in 2 low-canopy neighborhoods and only \$25 each for all other Denver residents! Applications for these trees are due September 1. For more information or to download an application, visit www.theparkpeople.org or contact The Park People at 303-722-6262 or info@theparkpeople.org.



START DATE	END DATE	PARK	HOURS	NAME OF EVENT	# P
8-Aug		Civic Center	5am-11pm	Awareness Concert	1,
1-Aug		Skyline #2	5pm-11pm	Movies in the Park	20
8-Aug		Skyline #2	5pm-11pm	Movies in the Park	20
15-Aug		Skyline #2	7am-11pm	Sunstock Music Festival	30
2-Aug		Cheesman	5am-9pm	Pedestrian Bicycle Day	
7-Aug		Cheesman	5pm-11pm	Movies in the Park	20
13-Aug		Cheesman	5pm-8pm	Public Concert	50
14-Aug	15-Aug	Cheesman	5am-11pm	Aids Walk Colorado	9,
16-Aug		Cheesman	3pm-10pm	Lindy Hop Dance	10
1-Aug		Alamo Placita	3pm-8pm	Cultural Performance	70
1-Aug		Shaffer PARK	9am-4pm	Back to School Outreach	30
4-Aug		Lawson	4pm-9pm	National Night Out	20
6-Aug	27-Aug	Confluence	5pm-11pm	River Flicks	50

9-Aug		Central Park	2pm-8pm	2009 Youth-N-the Park	10
9-Aug		Columbus park	6am-6pm	Champions for Christ	20
15-Aug		Stapleton Central Park	6am-12pm	HDSA Walk to Cure HD	30
15-Aug		Martinez	9am-7pm	Back to School Outreach	10
15-Aug		ML King	8am-5pm	Back to School Outreach	20
21-Aug		Lowry	12pm-11pm	Lowry Movie Night	20
22-Aug		Confluence	7am-3pm	Church Service	30
22-Aug		Mayfair	6pm-9pm	Public Concert	30
22-Aug		Bible	5am-12pm	Cook Park 5k Run	10
22-Aug		Sonny Lawson	8am-8pm	It's A Family Affair	80
26-Aug		Confluence	3pm-10pm	Reception on the River	10

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