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**DENVER**  
THE MILE HIGH CITY



**Denver**  
**Parks + Recreation**



## 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

**December 2008**

As you will see in the newsletter below, there are many exciting things happening in the parks & recreation department. We hope you will visit the newly re-opened Aqua Golf. Read about the many improvements planned for Ruby Hill Park and gear up as we get ready for the 2009 Ruby Hill Rail Yard.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Denver Parks and Recreation

### Chantal Unfug to Join DPR

#### New Role as Senior Advisor to the Manager

Chantal Unfug will join the Denver Parks and Recreation team on December 1, 2008 in the newly created role of Senior Advisor to the Manager - Policy and Legislation.

In this capacity, Unfug will be responsible for ensuring strong communication and outreach to all other city agencies, including City Council members, and working with the Denver Parks and Recreation staff to assess other internal communications needs.

"As we continue to make improvements to our department, we realized that a key missing element was a strong advocate for the department to not only City



### In This Issue

**Unfug Named Senior  
Advisor**

**Recreation Gift Certificates**

**Ruby Hill Park**

**Mayor's Gala Ball**

[Rude Bike Giveback](#)

[Give the Urban Lens  
Calendar](#)

[Recreation Happenings](#)

[TGIF Quilt Club](#)

[Critter Corner](#)

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News](#)

[Related Topics  
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Council, but also other City agencies," said Kevin Patterson, Manager of Denver Parks and Recreation. "Chantal's extensive background in communications, policy, legislation and City initiatives makes her the perfect person for this role."

Most recently, Unfug worked as the Deputy City Liaison for the Democratic National Convention. In this capacity, she worked with all external parties and affected City agencies and departments in executing the event. She managed all permitting, licensing and extraordinary event processes, as well as managed a volunteer staff.

She has also worked closely on other park related projects, including the Learning Landscapes playground program through DPS and the City Spirit Picnic at Civic Center Park.

Previously, she worked under Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper as a Special Assistant - Policy and Initiatives and as his Director of Boards and Commissions. Her other experience includes the Mayor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade, where she worked as an economic development specialist and was the acting director of marketing.

Prior to joining the City of Denver, Unfug was the Director of the Women's Business Office, an appointed position under former Governor Roy Romer. In this position, she worked closely with women entrepreneurs throughout the state to increase business ownership and growth. She also served as Deputy Director of Boards and Commissions in the Romer administration, where she worked to fill more than 3,000 Gubernatorial appointments to over 400 boards.

Before joining the public sector, Unfug co-founded Biomedical Consultants, Inc., a healthcare-related consulting firm for the investment community.

Unfug has served on multiple boards and commissions, from the Workforce Development Board to the White House Conference on Small Business. She has a bachelor's in mass communication from Boston University.

## Give the Gift of Health

**IF HEALTHINESS IS HAPPINESS...  
we think everyone should be able to afford it.**

This holiday season give the gift of health with one of Denver Parks and Recreation's affordable memberships. For as little as \$35 for a 3-month membership, you can give your loved ones the gift that gives back to them.

Our memberships offer participants a variety services, including weight rooms with cardiovascular equipment and

weight lifting machines to open pool swim time and open gym participation. The added benefit to memberships is that they are universal and can be used at any of our 29 recreation centers or 16 outdoor pools.

Denver Parks and Recreation offers the perfect alternative to busy conventional gyms. Gift certificates can be purchased in 3-month, 6-month and annual packages at any one of our recreation centers. To find a recreation center closest to you, visit <http://www.Denvergov.org/recreation> or call the city services line at 311.

## Ruby Hill Master Plan

### Big Changes in Store for Denver's Newest Destination Park



The Ruby Hill Park Master Plan was completed in 2004 and is the result of a public participation planning process whose goal was to study the existing park facility and provide a comprehensive framework for future land use and park development. From that effort an advisory group was formed and the redesign of the Park moved forward to the implementation of the Master Plan. Phase one focuses on the redevelopment of eastern side of the Park containing a playground area, pedestrian trail & road system, and a new irrigation system. The signature addition to the park is a pavilion and restroom structure that is able to host multiple small group gatherings, as well as large family/organization functions.

Ruby Hill Park is an 84-acre regional park with two softball fields, one baseball field, a regional playground, outdoor pool, picnic facilities and a regional maintenance facility. The Sanderson Gulch Trail runs along the northern edge of the park and connects into the Platte River Trail, just 300-feet away from the park. The park features 100 feet of elevation change and views of Downtown and the South Platte River can be seen from the highest points in the park. The park is host to a sledding and the renowned snowboarding "rail yard", which was the first of its kind in an urban city park.

Look for Phase I construction to begin in Spring 2009. To see the complete master plan, [click here](#).

### **Gear Up for Ruby Hill Rail Yard 2009 Exciting New Additions for New Year**

With all the new changes coming to Ruby Hill Park , it is fitting that the 2009 Ruby Hill Rail Yard is bigger and better than ever.

Ruby Hill Rail Yard will open on Saturday, January 17, 2009. Winter Park Resort, Burton, SOS, Wahoo's Fish Tacos, Christy Sports, 93.3 KTCL and many others will be on-hand to celebrate opening day.

New this year, Christy Sports will operate a satellite ski and board free rental shop out of the outdoor swimming pool area at Ruby Hill from 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays throughout the Rail Yard.

Children 17 and younger can bring a parent to sign a consent and release form to obtain free ski or snowboard gear for their use while at the park. No young children's sizes will be available.

For more information, [click here](#).

### Mayor's Gala Ball

#### Dancing with the Denver Stars

This annual showcase of Denver's ballroom dance talent, hosted by Denver Parks and Recreation, celebrates its 25th year in 2008.

The Mayor's Gala Ball is an event for adults all over the Metro Denver area to ring in the holiday season with a fun-filled evening. Attendees will dance the night away to music provided by the Dean Bushnell and a ballroom dance demonstration by Arthur Murray Dance Studios will start the evening.



Tickets are on sale now at all 28 recreation centers. Tickets purchased in advance are \$15 and \$20 at the door.

Light Dessert/ Light Hors d'Oeuvres  
Cash Bar and Door Prize

### Rude Recreation Center

#### Giving Back to the Community

Rude Recreation Center recently provided bikes to 17 children in the Sun Valley community. Martine Rivera partnered with Dave Bauer at Recycles Bicycles to provide re-



furnished bicycles to neighborhood children. Every child that received a bike was required to make the repairs to their bike themselves. Children received a bike helmet and lock. Martine plans to repeat the program again next year. If you have any questions regarding the program or if you are interested in making a donation, please call Martine at (303) 572-4795.

### 2009 Urban Lens Calendar

#### Denver: Through the Eyes of Our Youth

2009 Urban Lens Calendar available now



The 2009 Urban Lens Calendar is comprised of 12 very unique and hip, black and white photographs taken by Denver area youth, highlighting Denver through the eyes of young photographers.

Calendars may be obtained through the month of December for a small donation of \$10 which goes to support future after school programs. To purchase a calendar please call (720) 913-0689 or email to [davis.talley@denvergov.org](mailto:davis.talley@denvergov.org).

### Recreation Happenings

#### College View Recreation Center

##### Holiday Dinner

2525 S. Decatur St.

(303) 937-4630

Thursday, Dec. 11; 10:30 am

Enjoy a great home cooked ham meal, and fun entertainment with Cliff Spratt. Cost: \$3.  
Thanks to Humana MarketPoint for your sponsorship!  
Please reserve by Dec. 8 at **303-937-4630**

Share the spirit of the season and bring a non perishable item.

### Outdoor Recreation

Various Locations

(303) 370-6669

#### Garden of the Gods hike

(Colorado Springs)

Our visit to the Garden of the Gods is your opportunity to wander among the magnificent,

neck wrenching, jaw dropping red rock formations that make this park so spectacular. Our hike will cover about 4 ½ miles round trip with 300 feet of elevation gain.

As an added bonus, we will enjoy a 45-minute nature walk led by

a park naturalist that will enhance our enjoyment and appreciation of this incredible "National Natural Landmark".

**Cost:** \$20 Session date: 12/9/2008

**Day/Time:** Tuesday 8:00AM-5:00PM

### TGIF Quilt Club

What happens when a group of caring individuals gets together once a week to participate in an activity they love? The results are often good conversation, a lot of laughter and scores of gifts for those less fortunate.



That's what happens at the weekly meetings of the "Thank God It's Friday" quilting group at the Cook Park Recreation Center.

This group currently averages about a dozen members who meet every Friday morning at the center, 7100 Cherry Creek Drive South. The group had its origins at the Ash Grove Senior Center, but members moved to Cook Park following the remodel of that facility in 1999.

Over the years, these quilters have been actively involved in the Denver community, providing quilts of all colors, sizes and patterns to those in need. Quilts have been given to places such as Denver Health Hospital, The Gathering Place, Dominican Sisters of the Sick and Poor, Open Arms Ministry, Iliff Care Center, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless.

In addition, group members have made and distributed other useful items for those in need. These include knitted caps for premature babies, children and adults; blankets for pets, incubator covers, Christmas ornaments for 9/11 Survivors, ditty bags for the homeless and most recently, therapy lap quilts for Alzheimer patients.

The Alzheimer therapy lap quilts are perhaps the most unusual project undertaken by the group. The lap quilts are simply blocks of variously textured fabrics, i.e. velvet, burlap, silk/polyester, cotton, corduroy, fleece, etc. Alzheimer patients frequently develop repetitive motions with their hands and the opportunity to move their hands

over the different textures is often soothing for these patients. The most recent batch of quilts was donated to the Sunrise Center.

Denver Parks and Recreation and the Cook Park Recreation Center feel very fortunate to have such a group of people working for the good of the community. It's another great example of our participants giving their time, treasure and talent back to those in need.

A BIG THANK YOU to "Thank God It's Friday Quilt Group"

### Critter Corner, by Ashley DeLaup

#### Geese Don't Need Popcorn

Viewing urban wildlife is a way to connect with the natural world. Unfortunately, many people don't understand the ramifications of feeding wild animals.



The desire to lure wild animals up close is exciting, and gives the feeder memorable experiences, but in reality the pitfalls of feeding outweigh those benefits. Is a wild animal still wild when it takes food from your hand? Here's a look at some of the long term consequences of this behavior in our waterfowl populations.

The natural foods of waterfowl include grasses, grains, insects and aquatic plants, depending on the species. Bread, popcorn, potato chips and other human food has no value to these animals, although it can be an easy meal. Filling up on these "junk foods" for birds leads to malnourished and sickly populations. Look for birds with "slipped wings" or "angel wings", they have been raised on a high calorie, low nutrient diet of human food and are now too deformed to fly. Imagine a child never receiving calcium in their diet, how would she grow? Malnourished birds are also more susceptible to life threatening diseases, as has been noted by bird die-offs in Denver.

Should Denver have so many geese? The simple answer is no. Artificial feeding is one factor supporting unnaturally high populations in urban cities. Some birds have stopped migrating because they do not need to fly south to find food. They crowd into small areas, eat in the same place where they defecate, pollute water sources and overgraze our blue grass lawns. Water sources show unsightly algal

blooms and high levels of e-coli. They make our parks less attractive and appealing for recreation.

Hand-fed birds also lose their natural fear of people. They are more likely to be hit by cars, caught by dogs, cause traffic problems and injured by people. In addition, the high levels of competition for food can lead to increased aggression, biting and attacks on people and pets. High numbers of geese also bring in higher numbers of predators.

Birds are amazing animals and an important part of the urban ecosystem. But to support the health and safety of all, leave the popcorn at home!

### **UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS**

#### **River North Greenway Master Plan & Swansea Neighborhood Park December 2, 2008**

**Council District 9 is hosting a meeting covering all of the planning efforts currently underway for both the River North Master Plan and the Swansea Neighborhood Park.**

This meeting will be held at **Swansea Elementary School**, located at **4650 Columbine St.** on **Tuesday, December 2** from **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** For more information, please contact Devon Buckels at 720-913-0616.

#### **Argo Park Workshop #2 Friday, December 12, 2008**

**This is the second public workshop for discussing concepts for the new playground in Argo Park.**

This meeting will be held on **Friday, December 12, 2008** from **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the **Holy Transfiguration of Christ Cathedral**, located at **349 E. 47th Avenue in Globeville.**

#### **Pferdestellar Park Workshop #2 Wednesday, December 17, 2008**

**Public Workshop for public input on concepts for the new playground in Pferdestellar Park.**

This meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 17** from **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the **Highland Senior Center**, located at **2880 Osceola Street.**

#### **Sloans Lake Marina and Boat House Public Meeting Tuesday, January 13, 2009**

Denver Parks and Recreation invites all residents interested in attending an initial public meeting for the implementation of the Sloan's lake park master plan in the marina area.

This open house is to provide input on detailed elements of the Marina design, including the jetty and marina lake edge; future public use type in the boathouse and

the architecture and location of the irrigation pump house. Public meeting will only focus on the redevelopment of the Marina, not larger park ideas.

This meeting will be held **on Tuesday, January 13, 2009** from **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at **the Scheitler Recreation Center**, located at **5031 W. 46th Avenue**.

**Benedict Fountain Park Public Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 29**

Denver Parks and Recreation invites all residents interested in discussing future enhancements for Benedict Fountain Park. DPR's goal is to provide a forum where individuals will have an opportunity to provide input on preferences and priorities for future improvements to the park.

This meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 29, 2009** from **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the **Community Recreation Center**, located at **1849 Emerson**.

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