



City and County of Denver
Parks and Recreation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington Park Irrigation system upgrades underway

DENVER, CO — February 20, 2009 — Funded through the Better Denver bond program, work will begin on February 23, 2009 on the Washington Park (Smith Lake) irrigation pump replacement. The project is expected to last through winter and will be completed around June 2009.

Much of the water used to irrigate the landscape in Washington Park is drawn from Smith Lake. This project will replace the existing pumping system that is currently undersized and outdated with a new pump and filtration system that will meet the needs for all irrigation water in the Park. The goal of the project is to condense watering hours, reduce irrigation equipment maintenance time and to conserve water.

During the construction, Smith Lake will not be drained. However, the installation of a new intake pipe will require a corridor into the middle of the lake to be shored and dewatered. This is not expected to significantly impact paddleboat or rental activities.

Additionally, approximately half of the nearby parking lot and a section of the west side of the lake perimeter walk will be closed throughout the construction process.

Denver Parks and Recreation has made provisions for a temporary pumping system to ensure continued irrigation throughout the construction process and to minimize impact to plants and grasses.

For more information on all planned parks projects through the Better Denver bond program, please visit www.betterdenver.org.

The Washington Park Irrigation System improvements are part of the [Better Denver Program](http://www.betterdenver.org). Mayor John Hickenlooper, with civic leaders, staff, and citizens, challenged the Denver community to imagine a city with enhanced infrastructure and facilities to add to the quality of life. Through collaboration and stewardship, the Better Denver initiative was born and endorsed by Denver voters in 2007. Better Denver calls for the improvement, preservation, renovation and creation of the many city amenities that touch our lives - including new roads, libraries, parks, hospitals, public safety and cultural facilities. These improvements are being implemented over a five year period through 2012, and are funded by a \$550 million voter-approved bond. For more information on Better Denver, please visit www.Denvergov.org and click on Better Denver.

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