

McGranahan, Jill - Parks & Rec

From: Jill McGranahan [jill.mcgranahan@denvergov.org]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 2:27 PM
To: McGranahan, Jill - Parks & Rec
Subject: News from Denver Parks and Recreation

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DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY



Denver Parks and Recreation Newsletter

Trees make great neighbors in Greater Park Hill

Tree by Tree-The Mile High Million & The Park People would like to thank the many volunteers, partners and sponsors who made October's tree planting event in Greater Park Hill such a big success. Your efforts led to the addition of almost 400 new trees along numerous streetscapes in the neighborhood!

Event Sponsors:









MARRIOTT
SPIRIT
TO **PRESERVE**
FOR A GREENER TOMORROW

Editorial Calendar -

February 2009

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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Recreation Task Force Recommendations

After 16 community meetings and reviewing the community's priorities for the recreation system, the Recreation Center Task Force is ready to present their Draft Recommendations at five Community meetings. The Task Force members, facilitated by GreenPlay, LLC and the National Civic League, will present these recommendations and solicit feedback. After all of the community meetings, the Task Force will reconvene to submit final recommendations to Kevin Patterson, Manager of the Parks and Recreation Department. The five community meetings will be held from 7:00p.m.-8:30p.m. at the following locations and dates:



Tuesday, February 3, 2009
ML King Recreation Center, 3880 Newport St.

Wednesday, February, 4, 2009
East High School Cafeteria, 1545 Detroit St.

Thursday, February 5, 2009
Swansea Recreation Center, 2650 E. 49th Ave.

Tuesday, February 10, 2009
Harvard Gulch Recreation Center, 550 E. Iliff Ave.

Wednesday, February 11, 2009
Barnum Recreation Center, 360 Hooker St.

The Draft Recommendations that will be presented at the Community meetings are posted on the Denver Parks and Recreation website, www.denvergov.org/parksandrec for review.

Denver Mountain Park News

Few people realize that 70% of Denver's 20,000 acres of park land are located in the popular, historic Mountain Park system. From Summit Lake Park at almost 13,000 feet on Mt. Evans to the spectacular views from Daniels Park in Douglas County, the Denver Mountain Parks offer something for everyone. Only in the Mountain Parks can you hear great music at Red Rocks, golf in Evergreen, see a bison calf on Genesee Mountain, picnic, and see Buffalo Bill's grave all in a day. Here's the latest news on Denver Mountain Parks:



- The Master Plan for the Mountain Parks was approved in September by the Advisory Board. The

heavily illustrated, 160-page "book" on the Denver Mountain Parks is available to download at www.denvermountainparks.org. The Plan updates the original 1914 vision for the parks and conservation areas, with ideas for innovative funding, new facilities for families, and guidelines for protection. The plan was partially funded by a GOCO Planning Grant and the Denver Mountain Parks Foundation.

- Denver Mountain Parks has a new logo to celebrate and promote its next 100 years of serving Denver residents. Look for it on park signs.
- Summit Lake, the highest city-owned park in the United States, has a new parking lot to handle more cars and the undulating forces of the tundra underneath it.
- The historic, often photographed red barn at Daniels Park has a new roof, courtesy of a State Historical Fund grant. It's a great background for photos of the bison.
- Chief Hosa Lodge, on Genesee Mountain, has a new deck, better ADA access, and is building new restrooms. Built by well-known architect Jacques Benedict in 1918, Chief Hosa is a charming timber and stone building, perfect for a meeting, wedding, or family reunion. Call 720- 913-0766 for information.
- Historians are organizing an unusual collection of historic maps and documents on the Civilian Conservation Corps at one of the original CCC camps in Morrison. These New Deal young men from around the country lived in camps and worked on park, road, and forestry projects in the Mountain Parks and across Colorado. Morrison CCC Camp SP-13's most famous project was the Red Rocks Amphitheatre, completed in 1941.
- The Buffalo Bill Museum is featuring an unusual temporary exhibit from March 1, 2009 through January 24th, 2010: "Found in a Belgian Basement: Lakota Artifacts from the 1935 World's Fair." This outstanding collection of Lakota beadwork and other artifacts was once known as the "Ghost Collection." For information, see www.buffalobill.org.

Ruby Hill Rail Yard Postponed Until Further Notice

Due to lack of cooperation from Mother Nature and the unseasonably warm weather, the Ruby Hill Rail Yard Opening Day has been postponed. Ruby Hill Staff have determined that if we have 72 contiguous hours



of temperatures in the low 20s before February 15, 2009, we will open a modified rail yard. If we do not have the temperatures before February 20, Rail Yard 2009 will be cancelled. Check www.denvergov.org/rubyhillrailyard for updates.

150th Anniversary of the Four Mile House

Four Mile Historic Park Has Been Quarantined!! And you're invited...

Join us for: In the Dead of Winter: Victorian Mourning at Four Mile Historic Park

Step back to the old days and experience the fascinating past practices of 'malady and mourning' in Victorian times. Tour Four Mile House bedecked in mourning accoutrement. Try your hand at gravestone rubbing or Victorian hair-wreath making (Yep, that's right... they made wreaths from the deceased's hair - but we're using false hair). Write your own Victorian styled obituary and sample Victorian funeral cakes.

February 8, 2009

Noon - 4p.m. (Last tickets at 3p.m.)

Admission: Adults \$7, Members \$5, Students/Seniors \$4

Located at: 715 S. Forest Street, Denver, Co.
720-865-0815

www.FourMilePark.org

Help Re-Design Play Areas

Denver Parks and Recreation needs your help to determine the future designs for play areas at Argo, Pferdesteller and Elmendorf Parks. These three playground projects are part of the "Better Denver" bond program approved by City residents in 2007. Share your best ideas to help us create a fun-filled playground for your neighborhood. We encourage you to bring your children and to invite your neighbors to give us your input on the concept designs for your new neighborhood play area.

Go to www.denvergov.org/parksandrec to complete the survey.

Civic Center Design Guidelines

The guidelines direct the implementation of \$9.5 million of the Better Denver Bond funding to restore the Greek Theater, Voorhies Memorial, Broadway Terrace, park walkways and balustrades. The guidelines will be a basis for other park improvement projects that may be funded in the future.



The guidelines provide parameters for materials, park structures such as kiosks, benches and signage, mass and scale for new features, guidance on level of restoration of historic features and other improvements so these are consistent with the historic character and experience of the park landscape.

For questions or additional information, please contact:

Mark Bernstein
 Department of Parks and Recreation
 201 W. Colfax Avenue, Dept. 601
 Denver, CO 80202
 Mark.Bernstein@denvergov.org
 (720) 913-0632

2009 Summer Camp

Denver Parks and Recreation has the perfect *affordable* solution to entertain your children on those hot summer days. This year we are pleased to announce that we will be hosting outdoor based camps within our parks and indoor sites at various recreation centers throughout the Denver metro area. Our licensed summer camps provide structured learning programs focused around sports and fitness, arts and crafts and aquatics while providing young campers with a fun and educational experience. Most day camps start the second week in June and conclude the first week in August. **Summer Camp registration begins March 9** so hurry and sign up fast because camps fill quickly. Hours of operation, ages and fees and charges vary, please go to www.denvergov.org/recreation or call (720) 913-0689 for more information.

Recreation Happenings

Platt Park Senior Center

1500 South Grant Street
 (303)698-4965

Water Exercise Class

Tue/Thu - 10:05-11:00am
 held at Washington Park

Yoga

Mon 4:30pm-5:30pm
 Wed 8:45am - 9:45am

Stretch & Strength

Tues/thurs 8:45am - 9:45am

Tai Chi

Mon 8:45am-9:45am
 Fri 8:45am-9:45am

Free Hand Weights Training

Tue 10:00am -10:45am

Weight Training

Mon or Fri 8:30am-10:00am

Line Dancing

Tue 11:00am

Thu10:00am

Ballroom Dancing

Thu 1:00pm-3:00pm

Outdoor Recreation

Locations vary

(303)370-6669

Genessee park

"Snowshoeing 101"

For those who have always wanted to try snowshoeing, this is a great introduction. We'll provide the needed gear, long with basic instruction and helpful tips to make your experience more enjoyable. If you can walk, you can snowshoe. The learning curve is minimal and you'll discover an exhilarating new world of winter fun. Bring a lunch, we'll provide the hot cocoa.

Cost: \$20

Date: 1/13/09

Day/Time: 8:00am-4:30pm

Deer Mountain

(Rocky Mountain National Park- West Side)

Rocky Mountain National Park is spectacular any time of year, but is particularly magical in winter. The crowds are gone, the elk roam freely, and birds of prey hover above. We will explore the lower portion of the Deer Mountain trail, which features super views and moderate climb.

Cost: \$20

Date: 1/28/09

Day/Time: Wed 7:30am-5:00pm

Valley/River Trail Loop

You'll enjoy gently rolling terrain on this "easy" rated snowshoe trail on the west side of the park. This mellow looped trail just east of the Colorado River provides excellent snow and fine views.

Cost: \$20

Date: 2/10/09

Day/Time: Tue 7:30am-5:00pm

College View

College View's Western Potluck

2525 S. Decatur Street

(303) 937-4630

Cost: \$3 plus a dish

Date: 1/8/09

Day/Time: Thu 10:30am-12:30 pm

Don Garcia will provide the entertainment

Please call 3/937-4630 to reserve a spot.

MLK's own Gina Egger Recognized

Gina Egger of Martin Luther King Recreation Center was voted as one of Denver's top aquatics instructors, as published in *The Denver Post* on October 27th, 2008. Congratulations!



"Gina inspires us, chastises us, laughs with us and moves with us as she leads us through aquatics exercise classes at MLK."
- Donna Daniels

Critter Corner

by Ashley DeLaup

FOXES IN THE CITY

The types of wild animals that live in cities and can thrive in close contact with people are often the most adaptable and intelligent species. These animals can learn to live in changing conditions.



The red fox is the perfect example. Red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) are one of the four species of foxes found in Colorado. They are the largest and most wide spread, and the only type to prosper in any habitat, including our neighborhoods. Most of the red foxes in North America originally came from Europe, and were brought over to support the European past time of fox hunts. They found North America to be very inviting and have since spread throughout the country, and integrated themselves in local ecosystems.

What do foxes eat? Just about anything! One of the major characteristics of city wildlife is the ability to eat opportunistically. Red foxes will change their diets according to what is available. Rodents, fruit, garbage, birds, squirrels, insects, grasses and more can all keep foxes going.

Space is often the limiting factor for wildlife in the city. Many animals are territorial, and will aggressively defend their home turf and resources. Because of this, foxes have developed a system of fluid territories. Individual animals or families' (a fox family is called a leash) territory will change in size according to where the food and shelter are, and using vocalizations and LOTS of scent markings they can communicate well enough to avoid contact with neighboring foxes. And in a fox territory they will have multiple dens sites and resting places, so no matter where they are there is shelter nearby. Dens are passed on in fox families, and the same line of foxes will continue to use a den for as long as the site is available. The size of their territory is negotiable, private backyards can be large enough to supply the shelter, food and resting spots a fox requires, so seeing them up close is common in a city ecosystem.

Seeing a red fox close by can be a joy to some and scary to others. Are foxes a threat to humans and pets? Typically, no. One reason foxes are so successful is due to their intelligence and innate wariness. Basically they "know better" than to mess with people, and often when you see them its tail flashing as they dash away. While foxes can look large, they are mostly beautiful fur coats on small bodies. Most range in size from 5 to 20 pounds. A predator wants to be able to disable its prey quickly, to avoid injury to itself. Most cats and dogs are too large for them to do that and are able to fight back. Although there is usually more than enough food to be found in a city, if a fox is hungry enough, they can take small cats or very small dogs. Monitoring your pet when outside is always a good decision in keeping it safe. There are two situations that cause problems between people and foxes. When foxes are fed by people, they can lose that natural fear, and associate people with food. Food means survival, and ANY animal can become aggressive when trying to obtain food. That's when bites can occur. Additionally there are some diseases that can be spread from sick wildlife to our pets. Keeping up on your pets vaccinations and encouraging wildlife to stay away reduces or eliminates the chances of catching a disease from a wild animal. In our urban ecosystem, foxes actually benefit people by helping keep rodent, squirrel and insect populations under control. Remember the true role of all predators is to support a balance in nature.

Upcoming Public Meetings

City of Asum Park Public Meeting

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Denver Parks & Recreation invites all residents to the City of Axum public meeting to discuss the

playground and irrigation system renovation.

The meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 10, 2009** from **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the **District 2 offices**, located at **3941 Holly Street**.

**Benedict Fountain Park Public Meeting
Thursday, February 12, 2009**

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. Conceptual review of proposed pedestrian trails and related improvements in the park.

This meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 12, 2009** from **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the **Glenarm Recreation Center**, located at **2800 Glenarm Place**.

**Washington Park Boat House Public Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2009**

Denver Parks and Recreation invites all residents interested in attending the second and final public meeting for the rehabilitation of the Washington Park Boat House. We'll present the master plan for both building and site based on a phased improvements plan and available funding. Please join us at the meeting, make comments and help us create consensus for the final plans. The Department of Parks and Recreation and the design consultants Andrews & Anderson - Architects and Mundus Bishop Design - Landscape Architects will be present at the meeting.

This meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 17, 2009** from **7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** at **St. Johns Lutheran Church, Community Room**, located on **S. Franklin St. & Exposition Ave**. The Community Room is accessed behind the sanctuary off Gilpin Street. **Note:** Franklin St. is the eastern boundary of Washington Park.

**Cheesman 2008 Bond Improvements Meeting
Thursday, February 19, 2009**

Denver Parks and Recreation invites all residents to attend this meeting to review conceptual ideas for pedestrian trails and related improvements at the park.

This meeting will be held **Thursday, February 19, 2009** from **6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** at the **National Jewish Center**, located at **1400 Jackson Street** in the **Molly Bank Conference Center**.

Upcoming Park Events

| Date | Park | Time | Event |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 2/1/09 | Washington | 6am-11am | Super Bowl 5K |
| 2/15/09 | Washington | 6am-11am | Valentines Day 5K |

**Tax Relief for Working Families!
Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit**

If your family's income was less than about \$42,000 in 2008, you could be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit when you file your tax return. The EITC is a special tax benefit from the federal government for working people with children who earn lower or moderate incomes. It's designed to help reduce your tax burden and supplement your wages.



If you're eligible, the Earned Income Tax Credit could mean a refund of up to \$4,800. Plus, you also may qualify for a Child Tax Credit of up to \$1,000 for each of your children. There also are tax credits for saving for retirement or for college expenses.

According to The Piton Foundation, which sponsors a statewide public information campaign about tax credits for families, more than 265,000 Colorado families received \$450 million in tax refunds last year because of the Earned Income Tax Credit. But, unfortunately, many other eligible families did not receive these much-needed refunds because they weren't aware of them, didn't know they were eligible, or didn't know how to apply.

But there's a free statewide hotline that you can call to learn how you can get these tax benefits and how to keep more of your refund by saving on tax preparation fees—even getting your tax return done for free! For more information, dial 2-1-1 (it's a free call) or go to www.piton.org/eitc. Claim all the tax credits you earned!

Photo caption: Families making less than \$42,000 can get their taxes prepared and filed at not cost by trained volunteers at free tax sites across Denver. Dial 2-1-1 or go to www.piton.org/eitc to find the site nearest you.

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