



Parks and Recreation Employee Recognition

Congratulations to the following Denver Parks and Recreation employees for their department employee recognition:

1. I would like to nominate **Thomas Herndon** for his excellent interim Director of Recreation duties. I appreciate his calm, supportive demeanor when conveying information, policy, departmental and budget issues.
2. I am nominating **Michael Ragland**, DPR Finance for his outstanding accomplishment in developing the first all departments budgetary excel checkbook and on-call workbook spreadsheets for tracking our budgets. Every department now tracks their budgets the same way. It's really helped everyone.
3. I would like to nominate the **City Park staff** for taking advantage of the mild weather this winter. Mulching, edging cleaning, pruning, spraying where needed. The park looks great!
4. **Jerry Browne** is doing a great job as the lead for the Southwest Quad with city wide sports program.
5. **Ken Bruning** Harvey Park Recreation center provided superior customer service by finding an off site practice location for co-ed volleyball while the gym floor at Harvey park was being replaced.
6. New employees **Ed Marquez** and **Rob Thomas** are off to a fast start and doing a great job of cleaning, updating equipment, and establishing themselves at Harvey Park Recreation center.
7. **Ed Manzanares**, Recreation Coordinator for his maintenance and care of the newly re-vamped Vanderbilt softball fields. Fields are utilized heavily by Senior and adult softball programs

and I have received many compliments on the field's condition and playability. Kudos to Ed and his helper **Frank Brumale**, Parks Seasonal Citywide.

8. I would like to nominate **Maria Gonzales, Ron Martinez, Gerrardo Pacheco Jr., Andrew Carriera and Steve Brizal**, Southwest Parks District for the great job they did in prepping the area at Loretto Heights Park for the new path installed by the AIMCO volunteers.
9. I happily nominate **Joe Renteria, Jr.** of the Montclair Parks district. Joe Jr. provided the Greenhouse with much needed crop transplant help by sending his two horticulturists over at critical times logging in over 100(+) hours of their valuable time to assist us. The operational support and additional help is greatly appreciated, hats off to a great Operation Supervisor and his staff.
10. I would like to nominate Recreation Instructor **Anthony Terry**, Rude Recreation center for his efforts to make our operation serve more programs and serve the community better; he procured 10K in supply donations from the Sports Authority to support programs at Rude and has distributed over 200 free My Place memberships to students at his partner school, C.M.S.
11. **Jacob Sciammas**, Outdoor Recreation. Jacob is always highly motivated to work and is a strong leader for DPR. Jacob works extra hard to complete all tasks and consistently maintains a fantastic attitude.
12. **Green House Staff** – for their summer-long assistance with flower bed maintenance at Cheesman Park. Their



help was invaluable during preparations for the DNC.

13. **Jose Guillen** and **Cal Lister**, Southeast Park District – for taking time out of their overloaded schedules to work on the City Park irrigation system during preparations for the DNC – their efforts made a big difference.
14. **City Wide Irrigation Crew** – for spending nearly a month in City Park working on irrigation problems in preparation for the DNC – we couldn't have shined without them.
15. **Britta Herwig**, Parks and Recreation Planning Department, for proactively accomplishing so much for DPR and getting many, many City Park projects done and done well.
16. **East District Maintenance Staff** – for taking pride in every thing they do, meeting challenges head on, and being committed to making parks beautiful.
17. **Joe Crespin**–Joe is in charge of the citywide irrigation crew working on the Bond projects and he is completing the projects in on time and under budget.
18. I would like to nominate **Jose Elizando, Jose Guillien, Cal Lister, Alex Mondragon, and Jack Mestas**. The main entrance gate at Kennedy Soccer field broke off the top hinge, it was hanging



on by one hinge, due to the usage of the facility we needed to get it repaired quickly the crew assessed the damaged and summoned Jose Eizando from Wash Park to assist with the welding. Within an hour they had the gate secured, operable, and safe. This was a joint effort between two different shops and I appreciate the team work.

19. **Manual Benavidez** and **Ed Hawkins** deserve recognition for their work for DPR Headquarters; they hauled the crusher fines for us saving the department money for additional delivery charges.
20. **Paul Sherengos**, Turf Equipment Mechanic, Overland Golf course Great effort in teamwork approach to creating a positive work environment. Paul is always there to help out the group, even if the task is outside his daily scope of work.
21. **David Schuyler**, Senior Utility Worker, Overland Golf course for great attitude and positive work ethic while the Golf Superintendent position is vacant.
22. **Mike Rodriguez**, Parks Seasonal employee, Great attitude and willingness to do any task on the course. He works to make Overland Golf course a better place.
23. I would like to recognize the entire **City Park Golf staff** for the effort they put forth getting the course and area along 26th avenue ready for Earth Day. I would like to personally recognize Dan Weingardt for shaping and building new plant areas, **Jeff Leal** for his contribution to getting the irrigation marked and repaired so that the final project had adequate water, **Ruben Moreno** for keeping the equipment in good working condition while still doing his normal duties, Ms. **Pam Smith** for spraying areas and removing sod in plant beds to help support the success of this initiative and all of the Golf and



Parks seasonal staff for going above and beyond their normal duties to make the Earth Day project a success. Thanks to **Chris Araiz, Pete Cardasis, John Deming, William Hornbaker, Jason Humphrey, Leigh Jones, Jacob Nikkel, Crystal Smolka, Dominick Torres and Dave Valdez & Jonathan Velasquez** they were all or are still doing something to make the final project a major success.

24. **Earth Day Project Team** pulled off a big project on April 22 at City Park Golf Course
 - **Greg Cieciek**, Golf Planner. Did all the planning, design, ordering, and layout of the project.
 - **Sara Davis** and **Sara Barber** both with Million Tree Initiative, they organized the funds for the project, recruited and organized volunteers, tools, and street closure to make this a big success
 - **Tina Romero** – volunteer coordinator for assisting and helping with all of the recruited volunteers
 - **Public Works** – shutting down the parking lane on 26th so we didn't get run over.
 - **Mike Swanson and forestry staff** for helping with mulch and providing their awesome water truck
 - **Steve Heinrich and his City Park**

Maintenance staff who prepared the site for planting and continue with the maintenance.

- **Paula Purifoy, First Tee of Denver and her staff** who have gone above and beyond teaching children the game of golf. They have added to the curriculum "Service Learning" where these students have learned how to plan a habitat project from start to finish. The students were involved in planning, construction and installation of birdhouses and trees.
- Director of Golf, **Scott Rethlake** and **Pro Shop staff** who managed the tee sheet and shut down the course for 4 hours so that over 200 volunteers and community leaders could safely implement our Earth Day project along 26th street.
- 25. **Larry Darras** with the Rivers and Trails district has consistently stepped up to help this district in any capacity requested. He has filled in for the Operations Supervisor since this position has been vacant. He is well versed in every aspect of horticulture (annuals, perennials, trees, natives etc.). He can run any type of equipment we have and has a CDL license. He can troubleshoot irrigation, schedule the computers, and fix anything in the field. He is the first to start work, first to help others, and the last to quit. He is trustworthy, reliable, and compassionate. He sets an example all should follow.
- 26. **Sharon Howard** is consistently looking for grants to help support Community Recreation's programs. She has done many hours of research and has completed two; one for the track program and another for our Teen Adventures program.
- 27. **Glenn Riley** has been working tirelessly on the 10th Annual Talent Show for Community Recreation's SOAR After School program. We all know it will be a



huge success.

- 28. **Todd Sutton, Robert Franklin, Michael Harren** and **Kristi Hernandez** for creating the new "Urban Blends" zine. This is a new publication that showcases the creative works of our SOAR Middle School Club's youth for Community Recreation.
- 29. **Curt Garrett** for taking on the responsibilities of managing a city van and everything that goes with it for Community Recreation and coordination for all Recreation Coordinators.
- 30. **Shannon Kanan** for being so passionate about our after school programs for Community Recreation. Shannon has implemented several enrichment programs that have greatly improved our programs.
- 31. **Henry Sena** for moving our Community Recreation facility closer to becoming "green" by using "green" cleaning supplies.
- 32. **Tiffany Johnson** ASAIII at Southwest Parks District is being nominated for an outstanding achievement on our new budget checkbook and bank statement procedure. On her own Tiffany has entered and reconciled our budget without direction from her Supervisors. We are fiscally balanced now, great work Tiffany.
- 33. **Mike Keyser** Operation Supervisor at Southwest Parks District has completely revamped and improved our herbicide application program. Mike is proactively researching Department of Agriculture recent requirements and has addressed these issues for DPR. He is working on preventing violations occurring with respect to DEH's storm water policies, streamlined operations to reduce application in the spring, and assure that all technicians are receiving the required 36 hour verifiable training.

- 34. **Tony Madrid** Operation Supervisor at Southwest Parks District worked with our Volunteer Office for two years to install a new crusher fine trail along the southern portion of Loretto Heights Park. He also worked with forestry to install 70 new trees. These two improvements will help to solve a long history of erosion and fence damage to constituents living along the southern section of the park. Thanks Tony for making this all of this happen for citizens of Denver.
- 35. **Beatrice Lopez**, custodian Harvard Gulch Recreation Center has shown a great attitude in helping another center stay clean while it was without a custodian the last couple of months. She worked two times per week at La Familia recreation center while still maintaining Harvard Gulch Recreation Center with only three visits per week. She was also instrumental in setting up both center's new floors by sealing and waxing them on weekends so that our customers would not be inconvenienced.
- 36. **Linda Ferreira**, recreation coordinator at Harvard Gulch Recreation Center has been instrumental in volunteering to help coordinate the Stars Program that the City sponsored. She put in additional days and nights during the week and on weekends to ensure the success that this program is demonstrating.
- 37. **James Warford**, one of my on-call recreation instructors, has shown exceptional dedication to the youth at our center and to the quality of the programming here at Harvard Gulch Recreation Center. He is consistently available to coach our kids in all sports

and also helps mentor our other coaches in an effort to improve the coaching available and to ensure a quality experience for our kids. Jim's 10 and under basketball team also finished first in the city.

- 38. **Joe Lovell**, Parks and Recreation GIS Analyst for Parks and Recreation Planning. He was so helpful in creating maps that demonstrate different information for our Recreation Center Task Force and Community meetings. He was patient, thorough and dependable in helping us capture the data that we needed. I really appreciated his suggestions in improving the information for mapping and was receptive to our suggestions. He is a



great addition to our department and a pleasure to work with.

- 39. **Lisa Neeper** is making many patrons happy with her unique jewelry and craft classes that she offers at Platt Park Recreation Center.
- 40. **Jack Garcia** is blending in so well at Platt Park Recreation Center. The seniors really love his personality and contributions to the programs.
- 41. **Anthony Zaragoza** does a great job at keeping the Platt Park Recreation Center clean for our customers
- 42. **Northwest District crew** for their



outstanding work on Federal Blvd. They have landscaped more than 32 islands on Federal between 20th Ave and 48th Ave. This was roughly a three week process that involved internal cooperation with the staff at Sloan's Lake and Berkeley as well as support from the Forestry Nursery. The project included repairing irrigation systems, planting trees and flowers, grading soil and mulching all of the islands. Special thanks to Victor Vialpando, Lee Crespin, and George Sosias who were the project Crew Supervisors tasked with designing the islands, safety, plant selection, and coordinating staff. Team members are:

- **Victor Vialpando**
- **Lee Crespin**
- **George Sosias**
- **Jose Montoya**
- **Sarah Clausen**
- **Raymond Rodriguez**
- **Leonard Manzanares**
- **Fred Cruz**
- **John Leon**
- **Tony Moreno**
- **Case Reyes**
- **Demetrio Rodriguez**
- **Joseph Garcia**
- **Nick Picaso**
- **Richard Marin**

Museum open and safe throughout the recent snow storm when the Lookout and Genesee area received up to 40 inches of wet heavy snow. The staff worked through the storm on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and well into Sunday to keep things safe, sometimes working through the night hours. **Martin Homola, Ray Oletski, John Griffith, Matt Brown, Jarret Trujillo, Richard Ruiz, Melvin DeLeon, Charles Herman, Scott Bostick, Jessica Miller, Jed Baker, and John Yara** all deserve a lot of credit for working in very difficult circumstances.

43. One could certainly recognize the **Denver Mountain Parks staff** members who worked diligently to keep the 12 miles of park roads in Genesee and Red Rocks parks, and the Buffalo Bill

44. **Judy Gallegos**, Harryette Malone and Denise Rodriguez in Parks and Recreation Permitting department for providing excellent customer service, when another staff person was out for an extended period and helped all operations continue to run smoothly.

45. **Northwest District: Mike McCown, Tony Moreno** and **Nick Picaso** coordinated pop up removal of 600 heads. I believe this is going to dramatically reduce water consumption along Federal from 23rd ave to 47th. My estimation is the removal of ¾ total pop up heads.

STAYING IN TOUCH

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Career Service Authority

Attn: *InSight*
 201 W. Colfax, Dept. 412
 Denver, CO 80202
 Fax: (720) 913-5720
 E-mail: insight@denvergov.org

