



## Denver City Council

---

### Public Amenities Committee Meeting Summary

---

**Date:** Dec. 19, 2006      **Time:** 11:00 a.m.      **Location:** Council Conference Room

**Committee Members Present:** Lehmann, Montero, Johnson, Robb

**Committee Members Absent:** Rodriguez

**Other Council Present:** Brown, Hancock

---

#### Agenda:

- Naming Prairie Park
  - Introduction of new Golf Director
  - Eyes on the Parks - First Annual Report
  - Summer Program Recap
  - Park Design Standards
- 

#### 1. Naming Prairie Park

##### Committee Action

The Committee approved filing a bill to officially name Prairie Park, which runs along Buchtel Blvd.

##### Summary of Discussion

Britta Herwig, Parks Planning, said the naming of this park is the culmination of a 30-year effort by the neighborhood. The Department's petition process was followed, and the Advisory Board has approved the naming.

Councilman Brown introduced neighbors John and Diana Helper and Cindy Johnstone, and he thanked them for their work on the project. He noted that this land had been owned by RTD, and a land swap was required to secure it as parkland. Ms. Helper presented an overview of the history of the land, which runs along Buchtel Blvd. It was given to the City by Mr. Buchtel, who was a chancellor of the University of Denver and a governor of Colorado. In 1976, during Colorado's Centennial, the neighborhood presented plans for a parkway. Over the years since then, pieces of the plan have been completed, such as paving the trail. This is one of the few areas in the City that is still largely viable prairie, and Parks & Recreation is helping to preserve it as such, hence the name.

#### 2. Introduction of Director of Golf Programs

Doug Woods, Director of Parks, introduced Scott Rethlake, who started on October 2. Mr. Rethlake has an extensive background in golf management. He is excited about the possibilities for Denver's golf program. Asked by Councilman Brown, he said the biggest challenge would be increasing customer services. Youth programs are very important, he said, and Denver has an excellent program in place. The capital projects at Overland, Aqua Golf, Willis Case, and Kennedy are all exciting.

--continued--

Councilwoman Montero warned Mr. Rethlake to think long and hard before bringing a proposal to increase golf fees to City Council.

### **3. “Eyes of the Parks” First Annual Report**

Doug Woods, Director of Parks, started by saying that the name of this program has been changed to “Parks & People Partnership” to more accurately reflect the goals. The program is modeled on examples from New York City and San Francisco. It involves volunteer citizens who use an evaluation form to rate specific aspects of specific parks once a month for a year. This helps determine the consistency of services and cleanliness. The summary 2006 results through September and the evaluation form are attached. Mr. Woods noted that “restrooms” refer only to plumbed restrooms, not san-o-lets.

This program does require lots of volunteers. In 2006, the Department held 4 recruiting sessions and currently has about 40 people involved. More people are needed. Councilman Hancock asked Mr. Woods to provide an electronic announcement that can be used in Council members’ websites and newsletters. Councilwoman Johnson asked him to let the members know which parks need volunteers. The program could be expanded to parkways, but it is designed for parks.

### **4. Summer Programs Recap**

The Parks & Recreation Department staff presented an overview of the summer programs.

#### **Movies in the Parks**

- Movies were presented on 16 nights
- Over 2,000 people attended
- Cost was approximately \$2,500 for license, projector, portable screen + \$1,500 for pre-movie entertainment.
- Several showings had presenting sponsors, but not all.
- 16 dates are set for Summer 2007
- Goals are to increase sponsorships and participation

#### **Outdoor Swimming Pools**

- 2006 had an 11-week season
- Opening celebrations held at all pools (goal: increase neighborhood sponsorship in 2007)
- Evening and weekend hours were added
- 6 Family Fun nights after hours were held (goal: increase number of pools for these in 2007)
- Use increased in 2006 to a total of 133,640
- Swim lesson registered = 2,936; swim lesson visits = 19,113

#### **Camps, Scholars, In the Parks**

- Day camp had 11 locations and 353 participants for 5 days/wk for 8 wks.
- Summer in the Parks had 6 locations and 205 participants for 4 days/wk for 8 wks.
- Summer Scholars had 9 locations and 475 participants for 5 days/wk for 6 wks
- Some staff is fulltime P&R employees; some are seasonal, with many people repeating.
- Goals are to increase training; add one day to Summer in the Parks program.

**Buds to Bloom Tours**

- Kickoff event at the Greenhouse with about 40 participants
- 4 tours (including greenhouse); all sold out
- Most participants bought the full bouquet of tours
- Greenway Foundation and The Park People were sponsors
- Feedback: Not enough time in each park
- 2007: will reduce number of parks on each tour and add an additional tour.

**5. Denver Park Design Standards**

Andrea Riner, Park Planning Director, and Jill Wuertz, Parks Planner, presented the Park Design Standards. The document reflects some of the objectives of The Game Plan:

- Design excellence
- Sustainability
- Ease of maintenance
- Equity across the city.

Each park should have the same basic elements that instantly make it identifiable as a City of Denver park. The standards document contains minimum design guidelines for the basic elements. The team worked with Public Works, Community Planning & Development, Wastewater Management, and the City Attorney's Office to ensure all aspects were included. The plan is to meet with these departments bi-annually to update the information.

The document covers:

- The basic processes used by the Department to manage capital projects, including public involvement.
- The established design and development standards.
- Maintenance standards, which were previously presented to Committee.

While this is designed primarily as an internal resource, it will be online in the near future. Updates will be provided to Council members.

*Gretchen Williams*  
1-7-07

*S:committees/public\_amenities/summary*