Quality of Life
Green Topics | Natural Environment

Thursday, April 16th, 2020
Microsoft Teams 6 – 7:30pm
Welcome West Area Plan Steering Committee!

Please open a new text on your phone to start our text message poll selection!

Setting up PollEverywhere

1. Text *mbipoll243* to **22333**

2. You will receive a notification text that you’ve joined the polling session
What have you recently learned about your community’s needs for open space, parks and well-being?
Today’s Agenda

- Focus Areas
  - Climate Resiliency & Air Quality
    - Impervious Surfaces
    - Urban Heat Island
    - Tree Canopy
  - Green Infrastructure
    - Stormwater Management
    - Water Quality
    - Green Infrastructure
  - Parks, Open Space, Recreation, Trails & Gulches
Climate Resiliency & Air Quality

Impervious surfaces

Impervious surfaces cover 52% of the West Area compared to a city average of 44%.
Climate Resiliency & Air Quality

Urban Heat Island
Climate Resiliency & Air Quality
Tree Canopy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEIGHBORHOOD</th>
<th>TREE CANOPY COVERAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barnum West</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnum</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villa Park</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Colfax</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valverde</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Valley</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| WEST AREA PLAN AVERAGE CANOPY COVERAGE | 11.8% |
| CITY AVERAGE CANOPY COVERAGE            | 15.5% |
Green Infrastructure

What is Stormwater Management?

- **TOPOGRAPHY** (WATER FLOWS DOWNHILL!)
- **CURBS, GUTTERS, STREETS, UNDERGROUND PIPES, DITCHES, CANALS, CREEKS, RIVERS**
Green Infrastructure

What is Water Quality?

As stormwater washes over impervious surfaces, it collects and carries pollutants such as trash, bacteria, automobile fluids, and nutrients into our stormwater system.

This then flows directly into our lakes, streams, and rivers.
Green Infrastructure

Benefits

- IMPROVED WATER QUALITY
- REDUCED FLOOD RISK
- REDUCED HEAT
- IMPROVED AIR QUALITY
Green Infrastructure
What does it look like?

- Parks
- Bioswales
- Gulches
- Roofs
Green Infrastructure
What does it look like?

Alleys

Bulbouts

Raingardens

Rain Barrels
What are your ideas to increase the tree canopy in your neighborhoods?
What types of green infrastructure are most appealing to you?

- Parks
- Gulches
- Bioswales
- Roofs
- Alleys
- Bulbouts
- Raingardens
- Rain Barrels
Would you be willing to trade on-street parking spaces for green space?

- Yes, take them all!
- Some of them
- Only on corners
- Don’t touch them!
Parks, Open Space, Recreation, Trails & Gulches

Existing Amenities
Parks, Open Space, Recreation, Trails & Gulches

Types of Parks

- Regional
- Community
- Neighborhood
- Pocket
Parks, Open Space, Recreation, Trails & Gulches
Privately-Owned Open Space Accessible to the Public

community-oriented outdoor living spaces, playgrounds, and gardens
ADAPT to the Changing Climate and Limited Resources

- Preservation of Open Space
- Preservation of Scenic Views
- Gulches as “Neighborhood Centerpiece”

DIVERSIFY Parks and Recreation Services, GROW the Park System and Recreation Access

- Community Gathering Spaces
- Places to Cook Food “BBQ”
- Longer Rec Center Hours
- After-School Programs for Youth
- Public Art, Murals & Plaques
Parks, Open Space, Recreation, Trails & Gulches

Parks Game Plan 2019 – Community Feedback

REINVEST in Denver’s Parks and Recreation Resources and People

• Opportunities for Pocket Parks
• Better Lighting
• Trash & Recycling Locations
• Playground Maintenance

CONNECT to Denver’s Nature and Culture

• Accessibility to Parks & Trails
• Access to Downtown
• Programming in Parks and Rec Center Facilities
• More Tree Coverage
• Crosswalks & Wayfinding Signage

Every Dollar

Uniquely Denver
Parks, Open Space, Recreation, Trails & Gulches

Existing Parks – 10 Minute Walk
Parks, Open Space, Recreation, Trails & Gulches
Recent or Funded Parks & Recreation Improvements

1. Paco S Basketball Court Replacement
2. Rude Park Athletic Field Improvements
3. Byers and Pecos Park Renovation
4. Rude Park Restroom Replacement
5. Paco Sanchez Phase 2
6. Joseph Martinez Master Plan
7. Barnum Rec Center Roof Replacement
8. Weir Gulch @ Bayaud Court and Trail
9. Lakewood Gulch Channel Improvements
10. Dry Gulch Channel Repair
11. South Platte River, Planning and Design
12. Weir Gulch Trail Improvements
13. Weir Gulch Trail Assessment
14. Sun Valley Park
15. Dry Gulch
16. Lakewood Gulch
17. Weir Gulch North
18. Weir Gulch Channel Improvements
19. Sanchez Park
What types of activities & spaces would you like to see, or see more of, in your parks?

• Sports
• Gardening
• Walking & running
• Bicycling
• Community gathering spaces
• Small gathering spaces (like picnic areas)
• Seating & shade
• Outdoor entertainment (like concerts & festivals)
• Farmer’s markets
• Fishing
• Food & drink options
• Stormwater & water quality
• Educational activities
What is particularly challenging about access to your parks, open spaces, recreation, trails & gulches?
Timeline

Next: Virtual Public Meeting in development for Mid-May
EXTRA SLIDES
Outreach & Engagement Efforts (Postponed)

Goals

- Senior & Youth Integration
- Food, Fun Activities & Exercise
- Park experience & neighborhood plan feedback
Quality of Life Infrastructure

“Green Topics”
Natural Environment

- Environmental and Climate Resiliency & Air Quality
- Impervious Surfaces
- Tree Canopy & Urban Heat Island
- Parks, Open Space, Recreation and Trails
- Gulches
- Green Infrastructure, Water Quality & Stormwater Management
- Green Roofs

“Additional Topics”
Human and Built Environment

- Food Access
- Health and the Built Environment
- Healthy and Active Living
- Safety and Security
- Animal Protection and Control
- Social Capital and Wellbeing
  - Grassroots Initiatives
  - Youth Engagement