Every household deserves equitable access to high-quality park and recreation facilities. Policies and actions for equity are woven throughout the Game Plan. This chapter provides an overview of how the Game Plan distributes funding, programs, and other resources throughout the city to redress long-standing inequities.
Equity — in resources, services, programs, and maintenance — is a Game Plan priority that imbues every proposed policy and recommendation. Denver’s parks and recreation system has evolved politically and over time. As a result, the quality and size of parks and recreation facilities vary with geography and neighborhood character.

This has created real and perceived disparities between neighborhoods. More than 42 percent of residents surveyed in the 2001 Game Plan Survey indicated that DPR does either a fair or poor job in “allocating resources fairly to different parts of the city.”

Some areas, for example, have no public recreation center; others have small or aging centers. Most deferred capital repairs are located in the oldest parks and neighborhoods. This makes maintenance even more difficult because constant capital repairs divert staff resources from daily tasks.

A lack of citywide maintenance standards also contributes to this problem. Residents in some neighborhoods face particular challenges to park access from major roads or waterways.

Recommendations that address equity are woven throughout the Game Plan. Chapter 3 evaluates neighborhoods against a criteria of basic amenities and identifies “neighborhoods in need.” Chapter 9 discusses economic priorities and financing options to balance new services for expanding areas with the needs of established neighborhoods.

And Chapter 10 recommends action steps for the near and distant future. The Game Plan also makes the following recommendations and strategies to achieve greater equity in the parks and recreation system:

**New Martin Luther King, Jr. statue in City Park, unveiled in 2002**
**GOAL FOR EQUITY**

DPR will address inequities and provide high-quality amenities and services fairly across the city through resource allocations and consistently high standards.

**Recommendations**

1. **Provide more equitable funding.**
   - Evaluate and rate yearly budget, periodic bond, and public/private proposals on the basis of *Game Plan* data, indicators, benchmarks, and funding priorities that address inequities.
   - Establish a new fees and charges system, using value-based program fees, reasonable returns, and programs to ensure accessibility to all (see also financial strategies in Chapter 9).

2. **Equity through management practices.**
   - Ensure equivalent high levels of design and maintenance across the city through consistent standards and monitoring.
   - Include a continuous process for community involvement and staff accountability.
   - Ensure consistency in policies, fees, and rules in recreation centers and facilities.

3. **Equity through programming.**
   - Establish high citywide standards of service for recreation programs throughout the city.
   - Involve citizens in all stages of program and service design and review.
   - Provide bilingual staff members and materials where needed.
   - Ensure that programs meet the changing and diverse needs of different Denver populations (see also engagement strategies in Chapter 8).
Neighborhoods in Need and Projected Areas of Change

LEGEND
- Increased density and growth; below 75% standard for basic amenities
- Below 75% standard for basic amenities
- Exceeds 75% standard for basic amenities
- Projected Areas of Change
- Projected Transit Oriented Development