TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING #1
WHY WE ARE HERE

Agenda

- Introductions and Project Overview (30 minutes)
- Focus Areas: Goals and Outcomes (50 minutes)
- Next Steps (5 minutes)

Roles and Responsibilities

The technical advisory committee is a work group of topical experts and partner organizations whose missions align or overlap with the overarching goals of this plan and the six focus areas, and/or who have technical expertise within the realm of acquisitions. Your help to confirm the goals and discuss outcomes is paramount in advance of the public meeting on October 22nd.
PROJECT ORGANIZATION

DPR CORE TEAM + DESIGN WORKSHOP

TECHNICAL FOCUS GROUPS
- Equity
- 10-Minute Walk or Roll
- Mountain Parks
- Downtown, High Density & Growth Areas
- Resilience, Habitat Restoration & Waterways
- Facilities

PARKS & REC ADVISORY BOARD

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITIES
- 10/22 Public Meeting
- Community Survey
- PRAB Public Hearing
INTRODUCTIONS

Denver Parks and Recreation
- Gordon Robertson, DPR Director of Parks Planning
- Kathy LeVeque, Assistant Director of Parks Planning, SAP Project Manager
- Laurie Tabachnick, Associate Parks Planner
- Joe Lovell, GIS Data Administrator
- Greg Neitzke, Parks Land Surveyor
- Laura Morales, Community Relations

Department of Finance
- Luke McKay, Acquisition & Asset Manager, SAP Project Manager

Consultant Team
- Chris Geddes, Principal, Design Workshop
- Hadley Peterson, Project Manager, Design Workshop
INTRODUCTIONS

Technical Advisory Committee Invitees

- Aaron Miripol - Urban Land Conservancy
- Adam Perkins - Downtown Denver Partnership
- Carrie Kasnicka - Trust for Public Land
- Chris Hawkins - The Nature Conservancy
- Chris Smith - Colorado Health Foundation
- Chris Urias – Environmental Learning for Kids
- Debbie Ortega - City Council
- Devon Buckels - The Water Connection
- Florence Navarro - Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
- Frank Rowe - Denver Park Trust
- Jared Mummert - National Parks and Recreation Association
- Jeff Shoemaker - The Greenway Foundation
- Kate Fritz - Mountain Parks Foundation
- Kim Desmond - Mayor’s Office of Social Equity and Innovation
- Lynne Mason - Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
- Marianne Eppig - Urban Land Institute
- Rachel Banner - National Parks and Recreation Association
- Robin Kniech - City Council
- Stella Madrid - Denver Housing Authority
Voters overwhelmingly approved the November 2018 sales tax measure to improve and expand the park system.

5,900+ comments during the Game Plan planning process.

Legacy Fund input was part of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) outreach effort and included five town hall meetings, two online surveys, and comment cards at all recreation centers and libraries.
SCHEDULE

- **Research & Analysis**: August 2020 - September
- **Vision & Goals**: October
- **Recommendations**: November
- **Documentation**: December - January 2021 - February

Key Dates:
- Survey: November
- Public Input: December
- 30-Day Review: January 2021
- PRAB / Public Hearing: February
VISION & GOALS

DRAFT Vision

The DPR Strategic Acquisition Plan provides a clear framework for decision-making that identifies priorities, describes strategies, and explains criteria for success associated with completing and funding future acquisitions. This framework will ensure Denver’s urban and mountain parks, open space and recreation system will equitably meet the recreational needs of its entire community while also ensuring Denver remains a resilient and sustainable city.

Focus Areas

1. Equity
2. Closing the 10-Minute Walk or Roll Gap
3. Downtown, High-Density, & Growth Areas
4. Mountain Parks
5. Resilience, Habitat Restoration & Waterways
6. DPR Facilities
The Park and Parkway System
The Park and Parkway System laid the groundwork for Denver to become a city of neighborhoods connected by recreational and cultural destinations.

Denver's Mountain Parks
The Mountain Parks Plan, prepared by the Olmsted brothers, recommended the purchase of over 14,000 acres of mountain parcels to offer scenic views, recreational opportunities, and diverse landscapes for future generations.

The Great Flood
Denver’s worst-ever natural disaster, the Great Flood, inundated over 250,000 acres leading to the restoration of the rivers and the rebirth of the downtown core.

The New Deal
The Civilian Conservation Corps, a key component of the New Deal, built many of the defining structures in Denver’s urban and mountain parks systems.

The Downtown Resurgence
The turn of the century saw tremendous growth in Downtown residents - nearly doubling the population in a decade, all with a need for parks and open space access.

The Parks Legacy Fund
The Parks and Open Space Sales Tax, Measure 2A, dedicates funding for parks, open space, trails, and waterways, to create a more equitable and accessible parks system.

The Game Plan
The Game Plan for a Healthy City seeks to make Denver a healthier city overall by promoting environmental sustainability, equity for all people, and the conservation of resources.

Parks Legacy Fund
The Parks and Open Space Sales Tax, Measure 2A, dedicates funding for parks, open space, trails, and waterways, to create a more equitable and accessible parks system.

Game Plan
The Game Plan for a Healthy City seeks to make Denver a healthier city overall by promoting environmental sustainability, equity for all people, and the conservation of resources.

DRAFT

PARKS ACCESS (10 MIN WALK/ROLL) FOR EVERY RESIDENT

MOUNTAIN PARKS

FACILITIES

RESILIENCE, HABITAT, & WATERWAYS

DOWNTOWN PARKS

EQUITY

GAME PLAN
for a
Healthy City
The Park and Parkway System

The Park and Parkway System laid the groundwork for Denver to become a city of neighborhoods connected by recreational and cultural destinations.

1860s - 1900s
- 1868 - Mestizo Curtis Park
- 1882 - City Park
- 1898 - Washington Park
- 1919 - Civic Center Park

1900s - 1930s
- Linear connecting parkways
Denver’s Mountain Parks

The Mountain Parks Plan, prepared by the Olmsted brothers, has led to the purchase of over 14,000 acres of mountain parcels to offer scenic views, recreational opportunities, and diverse landscapes for future generations.

1912 | Olmsted Brothers master plan

1917 | Lookout Mountain Park - 1st mountain park

1928 | Genesee Mountain Park - largest mountain park

1941 | Red Rocks Amphitheatre
The New Deal
The Civilian Conservation Corps, a key component of the New Deal, built many of the defining structures in Denver’s urban and mountain parks systems.

1947 | Swansea Park & Recreation Center
1960 | Hiawatha Davis Jr. Recreation Center & Pool
1960 | Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center & Pool
2013 | Northeast Maintenance District HQ
2018 | Carla Madison Recreation Center

DPR Recreation Center Locations
**The Great Flood**
Denver’s worst-ever natural disaster, the Great Flood inundated over 250,000 acres leading to the restoration of the rivers and the rebirth of the downtown core.

**1965**

- **1991 | Harvard Gulch Park**
- **2001 | Lowry Open Space**
- **2007 | Westerly Creek**
- **2015 | Johnson Habitat Park**
- **2017 | Heron Pond/Heller Open Space**

**RESILIENCE, HABITAT RESTORATION & WATERWAYS**

**Nature Deficit Areas**

**Access to Nature Experiences**
- Place to experience nature (state park or wildlife refuge, trail, creek, river, lake, or greenway; designated natural area or park with natural area)
- Area within 10 minute walk of a place to experience nature
- Residential parcel without nature access within a ten minute walk
Strategic Acquisition Plan

The Downtown Resurgence
The turn of the century saw tremendous growth in Downtown residents - nearly doubling the population in a decade, all with a need for parks and open space access.

2005 | Commons Park
2005 | Downtown Skate Park
2017 | The Outdoor Downtown Plan
2019 | 5280 Trail
2020 | Skyline Park Improvements

DOWNTOWN PARKS

2001

Proposed 5280 Trail

DRT TIMELINE

GAME PLAN
for a Healthy City

DELEVER
PARKS & RECREATION
Strategic Acquisition Plan

Parks Legacy Fund
The Parks and Open Space Sales Tax, Measure 2A, dedicates funding for parks, open space, trails, and waterways, to create a more equitable and accessible parks system.

2017 | Ruby Hill Park Improvements
2018 | Paco Sanchez Park Improvements
2019 | Westwood Recreation Center
2020 | Todos Activos at Swansea Park

Park and Recreation Demand

Glendale (not within city and county of Denver)
Arapahoe County (not within city and county of Denver)
**FOCUS AREA DISCUSSION: EQUITY**

**Equity as a Lens**
- Equity is not only a focus area but a lens to shape this entire plan
- DPR wants to proactively coordinate with other key agencies to address complete neighborhood needs
- DPR has identified affordable housing as a key area to coordinate on so they are not perceived as competing with each other

**DPR Neighborhood Equity Score**
- Park Access
- Park Investment
- Park Acres
- Density
- Communities of Color
- Youth
- Low-Income
- Obesity Prevalence
FOCUS AREA DISCUSSION: EQUITY

Draft Goal
Proactively invest in neighborhoods in a flexible manner in coordination with other complete neighborhood needs and community benefits.

Prior to Focus Groups: Invest in neighborhoods across the City in an equitable manner in coordination with other complete neighborhood needs.

Key Themes from Focus Groups
- Community benefits like affordable housing, libraries, and parks should be developed in coordination
- Investment should be done strategically to enhance the neighborhood and to mitigate compounding displacement issues

Menti.com Poll Questions:
- Go to www.menti.com and use the code 44 38 29 1 to sign in
- If possible, use your cellphone for voting so you can keep your screen on GoToMeeting.
FOCUS AREA DISCUSSION: CLOSING THE 10-MIN. WALK OR ROLL GAP

Draft Goal

Provide all residents with parks with a diversity of spaces and amenities within a 10-minute walk or roll.

Prior to Focus Groups: Provide all residents with a quality park within a 10-minute walk/roll - or within a 5-minute walk/roll in Downtown Denver.

Key Themes from Focus Groups

- Need to address the barriers of access to current parks
- Focus on the 10-minute gap before diving into the 5-minute gap
- Variety of amenities and spaces are important for all residents throughout Denver

Menti.com Poll Questions:

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FOCUS AREA DISCUSSION: DOWNTOWN, HIGH DENSITY, AND GROWTH AREAS

Draft Goal

Meet the increasing recreational, cultural, and ecological demands on parks and public spaces in priority areas.

Prior to Focus Groups: Meet the increasing demands on parks and public spaces in priority areas.

Key Themes from Focus Groups

- Downtown parks should be a destination that should be connected to surrounding neighborhoods, the trails system and the river
- Downtown parks attract users because they are unique destinations for events, cultural celebrations, and places of historic significance
- Development and redevelopment should assist in the acquisition of land

Menti.com Poll Questions:

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FOCUS AREA DISCUSSION: RESILIENCE, HABITAT RESTORATION, AND WATERWAYS

Draft Goal

Cultivate an accessible and resilient network of wildlife habitat corridors, waterways, and recreational and protective areas to prepare for an uncertain future and expand public stewardship.

Prior to Focus Groups: Extend existing networks by preserving and protecting riparian and wildlife habitat areas.

Key Themes from Focus Groups

- Passive and active recreation are both important but must be balanced with habitat protection
- Flood mitigation and protection of property is crucial role of properties that are acquired
- Tie into Game Plan metrics on resiliency, which include pollinators and tree canopy

Menti.com Poll Questions:

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FOCUS AREA DISCUSSION: MOUNTAIN PARKS

Draft Goal
Provide accessible destination parks that focus on outdoor recreation and ecological preservation

Prior to Focus Groups: Create easily accessible destination parks that focus on ecological resilience and recreation

Key Themes from Focus Groups
• Close in-holdings to increase habitat connectivity and protect scenic viewsheds
• Increase the amount of Denverites that visit these parks by providing more diverse and accessible recreational opportunities
• These parks help mitigate the impacts of the built environment and protect Denver’s water

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FOCUS AREA DISCUSSION: FACILITIES

Draft Goal
Provide land and buildings throughout the City for diverse recreation opportunities as well as accessible and efficient parks maintenance.

Prior to Focus Groups: Provide land and buildings for recreation and parks maintenance throughout the City.

Key Themes from Focus Groups

• Maintenance facilities need to be closer to the parks they serve

• This process will focus on recreation centers, pools/aquatic centers, and not bathrooms or concessions

• Facilities could be paired with other services to provide multi-purpose facilities

Menti.com Poll Questions:

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NEXT STEPS

Preparing for Public Engagement

• How can we best engage with your networks and constituents? Are there specific groups to target?

• Are these the correct topics to ask the public questions about:

1. Confirm the DPR Strategic Acquisition Plan goals and focus areas.
2. Confirm the priority outcomes based on this discussion today.
3. Prioritize the focus areas.
4. “Think about your favorite park. What about that park makes it special to you?”
5. “What is the number one reason you visit open spaces, parks or trails?”
6. “What prevents you from visiting Denver parks and recreation facilities more often?”
7. “I wish there were more opportunities to participate in…”
8. Demographics like age, race/ethnicity, income, own/rent, gender, and neighborhood.
NEXT STEPS

A record of this meeting will be shared back out with you.

Public Meeting is on October 22nd. We can share materials with you to advertise.

We will meet again in early December to discuss the draft recommendations.

**BE PART OF GROWING DENVER PARKS AND RECREATION’S SYSTEM!**

**VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING**

**THURSDAY, OCT. 22, 2020**

5:30-6:30PM

[https://tinyurl.com/AcquisitionPlan](https://tinyurl.com/AcquisitionPlan)

With the passage of the 2018 Parks Legacy Fund ballot measure, Denver Parks & Recreation (DPR) has a dedicated source of funds for park, trail and facility improvements, including acquisition. Guided by the Game Plan and the Legacy Fund Five-Year Plan, DPR is developing a Strategic Acquisition Plan to define our approach for growing our park system. Join us and provide your input on this important planning and implementation strategy.

**SEA PARTE DE CRECER EL SISTEMA DE PARQUES Y RECREACIÓN EN DENVER**

**REUNIÓN PÚBLICA VIRTUAL**

**JUEVES, 22 DE OCT DEL 2020**

5:30-6:30PM

[https://tinyurl.com/AcquisitionPlan](https://tinyurl.com/AcquisitionPlan)

Con la aprobación de la medida en 2018 para el Fondo de Legado de Parques, Denver Parks & Recreation (DPR) tiene una fuente de fondos dedicada para mejoramientos a parques, senderos e instalaciones que incluye fondos para adquirir terreno. Guiado por el Game Plan y el Plan de Cinco Años del Fondo Legado, DPR está creando un Plan de Adquisición Estratégica para definir nuestro enfoque en crecer el sistema de parques. Acompáñenos y proporcione su opinión sobre esta importante estrategia de planificación e implementación.

[gameplan.denvergov.org](gameplan.denvergov.org) [parksplan.denvergov.org](parksplan.denvergov.org)

[www.denvergov.org](www.denvergov.org)