Advisory Committee Meeting #3
September 3, 2020
Today’s Agenda

1. Welcome and Project Status
2. Overview: Analysis
3. Overview Survey Results
4. Discussion and Questions/Answers
5. Looking Ahead: Next Steps
Advisory Committee Members: Thank you!

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<td>City Council District 3: Jaime Torres</td>
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<td>City Council At-large: Debbie Ortega</td>
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<td>Boys and Girls Club</td>
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<td>Denver’s Art District on Santa Fe</td>
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<td>Golden Triangle Creative District</td>
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<td>Denver City Council District 10, CM Chris Hinds</td>
<td>Liz Zukowski</td>
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<td>Santa Fe Business Improvement District</td>
<td>Jackie Bouvier</td>
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Project Team

**Denver Parks and Recreation**

Mark Tabor, ASLA (on today’s call)

**StudioCPG:** Heather Noyes (on today’s call)
Master Planning; Landscape Architecture
Project Management

**NHN Consulting**
Public Engagement
Nora Neureiter (on today’s call)

**PUMA**
Neighborhood Assessment

**Winter & Company**
Historic Assessment

**OV Consulting**
Circulation & Access

**Topographic**
Stormwater / Civil
2019 Game Plan for a Healthy City: Guiding Principles

EVERY DROP
EVERY PERSON
EVERY DOLLAR
UNIQUE DENVER

Master Plan: Goals Topics

TREE CANOPY
CONSERVING and ENHANCING RESOURCES

INCLUSIVITY
HEALTH
ACCESSIBILITY
FACILITIES and PROGRAMMING

MAINTENANCE

HISTORY
CULTURAL HERITAGE
EVERY DROP: Resilient and environmentally sustainable

Tree Canopy: Goal #1 Maintain and renew tree canopy.
Resources: Goal #2: Enhance park landscapes and planting.

Challenges

• Trees: Age of existing tree canopy
• Ground Plane: Lack of diversity and sustainability in existing planting palette
EVERY PERSON: Equity in distribution of parks and park resources and programming

**Inclusivity:** Goal #3: Create a safe and accessible park experience.
Goal #4: Cultivate partnerships.

**Health:** Goal #5 Create opportunities for improving mental / physical health.

**Accessibility:** Goal #6: Make the park safe and accessible for all ages and abilities.
Goal #7: Improve neighborhood access.

**Challenges**

- **Barriers:** The park is hard to get to – pedestrian safety and accessibility
- **Trails and Paths:** Aging and inaccessible infrastructure
- **Amenities:** Lack of opportunities for exercise and all-ages engagement
EVERY PERSON: *Equity in distribution of parks and park resources and programming*

**Facilities and Programming**

*Goal #8:* Provide a framework for high-quality, intergenerational, multi-cultural programming.

*Goal #9:* Upgrade picnic, playground area and seating.

*Goal #10:* Preserve active and passive areas.

**Challenges**

- **Programming:** Lack of programming and opportunities for community stewardship
- **Facilities:** Lack of facilities to meet and satisfy evolving needs of local neighborhoods
- **Size:** Allocation of space for active and passive uses based on community priorities
EVERY DOLLAR: Manage Resources

Maintenance

Goal #11: Identify and strategize improvements that enable park operations.

Goal #12: Explore alternatives for increasing public value of maintenance building.

Challenges

• Facilities: Aging facilities that detract from the community’s vision for the park

• Maintenance: Existing conditions create maintenance inefficiencies
UNIQUE DENVER: Reflect Denver’s community and cultural identity

**History:** Goal #13 Preserve the historic composition.
Goal #14: Restore or reinterpret the historic features.

**Cultural Heritage:**
Goal #15: Identify opportunities to celebrate cultural heritage
Goal #16: Explore and establish partnerships

**Challenges**
- **Historic Features:** Loss and/or erosion of original park features
- **Identity:** Lack of identity and cultural connections
Who Responded to the Survey?

- 648 Responses
- Evenly divided between men and women
- 50% of respondents were between 30 and 49 years old
- 80% White, 20% Latinx
- 79% live near the park
- 30% live in La Alma/Lincoln Park
- 24% live in Golden Triangle
Sunken Gardens Survey Overview

**How do respondents use the park?**

- 55% visit the park **several times a week** or several times a month
- The majority (60+%) are **by themselves or with friends/family**
- 11% of visitors are with their children
- Most respondents visit the park to “**be in nature**” (65%) and **exercise** (58%)
- The most used amenity in the park are the **paths** (88%) followed by the open **lawn area** (34%)
- 80% **walk** to the park, 30% use a **bike or scooter**
- Many respondents use the park for **dog walking**
Sunken Gardens Park Master Plan | Advisory Committee Meeting #3

Sunken Gardens Survey Overview

Perception of the Park

- **Safety**: 74% rate it as “average to good”
- **Cleanliness**: 73% rate it as “average to good”
- **Maintenance**: 77% rate it as “average to good”
- **Beauty**: 72% rate it as “average to good”
- **Layout**: 80% rate it as “average to good”
- **Accessibility**: 67% rate it as average to good

“Nothing special or unique besides the historic pool foundations and it doesn’t relate to its context very well. Mostly a big lawn with some trees.”

“Untapped potential.”
Sunken Gardens Survey Overview

Concerns

• Homeless
• Unsafe crossings
• Cracked pavement/sidewalks
• No bathrooms
• No visibility into the park
• Trash/Needles

"Have found used needles in the grass. Popular gathering spot for homeless people near the children's playground and basketball court. The park needs more lights at night. The frontage with Speer is also common to see car and motorcycles racing at 60+ mph past the park--a low stone wall would go a long way to keeping pedestrians and children safe from reckless drivers."
Sunken Gardens Survey Overview

**Desired Improvements**

- **Safer access** across Speer Blvd and from Cherry Creek Trail (60%)
- More **flower gardens** (69%)
- More **shaded** gathering areas (57%)
- Maintain/upgrade the beautiful **trees** (71%)
- Fix/upgrade the walking **paths** (70%)
- Maintain the **lawn** area (54%)
- Restored **historic features** (47%)
- **Signage** about history of park (46%)

**“Dog park, tennis courts, benches, improved play area, community building that can be rented out for events, water elements”**

**“I hope this project brings a light touch to the park and not so overly programmed.”**

**Other Comments:**
- Fenced in dog area
- Bathrooms
- Water features
Analysis Discussion
Questions/Answers
Next Meeting:

October 1st, 2020: 5:30pm - 1st Thursday of each month at 5:30pm

• Framework for Master Plan Alternatives: Ideas and Opportunities

Sunken Gardens Park Master Plan Project Page: Project Resources

• Phase I Assessments
• Analysis
• Survey Results
• Stakeholder Interview Summary
• All future project information including a copy of today’s PPT

[link] Denvergov.org/parkprojects – Sunken Gardens Master Plan