Welcome + Introductions
Skyline Park
Team

Gordon Robertson
Denver Parks & Recreation
Director, Planning, Design & Construction

Allegra “Happy” Haynes
Denver Parks & Recreation
Executive Director

Scott Gilmore
Denver Parks & Recreation
Deputy Executive Director

Mark Bernstein
Denver Parks & Recreation
Downtown Area Planner

Jenna Harris
Denver Parks & Recreation
Project Manager

Nate Cormier
RIOS
Managing Studio Director

Cristina Ungureanu
RIOS
Senior Project Director
Skyline Park “Pop-Ups”
Skyline Park

Improvements Project
Overview + Vision
The Outdoor Downtown
Urban Outdoor Lifestyle
1. Feedback Opportunities
2. Who’s in the Room?
3. Vision + Goals
4. Context
5. Site Analysis
6. Programming
7. Q&A
8. Next Steps
Feedback Opportunities
• Your camera & audio are automatically disabled
• This session is being recorded and will be made available after the webinar
• You can interact with us in a few ways!
• Answering open-ended prompts via the Chat button
• Asking Q&A throughout the duration of the webinar
• We’ll also use a few polls that will pop up on your screen automatically
• Use the Chat button to answer open-ended questions we’ll be asking you
• Only the host and panelists will be able to see your chats
• We’ll read back some responses, and collect the rest to help us with design concepts
• Use the Q&A button to ask questions
• Everyone will be able to see the Q&A
• We’ll address questions closer to the end of the session
• You can ask questions **anonymously** by selecting this button.
• **Upvote** the questions that you most want answered
Who’s in the Room?
Let’s see who’s in the room! We’ll ask you some questions about yourself using the poll feature.
Vision + Goals
Vision

Skyline Park will be an authentic and contemporary expression of Denver’s urban outdoor lifestyle.

Goals

1. A **welcoming destination** that equitably brings diverse people together through a mix of unique events as well as everyday outdoor experiences

2. A **cultural icon** that celebrates the arts, culture, and community of Denver

3. A **connected place** that integrates with its edges and plays an active role in the downtown multimodal network

4. A **resilient oasis** for respite that improves ecological health and individual wellness, while connecting visitors to the outdoors

5. A **catalytic spark** that contributes to an active, thriving, and vibrant downtown

Vision + Goals
What is your most memorable experience of a park or public space in another city? What made it special?

Question for Feedback
Bring together a diverse community
Grand Park, Los Angeles, CA

Attract families with children to spend time downtown
The Gathering Place, Tulsa, OK

Create park experiences that are accessible to all
Victoria Park, Newbury, UK

Host holiday festivities and shared celebrations
Sundance Square Plaza, Fort Worth, TX

Welcoming Destination
Cultural Icon

Provide dynamic and interactive artwork
DATAGROVE, San Jose, CA

Create a new urban landmark that invites passersby to explore
Tongva Park, Santa Monica, CA

Allow diverse cultural expressions and identities
Hing Hay Park, Seattle, WA

Create a stage for the performing arts
Discovery Green, Houston, TX
Integrate park edges and sidewalk to form a continuous public realm
Jamison Square, Portland, OR

Contribute to a multimodal downtown network
Creative Quarter Cycle Hub, Perth, Australia

Provide mobility and public space in an urban trail corridor
Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Indianapolis, IN

Encourage pedestrian activity and vibrant street life
Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica, CA

Connected Place
Connect visitors to abundant biodiversity
Lurie Garden, Chicago, IL

Integrate natural drainage to protect nearby waterways
Pulaski Park, Northampton, MA

Highlight seasonal variation through vibrant plantings
Teardrop Park, New York, NY

Provide spaces for individual respite and wellness
The Park, San Diego, CA

Resilient Oasis
Activate the park by day and into the evening

South Park Commons, Los Angeles, CA

Offer visitors unique and memorable experiences

Castle Rock Adventure Park, Castle Rock, CO

Spark joy and delight in visitors

Lawn on D, Boston, MA

Create a spectacular setting for an urban outdoor lifestyle

Maggie Daley Park, Chicago, IL

Catalytic Spark
What is your most memorable experience of a park or public space in another city? What made it special?

Share a brief answer using the Chat button!

Question for Feedback
Context
What is your favorite urban public space in Denver? Why?

Share a brief answer using the Chat button!
This area was the homeland of the Arapaho, Ute, Cheyenne, and other native people. Gold was discovered in 1858, setting off a boom that eventually led to the creation of the Colorado state capitol.

This growth did not come without consequences, as the region’s original inhabitants were violently displaced, and its natural landscape dramatically altered. The growing metropolis took form with inspiration from the City Beautiful movement. At the turn of the 20th century, Denver Mayor Speer brought landscape architect George Kessler and planner Charles Mulford Robinson to lay out a system of parks and open spaces.

Denver’s most historic spaces, such as the Civic Center and Washington Park, are part of this legacy.

In the middle of the 20th century, many American cities struggled in the face of suburban sprawl. Cities became preoccupied with razing urban neighborhoods deemed “blighted.” Walkable neighborhoods with historic architecture, small businesses, and affordable housing were replaced by parking lots and the hope of redevelopment.

Skyline Park, designed by Lawrence Halprin, was built in the 1970s to catalyze investment in the 27-acre Skyline Urban Renewal District.

Halprin’s vision for Skyline Park was compromised from the start by broader challenges like limited pedestrian activation, incompatible adjacent land uses, and a lack of residential development downtown. Skyline Park was significantly altered with a design by Thomas Balsley in the early 2000s to improve visibility, accessibility, and flexibility.

The transformation of Downtown Denver has been a powerful demonstration of transit-oriented development.

Today, Denver’s center city has over 26,000 residents and forecasts suggest another 7,000 residents coming in the next 5 years.

While new development has been largely beneficial to the city, many long time residents have faced involuntary displacement as nearby neighborhoods like Five Points gentrify. Residents from other surrounding neighborhoods have also felt left out of Downtown’s revival and fear being displaced themselves.

The City and Downtown Denver Partnership have undertaken a series of urban open space plans and experiments to serve longstanding residents while continuing to welcome a growing Downtown population.

Building on the Outdoor Downtown Plan, Denver Moves, and the 5280 Trail, and learning from the public realm activations at Skyline Park and the 16th Street Mall, Skyline Park is once again being reimagined.

Dynamic Denver
Situated in the rainshadow of the Rockies, along the South Platte River, Denver is truly the mile high city, at 5,280 feet above sea level. Receiving on average 15.6" of precipitation per year, the South Platte River continues to play a crucial role in the overall quality of life for Denverites and surrounding communities. The South Platte River is both a primary source of drinking water and a critical flood control channel for the city.

The South Platte River Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWP) was formed to protect the river and it's occupants. Created in 2011 and funded by the US EPA, the SPRUWP has since then been developing cross-disciplinary initiatives which aim to educate and involve the community on the importance of building integrated, protective, and sustainable infrastructure for the South Platte River. In 2016, the City and County of Denver released the new Ultra-Urban Green Infrastructure Guidelines, which details best management practices for stormwater run-off.

Located along the Central Flyway, Denver is an important seasonal resting spot for migratory birds and pollinators. Since 2014, Denver has been recognized as an Urban Bird Treaty City. “Lights Out” Denver, a program supporting this commitment, aims to protect birds and their habitats from the built environment. One key corridor of this effort runs through Skyline Park at 17th Street.

Additionally, Denver Parks and Recreation is spearheading an effort to become Community Wildlife Habitat Certified through the National Wildlife Foundation. Criteria for certification are spaces which provide: Food, Water, Cover, Places to Raise young, and Sustainable Practices. As of January 2019, over 50 park properties have been certified in Denver.

Located along the Central Flyway, Denver is an important
seasonal resting spot for migratory birds and pollinators. Since 2014, Denver has been recognized as an Urban Bird Treaty City. “Lights Out” Denver, a program supporting this commitment, aims to protect birds and their habitats from the built environment. One key corridor of this effort runs through Skyline Park at 17th Street.

Additionally, Denver Parks and Recreation is spearheading an effort to become Community Wildlife Habitat Certified through the National Wildlife Foundation. Criteria for certification are spaces which provide: Food, Water, Cover, Places to Raise young, and Sustainable Practices. As of January 2019, over 50 park properties have been certified in Denver.

The City & County of Denver:
Ultra-Urban Green Infrastructure Guidelines

- Migrants & Pollinators:
  - Southwestern Willow flycatcher, Zonotrichia leucophrys
  - American Robin, Turdus migratorius
  - Sweat Bee, Halictus sp.
  - Monarch Butterfly, Danaus plexippus

- Central Flyway - Birds:
  - Monarch Butterfly Flyway

- Habitat Characteristics:
  - Semi-Arid Steppe Climate
  - Cold, dry winters, and warm to hot summers
  - Sunny and low humidity

Ecoregion

Habitat

- Denver Avg. Temperature: 50.2°F (10.1°C)
- Denver avg. precipitation: 15.6" (396.2 mm)
- Grasslands, Savannas, and Shrublands

Native Plants

- A healthy ecosystem is beneficial for both wildlife and Denverites. Pollinators and birds eat pests, and provide a host of other benefits. Many depend on native plants for survival. Native plants also help clean urban air and water. A selection is included below:

- Blue Grama, Bouteloua gracilis
- Western Wheatgrass, Pascopyrum smithii
- Buffalo Grass, Buchloe dactyloides
- Little Bluestem, Schizachyrium scoparium
- Purple Poppy Mallow, Callirhoe

- Prairie-verbena, Glandularia bipinnatifida
- Prairie daisies, Origanum gracilipes

- Tufted Evening Primrose, Oenothera caespitosa
- Colorado Four O'clock, Mirabilis multiflora
- Western Sandcherry, Prunus pumila var. besseyi

- Narrow-leaved Penstemon, Penstemon angustifolius
- Common Hackberry, Celtis occidentalis
- Northern Catalpa, Catalpa speciosa

- Eastern Cottonwood, Populus deltoides
- Colorado Blue Spruce, Picea pungens
- Colorado Blue Spruce, Picea purpurea

Native Plants

- A healthy ecosystem is beneficial for both wildlife and Denverites. Pollinators and birds eat pests, and provide a host of other benefits. Many depend on native plants for survival. Native plants also help clean urban air and water. A selection is included below:

- Blue Grama, Bouteloua gracilis
- Western Wheatgrass, Pascopyrum smithii
- Buffalo Grass, Buchloe dactyloides
- Little Bluestem, Schizachyrium scoparium
- Purple Poppy Mallow, Callirhoe

- Prairie-verbena, Glandularia bipinnatifida
- Prairie daisies, Origanum gracilipes

- Tufted Evening Primrose, Oenothera caespitosa
- Colorado Four O'clock, Mirabilis multiflora
- Western Sandcherry, Prunus pumila var. besseyi

- Narrow-leaved Penstemon, Penstemon angustifolius
- Common Hackberry, Celtis occidentalis
- Northern Catalpa, Catalpa speciosa

- Eastern Cottonwood, Populus deltoides
- Colorado Blue Spruce, Picea pungens
- Colorado Blue Spruce, Picea purpurea
Visit Denver: Metro Attractions

Metro Attractions

Social
- Wynkoop Plaza
- Civic Center Park
- Mo' Betta MarketPlace
- Lowry Beer Garden

Cultural
- National Western Center
- Denver Botanic Gardens
- Denver Art Museum
- Denver Performing Arts
- Elitch Gardens

Recreational
- Denver Zoo
- Red Rocks Park/Amphitheater
- Denver Performing Arts Lowry Beer Garden
- Platte River Trail

Skyline Park
- The Streets At SouthPlains
- Fiddler's Green Amphitheatre
- Union Station
- Civic Center Park
- Civic Center

Rail
- Light Rail
- Social
- Cultural
- Recreational
- Skyline Park

Denver
- Denver Zoo
- Civic Center Park
- Denver Performing Arts Lowry Beer Garden
- Platte River Trail
Outdoor Downtown Open Space Assets

Connectivity + Access

Housing + Office Densities

Downtown Denver
What is your favorite urban public space in Denver? Why?
What urban outdoor experience have you most enjoyed at Skyline Park? What has limited your enjoyment of Skyline Park?

Share a brief answer using the Chat button!
Circulation & Adjacent Uses
Evolution of Skyline Park
Current Activities

Seasonal

Permanent

Beer Garden
Ice Rink
Denver Day of Rock
Christkindl Market
Dog Park

18th Street
17th Street
15th Street
Arapahoe Street
16th Street Mall

Shakespeare Festival
New Years Eve
Denver Startup Week
Capital One Venture
Parade of Lights
Views In and Out
What urban outdoor experience have you most enjoyed at Skyline Park? What has limited your enjoyment of Skyline Park?

Share a brief answer using the Chat button!
Program Activity
Social

Flexible Lawn (e.g. Picnicking, Lawn Seating)
Botanical / Teaching Gardens
Celebratory Events (e.g. Festivals, Parades, Fireworks)
Group Seating (e.g. Communal Table, Cafe Tables)
Farmers Markets
Beer Garden
Dancing/Music
Food Kiosks/Concessions
Restrooms
Outdoor Class/Work Spaces
Performances (e.g. Music Festivals, Concerts)

Movie Nights

Cultural Festivals

Seasonal Markets

Performances (e.g. Music Festivals, Concerts)

Art Installations (e.g. Sculptures, Rotating Exhibits, Murals)

Art Classes

School Programs

Light Shows

Walking Tours

Cultural
Climbing Structure / Wall

Wheel Sport Track
(e.g. Skate Park, Pump Track)

Ice Skating / Rollerskating

Interactive Water Feature

Climbing Structure / Wall

Lawn for Pickup Sports

Sports Courts
(e.g. Basketball, Volleyball, Pickleball)

Dog Park

Table and Lawn Games

Zipline / Ropes Course

Recreational
Sustainable

- Rain Gardens
- Porous Paving
- Native Plants
- Water Conservation & Recycling
- Canopy + Street Trees
- Pollinator Gardens

Connected

- Interactive Info Displays
- Wayfinding and Signage
- Protected Bike Lane
- Enhanced Intersections
- Free Wi-Fi
- Walkable Paths/Sidewalks
Next Steps
Stakeholder Engagement

Denver Parks and Recreation is inviting all of Denver to share ideas for reinventing Skyline Park. We are embarking upon a wide-reaching engagement process that invites all of Denver’s communities to participate in the concept design.

Next Steps

Project Timeline

Denver Parks and Recreation is creating a concept design for all three blocks of Skyline Park and a final design for Phase 1 construction, funded by the Elevate Denver Bond Program. The three-block concept design will be completed by Spring 2021, and will form the basis of future phases of construction.
Contact Us

Jenna.Harris@denvergov.org

Take our Survey

 surveymonkey.com/r/skylineparksurvey

Watch for Updates

 www.denvergov.org/theoutdoordowntown

Attend Workshop #2

 Fall 2020

Next Steps