

Meeting Summary

Game Plan Task Force Meeting #1

07.14.2016

Game Plan Update

Denver's parks and recreation has changed over the past 13 years and policy needs to be updated to reflect today's social and environmental realities. The Game Plan is part of Denverright, a community-driven planning process that will reflect our community's values and desires by holistically planning for the next 20 years of important land use, multi-modal mobility, and parks and recreation strategies. Denverright encompasses four new plans that will help establish a long-term vision for the City as well as identify near-term actions to help implement that vision: Blueprint Denver, Denver Game Plan, and Denver Moves: Peds/Trails, and Denver Moves: Transit.

The DPR Game Plan will build upon and update the original Game Plan adopted by City Council in 2003 "to work towards a sustainable environment, equity in facilities and services, engagement of the community, and sound economics", and to acknowledge the "City in a Park" vision where "Denver itself becomes a large park, with streets, buildings, and people as integral elements of a rich and varied landscape."

The primary goal of the Game Plan is to prepare for the next 20 years to define new parks and recreation centers, relevant programs, and how existing assets are maintained and enhanced in the face of financial constraints, climate change, shifting demographics and increased visitor usage. The plan will focus on a great parks system that is the result of intentional planning, engaged community members, and public investments that inspire creativity, social gatherings, and the enjoyment of the environment.

Game Plan Task Force

On July 14, 2016 the first meeting of the Game Plan Task force was convened in the Grant Family Education Center in the Four Mile Historic Park located in Denver. The charge of the Task Force is to guide the advancement of the update to the Game Plan and the overall process. Task Force members are expected to:

- Invest in the process and provide constructive insight;
- Bring personal, professional, and community expertise;
- Share and gather information to peer group(s) at regular intervals; and
- Be champions of the plan and the process.

The purpose of the first meeting of the Game Plan Task Force was to provide an overview of Denverright and the Game Plan, review the process and methodology for the plan, and to facilitate an open discussion with Task Force members about the things that they love and would change about Denver's parks. Participant comments are summarized in the notes below. The full agenda for the meeting is also included at the end of this summary and the meeting presentation is posted online at: <https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/denverright/parks-recreation.html>

Comments from Opening Remarks

Things people love about the outdoors and/or recreation in Denver:

- Accessibility to people of color
- Rec Centers have great staff and the programming serves underserved communities well since the programming is specific to the needs of each unique community
- Confluence Park and the fact that a river runs through the city
- Golf courses throughout the City and County of Denver
- So many parks and opportunities to recreate with diverse types of parks
- Paco Sanchez Park to be a great asset to West Denver neighborhoods
- Variety of programs offered (beekeeping, etc.)
- Watching his son play baseball at the park
- Denver Mountain Park resources
- Pocket parks and the fact that urban parks are integrated into the urban fabric
- Mature trees in our parks
- Paths and trails available throughout Denver
- Accessible to kids
- MY Denver program as an amazing resource for families
- Cherry Creek Trail all really well connected for this neighborhood
- DPR staff connects with the community and community partners really well for new/updated parks and they have a bottom line to push for more parks for kids to play
- One park affects the whole system
- Parks provide a place for relaxation and gathering spaces at the same time

Things people would change about the outdoors and/or recreation in Denver:

- No dedicated funds and/or limited funds for Parks and Rec
- Definition of recreation is limited
- Significant safety issues near the rivers and in our parks
- Getting youth in the Rec Centers with late night access to Rec Centers for teens with shuttles to get them home safe
- Rec Centers: Challenge to get new or different equipment and increase hours of operation
- Developing youth sports as a matter of equity for kids to develop into athletes
- Swim lessons for all – kids not making their way into swim lessons

- Scarcity of playing fields – not open till mid-April
- Not enough equity for Rec Centers and parks (funding)
- Who's not accessing these parks? How can we engage them?
- Bikeways for networks to the different parks, including lack of north/south bike lanes
- Enhance the network to make sure we are still a “park-based city”
- How people find out about the parks and get to the parks
- Accessibility for different parts of the city
- Activating these spaces with water quality
- Increase accessibility for population 80+
- Clean water to our parks
- Not enough physical land space according to density goals in Denver
- Public Spaces division to be considered part of the conversation
- Integrating the Mountain Parks into the conversation and DNA of Denver Parks and Rec
- More native/drought tolerant vegetation
- More sustainability in our parks
- City zoning codes for development does not meet the needs for green, public open space
- Business community to recognize the value of the parks to support the acquisition and maintenance of the park system

Themes from the Facilitated Discussion

What are your thoughts and responses to the Denverright and Game Plan?

- Moving forward, need to make sure that we shift the conversation to balance between parks AND recreation - as well as what's happening inside the Recreation Center to the parks.
- Game Plan should be a guide where the work fits in the bigger picture and the movement happening, as well as expectations and benchmarks for Recreation Centers.
- Additional planning efforts to focus the Downtown area:
 - Outdoor Downtown – parks and open spaces and public spaces downtown
 - The Mall Experience – rethinking what the future of 16th Street
 - Performing Arts Complex Plan – rethinking the arts and culture of downtown
- Importance of including young people and their vision to the parks in the public engagement and planning process. Excited to hear engagement of the Mayor's Youth Commission and the inclusion of their voice.
- Wealth of knowledge, but where is the place to go for this information? How is this communicated to the public? The task force member expressed concerns regarding the overall health of our water resources.
- As we move forward, are there ideal outcomes to reach those goals (strategies) or are we defining those targets?
 - Response from Gordon Robertson: National standards are in place, but we should decide how these standards reflect on Denver's culture and availability of land.
- What is our relationship with surrounding communities for regional connection?

- Anthony Graves is on the Game Plan task force and works with regional connections via the Mayor's Office.
- Mayor's office is working on wayfinding and other ways to connect trails regionally
- It is important to establish metrics for engaging underserved communities and the strategy for improving those numbers.
- We need to set out some objectives that can be measured to ensure that we are adhering to the visions.
- What's the process moving forward with improving strategies and implementing the diversity of input that we receive?
 - Sasaki focused on engagement process and how they seek to be more inclusive in the process.
 - That's on all of us to implement and translate that feedback to meet our dreams/vision as well as using science and studies to make the best decision. We define the intersection between community feedback and the goals/priorities of Game Plan. The Game Plan provides the context, goals, and objectives as a base and other strategic plans will be developed from that.
- Denver is no longer a small city, we need to think about Denver as a world-class city moving forward.
- Hope we spend time not only on the what, but also on the how (implementation) to move toward action and maintain a biased toward action throughout the process.
- Developing a perfect plan takes so much time, that sometimes the value and momentum can be lost in the process.
- Request for a calendar to have all the dates in one place:
 - There is a community calendar at www.denveright.com which includes all task force meetings, think tank meetings, community visioning and other important meetings to get involved.

Public Comments

- Play Mile High sports: Adult sports leagues
 - Represent the Millennials due to the constituents that they serve.
 - Elliot Jeffords with Play Mile High Sports says they spent \$100,000 on rental permits for Play Mile High sports and is highly invested in the outcome of this plan.

Attendees

Task Force: Sharon Alton, Jay April, Mark Bailey, Erin Brown, Councilman Jolon Clark, Noel Copland, Tracy Davis, Chris Frampton, Julie George, Anthony Graves, Michael Guietz, Jennifer Hale, Karen Higel, Fabby Hillyard, Kathleen Martin, Jeremy Matsen, Karen Moldovan, Jennifer Moreland, Florence Navarro, Erik Ortiz, Jason Robinson, Kendra Sandoval, Jeff Shoemaker, Rachel Steel, Regan Suhay, Myles Tangalin, Jamie Torres, Darrell B. Watson

Other: Elliot Jeffords, Justin Pierce with Play Mile High

Staff: Happy Haynes, Scott Gilmore, Gordon Robertson, Caryn Champine, John Martinez, Yolanda Quesada, Bill Nuanes, Mark Tabor, Dody Erickson, Courtney Levingston, Chelsea Jander

AGENDA

Date: 7/14/16 **Time:** 7:30 am – 9:30 am **Location:** Four Mile Historic Park, Grant Hall

Item	Topic	Presenter	Duration
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your name and affiliation Name one thing you love and one thing you'd change about the outdoors and/or recreation in Denver 	<p>Happy Haynes, DPR Executive Director</p> <p>Florence Navarro, Co-Chair</p> <p>Darrell B. Watson, Co-Chair</p> <p>Everyone gets 45 seconds!</p>	30
2.	<p>Overview of the Game Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the Game Plan? What has been accomplished? What has changed? 	<p>Dody Erickson, DPR Director of Special Projects</p> <p>Mark Tabor, DPR Asst. Planning Director</p>	15
3.	<p>Overview of Denverright</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concurrent Plans of Denverright Process Goals Overall Process and Methodology Snapshot Engagement Process and Timeline 	<p>Caryn Champine, Director, CPD Planning</p> <p>Gordon Robertson, Director, DPR Planning Design + Construction</p>	15
4.	<p>Role of Game Plan Task Force</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules of engagement Co-chair roles Media and communications 	<p>Florence Navarro, Co-Chair</p> <p>Darrell B. Watson, Co-Chair</p> <p>Yolanda Quesada, DPR Communications Director</p>	15
5.	<p>Consultant Team Overview – Sasaki</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection Process Team Composition Notable Previous Projects 	<p>Courtney Levingston, DPR Senior City Planner</p>	7
6	<p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement and Outreach Framework Overview and discussion 	<p>Task Force</p>	25
7.	<p>Next Steps and Meeting Close</p>	<p>Florence Navarro, Co-Chair</p> <p>Darrell B. Watson, Co-Chair</p>	5