Welcome to the Outdoor Adventure and Alternative Sports Master Plan Public Meeting!
We will get started in just a moment.

For Spanish, select the interpretation button at the bottom of your screen

Para español, seleccione el botón de interpretación en la parte inferior de su pantalla
Outdoor Adventure and Alternative Sports Master Plan

Public Meeting #1
September 30, 2021
Tonight’s Topics

1. Feedback Opportunities
2. Plan Vision and Focus Areas
   a. Equity
   b. Programs and Activities
   c. Progressive Programming
   d. Access and Transportation
3. Questions and Discussion
4. Plan Process + Engagement Overview
Feedback Opportunities
This Zoom webinar is being recorded and will be made available after the presentation.

Please note, participant camera and audio have automatically been disabled.
How to interact with the presentation:

Answer open-ended questions and share general feedback using the Chat interface

- The Project Team may read back some responses and will collect the rest to inform the design vision.
How to interact with the presentation:

Ask the Project Team questions using the Q&A interface

- Everyone will be able to see Q&A entries and responses
- Use the “upvote” feature if someone else asks a question that you would also like to see answered by the panelists today.
How to interact with the presentation:

**Participate in live polls**
- We’ll share polls during the presentation that will automatically appear on your screen
- Response tallies will automatically be shared with everyone.
Vision & Focus Areas
Plan Vision

The Outdoor Adventure and Alternative Sports Master Plan builds upon the vision in Denver’s Game Plan for a Healthy City to create a strategic framework that diversifies current recreation opportunities by providing new ways to engage with and recreate in the outdoors so Denverites can live long, healthy and happy lives. This master plan will provide new and innovative ways to access the outdoors and opportunities to recreate with a focus on providing access in areas with higher obesity and depression rates.
Focus Areas

Enhance the diversity of outdoor adventurers in our park system and improve the health and wellness of Denver’s residents.

Enhance and increase outdoor adventure activities, programs, infrastructure and partnerships to ensure Denver is a model for outdoor adventure in the Mountain West.

Create progressive programming to better engage youth, families and people of all ages and abilities by creating outdoor recreation opportunities for all levels of experience.

Improve access and transportation between Denver’s urban parks and mountain parks to improve the diversity of experiences.
Enhance the diversity of outdoor adventurers and improve the health and wellness of Denver’s residents.
Outdoor Participation Trends

Ethnicity:
- 72% White
- 11% Hispanic
- 9% Black
- 6% Asian
- 2% Other

Income:
- 32% > $100,000
- 18% $50,000 - 74,999
- 14% $75,000 - 99,999
- 20% $25,000 - 49,999
- 15% <25,000

The youngest participants, children ages 6 to 17, were outdoors far less.

Average Outings per Participant:
- 2012: 91
- 2020: 77

Source: 2021 Outdoor Participation Trends Report, Outdoor Foundation
Denver’s Equity Index

Identifies neighborhoods where residents face the highest hurdles to leading healthy lives.

Criteria includes:
- Income levels - higher income linked to better health
  - Education
  - Poverty
- Access to food and parks
- Access to prenatal health care
- Childhood obesity
- Life expectancy
Enhance and increase outdoor adventure activities, programs, infrastructure and partnerships to ensure Denver is a model for outdoor adventure in the Mountain West.
Defining Outdoor Adventure & Alternative Sports

**Outdoors:** Engages individuals with the outdoors / nature

**Unusual:** Uncommon or “alternative” activities (non-traditional); non-programmed and programmed, emerging sports

**Exciting:** New surroundings, learning experiences, and activities

**Experiential:** Heightened awareness / immersive

**Progressive Challenge:** from entry level to advanced, activity presents a challenge, encourages users to step out of comfort-zone, continue progression at every level

**Focus & Attention:** example: trail running vs. track running

**Regional:** represents the quintessential Colorado outdoor experience

What outdoor adventure is not:
- Team sports
- Playgrounds
- Aquatics and pools
- Recreation centers
Three Types of Outdoor Adventure Activities

Land

Snow

Water
Land Activities

- Hiking
- Trail Running
- Biking
- Rock Climbing & Bouldering
- Longboarding / Skateboarding
- Camping
- Backpacking
- Equestrian / Horse Trails
- Onewheel / powered micromobility
- Parkour / Ninja Warrior
Land Activities

- Orienteering / Geocaching
- Challenge Courses
- Rollerblading / skating
- Archery
- Paintball
- Disc Golf
- Slack Line
- Bird Watching
- Studying plants & animals
- Tree climbing
Land Activities

City/Urban Parks
- Bike skills courses & pump tracks
- Climbing boulders & walls
- Skateparks
- Disc Golf
- Slack Line
- Hiking & Biking
- Equestrian
- Entry Level experience

Mountain Parks
- Hiking, Biking, Camping
- Climbing & Rappelling
- Ropes Course
- Guided, programmed activities

Barriers include service area coverage in dense, urban neighborhoods & access to Mountain Parks.

*equipment for this category tends to be less expensive depending on activity (i.e. hiking)
Polling Question

Which land-based outdoor adventure and alternative sports activities have you participated in over the last 12 months?

[select all that apply]
Polling Question

Which land-based outdoor adventure and alternative sports activities would you be interested in trying for the first time or doing more frequently, if money, access, and equipment were not an issue? [select all that apply]
Water Activities

Watersports (wakeboarding, wake surfing, water skiing)

Fishing (lakes & rivers)

Boating & Paddling (lakes, rivers & streams, SUP, duckie, kayak, raft)

River surfing (surfboard)

Floating (river tubes)
Water Activities

City Parks
- Flatwater Boating
- Fishing

Mountain Parks
- Flatwater Boating
- Fishing

South Platte River
- Whitewater Boating
- Fishing
- Tubing / Floating
- River Surfing

Barriers include equipment expense, transportation to limited water adventure natural resources & water safety.
Polling Question

Which water-based outdoor adventure and alternative sports activities have you participated in over the last 12 months?

(select all that apply)
Polling Question

Which water-based outdoor adventure and alternative sports activities would you be interested in trying for the first time or doing more frequently, if money, access, and equipment were not an issue? [select all that apply]

- Watersports (wakeboarding, wake surfing, water skiing)
- Fishing (lakes & rivers)
- Boating & Paddling (lakes, rivers & streams, SUP, duckie, kayak, raft)
- River surfing (surfboard)
- Floating (river tubes)
Snow Activities

- Skiing & Snowboarding
- Cross country skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Snow tubing
- Sledding Hills
- Ice Skating
- Ice Fishing
**Snow Activities**

City Parks
- Ruby Hill Rail Yard
- Ice Skating

Mountain Parks
- Cross-Country Ski / Snowshoe
- Ice Fishing
- Skiing / Snowboarding

Winter Park
- Downhill Snowsports
- Partnerships & Youth Programs

Barriers include equipment expense & transportation to limited snow adventure natural resources (topography, exposure, snowfall)
Polling Question

Which snow/ice based outdoor adventure and alternative sports activities have you participated in over the last 12 months?

[select all that apply]
Polling Question

Which snow/ice based outdoor adventure and alternative sports activities would you be interested in trying for the first time or doing more frequently, if money, access, and equipment were not an issue? [select all that apply]
Land, Water and Snow Activities

Outdoor Adventure Parks

10-15 minute walk or roll

Equity Overlay
DPR Programming Highlights and Impact

- Outdoor recreation programming is unique in municipal realm and is financially accessible
- Served 14,000 participants in 2019
- Impact from pandemic but gaining momentum and hope to be at 20,000 participants in 2022
- Open enrollment and group programs
- Deliver programs in urban parks, mountain parks and beyond
- Partner with many non-profits and schools for group programs and community event support
- Oversee My Outdoor Colorado coalition in Westwood and Cole

Big City Mountaineers camping program at Katherine Craig Park
Unique Outdoor Adventure Activities and Facilities

Adaptive Programming
Gear Library in Westwood with plans for expansion
Winter Park ski and snowboard programs
Ruby Hill Railyard
Customizable group programs
Bike Parks and Skills Courses
Mountain Park Outdoor Hubs (Echo Lake Park, Genesee Park & Newton Park)
Sloans Lake Urban Paddling
Youth Adventure Programs
Current DPR Programs

**LAND**
- Challenge Course
- Hiking
- Rock Climbing
- Mountain Biking
- Learn to Bike
- Disc Golf
- Camping
- Kayaking
- Canoeing
- Stand Up Paddleboard
- Fishing

**WATER**
- Youth Adventure Programs
- Multi-Day Colorado Adventures
- Urban Teambuilding
- Environmental Education
- GOCO Generation Wild Programming
- Gear Library

**SNO**
- Skiing
- Snowboarding
- Cross Country Skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Ice Skating
- Ruby Hill Railyard
- Echo Lake Events
Peer Cities: Partnerships

- Cities Connecting Children with Nature Initiative
- Specific associations like Outdoor Afro and Latin American Associations (Mecklenburg County|Charlotte, NC)
- Special focus areas like Sail Sandpoint Sailing for adaptive sailing (Seattle)
- Business community for specialized events like Pole-Pedal-Paddle or facilities like West Rock Wave Park
Peer Cities: Programs

Innovative, trend setting efforts are bringing exciting opportunities to communities across the country.

- TimberRidge Adventure Center
  Olathe, KS

- Riversport
  Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

- WestRock Wave Park
  Rockford, Illinois

Cayuna Lakes
Minnesota
Create **progressive programming** to better engage youth, families and people of all ages and abilities by creating outdoor recreation opportunities for all levels of experience.
Entry Level Experience & Progressive Challenge

Biking

- Novice: Montbello Bike Skills Course
- Intermediate: Bike Skills Course at Ruby Hill Park
- Advanced: Mountain biker at Red Rocks

Climbing

- Novice: North Face Climbing Boulder at Montbello Open Space
- Intermediate: Carla Madison Climbing Wall
- Advanced: Rock Climbing group programs at Genesee Mountain Park
Programs and Experiences for All Levels and Abilities

What is progressive programming?

Breaking learning into smaller chunks to make a skill easier to master with a focus on meeting people where they are related to skills and abilities.
Peer Cities: Creating Outdoor Adventure & Alternative Sports

High demand in outdoor adventure and alternative sports is driving cities to create new opportunities that otherwise would not exist.

Mecklenburg County, North Carolina
Seattle, Washington
Bend, Oregon
Improve access and transportation between Denver’s urban parks and mountain parks to improve the diversity of experiences.
City Parks and Mountain Parks

Mountain Parks
- 14,000 + Acres
- Four Counties, 13,000’ + Peaks
- 22 Mountain Parks with Developed Amenities
- 24 Areas Managed for Conservation

City/Urban Parks
- Regional Parks
- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Pocket Parks
- Linear Parks
Access: Public Transit

Access to Mountain Parks by Public Transit

- Limited RTD routes service the Mountain Parks
- Transit system is focused on Park and Rides, transit stops not convenient for walkability to destinations
- Only four of the Mountain Parks are readily accessible by public transit
Access: Private Vehicles + Public Transportation

Accessing the Mountain Parks from Denver - an example:

NE Park Hill ➤ Dedisse Park (Evergreen)

Travel via Car = 43 minutes
vs.
Travel via RTD = 2 hours 5 minutes
(only available during AM and PM commute hours)

Three modes required
• Local bus to Civic Center Station
• Regional Bus to Evergreen PnR
• 0.6 Mile Walk

Car Ownership: BIPOC Communities - 2X more likely to not own a car

Limited public transportation access disproportionately impacts BIPOC communities
Peer Cities: Increasing Resources for Youth and Underrepresented Communities

Focus on entry level and local opportunities while removing barriers for access

Edmonton, Canada  Seattle, Washington  Olathe, Kansas
Peer Cities: Programs

- Tiered adventure activities
- Self directed outdoor individual activities
- Outdoor adventure integration into program areas
- Teen outdoor adventures
- Adult break dancing (and non-traditional programs)
- Outdoor survival skills
- Girls and LatinX Outdoor Discovery
- Drone racing
- Significant increase in water sports
- Sport/Activity Combination Events (e.g., Pole, Pedal, Paddle)
Polling Question

If you have not participated in any of those activities or have had minimal participation, what reason best describes why you haven’t participated? [select all that apply]

1. They are not near my house
2. I don’t have transportation to get to these types of activities
3. I don’t like these types of activities
4. I have too many family and/or work demands
5. I don’t have equipment to participate
6. I don’t know how to do the activities I would be interested in
7. N/A or I participate regularly in outdoor adventure and alternative sports activities
8. Other [add in chat]
Polling Question

What most excites you about participating in outdoor adventure and alternative sports? [select one]

1. Improves my health and/or the health of my family
2. Doing something new and exciting
3. Taking on a new challenge
4. Exploring new places that I haven’t been
5. Other [add in chat]
Q & A
Plan Process +
Engagement Overview
Master Plan Process

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Open House  Online Survey  Technical Advisory Committee
Next Steps

CONTACT US

Leslie.Pickard@denvergov.org
Molly.Lanphier@denvergov.org

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

survey.livable-cities.com/outdoor-adventure

WATCH FOR UPDATES

www.denvergov.org/parkprojects
Thank you!