



*Working to preserve,
enhance and advocate
for Denver's parks,
recreation resources,
open space and
urban tree canopy
for 46 years.*

NEWS FROM THE PARK PEOPLE

THE PARK BENCH

Project Update: Save Our Sundial!

Private gifts to one's city has a long tradition in Denver. During his third administration from 1916 - 1918, Mayor Robert Speer started the "Give While You Live" campaign. The idea was to encourage citizens to make large donations for civic beautification projects in Denver's parks. As a result, the city inherited a legacy of fine fountains, important statuary, impressive gateways, and other valued features.

Mayor Ben Stapleton and other civic leaders continued to invest in Denver's extensive city and mountain parks system, making it one of the best in the country. Carrying on this fine tradition of his predecessors, Mayor William McNichols conceived the idea of a non-profit organization dedicated to raising private funds for improvements to the City's extensive inventory of open space. In 1969, The Park People was born.

Today we are currently underway raising private funds to assist Denver Parks and Recreation in the rehabilitation of one of the City's most cherished gifts: the Cranmer Park Sundial and Plaza. Built by the Works Progress

Administration in the 1930s, the sandstone plaza and terrazzo mosaic panorama depicting the Front Range mountains visible from the park has deteriorated. It needs a rehabilitation to correct the effects of many years' exposure to Colorado's freeze-thaw weather and underlying structural issues. Currently, the City of Denver has committed \$545,000 to the project through the Departments of Parks & Recreation and Arts & Venues.

The Park People adopted this project just over a year ago, and is working with concerned citizens from the Hilltop neighborhood to raise the remaining funds to complete the rehabilitation. To date, we have raised over \$300,000 in donations from individuals and family foundations. We have secured a \$35,000 planning grant from the State Historical Fund (SHF). We've hosted a series of fun events in the community. In August of 2014 we hosted 700 folks at the "Here Comes the Sundial" concert in Cranmer Park, during which two families offered \$50,000 to match every dollar donated. This past July we



*Above, a young park visitor touches both history and time through the sundial.
Below, the "parkettes" (as emcee Les Shapiro dubbed them) danced on the plaza stage for the entirety of our 'Here Comes the Sundial' concert.*



Save Our Sundial continued...

welcomed over 1,000 community members to our Independence Day Family Fun Festival at the park. Through a \$25,000 challenge grant via the Harmes C. Fishback Trust, the Stapleton Family partnered with us to mobilize the community to raise an additional \$25,000 in gifts around the time of the festival. In September, *The Hilltop Sundial* magazine hosted a movie night – *E.T. the Extra Terrestrial* – benefitting SOS. In October, guests joined us for a fun Casino Night event at Cableland, the official residence of the Mayor. And in November, Park Burger Hilltop donated part of an evening's proceeds to the sundial fund. A major donor fundraising campaign will kick off early in 2016, and other fundraising events and activities will continue as well.

We ask you to join us in contributing to the Save Our Sundial Fund. Following in the footsteps of our early city leaders and the founders of our organization, we believe that private investments in our city's wonderful parks system is a gift not only to ourselves, but to generations that will follow us. Help us make sure the Sundial and Sundial Plaza in Cranmer Park remain a tranquil spot for Denver residents and visitors alike to enjoy the peaceful view of the Front Range, from Pikes Peak on the south to Long's Peak on the north. Donations of all sizes are welcome and appreciated!

Save Our Sundial donations can be made at www.SaveOurSundial.com or by mail ("SOS Fund" c/o The Park People).

A special thanks to Morna Steninger, Mor Zucker, Susan Sweeney, Kathleen Phelan, and Alison, Judy, and David Koff who masterfully coordinated our events, and to Denise Sanderson for her continued thoughtful leadership of the Save Our Sundial Committee.

Our thanks, too, to Denver Parks and Recreation and District 5 Council representative Mary Beth Susman for their support our work, and to our design team – HCM (formerly Slaterpaul) and Applied Design Services – for their diligent work identifying the best solution for the plaza.



Kids enjoyed carnival games, face painting, reptiles, character performers, music, and more at our Independence Day Family Fun Festival.



The sundial plaza is a generationally adored landmark that holds a special place in the hearts of Denver residents. Many families have memories of the first time their child "summitted the Sundial," of watching sunsets and 4th of July fireworks, of engagements, weddings, graduations and other lifetime milestones – all at the plaza.

Save Our Sundial Committee

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Andrea Dikeou	Cheryl Reese
Dee Gartland	Scott Robson
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Gates Tennis Center: a public facility with private club amenities

By Jackie Burghardt

What does Gates Tennis Center have to do with The Park People?

Yes, there are trees there. Yes, it is a public facility. Yes, volunteers for The Park People may go there to play tennis. But there is a larger story here.

Charles C. Gates (Gates Rubber Company) had a vision of providing a tennis facility to the people of Denver that would enable any and all, regardless of age, income or background, to have access to a public facility to play the game of tennis. Built in 1975 the 20-court facility was the largest outdoor collection of courts in the Denver metro area. He specifically chose The Park People, a non-profit organization, to oversee management of the facility which they have done from its inception.

Its popularity is attested to by the large number of players from all over the city who sign up for league programs, lessons, tennis parties, ladders (a very popular concept and exceptionally successful at this center), and junior programs, lessons and events. Wheelchair tennis players will also be found here playing with other players in what's called 'one up/one down' events. Every Friday and Saturday you can sign up for a social mixer. There is no membership, and tennis is pay as you play.

Charles C. Gates envisioned the highest quality public facility for people of all ages, abilities & backgrounds.



In 2012, thanks to funding from the Gates Family Foundation, Tom Kaesemeyer, the United States Tennis Association, and Denver Parks & Recreation, we added a designated kids' zone for players under 10.

In September Gates hosts the largest prize money tournament in the state, attracting players of all levels. Local league players can compete at a USTA rated level, and other players, including college players and nationally ranked players, come to compete for prize money. Events include singles, doubles, mixed doubles, parent/child doubles and one up/one down. This is the largest event of the year at Gates with literally thousands of people coming to watch some really great and fun tennis over the course of the week. Proceeds for tickets sold to attend this event go to support the "Tennis for Kids" program started by The Park People. It is a scholarship program for juniors that is subsidy, need-based (up to 90%), along with private donations, to give kids the opportunity to experience the game of tennis.

Its growing success brought a need to grow the facility. In 2004 a capital campaign led by The Park People, the Gates Family Foundation, the City and County of Denver and private donations raised funds to add a second story to the building and renovate and increase the main level for added space and efficiency. Once again there is a renovation taking place in the basement to finish the roughly 4,500 square feet of space needed for expanded staff, an event space and storage.

Gates is open year-round. Yes, we play in February if the sun's out and the courts are shoveled! From Pee Wee tennis (ages 4-8) through Juniors (8-18) to adults (you know who you are!) to adult lessons, programs and ladders, there is no excuse to overlook tennis for some great fun and exercise.

The game of Pickleball is a relatively new sport using its own racquet and ball. Using basically half of a tennis court, it is a combination of badminton, ping-pong and tennis. It seems to be really popular with the 55 and older crowd and is popular in certain regions of the country. I'm told it's a lot of fun, and one of these days I'm going to head over there to see what it's all about!



Gates Tennis Center continued

Did I mention there are trees there as well? Yes! And they are located all around the grounds shading much of the grassy areas. Gates is a great place to hang out to watch tennis if you're not playing or to relax between matches.

Gates has been the recipient of many national awards for its top-notch facility. To find out more about this gem of a tennis center visit www.GatesTennisCenter.com. You can make online reservations for a court and get a wealth of information about all of the programs. Or contact the center staff at 303-355-4461. Located across from Cherry Creek Mall at Bayaud and Steele Street, you can't miss it!



"Raise your racquet in the air – like you just don't care!" Kids tennis classes and events are often filled with enthusiasm. Gates instructors, bringing years of experience and passion for the game, get the kids excited about exercising, learning and improving. Many Gates students catch the tennis bug.



Meet Gates' management team: Ted Bradley and Sam Hitman – but don't play them... just look at those racquets!

Emerald Ash Borer Update

Since the discovery of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Boulder in 2013, the City Forester's Office has been preparing for the invasive insect's inevitable discovery in Denver. This year the Forestry staff is inventorying all the city's street trees. This city-wide inventory will be a valua-

ble tool for managing all of Denver's trees and is an important first step in assessing and managing the hundreds of thousands of ash trees. The street tree inventory will help the City Forester's staff communicate directly with property owners that have ash

trees in the public right-of-way or in their yards. The inventory is nearly half complete. In the spring, the City will roll out a public awareness campaign that will encourage everyone to identify if they have an ash tree and learn what their options are.

Quick Facts:

- Ash trees represent roughly 15% of Denver's 2.2 million trees.
- Emerald Ash Borer attacks young and mature ash trees, healthy and weak, all major North American ash species.
- EAB has yet not yet been found in Denver.
- Decisions to remove or treat a tree should be made on a case-by-case basis.
- To verify if you have an ash tree and learn what your options are, visit:

www.eabcolorado.com



Denver City Forestry staff members are inventorying street trees throughout the city, gathering data on species, size, condition, and other valuable information for urban forest management.



Summer 2006



Summer 2009

Emerald Ash Borer has had a devastating impact, costing billions of dollars, in many communities in the eastern half of the U.S. and in Canada. Credit: Daniel A. Herms, The Ohio State University.

We Can ALL Help Meet the EAB Challenge:

Plant Trees in existing gaps in the tree canopy NOW. *Denver Digs Trees* offers affordable street and yard trees.

Volunteer for our city trees. Support planting and care activities. Consider becoming a *Community Forester*.

Support Denver's urban forest with a Donation. Your gift will help provide trees to neighborhoods throughout Denver, including our low-canopy, low-income neighborhoods most in need of trees.

Mobilize your friends and neighbors! Spread the word: invite others to apply for trees, volunteer time, or donate.

Dig it.

The primary way we can lessen the impact Emerald Ash Borer will have on our community is to proactively plant trees in the existing gaps in the tree canopy. Denver has some 2.2 million trees. Yet our urban tree canopy is only 40% stocked, meaning there is room for well over 3 million more trees.

Let's plant more trees now! We support residents purchasing high-quality climate-, urban- and site- appropriate trees from any nursery or garden center that sources and cares for their stock well. Then, the key is to 'Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place' (a long-held urban forestry mantra), consulting spacing guidelines and acquiring a planting permit for any public right-of-way tree.

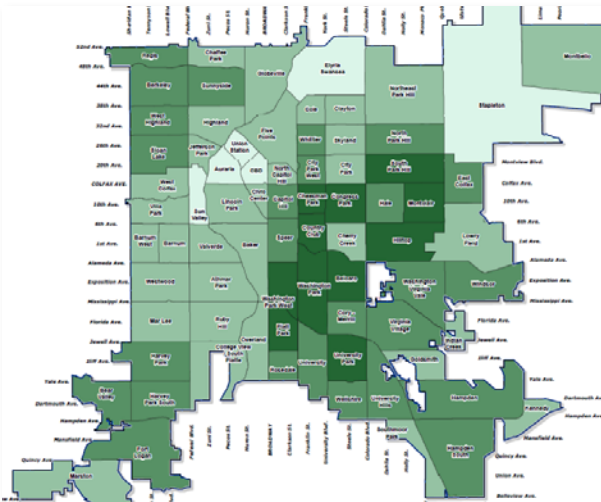
Through our *Denver Digs Trees* program, we offer free and low-cost trees to Denver residents. The program facilitates wise planting decisions by providing information and siting and directly permitting all public right-of-way trees. While most participants will pick up their trees at nearby park sites, we provide free delivery and planting for those with physical limitations and offer the same service for a small fee to those physically able to plant their tree(s). We will accept tree applications January 1 through February 15 in preparation for the April distribution.

So, tell your neighbors and friends! Apply for a tree! Or volunteer to help! Reach out to Leah@TheParkPeople.org!

Did you know...

- We've distributed over 48,000 free and affordable trees to Denver residents.
- The program's roots began in 1983 with a neighbor-organized effort in West Wash Park neighborhood.
- *Denver Digs Trees* provides trees to residents, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and schools.
- We provide both street and yard trees.
- Our trees typically enjoy strong survival rates (80-90%).
- We generally provide trees of 1.25" trunk diameter (5-15' tall depending on species). This size strikes a nice balance between the fast establishment time/high survival rates of smaller trees and larger trees' decreased vulnerability to vandalism.
- Participants pay only \$0, \$10, \$35 for trees that would likely retail for \$100-\$125.
- We target outreach and lowest fees to 27 low-canopy, low- to moderate- income neighborhoods. But *all* Denver residents are welcome to apply! Non-target neighborhood fees help us support program costs.

Visit our website for more information.



A map of Denver's tree canopy density, a tool in our strategic decisions for targeted outreach.



1,192 New Trees in Our Neighborhoods

This spring we distributed 1,192 affordable and free trees to Denver residents through our *Denver Digs Trees* program. More than 700 trees were planted in Denver's low-canopy neighborhoods that are most in need of trees. These trees will grow to cool and beautify our neighborhoods, filter air pollution, provide habitat for wildlife, improve property values, make our streets more walkable and create healthier, more vibrant communities.



Each year these 1,192 trees will...

- provide \$5,300 in energy savings
- offset 200,600 lbs of CO₂
- reduce 1,480 lbs of air pollution
- manage 1,225,000 gal of storm water
- provide \$31,200 in total net benefits

**They'll provide over \$1,247,400
in lifetime benefits!**



Volunteers donated more than 1,800 hours...

- Raising awareness about our program
- Reviewing & approving planting sites
- Wrangling, distributing, & planting trees
- Monitoring tree health
- Supporting the behind-the-scenes prep

**That's a \$41,500 investment
of time and talent!**



Many Thanks to our Volunteers and to our Spring 2015 Sponsors:



Businesses Championing Trees

Businesses can play an important role in proactive plantings to mitigate the impact of Emerald Ash Borer. Through our *Mile High Tree Champions* program, we partner with companies that sponsor and staff tree planting projects at local parks, natural areas, affordable housing communities, nonprofit headquarters, and other locations.

These projects offer great opportunities for a morale-building team experience, for participants to have a positive, tangible environmental impact in our local community, and for companies to demonstrate community involvement.

Our warm thanks to all of our participating companies – champions of the urban forest and our community.

Have a suggestion for a prospective partner company? Or a potential planting site? Please contact Kim@TheParkPeople.org!



Newmont Mining Corporation and Accenture returned for 4th and 3rd projects, respectively. Both teams helped plant replacements for hundreds of trees dying in Stapleton's Central Park.



Become a Community Forester

Join a distinguished group of trained volunteers supporting the health and vitality of our city's trees!

Workshops: Trees 101, Planting & Health, Pruning, Identification & Inventory, Volunteer Leadership & Community Engagement

Volunteer: Outreach & Education, Planting Site Inspection, Planting, Pruning, Health Monitoring, and much more!

More details at www.TheParkPeople.org
Workshop schedule available in January.



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Park People Team Transitions

This year we are delighted to welcome new Trustees **Jackie Burghardt**, **Laurie Choi**, and **Caroline Rassenfoss** and returning Trustee **Sherry Reese** to our Board. Our warm thanks to the following resigning board members for their dedicated service to The Park People: **Catherine Stanton**, for her thoughtful enthusiasm for our mission and invaluable guidance in all things legal; **Rex Carpenter**, whose participation we greatly appreciated despite its necessary brevity; and **Kathryn Dudley**, whose constant generosity during her long relationship with The Park People will always be cherished. We are so grateful to have had the enthusiastic and masterful coordination talents of **Leah Jean Shafer** as 2015 Program Manager for the *Denver Digs Trees* and *Community Forester* programs and then as Interim Executive Director during Kim Yuan-Farrell's maternity leave. We also wish to express our gratitude to the ever-delightful **Spencer Roberts** for returning to serve as our 2015 Program Associate and helping to ensure a successful *Denver Digs Trees* distribution. We are fortunate to have both Leah and Spencer returning to run our programs once again in 2016! Finally, we're delighted to have the vastly knowledgeable **Dan Staley** managing our *Mile High Tree Champions* projects.



Our Supporters

Contributions from August 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015. If we inadvertently omitted your name, please contact us.

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Rebecca Epstein	Gail Ferber
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Gregory Gallavan	In memory of Guenther Vogt
In honor of Gertie Grant	Daniel Brogan
Peter & Rhondda Grant	In honor of Kim Yuan-Farrell
	Deme Yuan

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In honor of Camden Olivia Bainbridge	In memory of Leslie Ann Shainline
In memory of Arlo Bohn	In memory of Bob Slattery
In memory of James Boisclair	In memory of Lori Weese
In memory of Jack Conover	
In memory of Donna Golon	
In memory of Chris Haney	
In memory of Baby Boy Henderson	
In memory of Elise Herzog	
In memory of Barbara A. Karlsen	
In memory of Jason Aaron Martinez	
In memory of Ellis McFadden	
In memory of Lois McNair	
In memory of Hasmik Nikoghosyan	

Tribute Pavers

In memory of Bailey
In memory of Donna Golon
In memory of Baby Boy Henderson
In memory of Elise Herzog
In memory of Barbara A. Karlsen
In memory of Leslie Ann Shainline
In memory of Danny Sheya
In memory of Bob & Laura Slattery
In memory of Lori Weese

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Cranmer Park Sundial Plaza.

*In Partnership with
the City & County of Denver*

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Fall 2015

Our organization has a great name. The Park People. Not only does our name describe the resource that we seek to protect, it also conveys the who and the how. It's through the power of people, of community, of alliances, that we work to support Denver's parks and the trees that make Denver feel like a 'city in a park.'

I see our staff and board's work as building allies for Denver's parks and trees – joining with others aligned with a vision of a healthy, vibrant, sustainable, and beautiful city. We work with residents and volunteers to plant and steward the urban forest. We join forces with neighbors and with community leaders to improve park resources. We work with partners in the City, in business, and in other organizations. These many relationships are the force behind our work. And it is OUR work.

I hope that you will choose to embrace this shared cause and invest in our community treasures that make Denver a great place to live, work, and play. We welcome your donation supporting The Park People.

Gifts can be made via www.TheParkPeople.org, by mail, over the phone, or through two organizations working to increase philanthropic giving in Colorado: the Community First Foundation's donation site (www.ColoradoGives.org), and Community Shares, facilitating community and workplace giving throughout the state (www.CShares.org).

We appreciate your support and your shared vision of a vibrant and resilient Denver.

Sincerely,

Kim Yuan-Farrell
Executive Director