



The Park People

*Working to preserve,
enhance and advocate
for Denver's parks,
recreation resources,
open space and
urban tree canopy
for 49 years.*

NEWS FROM THE PARK PEOPLE

THE PARK BENCH

SAVE OUR SUNDIAL ✓

City officials and community members came together on a beautiful autumn day to celebrate the reopening of the Cranmer Park Sundial & Plaza. After a multi-year fundraising campaign and nine months of construction, the site has been restored to its full glory. The giant 6-foot quartzite sundial was resurfaced to remove damage from vandalism. The sweeping sandstone terrace was rebuilt from the ground up with a solid foundation and a comprehensive drainage system that will better endure Colorado's freeze-thaw cycles.

The reconstruction project could not have been more timely as two weeks before the December 18, 2017 groundbreaking, the terrace had to be fenced off as a section of it literally crumbled apart. Listed as one of the state's *Most Endangered Places* in 2013, the site now has a future. For generations to come, the sundial will serve as the backdrop of wedding and graduation photos, the viewing platform of sunsets and mountain peaks, and a tie to our cultural heritage and the development of Denver's great parks system.

Along with the rebuild of the terrace and the repair of the sundial, the terrazzo mosaic panorama on the west side of the terrace was recreated in its entirety – this time atop a pivot slab with expansion joints that should eliminate the cracking and damage that required

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Denver Parks and Recreation



Top: Together, Councilwoman Mary Beth Susman, Save Our Sundial Committee Co-Chair Denise Sanderson, Park People Executive Director Kim Yuan-Farrell, and Denver Parks and Recreation Executive Director Happy Haynes cut the ribbon at the October 3, 2018 reopening celebration. Bottom: A young park user enjoys the restored sundial. This beloved, unique landmark sparks the imagination and sense of wonder of many visitors, young and old. 'Summitting' the sundial is a decades-old rite of passage for many Denver children.

**\$20,000
DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR
MATCHING FUND!**



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**GREENER, HEALTHIER
GLOBEVILLE ELYRIA SWANSEA:
Community-Driven Greening**



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Mile High Tree Champions

This past spring employees from Service Source and students, faculty, and staff from Metro State University (MSU) joined together to plant 40 new trees in Lincoln Park, one of Denver's low canopy areas. These trees will become the next generation of trees in the park, supporting the outdoor spaces and uses of La Alma Recreation Center, one of the neighborhood's important community resources. They will also grow to help cool and beautify the broader neighborhood, improve air quality, and help reduce flooding during storms. Our

warm thanks to Service Source and MSU, our newest *Mile High Tree Champions*!

Become a *Mile High Tree Champion*!

Our *Mile High Tree Champions* program engages companies in supporting our urban forest by sponsoring and staffing planting projects. These projects offer a turnkey team-building activity and an opportunity to make a tangible impact. Have a suggestion for a prospective partner company? Or a potential planting site? Please contact kim@TheParkPeople.org!

Yes on 2A: a Game Changer for our Parks

Thank you to all Denver voters who voted yes on ballot measure 2A to create a dedicated fund for parks and open space! Never before in The Park People's 49-year history has our organization taken a stance on a ballot or political matter. However, Measure 2A is critically important to our city's future health and represents the most significant opportunity to improve and expand Denver's parks and open space system since Mayor Robert Speer led the creation of our parks and parkways system during the City Beautiful movement a century ago. Denver's existing backlog of \$127 million in park maintenance needs grows by \$39 million annually, and almost 1,000 new people move to Denver each month, increasing wear and tear on our existing parks. Land is being rapidly developed, and there will never be a better time than now to acquire more land for parks and open space. This challenge will only get harder and more expensive with time.

With the passage of Measure 2A, Denver joins all the other Metro Area counties wisely supporting their open spaces through a sustained dedicated funding source. The 0.25% sales and use tax created by 2A will generate roughly \$45 million each year to better maintain our existing parks, trails, and river corridors and to help acquire new parkland in neighborhoods that need it most. Our local parks, trails, and rivers will continue to need our help. 2A will not meet all the needs of our large and growing community. But this is undoubtedly a game changer for our community in meeting current and future needs. So huge thanks to all who voted to support this measure. Special thanks to Denver Council President Jolon Clark and Councilwoman Kendra Black for their leadership on this measure, to the coalition of nonprofit and neighborhood organizations who rallied to this cause, and to the parks advocates who have championed this concept for more than a decade.



Community Foresters Improve Walkability

Big thanks to our Community Forester volunteers who pruned 233 trees in northwest Denver this summer. With the guidance of staff from the Office of the Denver City Forester, these skilled volunteers cleared blocked stop signs and low-hanging branches over sidewalks to improve walkability and traffic safety in the Berkeley and West Highland neighborhoods. Special thanks to Super-Community Forester Mike Haaf for coordinating our great crews of volunteers.

Each year The Park People and the City Forester's Office team up to train the next class of skilled and knowledgeable Community Foresters and Tree Stewards. Registration for the 2019 Community Forester workshop series will open in late January. Learn more: TheParkPeople.org



Greener, Healthier Globeville Elyria Swansea

In the past two years, The Park People has had opportunities to build out our community forestry tool belt and pilot new, complimentary models for how we do our urban forestry work. This summer and fall, we engaged in an exciting pilot project in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, Globeville Elyria Swansea (GES) Coalition, and residents of the GES neighborhoods.

Developed alongside heavy industry, these north-central Denver neighborhoods are frequently cited as the most polluted zip code in the country, and they have faced significant physical, social, and economic challenges since the mid-twentieth century when the construction of I-70 and I-25 effectively split these vibrant working-class neighborhoods into disconnected parts. GES faces high rates of poverty and unemployment, lacks basic infrastructure like sidewalks, and has some of the city's lowest tree canopy cover. Long-time residents face displacement as interest from outside investors and Denver newcomers drives up property values. And mega-projects like the I-70 expansion pose significant challenges. However, the GES neighborhoods are also places of strong cultural identity and home to vibrant community organizing, particularly related to affordable housing. Many residents have voiced a need for more trees and greener, healthier communities.

With collaborative and funding support through The Nature Conservancy and local guidance and connections from GES Coalition, we engaged in a process working with GES residents to vision and plan block-scale greening projects. We worked alongside neighbors in three 'zonas verdes' (green zones) to identify residents' concerns and desires for their blocks and to plan each zona's planting project. Our goal was for these projects to be defined and developed by residents, respecting their knowledge and lived experiences of their neighborhood. Our staff's role was as facilitators, coordinators, and technical experts. The project culminated in a big planting day where residents planted alongside one another, supported by volunteers, to make their projects a reality.

This was a creative, generative process, full of intentionality and yielding rich learning. The outcome was exciting and deeply positive: three zonas verdes physically transformed by the ideas and hands of residents; connections strengthened between neighbors and across language barriers; and a sense of hope created amidst great neighborhood change. The new trees, shrubs, and flowers will grow to beautify the neighborhood, support walkability, filter pollutants from the air, reduce flooding, and cool homes during the summer. They also function to build neighborhood pride, foster a sense of ownership and self determination, and strengthen the social fabric of the community.

Many thanks to The Nature Conservancy, GES Coalition, and the residents and volunteers who joined us in this project! Our deep gratitude to the JPB Foundation and Kathryn & Gary Dudley for making this pilot project possible. We are thrilled about the process and relationships we developed and hope to build upon this work and these partnerships in the future.



Project Outcomes

- **58 trees, 60 shrubs, 302 hardy perennial flowers** that will grow to beautify and cool the neighborhood, improve air quality, & reduce flooding
- **29 GES households** engaged in visioning, planning, planting, & stewarding their projects
- **Community building** between neighbors, building social networks & community resilience
- **Opportunities for 80 volunteers** to support the project & build connections across communities



This was an outstanding example of a short-term community-led project with long-lasting benefits. Residents were partners at the table from the beginning. With the start of the I-70 expansion – with the extra noise, traffic, pollution, and outside investing – it's easy to feel like the neighborhood is under attack from every direction. Small wins like this project are important to celebrate and remind us of what we are fighting for.

- Robin Reichhardt, Swansea resident and
GES Coalition organizer



Park People Team Transitions

Many thanks to **Catherine Wiersma** who brought excellent ideas, strong Spanish language skills and cultural competency, and her positive, thoughtful presence to her role as Urban Forestry Intern for our Greener, Healthier Globeville Elyria Swansea project. We are delighted to welcome new Board Trustees **Melissa Crowley** and **Hank Saipe** to our leadership team while we give our warm thanks to **Randy Moore** and **Kathleen Rust** for their dedicated service as they roll off of the Board. With our goodbyes, we must also give special recognition to an exceptional member of the Park People community: Charles 'Chuck' L. Warren.

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Charles 'Chuck' L. Warren, a Lifetime of Service

We lost a remarkable member of the Park People community this year. Chuck Warren passed away on July 29th at age 92, surrounded by family and in the thoughts of friends throughout the city who know of the warmth and legacy Chuck has left behind.

Chuck served on our organization's Board of Trustees since 1987, including as President from 1991 to 1993 and always with intelligence and energy. Chuck was a doer. He played a critical role in raising funds for our *Denver Digs Trees* program and numerous park improvement projects, such as the renovation of the Civic Center Park Esplanade.

It was a privilege to know and work with Chuck. He was a warm, joyful, and generous person – so dedicated to The Park People and the broader Denver community. He led an inspiring life. Chuck was a mover and shaker not only for The Park People, but also for a number of other lucky nonprofit organizations, including the Denver Zoo, Children's Hospital, and the Sand Creek Regional Greenway. Chuck served as Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District, shepherding the passage of the Metro Area sales tax that supports Denver's large cultural institutions.

Chuck always offered his help freely and asked good, hard questions. He looked for strengths and sought to develop leadership in others. His legacy lives on through his family, through the projects and initiatives he championed, and in the leaders he cultivated.



Chuck loads up trees for a Denver Digs Trees participant with his usual contagious good cheer. A drummer from his youth, Chuck rallied fellow University Club bandmates to perform at our Save Our Sundial festivals helping to raise money for the reconstruction of the Cranmer Park Sundial & Plaza.

"You just couldn't say 'No' to Chuck," past and current Park People Presidents Mark Lauriha and Laurie Chahbandour recently agreed with warm smiles.

In June, our Board voted to recognize Chuck as an Honorary Life Trustee. He was a force, and he has truly left a legacy. We will miss him dearly.

A \$20,000 Matching Fund in Chuck's Honor

The Park People's Founding President, Sue Cannon, has offered a \$20,000 matching fund for The Park People's annual donation request. Mrs. Cannon will **match each gift, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$20,000**, effectively doubling the value of every contribution made toward The Park People's general fund – the core support that enables us to pursue our mission to preserve, enhance, and advocate for Denver's parks, recreation resources, open space, and urban forest.

Mrs. Cannon offers this generous matching challenge in memory of longtime Park People Trustee Charles "Chuck" L. Warren. We are humbled and moved by this touching tribute from one beloved and important member of our community to another.

Please help us make the most of this powerful opportunity. Please donate today.

Watch Out Denver... Things just got a whole lot leafier!

2018 *Denver Digs Trees* Spring Distribution



After months of outreach, application review, tree siting, and logistics prep, we provided **1,100 free & affordable trees** to more than **600 households!** **55% of the trees were planted in low-canopy 'target' neighborhoods.** We provided **80+ trees free of charge** for those with financial hardship. We added **120 new fruit trees** to the edible landscape. Volunteers delivered and planted **100 trees for 60 residents with physical limitations.** **Volunteers contributed 2,250+ hours** to make this season a success – over \$54,000 in time!



These trees will grow a healthier, more sustainable Denver. They will **cool our homes, beautify our neighborhoods, reduce flooding, decrease energy consumption, filter air pollution, provide habitat for wildlife, increase property values (up to 15%!)**, and **support hammocks.** They will provide **\$1,151,000 in lifetime benefits!**



Photos by Helen Lozynsky, Gary Klein, and other Park People friends

Many Thanks to our Volunteers and 2018 Sponsors:



ARCHITECTURE
URBAN DESIGN
INTERIOR DESIGN

Your program is such an asset to the city and people of Denver – thank you for everything you do!

- Aaron M, program participant

I want to thank you all for planting my trees. Although the weather was cold, this did not stop [my volunteer planters]... Thank you for this kind service.

- Karen E, program participant

Save Our Sundial cont'd.



large sections of cement patching in recent years. Additionally, a new ADA-compliant accessibility ramp was installed on the southern side of the terrace, and the replaced Daniel S. Touff Memorial Drinking Fountain is now a fully functioning fountain – a wonderful amenity that will be enjoyed by park users and the many athletes who visit ‘Sundial Park’ from across the metro area. Further, more durable granite replaced engraved sandstone pavers, ensuring the inscribed history will last into the future. In the coming months, a new interpretive panel will be installed to share the story of the site and the park’s history and namesake, George E. Cranmer. And within the next year, a new piece of public art will be commissioned and added to the park – a requirement and side-benefit of City projects costing over \$1 million.

Support an Enduring Legacy: The Park People continues to accept gifts to the Save Our Sundial Preservation Fund to support future maintenance needs of the sundial plaza. Gifts of \$5,000 or more will receive permanent recognition onsite. These donations may be made at www.TheParkPeople.org (designate ‘Save Our Sundial’) or by mail (‘SOS Fund’ c/o The Park People).

For more information on the Cranmer Park Sundial & Plaza and the reconstruction project, please visit TheParkPeople.org.

Save Our Sundial Contributors

Contributions from September 1, 2017 through November 1, 2018. If we inadvertently omitted your name, please contact us.

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Deep appreciation to the 700+ households and dozens of foundations and businesses who contributed to the Save Our Sundial campaign (list of contributors at TheParkPeople.org). Our thanks also to Denver's Departments of Parks & Recreation and Arts & Venues and to Councilwoman Mary Beth Susman for supporting our work, and to the City for working diligently with contractors including Krische Construction and Erickson Monuments to ensure a beautifully recreated Sundial & Plaza. Sincere gratitude to our SOS Committee Members whose hard work made this project possible: Laurie Chahbandour, Tim Buchanan, Andrea Dikeou, Sally Hooks, Genny Kline, Amie Knox, Alison, Judy & David Koff, Ken Malo, Leslie Newell, Kathleen Phelan, Cheryl Reese, Scott Robson, Kathleen Rust, Hank Saipe, Morna Steninger, Susan Sweeney, Trey Taylor, Tracy Willis, and Mor Zucker. A special note of thanks to indefatigable Committee Co-Chair Denise Sanderson whose incredible commitment and generous contributions of time, energy, and talent have given our community's sundial more time.

The Park People is Turning 50!

SAVE THE DATE

THE EVENING OF
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2019
CITY PARK PAVILION

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO JOIN US
FOR A SPECIAL CELEBRATION OF
THIS EXCITING MILESTONE!

MORE DETAILS COMING IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN HELPING US
PLAN THE CELEBRATION, PLEASE CONTACT
[KIM@THEPARKPEOPLE.ORG](mailto:kim@theparkpeople.org).

In Celebration & Memoriam

Tribute Trees, Tribute Pavers, & Gifts to The Park People were made In Memory of:

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Tribute Trees, Tribute Pavers, & Gifts to The Park People were made In Honor of:

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with “**Green me up**” in
the subject line.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Fall 2018

The Park People is turning 50! Yes, in 1969, circa the founding of our organization, Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot on the moon, 400,000 rock fans attended Woodstock, and a gallon of gas cost 35 cents.

We are proud of our impact over the past 49 years, and we appreciate the partners, supporters, and volunteers who have made our work possible. Together, we have infused millions of dollars into Denver’s parks and recreation system, supported critical infrastructure and amenities that promote the health and livability of our city, and protected place-making landmarks that tell the story of Denver and our cultural heritage. We’ve engaged residents, volunteers, and businesses in planting and stewarding well over 55,000 trees through *Denver Digs Trees* and our other urban forestry programs.

The Denver community has grown and changed significantly over the past 50 years. The Park People’s work is more crucial than ever, existing at the intersection of great challenges: population growth, densification, and development; climate change and forest loss; community and culture. We will continue to meet critical community needs through the work that has defined our success, to pursue partnerships that leverage resources and amplify our impact, and to think boldly about our role in helping to keep Denver a beautiful, healthy, and vibrant place.

Please support us as we step into the next 50 years of serving our communities. Please help us make the most of this moment and leverage a generous \$20,000 matching fund (*details inside*). We welcome gifts made via www.TheParkPeople.org, by mail, and over the phone.

We value gifts of all sizes, and each gift makes an impact! For example, providing a tree for a family in need costs us \$150.

Sincerely,

Kim Yuan-Farrell, Executive Director

