



*Working to preserve,
enhance and advocate
for Denver's parks,
recreation resources,
open space and
urban tree canopy
for 45 years.*

NEWS FROM THE PARK PEOPLE

THE PARK BENCH

New Capital Project: Save Our Sundial!

The Park People is very excited to announce our next capital project: the restorative rebuild of the Cranmer Park Sundial & Plaza!

Located in the Hilltop neighborhood at 1st Avenue and Bellaire Street, Cranmer Park is used by tens of thousands of Denverites from throughout the city. This treasured neighborhood park draws residents from throughout the metro area for youth and adult sports. Originally named Mountain View Park, the park was renamed in honor of George Cranmer, a former Manager of Denver's Department of Parks and Improvements and the visionary behind Red Rocks Amphitheatre and Winter Park. Cranmer lived on the edge of the park and personally donated the large sandstone sundial, which has become an iconic and beloved symbol of the neighborhood.

The sundial rests atop a flagstone viewing platform, built in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration during The New Deal. This plaza was the highest point in Denver at the time, and it continues to serve as a visual gateway to the mountains – and a regular stop by tour buses introducing visitors to the Rocky Mountains. At the plaza's edge, a beautiful (but cracking) mosaic panorama depicts the Front Range peaks visible from the park, including five of Colorado's 14ers.

The sundial and plaza have become 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.

Unfortunately, the plaza was originally built on rubble with no firm foundation and no drainage system to manage rainfall and snow. This has caused the plaza to buckle and sag, seriously damaging the flagstone, mortar, and mosaic panorama. In addition, vandals have chipped the face of the sundial and years of exposure and use have stained the surface.

The sundial plaza is in such disrepair that Colorado Preservation, Inc. has listed it one of the state's *Most Endangered Places*. It's time to rally together to save the sundial for future generations!

The Park People is thrilled to



*Above, two proud young "summiters" enjoy the view atop the sundial.
Below, views of sundial and damage to flagstone and terrazzo panorama.*



Courtesy of Colorado Preservation, Inc.

Save Our Sundial continued...



partner with neighborhood leaders to raise the funds necessary to restore the sundial, the terrazzo panorama, and the sundial plaza through a sustainable, long-lived rebuild. The rebuild will include a solid foundation, a drainage system, and repairs to the sundial and panorama while maintaining the historic integrity of the site and reusing materials wherever possible. We also plan to raise funds for ongoing maintenance of the panorama.

This significant rebuild will cost \$1.5 million in its entirety. The City of Denver's Department of Parks and Recreation has set aside \$500,000 for the project, and the Department of Arts and Venues has allocated \$45,000. By doing this project right – correcting structural deficiencies to create a lasting foundation for the plaza – we can preserve this community treasure for generations to come!

We are very excited to join forces with a dedicated group of neighborhood leaders, led by Hilltop resident Denise Sanderson, who have been working with Denver Parks and Recreation and District 5 Council representative Mary Beth Susman to move this project forward.

Challenge Gifts Double Your Donation!

Several generous individuals have stepped forward with challenge gifts totaling \$50,000. For every dollar donated to the cause, one dollar will be unlocked from this pool of potential matching funds – thereby doubling your donation! YOU can help unlock these dollars! Visit www.SaveOurSundial.com.

Deadline for matching dollars: Sept. 30, 2014. Make your donation today!

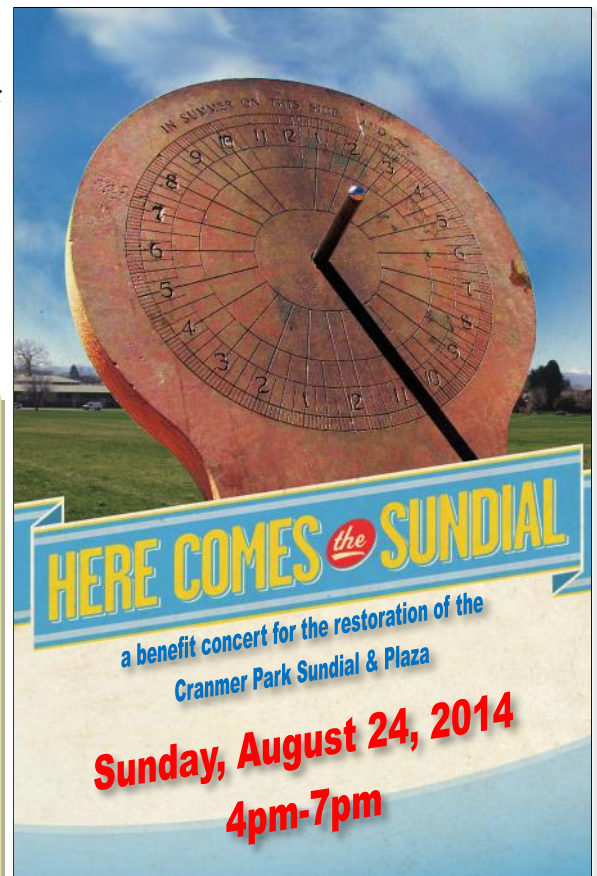
Campaign Kick-off Concert: August 24

Join us for 'Here Comes the Sundial,' a benefit concert to celebrate the kick-off of the Save Our Sundial (SOS) campaign! We'll bring the community together to raise awareness of the planned restoration and to jump-start fundraising efforts. This family friendly event is a great way for our community to save a local treasure while enjoying an evening picnic in beloved Cranmer Park. This free event will feature popular local musicians, such as Petals of Spain and Dressy Bessy, covering famous songs about the sun like *Here Comes the Sun* (The Beatles) and *Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me* (Elton John). Visit www.SaveOurSundial.com for more details. We hope you'll come out to **Cranmer Park on Sunday, August 24th 4-7pm** for good music, good people, and a good cause – and tell your family, friends, and neighbors to come too!

The Brains Behind the Concert: For a class project, Kent Denver high schooler **Alison Koff** created a business plan for a benefit concert for the restoration of the Cranmer



Park Sundial and Plaza. Now she is making that plan a reality! Alison has been working for months to rally musicians, food trucks, volunteers, and resources and managing the many many event logistics. We are so impressed with and grateful for Alison and all the initiative and energy she's volunteered for this cherished community treasure!



Emerald Ash Borer: the Imminent Threat to our City Forest

Last September, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was discovered in Boulder. Despite efforts to quarantine this non-native wood-boring beetle, EAB has devastated ash tree populations in mid-western and eastern U.S. and Canadian cities. EAB kills weak and healthy trees, young and mature, and all major North American ash species. This makes it one of the most serious threats facing North American forests today – a threat that presents staggering ecological, economic, and public safety impacts far exceeding Dutch Elm Disease. The elm disease, which arrived in Denver in the 1980s, impacted the 50,000 American Elms across the entire state of Colorado, whereas 15% of Denver's urban forest is ash – some 330,000 ash trees in the City and County of Denver alone. The detection of Emerald Ash Borer in Colorado raises grave concerns about the future of our urban forest.

Ironically, this destructive pest was found in Colorado in the same year that Denver was named one of the Top Ten U.S. Cities for Urban Forests. Also in 2013, a study by the U.S. Forest Service found that Denver's trees provide an impressive \$122 million in property value benefits and environmental services, like storm water management.

As EAB is discovered in other Colorado communities in the coming years, property owners will need to make tough decisions about treating or removing their ash trees based on individual tree size, condition, and benefits provided.

Fortunately, we do not have to (nor should we) wait until EAB is found in Denver before we prepare for the impending loss of ash trees. Planting trees has always been an important effort to promote the health, vitality, and sustainability of our community. Now, it's more important than ever. Because trees take time to grow, we need to proactively plant new trees now. By filling existing gaps in our urban canopy today, we can minimize the impact as we lose ash trees over the coming years.



Adult Emerald Ash Borer's size relative to a penny.

Think you have an Ash Tree?
Wondering what to do?

Get Educated:
Visit www.eabcolorado.com

EAB has yet to be found in Denver. Decisions to remove or treat a tree should be made on a case-by-case basis. The State of Colorado does NOT recommend treating trees until the pest has been found within 5 miles of the tree.



Summer 2006



Summer 2009

A street lined with ash trees in Toledo, Ohio following Emerald Ash Borer infestation. Highlighting the importance of planting diverse species rather than monocultures of a single species, which has led to stands of dead ash in this neighborhood. Credit: Daniel A. Herms, The Ohio State University.

YOU Can Help Meet the EAB Challenge:

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

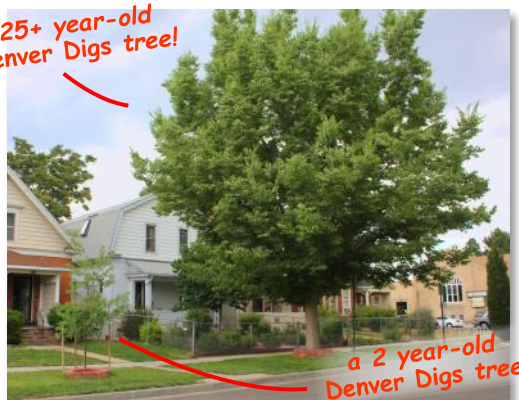
Volunteer for our city trees. Support our planting and care activities. Consider becoming a *Community Forester*.

Support our planting efforts with a donation. Your donation 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.

Denver Digs Trees: Approaching a New Era

a 25+ year-old
Denver Digs tree!



a 2 year-old
Denver Digs tree

Neighbors first mobilized to bring affordable trees to the West Washington Park neighborhood in the face of Dutch Elm Disease roughly 30 years ago. Their efforts grew to become the citywide tree distribution that is today's *Denver Digs Trees* program. *Denver Digs* has planted more than 47,000 affordable and free trees in Denver's neighborhoods.

The impact of Emerald Ash Borer is expected to exceed that of Dutch Elm Disease exponentially. In the face of this imminent threat, planting Denver's urban forest with new trees – of diverse species that are urban-tolerant and hardy in our arid climate – is more important than ever. The role of our *Denver Digs Trees* program is evermore critical in supporting homeowners, businesses, and nonprofit organizations in planting trees on their private property and adjacent public right-of-way spaces.

Spring 2014: 1,150 new trees in our neighborhoods

This spring we distributed 1,150 affordable and free trees to Denver residents with over 60% planted in Denver's low-canopy neighborhoods 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 1,150 trees will...

- provide \$5,000 in energy savings
- offset 194,000 lbs of CO₂
- reduce 1,400 lbs of air pollution
- manage 1,182,000 gal of storm water
- provide \$30,000 in total net benefits

**They'll provide over \$1,200,000
in lifetime benefits!**



Many Thanks to our Volunteers and to our Spring 2014 Sponsors:



Shwayder
Camp Teen
Foundation



Profile of a Volunteer

Mike Haaf became trained as a Community Forester in 2011 and has been one of our go-to volunteers ever since. He helps with the full gamut of our activities, from supporting our outreach efforts to siting, planting, pruning, and monitoring trees. Mike trains and leads other volunteers, building our capacity significantly. During the last two summers, Mike has organized and managed

our neighborhood inventory and pruning projects in the South Park Hill and West Highland neighborhoods where trees posed traffic and pedestrian safety issues. In the absence of our (now seasonal) programs staff, Mike helps handle questions from the public. He recently joined our Tree Committee, helping to guide and inform our work. Mike is diligent, careful, caring, and ever-helpful. He is a joy to work with and we're lucky to have him as part of our team.

Growing Legacies of Celebration & Remembrance

Sprinkled throughout Denver's parks stand hundreds of beautiful, growing trees with special meaning and significance. While we Park People tend to think of all trees as nature's living poems, these tribute trees grow in celebration and remembrance of beloved people and important events.



For more than 40 years, The Park People has facilitated the planting of these special trees, receiving requests from the public and coordinating with Denver Forestry Office staff who plant the trees in our local parks. We also install personally inscribed pavers at the Hazel Gates Woodruff Tribute Garden behind the Eugene Field House on the east side of Washington Park. These pavers give glimpses of stories and loved ones amidst a special space for retreat, reflection, and recreation. The pavers and trees bring requestors, friends, and family members joy, comfort, and warm memories for years.

The \$500 contribution for a tribute tree covers the cost of the tree and labor with the remainder supporting our work to enhance Denver's parks and urban forest. We accept requests year-round and can accommodate a maximum of 20 trees each year. Trees are planted in early fall. Inscribed pavers cost \$50 and are installed several times a year. For more information and to place a request for a tribute tree or paver, contact our office. Our thanks to Denver Parks and Recreation for their partnership in the Park Legacy Program.

Park People Team Transitions

This past year, we were delighted to welcome new Trustee **Mark Bailey** and returning Trustee **Kathryn Dudley** to our Board. We have elected a new slate of officers, including new President **Mark Lauriha**. Our sincere appreciation to **Tim Buchanan** for his inspiring generosity and thoughtful leadership as President. Our warm thanks to these resigning board members for their many years of dedicated service to The Park People: **Gregg Brown** who designed, built, and cared for the Hazel Gates Woodruff Tribute Garden (20 years of service); **Chris Chavez** who envisioned and established the *Mile High Tree Champions* program (5 years); and **Bridget Fisher** whose service included roles as President and on our Executive and Tree Committee (13 years). We also wish to express enthusiastic thanks to our wonderful 2014 programs staff members **Chad Reischl** and **Spencer Roberts** for bringing their passion and talents to our mission and executing a successful *Denver Digs Trees* distribution and *Community Forester* training season. Finally, we're happy to have **Adrian Camacho** managing our *Mile High Tree Champions* projects.

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Businesses Championing Trees

We are pleased to announce Denver's most recent *Mile High Tree Champions*: **Newmont Mining Corporation**, **Chase Bank**, **Accenture**, and **Southwest Airlines** in conjunction with national nonprofit **Earth Day Network**, and **Towers Watson**. Thanks to these community partners, 120 new trees are happily growing at Bluff Lake Nature Center, Washington Park, a Denver Housing Authority community in Ruby Hill neighborhood, Monarch Montessori School in the Montbello neighborhood, and the Boys and Girls Club's Johnson Branch in the West Colfax neighborhood. We are delighted to have created new partnerships this past year and to have built upon past partnerships with Newmont Mining – back for their third planting! – and Chase Bank and Accenture – each back for their second planting! 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 to sponsor and staff a planting? Or a potential planting site – a park, natural area, affordable housing site, nonprofit organization, or other location in need of 20 or more trees? Contact our staff!





Our Supporters

Contributions from September 1, 2013 through July 31, 2014. If we inadvertently omitted your name, please contact us.

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*Deep gratitude to our dedicated team of volunteers
 who contributed more than \$89,000 in time last year.*

Tribute Trees

In memory of Thomas J. Burley
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 In memory of Carrie Chan
 In memory of Fred Gilmore
 In memory of Anne Clymer Goddard
 In memory of Laura McDermott
 In memory of Alan Odnert
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Tribute Pavers

In memory of Betty Baumgartner
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 In honor of Kit, Ella, & Margot Kilroy
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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

August 2014

We are embarking on an exciting and ambitious time – joining with dedicated neighborhood leaders to restore one of Denver’s iconic and beloved park landmarks... preparing for a new era in the evolution of our urban forest with the coming of Emerald Ash Borer...

Once again, we are fortunate to have wonderful partnerships in the community – partnerships with other organizations, agencies, businesses, and individuals who share our vision of a healthy, vibrant, sustainable, and beautiful city.

I hope that you will feel inspired to support our work on two fronts:

- 1) Choose to support Save Our Sundial (SOS) by attending the August 24th concert and making a dedicated donation by September 30th to unlock those matching dollars and maximize your contribution!
 - ▶ Save Our Sundial donations can be made at www.SaveOurSundial.com or by mail (“SOS Fund” c/o The Park People).
- 2) Support The Park People's broader work and ongoing programming – *critical to ensure the financial soundness of the organization.*
 - ▶ Gifts to The Park People fund 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 workplace giving throughout the state (www.CShares.org).

We appreciate your support and your shared vision of a green Denver.

Sincerely,

Kim Yuan-Farrell, Executive Director