

# Congress Park

# News

Summer 2014

[www.CongressParkNeighbors.org](http://www.CongressParkNeighbors.org)

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## Neighbors Meet on District 10 Rec Center Options

By Aaron Goldhamer

The substantive part of the meeting began with the “site development opportunity” section. Basically, the City was trying to explain to the stakeholders why they were not going to include housing in the project. Developers were not interested in adding housing due to the parking requirements. The nature of the bond also meant complications if the project added housing. City staff projected projects delays to 2018 if housing was explored, rather than the current projected 2016 completion. There may be an opportunity to add some housing to the site if the rec center does not consume the whole footprint. Councilwoman Robb noted the “microhousing” trend could change some of the economics of on-site housing. Overall, this portion of the meeting struck me as a response to the previous meeting where many stakeholders bemoaned the lack of multi-use with a residential component on the site, and the City wanted to justify its stance.

Discussion of the survey results to date was interesting. They had received 1,200 responses to date and closed the survey near the end of April. The responses were largely from the 20-39 year-old and childless demographics. My big takeaways from the survey results were the following: (1) a majority favor naming the Center the “City Park Recreation Center” over the other options, (2) a majority want an indoor synthetic turf field (for

stuff like soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, etc.) in addition to a basketball court, and (3) there wasn't much interest in associated retail with the site.

We then broke out into small groups to try to cobble together a set of amenities from the attached “work sheet cost analysis” document, assuming a budget of \$24 million or so. Not reflected in the worksheet is that synthetic turf fields cost around the same amount as basketball courts, say consultants Ballard and King. The groups came up with various different priorities as recommendations, but all involved aquatics of some kind, an emphasis on a large exercise space, at least one turf field, and some community space.

The report included the agenda, demographics study, cost analysis and component options with this report. These are posted at [www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org).

**NEXT MEETING:** Central Denver Recreation Center Public Meeting, Tuesday, June 3, at 6pm at the East High School Cafeteria. Childcare for ages 5+ will be provided.

*Neighbor Aaron Goldhamer has volunteered to serve as Congress Park Neighbors' representative at the ongoing stakeholder meetings for the new District 10 Rec Center.*

### *Congress Park's Vision (1995 Neighborhood Plan)*

*Congress Park is a traditional city neighborhood with a small-town atmosphere. Here, people of diverse cultures, ages, colors and economic backgrounds share a sense of community, value older homes and mature trees, and enjoy the convenience of city living amid the stability of a thriving neighborhood.*



**Congress Park News** is a quarterly publication of Congress Park Neighbors, Inc. A network of volunteers produces and distributes it to a circulation of more than 4,500 residents and businesses within the area bounded by Colfax Avenue, Sixth Avenue, York Street and Colorado Boulevard.

www.CongressPark  
Neighbors.org

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Volunteers Needed

Your articles, letters  
and advertisements are  
always welcome.

Starting in August 2013,  
neighborhood meetings  
will be held every other  
month (August, October,  
December, February, April  
and June), still on the third  
Wednesday, at 7 p.m. in  
National Jewish Hospital's  
Heitler Hall. Watch the  
newsletter and the email  
blasts for featured speakers.  
Don't get the email blasts?  
Sign up at [www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org).

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## Volunteer Opportunities in Congress Park

**H**ave a little spare time and want to get involved in making sure Congress Park keeps its status as the best neighborhood in Denver? You can help.

Congress Park Neighbors, Inc., can use volunteers to help coordinate advertising in the newsletter, interview and photograph new and long-time neighborhood shops and business owners for ads and articles, deliver newsletters, organize activities and inform neighbors about zoning issues.

If any of those adventures sound like fun, please contact a board member to find out more. See the contact information below, or come to a neighborhood meeting to find out how you can get involved.

**Just want to dip your toe in neighborhood issues? Email [cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org) to find out about the next meeting or volunteer for a committee.**

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## Your Congress Park Neighbors 2014 Volunteer Board of Directors

Tom Conis—President  
[tom.conis@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:tom.conis@congressparkneighbors.org)

Myles Tangalin—Treasurer  
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1465 Fillmore; 303-333-5478  
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Wendy Moraskie—Newsletter  
1475 Milwaukee St.; 303-355-3735  
[wendyrich@msn.com](mailto:wendyrich@msn.com)

And we thank these committed neighbors:

Carolyn VanSciver—Congress Park Historic  
Preservation and Education Committee  
303-377-4913  
[cvansciver@earthlink.net](mailto:cvansciver@earthlink.net)

Lisa Bingham—Hospital District Redevelopment

Rachel O'Bryan—Crime Action  
[crime@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:crime@congressparkneighbors.org)

**Denver Botanic Gardens Liaisons**  
Bill DeMaio; [bdemaio@aol.com](mailto:bdemaio@aol.com)  
Glen Girard  
Myles Tangalin  
Michael Sutherland

Your elected, all-volunteer Congress Park Board invites you to attend the open meetings at National Jewish Hospital on the third Wednesday every other month (Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct., Dec.) at 7 p.m. in Heitler Hall.

Lots of other neighbors help with communications, membership, and more, and generally make Congress Park a great place to live—you know who you are and how much we depend on you—Thanks!

### Do you have a suggestion for your Board?

Send hints and help to  
[CPNBoard@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:CPNBoard@congressparkneighbors.org)

Two slots are open for CPN members to represent the neighborhood on the Botanic Gardens Neighborhood Advisory Committee. Submit a letter of interest to [CPNBoard@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:CPNBoard@congressparkneighbors.org).

The CPNews has a need for a volunteer who can visit with CPN professionals and businesses about advertising in the neighborhood newsletter. Call Wendy at 303-355-3735 for more information.

## DBG Makes Summer Memories

Looking for some great activities this summer? Congress Park is proud to nurture the singular Denver Botanic Gardens in our embrace. DBG began in 1951 and is considered one of the top botanical gardens in the United States and a pioneer in water conservation. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the Gardens' living collections encompass specimens from the tropics to the tundra, showcasing a plant palette chosen to thrive in Colorado's semi-arid climate. The Gardens is a dynamic, 24-acre urban oasis in the heart of the city, offering unforgettable opportunities to flourish with unique garden experiences for the whole family – as well as world-class education and plant conservation research programs. For more information and a complete calendar, visit [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org).

### EXHIBITIONS

#### SIGNS OF LIFE: PHOTOGRAMS

BY ROBERT BUELTEMAN

Through August 3

Robert Buelteman creates richly colored images of plants by electrifying the specimens with 80,000 volts of power and then illuminating the subject by hand with fiber optic light. The California-based artist's technique is an elaborate enhancement of the traditional Kirlian photography process created in the 1930s.

#### CHIHULY

June 14 – November 30

Denver Botanic Gardens presents the Rocky Mountain Region's first major outdoor exhibition of artwork by celebrated American artist, Dale Chihuly. Site-specific sculpture installations, ranging in size and style from small water floats to a 30-foot tower, are displayed in 12 locations throughout the Gardens, and Shop at the Gardens presents a gallery of original Chihuly works for purchase.

### KIDS + FAMILIES

#### SEEDLINGS CLASSES

Tues: 18-24 month old, 9:30 and 10:45 a.m.;

Wed: 3-6 year old, 9:30 and 11 a.m.;

Thurs: 24-36 month old, 9:30 and 10:45 a.m.

\$11 for 18-36 month old, \$9 member;

\$13 for 3-6 year old, \$11 member

Seedlings classes offer a fun, hands-on way for young children to explore the plant world, while developing an understanding and appreciation for plants.

#### PLANT TO PLATE COOKING SERIES

Fridays, June 13 - Aug 15 (no class July 4),  
9:30 a.m. - Noon and 2-4:30 p.m.;

\$230 (child or adult/child combo), \$200 member; additional adults or children can attend the afternoon class for \$115, \$100 member. Children and families explore the world of edible plants in the Chipotle Home Harvest Garden, where they harvest fresh herbs and veggies, then utilize them to prepare basic, family-friendly recipes.

#### FAMILY FUN NIGHT: SPRING INTO SUMMER

Fri, June 20, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

\$25 family of four, \$20 member; \$4 for each additional person, \$3 additional member. Children two and under free. Family Fun Nights provide a unique opportunity to explore nature at night in the Mordecai Children's Garden. June's event includes blowing bubbles over the garden and making music with a variety of instruments.

*Continued on page 7*

**Your neighborhood newsletter always needs help with delivery.**

Several of your neighbors deliver the newsletter to porches every quarter. It usually takes less than a half hour and you get to walk a few blocks of our beautiful neighborhood, and meet some of your neighbors. Email [CPNboard@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:CPNboard@congressparkneighbors.org) to volunteer your time to help us all be better informed about issues affecting our neighborhood.

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## Retiring Teller Teacher Honored by Colleague

By Joyce Whitman, a 3rd grade teacher at Teller

### CPN Events On Web

Once again, CPN's wondrous webmaster Maggie has outdone herself. The neighborhood website now has an events calendar. Go to [www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org) and look. If you have a CPN event that needs to be added in (block party? garage sale? alley clean up?), contact the webmaster or any CPN Board member at [cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org). And you can find a list of Congress Park merchants on our website. Thank you, Maggie!

I've struggled with this article for the past several days. When I was asked to write this article, I agreed, thinking "I can do this!" but, I was wrong! What could I say about Dick Sprague? The list grew lengthy. Should I tell about the funny things? The serious stories? His impact on our community? The following is what I came up with. Straight from the heart, filled with admiration for our Mr. Sprague.

I will miss coming to Teller every day and seeing Dick Sprague. He has been a co-worker of mine and teacher to my two sons for the past six years. Dick has been a mentor, a substitute father and the calm voice of reason when needed. His sense of humor and quite strength are qualities I admire.

Seeing him work with students is inspiring. Dick has a real passion for his students and teaching that is apparent when you walk into his classroom. He encourages his students to explore, discover, and create. He always seems to know what the kids like and goes through a great deal to get the materials, aka Legos, that will engage the students in learning. He encourages his students to think critically in math and support their thinking. They enter my classroom in third grade with a real passion for reading.

They come ready to dive into difficult text and talk about what they read. Dick also will "spoil" the kids. My basement is a testament to this quality! My basement is filled with books and gadgets given to my two boys that "Mr. Sprague said that he didn't need anymore and he said I could have it," to quote my sons! (Who was I to argue with Mr. Sprague at that point? Even when I did, it still ended up at my home!) My son Liam was fortunate enough to have Mr. Sprague as a first grade teacher. Being very young for first grade, Liam was a bit of challenge, but Mr. Sprague handled Liam, as well as me, with a gentle humorous touch. That year, Liam grew academically by leaps and bounds, found a love of math, and grew up just a little bit! Liam, to this day, declares that Mr. Sprague was and is the best teacher ever. Being dedicated to his students, aware of whom his students are and their needs really make Dick an exceptional teacher.

As a mentor and team mate, Dick has been there to support me with the nuts and bolts of teaching. He's available to talk and discuss teaching strategies and think through next steps. For three years I worked closely with Dick on the second grade team. That is where I realized what Dick had to offer as a mentor and team mate. Working with Dick really never feels like work—it's a conversation. We were always able to get through a lot of professional learning as a team.

It is this work that lead Dick to being my substitute dad. I resorted to calling him "dad" at this point since he was always concerned with my growth as an instructor and how I was doing. He is never afraid to ask how it is going and to give helpful advice when needed while conveying strength and humor. It's comforting to know that I have such a great person looking out for me especially since my own family lives so far away.

So I will miss our Mr. Sprague. I hope that some of the qualities that I admire in him, I have taken on. We wish him the best on his next adventures!



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## 2014 Summer District 10 Info

From the office of Jeanne Robb, District 10 City Councilwoman

Most newcomers are introduced to Colorado seasons by some old-timer who says, "Colorado has two seasons: Winter and Road Construction." Well, Winter is over, so keep an eye out for road crews and don't drive on "auto-pilot." Here are a few notes for our area:

--2nd Avenue east of Josephine is enjoying some storm drainage construction. During this closure, eastbound traffic will be detoured to 3rd Avenue.

--Work on the western half of northbound Josephine from 3rd to 6th Avenues is underway. Please be mindful of the temporary lane closures. Concrete paving of the western half is scheduled to be completed by mid- to late June. The eastern lane will accommodate one lane of northbound traffic. Lane shifts and delays should be expected.

--and as always, dates are subject to change due to unforeseen conditions and weather.

REMINDER: Traffic is flowing in all directions and all your favorite stores and restaurants are open, and will appreciate that you made the effort to find them.

### *District 10 SummerTunes on Cherry Creek's Fillmore Plaza.*

#### **Symphony Social:**

**Sunday, June 15, 12-3pm**

Colorado Symphony, face painting and ice cream

#### **Trout Steak Revival on the Creek:**

**Sunday, July 13, 7pm**

Bluegrass-inspired mountain music. Bring your lawn or camp chairs.

#### **Pitch Perfect – Film on Fillmore:**

**Sunday, August 10 at dusk (about 8:30pm)**

A musical comedy/romance. Movie goers will want to bring their lawn or camp chairs.

#### **Councilwoman**

**Jeanne Robb**

1437 Bannock St. Rm 493

Denver, CO 80202

720-337-7710

Jeanne.Robb@

denvergov.org

#### **NEXT Central Denver Recreation Center Public Meeting:**

Tuesday, June 3 at 6pm

at the East High School Cafeteria.

Childcare for ages 5+ will be provided.

#### **Road Construction**

For more information, visit the project website or call 303-730-4522

for a map and details of the paving impacts from 3rd to 6th Avenues on Josephine St. from May - June.

Both the hotline and website will be updated with project schedule and traffic information as it becomes available and will allow for the public to leave comments and sign up for email updates.

Please contact Dick Marshall, rkmars@aol.com or 303-324-6961 with any questions or concerns.

**What's going on in our City?** Check in with the City Council's blog to find out.

<http://www.denvergov.org/citycouncil/DenverCityCouncil/News/Blog/tabid/444418/Default.aspx>

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## Brightening Waldorf Walls with Works of Art

By Kyana Sandoval Vesel

### Denver Waldorf School Leaving Congress Park?

DWS has a contract to purchase the Denver Christian HS building at Pearl and Evans. The contract includes a 60-day period when DWS can inspect and complete due diligence. Urban Land Conservancy has submitted a bid to acquire the Waldorf School campus on Fillmore Street, and another school could be the potential occupant.

### Kyana Sandoval Vesel is in the 11th grade at the Denver Waldorf School

When you walk into the Denver Waldorf School, one of the first things to strike you are the beautiful colors on the walls. The warm rainbow hallways give off a homey feeling.

The stairwells and high school hallway are lined with murals 11th graders have painted each year since we moved into the school nearly 11 years ago. The murals range from Johannes Vermeer's "Girl With A Pearl" to Edvard Munch's "The Scream."

This year, I had the honor of leaving my mark on these familiar halls. My partner Kara Pfister and I painted "Impression, Sunrise," a mural by Claude Monet. We worked on it 45 minutes every day for a month. The mural is about 5 feet wide and 6 feet tall, and the bottom of the mural is about 6 feet off the ground. This meant we had to use ladders and learn the art of balancing a palette while artfully painting the top corners of the mural that is a foot taller than I am while standing on a ladder. It was not easy.

When painting, we started with the lighter colors, learning how to blend and create a dynamic between colors, so that the paintings almost appeared

to pop off the wall. Each day, the ability to paint became more fluid, more natural, and as our skills developed, so did our ability to see paintings in a different light. I noticed I was no longer just copying a picture; I was re-painting a masterpiece filled with all of my own accents and flourishes of color.

My classmates and I struggled in the beginning to truly understand our masterpieces and how to paint them. Ian Connolly and Julia Busenbark, who were chosen by our teachers to paint Lyonel Feininger's "Arch Tower I," both had initial difficulty. The painting appears to the untrained eye as a mere collage of shapes and different hues of brown. Yet, Julia and Ian found the more time they spent with the painting, the more the shapes transformed from mere triangles and squares to masterfully planned painted people and houses.

What I have taken from this memorable experience is that I possess an ability that I did not think was possible. I do not of myself as any master with paints. However, I did prove to myself that I am more than capable of painting a beautiful piece of art, even if it is a depiction of someone else's work. I will forever be grateful to have had this

amazing opportunity to broaden my horizons.



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## DBG Makes Summer Memories

*Continued from page 3*

Families also receive seeds to take home. Families are encouraged to bring a picnic dinner (no glass allowed); a light snack will be provided. Pre-registration is encouraged, but drop-ins are welcome.

### CANVASES AND COMPANY

Thurs, June 19, 6 - 8:30 p.m.; \$46, \$41 member (materials included)

Instructor Judith Scott leads participants in the creation of a garden-inspired painting while they enjoy snacks and libations brought from home.

### FOODIES

#### JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY

Sat and Sun, June 7, 8, 28 & 29, 10 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. \$32, \$27 member

Visitors are invited to experience a traditional Japanese tea ceremony inside the Gardens' authentic Japanese Tea House in Shofu-En, the Japanese Garden.

### OUTDOOR ADVENTURERS

#### HERBAL FIRST AID KITS FOR HIKING, BIKING & CAMPING

Wed, June 4, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. \$58, \$53 member (materials included) Participants are instructed in the basics of composing herbal first aid kits for minor emergencies, receiving

a step-by-step tutorial in making tinctures and salves. They'll also receive an extensive handout, eyewash, salve and herbal antibacterial tincture to take home with them.

### MINDING YOUR VEGETABLE GARDEN

Sat, June 28, 10 a.m. - Noon; \$31, \$26 members Attendees learn proper care and maintenance of vegetables through the summer months, including watering, fertilizing and harvesting.

### HEALTH & FITNESS

#### EVENING YOGA IN THE GARDENS

Wed., June 4 & 11, 6-7 p.m.; \$12, \$10 member Instructor Blake Burger teaches Vinyasa yoga against the stunning backdrop of the Gardens. All levels welcome. Participants are asked to bring water and a yoga mat.

### URBAN HOMESTEADERS

#### BACKYARD GOAT KEEPING

Sun, June 15, 2 - 5 p.m.; \$35 In this class, Sundari Kraft of Heirloom Gardens provides a comprehensive introduction to raising backyard dwarf dairy goats in an urban setting.

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## Your Colorado House of Representatives at Work

By Representative Beth McCann

**Rep Beth McCann**  
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If you are interested in reading the entire May newsletter, her staff will be happy to send you a copy and put you on her email list.

The gavel came down on Wednesday, May 7, and brought the 2014 Session of the Colorado General Assembly to a close. I was honored to serve again as the Majority House Whip and am grateful to all of you for your support. It is truly a privilege to serve in the Colorado House of Representatives. As promised, we delivered a session with cooperation and consensus. Despite what you might see in the press, 96% of the bills that passed did so with bipartisan support!

What Did We Get Done? Bipartisan bills for flood and wildfire relief; a balanced budget of just under \$24 billion; a stronger education system for future generations; tax incentives for our state's economic security and job opportunities; Common-sense access to child care assistance; updated telecommunications law and new ride-sharing regulations; criminal justice reforms; energy conservation and development; car charging stations; water conservation; allocation of tax revenues from marijuana sales and the limitation of concentrates and edibles; consumer protections in foreclosures; prescription drug monitoring; reauthorization of addiction treatment programs; consistency for pediatric dental benefits; alignment of Colorado's Human Trafficking laws, and much more.

*(Due to space limitations, many details about the bills were edited out. For more information about the bills mentioned and others that didn't fit here, please contact Representative McCann's office. Ed.)*

## Events

### *National Get Outdoors Day 2014*

June 14 at City Park from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Celebrate healthy, outdoor lifestyles with Get Outdoors Colorado and 10,000 participants. The day starts with a 5K Fun Run. Information at: [www.getoutdoorscolorado.org/goday](http://www.getoutdoorscolorado.org/goday)

### *Gay Pride Parade*

June 22 at Cheesman Park 9:30 a.m.  
We will march with the Colorado Dems.  
[www.glbtcOLORADO.org/pridefest/coorslight-pride-fest-parade/](http://www.glbtcOLORADO.org/pridefest/coorslight-pride-fest-parade/)

## Meetings

### *Marijuana Use in Parks*

June 12 at Wellington Webb Municipal Building  
5:30 p.m. 201 W Colfax Ave., 4th floor, Room 4.F.6.

### *Fiscal Sustainability of Colorado*

The Colorado Futures Center at Colorado State University has finalized a short video as a simple illustration of some of the fiscal issues facing Colorado in the future. The video is available at the following link: <http://vimeo.com/90800541> and you are welcome to distribute it freely.

## Volunteers Needed: Recycling Drop-off at 16th and Josephine

The recycling drop-off at 16th and Josephine, next to the dog park, had to be closed due to illegal dumping and lack of volunteers. The Council District 10 Office is grateful for the efforts of Waste Management and Public Works. The District 10 Office is working to reorganize, re-sign the facility, recruit more volunteers, and reopen this neighborhood amenity. If you would like to volunteer, please e-mail [susan.scott@denvergov.org](mailto:susan.scott@denvergov.org) or call 720-377-7710.

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## SEAP Seeks Sane Special Events Policy

By Paul Kashman

*(Excerpted and gently edited to fit our space. Ed.)*

Excerpt printed with permission. The complete article was first printed in the *Wash Park Profile*. Link here: [http://washingtonparkprofile.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2861&Itemid=1](http://washingtonparkprofile.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2861&Itemid=1)

We take pleasure in living downtown because there's always something fun to do. Sometimes event planners and attendees forget that the events they are enjoying are occurring in someone's neighborhood. A significant number of neighborhood groups and city departments are working on solutions to the sometimes troubling parking, traffic, noise, trash and occasional unneighborly behavior.

Springtime calls us to cure our cabin fever with some time outdoors. Denver is a vibrant city with an event nearly every weekend. Street fairs, farmers' markets, outdoor music and film events, bike races, runs, walks and festivals large and small draw people from all over to enjoy our downtown parks and neighborhoods.

The array of events ranges from small corporate gatherings and weddings in the parks to massive celebrations like the Colfax Marathon, City Park Jazz, Cherry Creek Arts Festival, Cinco de Mayo, Taste of Colorado, Capitol Hill People's Fair and Pridefest, among others. We welcome all who come to visit us and appreciate their enthusiasm and support of our downtown shops, restaurants, museums and other amenities.

Citywide Events & Film administrator Kevin Scott estimated the number of special events using Denver streets and parks at "about 590" in 2013, and "probably 275 runs and other events in our parks."

For the past two years, representatives of some 17 city agencies have been working to create a better structure and guidelines so that people may continue to celebrate in our city without unfairly impacting the local residents who live and work here.

The agencies and departments involved include Public Works; Parks & Recreation (DPR); Denver Police; Denver Health Paramedics; Denver Fire; Excise & Licenses; Arts & Venues; Mayor's Office; Event Oversight; City Council; Environmental Health; City Attorney's Office; Emergency Management; Treasury; Denver Marketing Office; the Office of Economic Development; and Development Services.

The SEAP (Special Events and Permitting) process has also convened a stakeholders group of neighborhood representatives and event planners, and in early spring hosted four forums around the city to get public input on how to mitigate the negative effects of special events in downtown neighborhoods.

While Denver evaluates its current citywide processes and criteria for permitting special events, the city has put a year-long cap – beginning Jan. 1 of this year – on new runs, races, walks or bike rides. Only events held in 2013, will be able to submit an application for a 2014 event.

The SEAP process is complicated by needing to coordinate the requirements of several departments and neighborhoods. DPR will begin to draft revised rules and regulations, which will go before the DPR Advisory Board in May. Additional public meetings and outreach will contribute to eventual SEAP recommendations.

In closing comments at one February meeting, Katy Strascina, Special Projects Manager in the Mayor's office, said, "We're setting up a Special Events office" to oversee the special events process in the future. "It was established by executive order and is set for the 2015 budget."

Visit [Denvergov.org/specialevents](http://Denvergov.org/specialevents) and click on the "Presentation" button under the 2014 Events Forum picture for additional information.

### Neighbors Ideas for Special Events Management

Solutions that residents and professional events planners suggested so special events in our parks add to the quality of our downtown neighborhood life include:

- earlier and more broad-based notification when special events are planned,
- limiting the number of special events in particular parks
- blocking off neighborhood streets to prevent overwhelming traffic
- a firmer structure for events permitting so planners and neighborhood groups can work together
- design a variety of race courses in different parts of town to lessen the pressure on any one area
- create a permanent festival park for large events to avoid overwhelming local parks and residential streets (*National Western Complex, anyone? Ed.*)

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## Congress Park's Grandeur

By Charlotte Bentley

For years, while driving to my Congress Park home, I would admire a cute little brick bungalow I passed in the heart of the neighborhood. It was painted a soft yellow which gave a stunning background to the summertime bright red potted geraniums flanking the front door.

One day I noticed a wrecking ball determining the fate of the enticing little bungalow, and soon new construction began on the site. A larger brick more contemporary house in its place. I passed often to watch the new emerging two-story construction, which fit nicely into the character of the neighborhood. The final design was an appropriate mix of the old and new.

Sometime later, after the house was finished, I stopped when I saw what appeared to be the owner of the house in the yard, a young woman with a toddler at her feet and an infant in her arms. She verified that they had made a difficult decision in removing the bungalow and rebuilding on the property. I chatted with her, relaying my admiration of their new home, and drew her out inquisitively.

"S-o-o-o, you have these young children, and Congress Park, being a busy auto-traffic environment may not be as conducive, some would think, as the suburbs are for children, where they play basketball, hockey and ride bikes in the culdesacs and streets. Yet, you stayed in Congress Park."

She said "Yes, we plan to stay."

"Tell me why," I probed, and I heard an astounding answer: "We stayed in Congress Park for the trees."

I was stunned, "you stayed for the trees??" Amazing !!

As I left after our neighborly conversation, I processed what I had just heard. It's true, generally the suburbs don't have large old trees yet. So this growing family rejected the advantages the suburbs might offer, for the splendid canopy of beautiful old, mature and varied trees in Congress Park. With eyes wide upward I left, feeling a new appreciation for the grand old majestic trees along our streets. I listened silently to the morning song of the birds, alternating with the evening chirp of

them nestled in the trees for the night. I even came to see the morning antics of the pesky squirrels in a new light. Squirrels, birds and trees just seem to properly set the stage for growing families in this urban neighborhood. How grand it is!



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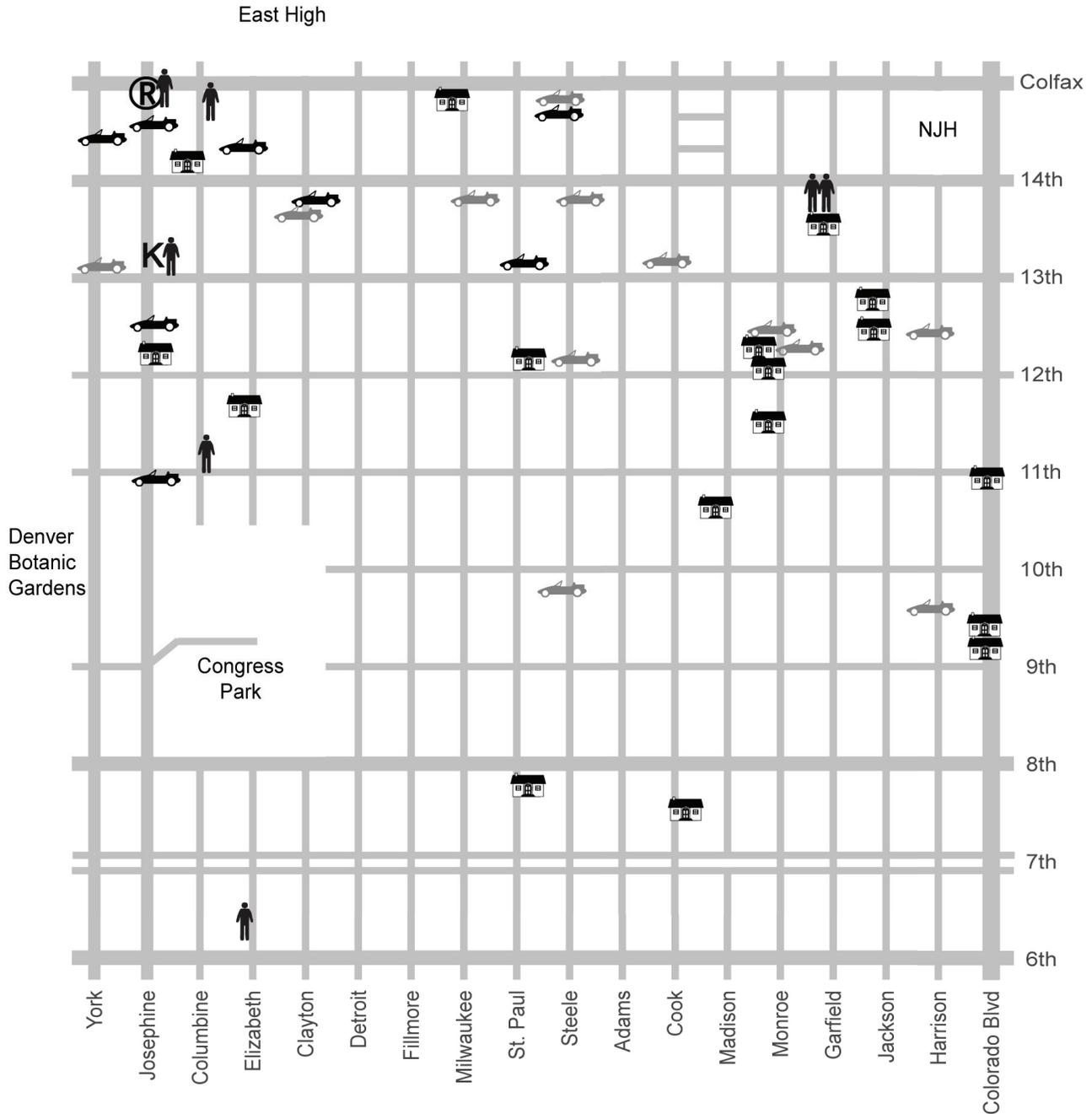
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# CONGRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CRIMES JANUARY - MARCH 2014



- Ⓜ Sexual Assault
- 👤 Assault/robbery
- K Kidnapping
- 🏠 Burglary
- 🚗 Auto Theft
- 🚗 Theft from auto

**This map shows a compilation of all serious crimes reported to police within Congress Park in the first quarter of 2014. Crime mapping is provided by the Congress Park Crime Action Committee using City and Police Department statistics relayed through Council District 10.**

## Congress Park: Where Have We Come From? From Indian land to City Suburb (1850-1900)

By Tom Conis

This history of the Congress Park neighborhood comes to you from interested neighbors and the Denver Public Library's Western history wing.

See the neighborhood website <http://www.congressparkneighbors.org/historical-preservation/history-of-congress-park/> for more of this history and great old photos.

Up through the Pikes Peak gold rush of the 1850's, the Congress Park area was Native American land. By 1860 the young city of Denver had grown to a population of 5,000, with six men to every woman.

As the first stagecoaches were arriving in Denver in the late 1850's, William Larimer, one of the city's founders, sited the park-like Mount Prospect Cemetery on a prominent hill to reinforce the image of Denver as a refined city. The area the cemetery encompassed evolved over the next 100 years into the present-day Cheeseman Park, the Morgan Addition, Denver Botanic Gardens,

the Denver Waterboard Reservoirs, and Congress Park, for which our neighborhood is named.

The coming of the railroad through Denver in 1870 paralleled another sudden surge in growth. Between 1880 and 1890 the city's population boomed from over 35,000 to nearly 107,000. Through the 1880's Denver's air was so polluted because of unpaved roads, coal and wood furnaces, smelting and other industries, that wealthy residents looked to the outskirts of Denver, such as Capitol Hill, for cleaner air and reclaimed mountain views.

With the expansion of public transit, including cable cars, to Colfax Avenue in the late 1880's and early 1890's, the eastern reaches of Capitol Hill became more accessible to the middle class. Because Colfax was the main route downtown, homes were first built along its corridor to the north (now City Park South neighborhood) and to the south (now Congress Park neighborhood). Between 1887 and 1888, our neighborhood was completely platted into more than ten subdivisions of various sizes. On March 11, 1889, the area was incorporated into Denver as part of a larger annexation by the city. It was also in the late 1880's and early 1890's that many of the street names in the neighborhood were renamed eg., Charles to Garfield, Cleveland to Fillmore to simplify and avoid duplicate street names which were causing confusion for the expanding city utility and emergency services.



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## City Park Jazz 2014

City Park Jazz heads into its 28th season with a great lineup of FREE Sunday concerts (6 - 8 pm, Rain or Shine) in the park. Spanning 10 weeks across June, July and August, the collection of local musicians in this year's lineup crosses cultures, styles and genres in a way that reflects the musical and cultural diversity of Denver.

**June 1:** The Hazel Miller Band

[www.hazelmiller.com](http://www.hazelmiller.com)

[www.harmonychorale.org](http://www.harmonychorale.org)

**June 8:** The Lynn Baker Quartet

<http://www.lynnbakerjazz.com>

**June 15:** Ritmo Jazz Latino

**June 22:** Tribute to Freddy Rodriguez

**June 29:** Gumbo Le Funque

**July 6:** SuCh

<http://iamsuch.com> <http://facebook.com/thisissuch>

<http://twitter.com/iamsuch>

**July 13:** The Dave Watts Ensemble of Deepness

**July 20:** The Dexter Payne Quintet

[www.dexterpayne.com](http://www.dexterpayne.com)

**July 27:** Dan Treanor's Afrosippi Band featuring

Erica Brown & Merrian Johnson

**August 3:** Chris Daniels & The Kings with

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<http://chrisdaniels.com>

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In addition to its Dog Shelter, Cat Shelter and Wellness Center, Max Fund is ambitiously developing an animal sanctuary to house animals that can't be adopted, so they can live out their lives in a caring environment.

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www.maxfund.com



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at Cheesman Park*

Fun-loving folks with or without their canine friends are welcome!  
*Make tracks for the MAX in our 5k FUN walk or run!  
Picnic afterwards.*

When:	Saturday, June 7, 2014
Time:	7:30 am — 8:45 am check-in/registration Runners — 9:00 am ( <i>rain or shine</i> ) Walkers — 9:15 am
Pre-Registration Fee:	\$30.00 Adults   \$20.00 Children under 12 years
Event Day Fee:	\$35.00
Lazy Dogz and Sleepy Catz:	\$30.00 ( <i>stay in bed and still support MaxFund</i> )

**Please take the time to find people to make pledges on your walk/run. MaxFund depends on donations to care for and place 1,000 animals per year. Every dollar helps! The more we can raise for our "Lucky Mutts and Friendly Felines," the more animals we can help find a "second leash" on life.**

To pre-register online visit [www.maxfund.org](http://www.maxfund.org) and click on the "Lucky Mutt Strut" or call 303-547-6195. Runners/walkers may also register the morning of the event at 7:30 am at Cheesman Park.

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