



# News

Fall 2019

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## Neighborhood Plan Matters

By Myles Tangalin, Congress Park Board volunteer  
East Central Steering Committee volunteer

### **W**hy the East Central Neighborhood Plan Matters to Congress Park

If you are interested in more information about proposals for Transit Priority streets, decreased on-street parking, high-density construction, Bus Rapid Transit and other potential changes and their impact in Congress Park, make sure you look at the East Central Neighborhood Plan ([denvergov.org](http://denvergov.org)> East Central Area Plan) and attend some meetings to let your voice be heard.

Blueprint Denver 2019, which was adopted by city council earlier this year, creates and describes the framework of the Neighborhood Planning Initiative (NPI). Congress Park is one of six somewhat similar neighborhoods that make up the East Central Neighborhood Plan (ECNP) with the goal to create a 'Small Area Plan' that will modify and refine the overall Blueprint Denver Plan. Our ECNP plan should allow us to make recommendations based on neighborhood context, knowledge, vision and seems likely to have far reaching implications over the next 15-20 years.

### "Transformative Streets"

One good example to review is the proposed 'Transformative Streets.' This exhibit can be found by searching 'East Central Area Plan' after opening the [denvergov.org](http://denvergov.org) link. Under Mobility, select 'Map-based Recommendations: Transformative Streets,' which will open a map and proposed street descriptions. You can click on the map to download an enlarged PDF.

The Transformative Streets PDF exhibit shows all east-west arterials within Congress Park, from 6th Ave to Colfax, as pink lines that are described in the top left legend as Transformative Streets. If you look closely a bus icon representing Transit Priority (TP) is shown on 6th Ave, 7th Ave, 8th Ave, 12th Ave, Colfax Ave, York St, Josephine St and Colorado Blvd. This is a category of street that is designed to prioritize transit over vehicle lanes or on-street parking and would allow transit-only lanes to improve reliability and transit speed.

*Continued on page 3*

### *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.CongressParkNeighbors.org](http://www.CongressParkNeighbors.org)

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Neighborhood meetings  
are held every other month  
(February, April, June,  
August, October, De-  
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Wednesday, at 7 p.m. at  
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## In Case You're Wondering...

About the progress of the neighborhood plan, Accl towers going up in CPN, Safe Streets, and Green Team committee meetings, and the proposed improvements to Congress Park pool, check out the neighborhood website.

At <https://www.congressparkneighbors.org/>, our volunteer web guru tries to keep up with and post

the most recent official documents from the City, as well as informed neighbor comments.

What are you interested in? Talk to a CPN Board member and add your voice or lend a hand.



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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!

And we thank these committed neighbors:

Liz Goehring and Becky Coughlin  
—Congress Park Green Team coordinators

Steve Eppler—Crime Action  
[crime@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:crime@congressparkneighbors.org)

Rodney Allen and Eleni Sarris  
—Congress Park Historic Preservation

*Your name here*—Hospital District Redevelopment

Liz Chester—Safe Streets Committee

Bill DeMaio, Liz Goehring and Myles Tangalin  
—Denver Botanic Gardens Liaisons

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**Do you have a suggestion for your Board?**  
Send hints and help to  
[CPNBoard@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:CPNBoard@congressparkneighbors.org)

**Visit CPN businesses, make new friends and support your neighborhood newsletter. Volunteer CPNews advertising accounts rep needed now! Call Wendy, 303-355-3735, for info.**

Your elected, all-volunteer Congress Park Board invites you to attend the open meetings at REACH Charter School at 940 Fillmore on the third Wednesday every other month (Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct., Dec.) at 7 p.m.

## Neighborhood Plan Matters, continued

By Myles Tangalin, Congress Park Board volunteer  
East Central Steering Committee volunteer

*Continued from page 1*

A high comfort bikeway is proposed for York and Josephine and a protected bike lane on 7th Ave and 14th Ave. The high-density corridors of York, Josephine and 14th Ave, could have on-street parking removed for bicycle lanes and/or vehicle lanes removed for transit only lanes. There are pros and cons to these changes, but does this simplified graphic really explain what is being proposed or the impacts?

This is further complicated by the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on Colfax. The center-running BRT will create a long barrier to north-south traffic with very limited crossing or left turn opportunities, and 14th Ave is expected to have increased traffic due to traffic lane removals on Colfax. How will this impact traffic flow?

The ECNP is also recommending more businesses, restaurants and high-density construction along Colfax. Again, we have pros and cons, but has our NPI process clearly described what is being proposed?

These proposed transit priority streets surround and cut through our neighborhood. How might these changes impact you?

If we compare the new plan to the earlier approved Blueprint Denver plan there is quite a difference. The Transit Priority 4.8 exhibit recommends TP on 6th, 8th, Colfax, York, Josephine and Colorado. Our new plan adds an additional two arterials, which makes five out of seven of our east-west arterials into transit focus streets with associated tradeoffs.

Some of these tradeoffs may be acceptable to neighbors, but does the pink line accurately portray or educate us on these matters? Have we benefited from adequate neighborhood engagement? This also applies to the other sections of the Plan, such as, Economy & Housing, Land Use & Urban Design, Quality of Life and the other portions of Mobility. The two workshops that were held have barely scratched the surface of the plan and presentations generalized topics across six very different neighborhoods.

This plan is scheduled to be approved by the end of this year. Members of the ECNP Steering Committee, myself included and the Congress Park Board, do not feel enough time has been dedicated to our individual neighborhoods to understand, review and refine our recommendations on this plan.

We will be requesting additional time to review the different sections of the plan. This plan is about our vision of the future—we look forward to hearing your thoughts. Contact any Board member at [CPNboard@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:CPNboard@congressparkneighbors.org), come to the next neighborhood meeting in August or October, sign up for email alerts about issues and check the website for information about NPI meetings.



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## Congress Park: A Fond Look Back

By Gary Michael

When trolleys ran along Colfax, and what's now Congress Park was a big vacant lot, and where the Botanic Garden now sits was an unkempt abandoned cemetery, and what's now Sewall School was still St Philomena's, I was a little boy living at 921 Milwaukee. World War II was in progress and victory gardens in fashion. If you didn't have a backyard — or even if you did — you could stake out a 10x10 foot space in the big lot that became Congress Park and grow edibles, usually vegetables.

bikes like mine. And if you weren't willing to try you were a "chicken," a label even more ignominious than a "scaredy cat."

The streetcars that carried people up and down Colfax were yellow vehicles with wooden seats that ran on tracks in the middle of the road. Struts on their tops slid along overhead wires that held the electricity used to propel them. Because the struts were not securely fastened to the wires they came off often and the conductor had to get out and manually maneuver them back into position. Fare for a kid was a nickel; I don't recall if adults had to drop a dime in the box. I required my mother's reassurance to use a trolley by myself, a real rite of passage.

What became of the trolleys when buses replaced them I didn't know 'til as a grad student at C.U. in Boulder I took up rock climbing and saw several of them sitting in a field on the way to Eldorado Canyon. How long they'd been — or why

deposited — there in an above ground streetcar cemetery I do not know, but when one day they were gone I missed them. Maybe one or more became decor on private rural properties. They'd make fine conversation pieces and picnic venues.



On the east side of the area where the alley intersects 9th avenue was a short, steep dirt incline that boys challenged each other to ride their bikes up. With a speedy approach you could barely make it over the crest. At least that was the case for little kids on little

Photo: Jess Blackwell Photography



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## What Is All This Planning and Zoning Buzz That is Going Around Congress Park?

By Rodney Allen

**M**ore density? ADU's? Mixed Use zonings? These are among a long list of questions that have been raised by the plan presented in the East Central Neighborhood Planning initiative.

If you have not already heard, the City of Denver is in the process of crafting a plan for the future of Congress Park Neighborhood, as well as several other central Denver neighborhoods. The city has collected input from Denver residents regarding the plan. They have combined this with their recommendations, to create a draft of the plan.

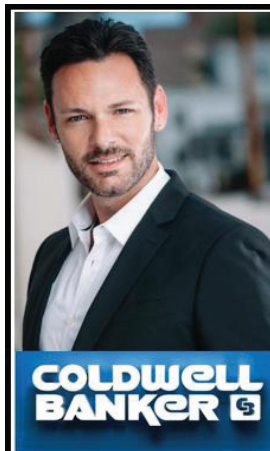
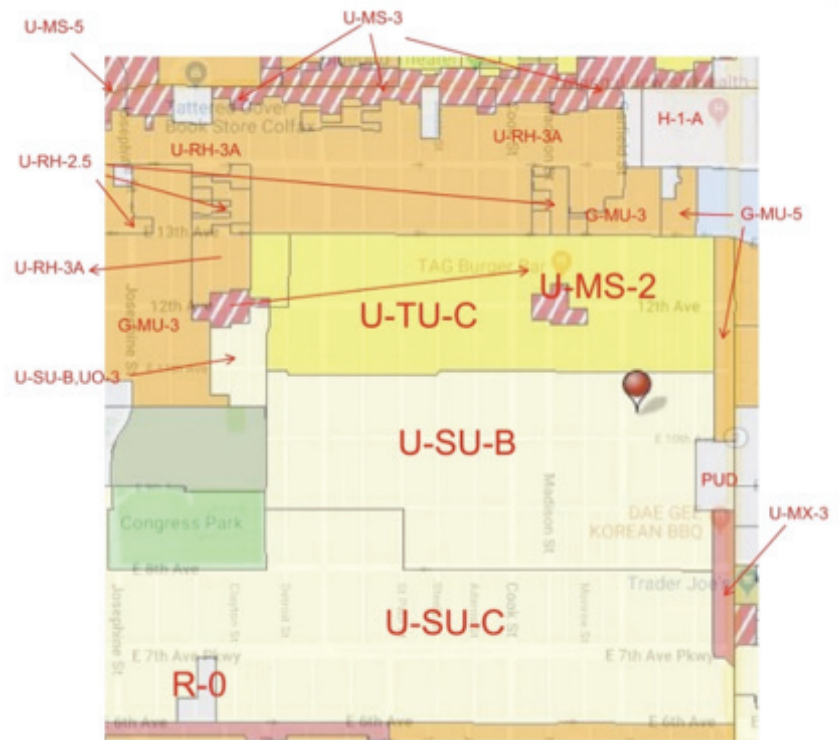
The neighborhood plan is focusing on four key areas: Economy & housing, mobility, land use & urban design, and quality of life. To see more information about the plan, you can visit Denver's Community Planning and Development website: [https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/community-planning-and-development/planning-and-design/Neighborhood\\_Planning\\_Initiative/Planning-Areas/East\\_Central\\_Area\\_Plan.html](https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/community-planning-and-development/planning-and-design/Neighborhood_Planning_Initiative/Planning-Areas/East_Central_Area_Plan.html)

One of the areas of focus in the plan is land use and urban design. Basically this means the focus is on the building site; what type of use is allowed, what structure is allowed to be built, and how that property conforms with the surrounding structures and neighborhood.

The majority of the land in our neighborhood is zoned for single family which is accompanied by multi-family, Main Street, Mixed use and Hospital zonings. Use the map shown for a quick reference of what the zoning is around you. For more information and specific allowed uses and design elements, you can visit the following Planning and Development websites.

View Denver Zoning Code by Article (zoning description): <https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/community-planning-and-development/zoning/denver-zoning-code.html>

The majority of Congress Park zoning is located in Article 5: Urban (U-) Neighborhood Context: [https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/646/documents/Zoning/DZC/Denver\\_Zoning\\_Code\\_Article5\\_Urban.pdf](https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/646/documents/Zoning/DZC/Denver_Zoning_Code_Article5_Urban.pdf)



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 Wednesdays 12-8,  
 and Saturdays 9-5.  
[denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

## Ross-Cherry Creek Library: You're Welcome Here

By Hillary Estner, Senior Librarian, Ross-Cherry Creek Branch Library

The Cherry Creek Library is gearing up for a fall full of fun and engaging activities for all. We're participating in Welcoming Week, a national series of events bringing together immigrants and people born in the United States and building connections across communities. Join us to paint a collaborative mural showing that, no matter where you are from, you're welcome here. Mural paint-

ing starts September 16 at 3 p.m. Drop by throughout the rest of that week to add your touch to the project.

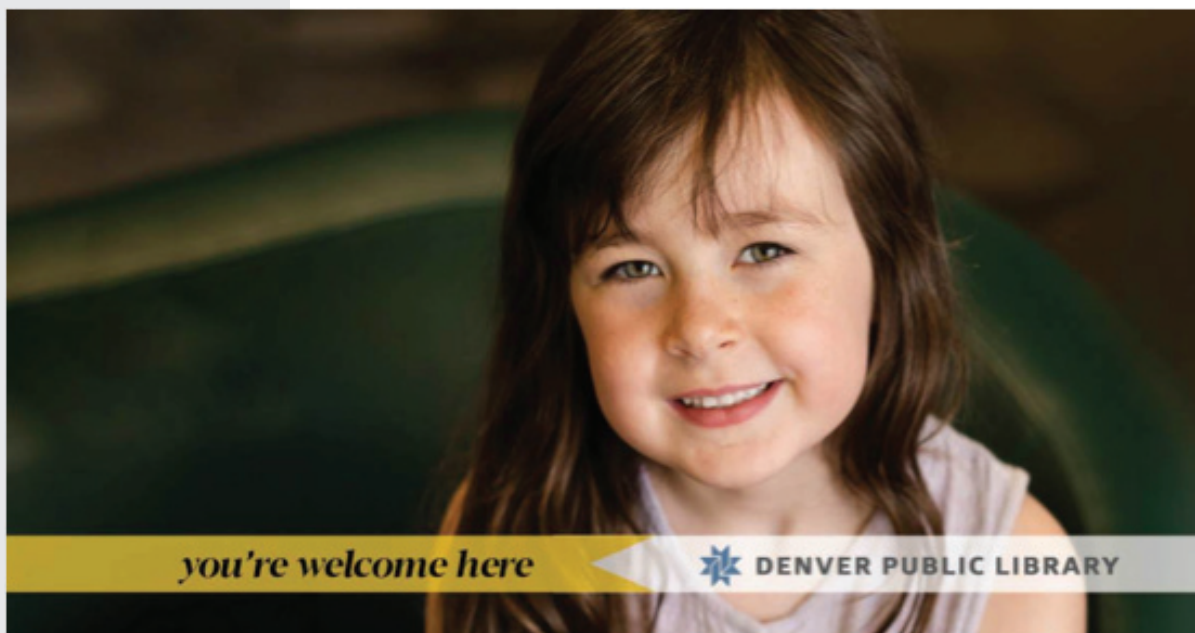
The good vibes will continue with the Portland band, the Doubleclicks, live in concert on Saturday, October 12, at 2 p.m.

This charming folk-pop nerd duo promises to be fun for kids and grownups too!

More ongoing and upcoming programs:

- All Ages Storytime, Mondays at 10:30 a.m.
- Baby Storytime, Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.
- Toddler Storytime, Fridays at 10:30 a.m.
- Drop-In Crafts, Mondays at 3:30 p.m.
- Movie Nights (call or check website for details)
- Guest presentations on cooking, gardening, Communicating with Your Adult Children, Bystander Intervention, and more.
- Art programs including decoupage, cardmaking and DIY Heat Wraps.

Remember, you're welcome here for all of our other services as well! Technology help, book recommendations, research questions, and books and other materials for all ages. We hope to see you soon!



## 101 Small Ways You Can Improve Your City

*The least you can do to make a big difference where you live*

Tiny bites of a 2018 article in Curbed by Patrick Sisson and Alissa Walker

**B**ecause loving where you live is just the beginning—it's about making it better, too. Sometimes the smallest things we can do for our neighborhoods can have the biggest impact.

A few ideas... (You'll have to check out 1-56, etc., on your own.)

57. Organize a [coffee? tea?] bar crawl.

59. Get to know your neighbors.

64. Volunteer. There are many groups in your neighborhood doing their part to make it a better place. Spend a few hours pitching in. [You'll get more out of it that you'll give.]

65. Share your idea with your neighbors. Often, your neighbors need a little help figuring out how to make their ideas happen, [and your suggestion might be the critical catalyst.]

68. Set the table for community conversation.

78. Smile, particularly at strangers. [a western thing that we've 'grown' away from?]

79. Screen a movie outdoors.

82. Just show up.

85. Reflect and connect with your neighbors.

86. Brainstorm a community vision. [Learn about the NPI, page 4]

94. Write an [article for the neighborhood newsletter].

98. Map your public produce. Have extra cherries, apples, peaches, pumpkins, zucchini? Post them on the CPN website.

101. Vote. No excuses.



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## Green Team Action Tips for Fall 2019

Collected by Barbara Rivera, Congress Park Green Team

Look up current activities of the CPN Green Team at [www.CongressParkNeighbors.org](http://www.CongressParkNeighbors.org)

### Water Conservation

- Use biodegradable cleaning products, including soap, shampoo, laundry detergent and household cleaners. When you wash your clothes or clean your tub, that wastewater full of chemicals eventually flows into streams, rivers, lakes and oceans. You can make your own household cleaners with non-toxic household ingredients like baking soda, white vinegar or lemon juice, borax and soap.
- Winterize sprinklers before 1st freeze, detach and roll up hoses, cover outdoor faucets. Don't get surprised by a quick freeze and a broken pipe.
- Know the location of your water shut-off valve and test it every year in case you ever need it.

### Home Energy Efficiency

- Install a programmable thermostat that can be adjusted to temperatures according to your schedule, and look for the ENERGY STAR® label when replacing your system. Consider a Wi-Fi thermostat that lets you remotely check and change the temperature in your home from an app on your smartphone or tablet.

- Keep cold air from rushing in. Use baby electric outlet plug covers (24 for \$2.99) to keep cold air trapped in exterior walls from getting into the house. Also, A full refrigerator/freezer is more efficient and loses less cold air each time you open the door,
- Schedule a Home Energy Assessment with Xcel Energy to help improve your home's energy efficiency. Visit [xcelenergy.com/homeenergyaudit](http://xcelenergy.com/homeenergyaudit) for more info.

### Transportation Options Reduce Pollution and Congestion

- Take to bus to protect your health! Studies show driving can be as stressful as skydiving! Whether it is a driver cutting you off or a near accident, your body reacts to stressful situations with a release of hormones. According to the Mayo Clinic, overexposure to stress hormones can disrupt many of the natural processes in

*Continued on page 9*

**ENERGY SAVER**

## Energy Saver 101: Home Energy Audits

Take the first step to improving your home's energy efficiency: get a home energy audit.

**What is a home energy audit?**

A home energy audit helps you pinpoint where your house is losing energy and **what you can do to save money**. A home energy auditor will also assess health and safety issues that might exist in your home.

The audit involves two parts: the **home assessment** and **analysis** using computer software.

**{ DID YOU KNOW? }**

**30%** You could **save 5 to 30 percent** on your energy bill by making efficiency upgrades identified in your home energy audit.

ENERGY.GOV



## Green Team Action Tips for Fall 2019, continued

Collected by Barbara Rivera, Congress Park Green Team

your body, and puts you at increased risk for numerous health problems.

- Changing jobs? Look for a new job close to home and/or located near public transit.
- Burn Fat, Not Fuel! Bike commuting is adventurous and healthy; instead of sitting in a car and getting angry, you can work out your frustration on two wheels and boost your energy and your productivity.

- Buy recycled: Supporting recycling means more than just recycling, but also supporting recycled products and the companies that produce them!

Remember- Every Little Bit Helps! Together We Can Make a Huge Impact

### Waste Diversion & Reduction

- Remember the 1st “R” in “Reduce, Re-use, Recycle.” Reduce the amount your household consumes, and try to fix or mend things before throwing them away.
- Know what you can and can’t recycle, and make sure you don’t put anything in your recycling bin that can’t be processed. [For hints, see article on page 14.]



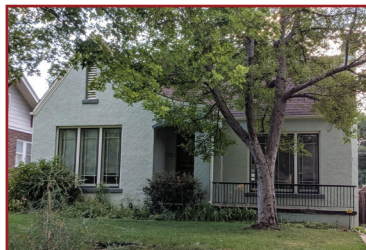
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*"The Congress Park Crime Action Committee is committed to coordinate efforts to rid our neighborhood of crime, thus helping to ensure personal safety for all."*  
 CPN Crime Action Committee Mission Statement

## Congress Park Crime Report

By Stephen Eppler, Crime Action Chair

*Locks and awareness deter theft and burglary*

Denver Post and Denver Police 2019 crime data shows several clear neighborhood trends. Violent crimes such as rape, robbery and assault have declined more than 50% compared to 2018. Property crimes also decreased by about 10% overall due to a decline in larceny (20%) and theft from motor vehicle (32%).

However, car theft is up 10% and the number of burglaries has increased by more than 83%. Since January there have been more than 50 burglaries in Congress Park. Consequently, our neighborhood's rank among the 78 Denver neighborhoods has dropped to 32nd from 63rd in 2018.

There has also been a 120% increase in bicycle thefts (31 vs 14 in 2018). Typically, this occurs if a bike is left briefly unsecured while running an errand or when a garage door is left unlocked. Keep your bike locked up, even in the garage. Take a picture of your bike and its serial number. DPD maintains a bicycle registry.

Most burglaries in Congress Park are unforced; only 30% involved forcible entry. Open side or garage doors and windows are common points of entry. Easily-located 'hidden' keys, pet doors, and unsecured window AC units can provide access. Once inside, it takes only minutes for a thief to steal cash, credit cards, jewelry or other valuables.

The vast majority of burglaries are committed by repeat offenders. They want to avoid contact with residents, remain unobserved and avoid creating hard evidence that can be presented in court to a judge.

Accordingly, thieves look for unoccupied houses. Most burglaries occur when people are away for work, an evening out, a weekend or a vacation. Stacks of mail or newspapers suggest that residents are away. To see if someone is home, thieves knock on the door, rather than push the doorbell which can trigger video surveillance.

Creating and maintaining the perception of occupancy is an effective deterrent to burglary. Set lights on timers or attach an LED device that flickers like a TV. Video cameras (and dummy cameras) are helpful especially if coupled with signage warning of video surveillance and reporting via a cellular or wireless connection.

Start with low tech solutions. Keep shrubs cut back to eliminate hiding places. Turn your porch lights on at night. Consider replacing manual fixtures with those that turn on at dusk and include motion sensors. Know your neighbors and be alert to any suspicious or unusual activity. Most importantly—if you see something, do something. Call the police.



Guiding you  
home in  
Congress Park

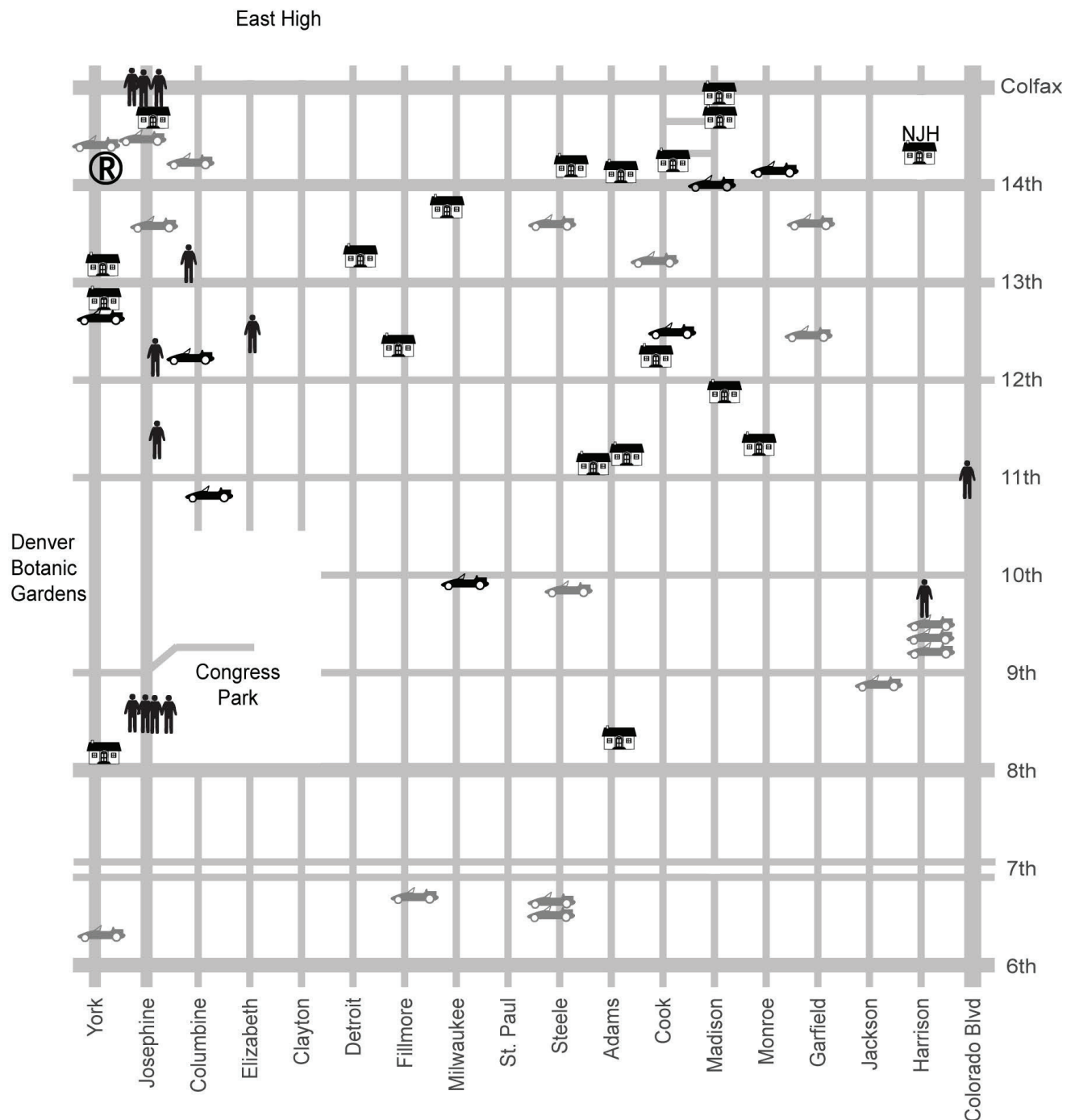
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# CONGRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CRIMES APRIL - JUNE 2019



- (R) Sexual Assault
- Assault/robbery
- Burglary
- Auto Theft
- Theft from auto

**This map shows a compilation of all serious crimes reported to police within Congress Park in the second quarter of 2019. Crime mapping is provided by the Congress Park Crime Action Committee using City and Police Department statistics.**



## My Day at the Landfill

By Tara Tull, CP Green Team

### Light Your Porch for Safety

Keeping your porch lights on at night

- can make your home look occupied and deter break-ins, or unwanted campers on your front porch
- helps you avoid stumbling over something when you let the cat out
- can be inexpensive, especially with LED bulbs
- doesn't have to be boring—consider string lights to reflect every season and holiday
- might help the neighborhood dogwalkers see better to pick up their best friends' deposits
- could keep the joggers from tripping on your sidewalk

About 45 Denver residents gathered at 7:30 Aam on a beautiful June morning outside Denver Recycles at the “Gotham City” building near Bayaud and Pecos to catch the bus for a tour with a team from Public Works-Solid Waste Management. I was invited on the tour because of my work on both the CP Green Team and the Denver Neighborhood Compost Challenge. I was super excited to go on the tour and learn more about how the whole system works and I was not disappointed! The bus was comfortable and cool with television monitors throughout so that we could see the power-point presentation and videos. Megan Lane, Public Works, did a fantastic overview of how the City manages our waste and why recycling and composting are so important.

The first stop was the landfill. The Denver Arapahoe Disposal Site (DADS) is owned by the City of Denver and operated by Waste Management. Imagine a huge open area of land on the south side of Denver that is being built into hills filled with garbage. It was surprising that there was not a huge stench in the air given that we were surrounded by garbage, but the dry conditions in Colorado along with the methods for covering the garbage radically decrease the smell. The landfill operates 24 hours per day, six days per week.

I learned that the waste industry is a dangerous business, but Denver is on the cutting edge of experimentation with technology to increase employee safety. We saw large trash bulldozers pushing garbage into piles and then compacting that garbage. The landfill is piloting the use of remote-control bulldozers that can be operated from a distance.

From the landfill, we drove to north to Keenesburg to visit the A-1 Organics facility. This is where the food and yard waste that goes in to the green bins is turned into compost. The facility is 430 acres in size filled with large rows of organic materials in various stages of decomposition. Because we were standing by big piles of recently delivered food waste, there was quite a strong aroma as well as insects at the site. The smell decreases as the materials turn in to the rich final product known as compost (some of which is now sold at Ace Hardware under the name “Denver’s Own EcoGro™ Compost.”) Composting is a critical way to decrease the amount of material going to the DADS facility. Currently, 50-52% of the garbage dumped in the landfill is organic material which could be composted. In the landfill, organic materials create a heat-trapping gas known as methane which contributes to climate change. While DADS does

*Continued on page 13*

## RECYCLE THESE ITEMS

### Bottles & Cans



Aluminum and Steel Cans,  
Glass Bottles, Plastic Bottles  
and Aerosol Cans  
empty

### Boxes



Flattened Cardboard, Food  
Boxes, Paper Towel Tubes  
and Pizza Boxes  
flatten

### Paper



Mixed Paper, Newspaper,  
Magazines, Paper Cups,  
Food and Beverage Cartons  
empty

### Plastics



Kitchen, Laundry,  
Bath: Bottles and Containers  
empty

## My Day at the Landfill, continued

By Tara Tull, CP Green Team

process some of that methane in to energy, it is a relatively low amount of the total produced.

In addition to the organic material collected from Denver residents in the green bins, A1 Organics accepts materials from local grocery stores and restaurants as well as other communities. We were informed that the composting stream from the Denver program is relatively clean; however, I was shocked by the amount of plastic waste and other materials that we found in the recently dropped off piles of food and yard waste. Our guide pulled out a string of lights and a pack of Uno cards in a zip-lock bag out of one pile! Fortunately, they have systems and machinery to sort out the trash from the compostable material. We saw a pile of rocks filled with metal cutlery and other items that had been sifted out. Nonetheless, the systems only work when there is a low percentage of contamination, so it is crucial that only organic materials go in the green bin.

Our final stop was the Materials Reclamation Facility which we were told the cool kids call the "MRF". This is where the recycling from the purple carts is separated in to categories and bundled for shipment to the end user. The MRF operates around the clock, six days per week. The system is noisy and fast. Material is loaded on to a conveyor belt that goes by a group of employees who start the basic sorting (think of the famous image of Lucille Ball working in the chocolate factory) and then through various machines which use gears, magnets, blowers, and robots to send each item to its final location. If something gets caught in the gears like a plastic bag or a hose or cord, the entire facility shuts down until the problem is solved. When this happens, workers are often sent home and lose pay and the facility loses money. Community members can support the economic viability of the recycling industry by being careful not to put items in the purple bin that can cause shut downs. (See the recycling tips article in this newsletter for more information.)

Recycling and composting create jobs. For every 1 job that a landfill creates, composting creates 4 and recycling creates 10. If we attract end markets to Colorado (the companies that actually process the materials in to new material), we could create 20 plus jobs.

Glass is the one material (besides compost) that is processed locally. Momentum Recycling opened a state-of-the-art glass recycling facility in Broomfield in 2016 which has radically increased the amount of glass that is able to be processed through the single stream bins. Glass does not degrade and can be recycled endlessly. According to the Momentum website, only 6.25% of glass was recycled in Colorado in 2015. In order to support this local process and decrease the size of the landfill, we need to increase the percentage of glass that is recycled in our communities.

I continue to be impressed by the staff of Public Works-Solid Waste Management and the people who work at the companies that support Denver Recycles. We have a great system in place, but not enough Denver residents use it! As a City, Denver has a long way to go to reduce our waste production. Colorado has one of the lowest waste diversion rates in the country and Denver (23%) is far behind our neighbors like Loveland (61%) and Boulder (52%). One of our Green Team goals is to increase the number of people who compost and recycle and educate our neighbors so that the streams are clean. Please join us in this effort!



**WHAT'S IN YOUR TRASH?**

**25% Recycling**

**50 % Compostable**

**25% Trash**

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## Black and Purple and Green—Oh my!

By Dorothy Gale

*The trash, recycle and compost bins are only supposed to be in the alley on pick up day. Otherwise they need to be brought back to your property.*



All trash, recycling and compost carts must be stored on your property in between collections. You may set your carts out as early as the night before your collection day and then return your carts to your property within a day after collection occurs.

Keeping carts out of the alley and off the streets will:

- Ensure each neighbor takes responsibility for their own waste and carts
- Ensure each neighbor has access to the public right-of-way
- Improve the appearance of the alley
- Prevent cart loss, damage, misuse and vandalism
- Minimize recycling and compost contamination (non-acceptable items can contaminate entire loads)
- Reduce litter and the potential for illegal dumping
- Discourage waste scavengers in your neighborhood

It is your responsibility to manage and care for your city-issued carts. Take pride in your neighborhood and bring your carts back.

## Cleaning Up the “Stream”: Five Tips for Recycling

By Tara Tull, CP Green Team

“Contamination” is when non-recyclable materials end up in the recycling bin. We can create a cleaner stream and a stronger recycling industry by knowing what items should not go in the bin. The items you recycle become a commodity that is sold to manufacturers. If there is more than 2% contamination in a bundle of material, manufacturers will not purchase those bundles. They will end up in the landfill.

**Tip #1: Don’t bag your recycling.** Items from your purple bin go on a fast-moving conveyor belt. It’s dangerous for an employee to reach inside or open bags, so bagged items get tossed off the line and end up in landfill.

**Tip #2: No plastic bags in the purple bin.** In several sections of the recycling facility, items run through gears. Plastic bags get caught in the gears and can shut down the entire facility. Most local grocery stores accept plastic for recycling, including grocery, newspaper and dry-cleaning bags, and bubble wrap. See more at [www.plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org).

**Tip #3: Rinse containers.** Pour a little water in the container, shake it and dump out the liquid before putting it in the bin.

**Tip #4: Don’t put any wires, cords, or hoses in your bin.** These items are known as “tangles” in the waste management biz and gum up the gears at the recycling facility. Blue Star Recycling, SustainAbility, and some big box electronic stores take cords for recycling.

**Tip #5: No scrap metal and batteries in the purple bin.** Thumbs up to aluminum, tin and empty aerosol cans, aluminum foil (squashed to 2-inch balls), and aluminum pie tins. Ace Hardware accepts several types of batteries for recycling. Go to [www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org), and click on the Recycle link to find companies that take scrap metal.





Service Club Meeting

**Zonta Club of Denver**  
303-355-3735  
100 years working to improve opportunities for at-risk women and children. Monthly dinner, program & meeting on 2nd Thursday, \$35.  
[www.zonta-denver.org](http://www.zonta-denver.org)

Window and Gutter Cleaning

**Twin Pines Window Cleaning**  
Window and Gutter cleaning. Also offering house cleaning, leaf clean up and seasonal snow shoveling. Contact Bob at 303-329-8205. Offering complimentary estimates since 1994.

Volunteer Opportunities

**Congress Park Neighbors**  
Meet new friends, share your expertise at neighborhood meetings and discuss issues that are shaping your neighborhood. Third Wednesdays of even months, 7 p.m., Sewall/REACH, 940 Fillmore. Contact [cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org) and visit [congressparkneighbors.org](http://congressparkneighbors.org).

Worship

**Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church**  
1100 Fillmore; 303-333-9366  
A welcoming, diverse and inclusive faith community in Congress Park. Sundays: 9:30 am worship service, 11:00 am education hour.

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**September** is Latino Heritage, Baby Safety, National Literacy, and Sickle Cell Awareness Month

**October** is National Breast Cancer Awareness, Adopt a Shelter Dog, Child Health, Disability Employment Awareness, and Fire Prevention Month

**November** is American Indian Heritage Month, World Communication Month, Great American Smokeout Month, Peanut Butter Month



Congress Park Neighbors, Inc.  
P.O. Box 18571  
Denver, CO 80218  
[www.CongressParkNeighbors.org](http://www.CongressParkNeighbors.org)

The best way to keep  
up-to-date about neighborhood  
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zoning is to sign up for  
CPN's email broadcast at  
[www.congressparkneighbors.org/  
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"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote  
in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote  
every day about the kind of community you want to live in."  
-Author Unknown

## Congress Park Neighbors Membership Form

Your neighborhood needs you! Join your neighbors today.

Name:  
Email:  
Address:  
Phone:

The above information will only be used for contacting you about Congress Park  
Neighborhood issues.

\_\_\_ Member Name: \$20  
If household membership, other persons name:  
\_\_\_ Patron (receive 2 passes to the SIE Film Center!): \$30  
\_\_\_ Business or organization: \$40

(Circle amount enclosed)

Make check payable to:  
Congress Park Neighbors, Inc.  
P.O. Box 18571  
Denver, CO 80218

Date:

I am interested in learning more about:

- \_\_\_ Neighborhood Green Team
- \_\_\_ Business Support
- \_\_\_ Neighborhood Planning
- \_\_\_ Historic Preservation
- \_\_\_ Newsletter writing/production
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- \_\_\_ Social events
- \_\_\_ Graffiti abatement
- \_\_\_ Crime prevention
- \_\_\_ Safe Streets/Traffic/Parking
- \_\_\_ Zoning
- \_\_\_ Other

Congress Park Neighbors, Inc. is a non-profit organization with an elected, volunteer Board of Directors.

Your tax-deductible annual dues support the newsletter, website ([www.CongressParkNeighbors.org](http://www.CongressParkNeighbors.org)), mailings and fliers about hot issues, events like the ice cream social and ongoing activities to benefit the neighborhood.