



Congress Park - A Sustainable Neighborhood?

March 12, 2016

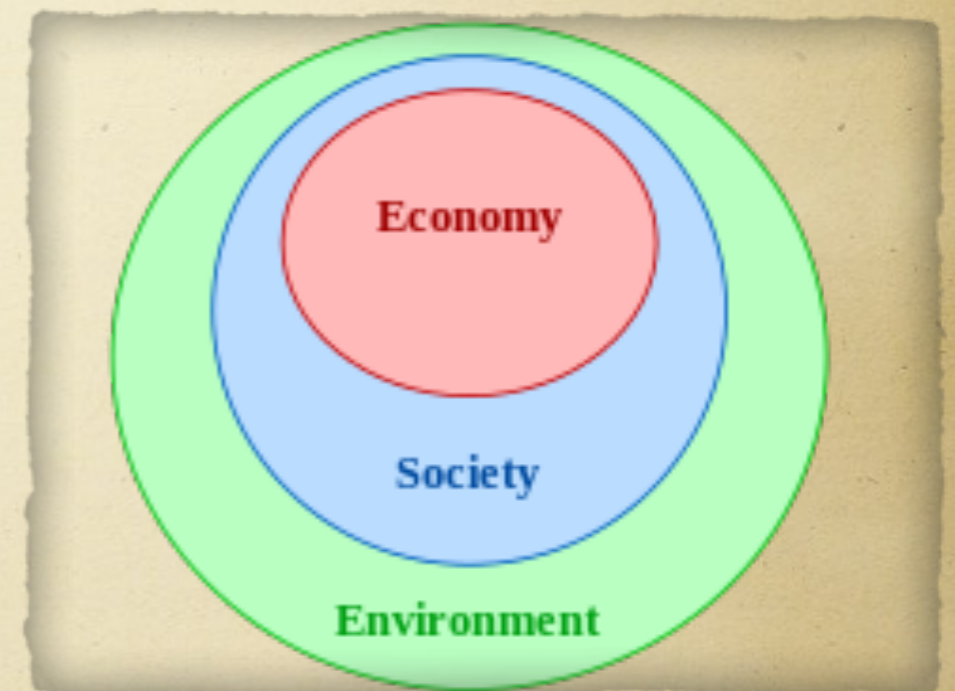
Presented by Liz Goehring to the Congress Park Green Team

Who is familiar with Denver's
Sustainable Neighborhood
Network program?



What is Denver's SNN?

- It's a Denver City Department of Environmental Health program.
- It's purpose is to reduce residents' ecological footprint and to enhance the livability of our neighborhood.
- It's a program where neighbors organize and take action towards sustainability, and earn credits towards certification.

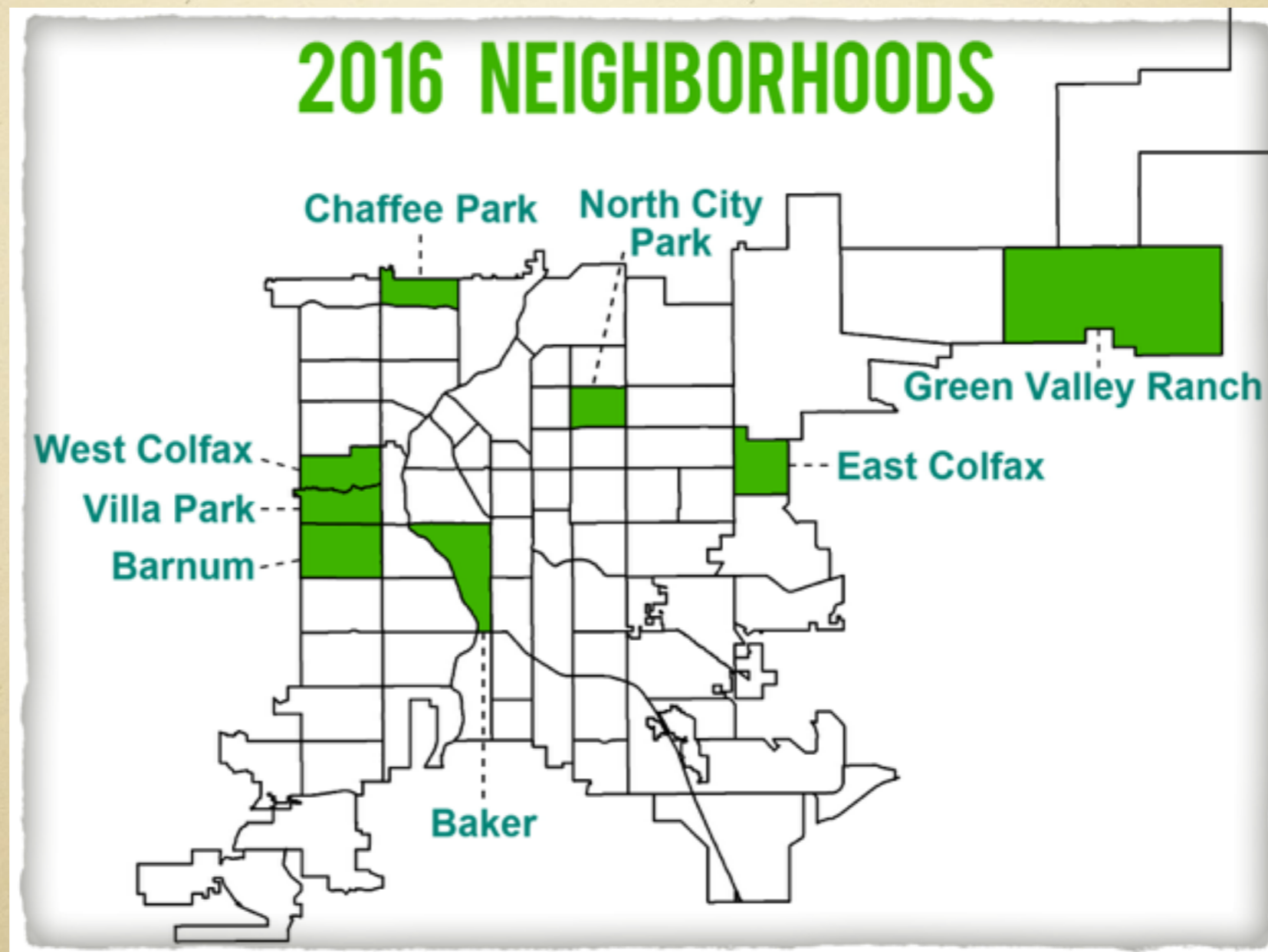


Triple bottom line

<https://youtu.be/nbxXnQxyzlQ>

So, for example, all the wonderful work we're doing to host our Earth Day Festival would earn us credits towards designation as a certified Sustainable Neighborhood.

Which neighborhoods are certified sustainable?



What did they do?

➤ West Colfax:

- Clean & Green; Healthy Living; Shrink our footprint

➤ Chaffee Park:

- Beautification; Recycling; Transportation; Healthy Living; Communications

➤ North City Park:

- Connecting Neighbors - CityPark Time Bank; Urban Agriculture;

➤ All initiatives aligned to one or more of the 5 broad goals:



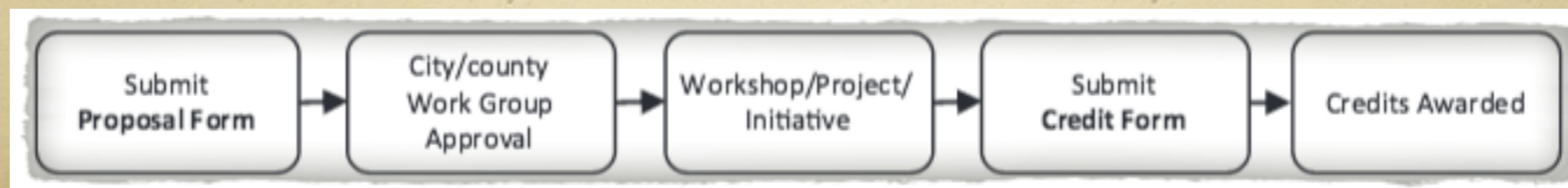
Why should we do this?

- **For the planet:** to reduce our own ecological footprint, conservation issues
- **For economic reasons:** to save money on energy and water, support local business
- **For the people:** to enhance livability of our neighborhood, to take care of each other
- Oh ... and
 - Formal recognition by the city
 - Neighborhood signage
 - Stronger community
- **Bottom line:** The program provides resources and structure for work we are already doing as a Green Team!



How does it work?

- To become Certified => neighborhoods earn **credits** each year
- Neighborhoods **apply** to the program (next date, end of May).
- Application process is **competitive**
 - must show strong involvement/interest in community, RNO
 - must propose goals/plans for several initiatives
 - provide evidence that we work together as a neighborhood
 - involve neighbors, businesses, schools, churches, etc...
- Get accepted into program!
- Launch initiatives and start earning credit



Timeline

- Steering committee discussed and decided to go for it (Mar 10)
- SNN provides a kick-off meeting/workshop (April)
- CPGT works on goals and initiatives, planning (April/May)
- CPGT talks to neighbors to gauge support, collect signatures (e.g., at Earth Day)
- Obtain CPN, Inc and Council member support (Mar 10)
- Pull all this into application by end of May

Now
March 20



Application Due
May 30

The steering committee enthusiastically supports applying to the program.



- Any objections? Concerns?

Ready to go for it??