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.

https://youtu.be/nbxXnQxyzIQ
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??