

# Congress Park

www.CongressParkNeighbors.org

# News

Spring 2020

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## Celebrate Earth Day! Join the 2020 Congress Park Green Team Sustainability Challenge

By Congress Park's Green Team

Are you concerned about climate change? Plastic pollution? Your carbon footprint? Wondering what to do? Join our Sustainability Challenge by making your 2020 commitment now!

The goal of the Sustainability Challenge is to encourage individuals and households to commit to personal sustainability goals so that we can track and support those commitments as a community. We developed a Sustainability Checklist to help you assess where you can make changes in your life that will support a sustainable future.

Participating in the Challenge is easy!

- 1) Go to the Congress Park Green Team website: <https://www.congressparkneighbors.org/green-team-2/>
- 2) Review the Sustainability Checklist and the examples of commitments for ideas.
- 3) Pick 1 to 3 actions that you can commit to in 2020.\*
- 4) Fill out the online commitment form.
- 5) Do the actions!

It's that simple.

We will follow up with you to see how things are going and see if you need any support. Together we can make change happen!

\*Each commitment should be a new behavior or action for you. Many of us are already doing lots of amazing things to decrease our environmental impact. This challenge is to support new actions. This is your commitment so pick actions that resonate for you! Let us know if you think of an idea that's not on the list!

**"There is no  
power for change  
greater than a  
community  
discovering what  
it cares about."**

MARGARET J. WHEATLEY

*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

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Volunteers Needed

Your articles, letters  
and advertisements are  
always welcome.

Neighborhood meetings  
are held every other month  
(February, April, June,  
August, October, December),  
on the third Wednesday,  
at 7 p.m. at REACH Charter School  
940 Fillmore. Watch for 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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## Help Share the News!

By Wendy Moraskie, volunteer editor

**L**ike what you see in the newsletter? See a gap that needs filling? Yes, there are all sorts of info-sharing tools out there, and we want to make sure the Congress Park News continues to meet your needs in the issued-quarterly, printed-and-hand-delivered sector. If you can contribute a story, help sort through emails, deliver the newsletters, or participate in another way, please contact me at [wendyrich@msn.com](mailto:wendyrich@msn.com).

## Congress Park News :: Spring 2020

## Participate in Your Neighborhood

**I**nformation flies by so fast, it's hard to verify what you're hearing. Get your neighborhood news on [www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org), and volunteer to help your RNO share the facts. Be alert to postings on unrelated sites that claim to be from Congress Park Neighbors, Inc., and call (see board listings this page) or email [cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org) to let us know of questionable information. Contact any Board member for ideas on how you can help Congress Park continue to be the best neighborhood in Denver!

## Your Congress Park Neighbors 2020 Volunteer Board of Directors

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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:

Tara Hull  
—Congress Park Green Team coordinators

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

Rodney Allen and Vicki Eppler  
—Congress Park Historic Preservation

*Your name here*—Hospital District Redevelopment

Liz Chester—Safe Streets Committee

Liz Goehring and Myles Tangalin  
—Denver Botanic Gardens Liaisons

Vicki Eppler, Mayor's Appointee  
—DBG Board of Trustees

**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.

## East Area Plan Projects Vision for Six Core Neighborhoods

Notes from Historic Denver

In 2018, Denver City Council adopted an Update to Blueprint Denver, a citywide land use and transportation plan. As follow-up, the City Planning Office is now creating plans for collections of neighborhoods across Denver through a process called the Neighborhood Planning Initiative. The East Central Area – which includes a high concentration of historic resources – is currently in draft form and provides an important opportunity to weigh in on how our historic buildings and neighborhoods can thrive as our city grows and changes.

The six neighborhoods of the East Central Area include North Capitol Hill/Uptown, Capitol Hill, City Park West, City Park/South City Park, Cheesman Park, and Congress Park. The plan also provides analysis and guidance for Colfax Avenue as the primary commercial corridor in the area.

Read the draft plan on the City's website, where you can also check for updates or make comments.

### Historic Denver's Perspective

As a community stakeholder and advocate for Historic buildings and neighborhoods, our organization participated in the planning effort, helped to provide data regarding historic resources in the plan area, and carefully reviewed the current draft. We have expressed support for many of the recommendations in the East Central Area Plan that reflect the value our community gives to historic places and cultural touchstones, which are critical to a vibrant, inclusive and authentic Denver.

The emphasis on preservation is clear from the outset of the 250+ page plan. The Vision & Community Priorities include preserving significant buildings, incentivizing preservation with existing and new tools, creating an adaptive reuse ordinance to make it easier to put existing buildings to new use, and supporting small and local businesses that make up our historic commercial nodes.

The tools included in the draft reflect a range of methods that can protect buildings and encourage the reuse of our existing resources:

- Require the reuse of vacant institutional buildings as a default policy
- Identify the preservation of character buildings on Colfax as a desirable community benefit
- Encourage renovations and additions over demolition by refining zoning standards for residential areas
- Revise standards for new home construction to reduce bulk and massing
- Create attractive options for the reuse of existing homes by allowing up to one additional interior unit as well as a possible Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU), which offers flexibility and housing diversity without demolition or the disruption of long established character

The draft plan also takes advantage of Discover Denver survey data, which provides guidance on areas of potential significance and possible landmarks. Further community dialogue can lead to a variety of outcomes, such as new historic districts, conservation or design overlays, or the application of incentive programs for character preservation.

### ECAP Areas of Concern

By Historic Denver  
While there is much to applaud, Historic Denver has expressed concern about a few of the plan's recommendations – most notably, amending the design standards for historic parkways. We agree that historic parkways can accommodate enhanced mobility options, but we are concerned that the plan is vague about the changes that might be made to guidelines and features of these green spaces, which tie our City Beautiful parks together and are among the most defining and important elements of our city.

Other key strategies will require refinement and community engagement to ensure that outcomes meet expectations. Historic Denver is very interested in collaborating to further define criteria and standards in the plan, and to ensure that preservation remains a priority.



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### Mother Nature Has Last Word: Snow

We're in Mother Nature's Season of Surprises, when she may drop an inch or a foot of snow with very little warning. Keep that snow shovel handy and make sure people can walk or wheel up your block safely. Is your neighbor out of town? Shovel their section, too, and ask if they can clear your walk when you're gone. Have a neighbor who never shovels? Find out why and offer to help.



*This year marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and the USPS is premiering a new stamp in celebration.*

### Earth Day is 50!

The Congress Park Green Team is planning a fun trivia night on Thursday, April 2 at The Goods restaurant from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Join us to test out your environmental sustainability knowledge. We will also have an event focused on the plastic crisis. Details will be announced in our e-newsletter. Sign up at [www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org).

### REACH Earth Club


There's a new Earth Club in the neighborhood, at REACH Charter School!

Last Fall, DBG Horticulturalist and REACH parent, Angie Andrade, contacted CPN Green Team members to join her in forming an Earth Club at REACH Charter, and on Jan 15, fifteen 3rd -5th graders showed up eager to kick-off the new club! The students wanted to learn all about the natural world and about how they can help care for the Earth.

Starting with exploring and tending their Sensory Garden, these new Earth Club members will also be working on creating a certified Schoolyard Habitat for Wildlife. Along the way, they plan to teach classmates and neighbors about Wildlife Habitats and Earth stewardship, and on Earth Day, will be hosting tours of the Sensory Garden for Congress Park Neighbors.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join these new Earth Ambassadors as they teach us how to be good stewards of our planet. Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22. Tours will be available 10-11am, 1-2pm and 3:30-5:00pm.

The Sensory Garden is always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in helping out, either with the garden or with the new Earth Club, please contact Angie at [andradea@botanicgardens.org](mailto:andradea@botanicgardens.org) or Liz at [lizg313@gmail.com](mailto:lizg313@gmail.com).



**30 Rotating Craft Beers**  
**Daily Happy Hour**  
**Drink Specials**  
**Mug Club 2020 Now on Sale**  
**833 Colorado Blvd**



## News from District 10

By City Councilman Chris Hinds

### **E**ast Central Area Plan 1 Month Public Feedback Extension.

Do you like your neighborhood the way it is? Would you like more parking? More bike lanes? Better sidewalks? What do you think about our amenities like grocery stores - do we have enough? All of those topics are under consideration right now in the East Central Area Plan.

The East Central Area Plan (ECAP) is a 20-year area plan covering six neighborhoods along Colfax Avenue. The six neighborhoods are North Capitol Hill (Uptown), Capitol Hill, City Park West, (South) City Park, Cheesman Park, and Congress Park. Four of these, Uptown, Capitol Hill, Cheesman Park, and Congress Park, are District 10 neighborhoods.

The area plan makes recommendations for housing, transit infrastructure, the economy, and quality of life additions. Recommendations include where future bikeways will be, for example. Community Planning and Development has extended the deadline for public feedback to hear from you.

Because the plan is 270 pages long, my office has prepared a short navigational guide with instructions about how to provide your comments. You can find the guide on my City Council Website here. If the navigator is too long, I recommend flipping to the 2 - 3 pages of recommendations just for your neighborhood and familiarizing yourself with the plan in that way.

We've also collected a team of volunteers who can help guide you through the document. Give us a date and time, and we'll come to your apartment building or HOA meeting to educate you on Denver and this plan's vision for the future of our neighborhoods.

## ECAP Comments Extended to March 31

By Myles Tangalin, CPN representative to ECAP

**T**he East Central Area Plan (ECAP) is a 270-page draft document that attempts to lay out plans for Land Use, Housing, Mobility, Quality of Life and other very large, complex topics—for six Denver neighborhoods over the next several years. The ECAP was released to the public in November 2019 and the plan was scheduled for a spring city council vote.

The ECAP Steering Committee met on Thursday, February 13 at the Wellington Web Building. We reviewed key themes from public input.

The feedback period was scheduled to close February 5. After many Registered Neighborhood Organizations requested a time extension for additional outreach, the City extended the feedback period through March 31. Outreach will include partnering with RNOs, distributing hard copies, gathering comment sheets, holding extended office hours, re-opening the online draft, distributing flyers and providing media kits to RNOs.

This is a substantial, comprehensive and complex plan; more discussion is needed and warranted with such wide-ranging topics and the potential for extensive human impact. The ECAP area is 3.89 square miles, has 32,684 housing units, a population of 46,488 people and we represent 6.5% of the city's population. Within our boundaries contain some of the major attractions and parks in the city, along with the most heavily-used traffic corridors in the region.

The current outreach includes 8,900+ online responses; 1,600 responses from 200 commenters from the latest February 5 comment period, which represents a mere .0043% of the ECAP population. Most online commenters did not include their location, so it isn't known whether those responses are from ECAP residents. It's critical that all residents who would be impacted by the changes proposed in this plan be well-informed and their input be specifically solicited and considered.

Visit [www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org), community planning and development, Neighborhood Planning Initiative and [www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org) to see the draft plan and all the information posted about the responses. Make sure you add your comments so your voice is heard.

### **City Council members**

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### Your Porch can be Inviting and Aware

Let there be light – on your porch! Yes, crime prevention and safety experts agree that lighted porches can be a good safety feature (your guests won't trip up the stairs) and a crime prevention tool (burglars will skip your house and go to a dark entryway somewhere else).

Your porch lights can also express your personality. The winter holiday lights may have come down (or not, no judging here), but what about red lights for Valentine's Day or Heart Health Month? Green to promote earth stewardship or mental health? Yellow for our troops? Purple, green and gold for Mardi Gras? Get creative and light up your porch!

## Help Congress Park's Wildlife Thrive

By Ashley Seymour, Congress Park neighbor and Bird Conservancy of the Rockies volunteer

When you live in an urban neighborhood like ours, wildlife spotting is rare, with one exception--birds! Birds grace us daily with their melodious songs and beauty, but sadly their numbers are dwindling fast. A study released last fall in the journal *Science*, co-authored by Colorado's own Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, reported that bird populations in North America have declined by a startling 29% in the past 40 years. It's bad news for birds (and us), but here are five easy ways to help our feathered neighbors thrive.

1. Keep your cats indoor. Outdoor cats are the number one human-caused mortality to birds. It's also better for the cats, as indoor cats live nearly three times as long as outdoor cats. If you can't keep your cat indoors, put a bell on its collar. A warning jingle gives birds a fighting chance of escaping.
2. Make your windows safer. Birds can crash into windows when they see trees reflected in the glass. Hang ribbons or strings to break up the reflection.
3. Plant native plants. Although lawns may look nice, they don't provide food or shelter for our wild neighbors. Planting native plants will bring more birds and pollinators into your yard, enhancing their life and yours!
4. Avoid Pesticides. Pesticides don't just kill pesky insects, they are lethal to the birds who eat the seeds or insects. Making your home and garden pesticide-free will help birds and other pollinators thrive.
5. Hang a Birdhouse. Many of our favorite backyard birds need dead trees to nest in. Unfortunately for them, we humans don't like dead trees near our homes. Hanging a birdhouse is an easy and fun way to give our feathered friends a safe place to raise their babies.

To learn more about the work being done to conserve birds right here in Colorado, visit the Bird Conservancy of the Rocky Mountains at <https://birdconservancy.org>.

## Celebrate International Women's Day Throughout March

International Women's Day Every March 8, countries around the world recognize and celebrate women leaders in business, academia, government, community-building, and families. International Women's Day had its roots in the labor movement in Europe just after the turn of the 20th Century and quickly embraced universal suffrage as well. Modern celebrations of International Women's Day -- in many countries, a national holiday -- are as varied as the cultures of the world.

**♀Support International Women's Day with WorldDenver and the Colorado Avalanche**  
March 4, 2020; 7:30 - 9:00 PM; Pepsi Center; [www.worlddenver.org](http://www.worlddenver.org)

Team up with WorldDenver and the Colorado Avalanche to celebrate International Women's Day and support Women in Sports!

**♀Project C.U.R.E. is Celebrating International Women's Day**

March 5, 2020, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Grant-Humphries Mansion, 770 Pennsylvania St; [info@projectcure.org](mailto:info@projectcure.org)

Enjoy wine and live entertainment while learning how Project C.U.R.E. is delivering health and hope around the world.

**♀WorldDenver Honors International Women's Day: Women in Sports**

March 6, 2020 at the Denver Performing Arts Center; [Lauren@worlddenver.org](mailto:Lauren@worlddenver.org) or 720-330-9287

Gender Equity in International Sports - 8:30 - 10:30 a.m., Ellie Caulkins Opera House  
Exhibition & Networking - 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Bonfils Theater Lobby  
Luncheon & Keynote Speaker - 1:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Seawell Ballroom  
Featuring: Lauryn Williams, 3-time Olympic Champion Sprinter & Bobsledder

**♀DMNS Girls & Science Day**

March 7; 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; 2001 Colorado Blvd. <https://www.dmns.org/visit/events-and-activities/girls-science-2020/>

The Denver Museum of Nature & Science and CBS4 host the sixth annual Girls & Science event. Meet women mentors in STEAM careers, enjoy hands-on activities and a series of short Stories with Scientists.



## ♀ Zonta Day of Film Highlights Issues, Funds Grants

By Ann Charles

The Zonta Club of Denver has sponsored an annual Day of Film around International Women's Day for 11 years to highlight women's issues, challenges and achievements. The annual fundraiser contributes to local grants that help at-risk Denver women develop skills for self-sufficiency.

This year's film, courtesy of A&E, is "I Was a Child Bride: The Untold Story." No, it is not about forced marriages in developing countries. This is the story of survivors of childhood marriages in America who are coming forward to call attention to this hidden abuse.

Over the past 15 years, over 200,000 child bride marriages have occurred in the U.S., due to outdated laws, legal misconceptions, and loopholes. The U.S. State Department has called marriage before 18 a "human rights abuse" that "produces devastating repercussions for a girl's life."

This practice deprives the girls of their fundamental rights to health, education and safety. Childhood marriage leaves these children at risk for domestic violence, dangerous pregnancies, poor mental health, poverty and malnutrition. Some statistics from the National Institutes for Health:

- Girls in the U.S. who marry before 19 are 50 percent more likely to drop out of high school than are their unmarried counterparts and four times less likely to complete college.
- U.S. child brides are often unable to access education and work opportunities, in part because they tend to have more children, earlier and more closely spaced.
- Girls in the U.S. who marry early are more likely to earn low wages and 31 percent more likely to live in poverty.

Please join us at Zonta Club of Denver's 11th Annual Day of Film, Saturday, March 28, 2020. Your ticket for this Club fundraiser will include the movie, validated parking, and a catered champagne brunch. Proceeds finance projects of the ZCD and of Zonta International, empowering women and girls in the Denver area and around the world.

Zonta's recent local grants have helped fight domestic violence and human trafficking, and assisted

at-risk women as they pursued a GED, started a business, improved parenting skills, or attended college prep courses.

ZCD was chartered in 1927 and, as a chapter of ZI, is united with almost 30,000 members in business and the professions in over 1,200 clubs in 66 countries to improve the quality of life for marginalized women worldwide. Since its inception, ZCD has donated over \$2,500,000 and its members have given thousands of volunteer service hours to community projects aimed at empowering Denver women.

For more information and to purchase tickets online, go to [www.zonta-denver.org](http://www.zonta-denver.org).



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♀ Zonta Club of  
Denver Day of Film  
March 28; 8:45 a.m. –  
1 p.m.; Metro State  
Univ., Tivoli Center  
[www.zonta-denver.org](http://www.zonta-denver.org)  
Film screening: "I Was  
a Child Bride: The  
Untold Story"  
Tickets (film, parking &  
champagne brunch) \$55



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COMPASS

## Real Estate Taxes Demystified

By Rodney Allen and David Walsh

Colorado has comparatively low real estate taxes. Still, people throughout Denver, and especially in Congress Park, have seen their real estate taxes increase sharply in past years. Taxes collected pay for a number of public services including fire protection, police, schools, water and libraries, among others. The process for how taxes are calculated and assessed are key to understanding your taxes and making sure the county is not overcharging your family based on questionable information.

Your property tax bill is calculated in three steps. First is your property's appraisal, which is done in odd-numbered years. Second, the assessment rate, set each year by the state legislature, is applied to your appraised value. Lastly, the mill rate is set by the City and County of Denver, Denver Public Schools and the other local taxing authorities, then applied to your assessed home value. To give you an idea of the math, the rates for 2019 were set at 7.15% for assessment and the mill rate at

72.116 mills. For an average-priced home in Congress Park (about \$692,000) here is the 2019 calculation:

"Actual" Value  
692,000 X  
Assessment Rate  
.0715 X Mill Rate  
.072116 = \$3,568.16  
Property Taxes

The first step, appraisal, is where inaccuracies can financially impact

the homeowner, and it's the only step where you have some control over the process. Property appraisals, by law, are carried out by county appraisers every two years. Your property has recently been appraised for 2019 by the county using the market analysis approach, in which your home is compared to recent sales of "similar" properties in our neighborhood. But just how similar are those properties?

The county's process is not well equipped to individually consider your home and is often missing critical market data. This is why this step is most likely to cause your taxes to be inaccurate or more aggressive than they should be. The county appraisers, while qualified and impartial, do not know our specific neighborhoods as well as really experienced local real estate professionals.

Not knowing Congress Park trends and hyper-local market data means they cannot provide accurate values for many factors like external influences, condition of your home, location preference, high traffic areas, amenities and the accuracy of the public record of your home, in addition to other elements. For the best information, you should seek the advice of a qualified, experienced real estate professional who lives and works in Congress Park.

The county allows you to protest your appraised valuation and you may have ample cause to do so. Every year many Denver residents successfully protest the findings and receive a reduction in property taxes. With a thoughtful, accurate market analysis from your Congress Park real estate professional, you can file your protest any time before June 1, 2020. Knowing your "actual" home value will ensure you're not over-paying for taxes and protecting your Congress Park home.

### Rodney Allen—Neighbor, Realtor & Appraiser

Have your property taxes increased? Too High? Still paying Mortgage Insurance? It can be removed with 20 % Equity. Do you have it?

PROPERTY TAX STATEMENT  
2019 REAL ESTATE TAX DUE IN 2020.



Property tax statements are arriving in the mail. Contact me to determine the value of your home and help you save hundreds every month.



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Residential Real Estate Appraisal & Consultation



## Denver's Bag Fee Passes, takes effect July 1st, 2020

From Councilman Hinds's office

**D**enver City Council unanimously passed a bill charging a 10-cent fee for single-use plastic and paper bags. The fee will apply to the purchase of consumer goods and groceries at retail stores. Retailers get 4 cents, and the city gets 6 cents. The new law has a narrow list of approved uses of those fees, and they're all centered around education and awareness and providing reusable bags to those who need them.

Denver now joins a host of cities nationwide that are trying to address their growing problems with landfill use, excessive waste, harm to neighborhood environments, and climate change. Climate change is real, and we must employ every tool within our means to address it. D10 constituents are very supportive of this move as climate change, sustainable practices, and water conservation are consistently at the top of residents' lists of concern when I speak with them.

The chief worry I heard about implementing the fee was that Denver would be addressing plastic waste and climate change through an enforcement mechanism that would disproportionately affect the poor. To address this concern, the bill includes a fee waiver for any city resident who receives federal or state food assistance. In this way, their food money will not be compromised or redirected from their needs. Also, one of the few allowable uses of the fees is to provide free bags to residents.

Our climate conscious council coalition of Councillors is considering additional legislation to introduce in 2020 regarding products we use that impact the planet. What should we tackle next: straws? stirrers? styrofoam? recycling/composting? reducing demolition and building debris? We're brainstorming next steps on all of those.

## City Proposes Zoning Change to Eight Unrelated Adults and Unlimited Children Per Unit

By Myles Tangalin, CPN representative to City Zoning

**T**he Group Living Code Amendment will be brought before City Council for a vote in the next few months. This amendment is a proposed modernization of the zoning code for residential uses, including houses, apartments, group homes, assisted living facilities, shelters and halfway houses.

The most controversial portion of the update is the redefinition of "Household," which will change from the current 2 unrelated adults and unlimited family members to a new 8 unrelated adults with family members in any single dwelling unit. If the structure exceeds 1,600sf, one additional unrelated adult would be permitted for each additional 200sf.

The Group Living Amendment is a city-wide zoning change with many possible unintended consequences, which could take years to evaluate and correct. In public meetings, comments were raised about other possible avenues the city could explore to vet this controversial unrelated adult portion of the ordinance, such as testing the proposal in a limited area to measure outcomes, doing more outreach for input, or handling these types of living arrangements with permits.

The city is clear about its goal to increase density. Make sure you are aware of the City's proposals and make your voice heard.

### City Wants Increased Density

If you have questions, comments or concerns about 8 unrelated adults and their family members living in one dwelling unit, please see the Congress Park Neighbors website, the Community Planning and Development website, attend a Public Open House or contact your City Council Representative.

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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*

### Wise Strategy

Protect yourself. Lock your residence even if you are going to be nearby. Don't leave valuables in your car where they can be seen. If you have to leave them in the car at all, put them in the trunk. Don't leave your car running unattended. A thief is always looking for easy opportunity. It takes only seconds to steal from the unwary.

## Locked Doors Could Prevent Dozens of Burglaries

By Stephen Eppler, Crime Action Chair

In 2019 violent crime increased by 19% in Congress Park and exceeded the 2% increase observed throughout Denver. This was due to more incidents of aggravated assault (29 events, up 5) and rapes (7 vs 4 in 2018). There was one fewer robbery and no murders. Over 60% of violent crime events in CP occurred between 14th Ave. and Colfax Ave. CP remains relatively safe and ranks 55th among 78 Denver neighborhoods according to the Denver Post.

Property crime in Congress Park increased by about 10% compared to a modest 1.4% rise in all of Denver. Although the rate of burglary dropped by 2% in Denver, it increased by 67% in Congress Park. There were 82 burglaries in 2019. These were spread throughout CP with relative sparing of the SW quadrant. Among 78 neighborhoods CP ranked 10th for residential burglary and 18th for burglary-unforced entry (meaning the doors were unlocked). This trend upward has contin-

ued in 2020 and CP now ranks 3rd for residential burglaries with 9 events so far.

Auto theft and theft from auto decreased in Denver. However, in CP there were 60 auto thefts, a 43% increase. The number of thefts from autos dropped by 19%. Both crime types are more common north of 12th Ave and along Colorado Blvd. Despite this increase, auto theft occurs relatively infrequently and CP ranks 61st among Denver's 78 neighborhoods.

There is a lot that you can do to avoid becoming a crime statistic. Remain situationally aware and choose well-lighted, frequently traveled routes at night. Lock your stuff up. Secure doors. Install motion sensitive outdoor lighting. Thieves avoid brightly-lit residences with video cameras. Video doorbells are a good deterrent. Look for a model with perimeter sensing alerts before the doorbell button is pushed.

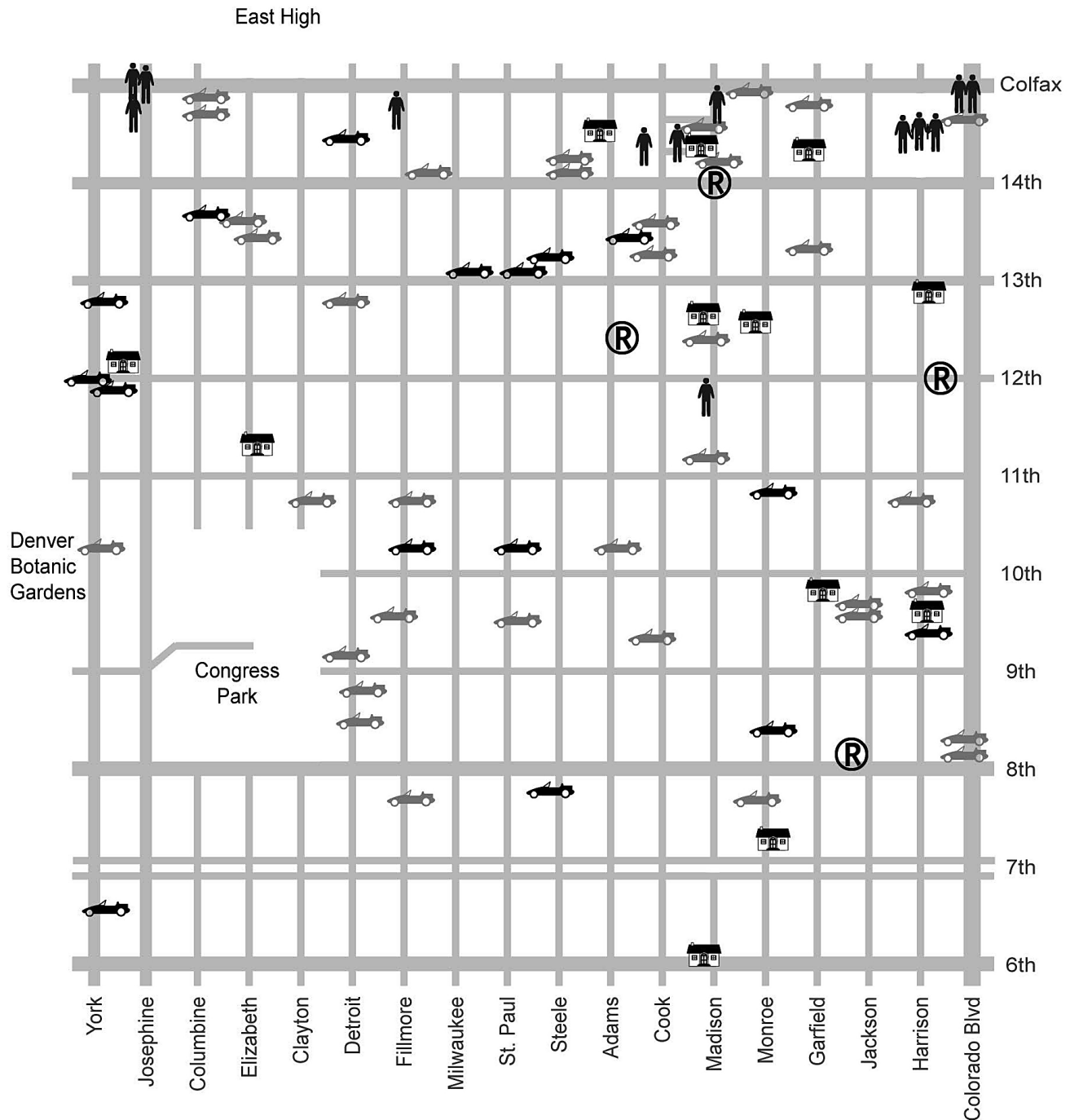
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## CONGRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CRIMES OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2019



- Ⓡ 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 fourth quarter of 2019. Crime mapping is provided by the Congress Park Crime Action Committee using City and Police Department statistics.**

## Jackson St. Storm Drain Project Underway

By Myles Tangalin and Denver Transportation and Infrastructure

### For more information on the Jackson St Drain Project

Project Hotline:  
720-460-9055  
(English & Español)  
Email: [ccd.constructionupdates@gmail.com](mailto:ccd.constructionupdates@gmail.com)

Ames Construction  
Perry Lopez, on-site  
construction contact  
303-995-2278  
[perrylopez@amesco.com](mailto:perrylopez@amesco.com)

Rob Wise,  
Project Manager  
[RobWise@amesco.com](mailto:RobWise@amesco.com)

City and County  
of Denver  
Jason Wennen,  
Project Manager  
Denver Public Works,  
Infrastructure Project  
Management  
[Jason.wennen@denvergov.org](mailto:Jason.wennen@denvergov.org)

The Jackson Street Storm Drain Project will provide a critical link between the lower and upper Montclair Basin system for managing stormwater and offer improved flood protection for residents and businesses in the project area between Colfax and 12th Avenues, from Jackson to Albion Streets.

The Montclair Drainage Basin is over nine square miles and is Denver's largest drainage basin without an open waterway. The result is significant, persistent flooding problems for homes and businesses during heavy rainstorms and other storm events. Rain that falls in the drainage basin becomes storm runoff that flows in a northwesterly direction, ultimately draining into the South Platte River.

Work for Phase 1 of the project began in January 2020 on the north side of Jackson Street across E. Colfax Ave., continuing through the parking lot at National Jewish Health, then eastward one half block on E. 14th Ave. toward Harrison St. Work is expected to continue through Spring 2021.

Phase 2 will require more construction which will connect on the east side of Colorado Boulevard at about Albion Street near Hale Parkway.

As the Jackson Street Storm Drain Construction gets underway, please keep in mind that plans and schedules may change due to weather and other factors. The latest construction information will be sent in regular email blasts and posted on the project website. If you wish to be added to the email list to receive updates directly, please email [ccd.constructionupdates@gmail.com](mailto:ccd.constructionupdates@gmail.com) and note "Jackson Street Storm" in the subject line.

The majority of the work on the new access and driveway will occur on NJH property; however a temporary, single-lane closure on 14th Avenue may be necessary while work is being done on the new entrance.

Once crews have completed the new patient entrance and driveway and obtained all necessary permits, construction of the new stormwater pipe will begin in the westbound lanes of E. Colfax

around Jackson Street. During this time, the eastbound lanes of E. Colfax will remain open and adjusted to provide one eastbound and one westbound lane for traffic.



Photo: Jess Blackwell Photography



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DENVER'S DESIGN/BUILD REMODELER SINCE 1985

## Early Findings from Discover Denver in Congress Park

By Discover Denver Director Beth Glandon

**D**id you know that the Russell Stover Candy Company was founded in a house in Congress Park, and that one of the neighborhood's former residents was a participant in the Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights march? These are just a few of the interesting findings from Discover Denver's survey of the Congress Park neighborhood.

Discover Denver is a citywide building survey led by Historic Denver, Inc. in partnership with the City and County of Denver. The goal of the project is to identify buildings throughout the city having architectural, historical, or cultural significance.

Volunteers and staff with the project documented the architecture of every building in Congress Park, but also looked for the stories that make the neighborhood special. Researchers dug into the history of how Congress Park became an early place for entrepreneurial exploration even before Russell and Clara Stover began cooking up delicious treats in their kitchen on Detroit Street.

Builders such as Andreas Eriksen and R.T. Royal, whose short but prolific careers resulted in many of the most impressive foursquares in the neighborhood, later went on to surprising second occupations – Eriksen became a farmer in Jefferson County, and Royal established himself as a dentist in Seattle.

Research also uncovered several stories of how female entrepreneurs were shaped by the area or molded it to meet their own ambitions. Ruth Handler (nee Mosko) spent part of her childhood in a Fillmore Street duplex before going on to co-found Mattel, the maker of the Barbie doll, with her husband Elliot.

Research continues on properties in the neighborhood with work expected to be complete in late-February. For more information, or if you have stories to tell about our neighborhood's history, please contact Discover Denver.

"THE GREATNESS  
OF A COMMUNITY  
IS MOST  
ACCURATELY  
MEASURED BY THE  
COMPASSIONATE  
ACTIONS OF ITS  
MEMBERS."

CORETTA SCOTT KING

Beth Glandon  
Director, Discover Denver  
303-534-5288 x3  
Historic Denver, Inc.  
1420 Ogden St.,  
Suite 202  
Denver, CO 80218



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## Green Team Action Tips for Spring 2020

Collected by Barbara Rivera, Congress Park Green Team

### Someone Could Lose a Cart Tonight

(apologies to Eddie Rabbit) Don't invite that kind of heart (cart?) break! Bring your trash/recycle/compost cart back onto your property after collection day.

The City says: "Service carts must be stored on your property, out of public view as best as you can on non-collection days. Store your carts in your garage, breezeway, side of house, shed, or other location. Do NOT store your carts in the alley or on the street. Carts continually left in alleys or on the street may be removed."



Carts sing "Gimme Shelter..." (apologies to the Rolling Stones)

### Waste Diversion & Reduction

The United States is the world's most wasteful society sending 236 tons of solid waste to landfills each year. That's an average of 4.5 pounds of trash per person per day!

- Refill your PLASTIC bottles at a Refill store! Instead of tossing or recycling shampoo, dish and laundry soap containers, bring them to a refill store to fill them with bulk body care (shampoo, conditioner, lotion) and home cleaning products (dish soap, laundry detergent, cleaning sprays, etc). Check out Zero Market in east Denver ([www.thezeromarket.com](http://www.thezeromarket.com)), Joy Fill on the Northside ([www.joyfill.co](http://www.joyfill.co)), and HomeFill in central Denver ([www.modernnomaddenver.com/homefill](http://www.modernnomaddenver.com/homefill))
- Try a solid shampoo bar to reduce plastic consumption. Brands like Love, Beauty & Planet, 100 Senses, EcoRoots, HiBar, The Natural Spa, and Lush are among dozens of solid shampoos to try.

- Eco-friendly toilet paper? I recently ordered a case of premium bamboo TP from "Who Gives a Crap," and my husband and I both agree it is great TP. They make all their TP, tissues and paper towels with environmentally friendly materials and donate 50% of their profits to build toilets for those in need. That's a big win-win for all of us!

### Water Conservation

Many experts agree that access to clean water is becoming a major global threat to human survival... and yet we run our taps, sprinklers and showers as if we have clean water to throw away.

- Clean water is a precious resource. When we go camping and have to carry in clean water, we use very little to brush our teeth, clean our dishes, etc. Pretend you are camping at home!

### Home Energy Efficiency

- Check your dryer vents- If you haven't had your dryer vents cleaned in the past 5 years, they are likely clogged to the point where it takes longer to dry a load, which means wasted energy and money. Clogged vents can also be a fire hazard.
- Buy electricity generated by renewable sources (solar, wind and water) from Xcel Energy and private providers. One local provider, SunShare, is building solar gardens around our community, and as a SunShare subscriber you can enjoy the benefits of clean, locally produced solar energy without installing solar panels on your roof. More info: [www.mysunshare.com](http://www.mysunshare.com)

### Transportation Options

Vehicle exhaust contributes to smog, which kills about 30,000 Americans every year.

- Create a cleaner environment by getting in those 10,000 fitness steps. Take a hike rather than a scenic drive, walk to local shops rather than driving to a distant shopping center. As the weather warms, look for opportunities to walk to dinner and enjoy neighborhood gardens beginning to bloom!

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



### 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).

## Neighborhood Directory

*Visit these advertisers, and tell them you're glad you found them here.*

*For advertising rates, email [murphy.michellej@gmail.com](mailto:murphy.michellej@gmail.com)*

### 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.

### Advertise Here

#### **Here's your platform.**

Have a shout-out to a neighbor, friend, kid or neighborhood business? Email [murphy.michellej@gmail.com](mailto:murphy.michellej@gmail.com) for rates.

## Think Outside the Big Box Shop at Your

### **Congress Park Businesses**

[www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org)  
lists all merchants in Congress Park

Please visit our site and see how our local businesses support our neighborhood.



**February** is African American History Month, Children's Health, Cherry and Potato Month

**March** is American Red Cross Month and Women's History Month

**April** is Cancer Control, Autism Awareness, Child Abuse Prevention, and Jazz Appreciation 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  
issues i.e., crime alerts, parking,  
zoning is to sign up for  
CPN's email broadcast at  
[www.congressparkneighbors.org/  
eblast.html](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org/eblast.html)



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"The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents  
and discerns those inner qualities that make all men  
human and, therefore, brothers."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

### 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
- \_\_\_ Newsletter advertising
- \_\_\_ Newsletter production
- \_\_\_ Newsletter distribution
- \_\_\_ Neighborhood Watch
- \_\_\_ Outreach
- \_\_\_ Membership
- \_\_\_ 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.