

9-24-2019

## **Wildlife in Parks and Communities: Institutionalizing Wildlife Conservation in Park Systems Through Municipal-Wide Planning Efforts**

John J. Pipoly III

LaJuan Tucker

Patrick Fitzgerald

Scott Gilmore

Follow this and additional works at: [https://nsuworks.nova.edu/occ\\_facpresentations](https://nsuworks.nova.edu/occ_facpresentations)



Part of the [Marine Biology Commons](#), and the [Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology Commons](#)

---



**DENVER**  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

# Denver Parks & Recreation

## Urban Wildlife in the City

Presented by: Scott Gilmore



FOR CITY SERVICES VISIT | CALL  
**DenverGov.org** | **311**

- ▶ **Mission:** Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR) facilities are unrivaled in the Rocky Mountain West. The DPR system spans over a 148-year history, from the first park created in 1868 to over 20,000 acres of urban parks and mountain parkland today.
- ▶ The demand for more parks, and places to recreate in, close to home, is greater now than ever before.
- ▶ So, how do we meet that demand?





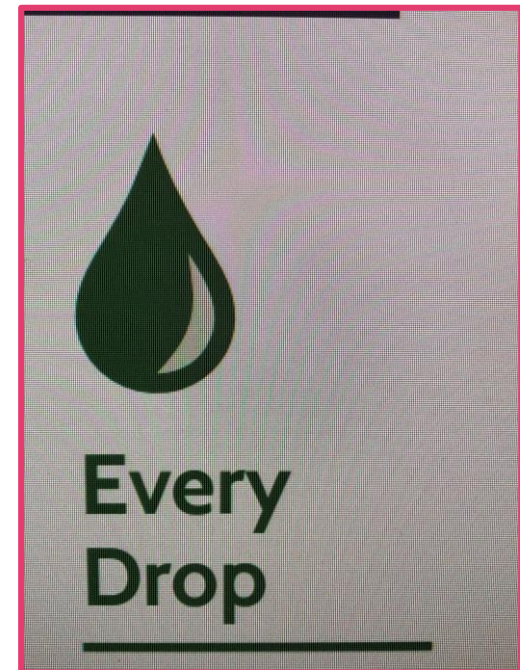
# Denver Parks “Game Plan”

- ▶ **Game Plan for a Healthy City** is a citywide and long-range parks and recreation plan to help the city respond to challenges including growth, limited water resources, and changes in our climate. The plan proclaims easy access to parks and open space as a basic right for all residents, and establishes our city's parks, facilities and recreational programs as essential for healthy environment, healthy residents, and a high quality of life for everyone.

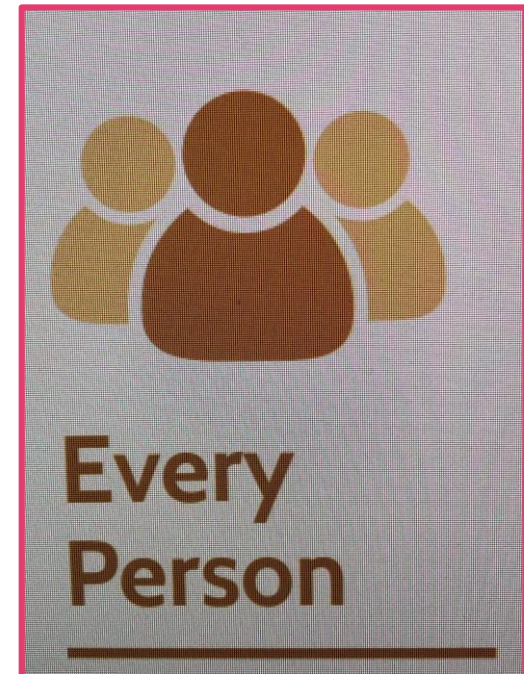


# 4 Guiding Principles of the Game Plan:

- ▶ **THE VISION IS SUPPORTED THROUGH FOUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**
- ▶ **Every Drop:**
  - ▶ Make the parks system more resilient and environmentally sustainable. Implementation strategies for Every Drop focus on:
    - ▶ • **Expanding resilient and low water landscapes**
    - ▶ • **Protecting and expanding our urban forest**
    - ▶ • **Conserving energy and resources use**
    - ▶ • **Fire management in the mountain forests**
    - ▶ • **Improving health of our waterways**



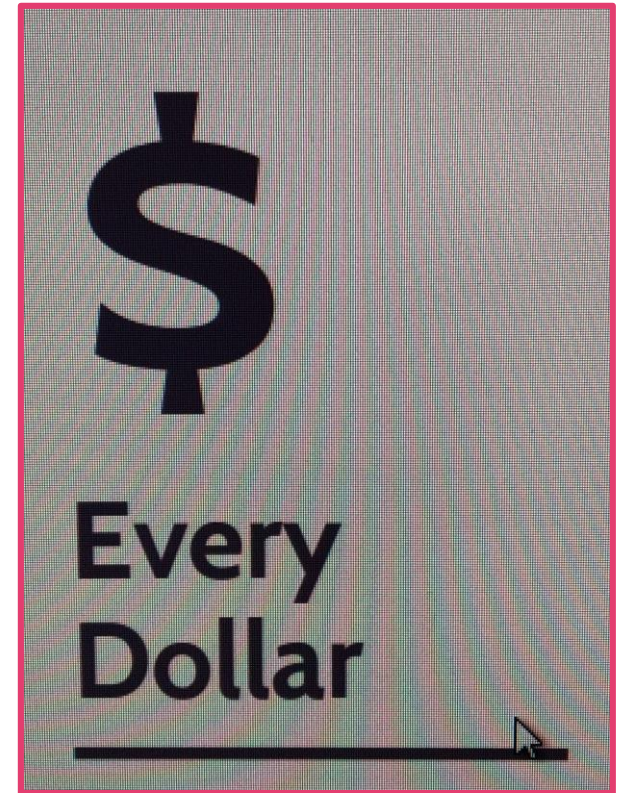
- ▶ **Every Person** - Ensure equity in the distribution of parks and park resources and programming so that all residents have the opportunity to improve their personal health and well-being. Implementation strategies for Every Person focus on:
  - ▶ • Growing parks and improving access so all neighborhoods have a park within a 10 minute walk;
  - ▶ • **Diversifying recreation offerings;**
  - ▶ • Promoting equity within the system, especially by investing in neighborhoods with highest unmet needs.





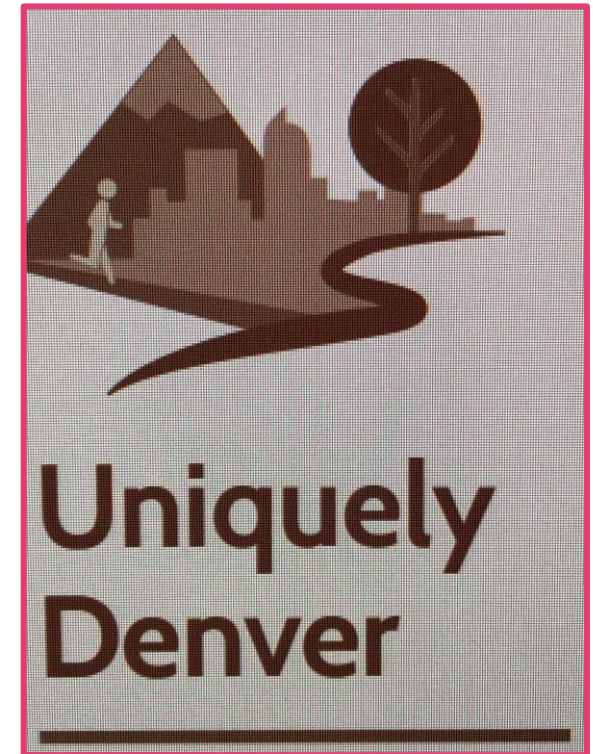
# Guiding Principle

- ▶ **Every Dollar** - Manage resources to ensure long term economic and operational health of the parks system. Implementation strategies for Every Dollar focus on:
  - ▶ • Growing collaborations internally and with neighborhoods, nonprofits, private sector, and sponsors;
  - ▶ • Identifying ways for new development to contribute to meeting the park and recreation needs of new residents;
  - ▶ • Supporting staff development and professional growth;
  - ▶ • Improving technology and upgrading facilities



# Guiding Principle

- ▶ **Uniquely Denver** - Provide parks and programming that reflect Denver's community and cultural identity. **To do this, we must increase opportunities to connect to Denver's nature and culture**. Implementation strategies for Uniquely Denver focus on:
  - ▶ Protecting and expanding our parkway system
  - ▶ Planning for historic and cultural resources
  - ▶ **Expanding access to the mountain parks and increasing places to experience nature in our city**
  - ▶ Collaborating with agencies and organizations to activate parks.

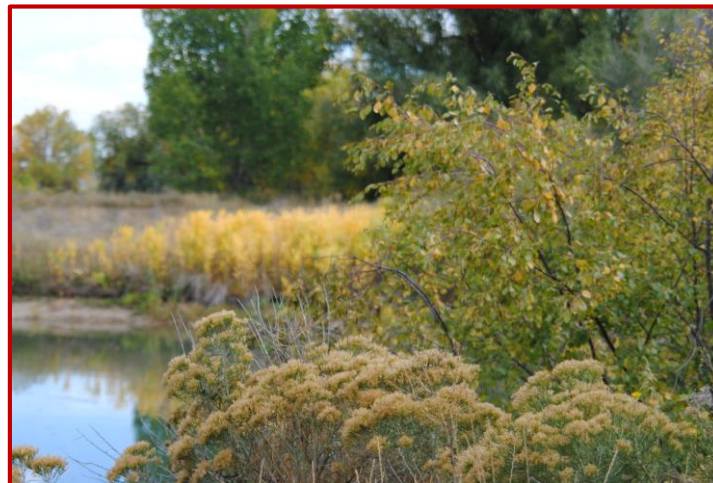




# A Healthy City

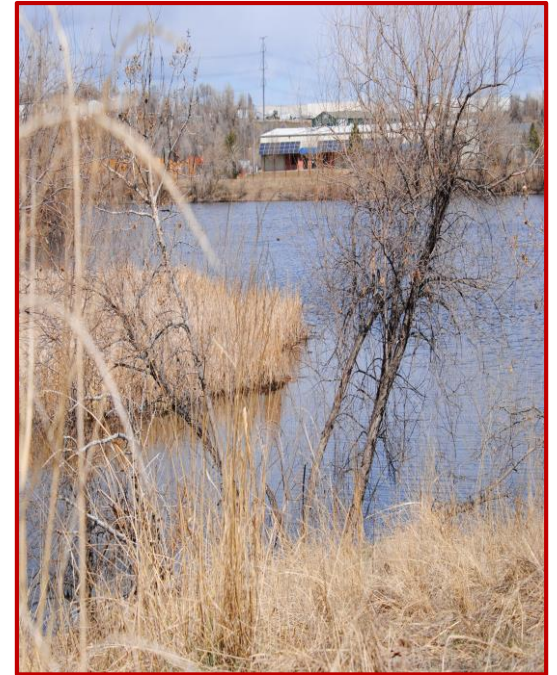
## Diverse Parks & Open Spaces

- ▶ Support a variety of wildlife species
- ▶ Key areas of focus
  - ▶ Native plant communities that support native wildlife
  - ▶ Corridors that help people and wildlife move through the city
  - ▶ Sustainable water resource management to improve water quality and encourage water conservation
  - ▶ Places for children and community to discover and enjoy nature



# Management of Designated Natural Areas

- ▶ There are five designated Natural Areas in Denver:
  - ▶ *Parkfield*
  - ▶ *Inspiration Point*
  - ▶ *Heron Pond*
  - ▶ *Camp Rollandet*
  - ▶ *Hentzell Park*
- ▶ These Natural Areas were chosen for designation due to their **native vegetation, wildlife habitat and community connections**. Natural areas designations go through public review and are ultimately approved by the Parks & Recreation Manager.
- ▶ We also focus efforts on special project areas including Bear Creek, Sand Creek, South Platte River, Cherry Creek, and First Creek @ DEN Open Space properties.



**Heron Pond**



# First Creek @ DEN Open Space



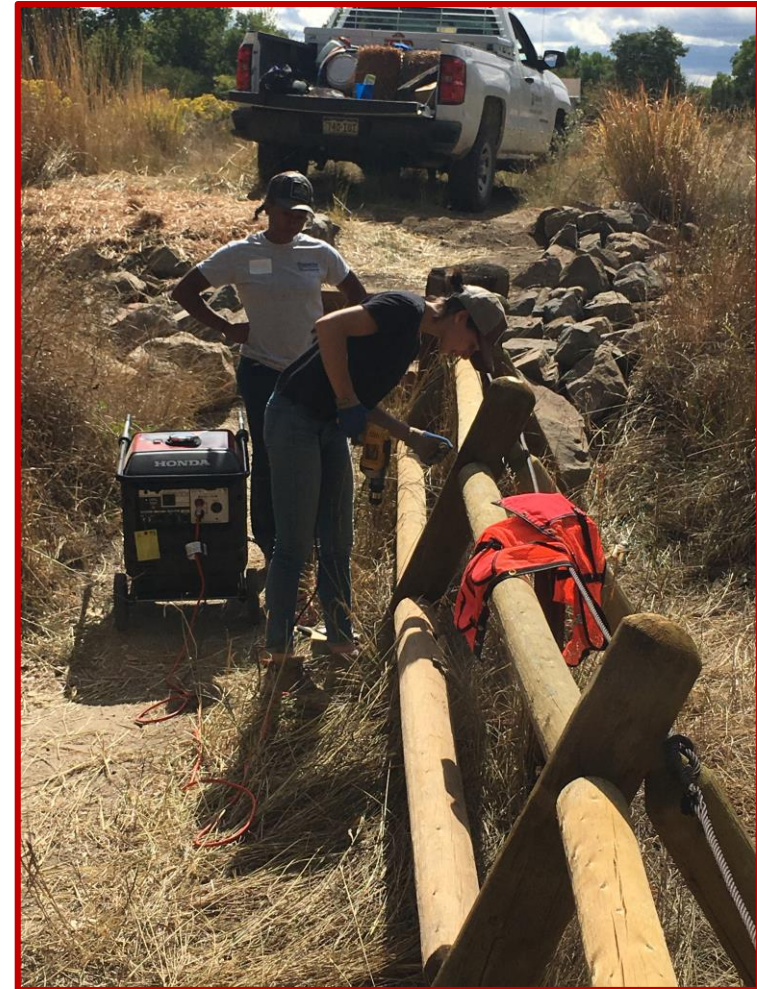


- ▶ **“Every Drop”** of the Game Plan
- ▶ To maintain and improve each natural resource—including our water, our trees and open spaces, and our unique wildlife.”
- ▶ The city provides an abundance of resources -
  - ▶ Natural Areas and other park properties provide the perfect habitat for urban wildlife
- ▶ To ensure healthy, active ecosystems in our natural resources
  - ▶ Native vegetation
  - ▶ Water resources
  - ▶ Minimal human contact
  - ▶ Parks provide a safe place for wildlife!



# Game Plan Objectives: Nature & Wildlife Habitats

- ▶ **EVERY DROP** - “Protect and restore healthy wildlife habitats and functional ecosystems.”
- ▶ Management and Restoration of Priority Landscapes
  - We manage these spaces so that present and future generations can understand, protect, and experience Colorado’s natural heritage.
  - “Reconciliation Ecology”...restore the natural open spaces to their original functions (or close to) that still exist and nurture ecological processes to encourage long-term sustainability.





# Denver is now an Urban Bird Treaty City!

Thanks to funding  
from the USFWS we  
can do more to  
protect migratory  
birds.





# Monarch Butterfly Initiative

- ▶ October 2016 -
  - ▶ Through the National Wildlife Federation's [Mayors' Monarch Pledge](#), U.S. cities, municipalities, and other communities are committing to create habitat for the monarch butterfly and pollinators, and to educate citizens about how they can make a difference at home and in their community.
- ▶ Denver Mayor B. Michael Hancock took the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge, continuing to commit to sustainable practices that help the monarch butterfly and other pollinators.



# Other Wildlife Conservation Efforts



**CERTIFIED WILDLIFE**  
**HABITAT**<sup>®</sup>

- ▶ Since the designation of the Urban Bird Treaty City,
- ▶ The Wildlife Management program of Denver Parks has focused on, and continues to work on various wildlife projects:
  - ▶ Community Wildlife Habitat Certification through the National Wildlife Federation.
    - ▶ Denver alone, has certified over 50 park properties since Jan of 2019.
    - ▶ Are working with other city partners and Denver residents encouraging them to do the same.
    - ▶ Goal: To be CWH certified by December 2019.

# Bird Conservation Efforts

- ▶ **Lights Out Denver!**
- ▶ Each year, nearly 1 billion migratory birds die from colliding with man-made structures. The City and County of Denver is looking to reduce that number.
- ▶ Lights Out Denver is an initiative of the City of Denver and its partners to improve bird conservation throughout the city by making buildings more bird friendly, reducing collisions. Through legislation, partnerships, and community involvement, we can make Denver a safer place for birds.





- ▶ Canada Geese
- ▶ Prairie Dogs
- ▶ Beaver
- ▶ Bees
- ▶ Coyotes
- ▶ Wildlife Disease Outbreaks
- ▶ Injured/sick wildlife



- ▶ DPR's Comprehensive Canada Goose Management Plan
  - ▶ Multi Strategy Approach
    - ▶ Hazing - Goosinator
    - ▶ Egg Oiling - Nest Destruction
    - ▶ Landscape Alterations
    - ▶ Repellents
    - ▶ 2019 - Culling







## Scott Gilmore needs to be fired for slaughtering Denver's Canada Geese. STOP THE SLAUGHTER

2,432 have signed. Let's get to 2,500!







**DENVER**  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

DPR/Natural Resources

# Thank You!

Questions?

Scott Gilmore,  
Deputy Executive Director  
Denver Parks & Recreation  
[Scott.Gilmore@denvergov.org](mailto:Scott.Gilmore@denvergov.org)

FOR CITY SERVICES VISIT | CALL  
[DenverGov.org](http://DenverGov.org) | 311

