City Park Peace Walk, Agenda & Details

9/20/2023, 7 AM



1. Starting Point – Ferril Lake Bandshell 7:15 – 7:25 AM | to stop #2, 5 min, 0.15 mile [0.15]

- a. Welcome, walk logistics
- b. Acknowledgement of Place and Indigenous People
- c. About Peace
- d. About the Park
- e. About Rotary 🥯

2. Martin Luther King Memorial 7:30 – 7:45 AM | to stop #3, 10 min, 0.20 mile [0.35]

- a. Peace Activist Legends Beth Yohe, Executive Director, The Conflict Center
 - i. MLK
 - ii. Sojourner Truth
 - iii. Rosa Park
 - iv. Frederick Douglass
 - v. Gandhi
- B. Rotary project work Reading for Peace (Conflict Center)



3. Thatcher Fountain 7:55 – 8:05 AM | to stop #4, 5 min, 0.05 mile [0.45]

- a. Legacies: Monuments and Peace Projects "Give while you live"
- b. 🤎 Rotary project work impacting people of the world,
 - i. Refugee support Denver area
 - ii. Humanitarian Support for War victims Ukraine
 - iii. Economic Development, Zimbabwe, Nepal
 - iv. WASH projects water access, sanitation, and hygiene Zimbabwe
 - v. Mental Health Uganda
 - vi. Eduction and Literacy –Zimbabwe Library

4. East High School 8:10 - 8:25 AM | to stop #5, 20 min, 0.85 mile [1.3]

- a. Peace Wall and Peace Activism, Street East 17th Ave Shawne Anderson, East High VP
- b. Youth led peace activism
- c. Young Rotary Club Aimee Arens and students
- d. Rotary Projects
 - i. Youth mental health eg Brainwise
- e. East HS alumni celebrities



To Donate: Rotary Fund for Community Good

5. Urban Forest 8:30 – 8:50 AM | to stop #6, 10 min, 0.3 mile [1.6]

- a. In route Celebrity Trees; Trees of the city diversity, best bets for Denver climate
- b. City Wildlife
- c. Rotary projects
 - i. Climate action / tree planting
 - ii. Homelessness
 - iii. Food Security
 - iv. Veteran Support

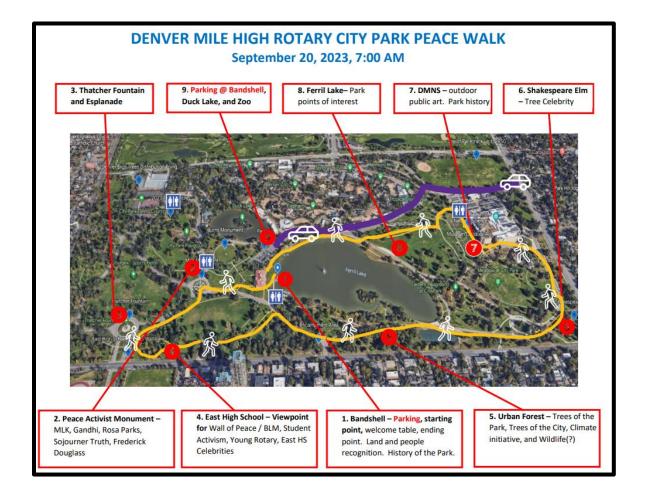


6. Denver Museum of Natural History 9:00 – 9:15 AM | to stop #7, 15 min, 0.6 mile [2.3]

- a. Museum outdoor art circle
- b. City Park legacy why this location?
- c. Nature Play development

7. Ferril Lake | Back to Start 9:30 AM | 2 hours, 2.3 miles

a. More Park history in route to finish



1. Starting Point – Ferrill Lake Bandshell

a. Acknowledgement of Place and Indigenous People

"We acknowledge that this land on which we stand and upon which we live is the traditional territory of the Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Ute, and other indigenous people.

We honor their elders -- past, present, and future and their historical connection and care of this land. Let our words become actions. Let us demonstrate our commitment -- helping to address past inequities and valuing the ongoing contributions of indigenous people in our community."



What is the relevance of this statement? Consider the social changes taking place: 1 **why** the Denver Museum of Nature and Science has closed its *Hall of Indigenous People* to rectify numerous inaccurate portrayals; 2 **why** geographic places are being renamed like Mount Evans to Mount Blue Sky, to rebalance how honor is bestowed; 3 **why** sports mascots are being revised to address the unintended harm caused by disrespectful representations of indigenous people.

b. About Peace – the focus of this walk

When asked what's the first thing that comes to mind regarding the term **Peace**, most answer "the absence of war, the absence of violent conflict." We agree but add.....

Rotarians subscribe to **Positive Peace**, an active process that includes –

- people working together for the greater good
- sharing resources necessary for well-being, rather than contesting
- respecting differences, valuing diversity
- putting common interests ahead of undiluted self-interest
- resolving disagreements with respect and dignity

c. About City Park

The **Park's History** will be referenced in more detail throughout the walk. For now – a few quick facts.

- Denver founded 1858 (gold)
- Civil War 1861 1865
- Colorado statehood 1876
- City Park 1882

Two Mayors: Richard Sopris / Robert Speer – building a great city (1878-1912)

- Olmstead City Beautiful movement, public park philosophy held that a park should provide serenity, sunshine, and quiet beauty promoting "healing of tired bodies and troubled minds...."
- City Park founded **1882** (**141 years old**); "sage brush tract" no trees, cactus, buffalo grass, alkaline soil; first trees (cottonwoods) protected by gardener hired to chase cows

d. About Rotary - Our project work, selection process, and fundraising

Rotary exists to serve the community good, locally and globally. We research needs, partner with organizations and communities to develop projects addressing the needs, raise funds to underwrite the costs, and **provide hands on support**. We consider our work as positive peace building. We will highlight examples of our projects throughout this tour.

Rotary's **global network**, 1.4 million members in 46,000 clubs, work together, taking action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. Our members believe that we have a shared responsibility to address the world's most persistent issues:

- Promote peace
- Fight disease
- Provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Save mothers and children
- Support education
- Grow local economies
- Protect the environment



Denver Mile High Rotary

Pillars of Positive Peace



https://www.visionofhumanity.org/the-eight-pillars-of-positive-peace/

Martin Luther King Jr Memorial – Sculptor Ed Dwight*

- a. Peace activist, civil rights legends
 - i. MLK
 - ii. Sojourner Truth
 - iii. Frederick Douglass
 - iv. Rosa Park
 - v. Gandhi
- b. Conflict Center- Reading for Peace

Martin Luther King Jr, 1929 – 1968 -- American Baptist minister and activist, one of the prominent leaders in the civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination. Son of early civil rights activist and minister Martin Luther King Sr., advanced civil rights for people of color in the United States through nonviolence and civil disobedience. Inspired by his Christian beliefs and the nonviolent activism of Mahatma Gandhi, he led targeted, nonviolent resistance against Jim Crow laws and other forms of discrimination in the United States.

King participated in and led marches for the right to vote, desegregation, labor rights, and other civil rights. He oversaw the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott Helped organize some of the nonviolent 1963 protests in Birmingham, Alabama.



One of the leaders of the 1963 March on Washington -- delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. The civil rights movement achieved pivotal legislative gains in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968. On October 14, 1964, King won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Sojourner Truth, New York c. 1797 - 1883, former slave, crusaded for the abolition of slavery and women's rights. After the Civil War she continued lobbying, speaking for the equality of women, minorities and for the delivery of promised property to Black soldiers of the war. Visited the White House as guest of Abraham Lincoln.

Frederick Douglass, Maryland, c. 1817 - 1895 - former slave, sought to change the course of American social development to embrace the solid principle that all American people ought to be free and equal. An abolitionist, journalist, distinguished orator, and diplomat in the mid to late 1800's, his writings inspired Dr. King



Rosa Parks - Alabama, 1913 - 2005, civil rights activist, acclaimed as the Mother of the modern civil rights movement. Arrested in 1955 for refusing to give her seat to a white man on a public bus in segregated Montgomery, Alabama. The act lead to a boycott lasting 381 days of the Montgomery public transportation system and the beginning of the modern peaceful protest movement

Mohandas K. 'Mahatma' Gandhi (1869-1948) - Leader of India's struggle to free itself from British colonialism. Showed the world how people could embrace non-violence as an effective tool for positive change. His speeches and nonviolent actions over a twenty-year period lead to India's independence in 1946. Dr. King applied Gandhi's principles to the civil rights struggle in the USA to advance the non-violent resistance movement.



^{*}Ed Dwight – American sculptor https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ed_Dwight

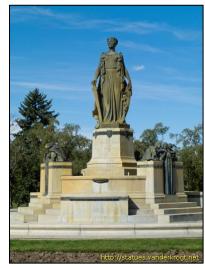
3. Thatcher Fountain

a. Legacy projects -

[reference the Golden Raintree, city champion, in route]

"Men will be judged more by their disbursements than by their accumulation... Give while you live." Mayor Robert Speer's mantra "Give while you live" influenced contributions to his City Beautiful vision. He appealed to local leaders to finance public art works and civic constructions.

Joseph Thatcher, a prosperous banker, responded to the call and underwrote this State of Colorado fountain, a statue of liberty-esque persona [Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door].



The statue represents Colorado – surrounded by three supporting muses: Love, Loyalty, Learning. One might say that **Lady Liberty** welcomed the immigrants/refugees and **Lady Colorado** shelters and protects as they have come to our state.

In 1918, Thatcher contributed \$100,000 for this legacy project (\$2,000,000 in 2023).

We appreciate the monuments built of granite and bronze that weather the passages of time... reflecting one type of legacy

We Rotarians work to create monuments of a different ilk, built of generosity and boldness, reflecting different legacies -humanity coming together to address life's shortcomings



- b. Sample club project work impacting people of the world,
 - i. Refugee support Denver area
 - ii. Humanitarian Support for War victims Ukraine
 - iii. Economic Development Zimbabwe and Nepal
 - iv. Mental health Uganda
 - v. WASH projects water access, sanitation, and hygiene Zimbabwe

4. **East High School** – Peace Wall and Peace Activism

a. Street art on East 17th Ave school wall,







b. Youth led peace activism

Discussion with Shawne Anderson, Vice Principal, East High School 8/31/2023

Why was the wall created?

It started right after George Floyd was killed (May 2020) during the COVID pandemic and school closure. African American students and school staff wanted to do something meaningful in response, more than just a social media posting. School leadership got together and developed the idea of the wall painting with a focus on Black Lives Matter. 20 to 25 staff and 10 students of the Black Student Alliance helped create the first iteration of Black Lives Matter on east side of ball field retaining wall facing 17th Avenue. The first phase of work was completed by June 2020.

The artwork got vandalized soon after. The students repainted. It was vandalized again (six different times total). Each time the student-faculty group repainted, with new enhanced features. Remnants of the prior vandalization were kept to visually represent the student led resiliency for the project.

The project got expanded to the rest of the student body interest groups (see below). Each group received some "real estate" on the wall to produce their images and quotes. This second phase of work was completed in January 2021, the year when kids came back to school after the stay-athome period for Covid. Local businesses and artists got involved supplying materials, designs, and mural paintings on behalf of the school. One artist, Victor (?), who volunteered support was subsequently hired to paint angel images on far east and far west ends of the project.

The kids that put this together received a lot of flak from passerby's at times, handling it very maturely demonstrating Michelle Obama's saying on the wall, "When you go low, we go high The flags represent staff from the school locations were staff are from.

Student Interest Groups and panel features, from east to west

- 1 East High Angel logo. "This is... East."
- **2 Black Lives Matter**. The first creation in the collection. "L" letter quote states, "nobody's free until everybody's free" Fannie Lou Hamer. "All of our silences in the face of racist assaults are the acts of complicity." Bell Hooks. On the "K" letter, "Unless one lives in and loves in the trenches, it is difficult to remember that the war against dehumanization is ceaseless" Audrey Lord, "I write what I like," Steve Biko. "Ignorance allied with power is the most ferocious enemy justice can have," James Baldwin.
- **3 Black Student Alliance**, "brown boy joy, black girl magic." "We can disagree and still love each other. unless your disagreement is rooted in my oppression and denial of my humanity and right to exist." James Baldwin
- **3 Indigenous people** -- Cheyenne Arapaho, Shoshone, Ute, Sioux, Kiowa, Apache. Native four directions symbolism mural, Iguwtoyap Oyate. "When the last tree has been cut down the last river polluted and the last fish has been cut only then do you realize we cannot eat money tree," Indian proverb
- 4 Latino Students Alliance "Se (si) puede, no human being is illegal. We are here to stay." Mural -- Brown is beautiful face with butterflies.
- 5 **Asian Pacific Islander Student Alliance** "I am an American" mural with many culturally diverse faces "Where there is love. There is Life," Gandhi, "I think of myself as a human being, because under the sky, we are but one family." Bruce Lee
- 6. Islamic Student Group "listen with ears of tolerance see with eyes of compassion" Rumi
- **7. Women** "When they go low, we go high," Michelle Obama. "Women belong at all places where decisions are being made," Ruth Bader Ginsburg. "While I may be the first woman this in this office I will not be the last" Kamala Harris.
- **8. Neurodiverse Learners** -- Large multicolored mural bookended by puzzle pieces. "Diversity is a fact; inclusiveness is an act."
- **9. Jewish Student Connection**, Jewish panel with cultural symbolism.
- **10. West side of esplanade** -- Flags international (representing countries where school staff and students have come from. "He licked his lips. Well if you want my opinion, I don't she said I have my own." "An educator has the duty of not being neutral," Paulo Freire. Mural continues with a pair of angels (school mascots) holding harp world with flowers, and more flags. Last quote "history isn't something you look back and say it was inevitable. It happens because people make decisions that are sometimes very impulsive and of the moment, but those moments are cumulative realities." Marsha P Johnson.





























- c. 9 Young Rotary Club
 - i. Community activities
- d. DMH Rotary International and Local Projects
 - i. Youth mental health Brainwise
- e. East HS celebrities (among many)
 - Hattie McDaniel
 - Don Cheadle
 - Judy Collins
 - Mamie Eisenhower
 - Douglass Fairbanks
 - Neal Cassady
 - Dianne Reeves
 - Jack Swigert
 - Jamie Laurie (aka Jonny 5, Flobots)



5. Urban Forest

a. Celebrity Trees

- i. Shakespeare Elm
- ii. Golden Raintree (local champion)
- iii. Catalpa Schooner Tree
- iv. City Park Arboretum Tree Walk
- v. Japanese Pagoda

b. Trees of the city – diversity, good bets for this climate – 3700 trees and 157 species

- i. First trees Arboretum day plantings (600) by school children
- ii. Be a Smart Ash (16% of Denver trees)
- iii. The Park People recommendations
 - 1. Western Hackberry
 - 2. Kentucky Coffee tree
 - 3. Bur Oak
 - 4. Harvest Gold Linden
 - 5. Showy Mountain Ash
 - 6. Japanese Lilac

City Park has 3,700 frees representing 157 species. The park's 10 most common trees are:

Green Ash
American Linden
Blue Spruce
Hawthorn
Crabapple
Austrian Pine

№ Ponderosa Pine
№ Bur Oak

Cottonwood

c. Wildlife of a park in city

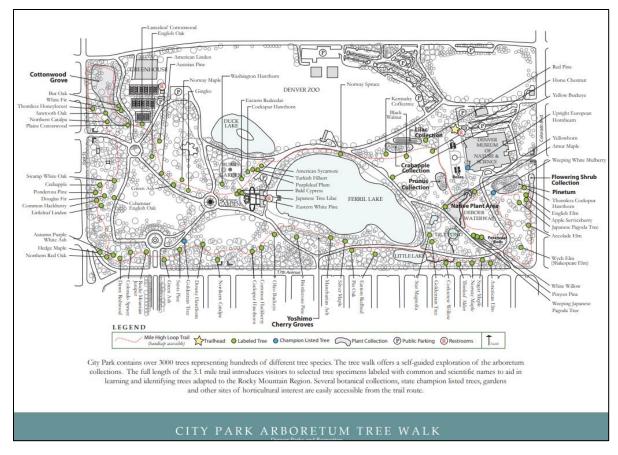
- i. A gaggle of Canadian and Cackling geese meet the shark (goose-inator)
- ii. Coyote (1) v squirrel runner (0)
- iii. Wild peacocks
- iv. Eagle fly-bys
- v. Cormorants, snowy egrets, and night herons "spring break stopovers"

d. MH Rotary Local Projects

- i. Climate action / tree planting (Partnership with The Park People)
- ii. Homelessness/Food Security
- iii. Veteran Support







https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/747/documents/forestry/City_Park_Arb_oretum_tree_walk.pdf



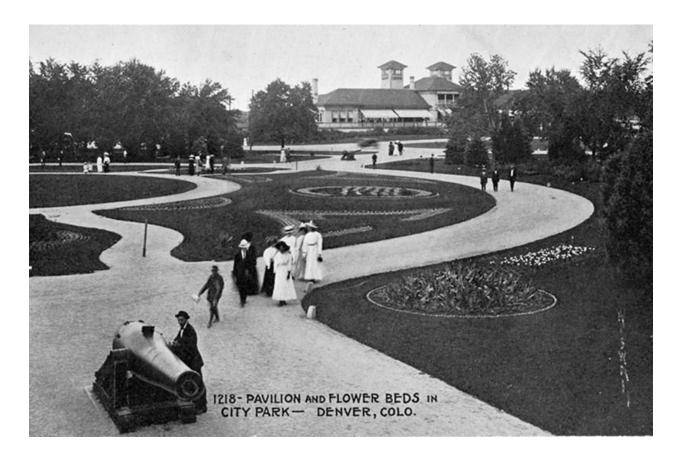
6. Denver Museum of Natural History

- a. Park Use Challenges traffic, recreation, tranquility, parking, spillovers in the neighborhood
- b. City Park legacy why this location, other pieces of history

Denver and City Park History

- 1858 Denver founded by General William Larimer after gold discovered at Platte/Cherry Creek confluence,
 - Named after Kansas territorial governor, James Denver
 - First parks in city cottonwood groves at confluence
 - o Population 5000
- 1859 Richard Sopris,
 - Representative, Arapaho County / KS territory 1859; "Discovered" Glenwood hot springs?. Mt Sopris near Carbondale
 - o Mayor 1878 1881
 - Land purchase for two parks 1878— Sloans and City Park 320 acres each —
 - o Park commissioner 1881 1891, wanted to model after Olmstead NY Central Park
 - Father of the Park built a "sinuous tangle of winding carriageways, walks and promenades"
- 1861 1865 Civil War
- 1870 Railroad spur to Denver from Cheyene off of transcontinental line
- 1876 Colorado Statehood
- 1882 City Park founded, (140 years old) one mile west of city boundary
 - o "sage brush tract" no trees, cactus, buffalo grass, sage brush, alkaline soil
 - o First trees cottonwoods gardener hired to protect from cows
 - 80 acres- artesian well at high point (DMNS)
- 1889
 - Duck Lake built
 - floating bandstand
 - o city boundary extended to Colo Blvd
- 1890
 - o Streetcar companies had built rail lines to park and sponsored concerts
 - Denver population 100,000
 - Denver school children had helped plant 600 trees on Arbor days
 - 1000's attended band concerts 140 years of bands in park
- 1893 World Fair Chicago Olmstead City Beautiful, battery powered launch from world fair, racetrack harness racing, auto racing later
 - Olmstedian public park philosophy had evolved from that of a a park where serenity sunshine and quiet beauty promoted the heling of tied bodies and troubled minds to a park which would also satisfy the public's needs for active recreation
- 1896 park added: Big Lake (city ditch water), zoo, bandstands, pavilion jail and restaurant in pavilion
- 1900 passion play 10,000 people
- 1900 Indian camp Utes. Sioux, Navajo teepees tourist attraction
- 1904 Mayor Robert Speer
 - City clerk 1884, Came to Denver related to TB,

- o head of public works 1901
- Men will be judged more by their disbursements than by their accumulation... Give while you live.
- 1908 electric fountain added −2 men in hole to monitor gauges 1983 repaired
- 1913 squatters living in golf course area... golf course started
- 1914 167 official camping spots
- 1918 Museum started, new bandshell
- 1920 traffic congestión in park
- 1925 East High School built
- 1950's
 - o Botanic Garden on south side of museum, 1953
 - o Zoo got fenced 1956 (no fee until 1965)
 - o Racetrack removed 1950
- 1990's
 - o Traffic and congestion challenges lead to updated master plan to revitalize park



c. Museum's circle of outdoor art

https://denverpublicart.org/category-landing/

1 Spectrum Band (2014)



2 "Iridescent Cloud" (2014)



3 "Lalooska Totem Pole" (2014)



4 "Grizzly's Last Stand" (1938)



5 Rondure (2020)



6 "H2Oddysey" (1998) http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM43Y0



7 "Snow Mastadon" (2014)



8 "Camarasaurs and Ceratosaurs" (1996)



9 "When Legends Die" (1987)

http://sargentstudios.com/?p=204



d. Nature Play / Box Canyon

Nature Play in City Park

https://www.dmns.org/about/strategic-plan-everyone-everywhere/nature-play-in-city-park/?vanityurl=natureplay https://www.denverpost.com/2023/01/24/city-park-denver-nature-play-historic-waterway-ditch/

The Museum and City Park grew up alongside each other, both brought to life more than 100 years ago. As part of the City Park Master Plan Update, and inspired by Coloradans' passion for nature, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science and Denver Parks & Recreation are excited to support the creation of natural play experiences in City Park. This \$8 Million project will restore the historic waterway in the southeast corner of City Park while showcasing the diversity of Colorado's ecosystems through natural features and play experiences. Designed with more than 5 years of input from thousands of community members, this area will be an immersive experience for accessible, multi-generational, and multi-sensory exploration, respite, and play.

Project Timeline

The Denver Museum of Nature & Science and Denver Parks & Recreation are breaking ground on the Nature Play & Waterway Restoration Project in City Park! Through the construction of this community-driven design project, the Museum's award-winning Explore Colorado dioramas found on the 3rd floor of the Museum will be brought to life as an immersive experience designed for accessible, multigenerational, and multi-sensory exploration, respite, and play. The project will be in construction through late 2024.

Project Renderings



Community Driven Design

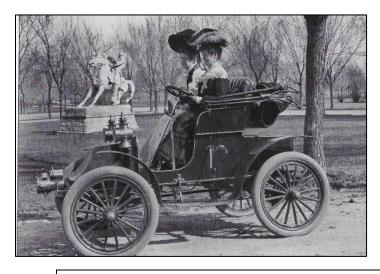
Community feedback has led to design concepts that include inclusive, multigenerational, multiseasonal play, along with opportunities for learning, respite and engagement through authentic, natural, playful experiences for people of all ages and abilities.

7. Ferril Lake & Other Areas

- a. Park changes over a century
 - i. Racetrack
 - ii. Botanic Gardens
 - iii. Dairy Farm
 - iv. Park Concerts -a 130-year tradition
 - 1. Duck Lake creation with bandstand, 1000s attended shows 1889
 - 2. Big Lake (Ferril) dug, new floating bandshell, needed boat to get there 1896
 - 3. 10000 attended passion play 1900
 - 4. New bandshell built, connected to shore 1918
 - 5. City Park Jazz Series, thousands attend 2023





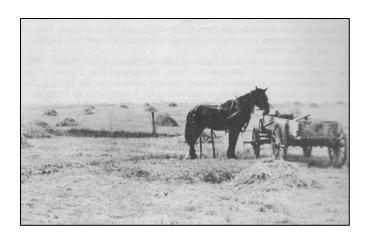


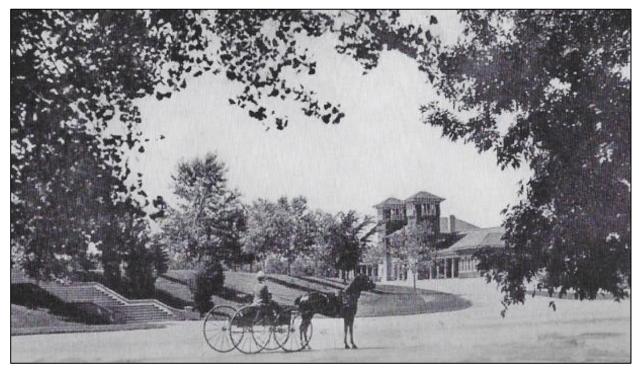


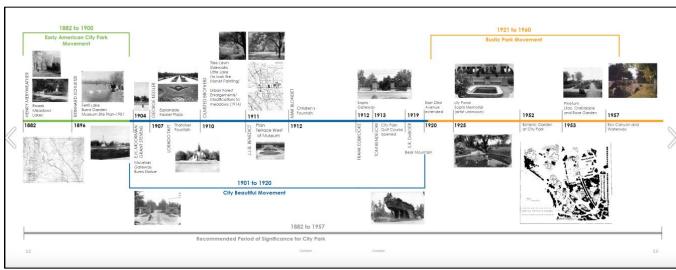
Sources of photos

- Peters, Bette D, 1986. Denver's City Park, Dept of History. University of Colorado at Denver.
 Johnson Publishing Company
- Snow, Shawn M, 2009, Images of America: Denver's City Park and Whittier Neighborhoods, Arcadia Publishing











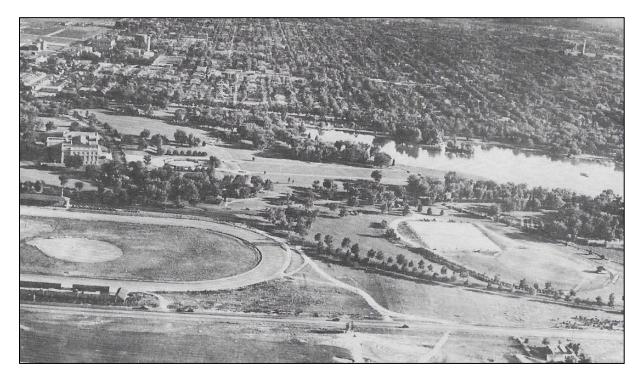


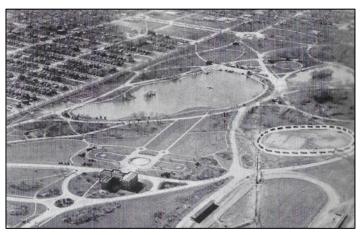


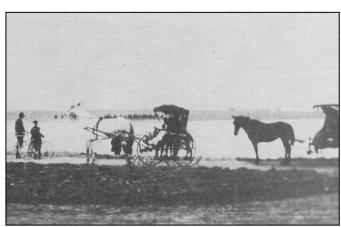




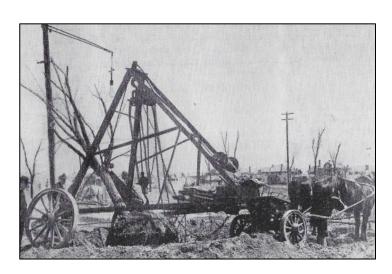
Park Master Plan: https://issuu.com/mundusbishop-denver/docs/final_city_park_master_plan_update







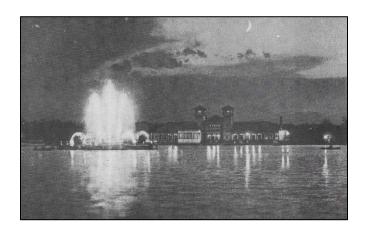


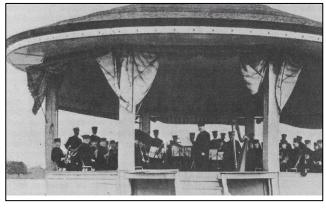














Ed Dwight – American sculptor https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ed Dwight



