For CPRE/CPRP licensure - Please submit your CEU tracking form to the room monitor prior to the start of the session and pick it up at the end of the session.

For all credits (CEU, PDH and CM) - To receive credits for this session, you must complete the Session Survey in the mobile app.

- From the home page, select schedule
- Go to today’s date and find the title of this session and tap
- In the middle of the page, tap General Session Survey
- Fill out the Session Survey

Your responses will be shared with the accrediting agency.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• Identify key attributes of great park cities.

• Learn how to adapt and apply these principles to rapidly growing cities with varying demographics, landscape characters, and user needs.

• Develop physical planning strategies to grow park systems and foster economic development
SPEAKERS

Mitchell Silver, NYC Parks Commissioner (Moderator)
Mark Tabor, Principal Park Planner for Denver’s Department of Parks and Recreation
Fred Bonci, Founding Partner, LaQuatra Bonci Associates
A Collaborative Vision for the Future of Parks

*Denver’s Multi-Departmental Planning Process and the Game Plan for a Healthy City*
Legacy of Park Development in Denver

- Park and Boulevard “City Beautiful Movement” (1882)
- Mountain Parks Planning and Acquisition (1913)
- Social Welfare and the Recreational Access (1950s)
- Reclamation of Waterways and Regional Trails (1970s)
A diverse system, spanning from the mountains to the plains

72% of Denver park land is in the Mountains, more than 14,000 acres

22 Accessible Mt Parks + 24 Conservation Tracts

>6,000 acres of urban parkland

244 Urban Parks  28 Recreation Centers

MOUNTAIN PARKS  URBAN PARKS + RECREATION
Threats to Our System

and to the City

THREATENED URBAN FOREST
Denver’s urban tree canopy is one of the lowest in ranked cities and every 1 in 6 trees are threatened by the Emerald Ash Borer.

OBESITY IS RISING
Nearly 1 in 6 children is obese, and 52% of Denver’s residential parcels are not within a 10 minute walk of a playground.

LIMITED ACCESS TO NATURE
Many neighborhoods do not have walking access to places to experience nature, and the mountain parks are difficult to access for families without a car.

DROUGHT & FLOODING
11% ($2.7M) of park’s annual operating budget goes towards irrigation. Droughts and flooding are both projected to increase in the future.

PARKS NOT KEEPING UP WITH GROWTH
From 2010-2016 the city experienced an 11% growth while park space didn’t keep pace. Denver’s park access of 9 acres per thousand residents is well below the national average of 13.

GROWING ECONOMIC CHALLENGES
Deferred maintenance totals $119 million and nearly 1 in 6 park assets is in poor condition. Expenses are significantly outpacing funding growth.
Five Plans ... A Goal for a Unified Vision

- Parks & Recreation
  Fun Activities in Beautiful Surroundings

- Transit
  Creating an Easily Traversable City

- Land Use & Transportation
  Neighborhood Character and Quality of Life

- Pedestrians & Trails
  Connecting People and Neighborhoods

Denverright.
Comprehensive Plan 2040
Denveright Values and Vision

Driven by the community . . .

High Touch Engagement
- Game Plan Task Force
- Community Think Tank
- Statistically-Valid Survey Instrument (mail)
- Community Workshops/Open Houses
- Intercept Events

Greener & Greener 2019
Exploring Natural Connections
July 23-24, 2019 Denver, Colorado
THE Vision FOR DENVERIGHT IS:

- Equitable, Affordable and Inclusive
- Economically Diverse and Vibrant
- Strong and Authentic Neighborhoods
- Well-Connected, Safe and Accessible Places
- Economically Diverse and Vibrant
- Environmentally Resilient
- Healthy and Active

DENVERIGHT VISION ELEMENTS
Complete Neighborhoods and Networks

Blueprint Denver’s vision and goals are realized through the planning and implementation of complete neighborhoods connected by a complete multimodal transportation network.

Complete Networks

Denver will have a complete multimodal transportation network across the city to provide more choices to get to our jobs, schools, homes and leisure activities.

Elements of a Complete Network

- **Pedestrian Network**
  - All streets are designed to prioritize people walking, including those using mobility devices. Certain streets can be further enhanced to create vibrant public spaces.

- **Bicycle Network**
  - Bicycle priority streets prioritize comfort and convenience for people biking.

- **Transit Network**
  - Transit priority streets create a complete local transit network that complements the regional rail network.

- **Auto and Goods Movement**
  - The network that promotes efficient auto and goods movement. Vehicle technology and how goods are delivered and received are rapidly changing.

Complete Neighborhoods

Denver will be composed of complete neighborhoods accessible to everyone, regardless of age, ability or income.

Elements of a Complete Neighborhood

- **Land Use & Design**
  - Enhance the character and quality of neighborhoods.

- **Transport**
  - Connect people to the neighborhood places where they live, work and play.

- **Housing**
  - Provide neighborhoods with natural features, active recreation opportunities and social spaces.
The Complete Transit System

- High-quality, reliable, frequent transit
- Pedestrian & bicycle improvements
- Stop & station enhancements
- Placemaking
- Transit-supportive land use
- Safe access & connections
- Curb lane management

Implement High-Quality and Reliable Transit
Provide Frequent Service
Improve Access and Connections to Transit
Build a Sense of Place
Make the Most of our Investments

GREATER & GREENER 2019
EXPLORING NATURAL CONNECTIONS
JULY 20-24, 2019 DENVER, COLORADO
Complete Streets and Networks

Sidewalks
Connections to:
- Transit
- Parks
- Schools
- Grocery Stores

Trails
Trail Projects
1. New Trails
2. Crossings
3. Trail Retrofits
How the Plans Work Together

A holistic look at city systems, understanding that inter-agency collaboration and community engagement is critical to the success of multi-benefit solutions.
Vision for the Game Plan – A Healthy City

A Place Where Residents Are Active and Healthy

A Place With a High Quality of Life

A Place With a Clean and Sustaining Urban Environment

A Place Where All Ages Have Outdoor Opportunities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DenverRight Vision Elements</th>
<th>Game Plan Guiding Principles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equitable, Affordable and Inclusive</td>
<td>Every Drop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong and Authentic Neighborhoods</td>
<td>Every Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-Connected, Safe and Accessible Places</td>
<td>Every Dollar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economically Diverse and Vibrant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmentally Resilient</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy and Active</td>
<td>Uniquely Denver</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Game Plan provides a roadmap for our parks, recreation programs, and urban forest to serve the needs of all Denverites in the face of population growth and climate change.

**EVERY DROP**
- Adapt to the changing climate and limited resources.

**EVERY PERSON**
- Diversify parks and recreation services.
- Grow the park system and recreation access.

**EVERY DOLLAR**
- Invest in Denver’s parks and recreation resources and people.

**UNIQUELY DENVER**
- Connect to Denver’s nature and culture.

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**healthy CITY**
- Climate change adaptation
- Enhance biodiversity
- Resource stewardship

**healthy PEOPLE**
- Park/open space accessibility
- Improve & enhance parks
- Improve & enhance outdoor recreation opportunities

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GREATER & GREENER 2019
EXPLORING NATURAL CONNECTIONS
JULY 20-24, 2019 DENVER COLORADO
Implementation Highlights...

**Policies** – An Institutional Commitment that Reflects Values that Guide Future Decisions

**Regulations** – Rules that Define and Control Activities or Practices for Expressed Public Benefits or Protections

**Strategies, Recommendations, Actions** – How the Plan Goals will be Realized
### PLAN PRIORITY STRATEGIES

| 1.2 | RESILIENT LANDSCAPES | Create select park areas to incorporate climate resilient landscapes and drought tolerance. |
| 1.5 | ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION | Restore functional ecosystems emphasizing native wetlands and lakes. |
| 1.6 | URBAN FOREST EXPANSION | Protect and expand tree cover in areas of high urban heat. |
| 1.8 | RIGHT-OF-WAY TREES | Redefine municipal roles and responsibilities for the establishment, care and replacement of trees in the ROW. |
| 1.12 | MOUNTAIN PARK FIRE MANAGEMENT | Work with regional partners to research and develop best practices for Mountain Park forest management and fire mitigation. |

### ADAPT TO THE CHANGING CLIMATE & LIMITED RESOURCES

| 1.3 | ENERGY EFFICIENT FACILITIES | Make facilities more energy-saving and efficient, reducing energy use to park and recreation operations by 25 percent in 10 years. |
| 1.11 | WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING | Address waste more efficiently, increase user responsibilities, and expand recycling in parks and recreation facilities. |
| 2.2 | RECREATION PROGRAMMING | Adapt recreation facilities and programming to promote active lifestyles consistent with the culture of the surrounding community. |
| 2.3 | EMERGING TRENDS | Actively research, test, and implement new park facilities and programs to respond to emerging trends. |
| 2.7 | ENGAGEMENT | Develop Departmental capabilities to deepen community and employee outreach and engagement to better understand perspectives and needs. |

### DIVERSIFY PARKS & RECREATION SERVICES

| 3.1 | GROW PARKS | Acquire land and build facilities to keep pace with growth and meet 10-minute walk standard and service goals. |
| 3.2 | EXPAND PARTNERSHIPS | Partner with residents, the private sector, and non-profit organizations to support facility and program expansion. |
| 3.5 | 10 MIN WALK ACCESS | Ensure a ten-minute walk for park and open space for every neighborhood. |
| 3.6 | MULTI-MODAL ACCESS | With partners, improve multimodal transportation systems and pathways in neighborhoods with barriers or safety issues. |
| 3.12 | PARTNERSHIP WITH DPS | Develop a citywide mutually beneficial relationship with DPS to share resources. |

### GROW THE PARK SYSTEM & RECREATION ACCESS

| 4.3 | ALTERNATIVE FUNDING | Explore alternative funding strategies to address unmet standards and expand and enhance Department services. |
| 4.7 | STAFF GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT | Support and retain staff development and professional growth to support engagement and retention. |
| 4.9 | UPGRADE FACILITIES | Upgrade operation and user facilities to meet baseline standards. |
| 4.10 | PARTNERSHIP WITH DPS | Develop a citywide mutually beneficial relationship with DPS to share resources. |

### $ REINVEST IN DENVER'S PARKS & RECREATION RESOURCES & PEOPLE

| 5.2 | TREE-LINED STREETS | Expand a system of tree-lined streets to improve mobility, tree canopy, and water quality. |
| 5.8 | PARKS ACTIVATION | Collaborate with agencies and organizations to activate parks and support arts, cultural, and social community events. |
| 5.9 | INNOVATIVE PUBLIC SPACES | Expand new innovative park and recreation amenities to encourage active lifestyles and improve health. |
| 5.12 | NATURE IN THE CITY | Create nature experiences and access to natural areas in every community. |

### CONNECT TO DENVER'S NATURE & CULTURE

| 5.13 | MOUNTAIN PARK ACCESS | Expand access, amenities, programs, and ease of use to improve the experience of the mountain parks to encourage more use by Denver residents. |

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**GREATER & GREENER 2019**

**EXPLORING NATURAL CONNECTIONS**

**JULY 20-24, 2019 DENVER COLORADO**
3 Year Action Plan - "A Living Document"

Division-level list of annual actions, milestones, and measurable outcomes

Representative Priority Actions:

• **Ten Minute Walk Access** to a Park
  - Increase 85 to 90% Accessible

• **Diverse Funding** for Growth and Reinvestment
  - Implement $35M 2A Funding

• **Climate-Resilient** Park Landscapes
  - Convert 200ac to Drought Tolerant

• **Enhanced Recreation Programming**
  - New Health Programming at All Centers

• **Land Acquisition** to Keep Up with Growth
  - New Acquisition Plan and Add 100ac

• **Equity through Program and Facility Standards**
  - New Standards & 6 Center Upgrades

• **Urban Forest** Protection and Expansion
  - Replace 10% More Trees Than Removed
Game Plan for a Healthy City
PLAY BENTONVILLE

A Ten Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Prepared by: LaQuatra Bonci Associates
In Collaboration with: ETM Associates

Prepared for: Bentonville Parks and Recreation Dept.
Funded by: The Walton Family Foundation
Bentonville Profile

- 2007 Population: 33,827
- 2015 Population: 44,499
- 2018 Population: 49,298
- 2025 Projected: 65,000
DUE DILLIGENCE STRATEGIES

• **ASSESS** existing conditions & regional assets
• **BENCHMARK** national recreation standards/trends
• **ENGAGE** public through surveys, meetings, focus groups, and steering committees
• **IDENTIFY** Goals & Objectives set by Parks & Rec. Department
UNIQUE TO BENTONVILLE

• Demographics
• Growth Strategy
  • City Plan vs. Regional Plan and financial sustainability
• Fast Paced Ongoing Development
• Management and maintenance strategies
• Stakeholders Goals/ Our Charge
  • WFF – recruit and retain the “best and brightest”, diversify parks
  • Community – Serve existing users
  • Parks & Recreation Department - Premier Parks System in the Country
• Regional vs. Bentonville Park System
PIV·OT

/ˈpivət/

noun or verb

The moment in time we realized we were going about this plan entirely wrong and we needed to completely shift our approach and thinking.
PIVOT #1
SURVEY RESULTS

Q18 In your opinion can you currently (safely and comfortably) access a park by bike or foot from your home?

Q17 With safe, connected sidewalks and trails, what is the farthest you would be willing to walk or ride a bike to a park?
EXISTING PARKS AND TRAILS
NATURAL SYSTEMS
THE "HELIX" "COIL"
PIVOT #3 LEVERAGING DEVELOPMENT
Civic Open Space Guidelines

- 10% of Development Tract
- 25% Must front a thoroughfare
- Identify, preserve, connect to natural features

Central Civic Space

Mid-Block Civic Space w/Pedestrian Connector
Civic Open Space Guidelines

Gateway Civic Space w/ Corridor Connections

Extend/Connect Existing Paths Along Edges
Civic Open Space Guidelines

Apply Greenspace to Protect any outstanding natural features or corridors

Preservation
PIVOT #5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
QUILT OF PARKS
1/2 Mile Buffer

Alternate future park locations to fill service gaps

EXPANSION & LONG TERM CONSIDERATIONS
TAKEAWAYS

• The Importance of Diversity
• Collaboration
• Leverage Local Assets
• Insist on Physical Planning and Design
• Institutionalize Development Standards
• Connectivity is Key
• 10 Year Master Planning is too short sighted
QUESTIONS
SPEAKER CONTACT

Mark Tabor ASLA, Landscape Architect / Principal Park Planner
Denver Parks and Recreation
Mark.Tabor@denvergov.org

Fred Bonci, Founding Partner, LaQuatra Bonci Associates
bonci@laquatrabonci.com
MEMBERSHIP

Your connection to information and expertise on new urban park models, practices, and innovative partnerships.

Members have access to a suite of highly-curated resources specifically designed for the parks community including:

• Webinars
• Online resource library
• Urban park study tours
• Advocacy tools
• Discounted registration to Greater & Greener

Join City Parks Alliance today! To learn more, visit our membership table in the exhibition hall or go to cityparksalliance.org/membership.

#greatergreener