

NOTES FROM INC PARC Meeting Oct. 21, 2014

INC Parks and Recreation Committee (PARC) met October 21 at the Heritage Club, 2020 S. Monroe St. Present: Co-Chairs Maggie Price and Katie Fisher, Cindy Johnstone, Sonia John, Ray Ehrenstein, James Sample, Jay Rust, Brad Cameron, Kathleen Wells, Nancy Francis, Marlene Johnson, Hank Bootz, Louis Plachowski, Greg Sorensen, Susan Bardwell, Diana Helper, and guest Doug Woods, Parks Director from Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR).

Doug Woods addressed PARC's questions about tree concerns- including bark damage from mowing, and irrigation practices. He distributed copies of the Denver Forestry General Guideline for Planting Trees, and DPR Park Maintenance Standards. The latter advises that smaller trees be mulched in a 2 foot radius to prevent mowing damage. Six horticulturalists have been hired. A work/time/place study on DPR jobs has been done and is being analyzed, to bring more efficiency and focus on strategic issues. Trash pick-up is a major time-consumer. DPR endeavors to meet its standards but is short on resources. Soil tests by DPR/Forestry/Denver Water are assessing water salt content and effect on park trees. Sprinkler heads are being modified to divert direct watering on trees.

PARC comments: Mower damage is greater in certain parks- suggest need for training crews. To notify DPR of damage to trees, call 311 which keeps a record. Educate the public to explain that money from park Events goes to the city's General Fund, not to DPR. Park permits should include promise of park trash pickup by that group, with possible future revocation if not done. Regarding citizen volunteering, Tina Myers is DPR contact person, who calls certain groups for park work. PARC asked for a list of volunteer opportunities for RNOs, stressing the need for saving trees, suggesting tree-wrapping and other work. PARC asked for a chart of DPR employees, to whom they report, and which parks they cover. Doug will send these to PARC. The committee thanked Doug for his help and asked him to return to PARC. Also appreciation was expressed for excellent recent park work.

Katie said Brad Cameron was praised by DPR's Scott Gilmore at the recent Parks And Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) meeting, for INC PARC members' fine contributions to the park designation process now underway. Brad keeps this on topic and our PARC reps have asked needed questions. Katie had a copy of the PRAB "white paper" - very much in line with INC's statements. Please see [attachment White Paper](#) and [2015 DPR Budget Review](#)

The proposed City Budget includes an Office of Customer Events, an item from the city's Special Events And Permitting (SEAP) committee, which included INC members- who were never advised of its final wrap-up session. This Office would ease the way for big event permits in parks. Public response is negative. SEAP indicated there would be some nod to neighbor or RNO input, which PARC wants to address. Nancy believes the Office expense could be better placed in enforcement of DPR permit rules, and urges PARC members to write city councilpersons.

The Rock & Roll race went better than last time. Cindy said a Washington Park Calendar with photo contest pictures will be out in November. Ray said Overland Pond is not getting water, with the S. Platte project underway. Diana is giving a Prairie Park benefit concert of Western Songs and Poems on Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Iliff Mansion Carriage House, 2160 S. Cook, to raise money for the interpretive sign for the Park. Tickets (\$20) or donations-- www.upcc.us/parks/prairie or PO Box 102407, Denver 80250. Next PARC meeting-- 6 p.m. Nov. 18.

-Diana Helper, PARC Member

editor note-

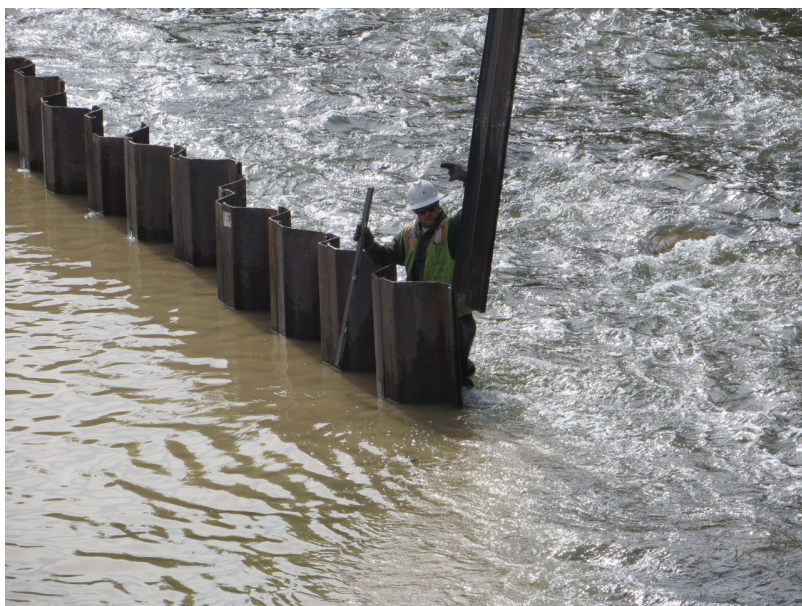
Ronnie Crawford has sent us some more pictures of the South Platte Project.

If you have not gone down there yet, do so. It is changing every day

Descriptions of pictures are by Ronnie. Thanks for keeping us up to date Ronnie.



From here on, all of my updates will be "Ronnie's River Report" and numbered. I will be sending out updates as things proceed. Photos are between the Florida Ave bridge and the Florida "drop" The river will be divided 1/3-2/3rds, as seen above. The left side will be evacuated of water so that they can begin their work of making the river a destination for all of the river users. The "bike path" will be widened and a "soft trail" built parallel and closer to the river. Damned, "this is exciting" (screaming)



Worker directing crane operator in placement of steel divider into bed rock. Note clear water and muddy water.



Final placement of steel sheathing to separate the river into two sections. Once the steel is in place, it is tamped down into the bedrock. Note clear and muddy water.



Looking east. This is the temporary bridge built by Naranjo Civil. This is how the heavy equipment enters and exits the river each day. There is a ramp at the far end of the bridge, visible in previous photos. On the far side, the concrete walkway and all of the large rock will be removed for regrading of the bank. The "drop, on the right, 8 feet tall, will be removed. The beautiful Cottonwood is staying.



The bedrock was so dense that the sheathing lengths were cut in half before installation into the bedrock. I had a good day fishing that day, a Carp and a Smallmouth Bass using the same lure, downstream.