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To Whom It May Concern:

Mayor Webb and city leaders had tremendous foresight to purchase 193 acres adjacent to Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre in 2000 with the clear intention of preserving that open space as parkland. That goal was affirmed when City Council approved the **2008 Denver Mountain Parks Master Plan** (“Recommendation E. Designate the City’s recent acquisitions of land adjacent to Red Rocks as parkland. P. 87”). It is exciting and heartening to see that the City already has designed the first parcel, the Bradley land. Thank you.

I urge Mayor Hancock, Manager Happy Haynes, Executive Director Kent Rice, and the City Council to complete the protection of this city land, with designation of the remaining land purchases as official parkland. The timing couldn’t be better with the recent federal recognition that Red Rocks has earned.

Like many land parcels that are added to the designated park system, these parcels initially were purchased by a department other than Parks and Recreation, Theatres and Arenas (now Arts and Venues). Denver also has purchased land through Public Works intended for future parkland. It is the *intent* for the purchase, rather than the purchasing department, that should determine the future of the land. Consequently, please continue officially designating this beautiful open space.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan Edwards Baird
Denver Mountain Parks Master Plan author
(retired) Senior Planner, Denver Parks and Recreation