



Webb Group

1660 Lincoln Street
Suite 2820
Denver, Colorado 80264

Phone: 303-893-9322
Fax: 303-893-9323
www.webbgroupintl.com

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To Whom It May Concern:

In 2000, my administration saw a threat of development near our beloved Red Rocks Amphitheatre and acquired 193 acres from several landowners to protect the natural beauty. Eight years later, a new master plan for the Denver Mountain Parks was completed and among the recommendations was for the city to formally designate this acreage as parkland.

Another eight years has passed since that recommendation. Now is the time to make sure that this natural scenery continues to be preserved for future generations.

We all understand the great history of this area. In 2015, the Red Rocks Park and Mount Morrison Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp was designated a National Historic Landmark. This status benefited both the "jewel" of Denver's visionary Mountain Parks System - Red Rocks Park - and its world-renowned amphitheatre, acknowledged as an architectural masterpiece and America's premier outdoor concert venue.

The Mountain Parks System was formed under Mayor Robert Speer's vision of a "City Beautiful," to be the "other half" of Denver's Parks and Parkways system during his administration from 1904-1912. The Mountain Parks, unique in this country, were created to ensure that Denver's residents would always have the opportunity to enjoy nearby natural settings of pristine beauty for generations.

As Denver's mayor from 1991-2003, it was my privilege to embrace Mayor Speer's vision and carry it into the 21st century. Wherever we could my administration added to and expanded our city's parkland as opportunities became available.


Red Rocks offered one of those opportunities. A plan to build a Visitor Center at the amphitheatre was underway, under the leadership of Theaters and Arenas Director Fabby Hillyard, when development began to threaten the park's borders. The prospect of an increasing population in the valley would have potentially impacted amphitheatre operations. We saw a once in a lifetime chance to preserve open space near the park and seized an opportunity to acquire the 193 acres.

Complex negotiations were completed in 2000 by Edward "Ned" Burke, Sr. of Denver's City Assets Management Office, who called the acquisition his proudest accomplishment. The new parkland stretches from Matthews Winters Park, which is Jefferson County Open Space on the north, to the old Morrison Cemetery on the south, and from Highway 93 on the east to the old Red Rocks park boundary on the west.

"The site describes itself because you can't capture what you see here on a piece of paper, and our goal is fairly clear. What we're trying to do is maintain the parks and open space around Red Rocks," I said when the acquisition was announced at Red Rocks in May 2000.

Another year should not pass without taking the next step to preserve that natural beauty and designating the 193 acres as parkland.

Yours Truly,



Wellington E. Webb
Denver's Mayor, 1991-2003

