



DENVER PARKS AND RECREATION

STRATEGIC ACQUISITION PLAN

PUBLIC MEETING



INTRODUCTIONS

Denver Parks and Recreation

- Gordon Robertson, Director of Parks Planning
- Kathy LeVeque, Assistant Director of Parks Planning, SAP Project Manager
- Laurie Tabachnick, Associate Parks Planner
- Joe Lovell, GIS Data Administrator
- Greg Neitzke, Parks Land Surveyor
- Laura Morales, Community Relations

Department of Finance

- Luke McKay, Acquisition & Asset Manager, SAP Project Manager

Consultant Team

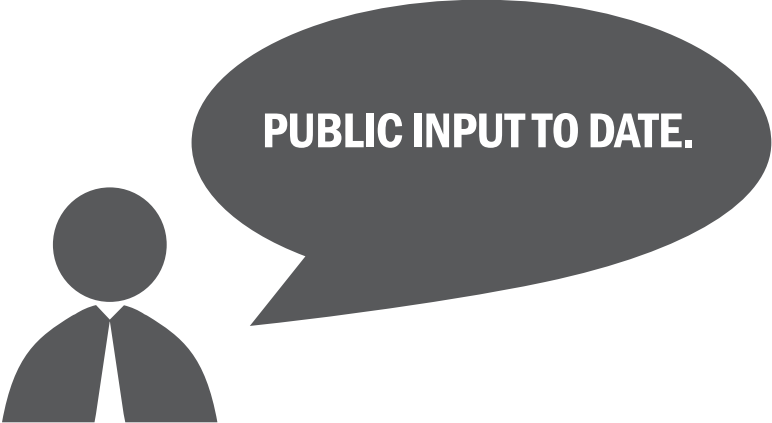
- Becky Zimmermann, President, Design Workshop
- Chris Geddes, Principal, Design Workshop
- Hadley Peterson, Project Manager, Design Workshop
- Arleen Taniwaki, Arland

INTRODUCE YOURSELF

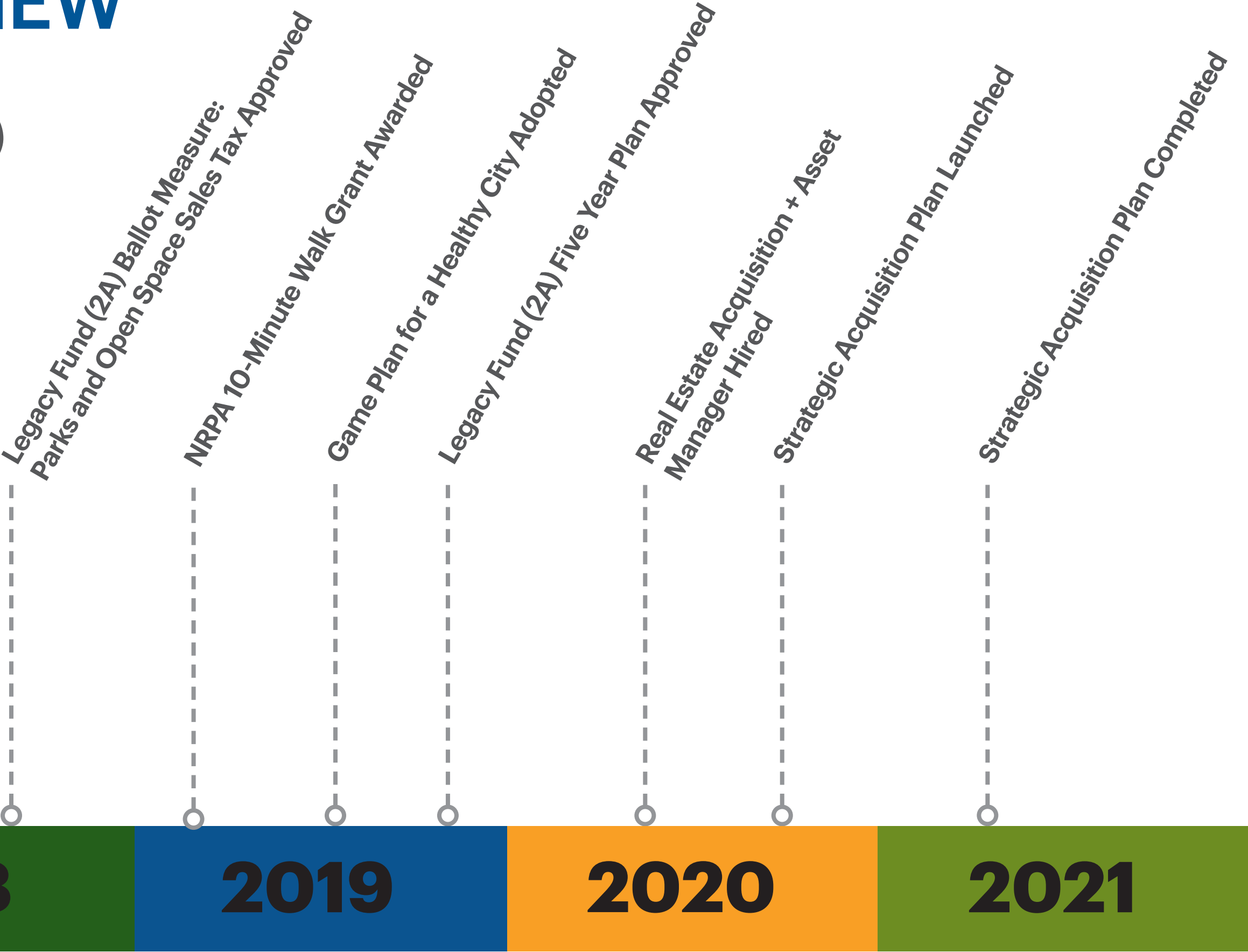
1. Please add your name and neighborhood AND/OR organization in the chat box now.
2. Let us know what brought you here today and what you want to learn more about.
3. Go to <https://forms.gle/HRyavmr78q5pRQX27> to add your email to our notification list for this project.



PLAN OVERVIEW



- Voters overwhelmingly approved the November 2018 sales tax measure to improve and expand the park system.
- 5,900+ comments during the Game Plan planning process.
- Legacy Fund input was part of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) outreach effort and included five town hall meetings, two online surveys, and comment cards at all recreation centers and libraries.





VISION & GOALS

DRAFT Vision

The DPR Strategic Acquisition Plan provides a clear framework for decision-making that identifies priorities, describes strategies, and explains criteria for success associated with completing and funding future acquisitions. This framework will ensure Denver's urban and mountain parks, open space and recreation system will equitably meet the recreational needs of its entire community while also ensuring Denver remains a resilient and sustainable city.

Focus Areas

- 1. Closing the 10-Minute Walk or Roll Gap**
- 2. Mountain Parks**
- 3. DPR Facilities**
- 4. Resilience, Habitat Restoration & Waterways**
- 5. Downtown, High-Density, & Growth Areas**
- 6. Equity**



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Now, time for a polling question!

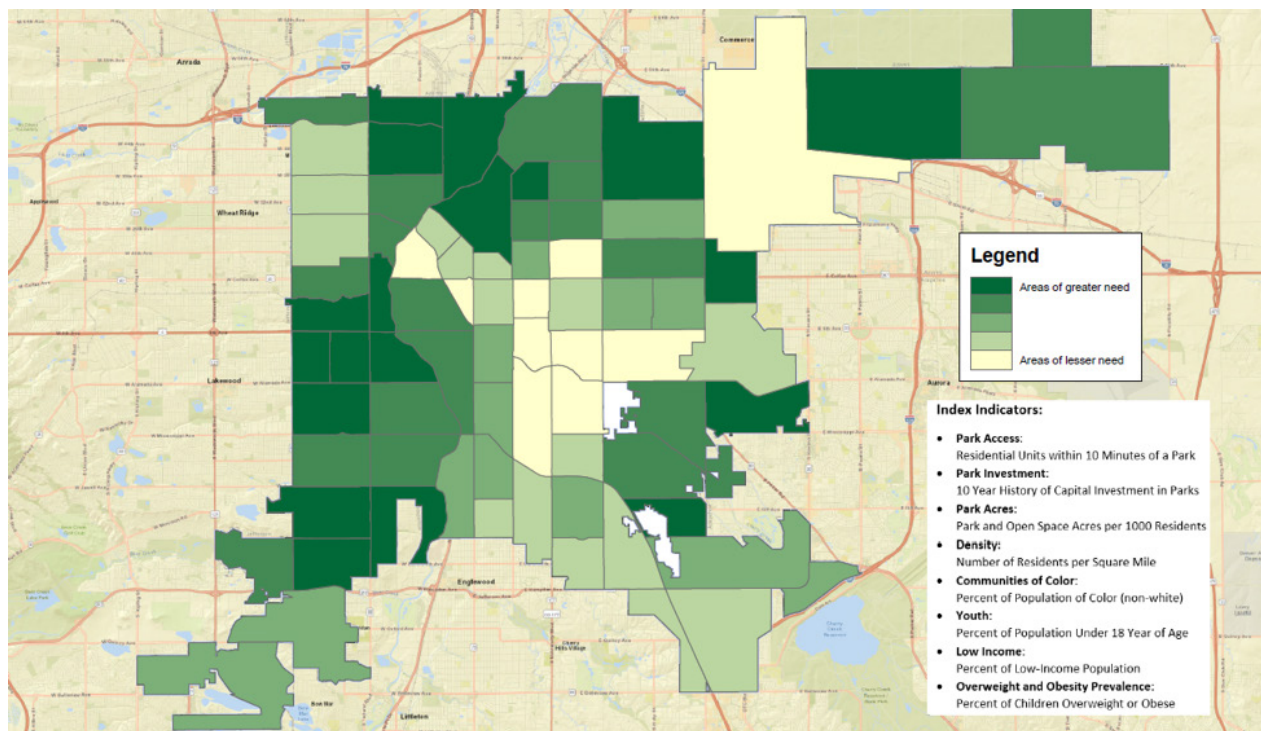


EQUITY AS A LENS

- Equity is both a focus area and a lens to shape the entire plan.
- As a focus area, equity based parks needs were determined by a combination of parks and socioeconomic factors.
- As a lens, DPR wants to proactively coordinate with other key agencies to address complete neighborhood needs.

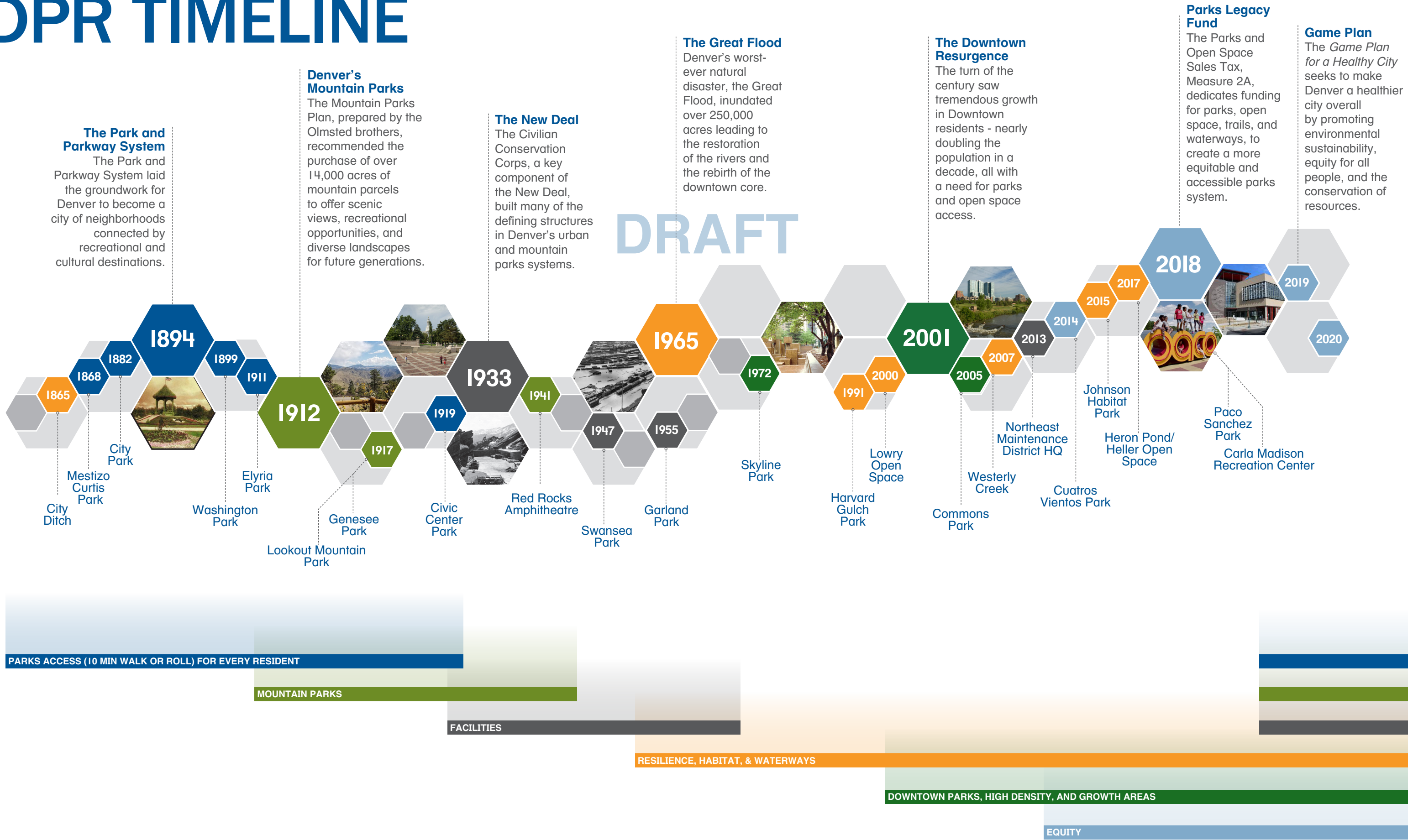
DPR Neighborhood Equity Index

- Park Access
- Park Investment
- Park Acres
- Density
- Communities of Color
- Youth
- Low-Income
- Obesity Prevalence





DPR TIMELINE





CLOSING THE 10-MIN. WALK OR ROLL GAP: A LOOK BACK

1894

The Park and Parkway System

The Park and Parkway System laid the groundwork for Denver to become a city of neighborhoods connected by recreational and cultural destinations.

1860s - 1900s | Denver's neighborhood parks

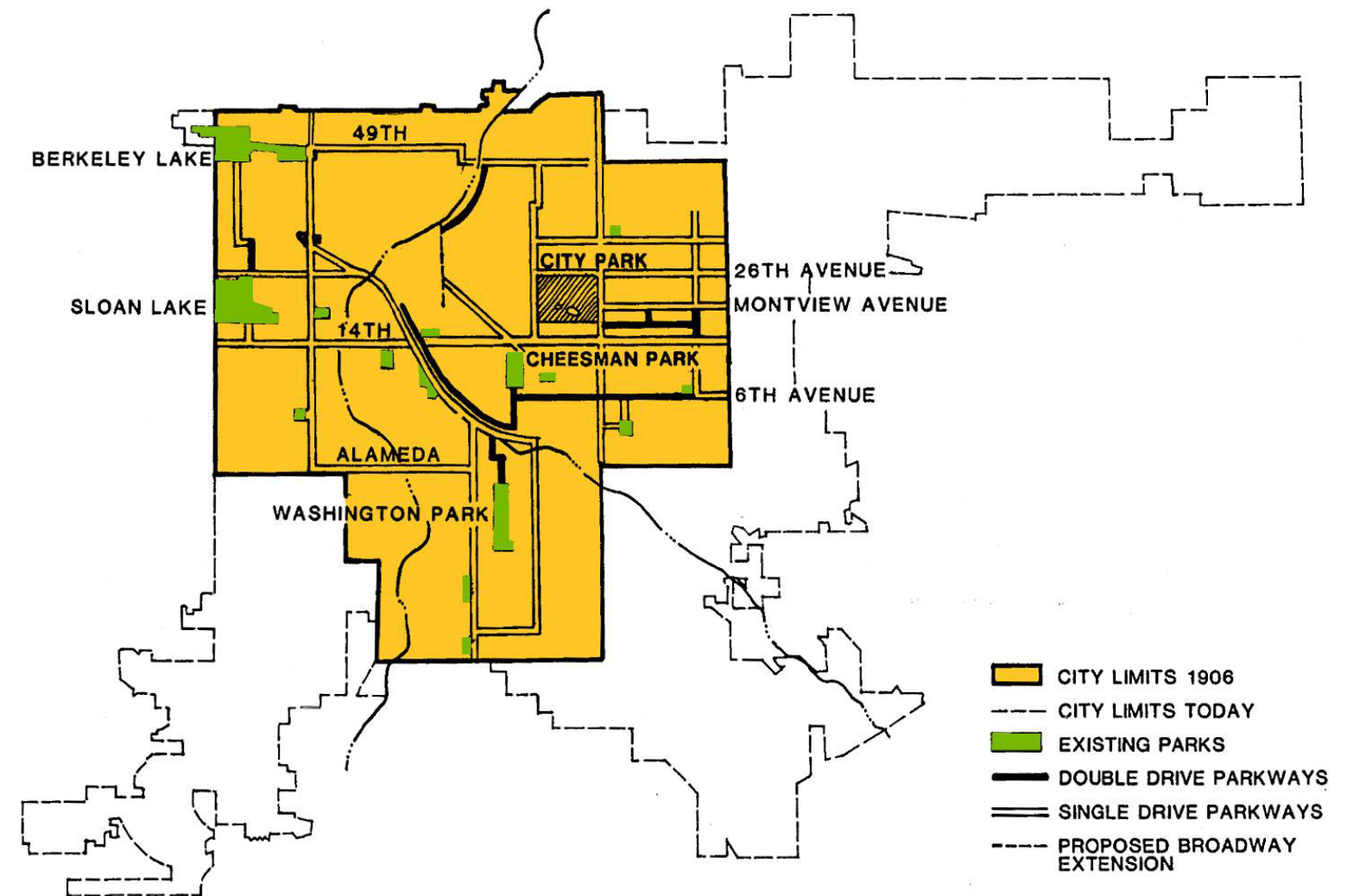
1868 - Mestizo Curtis Park

1882 - City Park

1898 - Washington Park

1919 - Civic Center Park

1900s - 1930s | Linear connecting parkways



Robinson Kessler Plan c1906



CLOSING THE 10-MIN. WALK OR ROLL GAP: A MOVE FORWARD

Draft Goal

Provide all residents with parks with a diversity of spaces and amenities within a 10-minute walk or roll.

Draft Outcomes

- A variety of amenities and spaces that are free to access are provided within a 10-minute walk or roll
- Barriers such as unsafe crossings are considered and accounted for
- All parks are connected via sidewalks, trails, or bike paths





MOUNTAIN PARKS: A LOOK BACK

1912

Denver's Mountain Parks

The Mountain Parks Plan, prepared by the Olmsted brothers, has led to the acquisition of over 14,000 acres of mountain parcels to offer scenic views, recreational opportunities, and diverse landscapes for current and future generations.

1912 | Olmsted Brothers master plan

1917 | Lookout Mountain Park - 1st mountain park

1928 | Genesee Mountain Park - largest mountain park

1941 | Red Rocks Amphitheatre



Lookout Mountain Park



Genesee Mountain Park



MOUNTAIN PARKS: A MOVE FORWARD

Draft Goal

Provide accessible destination parks that focus on outdoor recreation and ecological preservation.

Draft Outcomes

- Demographics of mountain parks visitors mirror Denver's diverse population because visitation barriers have been reduced for populations in need
- Close gaps to increase connectivity for humans and wildlife and protect scenic viewsheds in a manageable way
- Year-round recreation opportunities are provided for all visitors





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Now, time for a polling question!





FACILITIES: A LOOK BACK

1933

The New Deal

The Civilian Conservation Corps, a key component of the New Deal, built many of the defining structures in Denver's urban and mountain parks systems.

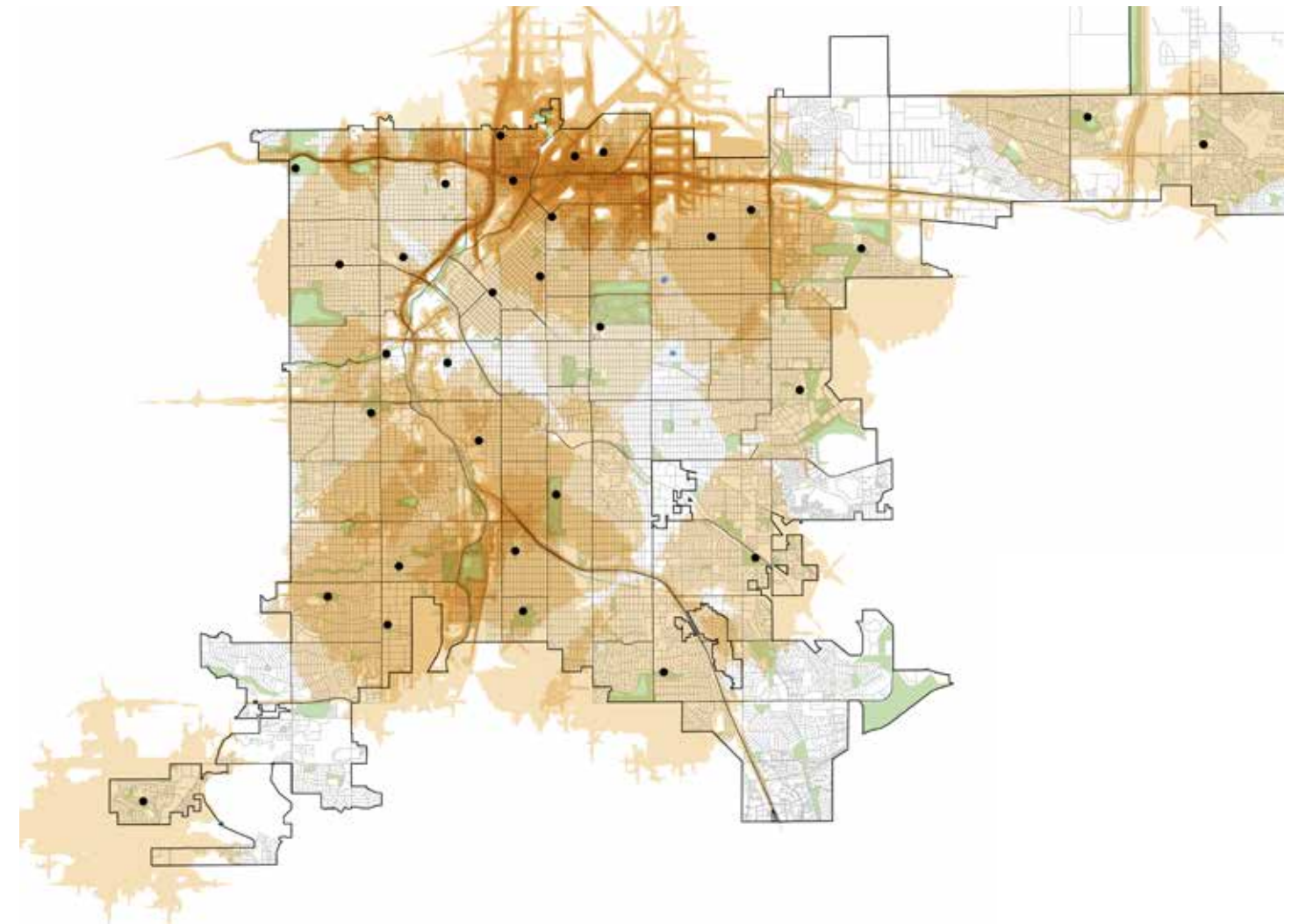
1947 | Swansea Park & Recreation Center

1960 | Hiawatha Davis Jr. Recreation Center & Pool

1960 | Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center & Pool

2013 | Northeast Maintenance District HQ

2018 | Carla Madison Recreation Center



DPR Recreation Center Locations



FACILITIES: A MOVE FORWARD

Draft Goal

Provide land and buildings throughout the City for diverse recreation opportunities as well as accessible and efficient parks maintenance.

Draft Outcomes

- All Denver residents have access to recreation facilities within an *XX-minute* commute from their home
- All parks are located within an *XX-minute* drive from a maintenance facility





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Harvard Gulch Recreation Center



Maintenance crew in Civic Center Park

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RESILIENCE, HABITAT RESTORATION, AND WATERWAYS: A LOOK BACK

1965

The Great Flood

Denver's worst-ever natural disaster, the Great Flood, inundated over 250,000 acres leading to the restoration of the rivers and the rebirth of the downtown core.

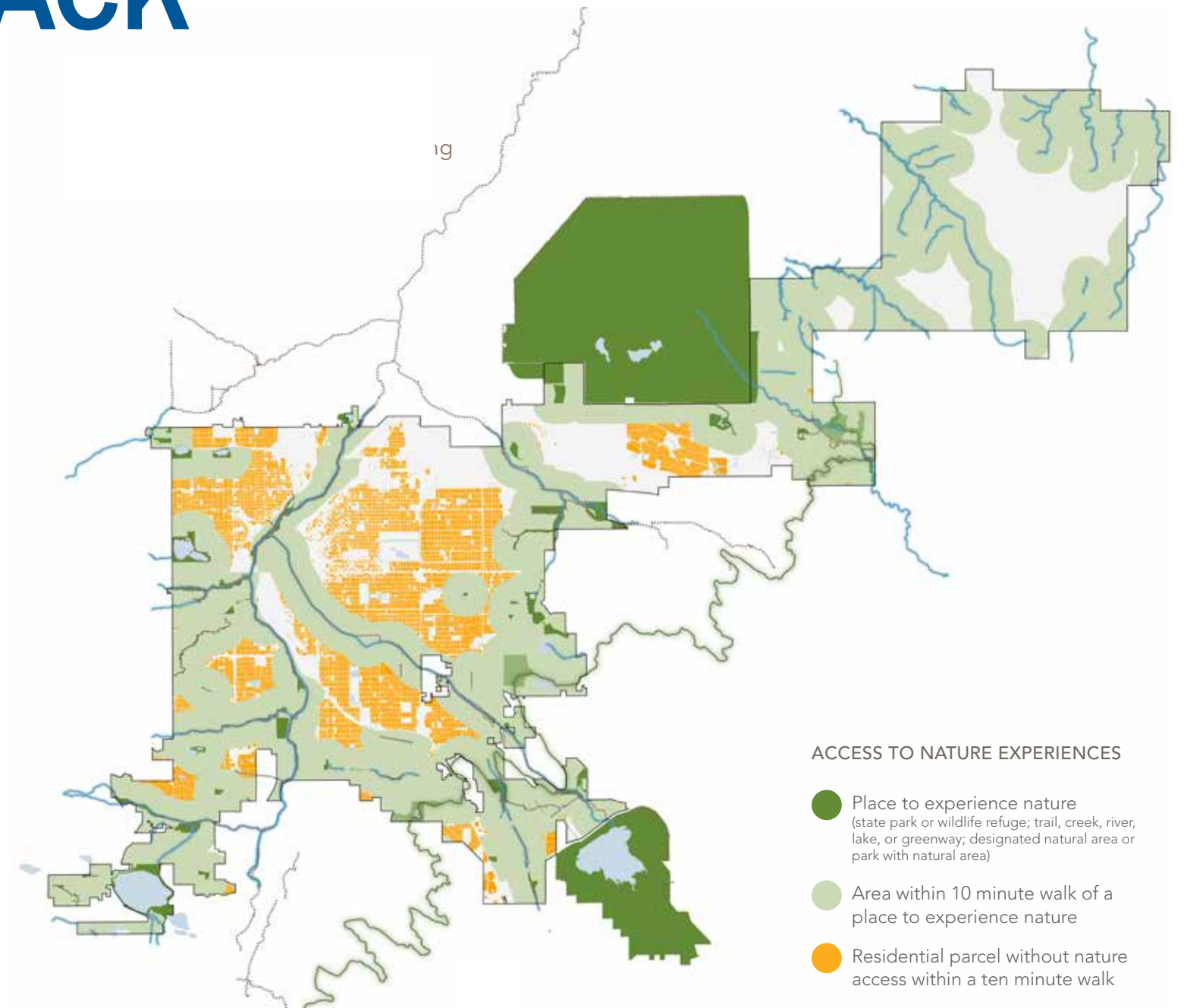
1991 | Harvard Gulch Park

2001 | Lowry Open Space

2007 | Westerly Creek

2015 | Johnson Habitat Park

2017 | Heron Pond/Heller Open Space



Nature Deficit Areas

ACCESS TO NATURE EXPERIENCES

- Place to experience nature (state park or wildlife refuge; trail, creek, river, lake, or greenway; designated natural area or park with natural area)
- Area within 10 minute walk of a place to experience nature
- Residential parcel without nature access within a ten minute walk



RESILIENCE, HABITAT RESTORATION, AND WATERWAYS: A MOVE FORWARD

Draft Goal

Cultivate an accessible and resilient network of wildlife habitat corridors, waterways, and recreational and protective areas to prepare for an uncertain future and expand public stewardship.

Draft Outcomes

- Parks, open spaces, and trails are connected to provide access to waterways and habitats for all Denver neighborhoods
- XX% increase of biodiversity within Denver as shown through indicator species like pollinators, birds, aquatic animals, etc.
- Active and passive recreation opportunities are balanced with habitat restoration and protection
- XX% more properties are protected from floods in flood-prone corridors





DOWNTOWN, HIGH DENSITY, AND GROWTH AREAS: A LOOK BACK

2001

The Downtown Resurgence

The turn of the century saw tremendous growth in Downtown residents - nearly doubling the population in a decade, all with a need for parks and open space access.

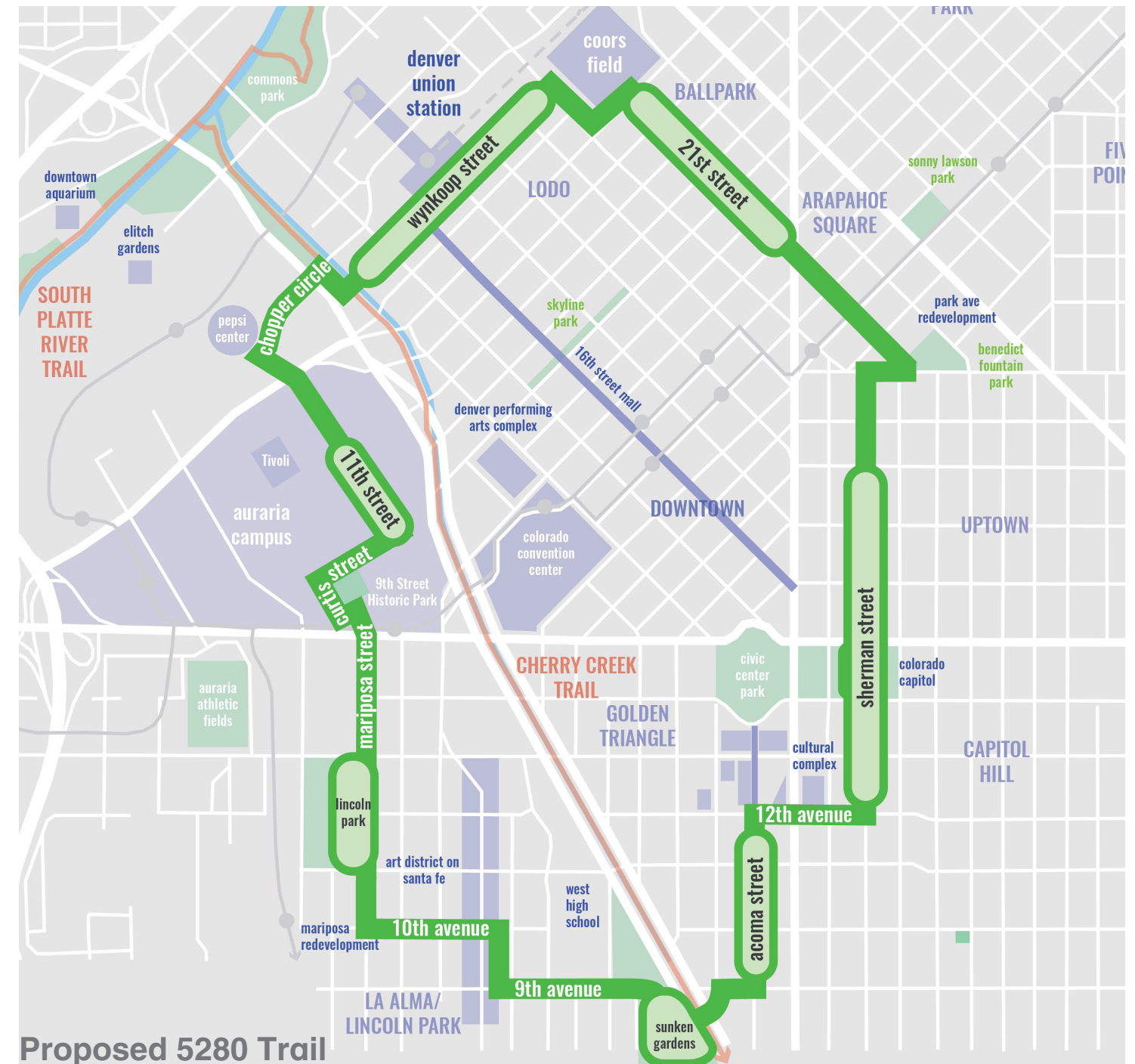
2005 | Commons Park

2005 | Downtown Skate Park

2017 | The Outdoor Downtown Plan

2019 | 5280 Trail

2020 | Skyline Park Improvements





DOWNTOWN, HIGH DENSITY, AND GROWTH AREAS: A MOVE FORWARD

Draft Goal

Meet the increasing recreational, cultural, and ecological demands on parks and public spaces in priority areas.

Draft Outcomes

- All downtown parks have basic amenities that encourage recreation and use
- All downtown parks connect to the larger parks, open space, and trails system
- All downtown residents, workers and visitors have access to a quality, multi-functional open space within a 5-minute walk or roll
- Development and redevelopment projects contribute to the parks and open space system





EQUITY: A LOOK BACK

2018

Parks Legacy Fund

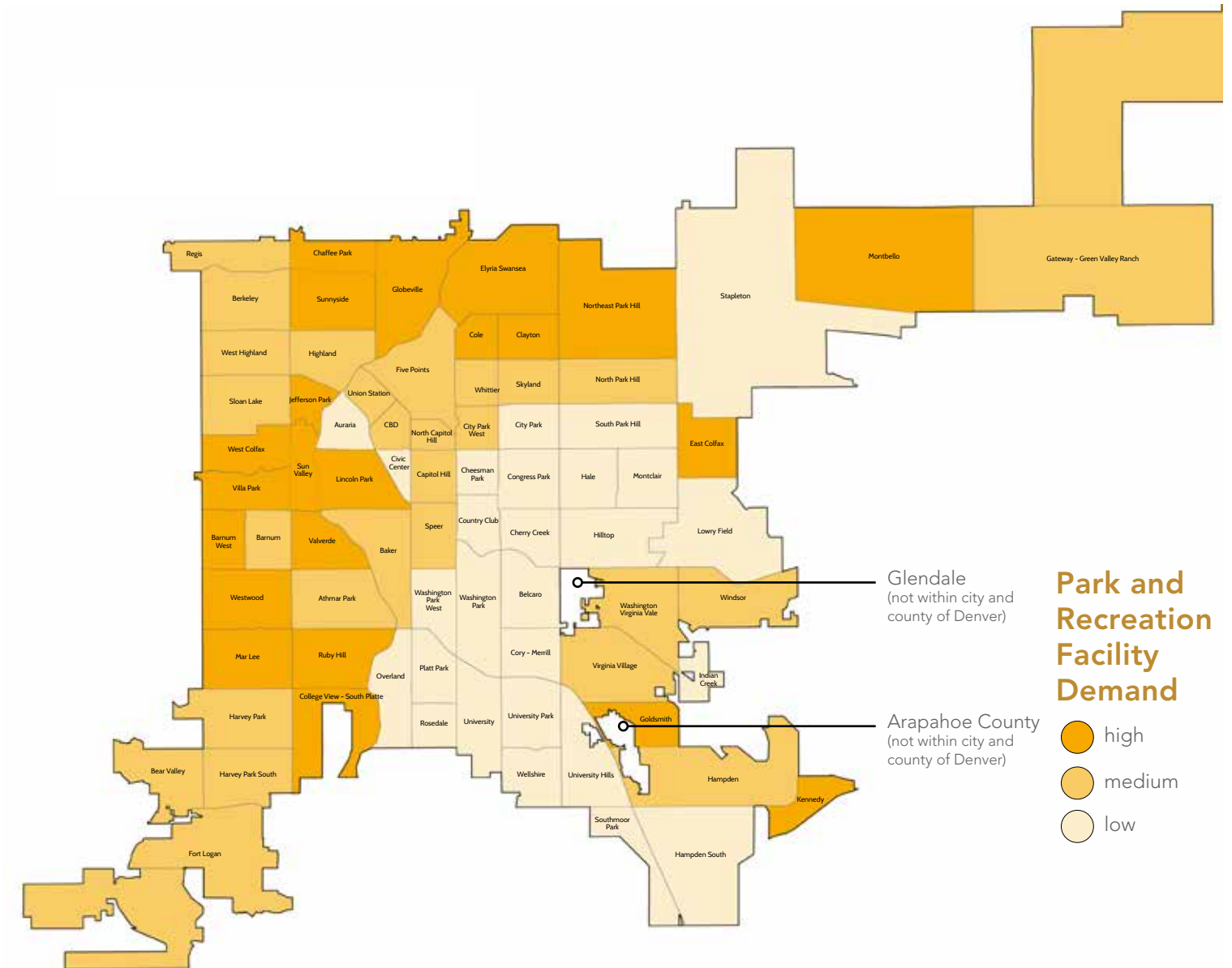
The Parks and Open Space Sales Tax, Measure 2A, dedicates funding for parks, open space, trails, and waterways, to create a more equitable and accessible parks system.

2017 | Ruby Hill Park Improvements

2018 | Paco Sanchez Park Improvements

2019 | Westwood Recreation Center

2020 | Todos Activos at Swansea Park



Glendale
(not within city and
county of Denver)

Arapahoe County
(not within city and
county of Denver)

**Park and
Recreation
Facility
Demand**

- high
- medium
- low

Park and Recreation Demand



EQUITY: A MOVE FORWARD

Draft Goal

Proactively invest in neighborhoods in a flexible manner in coordination with other complete neighborhood needs and community benefits.

Draft Outcomes

- All neighborhoods meet a minimum threshold relative to DPR's Neighborhood Equity Index
- Enhanced coordination to ensure neighborhoods contain not only DPR parks, open spaces and facilities, but also affordable housing and accessible community benefits (like libraries, health centers, groceries, childcare and recreation centers, etc.)





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WRAP UP

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NEXT STEPS

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THE SURVEY

- Go to <https://forms.gle/HRyavmr78q5pRQX27> to add your email to our notification list for this project and receive a link to the survey in your email.

