

## CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION

| DENVER MOUNTAIN PARK PRIORITIES AND FIRST STEPS  |   |
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| Priority   | 2008-2009 FIRST STEP  |
| Build financial sustainability for the system  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase the DMP share of the yearly capital funds from \$200,000 to at least \$1 million/year, starting with \$700,000 in the 2009 budget.</li> <li>2. Increase Red Rocks Facility Use fees starting with the 2009 concert season, creating a Special Revenue Fund dedicated to DMP improvements.</li> </ol>   |
| Build partnerships   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work closely with the Denver Mountain Parks Foundation (DMPF) to create a joint five-year implementation strategy and to help fund some 2009 projects.</li> <li>2. Expand the partnership with Evergreen Park and Recreation District, i.e. potential maintenance agreements, volunteer programs, and community needs assessments.</li> <li>3. Build ongoing community advisory groups for marketing/communications and funding.</li> </ol> |
| Increase opportunities for youth and families to experience the Denver Mountain Parks    | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create the dialogue with partners, such as Denver Public Schools, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, James Beckwourth Club, Alpino, DMPF, Division of Wildlife, and with the business community for programs and facilities to draw more Denver people, especially kids and seniors, to the Mountain Parks.</li> </ol>  |
| Increase communications and marketing for the system                                     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trademark and launch the new DMP logo.</li> <li>2. Design and distribute a DMP system brochure and map.</li> <li>3. Collaborate with Historic Denver on a Denver Mountain Parks Guide.</li> <li>4. Improve the web site information.</li> </ol>   |
| Balance basic repairs of the existing parks and amenities with high profile improvements | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete a Buffalo Bill Grave and Museum/Lookout Mountain feasibility study and site plan, and build a Buffalo Bill Advisory Group/Board.</li> <li>2. Concentrate on projects that are highly collaborative such as Summit Lake and the Buffalo Herd Overlook.</li> </ol>   |
| Protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the system.                     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete the natural inventory, guidelines, and site plans for Corwina/O'Fallon/Pence Parks.</li> <li>2. Submit the National Historic Landmark designation for Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre to the National Park Service in Washington, D.C.</li> </ol>  |

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Echo Lake Park

*What is needed to take this world-renowned system of parks to a higher level of quality and ensure that all Denver residents get to experience their Mountain Parks?*

A 2007 **Denver Post** editorial called for the **Denver Mountain Parks Master Plan** to answer some thoughtful longstanding questions. Do Denver residents use and value their Mountain Parks? Should the City own and manage these parks? Just as in 1912, some naysayers question Denver's role, but research and public input for this Plan overwhelmingly reinforce that the values that drove early Denver leaders to create the system are actually just as valid today, if not more so.

Denver residents absolutely want neighborhood parks, trails, and recreation facilities. They want mountain parks, too. In fact, mountain parks are used and valued more than many other park and recreation facilities. Even in difficult budget times, the answer does not lie in pitting Mountain Parks against city parks. Recreation,



Visitors at Dedisse Shelter

escape from the city, and simply being in the mountains are key to the quality of life for Denverites. Denver residents are proud that their City created the Denver Mountain Parks. They also are appreciative, along with metro-wide residents, that Denver has protected natural resources and open space for the region for more than nine decades. Although Denver is no longer alone in providing and protecting mountain park land, Denver Mountain Parks remain an historic keystone in today's regional open space system.

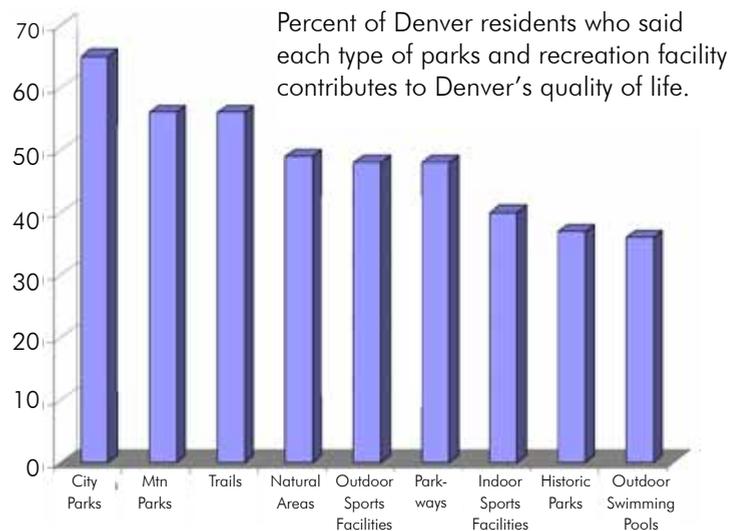
First steps in implementing this Master Plan must blend the building of an institutional ability to complete and maintain these improvements with the kicking off some highly successful, highly visible projects.

The Mountain Parks system traditionally lags in funding at a time of increasingly tight city budgets. Although the Denver Mountain Parks do have a special potential to generate partnerships, new programs,

and new revenues, it will take commitment, innovation, and collaboration to ensure the long term viability of the system. For credibility, momentum, and visible successes, internal funding must start to increase.

Momentum that has begun in communications and marketing (the new logo, brochure, and articles) must be sustained. Now that the Master Plan is completed and a direction established, the crucially important partnership with the Denver Mountain Parks Foundation must be nurtured and expanded.

The enthusiasm and relationships built between the counties and other agency partners through the Mountain Parks Advisory Group should be enhanced and not abandoned. It is a time of institution building, with adequate staffing, funding, and partnerships, to create the anchor for long-term sustainability and success. Just as it was written in 1913, "The Mountain Parks idea in Denver is equality of opportunity."



Source: 2003 Game Plan General Survey of Denver Residents



*Wildflowers at Pence Mountain Park*



*Echo Lake Park*