

DENVER MOUNTAIN PARKS FOUNDATION

Denver Mountain Parks Foundation

PO Box 300446

Denver, CO 80203

www.mountainparksfoundation.org

303-898-2278

2015 in review

- *Capital Campaign Kick-off*
- *Improvements at Genesee*
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Our Mission:

"Restore the historical integrity, relevance, quality and appreciation for the Denver Mountain Parks system; to advocate for and ensure its future as a recreational, educational and open space resource for the City of Denver, its citizens, neighbors, children and visitors."

Thanks to everyone with an interest in Denver's Mountain Parks. DMPF endeavors to enhance the possible and to envision the potential of these great civic resources. 2015 was a pretty good year for the Foundation. Here are some highlights for you. (and some [links](#))
Thank you for your ongoing support.

Capital Campaign Kick-off at the Renaissance Denver Downtown Hotel

On June 12, the Foundation officially kicked off its Historic Shelters Restoration Capital Campaign. Boardmember **Elizabeth Schlosser**, head of the DMPF Development Committee, reserved the second floor balcony of the former Colorado National Bank at 17th and Champa Streets (now the Renaissance Denver Downtown Hotel) for the roll-out of an ambitious \$1.5MM effort. Current Councilmember **Mary Beth Susman** joined newly elected Denver City Council members **Gilmore, Espinosa, Black, Flynn** and **Kashmann** to hear about the Foundation's joining the City in a commitment to bring these magnificent structures back to their original glory.

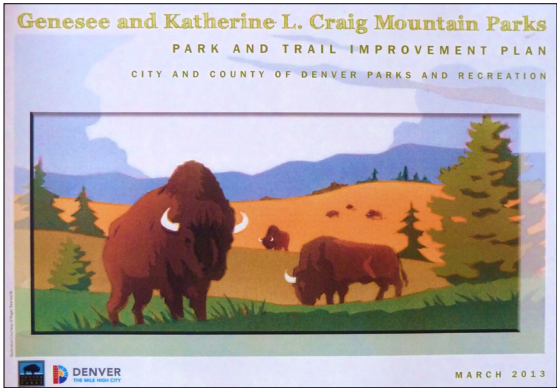
Mayor Michael Hancock, unable to attend, [sent a video](#) complimenting the effort, and expressing his administration's support. Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, **Scott Gilmore** spoke as well, and highlighted some of the work already underway in the DMP.



Contributions to this campaign can be made in multiple ways- by [mail](#) to the DMPF, or [online](#) via the PayPal link on the www.mountainparksfoundation.org website, or DMPF maintains a donor advised fund at the Denver Foundation, so contributions can be made thereto by going to www.denverfoundation.org/Your-Giving/Give-Now, and following the directions to the Denver Mountain Parks Foundation donation page.



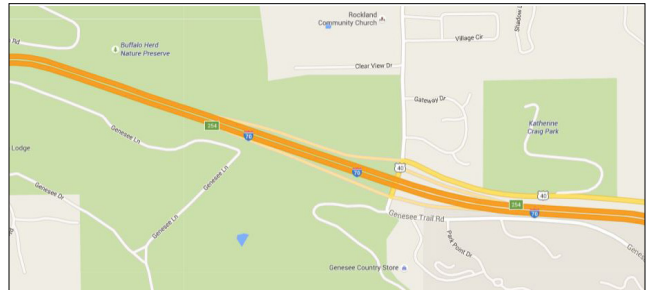
Improvements at Genesee



The **Genesee and Katherine Craig Mountain Parks Park and Trail Improvement Plan**, initiated in 2013 as part of the 2008 Denver Mountain Parks Master Plan, nears completion this year in the Genesee part of the park pair. An extensive effort, under the guiding hand of DMPF personnel, the Mountain Parks planner and the department of Natural Resources, will include the completion of a connecting bike trail between the El Rancho exit 252 and the Genesee exit 254 on I-70. Along that route, DMPF support has funded improvements and restoration work on one of the least known stone shelters in the Mountain Parks just north of the Chief Hosa exit 253. Used for decades as a storage shed, this will

meaningfully activate that historic building.

Additionally, with the closing of the paved roadway to day-to-day vehicular traffic, Genesee will open itself to mountain biking and pedestrian recreation as well. DMPF is proud to have played a part in the development of this Plan, and we are anxious to see it begin to take shape.



October Fundraiser at the Lindsays

On October 22, Boardmember **Karen Lindsay** hosted a fundraiser for the DMPF and its **Historic Shelter Restoration Capital Campaign** at her home in Genesee. She and husband **Carl**, along with our programs committee, brought together a group of nearly 50 individuals who listened to presentations about the Denver Mountain Parks from DMPF Chairman **Bart Berger**, DMPF Boardmember **Elizabeth Schlosser**, DMP Planner **Brad Eckert** and Jeffco Outdoors Foundation Boardmember **Felicity Hannay**.

It was a good opportunity to bring the work of the Foundation to residents of Jefferson County. Many of them were unacquainted with the efforts underway in their neighborhood. Everyone showed great interest and support.

Much of the work of the Foundation has been to promote civic conversation between Denver and its neighbors and this was an excellent chance to discuss the Genesee Master Plan and the DMPF Capital Campaign with them.

Interpretive Signage

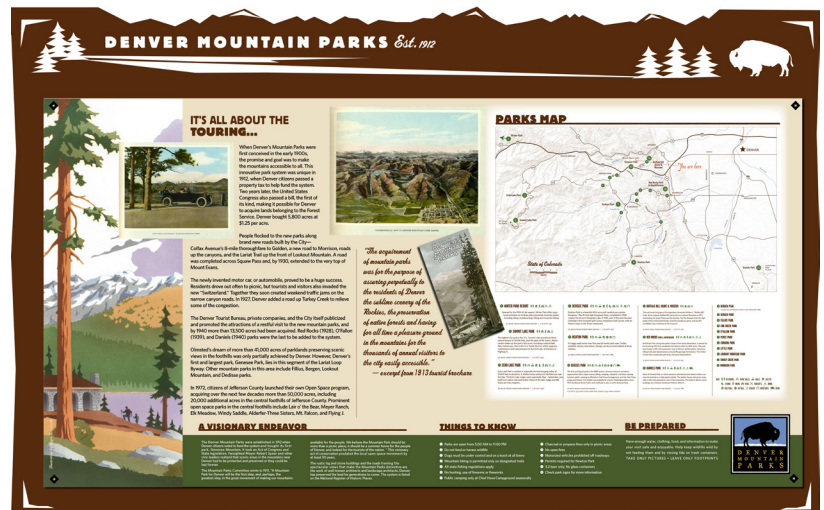
Nine interpretive signs are due to be placed at strategic points in Genesee as part of the **Genesee and Katherine Craig Mountain Parks Park and Trail Improvement Plan**. Four will be placed at the new bison viewing area off of Stapleton Drive- on the western side of the bison pasture- four will be installed near the Patrick House and along the trail on the pasture south of I-70.

One additional sign is planned for the parking area southeast of Mt. Vernon Blvd and I-70.

These signs are part of DMPF's vision to increase public awareness of the Denver Mountain Park system and its fun features. These signs are made possible, in part, through the generous donations of people such as yourself. Currently, attribution on the signs is available for \$2,500 contribution to the **Interpretive Signage program** at DMPF. Please call us or email us at info@dmpf.net for more specific information.

Ms. Schlosser spoke eloquently about the important role of the Foundation, and its commitment to join the City in restoring the historic stone shelters in the system. Elizabeth then revealed that she and her family were committing to a \$20,000 matching challenge grant for the effort.

Donations to meet **The Schlosser Challenge** may be made through the DMPF, either by check or online.



Pat Gallavan Fund

When **Pat Gallavan**, former Director of Denver Mountain Parks (1960), passed away last year, friends and family directed donations to be directed to the DMPF. Pat was a “get ‘er done” type with a capacity for resourcefulness and improvisation. He was passionate about the DMP, and particularly the bison herds. During 2015, there were contributions by his many friends and family to a restricted fund, the **Pat Gallavan Fund**, totaling over \$1,200.



These monies will be used to support educational efforts about the bison in the Mountain Parks, and more particularly at the bison viewing overlook areas in Genesee Mountain Park and near the Patrick House. Donations in Pat’s memory may be made to **The Pat Gallavan Fund** at the DMPF by check mailed to **PO Box 300446, Denver, CO 80203**.

Denver Zoo Grant

DMPF made a significant grant to the **Denver Zoological Gardens** in 2015 to fund a study about the bison in the Denver Mountain Parks.

Entitled *American Icons in a Metropolitan Grassland-Exploring the Connections between People, Place and Bison*

Conservation in Denver, Colorado, this is a collaborative effort with regional protected area managers that compiled a mountain of information about public opinions towards and visitor engagements with Denver’s and other area’s herds.

The importance of this work is to validate the City’s commitment to the conservation of its genetically pure bison enterprise. This long-standing effort, since the early days of the 20th Century, is a valuable stewardship legacy, which distinguishes Denver as a regional leader in one of the most iconic areas of the western experience. DMPF looks forward to this study as it underpins not only animal conservation efforts, but also far-sighted collaborative work between the Cultural institutions in the City.

This is the sort of thing that epitomizes Denver’s legacy of leadership.

Greater and Greener Conference

DMPF is a member of the **City Parks Alliance**, a non-profit based out of Washington, D.C. It is the only independent, nationwide membership organization solely dedicated to urban park resources.

The mission of the City Parks Alliance is to *engage, educate and nurture a broad-based constituency to support the creation, revitalization and sustainability of parks and green spaces that contribute to dynamic cities.*

In April of 2015, DMPF was invited to attend the **Greater and Greener International Urban Parks Conference** in San Francisco.

Because Denver’s Mountain parks constitute a meaningful part of the Denver park matrix, it was important that we be represented, to learn and to tell the story of the unique interrelationships of Denver’s urban and non-urban park amenities. Through our participation in this, Denver’s standing as a national park leader has led to **Mayor Hancock** being chosen to be a co-chair of the **Bi-Partisan Coalition to Support the Land and Conservation Fund**, and to lead the effort to bring the 2019 Greater and Greener conference to Denver.

DMPF has participated on the committee chosen to make that happen, and to insure that Denver’s Mountain Parks will be a significant part of the programming when we are selected.



Brad Eckert – Mountain Parks' Planner

For over a decade, DMPF worked closely with parks planners in the City's Department of Parks and Recreation. Nevertheless, their attention has often been divided between Urban and Mountain Park priorities. DMPF has maintained that in order to most efficaciously produce meaningful changes, it was necessary for DPR to create a position that would be specifically designated for the Mountain Parks system. Now that is a reality.

Brad A. Eckert has joined DPR with the Mountain Parks as his sole focus. His outdoor recreation and natural resource background combined with a focus on land use planning, has led him to complete numerous capital projects to improve the Mountain Parks System. Brad received his Bachelor of Science in Park Management at Texas A&M University and a Master's of Science in Land Use Planning at Colorado State University. Previous employment includes work with the Summit County Open Space and Trails Department and the Nevada Division of State Parks. Brad now oversees the **2008 DMP Master Plan** and the build-out of the **Genesee and Katherine Craig Mountain Parks Park and Trail Improvement Plan**, adopted in 2013. In addition, Brad works with the DMPF and serves as liaison to the Department in matters related to the design and placement of interpretive signage, historic designation issues and community relations.

It is important to mention that the funding to support Mr. Eckert comes, in part, from the **Red Rocks Fund**- a dedicated pool of money derived from the parking fee charged at Red Rocks Amphitheatre events.

Bison Auction 3/4/16

Friday, March 4, 2016 hosts the annual **Bison Auction** at the Genesee Pasture in the Denver Mountain Parks. All are welcome to come and watch as ranchers who raise bison come to bid on Denver's remarkable animals. Many of these animals find themselves joining larger herds in eastern and southern Colorado. Denver's animals are particularly prized for their quality, and especially for their pure bloodlines, which testify to their direct descent from the Yellowstone Bison- the last free-ranging herd in America. For more info on the auction, call **Matt Brown 303-710-8164** or **Dick Gannon 720-865-0900** at DMP in the Morrison office. Or [Click here](#).

BISON AUCTION GENESEE PARK BISON RANCH



Friday, March 4*

Preview 10:30AM | Auction 12:00PM

More info + directions: denvergov.org/MountainParks

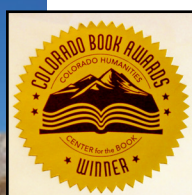


*Snow date: March 11 | Weather confirmation : 720.865.0900

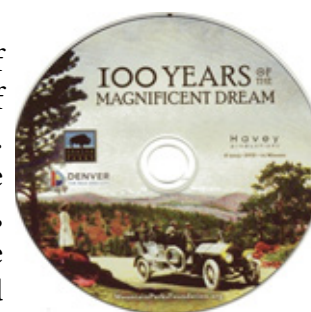
Coffee & light snacks provided. It can be cold in the barn so dress for winter weather!

Order our (Award Winning!) Books & Videos

On August 1, 2013, DMPF unveiled one of our great goals in communicating the story of the DMP. Denver Mountain Parks: 100 Years of the Magnificent Dream was the product of three accomplished authors and historians, **Erika Walker, Sally White** and **Wendy Rex-Atzet**. Joining them was **Tom Noel**, who wrote the Foreword, and **John Fielder**, who provided the landscape photography and the publishing house and distribution network. Soon thereafter,



with funds generously made available by **The Denver Foundation, David and Stephanie Tryba, Tim and Kathryn Ryan, and Denver Parks and Recreation**, the Foundation presented a video crafted by the expert hands of the multimedia company, **Havey Productions**. Weaving together historic and current images plus interviews with civic and community leaders,



this forms a highly informative, entertaining eleven minute depiction of the DMP.

A few more copies of both the 100 Years book and the **Havey video** are available to you while supplies last. You may order them [online](#) through the DMPF website, www.mountainparksfoundation.org, by calling the Foundation directly **303-898-2278**, or by [mail](#) to DMPF, **PO Box 300446, Denver CO 80203**. Discounts from regular retail pricing is available.

and More...

Renowned artist **Scott Parker** has a passion for Denver Mountain Parks. He also very good. Recently, Scott donated to the Foundation a run of lino block prints of the shelter in Genesee.

The final framed size shown here is 13 inches square (image is 7" x 7").

There are a limited number of them- 60 were done in all- and the lino-leum block they were done with was destroyed so there will be no more. *(We framed one and it makes a pretty darn nice addition to our offices.)*

We have been offering them to donors making minimum donations of \$250. Framing is extra. (We can take care of that, and pass-through the cost.) If you would like to have one of these fine prints, please let us know. Email us at info@dmpf.net to make arrangements.



City Council Elections

Voters in Denver cast their ballots in May for new city council positions. DMPF devoted significant time to connecting with and educating candidates about the Denver Mountain Parks; their legacy, problems and opportunities. DMPF believes that since budgeting for projects in the Mountain Parks needs to be approved by Council, it is only appropriate that they know as much as possible about them.

Copies of the **100 Years of the Magnificent Dream** book were made available to the candidates, including a “**Pay it Forward**” copy for the benefit of any and all whose awareness of the DMP is nascent or needs to be refreshed. We believe, as a result of our efforts, Denver City Council now has 13 members who are aware of the Mountain Parks and are supportive of efforts to improve them for the citizens of Denver.

If you, too, would like a FREE “**Pay it Forward**” copy, please contact us at info@dmpf.net.

Taking DMPF on the Road:

DMPF took its story on the road in 2015. *(Let us know if you have a group that would like us to present...)*

In March, DMPF gave a PowerPoint presentation to the **Mile High Club at the Denver Country Club**. Addressing nearly 100 civic and community leaders, the Mountain Parks important legacy, and our ongoing responsibility for stewardship of them was a primary focus. Using many of the **John Fielder** photographs seen in the **100 Years** book, the group was given an inspiring look at this prime example of Denver’s characteristic foresighted nature.

In July, DMPF made a presentation to the residents of **Park Place**, a Brookdale community in Denver, bringing the message of the Foundation to a very receptive audience.

In October, DMPF took the show to a group from **OLLI, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute**. OLLI partners with University College at the University of Denver, hosting adult learning seminars, lectures and symposia.

In October, working with the **Cultural Landscape Foundation**, in association with the City, we presented to two groups of people signed up for the “*What’s Out There Weekend—Denver*” tours in the Mountain Parks. Along with DMP staff, the Foundation led people through the Chief Hosa Lodge and the bison enclosure in Genesee- prominently featuring “Elkatraz,” the containment/inoculation facility utilized for the management of the bison herds there. In the afternoon, Board member and co-author of the **DMP: 100 Years of the Magnificent Dream**, **Erika Walker**, joined DMP Supervisor, **Dick Gannon**, at Red Rocks Amphitheatre for a presentation and tour by Denver Arts and Venues’ **Tad Bowman**. The group got a great opportunity to see the complex interworkings of the historic Amphitheatre within a historic park, and to ask questions about how decisions are made that enable the active use of the facility and at the same time protect it and the landscape that holds it.

Now that Red Rocks and the Morrison CCC Camp have been designated a **National Historic Landscape**, that can be a delicate matter.



2015 Donors to DMPF

From its inception, DMPF has relied on the generosity of civic-minded individuals and organizations who believe as we do – that the Denver Mountain Parks are part of Denver's "Legacy of Leadership." The civic philanthropy espoused by Mayor Speer is at the heart of this effort. DMPF is deeply indebted to the following for their contributions which have enabled us to pursue our Mission.

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