

Prospect Newsletter

Fall 2016



PROSPECT RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT

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www.prospectdistrict.org

Mission Statement of Prospect Recreation & Park District

As steward of public lands and recreational development, Prospect Recreation & Park District is dedicated to protect, manage, and expand its parkland, and promote opportunities for citizens to pursue sports, historic, cultural, and leisure-time activities.



Prospect Recreation & Park District's

Pumpkin Fest



Saturday, October 1 • 10 am - 2 pm

FREE!

Fairmount Park

5222 Quaker Street (South of 54th on Quaker)

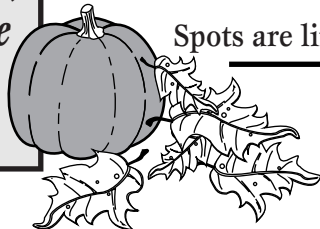
Pumpkins Pancakes Petting Zoo Music
Hay Rides Face Painting Kids Corner Balloon Artist
Prospect Foundation Silent Auction

We are now reserving spots for vendors who would like to be a part of our annual Pumpkin Fest happening on Saturday October 1 at Fairmount Park.

The fee to join is \$25.00.

Spots are limited so give us a call and reserve today at 303.424.2346.

For more info call Prospect Recreation
& Park District: 303.424.2346



Applewood Golf Course



Prospect Recreation & Park District (PRPD) has received two grant awards toward the acquisition of the Applewood Golf Course (AGC). PRPD was awarded a \$1.1 million grant from Jefferson County, in the form of a Jefferson County Open Space Local Park and Recreation grant. This amount was approved by the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners on May 31, conditioned upon PRPD securing the remaining funds to acquire the Golf Course for \$13.5M and fulfillment of the other terms and conditions of the May 2, 2016 Letter of Intent for the purchase of the Golf Course.

The standard Jefferson County Open Space Reverter shall be placed on the Golf Course property, with the additional limitation that the property shall be managed as an 18-hole public golf course, along with any additional park, open space, or recreational uses, for ten years after its purchase by PRPD. Given the relatively large amount of this grant award, PRPD will not be able to apply for another Local Park and Recreation grant until 2027. The Local Park and Recreation grant program, administered by Jefferson County Open Space, provides supplemental funding to assist local government partners with priority land acquisitions and/or capital projects.

PRPD was also awarded a Protect Initiative grant from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) in the amount of \$3 million. This grant award was approved by The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund on June 13. The Protect Initiative grant program, new in 2016, is designed to fund large conservation projects. Projects may range from conservation of an urban parcel to a ranch that encompasses tens of thousands of acres, but all must present a compelling urgency, involve significant size and/or cost, and be accessible and/or visible to the public.

PRPD gratefully acknowledges the award of both of these grants, and extends huge thanks to the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners, Jefferson County Open Space, and Great Outdoors Colorado. The above listed grants, in addition to the Bond Issue approved by PRPD's voters in November of 2015, along with PRPD general fund monies, will allow PRPD to acquire the Applewood Golf Course from Molson Coors if PRPD and Molson Coors are able to reach agreement. Negotiations with Molson Coors are ongoing.

Special thanks go out to The Trust for Public Land (TPL), PRPD's partner in the AGC acquisition effort. TPL has been instrumental in providing assistance to PRPD throughout the more than year long process. Their knowledge and expertise have been crucial in guiding PRPD through the intricacies of an acquisition that has the special circumstances that the AGC property does.



District Manager Mike Hanson

"2016 District Manager of the Year" Award Winner - Mike Hanson, Prospect Recreation and Park District

At its annual convention in September, the Special District Association of Colorado (SDA) named Mike Hanson as the winner of the prestigious "District Manager of the Year" award. The SDA is a statewide organization with over 1,500 special district members. Mike is celebrating his 10th year as District Manager of the Prospect Recreation and Park District. The SDA's award citation reads:

"Mike has expertly authored numerous grant applications which have resulted in the District receiving over \$1 million in total cash awards. Mike has also been responsible for overseeing a total of \$5 million in maintenance and capital improvements during his tenure. In 2014, under Mike's guidance, the District was the first special district in Jefferson County to receive deeds to Jeffco Open Space funded properties for portions of two of their parks. Mike has also been instrumental in the District's negotiations with Molson Coors Brewing Company to acquire the 148-acre Applewood Golf Course property. As a part of the process, Mike helped lead the District to successful voter approval of a \$9 million bond authorization which will enable the District to acquire the golf course property. At the same time the voters also approved a one mill tax increase to support the general operations of the District. In order to obtain the critical remaining funds to purchase the golf course property after the election, Mike also led the grant writing collaboration with the Trust for Public Land to obtain an additional \$4.1 million from Jeffco Open Space and Great Outdoors Colorado. Furthermore, Mike is front and center among the local government officials in the surrounding cities and in the county. He also meets in person with the District's homeowners to discuss their concerns. With humility and strength, Mike effectively leads the District as he continually demonstrates dedication to the local community."



Strippgen Property

PRPD, in conjunction with Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS), is working on a design for the Strippgen Property. The Strippgen Property is located at 5550 Indiana Street, immediately south of the Indiana Street trailhead for Jeffco Open Space's Van Bibber Park. This 18 acre parcel is held in a Conservation Easement and is not yet open to the public. The goal is to design/plan in 2016/17 and construct improvements in 2017/18.

JCOS and PRPD have negotiated an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to design and construct a shared-use parking lot and trailhead on the Strippgen Property. The shared-use parking lot would replace the County's existing Van Bibber Park west parking lot, which frequently floods. A connecting trail will provide access from the parking lot to the Van Bibber Trail. PRPD will receive conceptual and preliminary designs for an additional trail system and trailhead amenities on the Strippgen Property such as trailhead signage, a kiosk, restroom(s), bench(es) and picnic facilities.

The Conservation Easement for the Strippgen Property is held by the Prospect Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit. The Foundation is responsible for oversight of the property and adherence to the Conservation Easement; PRPD is responsible for ongoing operations and management of the property. Members of the Prospect Foundation Board of Directors, as well as PRPD Staff and Board, will work with JCOS and Design Concepts on the design of the improvements that will be implemented. Design Concepts, a highly respected landscape architecture and planning firm, is the company engaged by JCOS for this project.

PRPD has been able to restore the land to a more natural condition, largely due to the unstinting efforts of a dedicated volunteer. Ed Holroyd is to be commended for his dedication and devotion to the Strippgen property. Three intermittent ponds exist on the property, as well as many native species of birds. Along with adjacent properties, this site serves as a wildlife corridor for deer as well as for many other animal species. The property was historically used for primarily agricultural and related purposes, as was the entire Van Bibber Valley. A nursery was built in the early 1970's and operated on the property until 1980.

PRPD Employee Update

You have probably been seeing some new and different faces out in the parks. Tim Sheffield started with PRPD in the spring of 2014. Brian Beyer, who was with PRPD from 2001 to 2014, returned this spring after spending two years in Europe. And Rob Swanson is our newest employee. Rob came on with PRPD in the spring of this year. These three get the credit for keeping the parks in top notch condition. Their responsibilities are too numerous to list them all, ranging from managing irrigation systems to plumbing repair and maintenance to landscaping, the list just goes on and on.

When you call the PRPD office, you will usually talk to Shay. Among many other duties, Shay handles all park reservations and also coordinates all the PRPD events.

Bonnie, Linda, and Jerry handle the Arbor House and Kendrick Cottage on evenings and weekends. They are the people you will see when you rent one of those two facilities. And Jerry is also known around the PRPD office as mower man, using our Toro mower to mow the large open turf areas of the parks. All these folks are to be commended for everything that they do to keep things looking good and humming along at PRPD.

Dog Poop and Vandalism

Staff at PRPD has noticed quite an increase in dog waste at PRPD parks this summer. This goes hand in hand with an ever increasing number of off leash dogs. Both PRPD regulations and Jefferson County ordinances require that dogs be on leash and that dog waste be picked up. Please do your part to comply and help keep our parks looking good and safe for everyone. Prospect parks are not off leash dog parks.

- **Dog Poop Doesn't Biodegrade Like Wild Animal Poop**
- **Dog Poop Contains Harmful Bacteria and Parasites**
- **Dog Waste Pollutes Groundwater, Creeks, and Streams**



There has also been an increase in vandalism over the summer in Prospect's parks. Playgrounds, restrooms, and other amenities have been impacted. Vandalism costs all of us, not just in money but in loss of use of facilities. It is a sad thing to have to close a playground due to vandalism. Please call the Jefferson County Sheriff at 303-271-0211 (or 911 in an emergency) if you see someone in a park that is damaging or destroying property.

All of us at PRPD need your help to keep our parks safe. Thank you.

Prospect Recreation
& Park District
4198 Xenon Street
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
303-424-2346

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Permit # 388

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER



Holiday Tea

Don your holiday attire and join Santa and friends for an afternoon of entertainment, tea, hot chocolate, and treats.

*Hosted by Prospect Recreation & Park District
at the Arbor House, 14600 W. 32nd Avenue*

*Saturday December 3, 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Sunday December 4, 2:00 - 4:00 pm*

\$10 per person

*Reservations required, please call 303.424.2346 today to reserve a spot.
(Children must be accompanied by an adult)*