

Prospect Newsletter

Fall 2020



PROSPECT RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT

4198 Xenon St., Wheat Ridge, CO 80033 Phone 303.424.2346 Fax 303.424.4066
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.***

From the Board of Directors

Mike Hanson Retirement

The Board of Directors of Prospect Recreation & Park District announce the retirement of District Manager Mike Hanson at the end of the year. Mike moved to Colorado in 1982 from his native state of Ohio. Mike's community involvement is what placed him on Prospect's radar screen to become District Manager in 2006. He was on the Fairmount Improvement Association Board of Directors and is a former Board Member/Secretary of the Fairmount Fire Protection District.

Mike's prior professional background was not in parks and recreation – he came to the District from private industry where he worked as a graphic design product manager for a locally owned Wheat Ridge business. Mike's career transition at Prospect was a huge success over the 14 years he was District Manager. A capstone achievement was during 2016 when he was named by the Special District Association of Colorado as "District Manager of the Year".

Over his 14 years of leadership, Mike responsibly managed our annual expenses against the budget and authored numerous grant applications for park improvements totaling \$1.9 million – not including 2 very critical grants totaling \$4.1 million from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and from Jefferson County that assisted with the \$15 million purchase of the 147 acre Applewood Golf Course in late 2016. Parkland and recreational asset ownership for the District increased from 84 acres to 231 acres during his tenure.

Mike led a number of significant projects during his time at Prospect. In the Fairmount community, those projects include the development of Crestview Park, Kendrick Cottage, Serene Conservancy, and the recently acquired (October, 2020) 7 acre "Flora Andrus Park".

In the Applewood community, Mike oversaw numerous improvements that include a major expansion of Tanglewood Park, state of the art replacements to the playground at Maple Grove Park and a major remodel of the Arbor House. Mike also played an integral role in the \$15 million acquisition of the Applewood Golf Course from Molson Coors and in the ongoing relationship with the golf course's management company, Touchstone Golf.

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From the Board of Directors (continued)

Mike is on a first name basis with the key government personalities in the surrounding cities and Jefferson County. He has met in person with the District's homeowners and businesses over the years to discuss their concerns and maintain a positive reputation of the District. Prospect has been recognized by peers as maintaining top notch parks and the feedback from the members of our District in our recent Master Plan survey are equally complimentary. He is often sought out by others in park and recreation for advice and consultation.

The Board of Directors congratulates Mike for all his accomplishments and for his well-deserved retirement. We wish him all the best in his next chapter. Mike has earned the everlasting gratitude of the Board of Directors and the residents of Prospect Recreation & Park District for his contributions to the District.



District Manager Mike Hanson

I am extremely proud to have been part of Prospect for 14 years and to have made friends with so many people in the Applewood and Fairmount communities. Prospect is very unique, in that the sense of community and belonging held by both Applewood and Fairmount residents is evidenced by the level of commitment that the residents bring to their neighborhoods. I'm very proud of what we all have been able to accomplish during my time at Prospect. When I say all I really do mean all of us- the Prospect Board of Directors, the staff at Prospect, but particularly the residents and taxpayers of

Prospect. You have supported us in ways too many to count. You overwhelmingly supported our ballot issues in November 2015, which provided Prospect with the financial resources to make ongoing improvements in our park system and to also purchase the Applewood Golf Course. The acquisition of the Applewood Golf Course was deemed by many to be an impossible task, but with a huge effort and contributions by stake holders from all parts of Prospect the impossible became a reality.

I have very much enjoyed my time at Prospect. It has been a pleasure to work for an agency, which while small in size and resources, has been able to accomplish so much since being formed in November of 1999. I want to particularly thank the Board of Directors and the Prospect staff, both current members as well as those who formerly served on the Board or were employees of Prospect. Special thanks go out to the current Board of Directors- we have all worked together for a number of years now. You are to be commended for your commitment to your community. And special thanks also go to the current Prospect staff- you managed to put up with me and my sometimes "unique and special" requests with grace and good humor. A very special thank you to Shay Lucero, Administrative Assistant. Shay and I have worked closely together since my very first day at Prospect. I have valued her perspective, abilities, and sense of humor more than she will ever know. Shay rocks!

Adam Blackmore (please see the next article for information about Adam) is the new District Manager at PRPD. Adam and I have been working together since early October. He is extremely busy taking in all things Prospect and is excited about the opportunity. I know that PRPD is in capable hands with Adam assuming the District Manager position.



New District Manager Adam Blackmore

Adam Blackmore has been selected by the Prospect Board of Directors as the new District Manager for PRPD and will replace Mike Hanson beginning in January. Adam came on board in early October and is soaking up all things Prospect as he trains during Mike's closing months with the District. Adam relocated to the area from his home for the past 9 years in Henderson, Nevada. Henderson, a suburb of Las Vegas known for their excellence in Parks and Recreation, is the 2nd largest city in Nevada with a population of 317,000. During his tenure with the Parks and Recreation department

Adam served as the Recreation Superintendent overseeing all Recreation Division operations including aquatic operations of 10 facilities, outdoor recreation for 65 parks and 180 miles of developed trails, a 100-acre Bird Viewing Preserve, city special events, senior services and recreation center operations for 8 centers. He was also an active member of the Nevada Recreation & Park Society (NRPS), previously serving on the NRPS board for 5 years, including 3 years as the President of the Society. He has also served on the Southern Nevada Children's Drowning Prevention Coalition Board of Directors, and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the World Waterpark Association. Adam has been in the recreation industry for 15 years working in both the public and private sectors, respectively. Current professional certifications include National Recreation & Park Association Certified Parks & Recreation Executive (CPRE) and National Swimming Pool Foundation Certified Pool Operator (CPO). Adam grew up in a small, population 300, rural town in mid-Missouri and still holds the instilled traits of hard-work and integrity near and dear to his professional habits. He received his Master of Arts degree in Sports Management from Indiana State University and holds a Bachelor of Science in Recreation Administration from Missouri Western State University.

Adam brings a great deal of enthusiasm to the District Manager role and has already shown a great admiration for the quality of the District's parks & facilities, the community involvement & enjoyment of what Prospect has to offer, the hard work of the dedicated Parks & Administrative staff, and the vision of the Board of Directors for the future development, evolution, and services planned for the beautiful Parks serving the Fairmount & Applewood residents. In his free time, he enjoys golfing, cheering religiously for the St. Louis Cardinals, reading, and enjoying the magnificent Prospect park & trail system.

Project Updates

1. Property Acquisition

PRPD is thrilled to announce the recent acquisition of over 6 acres of land in the northeast corner of Fairmount. This is the first new property acquisition for the district since the purchase of the Applewood Golf Course in 2016. While the future use of the site is still to be determined, the ability to have the flexibility to provide amenities and opportunities for an under served area of the District is exciting. The property will eventually be remediated into usable parkland and the specific use and amenities will be addressed through an extensive public input process.

The Prospect Board has approved naming this newly acquired site Flora Andrus Park. Prospect Arena, listed in the Spring 2020 newsletter as being named in Flora's honor, will now remain named as Prospect Arena. Flora was a long serving Prospect Board member who passed away earlier in 2020. Her contributions to Prospect are too many to list; everyone involved with Prospect knows that the Prospect Recreation & Park District would not be the organization that it is without the incredible effort put forth by Flora over many years. It is with the utmost appreciation that Prospect recognizes Flora for her incredible efforts on Prospect's behalf and for her innumerable contributions to her community.

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Project Updates (continued)

2. Prospect Arena Request for Proposals (Final Design Plan)

On October 19th PRPD put out a Request for Proposals for consulting on the creation of a final design plan for the Prospect Arena property. This final design process is in line with the recommendations from the site master plan concepts developed by GreenPlay LLC in 2019. The Prospect Arena master plan concepts, along with the District wide master plan, can be found on the District's website, which is www.prospectdistrict.org.

The proposal was sent directly to several companies deemed capable of performing the scope of service outlined in the RFP, as well as posted on "www.bidnet.com" and the PRPD website. Proposals were due to the District by November 16th and will be reviewed by the District Manager(s) and the Board of Directors. After this review of proposals a selection and/or direction for the next steps of the process will be determined.

The consultant will use Final Concept #1/Redevelopment of the Existing Lot, developed in the Prospect Arena Master Plan, as the basis for creation of a design plan. Concepts #2 and #3 are not to be considered as part of this design plan; the District is focusing only on development of the current 5 acre site. The consultant will develop and utilize innovative and cost-effective methods to generate and maximize public participation in the development of the Prospect Arena Design Plan. In addition, the consultant will work with the Prospect Recreation & Park District Board of Directors, District staff, and community stake holders. The District is open as to methodology for meetings and public participation, given the current circumstances with the pandemic and the difficult logistics involved with gatherings of people.

3. Trail Connection Plan

As outlined in the Spring 2020 newsletter, PRPD has engaged Felsburg Holt & Ullevig (FHU) as the consultant to develop a Trail Connection Plan to the Clear Creek/Peaks to Plains Trail. The purpose of the plan is to provide direction to PRPD and the community for future connections to the Clear Creek/Peaks to Plains Trail. The Clear Creek/Peaks to Plains Trail is a wonderful recreational amenity that traverses the Prospect District from west to east in the center of the District, yet Prospect residents have always had difficulty accessing it.

FHU has done a great deal of work to analyze a variety of factors that influence potential trail connections. The time has now come to gather input from the Prospect community. The original intention was to hold community meetings to gather that input, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic PRPD and FHU have developed an alternative approach. An informational flyer will be mailed out to the households in the Prospect District. A project website is being created; the website contains a video about the project. Once you have viewed the project materials you will be able to provide feedback using several methods.

4. Serene Conservancy

Also included in the Spring 2020 newsletter was an update on the Serene Conservancy site (formerly called the Strippgen property). The design plan for the site includes a trail system, a Nature Play Area, a small pavilion, establishment of native plantings, and installation of an irrigation system. Passive recreation, preservation and restoration of habitat, and environmental education are some of the concepts guiding the project. PRPD will soon be submitting to Jefferson County Planning & Zoning for a grading permit and a flood plain permit. Once those permits are in hand the project will be put out to bid with construction anticipated to commence in 2021.

Meet Your Board of Directors

James D. “Jim” Zimmerman (*Chairman*): Jim and his wife Judy Zimmerman have been residents of Applewood and property owners within the Prospect Recreation and Park District since 1976. Jim and Judy have two children and two grandchildren who have been active users of Prospect’s parks and recreation facilities over the years. Jim has served on the Prospect Board of Directors since 2007 and has been chair of the Board since 2013. In 2017 the Special District Association named Jim “Board Member of the Year”.



Jim has a long career dedicated to the law. He retired as a District Court Judge where he worked cases concerning special districts. After retirement Jim took on a position with the Jefferson County District Attorney's office. Jim has been an active member as a board director on various boards since the early 1980s. Jim has been serving on the Northwest Lakewood Sanitation District Board of Directors since 2008. Jim also is on the Board of Directors of the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Jefferson and Gilpin County, a Colorado non-profit corporation serving at-risk youth, and was one of the original organizers of the program in 2000. Jim received his education from the University of Denver (J.D.) and his undergraduate degree from University of Colorado, Boulder.



Jim Kullhem (*Vice-Chairman*): Jim and his wife Sharon Kullhem have lived in Applewood and the Prospect Recreation and Park District for 35 years and in Jefferson County for over 45 years. Jim is a retired school Principal with 34 years of experience. He is a past President of the West Metro Fire District board of directors. Jim served as a director from 2006 through 2014 when he was term limited.

Beyond serving on the Prospect Board Jim has been active with the Colorado Special Districts Board of Directors and is currently the President. He is also the past Chairman of the Board at Westerra Credit Union where he has been a member for 60 years and an elected official for 25 years. His hobbies include fishing, boating, and travel as well as keeping up with four kids, six grandkids, and seven great-grandkids.

Bill Farrell (*Treasurer*): Bill and his wife Suzanne have lived in Applewood for 40 years. He is a past President of both the Applewood Property Owners Association and of the PROMPT Citizens Committee, which led the effort in 1999 to win voter approval for Prospect to become a Title 32 Special District. He has served as the Board Treasurer for 21 years. In 2009 the Special District Association named Bill “Board Member of the Year”.



For over 45 years Bill has worked in the Commercial Banking industry. He served for over 8 years at Colorado State University as a classroom guest speaker in the School of Business and he currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Consolidated Mutual Water Company. Bill earned a BS in Business Administration from Butler University and a MBA from Indiana University.



Lavonne Wise (*Secretary*): Lavonne has lived in the Fairmount community for over 40 years. Her children attended Fairmount Elementary School and the local high school during their school years. Lavonne has served on the Prospect Recreation & Park District Board since 2006.

Lavonne is a very active member of the Fairmount and extended community. Lavonne has served as a Board Member of the Prospect Foundation in the past. She is a business owner with a location in Olde Town Arvada. Her business was awarded Small Business of the Year by the West Metro Chamber in 2020.

Victoria Smith-Campbell (*Assistant Secretary*): Victoria married into the Fairmount neighborhood. She has lived in Fairmount for over 8 years where she joined her husband and his family, who have lived in the neighborhood for nearly 45 years. Victoria and her husband enjoy walking the neighborhood and exploring the playgrounds with their young child.



Victoria has over 20 years of experience in the land management and emergency management fields working for the federal and state government. She holds an undergraduate degree in Environmental and Resource Sciences from the University of California, Davis and a Masters of Public Administration at the University of Colorado, Denver. She currently holds the position of Rocky Mountain Regional GIS Coordinator for the United States Forest Service.

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

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COVID-19

PRPD continues to proactively monitor the updates and regulations related to COVID-19. Throughout the fall sport seasons our staff, park users and sports partners did a wonderful job of ensuring safe environments at all practices and games. As we move into the winter flu season staff has installed new signage reminding playground, shelter and park users of how to safely use the parks to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 cases. We have begun taking 2021 reservations for shelters, the Arbor House and Kendrick Cottage with the hope that we will be able to offer the sites for your event needs in 2021. We will be working with the Jefferson County Public Health department to monitor any new developments or to institute any revised regulations for safety best practices.