

Prospect Newsletter

Spring 2009



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.*

Your Tax Dollars At Work

PROSPECT HAS BEEN AWARDED TWO GRANTS:

A Conservation Trust Fund (Lottery) grant in the amount of \$25,000 plus a Prospect grant match of over \$11,000 of your tax dollars will be used to renovate the two parking lots at Maple Grove Park. Both parking lots are in need of repair. The west lot will undergo cracksealing, sealcoating and restriping. The east lot will be overlaid with the Petromat filter fabric, resurfaced with 2" of asphalt, and restriped.

The Jefferson County Open Space Joint Venture grant program has awarded PRPD \$30,000, combined with the needed PRPD grant match of \$10,000 to continue restoration work at the Strippgen property, 5550 Indiana Street. This 18 acre parcel, granted to PRPD under a Conservation Easement, was historically agricultural in use. PRPD's goal is to restore this property to as natural a riparian/grassland habitat as possible. During the late 1980's the property was part of a nursery operation. Large areas of the lower lying flatlands were covered with black landscape fabric. Extensive efforts are necessary to successfully remove this material prior to any restoration efforts. To accelerate this goal, PRPD will engage the Mile High Youth Corps to perform the fabric removal. A native grass/wildflower mix suitable to this location will be planted in selected areas, supplementing the existing native vegetation.

How to Avoid Coyote Conflicts

What attracts coyotes to your neighborhood?

Coyotes are attracted to neighborhoods due to the availability of garbage, pet food and even pets, which coyotes see as prey. The following list illustrates some of the attractants that draw coyotes close to people. Remove these attractants to discourage coyotes from visiting your property:

- ◆ Outdoor pet food or water
- ◆ Birdseed or food sources that attract small mammals
- ◆ Accessible garbage or compost
- ◆ Fallen fruit or berries from trees or shrubs
- ◆ Shrubs, woodpiles, decks or any other structure that can provide cover or be used as a den
- ◆ Dogs and cats allowed to roam free, and/or female dogs in heat



To read the complete article from the Jefferson County Sheriff
Please Visit: http://www.co.jefferson.co.us/sheriff/sheriff_T62_R260.htm

Abrakadoodle is Coming!
See Page 2 For More Info



Prospect Collaborates With Abrakadoodle To Provide Recreation Programming



PRPD is partnering with Abrakadoodle to provide recreation programming for our residents. Abrakadoodle offers creative art education for children ages 20 months to 12 years old. Abrakadoodle believes in a comprehensive approach to creativity, by offering camps, classes, parties, afterschool programs and special events for children.

↻ A Bit about Abrakadoodle ↻

Abrakadoodle Art Education parties focus upon helping children to develop their creativity and knowledge of the world of art, color, form and design. We believe in a multi-arts approach to creativity, offering art classes, camps and parties which features painting, sculpture, collage, mosaics, sketching and more. Abrakadoodle programs focus not only on the art product, but the process in which projects are completed. Part of the Abrakadoodle process is educating children about artists, art history, and “artsy words”.

Our art programs not only ignite a child's imagination, but also build art knowledge, artistic techniques, fine motor skills, language, cognitive skills and confidence. With hundreds of Abrakadoodle lessons, Abrakadoodle art education programs are always new and exciting!



We offer ongoing year-round art classes. Twoosy Doodlers art classes are for children ages twenty to thirty-six months. Mini Doodlers art classes are for children ages three to Kindergarten age. Doodlers art classes are for children in grades one through six. Each class offers new and imagination-engaging activities. We also offer specialty classes such as Kids on Canvas®, Anime and more.

Abrakadoodle will be offering camps over spring break (March 30 -April 3) at the Arbor House at Maple Grove Park and at Kendrick Cottage at Crestview Park. Please call 303-997-9061 for more information, or go to www.abrakadoodle.com/co05/.

APEX Summer Concert Series 2009

Prospect is once again a proud sponsor of **APEX Park and Recreation District's Summer Concert Series.**

Family Thursday Night Series, 7-8:30 pm

McIlvoy Park, 5750 Upham St

June 18 - Golden Eagle Concert Band

June 25 - Mojomama, *Rock*

July 16 - PapaJuke, *Blues*

July 30 - The Long Run, *Colorado's Tribute to "The Eagles"*

Children's Friday Morning Series, 9:30 - 10:15 am

Pioneer Pavilion at North Jeffco Park, 9101 Ralston Road

July 10 - Eric West, *Music for Kids*

July 24 - Beth Epley, *"Simple as a Giggle," comedy and stories for young children*

Please remember...alcoholic beverages are not permitted in City of Arvada parks. In case of inclement weather, performances move to the Community Recreation Center, 6842 Wadsworth Blvd.

For further information please contact 303-425-9583.



Prospect Is Going GREEN



Prospect Recreation & Park District is undertaking further efforts to continue our “green” movement. We constantly strive to be cognizant of the impacts our operations and maintenance practices have on the environment, and to continue to improve those practices. You will soon see blue recycling containers in the parks for recycling aluminum cans and plastic drink bottles. Prospect staff will collect and recycle the cans and bottles that are placed in the recycling containers. Please respect our effort and only place aluminum cans and plastic drink bottles in these containers.

We have also begun our first foray into composting. All the leaves that we collected during last fall will be shredded and then composted at our maintenance facility. This practice will eliminate this extremely valuable natural material from entering the landfill, and will also provide compost (also known as “black gold”) for use in our landscaped areas.

Report to Our Taxpayers

Historical Financial Background of the District

The purpose of the enclosed 9 year financial summary is to provide our constituents in unincorporated Applewood and Fairmount a report card on how your Board of Directors has guided Prospect Recreation & Park District (PRPD) since it began in 2000. Thanks to voter approval in 1999, the District's status changed from an operating division within Jefferson County government (Title 30 Special District) to an independent status (Title 32 Special District) managed by a Board of Directors elected by the voters.

The original platform of the organizers responsible for placing the PRPD initiative on the ballot included the following taxpayer benefits:

- 1) increasing the property tax mill levy from the original 1 mill to 3 mills would provide for badly needed repairs and upkeep of the parks;
- 2) the Park District would be able to compete with other governmental entities for available grant monies in order to make improvements and fund park acquisitions;
- 3) the Park District would be able to afford the needed staff to operate our Parks at a standard that matched the pride of our community.

By Agreeing To Increase Property Taxes the Taxpayers Created Other Important Sources of Additional Funding to the District Previously Not Available

The voters within the District agreed to tax themselves an additional \$3.704 million in property taxes by increasing the mill levy from 1% to 3%. This was an extremely important financial boost which not only assured the District's ability to survive; this event qualified us for the first time to compete for and win an additional \$1.606 million of Jefferson County Open Space and GOCO Grants. Furthermore, the District's new Title 32 status positioned us to receive Fee-In-Lieu of Parkland Monies and other Revenues such as Lottery Funds, Vehicle Registration Fees, etc. that totaled yet another \$4.588 million of funds received by the District (these \$ are outlined in detail on the attached spreadsheet). The total value of additional Property Tax, Open Space and GOCO Grants awarded, Lottery Funds, Vehicle Registration Fees, the Serene Strippgen land donation and Other Revenues for the 9 year period ending 2008 totaled \$6.194 million.

Return on Taxpayers Investment in the District (2000 through 2008)

\$6.194 million Grants, Lottery, Fee-In-Lieu, Vehicle Registration, Strippgen and Other
\$3.704 million Additional Property Taxes Paid (3 mills - 1 mill difference)

= 167% Return to the District Taxpayer for the 2 mill tax increase

Total Capital Expenditures for Land Property and Equipment

If you have lived in our District for the last 9 years you will hopefully recognize that many improvements and changes have occurred to your parks since 1999. Thanks to our improved funding outlined above, the Board approved total capital expenditures (not including repairs and maintenance) for Land, Property, Plant and Equipment in the amount of \$5.766 million. Key expenditures include the development and construction of Tanglewood Sports Park, development and construction of Crestview Park, acquisition and renovation of Kendrick Cottage at Crestview Park, construction of a new Maintenance Shop facility, and the remodel of the Xenon Street Headquarters. The residual fees on the acquisition of the Strippgen Conservation Easement are also included in this list.

Prospect Recreation & Park District
 Financial Highlights (In Thousands)
 Since Inception
 2000-2008
 (Source CPA Audit Report)

As of Fiscal Year End

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Sources of Income									
Property Tax	\$731,000	\$627,000	\$660,000	\$639,000	\$639,000	\$605,000	\$609,000	\$519,000	\$526,000
Fee-In-Lieu **	\$43,000	\$264,000	\$402,000	\$159,000	\$28,000	\$158,000	\$0	\$46,000	\$39,000
Grants ***	\$55,000	\$512,000	\$12,000	\$83,000	\$157,000	\$92,000	\$337,000	\$209,000	\$149,000
All Other Revenue	\$219,000	\$291,000	\$284,000	\$239,000	\$184,000	\$179,000	\$1,657,000 *	\$214,000	\$182,000
Total	\$1,048,000	\$1,694,000	\$1,358,000	\$1,120,000	\$1,008,000	\$1,035,000	\$2,603,000	\$988,000	\$896,000

Expenses

Repairs and Maintenance ***	\$289,000	\$218,000	\$177,000	\$177,000	\$71,000	\$52,000	\$43,000	\$14,000	\$4,000
General and Administrative	\$138,000	\$138,000	\$150,000	\$121,000	\$150,000	\$182,000	\$161,000	\$200,000	\$137,000
Personnel Expense	\$401,000	\$378,000	\$363,000	\$353,000	\$331,000	\$320,000	\$279,000	\$294,000	\$251,000
% Personnel Exp /Property Tax	54.9%	60.3%	55.0%	55.2%	51.8%	52.8%	45.8%	56.6%	47.7%

Capital Expenditures **

	\$455,000	\$1,035,000	\$313,000	\$202,000	\$350,000	\$577,000	\$2,292,000	\$361,000	\$181,000
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Total Land & Equipment Total Assets

	\$4,640,000	\$4,440,000	\$3,413,000	\$3,267,000	\$3,228,000	\$3,017,000	\$2,358,000	\$782,000	\$757,000
	\$6,315,000	\$6,383,000	\$5,419,000	\$4,898,000	\$4,613,000	\$4,260,000	\$3,880,000	\$2,730,000	\$2,254,000

All Other Revenue

Footnotes

- * Includes donated property related to the Serene B. Strippen Living Trust 18 Acre Conservation Easement.
- ** Fee-In-Lieu and Grant monies are restricted funds and may only be used for capital expenditures and not for operating expenses.
- *** Repairs and maintenance includes improvements to the park irrigation systems.



Prospect's Newest Facility Is Open and Available for Events

The **Kendrick Cottage** is perfect for your next: **graduation party, company party, birthday party, family reunion, business meeting**, you name it.

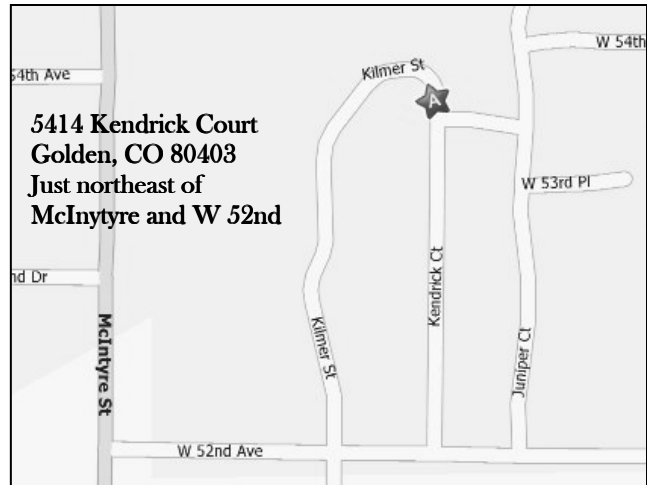
The facility provides rectangular tables and chairs, a kitchen with a sink, refrigerator, microwave, dishwasher, and plenty of counter space! The Kendrick Cottage seats 36 comfortably.

The beautiful back deck looks out on our newest park, Crestview, and has additional seating and grills; *perfect for your summer BBQs!*

Come check out Prospect's newest gem!

Please visit our website for further information.

Call (303)424-2346 to book your date now!



25% off Coupon for Prospect Residents at the Kendrick Cottage, 5414 Kendrick Ct. Good For Rentals in April, June, and July.

Call PRPD to make your reservation: 303.424.2346

Coupon Must Be Redeemed Prior to Payment for Event



Lost and Found!



With the quickly changing weather and warm days in the middle of winter, we have found **winter coats** left behind in our parks. Also, we also have a collection of lost **keys**, various **sports** equipment, and **cameras** that were left in parks. If you think you may have left an item behind in one of our parks, please contact us at the District office, **303.424.2346** to identify your lost items.

We love to reunite owners with their lost items!

Easter Egg Hunt

Prospect Recreation & Park District is having its
Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

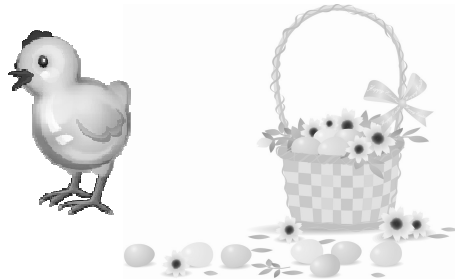
Bring your own basket, camera, and egg hunting
skills!

Saturday, April 11, 2009

10 a.m. **SHARP**

Maple Grove Park, 14600 W. 32nd Ave.

This event is absolutely **FREE!**



Questions? 303.424.2346

2009 Calendar of Events

PRPD EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 11
Pumpkin Fest Saturday, October 3
Holiday Teas Sat. & Sun., December 5 & 6



Other Events Around The Area

Fairmount 5000 Sun., May 3, Fairmount Park
(www.active.com (Search for Fairmount 5000))
2nd Annual Gallop at the Grove Sun., May 17
Maple Grove Elem. School (www.gallop-at-the-grove.com)
APEX Concert Series See Page 2
FIA Annual Picnic Sat. June 6, 8-11 am
Fairmount Park
(www.fairmountimprovementassociation.org)

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

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