

# PLATT PARK *Post*

The Official Newsletter of  
Platt Park People's Association  
July / August 2021  
[www.3pa.org](http://www.3pa.org)



## Denver Elections Division Unveils Voter Coach Mobile Unit

*Courtesy Alton P. Dillard II, Office of the Clerk and Recorder*

The City of Denver hit a homerun with the debut of the Voter Coach, a new mobile voting motor coach, during Major League Baseball All-Star Game week activities in mid-July.

The unit, which doesn't require being towed, but is large enough to require the driver to have a CDL, allows the Office of the Clerk and Recorder to be more nimble if it needs to deploy the unit on short notice and also helps the office fill in any potential geographic gaps in the city.

The Clerk and Recorder office plans to use the Voter Coach for voting, voter registration, and visibility at events.

The unit is expected to be an actual Vote Center at the Corky Gonzales Library, the Montclair Recreation Center, Central Park Recreation Center and Emily Griffith Tech College for this November's city election.

It also is scheduled to appear at Civic Center Eats on National Voter Registration Day September 28, 2021.

It has six stations for voters to be able to cast a ballot. It is fully accessible for voters with disabilities, equipped with a wheelchair lift that puts a voter right in front of an accessible table.

Check out a video of the Denver Elections Division's Voter Coach [HERE](#). And, follow the office on Twitter at: @milehighclerk and @DenverElections.

The unit was made possible through federal CARES Act funding.



The Platt Park People's Association, a city of Denver Registered Neighborhood Organization, serves more than 3,000 homes and businesses in the neighborhood bounded by Broadway on the West, Downing on the East, I-25 on the North and Evans on the South. 3PA membership is open to all neighbors and business owners who live and own property within these boundaries. Have a voice in your neighborhood and with the city: Join 3PA.

Check out our website. Stay informed, learn about upcoming events, and more!

[www.3pa.org](http://www.3pa.org)

For all 3PA and Platt Park Post communications email: [Board@3PA.org](mailto:Board@3PA.org)

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# Help Make Platt Park Even More Awesome

Platt Park already is a wonderful place to live and work. Close to downtown, large and small parks, a major university, an exceptional neighborhood library, and great, local restaurants and shops, Platt Park is an exceptional area. Best of all are the wonderful neighbors. And, with that in mind, this issue of your neighborhood newsletter is packed full of tips to make the neighborhood — our neighborhood — all the better.

## TREES

During the summer months more people will be outside and city ordinance requires that property owners keep sidewalks clear at all times. This includes plant growth, which may not extend onto adjacent sidewalks, streets or alleys, or block visibility at street corners.

City code requires property owners to maintain the trees on their private property and also maintain the trees located within the public right-of-way adjacent to their property. The City Forester is directed by this code to order the removal or pruning of trees that are determined to be dangerous, diseased, or an obstruction of the right-of-way.

For more information on Tree Resources for Property Owners, [CLICK HERE](#).

If there are properties that need maintenance, you can report them to 311 or [pocketgov.org](http://pocketgov.org). An inspector will visit the property, educate the owner and correct the violations.

## URBAN WILDLIFE

Denver is home to many urban wildlife species and has entire functioning ecosystems that support herbivores, omnivores, carnivores and scavengers alongside people and their pets, vehicles and buildings.

For more information about Urban Wildlife, including squirrels, [CLICK HERE](#).

## JAPANESE BEETLES

Summer is the time to tackle these pests. [The Colorado State University Extension](#) has a wonderful fact sheet [HERE](#).

## SIDEWALKS

Within the City and County of Denver, abutting property owners are responsible for installing and maintaining sidewalks within the public right of way.

In 2018, the City and County of Denver launched two programs to help complete the sidewalk network and strengthen our commitment to mobility.



Photo by Gayatri Malhotra on Unsplash

For more information about Denver's Sidewalk Programs, [CLICK HERE](#).

## TRANSPORTATION

Every year, Denver is growing and people are changing the way they travel through and between neighborhoods. DOTI's Neighborhood Transportation Management Program works together with neighborhood residents to establish local transportation priorities, to develop and implement transportation projects that support those priorities, and to help inform the local implementation of citywide mobility and safety programs.

People who live, work and play in Denver's neighborhoods can have a voice in developing local transportation and mobility priorities and projects to:

- Help reduce vehicle speeds
- Improve comfort and accessibility for people walking and biking

## MAKE PLATT PARK BEAUTIFUL — RELATED ARTICLES —

[Five Dye Free Ways to Make Your Dog Green...page 6](#)

[Tips for Pruning Your Trees...page 8](#)

[Learn to Backyard Compost...page 9](#)

[Help Keep the Compost Clean...page 10](#)

[Get a Free Tree...page 11](#)

- Improve connection to transit
- Improve safety and connectivity within and between neighborhoods
- Support neighborhood-level priorities

## BICYCLES

Bicycles provide a travel option that is convenient, affordable, has health benefits, and helps ease congestion. These are all elements that are part of the community’s vision for a healthier and more vibrant city. By building out Denver’s bicycle network and creating a comfortable space for people to ride, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure is helping to realize this vision.

To learn more about the Denver Moves Bicycles Program, [CLICK HERE](#).

## PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM RADON

Denver has a limited supply of free do-it-yourself radon test kits available. Radon is a cancer-causing gas that can seep from soil into homes. Make sure your home is a healthy home by testing for radon every 2-3 years—email [PHIRadon@denvergov.org](mailto:PHIRadon@denvergov.org) to coordinate delivery.

## STREET MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

Denver’s Department of Transportation and Infrastructure repairs and improves public streets with services that include paving, pothole patching, curb and gutter repairs, and curb ramp installation.

To get the scoop on paving, potholes, curbs and gutters, and alleys, [CLICK HERE](#).

## DENVER URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY

DURA offers home rehabilitation services to low- and moderate-income Denver residents with grants and no- and low-interest loans that delay payment until the house is sold. Learn more [HERE](#).

# Election of Board Members at 3PA Annual Meeting

After more than a year hiatus due to the Covid-19 situation, 3PA plans to have its next annual business meeting Tuesday, November 16 at 6:30 p.m. at a location yet to be determined.

Board members are elected at the annual meeting. If you know someone who would be a good candidate for the Board (including yourself!), please nominate that person to the present 3PA Board at [board@3pa.org](mailto:board@3pa.org).

Here are some things you need to know:

- To be eligible for nomination to the Board, nominees must have been dues-paying members of 3PA for at least three months prior to the election. So, for the November 16 election, nominees will need to have been dues-paying members since August 16. To become a 3PA member, join now by [CLICKING HERE](#).
- The term for Board members is one year, and members may stand for re-election unlimited times.
- You can find full information on Board members, elections, meetings, and more in the 3PA Bylaws on the 3PA website [HERE](#).
- To stay abreast of potential changes to the timing and the location of the annual meeting, be sure to request receipt of email notifications to [Board@3PA.org](mailto:Board@3PA.org). Also check the 3PA website frequently at <https://www.3pa.org>.

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## WANT TO STAY MORE FREQUENTLY INFORMED?

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Join the 3PA eBlast by emailing our 3PA President at [plattparkpres@yahoo.com](mailto:plattparkpres@yahoo.com)

# Neighborhood Notes

Been a fun summer around here, a little on the hot side but no garden-wrecking hail storms so all good in my book. Loving just being out and about sans mask and seeing all your wonderful faces once again. You are looking great by the way — COVID didn't age you a bit.

Unfortunately, we have to kick things off on a very sad note. Well-known Platt Park figure and restaurant entrepreneur **Patrick Mangold-White** died in an accident while on a fishing trip in Montana July 7.



**Patrick Flowers**

For as long as I can remember the culinary world of Platt Park has been dominated by the Kizaki brothers, the founders of Sushi Den, and Patrick, who made his first mark in the neighborhood with Gaia Bistro and followed that up with Kaos Pizzeria, Bird American Comfort Food and Uno Mas Taqueria y Cantina.

While the Sushi Den world has an appeal that spans way beyond the neighborhood, Patrick's goal was always to be that neighborhood-friendly place where you'd meet neighbors to enjoy a relaxing vibe with some great food at a

reasonable price. That reflected Patrick, who was a very down-to-earth soul.

I had the privilege to interview Patrick many times over the years. He, as much as anyone, was in tune with the heart-beat of Platt Park. We will greatly miss Patrick and will long remember his lasting contribution to what makes this neighborhood special.

The family is asking, if you are so inclined, to help them out with a donation to the [Patrick Mangold-White Bereavement Fund](#).

Little hard to move on from that to the much more seemingly trivial, but life does indeed go on...

Favorite thing at the **Farmers Market** so far? Has to be the folks selling the fresh smoked salmon out in front of Ototo Den each Sunday morning. If you have not tried it, you've at least smelled it as they start smoking it each morning at about 7 a.m. filling the street with plumes of hickory and cedar smoke. Get it fresh out of the smoker if you can and consume immediately. Salmon candy!

Of course, there are tons of other wonderful things to be had at the Market. Love the expanded size this year stretching way up the 1400 block of South Pearl Street. If you've gotten around to other markets then you'll likely agree with me that this is the best one in Denver and perhaps all of Colorado for that matter. Thank you, South Pearl Street Association, for making this happen each year.

I'm declaring this issue in part "The South of the Border" Issue. Normally I like to keep my notes to things within the borders of Platt Park (There's a trivia question: What are the exact borders of Platt Park? Answer at the bottom.), but there are a couple of noteworthy places south of Evans that you just need to try.

Down by the Evans and Santa Fe Light Rail station, almost as though it was trying to hide, is **AJ's Pit Bar-B-Q** (2180 S. Delaware St.). For years I've searched around Denver trying to find amazing barbecue only to settle for "pretty good" from national chain type outfits, all the while knowing that there exists a "next level" to barbecue leaving my culinary cravings unfulfilled — until now.

AJ's finally nails it with 100% wood-burning, slow-smoking pit barbecue done right. Great selection includes beef ribs,

# Neighborhood Notes, *cont.*

Wagyu pastrami, Wagyu brisket, pulled pork, dry-rub ribs, smoked turkey, smoked sausage, smoked chicken, and plentiful sides such as truffled mac ‘n’ cheese and ham-hock braised collards.

The place feels authentic — nothing fancy by design, but fun and comfortable with local craft beers on tap, plus whiskey, bourbon and tequila...as one would expect. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Definitely worth leaving the confines of our neighborhood for!

The second trip south of the border worth making is to **The Bacon Social House** (2160 S. Broadway). Back in PC days (pre-COVID), I met a friend at the original Social House over in Sunnyside (another neighborhood that wants to be Platt Park) and felt a twinge of envy that they had such an amazing breakfast/brunch place and we didn’t.

Well, darn if the owners didn’t decide to expand into our neck of the woods. Who doesn’t love bacon in pretty much anything? Well, their motto is “Peace, Love, Bacon and More Bacon,” which pretty much sums it up.

Bacon takes center stage here beginning with their bacon flight where you can experience all the varieties of bacon offered. House specialties range from classics like Benedict, Biscuits and Gravy, Chicken and Waffles and Boozy French Toast, but they also serve lighter fare if a solid gut-shot of yumminess is more than you care to take. Open weekdays (except Tuesday and Thursday) at 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. on weekends until 3:30 p.m.

Returning north, back to South Pearl Street there is a fun, new, out of the ordinary tap room or tasting lounge called **Grüvi Tasting Lounge** (1455 S. Pearl St.). Grüvi is a brand name for non-alcoholic drinks ranging from beer and wine to a variety of cocktails. The creator’s stated mission is, “to help others be healthy and stay social, one drink at a time. We sought to create a line of craft, non-alcoholic beers and wine because you deserve it.”

Brother and sister duo Anika and Niki started Gruvi in 2019. The company has done very well and now sells their products in 1,500 locations in six states. The siblings have wanted to create a tasting lounge and Platt Park seemed the perfect spot for it. Open Thursday and Friday from 3-9 p.m., Saturday from 12-9 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Lastly, you have probably noticed what originally looked

like a pop-up restaurant slowly transforming into an established outfit operating out of the old VFW hall at 1350 S. Broadway.

If the name Piante Pizzeria seems vaguely familiar, then likely you have seen or visited their original location in Breckenridge that opened in 2017. After successfully running that business in Summit County, general manager Wesley Contro said they realized that the vast majority of their patrons came from Denver. They began exploring the receptiveness to opening a Denver location by trying pop-up restaurants in various locations and eventually settled for a permanent location on south Broadway — yay for us!

What makes Piante unique in the pizza world is all pizzas are plant-based (the word Piante is Italian for “plant”). They describe their food as “made-from-scratch, wood-fired pizza using house-made cashew cheese, plant-based meats and fresh veggies.” They welcome skeptics to come and try the vegan fare and believe they can seduce even the most suspicious. The menu features many typical pizza styles — including pepperoni, sausage, bacon — all of it plant-based. Obviously, their business “recipe” has been successful. Open Wednesday-Friday, 4-10 p.m.; Saturday, 2-10 p.m.; and Sunday, 12-7 p.m.

That wraps it up for this issue. Still catching up on things. So much more to tell you about including updates on past projects put on COVID hold now coming back to life. Till the next issue...enjoy the rest of your summer.

*(Answer to Trivia Question: Broadway to the west, Downing Street to the east, Evans Avenue to the south and I-25 on the north)*

## See you around the neighborhood,

*Tom Snyder*



# Five Dye-Free Ways to Turn Your Dog Green

by Jen Grauer, Platt Park Green Team

Purebred, designer and rescue dogs, black, brown and white dogs, big dogs and little dogs, we love all kinds of dogs, but especially green dogs!

Green dogs? There's a lot of love for dogs in Platt Park! This is evident during the dog walking hours in the evening when we can see all the many varieties of dogs in the neighborhood. But, have you seen the green dogs? No? Me either! Dogs colored green are a thing, according to the internet, but of course we're talking about dogs who are living a greener, more eco-friendly life via their people's (our!) choices. Five ways to green our dogs:

## 1. GREENER POOP

Leaving dog poop on the ground, whether in the city or on a nature trail, pollutes groundwater and streams. The simple act of picking up after our dogs is being eco-friendly. Please remember picked up poop must go to the landfill (not city compost or recycling bins).

Plastic-free bag alternatives:

- [Paper](#)
- [Cardboard](#)
- [Plant "plastic" bags](#)
- [Compostable "plant-based" bags without a cardboard core](#)

Best fabric poop bag dispenser designed and sewed by a Boulder dog mama:

- [SASyLUNA](#)

Dog poop disposal for the ambitious and gold star green dog owners:

- [Composting Dog Waste](#) by The U.S. Department of Agriculture
- [Composting Dog Waste with Doggy Do Good Plastic-Free Bags](#)
- [Four Responsible Ways to Keep Dog Poop Out of the Landfill](#)
- [Puppy Poop Hole](#) YouTube Video

## 2. GREENER GRASS

What dog doesn't love grass? Running, rolling, pulling it up (maybe that is just my dog?), peeing, pooping, sleeping. Grass is dog heaven!

Standard grass requires a lot of water, mowing, weed removal, re-seeding and fertilizing with compost.

What if we could have lush, springy green grass with no mowing, no pee spots and very little watering? We wish!

Wish granted! [Dog Tuff Grass](#) delivers and was developed in Colorado.

## 3. GREENER FOOD

According to the [Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations states](#),

"The livestock sector plays an important role in climate change. It is estimated to emit 7.1 gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>-eq) per annum, representing 14.5 percent of all human-induced emissions."

So, eating less meat is one way humans can reduce our carbon footprint, but what about our furry friends? Did you know that dogs (not cats) can thrive on well planned plant-based diets too? Dogs have different nutritional needs than humans so it's important they get plant-based/vegetarian/vegan dog foods formulated specifically for them.

Learn more [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).

## 4. GREENER TOYS

Plastic toys — balls, stuffed animals and cheap squeaky toys among others — that a dog can shred in 5 minutes create a lot of pollution during production and shipping only to quickly end up in landfills and our waterways. Not so nice for our beautiful environment. Choosing tough plastic toys that last longer and those made of recycled materials are better. Toys made of natural materials get the gold star.

[Elk antlers](#) are a favorite of our dog and last a long time.

[Hemp rope](#) for tug of war is great, but if you have a chewer, store it out of reach after play or it will be shredded.

[Cycle Dog High Roller Ball](#) from REI comes with a squeaker and is made from recycled materials.

## 5. GREENER BEDS

A comfy dog bed made from more natural and sustainable products instead of chemically created foam and polyester? Yes, please!

[Molly Mut](#) has washable cotton canvas covers that can be filled with your old clothing or with their wool pads. They have lots of fun fabrics to choose from.

[NaturPet](#) beds made from wool and organic cotton covers.

[Avocado Organic Dog Bed](#) is GOTS organic certified using natural latex and coconut husk with organic cotton liner.

Although they are difficult to spot on the street, we hope to have more and more green dogs living in Platt Park!

# South Pearl Suffers a Great Loss this Month

## *From the South Pearl Street Association*

It is with great sadness that we let all of you know that our South Pearl community has lost a valued and beloved member. Patrick Mangold-White lost his life in a bizarre and tragic accident at the beginning of July while fly fishing in Montana.

Most of us know Patrick as the incredibly creative founder of several South Pearl restaurants, including Kaos Pizza, Bird, and Uno Mas. Many more will remember him for his great commitment to family and friends and his great zest for life and community.

Patrick's energetic presence will be greatly missed around the neighborhood. It's been our collective good fortune to be able to witness and enjoy the fruits of his many ventures. Our thoughts and sincere condolences go out to his family, business associates, and many, many friends.

Family and friends celebrate a life well-lived — husband, father, brother, son, fly-fisherman, restaurateur, falconer, sommelier, and genuine friend to everyone he met — July 23 at the Annuals Garden and Pavilion at the Denver Botanical Gardens.

If you would like to help the family navigate this unexpected tragedy, you can donate [HERE](#).

On a happier note, the South Pearl Street Farmers Market is in full stride and attendance has been spectacular each Sunday. In some cases, vendors have been selling out of their product due to such high demand.

To enjoy our amazing market, take a stroll down South Pearl Street's 1400-1500 blocks from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. every Sunday and see what our farmers and vendors have for you! While you are there, stop into one of our delicious restaurants for brunch or lunch.

And, First Fridays also are a hit! On the first Friday of every month starting around 5 p.m., you can stroll our sidewalks and witness some live entertainment from artists, performers, and musicians. Most merchants keep their doors open late for you to do some early-evening shopping while you enjoy the festivities. Bring out the kids and start your weekend with us every First Friday of the month.

**[First Fridays](#)  
on South Pearl Street**



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# Tips and Tricks for Pruning Your Trees

by Paul Cancik, Urban Forestry Operations Assistant

Pruning helps trees live longer, which allows them to grow taller and contribute to Denver's urban canopy. With this in mind, Denver's Office of the City Forester is offering helpful tips for pruning

It's important to keep in mind that if you cannot safely prune your tree from the ground, it's best to hire a licensed tree care professional since they use specialized equipment and have the necessary field knowledge. When you prune a tree, you are planning for the future, and with patience, you will ultimately have results that benefit generations to come.

## Why should you prune your trees?

- Pruning helps ensure that your tree develops a strong form/structure and prevents breakage in the future.
- Thinning your tree makes the crown (top) healthier by allowing more air and sunlight to pass through it.
- Pruning, much like watering, helps give your tree longevity; future generations will be able to enjoy it.
- Removing deadwood from your tree helps prevent insect infestation.
- If pruning is neglected, a tree can become susceptible to breakage, making the tree potentially dangerous.

## What should you prune from your trees?

- Follow the "3 D's" of pruning: only remove Dead, Damaged and Diseased wood, especially if the tree is not established. You can also prune branches that impact the structural integrity of the tree.
- Be deliberate about what you prune from a tree.
- It's important to prune around stop signs and to ensure sidewalks are clear to prevent accidents on or near your property. Stop signs should be clearly visible and sidewalks free of obstructions. The clearance requirements in Denver are 8' above sidewalks and 13.5' above streets and alleys.

## When should you prune your trees?

- While you may prune your tree year-round, ideally the best time to prune is late in the dormant season or early spring, before leaves form. This is typically a good time to remove excess or undesired branches because the tree is not putting forth energy to create foliage.
- Certain trees, including American elm (Dutch elm disease) and fruit trees in the rose family (fire blight) should only be pruned while dormant to reduce the spread of disease.
- Only prune a young tree two years after it has been planted and just focus on dead, broken, crossing and interfering branches.

## Tips for pruning:

- Make sure that every pruning cut you make is clean and smooth. The best tool to use for pruning is a pair of sharp bypass hand pruners for one-inch branches because they make smaller cuts that the tree can recover from faster.
- Colorado has a very short growing season compared to other regions. A shorter growing season means the tree has a shorter period of time to create and store energy, which ultimately affects how quickly a tree can recover from pruning. A young established tree can tolerate removal of 1/3 of its foliage in a growing season. A mature tree should never have more than 25% of its live foliage removed in one growing season.
- If you are pruning something off your tree that you can't reach from the ground, it's advised that you hire a tree care professional since they use specialized equipment such as an aerial lift truck/bucket truck and they have the needed field knowledge and expertise. In the City of Denver, tree contractors are required to be licensed and insured. A list of Denver's licensed tree contractors can be found by visiting <https://www.denvergov.org/forestry>.
- If you suspect an insect problem, contact a tree care professional to develop the most effective and environmentally conscious solution.
- Covering a wound or using wound dressings is not recommended and may be detrimental to tree health.

Want to learn more? Our friends at The Park People offer a community forester program with classes that cover a variety of topics, including pruning and tree planting basics. You can sign up [HERE](#).

Happy — and safe — pruning!

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## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN PLATT PARK



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# Sign Up for a Free Learn to Backyard Compost Class

from the Denver's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency

Summer is the perfect time to start a backyard compost pile! Get started today by signing up for one of Denver Recycles' and Denver Urban Gardens' free Learn to Backyard Compost classes. These hands-on classes will show you just how easy (and fun!) it can be to make your own compost from your kitchen food scraps and yard debris such as leaves, brush, and even weeds.

To watch a video, "Denver Background Composting," click [HERE](#).

Organic materials such as leaves, branches, grass clippings and food scraps make up nearly half of what Denver residents send to the landfill each year. Making and utilizing compost from these discards is an easy way to reduce your house waste and improve the health of your soil at the same time. It's a win-win!

Free Learn to Backyard Compost classes are offered through mid-October at Denver's Backyard Compost Demonstration Site (located within the Gove Community Garden on the southwest corner of 13th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard).

Each of the regular two-hour Learn to Backyard Compost classes includes an overview of composting basics, such as how to prepare organic material, how to create the proper mix of browns (carbon) to greens (nitrogen), how to properly water and turn your compost pile or tumbler, and how to troubleshoot common issues.

In addition to the traditional composting techniques outlined in all classes, a total of five Worm Workshop classes during the season will focus specifically on vermicomposting (worm composting) techniques. Worm composting is great for anyone, and especially great for those that don't have an outdoor space for traditional backyard composting (looking at you, apartment dwellers!).

Already a Denver Composts customer? Great! Backyard composting is a perfect complement to the Denver Composts program, and we encourage you to participate in both for maximum benefit. Backyard composting allows you to manage your discarded yard debris and veggie trimmings on-site, and you can control every input. Plus, it's a great learning experience for kids and adults.

On the flip side, the Denver Composts program allows you to compost materials such as meat, dairy, and bones that are not allowed in backyard compost piles.

Registration for all classes is on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-registration is required. To sign up for classes, visit [dug.org/compost](http://dug.org/compost) or call 303-292-9900.

Denver's free Learn to Backyard Compost classes are sponsored by Denver Recycles and Denver Urban Gardens. For more information about the many ways to compost, please visit [DenverGov.org/Compost](http://DenverGov.org/Compost) or call 311 (720-913-1311).

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# Help Keep the Compost Clean!

By Denver's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency

Keeping the compost clean is just as important as keeping compostable materials out of the landfill — both quantity and quality count! After all, we all want to reap the rewards of composting by utilizing finished compost made from Denver's food scraps and yard debris in our yards and gardens. But, it's also safe to say that we don't want to find bits of plastic and fruit stickers in our compost. Fortunately, we can all be part of the solution for keeping the compost free of such contaminants.

Denver's compost processor, A1 Organics, does a fantastic job at creating high quality, finished compost from our materials. But, no amount of skill and expertise in the commercial composting process can remove all the contaminants that don't belong in the compost in the first place. Therefore, it's extremely important that we all do our part to ensure that we deliver the cleanest material possible. Compost customers are truly the last line of defense before materials are taken directly to the composting facility. If contamination reaches the compost facility, it can risk jeopardizing a larger quantity of materials, result in added cost, and endanger the quality of finished compost.

Here's a quick list of problematic contaminants to KEEP OUT of your compost cart:

- Fruit Stickers. They're little, but they're still a huge problem. Make a habit of removing stickers from your fruits and veggies as you wash them.
- Dryer Lint / Vacuum Cleaner Debris. Remember, most of our clothing and carpeting is made of synthetic fibers that do not belong in the compost. Plus, you never know what other non-compostable items might be picked up in your vacuum or lint trap.
- Silverware. A shocking amount of silverware ends up at the composting facility. As you scrape plate waste into your kitchen pail, be mindful to hold on to those forks!
- Twist Ties / Rubber Bands. Did a bundle of kale go bad? Even if it's slimy and difficult to handle, always be sure to remove the metal twist tie or rubber band that holds the bunch together before placing it in your compost cart.
- Cleaning Wipes. Even though some wipes are labeled as 'compostable,' these items are not accepted in the Denver Composts program.
- Animal Poop. Please, no poop of any kind! No dog/cat poop, no cat litter, and absolutely no diapers (even if they're marketed as 'compostable').

- Lumber. Branches are the only wood accepted in the Denver Composts program (and they must be no larger than 4 inches in diameter and no longer than 4 feet in length). No stumps, boards, sawdust, dimensional lumber, or other building materials.

As a rule of thumb, we like to remind customers of the "if in doubt, throw it out" approach. If what you're trying to compost doesn't fit neatly in the category of food scrap, yard debris, or non-recyclable paper, then it's better to keep it out of your compost cart.

We get it — sometimes keeping items out of your compost cart can be "easier said than done." That's why we've also assembled a quick list of strategies that can help keep contaminants out of your cart:

- Train your family and house guests on what can and cannot go in your compost cart. A few conversations on the front end make a big difference! Pretty soon, proper compost techniques will just become part of your household routine.
- Take a quick peek inside your kitchen compost pail before emptying it into your green compost cart. It's much easier to remove items from the small container before they're at the bottom of your large collection cart.
- Be sure to store your compost cart somewhere on your property (and not at your curb or in your alley) on non-collection days. The less access others have to your cart, the less likely unwanted materials will be added to your cart by others.
- Practice makes perfect. Put your virtual waste sorting skills to the test by playing the [Denver Recycles Waste Sorting Game](#).

Thanks for doing your part to keep the compost clean! For more information about composting and other programs of Denver's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency, please visit [denvergov.org/Government/Departments/Climate-Action-Sustainability-Resiliency](https://denvergov.org/Government/Departments/Climate-Action-Sustainability-Resiliency).



# Three Ways to Get a Free Tree in Denver

by Denver Office of the City Forester

One of the best ways to combat Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and improve Denver's precious tree canopy is to plant a tree on your property. Thanks to the [Office of the City Forester](#), there are three ways Denver property owners can qualify for a free tree.

## Apply For a Free Tree

Since the launch of Be a Smart Ash, the Office of the City Forester has planted more than 10,000 free trees for Denver property owners who have space for a tree in their public right-of-way.

[Applying online is easy](#), and a certified arborist will carefully evaluate your space, determine the best kind of tree for your property and, if you qualify, the new tree will be delivered and planted along with specific instructions for how to immediately provide the best care for your tree to ensure a healthy future. This program is open to property owners, including businesses and condominium associations, across the city of Denver.

## Gap Plan

Since [1 in 6 trees in Denver](#) is an ash, it's certain that there will be some tree loss, which will leave noticeable gaps in our beautiful tree canopy. In an effort to proactively combat these inevitable gaps, the Office of the City Forester launched the Ash Tree Gap Removal & Replacement Program to remove and replace smaller, poor-condition ash trees in the public right-of-way throughout the city. Currently, the program is focused on Denver's southwest and northeast neighborhoods, [although anyone interested in this program can apply online](#).

## Forestry Neighborhood Initiative

In 2021, Denver's Office of the City Forester launched the Denver Forestry Neighborhood Initiative, which is dedicated to pruning or removing trees that pose a risk to public safety. This initiative also includes planting trees in the public right-of-way, as space allows. The program is currently focused on specific neighborhoods in southwest Denver. Property owners who qualify for a free tree or for tree maintenance at their property will receive a letter and a postcard from the Office of the City Forester outlining which service(s) they qualify for and how to claim them. However, everyone in Denver is eligible for a free tree planting, so property owners [can apply online](#) if they think they have space in their public right-of-way.

Trees provided free by the Office of the City Forester are a public amenity and must be planted in the public right-of-way, but that doesn't mean you should ignore the opportunity to plant a tree in your yard. We strongly encourage you to [enlist a tree care professional](#) to help you evaluate and care for your trees – ash or otherwise. And, if you're looking to add a tree to your yard, consider [this list of trees researched and approved by the Office of the City Forester](#) that do well in our unique climate.

For more information about any of these programs, email [tree@denvergov.org](mailto:tree@denvergov.org) or call the Denver Office of the City Forester at 720-913-0651.

## Connect with 3PA!

Interested in getting connected with 3PA? "LIKE" us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/plattpark3pa](http://www.facebook.com/plattpark3pa) or sign up for email notifications on [www.3PA.org](http://www.3PA.org), to get updates on events, meetings and news from around the neighborhood and city.

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# McKinley-Thatcher Elementary News

by Sonia Geerdes, Principal

The staff at McKinley-Thatcher Elementary is working hard to prepare for a return to something close to “normal” school year for our neighborhood’s youngest learners. We are hopeful that we will be able to host in-person events in August and the rest of the year, but we’re still awaiting final guidance and guidelines from DPS leadership.

McKinley-Thatcher teachers are excited to implement a new learning model called “platooning” for core content instruction next year. In this model, one grade-level teacher teaches math and science, while the other grade-level teacher teaches literacy (reading, our Expeditionary Learning curriculum, and phonics). Students will learn together in groups, and each group will receive instruction from both of our grade-level teachers for specific content areas.

The platooning model is widely used across the country, and allows for teachers to become experts in their content areas, to create more individualized support for students, and to implement more experiential learning opportunities. It’s a perfect way to deepen the work of the McKinley-Thatcher [mission and vision](#) of fostering a love of learning through experiential education, individualized approaches, and supporting the growth of the whole child.

## McKinley Thatcher Elementary Important Dates

August 2

Main office reopens for the 2021-22 school year.

August 9-16

McKinley’s Online School Registration: families can visit [our website](#) to complete registration paperwork and get important back-to-school information.

August 19, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Open House: meet your student’s teachers and see our classrooms.

August 23

First day of school for all McKinley students!

September 9, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Back-to-School Night: families are invited to come get to know their children’s teachers, learn about curriculum and classroom expectations and get answers to questions.

[Click here to view the McKinley-Thatcher school calendar.](#)

# South High School Update

by Melina Hodzic, Denver South High School

The first day of school is around the corner — freshmen begin August 23 and grades 10-12 begin August 24 — and we are excited to have all students back in the building this fall.

Our annual online registration opened July 30. In-person registration is scheduled for August 12-13 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Freshmen register Monday, Aug. 9 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. and the Freshman Academy is scheduled for August 10-13. The 10th Grade Academy is set for August 12-13.

Please [check our website](#) for additional information.

We are planning to return with a typical schedule and a new time change. This year, students will have the opportunity to attend school back in-person five days a week or opt-in virtually through a DPS online option.

We are still waiting for direction from the CDC and DPS as far as what school will look like and what rules and regulations may be set in place once we return. Our hopes are for students, staff, and as many community members to take advantage of the vaccinations so we can have the opportunity to return to a somewhat normal year.

We look forward to kicking off the year with a return of regular fall sports and student events featuring football, volleyball, homecoming, and more! We are very proud of our Ravens athletics program as we offered sports programming over the course of a challenging 2020-21 school year. Fall sports practices begin August 9.

Athletics was the most normal aspect of school for our student-athletes who participated in our programs. A huge shout out to our coaches and athletics staff who led/supported our programs in spite of the Covid-19 restrictions and additional challenges we faced all year! We hope to see you all cheering in the stands this fall!

We are Denver South! Go Ravens!

## Grant Beacon Middle School Update

Please check the official school website for all the back-to-school details: <https://beaconnetworkschools.org/>

Please check the Denver Public Schools website for more information: <https://dps.schoolmint.net/school-finder/schools/91/grant-beacon-middle-school>

# Lucky District 7 Update

by Jolon Clark, Denver City Council

Happy summer Platt Park neighbors! Many of you contact my office eager to hear about projects that will improve connectivity so that we can safely and easily access the beautiful parks and trails across Denver.

The Iowa Underpass Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements project is underway and will provide multi-modal ADA-accessible connection underneath the railroad tracks and to the South Platte River Trail, with improved crossings and new sidewalks for pedestrians and people on bikes.

The Iowa Underpass project will be split into two phases. The first is the “South Platte Greenway Access Sidewalk Improvements,” and is the portion along Santa Fe from Florida to Jewell. This section is out for construction bid now and we expect shovels in the ground this fall. The other portion is the “Iowa Underpass” and the city will be going out to bid for construction this fall.

The Jewell and Evans pedestrian/bike bridge is a bit more complicated due to land acquisition and coordination between federal and local governments and railroads. The city is currently procuring a design consultant that will complete engineering design and construction documents for the project. We expect the design to start this summer and take about 12-months to complete. The final design will need to coordinate and get approvals from CDOT, PUD, and RTD. Construction on the project is expected to start in 2024.

In addition to these projects already in the works, Denver will invest more than \$700 million into our economic recovery by leveraging federal and local stimulus dollars. To jumpstart the economy, the city will ask voters in November 2021 to approve a \$400 million bond program for infrastructure projects. Check out the projects submitted by the community and follow along the process at [risetogetherdenver.org/](https://risetogetherdenver.org/).

As always, please continue to reach out with your questions, concerns and ideas. For the latest updates, check out our website: [www.luckydistrict7.org/](https://www.luckydistrict7.org/).

# Denver Streets Partnership Looks to Lower Speed Limit

Amy Klein, Denver Streets Partnership

Denver’s streets have seen a lot of change over the past couple of years. As our streets emptied in 2020, we quickly saw a dangerous trend — speeding.

With fewer cars on the road, people driving have been able to travel faster, reaching excessive speeds, especially on wide, straight spans of streets. Denver’s Vision Zero Action Plan identifies speed as a factor in 53% of fatalities that occurred in traffic crashes on Denver streets in 2015, and specifically calls for speed reduction as a tool to reduce traffic deaths and injuries. The faster a car is moving, the less time a driver has to see a person walking or biking.

This is exactly why the Denver Streets Partnership has been diligently working to reduce the default speed limit from 25 mph to 20 mph. This will allow our friends and neighbors to safely walk their dogs, play with kids in their front yard, garden in the planting strip, walk to get groceries, or bike with their kids to school on neighborhood streets. You can show your support for this change by ordering a FREE yard sign!

Bicycle Colorado is raffling two Orbea Optima eBikes with support from SloHi Bike Company. The Orbea Optima is one of SloHi’s best-selling eBikes for a reason. It’s stylish, simple and fun.

Entries are capped at 500 tickets. There will be two lucky winners for this raffle, with all proceeds benefiting Bicycle Colorado and the Denver Streets Partnership. Get your tickets today and help make Colorado a better place to ride. Ticket sales are only open until August 11 at 5 p.m. or until all 500 tickets are sold.

The Denver Streets Partnership believes in an equitable and vibrant Denver that guarantees our public spaces are designed for people. We believe that human dignity should be the guiding principle for the design of our transportation system so that everyone can thrive and connect to what matters most.



# Platt Park Information

- ✕ Family and Kids
- ✦ Adult
- Health and Recreation

- ▲ Education and Life-Long Learning
- ◆ Social and Arts
- \* Business and Government

## \* COVID-19 + Vaccine Updates

Check out the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment [website](#).

Check out the City and County of Denver public health orders [website](#).

Check out the City and County of Denver vaccination [website](#) and its "[Don't Wait. Vaccinate.](#)" program.

Check out the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention vaccine finder [website](#).

\* ▲ **The Decker Library branch** in Platt Park is now open. For current hours for all branches, click [here](#).

\* ● Many **Denver Parks and Recreation** pools, registered programs and additional activities are up and running. The Platt Park Recreation Center (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.) and Harvard Gulch pool ([CLICK HERE](#) for its schedule) are open. And, the Washington Park Recreation Center opened July 6 (Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.). The Harvard Gulch Recreation Center is scheduled to open Aug. 16. Detailed information about which facilities will be opening and on which dates, as well as how to make a reservation, will be available online at [denvergov.org/Recreation](https://denvergov.org/Recreation). Also, free Happy Hour Games are scheduled at Civic Center Park every Wednesday and Thursday at 4:30 p.m. Join us for Kan-Jam, bocce, grass volleyball, corn hole, and other lawn-based games. Food options are available for purchase.

\* **Colorado State University Extension** offers multitudes of information for gardeners and homeowners, families and consumers, educators and youth, and more. Visit [HERE](#). Also, check out the **Master Gardener** section [HERE](#).

▲ **The University of Denver Enrichment Program** connects the intellectually curious adult to DU's outstanding faculty, facilities, and programming, and Denver's rich cultural community through non-credit courses. More than 50 live, online courses and one-night lectures, via Zoom, this winter/spring. Classes meet evenings and on occasional weekends. Details: <https://universitycollege.du.edu/enrichment/>.

▲ **The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Denver** is an adult learning membership program designed for inquiring adults, age 50 and "better," who wish to pursue lifelong learning in a relaxed non-competitive atmosphere. Details: <https://universitycollege.du.edu/olli/>

▲ **Brita has issued a new version of the Longlast filter used in Denver Water's Lead Reduction Program.** Customers enrolled in the program will receive the new filters on their regular replacement schedule. The new version has new colors, with yellow on the box and a light blue filter inside. Like the previous version, the filter will work with your existing water pitcher and is certified to remove lead. More information can be found [HERE](#).

\* **[City of Denver parking enforcement season has begun](#) (street sweeping, vehicle registration).**

\* **Denver Water outdoor watering rules are in effect until Oct. 1.** Follow the [summer watering rules](#), which incorporate best practices for efficient outdoor water use that help keep landscape healthy.

\* **Denver retail stores began charging 10 cents per disposable carryout bag July 1.** Get in the habit now of bringing your own bag. [CLICK HERE](#) for all the details. The City of Denver and its partners is giving away reusable bags while supplies last. [CLICK HERE](#) for the details.

◆ **SCFD Free Days** – Organizations from across the metro area provide hundreds of free days and free programs each year made possible, in part, by funding from SCFD. [CLICK HERE](#) for all the details.

# Platt Park Information, cont.

◆ **Levitt Pavilion Denver's 2021 season is in full swing.** For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

◆ **City Park Jazz in back in full swing, too!** For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

✳ **Denver Recreation Centers are partnering with the Denver Office of Children's Affairs to distribute meals as part of the Tasty Food program.** Grab-and-go meals for youth, ages 1-18, are available at select Denver recreation centers, including Harvard Gulch, Monday-Friday from 3-5 p.m. No ID or registration required.

-- Your Two Cents --

✳ **Eviction Defense Right to Counsel Survey:** Councilwoman Candi CdeBaca is exploring ways to avoid evictions. To obtain a comprehensive understanding of the issues, concerns and experiences of renters and landlords, please take [this survey](#).

✳ **Proposed Voting Locations for the November 2021 Coordinated Election:** Clerk and Recorder Paul López is seeking your input on proposed voting locations for the November 2021 Coordinated Election. To submit your official comments regarding existing and proposed voting locations, [CLICK HERE](#). Comments are open until further notice.

✳ **The Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure's 5280 Trail on 21st Street** project seeks to reimagine and repurpose shared public spaces that will link neighborhoods, connect people, and highlight key landmarks. How would you like the trail on 21st Street to incorporate or highlight the diverse mix of local culture, iconic features and history of the neighborhoods it will connect? Help prioritize activities along the trail by taking [THIS SURVEY](#).

✳ **RTD is seeking new members for Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities.** Customers who are interested in helping bring positive changes to the transit agency's services and programs, as well as strengthen its commitment to people with disabilities, are invited to apply [HERE](#) to serve on the Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities (ACPD).

✳ Provide input into **Denver's economic recovery**. Denver is making a once-in-a-generation investment into our city's economic recovery. The strategy focuses on community and business support, as well as infrastructure investments to build back Denver's economy in a way that is equitable, sustainable, and supports communities most impacted by the pandemic. With \$308 million from the American Rescue Plan Act and our own \$400 million General Obligation Bond, Denver is preparing to invest more than \$700 million into our city's recovery. Join the conversation and share your input on our investment priorities and sign up for a telephone town hall at [RiseTogetherDenver.org](#).

✳ The **Climate Equity Community Advisory Group** is looking for members from areas of the state that are most affected by climate change. The state's climate team is looking for ideas to make policies that address climate change better for communities. Members do not need to have climate change knowledge or past advisory group experience. The [Interest Form](#) is due by July 30.

✳ The **Head Start Policy Council** oversees Denver's Head Start program, to be involved in the community, promote understanding of the Head Start program, and to hear and resolve community conflicts concerning Head Start programs. To apply, please [complete an application](#) and include a resume and cover letter by August 1.

✳ Check out current **City of Denver downtown projects and public meetings** [HERE](#).

✳ **Denver Moves Everyone 2050** is asking you to help them build Denver's transportation future. CLICK [HERE](#) to time travel through Denver's history and tell them what you value.

**Share Your Events:** Contact us and let us know about your event.

# Platt Park Events Calendar

- ✕ Family and Kids
- ✦ Adult
- Health and Recreation
- ▲ Education and Life-Long Learning
- ◆ Social and Arts
- ✱ Business and Government

## JULY

July 31 - August 8 – Sunday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

✱◆ Denver Days, check [HERE](#) for details about the free program that encourages neighbors to get to know their fellow neighbors by hosting block parties, picnics, and service projects with the focus on small, organic gatherings. According to the city, “after the past year of a pandemic and social distancing, the spirit of Denver Days and rebuilding our sense of community are more important than ever.”

## AUGUST

August 21 – Saturday, 6:30 p.m.

Denver Municipal Band Brass quintet concert, Platt Park, check [HERE](#) for details

August 21 – Saturday, dusk

✱◆ Movie in the Park, Platt Park, check [3PA website](#) for details.

## NOVEMBER

November 16 (tentative) – TBA

✱ 3PA Annual Meeting, includes board member elections.

## SHARE YOUR EVENTS!

Please send Information and calendar submissions for the next issue or our 3PA Facebook page: [board@3PA.org](mailto:board@3PA.org)

# BRING YOUR OWN BAG AND KEEP YOUR CHANGE.

Remember to bring your own bag when you shop. All retail stores in Denver now charge **\$0.10** for each plastic or paper bag provided at checkout.

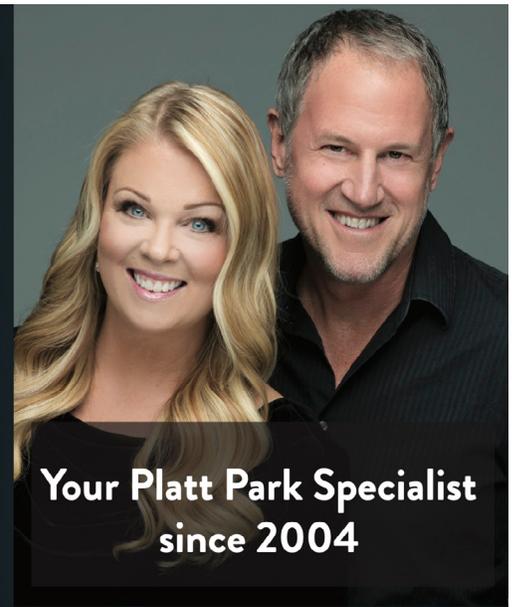


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