

Glendale's Community Back Yard: Parks And Public Works

by John Arthur

Writer for and on behalf of the City of Glendale
Glendale's Back Yard

Colorado is known across the nation for its outdoor recreation opportunities and incredible weather. Alongside world-class ski resorts, the Rocky Mountains, and myriad public and federal lands, urban areas in the state boast some of the country's most extensive and well-maintained green spaces. Glendale's parks and public works

are no exception. Featuring some 20 acres of formalized public space and an additional 20 acres of green space abutting Denver's Cherry Creek Trail, Glendale's small urban footprint is home to lots of room for outdoor fun.

Glendale's *Public Works Department* is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of all of the city's parks and green spaces. Josh Bertrand serves as Director of Public Works, overseeing the department's 11 full-

time employees and all administrative functions. Field Operations Manager Jody Yonke, a Glendale civil servant for some three decades, explains that Public Works is responsible for a host of duties in the city: "We do a little of everything. Water, waste water, sewer, streets, parks, snow removal — anything that needs to be done in the city, we do it." Public Works' role is a critical one. Without these dedicated individuals, the city would cease to function.

Like many areas along the Front Range, Glendale has experienced growth in recent years. The city's residential space is unique, however. With a population of about 5,000, there is just one single-family home in the city. Public Works Director Bertrand says this makes Glendale's parks and green spaces especially important: "If you're a Glendale resident, the parks are your place to be outside. The parks are everyone's back yard."

come hot spots in the city. Bertrand acknowledges the capacity at which the parks are operating, and the hard work of the employees who keep them in ship shape: "When the season hits, the pavilions are almost always booked," he says, "Our guys keep them maintained and ready for events — birthday parties, weddings, family reunions, barbecues — anything you can think of. It's seven days a week when the weather is nice."

Harryman notes that the number of Public Works personnel per capita sometimes presents a challenge, but one that the department is up to facing: "With the volume of people in the city, the parks get used a lot. At the same time the people take a ton of pride in them. The better they look the more pride the community takes in the parks." With Public Works and the close-knit Glendale community both holding these outdoor spaces in such high re-

BULL & BUSH BREWERY

\$10 LATE NITE MENU

- Hot Wings
- Fish & Chips
- Burger & Fries
- Almond Chicken Tenders
- Crispy Almond Chicken Salad

EVERYDAY 10PM - 12AM

BEER TO-GO

BULLANDBUSH.COM



Photo by Stevie Crecelius

The community can cherish the sunshine and enjoy a lovely day at the open space of Infinity Park in Glendale, Colorado.

Community Spaces

Glendale's parks heighten a strong sense of community in the city. *Infinity Park* serves as the central hub for outdoor activities in Glendale, but as Bertrand points out: "In Glendale there's a park to fit every niche and need." Each park space has its own unique character: from the dog park at *Playa Del Carmen* to *Infinity Park's* synthetic turf field; from *Creekside's* volleyball court to the playground at *Mir Park* — outdoor spaces offer something for everyone in Glendale.

Yonke and his colleague, Turf Manager Noel Harryman, point out that in warmer months parks featuring rental spaces be-

gard, it's no wonder they are thoroughly enjoyed.

What Sets Glendale Apart?

Glendale's parks, and the Public Works department that maintains them, are set apart from parks in larger cities in a number of ways. Significantly, nearly all of Glendale's public irrigation uses non-potable water. In many larger cities (including Denver) public parks and open spaces are irrigated using water that has been made safe to drink. Glendale sources its water from four alluvial wells in the nearby Cherry Creek aquifer, and Public Works makes great efforts to preserve it: namely by embracing non-treated water and by straggling irrigation schedules. Not treating water removes an expensive and time-consuming step from the Public Works process — ultimately resulting in a huge savings to taxpayers.

Glendale's small urban footprint makes its numerous green spaces impressive, but it's the city's attitude that truly sets its outdoor recreation and maintenance apart. Bertrand, Yonke, and Harryman all commented on a particular spirit in Glendale — both among the residents and within the Public Works department. According to Yonke, "This is a can-do environment. We never take a week off. Never even a day. If there's something we need to do our job, there's never any hesitation from the city to make it happen. That's kind of like a blank check. It's nice to know the commu-

HILLTOP DENTAL GROUP

5075 Leetsdale Drive
Unit F, Denver, CO 80246
303-377-4445

Providing Quality Dental Care In A Welcoming And Caring Environment

Dr. Marat Fainberg offers a wide variety of services including:
Porcelain Veneers • CEREC Single Visit Crowns • Inlays & Onlays • Bridges
Root Canals • Implants • Avadent Dentures • Invisalign & ZOOM! Whitening

\$37.99
Cleaning, Exam, Digital X-Rays**

**Regular value of at least \$290. In absence of periodontal (gum) disease. New patients only. Discounts may vary when combined with insurance and cannot be combined with other offers or discount plans. Must bring in this ad.

\$1800
Set Of Dentures

Discounts may vary when combined with insurance and cannot be combined with other offers or discount plans. Must bring in this ad.

\$1990
Implant Package

Includes Implant, Abutment and Crown
Discounts may vary when combined with insurance. Must bring in this ad.

www.hilltopdentalgroup.com

Like us on
Facebook
@GCCChronicle

and

Follow us on
twitter
@gccchronicle