

## CPA Mile High Loop Efforts as of August 15, 2014:

Why is CPA involved in this effort with the Mile High Loop?

1. This has been a project associated with since the Mile High Loop was originally conceived of by the City Park Alliance. CPA applied for the original GOCO grant to fund the trail.
2. The Mile High Loop is heavily utilized by people who follow CPA. The CPA web site received over 15,000 page views when the Mile High Loop was closed in 2013 to accommodate the construction of the DMNS "lollipop loop."
3. The Mile High Loop provides a unique amenity... a 5k running path which showcases City Park. It provides a niche in allowing for outdoor exercise by extending the age at which people can run on a softer pervious path.
4. The Mile High Loop provides a safety presence in City Park. Runners on the loop trail create a presence in all of the areas of the park, which keeps the park safer. This is especially true in less developed areas of the park where there is less traffic such as the western edge of the park.

In July, CPA met with DPR to discuss concerns with conditions and signage on the Mile High Loop trail both at the trail and at the DPR downtown offices. CPA tentatively agreed to commit up to \$20,000 to support the project including rehabilitation and signage. This set the table for the August 15 meeting.

During an August 15 meeting, further details were discussed as follows:

- DPR has a trail grader. It is similar to a large sized sand trap grader in that it has claws, a leveler, and a broom. Adam Smith committed to run the trail grader after the mowing season ends where and after putting the beds to bed on October 4. It will take about two weeks to "fluff" the trail. This will fix many minor trail problems where there is fine sedimentation and compaction.

- On October 27, DPS (Adam & Mark), and CPA will walk the trail to determine the extent of repairs still necessary, focusing on the 12 defined areas with greatest need of repair. Some areas will need more extensive grading (e.g., adjacent to the Ferril Lake sediment pond) and some areas will possible to fix through some level of minor grading or a combination of re-dressing and crowning the trail (e.g., ponding near the beginning of the trail). This will result in a scope of work which will include volunteer repair/re-dress and potentially some larger grading projects outside the scope of volunteer efforts.

- Mark is drafting an MOA for City Park Alliance and Denver Parks and Recreation. We will work to draft this document together. The MOA will very

generally describe CPA's and DPR's cooperative effort for both restoring the trail and improving signage including financial/equipment/volunteer/supplies commitments from both sides. The MOA will define a 1-year timeframe for completing restoration and signage. The MOA defines long-term involvement as meeting once per year to discuss trail conditions.

- The MOA will be a useful tool. For CPA and DPR, it will better define roles and expectations. CPA will use it to both define how stakeholder funds are being spent and under what terms. DPR will have the option to use it as an example of how they can effectively work with non-profits through partnerships like this.

- Once a scope of work is defined. We can define what can be accomplished through a volunteer effort. Volunteer efforts will primarily focus on areas needing re-dress. For reference, it took 75 volunteers to re-dress the entire Cheesman Park 1.5 mile loop in 2014. Again for reference, Adam got quoted \$4,500 for the materials for a 1" re-dress of the entire 5k loop. The method of volunteer efforts will depend on the scope of work. There are three potential avenues:

1. Starbucks Day of Work (April 22). The benefit of using this event is there will be 500 volunteers available and it is already scheduled. The downside is that it is a single day and weather could be a problem. It also might not be possible to complete the job during that one day.

2. Multiple scheduled smaller projects. The downside of this is that it requires more volunteer planning. The upside is that it allows more flexibility for weather dependent scheduling.

3. Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado. The upside is that they have big resources, volunteer management, and labor. The downside is that their involvement involves a lot of effort in coordinating and does bring in an extra cost of about \$4,500 for jobsite management.