

Addressing Resiliency in Denver

with Equity and Inclusion at the Forefront

Session

Friday, November 19, 2021 // 3:45 PM - 5:00 PM
Music City Center, Room 202
FRI-B06

In 2015, Denver undertook a complex stormwater project to solve a historic drainage problem and flooding in seven low income and minority-occupied neighborhoods. The unprecedented effort resulted in a new form of infrastructure aimed at equity and putting the community's needs first to create a celebrated series of open spaces.



Photo by Brian Wethington



Learning Outcomes

1. Understand importance of local government leadership, the value of partnerships, and the necessary community-first approach to achieve transparent decision-making with a focus on equity and resiliency.
2. Understand the leadership role a landscape architect can play on a large, complex public project alongside executive leadership and engineers where integrated design strategies are required to address multiple challenges.
3. Discover the importance of educating local communities through tailored public engagement methods and co-creating with stakeholders to deliver equitable outcomes rooted in community desires.
4. Examine innovative delivery methods on an expedited timeline to deliver high quality parks, public spaces and resiliency strategies.

Speakers



Meredith Wenskoski, ASLA, LEED AP

President & Founder, Livable Cities Studio

Meredith Wenskoski, a planner, urban designer, landscape architect and President at Livable Cities Studio, comes with over 18 years of experience in parks and public space design, streetscapes, mobility and significant public outreach processes. She is distinguished for her leadership, design and management of large-scale complex efforts. She has worked on streetscapes, public parks and urban design projects focusing on developing responsible and innovative designs that respond to the needs of the place and community. Meredith's projects emphasize the role of public space as a way to create socially active and inclusive spaces that provide long-term benefits for cities.



Happy Haynes

Executive Director, Parks and Recreation at the City and County of Denver

Allegra "Happy" Haynes has served since 2015 as the Executive Director of Denver Parks and Recreation and was also appointed in 2017 and 2019 to serve as the Deputy Mayor. Happy was twice elected and served from 2011 – 2019 as an at-large member of the Denver Public Schools Board of Education following six years as the District's Chief Community Engagement Officer. Happy is a Denver native, attended Denver East High School and received a BA in Political Science from Barnard College at Columbia University and an MPA from the University of Colorado at Denver.



Sam Stevens, PE

Engineering Supervisor, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure at the City and County of Denver

Sam Stevens is an Engineering Supervisor with the Infrastructure Project Management team at the City and County of Denver. He has over 17 years of experience as a Civil Engineer working for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, several consulting firms in the Denver Metro area and in various divisions within the City and County of Denver. He's most recently been involved in the Platte to Park Hill Drainage Program within the City of Denver, overseeing the delivery of several large infrastructure and community improvement projects over the last 6 years.

Resources



City Project Website
About Platte to Park Hill

bit.ly/denver-p2p



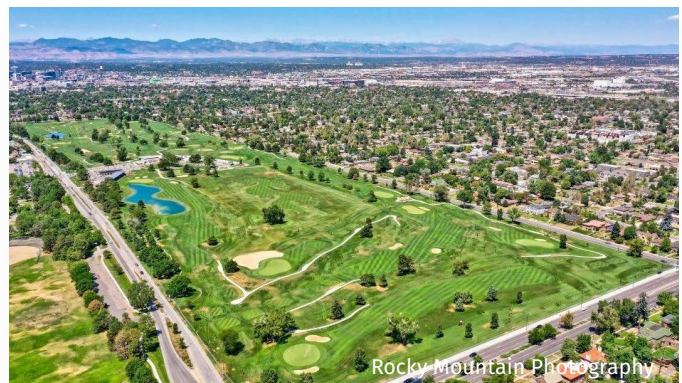
Youtube Video
39th Avenue Greenway Opens in Cole/Clayton
Neighborhoods

bit.ly/39thAve-video



News Article
The 39th Avenue Greenway is now open for
recreation and excess rain

bit.ly/39thAve-news



News Article
Denver set for reopening of City Park golf
course

bit.ly/cityParkGolf-news





Notes