

CASTLE PINES NORTH



METROPOLITAN DISTRICT™

October 2022

Nathan's News



Insights from Interim District Manager Nathan Travis

As we wind down our annual irrigation and landscape season, our parks, trails, and open space division is making big moves! Beginning construction on the much-anticipated pickle ball courts last month presented unexpected challenges for our staff/consultant team. Special thanks to our Parks, Trails, and Open Space Manager David Anderson. Through his hard work, creative problem-solving, and collaboration with the City of Castle Pines, we identified a workaround to a perplexing problem that had stalled the pickleball court groundbreaking for months. The issue has a long and complex backstory, so I'll spare you the details here. Now that the project is underway, some have raised the following concerns and questions. We hear you!



Q: What will CPNMD do to mitigate noise from the pickleball courts once they open?

A: David Anderson and pickleball court designer, Carl Henry, are working with the installation contractor on a court design modification that will result in sound-mitigation panels. Our staff/consultant team will present the updated pickleball court design to the board of directors during its study session on Wednesday, October 19, 2022.

Q: What about the Skate Park?

A: Younger residents and their parents have expressed sadness about losing their favorite community amenity. As a former "park rat" (a term that dates me a bit), I take their comments to heart.

First, we've identified two potential locations for the new skate park. Carol Henry of Design Concepts is developing preliminary conceptual drawings for both location options, which she will present to our board of directors for initial review in October or November 2022.

Second, with what I hope will be the board's blessing, the construction and opening of our new skate park facility will occur as part of Phase 2 in 2024. Special thanks to Director Christopher Lewis, whose relentless advocacy created essential momentum for accelerating the skate park.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

I buried the lead here, but with so many exciting things going on, I couldn't decide where to start. *Drum roll, please...*

We are collaborating with the City of Castle Pines to quickly and responsibly consolidate CPNMD's 352 acres of open space, fourteen miles of eight-foot-wide, paved trails, and three parks under City management. Doing so will enable us to focus exclusively on our water and wastewater utility infrastructure and services while thoroughly vetting potential inclusion partners. In addition:

- Given the stormwater, parks, trails, and open space services which the City of Castle Pines is developing in The Canyons east of I-25, consolidating our community parks, trails, open space, and recreational services under the City's jurisdiction will reduce administrative overhead, lower cost, and enable more efficient planning, operations, and management.
- The City has signaled its commitment to water conservation, including replacing Kentucky Bluegrass sod and other water-intensive vegetation on CPNMD and City land with waterwise/xeric vegetation.
- The City has also signaled its intent to honor CPNMD's planned capital investments, including Phase 1, 2, and 3 improvements to Coyote Ridge Park.

Our chief legal counsel, Kim Seter, and city attorney, Linda Michow, are drafting an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the CPNMD board and city council to consider this year. *Should the board and city council approve the IGA, our parks, trails, and open space operations and management could move to the City's contractual jurisdiction as soon as March 2023!*

Shortly thereafter, with CPNMD's support, the City could schedule a special election seeking voter approval to reallocate an as yet undefined portion of CPNMD's existing mill levy to the City of Castle Pines – *without raising CPNMD's residential and commercial property tax rate (mill levy).*

Of course, we are working through a myriad of nitty-gritty details. However, our meetings with City's staff/consultant team are encouraging. At this juncture, both jurisdictions appear keen to finalize and execute a fiscally responsible consolidation of parks, trails, open space, and recreation facilities without delay and for the benefit of all residents.

One a personal note: Our staff/consultant team is uniformly dedicated to providing our residents with quality, timely service. We take the quality of every service we provide seriously.

When you have questions or concerns about our parks, trails, open space, drinking water, wastewater services or stormwater, please don't hesitate to ask for me directly. You may reach me via the **E-MAIL US @** link in the upper right of our homepage at www.cpnmd.org; simply complete the brief online form. Residents can always call me at (303) 688-8550.

Your feedback is the best tool we have to ensure we deliver a fantastic outdoor experience and safe, high-quality drinking water to you and your family. We care and are listening.

Please stay engaged, keep an eye on our website, and monitor our board meetings and study sessions. More to come...



"Remember we're all in this together."
– Red Green