

#### **AURORA PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**Subject:** Fulton Park Master Plan Amendment

#### **Background:**

- Fulton Park (9920 E 8th Ave, Aurora CO 80010) is an existing 8.5-acre neighborhood park adjacent to the Fulton Academy of Excellence, located near the Lowry Campus. The Adams-Arapahoe School District #28 (Aurora Public Schools) owns the land and the City of Aurora has an agreement in place to develop, use and maintain the land as a city park.
- Fulton Park currently serves over 5300 residents within a ½ mile radius. The playground facilities were last updated in the 1980s and the courts in the early 1990s. The park ranked high in need of renovation due to lack of ADA compliance in our citywide capital infrastructure needs inventory. The park has no accessible routes into the park or playgrounds, no accessible equipment or site furnishings and limited walks within the park.
- Funds were appropriated for this project in 2020 from the Arapahoe County Open Space Tax Shareback, in 2021 from an Arapahoe County Open Space Grant and in 2022 from the Park Development Fund (fees collected from area development).

### **Proposed Amendments to Master Plan:**

- Combining the two existing small playgrounds into one larger inclusive playground (amenities replace the southwest baseball field)
- Shade structure with picnic tables, trash receptacles and benches
- Additional park paths
- Resurfaced basketball court and 4 new pickleball courts (replacing the tennis court)
- Outdoor seating area/classroom and fitness zone
- Additional trees and some native grass conversion of bluegrass

### **Process:**

Public Input includes: grant support letters from the park neighbors, teachers and students at the Fulton Academy of Excellence (FAE); online survey #1; meeting with local mother of children with special needs; meeting with FAE administration and teachers of exceptional students; meeting with FAE families; Ward I meeting; online survey #2.

- The 32 grant support letters from the community discussed their enthusiasm for the renovation of the park and included some elements they would like to see in the park.
- Survey #1 gathered information about a family's current park use, their most important park
  elements and conversion of existing amenities into new inclusive and environmentally
  conscious amenities. The survey was advertised in the park and on the city website and
  distributed to the families at FAE and both neighborhood organizations.
- Staff met onsite with a local mother of children with special needs to discuss access to the new playground, circulation within the park and specific playground equipment.

- Staff met virtually with the Fulton Academy of Excellence principal, vice principal and two
  teachers of exceptional students. The layout of the parking, playground, outdoor classroom
  and paths and the specific playground equipment that would be beneficial to their students
  with special needs was discussed.
- A meeting with the FAE families was scheduled for the presentation of the proposed master plan amendment however the school cancelled the meeting the morning of the presentation.
- At the October 2021 monthly Ward I meeting, the proposed master plan amendment was presented to the attendees and no opposition was met.
- Survey #2 asks for additional citizen approval of the proposed master plan amendment and the location of the new park amenities. Results of this survey will be presented at the December Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.
- Public hearing before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be held on December 1, 2021.

### **Board Action:**

Motion to approve the master plan amendment.

#### Attachments:

- Notice of Public Hearing
- Proposed master plan amendment for Fulton Park
- Survey Results #1
- Meeting Minutes Local Mother of Children with Special Needs
- Meeting Minutes Fulton Academy of Excellence
- Grant Support Letters (5 community & 4 project partners selected)



### Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department

Planning, Design and Construction Division

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### FULTON PARK MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT

Funded by: Arapahoe County Open Space Grant Arapahoe County Open Space Tax Shareback

City of Aurora's Parks, Recreation & Open Space Park Development Fund

Aurora's Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Department invites you to attend a Public Hearing for the Fulton Park master plan amendment approval. The park is located at 9920 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Aurora, CO 80010. The hearing seeks approval from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on the proposed park master plan amendment.

PROS created a master plan amendment based on the feedback from the community stakeholders. You may preview the master plan by going to <a href="www.AuroraGov.org/PROSPDC">www.AuroraGov.org/PROSPDC</a>, clicking on "Fulton Park — Survey and Public Hearing" and selecting "Fulton Park Master Plan." Key features include:

- Combining the two existing small playgrounds into one larger inclusive playground (amenities replace the southwest baseball field)
- Shade structure with picnic tables, trash receptacles and benches
- Additional park paths
- Resurfaced basketball court and 4 new pickleball courts (replacing the tennis court)
- Outdoor seating area/classroom and fitness zone
- Additional trees and some native grass conversion of bluegrass

The master plan amendment presentation and public hearing is a part of the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The hearing will be held at <u>5:00 PM on Wednesday</u>, <u>December 1, 2021</u>. The meeting is virtual, and you will have 2 options for attending.

### Computer:

- 1. Go to www.AuroraGov.org/PROSPDC
- 2. Click on: "Fulton Park Survey and Public Hearing"
- 3. Click on: "Public Hearing December 1, 2021 5PM
- 4. Follow instructions on screen

### **Telephone:**

- 1. Dial: 1-720-650-7664
- 2. Enter access code: 2485 317 8033
- 3. Enter attendee ID: press the # key
- 4. If you wish to raise your hand and speak during the meeting: press \*3

For additional information or to request special assistance, please contact Katie Thompson at 303.739.7160 or e-mail: <a href="https://kthompso@auroragov.org">kthompso@auroragov.org</a>. We encourage your attendance and input to show support of the park master plan amendment.

### **MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT**



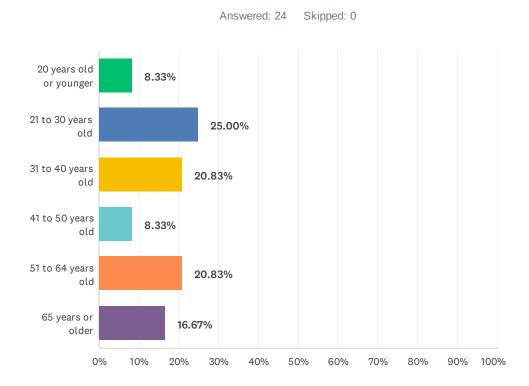




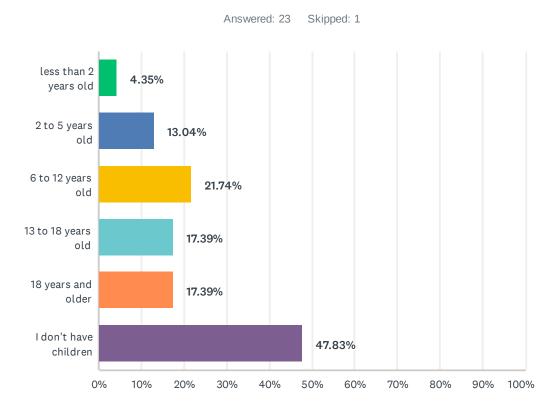
**LEGEND** 

### **Survey #1 - Fulton Park Renovation**

### Q1 What is your age?



Q2 What are the ages of the children in your house? Please click all that apply.

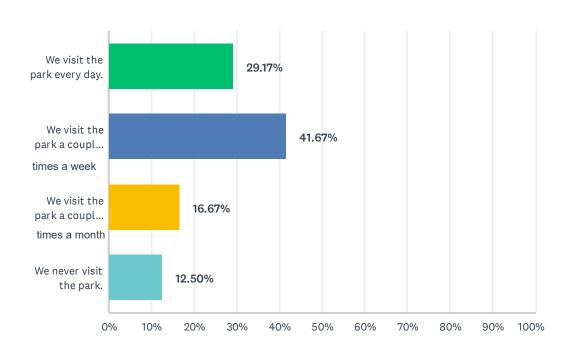


### Q3 How far is Fulton Park from your home?

Answered: 24 Skipped: 0 I can walk to 54.17% the park I must drive 45.83% to the park 0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

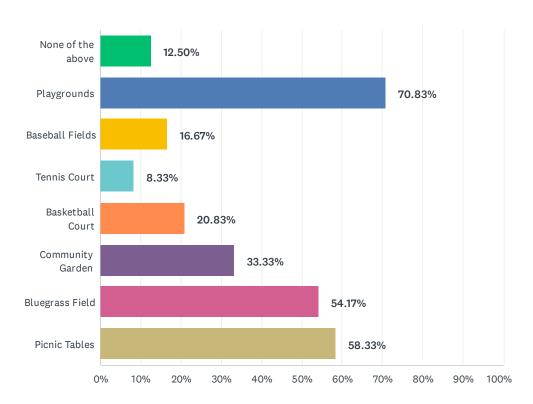
## Q4 How often do you or your family visit Fulton Park? Please choose the closest answer.



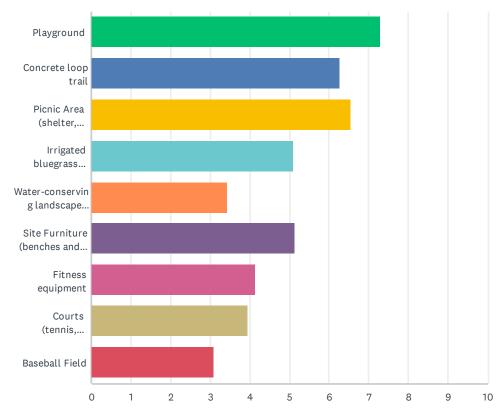


### Q5 What features do you use at Fulton park? Check all that apply.





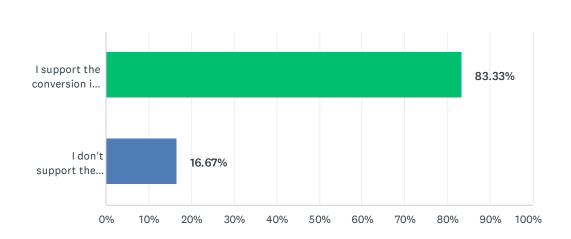
Q6 What are the most important features of a park to you? Please rank from 1 to 9 (1 = most important, 9 = least important)



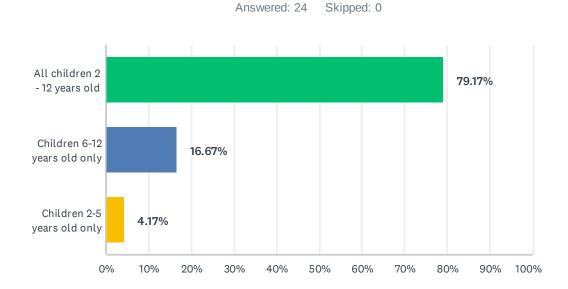
Q7 Currently there are 3 playgrounds on the site (2 park playgrounds and 1 school playground). The City would like to combine the 2 small park playgrounds into one larger park playground. A larger playground means we have more room to install larger and more interesting equipment.

Please choose one answer.

Answered: 24 Skipped: 0



### Q8 What ages should the new playground accommodate?



### Answered: 23 Skipped: 1

Pickleball is a game for people of all ages that combines elements of tennis, badminton and pingpong.

The City can convert Fulton Park's tennis court into either 2 or 4 pickleball courts. Do you want to convert the 1 tennis court into pickleball courts? (The basketball courts will remain)

If we convert the tennis court into pickleball, the PickleballParkProject.org (in partner with the Denver Metro Pickleball Association and the Summit County Pickleball Association) will give away FREE pickleball paddle sets to every family who participates in a FREE beginner lesson the first month the court is open.



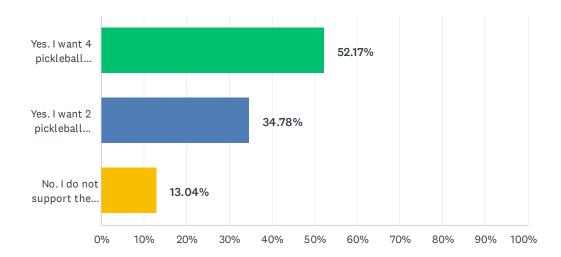
Yes. I want 4 pickleball courts



Yes. I want 2 pickleball courts

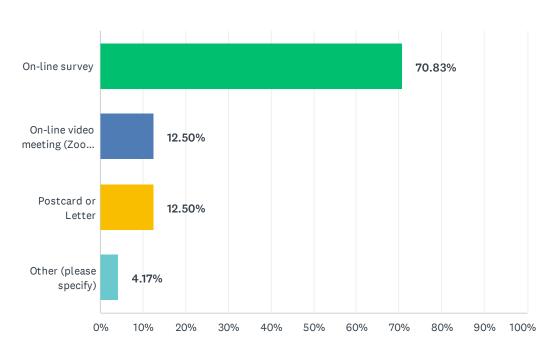


No. I do not support the conversion



# Q10 The City would like to know the best way to include YOU in the design of your park. How would you like us to contact you again?

Answered: 24 Skipped: 0



### Q11 Additional comments...

Answered: 10 Skipped: 14

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	We need a walkable track around the entire park with a weather proof poster showing the distance around the park. This would be a great help to those of us with mobility issues	7/6/2021 1:13 PM
2	This is exciting. Improvements like this will positively affect our neighborhood. Hooray!	7/6/2021 12:59 PM
3	An inclusive playground for children with disabilities would be awesome!	5/19/2021 1:28 PM
4	So excited for this community improvement! THANK YOU.	5/19/2021 11:49 AM
5	Thank you for selecting this park. It's a great location that is used by many of our families!	5/19/2021 8:08 AM
6	Thank you for helping Fulton Park better	5/18/2021 11:12 AM
7	Thank you for this opportunity for our community and the students at Fulton.	5/18/2021 9:50 AM
8	I live in the Grey house on the corner of ELMIRA and 8th. My house faces the small playground and I see everything that goes on there. I really want to see better lighting at the park at night and more trashcan As I pick up trash in the park daily.	5/14/2021 2:06 PM
9	Nothing else	5/14/2021 1:23 PM
10	Thank You . This is a much needed and overdue update. It is much appreciated from a 25 year neighborhood residents.	5/13/2021 5:45 PM

### Parks, Recreation & Open Space

VURORT

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Planning Design and Construction 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Ste. 4600 Aurora, Colorado 80012 303.739.7166

**Date:** August 12, 2021 1:30 p.m.

**Project:** Fulton Park Renovation

Re: Meeting Notes

Attendees: City or Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department Staff: Manager of

Planning, Design & Construction: Tracy Young, Senior Landscape Architect: Katie Thompson, local mother of children with special needs: Jamie Jenkins

### Agenda

Walk the Site

- Identify accessible path of travel
- Locate additional parking spaces
- Locate playground
- Identify desirable inclusive equipment

### Accessible Path of Travel

- Because street parking is challenging for vans and wheelchairs (even with street "bump outs"), the entry must be located adjacent to the parking lot
- The easiest path of travel is from the west parking lot

### Additional Parking Spaces

 Additional parking spaces across from the gardens would allow for easy access to the park

### Playground Location

- A child with special needs will not easily walk from the parking lot to the NW corner of the park where the current large playground is located
- The smaller playground space is not large enough to include an inclusive playground
- The best location would be the southwest corner of the park where the current baseball field is located

### Playground & Equipment Ideas

- "Rainbow" layout of playground
- Decorative Fencing between playground and Lowry Pl. as a buffer
- Tunnels with fans and echoes
- Car Wash
- Zipline with 2 slots (accessible and standard)
- Jenny swing
- Friend swing
- Roller slide
- Adult fitness area

### Next Step

- Ms. Jenkins suggested we connect with the school physical therapists, social workers and occupational therapists.
- COA Staff reached out to Fulton Academy of Excellence for possible meeting times with school staff including the principal and teachers of exceptional students

### Parks, Recreation & Open Space

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Planning Design and Construction 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Ste. 4600 Aurora, Colorado 80012 303.739.7166

**Date:** September 30, 2021 12:00 p.m.

**Project:** Fulton Park Renovation

Re: Meeting Notes

**Attendees:** City or Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department Staff (COA):

Senior Landscape Architect Katie Thompson, Fulton Academy of Excellence

(FAE): Principal Dawn Mcwilliams, Assistant Principal Aubri Dunkin,

Occupational Therapist/Assistive Technology Tricia Williams, Physical Education

Exceptional Students, Todd Mostrom

### Agenda

· Discuss proposed layout of park

- Identify any issues / conflicts
- Identify desirable inclusive equipment

### Proposed Layout of Park

- The new playground is shown in the southwest corner of the park replacing the existing baseball field
- The existing large playground and small playground are shown to be either an outdoor classroom or fitness area
- Additional parking is shown on the west side of the existing west lot
- A loop path is drawn around the perimeter of the park

### Comments

- FAE staff approved the new layout of the park
- No issues with replacing the existing baseball field even though it is the nicer of the two fields
- Would prefer that the existing large playground in the northwest corner be turned into an outdoor classroom and the smaller playground be turned into the fitness area

### Issues / Conflicts

 Make sure there is adequate space between the new playground and the existing soccer field for spectators

### Playground & Equipment Ideas

- Sensory Areas are a must have with shapes, textures, colors, sounds, bells
- Shapes/colors on fencing around an area with seating
- Quiet Areas
- Equipment with adaptive switches that allows for use of communication devices
- Inclusive glider / zipline is a must have
- Wheelchair trampoline like at Stanley inclusive playground is also a must have

- Car Wash idea is a must have
- Would this be a good place to incorporate sign language somehow?

### **Next Steps**

- FAE suggested sending our next survey to Aurora West School as well as FAE and the surrounding community.
- COA staff will design proposed master plan amendment based on the survey results and the meetings with stakeholders
- COA staff will ask the community for their approval of the proposed master plan amendments

## Community Letters of Support for Arapahoe County Open Space Grant Application

- Family of Fulton Academy of Excellence
- NOAH: Neighborhood Orgs Along Havana (neighborhood organization)
- Del Mar Neighborhoods United (neighborhood organization)
- Student of Fulton Academy of Excellence
- Student of Fulton Academy of Excellence

April 1, 2021

Arapahoe County Open Spaces Open Space and Trails Advisory Board 6934 S. Lima St., Unit A Centennial, CO 80012

Re: Grant Request for Fulton Park Renovation

Dear Members of the Board:

This letter is written in support of the City of Aurora's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department grant request for the renovation of Fulton Park, which is adjacent to the Fulton Academy of Excellence, a pre-kindergarten through fifth grade elementary school in the Aurora Public Schools district.

For the past 9 years my family and I have been a part of the Fulton community. This park is a family oriented place where many late summer nights consist of a basketball game of horse, a crowded soccer field of children and many picnics. I believe a few upgrades are well deserved for our everyday joggers, dog walkers and community members that use this place for a home away from home gathering space. I know my family and I have played a few softball games here and sometimes gather over holiday weekends. It would be great to know that we wouldn't have to bring our own tables and chairs or trash bags to our next event at Fulton Park.

As a result of the Fulton Park renovation project, our community will have access to an updated outdoor space that will include new surfacing, benches, picnic tables and trash receptacles, concrete paths and resurfaced tennis courts. The project will also include an updated, more efficient irrigation system that will sustain the park's landscaping and provide a beautiful recreation space.

Thank you for considering this grant application for the benefit of our neighborhood recreation space. We are extremely eager to see our neighborhood park receive the updates that it now requires, and we look forward to the renovations that will enhance the accessibility and beauty of our community space.

Sincerely,

Nichole Gomez,

Fulton Academy of Excellence Community Member

April 12, 2021

Arapahoe County Open Spaces Open Space and Trails Advisory Board 6934 S. Lima St., Unit A Centennial, CO 80012

Re: Grant Request for Fulton Park Renovation - 9920 E 8th Ave, Aurora CO 80010

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing to you in support of the City of Aurora's Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Department's grant request for the renovation of Fulton Park located at 9920 E. 8th Ave. within the Arapahoe County portion of Aurora.

I am familiar with this park both as a former member and chair of Aurora's Park and Recreation Advisory Board and as the president of Neighborhood Organizations Along Havana (NOAH) which is composed of 22 neighborhood associations and home owner associations bordering on Havana Street from E. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the north to E. Dartmouth Avenue on the south. Fulton Park lies within NOAH's referral area as defined by the city.

Fulton Park covers 8.5 acres and contains baseball / softball diamonds (2), basketball (1 court, 1 half court), a football field, a playground, a tennis court, and a community garden. Everything within the park, with the exception of the tennis court and basketball court which were fairly recently redone, is old and in very poor condition.

A grant from ARCO to assist in funding the much needed renovation of Fulton Park will go a long way in improving the quality of life for the residents, especially the youth, who will benefit from a park with more for them to recreate in.

Thank you for your consideration of this grant request.

Respectfully yours,

Arnie Schultz

Arnie Schultz

March 21, 2021

Arapahoe County Open Spaces Open Space and Trails Advisory Board 6934 S. Lima St., Unit A

Centennial, CO 80012

Re:

Grant Request for Fulton Park Renovation

Dear Members of the Board:

I am the secretary and acting president of the Del Mar Neighborhoods United neighborhood association. On behalf of DMNU and myself, I am writing in support of the City of Aurora's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department grant request for the renovation of Fulton Park located at 9920 E. 8th Ave., adjacent to the Fulton Academy of Excellence.

Fulton Park has been well used by the neighborhood for many years. However, creating a modern ADA compliant play area and other amenities will welcome even more neighbors to make this park a part of their daily lives. The immediate neighborhood and Aurora as a whole will benefit from these improvements.

My neighbor has two young daughters who attend the Fulton Academy. They spend considerable time at the park and the girls will enjoy having new play equipment. Also, an older couple who are also members of DMNU who live nearby on 7th Ave., will find the renovated park a much more pleasant and safer place to walk, as I will, too.

Please consider funding this grant application for the revitalization of Fulton Park. The circumstances of the last year have made it more important than ever to have these accessible parks in every neighborhood.

Thank you,

Margaret Turco

Del Mar Neighborhoods United, secretary

Margaret Turco

9820 E 13th Ave

Aurora, CO 80010

ACONDICO

Dear city or Auroral I relly
work like to have some parkour end a never ending slide, end to monkey
end a never enving slide, end to monker
barrond like to have a rock
Olimping Nalloirs important them
Make Kids happy a com you please
make it i beg your city of
AMPORA

ove that I can use Fulton Park Whenever I Want! When I go to fulton Park I like to use the monkey bars. The monkex bors are fun because I feetilike iam climbing in he trees. Another eason I Mike to U.
Fulton Park istha
use the Slides. I use the glider Because its very fun and its like being in the ail The se reasons Plus mony more are why I love fulton Park.

### <u>Project Partners Letters of Support</u> for Arapahoe County Open Space Grant Application

- Chief Operating Officer of Aurora Public Schools (Adams-Arapahoe School District #28)
- Denver Urban Gardens
- Bicycle Aurora
- PickleballParkProject.org



Division of Support Services 15701 E. 1st Ave. Suite 206 Aurora, CO 80011 Phone: 303-365-7812, ext. 28464

FAX: 303-326-1947

April 16, 2021

Arapahoe County Open Spaces Open Space and Trails Advisory Board 6934 S. Lima St., Unit A Centennial, CO 80012

Re: Grant Request for Fulton Park Renovation

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board:

This letter is written in strong support of the City of Aurora's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department grant request for the renovation of Fulton Park, which is adjacent to the Fulton Academy of Excellence, a pre-kindergarten through fifth grade elementary school in the Aurora Public Schools district. Aurora Public Schools and the City of Aurora have a long partnership of shared use of the joint school/park site dating back to when the school was originally planned and constructed. The school district fully expects for this joint use partnership of the site to continue long into the future.

Fulton Park is routinely used by Aurora Public Schools teachers, staff, students and their families during the course of the school day and during out-of-school times such as the end of the day and on weekends. Fulton Park has played a significant role in ensuring that the nearly 400 students at the Fulton Academy of Excellence have access to outdoor exercise and learning that is a fundamental component of students' academic and behavioral development.

Although Fulton Park plays a crucial role for our community's learning and outdoor enjoyment, the park has not yet been updated similarly to other neighborhood parks in the area. The planned renovations to Fulton Park, including ADA-accessible surfacing, benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, concrete paths, resurfaced tennis courts, and an updated irrigation system, are necessary to ensure our staff, students and their families, and community members continue to have equitable access to an outdoor learning and recreation space that is consistent with other parks in the area.

Thank you for considering this grant application for the betterment of our Aurora community and the Fulton Park Neighborhood. We are confident that this renovation project will significantly improve our community's neighborhood amenities and will promote our students' academic and behavioral outcomes.

Sincerely,

Anthony Sturges

Chief Operating Officer Aurora Public Schools



April 15, 2021

Arapahoe County Open Spaces Open Space and Trails Advisory Board 6934 S. Lima St., Unit A Centennial, CO 80012

Re: Grant Request for Fulton Park Renovation

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing in support of the City of Aurora's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department grant request for the renovation of Fulton Park located at 9920 E 8th Ave, Aurora CO 80010, adjacent to the Fulton Academy of Excellence.

Fulton Park is a highly valued neighborhood park in west Aurora located near the Lowry Campus. It has been providing residents with outdoor enjoyment for over 30 years and is in serious need of renovation to bring it up to date and to help it provide citizens with another 30 years of outdoor fun. Creating a space with new and exciting play opportunities for citizens of all abilities will help neighbors take ownership and become vested in this park. This will prove beneficial to both the neighborhood and Aurora as a whole.

As Executive Director of Denver Urban Gardens (DUG), the organization I lead is deeply committed to activating, protecting and maintaining inviting outdoor spaces within city limits. Outdoor experiences for people of all ages provide immeasurable mental & physical health benefits, especially during this time of COVID/post-COVID and with the epidemic of digital media that keeps kids and adults inside and glued to a screen.

Furthermore, DUG has one of our 188 community gardens located in the park itself - Fulton Academy Taste of Home Community Garden. Established in 2016, it is at Fulton Elementary School and has a very active school team and is full every year. Our proximity to a thriving park is one of the many reasons for this garden's success.

Please seriously consider funding this grant application for the betterment of Aurora and the Fulton Park Neighborhood.

Thank you,

Linda Appel Lipsius Executive Director linda@dug.org March 23, 2021

Arapahoe County Open Spaces Open Space and Trails Advisory Board 6934 S. Lima St., Unit A Centennial. CO 80012



Dear Arapahoe County Open Spaces and OSTAB Members,

I am writing to express Bicycle Aurora's support of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department's grant request for the Fulton Park Renovation.

Bicycle Aurora is a group of concerned volunteer citizens and businesses interested in improving the quality of bicycle trails and routes throughout Aurora.

The Fulton Park renovation caught our attention because this established park has no sidewalks surrounding it and no trail system within the park. If the City has enough funding to install a trail system within the park it would draw users of all kinds. Neighbors could bike, run and walk within the park where they currently have no option to do so. Users of the proposed paths could also connect to the Highline Canal Trail southeast of the park by using a series of bike lanes and hard surface trails in the neighborhood.

Bicycle Aurora is pleased to support a project that adds to our trail system and offers the surrounding neighborhood an alternative to driving. We would like to provide two bike racks to the project.

Your full support of this project would be appreciated by our members, as well as the many users of Fulton Park.

Sincerely,

Tom Tobiassen, Bicycle Aurora Arapahoe County Open Spaces Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee 6934 S. Lima St., Unit A Centennial, CO 80112

Re:

Grant Request for Fulton Park Renovation – 9920 E. 8th Ave., Aurora, CO 80010

Dear Members of the Board:

We visited **Fulton Park** as suggested to determine if the **soon-to-be resurfaced tennis court could be used for 2 - 4 pickleball courts**. **The very simple answer is YES - it would be ideal.** The measurement of the existing tennis court surface would allow for 2 courts running lengthwise or 4 courts running perpendicular to the existing court. All would have permanent posts/nets. The setting in the park allows for easy parking both in the lot and along the street. By engaging the community through beginner instruction clinics on both the weekend and weekday late afternoons we could **transform an old tennis surface that is seldom used into a vibrant, active and happy location for families to share a fun outdoor activity together.** 

We are committed to partnering with Aurora PROS and our group — PickleballParkProject.org to make this happen in a big way. Working with both the Denver Metro Pickleball Association (https://denvermetropickleball.org/) and Summit County Pickleball Association (https://www.summitpickleball.org/) members will gladly volunteer their time at the community clinics to bring a new & appealing activity to this diverse community.

We are ready and can provide "free pickleball paddle sets" to families who participate in the beginner clinics offered during the first month after resurfacing. Working with the local elementary school adjacent to the park, church associations, Del Mar community members and any social service organizations in the area, we can expect families from the neighborhood to join us on the new courts and share the "joy of pickleball."

This summer could be a transformative time for the Fulton Park neighborhood and beyond. And when this is successful, we will be ready to partner with you on the next neighborhood park.

Thank You.

Jimmy Margoles

PickleballParkProject.org