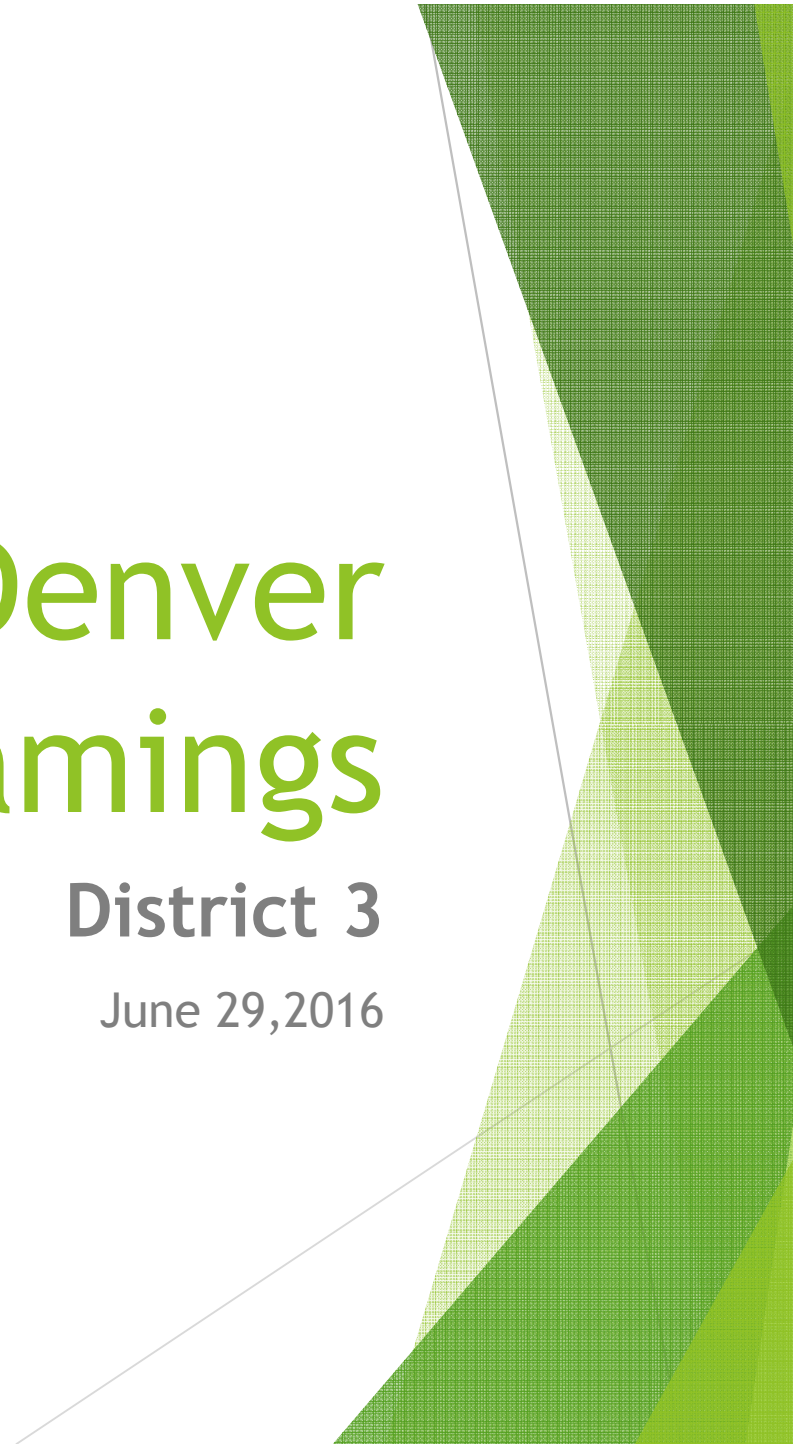


West Denver Park Renamings

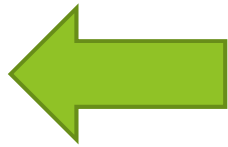
District 3

June 29, 2016



Celebrating District 3 Park Champions

Lucille Dreiling



For 40 years, Dreiling worked to turn the Weir Gulch, across the street from her house, into thriving parkland. She was a true community leader bringing people together from all walks of life, organizing clean-ups and advocating for improvements until her last days.



Born in Denver, and a life long resident of the Westside, except during his time in the military. Sandos was a community leader and activist who made it his life's work to improve the lives of Denver residents.



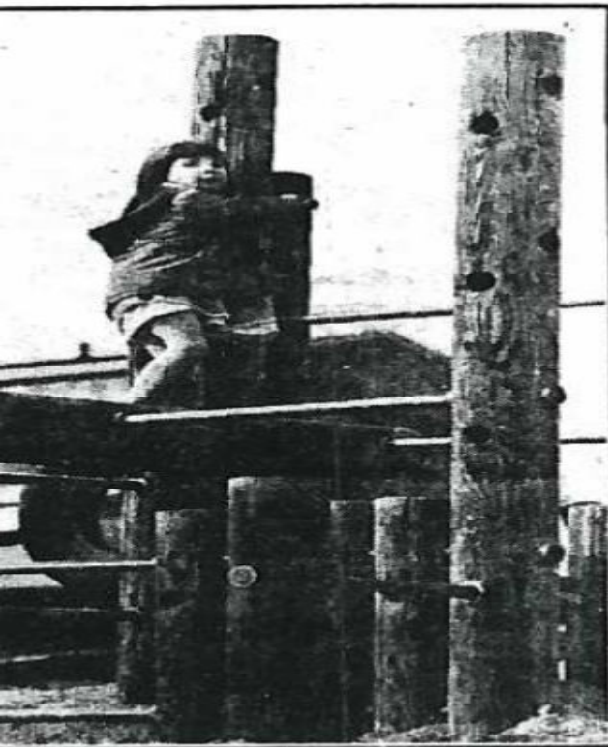
M.L. "Sam" Sandos





Photos for The Denver Post by G...

CH IS TAKING SHAPE AS A CITY PARK DECADES AFTER IT WAS PROMISED. VIEW ABOVE LOOKS NORTH; WINDSOR DRIVE IS ON RIGHT



HRDLICKA CLAMBERS ON GYM
to playgrounds have been equipped.

Bit by Bit, Weir Gulch Area Is Taking Shape, Thanks to Community Action

By LYLE SCHAEFER
Denver Post Correspondent

The name Windsor Drive conjures visions of royalty, green, lush meadows and gleaming castles. But somehow, the name just doesn't seem to fit!

For lying between this exotically named byway and Weir Drive in southwest Denver is Weir Gulch, which for 30 years has been a blight on the city landscape. More than three decades ago when the modest two- and three-bedroom frame houses were built, residents were assured that the gulch was slated to become a city park. Officials neglected to say how many decades later this was to happen.

A bicycle path was constructed several years ago, but bikes had little right of way as the paths became the haunt of everything from motorcycles to Volkswagens. Dandelions thrived and once they had matured, left thousands of seeds to fly away and germinate on neighborhood lawns. And during a heavy rain, normally insignificant Horny Toad Creek became an imitation South Platte River, flooding West Bayaud Avenue and threatening basements of adjacent dwellings. The only oases of green that appeared along the gulch were due to the efforts of citizens who stretched their garden hoses across the drive to provide sustenance for the thirsty soil and used their lawnmowers to manicure the vegetation.

BUT SOME CHANGES have been made. About two years ago, the city widened the creek channel and provided culverts so that the runoff would no longer flood the streets each time a heavy rain fell. But, more important, community action took place.

During the past year, VISTA volunteer Marshall Vanderburg of Tulsa, Okla., has aided residents in coordinating a

neighborhood project. Through HUD Community Development Agency, a federal grant of \$20,000 from Neighborhood Development Fund was approved. The first phase of this program, which runs from Bayaud and costs about \$14,000, has been under way since Aug. 30, 1980. Various groups in southwest Denver, including the now defunct Southwest Denver Improvement Association had advocated action in this area for years. Garcia, 180 Weir Drive, and Ruth Dreiling, 1610 Weir Drive, two longtime members of the various improvement associations, have headed the neighborhood project.

With the help of the Denver City Council and City Councilman Sam Sandos, the improvements were drawn and the federal funds obtained. About 200 neighbors chipped in, contributing about \$5,000 in labor.

FEDERAL FUNDS were used to lease equipment which was operated by able men of the neighborhood. The playground areas. So far, four exercise joggers or cyclists have been constructed along the path. Two playgrounds along the 100 block of Weir drives have been graded, sanded and equipped with trees costing about \$50 each have been planted and cared for by neighborhood volunteers. Equipment of basketball courts has been ordered and three now grace the area.

Plans are in progress for the second phase of the program, which would improve the area between Weir Drive and First avenues.

At present, grass has not been planted, so that a program of sprinkling equipment is needed to ensure green grass.

Weir Gulch Residents Present Complaints At Special Meeting

May 25, 1972

Residents living near Weir Gulch met with Denver City officials at a public meeting on Monday evening May 12 at Belmont Elementary School to discuss the future developments of the gulch. The meeting was a direct result of a petition signed by residents of the area. City Councilman J. Rosenberg of District 3. The following facts were presented at the meeting.

The area earmarked for the Weir and Sanderson Park was to be phase 1. \$1,000 was tabbed for

problems with Weir Gulch. It is miles long, is flooding, is located too close to the city and the lack of facilities.

Money was used to obtain the funds for the city. There is no fund.

The area is constantly flooding, residents say the city does not clear the area often enough to

\$30,000 was spent on the development of Barnum Park.

The money was used for sloping, planting grass and setting up ball fields.

The residents of the Weir Gulch area are asking for the city to clean the area and plant grass. An offer was made by the residents committee to plant the grass, and trees, if the city would supply them. Denver Parks and Recreation Department will donate 30 trees which are to be planted by residents and area Boy Scout volunteers Saturday, May 20 under the supervision of the Parks Department. Also seeding of grass is to be done by the Park and Recreation Department within a month in the area designated as a park.

The residents committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Ruth Dreiling of 160 S. Weir Drive, have undertaken the follow-through steps to insure the park is developed.

Members of Urban Drainage and Flood Control, Denver Parks and Recreation, Denver Wastewater Control and two Denver engineering firms were also at the meeting and gave information pertinent to the Gulch.

Weir Gulch Park Becomes Reality



Boy Scout group helps plant trees in new Weir Gulch Park. Left to right, back row: Mrs. Ruth Dreiling, chairman of the citizens committee to promote the improvement of Weir Gulch, Mr. David Kelly, Scout leader, Shirley Franklin. Front row: Phil Franklin, Gary Gatto, Mike Kulbeik, Tom Rubel and Gary Gatto.

Long hours of phoning and working culminated in beautifying Weir Gulch Park last Friday and Saturday, May 19 and 20. The area along Weir Gulch from Alameda to Bayaud on both sides of the creek has long been an eyesore for adjacent residents.

Mrs. Ruth Dreiling and her committee cleared and beautified the area.

SW Denverites honored Mayor

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e Navy Gill was
the USS Eaton

Destroyer were he earned
eight battle stars which are
given to crewmembers that
successfully engage in victo-
rious combat.

Nominated by
Councilwomen Ramona
Martinez, Ruth Dreiling a
retired state worker went to
the podium with the mayor
and stole the show. As she
leaned over to accept the
award she whispered joking-
ly into Webb's ear, "It's about
time, I have been waiting for
an award from the city for
over 40 years and four coun-
cil members." The Barnum
resident seemingly caught
the mayor off guard as he
announced what Dreiling
said.

Both individuals have
contributed a great deal to
their communities in differ-
ent ways. Drieling has been
instrumental in the construc-
tion of the Weir gulch proj-
ect which has seen a patch of
twelve foot weeds now
home a park with a play-
ground, trees, sod and a
bridge. Gill took on a park
project that has seen him

work with several city agen-
cies to employ a 75 feet tall,
1910 flagpole located in
Teikyo-Loretto Heights
Park. The flagpole was once
part of the Loretta sister's
farm. Gill has watched over
the flags for five years now.

Gill's flag pole fly's three
different flags on special hol-
idays. Individuals can see the
American Flag, the
Colorado Flag and the City
and County Flag of Denver.
Gill's efforts are not only to
keep the flag flying but also
hopes "to also preserve the
neighborhood."

Drieling has also helped
in her community.

Drieling over the last 40
years has changed an aban-
doned ditch into a beautiful
park complete with ameni-
ties. Her efforts haven't just
been limited to the park, she
is often times a lead individ-
ual in the process to help
fight for neighborhood
rights. "I hope the younger
people take an interest and
keep things going in the right
direction." Drieling said.



Two SW Residents (Frank Gill & Ruth Dreiling) chosen "Neighbors of the Year" and presented awards by the Mayor. - see page 10

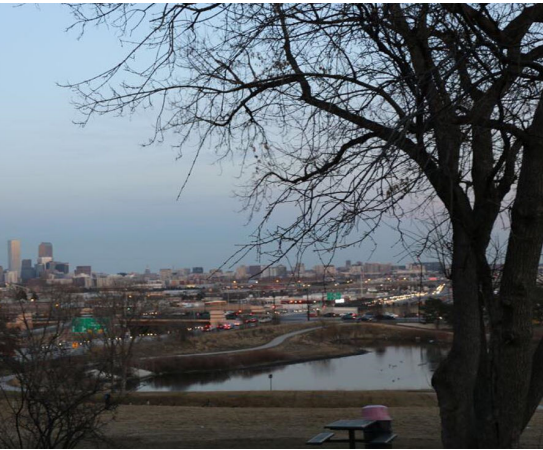
Sandos' work in the Community



- ▶ During his time in the Mayor's Office of Youth Affairs worked to improve park space along the gulches and set up youth centers throughout Denver.
- ▶ Served on Denver City Council representing Council District 3 from 1975 - '87 as one of the first Hispanic Council members in Denver.
- ▶ Did much of his community organizing with local churches and community groups.
- ▶ Helped complete the improvements of Barnum North Park during his time on Council.

A Legacy Felt throughout Denver

Improvements in West Denver



Located on 12th and Federal, this is Denver Health's busiest community health clinic.

For over 35 years, volunteers have delivered thousands of Christmas baskets to those most in need.



Since its founding in 1980, \$1 million in scholarships have been given to students.