

Testimony of Bridget Walsh
Denver City Council Public Hearing / 6/13/2016
CB16-0306
Storm Water Fee Increase
Member of City Park Friends and Neighbors (CPFAN)/ Park Hill Resident

Please vote "No" on the ill-conceived and expensive Platte to Park Hill Drainage Project . Neighbors have not been given enough information about this rushed project.

CPFAN soundly rejects the use of park land, City Park Golf Course, on the National and State Registers of Historic Places, for a non park use, an engineered, storm water detention sump. We also condemn putting a large, open, dirt trench in a Superfund Site ,in the Cole neighborhood, that will attract mosquitoes and pose significant, undisclosed health and safety issues for neighbors.

The charge of the city is to preserve parks for park and recreational use. An engineered storm water detention pond is not a park use. Further , the City Charter states that the sale or lease of park land for any other use shall be be a vote of the people. That is clearly missing in this instance. See Attorney Goldhamer's letter to City Attorney: <http://blogs.denverpost.com/thespot/files/2016/04/4.4.16-ADG-Ltr-to-Mr.-Martinez.pdf>


I share unanswered questions and concerns expressed by many of my neighbors:

•Platte to Park Hill provides flood protection for I-70, RTD, and new development in the “Corridor of Opportunity.”

- Why should Denver homeowners pay for a project that does not address storm water flooding for homes in Denver neighborhoods?
- Why should Denver homeowners – rather than the project developers – pay for flood protection for I-70, RTD, and new development in the “Corridor of Opportunity”?
- Why does the city keep telling us that the project is unrelated to I-70, when numerous public documents – and common sense – tell us that it is for I-70 and related development? Why is there no EIS for affected neighborhoods and parks?
- How can the city claim to care about cost of housing yet plan to double fees for Denver homeowners to subsidize new development?

- Why did the city wait until November, 2015, to begin talking about the Cole open channel and digging up the City Park Golf Course, when they knew about it from at least January, 2015?
- Why did the city rush the I-70 Intergovernmental Agreement (including the timeline for this plan) through the lame duck Council in June, 2015?
- Why won't the city address the numerous questions raised about this plan by neighbors? Digging up unmitigated Superfund sites will endanger all residents of Denver.
- Why did City Council go on a junket with over 100 parties with vested interest in their vote on this plan? Did they buy your vote?
- Why don't neighborhood, community, and citizen voices matter? The GSBM so called public process was a sham It publicized the Mayor's agenda but did not educate the public about the safety, health and heritage risks that they were being asked to assume .

I ask you to vote No on CB16-0306, then start an honest and transparent conversation about stormwater drainage. We need to:

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- Use homeowners' money for existing flooding issues, based on the 2014 Stormwater Master Plan's \$1.5B list of projects
 - Ask for the investors in the I-70, North Denver Collaborative, RTD North Metro, and National Western Center redevelopment projects to fund their own infrastructure.
 - Require future residential fee increases to be voted on by Council
 - Thank you.