

Northside Park sits in Denver's Globeville neighborhood. Over the years waves of immigrants from across the world seeking economic opportunity settled in Globeville creating a unique neighborhood. Today the community is being transformed. Development of the National Western Center, redevelopment of Brighton Boulevard, expansion of I-70, and new rail service is rapidly changing the neighborhood, bringing new opportunity and residents to the area. During a time of change, it is important that we recognize the leaders of the past who set the stage for today's opportunities. Renaming Northside Park to Carpio-Sanguinette Park recognizes the contributions of early immigrant families to the history of Denver and the significant contribution of former City Councilman Salvadore "Sal" Carpio. The renamed park will remind generations to come of the legacy and contributions upon which their community was built.

Italian immigrant brothers Louis and William Sanguinette came to the United States in 1853 with their parents and eight other siblings. By 1876 they were grocers living near the Denver Pacific Junction in North Denver. Louis purchased land at 40th Ave. and Walnut in 1874, which remained in the family until the 1970s. Louis soon acquired an additional 10 acres of farmland east of Washington Street between 50th and 51st Streets. In 1880 Louis joined a movement to protest the use of the Platte River as a dumping ground. His strongly-worded letter about the damage caused to animals and people who relied on the polluted water made the front page of the *Rocky Mountain News*. By 1900 the Sanguinette farm was a triangle slice of land with the longest edge along 51st Street. The eastern tip of their property abutted James Tynon's property, which today makes up the bulk of Northside Park. The family acquired Globeville School, which was opposite the northwest corner of the farm. The one room log cabin became the Sanguinetti's dining room when the school was upgraded to a brick school house in 1890.

Louis and his wife, Mary, raised eight children on the farm in Globeville. Family history suggests that the Sanguinette farm was best known "for its celery, crisp, sweet and almost white in appearance." As the family grew and changed some ventured out to new vocations away from the farm. By 1920 sons Peter, John and James lived at the farm and did so through 1940. James' son, Walter, farmed the land with father. His brother Albert worked in a nearby meat packing facility. Albert and his wife still live in Globeville, less than a block from the farm their family cultivated for generations. In 1937 Denver Water acquired a portion of the property for a treatment plant. The plant was decommissioned in 1966. The land became a public eyesore and dumping ground.

Salvadore "Sal" Carpio was dedicated and committed to the citizens of Denver. His accomplishments improved the lives of thousands. He was a champion for those he served and a visionary that helped make Denver the city it is today. Carpio's family settled in Globeville when Sal was two years old. He attended Garden Place Elementary and later Mt. Carmel High School when his family moved to North Denver.

Carpio's political career began in May 1974 when he was elected to represent District 9 on Denver City Council. District 9 was a sprawling crescent-shaped district that stretched from I-70 on the north to Mississippi on the south, and Colorado Blvd. on the east to Federal on the West. It included the neighborhoods of Globeville, Swansea, Elyria, RINO, Sunnyside, Chaffee Park, Lower Highlands, Jefferson Park, Central Plate Valley, Curtis Park, Lower Downton, La Alma Lincoln Park, Baker, Broadway Market and the Gates site along Santa Fe.

Carpio made significant and lasting contributions to the City and County of Denver and the park system during his tenure. In 1976 he authored the Neighborhood Notification Ordinance. The ordinance provided neighborhoods a formal voice in land use decisions in their community. As a result, the number of neighborhood associations has grown from 25 to 186. Denver's neighborhood associations are now key stakeholders and participants in decisions that impact their residents.

The expansion of parks in his district is a lasting legacy. Carpio convinced his colleagues to purchase properties that had incompatible zoning and land uses at 29th Avenue, Speer Blvd and Federal Blvd. What the yard signs once referred to as "Carpio's Folly" is now Viking Park, a beautiful entrance to north Denver.

The redevelopment of the 50 acre Central Platte Valley was the brainchild of Councilman Carpio. Where there were once abandoned railroad yards, today there is housing and parkland for thousands of Denver residents. The Platte Valley is home to Confluence Park, Commons Park, City of Cuernavaca Park and miles of trails along the Platte River. In addition, he was a catalyst for the construction of nine recreation centers in District 9.

Carpio also secured funding to acquire the vacant, trash-filled eyesore that was once the site of the Northside Water Treatment plant. Carpio partnered with Mayors McNichols and Pena to transform the blighted area into Northside Park, which was completed in 1995.

Carpio's contributions to the City were not limited to his service on City Council. He made significant and lasting contributions during his tenure as Executive Director at Denver Housing Authority (DHA). Carpio transformed thousands of lives by providing safe, affordable housing. Under Carpio's leadership DHA garnered three national U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HOPE VI grants to revitalize Quigg Newton Homes, Curtis Park Homes and Park Avenue housing. He guided the agency in the redevelopment and modernization of the North Lincoln Park Homes, Barney Ford Heights, Walsh Annex Thomas Connole, Thomas Bean Towers and Hirschfeld Towers, Walsh Manor and Mallory Apartments. As a result, the quality of lives of the residents in these communities was dramatically improved. The office of the Inspector General recognized his leadership and administrative skill in recognizing DHA for the financial controls and efficient administration of federal funds under Carpio.

Carpio was a complex man. Following the death of his son in 1995, Carpio had a public struggle with alcohol abuse. He won the struggle and served as a role model for others. He was sober for the last nineteen years of his life.

Renaming the park to Carpio-Sanguinette Park recognizes the people who provided the foundation upon which today's Globeville is being built and will be an ongoing reminder to future generations of the contributions an immigrant family and a visionary leader made to our community.