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Buchanan Park Land Acquisition is Finalized

EVERGREEN, CO (July 11, 2019) --

Evergreen Park & Recreation District (EPRD), in partnership with The Trust for Public Land, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), and Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS), today announced, after nearly 20 years of negotiations, the acquisition of 2.2 acres of land which will complete the Buchanan Park area in north Evergreen. This previously privately-owned residential property joins Buchanan Park owned by EPRD and Bergen Park, owned by City and County of Denver together to form 65 acres of contiguous parkland between the two parks and Elk Meadow.

The land was purchased for \$850,000. GOCO invested \$350,000 and JCOS invested \$250,000. The remaining \$250,000 was invested by EPRD through the Fees-in-Lieu of Parkland reserves (Senate Bill 35), which are funds specifically earmarked for land acquisition or capital improvements on park lands. It has been a long-term goal for EPRD to acquire this land. The vision for EPRD to own the land known as Buchanan Park started in 1994 and has been strongly supported by the community through various bond measures in 1994, 2000, and 2005. In fact, a recent survey by EPRD in 2018 reaffirmed acquiring this remaining 2.2 acres of land was a highly desirable request of the community. The Trust for Public Land helped EPRD acquire some of the first property for Buchanan Park back in 2000 and was happy to complete the original vision with this final acquisition. The alignment of a willing seller, availability of funds, market conditions, well-timed grant cycles, and community support all fell in place.

Ellen O'Connor, EPRD Executive Director, stated "It is wonderful to see a vision that started so many years ago is finally complete. This would not have been possible without the support of Hillary Merritt, a Senior Project Manager at The Trust for Public Land, GOCO, and JCOS and we are grateful for their contributions."

"This newly expanded park will provide outdoor access for thousands of people in our region," said Jim Petterson, Colorado State Director for The Trust for Public Land, "We're proud to be working with this exceptional group of partners to help ensure that everyone in the Evergreen and Denver communities has access to a park."

The land, which sits on the northwest corner of Buchanan Park was seen as a key piece in keeping the parks connected and preventing future private development of condos on the land. Peter Eggers, community member and former EPRD board member, commented "Exactly nineteen years ago this week, July 10, 2000, the EPRD Board voted to support the vision of the Evergreen Land Community Coalition (ELCC) and The Trust for Public Land to purchase some property for public open space. This became the foundation for the purchase of the remaining parcels in what is now called Buchanan Park. This vision is now complete. Thanks to the EPRD Board of Directors who kept this dream alive." This year

marks EPRD's 50th anniversary and this land acquisition certainly gives EPRD another reason to celebrate in 2019.

The previous land owner will continue to reside in the residence for the next two years. After that time, EPRD will identify appropriate and feasible recreational uses for the property. "It is wonderful EPRD was able to finalize this acquisition and I feel the community can be very proud of what has been accomplished for future generations" mentioned Bill May, President of the EPRD Board of Directors.



About EPRD, GOCO, TPL, and JCOS

[Evergreen Park & Recreation District \(EPRD\)](#) was formed in 1969 and is celebrating their 50th Anniversary in 2019! EPRD was created to serve the park and recreation needs of the communities of Evergreen, Bergen Park, Indian Hills, Kittredge and Marshdale. The citizens of the EPRD area place high value in their parks, recreation facilities and programs as an enhancement to the community's quality of life. This commitment is embodied in the District's strong parks and recreation system, with its high-quality facilities such as Buchanan Park Recreation Center, Wulf Recreation Center and Evergreen Lake House.

EPRD serves approximately 23,000 people residing within its boundaries, and offers affordable recreational options to non-district residents. Learn more at evergreenrecreation.com.

[Great Outdoors Colorado \(GOCO\)](#) invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's parks, trails, wildlife, rivers, and open spaces. GOCO's independent board awards competitive grants to local governments and land trusts, and makes investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Created when voters approved a Constitutional Amendment in 1992, GOCO has since funded more than 5,200 projects in urban and rural areas in all 64 counties without any tax dollar support. Visit GOCO.org for more information.

[The Trust for Public Land](#) creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. Millions of people live near a Trust for Public Land park, garden, or natural area, and millions more visit these sites every year. To support The Trust for Public Land and share why nature matters to you, visit www.tpl.org.

[Jeffco Open Space](#) was founded as a land conservation organization in 1972. Our mission is to preserve open space and parkland, protect park and natural resources, and provide healthy, nature-based experiences. Funded with a one-half of one percent sales tax, our organization contributes to city and park district projects, has preserved more than 56,000 acres, and manages 28 open space parks and more than 244 miles of trails in Jefferson County, Colorado. For more information, visit <https://www.jeffco.us/open-space>

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