

# JEFFERSON PARK NEWS

JPUN.ORG SEPTEMBER 2020

## Three Campsites for Homeless Still Considered for Jefferson Park

Topic will be discussed at JPUN's September 8 Zoom Meeting

The pandemic has seemed to shine light on the city's lack of credible solutions to assist Denver's homeless population. Recent sweeps in City Park and at Morey Middle school have just dispersed campsites to other areas. of the city. The city is actively assessing outdoor sites around that could house these encampments. Three of those potential Safe Outdoor Space (SOS) sites could be housed in or adjacent to Jefferson Park.

### A Brief History

#### April

Eight Denver City Council members write Mayor Hancock asking him to create a temporary encampment "where those who have not been using shelters can be better protected in a safe, healthy, secure environment that provides access to the resources required to slow the spread of the virus."

#### July

The Mayor responds asking those council members to recommend SOS lots in their district that cover 10,000-square-feet, allow for 50 tents and include a restroom, shower and common space.

District 1 Councilwoman Sandoval provides **Riverside Church** and **Downtown Aquarium** parking lots within Jefferson Park. Councilwoman Torres, who represents District 3 (west-central Denver), suggested one site: the parking lot at 1635 Bryant St. outside **Mile High Stadium**

JPUN contacted Councilwoman Sandoval expressing concerns with the three Jefferson Park SOS sites. Her response is on Page 3

#### August

The Denver Coliseum was under serious consideration as the city's first SOS site. Backlash from two Council members as well as residents who state the shelter at the National Western Complex has led to more illicit activity along with strangers sleeping near their homes, in their alleys and around their parks making them fearful.

#### September

Denver City Council approved a 10-year, \$20 million lease for a new homeless shelter on 48th Street, which could host up to 450 people. Before the site can open, the building needs new restrooms, showers, heating and air conditioning improvements. While helpful it does not adequately provide for those who do not feel safe in a shelter and want an outdoor encampment. As Fall approaches the city is still looking for an adequate SOS site.

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### VIRTUAL MEETINGS

#### JPUN VIRTUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Zoom Meeting ID: 899 545 6713  
Password: jefferson  
Call-In: 312-626-6799

Tuesday, September 8, 6:30-8:00pm

Tuesday, October 13, 6:30-8:00pm

All are welcome

#### LAND-USE VIRTUAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Zoom Meeting ID: 899 545 6713  
Password: jefferson  
Call-In: 312-626-6799

Thursday, September 3, 6:30-8:00pm

Thursday, October 1, 6:30-8:00pm

All are welcome

#### COUNCILWOMAN SANDOVAL VIRTUAL COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

Friday, September 11, 11:00am-1:00pm

Friday, September 18, 11:00am-1:00pm

Reserve a spot at:  
[bit.ly/CD1OFFICEHOURS](https://bit.ly/CD1OFFICEHOURS)

MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT TO SUPPORT JPUN As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, your JPUN contribution is tax deductible. Send your contribution to: 2001 Eliot St. Denver, CO 80211

Join Our Mailing List at JPUN.org E-NEWSLETTER DRIVE All copy/photos/advertisements submitted to our Jefferson Park United Neighbors Newsletter will be edited and reviewed by our volunteer staff for style, grammar and content. JPUN reserves the right to refuse publication of any submitted material that does not meet our standards for a positive, educational community newsletter.

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU Email any stories, comments or ideas to our Editor at: [newsletter@jpun.org](mailto:newsletter@jpun.org)

In lieu of Jefferson Park Day Clean Up JPUN is working with Councilperson Sandoval and other RNOs to help clean up Northwest Denver's Parks.

Participants will need to go to this link to register. You must register and sign a waiver to participate.

[Volunteer Sign Up Form for NW Denver Park Clean Up Day](#)

Trash bags and gloves will be provided.

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## Northwest Denver Park Cleanup Saturday, September 26 - 9am Jefferson Park Playground



## RIVERSIDE DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT

Riverside Church will host a free Drive-In Movie Night on September 11 and 18. Parking lot will open at 7pm. The FLC restrooms will be available. Audio will be broadcast to your car radio. Bring your own drinks and snacks. Please follow social distancing guidelines and wear masks when interacting and using the facilities. At press time space had neared capacity.

<https://www.riversidedenver.com/drivein-neighborhood>



Sept 11 Movie



Sept 18 Movie

## A Note from the JPUN Newsletter Team

A lot has changed these past few months. We send positive thoughts to those both directly and indirectly affected by COVID-19. This pandemic has shown the importance of family, home and community. Having local businesses nearby to provide essentials and being able to recreate however briefly in our namesake park has been a blessing.

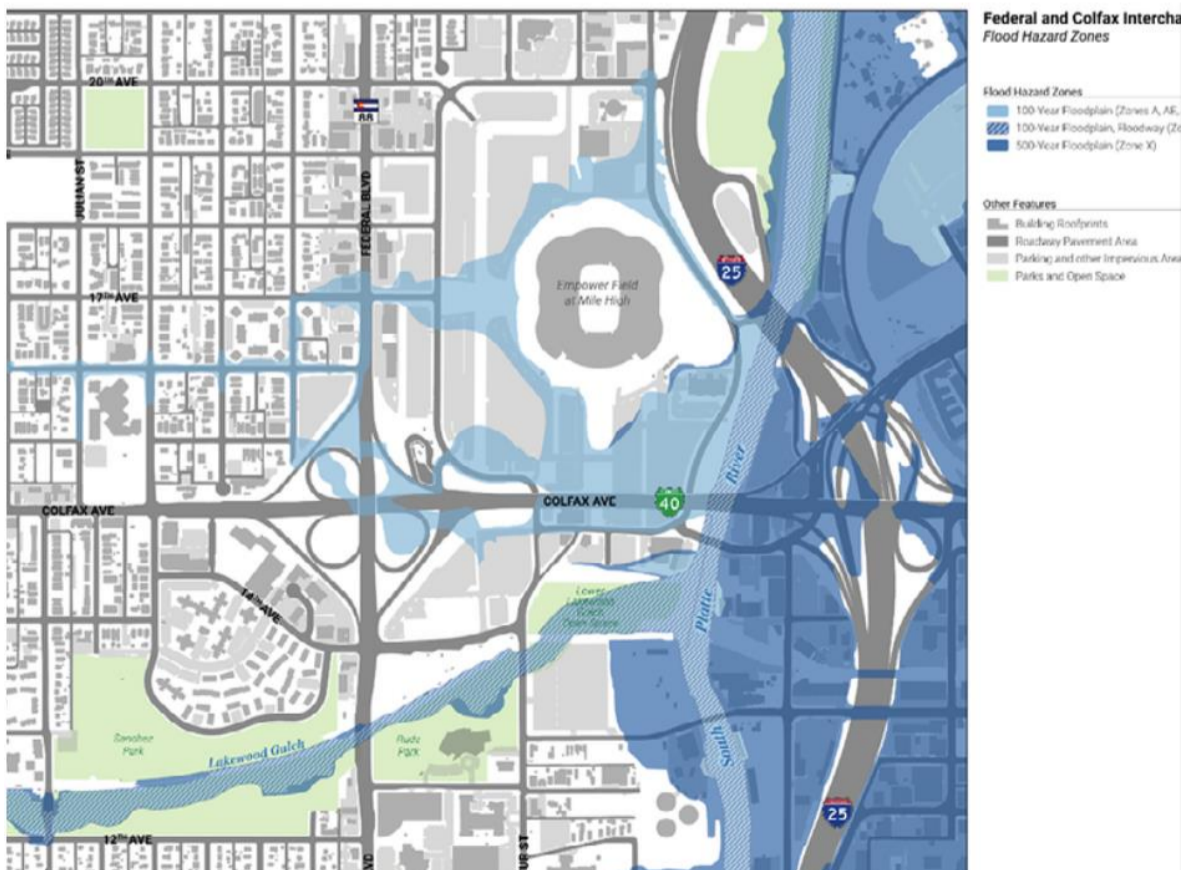
As you may have noticed this newsletter is a bit different than normal. To ensure the safety of our newsletter carriers and residents we will temporarily go to an all-digital format. As always, your comments and especially your stories are welcome at [info@jpun.org](mailto:info@jpun.org).

JPUN has also changed the look of our website. We are adding more content and looking at ways to better provide useful information to residents.

We look forward to a new normal, holding Music@JeffersonPark Concerts and even in person meetings.

For the time being please stay safe and we will see you on our General Membership and Land Use Zoom meetings held each month. Details can be found to the left of this page.

## COLFAX & FEDERAL INTERCHANGE TRANSFORMATION STORMWATER NEWSLETTER



Floodplain areas in and around Colfax and Federal Interchange

While this may not be considered summer blockbuster reading it will lead to many more sequels. This type of infrastructure report will help Denver and CDOT analyze the possible transformation of the Federal Colfax Interchange.

Many groups (Colfax BID in particular) are pushing for a better multimodal solution along commercial development in the substantial amount of space dedicated to off and on ramps near the heart of our city.

Information about the areas history, floodplain and future can be found by clicking this link.

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/77ET38QkaeZll/>

## Three Campsites for Homeless

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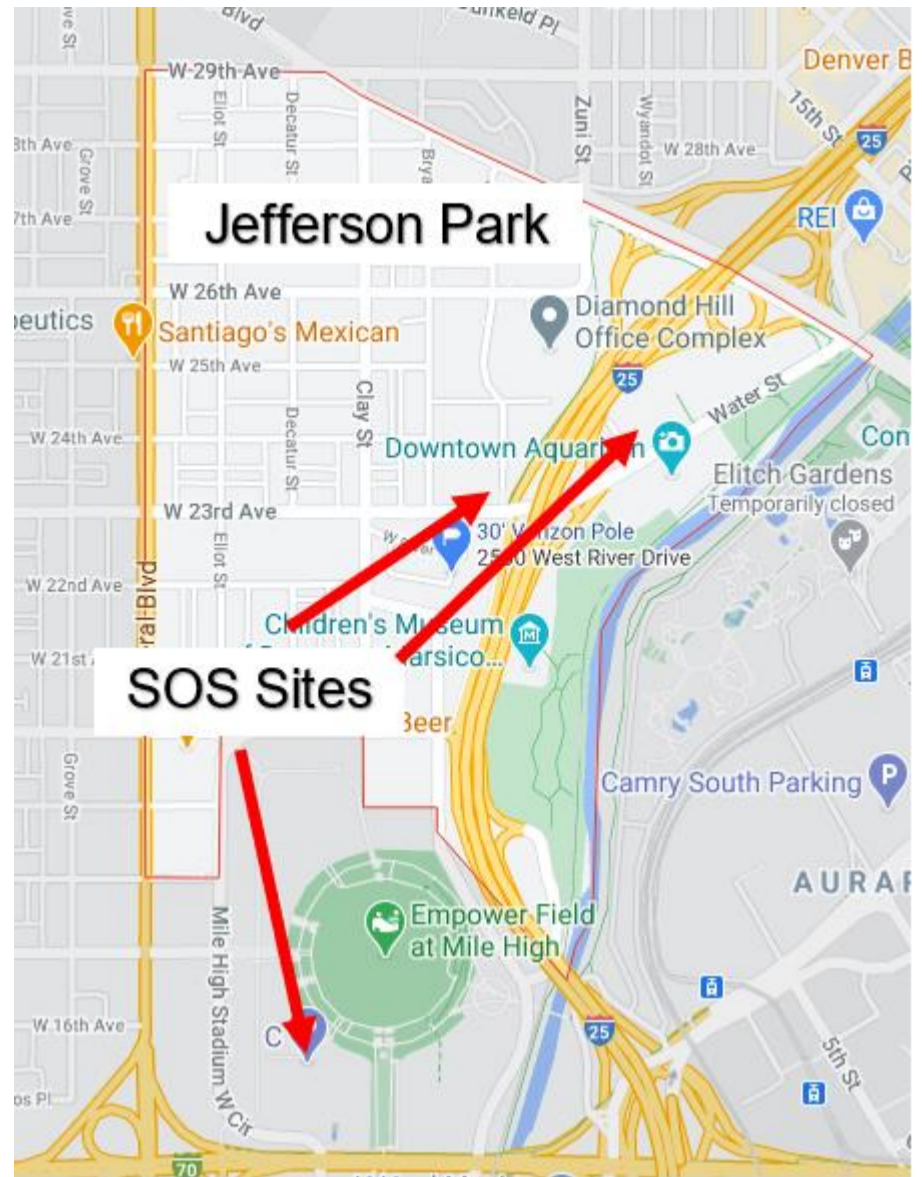
Councilwoman’s Sandoval’s SOS decision and response to JPUN in her September Newsletter.

“My office responded to Mayor Hancock’s request and I submitted two possible locations within District 1 which met the criteria for a Safe Outdoor Space (SOS), a temporary outdoor safe space for people experiencing homelessness during the COVID19 pandemic). The two locations were Riverside Baptist Church and the parking lot across from Fishback Park on Water St. (across from Aquarium, near the Speer Blvd bridge). My office has had very limited information provided or shared from the Mayor’s administration since I suggested these two sites.

Our office received concerns from members of the Jefferson Park Neighborhood regarding the inclusion of Riverside Baptist Church parking lot as a possible location. The Mayor’s office has reached out and tried to engage with the church leadership, but they are in the midst of a leadership transition. As a result, that site is not likely.

The Mayor’s office has informed me the nonprofits that would operate the first SOS have raised enough money for six months of operations. Mayor Hancock will likely propose City funding to help support one or two more sites. I believe City Council would have to approve the funding, as City Council votes on any city contract at or above \$500,000. Community engagement is key to the success of this initiative and I have asked the Mayor’s office to notify me the moment a site in Northwest Denver is under consideration so I can ensure your voices and your concerns are heard and address by his administration.

If there are any additional concerns on this matter, please feel free to contact my office.”



Potential SOS Sites in Jefferson Park

Councilwoman Sandoval’s office would like to thank those who participated in the SOS Survey. [Please click this link to see the results from the survey.](#)

## Arts & Venues Launches Three New Virtual Experiences, Extends Dates for McNichols Building Summer Exhibitions

Denver Arts & Venues is pleased to announce three new virtual experiences, “Listen,” “Women of Color on the Frontlines” and “Kintsugi: The Art of Healing, Finding Beauty in Repair,” and the extension of McNichols Civic Center Building summer exhibitions, “Queer City of the Plains” and “Lavender Mist.”

The virtual experiences and additional online components of the McNichols Building exhibits showcase how Arts & Venues is pivoting to provide cultural experiences through a digital landscape during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Listen” is an audio experience hosted at [McNicholsBuilding.com](http://McNicholsBuilding.com). Originally conceived as a listening station housed in a classic telephone booth, participants can now listen online to authentic stories told by men who spent more than 20 years in prison.

“Women of Color on the Front Lines” is a virtual exhibit also hosted on the [McNichols Building website](http://McNichols Building website). It showcases portraits based on photos submitted by women in health care donning their personal protective equipment. The portraits, all created by women artists, vary from watercolor to pop art to cross-stitch.

Based on the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery by mending the pieces with gold, “Kintsugi: The Art of Healing, Finding Beauty in Repair” highlights how the art form is a metaphor of our own healing. Kintsugi teaches the process of repairing cracks between broken pieces and building resilience and strength. Hosted on [ArtsandVenues.com](http://ArtsandVenues.com), this partnership will include four Friday online artist workshops on topics such as movement, karate, matcha and dumpling making. The partnership will also include other digital components such as a wellness market and a virtual Kintsugi quilt made from community members’ social media posts responding to #IAmNotBroken.

The digital experiences can be found at [McNicholsBuilding.com](http://McNicholsBuilding.com).



## Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

The Denver Department of Public Health and Environment (DDPHE) is drafting a policy to prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products in Denver with expected legislation to come before City Council this fall.

At JPUN's September 8 meeting, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids will provide an overview of this legislation and provide information on the prevalence of flavored tobacco use among Denver kids. E-cigarettes and vaping devices are designed to be hidden from parents and teachers. Many look like pens or flash drives. They make hoodies designed to conceal vaping devices.

Why is this an issue for Denver?

- The introduction of flavored e-cigarettes has reversed 20 years of progress made in reducing youth tobacco use.
- From 2017 to 2019, e-cigarette use more than doubled among high school students and more than tripled among middle school students.
- E-cigarettes are available in over 15,000 flavors including cotton candy, gummy bear and pink lemonade.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of youth e-cigarette users use flavored products.
- Flavors hide the fact that e-cigarettes can deliver massive doses of nicotine. Popular brands like Juul deliver as much nicotine in one cartridge as a whole pack of cigarettes.

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids is working with American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, American Heart Association, Denver Health, Children's Hospital of Colorado, National Jewish and Healthier Colorado all supporting the ban on e-cigarettes.

More information can be found at <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/>



## Love Denver's shared and open streets? Help Denver Streets Partnership keep them!

During the pandemic Denver created several shared and open streets (like Northeast corner of Sloans Lake w limited car access) which catered to pedestrian and cycling traffic. One section of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue increased bike/ped traffic by nearly 300%. Denver plans on keeping these open streets until the end of the fall. Denver Streets Partnership (DSP) is asking for you help in making these changes permanent.

- [Send an email](#) to city officials to let them know that our shared streets and car-free parks deserve to be maintained for the safety and enjoyment of our community. Use the Denver Bicycle Lobby's [email generation tool](#).

- [Sign the petition](#) to keep Larimer Square car-free. DSP is there every afternoon offering free bike repairs, street art, and a 10-minute ride with a Neighborhood Navigator. Let city officials know that you want to [keep Larimer open!](#)



- [Submit a design](#) for the Shared Streets Competition! The American Planning Association - Colorado Sustainability Committee invites you to document a shared street or street closure that occurred in response to COVID-19. A variety of media is encouraged; all submissions will be recognized and shared for a multimedia presentation later this year. More information including starter questions and submission guidelines [can be found here](#).

Sloans Lake Open Street

## Nine-story apartment building scheduled for Sun Valley in 2021

Plans have been submitted for Mile High Studios, a 166-unit apartment complex with 28 studios, 96 one bedrooms and 42 two bedrooms. The complex will have 143 parking spaces on the first and second floors.

The apartments are being developed with the potential of income-restricted units. If less parking is needed, they can convert the parking area to more residential units in the future. The site is just off Decatur and 13<sup>th</sup> Ave and blocks away from the Decatur Light Rail Station.

This project will coincide with Denver Housing Authority (DHA) who is currently building 187 unit three-building development along 10th Avenue in Sun Valley. DHA's development will be a mixture of market-rate units and those with affordability restrictions.



Park Cleanup

Continued from page 1 >>

**Here are some guidelines the City has put together to have a safe and successful event.**

- ❖ Please stay home if you have a fever, cough or shortness of breath.
- ❖ We also recommend that those who are immunocompromised or otherwise at a higher health risk stay home.
- ❖ Wear a cloth mask at all times.
  - Working with a mask on may contribute to heat-related illness, so take extra breaks and drink lots of water.
- ❖ Maintain physical distancing of at least 6' from other workers when possible, unless you are from the same household.
- ❖ Practice good hygiene. Don't touch your face. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds if possible – or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content.
- ❖ Avoid sharing tools if possible. If you must share tools, wear gloves.
- ❖ Clean and sanitize tools.
- ❖ Bring your own hand sanitizer
- ❖ Bring your own water
- ❖ Sign Attached liability waiver and bring with you
- ❖ Wear sunscreen
- ❖ Sturdy footwear (no open toe shoes)
- ❖ Do not pick up needles. If volunteers come across any, inform the point contact so we can have park staff dispose of them safely

**NORTHWEST DENVER  
PARK CLEANUP!  
SAT, SEPT 26TH  
8:30 - 9:30 AM**

To participate, sign up at  
[bit.ly/parkclean](https://bit.ly/parkclean) & our office will  
connect you with your partnering  
Registered Neighborhood Organization

# VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK!

We received over **1,000 responses** to our corridor surveys, and are excited to share with you bikeway updates and design changes! Learn how we used your input to improve the bikeway concept designs and future corridor improvements as part of the **Northwest Community Transportation Networks**.

### Meeting Details



**Northwest Community Transportation Networks**

*Wednesday, September 23rd from 5:30-6:30pm*

Spanish interpretation will be available at this meeting.

Here's how to join the meeting:



Visit [www.ctnvirtualopenhouse.com](http://www.ctnvirtualopenhouse.com)



Call **855-531-1061**



Questions or comments?

1. Visit the project website at [bit.ly/DenverMovesNetwork](http://bit.ly/DenverMovesNetwork)
2. Email the project team at [DenverMoves@denvergov.org](mailto:DenverMoves@denvergov.org) and include "Northwest" or a specific street in the subject line.
3. Call the project hotline **303-223-6575**

For public accommodation requests/concerns, please contact: [DisabilityAccess@denvergov.org](mailto:DisabilityAccess@denvergov.org).



**DENVER**  
TRANSPORTATION &  
INFRASTRUCTURE

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## ASK A PLANNER!

Friday, Sept. 25th  
8:00 - 10:00 AM

**TOPIC: Affordable Housing  
Zoning Incentive**

Denver Community Planning and Development is partnering with the Office of Housing Stability (HOST) to find ways to encourage construction of affordable & mixed-income housing, particularly in transit-rich areas. City planners are working with community members & an advisory committee composed of residents, affordable housing advocates, City Council members, local housing builders, & others to create a citywide incentive program through updates to the Denver Zoning Code (DZC) & Denver Revised Municipal Code (DRMC).

### REGISTER TODAY!

[bit.ly/RegisterToAskAPlanner](http://bit.ly/RegisterToAskAPlanner)

JOIN Councilwoman Sandoval & The Principal City Planner of Denver's Affordable Housing Zoning Incentive

ASK & SHARE your questions & comments on Denver's Affordable Housing Zoning Incentive

LEARN how to access resources, find information & understand processes related to this project

## BRONCOS TO OFFER FANS A CHANCE TO "ATTEND" GAMES THROUGH CUTOUT PROGRAM

The Broncos want to provide you with an opportunity to be a part of the gameday experience while supporting a great cause. For \$100—with all of the net proceeds benefiting Denver Broncos Charities—you can purchase a fan cutout with the image of your choice and be in attendance when the Broncos take the field. For more details please click this link.

<https://shop.fancutouts.com/products/denver-broncos-fancutout>



All copy/photos/advertisements submitted to our Jefferson Park United Neighbors Newsletter will be edited and reviewed by our volunteer staff for style, grammar and content. JPUN reserves the right to refuse publication of any submitted material that does not meet our standards for a positive, educational community newsletter.

