



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Groundbreaking - Cranmer Park Sundial & Plaza Reconstruction

The Park People's community-driven Save Our Sundial campaign comes to fruition

DENVER, Colo. - The City of Denver broke ground on the reconstruction of the Cranmer Park Sundial and Plaza in a ceremony on Mon., Dec. 18. This extensive \$2 million renovation project follows the multi-year *Save Our Sundial* fundraising campaign spearheaded by The Park People, a forty-nine year-old a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, in partnership with community leaders.

Following speeches by representatives from the City, The Park People, and the community, District 5 City Councilwoman Mary Beth Susman, *Save Our Sundial* Committee Co-Chair Denise Sanderson, The Park People's Executive Director Kim Yuan-Farrell, and Executive Director of Denver Parks and Recreation Happy Haynes knelt beside the historic 6-foot sundial to chisel out the first pieces of stone to be removed from the expansive flagstone plaza, signaling the start of construction. In attendance were community residents and supporters of the project.

"We're thrilled to have been a part of The Park People's work rallying the community. The sundial is a unique treasure that helps make Denver such a special place to live. We need to protect these public treasures throughout the state for our children and grandchildren," said Jenna Stapleton of the Stapleton Family which supported the campaign with matching funds through the Harmes C. Fishback Foundation.

Since 2014, The Park People has worked in partnership with community leaders and Denver's Departments of Parks and Recreation and Arts and Venues to raise funds to restore the giant sundial at Cranmer Park and the grand flagstone terrace upon which it sits. The terrace was crafted out of Colorado flagstone in the 1930s and has a colorful mosaic panorama depicting the Front Range mountains visible from the park. Sundial Park, as it is

commonly known, is enjoyed by tens of thousands of Denver metro area residents each year for activities including sporting events, daily walks and picnics, engagements, weddings, and graduation photos.

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Save Our Sundial Groundbreaking 2-2-2

“Unfortunately, the plaza is crumbling apart. Earlier this fall, it was fenced off due to safety concerns,” says The Park People’s Executive Director, Kim Yuan-Farrell. “This reconstruction will breathe new life into the site, replacing old construction practices with contemporary construction methods and an adequate drainage system to enable the plaza to endure Colorado’s freeze-thaw weather.”

The \$2 million project will entirely reconstruct the plaza and is anticipated to be completed by October 2018. Track the construction project and donate to the Sundial Preservation Endowment Fund at www.SaveOurSundial.com.

The Park People is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works to preserve, enhance, and advocate for Denver’s parks, recreation resources, open space, and urban forest. The nonprofit has infused tens of millions of dollars into the city's public spaces, trained hundreds of Community Forester volunteers, and planted more than 50,000 trees through its *Denver Digs Trees* program.

www.TheParkPeople.org <https://www.facebook.com/ParkPeopleDen>

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