



MORSE PARK

Sustainable Neighborhood

Our ideas. Our neighborhood. Our home.



About the City of Lakewood

Sustainable Neighborhoods Program

We are coming up on completing our first year in the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program. The program gives residents the opportunity to become active partners in making Lakewood a vibrant and sustainable community. Neighborhoods participating in this unique certification program use guidance from City staff to organize workshops, projects and events that enhance the livability of our neighborhood and reduce residents' ecological footprints.

Participating neighborhoods earn program credits for projects and initiatives, and depending on the number of credits earned in a given year, may receive City designation as an **"Outstanding Sustainable Neighborhood,"** earning custom signage for the neighborhood!

Dear Neighbors,

Morse Park joined Lakewood's Sustainable Neighborhood program in June 2017, and neighborhood volunteers have been working hard ever since to bring events, workshops, talks, tours, walks and more to all interested residents of the neighborhood. This is a labor of love, and all of the initiatives come from ideas, interests, and passions of people in the neighborhood.

Eight Lakewood neighborhoods participate in the Sustainable Neighborhood program, and each neighborhood focuses on projects of interest to people living in that particular neighborhood. So far in Morse Park, we have focused on the semi-rural lifestyle, livestock, gardening/urban agriculture, neighborhood history, and the trees that characterize our area because that is what WE care about.

The City of Lakewood supports us by doing things like printing and sending out this newsletter and providing compostable plates, cups, and cutlery for the neighborhood picnic. The city helps us accomplish our goals, but they don't tell us what our goals should be. That is why the residents of Belmar have projects and events that look very different from Morse Park's.

Check out our initiatives and see what we've been up to since our kick-off meeting last year. Get involved in any initiative that interests you. If you have an idea or an interest that isn't covered here, then contact the neighborhood leaders and find out how you can turn your ideas into action, whether its an event, workshop, work day, or whatever you are inspired to do. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

The Sustainable Morse Park Team

Contact us at sustainable@morsepark.org

Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative Updates

Healthy Landscapes

Plant a Tree! Initiative: For every tree planted in Morse Park by May 31, we get credits toward achieving Outstanding Sustainable Neighborhood status. **If you plant a tree in 2018 by May 31, please send a photo of the newly planted tree along with a note stating what kind of tree it is and which street you live on (we don't need your exact address). Send photos and tree info to sustainable@morsepark.org.** See our tally of which trees were planted and where here: https://www.facebook.com/pg/Morse-Park-Sustainable-Neighborhood-747982852032826/notes/?ref=page_internal

Since kickoff last June, in addition to starting the Plant a Tree! Initiative, we hosted a meeting to discuss CSU Extension materials on recommended trees for our area and our personal experience with specific trees in our own yards. We also had a workshop with Arborist Josh Vratil and Evan Wheeler with Bearclaw Arborist who talked to Morse Park residents about how to maintain their old trees and offered some suggestions for trees to plant.



Josh Vratil explaining the arborist's tree climbing equipment



One of our wonderful fall garden tours

Urban Agriculture

We had several fantastic and informative guided tours in Fall 2017, including the water-wise plantings and veggie garden at Jeffco CSU Extension Office, David G's and Dave H's extensive veggie gardens, and Hilda's gorgeous backyard oasis. We also held a presentation on keeping chickens, ducks and goats in the city. Coming up, an opportunity to learn about and help build a large season-extending hoop house - more info to come on our website, Facebook page and NextDoor. If you would like to share your agricultural hobby, whether it's gardening, beekeeping, chickens, horses, etc., contact susan_karl@comcast.net. Please share your knowledge and experience with your neighbors to help us all be successful and sustainable!

Morse Park History Project

Morse Park, through the Sustainable Neighborhood Program, aims to document, celebrate, and make accessible the rich history of the neighborhood by collecting the stories of people who have experienced it. The project aims to gather a broad range of stories in the form of interviews, photographs, and written word so that we, and future generations, can remember and better understand the history of our great neighborhood. We plan to compile these narratives on a new and improved Morse Park website in the near future for everyone to learn and consume. If you are interested in supporting the project or have stories or pictures to share about the neighborhood, your home, or related please email history@morsepark.org.



Back in the day...

Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative Updates

Recycle, Repurpose, Reuse

Our sustainable initiative R 3 (Recycle, Repurpose, Reuse) held a paint recycling event on October 14, 2017 where collectively we recycled over 8 tons of paint! Thank you to PaintCare.org, GreenSheen Paint, our neighbor volunteers who made the event happen, Lake Ridge Ace Hardware for gift card drawing donations, the Lakewood High School Instrumental Music student volunteers and to all of our neighbors who dropped off paint, keeping it out of our neighborhood soils and area landfills. We plan to host this event again sometime during 2018.

Highlights:

- 14,499 pounds of latex paint recycled
- 1,805 pounds of oil-based paint recycled
- 125+ cans of spray paint recycled
- Multiple gallons of paint exchanged to new homes
- Paint recycling program information about local drop-off sites (Lake Ridge Ace Hardware!) distributed
- \$1055 (plus a clarinet) received in donations for the Lakewood High School Instrumental Music program.
- \$50 in gift cards provided by Lake Ridge Ace Hardware for raffle drawing to two lucky winners
- 19 neighbors and high school students volunteered



Look at all that paint that got recycled!

Hoyt Street School

The school at the corner of W 20th Ave and Hoyt was closed by Jeffco Public Schools and is currently for sale. A group of neighbors has been working toward the goal of turning the building into a shared-space community building. Here's their update:

We met with the new Superintendent, Dr. Jason Glass, and with his facilities manager, Steven Bell. We learned that the District is interested in using the school for various purposes; however, they currently have no concrete plans to do so, and it is not clear that such a move would make sense financially, etc. We also learned that Dr. Glass was not aware of our efforts to jump start exploration of the idea of a shared-space community building, or the Radian, Inc proposal to help us gather the data we need. Dr. Glass proposed the following path forward:

- 1. The District will focus on potential uses for the building. Given budget limitations, Dr. Glass indicated a bond might be needed to fund improvements to make a potential reuse economically feasible.*
- 2. If the District does not come up with a potential feasible use, Dr. Glass suggested they might go out with a public Request for Proposal.*
- 3. Pending outcome of the District's research and analysis, he suggested that we go into a "holding pattern" until May. We will reconvene then.*

Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative Updates

Slater Elementary Community Garden

Love Earth Foundation (LEaF) will be at the Earth Day Celebration selling aquaponics kits, apparel, jewelry, yoga/meditation gear, etc. ***The profits from this will be used to support the community garden at Slater Elementary.***

Walk and Talk

We met at Morse Park and did a short walk through the neighborhood, stopping at one residence to see the constructed “catio” or outdoor cat enclosure. Catio’s are gaining popularity around the country as a way to allow cats some outdoor time while keeping them safe from predators and cars and keeping birds safe from them!



SUSTAINABLE MORSE PARK UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

Lakewood’s Earth Day Celebration | Sat., April 21, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. | Lakewood Heritage Center

Volunteers from Morse Park Sustainable Neighborhood will be at Lakewood’s Earth Day celebration on April 21 with information on our tree planting initiative, recommended trees for Colorado, and information on organic lawn care, among other things. We can also answer your questions about the initiatives.

High Tunnel Work Day

Would you like to learn more about high tunnels and how to construct one? We will be having a high tunnel work day to help put up a small high tunnel at a residence in Morse Park. Here is a link to the process farmersfriendllc.com/products/season-extension/caterpillar-tunnel. For more information, send a message to info@morsepark.org.

Help with the Morse Park Annual Picnic

Planning for the Morse Park annual picnic is getting underway. If you are interested in helping to plan the picnic or would like to volunteer, send a message to info@morsepark.org

Neighborhood Newsletter:

This newsletter was produced by Morse Park community members in partnership with the City of Lakewood Sustainable Neighborhoods Program. We welcome your ideas, support, and participation.