



# South Metro

## LAND CONSERVANCY

December 28, 2023

Littleton City Council  
South Suburban Parks and Recreation Board of Directors

Re: Ketrington-Gallup Master Plan Concepts

Dear Littleton Mayor and City Council and South Suburban Park and Recreation Board of Directors:

South Metro Land Conservancy (SMLC) would like to thank you for the opportunity to offer feedback on the Ketrington-Gallup Park Master Plan concepts. We also want to express our thanks and appreciation for including SMLC as a stakeholder for this planning project.

South Metro Land Conservancy is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1993 and is mostly known for its extensive work purchasing and acquiring open space in the south metro area. Today, SMLC is working to increase awareness of the importance of natural areas in neighborhood parks as these areas provide important habitat close to home; create opportunities for children to enjoy and learn about nature; and increase connectivity. SMLC is dedicated to educating community members on the importance of these values in an increasingly urbanized region.

SMLC commends the City, in partnership with South Suburban Parks and Recreation (SSPR), on a planning process that has yielded extensive and productive feedback. That feedback, coupled with the quality of thought that the consultants have put into developing the concept alternatives, is very impressive.

SMLC does not offer a recommendation favoring one concept over the other and we expect that aspects of both concepts will be incorporated in a final master plan. Our comments below address some of the specific improvements and features highlighted in both concepts and are offered within the context of SMLC's mission.

### **Ketrington Lake Reduction and Wetlands**

While we all treasure a resource such as the lake and find it to be a source of peace and tranquility, SMLC understands that the City must make tough decisions about devoting a precious resource such as water to this facility. We support the City's work with the Integrated Water Resources Plan and its decision to reduce the size of the lake. In conjunction with the lake reduction we urge the City and SSPR to invigorate the wetlands as they were originally intended and make them places from which the community can better understand the important role that wetlands serve for water quality and wildlife habitat.

### **Natural Areas**

We applaud the master plan concepts' recognition of the importance of natural areas. SMLC believes that the resulting master plan should articulate sound, state-of-the-art management practices that promote natural plantings and habitat. In fact, it is our sincere hope that this master plan work will prompt the City and SSPR to prepare a policy document similar to that of the defunct 1999 "Open Space Management Plan" reflecting state-of-the-art practices.

### **Loop Trail**

The creation of a loop trail with a boardwalk may not be beneficial for wildlife and habitat. Currently, these areas are mostly off-limits to people so wildlife has a better chance to thrive. We urge you to evaluate the value of a loop trail in light of the possibility of adversely affecting habitat.

### **Parking**

- SMLC questions the need to create parking spaces on the south side of Gallup Park. We understand that a parking/traffic study was conducted of the parks and it concluded that sufficient parking exists to serve these parks. Why create more unneeded parking at considerable cost and consume existing park land? There are other options such as on-street parking and the Littleton Museum parking lot is marginally used during most times of day and can accommodate users. Further, the proposed treatment of Gallup Street to facilitate a physical and visual connection will make it easier for people to park at the Museum.
- The annual, one-day use of the grasslands on the east side of the lake to accommodate parking during the Crafts Fair should be eliminated as such a use is not conducive to reviving and rejuvenating these grasslands.

### **Playground**

SMLC supports moving the playground from the south side of Gallup Park to the Cultural Connection area and appreciates that the master plan concepts promote more nature play. We also like the idea of people of all ages assembling near a rejuvenated Gallup Gardens that will feature low water and native plants. What a great opportunity for everyone to learn!

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to provide our comments. This is an exciting project that will enhance a beloved area of the community.

Sincerely,

*Patricia Cronenberger*

Patricia Cronenberger, President

Cc: City of Littleton: Jim Becklenberg, Keith Reester and Kelsey Stansfield  
South Suburban Parks and Recreation: Rob Hanna, Melissa Reese-Thacker