



## City of Loveland, Colorado

### MEDIA RELEASE

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**LOVELAND, July 23, 2015** – Steeped in 19<sup>th</sup> Century pioneer history and graced with modern art that celebrates it, Loveland’s long-awaited Mehaffey Park opens Saturday, Aug. 1, with a daylong schedule of public events and activities.

The City’s new west-side community park includes 64 acres of recreation features and public amenities that make it unique among the award-winning Loveland Parks & Recreation Department’s holdings. The park’s first-in-Loveland features include:

- The Adventure Playground’s climbing wall, treehouse and waterfall – all with soft surfaces to make them safe and mosaic art to make them beautiful.
- A vast skate park with undulating canyons, ramps, rails and other features that will make it a paradise for skateboarders and in-line skaters from throughout the region.
- The Mehaffey Arboretum with 14 interpretive stations describing tree plantings.
- A dog park built with recognition that not all dogs are alike, featuring a separate section for shy and small dogs.
- A 9-hole disc golf course, opening in 2016.

The park’s rolling landscape, traversed by Overland Trail pioneers in the 1860s, guided the design of other features. The Picnic Knoll contains “Compass,” the monumental sculpture by Louisville artist Robert Tully that will become a Mehaffey Park trademark.

The Great Lawn and Pond Overlook offer two event pavilions, each of which can be reserved for groups of 100 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, in a setting that features views of two other works in sculptor Tully’s “Overland Trail Series.”

Mehaffey’s western section includes three multi-purpose sports fields, each reservable Monday through Thursday for a variety of sports. A complex of seven tennis courts and four pickleball courts – another City first – offer a shade structure and a separate tennis wall for individual practice.

The \$13.6 million Mehaffey Park project began officially in 1997 with the purchase of 60 acres from the Mehaffey family, descendants of pioneer settlers on the property. Years of planning and design led to an August 2013 groundbreaking.

A complete description of Mehaffey Park's other amenities, rules for use, reservations and other information, including a complete history of the project, is available online at [www.cityofloveland.org/mehaffey](http://www.cityofloveland.org/mehaffey).

## Schedule of Grand Opening events:

- 8:15-9 a.m. – Outdoor Yoga Class**, South Multi-Use Field
- 9:15-9:20 a.m. – National Anthem and Trumpeters** Gil Garcia, Ralph Trenary and Ken Ward
- 9:15-9:45 a.m. – Dedication and Ribbon Cutting**, Main Lawn Adjacent to Shelters A & B
- 9 a.m.-2 p.m. – Mountain Men, Center for Snake Conservation** - park areas
- 9 a.m.-2 p.m. – Library Interactive Mobil Outreach/LIMO** – park areas
- 10-11 a.m. – Steve Manshel**, Music, Shelter B
- 10 a.m.-1 p.m. – Brats, Hot Dogs, Hamburger Sales, Serving Youth of Northern Colorado** – Shelter A
- 10 a.m.-1 p.m. – Kettle Corn give-a-way, Heaven's Popcorn, Max Muscle** - North Shelter
- 10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Draft Horse Wagon Rides**, North Courts Area and exterior of the park
- 10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Face Painting, Juiced on Imagination** – North Shelter and Shelter A
- 10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Lawn Games** - North Multi-Use Field
- 10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Skateboarding Demonstrations and Equipment:**
  - Conspiracy Skateboards, Skate Colorado, Skate Ratz, Zeal Optics, Garageland Screen Painting, Bad Egg Skatezine, East Coast Ramp Design – Skate Park
- 10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Pickleball Demonstrations and Lessons:**
  - Loveland Pickleball Club, USA Pickleball Association - North Courts Area
- 10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Tennis Lessons and Demonstration:**
  - Loveland Tennis Association, United States Tennis Association Colorado - North Courts Area
- 10 a.m. – Children's Scavenger Hunt**, Information Tents (2) at north & south ends of park
- 10:15 a.m. – Tree Dedication #1**, southwest of Dog Park
- 11 a.m. – Rocky Mountain Star Dancers**, Main Lawn, south side
- 11 a.m. – Larimer Humane Society's "Skippy Scarfdown Contest"** (peanut butter eating) - Dog Park
- Noon-1 p.m. – Denny Driscoll**, Music, Shelter B
- Noon – Larimer Humane Society's "Doggie Doppelganger Contest"** - Dog Park
- Noon – Tree Dedication #2** – southwest of Dog Park

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