

Dear Jenna Harris and the Denver Parks and Recreation team,

I am Robbie Corbett, CO-Owner of the World Freerunning Parkour Federation (WFPF). Founded in 2008, WFPF is the most widely-known Parkour organization in the world, providing industry-leading products and services which include insurance, equipment, instructor certification, curriculum, and competitions that have brought together Parkour athletes from 40+ countries and 5 continents. Since the broadcast in 2009-10 of our ground-breaking series MTV's ULTIMATE PARKOUR CHALLENGE, WFPF has been a leading voice for the worldwide Parkour community through its many pro-social initiatives.

I am writing today on behalf of WFPF to express our support of the preservation and repurposing of the fountain in Block 2 of Skyline Park. Colorado is known for having one of the largest and most vibrant Parkour communities in the world. This particular site is internationally recognized and has been an important cultural landmark and community gathering place for the global Parkour and natural movement community for more than ten years. My first visit to Colorado was back in 2008 for a National Parkour Jam being hosted at the Fountain. I remember like it was yesterday, pulling up that first morning with an overwhelming feeling of excitement when I saw the fountain for the first time and all the athletes training on it! I literally ran to it and started playing right away. Over the next few days, the hours flew by as we shared the space and confronted its many challenges. Practitioners from across the US connected in the special, positive and friendly way that Parkour athletes, sowing the seeds of long-lasting friendships with people who have turned out to be some of the most influential people in the sport of Parkour today.

COVID-19 has shown the world how important public space and equity of access to recreation is to the health of our communities. Unlike other athletic sports and physical practices, parkour does not require specialized gear, teams, or practice fees. The community teaches each other online and practices in our found public spaces, such as Skyline Park. Parkour-inspired parks and their supporting parkour groups across the world provide free fitness and community, bridging the gap and ensuring everyone has a way to play. The reality of parkour is not kids jumping on buildings, but people methodically, carefully, and playfully working to improve their movement and physical health.

Furthermore, The WFPF supports the broader initiative of establishing parkour-inspired parks and adult-friendly play spaces in the City of Denver. These types of play spaces have been utilized in other cities to provide cost-free fitness opportunities that serve kids, teens, and adults in one cost effective design and public space. While parkour is the design inspiration, these parks are multi-functional and appeal to a larger community of active lifestyles including rock climbing, calisthenics, bootcamps, and general outdoor fitness.

In the fourteen years since the founding of WFPF, we have witnessed the profound changes that this sport enables in kids, giving them focus and confidence, empowering them to overcome all sorts of obstacles in their lives, and giving a physical activity and a positive place to belong for so many "outsider" young people. And the world is paying attention; Parkour is the

world's fastest-growing action sport for the 5-12 year old demographic. Through our partner, USA Parkour, WFPF has helped more than 100 gyms and 10K students in the US alone to train under the guidance of our 1k+ Certified Instructors. The one area where the US Parkour scene lags behind most developed countries of the world is in the development of outdoor Parkour parks. It would be a shame to lose this iconic, already world-famous "Parkour Fountain".

With that in mind, we ask Denver Parks and Recreation to coordinate with the local Parkour community to renovate, preserve and adapt the Skyline Park Fountain to meet the community's needs and to make the safe practice of Parkour widely accessible to the people of Denver.

If I can any questions, or provide additional support, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

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