

**New Pueblo Freeway
Park Advisory Committee
February 11, 2004**

Greatest Concern for Benedict Park

- So attractive that it becomes overused. Lose “neighborhood” park.
- Plan uses that are not appropriate for a “neighborhood” park
- Community values don’t support adequate park maintenance budgets
- Loss of an opportunity to improve the park
- It takes work to maintain and this needs to be done
- No park is left after the highway right-of-way is acquired
- What park is left is not useable
- Do not get participation in neighborhood
- New Pueblo Freeway project can not implement adequate park mitigations.
- Build something that cannot be maintained

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Greatest Hope For Benedict Park

- Safe and inviting park
- Park needs to be more integrated into neighborhood
- Park should be a focal point in the neighborhood
- More use, community gathering place
- Enhance Benedict Park and perhaps that will compliment Minnequa Park
- Benedict Park becomes a gateway into the neighborhood
- Provisions to exercise, dog walk, sports, picnic, fun
- Keep a park on east side of the interstate
- Attract younger neighbors
- Make the park better
- Think outside the box
- Maintain attractiveness in the neighborhood
- Relocate and Reuse houses within the neighborhood
- Look for new pieces of land in industrial
- Link new housing to new improved park
- Renovate some parts of church lot that is deteriorating
- Create a neighborhood jewel that creates positive impacts
- Establish a useable park beneficial to the neighborhood
- Strengthen the neighborhood by looking for in-fill housing opportunities with reuse of the acquired houses
- Improvements encourage owner occupants

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Greatest Hope for Benedict Park

- Park with more trees, an oasis of shade
- Find ways to keep residents in the park
- Tie the park to trails and neighborhood
- Human/pedestrian connections across the highway with Mesa bridge
- Showcase park in the center with multiple connections
- Park should celebrate the history of the area and neighborhood
- Connections to Bessemer Historic Society
- Develop partnerships with the historic society, the catholic church, the steel mill
- Connection
- Quality landscaping
- Lighting
- Get rid of the transient element
- Larger and more useable
- Remain a neighborhood park
- Help achieve “the dream” for this park
- Great pedestrian connections

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Ideas for Benedict Park Improvements

- Disburse parking and just have a little parking, put it near the picnic area
- Pedestrian bridge across highway
- Provide cross walk to connect St. Mary's School and park
- Terrace the park
- Add some land and connect with trails
- Connect to trail system along Arkansas River
- Playground near school
- Natural setting for part of park
- Curve the sound wall to improve noise within the neighborhood
- Fountain at entrance to help with noise