



Denver Botanic Gardens Denver, Colorado

The Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG) is located in a central area of the city, easily accessed by automobile, bus, and bicycle or on foot from nearby neighborhoods. In 2002, the fiftieth anniversary of the Garden's founding, a 5-year, 3-part planning process was begun to address the future of the nationally acclaimed campus to insure that it continues to serve the public in highlighting Rocky Mountain regional horticulture by education and display. The *Denver Botanic Gardens Master Development Plan* describes how the challenges and opportunities of the future can be met by maximizing opportunities of the site, its location and the context of the Gardens; and it cleverly connects the facility with adjacent Cheesman and Congress Parks.

The York Street Campus building and infrastructure are major components of the Gardens. In developing this unique urban site, emphasis is on balance and contrast in the Gardens, educational classes and programs, diverse special events, and DBG's mission and history. Parking for daily visitors and highly attended special events such as plant sales, evening concerts and seasonal activities plays a major role on comfortable use of the campus.

The first of our dual roles focused on analyzing the parking supply and demand to plan parking solutions for the immediate, mid and long-term facility and program needs. Use of shuttle buses and valet parking for unusual situations were factored into the studies. Our second role was to assist in site considerations and functional design aspects of the two levels of parking for staff and volunteers tucked beneath the new Greenhouses and transforming the surface parking lot on the east side of York Street into an unobtrusive underground parking structure topped by a green roof.



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Parking Supply and Demand Studies Considerations:

- Operating hours
- Attendees modes of arrival & departure
- Number of daily visitors & employees
- Handicapped people
- Attendance at special events
- Educational programs
- Off-site parking

“Skillfully balancing parking needs with the available supply for the myriad uses of the highly popular Gardens was accomplished with the help of Paul Mack from Parking Consultants. He analyzed existing and projected attendance data, and provided comprehensive, professional study results to help us in our decision making. Paul also provided expertise in entry/exit layouts, ramping and traffic flow to optimize garage functions. Their work was concise and presented in simple understandable language.”

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