

MAYOR'S REPORT



Things are buzzing at Quincy Farm both literally and figuratively. The Farm is home to busy bee hives which produce amazing, hyper-local honey. Last year I received some Quincy Farm honey as a gift – pure liquid gold! But the bees aren't the only busy creatures at Quincy Farm. The Farm has been buzzing with construction, maintenance and programming activity.

If you aren't familiar with Quincy Farm, it is the beautiful property at the intersection of the High Line Canal and Quincy on the south side of the street. Maybe you've walked past on the High Line Canal or driven down Quincy and noticed the modest white houses that stand out amongst the larger, more modern homes in Cherry Hills Village? Quincy Farm is a legacy of Cherry Hills Village's humble beginnings back when this was the "country." Quincy Farm consists of 17.5 acres spanning both sides of the canal with several historic buildings and peaceful pastures. The property was generously donated to Cherry Hills Village in 2016 by Catherine "Cat" Anderson and is now the crown jewel of our public parks and open spaces. The Farm's grounds, barnyard, and walking paths are open to the public daily from sunrise to sunset. The buildings are occasionally open to the public as part of programs at the Farm.

Because the property functioned as a private residence for more than 100 years, substantial work is required to make it suitable, safe, and accessible for the public. The most substantial project to that end so far is the renovation of the historic "big barn," the iconic feature of Quincy Farm. As the central hub of the Farm, the big barn has been reimaged as a simple gathering space to host small community events. Construction started in 2024 and was completed last month.



This renovation preserved the historic character of the barn, as well as the memorabilia inside, while providing the necessary structural repairs to bring it up to code requirements for public use.

Also on tap this year is the revitalization of the pond on the west side of the Farm to improve the wildlife habitat. Planning and permitting are underway and dredging work is expected to start this fall. The resulting pond will be slightly smaller and deeper and will be replanted with diverse species to build a better home for our wild neighbors (the only time wild neighbors are a good thing?).

As someone who struggles to keep my own yard healthy, I appreciate the monumental task of reclaiming Quincy Farm's east side pastures from the "enthusiastic plants" (often referred to as weeds) that have taken over. It's like Lord of the Flies – Plant Edition over there. City Staff is finalizing a comprehensive landscaping plan for the east side of the Farm to provide a long-term vision and ensure consistent implementation. Staff has planted several test plots of winter wheat and clover to help determine future planting plans. It looks like the wheat is winning! Other landscaping activities include tree trimming and the removal of a few dead trees that were posing a safety hazard.

And finally, the footbridge over the High Line Canal that connects both sides of the property is slated to be replaced this year, improving safety and public accessibility.

While the City has been devoted to the physical maintenance and improvement of the property, our partner, the Cherry Hills Land Preserve, has been equally busy providing exciting programming at Quincy Farm. Programming focuses on sustainability, nature, conservation, heritage, and history in keeping with Cat Anderson's vision when she donated the property to the public. Most recently, the Land Preserve hosted the annual Earth Day celebration in April and gardening workshops in May and June.



Thanks to the Land Preserve's amazing outreach and planning, attendance at these events has been steadily growing over the years which in turn grows the sense of community and camaraderie in the Village.

On June 22nd from 11:30am–1:30pm, the Cherry Hills Land Preserve will be hosting the Grand Reopening of the Big Barn celebration. This family-friendly event will include live raptor presentations, food trucks, kids' and adults' art shows, nature presentations and story time for our littlest farmers! The event is open to the public and registration costs \$20 per family. Register online at quincymarket.org/programs.

Later this summer the Land Preserve will also host its annual Barn Party, the "not-to-be-missed" Cherry Hills Village social event of the year! Mark your calendars to spend September 26th with your friends and neighbors at the newly renovated barn and barnyard at Quincy Farm. This event is the Cherry Hills Land Preserve's largest fundraising event, and the funds raised support the programming and renovations at Quincy Farm. The City is eternally grateful for the generous partnership of the Cherry Hills Land Preserve and their work involving the community in participating and supporting this public treasure.

For a complete list of programs at Quincy Farm visit quincymarket.org/programs.

Whoever coined the term "lazy days of summer" clearly didn't visit Quincy Farm. There is ALWAYS something happening, whether it's building construction, building community, or building honeycombs. Make it a personal goal to visit Quincy Farm this summer and see what all of the buzz is about.

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