

Warheim Park Groundbreaking Speech

by Hal Warheim

AUGUST 13, 2003

Friends and Neighbors:

Good afternoon. I am Hal Warheim and, on behalf of the Park's Board of Directors, I want to welcome you and thank you all for coming to help celebrate the birthing of our new neighborhood park.

This special moment has been a long time in coming and has been made possible by the committed efforts of a number of persons who deserve our gratitude. First of all, the Park's Board of Directors, a talented and energetic team of folks from the immediate neighborhood: Sarah Kuhn, Larry Lenahan, Sally McMahon, Jim Watson, Sally Shelton and Jocelyn Warren.

Special thanks also for their indispensable contributions to former Alderman Bill Allison; Don Osborn and the Belknap Neighborhood Association; Bryan Warren, Chris Maguire, Martin Hofmann; our sponsoring public officials, Metro Councilman Tom Owen, State Representative Mary Lou Marzian and State Senator Tim Shaughnessy; our attorneys Monica Henderson and Robert Griffith; the park's designer Mike Smiley and Metro Parks Director Mike Heitz. Thanks to each and all of you from the people who will enjoy this park.

The City of Louisville is celebrated for its many wonderful public parks. And it has long been a dream of some of us that our neighborhood would someday have a park of its own. This dream has been long delayed and often detoured but it has never been defeated. And, today, as we break this earth, we are on the threshold of delivering our dream into reality.

I believe that it is providential that, years ago, when this neighborhood was developed, this little scrap of land was unwanted and ignored and grew into a dangerous wilderness and dumping ground. But it was destined to one day become a safe, peaceful and beautiful resource for all the neighbors and future generations.

So, now, let us open the earth and let our dream be born!

[Invitation to all persons present, both adults and children, to insert a spade into the park ground and to make brief remarks, if they wish.]

Remarks by Hal Warheim

