



South Suburban
PARKS AND RECREATION

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South Suburban's Jim Priddy Celebrates 40 Years with the District

Jim Priddy, manager of parks and open space, recently celebrated four decades with South Suburban Park and Recreation District, and was formally recognized at a District board meeting in May. A native of Texas, Priddy knows about wide, open spaces. After graduating from Texas A & M in 1967, Priddy moved to Colorado in 1973, and joined South Suburban as park maintenance supervisor.

When Priddy joined the District there were 37 park sites to manage and maintain; now there are 150. Many District parks are located within neighborhoods, and are often the pride and joy of the neighborhood. In addition to parks, the District manages thousands of acres of natural open space and 90 miles of trails.

Under Priddy's tutelage, the District implemented an effective and highly touted water conservation program, praised by the Denver Water Board; a maintenance vehicle replacement program, an asphalt parking lot and trail replacement program, and irrigation systems replacement program.

Priddy continuously establishes management standards for park maintenance. According to South Suburban's Executive Director David Lorenz, "Jim has always been very dependable and extremely conscientious. He always meets budget and controls expenses, something that has really helped keep the District financially healthy." Lorenz added, "It has not always been easy to fund capital replacement items, but everything has a lifecycle and needs to be replaced over time."

One of Priddy's proudest accomplishments was helping to take the idea of a new and larger maintenance facility to fruition, with the fall 2011 dedication of the South Suburban Service Center, nicknamed "Boatworks" after the former occupant of the site. The facility houses the District's fleet of vehicles, the District's Garage & Shop, Welding & Fabricating, Turf, Irrigation, Athletic Fields and Grounds, Trails & Natural Open Space, as well as Construction, Playgrounds, Preventative Maintenance and Sign Shop. As Manager of Parks and Open Space, Priddy supervises nearly 70 full time employees and 80 seasonal employees.

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While you can take the boy out of Texas, you can't take Texas out of the boy. His Texas twang is an endearing quality, and Priddy is fond of Texas colloquialisms. Priddy's longevity with the District is attributed to enjoying what he does, interacting with a variety of people on an ongoing basis and working with a knowledgeable and talented staff. The added bonus is helping to provide places for those in the community to recreate and enjoy.

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