

PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Water Connection announces installation of instream trash collection device prototype, Nautilus

Denver, Colorado – The Water Connection (TWC) is excited to announce the pilot of an instream trash removal device– the Nautilus! This half-scale prototype will passively collect trash along the north side of the Cherry Creek between Blake Street and Market Street. Nautilus is being serviced regularly by Mile High Flood District and ArborForce to collect valuable information regarding the device’s function and what types of debris are being collected. Other partners for this pilot include ClayDean Electric, who built this version of Nautilus, as well as Denver Parks and Recreation and Naranja Civil Constructors.

“Like many urban areas, keeping trash out of our waterways in Denver has been a constant challenge” said Devon Buckels, Director of The Water Connection. “Every year, local non-governmental organizations and the Mile High Flood District spend \$1.5 million removing trash from the South Platte River by hand, one piece at a time. There has to be a better solution. This is 2020!”

The concept for the Nautilus design was created by two students at Metropolitan State University of Denver, Mara Maxwell and TJ DiTallo, as part of TWC’s Clean River Design Challenge (CRDC) held during the 2015-2016 academic year. CRDC is a yearlong competition that challenges teams of undergraduate students to design and build a scale model of a device to be placed in a waterway in Metro Denver to remove trash and debris. Along with being efficient and effective, these devices also have to meet numerous other criteria: they must not negatively impact the flood plain, they must be safe for recreational users and wildlife, and they must have an educational and/or art aspect to the design to engage passersby in the community.

Trash in our waterways is not only an eyesore, but it can also harm wildlife and degrade water quality. TWC is also pursuing other trash capture approaches, such as storm drain filtration devices, for collecting trash before it enters our rivers and streams. The 15 storm drain filters in Metro Denver collected 3,960 pounds of pollutants in less than two years.

The Water Connection is the policy and water resources arm of The Greenway Foundation. Since 1974, The Greenway Foundation has lead the effort to reclaim the South Platte River and its numerous tributaries from a virtual cesspool to a place of environmental and recreational pride.

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