



Volume 29, Summer 2010

THE GREENWAY FOUNDATION 36 YEARS YOUNG!

Jeff Shoemaker - Executive Director



Confluence Park Before

Photo Property of the Greenway Foundation



Confluence Park After

Photo courtesy of J.J. Clark

"Too thick to drink, too thin to plow. A bothersome, pestiferous nothing of a river. In fact, it's a joke to even call the South Platte a "river" at all....."

This quote, well known within Denver's urban waterway community has been attributed to Mark Twain, the famous American author. As I have stated on many occasions, if time travel were possible, wouldn't it be great to forward Mr. Twain to Confluence Park in 2010 and see if he felt his words still applied.

Since 1974, the Greenway Foundation has collaborated with countless public and private organizations and entities with the collective goal of reclaiming Denver's Greatest Natural Resources - the South Platte River and its tributaries - into the environmental and recreational amenities they deserve to be.

Great progress has occurred. Over 100 miles of multi-use trails now reside along the South Platte, Cherry Creek and other tributaries to the River within the Denver Metro area.

Well over two dozen parks and natural areas have been created along the waterway corridors, many of which are reclaimed from former landfill dumpsites, roadway construction storage sites, junkyards, cattle yards and numerous other former industrial sites. Extensive efforts have occurred to improve the recreational and water quality standing of the River and its tributaries and, while much is yet left to do, significant improvement has taken place, including the closure of over 250 sources of pollution that

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"A RIVER IS MORE THAN AN AMENITY, IT IS A TREASURE."

THE GREENWAY FOUNDATION

Planning, Building, Protecting and Enhancing Communities, Parks, Trails and Waterways
Since 1974

JUSTICE WM. O DOUGLAS



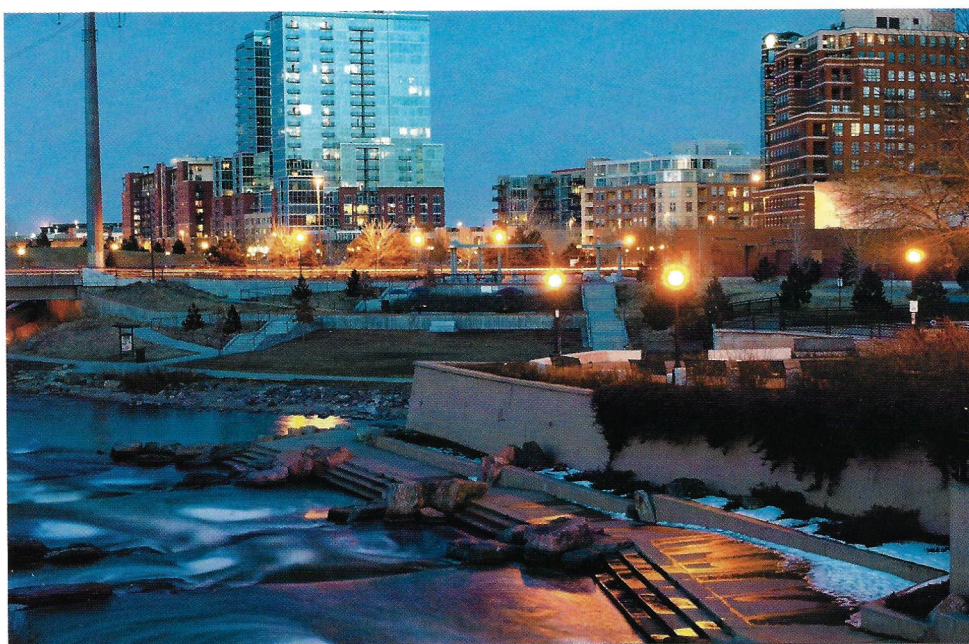


Photo courtesy of J.J. Clark

Confluence Park at Dusk

formerly dumped directly into the South Platte only 35 years ago.

The value and importance of these successes extend beyond the channel, banks and areas directly adjacent to the River. Conservative estimates indicate that the collective \$100 Million dollars invested in the South Platte and its tributaries has resulted in an economic benefit of over \$10 Billion dollars to the metro Denver area. In other words – "Green = Green"!

The successes over the past several decades deserve to be celebrated but more importantly continue to serve as motivation to keep moving the River's agenda forward. Nowhere is this more evident than in the creation of the River North and River South Greenway Master Plans, the latter of which was completed at the end of 2009.

Both plans provide a wide variety of recommendations for the continuation and expansion of the South Platte River

Greenway including an enhanced trail system; acquisition of additional park space and natural areas; updating and improvements of existing amenities and significant improvement to the water quality, bank stability and recreational conditions within the River channel.

The Foundation's respect and gratitude goes out to the funding partners, steering committee members as well as numerous additional public and private stakeholders who collectively helped guide and inspire the remarkable vision contained with both Plans. In addition, the Foundation has just initiated a collaborative and outreach based effort known as PURE (Protect Urban River Environment) which is dedicated to reaching the goal of a swimmable, fishable and boatable River that is also free of trash and other debris.

These extensive planning and visioning projects are part of the Greenway Foundation's continued commitment

to focus on the betterment of Denver's Urban Waterways which can collectively be best described as the Four "E's":

- . **Enhancements** – Projects and Programs aimed at the ongoing improvement of the recreational, environmental and water quality conditions of the River and its tributaries.

- . **Education** – SPREE (South Platte River Environmental Education) which continues to evolve and expand in its mission to create environmentally literate students who will be prepared to take on the role as the next generation of River caretakers.

- . **Employment** – The River Ranger and Venice on the Creek summer youth programs.

- . **Events** – Mile High Mile, Confluence Concerts, Reception on the River, South Platte RiverSweep and Art on the River.

For over three decades, the Greenway Foundation has been committed to making the South Platte River and its tributaries the premier urban waterways on the face of the planet. A lofty goal to be sure, but one that IS obtainable with the continued engagement of all sectors within our community – public, private, political and philanthropic. As can be evidenced throughout this publication, a variety of endeavors are underway to achieve that goal. And while great strides must yet be made, the successes of the Foundation and its countless partners to date serve as both a model and the inspiration to continue moving forward towards maximizing the potential of these timeless and invaluable amenities.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

IMPROVEMENT, GROWTH AND EXPANSION CONTINUE

By Jolon Clark- SPREE Program Director, and
J.J. Clark- SPREE Excursion Coordinator

Over 5,000 kindergarten through 5th graders came to the South Platte River this year for educational excursions with SPREE (South Platte River Environmental Education). Over 1,000 kids joined the SPREE Force to learn about how their home is connected to the South Platte River and to take small everyday actions to keep the river safe and clean for all to enjoy. Over 700 kids, and their families, came down to the South Platte River to build trails, pick up trash, paint, create, fish, and have fun through the SPREE weekend event series. Over 500 people, 300 of them kids, came together at the foot of our State Capitol Building to Push themselves to run a mile as fast as they can while supporting SPREE and the Greenway Foundation. SPREE, for the first time since its creation in 1982, has a physical home along the South Platte River at the new South Platte River Welcome Center. The SPREE Force was honored as the Best New Environmental Education Program in the State of Colorado.

Obviously it has been another busy year of educational outreach along our River!

A teenager recently wrote to us, "When I was in fourth grade, we went on a field trip to the Frontier Park. I probably remember that more vividly than any school trip of my life. In fact, I still break cottonwood twigs to look for the stars." While the school based excursions have always been the heart and soul of SPREE, each year we continue to expand and grow into



Photo courtesy of J.J. Clark

5th graders take to Overland Pond by boat to look for wildlife and learn about how the pond was created.

new areas that tie our six grade level excursions together and offer more opportunities for the children that we serve to make a deep personal connection to nature through the South Platte River. With new and bigger initiatives and programs on the horizon, it is an exciting time for education along the South Platte.

Join the Force, Protect Our River

The SPREE Force is an innovative, and now award winning program that is in its second year. Children from our nine SPREE Schools have the opportunity to "Join the Force" each school year. This is a voluntary program that the students must complete from home. Once they Join the Force, they start

to receive Top Secret missions from Chompers, SPREE's beaver mascot. These missions take the children through the Earth Force model as they build knowledge about an environmental issue that affects the South Platte River and learn the skills to take small actions from home, like taking a shorter shower or picking up trash in the street, that can have a significant positive impact on the River.

This year, a group of 5th grade "Special Agents" from Steele Elementary School created a video about what it means to be in the Force and on the job for the South Platte River. You can watch it at www.spreeforce.org.



Photo courtesy of DigPicPhoto

Over 900 people - 650 runners and their families - descended on the State Capitol to Push themselves to run their best mile while supporting SPREE.

Art, Fishing, Giving Back, Playing, and More!

This year marked the coming together of various pilot programs to create a cohesive and comprehensive SPREE Weekend Event series. This series of events provide an opportunity for the children that SPREE serves to further engage with the South Platte River, and to involve their parents, siblings, and friends. These weekend events often piggy back on the events and infrastructure that the Greenway Foundation has already put in place, but also add a kid centered and educationally focused opportunity for SPREE students. The events include: SPREE Schools Give Back - a service oriented day that coincides with the Greenway Foundation's South Platte RiverSweep; Art on the River - a day for creativity, expression, and creation through art; Fishing for Kids - an event where over 100 kids learned how to fish and get to keep their fishing rod

at the end of the day and Go Outside and Play Day - an event that provides kids the chance to run and play while utilizing the nature they can find right in their own backyard. The weekend event series also includes a day of celebration along the River for SPREE Force Special Agents and the Mile High Mile.

The Mile High Mile

The 2010 Mile High Mile was the biggest ever with over 650 registered runners! While the Mile High Mile is the signature fundraiser supporting SPREE, it is a race about much more than just raising money. On April 18th 650 runners, plus another 250 parents, teachers, and friends descended on the State Capitol in downtown Denver to Push themselves to run the best mile they could. In the process kids learned that getting active and staying healthy can be fun (even at 8:00 am on a Sunday morning). Families ran

together and supported each other's efforts, and people from all across Denver came together to support education along the South Platte River.

The event was a huge success, and planning is already underway for an even bigger and better event in 2011. Get more information and stay in the loop at **www.milehighmile.com**.

The South Platte River Welcome Center

In December of 2009, thanks to the continued partnership between the Greenway Foundation and Denver's Parks and Recreation Dept., SPREE moved into the former Boy Scouts facility located right along the South Platte River in Habitat Park. This move represented the first real home for SPREE since its inception over 30 years ago.

The building was falling into disrepair after not being used for the last several years. Since taking over the building, SPREE Crews have worked to rehabilitate and activate the building to not only provide office space for SPREE but also to turn half of the building into the only welcome center along the South Platte River in Denver. The welcome center offers an indoor restroom, bike pump, trail maps, park and river information, and other amenities to bikers, joggers, and other trail users. Please come visit us this summer! We are located along the South Platte River bike trail at Exposition Street. Our official address is 610 South Jason St.

Building on 14 years of Boating Cherry Creek

One of the most exciting new programs for SPREE in the coming year is actually an extension and integration with one of the Greenway Foundation's signature programs, Venice on the Creek. This new program is especially exciting for both of us (JJ and Jolon) because Venice on the Creek was the conduit for both of us into the Greenway Foundation and a love for the South Platte River and its tributaries. Jolon started as a 17-year-old boat guide with Venice on the Creek in 1997, and JJ in 1999, working along Cherry Creek in downtown Denver through high school, then through college, and finally into full time positions with SPREE. It is fitting now that Venice on the Creek will be further integrated into SPREE's educational approach with a specific goal of opening the door for kids from across Denver to pursue careers in environmental education and related fields. This exciting expansion will kick off in the summer of 2010.

The following is a look at the history of and vision for this groundbreaking youth employment program.

Venice on the Creek

In 1996 the first punt (the gondola-like boats that are the very heart of Venice on the Creek), shipped to Denver from Cambridge, England, took its maiden voyage down the calm waters of Cherry Creek in Downtown Denver. In its inaugural year, Venice on the Creek offered boat rides through the only boat lock in Colorado located just under Wazee St. Over the past 14 years, Venice on the Creek has expanded to nearly a mile of Cherry



Photo courtesy of J.J. Clark

Second graders explore a natural area along Bear Creek looking for a place that is special to them.

Creek with visitors now enjoying rides between Creekfront Plaza at Larimer St. and Confluence Park in one of six punts. While five of the six boats in the Venice on the Creek fleet are from Cambridge, the prize ship was built right in Denver in 2009. Unlike the fiberglass boats from England, the Denver built boat is made out of a combination of marine plywood and various other hardwoods. The result is a smooth, comfortable, and eye-catching experience on Cherry Creek.

For 14 years, Venice on the Creek has employed young people from across Denver each summer to entertain customers on Cherry Creek and teach the history of Denver as seen from Cherry Creek's perspective.

Greenway River Rangers

This year, the Greenway Foundation's youth employment program has evolved to draw closer connections between Venice on the Creek and the Greenway Foundation's education arm -SPREE. The result of that evolution is the return of the Foundation's River Ranger program. SPREE, partnered with other education and employment groups in Denver, has created a unique youth employment program that creates pathways into careers in environmental education and related fields for the youth that we employ.

Throughout the summer, River Rangers will not only work as educators through Venice on the Creek, they will also become Certified Environmental Educators through CAEE (Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education).

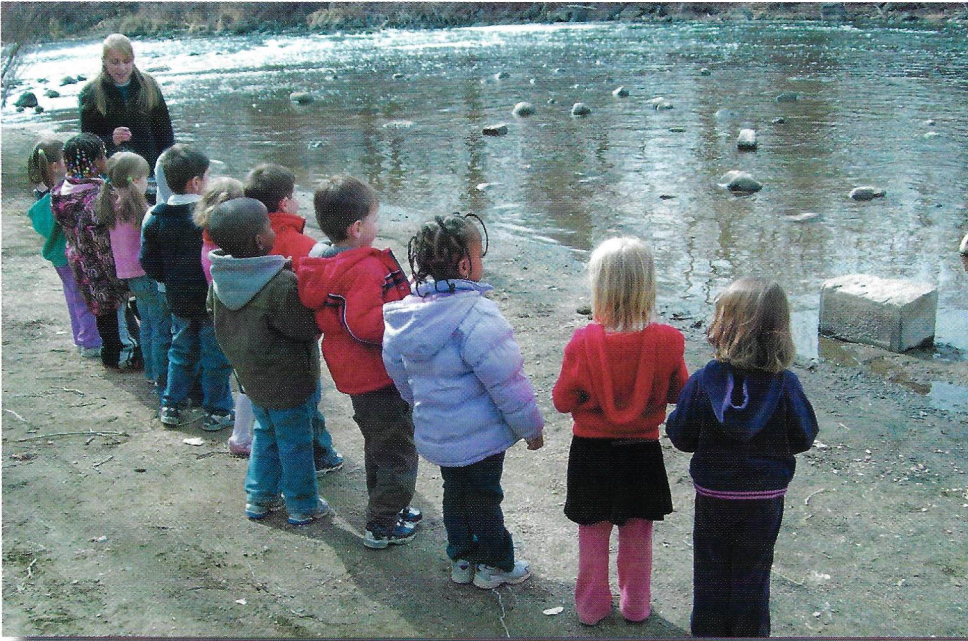


Photo courtesy of J.J. Clark

Kindergarten students get to "meet" the South Platte River for the first time.

Through this program, they will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of environmental issues along the South Platte and develop a plan to help Denver keep its urban waterways and adjacent trails, parks and natural areas as some of the best in the Nation.

The River Rangers will build a portfolio for certification as Environmental Educators as they apply best practices as educators at the South Platte River Welcome Center. In addition, they will build and maintain trails, remove trash and debris along the River's banks, and put together a plan for continued maintenance and care of the South Platte River as it flows through Denver.

The SPREE Connection

SPREE educates kindergarten through 5th grader students from across Denver, and the River Ranger program hopes to create opportunities for these

children to continue to be involved and engaged along the River as they get older. Many of the children who participate in SPREE are underserved and the River Ranger program aims to open doors into the environmental education field that are not only closed, but invisible to these children. The River Ranger program is an extension of SPREE's mission in that it hopes to create stewards of the South Platte River through an engaging employment opportunity that gives youth from across Denver a sense of ownership and responsibility for the South Platte River and its tributaries.

A Personal Reflection

Between the two of us (Jolon and JJ), we have over 24 years of experience working both seasonally and full time along Denver's urban Greenways. The longevity of our commitment to these precious urban natural resources is more a testament to the power of the

work that the Greenway Foundation has done and continues to do than anything else. We were given the opportunity to get to know our local River, Creeks and Gulches through Venice on the Creek, and those experiences have shaped our lives, our professional goals, and our work in continuing to grow, expand, and fine tune the outreach and programming that the Greenway Foundation offers to children and young adults from across the City. We are lucky in that we get to see and hear about the impact of this programming from teachers, former SPREE kids, retired Venice on the Creek boaters, and others each and every day. We can speak from experience that the connection to the South Platte River that these programs facilitate is personal, meaningful, and lasts a lifetime.

Everything that SPREE does is made possible by donations from individuals like you. This funding is a crucial part of SPREE's continued effort to ensure that every child, no matter their socio-economic status, is given opportunities to experience nature, learn about our shared history, live a healthy lifestyle, and experience the natural beauty of our world with their own hands.

Please consider making a donation to support the efforts of SPREE and the Greenway Foundation along the South Platte River at:

www.spreeweb.org

SPECIAL EVENTS 2010

SUMMER FUN, GREENWAY FOUNDATION STYLE

By Cindy Shoemaker- Special Events Director

Confluence Concerts

Carrying on the tradition that began in 1998, Confluence Park will once again add to the beauty of Confluence Park with the ever magical **Confluence Concerts** series, featuring some of Denver's hottest musical acts, as well as the return of nationally acclaimed **Curley Taylor & Zydeco Trouble**, straight from Louisiana!

Mark your calendars on **Thursday evenings in July from 6:30-8:00** and join hundreds of your fellow jazz enthusiasts at Denver's birthplace. Each of the Concerts (July 1, 8, 15 and 22) are free to the public that to a host of very generous sponsors including **Presenting Sponsor - Madison Insurance Co.** as well as **Wright Water Engineers, S2 Corporation** and **East West Partners.** **KUVO 89.3** will return yet again as the series **Radio Sponsor** along with **Breckenridge Brewery, Barefoot Wine and Bubbly,** and **Vitamin Water** as **Beverage Sponsors** for the series. Additional sponsorship and support is being provided by **Denver Parks and Recreation Dept., SCFD, Denver Magazine** and the **Greenway Preservation Trust.** Travel down to your River for a fun, relaxing evening and listen to great music of four different varieties, while enjoying nice and cold **LOCAL** beer and wine, along with the world's best burritos and tamales from Denver's own **Tamales by La Casita!**



Photo courtesy of J.J. Clark

FEATURED PERFORMERS FOR CONFLUENCE CONCERTS 2010 ARE:

- JULY 1- RONNIE SHELLIST BLUES BAND (BLUES)**
- JULY 8- CURLEY TAYLOR AND ZYDECO TROUBLE
(ZYDECO DIRECTLY FROM LOUISIANA)**
- JULY 15- THE RED SAX QUARTET (CLASSIC JAZZ)**
- JULY 22- THE INFORMANTS (SWING)**

Parking will be available for a small fee at the Downtown Aquarium.



Photo courtesy of J.J. Clark

South Platte RiverSweep

Saturday, September 25, 2010 will celebrate the **18th Annual South Platte RiverSweep**. Each year over 500 volunteers help remove trash and debris along the banks, trails and channel of the South Platte. In addition, volunteers help with numerous other projects including crusher-fine based trail construction, painting, graffiti removal, tree protection, willow harvesting/relocation and more. These varied and vital activities will return as part of RiverSweep 2010 along with other needed efforts to maximize the environmental and recreational value of the South Platte River and Cherry Creek.

This longstanding and much-needed community day is made possible through the generous sponsorship of the **Riverfront Park Community Foundation**. In addition, numerous partner organizations work with the Foundation to make this great day

of community engagement a reality including: **Denver Parks and Recreation Volunteer Department, REI Flagship Store, SCFD, United Site Services, Trout Unlimited, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District** and **Downtown Aquarium**.

As has been the tradition, participants in South Platte RiverSweep will be provided with numerous food and beverage options, at both the beginning and end of the event, thanks to the generosity of **Whole Foods, La Casita, Black Jack Pizza, Starbucks** and **Vitamin Water**.



Photo courtesy of J.J. Clark

To learn more about how to sign up to be a part of this year's South Platte RiverSweep, visit the South Platte RiverSweep section of the Greenway Foundation's website at **www.greenwayfoundation.org/home/riversweep.html**.

Bring your families, friends and co-workers to help us clean and improve our Urban Waterways!

THE CONNECTING CONNECTION OF WESTERLY CREEK

A CONNECTING GREENWAY BETWEEN LOWRY AND STAPLETON

By Ellie Horn, Brian Hyde and Dave Duclos

On a summer afternoon in 2003, twelve new City Council members joined newly elected Councilwoman Marcia Johnson to walk along Westerly Creek in northeast Denver as they learned more about issues and challenges facing the different neighborhoods and Council Districts. Westerly Creek is a relatively unknown small creek that originates in Aurora, flows north and east into Denver, heads back into Aurora and joins Sand Creek near I-70. This walk marked a significant first step in the redevelopment of the Westerly Creek watershed corridor.



Illustration courtesy of Dave Duclos, The COLE Company

In 2004, this effort received a significant boost when local resident Brian Hyde volunteered to help. His job in watershed restoration planning with the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) led to a grant for a feasibility study to examine possibilities for improving the corridor of the Creek. A coinciding study of Westerly Creek was being conducted by the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District (UDFCD) with a goal to develop and analyze alternative plans for a drainage system that reduces flood damages. This project presented a unique challenge because the area was so heavily urbanized.

Soon thereafter, Dave Duclos, another resident of the Westerly Creek watershed, offered his invaluable landscape architectural design and riverfront re-design services along with Ellie Horn, whose involvement in numerous community projects bolstered by a professional background in communications solidified a strong trio to design a new life for Westerly Creek.

The goal? A multi-purpose greenway from 11th Avenue in Denver, flowing north into Aurora, and ending at 23rd Avenue with an added benefit of further connecting the Lowry and Stapleton neighborhoods.

Greenways allow people to connect and out of this simple thought the name Westerly Creek Connection was born. Over the next several months, the Westerly Creek Connection (WCC) presented basic ideas and drawings to several neighborhood groups in the watershed. After gaining unanimous support from the neighborhood groups, WCC decided to pursue funding to develop a greenway master plan. Enter the Greenway Foundation (GF).

In the short time of WCC's existence, the GF offered insight and guidance for the WCC based on the Foundation's 35 year vitae of revitalizing Denver's urban waterways as well as allowing the WCC to be placed under the "umbrella" of the GF and its status as a 501c3

non-profit corporation. More significantly, Councilwoman Marcia Johnson, who had remained the visionary behind this project since its inception, enthusiastically supported this idea.

With funding as its next milestone, Councilwoman Johnson, the WCC and the GF obtained grants from CWCB, Denver's Public Works Dept. and the Edmund T. and Eleanor Quick Foundation to support this much desired and strongly supported planning effort.

Today, WCC is immersed in the complicated but exciting work of creating the plan for a greenway along the Creek in a densely populated area of Denver and Aurora. At the current pace, the Westerly Creek Greenway Master Plan will be completed during summer of 2010. Further information about the project can be accessed on www.westerlycreek.org.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT

By Lisa May- Development Director

When I joined The Greenway Foundation as Development Director in 2009, one of my first "tasks" was to go on some of the SPREE excursions with our DPS elementary school kids. These outdoor education adventures still rank among my favorite experiences in the months I have been here, but I have to tell you that every day brings news of fascinating projects from our past, our present and our future. I am proud to be a part of the Greenway Foundation staff and I am grateful for your support, which has made all the stories you have read in this report possible. I hope they inspire you, as they do me, to create an even brighter future for our River – truly Denver's greatest natural resource.

WAYS TO GIVE

As you have read, the Foundation has extraordinarily ambitious goals for the near term. Partnering with public and private entities, the Foundation is about to launch a series of improvements and re-imagining of the entire 10.5 mile stretch of River from city limit to city limit. Some projects will take five years, some might take much more. At completion, the River will be swimmable, fishable, and even more accessible and beautiful. These projects will make good the promise of the Foundation's creation 36 years ago as the driving force for clean water, as a catalyst of industry and recreation, and as the guardian of inspiration that only a river can offer its citizens.

The free cultural events, volunteer participation days, the gondolas that provide youth employment and the environmental education provided to DPS Schools all serve to endear the South Platte River to its citizens. The Foundation aspires to keep broadening that outreach.

GIVE ONLINE

Giving online is fast, easy, and secure. Gifts of any amount may be made and an e-mail confirmation is provided. Both one-time and recurring monthly gifts can be made online.

www.greenwayfoundation.org

USE THE ATTACHED REMITTANCE ENVELOPE

A simple check or credit card charge is quick and straightforward.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

Businesses play a vital philanthropic role in the Foundation. We welcome corporate relationships and offer sponsorship of many types of events.

PLANNED GIVING

There are many ways to make a planned gift that benefits the Foundation. Please contact us for a simple bequest form, or for information on other types of planned gifts.

HOW CAN I HELP?

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information about how you can support The Greenway Foundation and its mission, please contact:

Lisa May
Director of Development
lisa@greenwayfoundation.org
(303) 525-1136

The Greenway Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

Donations to The Greenway Foundation of more than \$250 are eligible for the Colorado Enterprise Zone 25% Tax Credit. See your tax advisor for details.

FINANCIAL ANNUAL REPORT 2009

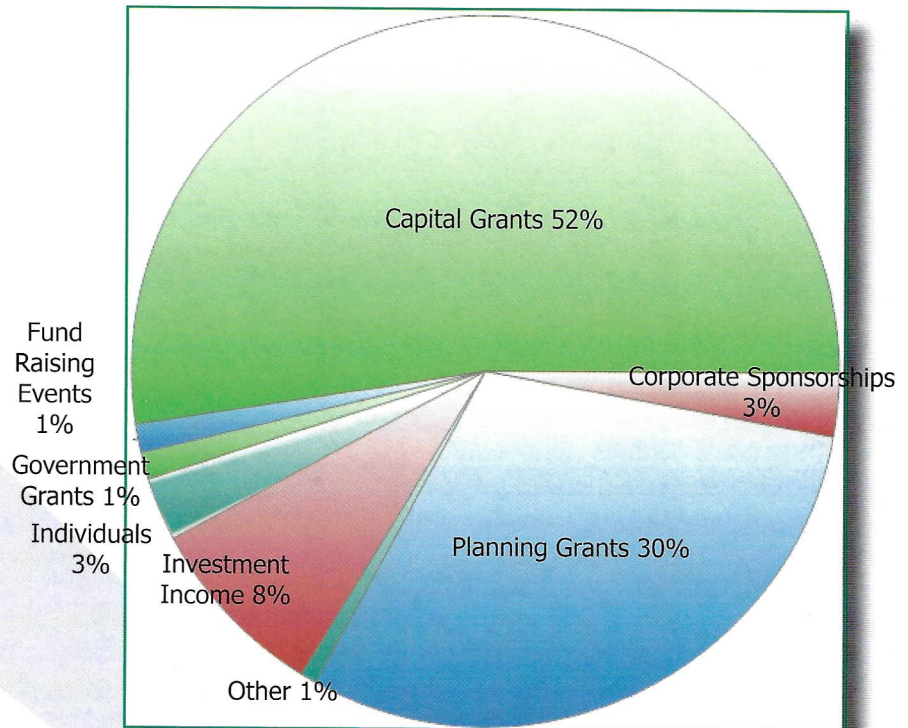
Where the Money Came From

The Greenway Foundation's Financial Reports vary significantly from year to year depending on the scale of projects or planning efforts with which the Foundation is involved.

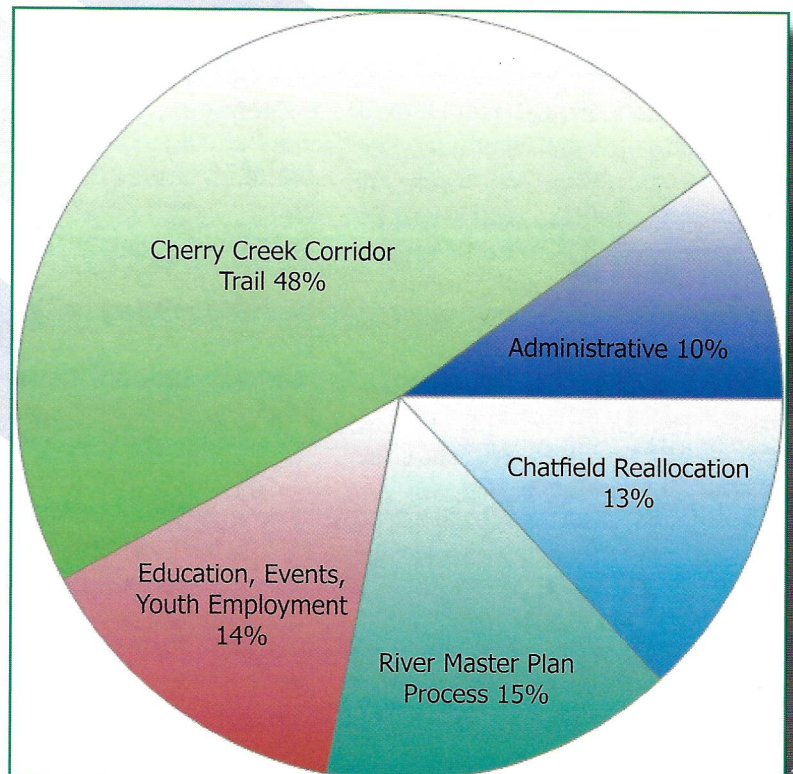
2009 witnessed the creation of the Cherry Creek Corridor Trail project as well as the completion of the South Platte River Greenway Master Plan.

The Foundation's Youth Education (SPREE) and free Cultural Events continue to be a priority of the Foundation and are increasing sources of pride and accomplishment.

As has been the case since its inception over 35 years ago, the Greenway Foundation works diligently to be efficient and effective stewards of your generous contributions.



How the Funds Were Distributed



Financial Position 2009	
Assets	\$2,400,597
Liabilities	\$109,074
Net Assets	\$2,291,523

PURE (PROTECT URBAN RIVER ENVIRONMENT)

IT'S A DIRTY JOB, AND SOMEONE HAS CHOSEN TO DO IT!

By Jeff Shoemaker- Executive Director

The Greenway Foundation is involved with an ambitious initiative, one that could create long-lasting improvements to our River along with the emergence of the South Platte as an even greater destination for city-wide residents and visitors: developing a zero trash tolerance policy in and along the banks of the River and its tributaries.

Amongst the Greenway Foundation's many examples of leadership and stewardship towards Denver's Urban Waterways, this newest effort is one about which the Foundation is greatly impassioned. The Foundation's Board and Staff are excited about convening a coalition of leaders in the Denver Metro Area who share the belief that trash does not belong on the River while acknowledging that a coordinated effort to keep trash out of the River channel has not yet been developed.

What does "zero trash tolerance" mean? The somewhat flippant but honest answer is "allowing no trash." The pragmatic response to addressing this significant challenge includes:

- 1) Determining how "zero" will be defined.
- 2) Determining the steps and resources needed to get to this goal.



Photo courtesy of DigPicPhoto

3) Forming partnerships with the many involved and affected agencies and entities that will allow this goal to be achieved.

In the coming months the Greenway Foundation will be developing an outreach effort that employs the following elements:

Education/Enlightenment

The PURE Coalition, consisting of numerous public and private stakeholders will strive to better determine where trash comes from, and how it finds its way into the South Platte River and its tributaries. Trash shows up most noticeably after rainstorms and as snow melts, but

efforts will focus on determining where it enters the River and its tributaries, how often, and in what quantity. Trash arrives in our waterways from many sources – windblown, litter based, and, to a great extent through storm sewers. Determining these sources and the related ratio of % of trash/source will allow the proper course(s) of action to be taken. In addition, statistics show that large numbers of urban communities are unaware that "off site" littering and pollution results in the direct pollution of nearby waterways. Courses of action to increase public awareness of this reality will be determined.

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Enforcement

Numerous existing laws are in place at all levels of government that prohibit polluting, be it litter or the many other forms of pollution. As much as anyone dislikes receiving any kind of citation, increased efforts to enforce these laws must occur. If additional legislation is determined to be needed, the PURE coalition, working with the appropriate governmental and law enforcement agencies will collaborate to create said ordinances and statutes, along with the related public awareness measures to inform citizens across the metro area about these changes

Prevention

While both the concepts and efforts described in the Education/Enlightenment and Enforcement arenas relate to the prevention of trash ending up in our waterways, additional efforts will be researched by the PURE coalition to determine if there are means and mechanisms to capture and remove trash closer to the neighborhood level before it is flushed into the storm sewers through the metro area.

Collection and Removal

Confluence Kayaks and Down River Equipment Company organize a river cleanup each spring and The Greenway Foundation organizes one each fall. In addition, each year, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, the great friend of the South Platte, conducts five Metro wide trash cleanups along the South Platte during the year with five additional cleanups within Denver's stretch of the River. "These definitely help out, but if it rains a day after a cleanup, it almost looks like nothing has happened" notes Jon Kahn, PURE partner and owner of Confluence Kayaks. "Since we anticipate further development along the River, this will only grow as an issue."

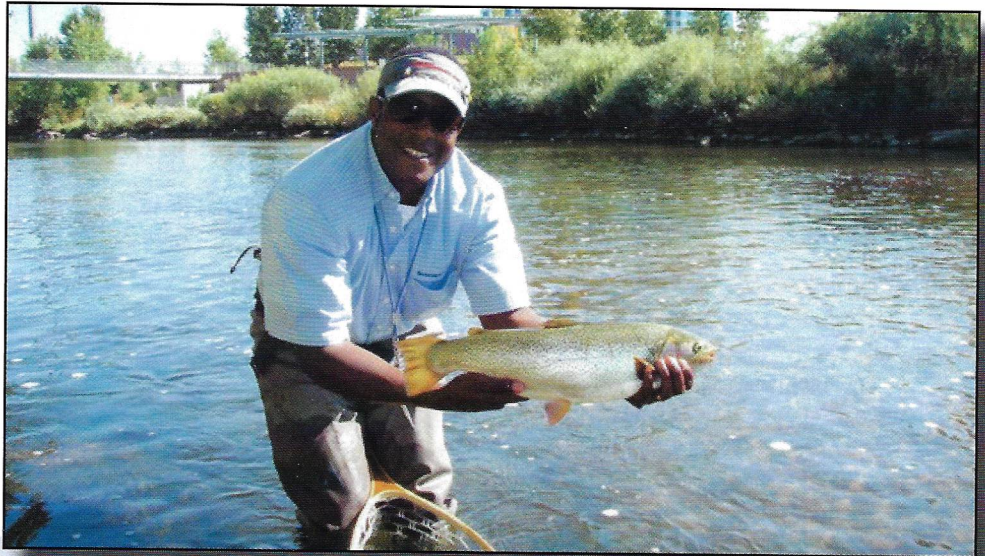


Photo courtesy of Fred Miller

Dzifa Glymin, Board Member for Denver Trout Unlimited at the Second Annual Carp Slam

The PURE coalition will discuss amongst the various public and private stakeholders the potential of additional monitoring and removal efforts beyond those that exist today. In a zero-trash environment, policies and programs will be determined to further create a 'leave no trash' ethic throughout the Denver metro community that includes picking up after domestic animals, and continuing riverside cleanups which serve to remind us all that it takes a little help from the entire community. Also, policies, procedures and practices exist around the world to capture trash as it reaches the "end pipe" of storm sewer outlets, greatly reducing if not fully preventing large amounts of trash that otherwise would be dumped into the stream flow. The PURE coalition will look into these various practices and determine if they could apply to the South Platte River and its tributaries.

Every effort needs to be made through education, enlightenment, enforcement, prevention, collection and removal to keep trash from entering the South Platte and its tributaries. Fortunately, there are examples of successful trash reduction programs

that can be examined and learned from including the Los Angeles Watershed in California and the Potomac Watershed in the Washington, DC Metro area. The PURE coalition will conduct extensive research and how these communities are achieving a zero trash tolerance reality and determine how those successes can be applied to Denver's urban waterways.

The Greenway Foundation prides itself on being a part of the 35 year revitalization of the environmental and recreational standing of the South Platte River and its tributaries which has, in turn, catalyzed signature redevelopment projects along many of the adjacent properties. These successes have been achieved by working shoulder to shoulder with countless public and private based partners and donors. The journey being undertaken by the PURE coalition will neither be easy nor quick but agreeing that the community at large will no longer ignore or accept trash in the South Platte River Watershed is a significant first step.

PLANNING THE FUTURE

THE NEXT EVOLUTION OF THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER

By Marge Price and David Howlett-
Capitol Representatives

On January 20, 2010, the Greenway Foundation hosted a final steering committee meeting for the completion of the River South (RISO) Greenway Master Plan in Denver. Nine months of hard work went into the planning effort, and the result covers over seven miles of the River within the city limits, from West Dartmouth Avenue on the south to 20th Street on the north. The plan encompasses the area of Confluence Park, the Greenway Foundation's first project, and it recommends improvements to the trails, parks and channel of the South Platte along the 7+ miles of the River encompassed within the Plan.

A large group of funding agencies came together to partner in the funding of the RISO planning effort: **Colorado Water Conservation Board, Denver Public Works, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, Denver Parks and Recreation Department, Denver Water** and the **Greenway Preservation Trust**.

Jeff Shoemaker, Executive Director of the Greenway Foundation facilitated the creation of the RISO Plan. Merle Grimes of MDG Associates served as project manager and chief planner. Enhanced water recreation recommendations for this stretch of the River were crafted by McLaughlin



Illustration courtesy of Dave Duclos, The COLE Company

White Water Design experts Risa Shimoda and Rick McLaughlin. Water conservation and in-river technical recommendations were the assignment of CDM's Travis Bogan, Bob Armstrong and Ted Johnson. Kevin Shanks, Julie Gamec and Kelly Bish of THK Associates handled the graphics and final plan production. Dave Duclos prepared the illustrative graphics, and Roy Fronczyk, Community Planning Services, LLC, produced the maps for all of the internal and public meetings and the Plan. Outreach and public meetings as well as the initial tour of

the River were planned and staffed by David Howlett and Marge Price with Capitol Representatives. They also helped with editing the report and preparing for next steps. A dedicated team of City staff from several departments worked hard alongside the Planning Team in the creation of the RISO Plan – Gordon Robertson, and Devon Buckels from Parks and Recreation, Terry Baus, Kim Watanabe and Karen Good of Public Works, Bar Chadwick of Finance; Kristin Krasnove and Barbara Frommell of Community

Continued on Page 15



Illustration courtesy of Dave Duclos, The COLE Company

Planning and Development, Jon Novick of Environmental Health, Donna Pacetti of Denver Water and Greenprint Denver, Councilman Chris Nevitt and his assistant Valerie Kerns. Bryan Kohlenburg and Mark Hunter with Urban Drainage and Flood Control District and the Trust for Public Land's Tim Wohlgenant and Wade Shelton have been there every step of the way. From the State of Colorado, Chris Sturm of CWCB, Jim Paulmeno of CDOT and Paul Winkle of Division of Wildlife participated generously.

The RISO plan covers an area over twice the size of the River North (RINO) Greenway Master Plan that was completed in 2009. Together, the two plans stretch the full length of the 10.5 miles of the South Platte River that flows through the City and County of Denver.

In mid-2009, the Greenway Foundation helped Denver's Parks and Recreation Dept. craft a grant proposal to Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) to fund creation of an implementation plan for the entire RINO and RISO areas, and the grant was awarded. Work began on the effort now known as the River Vision Implementation Plan (RVIP) in March 2010. With intense work over six months, the Denver Parks and Recreation Department and the Greenway Foundation team will prepare an implementation plan that takes the contents of the RISO and RINO plans, prioritizes the recommendations within the Plan, and provides initial design concepts for the top five projects along the River in Denver that are fundable and doable in the near term. An additional effort convened by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is underway that will examine additional opportunities along the River in Denver County.

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) has been a wonderful partner for a number of the projects the Greenway Foundation has undertaken with the City and County of Denver. In addition to completing the RVIP effort, the team will keep its eyes open for other GOCO grant opportunities for each of the identified priority projects – and possibly for a larger Legacy grant offering in the coming months.

OVERLAND POND PARK AND IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED AND DESERVED

By Casey Davenhill- Project Manager,
Overland Park Stewardship Partners

When Jeff Shoemaker and I first sat down with Laura Archuleta, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), in early 2008, we knew that Natural Resource Damage funds associated with the cleanup of the S.W. Shattuck Chemical Plant should stay in the neighborhood. Overland Pond Park at Florida Ave. and S. Platte River Drive was developed in 1986 as a 'park of intrinsic ecological value which offers opportunities for interdisciplinary, environmental and conservation studies...a place where students can learn the importance of understanding and protecting Colorado's fragile land and wildlife' (Overland Pond Educational Park – Opening Day September 18, 1986, Brochure). Overland Pond Park is within blocks of the Shattuck Plant's location at 1800 S. Bannock.

Remembering the valiant efforts of the Overland Park Neighborhood Association in forcing the cleanup of the Shattuck Super Fund Site, a radium processing facility where in 1934 it was estimated that it took the equivalent of 15 men working for a year to produce a gram of radium, we approached the neighbors with a plan.

Assisted by a team of four graduate students from the University of Colorado School of Landscape Design, we consulted with other key stakeholders:

- SPREE (South Platte River Environmental Education) – the Greenway Foundation flagship educational program which has brought thousands of DPS students to the South Platte River and its tributaries.
- ELK (Environmental Learning for Kids) - a fishing program for city kids
- A group of Audubon birders who have been watching birds and 'taking names' continuously since 1995
- A group of neighborhood/local users of Overland Pond Park
- Denver Parks & Rec. Dept. and other City agencies
- UDFCD (Urban Drainage and Flood Control District)



Photo courtesy of Scott Gilmore

ELK Service Project maintaining perennial garden at Overland Pond Park.

With encouragement from the USFWS, we presented a proposal in December of 2008 to complete a much-needed 'make-over' for Overland Pond Park and the adjacent South Platte River riparian habitat. The Overland Pond Neighborhood Association hosted us at meetings throughout 2009 and we thank them for their tenacity and support.

Much to our delight, the proposal was accepted and this summer will witness the implementation of the plan!

Final details of construction will be determined through a Planning and Design process which will include the CU School of Landscape Design students, now working on the project

as interns. SPREE's River Ranger youth employees will assist with habitat assessment, maintenance and volunteer leadership along with nearby neighborhood groups. The preliminary design calls for repair or replacement of seating areas, hiring of contractors to perform grading for new trails, buffers and safe access points. Innovative interpretive signage and irrigation improvements will be added as funding permits. These actions will help direct public use to fortified areas and help maintain integrity of the rest of the pond and stream riparian habitat.

This project has picked up many supporters since it was first discussed more than two years ago and Overland Pond Park has had many advocates

over the years. No one has been more important than the original designer of the Park, Merle Grimes. When Merle was a graduate student of the School of Landscape Design at CU in 1983, he developed the initial concept of Overland Pond Park as a "classroom without walls...landscaped with plantings native to Colorado from the plains through the foothills to the subalpine". Today's graduate students: Kourtnie Harris, Debbie Finch, Lindsey Gerlach and Katie McKain, inspired by Merle's vision,

have enjoyed a unique opportunity to take a project from the drawing board through a public planning process and on to construction. We are all grateful to Merle for his support through his many meetings with the students to guide them through the process. We know with Merle's guiding vision that Overland Pond Park will continue to inspire students, bird watchers, fishermen and nature lovers as we make full use of this opportunity to put the NRD Funds to work in the Overland community.

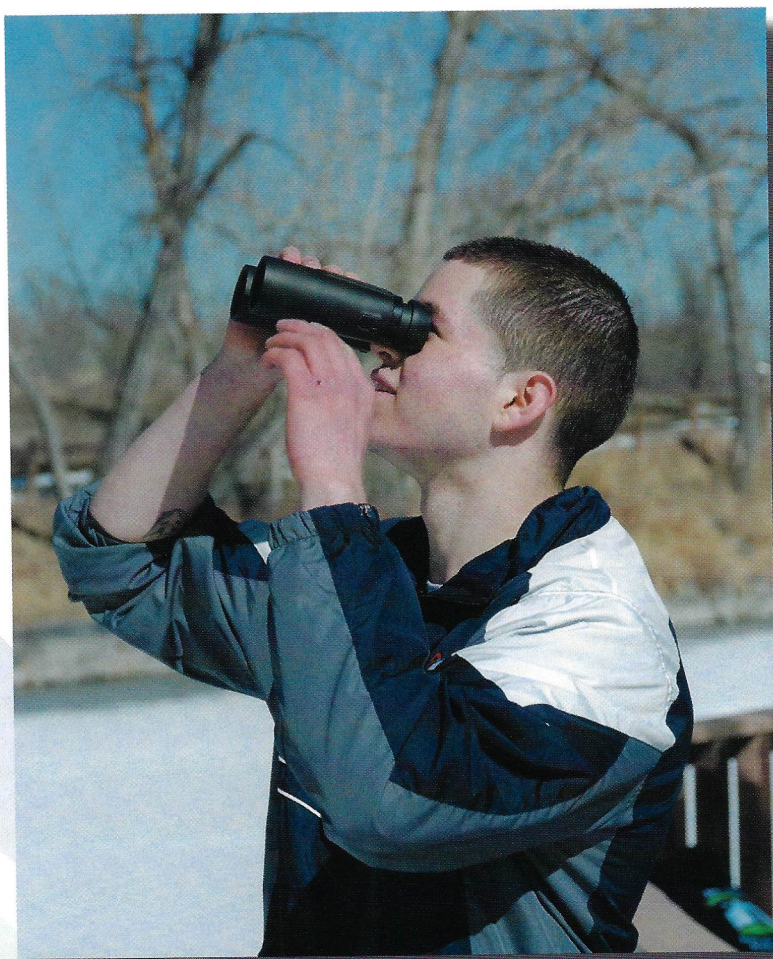


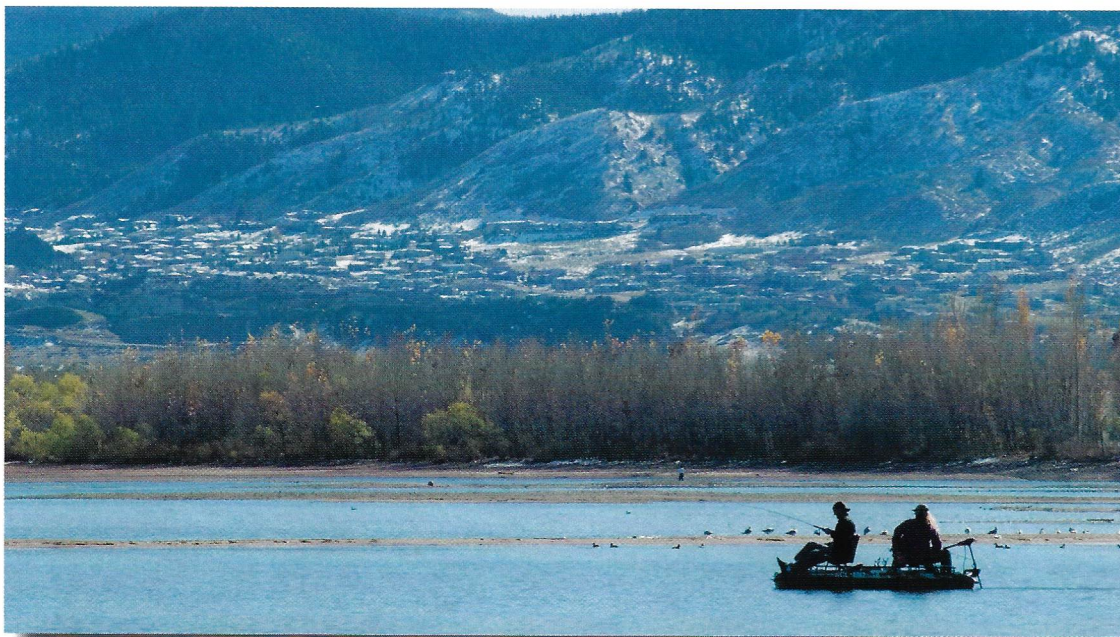
Photo courtesy of Scott Gilmore

ELK Sevice Project participating in wildlife monitoring as part of the USFWS funding.

CHATFIELD RESERVOIR REALLOCATION PROJECT

PROGRESS CONTINUES!

By Marge Price and David Howlett,
Capitol Representatives



Chatfield State Park, courtesy of Colorado State Parks

When the Greenway Foundation joined the collaborative effort to obtain water storage in Chatfield Reservoir, work by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) was already underway on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). In fact, preliminary studies leading to the EIS began in 1997 and work on the EIS itself was launched in 2004. We are pleased to report that the draft EIS is nearly complete and could be available for public comment as soon as June or July of this year!

The Coalition of water interests and supporters for the Chatfield Project (Coalition) has grown to include ten upstream water providers, five downstream water providers, five

instream interests (including the Greenway Foundation), 14 state and local government stakeholders and 7 non-profit organizations. The Greenway Foundation continues to serve as the financial administrator for the coalition and participates in the group's bi-annual trips to Washington, DC to visit the Colorado congressional delegation and lobby for federal funds. The trips also include meetings with the Corps DC Headquarters experts on a broad range of technical benchmarks.

On the Chatfield trip to Washington, DC in March of 2010, Eric Laux, the Omaha Corps Project Manager who worked with the Coalition from 2007

through 2009, defined the Coalition as an "awesome group", and termed the Chatfield Reallocation Project as "a shining example of collaborative effort, a poster child for how to go about getting water projects done in the Denver Metro area." The engagement of the Coalition in the DC community was described as "an important aspect of doing things right".

During this most recent trip to Washington, DC the Coalition visited with Colorado's congressional offices about the need for \$225,000 in federal funds in FY2011 to complete work toward a Record of Decision (ROD)



Photo courtesy of USACE

by the Corps. This appropriation will be used within the Corps of Engineers to complete the EIS needed for final approval of the Chatfield Project. The Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Coordinating Committee is appreciative of the solid and broad-based support by our Colorado Congressional Delegation. All Members have been very supportive of our efforts to complete the EIS.

One of the least known facts about the Chatfield Project is that while the study efforts to date have been co-funded by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Colorado/ local water providers on a "50/50" basis, 100% of the construction costs related to the environmental and recreation mitigation improvements required to allow for the additional

water to be added to Chatfield State Park will be locally funded by members of the Coalition. In addition, these same members of the Coalition will compensate the Corps for the cost of storage with a collective payment of approximately \$14 million. In all, the costs borne by these Coalition members will come to approximately \$127 million with less than 3 percent of the final Chatfield Project costs being born by the Corps.

Despite the significant costs of the overall project, the cost to these Coalition members to bring this much needed additional water to those they serve is, in the "world of water", very economical. And the benefits to Chatfield State Park, the region and the South Platte River are immeasurable.

While much work has yet to occur, the progress involved with this landmark endeavor to provide critically needed water along the Front Range for municipal, agricultural, recreational and environmental benefits is significant. All the parties involved are more optimistic than ever that the Chatfield Project will be approved and become a reality in the near future!



The Greenway Foundation

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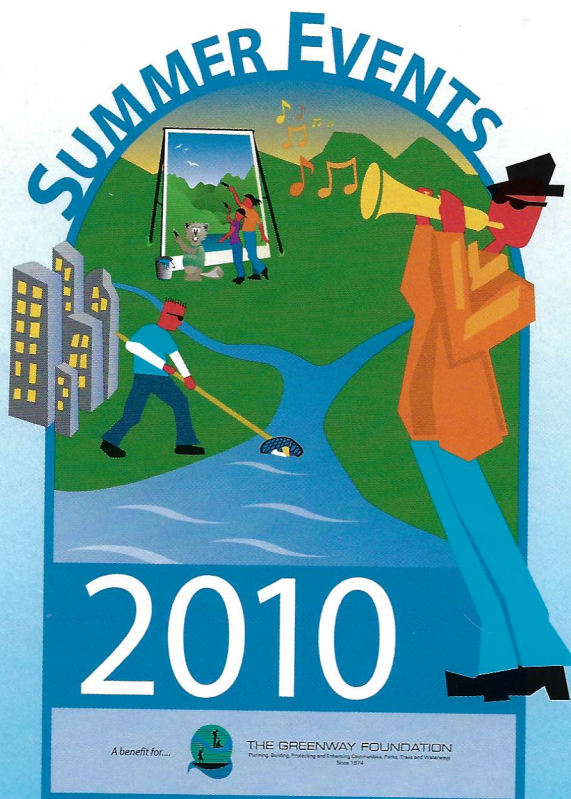
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Calendar of Events

Venice on the Creek • Opens June 11th

• Hours of Operation:
Friday and Saturday 5:30 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.
Candlelight Rides start at 8:30 p.m.

• Please call 303-893-0750 or visit us online at
www.veniceonthecreek.com for more
information or to make a reservation.

Confluence Concerts • At Confluence Park

• All concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. and
conclude at 8:00 p.m.

- July 1.....The Ronnie Shellist Blues Band
- July 8.....Curley Taylor and Zydeco Trouble
- July 15.....The Red Sax Quartet
- July 22.....The Informants

Venice on the Creek • Closes August 14th

South Platte Riversweep Saturday, September 25th

• 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

• Fishback Landing Park-Adjacent to the
Downtown Aquarium.

Art on the River

Late Autumn- date, time, locations TBA