# THE GREENWAY CURRENT

THE GREENWAY FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT



PLANNING, FUNDING, AND DESIGN • ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION • RIVERSIDE EVENTS • YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

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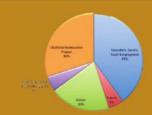


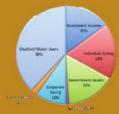




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### FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



Kip Stastny Chairman of the Board The Greenway Foundation

As we begin our 38th year of protecting, enhancing and preserving the South Platte River and its tributaries, I am honored to offer a brief description of how The Greenway Foundation (TGF) has grown and hopefully improved over the last 38 years. TGF was originally challenged with restoring the South Platte River and Cherry Creek in the City and County of Denver (Denver). Our Founder, Joe Shoemaker, was a whiz at getting agreement and support from a diverse group of public and private supporters to move forward with the reclamation of our River. Trails, bridges, water quality and recreation features, youth education, and community events have all been a part of the mix throughout the ensuing decades. 2012 will provide even more opportunities to enhance Denver and the surrounding communities, as well as improve life for many of our upstream and downstream water users.

Looking ahead to 2012, TGF's involvement with the River Vision Implementation Plan (RVIP) is moving forward in grand style. RVIP's recommendations, in partnership with Denver, include short, mid, and long term projects that will not only further enhance the South Platte River, but also provide increased opportunities to further develop properties alongside and near our River. Hopefully you've had a chance to witness the revitalization of the Central Platte Valley adjacent to Confluence Park, TGF'S first project. New residential, retail, and commercial establishments have given this historic area of Denver a new and revitalized look and feel. Both local citizens and visiting tourists are able to enjoy the River corridor, including its adjacent parks and trails right in the heart of Denver. The recommendations within RVIP will provide additional opportunities to enjoy the South Platte River as well as its surrounding amenities as TGF moves forward with our partners to accomplish these plans.

The Chatfield Reallocation Project continues to offer the opportunity for TGF to be involved with numerous South Platte River stakeholders in multiple counties through the efforts to increase water storage (and, thereby, downstream delivery) within Chatfield Reservoir. By working closely with all of the parties involved, TGF has been engaged in discussions with our Congressional Delegation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as well as many other related entities to support this critically important project. By increasing the amount of water available in Chatfield Reservoir, and therefore for the South Platte River downstream of the Reservoir, the recreational and environmental quality of our River, as it flows through the Denver Metro area, will be greatly increased. This will also result in more water for related municipal and agricultural needs.

RVIP, the Live-Life-Smiling Mile High Mile, PURE, Chatfield Reallocation, Confluence Concerts, Riversweep are all a sampling of TGF's ventures. And the list goes on! This local, yet nationally recognized, non-profit has a great deal on its plate for the coming year as well as the near term and long term future. The energetic dedication and enthusiasm of TGF's Board of Directors, along with TGF's collective staff are up to the challenge!

Whether you've been a longstanding supporter of the TGF or this is your first absorption of the efforts of this unique non-profit, thank you for reading this Annual Report and learning more about the work of The Greenway Foundation.

Join us! We'd love to have you become a member of our River Family!!

Kip Stastny Chairman of the Board The Greenway Foundation

## THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER

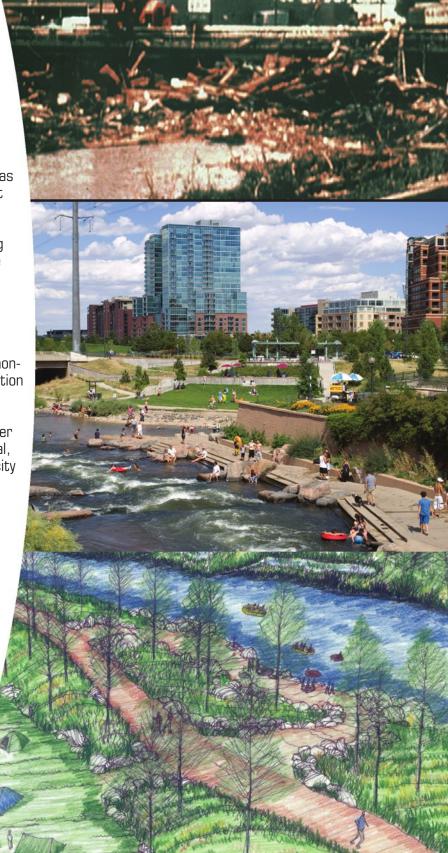
YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

On June 16, 1965 fourteen inches of rain fell in just over four hours sending a torrent of water down the South Platte River through the heart of Denver. The resulting flood was the most devastating natural disaster in Denver's history. Homes, bridges, and businesses were destroyed and washed away. As the floodwaters began to recede, debris littered the South Platte River from city limit to city limit.

In 1974, Denver Mayor Bill McNichols appointed State Senator Joe Shoemaker as chairman of the Platte River Development Committee (PRDC). The Committee was charged with initiating the reclamation of the South Platte River. As the work along the South Platte began, it quickly became evident that funding from the city alone would not be sufficient for the ambitious reclamation goals of the PRDC.

In 1976, the PRDC evolved into The Greenway Foundation (TGF), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization focused on the solicitation and obtainment of public and private contributions with a mission to revitalize, restore, and reclaim the South Platte River as an environmental, recreational, cultural, scientific, and historical amenity for the city of Denver.

Over the course of the last 38 years, TGF has partnered with numerous public, private, and philanthropic organizations to collectively create over 100 miles of riverside trails, over 100 acres of riverside parks and natural areas, over 100,000 linear feet of water quality and recreational improvements with the River, and invest over \$100 Million in green improvements along the South Platte River and its tributaries in Metro Denver. This ongoing commitment to Denver's greatest natural resource has resulted in over \$10 Billion of economic benefits to the areas adjacent to the River.



## THE NEXT STEPS

### A RENEWED VISION FOR DENVER'S SOUTH PLATTE RIVER

### CHATFIELD REALLOCATION PROJECT

- Additional water storage at Chatfield Reservoir
- Coordinated release of water downstream of the Reservoir for better water quality and recreational opportunities
- Cooperative effort with more than 30 entities including upstream and downstream water providers, in-stream interests, 14 state and local government stakeholders, and 7 nonprofit organizations

Since 2004, The Greenway Foundation (TGF) has been an active participant and supporter of the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Study and Project, and serves as the administrator for the water user coalition escrow account. TGF participates in excursions to Washington, DC



Chatfield Reservoir

each year to visit with the Colorado congressional delegation, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), USACE Headquarters, and the White House Office of Management and Budget to support funding and report on progress regarding the Project.

# PROTECT OUR URBAN RIVER ENVIRONMENT (PURE)

 New initiative focused on creating a systemic shift in how the citizens of Metro Denver connect trash in their community to the resulting trash in the South Platte River



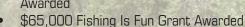
 Goals and objectives include the reduction of trash in the River through a largescale focus on awareness, prevention, and removal

The overall goal of PURE is to improve water quality in the South Platte River as it runs through Metro Denver. Using information and education planning, PURE hopes to raise public awareness and commitment to keeping trash – the most visible form of pollution – out of the River. Water quality improvement will, TGF believes, come from continued hard work by PURE and many others to reduce all forms of pollution in the River.

Funding and support for PURE has been obtained from the City and County of Denver, City of Sheridan, the City of Englewood, Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, the Environmental Protection Agency, Kenney Brothers Foundation, Denver Trout Unlimited, and Confluence Kayaks. This collective support will allow TGF to initiate the education and outreach components of the PURE agenda along with initiating efforts to determine the sources of larger amounts of trash in River as well as work with the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District to inventory the items found.

## GRANT FRONTIER TO OVERLAND POND

- Focused on River Restoration and Water Quality Improvements
- \$1.7 Million in Natural Resource Damage Funds Awarded
- \$250,000 in Water Supply Reserve Account Funds Awarded





Dedication of the memorial to Merle Grimes at Overland Pond Park. Memorial designed by Robert Tully

Over the course of the year, TGF and the City and County of Denver initiated the formation of a working group, including Overland neighborhood residents, to interact with representatives from the Trustees of Colorado's Natural Resource Damages Funds program (NRDs). The focus of this effort was to develop a request from TGF to obtain \$1.7 Million of NRDs funding to help restore water quality, habitat, and riparian areas along a two-mile stretch of the South Platte River in south Denver.

The funds were awarded to TGF and will be used to implement projects identified in the River Vision Implementation Plan (RVIP) to restore, protect, and enhance riparian habitat in the Grant Frontier, Pasquinel's Landing, and Overland Pond areas. In addition, TGF secured a \$250,000 award from Colorado's Water Supply Reserve Account for the preliminary design efforts of the RVIP recommendations within this area, as well as a \$65,000 Fishing is Fun grant from Colorado Parks & Wildlife for further enhancements to Overland Pond.

TGF is grateful to all those who helped obtain the needed funds to make these improvements a reality.

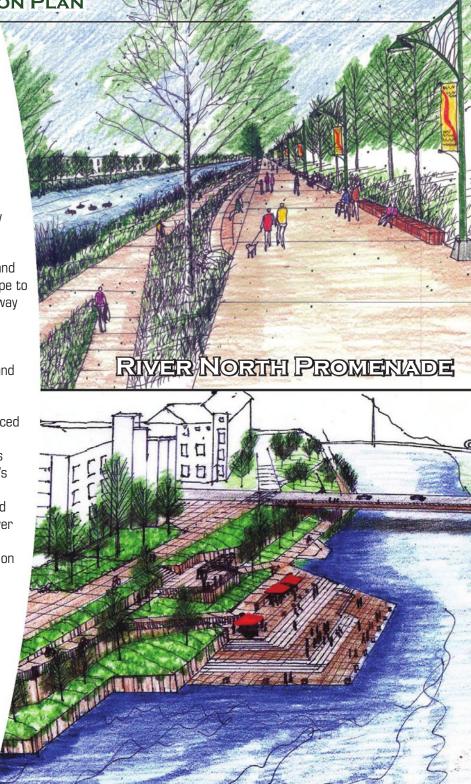
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# RIVER VISION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

With the completion of the River Vision Implementation Plan (RVIP) in late 2010, the focus of this newest endeavor to further reclaim and enhance Denver's South Platte River has evolved toward obtaining the needed funds to begin turning "vision" into "reality".

Projects on Weir Gulch (within the Sun Valley area) and Confluence Park are already underway, and fundraising efforts for all five priority project areas are in high gear. As planning gives way to implementation, TGF and its numerous public and private partners hope to see construction and land acquisition underway in the coming year.

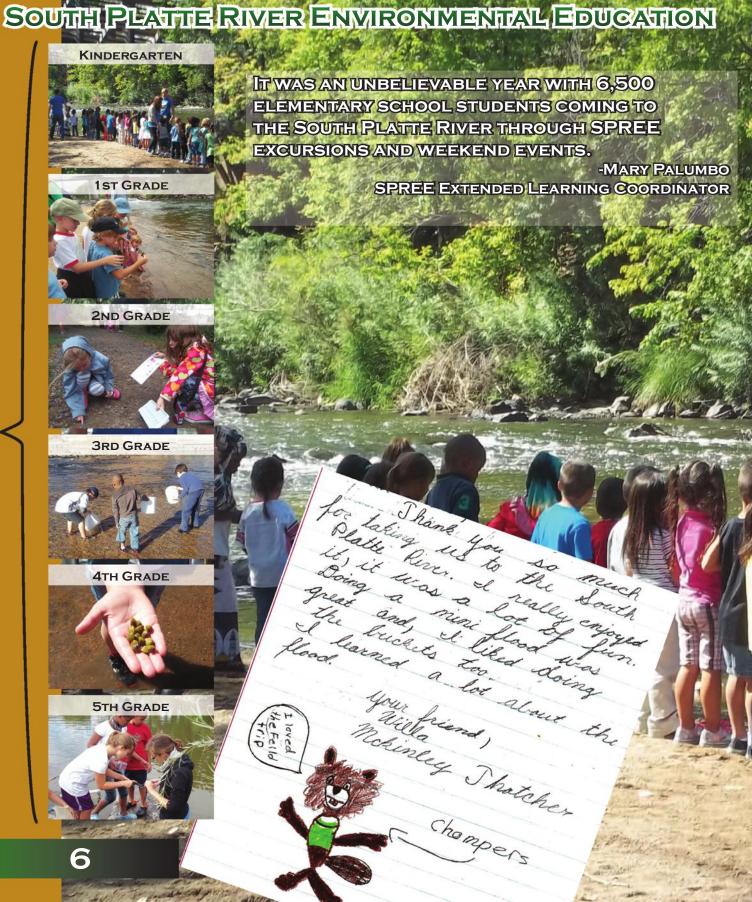
From water quality and aquatic habitat improvements, to outdoor learning spaces and playgrounds, the next evolution of Denver's South Platte River has begun. This vision includes: better trails and bridges for enhanced connectivity, riparian, environmental and recreational improvements to over five miles of the South Platte River, and finally, Denver's newest outdoor education park that will include our city's first urban campground and obtainment of properties adjacent to the River to allow for much needed park space. TGF remains dedicated to the on-going reclamation of Denver's greatest natural resource!



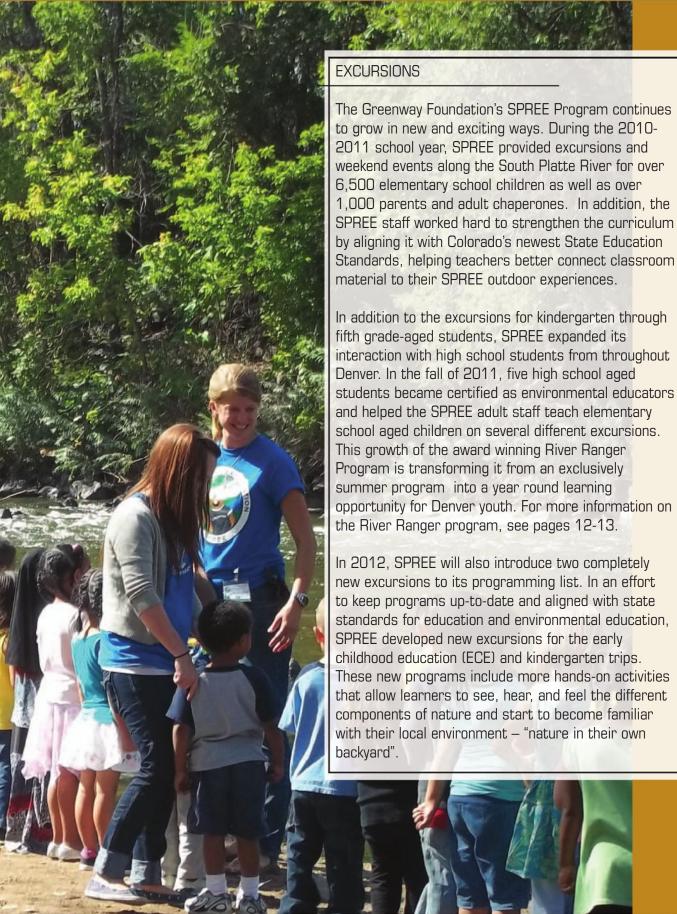
CONFLUENCE PARK



# SPREE





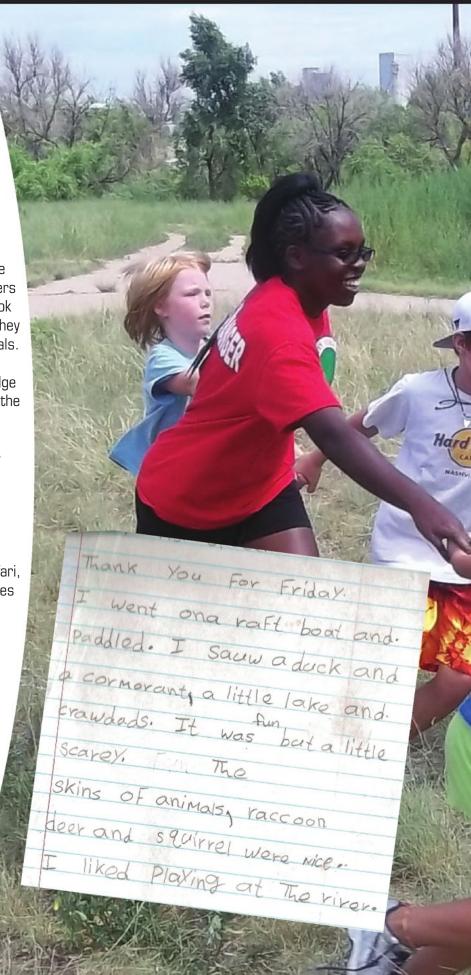


### SUMMER CAMP

In 2011, over 40 1st through 6th grade students joined SPREE at Johnson-Habitat Park for two weeks of SPREE Summer Camp. During the first week, campers became SPREE Force Special Agents and completed top-secret missions from Chompers, SPREE's beaver mascot, to investigate how people can reduce the amount of trash that ends up in the South Platte River. Through outdoor exploration, nature games, recycled crafts, and more, campers learned all about composting and even took home a miniature worm-composting bin they made from repurposed household materials. Camp activities lead participants from awareness to action, building the knowledge and skills needed to become stewards of the environment.

In 2012, SPREE is expanding its summer camp program to a full eleven weeks of outdoor fun along the South Platte River. Campers will train as Special Agents by learning about the environment along the River. They will defeat the trash monster, and the couch potato, go on a Denver Safari, and even train as Art Ninjas. Crafts, games and activities will fill a summer with fun!

To register, visit: www.spreeweb.org/ summercamp



SPREE SPREE

I REALLY LOVED GETTING TO KNOW EAGH OF THE STUDENTS AT ADVENTURE CLUB. THEIR IMAGINATIONS ARE SO BRIGHT AND THEY REALLY CARE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND THEM.

-AUTUMN BJUGSTAD SPREE WEB SITE AND MULTIMEDIA COORDINATOR

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

SPREE also offers After
School Clubs for elementary schools.
Through the club, students learn about the importance of the environment by becoming water detectives, traveling through time to Colorado before the pioneers, and even becoming snow hunters. This program brings students into the nature of their own schoolyard and reinforces the connection between students and their local environment.

For more information or to start a SPREE club at your school visit: www.spreeweb.org/adventureclub

## FISHING FOR KIDS WATER FESTIVAL

In 2011, The Greenway
Foundation's Fishing for Kids Day
expanded into a full Water Festival.
Participants received a fishing pole
and also learned about non-point
source pollution, storm drains, and
the water treatment process. With
the help of Keep it Clean Denver,
Earth Force, American Rivers,
Environmental Learning for Kids, and
the Division of Parks and Wildlife,
The Greenway Foundation was able to
provide students with a full day of fun
and learning at Overland Pond Park.

To learn about all of our weekend events for 2012, visit: www.spreeweb.org



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.GNWY.ORG

## **EVENTS**





## SUMMER CONCERT SERIES FREE OUTDOOR CONCERTS

The Greenway Foundation's Summer Concert Series continues to attract a growing audience each Thursday in July for music-filled summer evenings along the South Platte River. The Series continues to be recognized as one of the best summer traditions in Denver. This year, the Summer Concert Series will expand beyond Confluence Park to include concerts at Ruby Hill Park and in the River North area with the TAXI development.

All concerts are from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

- July 5 Denver Municipal Band Confluence Park
- July 12 Mary Louise Lee Ruby Hill
- July 19 The Johnny O. Band Confluence Park
- July 26 Quemando Salsa TAXI/RINO



## CH2M HILL SPRING RIVERSWEEP APRIL 21, 2012



Join us for the CH2M Hill Spring
RiverSweep for a fun day of teamwork
to enhance the trails, parks and banks
along the South Platte. Bring your
family, friends, and co-workers, and
help make our River even better! Free
parking at the Denver Aquarium.

The

## LIVE-LIFE-SMILING MILE HIGH MILE APRIL 22, 2012

The Live-Life-Smiling Mile High Mile is



Denver's premier one mile road race. With a dramatic finish running through the player's tunnel and onto the field at Sports Authority Field at Mile High, this event is fun for all ages. The race supports The Greenway Foundation's SPREE

(South Platte River Environmental Education) program.

Registration is closed for this event



# GREENWAY GOLF TOURNAMENT MAY 21, 2012



Golfers square off at Meridian Golf Club on May 21st to benefit The Greenway Foundation. Bring your best foursome for a fun day supporting our South Platte River.

For more information please visit www.gnwy.org/golf

Register at www.milehighmile.com.

SPREE SUMMER C





Looking for a way to get your kids outside and active this summer? If so, then Adventures Outside is for you!

Join the SPREE Team along the South Platte River for a summer full of adventures! Participants in

Adventures Outside will learn about the environment along the River as they transform into Special Agents, traveling through time, going on safaris, and even learning the ways of the Art Ninja!

Sign up at www.spreeweb.org/summercamp





### GALA ON THE BRIDGE SEPTEMBER 6, 2012



Last September, over 400 supporters of The Greenway Foundation gathered over (literally over) the South Platte River on the 19th St. pedestrian bridge to honor the work of The Greenway Foundation and to present the 2011 Friend of the River Award to the visionary Riverfront developer, Mark Smith.

Please save the date of Thursday, September 6, 2012, when Dana Crawford will receive the 2012 Friend of the River Award for her astounding work throughout the Central Platte Valley, and for being one of the founding Board Members of The Greenway Foundation.

Register at www.greenwayfoundation.org/gala



## CH2M HILL FALL RIVERSWEEP SEPTEMBER 29, 2012



Join us for the CH2M HILL Fall RiverSweep. Each year over 500 volunteers help remove trash and debris along the banks and trails of the South Platte. In addition, volunteers help with numerous other projects including crusher-

fine trail construction, painting, tree protection, and more. Free parking at the Denver Aquarium.

Sign up at www.gnwy.org/riversweep



# FISHING FOR KIDS WATER FESTIVAL COMING FALL 2012



Join the SPREE team for a fun day of fishing and learning. Each child receives a free fishing rod. Lunch is provided.

Register at www.gnwy.org/fishing



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.GNWY.ORG

GREENWAY RIVER RANGERS

The Greenway Foundation's (TGF) River Ranger Program is designed to provide meaningful opportunities for high school and college-aged youth to explore careers in environmental education and related fields.

Last summer, TGF employed 15 youth for over ten weeks as River Rangers. The River Rangers were exposed to several different environmental careers through work experience, site visits, and quest speakers. They completed at least 20 hours of environmental education training while working toward certification as environmental educators. They put their new knowledge and skills to work by teaching over 400 elementary age students at SPREE summer programs. The River Rangers worked 28 hours at Overland Pond Park removing invasive species, beaver proofing Cottonwood Trees, improving trails, cleaning up trash, and providing other maintenance for the park facilities.

"MY EXPERIENCE AS A RIVER RANGER OVERALL WAS REALLY GREAT BECAUSE IT SET ME ON A CAREER PATH THAT I HAD NO IDEA I HAD AN INTEREST IN. IT GAVE ME THE SKILLS AND MOTIVATION TO HAVE AN ENVIRONMENTAL CAREER LATER ON IN LIFE...THE GREENWAY FOUNDATION HAS GIVEN US A STEPPING-STONE INTO OUR FUTURE."

-RIVER RANGER KAY CARANTA

The River Ranger program won an award for Excellence in Environmental Education from the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education this year as the "Best New Program" in the state of Colorado.



### YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

APLER RANGERS

The success of the River Ranger Program has allowed TGF to expand it

from a summer program to a year round program. Youth now have opportunities to learn and become teachers for students on SPREE excursions.

"MY GOAL OVER THE SUMMER WAS TO IMPROVE MY COMMUNICATION SKILLS, I WANTED TO BE BETTER AT SPEAKING IN FRONT OF THE GROUP. THAT HAS WORKED REALLY WELL ACTUALLY. I GET TO STAND IN FRONT OF KIDS AND TEACH THEM, AND THEY UNDERSTAND ME, AND MY RANGERS TOO. THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT I AM SAYING TOO."
-RIVER RANGER FEZA NGANDU

Through partnerships with the KIPP Denver Collegiate High School, the EPA, the Nature Conservancy, the U. S. Forest Service, the Overland Pond Stewardship Partners, and many others, the River Ranger Program also provides youth with opportunities to expand their knowledge base, engage in outdoor recreation opportunities, experience a host of different internships, and build their resumes for college and beyond.

Watch a video made by the 2011 River Rangers about their experience at: www.gnwy.org.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.GNWY.ORG

# FUNDING

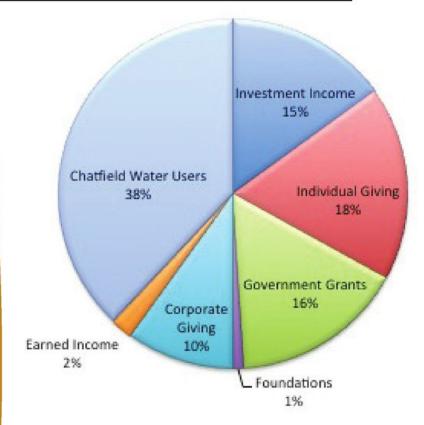
The Greenway Foundation has joined with many partners to expand its reach and ensure the future health and beauty of the urban South Platte River.

# Thank you for helping to make these ambitious goals achievable.

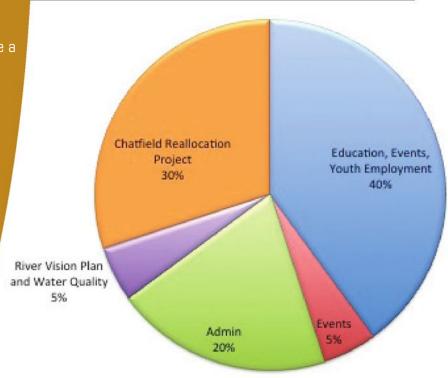
TGF continues to focus its energies on the many recommendations within the River Vision Implementation Plan. Efforts are underway to strategically expand the innovative SPREE and River Rangers programs. TGF continues to sustain its many current partnerships, while also extending its efforts to reach out and open new doors with individuals, institutions, businesses and government agencies whose interests and passions match TGF's key priorities that have the ability to effect lasting change.

Please join The Greenway Foundation in working to further improve the South Platte River and its tributaries. Together, we can make a real difference!

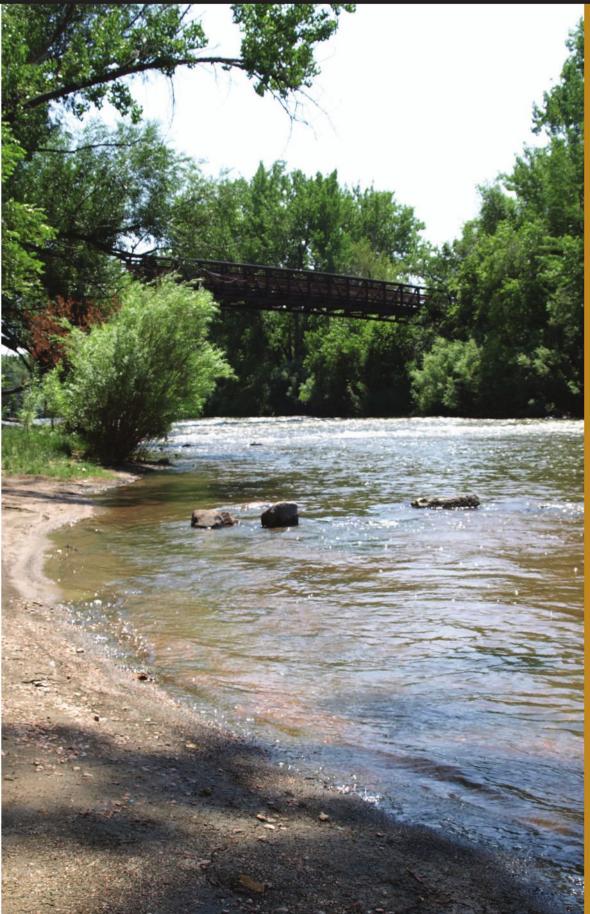
## Sources of Income



## **Funds Distributed**







### WAYS TO GIVE

### **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's work.
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.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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