

THE GREENWAY CURRENT 2016









www.greenwayfoundation.org

Look for these icons to learn more!



Financial Support Opportunities

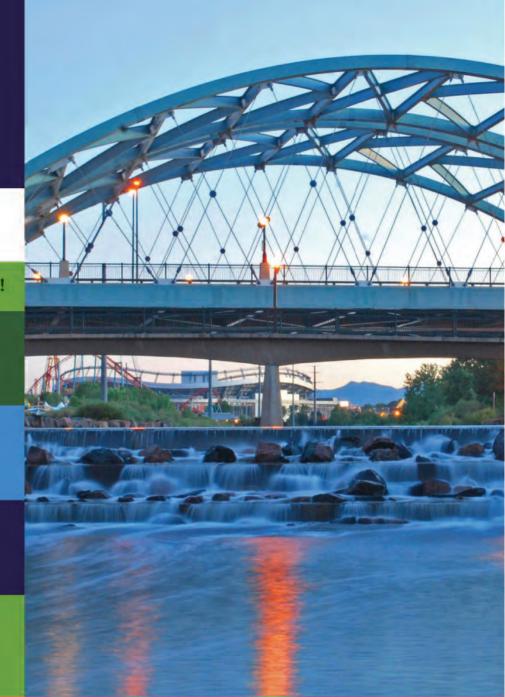


Get Involved



Family Friendly Activities

Thank you Tom Rice Photography and Ronnie Crawford for your contributions to the photography in this publication.

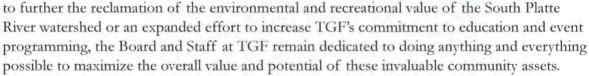




Greetings and thank you for taking the time to look over The Greenway Foundation's (TGF) 2016 Annual Report!

For over three decades, I have had the honor to serve as TGF's Executive Director which is now well into its fifth decade of engaging TGF's mission to preserve, protect, enhance and engage our community's precious waterways, truly our greatest natural resources.

Every year at TGF is unique, different and always focused on increasing and enhancing this mission. Be it an added effort



2016 has witnessed numerous accomplishments at TGF – both new and continuing. The Water Connection – TGF's water quality/water quantity initiative is now in full swing. SPREE – TGF's award winning environmental education initiative continues to excel and expand. Over \$35 Million of additional enhancement projects for the River are either completed, under construction or in the planning and design phase. TGF's numerous outreach and engagement events witnessed record numbers this year both in terms of attendance and related benefit. Ongoing involvement with numerous partners at all levels of the public and political sectors is ensuring that TGF's efforts will continue to help provide additional environmental, recreational, water quality and flood control benefits to the River and its tributaries.

The ability of TGF to maximize its mission is only possible with the support of countless public, private, philanthropic and political partners. Please enjoy the 2016 Annual Report with the absolute knowledge that this support is greatly appreciated and never taken for granted!

With Regard,

Jeff Shoemaker Executive Director



Revitalizing Rivers. Reconnecting Communities.

Since 1974, The Greenway Foundation has led the effort to reclaim the South Platte River and its tributaries from a virtual cesspool to a place of environmental and recreational pride.

The mission of The Greenway Foundation is to advance the South Platte River and its surrounding tributaries as unique environmental, recreational, cultural, scientific and historical amenities that uniquely link our City's past with its future.

This mission is accomplished by:

- Creating ongoing environmental and riparian enhancements
- Holding property, when needed, in conservation easements
- Utilizing the River as an outdoor and historical learning resource
- Hosting free cultural events promoting the relationship between the River and music, art and theater
- Providing youth employment opportunities through the Greenway River Ranger program
- Promoting good stewardship through hands-on South Platte River Environmental Education (SPREE) programs

250+
Sources of pollution eliminated from entering into the South Platte
River



2,000
Hours of environmental education taught each year



100,000+
Linear feet of water quality, recreational, environmental, and flood control improvements

\$500 Million of green improvements to the South Platte River and its tributaries, facilitating over \$20 Billion in residential, retail, commercial, and entertainment development throughout the Denver area

1,800
Hours of paid youth employment during
The Greenway
Foundation's summer camps

100+
Acres of parks and natural areas and 100+ miles of multi-use recreation trails along the South Platte River Greenway and its tributaries



River Vision Implementation Projects (RVIP)

by Michael Bouchard, Assistant Director of Design and Construction, Denver Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

2016 has witnessed another year of continued enhancements along Denver's South Platte River Greenway.

The continued partnership between The Greenway Foundation and DPR, along with over 15 additional funding partners, has allowed for the completion and opening of the completely redesigned and improved Pasquinel's Landing and Grant Frontier Parks. Additionally, the re-design of one of the oldest river parks in Denver, Globeville Landing, has been initiated as has the planning and design of two great new public spaces along the River, River North Park and the River North Promenade. Finally, DPR and TGF collaborated in a very significant effort to obtain the needed funding for the cleanup of unanticipated historic pollution at the site of Denver's birthplace, Confluence Park, so that the reconstruction of the Shoemaker Plaza area could be reinstated.

Throughout this process, the scope and budget of this suite of transformative projects has continued to grow, adding new funding partners and pushing the total budget of improvements to almost \$40 Million. This is an amazing time in the history of Denver's South Platte River and we're not done yet!









Grant Frontier Park

Construction Budget:

\$3,675,000

Construction Schedule:

Completed December 2016

With construction completed in December 2016, the reopening of Grant Frontier Park marks the end of the initial \$16.5M phase of RVIP. As is the case with Weir Gulch Park, Johnson Habitat Park, the Overland Corridor river improvements and Pasquinel's Landing before it, Grant Frontier has been immediately embraced by the surrounding communities and continues DPR's commitment to improving amenities and expanding park programs in historically underserved parts of the City.

The re-imagining of Grant Frontier Park is all about telling stories. A series of narrative threads intertwine in the design, much like the braided channel of the River itself. The very structure of the Park tells the story of how Denver measures and manages the River's seasonal flood levels. A series of terraces mark the elevations of the 2-year, 10year and 100-year flood elevations, which in turn describe the ecological zones from aquatic to riparian to upland. A tribute to the significance of the history along this section of the River is expressed in the Montana City interpretive area, which tells the story of the first pioneers to settle along the Front Range. Winding through all of these threads is the story of recreation and natural play, from the regional trail improvements to the boat-launch jetty to the nature themed play experiences. Grant Frontier Park weaves a rich tapestry from these themes, creating one of the richest park experiences along the South Platte River in the metro Denver area.





Confluence Park - Shoemaker Plaza

Construction Budget: \$8,500,000 (originally \$4,250,000) Construction Schedule: Spring 2015 – Fall 2017

The Reconstruction of Shoemaker Plaza has been one of the greatest challenges involving all of the RVIP projects, as well as one of the best success stories. This project involves rebuilding the original plaza (constructed in 1975) to improve bike and pedestrian flow, create better access to the River and develop vibrant new gathering spaces at the site of Denver's birthplace. Along with this opportunity to further reclaim Denver's birthplace has been the reality of discovering undesirable materials from Denver's industrial past underneath the original plaza.

Construction on what was originally a \$4.25M project began in Spring 2015. Two months into construction, coal tar, a byproduct of historic industrial activity along the River just upstream of Speer Boulevard, was found during routine excavation along the river bed. Consequently, the project was put on hold for over 16 months while the construction and oversight team addressed the subsequent design, permitting and financial challenges that the presence of coal tar created. This contaminant fundamentally changed the water control and soil export methodology for the project and resulted in the doubling of the project's construction cost.

During this time, TGF was a critical advocate for the project, reminding all involved that the cost of mitigating the coal tar was the price to be paid for the historic and tragic legacy of dumping pollutants along the City's River for over a century. Ultimately, multiple City departments came together to secure the additional funding and construction restarted in late summer of 2016. The collective efforts of TGF, DPR and many other partners resulted in one of the best success stories of 2016 involving doing the right thing for Confluence Park, the South Platte River and for the entire City and its citizens, directly on the site where Denver was born.

River North Park

Construction Budget: \$4,200,000

Construction Schedule: Fall 2017 - Fall 2018

Once a run-down industrial backwater with almost no park space to speak of, the River North (RiNo) has recently emerged as one of the most exciting and fastest developing neighborhoods in Denver. As with any great neighborhood, high quality park space is a critical component that provides health and wellness infrastructure, accessible public space to gather and celebrate, and a strong identity that reflects the values of the surrounding community. The new 3.5 acre River North Park will serve all of those roles for the RiNo neighborhood.

River North Park represents the next generation of park design within Denver's park system, integrating seamlessly with the neighborhood, embodying the gritty quirkiness of the area's industrial history and serving as a platform/stage/studio for the RiNo Arts District. As is the case with all of Denver's riverside parks, River North Park will reconnect the urban neighborhood to the Greenway corridor, the ecology of the River and the regional trail system. The Park will have standard programmatic elements (fields, playground, gathering spaces) but the design and material selection will express the neighborhood's contemporary aesthetic. Most importantly, the design takes an adaptive reuse approach to the existing buildings, transforming them into flexible spaces for community gatherings, cultural programming and even a public art studio 'Maker's Space'. The RiNo Arts District's engagement with the park and commitment to the creative programming of the reused buildings will result in a park experience unlike anything else in Denver and will become an exciting and dynamic stop along the South Platte River Greenway.









RiNo Promenade

Construction Budget: TBD
Construction Schedule: TBD

The RiNo Promenade is envisioned as a linear walkway along the east bank of the River in the RiNo Neighborhood and will be a unique experience along the River as well as all of Denver, inspired by the historic esplanades of Europe, modern river walks in American cities and other contemporary linear parks like the Highline in New York City.

The Promenade will use up to 8 blocks of the existing Arkins Court vehicular ROW to create a series of spaces between the RiNo neighborhood and the South Platte River Greenway. The character of each space will depend on the adjacent land uses and permeability of access. Included within the overall length of the Promenade will be an urban residential stretch on the south end, a park/open space segment in the middle near River North Park and a mixed use/entertainment zone to the north which will include adjacent food/beverage and arts/cultural uses.

The aesthetics of the Promenade will reflect the contemporary industrial look and feel of the RiNo neighborhood. Some of the current Arkins Court roadway materials will remain with strategic removal of sections of the current asphalt roadway to provide openings for landscape, seating and programmatic areas. The Promenade will be eclectic and dynamic and may include movable planters or other elements that can be reconfigured to create a range of spaces for a variety of activities. Most importantly, the Promenade is intended to blend with the adjacent land uses, blurring the edges to create a seamless pedestrian experience, a lively and interesting corridor to walk, sit, dine and be entertained, all in the heart of one of Denver's funkiest neighborhoods, all of which will overlook and engage with the River.

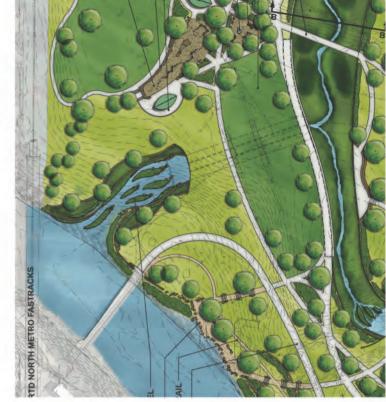
Globeville Landing Park

Construction Budget: \$3,000,000-\$4,000,000
Construction Schedule: Summer 2017 – Spring 2018

One of the initial parks constructed along the South Platte River in the late 1970s, Globeville Landing Park is being redesigned and updated for the 21st century. With the reality that stormwater runoff is one of the greatest threats to the water quality of the South Platte River, the new park design converts portions of a concrete parking lot into a major water quality feature, with a 600 foot open channel lined with native vegetation. This critically needed area of green infrastructure will provide water quality benefits for runoff from a large portion of northeast Denver.

In the past, stormwater delivery was engineered and constructed with little thought for aesthetics or water quality and hidden away through concrete tunnels and behind fences and walls. The new vision for Globeville Landing Park includes an enhanced water quality function into the DNA of the park itself, making it visible, thereby creating opportunities for learning and interpretation. The channel becomes an environmental educational learning experience, teaching that what happens to stormwater on each lot, block and neighborhood in Denver directly affects the water quality in the South Platte River.

In addition to the channel, this completely redesigned Park will have upgrades to the regional trail, better access to the River, a new playground and climbing wall and improved picnic and gathering areas. Collectively, the redesigned park features will update Globeville Landing Park as an anchor of the vibrant new neighborhoods rising up around it.





SPREE Excursions Elementary School Field Trips by Rachel Steel, Excursion Director

2016 was a busy year for the SPREE team! Nearly 6,000 students participated in SPREE Excursions along the South Platte River Greenway and several of its tributaries. Without leaving the City, these children were able to catch crawdads, hike riverside trails, pan for gold, experience rafting, and much more.

Too often, Denver's urban children are disconnected from the natural world and lack opportunities to participate in outdoor activities and environmental education. SPREE Excursions provide the opportunity for these children to get outdoors, have fun, and learn about nature during the course of their school year. Seven grade-specific field trips are offered, each one in a different Denver riverside park. Students discover "nature in their own back yard" through engaging educational experiences that develop a connection with local parks, build environmental literacy, and inspire stewardship of the South Platte River watershed. Excursion programs are also designed in line with Colorado Academic Standards to build upon the learning objectives of the classroom.

The Greenway Foundation (TGF) is excited that the SPREE Excursion program continues to grow, serving more children than ever in 2016, along with plans to increase capacity once again in 2017. TGF is also proud to have added its 13th official "SPREE School" in 2016, Garden Place Academy, which will bring all of its northwest Denver students on a SPREE Excursion, each and every year.



\$10 provides a student an experience on the River. Become a FrOG (Friend of Greenway) by donating each month and make a longstanding impact! www.greenwayfoundation.org/donate





Nearly **6,000** students participated in SPREE Excursions in 2016

"The instructors were truly incredible. This is by far the BEST field trip we have been on, and I have been teaching for 12 years!" -2nd Grade Teacher

From: Emma to: spree teachers

153 Excursions for a total of 535 hours of education along Denver's urban waterways

"I like SPREE a lot! It's fun, fun, fun, fun!"

-1st Grade Student



100% of the River Rangers show interest in taking classes that have to do with the environment. 100% of the River Rangers want to do work that involves solving environmental problems. 100% of the River Rangers talk about the environment with friends. 100% of the River Rangers were able to correctly answer questions about the local environment.

24
Hours of Environmental
Stewardship with The
Nature Conservancy at
Phantom Canyon

340
Hours of Teaching
Experience along the
South Platte River and
Cherry Creek



"I now think more about my daily actions, how they impact the River, and the environment. And I do a better job of keeping the environment well."

- America, River Ranger

Greenway River Rangers by Julianne Gagnon, Youth Programs Coordinator

The Greenway River Ranger (Rangers) program is designed for high school students to explore possibilities in environmental areas of employment through hands-on teaching experiences, increased environmental literacy, and adventuring outside. The Rangers develop leadership, communication, and critical thinking skills that serve as powerful tools for their future. Ten high school students are selected to be a part of this year-long internship, during which they teach activities to 5th grade classes on environmental education field trips, assist at SPREE Holiday Camps, participate in community service activities, and learn about environmental careers. At the culmination of the internship, six outstanding Rangers are hired to work as environmental educators at SPREE's summer camps. Summer employment includes positions for high school students, as well as for college students who previously went through the internship and act as mentors to the high school Rangers.

Greenway Leadership Corps

Greenway Leadership Corps (GLC) brings Denver high school students together each month for service events and outdoor adventures. Service events focus on helping make Denver parks cleaner and safer, while also providing professional development opportunities for the students. GLC members build leadership skills and increase their local environmental awareness and literacy. Events often take place in local Denver parks, with several adventure trips throughout the year that allow GLC members to discover other parts of Colorado. In 2016, GLC joined with local partner organizations to bring more Denver students together, in addition to serving as leaders for several of TGF's family events.



Do you have a high school student who is looking to get involved in their community? Learn more at www.greenwayfoundation.org/glc

Adventures Outside Summer Camps by Bekky Harkins, Camp Director and Kate Ronan, Camp Coordinator

SPREE's summertime Adventures Outside Day Camps offer fun, adventurefilled urban and educational environmental camps over ten individually themed weeks.

During 2016, increasingly popular Camps were held at three spectacular locations: SPREE HQ in Johnson Habitat Park, the Cherry Creek Train Cars at Speer Boulevard Park in LoDo, and our newest location at Joe Shoemaker School in southeast Denver. With three locations in 2016, the Camps expanded their capacity to serve an additional 220 campers, a 30% increase over 2015. Campers became underwater explorers, water engineers, beaver experts and more. Next year, SPREE looks forward to adding even more camper spots at Joe Shoemaker School.

SPREE also hosted its third annual overnight family camping event at Johnson Habitat Park. This impactful event allowed campers and their families to enjoy an overnight campout while experiencing "nature in their own back yard!"

Junior River Rangers

In only its second year, the Junior River Ranger (JRR) program continued to grow and make an impact. Over the course of the summer, 6th through 9th grade students enjoyed helping campers, assisting staff, and building leadership skills. Adding the third summer camp location at Joe Shoemaker School allowed for a total of 60 JRR positions in summer 2016, up from 42 in 2015. This year, SPREE expanded the JRR program to include the fall Holiday Camp dates, which allowed for an additional 10 positions. These youth served as role models for campers and supported the SPREE program for a total of 1,200 hours of youth enrichment.

Sign up at www.greenwayfoundation.org/camp

Donate \$100 for a summer scholarship! www.greenwayfoundation.org/donate



"We have been continually

impressed every single
day with the curriculum,
outdoor time, safety, respect
and all that he is learning
about the environment."

- Camp Parent



"Thank you for organizing the Junior Rangers program. It's great! He's keeping busy, getting outdoors and fostering his leadership skills with SPREE!"
- JRR Parent









165+

Children and adults participated in 2016

Check out all of our Family Friendly Events in 2017

Spring RiverSweep April 22nd, 2017

Art on the River May 13th, 2017

South Platte RiverFest June 24-25th, 2017

Fall RiverSweep September 23rd, 2017

Family Fishing Day October 7th, 2017

Pioneering on the Platte November 4th, 2017

Family Friendly Weekend Events by Lauren Berent, Volunteer and Events Coordinator

Along with revitalizing rivers, it is also The Greenway Foundation's mission to reconnect communities to the South Platte River and its tributaries. To help achieve this goal each year The Greenway Foundation's education team hosts free family events along the South Platte River.

Over 30 adults and children traveled to the River to be inspired by TGF's Art on the River event on May 7th, 2016 at City of Cuernavaca Park. Crafts and games helped teach children to use the nature around them to create great pieces of art!

On October 8th, 2016 at Overland Pond Park, 55 adults and children came out to try to land a "big one" at TGF's Family Fishing Day. Along with games and crafts, families spent the afternoon learning about fishing techniques and ethics. Big thanks to Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) and Denver's Department of Parks and Recreation for sharing their fishing acumen with all the attendees! An additional thank you to Earth Force for allowing all attendees to have the opportunity to experience their river-related Enviroscape!

Pioneering on the Platte was TGF's final family event of the year at Johnson Habitat Park on November 7th, 2016. Over 80 adults and children attended this engaging history event - the largest attendance to date! Kids panned for gold, tried their luck with historic games, took silly photos and saw pioneer and Native American artifacts from our guest educator from Four Mile Historic Park.



Come to the River with your family to create art, learn about Denver's history and become a responsible angler!

Learn more at www.greenwayfoundation.org/spreeevents

Friends of Greenway

Become a Friend of Greenway (FrOG) by signing up for a recurring monthly donation to TGF! Your donation will help support TGF's mission to "Revitalize Rivers and Reconnect Communities." If it takes a village to raise a child, then it takes a city to reclaim a river.

Your donation will help The Greenway Foundation's ongoing efforts to:

- Create park, trail, water quality, habitat, and recreational improvements along Denver's urban waterways.
- Provide award-winning youth education and employment programs to children and young adults from ages 5 to 20+
- Produce unique and engaging community events along the South Platte River and its tributaries for citizens of all ages

\$5 per month (\$60 a year)

Supports the ongoing reclamation of the South Platte River Watershed

\$10 per month (\$120 a year)

Gives a deserving student a scholarship to attend camp

\$20 per month (\$240 a year)

Sends an entire class on a grade-specific field trip

\$50 per month (\$600 a year)

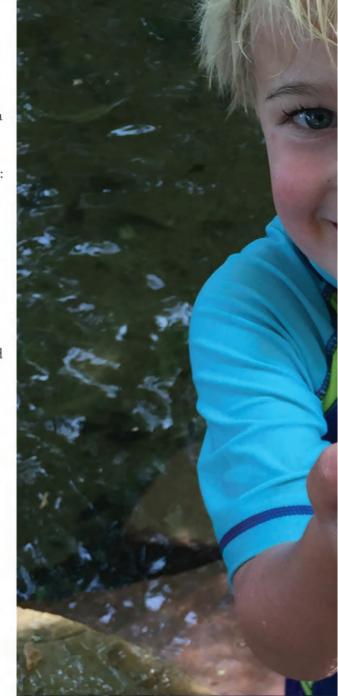
Ensures the future of TGF's ability to restore rivers and reconnect communities

\$100 per month (\$1,200 a year)

Employs a high school educator for a month



You can learn more about ways to give and opportunities to get involved on TGF's website at www.greenwayfoundation.org





Support all of the projects and programs you love, while providing TGF with ongoing financial stability. Your monthly gift can help send a child to summer camp or to a field trip and continue to improve all of our urban waterways. Plus, by becoming a FrOG you'll get some added benefits!

Learn more at www.greenwayfoundation.org/donate

Stream Savers (\$20 and below per month)

- A TGF Sticker
- Early access to Summer Camp registration
- Early Event Registration for Spring & Fall RiverSweep

Creek Crusaders (\$21-\$50 per month)

- All Stream Savers benefits
- 25% EZ tax credit (for Colorado residents)

River Rescuers (\$50+ per month)

- All Creek Crusaders benefits
- Special recognition in TGF's Annual Report
- An invitation to the invitation-only Reception on the River in August

Donate Your Car

Wondering what to do with your used car or truck? You can donate your vehicle today! We will arrange to have your donation towed, and provide you with a tax-deductible receipt, all at no charge to you.

Call 1-866-628-2277!

Donate when you shop

Looking for another way to support TGF? Go to smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 5% of the price of eligible purchases to The Greenway Foundation.







CH2M Spring & Fall RiverSweeps

Presented by Noble Energy, MillerCoors, and The Nature Conservancy by Lauren Berent, Volunteer and Events Coordinator

Even though the weather slammed Denver with a late spring snow storm that required both the Family and Adult CH2M Spring RiverSweeps to be rescheduled, 185 volunteers returned the following weekend to protect trees, prep flower beds, and remove plant debris. Luckily, the weather held out for the CH2M Fall RiverSweeps, and over 230 volunteers worked in 5 parks spanning 2 miles of the South Platte River! Thank you to all the sponsors and volunteers who made these events possible, resulting in over 1,000 donated hours to the Denver Department of Parks and Recreation possible!



Volunteer at the 2017 Spring and Fall RiverSweep on April 22, and September 23, 2017

Learn more at www.greenwayfoundation.org/riversweep

Coors Light South Platte RiverFest by Ryan Aids, Development Director

For the fourth consecutive year, this two-day, family-focused festival was Denver's premier urban river celebration! The 2016 Coors Light South Platte RiverFest attracted over 20,000 attendees of all ages to the Confluence Park area for free standup paddleboard (SUP) lessons, sports demos, live music, water stewardship information, an art competition, a world class beer garden, food trucks, vendors and more.

- 2,200+ participants on the water, a rock wall and a slackline
- 10 SUP/Kayak racers
- 14 hours of live music, 2 DJs and 7 bands
- 5 artists creating artwork at the festival



Mark your calendars for the 2017 South Platte RiverFest! On June 24 & 25, 2017, come on down to Confluence Park to celebrate the River!

Learn more at www.greenwayfoundation.org/riverfest

1,000+
volunteer hours
dedicated to riverside
parks



20,000+
attendees celebrating the
River



Noble Energy Gala on the Bridge Presented by MillerCoors and Revesco Properties by Ryan Aids, Development Director

The Noble Energy Gala on the Bridge, presented by MillerCoors and Revesco Properties, is The Greenway Foundation's signature fundraising event, held on the 19th Street Historic Pedestrian Bridge over the South Platte River in the Central Platte Valley. This evening offers stunning views of the River with attendees enjoying live music, cocktails, dinner and celebrating a notable awardee.

The 2016 Noble Energy
Gala on the Bridge sold
out in record time and
provided the greatest
benefit to The Greenway
Foundation to date!

Award Winner
Urban Drainage
and Flood

Control District



Blue Moon After Party on the Bridge A celebration of urban life along the South Platte River Greenway by Ryan Aids, Development Director

The Blue Moon After Party on the Bridge is The Greenway Foundation's highest attended fundraising party each year, also taking place over the South Platte River. The Blue Moon After Party's focus is to bring awareness to lovers of the River – of all ages - to the ongoing efforts of TGF to reclaim, enhance and preserve Denver's urban waterways. The Blue Moon After Party offers live music, DJ's, cocktails, appetizers, silent disco, silent auction and nonstop fun!

500+
people celebrating
the River on a
Historic Bridge

2016 Partner in Change

DENVER

Award Winner
Todd Fehr,
Denver Trout
Unlimited

CDM Smith Reception on the River Presented by MillerCoors by Ryan Aids, Development Director

The CDM Smith Reception on the River is an annual celebration of The Greenway Foundation's ongoing efforts to reclaim, enhance and preserve Denver's urban waterways. Leaders in the business, political, environmental and water communities attend each year to discuss the ongoing challenges and opportunities that face Denver's greatest natural resources – its urban waterways. Held near the banks of the River at Centennial Gardens, noted civic leaders attend as featured speakers to providing their perspective on the significance of the South Platte River and its tributaries towards the environmental and economic vitality of Denver.



250+
leaders in the business,
political environmental
and water communities





Keynote Speaker

Jim Lochhead

CEO/Manager of

Denver Water





Sevents held at 3 locations with 5 guest speakers

Greenway Untapped

by Lauren Berent, Volunteer and Events Coordinator

The Greenway Foundation is always looking for new ways to engage with individuals from the metro Denver area to help them learn about TGF's mission to revitalize rivers and reconnect communities as well as inform them about the numerous water-related environmental issues facing Colorado.

This year TGF launched a new series called Greenway Untapped! During the course of these happy hour events, interested individuals were invited to engage and network about TGF, their urban waterways, and various current environmental opportunities and challenges within their community. In 2016 TGF hosted three such events.

- Over 30 people gathered at Platt Park Brewing for the initial Greenway Untapped event, learning about water usage in the entire brewing process.
- Over 15 people attended the event at Berkeley Untapped, where Denver Water talked about snow pack and where Denver's water supply originates.
- Over 35 people met at Great Divide Brewing Company to tour the new RiNo Barrel Bar and learn about how water quality impacts the brewing process.



Greenway Untapped will continue to evolve and grow in 2017. Anyone interested in attending or getting involved as either a speaker or a venue provider should reach out to lauren@greenwayfoundation.org

80+
individuals attended
a learning happy hour
with The Greenway
Foundation





"More integration between the city, the river and our urban universities is a really great step. It's important for our River because

the next generation is really going to make the difference."

-Barb Biggs, CDM Smith, CRDC Judge



The Water Connection by Devon Buckels, AICP The Water Connection Director

The Water Connection (TWC) is the water quality and water quantity arm of The Greenway Foundation. Learn about TWC at www.thewaterconnection.org. Primary initiatives of The Water Connection include:

Clean River Design Challenge

The first annual Clean River Design Challenge (CRDC) was a huge success in 2016 and efforts are gearing up for an even better round in 2017! TWC/TGF, in collaboration with Metropolitan State University of Denver's One World One Water Center (OWOW), created the CRDC to engage students in creating innovative designs for waterway trash removal devices. This competition raises awareness of urban waterway trash challenges and strives towards the development of solutions regarding this source of pollution in the South Platte River and its tributaries. Of eleven initial concepts, five teams were chosen to move to the finals. After testing, ten expert judges then crowned a winner - the Nautilus created by Mara Maxwell and TJ DiTallo.

TWC is working to expand CRDC to include other colleges and universities and is exploring further development of the 2016 winning concept with a goal of the design, construction and installation of a prototype for testing in our local waterways.

2,000+
cans were used
from the Coors
Light South Platte
RiverFest to create
Iyatch

Iyatch is a
Western Painted Turtle,
Colorado's
State Reptile

1,000+
participants helped create
Iyatch



Washed Ashore

The Water Connection partnered with The Denver Zoo and The Nature Conservancy for the Zoo's "Washed Ashore" exhibit, with a focus on raising awareness about ocean pollution through art created from ocean trash. Through TWC, the exhibit added a dimension that connected ocean trash with local waterway trash, messaging that helps speak to the reality that debris in our river systems travels to our oceans. The exhibit incorporated a map connecting the South Platte River with the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico. Through the generosity and talent of local non-profit, Originateve, TWC coordinated the inclusion of Iyatch, a Western Painted Turtle made of aluminum trash from the TGF's RiverFest as a display alongside the exhibit's trash-art which was created from ocean trash.

Connections are key for TWC's mission, and this collaboration was a prime example: trash + local waterways; trash + fish / marine life; South Platte River + Gulf of Mexico; my actions + my world.

Chatfield Reallocation Project

by Capitol Representatives

The Chatfield Storage Reallocation Project witnessed significant progress during 2016. The Chatfield Reservoir Mitigation Company (CRMC) was created to carry out the mitigation and recreational modifications required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to allow 20,600 acre-feet of additional water to be stored in the Reservoir. CDM Smith has been hired as the Project's Program Manager, and, as part of their related responsibilities engaged the CRMC Board to hire eight consulting firms currently performing design work on the various improvements to the Reservoir and Chatfield State Park.

Preliminary design plans for on-site mitigation and recreation facilities were delivered to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for review in August, 2016. A Technical Advisory Committee including federal, state and local agency experts along with environmental groups and water agencies are meeting monthly to advise the project team. The Greenway Foundation continues to work to secure funding for a 2100-acrefoot Environmental Pool (EP) that will be an integral part of the Chatfield Reallocation Project once it is completed and the additional storage is a reality.



Support the Environmental Pool and learn more by connecting with Devon Buckels, Director of TGF's Water Connection initiative. devon@thewaterconnection.org

Environmentaial Pool

by Devon Buckels, AICP
The Water Connection Director

TWC/TGF are partnering with the State of Colorado, Central Colorado Water Conservancy District (CCWCD) and Denver Water to create an Environmental Pool (EP) of 2,100 acre-feet as part of the Chatfield Reallocation Project that will provide over 20,000 acre-fee of additional water storage to the Reservoir.

The water storage within the EP will be released during critical times throughout the year when the flows in the South Platte River are at their lowest. These additional flows will provide direct and significant environmental water quality and recreational benefits for the South Platte River throughout Metro Denver and will also be recaptured and used downstream by CCWCD for use by agricultural communities.

Maximizing the EP is the one of the single most impactful actions the Metro Denver community can take to enhance the South Platte River's environment, water quality and recreation values. This project is a perfect example of the multi-benefit projects called for in the State Water Plan.





U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Denver County Feasibility Study by Capitol Representatives

The Greenway Foundation is pleased to continue to be involved with the U.S. Army Corps Engineers' (USACE) Denver County Feasibility Study (Study), assisting the City with federal relations and public outreach. The focus of the Study is the South Platte River Corridor, East Harvard Gulch and Weir Gulch within Denver. This collaborative effort will efforts to continue to maximize the reclamation and safety of the River and two of its most significant tributaries, East Harvard Gulch and Weir Gulch. The Study is focused on: ecosystem restoration projects; River flow and health; wildlife and riparian habitat; and flood control containment.

Three rounds of public meetings have been completed to date, with more to come. Comments and suggestions from these meetings were factored into the technical analysis of options as said options moved forward. Additional public meetings will be held in early 2017 when the Tentatively Selected Plan will be presented. The Study is expected to be completed in 2018.

A second USACE Study – the Sec. 1135 Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) Southern Platte Valley – got underway at the end of 2016 and will focus on the South Platte River from West Wesley Avenue (just upstream of Grant Frontier Park) downstream to Mississippi Avenue (just upstream of Johnson Habitat Park).

Both of these significant and partnered studies offer equally significant opportunities for ongoing and increased funding partnerships between Denver, the USACE and other regional and state partners to, in turn, provide much needed ecosystem and flood control benefits to the South Platte River and two of its most significant tributaries.



Learn more about this project by connecting with Selena Klosowski, P.E., CFM, Senior Engineer, Wastewater Capital Projects Management, City and County of Denver at selena.klosowski@denvergov.org

Clear Creek Greenway by Capitol Representatives

The Greenway Foundation (TGF) continues to serve as the Project Manager for the Clear Creek County Greenway Trail Design project (Project).

2016 has been a year of great progress on the Project. After the consultant team prepared technical drawings showing possible routes for the trail, a Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process engaged in several public outreach meetings, resulting in significant and valuable community input. Additionally, a community-based Steering Committee was created to offer additional recommendations for the Project to the Clear Creek County Commission to consider.

Preliminary design has been completed for the entire route and now, three segments, identified as priority sections, are moving towards final design. At the same time, the design efforts are also focused on completing environmental clearance for the entire Project to meet NEPA requirements.

TGF has also been engaged with the Clear Creek County Commission to help develop the Clear Creek Greenway Authority (CCGA). CCGA has hired a fulltime Executive Director, Mr. Randall Navarro, and the CCGA is focused on helping to complete the design project and also initiate fundraising efforts to assist in the construction of the trail and related enhancements.



Learn more about this project by connecting with Randall Navarro rnavarro@ccgreenway.com

Rocky Mountain Greenway

by Todd Hartman, Communications Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources

The Rocky Mountain Greenway (RMG), a project aiming to connect the northern metro area from east to west and beyond, witnessed significant progress in 2016. The RMG envisions a roughly 80-mile trail linking three national wildlife refuges and eventually extending to Rocky Mountain National Park. This summer partners and dignitaries celebrated a major new segment of seven miles, from Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge in Arvada to the Great Western Open Space in Broomfield. With that stretch complete, the trail now extends 25 miles from the Rocky Mountain Arsenal in northeast Denver to the boundary of Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge in the northwest metro area. The RMG has come a long way since first announced in 2011 by then-Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar and current Governor John Hickenlooper. When complete, the RMG is expected to pass through more than ten municipalities, six counties and four federal land areas.



To learn more about the Rocky Mountain Greenway visit: www.rockymtngreenway.org



Grants and Partnership Based Support

by Rachel Steel, Grants Manager

The Greenway Foundation relies upon generous support from many areas of funding to achieve its mission. Numerous organizations, agencies, and philanthropic foundations help TGF "move the needle" toward a healthier and more resilient South Platte River watershed as well as a Metro Denver population that is engaged with this invaluable natural resource through education, recreation, and stewardship. Funding from grants and partnerships in 2016 included:

Funder	Program/Project Supported
Anonymous Family Foundation	River Rangers & Greenway Leadership Corps
Colorado State Forest Service	The Water Connection
Earth Force	SPREE Programs
Environmental Protection Agency	SPREE Excursions, River Rangers & Greenway Leadership Corps
Great Outdoors Colorado	My Outdoor Colorado planning efforts
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	Chatfield Environmental Pool
Platte River Recovery Implementation Program	SPREE Excursions
Riverfront Park Community Foundation	Art on the River & RiverSweeps
The Nature Conservancy	River Rangers & Greenway Leadership Corps
Xcel Energy Foundation	SPREE Excursions, River Rangers & Greenway Leadership Corps

Thank you to all of these funders for their contributions to The Greenway Foundation!

A particular highlight from 2016 has been TGF's involvement with Denver's Parks and Recreation Department (DPR) and Great Outdoors Colorado's (GOCO) Inspire Initiative. In October of 2015, TGF, along with several other partners involved with the My Outdoor Colorado coalition, received a GOCO Inspire planning grant to find new ways to connect youth and families to the outdoors within Denver's Westwood and Cole neighborhoods. GOCO has just awarded this coalition \$2.7 million to implement its plan for new and improved outdoor places, programs, and career pathways for the Westwood community, and the coalition will be applying for similar funding for the Cole community in July of 2017. TGF is excited to provide expanded programs and pathway opportunities to these communities through this initiative!

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May 13 Art on the River

June 24-25 South Platte RiverFest

August 31 Reception on the River

September 14 Gala on the Bridge

September 15 After Party on the Bridge

September 23 Fall RiverSweep

October 7 Family Fishing Day

November 4 Pioneering on the Platte

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