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"A
river
is more than
an amenity,
it is
a
treasure."
Justice Wm. O. Douglas



THE
GREENWAY
NEWS

Gates-Crescent Park – Our Newest Addition

Phase II of Gates-Crescent Park has been completed, thus adding a new 6 acres of open space parkland to the existing 3.5 acres. A formal and snowy dedication was held on Wednesday, December 1st, 1982. On hand were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gates; Mayor Bill McNichols; Dr. Gail Schoettler, Chairman of the Board of the Children's Museum; and Joe Shoemaker, Chairman of the Greenway Foundation, along with various dignitaries and many other supporters of the Greenway Foundation and Children's Museum.



Charles Gates, Joe Shoemaker, Mayor Bill McNichols

Gates-Crescent Park, a former city maintenance yard, has been transformed into over nine acres of sodded and landscaped greenspace. Trees of all types abound as well as a playground area for children of all ages. This park is also the future home of the \$3.2 million Children's Museum facility. Construction of the new museum is due to begin in early spring of this year. We greatly appreciate the support of the Gates Foundation, the Piton Foundation, the Community Development Agency, and the hundreds of individual tree donors who collectively helped create Gates-Crescent Park.

Get your teams ready for the 1983 Great Relay Race!

The date is set . . . June 12th, 1983 . . . the sponsors are ready . . . OP SPORTSWEAR, PANTS AND DUDS STORES, MILLER LITE BEER, KBPI . . . and plans are now underway for the course. Get out that old kayak, the kids' bikes and sharpen the spikes on your running shoes. This year's race should be the very best ever. Last year we had 41 teams and we are trying for 75 teams this year. You will see marked improvement on the south end of the trail reaching toward Englewood. On the north section, you will see that the Adams County improvement to the River over the past three years has really made a difference. The other communities are picking up the idea and our goal of making the recreational corridor a reality from Chatfield State Recreation Area on the south to Barr Lake on the north looks more and more like a reality.

Once again your entry fee will help the maintenance and progress on Denver's Greenway and is tax deductible. The prizes are super! For more information on the race, contact MASON ASSOCIATES, 1776 South Jackson Street, Suite 617, Denver, Colorado 80210 - 753-9077. Look in your local sports equipment store after the 15th of March for your entry fee to the FOURTH ANNUAL RELAY RACE.

Community Arts Festival to be held at Confluence Park!

The Summer of '83 will see the birth of a new and exciting event on the Greenway. From 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, the 12th of June, the Confluence Park Area will be the site of the 1st ANNUAL GREENWAY FOUNDATION COMMUNITY ARTS FESTIVAL. Music of all types will abound at the Amphitheater, with artists and craftspeople offering their hard work and talents in booth displays at Fishback Landing, located just south of Confluence Park. Mimes, jugglers, and other strolling artists will be seen at the Confluence Plaza as well as at the other sites mentioned above. There will also be plenty of food and drink available to help keep the energy levels flowing!

The excitement will begin as the Awards Ceremony of the 4th ANNUAL GREAT RELAY RACE comes to a close. The combination of these two exciting events into an entire day-long festivity should prove to bring about one of the greatest days on the Greenway thus far.

So bring your cheers and applause, as well as your musical, artistic, and gastronomic appetites to Confluence Park on Sunday, June 12th. Be ready to cheer on the finishing teams of the GREAT RELAY RACE, and then get set for the greatest riverside COMMUNITY ARTS FESTIVAL in the history of Denver! **Don't miss it!**

Tour The Platte River Greenway

The Greenway Foundation and Zang's Brewing Company have established a mid-day tour of Denver's exciting Platte River Greenway. The tour includes:

- Transportation to and from the Greenway System via a Zang's Brewing Company Bus.
- A first-hand view of several of the key areas of the ten mile Platte River Greenway System.
- A detailed explanation of the various areas you'll visit, an overview of the entire Greenway System, how it came to exist, and what the Greenway has to offer you.
- A variety of delicious food and beverage available at Zang's following the tour.

Cost of the tour (which was especially designed for Senior Citizens, Handicapped, and Tourists):

- \$30.00 (**per group tour**) tax deductible donation to the Greenway Foundation.
- \$6.75 (**per person**) for a marvelous buffet lunch at Zang's Brewing Co. (tax and tip included) (options on lunch available.)

This fun and exciting opportunity is available for groups of 15 to 35 people. For further information on how to arrange for your group to tour the Greenway, contact the Greenway Foundation at 698-1322.

See and Hear the Story of the Platte River Greenway

The Greenway Foundation has a new service to those organizations interested in learning about the history and the future of the Platte River Greenway. Upon request, a representative of the Greenway will attend one of your organization's meetings and offer a short slide presentation which will give an overview of what the Greenway is all about. This is a voluntary service of the Greenway as part of our ongoing goal to help Denver be made better aware of the Greenway and also what it has to offer the community. Please contact the Greenway at 698-1322.

Project Update – The Improvement Continues

• **South Trail Extension** – The 24 month project to extend the Greenway hiker-biker trail 1.5 miles southward to Denver's southern city limit is nearing completion. The trail itself is completed with some additional landscape work to be completed in early spring of 1983. The new addition begins at Grant-Frontier Park, just south of Evans and ends at the equivalent of Bates Avenue. This exciting project, which completes the ten miles of Greenway Trail, is being accomplished due to the ongoing support of both the Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation and the Boettcher Foundation.



Mr. Robert Mitton, Executive Director of the Johnson Foundation, during an inspection of the South Trail Extension.

• **Northwest Trail Connection** – The extension of the Greenway Trail into Denver's northwest neighborhood is well on its way to completion. The northwest connection begins at 19th Avenue on the River's west bank, connects with the on-street route at Rockmont Drive, and then connects back with the trail, traveling under I-25 where it connects up with Jason Street.

This spring will see the final touches to the project; a parking area (11 car capacity), a park bench and bike rack, and some minor landscaping at both ends of the project.

The Community Development Agency, the Denver Foundation, and the O'Fallon Foundation provided the funding for this needed connection, which will allow Denver's northwest residents a hazard-free means of commuting to the Greenway.

• **Centennial Park** – This 6.5 acre development is located on the east bank of the River, just south of Confluence Park. The former site of a car-crushing plant, Centennial Park has received initial grading and seeding, including 18 inches of top soil as a base for future landscaping.

Plans for Centennial Park in years to come are to build a multi-purpose sport field, as well as extend the Greenway trail from the Confluence Park Amphitheater along the east bank of the river to the "Bronco Bridge".

• **Boating Improvements** – The Greenway continues to improve the boating amenities of the South Platte, moving ever closer to our goal of a non-stop boatable river from city-border to city-border.

Through the combined efforts of the Gates Foundation and the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, construction has begun to remove or notch four check-dams between Mississippi and 3rd Avenue. With the addition of these improvements to the waters of the River (the 3rd Avenue boatchute still needs additional funding), kayakers, canoe and raft enthusiasts will be able to boat from Florida Avenue to the northern city border. With these improvements to the River, the 1983 boating season should be the best yet!

Long Range Goals of the Greenway

Future projects and improvements of your Greenway that require substantial assistance from the community:

- 3rd Avenue Boat Chute (\$100,000)
- Florida Avenue Boat Chute (\$150,000)
- 6th Avenue Park (\$200,000)
- Centennial Park (\$300,000)

Volunteers Needed

The Greenway hiker-biker trail is now complete, paralleling the river from the south city border at Bates Avenue all the way north to the northern city limit near 54th Avenue. As the summer season approaches, so does the busiest and most-used time of the year for the Greenway. Even with the addition of several Trail Rangers from Memorial Day to Labor Day, the Denver Parks crew can use any and all available help in keeping the Greenway clean and trimmed.

Over the past several months we have had the marvelous assistance of various GIRL, CUB, AND BOY SCOUT TROOPS, and we are counting on the County Court Probation System to consider once again The Greenway as a source of community service for those individuals looking for an alternative to paying court-designated fines.

However, your help is still needed. If you or your organization would be willing to donate some of your time to helping **Keep The Greenway Green**, or if you have some suggestions for helping us further our volunteer efforts, please contact the Greenway Foundation at 698-1322.

Additional Activities Along The Greenway

- Intrawest Bank of Denver is once again allowing the Greenway to make use of its beautiful downtown Plaza as the hosting spot of our annual "Plant Sale on the Plaza". The Plaza is located at 17th and California streets downtown. The usual large quantity of green and blossoming plants will fill the area and the prices will also bring a smile to face and pocket-book alike. A portion of all purchases will be tax-exempt donations to the Greenway Foundation, earmarked for the needed areas mentioned in the Newsletter. Don't miss this great opportunity to help your home and garden as well as support your River. May 18th and 19th, Wednesday and Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. have been set aside as this year's dates, complete with live music over the noon hour.
- We'll be hosting the popular "Concerts on the Green" series at Confluence Park for the 3rd year. Miller Lite Beer will head the sponsorship for these unique and free concerts. The concerts will take on a bit of a new flavor this year, with a combination of jazz, classical, and popular music intermixed throughout the summer series. This year's concerts will be held again on Monday evening, beginning at 6:00 p.m. and lasting until near dark. The dates to set aside are June 27th, July 25th, and August 29th, the last Monday of each month. Bring your family and friends, your blanket, picnic dinner, and perhaps some wine, and treat yourself to great music underneath the summer sky. We promise it will be an evening long remembered!
- Rafting along the waters of the Platte River Greenway will again be made possible through the Arkansas River Tours Co. As of May 15th, the tours will be available with professional white water experts ready to take you on your choice of 1/4, 1/2, or full day tours. Experience

first-hand the exciting white water boat chutes and wildlife located in several locations up and down the River, as well as the many other amenities available to the kayak, canoe, and rubber raft enthusiasts. If you're interested in taking advantage of this "sun and fun filled" opportunity, contact Arkansas River Tours, 333-7831.

- Our "Friends of the River" Party will be held at the Chili Pepper Restaurant on Sunday, September 25th at 5:00 p.m. [This annual celebration pays tribute to the special friends of the Platte River Greenway. Cocktails, live music, and a marvelous buffet dinner are all part of the evening with the highlight being the presentation of the 1983 "Friends of the River" Awards to the various individuals and organizations selected as winners. The awards are given each year to any such individual or organization making an extra-ordinary contribution toward the enhancement of the Platte. If you have a candidate in mind as a potential recipient of a "Friends of the River" Award, please send your suggestion to the Greenway Foundation for consideration by the Board of Directors. Your suggestions must be received by ~~July~~ ^{June} 1st, 1983.

1983 Greenway Goals – Maintenance and Awareness

By Joe Shoemaker, Chairman

The Greenway Board adopted for 1983 "Awareness and Maintenance of the Greenway" as its number one priority. The ten-mile long Greenway, with its continuous concrete trail that crosses the River back and forth over six magnificent wooden bridges, is being utilized daily by more and more bikers and joggers. The 18 parks that are part of the Greenway system are all connected by the trail. The River is, this very moment, being improved by the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District with funds from the Gates Foundation so the kayakers, canoers, and rafters may proceed uninterrupted from the Florida Avenue Dam to Globeville Landing.

But the Greenway Foundation wants **more** Denverites to become **aware** of and to use this great public amenity. Our summer activities have been previously described.

While working to make Denverites **aware** of the recreational and cultural assets of the Greenway, our fund raising in 1983 is directed at supplementing the **maintenance** of the Greenway by Denver Parks Department and Urban Drainage District. We need your \$30.00's and \$300.00's to help us fund ten \$3,000.00 per summer **Greenway Trail Rangers** – one for each mile of the River in Denver. These young people will pick up litter, sweep the trail, inform users of the Greenway of its varied amenities, and be prepared for any number of tasks needed to help keep the Greenway in top-notch condition.

1983 will truly be yet **another** great year on the River! COME SEE US!!

Your 1983 Membership is Needed Now!

New members will receive a copy of RETURNING THE PLATTE TO THE PEOPLE. This is the exciting story of the Greenway project, full of sketches, maps and full color "before and after" photographs.

Current members will receive, upon renewal of their membership, a copy of THE OTHER COLORADO, an innovative and exciting compilation of the various urban and mountain trails found in our state (including, of course, the Platte River Greenway System).

Members of the Greenway Foundation will also receive a copy of "THE GREENWAY NEWS" printed three times each year, outlining the progress of the Greenway and planned events.

Annual memberships are used for the maintenance and awareness of the Platte River Greenway project. Please make your tax-exempt Annual Membership donation to THE GREENWAY FOUNDATION, now.



Keep The Greenway Going and Growing

Enclosed is my tax-exempt donation of \$30.00 for Membership in THE GREENWAY FOUNDATION for 1983. Send my ☐ book ☐ trail guide to:

Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

THE GREENWAY FOUNDATION
1666 SO. UNIVERSITY BLVD.
DENVER, CO 80210
(303) 698-1322

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1983 GREENWAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 15th

Raft rides begin on the Platte

May 18th & 19th

Plant Sale on the Plaza

May 30th

Start of the Trail Ranger Program

June 12th

Fourth Annual Great Relay Race

June 12th

First Annual Community Arts Festival
at Confluence Park

June 27th

Concert on the Green #1 at
Confluence Park

July 25th

Concert on the Green #2 at
Confluence Park

August 29th

Concert on the Green #3 at
Confluence Park

September 5th

End of the Trail Ranger Program

September 25th

Annual "Friends of the River"
Party at the Chili Pepper Restaurant