

CHAIRMAN  
Joe Shoemaker

TREASURER  
Ted Bendelow

William Avery  
Bill DeGroot  
Edna Doyle  
Marjorie Hornbein  
Jack Shapiro  
Judith Wray  
John Zapien

MAYOR OF DENVER  
Federico Pena

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Jeff Shoemaker

Vol. 5 No. 2  
Summer 1983

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



## Thank You Mayor Bill McNichols

SINCE THE election in which Bill McNichols was retired by the voters after 14 years as mayor of Denver, discussion of his accomplishments has become a frequent topic.

Surely the Greenway Foundation is proud witness to one of the most important and dramatic developments of the McNichols administration. In the summer of 1974, the mayor summoned nine persons to a meeting in his office. From this little group, representing many diverse parts of the community, the Platte River Development Committee was organized.

Our chairman was Sen. Joe Shoemaker, fresh from his tenure as chairman of Colorado's Joint Budget Committee. Our charge was to restore the Platte, which for a century had been little more than a receptacle for the city's refuse, and to make its banks a playground in the heart of Denver.

All nine of us were struck with the enormity of our task, but challenged with its worth and excitement. We were quickly joined together by our common purpose, as we felt the mayor's enthusiasm and shared his confidence in the capable leadership of our chairman.

Our first meeting was a tour of the Platte Valley. We set out in the two-decker red bus provided by Larimer Square developer Dana Crawford. As we looked at the River, it seemed to cry out for help. Several old cottonwood trees and shrubs and natural grass growing next to cast-off tires gave a hint of the potential for our project.

Now, in less than a decade, the parks on the Platte are flourishing. The River no longer divides the city, but is rather a magnet that pulls people toward Denver's focal point — the River, with its miles of pathways from north to south.

All of us in the Greenway are proud of our work on the Platte. We thank and acknowledge our friend Mayor Bill, whose vision and confidence made it possible.

MARJORIE HORNBEIN  
Board Member

## The Greenway Trail Rangers (providing quality ongoing maintenance)



The 1983 Trail Ranger Crew, headed by Supervising Ranger Chuck Longwell, have been on The Greenway since Memorial Day, making sure the hiker-biker trail and surrounding areas are in top-notch condition. Our crew is on the River seven days per week and will continue through the Labor Day Weekend.

Just a few of the many responsibilities of these valued summer employees are:

- Litter pick up
- Trail sweeping and other maintenance
- Providing assistance and answering questions for Greenway users
- Assisting at all Greenway special events.

Thanks to continued support of Greenway Foundation members, we've added another Trail Ranger to the crew this year, totalling six full-time employees, the largest crew to date.

A minimum of four Trail Rangers patrol the 10.5 miles hiker-biker trail alongside the Platte each day, and are an integral factor towards our goals of ongoing cleanliness and fun-filled daily usage of The Greenway.



## Great Relay Race 1983

Under a clear blue sky and with the water rushing at 1500 cfs, the Greenway came alive with spectators and over 600 competitors on June 12th, the date of the DAY ON THE PLATTE IN JUNE. This year's 4th Annual Great Relay Race was the best ever! Over 60 teams competed on three race courses . . . Started all at the same time by Colonel Phil Weinert of the Corps of Engineers . . . the South Course starting at the new Flood Plain Park just north of Chatfield State Recreation Area, the North Course beginning on the waters of Barr Lake and the new Cherry Creek Course at the Cherry Creek State Recreation Area. Special permission from the communities of Littleton and Denver allowed the race to continue despite the closing of the South Platte River due to high water. Incredible cooperation between community agencies marked this year's event. The Corps of Engineers, Denver Water Board, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the South Suburban Recreation District were among the many cooperating entities necessary to make this event possible for 1983.



The winning teams were:

• CHERRY CREEK COURSE . . . . .	1.)	Vitruvis #2	time (1:41:58)
	2.)	Pena #1	time (1:43:02)
	3.)	Miller Lite #1	time (1:51:05)
• NORTH COURSE . . . . .	1.)	Denver Water Board	(2:50:28)
	1.)	(tie) Scott Cull	(2:51:36)
	2.)	Adams County	(3:02:04)
	3.)	Acid Reign (EPA)	(3:02:55)
• SOUTH COURSE . . . . .	1.)	Troost Roofing	(2:04:00)
	2.)	Superstar Gary Lacy	(2:04:45)
	3.)	Littleton Liquors	(2:07:39)

The response from the prime sponsors of the event, LITE FROM MILLER, OP SPORTSWEAR, PANTS AND DUDS LTD., AND KBPI was again fantastic. The combination of their assistance truly made this event a pleasure to run. The race is growing every year and only with their support, is it a possibility. All of the expenses of the race were covered and a check for \$3,000 was turned over to the Greenway Foundation to help purchase trees lost in the blizzard of 1982.

Plans for next year's race are already beginning. A complete video tape of the race was made and will be available for viewing in the near future.

## The First Greenway Art Fest

(By Judith Wray, Ph.D. Art Fest Coordinator)

"I hereby proclaim June 12, 1983 A DAY ON THE PLATTE IN JUNE."

—Mayor William McNichols



Those words, read by Chairman Joe Shoemaker at noon on June 12, 1983, officially opened the Art Fest at A DAY ON THE PLATTE IN JUNE, just as the first winners of the Fourth Annual Great Relay Race ran breathless across the Cherry Creek section finish line at Confluence Park.

In reflecting on the four and one-half months of whirlwind effort to organize and stage Art Fest, it seems now like a miracle that it happened at all. Colorado's freaky weather, a small group of dedicated Greenway volunteers, a limited budget, and less than five months to come up with a plan and final festival were the challenges facing us.

But as Joe stood by the Bill Ricker Orchestra addressing a throng of relaxed and happy attendees in the amphitheatre, on the pavillion steps, the 15th Street Bridge and in Fishback Park, all the frantic hours of preparation seemed well worth it.

By 1:00 the crowd had grown to an estimated 1,500 and was composed of relay entrants, their friends and families and many hundreds of arts lovers who came to cheer the winners, see the arts and crafts demonstrations, enjoy the music of the various orchestras and bands, laugh at the antics of the street performers, partake of children's entertainments, and satisfy appetites and thirsts with the excellent array of ethnic and traditional American foods and soft beverages, as well as lots of Lite Beer from Miller.



The excitement continued to mount as race entrants furiously paddled boats to Fishback park, leaped out, handed batons to waiting runners or roller skaters and the crowds cheered the final racers as they headed towards the finish line at 15th Street Bridge.

A DAY ON THE PLATTE IN JUNE's success was the result of hundreds of organizations, individuals and agencies contributing services, time and energy and numerous sales and rentals. The Greenway board has been presented with a fine report from Joan Mason listing the many groups and agencies responsible for making the Relay Race a success. Also on file at the Greenway office is a similar list from the Art Fest coordinator.

Despite the truncated festivities, due to an unscheduled rainstorm at 3:30, the consensus is: **it was wonderful!** Three cheers to Joe Shoemaker who thought it up in the first place, to the Greenway board members who volunteered to help in planning and manning various stations, Jeff Shoemaker and his terrific support staff, and Joan Mason and her amazing co-workers who have worked so diligently for five years on the relay race. Without all of their help Art Fest would never have been possible.

## **"Concerts on the Green" Continue!**



Confluence Park was the site of some superb "big band jazz" on Monday, July 11th. The Dick Hammergren Orchestra kicked off our annual summer concert series with well known jazz tunes for all ages. Still yet to come is the Flatirons Brass Ensemble on Monday, July 25th, followed by the L.A. Imports on Monday, August 29th, who will close out this year's concerts.

Both evenings of music will get underway at 6:30 P.M. in our amphitheater at Confluence Park, and all concerts are of course free to the public. So bring your picnics and blankets and partake in a great musical evening down at the River.

## **Plant Sale on the Plaza**

(a "bloomin" success)

Because of the "Extended Winter of 1983" our May 18th and 19th Plant Sale was delayed until Tuesday and Wednesday, July 5th and 6th. Once again the good people at IntraWest Bank of Denver allowed The Greenway to hold our event at their Plaza at 17th and California. The entire Plaza area was filled with plants of all types and sizes, courtesy of Heritage Floral. A large portion of the proceeds will go towards our efforts to replace the trees destroyed by the "Blizzard of '82".

Our gratitude is extended towards IntraWest Bank of Denver and especially Vonnie Wheeler for all of their assistance and support, and to Heritage Floral for providing such beautiful greenery.

Most importantly, we thank all of you who purchased plants during our most successful plant sale yet. The Greenway greatly appreciates all of your support!



## **1983 Friends of the River Awards**

Each year the Greenway Foundation Board of Directors selects several individuals or organizations as "Friends of the River" for making unique contributions towards the revitalization and continued enhancement of The Greenway.

Once again our awards celebration will be held at the Chili Pepper Restaurant, 4:00 P.M. September 11th, 1983. The cost for drinks and dinner is \$25.00 per person of which \$15.00 is a tax exempt contribution towards the further improvements along our River.

Our featured speaker this year is Bob Palmer, anchorman with the KOA-Channel 4 NewsTeam. We hope you can join us in this fun-filled evening when we will honor the following 1983 winners of the "Friends of the River Award":

**Dana Crawford:** former and one of the original board members of The Greenway Foundation who brought the success and beauty of Larimer Square to the benefit of The Greenway.

**Denver Foundation:** Each year since the formation of The Greenway Foundation, The Denver Foundation has provided amenities of various types to The Greenway, including playground equipment, bike racks, drinking fountains and picnic tables. This support has lead others to do likewise.

**Joanne Ditmer:** Representing the high support of the media to The Greenway, she has reported and communicated our efforts to the public. She has been a major force in focusing public opinion against degradation of The Greenway.



**Edna Doyle:** The Secretary to the Platte River Development Committee and the Greenway Foundation from the beginning — June 1974. Her friendliness and faithfulness to the purposes of the River improvements has been a stimulant to all involved.

**Rick Lamoreaux:** Creative and ingenious, Rick is a multi-talented perfectionist who has been able to implement the ideas and dreams of the Board into reality. His contributions to The Greenway have been numerous and superb.

**Joan Mason:** Our major fundraiser; Joan has programmed our many celebrations and continues with the Great Relay Race. A boater and outdoorsperson, she exemplifies the resourcefulness of the River, continually promoting usage, recognition and preservation of The Greenway.

**Piton Foundation:** In a most cooperative way, the Piton Foundation came to The Greenway's rescue to provide funds to relocate the City and County of Denver Public Works Maintenance Yard, allowing Gates-Crescent Park to be completed and Children's Museum built. In addition, it has provided assistance for developing a program to regionalize The Greenway.

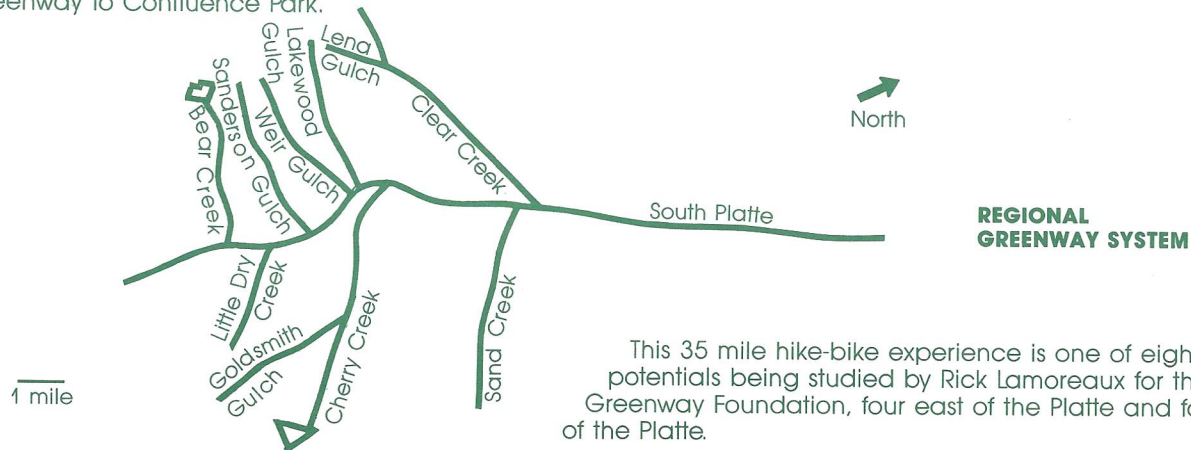
**Bob Searns:** An urban outdoorsman and white-water expert, Bob's involvement with The Greenway has varied from seeing that the various River projects came in on time and within estimated costs, to developing the initial Greenway Trail Ranger program. His wide range of service to The Greenway has been of highest quality.

**William Van Duzer:** Deputy City Attorney of the City and County of Denver, Bill provided advice and counsel to The Greenway on numerous occasions, working with the Board to accomplish improvements and projects involving railroads, governmental agencies and private owners when no solution seemed to be in sight. He also helped expedite contracts with agencies so that funds were forthcoming instead of funds being lost because of unnecessary delays.

## Piton Foundation Backs Regional Greenway

Thanks to a \$40,000 grant from the Piton Foundation, The Greenway has initiated, with the full backing of the Governor's Office, a Regional Greenway Approach.

The Chairman presented a plan to Governor Lamm and the Piton Foundation which will result in linking up trail experiences. As an example, a hiker-biker could leave Confluence Park, go north on the Greenway to Clear Creek in Adams County, go west on Clear Creek to Lena Gulch in Wheat Ridge. She would then proceed west on the Wheat Ridge Greenway to about Kipling, follow a linkage trail to Lakewood Gulch in Lakewood; and then proceed back to the River through Lakewood and Denver on Lakewood Gulch, returning on the Platte River Greenway to Confluence Park.



If local governments and the hike-bike users express interest in these proposed complete trail experiences, a major effort will be made to fund the linkages. The result: the greatest trail system in America!

We will keep you posted on the planning process which is to be completed by November 30, 1983.

## Special Thanks To the Following Individuals and Organizations

- 1) **Denver Water Department** and **Doris Kaplin** for including information about The Greenway in the March-April issue of Water News.
- 2) **City Floral Greenhouse** (Dave Gross and Ron Brady — Owners) for donating two large daisy bushes to the Confluence Park Gardens.
- 3) **Steven A. Yackel**, an Eagle Scout with Troop 358, who organized his family and fellow scouts in the painting and staining of all of our picnic tables and benches along The Greenway. A litter cleanup was an additional plus of this fine group effort.
- 4) **Colonel Philip Weinert** and **Mr. Jack Unit** of the Corps of Engineers and **Mr. Al York** of the EPA for their many hours of volunteered service towards the Great Relay Race. Their talents were vital to the success of 1983's DAY ON THE PLATTE IN JUNE.



## Urban Drainage & Flood Control District

(Vital Involvement with The Greenway)

By Bill DeGroot

The South Platte River is the backbone of the drainage system for the entire Denver metropolitan area. All storm-water runoff from the metro area eventually finds its way to the South Platte. For this reason the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, which was established by the Colorado Legislature in 1969, has had a very active interest in the River.

The District is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors. Thirteen board members are mayors, county commissioners and city council members from local governments within the District. The other two members are registered professional engineers. The District encompasses Denver and the urban portions of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Douglas, and Jefferson Counties. A total of 34 cities and counties are within the District.

The purpose of the District is to assist local governments with multi-jurisdictional drainage and flood control problems. Activities of the District include identification of flood hazard areas; assisting local governments with floodplain regulations, flood insurance and flood warning systems; and the planning, design, construction and maintenance of drainage and flood control facilities. The District's funds are obtained through a property tax levied over the entire District area. The District is currently authorized to levy a maximum of 0.9 mill.

District maintenance activities on the South Platte River have included the periodic removal of debris such as tires, tree limbs and other material which could form obstructions to flow; mowing the banks to help promote a good vegetative cover to resist erosion; and periodic sweeping of the Greenway trail. The District has cooperated with the Greenway to modify four drop structures in the river to reduce their obstruction to flood flows, as well as to improve boating safety. The District has also provided technical advice and assistance to the Greenway Foundation on many of its projects.



In 1976 the District and Denver Wastewater Management Division were going to build a flood control channel for Weir Gulch at the South Platte. At the request of the Greenway, and with additional funds from the Greenway, the project was redesigned to provide a park and marina at the confluence, in addition to the flood control channel. This project is a good example of how recreation and flood control can be designed to work together.

Later this year the District will begin an 18 month master planning study of the River from Chatfield Dam to Brighton. Twelve local governments and the Greenway are cooperating with this study. The final product of this study will be a master plan for flood control, river stability and recreation along the River through the metro area. The master plan will be a blueprint for the future of the River.

## Larimer Square and The Greenway To Co-Host Hoedown

Hoedown, Larimer Square's Labor Day Bluegrass Festival has a new home. Larimer Square is proud to join with The Greenway Foundation this year to present Hoedown at Confluence Park, September 3, 4, and 5. It's three days of non-stop FREE music with top name groups like Hot Rize and Generic Bluegrass, and clogging by the Circleweavers-Appalachian dancers.

Confluence Park will house booths filled with American goodies like barbequed ribs, corn-on-the-cob and lots of ice cold Coors beer. Music from the amphitheatre will resound throughout the Riverway and there's plenty of grassy area for settin' a spell.

Simultaneously, a Hoedown Country Faire will be held in Larimer Square. The 1400 block of Larimer Street will be filled with folk crafts, art and good country-cookin' for prizes.

Support from The Greenway Foundation and the sponsorship from Coors Distributing Company have helped Larimer Square encourage traditions of quality and excellence in business and in professional arts in the metropolitan center.



## Investment in the Continued Progress of Your River

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1) <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 copy of our book "Returning the Platte to the People" (\$5.00 tax-exempt)</p> <p>2) <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 copy of "The Other Colorado" — a compilation of urban and mountain trails throughout our state (\$5.00 tax-exempt)</p> <p>3) <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 "Life on the Greenway" poster suitable for framing (\$5.00 tax-exempt)</p> | <p>4) <input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00 Annual Membership in the Greenway Foundation for you or a friend (Includes one of the above premiums — please indicate your choice) (\$30.00 tax-exempt)</p> <p>5) <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 Commemorating Member — have a tree planted in the name of a friend or loved one (\$50.00 tax-exempt) Commemoration (if any) _____</p> <p>6) <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 Annual "Friends of the River" party reservation at Chili Pepper Restaurant on September 11th (\$15.00 tax-exempt)</p> |
|--|---|

Enclosed is my tax-exempt investment in "The Only River in Town!"

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks! We can't do it without you!

Please tell us who else might like to become a member of the Greenway Foundation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**THE GREENWAY FOUNDATION**  
1666 SO. UNIVERSITY BLVD.  
DENVER, CO 80212  
(303) 698-1322

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Denver, Colorado  
80202  
Permit #489

### 1983 Greenway Calendar of Events

**Monday, July 25th**  
Concert on the Green #2 at  
Confluence Park

**Monday, August 29th**  
Concert on the Green #3 at  
Confluence Park

**September 3rd, 4th, and 5th - Labor  
Day Weekend**  
Hoedown at Confluence Park  
(co-sponsored by Larimer Square  
Association)

**Friday, September 9th**  
End of Trail Ranger Program

**Sunday, September 11th**  
Annual "Friends of the River" Party  
at The Chili Pepper Restaurant