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



## THE GREENWAY NEWS

Vol. 6, No. 2  
Summer 1984

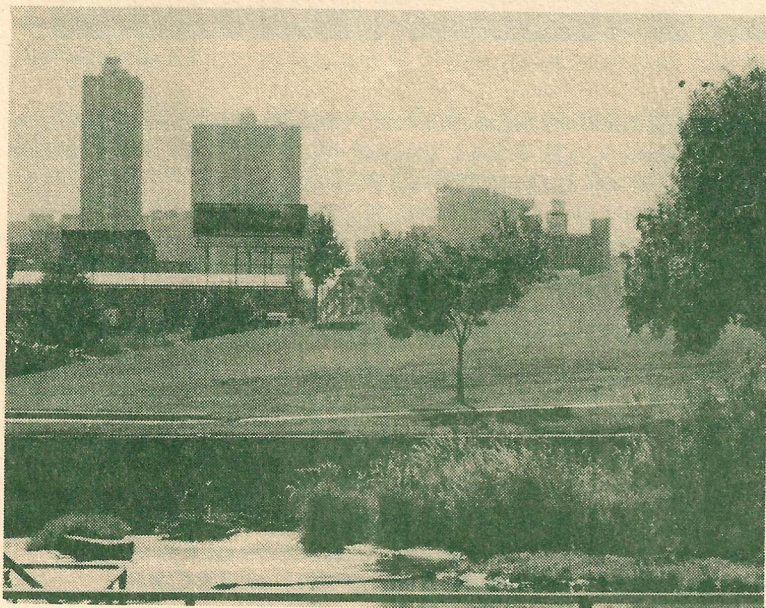
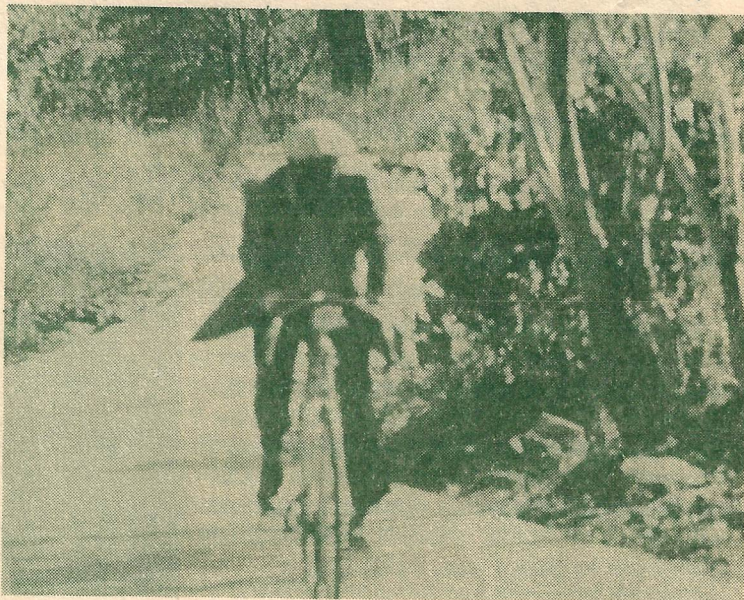
### Denver Now Smiles On Its River

By  
Marjorie Hornbein- Board Member

For decades the South Platte River in Denver was a source of embarrassment, the "perfect spot" for dumping and polluting of all types. Early in its development, the Queen City quickly turned its back on the place of its birth. As the twentieth century began to pass, Denver continued to scorn the Platte Valley, the place near Cherry Creek and the South Platte River, that very site where, in 1859, the little frontier town had started with a few sturdy pioneers.

Denver told its people to move to the south and east, to build their city away from their River and to ignore its ten mile course through Denver. So it was left lonely and desolate, to become little more than a receptacle for all the city's debris.

Not until 1974 did anyone even have a smile or a friendly glance for the River. But during that year a dramatic change took place. Mayor Bill McNichols, with imagination and confidence, established the Platte River Development Committee under the leadership of Senator Joe Shoemaker. As members of the committee first viewed the River, they saw an accumulation of junk- the result of years of neglect. But they also were aware of the real beauty of the water and the nobility of the trees that stood close by. They noticed natural grasses and a few wildflowers, saying with their brilliant colors, that this was a place for better things.



The committee agreed and resolved that the Platte and its banks would be restored to their natural beauty, and would be transformed into a green oasis in the heart of Denver. Their accomplishment has brought about Denver's return to its first home at the confluence of the Platte and Cherry Creek. The city now smiles on its River. The people delight as they walk on the trail that follows the Platte on its course through the city, or sit in one of the parks that adorn its banks, or travel down the rejuvenated waters of the River in kayak, canoe, or raft. They know that "a thing of beauty is a joy forever", and attest to the fact that in only ten years the dream of the dedicated members of the P.R.D.C., later blossoming into the Platte River Greenway Foundation, is now a reality. Denver's Platte River Greenway truly is a "people place"!

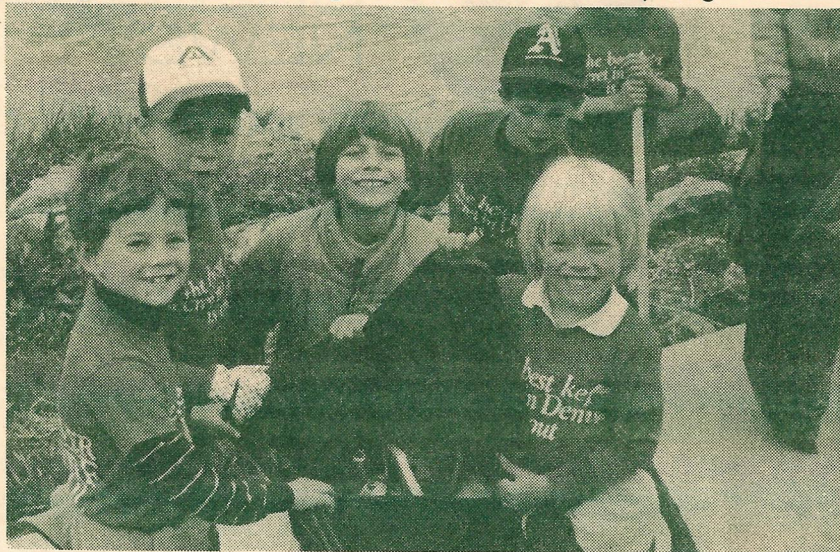


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## Valued Volunteers Help Keep The Greenway At Its Best

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As reported in our last edition of "The Greenway News", the Denver Waldorf School held its first annual Platte River Greenway Clean-a-thon last May. Over 150 students, teachers, and parents were involved in this day long event, combining a litter pick up of the Greenway and a fundraising campaign for Waldorf School. The students collected pledges for each mile of the Greenway that was cleared (all 10.5 miles) gathering over 200 bags of litter, and raising over \$8000 in collected pledges for Waldorf School. The parks, bike trail and river-



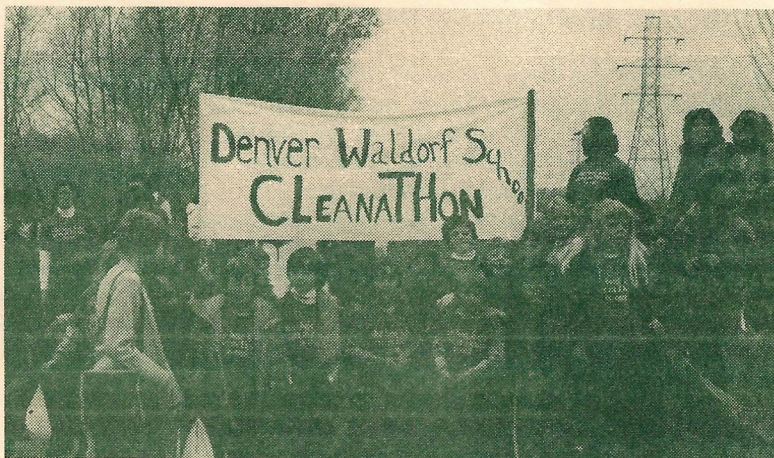
banks of the Greenway were noticeably improved after the efforts of these tremendous young people, their parents and teachers. A heartfelt "thank you" and "well done" from the Board, staff and members of the Greenway Foundation goes out to this exceptional educational institution.

Over the next several weeks, similar efforts will be hosted by two more organizations. On three separate Saturdays, the Cub Scouts, leaders and parents of Pack #125 will be working towards their S.O.A.R. (Save Our American Resources) skill award by walking along the Greenway picking up litter and debris. June 30, July

21, and August 11 are the three Saturdays that have been set aside by Linda Amundson, who is coordinating Pack #125's valued assistance.

On July 28, students and friends of St. Joseph's School will conduct a clean-a-thon along the Greenway to raise money for a full-time secretary. They will collect pledges and donations, followed by the walk along the hiker-biker trail, removing litter and debris.

St. Joseph's is located at 623 Fox Street in close proximity to the Platte River Greenway, serving primarily Hispanic students, many of whom are from low income families. One of St. Joseph's faculty, Ms. Ann Haworth, has been involved in the U.C.D. graduate class that has devised the Greenway Study Units. Ms. Haworth put her study concepts to direct use, instituting a course involving the study of the Platte River and its surrounding areas. From this class came great interest from the students to help keep the Greenway litter-free.



Donations in support of St. Joseph's effort to raise funds for their school, while helping keep the Greenway clean, can be sent to: Ms. Ann Gallagher, St. Joseph's School, 623 Fox St., Denver, Colo. 80204. Donations are tax deductible and a receipt acknowledging your gift will be sent to you if requested.

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### The Greenway Foundation Salutes:

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1. Waldorf Elementary School- For their superb Clean-a-thon efforts along the Platte River Greenway.
2. Valdez Elementary School- For their enthusiastic support and involvement with our Greenway Study Unit.
3. Great Relay Race Volunteers (see article on p.3)- Without whom the race would not have succeeded.
4. Mr. Gene Moore- For providing the canoe, raft, paddles, and life jackets for the Greenway Foundation's Great Relay Race team.
5. Lt. Joe Hart and the Fire Rescue Dept. of the Denver Fire Dept.- For their assistance at the Great Relay Race, in removing an obsolete slalom course at Confluence Park, and Lt. Hart's C.P.R. instruction and subsequent certification of the Greenway Trail Rangers.



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## 1984 Concerts On The Green

(Unbeatable Entertainment)

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On Wednesday, June 27th, the Confluence Park Amphitheatre played host to our first concert in this year's Concert on the Green series. Hosted by MILE HIGH LAND ASSOCIATES, entertainment was provided by IMAGES, offering an evening of top quality jazz selections.



For those of you who weren't part of the crowd at last month's free evening of fun, you needn't despair! On Wednesday, July 25th, join us for an evening of classical favorites featuring U.F.O. (UNION FREELANCE ORCHESTRA), sponsored by FIRST COLORADO BANK AND TRUST. Additional funding by M.P.T.F.

Closing out this year's concert series on Wednesday, August 29th, will be TIMOTHY P. AND RURAL ROUTE 3. Our sponsor for this evening of well-known country hits is KENNY ELECTRIC SERVICE, INC.

Both free concerts begin at 6:30 P.M. and will be held at the Confluence Park Amphitheatre with the good folks at Pepsi Cola Bottling Co. of Denver continuing to provide free drinks for the entire concert series.

Please plan on telling your family and friends about these top quality musical events and bring your blanket, picnic dinner, and bottle of wine down to Confluence Park for a quality evening long remembered.

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## Regional Greenway Project Nearing Completion

On August 18th, the first of eight potential loop trails extending from the Platte River Greenway will be officially dedicated. This twelve mile addition to The Greenway begins at Denver's south city limit traveling south to Hamilton Place. (This section of hiker-biker trail was accomplished through the efforts of the South Suburban Park Foundation.) The trail will continue south along the Platte, under West Hampden Avenue where it will intersect with Bear Creek. The Trail then extends west along Bear Creek to Kipling, north on Kipling to Sanderson Gulch, east along Sanderson Gulch through Ruby Hill Park, and connects back with the Platte River Greenway trail at West Florida Avenue and Platte River Drive.

This exciting project, co-ordinated by the Platte River Greenway Foundation, involves the cooperation and financial support of over a dozen public and private entities. Approximately 2/3 of the loop had previously been built by Denver, Lakewood, the State Highway Department and the Greenway Foundation. However, there were gaps of missing trail throughout the twelve mile area making it impossible for a continuous, uninterrupted hiking or biking experience.

Funding sources of the new trail include: \$300,000 of state lottery proceeds, \$50,000 from the Kelen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation, \$25,000 from Nolen Construction, as well as various amounts and in-kind support from the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, the City of Sheridan, Jefferson County Open Space, the City of Lakewood, and the State Highway Dept.

A ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open this new loop is scheduled for Saturday, August 18th. Scheduled to attend will be Gov. Lamm, Mayors, Councilpeople, County Commissioners, and hopefully you! The dedication will occur via bicycle, with everyone traveling along the entire twelve miles of new hiker-bike trail.

Contact the Greenway Foundation office for the time and location of the August 18th festivities, and plan on joining us in a marvelous celebration of this new and unique amenity!



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## 1984 Greenway Trail Rangers

(A tradition of quality continues)

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For the fifth consecutive year, your membership to the Greenway Foundation has allowed the continued existence of the Greenway Trail Ranger program. Our six member crew began work over the Memorial Day weekend and will continue to patrol the entire Greenway system seven days a week through Labor Day.

The Trail Rangers' responsibilities are many, including:

- litter pick up and trail sweeping
- providing assistance and information to Greenway users
- construction and repair of signs, picnic tables and benches, lighting and electrical systems, etc.
- assisting at all Greenway special events
- overseeing DUI and CWP individuals assigned to the Greenway to complete needed community service hours



Greenway Trail Rangers L-R:

Charles Schley, Kipp Lyle, Paul Valdez, Barney Griego,  
Jamie Froman & Merle Grimes, Supervisor

Between four and five Trail Rangers are on the hiker-biker trail every day of the week, and look forward to meeting with the many Greenway Foundation members that have made this important maintenance effort possible. Thanks to the Rangers' continual hard work, the Platte River Greenway will be in top-notch condition throughout the busy summer season.

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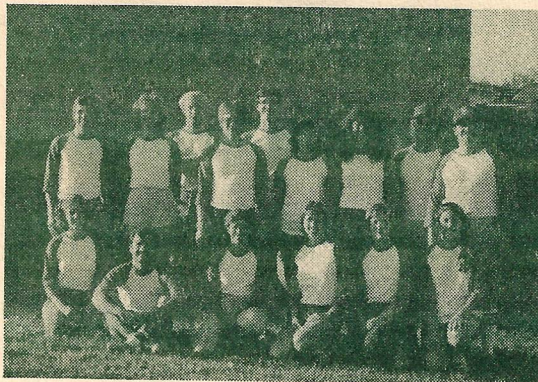
## Greenway Softball Team Is A Hit!

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The Greenway Foundation is the proud new sponsor of our first co-ed softball team. As part of the Jeffco YMCA Co-Ed Softball League, the team has a game every Wednesday evening at the Jeffco Family YMCA in Lakewood through the end of July.

Listed below is the "offical" team roster:

Steve and Terri Clark  
Kevin Peters  
Tim and Mary Doherty  
Jay and Cheryl Shoemaker  
Peter and Kelley Karl  
Jeff and Jeannine Shoemaker  
Mike and Robin McBeath  
Tim and Jean Watson



All of the team expresses their appreciation for the sponsorship and support of the Greenway Foundation.



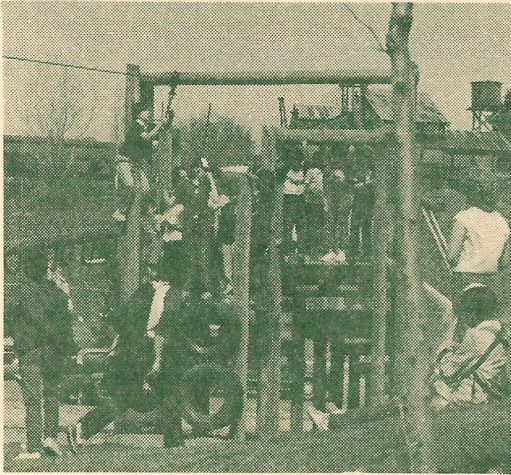
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## Platte River Greenway Study Unit Becomes A Reality

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As mentioned in our last newsletter, the Greenway Foundation and Denver Public Schools have joined forces to create a classroom and field trip experience of Denver's Platte River Greenway. Five elementary schools from the Denver metro area have agreed to be the pilot schools for the initial efforts.

This past May, Valdez Elementary School started the ball rolling. All three sixth grade classes viewed the Greenway's slide presentation and then spent several days studying the history of the Platte River in Denver, as well as its current and future significance to our city. On Friday, May 11th, Greenway personnel and Valdez teachers and students walked along the Greenway trail from Confluence Park to Ruby Hill Park, viewing personally the immediate and outlying positive effects the ten year Greenway effort has brought to Denver.



Our special thanks goes out to Valdez' principal, Nicanor Garcia, and the three sixth grade teachers who agreed to take part in this project; Ms. Pat Chapman, Mr. Rich Marin and Mr. Dave Cavarras.

When school reconvenes this fall, four additional D.P.S. elementary schools will take part in similar efforts, helping us gain more information and background prior to our presentation to the D.P.S. School Board in late Autumn. The four schools to be involved are: Greenlee Elementary, Dr. Sena-Principal; Traylor Elementary, Dr. Gillespie-Principal; Bradley Elementary, Mr. Mel Rodie-Principal; and Del Pueblo Elementary, Ms. Erinda Archuleta-Principal.

To assist the teachers in their presentation of this new classroom and field trip experience, the Greenway enlisted the talents of a U.C.D. graduate class under the guidance of Professor Jeff Brigham. The graduate students, most of whom are currently employed elementary teachers, devised over **forty** study concepts, ranging from poetry to ecosystem design. Because of the newness of our concept, Greenway and D.P.S. administration felt that it was advisable to offer the pilot school teachers some potential assistance in devising curriculum concepts for the classroom and field trip experience. We at the Greenway are greatly indebted to the following graduate students for directing their talents towards this project:

- 1) Roxanne Brickell
- 2) Richi Brown
- 3) Debbie Deverall
- 4) Paula Downum
- 5) Maureen Doze
- 6) Linda Fajardo
- 7) Kathy Holderith
- 8) Ann Haworth
- 9) Pat Lusche
- 10) Joni McCall
- 11) Mary Lou Miller
- 12) Pat Olson
- 13) Lynn Padgett
- 14) Susan Rieger
- 15) Melinda Terry
- 16) June Wooldridge

By the end of October, all four remaining elementary pilot schools will have accomplished the study unit and tour of the Greenway. The Greenway will then compile our success stories, complete with pictures, and present our exciting concept to the D.P.S. School Board. Our ultimate goal is to impress upon the School Board Members that this type of Platte River Greenway classroom and field trip experience should be a regular part of the elementary school curriculum. By doing so, every graduate of elementary school will have had the opportunity to enjoy first hand the beauty and uniqueness of the Greenway, and be better able to appreciate the importance of the Platte River to the past and future of Denver.



We will report on our continued efforts in the fall edition of our Newsletter. For more information on this project, contact the Greenway Foundation office.



## Great Relay Race 1984

The fifth running of the Annual Great Relay Race was a resounding success. With over 70 teams rushing down the three race courses towards Confluence Park (including the 1st Annual Greenway Foundation Team), there were not only more teams than in any previous year, but this year's race sported **nine** SuperStars that singularly completed an **entire** race course.

Participants in this year's gala event included Governor Lamm's team, taking on the north course with the Governor running over six miles along the O'Brien Canal. Mayor Pena's team **won** the Cherry Creek Section of the course, with "Hizzoner" completing the final leg into Confluence Park.

The top three teams on each course were:

**-SOUTH COURSE .....**

- 1) Athletes Against Hunger .....2:05:09
- 2) Gary Lacy (Superstar).....2:08:09
- 3) Cherry Hills Farm .....2:14:18  
Athletic Team

**-NORTH COURSE.....**

- 1) The "A" Team .....2:27:24
- 2) Adams County .....2:53:12
- 3) ATC Uplink .....2:56:49

**-CHERRY CREEK COURSE.....**

- 1) Mayor Pena's Team .....1:21:58
- 2) Vitruvius #1 .....1:22:09
- 3) Denver Water Board .....1:23:46



The race resulted in the largest return to date to the Greenway Foundation, allowing us to replace trees downed by beaver and natural causes over the winter, as well as continue our efforts to ever-improve this 10.5 mile, 400 acre public amenity.



Vital to the success of the race were the many, many volunteers who helped with course set up, monitoring for safety, and the preparation and serving of hamburgers and beer. THREE CHEERS and a big THANK YOU go out to the sponsors of the race: MILLER LITE, FIRST INTERSTATE, PANTS AND DUDS, LTD., AND KBPI. The key volunteer organizations that also certainly deserve our thanks include:

- South Suburban Recreation Association  
(Mary Weber)
- Joe Hart and the Fire Rescue Team of the  
Denver Fire Dept.
- Army Corp of Engineers
- Denver, Littleton, and Englewood Police  
Departments
- The Empire Radio Club (Al York)
- The Golden Wings Motorcycle Organization  
(Art Kramer)
- Volunteers from Lite by Miller, Pants and Duds,  
Ltd., and KBPI
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Reed Ambulance
- McDonalds Corporation (providing the  
hamburgers and orange drink)
- Denver Water Board (Rob Vizina)

There were of course, many more individuals that volunteered the day of the race to help cook and serve lunch, pour beer, and provide information and assistance as needed.

Each year our race grows and improves, (this year by over 20 additional teams). We at the Greenway are grateful to all those who took part in the 5th Annual Great Relay Race, either as participant or as volunteer. We look forward to an even better race in 1985!



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## **1984 Friends of the River Awards**

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The Greenway Foundation Board of Directors each year selects several individuals or organizations as recipients of a "Friends of the River" Award. The winners are selected due to their exceptional contributions and efforts towards the revitalization and continued enhancement of the Platte River Greenway.

Our awards celebration will be held this year at the Platte River Rowing Club, located at 19th Street and Platte River Drive, just north of Confluence Park. The fun begins at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 9th. The cost for dinner and a complimentary glass of wine is \$25.00 per person of which \$15.00 is a tax exempt contribution towards the further improvements along our River.

We hope you can join us in this fun-filled evening, when we will honor the following 1984 winners of the Platte River Greenway Foundation's "Friends of the River" Awards:

- 1) Ted Bendelow- original member of the Greenway Foundation Board of Directors, Ted continues to serve as our Vice-Chairman, and was instrumental in the planning and development of the Confluence Park area.
- 2) Larry Borger- former Administrative Assistant to Mayor McNichols, for his efforts in helping to fund the relocation of Denver Public Works from Gates- Crescent Park, and in assisting in the successful marriage of the Denver Children's Museum and The Greenway.
- 3) Governor Richard D. Lamm- for his continued personal and official support and usage of The Greenway.
- 4) Bob Smith- landscape architect with Denton Harper Marshall, Inc. for his dedicated service since the project's inception on the design of many miles of Greenway.
- 5) Paul Swalm- longtime City Councilman from Denver, and a continual advocate and supporter of The Greenway.
- 6) Dan Trujillo- former and one of the original board members of the Greenway Foundation and strong advocate of the Denver minority community involvement in the revitalization of the River.
- 7) Valdez Elementary School- for their prompt and enthusiastic involvement in the Platte River Greenway Study Unit, and their annual clean-a-thon of the Greenway from Confluence Park to Ruby Hill Park.
- 8) John Zapien- original and continuing member of the Greenway Foundation Board of Directors, and greatly responsible for the northern section of the Greenway including Globeville Landing Park.

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## **Greenway Membership Drive Continues**

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1984 continues to be yet another exciting year of development and preservation along the Platte River Greenway. The Trail Ranger Crew is hard at work through the Labor Day Weekend. Our new boat chute at 3rd Avenue offers an exhilarating white water experience for the kayak, canoe, and rafting enthusiast. Flower gardens, new trail signs, added trees and shrubbery all make The Greenway even more of a "people place".

Your continued support is the reason for these improvements and maintenance efforts. If you've already sent in your Annual Membership for 1984, we offer our thanks. For those of you who have yet to donate for 1984, we encourage you to continue your ever important support of the past several years.

Please fill out the membership application on the back page of this Newsletter. Also, it will greatly assist our efforts if you can include the names of several friends and acquaintances who would be interested in receiving information about the Platte River Greenway and how they too can become a part of our Greenway "family".

The Greenway continues to improve and grow each year. Your involvement is vital to the future of this all important amenity. We look forward to hearing from you soon.





## Making The Platte a People Place Depends on You!

Enclosed is my tax-exempt donation of \$30.00 for Membership in THE GREENWAY FOUNDATION for 1984.

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  
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### 1984 Greenway Calendar of Events

**Wednesday, July 25th-6:30 p.m.**  
Concert on the Green #2 at  
Confluence Park

**Wednesday, August 29th-6:30 p.m.**  
Concert on the Green #3 at  
Confluence Park.

**Friday, September 7th**  
End of Trail Ranger Program.

**Sunday, September 9th-4:00 p.m.**  
Annual "Friends of the River" Party  
at the Platte River Rowing Club.