

# Greenway

## N E W S L E T T E R

Vol. 13 No. 1

Spring 1991

### "Fishing Is Fun" Along The Greenway



*With the new fishing dock in place, efforts are underway to deepen the pond at Overland Pond Educational Park, allowing for improved fishing opportunities*

**T**he next time that you are traveling along the Platte River Greenway, make plans to stop at Overland Pond Educational Park and view the newly constructed handicapped fishing dock. The wood dock which cantilevers over the water was specially designed to facilitate fishing from wheel chairs.

Work is now underway to deepen the water's depth to improve fish habitat. Depths of 10 to 12 feet,

coupled with carefully sculpted submerged banks, will allow for greater diversity of fish species to flourish. Once completed, the Colorado Division of Wildlife will routinely stock the pond with a variety of cold and warm water fish.

The dock and pond improvements were made possible by grants from the Denver Foundation, the Colorado Division of Wildlife's "Fishing is Fun" program and the

Greenway Foundation. Technical and engineering support was provided by the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, South Platte River program and the Denver Parks & Recreation Dept. Our thanks go out to all those who made this marvelous addition to Denver's Platte River Greenway a reality!



# The Greenway Experience Blossoms With Spring

By Carl Crookham  
Greenway Experience Coordinator

**T**he Greenway Experience tour program has had to turn down over 250 tour requests each year for the past five years. And this is with no advertising. The only school offering the program has been the Metro Youth Education Center at Zuni. They are able to handle 80 to 100 tours a year, but have no way to expand.

Last spring a meeting took place between the Denver Public Schools and the Greenway Foundation. The decision was enthusiastically made to expand the Greenway Experience into other high schools. The first three schools to commit to the expansion were Abraham Lincoln High School, the High School Redirection program, and North High School.



*Melissa Martinez, teen guide, teaches the "secret of the cottonwood star" to her 4th grade class near Fishback Landing.*



*The new Platte River Trolley ride will be part of the new Greenway Experience tour offered by North High School.*

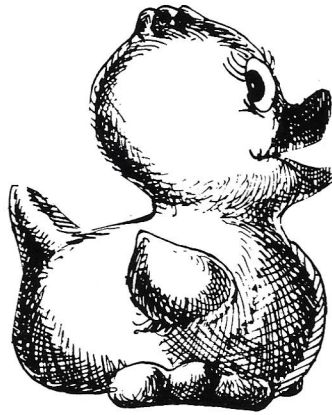


## 2nd Annual "Original Denver Duck Race" Slated

Martin Moore, President  
Denver Active 20/30 Club

**I**t's happening again! The Denver Active 20/30 Club has once again organized and will be hosting the 2nd Annual "Original Denver Duck Race", a family-oriented spectacle of fun, outdoor celebration and wacky, quacky activities!

Last year's Original Denver Duck Race raised over \$50,000 for the Greenway Foundation and other Denver Charities, and was held on the South Platte River. This year, for a twist, the event will take place on Cherry Creek, alongside the



beautiful new Cherry Creek Mall.  
On Sunday, June 16th, starting

about 11:00 a.m., over 10,000 bright yellow rubber ducks will be carefully dropped into Cherry Creek, where they will float downstream to the finish line adjacent to Cherry Creek Mall. Ducks crossing the finish line first will qualify for some great prizes including a Grand Prize of a new automobile, donated by Stevinson Toyota/Chevrolet. Live entertainment will be provided in the form of Dotsero and Images, two well-known area bands.

So join the fun, enjoy the food and free music, and support the activities of the Greenway Foundation by participating in this colorful event!

## Zuni Metropolitan Youth Education Center Adopts Confluence Park



*Metro-Zuni leadership students begin clean-up activities for their "Adopt the Platte" project.*

**T**he Zuni Metropolitan Youth Education Center is hoping to set an example for a more aggressive volunteer-based maintenance program along the South Platte River Greenway. This "Adopt the Platte" project was proposed by the school's leadership class. One class member suggested that a clean-up would be a good community service project. Others

agreed and expressed that this project be more than a one time effort. The idea emerged that the school could set the example of adopting Confluence Park.

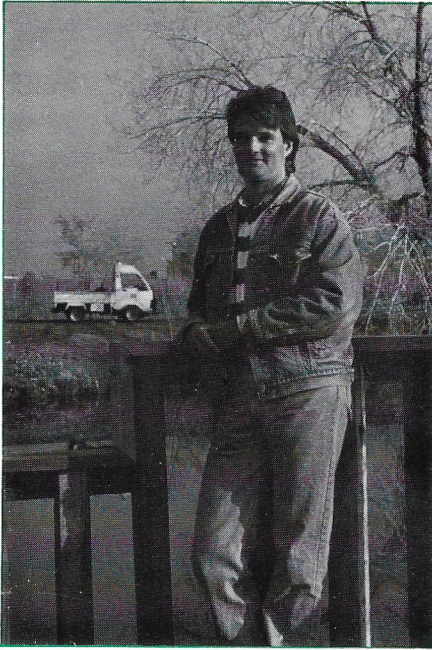
After some exploration of the site, other ideas and suggestions followed. It is now proposed that graffiti will be painted over, benches maintained, railings fixed, and trash along and in the River be picked up

on a regular basis.

The work has already begun and students hope that the concept of "adopting" a section of the Platte River Greenway will spread until all sections have been adopted. Zuni Youth Center's question to you is: "Which section are you willing to adopt?"



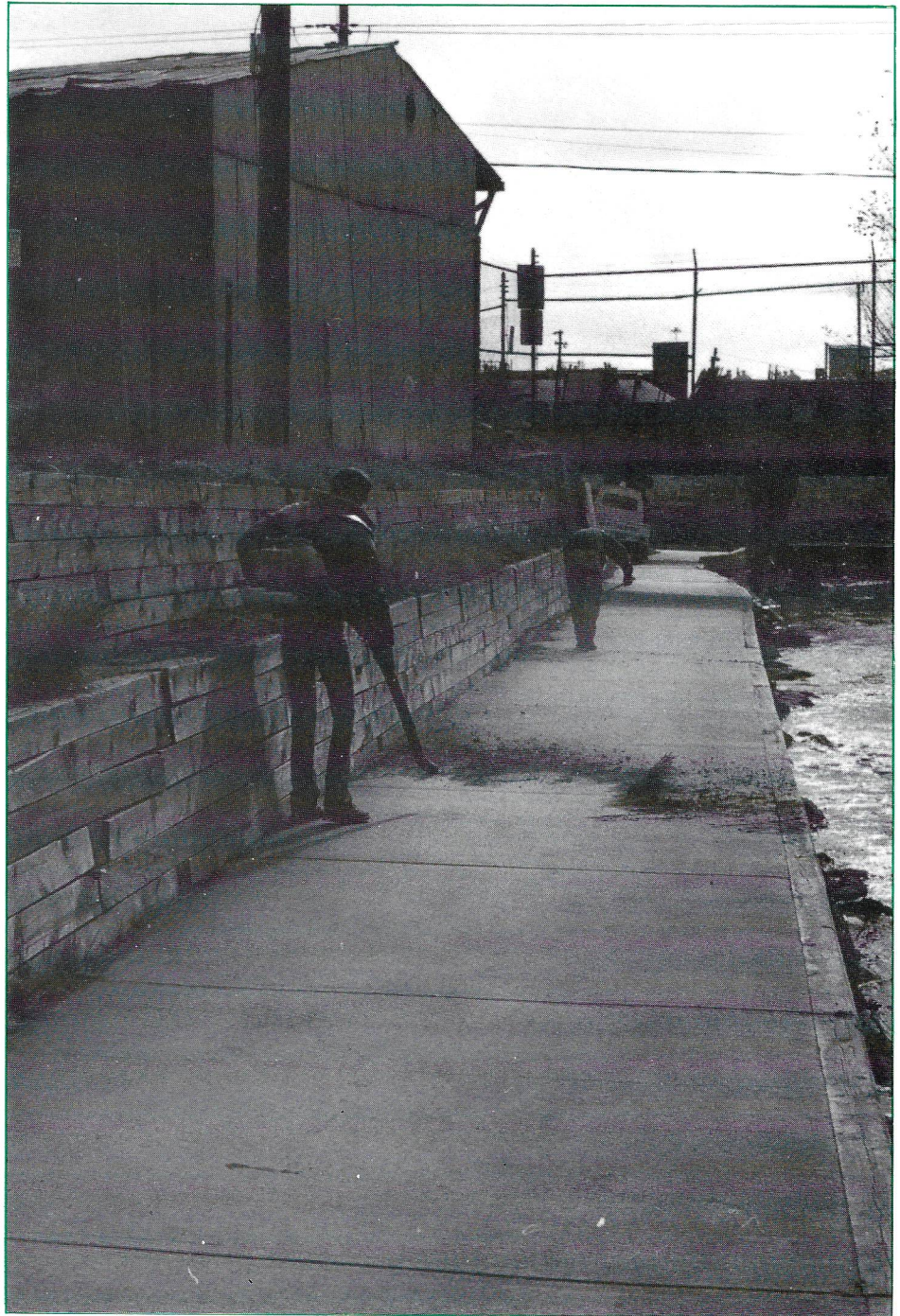
# Denver Parks & Recreation Now Operates Trails Maintenance And Improvement Program



Jed Wagner,  
Denver Trails Coordinator

**Y**es, the Platte River trail is alive and well. Very alive. Trail use is on the rise, and more and more people are utilizing the great resources of the Platte River Greenway. Not only the Platte trail, but other major Denver trails are providing citizens with some of the fastest growing forms of recreation in the country today. Some of these trails include Cherry Creek, Bear Creek and the Highline Canal, not to mention the many internal park trail systems Denver provides, such as City, Cheesman, and Washington parks. Many people, young and old alike, are transporting themselves on trails in increasingly diverse ways, for both recreation and commuting. Add to the list rollerblading, the newest form of roller skating. When you consider gasoline prices, air pollution, health consciousness and innovative variations of the age-old wheel, it is clear that trails are here to stay.

On May 15, 1990, the Denver Parks Department hired me to design and implement a new trails maintenance and improvement



*A typical day's work for Denver's trails crew includes trail sweeping and edging and silt and trash removal.*

program. They started with myself and a couple of season laborers. But what a start! Denver has 130 miles of off-street bicycle trails, so you can see that my services have been spread rather thin in the last year.

Slowly but surely the program has been growing. I have obtained some equipment, and additional personnel will follow. The needs are great, and we are off to a good beginning. The Denver trails have been prioritized in



terms of use, and our efforts revolve around that system. The two top priorities are the Platte Trail and Cherry Creek Trail, followed closely by Bear Creek and the Highline Canal trails. My program is strictly involved with a trail and its immediate surroundings, and does not involve maintenance of the parks in which a trail passes through. Park maintenance is handled by the various district components of the department.

The first thing we look for on the trails are safety concerns. These concerns range from sweeping up glass to replacing railings to having trail surfaces repaired. We inspect all gulch and Greenway trails on a regular basis; the higher the use, the more often it is inspected.

Eventually, I will have the resources to inspect and maintain all Denver trails including internal park trails. Presently, the districts are helping with that aspect. The Platte River trail is representative of what we do on all of our trails. This maintenance includes, on the average, weekly inspections, weekly machine sweeping, and/or weekly spot

sweeping. In addition we edge the trail to maintain width and drainage, repair and replace signage, pick up trash, maintain trail related amenities, repair railings, control weeds, and prune trees. Repair of trail surfaces and graffiti removal are reported and accomplished by either my crew, other park department crews, or the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District. In addition to trail maintenance and improvement, I am fortunate to be able to represent our department and trail system in both the city's mayor-appointed Bicycle Advisory Committee and the state's governor-appointed Colorado Bicycle Advisory Board. In this way, our concerns will have a larger audience, as well as to bring new ideas into our system.

A goal for my program is to give a trail user the best possible experience, given my authority and resources. If we identify a need, or one is brought to my attention, I will do everything I can to remedy the situation. If I am unable to handle a problem, I will refer that problem to someone who can. Follow-up to an eventual solution is also critical.

Although our program cannot be everything to everyone, we are committed to doing the best we can do, all the time. In addition, I will speak for the Denver Parks Department by saying there exists a true commitment to the trail system of this city, held by myself and the administration of this department. Given the monetary constraints of a large city government, I believe my program will continue to grow in the years to come. We are off on the right foot, and your public support of the program and our related goals will be the major factor involved with the success of our efforts.

Finally, you can help! Given my present limited resources, you – the trail user – can help by being the “eyes and ears” of the system. Your opinions, complaints and suggestions will not be ignored, but in fact, will be welcomed as an aid in identifying the problems and concerns that exist on the trails. Please call me with your comments from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 698-4900.

Thank you and keep up the good trail use!



*Utility vehicle used by the Parks Dept.'s new trails maintenance and improvement program.*



With strong support from their principals, teachers for these high schools have completed their preliminary training and are now moving into the areas of creating curriculum and selecting and training their first teen tour guides.

Diane Denenberg is the Greenway Experience director for High School Redirection. Her tour will begin with a historic walk through Riverside Cemetery. Her teen guides will also be helping with the restoration and maintenance of the cemetery statues and markers. Diane's tour will cover the history of the stock show site on its way to Globeville Landing. Globeville will be the key site for River study and many exciting activities are being planned.

Karla Myles, Jeanne Beckman and Betty Tobias will be directing the Greenway Experience for Abraham Lincoln High School. They have chosen a tour site starting at Ruby Hill Park (by Florida and the Platte), and continuing upstream to Grant-Frontier Park which is about a block south of Evans. In addition to the always-present environmental lessons, this tour will offer a special look at the native American history of the area. It will also feature a ghost town tour and an archaeological dig (a specially prepared sand pit) for mining artifacts. Games, songs and many fun lessons will round out this exciting new addition to the Greenway Experience.

Paul Cox will direct the Greenway Experience for North High School. Paul has put together a unique tour which will combine the new Platte River Trolley ride with the Forney Museum and Children's Museum. The children on his tours will be led by teen guides to many interesting sites along the river for lessons in environmental responsibility and Colorado history. Paul is an avid kayaker and hopes to work a demonstration through the Confluence boatchute into his tour plan.

All of these Greenway Experience tours will target elementary school children and will be led by teen tour guides. As before, this program is offered to the Denver metro area by the Greenway Foundation and the Denver Public Schools at no charge.



*On the foot bridge over the kayak course at Confluence Park, Michelle Leyva helps her class of 4th graders to understand their role in keeping the River clean.*



# Cherry Creek South Greenway Continues

Merle Grimes  
Greenway People, Inc.

**D**uring the past several wintery months, the Greenway Foundation has been "warming up" for another summer of trail building. Work has already begun to extend the recently completed Cherry Creek Trail – Parker reach into Douglas County. A  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile section extending south from Stroh Road will soon be completed and plans to extend the trail another four miles southward to Bayou Gulch are underway. Construction for this phase is expected to begin in July of 1991.

This season's trail efforts are being funded by a grant from the **Johnson Foundation**, the **Urban Drainage and Flood Control District** and **Douglas County**.

The completed Greenway will ultimately connect Cherry Creek State Recreation Area with Canyon State Park via 25 miles of a concrete bike trail and a parallel equestrian path. Last year, the first phase of the Cherry Creek-South trail was completed within the Town of Parker. Grass and wildflower seeding

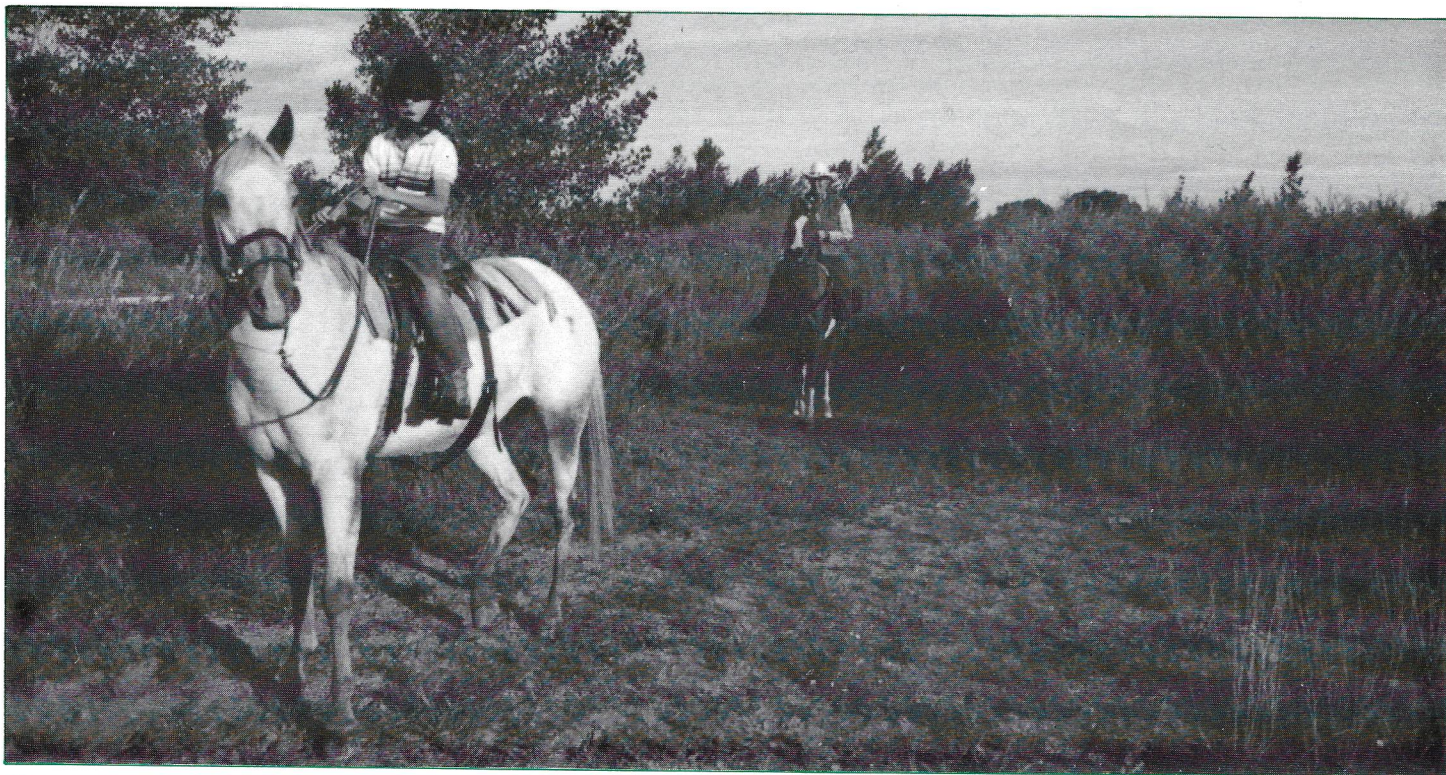


*Greenway enthusiasts of all ages enjoy the informational and historical markers located along the trail.*

as well as final construction of Parker's equestrian trail are currently being finalized.

Take advantage of a warm and

sun-filled day and enjoy the beauty of this unique new addition to the metro area's Greenway system.



*The equestrian trail which adjoins the concrete hike-bike path is just one of the unique features of the Cherry Creek South Greenway.*



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For \$100.00, have a contribution made  
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by well known artist William Condit  
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