



THE GREENWAY CURRENT

THE GREENWAY FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

2014



The Greenway
Foundation
1855 S. Pearl St.
Suite 40
Denver, CO 80210

www.greenwayfoundation.org

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



From the Executive Director



Forty years ago, Denver's South Platte River, Cherry Creek and additional tributaries to the River were dead. Chemicals, paint, oil, gasoline, concrete and animal waste were just a few of the “gifts” that were deposited along the banks and into the channel of the River. Each and every day. There were no parks, no trails, no boat chutes. There were no birds, no fish, no wildlife. There was only an abandoned and forgotten open sewer in the midst of a city.

Four decades later, the citizens of Denver can lay claim to the reality that the South Platte River Greenway watershed, our city's birthright, is amongst the most vibrant, healthy, enhanced and engaged urban waterways anywhere on the planet. Over 100 miles of multi-use recreational trails. Over 100 acres of parks and natural areas. Over 100,000 linear feet of water quality, recreational and flood control improvements to the channel and banks of the River and its tributaries.

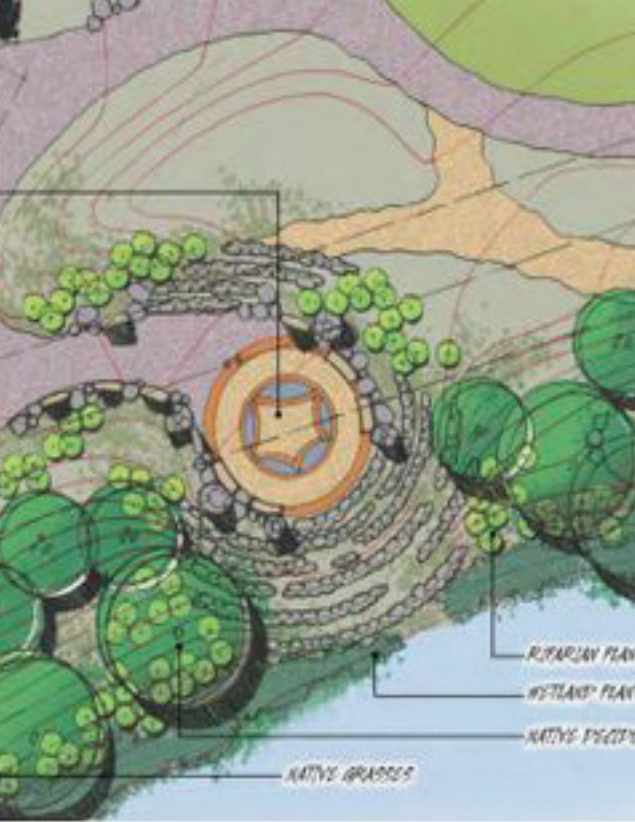
This collective investment of over \$130 Million (to date) is also a key factor in the rebirth and revitalization of the surrounding area including residential, retail, commercial, entertainment and light industrial development, valued at over \$13 Billion. In other words – green = green!

Since 1974, The Greenway Foundation has been honored to serve as one of the many proud partners – public, private, philanthropic and political – involved with the evolutionary transformation of this historic natural resource. Whether as a passionate advocate for ongoing and increased enhancement projects, or the overseer of award winning environmental education programming and increasingly popular cultural and community-based events, The Greenway Foundation will forever hold fast to one of its earliest vows – to return a river to a city and its citizens.

Every great city has a great river. With your help, The Greenway Foundation can continue to strive towards making this goal, this promise, a reality.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Shoemaker', with a long, sweeping underline.

Jeff Shoemaker
Executive Director
The Greenway Foundation



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

About the Foundation

History:

Founded in 1974, The Greenway Foundation (TGF) has led the effort to reclaim, preserve, enhance, and engage the South Platte River and its tributaries from a former cesspool to a place of environmental and recreational pride for Denver and its residents.

TGF's many accomplishments include:

- Constructing more than 100 miles of interconnected hiking and biking trails;
- Creating 20+ parks and natural areas, 10 from former landfill dump sites;
- Vastly improving the health of the South Platte River Watershed and its habitats;
- Eliminating over 250 sources of pollution and dumping into the River;
- Creating the South Platte River Environmental Education (SPREE) Program to instill love and stewardship for the river among the next generation of citizens;
- Helping create over \$130 million of green improvements to the South Platte River and its tributaries, facilitating over \$13 billion in residential and commercial development throughout the Denver Metro area.

Future of The Greenway Foundation

Vision:

The Greenway Foundation works toward achieving a future for the South Platte River where the river is:

- Clean - the river meets EPA's clean water standards;
- Wet - the river has a sustainable minimum stream flow level that supports increased fish, wildlife, and recreation opportunities;
- Sustained - funding mechanisms are in place to continue efforts to preserve, protect, enhance and engage the river.

Strategies:

To ensure the long-term, sustainable health of the South Platte River, The Greenway Foundation works tirelessly to:

- Reclaim and restore the river by promoting policies and coordinating on-the-ground capital projects that provide water quality and flood control improvements, enhance river habitat, reduce sources of pollution, and expand recreational opportunities along the South Platte River Watershed.
- Activate the next generation of river stewards through award-winning youth education programs and community engagement initiatives.



Environmental Education Elementary School Field Trips

“It was a perfect day!...
It built nice background
knowledge and helped
to bond the class.”
- 5th Grade Teacher

This year, over 4,400 students had award winning, hands-on learning experiences in seven different Denver parks along the South Platte River. These students explored riverside trails, discovered native plants and animals, re-enacted Colorado history, panned for gold, rafted, caught crawdads and much more.





Activating a River

In 2014, two new South Platte River Environmental Education (SPREE) Schools were added to the eight schools already established. Each year, SPREE Schools commit to bringing every Kindergarten through 5th grade student on a grade-specific excursion. With these new schools, SPREE expanded its programming capacity to educate an additional 1,000 students during the fall semester this year. Each trip is held at a different riverside park including City of Cuernavaca, Commons, Bear Creek, Confluence, Grant Frontier and Overland Pond.

For 2015, SPREE intends to serve two additional SPREE Schools, again expanding programming capacity to serve a total of 5,400 students - 1,000 more than the previous year. This latest expansion of the SPREE Excursion Program allows twelve elementary schools across Denver to be served. SPREE is also excited to pilot in-class activities that compliment field trip curriculum and to return to Johnson-Habitat Park in 2015 for its ECE field trips!

2014 SPREE Schools:

- Fairview
- Farrell B. Howell
- Grant Ranch
- McKinley-Thatcher
- Montclair
- Palmer
- Polaris at Ebert
- Southmoor
- Steele
- Teller

Greenway River Rangers

During the 2014 spring semester, The Greenway Foundation's award winning River Ranger program worked with eight high school students to develop water knowledge and teaching skills. The Rangers were given the opportunity to lead educational activities for 5th grade classes along the South Platte River.

The River Rangers were challenged to work as a team, set personal goals and realize how their words and actions can make a difference for younger students.

As part of its internship program, TGF believes providing meaningful employment for under-served youth to be important, encouraging a generation with knowledge about the River and skills to succeed.

In the summer of 2014, TGF hired four high school juniors who successfully completed the internship program as well as two college students who served as summer



“I see the world in a different way and I also make decisions that I know benefit not only myself but those and the environment around me.”

-Lisette D.

camp leaders. The college students mentored the River Rangers as they navigated through a first job experience, allowing the Rangers to walk away from their experience with confidence and a deeper understanding of environmental issues and related solutions..

Throughout the summer, staff members facilitated daily professional development workshops focused on the foundations of education, investigating environmental issues, and leadership development. Staff members were dedicated to creating a safe space for celebrating successes, overcoming challenges and identifying strategies for improvement.

TGF is also excited to announce the new Greenway Leadership Corps program, which offers a monthly meeting for students to learn about the environment through volunteer work and outdoor adventures.

Adventures Outside Day Camps along the River

Results in 2014:

- Over 300 campers attended SPREE's award winning riverside summer camps
- Campers from 100 different schools attended
- 11 different week-long camps with unique themes including Things with Wings, Animal Mysteries, River Art Ninjas, Forces of Nature, and Journey of the South Platte River
- Camp was held at two creek-side locations: Steele Elementary School near Washington Park and the Cherry Creek Train in LoDo
- 10 scholarships awarded thanks to donations from our individual sponsors

“My daughter has gone to several camps through The Greenway Foundation and absolutely loves it. It's at the top of our list for summer and holiday camps!”

-Summer Camp Parent

The Greenway Foundation offers day camps to elementary students in the Denver area during both the summer and on school holidays, allowing kids to be outside, active and learning throughout the year. The campers love catching crawdads, playing games, reenacting Denver's history and getting to know the environment around them!

SPREE staff is very excited to return to its headquarters facility (SPREE HQ) along the South Platte River at Johnson-Habitat Park this coming year. Thanks to a generous donation, SPREE HQ will receive over \$40,000 of renovation and expansion improvements in 2015.



Park, Trail and River Enhancements



The Greenway Foundation continues to partner with numerous public, private, philanthropic and political partners to create ongoing environmental, recreational and water quality enhancements along the South Platte River and its tributaries. After three years of planning and visioning, followed by three subsequent years of fundraising, over \$30 Million of projects are in planning, design or construction phases along the entire 10-mile stretch of the South Platte in Denver.

River Vision Projects:

- Reconstruction of Grant Frontier Park and Pasquinel's Landing Park, creating improved riparian, recreation and water quality features
- Re-channelization of the South Platte River in south Denver adjacent to Overland Golf Course, allowing for increased wildlife habitat and enhanced boating features
- Conversion of a former landfill dump site into an innovative outdoor education and urban camping amenity at Johnson-Habitat Park
- Creation of a new park in the Sun Valley neighborhood adjacent to Weir Gulch, along with channel improvements to the Gulch as it merges with the South Platte River
- Replacement of outdated and insufficient ramps at Confluence Park leading to Shoemaker Plaza
- Initiation of design efforts to create a new six-acre park in the heart of RiNo, adjacent to 35th St. and Arkins Court as well as a signature pedestrian bridge across the South Platte River

Policies to Promote River Health

P.U.R.E

Protect our Urban River Environment

PURE is an initiative created by The Greenway Foundation to address water quality issues in the South Platte River and tributaries. One of the cornerstone goals of the initiative is to reduce and ultimately eliminate trash in the river. With support from the City and County of Denver's Department of Environmental Health, and a grant from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, PURE has developed an information and education plan.

PURE is working to raise awareness and change behavior regarding trash in the river. Next steps include the creation of a River Sustainability Summit in Denver to bring together leaders, neighbors, interested groups and volunteers to engage in this significant opportunity to further the health of these vital urban waterways.

Chatfield Reallocation

The Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project will allow for additional water storage space within in the existing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' flood control reservoir. The project made significant progress during 2014. In May, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' study was concluded and a Record of Decision was issued. In September, the Water Storage Agreement was approved. Earlier in the year, the State of Colorado approved a state mitigation plan for the project.

There is broad support for the Chatfield project. In addition to The Greenway Foundation, the project is supported by other environmental organizations, including Sierra Club, Western Resource Advocates, Conservation Colorado (formerly Colorado Environmental Coalition), Trout Unlimited and the Foundation for Colorado State Parks. Implementation

Thanks to a grant from Noble Energy, The Greenway Foundation is also involved with outreach, engagement and visioning efforts to expand the South Platte River Greenway beyond the Metro Denver area. Additionally, efforts are being initiated to create a sustainable minimum stream flow within the channel of the South Platte downstream of Chatfield Reservoir.

Friends of the South Platte

“If it takes a village to
raise a child, then it takes
a city to reclaim a river.”

- Jolon Clark,
Associate Director

Saving a river takes hard
work, dedication, and grit. It
takes an army of individuals,
businesses, public entities,
and nonprofits. It takes
partnership, pain, struggle,
and perseverance. It takes a
city.

The South Platte River
is your river, and its future
depends on you. Imagine
what your River can be in
five, ten or twenty years.

Join us in the continuing
effort to preserve and protect
Denver's greatest natural
resource by becoming a
Friend of the South Platte.





Ways to make an Impact

Your financial support makes the work of The Greenway Foundation possible.

Consider supporting us by:

- Becoming a **Friend of the South Platte River** by making a monthly or annual contribution either online or with the attached envelope
- Giving in honor of a friend or family member
- Including The Greenway Foundation in your will or estate planning
- Volunteering at one of TGF's biannual CH2M HILL South Platte RiverSweeps
- Attending TGF's signature benefit events - Gala on the Bridge and After Party on the Bridge

You can learn more about ways to give and opportunities to get involved

on our website

www.greenwayfoundation.org



“We are embarking on a Friends of the South Platte River campaign and hoping that everyone will understand what a tremendous benefit it is for them to participate and to provide support and leadership for the future.”

- Dana Crawford, Founding TGF Board Member and Longtime Donor

Coors Light South Platte RiverFest

presented by REI



Impacts:

- 15,000 attendees
- 2,500 participants on water
- 9 live bands
- 3 free fitness classes
- 17 artists creating pieces inspired by the river and festival

On Saturday and Sunday, June 28 and 29, 2014, the Coors Light South Platte RiverFest event returned for the 2nd year, bringing over 15,000 individuals to Confluence Park to explore the wide variety of family friendly recreational opportunities along the South Platte River. This free event featured free stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) lessons, tubing, kayaking, and rafting on the River and Cherry Creek with over 2,500 people of all ages participating. Over 20 people completed the 2nd annual Denver SUP race on the South Platte River.

In addition to RiverFest's on-water activities, attendees enjoyed live music, attended fitness classes, and competed in an art competition focused on celebrating Confluence Park.

Event Committee:

Brent Applebaum, Committee Chair
Todd Applebaum
John Blackshire
Brian Defouw
Jon Kahn
Lorinn Rhodes
Kelly Hall
Stephan Hall

CH2M HILL RiverSweeps

In 2014, The Greenway Foundation and Denver's Parks and Recreation Department co-hosted the annual CH2M HILL Spring and Fall RiverSweeps. Over 650 volunteers of all ages gathered together at these two longstanding volunteer events.

In addition to the adult volunteers, the SPREE team worked with over 100 family members to provide a unique volunteer opportunity geared towards kids. After the work portion of the morning

was completed, the kids were able to play games and enjoy arts and craft sessions.

The two RiverSweeps provided over 2,000 donated work hours benefitting the River and its adjacent parks and trails. Volunteers worked together along the River to cover graffiti, pull weeds, collect trash, spread mulch and tend to the various needs of our riverside parks.



Impacts:

- 650 Volunteers
- 2,000 Donated work hours
- Planted 125 plants
- 226 Yards of mulch spread
- 2,200 Gallons and 1 Dumpster of debris collected
- 110 Gallons of weeds collected



Ken Salazar
2014 Friend of the River
Award Recipient



Noble Energy Gala on the Bridge **presented by Wells Fargo**

On Thursday, September 18, 2014, over 300 guests gathered at the **Noble Energy Gala on the Bridge presented by Wells Fargo**. On the historic 19th Street Bridge in the heart of the Central Platte Valley, The Greenway Foundation proudly presented the 2014 Friend of the River Award to Ken Salazar. This unique and increasingly popular annual event celebrates the past, present, and future of our urban waterways, and supports The Greenway Foundation's continued efforts to enhance and engage the South Platte River and its tributaries.

Event Committee:

Steve Katich, Chair
Wendy Aiello
Jim Carpenter
Bar Chadwick
Dana Crawford
Rob Grey
Laurie Helmick
Jeff Hermanson
Fabby Hillyard
Mike LaMair

Holly Brown Nichols
Chris Romer
Ronda Sandquist
Will Shafroth
Chris Shears
Mark Smith
Dave Thorpe
Ellen Willensky
Jason Winkler
Ellen Winkler

Honorary Chairs:

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First Lady Mary Louise Lee
Governor John Hickenlooper
Senator Mark Udall
Maggie Fox
Senator Michael Bennet
Susan Daggett
Congresswoman Diana DeGette
Lino Lipinsky



After Party on the Bridge

Partners in Change Award Winners 2014

Art

Urban Arts Fund Murals at Confluence Park

Public Projects

Paul & Carol Ann Rothman, Downtown

Denver Children's Playground

Private Development

Industry Denver

Programming, Events, and Recreation

One World One Water Center for Water

Education & Stewardship

On Friday, September 19, 2014, over 400 guests joined TGF for the second annual **After Party on the Bridge** on the historic 19th Street Bridge in the heart of the Central Platte Valley. This magical evening supported The Greenway Foundation's mission to revitalize the South Platte River and surrounding tributaries. During the Partners in Change Award Ceremony, The Greenway Foundation was able to recognize groups and individuals who are making positive impacts within the adjacent riverside community.

This celebration of urban life along the River included live music from beloved Colorado folk band Paper Bird, Electronic Dance Trio, Human Agency, and DJ sets by Chuck Lepley. After Party also had a pop-up performance art by professional ballet company, Wonderbound. New this year was the silent disco powered by SoundDown Party.

Event Committee:

Anna Bogler, Founder
and Chair

Jorgen Jensen, Founder
and Chair

Brent Applebaum
Dan Cohen

Matt Filippini
Patrick Gillette
Joel Goulder

Casey Grosscope
Kristen Hughes
Lisa Jorgensen
Bridgette Moller
Daniel Nichols

Kael Robinson
Britta Strother
Nick Swett

CDM Smith Reception on the River



Past Speakers Include:

- U.S. Senator Mark Udall
- U.S. Senator Ken Salazar
- Governor Bill Ritter
- U.S. Representative Diana DeGette
- U.S. Representative Mike Coffman
- U.S. Representative Ed Perlmutter
- Mayor John Hickenlooper
- Mayor Michael B. Hancock
- Councilwoman Judy Montero
- Honorable Russell George
- Honorable Harris Sherman
- Col Joel Cross, Commander, USACE Omaha District
- Kayla Eckert Uptmor, USACE Omaha District

On a warm and sunny evening in late August, over 300 hundred leaders in the business, political, environmental and water communities joined The Greenway Foundation at Confluence Park to celebrate TGF's mission to preserve, protect, enhance and engage Denver's urban waterways. In addition to celebrating accomplishments to date, Reception on the River provides emphasis and attention toward the ongoing challenges and opportunities to allow our City's greatest natural resources to continue to maximize their environmental and recreational potential.

Each year, Reception on the River invites noted civic leaders to address the attendees, providing their perspective on the significance of the South Platte River and its tributaries as key factors towards the enhanced quality of life and economic stimulation for the metro Denver area.

This year's featured speakers were Rob Harris with Western Resources Advocates and Congressman Cory Gardner.

Family-Friendly Weekend Events

Art on the River

On Saturday, May 10th, 2014, both children and adults joined TGF staff at City of Cuernavaca Park for this free family event. Participants created river and nature-inspired art projects including miniature boats, rock creatures, animal homes, and trash monster traps.

Panning on the Platte

On Saturday, September 6th, 2014, TGF joined forces with Gold Unlimited to teach kids and families how to pan for gold in the South Platte River. Participants joined together at Grant Frontier Park prospecting for gold, exploring the Montana City ghost town, sewing treasure pouches, and enjoying lunch. Each child got to take home any gold they found, a vial to keep it in, and their very own goldpan.

Family Fishing Day and Water Festival

On Saturday, October 25th, 2014, over seventy children and adults joined The Greenway Foundation at Overland Pond Park for a day of fishing and fun. Each child learned proper fishing skills and sportsman etiquette, and were presented with a fishing pole that they got to take home. Families also learned about other creatures who live in the water, including crawdads, and a variety of macroinvertebrates.



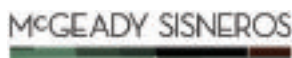
**Register for these annual events at
www.greenwayfoundation.org**

2014 Supporters

Thank you for your
generosity!



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Colorado Department of Parks & Wildlife
Denver Department of Environmental Health
Denver Parks + Recreation
Denver Tramway Heritage Society
Earth Force
Environmental Learning for Kids

Gold Unlimited
HobNob Events
Jeffco
KIPP Denver Collegiate Academy
Urban Drainage and Flood Control District

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Denver Trout Unlimited
El Pomar Foundation
EPA
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GOCO
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State of Colorado (CDPHE, Office of the Attorney General, DNR) Natural Resource Damages Fund/Shattuck Chemical/Rocky Mountain Arsenal
State of Colorado (CWCB) Water Supply Reserve Account
Urban Drainage and Flood Control District
U. S. Forest Service

River Vision In-kind
Colorado Department of Transportation
Denver Environmental Health
National Park Service
The Trust for Public Land





The Greenway Foundation Staff

Jeff Shoemaker	Executive Director
Jolon Clark	Associate Director
Rachel Steel	Excursions, Development
Autumn Bjugstad	Engagement Director
Lauren Berent	Events Coordinator
Ramsey Bernard	Youth Program Coordinator
Bekky Harkins	Camp Coordinator

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Brent Applebaum	
John Bridges	
Larry Elrod	
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Lesley Roper	
Paula Sandoval	
Pete West	

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2015 Calendar of Events

April 25th, 2015	Spring RiverSweep
May 9th, 2015	Art on the River
June 27-28th, 2015	South Platte RiverFest
Sept. 10th, 2015	Gala on the Bridge
Sept. 11th, 2015	After Party on the Bridge
Sept. 26th, 2015	Fall RiverSweep
Oct. 17th, 2015	Panning on the Platte
Nov. 7th, 2015	Family Fishing Day



Excellence in
Environmental
Education