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

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THE GREENWAY NEWS

It's **YOUR** Water . . .

"Water is the most precious, limited natural resource we have in this country. The technology that ruins this water can also save it. There are many people in this country old enough to remember when water was a many-splendored thing, or young enough to want to have such memories. . ."

— Ralph Nader

*"It used to be that people (and not many, at that) only watched the water in the Platte — now they're **using** it . . . for recreation. Since the inception of the Greenway project, the water quality of the South Platte River through Denver has improved greatly, and there are game fish for the catching, raft trips and kayak runs for the taking. In general, people are enjoying the waters of the Platte once again. **Your opinions in the matter of water quality are important.** As crucial water quality issues are being discussed and revisions being considered, voice your concerns to the Water Quality Commission of the State of Colorado — to insure the careful and frequent reviews necessary to continue enhancing your river's quality."*

— Ted Bendelow, Vice-Chairman
of the Board of Directors
The Greenway Foundation

Adams County Connection to the Greenway

Jim Considine and Mary Sharp with assistance from Commissioner Jim Briggs of Adams County are spearheading efforts to connect with the Denver System. Using an innovative process with apprentice trainees from the Employee Division, trail is being laid to hook up with the 10 mile Greenway Trail through Denver. Good work . . .! The eventual connection with Barr Lake is closer with their efforts.

PEDAL . . . PADDLE . . . PORTAGE . . . Through the 1982 Great Relay Race

The annual celebration on the Platte River Greenway this year will be another exciting Great Relay Race. Teams are currently being formed to traverse the 50-mile course from Chatfield State Recreation Area to Barr Lake State Park. First held three years ago as a means of showing the recreational potential along the Front Range, this popular event continues to draw hundreds of participants and thousands of spectators. The proceeds of the race are used for operations of the Greenway Foundation.

OP Sportswear/Pants & Duds stores as well as Miller Lite Beer will sponsor this year's race. Media sponsors for the event include KBPI Radio and Denver Magazine. Entry forms are available in area sporting goods stores and at all area Pants & Duds stores, or call 831-0920 for more information. Great prizes await race participants, and a good time will be had by all . . .

Denver Audubon to Locate On Greenway

Utilizing a facility provided by a Community Development grant, the Denver Audubon Society will be housed in Habitat Park on the Greenway.

The facility being utilized has the unique distinction of having been the home of Golda Meir, former Prime Minister of Israel. The Denver Audubon Society has plans for providing a nature center for the public.

More Greenway "Coming Attractions"

1982 should be a year that offers Denverites plenty of things to do, if our Calendar of Events is any indication! The Greenway Foundation has scheduled a number of events from Spring through early Fall, all for your enjoyment. Some highlights from the Calendar on the cover . . .

[The First of Denver is again generously making their downtown Plaza available for the annual spring "Plant Sale on the Plaza". Stroll through the large "garden" of green and blossoming plants, featuring a fine selection of bedding plants, all offered at prices you can smile about. A portion of all purchases will be tax-exempt donations to the Platte River Greenway Foundation — these will be earmarked for this year's improvements at Gates-Crescent Park and on the South Extension of the trail. Don't miss this great sale (complete with live music at the noon hour) at the First of Denver Plaza, 17th & California Streets downtown, from 9 am to 4 pm on May ~~28~~ ¹⁹ through ~~28~~ ¹⁹ AND FRIDAY, MAY 20 THURSDAY

Once again we'll be hosting the popular "Concerts on the Green" series at Confluence Park. Made possible by the Pabst Brewing Company, My Brother's Bar and the Music Performers' Trust Fund, this unique concert series brings fine classical music to the people of Denver free of charge . . . on the banks of the Platte River. This year's concerts will be held June 7th, July 5th, August 9th and August 30th — all are Monday evenings, all begin at 6 pm and last until near-dark. (Rain dates are June 14th, July 12th, August 16th and September 13th — just in case.) So bring a blanket to sit upon, a picnic dinner to feast upon and treat your ears to favorites such as Mozart, Bach and other great composers for some of the most delightful summer evenings ever!

The Chili Pepper Restaurant will be the scene of the annual "Friends of the River" Party on September 26th. This celebration honors the generous donors and friends of the Platte River Greenway. A buffet dinner, cocktails and music will be offered, and the spotlight will be on those chosen to receive 1982's "Friends of the River" Awards. The awards are given each year to persons, businesses or property owners along the river who have made extraordinary contributions toward the enhancement of the Platte. Should you have a candidate in mind as a recipient of a

"Friends of the River" award, please send your suggestion to the Greenway Foundation for consideration by the Board of Directors to: 1666 South University Boulevard, Denver, Colorado 80210. Your suggestions must be received by July 15, 1982.

For more information on the Greenway's "coming attractions", consult the Calendar of Events in this issue or call 777-5501.

The Greenway Grows On

The year 1981 was an exciting one for the progress of the Platte River Greenway project through Denver. Major grants totaling \$1.3 million from three leading Colorado foundations made these improvements possible in 1982, as follows:

- The Gates Foundation granted the Greenway \$500,000 to enable the completion of Gates-Crescent Park, in addition to boating improvements along the river.
- The Boettcher Foundation donated \$347,000 to assist in completing the trail system to the south, which will allow the connection with Englewood's improvements.
- The Helen K. and Arthur Johnson Foundation contributed the additional \$187,000 required for completion of the south trail system, thereby forming a coalition with the Boettcher Foundation.

Major new projects slated for completion in 1982 include the following:

1. **Gates-Crescent Park Phase II** — presently under construction, with completion expected by September or October. At this writing, we're still working around the Public Works Department — literally — but they are relocating to a site near the Satellite Vehicle Services Center, which will enable us to work the park site in its entirety around July 1st. The Parks Department's maintenance operations and voting machine storage will remain on the site.

Phase II of Gates-Crescent Park will add 6 acres of sodded area to the existing 3 acres. 42,000 cubic yards of fill dirt is being imported for use in construction of a noise/screening berm

along the I-25 side of the park. The Children's Museum expects to break ground for their new structure early in the fall of this year.

When completed, Gates-Crescent Park will be suitable for outdoor concerts (with a capacity of 10,000 persons) and field sports. Volleyball facilities and a children's play structure are already in place at the park.

The cost of Phase II, a total of \$275,000, has been generously funded by the Gates Foundation.

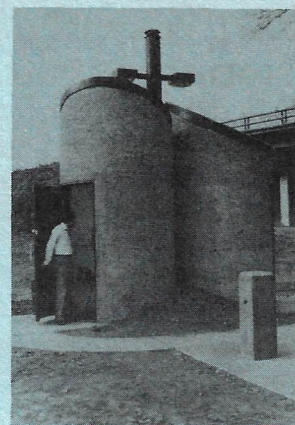
2. South Trail Extension — A one-mile extension of the Greenway trail along the west bank of the Platte will begin at Wesley Avenue and run to Bates at the South City Limit. The new portion of Frontier Park, also on the west bank, will be completed in about August. There will be both irrigated sod and native grasses in the park. This "new" Frontier Park will expand the existing park by adding 3 acres on the west bank — thanks to the combined funding efforts of the Boettcher Foundation and the Helen K. and Arthur Johnson Foundation.

3. Northwest Trail Connection — will connect Northwest Denver neighborhoods to the Platte's trail and parks system via an undercrossing of I-25 near the Rockmont Envelope plant. The trail west of I-25 will connect with an on-street route at Rockmont Drive. Amenities to be included at the connection are a parking area (11-car capacity), bench and bike rack. The on-street route at Rockmont Drive will connect to the existing trail at 19th Street.

We are presently seeking funding for the connector trail from 19th Street to Rockmont and funding for a ballfield at the site. The estimated cost for this extension is \$151,000. We are working with representatives of Northwest Denver neighborhoods on funding possibilities.

An Innovative Solution . . . Corbusier Would Be Proud

The new "clivus multum" comfort station has been opened for public use at Fishback Park (Speer Boulevard and the Platte). This attractive facility, designed by Ron Mason of John Anderson Associates in cooperation with Urban Edges, Inc., features an innovative water and energy-conserving device which converts human waste into a sanitary compost without the use of chemicals. The building structure itself reflects the innovative design with sleek lines which will resist vandalism and provide access for the handicapped.



This facility is experimental, and will take some initial adjustment. It can also function as a conventional pit-type toilet.

You're Invited To Join Us

The Greenway project continues to follow the exciting example set by the hard-working and dedicated Board of Directors of the Greenway Foundation. And now the communities of Englewood and Littleton to the south and Adams County to the north, are implementing plans to provide the all-important hookups needed for completion of the Platte River's recreational corridor of trails and parks. The Greenway Foundation will assist the communities involved in fundraising, design and development, and coordination during the completion of the trail system.

In the 7½ years since the Greenway's inception, we have constructed a 10-mile trail system, still growing to the north and south of Denver, boasting 18 neighborhood parks — a total of nearly 400 acres of open space. We have provided an unmatched urban recreational corridor on the Platte River, thanks to the tremendous support of the people of Denver.

But we are not finished yet . . . and as the completion of the Platte River Greenway Project looms ever nearer, we are reminded that what we have built, we must also **maintain** if the Greenway's system of trails and parks is to be a true legacy for coming generations in the metropolitan area.

One step toward quality ongoing maintenance of the Greenway's trails and parks is the Foundation's innovative "Trail Ranger" Program. Young people are hired each year to clean the trail and surrounding area. Working with the Denver Parks Department and the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, the Trail Rangers provide the all-important presence and assistance to the public necessary to guarantee a high level of maintenance.

You can help us maintain what we have built **together** — by making your membership pledge to the Greenway Foundation for 1982. As we are still in the process of completing the Platte River Greenway project, you have a number of choices in putting your membership donation to good use. We'd like to suggest the following areas of involvement:

- **Celebrate Spring — Plant a Tree on the Greenway** — For a minimum \$50 donation, you can plant a tree in your own name (or the name of a friend) to celebrate the return of warm sunny days. All tree donors will receive a certificate commemorating the tree given in his/her name.
- **Annual Member of the Greenway Foundation** — For a minimum \$30 donation, you will become an annual member of the Platte River Greenway Foundation for 1982, with full membership benefits as outlined below.
- **Trail Ranger Sponsor for 1982** — Sponsor a Trail Ranger for the year for a minimum of \$100 donation.

- **Sustaining Membership** — For a \$250 annual donation, you can obtain a sustaining membership for 1982.

Benefits to all members of the Greenway Foundation include:

- The Greenway newsletter, outlining the progress of the project and planned events.
- A copy of **Returning the Platte to the People**, a full-color book describing the exciting process of the revitalization of the Platte River.
- A choice of a watercolor lithograph from the "Seasons of the Platte" series by William Condit.

All donations are used for the operations of the Greenway Foundation in the completion of the Platte River Greenway project — make your tax-exempt donation payable to THE GREENWAY FOUNDATION.

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Greenway
Calendar of Events

- May 15 Raft rides begin on the Platte
Start of Trail Ranger Program
- May 16 4th Annual Great Relay Race
- May 26 Plant Sale on the Plaza
27 - 28 at First of Denver downtown
- May 29 Volunteer Cleanup Day on
the Platte
(call 831-0920 for information)
- June 7 Concert on the Green #1
at Confluence Park
- July 5 Concert on the Green #2
- Aug 9 Concert on the Green #3
- Aug 30 Concert on the Green #4
(Rain dates are following
Monday evening in each case)
- Sept 16 Plant Sale on the Plaza
& 17 at First of Denver, downtown
- Sept 26 Annual "Friends of the
River" Party at the Chili
Pepper Restaurant

For more information on events
 listed, call 777-5501.
