

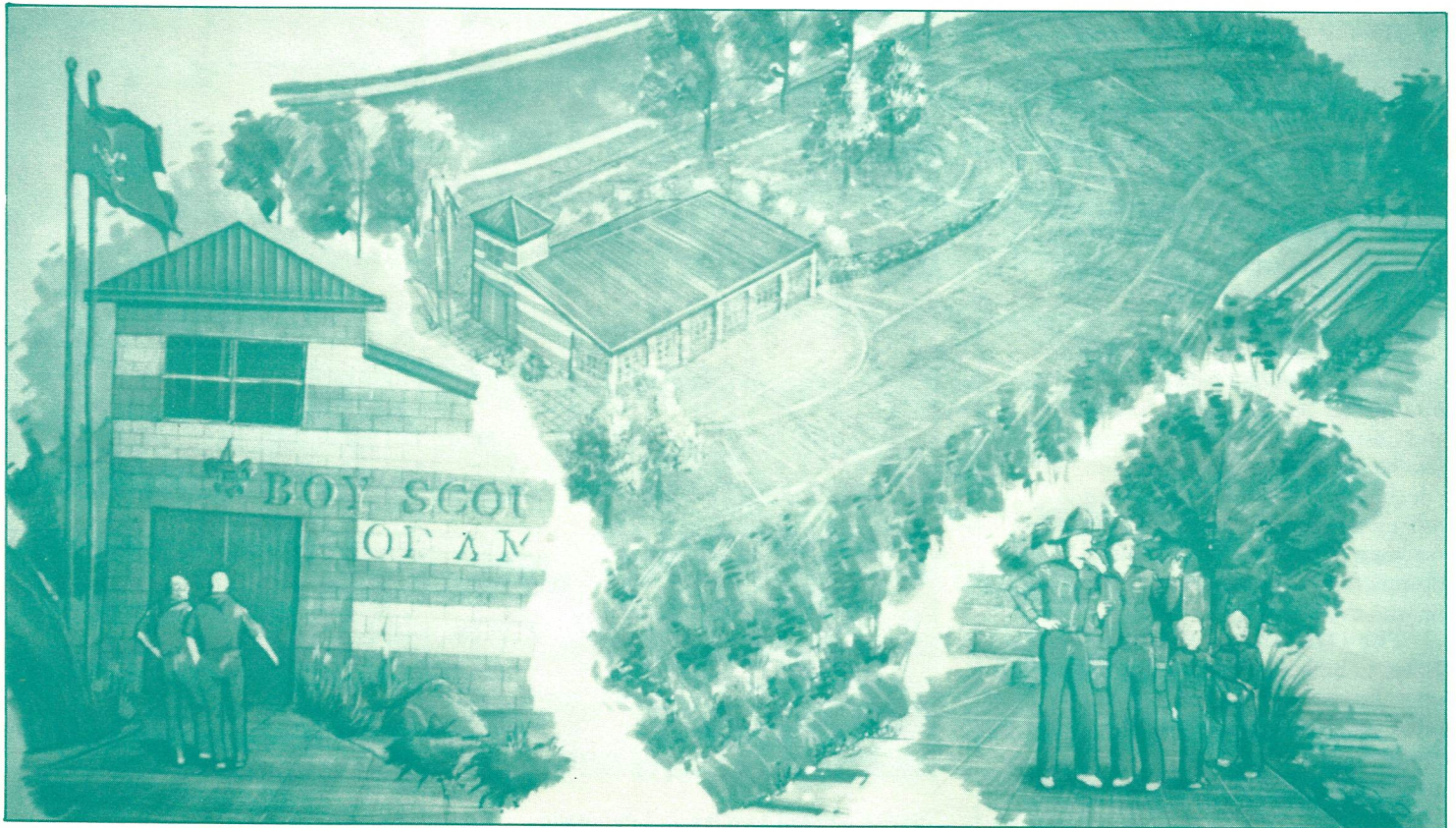
Greenway

N E W S L E T T E R

Vol. 11 No.1

Spring 1989

Johnson—Habitat Park (The Newest Addition to the Greenway)



Architect's rendering of the new B.S.A. Training Center. Just one of the many improvements planned for Johnson-Habitat Park.

Ralph Voelker
Denver Area Council—B.S.A.

The users of the Denver Greenway Trail System will begin to notice a lot of young men in uniforms around Johnson-Habitat Park in the coming months. The uniforms are on Cub and Boy Scouts as well as many adult Scouting volunteers, each using the newly completed Boy Scout Training Center at Johnson-Habitat Park.

The training center consists of a

meeting room for about 50 people, rest-rooms, and will be used for a variety of Scouting events. It will also be available for outside groups to use for a small fee. Reservations can be made with Rich Broyles at 455-5522.

Completion of a handicap accessible fishing pond as well as some landscaping is scheduled for later in the year.

A tentative date has been set for the dedication of Johnson-Habitat Park, Sunday, May 21st at 2:00 p.m. There will be pioneering towers, canoes and Scouts doing other "Scout" activities at the park that day. Anyone interested in

seeing how this Scout Park fits into the Greenway system is invited to join us on the 21st.

Changing this property from a former Denver dump site to an inner city Scouting park is only another example of how a variety of community groups working together can make miracles happen. The Boy Scouts of America, working with the Greenway Foundation, have begun to work these miracles and we hope your families begin to see the changes and can enjoy the new facilities at Johnson-Habitat Park.

Riverfest Weekend On The Platte

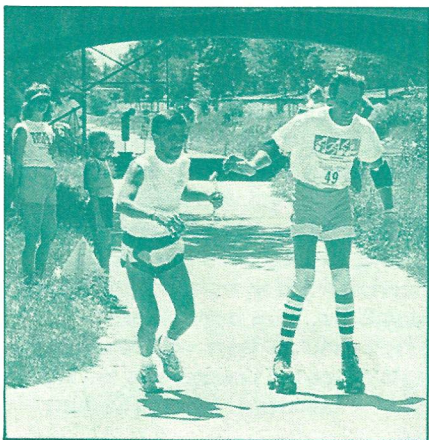
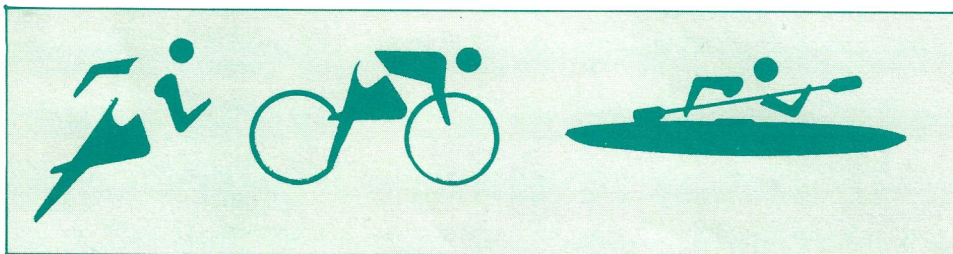
Jeff Mason
Riverfest Director

After 11 years of concentrated development, Denver's Platte River Greenway is finally near its completion! To celebrate, we are planning the 1989 Riverfest Weekend to be held on June 3rd and 4th. Among the weekend's activities will be the inaugural running of the **Prijon Greater Denver Kayak Challenge** and the one and only **11th Annual Great Relay Race**.

The first-annual **Prijon Greater Denver Kayak Challenge**, to be held June 3rd, will start during the activities at Riverfront Shopping Center (during their Riverfront Festival Celebration) and the competitors will travel 15 grueling miles downstream to the finish line at Confluence Park. Crafts of all types are encouraged to participate as there will be separate divisions for kayakers and canoeists.

After finishing the race the competitors will be shuttled back to the Riverfront center for the awards ceremony and post-race celebration. There will also be raft rides at Riverfront throughout the day. We are offering prize money for the winners of the race and we hope to have several top-notch boaters for the first running of this unique event.

The **11th Annual Great Relay Race**, to be held June 4th, is shaping up to be one of the most competitive races yet. Teams ranging from 7-10 members will run, bicycle, kayak, canoe, roller-skate and walk down the Platte in relay fashion to the finish line activities at Confluence Park in Downtown Denver. Once there, the teams



are encouraged to relax and enjoy the live music, sunshine, food, and Coors Beer.

Media sponsors of this unique race are **KMGH TV-Channel 7** and **All Hit KS-104**.

This year's event will feature three race courses from which the teams can choose. The 'South Course' will begin South of Denver near the intersection of highway C-470 and the Platte, the 'North Course' will begin north of town at Barr Lake and the 'Cherry Creek Course' will begin at Cherry Creek Reservoir.

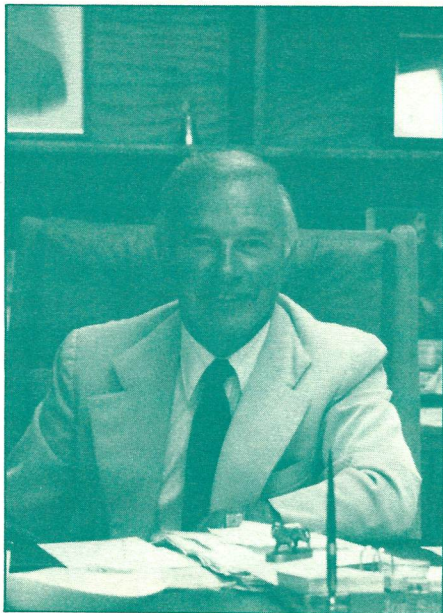
Teams of all kinds enter the Great Relay Race - corporations, schools, families, friends, companies and clubs.

Also, participants in both of the events will receive a high quality designer t-shirt courtesy of **The Colorado Lottery** as well as lunch after the completion of the events.

1988 is a particularly exciting year for the Great Relay Race and Kayak Challenge because it will soon be possible to boat from one end of town to the other without portage! Local boating enthusiasts have certainly waited years for this great news.

Enter your team in the Great Relay Race today or, for you heartier souls, give the Kayak Challenge a try. **For more information call Jeff Mason at 753-9077. See you on your River!**

THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



Joe Shoemaker

Over the course of the last several months, many of you may have read or heard of different matters involving the Greenway Foundation, especially as they pertain to various dealings with the City and County of Denver. It is important that you know the true facts in these matters.

Articles in The Denver Post about the Platte River Greenway Foundation have raised innuendos that need to be answered.

The Foundation, incorporated in 1976 as a non-profit tax-exempt corporation, has raised approximately \$14 million to build 13 pocket parks, four white-water boat chutes, a plaza and amphitheater, and a concrete hiker-biker trail along 10.5 miles of the river.

During the seven years the project was being built (with \$7 million in private donations and \$7 million from public agencies), the Denver City Council approved each project and in some cases advanced money so projects would be bid. Over that period, a balance due accumulated - though all projects had been deeded to the city - but the exact amount had not been determined by the City. I requested an audit in 1981 and again in 1982 but this was not done by the City Auditor.

When Mike Licht was elected Auditor in 1983, I again renewed my request for an audit. He said on October 22, 1984, that the Greenway Foundation had received \$315,525.50 in advances that hadn't been repaid.

After discussing this matter with the Greenway Board, and with City Council members, I asked the Council's Recreation and Culture Committee to allow the Greenway Foundation to continue using the earnings from the \$315,525 to help support our "Ranger" program, instituted in 1982 to keep the Greenway clean and green. The program consists of a full-time senior ranger and up to five seasonal rangers, in keeping with my promise to the contributing foundations to maintain the Greenway.

In May 1985, the Council Committee established a \$315,000 endowment for the Greenway Foundation for that purpose. As reported by Chris Broderick

"Members of the Council's Recreation and Culture committee said the Greenway Foundation can do a more efficient job overseeing the 10.5-mile stretch of River than the City."

in the Rocky Mountain News, "Members of the Council's Recreation and Culture committee said the Greenway Foundation can do a more efficient job overseeing the 10.5-mile stretch of River than the City."

On June 3, 1985, I wrote to then-director of revenue Tom Briggs, enclosing copies of certificates of deposit totaling \$315,525. I promised to deliver the CD's to him as soon as the council adopted the ordinances to implement the Greenway trust account.

I never heard another word from Tom Briggs, the city council or Mike Licht.

Contrary to various articles that have appeared in the Denver Post during the last several months, the Greenway Foundation has never "refused" to pay the money owed to the City. In fact, we have stood ready for more than four years to pay the money to the trust account recommended by the City Council commit-

tee in 1985. The \$315,525 was always retained in a separate, insured account, which most recently earned approximately 9.3% interest. The annual earnings have always been used to help pay for approximately two thirds of the cost of the Greenway Trail Ranger Program, the remaining one third of funds originating from Greenway Foundation private sector supporters.

Approximately four years after the initial decision by City Council to establish the trust fund, seven members of the current council drafted, for introduction on February 6th, 1989, a resolution to officially put the trust fund into place. However, the current administration immediately stated that such a resolution was illegal because of certain City rules and regulations. Because the Greenway Foundation did not wish to precipitate nor inflame a potential argument between the Council and the Administration, a cashier's check for the full amount owed to the city was presented to the City Council the following day, Tuesday, February 7th, 1989.

It is my understanding that the Council is considering a \$30,000 annual allocation to the Greenway Foundation through the Parks Department to continue our efforts to assist the City in their efforts to properly maintain the \$14 million Platte River Greenway. If such an allocation is made, and if a contract is offered to the Foundation to continue our Trail Ranger program, we will obviously consider such a proposal.

In the absence of a contract with the City, it will be the sole responsibility of the Denver Parks Department to maintain and keep clean and neat the \$14 million dollar Greenway.

In the meantime, 1989 promises to be yet another exciting and accomplishment filled year for the Greenway Foundation, evidenced by the many activities described in this newsletter.

For the last 15 years, the Greenway Foundation's sole purpose has been to reclaim Denver's birthplace and make the "Only River in Town" into the number one cultural and recreational amenity in our City. We will continue those efforts in 1989 with or without City support.

Gates Foundation Grant Begins Graffiti Removal Along The Greenway

Jed Wagner
Trail Ranger Supervisor

The Greenway Foundation is taking on a much needed effort in 1989, via an attempt to remove over 58,000 square feet of graffiti along the Platte River and Cherry Creek Greenways.

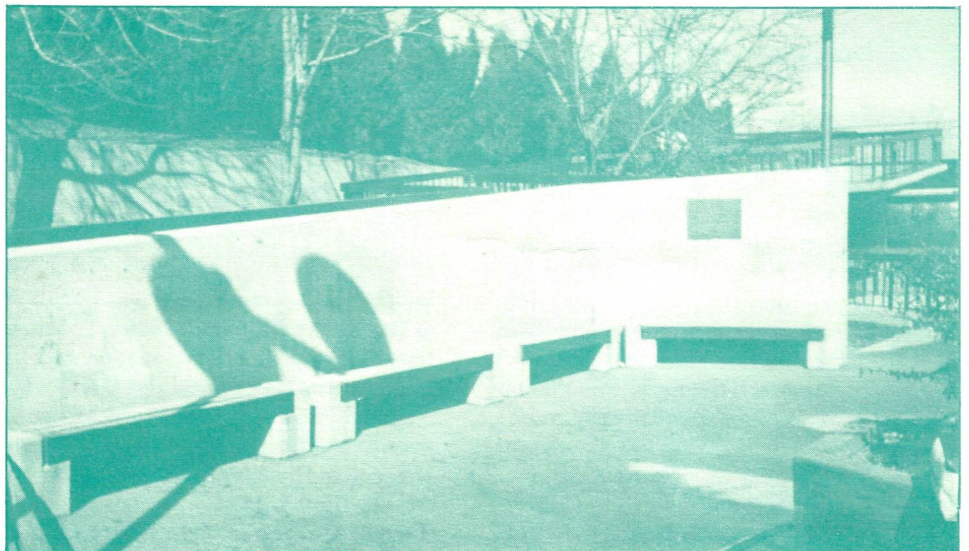
This project has been possible due the awarding of a grant from the **Gates Foundation**, a long standing supporter of the Greenway Foundation. The grant has two purposes in addition to removing the graffiti:

- Raise the awareness of the extensive graffiti problem along the Greenway.
- Establish a method of graffiti removal that will hopefully be continued by the City and County of Denver in the future.

The retaining walls of Cherry Creek are popular "canvasses" for graffiti, which can be easily witnessed as one travels along Speer Blvd. between I-25 and Downing Street. Two methods of graffiti control will be utilized - waterblasting and paint. The method used in a particular area will depend on the location of the graffiti. The walls of Cherry Creek cannot be waterblasted for several reasons:

- Age and condition of walls.
- Flood control capability of the walls might be weakened via waterblasting.
- The walls of Cherry Creek have been designated as a historic landmark, and therefore their "structure" cannot be altered without the permission of the Colorado Historic Landmark Commission. This commission along with the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, Denver Parks and Recreation, and Denver Public Works, endorsed painting over waterblasting.

Waterblasting will occur at the various parks along the Platte River Greenway and along the hiker-biker trail of both waterways. To accomplish



this we will be using a water pump with a sand injector attachment which, along with the needed sand, will be transported via a recently purchased used golf cart.

Each day, the Trail Ranger(s) will begin at Confluence Park and work upstream along Cherry Creek. Working on the "two steps forward - one step back" principal, we hope to at least make a significant dent in the graffiti problem along two of Denver's most actively used waterways.

More importantly, over the course of this four month grant we hope to establish a proven framework of a graffiti removal effort that can be used

as a model by various local and state agencies.

The City and County of Denver has a program entitled "OFF THE WALL", which encourages private sector involvement in dealing with graffiti. Thanks to the combined efforts of the Gates Foundation and the Greenway Foundation, the private sector is taking the lead role in this needed effort.

If any of our many supporters are interested in donating a day, a weekend, or whatever time is available to help us in this important endeavor, please call the Greenway Foundation office at 698-1322.

Greenway Experience Update



Ellen "LN" Croteau

Executive Director's Note: The Greenway Experience is off and running for 1989. Over 40 tours are already scheduled for this spring.

The following article is written by one of the Greenway Experience Student Guides. The Greenway Foundation is proud that exceptional young people like Ms. Croteau are a part of this exciting program.

I think that being a part of the Greenway Experience at Metropolitan Youth Education Center has helped me immensely. I feel that I have grown from an immature teenager into a responsible adult. Before I was involved in the Greenway Experience, I went to two other schools: Marycrest and Westminster Senior High Schools. I was expelled from both; - Marycrest for arguing with a teacher, and "Westy" for ditching. Since I've

started at Metropolitan Youth Education Center, and I've been involved with the Greenway Experience, I haven't had any major problems with fighting with my teachers or with ditching.

I really enjoy being a part of the Greenway Experience because I can use the credit (ha ha). Actually my favorite part of the class is the children. I really like knowing that I'm making a difference, that I can teach these children to enjoy the River, to appre-



ciate it and to take care of it!

The adults who accompany their students also benefit from my experience as a guide. They learn things they never knew, and are also reminded that the Platte River is another of their responsibilities. Once they realize this, they feel an obligation to let others know, and soon many more people are helping us take care of our River!

The whole point of the Greenway Experience is to get people to take a more active part in caring for the River. When we give our tours, we like to throw in some history and a little fun, but mostly we teach the kids to have a good attitude about the River! Before we can do that we need to have good attitudes about ourselves, so . . . mark up another plus for the "good old" Greenway Experience.

All in all I enjoy this class. It gives me an opportunity to take some responsibility, show some maturity, and turn the tables to be the teacher instead of the student for a change!

The Greenway Wildlife Watch

Merle D. Grimes
Greenway Project Director

Most of us would agree that the South Platte River's 10.5 miles of hiker/biker path and 13 parks are great recreational assets. But have you ever considered the value that Greenways have for wildlife?

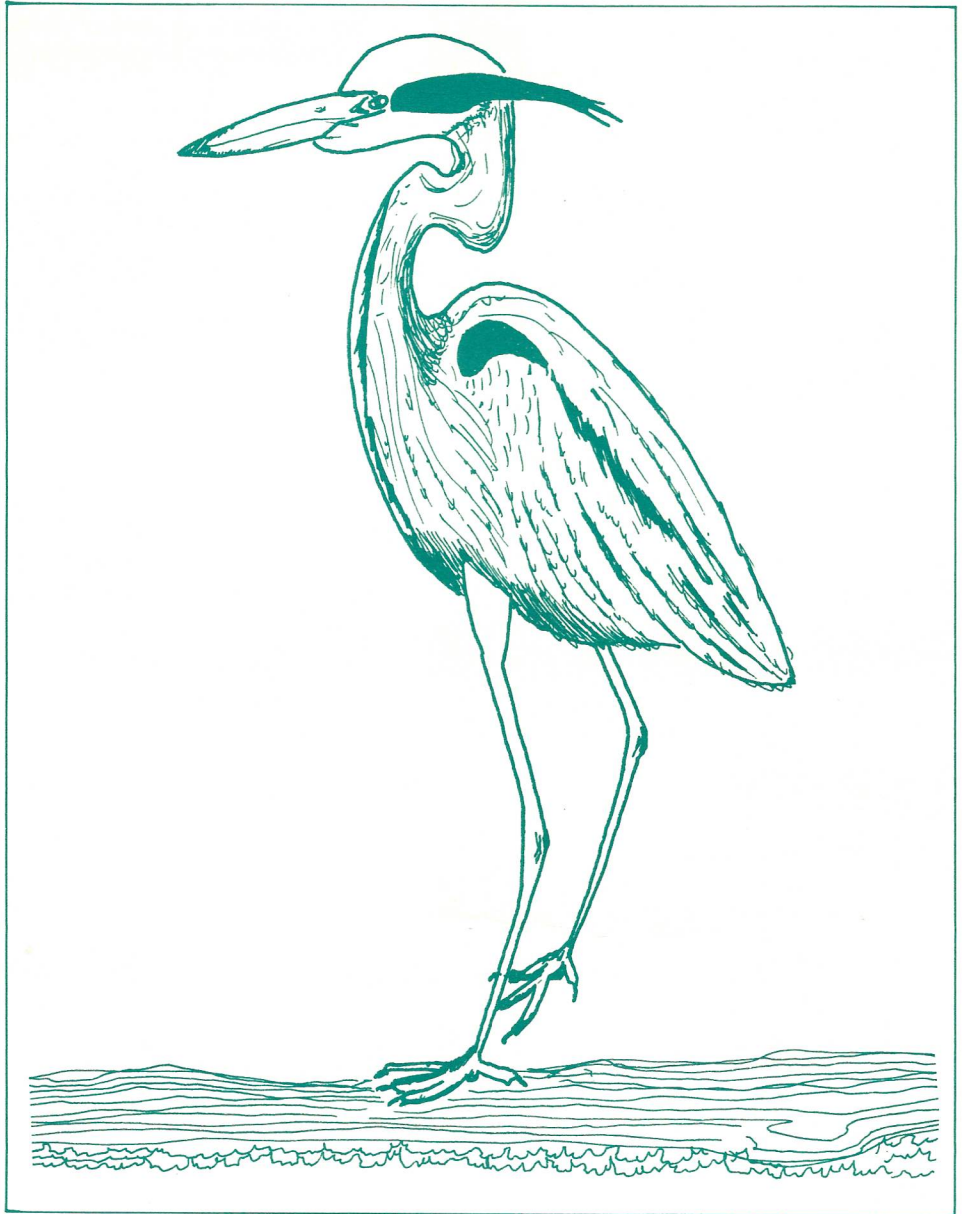
Urbanization inevitably results in the fragmentation of ecosystems, effectively isolating flora and fauna. However, these populations require free movement to interbreed in order to keep the gene pool healthy. Diversity and quality of habitat as well as ecological "edges" such as rivers, cottonwood groves and meadows further encourage wildlife variation and quantity.

Through the revitalization of the South Platte River, wildlife health has been allowed to dramatically increase due to the creation of a continuous belt of open space that provides a critical connection between once isolated wildlife refuges. For flora and fauna, the South Platte River is a lineal corridor for movement, breeding and feeding in an otherwise hostile urban setting.

This benefit is exemplified by the increased sightings of many species including the Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher and Red Tail Fox. Fourteen years ago, before the Greenway Foundation began its effort, these animals were not commonly observed within Denver. Today, many of these species are frequent visitors to the South Platte River throughout the city. Eventually, with additional support we will witness the continued proliferation of wildlife; a testimony that our efforts are invaluable to the ecological fabric of the urban River environment.

ANIMALS TO WATCH

The Great Blue Heron is the largest member of the heron family. Their narrow grayish-blue body, slender neck and long legs reach heights of over four feet. Herons are often confused with cranes, but can be easily distinguished by their necks which are drawn into an "S" shape during flight. The Great Blue Herons flight is further characterized by slow, deliberate wing beats with long legs trailing behind and are



"Fourteen years ago Great Blue Herons were rare visitors to the South Platte River within Denver. Today these majestic birds are commonly observed as far north as Alameda Avenue and as far south as Bear Creek"

often observed soaring along the River corridor just above the water surface.

Heron feed on fish and smaller aquatic vertebrates, insects, crayfish, mollusks and spiders in the shallow water near the River's bank. They breed and nest in the safety of tall cottonwood trees.

Fourteen years ago Great Blue Herons were rare visitors to the South Platte River within Denver. Today

these majestic birds are commonly observed as far north as Alameda Avenue and as far south as Bear Creek and the South Platte River.

As the Platte River Greenway continues its return to the wildlife haven of our forefathers, we look forward to the continued and increasing successful viewing of the uniquely beautiful Great Blue Heron to the banks and water of Denver's "Only River in Town"!

Concerts On The Green -1989



The best deal in musical entertainment returns again this summer! Thanks to the generosity of several long time friends and supporters, the ever popular Concerts on the Green series will continue on the Platte River Greenway in 1989.

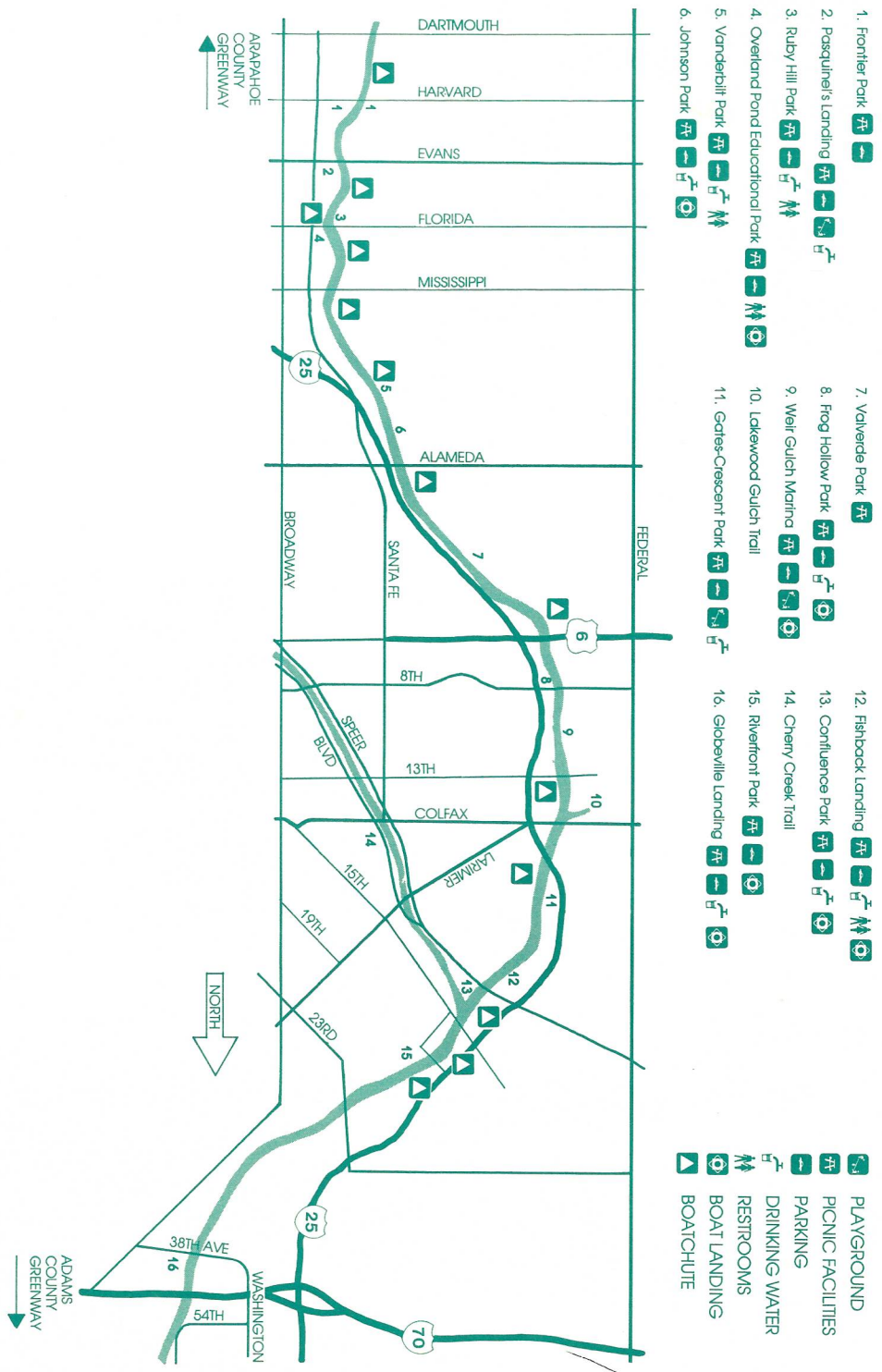
The concerts will be held at the Confluence Park Amphitheatre, and as always, are FREE to the public. The Greenway Foundation will be hosting these family oriented evenings of music and fun on the following evenings:

- **Wednesday, June 28th** will witness the return of the **Queen City Jazz Band**. Thanks to our friends at **Mile High and Interstate Kennel Clubs**, those present will enjoy one of the nation's premier dixieland bands.
- **Wednesday, July 26th** plays host to the one and only **Images!** This nationally known quartet will join us for the sixth consecutive year, along with our sponsor and friends at **First Colorado Bank and Trust**.

Both concerts will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. KMGH TV, Channel 7 is our media sponsor for the series, and **Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Denver** will once again provide free Pepsi products at both concerts. We encourage everyone to bring friends and family, as well as blankets and picnic dinners, and enjoy watching the sunset while listening to two of the best evenings of music available all summer.

For further information, contact the Greenway Foundation office at 698-1322. We hope to see on the 28th of June!

GREENWAY TRAIL MAP



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Steve Metcalf
Eldon O'Neal
Charlie Roos
Kip Stastny

Jeff Shoemaker
Executive Director
Merle Grimes
Project Director
Jed Wagner
Trail Ranger Supervisor

Your Support Makes the Difference!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$30.00 for you or a friend.

Included in the membership is a
Membership Card entitling you to:

- Notice of upcoming special events held along the Greenway during the year.
- All new members will receive a copy of our book "Returning the Platte to the People".
- A 20% discount on food and spirits for up to 4 persons at Zang's Brewing Co. (offer applies to any one evening anytime during that year).
- All copies of the newsletter printed in the year you are a member.

COMMEMORATING MEMBER

For \$100.00, have a contribution made towards the Greenway Tree Fund in the name of a friend or loved one. (Also includes all privileges of an Annual Member).

CORPORATE MEMBER

\$250.00 includes a limited edition print by well known artist William Condit entitled "Seasons Along the Platte." All prints are signed and numbered by the artist. (Also includes all privileges of an Annual Member).

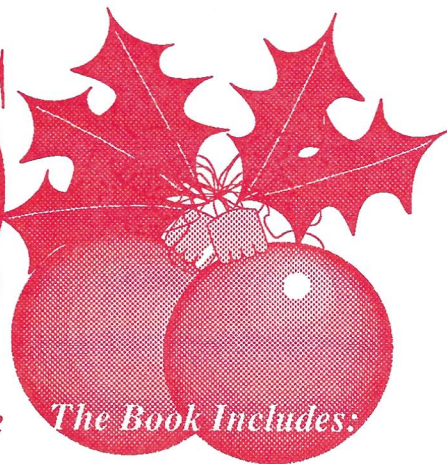


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Denver, Colorado 80210
(303) 698-1322

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SEASONS GREETINGS

To Friends Of The Greenway



As the holiday season is now upon us, we would like to make available to our special members a rather unique gift giving idea.

Your tax deductible contribution of \$30 will make someone special (yourself included) a year-long member of the Greenway Foundation. Membership will include a copy of ***Pedal Stops, A Guide To Denver Bike Paths.***

The book can also be purchased separately during this holiday offering for \$10 (also tax deductible).

The Book Includes:

- Detailed Maps Covering the Following Areas
 - Cherry Creek
 - Cherry Creek Reservoir
 - Highline Canal
 - Platte River
 - Bear Creek
- Restaurants Accessible From Paths
- Bike Shops Accessible From Paths
- Parks & Other Points of Interest Along Paths
- 5" x 5" Flip Page Format
 - For Easy Reference
 - Compact Size Makes Guide Easy to Carry
- Full Color
- High Quality, Durable Stock
- Large Fold Out Map of Entire Metro Bikeway System Included
- As Seen in Fine Metro Area Bookstores & Bikesops

To ensure prompt delivery, please clip coupon and return by 12-15-88 to:

Greenway Foundation
1666 S. University Av.
Denver, CO 80210

☐ **Yes.** I would like to give a Greenway Foundation Membership to:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

My \$30 per membership is enclosed. Please send my membership's copy of Pedal Stops to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

☐ **Yes.** I would like ____ copy(ies) of Pedal Stops sent to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

My \$10 per copy is enclosed.