On February 1st, the Greenway Foundation held a 25th Anniversary Party at Cableland in Denver and announced the establishment of the Greenway Preservation Trust. An initial goal of $5 Million has been targeted to be obtained over the next four years. Earnings from the Trust will be used to preserve, protect and enhance Denver's "greatest natural resource" through the continuation and expansion of programs and efforts focusing on youth education and employment, free special events, and additional environmental and recreational amenities along the 10.5 mile corridor of Denver's South Platte River.

Under the direction of the recently established Preservation Trust Steering Committee, co-chaired by former U.S. Senator Bill Armstrong and former State Representative Morgan Smith, over 100 guests witnessed the unveiling of a new video entitled The Greenway Foundation - The First 25 Years. Attendees also enjoyed a recap of the incredible rebirth of the South Platte River from Foundation founder and Chairman Joe Shoemaker. Joe stressed the need to invest in the newly established Trust so that the "Only River in Town" will never again become the "dump" it was only a quarter century ago.

The highlight of the evening was a presentation of a check signifying a $1 Million challenge grant from cable television pioneer, Bill Daniels.

To learn more about this exciting endeavor, and how you can be involved, contact the Greenway Foundation at 303-455-7109 or visit us on our website at www.greenwayfoundation.org. Your contribution is fully tax-deductible, and may also qualify for a 25% state income tax credit.
Aftter over ten years of discussion, planning, politics, funding, design and construction, the completion of the Greenway Foundation's vision to renovate the ten blocks of Cherry Creek in Lower Downtown Denver into a tourism boating attraction is finally a reality!

Punting enthusiasts now have the opportunity to enjoy a relaxing ride along Cherry Creek in an authentic English punt (a vessel similar to a gondola) from Creekfront Plaza, adjacent to Larimer Square, downstream to Confluence Park where the Creek joins with the South Platte River. During this 45 minute floating excursion, passengers will pass through four locks (the only such structures in Colorado) each of which bypasses a 3-4 foot metal dam. These locally designed and constructed dams are raised and lowered each day to allow sufficient water depth for navigating these unique gondola-like vessels along this historic section of Cherry Creek.

In addition to these exciting improvements, a variety of creekside enhancements have been added, including a second concrete trail for pedestrian usage, five access ramps to the trail, and numerous landscaping areas especially designed for flood channel conditions.

This collective $4.5 Million project has been made possible through support of the City and County of Denver; Urban Drainage and Flood Control District; the Gates, Boettcher, El Pomar and Quick Foundations; Great Outdoors Colorado; the Trillium Corporation and numerous other corporate and individual donations. The design and construction talents of MDG, Inc., Recreation Engineering & Planning, Hensel-Phelps Construction Co., Kiewit Construction Co., L&M Enterprises and Obermeyer Hydro have also been a critical factor in the creation of this unique project.

"Punt the Creek" opens the first weekend in June and remains open every day but Monday through the last weekend of August. We offer discounts for groups of 12 or more and encourage reservations for groups of any size. Warren Astler, our Concession Manager is returning for our fourth season and will continue to offer our customers an enjoyable and relaxing excursion on "Punt the Creek".

For more information contact our ticket kiosk at 303-893-0750 or check out our website at www.greenwayfoundation.org.
Reflections From the Past 25 Years
Joe Shoemaker, Chairman

As I think back over the past 25 years of what the Greenway Foundation has accomplished, I must admit I feel humbled by all that the citizens of Denver have done to reclaim our River.

When I was asked by Mayor McNichols to chair a committee to cleanup the South Platte River in Denver, a lot of eyebrows were raised. It was a pretty tall order. The Riverfront had been neglected for years, turning what is Denver's greatest natural resource into 10.5 miles of flowing sewage. If you lived here in 1974, then you know what I mean.

Whatever you could think of, old mattresses, rubber tires, grass clippings, diesel oil, it could be found in or near the South Platte River. At one point, concrete trucks would back up to the banks to flush out their mixers, releasing a gray lava-like flow onto the river's edge. Over the next couple of decades, we worked hard to dispel the notion that the River was an urban dump. We began by creating a great series of Riverfront parks and trails. By 1981, in a newspaper article entitled "The Greening of the Platte," writer Peter Warren cited our work as "one of the most remarkable examples of urban revitalization in the U.S. ... transforming a blighted, degraded river into a major amenity for Metro Denver."

Today, over a quarter million people a year use the amenities the Greenway Foundation has built thanks to the support of private foundations, public agencies, individuals and corporate donations. This urban "ribbon of delight," as my friend Bob Palmer calls it, is a regular destination for countless joggers, skaters, boaters, bikers, baby strollers, young and old alike. And today, Riverfront property is considered highly desirable; witness the condos and housing now being built alongside the River!

These trails and amenities provide not only recreation, but transportation, riparian habitat, special events and enhancements. Physical improvements have been necessary, too, but from the very beginning, it was our plan to use the Riverfront as an "outdoor classroom" for Denver's youth. To make that happen, we sponsored "The Greenway Experience" over 20 years ago. As a result, over 50,000 school kids have taken field trips to the River to learn about the environment and the history surrounding the South Platte River. That number exceeded 5,000 per year at last count. Over 1,500 teen tour guides, many of them at-risk kids, have completed our mentoring program as raft guides, representing an 80% graduating rate. Our "Punt the Creek" and River Ranger programs employ over 20 kids per year.

Relatively new to the Greenway Foundation, are the special events we produce with help from the Mayor's South Platte River Rendezvous, a Founder's Day festival held adjacent to the birthplace of Denver at Centennial Park. Beginning in July, we host a free concert series at Confluence Park every Thursday evening in July. As a "guardian" of the River, the Foundation, also conducts a multi-jurisdictional cleanup every summer called "NIMBY Fest": a cooperative effort involving three park districts and numerous volunteer, neighborhood and civic organizations.

These programs I've mentioned have a pricetag of $240,000 per year to administer. Over the years we have counted on support from the City of Denver, private contributions and grant money. However we cannot, and should not, assume they will continue indefinitely. Our goal is to raise $5 million over the next four years, a mission that our Committee Co-Chairs, Bill Armstrong and Morgan Smith, and the Steering committee have undertaken. As you will note on the cover of the Newsletter, Bill Daniels has very generously spearheaded our efforts with a challenge grant of $1 million. All the dollars contributed will be put into the Greenway Preservation Trust, where only the interest income will be used to fund our continuing mission.

The South Platte River is Denver's greatest natural resource. We have spent the last 25 years reclaiming it; the time has come to create a permanent trust to protect it! Like the Botanic Gardens, the Natural History Museum, the Denver Art Museum and other public amenities, it is critical that we establish a fund to ensure our waterways are never again abused or neglected, and that funding for our many cultural and educational programs will never be at risk.

I would like to express my personal thanks, to each and everyone of you who have helped invest in your community through your contributions to the Greenway Foundation. We have come a long way in 25 years. Now it is time to ensure that our precious investment is protected well beyond our lifetime. Your support is crucial! With your tax-deductible contribution, we can permanently preserve and promote our urban waterways for many generations to come. The more we all help with this important mission, the more we all benefit and share in the outcome.
South Platte River Program
1998/1999

Greenway Experience guides (left to right) LaKreshia Winters, Robert McDonald, Matt Hayward, Jeremy Lee, Michael “Jay” Irwin and Jessica Green host several tours of the South Platte River for elementary school students each school year. This “teen teacher” program is offered at four D.P.S. high schools.

Over the course of this past year, the Greenway Foundation enjoyed another cooperative and productive partnership with Mayor Webb’s South Platte River Commission. We are pleased to have the continued opportunity to work with the Commission and staff to coordinate these important efforts.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (S.P.R.E.E.)

One of the most important endeavors of the Greenway Foundation and the South Platte River Commission is education. The focus of S.P.R.E.E. is to allow today’s youth the opportunity to discover the significance of the South Platte River and its tributaries to the history and future of our City in “outdoor classrooms” along the banks of the River.

Since 1984, the Greenway Foundation has been a partner with Denver Public Schools and their outdoor education specialist, Carl Crookham. Carl has brought the River to the classroom and vice-versa with terrific success. Since 1996, this effort has been greatly expanded due to the support of the South Platte River Commission and Great Outdoors Colorado.

S.P.R.E.E. focuses its efforts on all three levels of public education: elementary, middle and high school. As part of Mayor Webb’s “Club Denver” program, there are active and enthusiastic Platte River Clubs at each of the eighteen D.P.S. middle schools that meet each week after school. An increasing number of 4th grade tours take place each autumn and spring.

These tours are led by Greenway Experience teen guides, currently from four D.P.S. high schools.

The goal of this multi-level learning tool is to introduce young people to the historical and environmental value of the River at the elementary school level, which serves as motivation to participate in the middle school Platte River Clubs, which in turn encourages participation in the high school based Greenway Experience. The cornerstone of the Greenway Experience is having the high school guides serve as trained teaching guides for the 4th grade River tours.

Finally, during the summer months, several excursions are held for inner-city youth. Through the leadership of Greenway Experience guides, River Rangers and River Heritage Society rafting guides, several hundred elementary and middle school aged students enjoy a four part interactive day on the River, mixing recreation and education on and along the “Only River In Town”.

The various S.P.R.E.E. programs all share a common goal: to help insure, through education and awareness, that Denver’s greatest natural resource continues to be enhanced and protected well into the 21st century.

For more information about S.P.R.E.E., contact Carl Crookham at 303-778-6558.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Each year the Foundation and Commission partner in the production of family oriented special events with a common focus of garnering attention for the River and enticing people of all ages to come "down to the River" and enjoy its unique beauty.

NIMBY Fest Debuts in 1998

On Saturday, May 11, 1998, the Greenway hosted the 6th Annual South Platte River Cleanup, renamed NIMBY Fest (Not-In-My-Back-Yard) to emphasize that the River is no longer the City’s "back yard". The Foundation also expanded this ongoing and successful event by partnering with the three Metro area South Platte River jurisdictions in a cooperative endeavor.

RIVER RANGER PROGRAM

The Greenway River Ranger program, managed and supervised by Kyle Ecton, returned for another productive summer season. Eight high school students from the Denver metro area joined Kyle in assisting the Denver Parks and Recreation Dept. in the maintenance of the various trails and parks along the South Platte River and Cherry Creek.

Over the course of the summer, the Rangers also removed graffiti, trimmed and mowed areas overgrowing the trails, assisted in a variety of landscaping projects and assisted at the various special events produced by the Foundation.

Kyle continues to work from October through April on a part-time basis patrolling the trails, and coordinating the efforts of various volunteer and community service organizations in the upkeep and enhancement of the River and its tributaries.

The full time crew will return beginning in June of 1999. High school students interested in being a member of the River Ranger crew should contact Kyle Ecton at 303-667-6291.

This enthusiastic group of 1998 NIMBY Fest volunteers helped collect several tons of trash and other debris that collected along the banks and waters of the South Platte during the winter.

The result was fantastic. Staff members from Adams County, South Suburban (Arapahoe Co.) and Denver Parks Departments collaborated with the Foundation to coordinate a 30-mile contiguous Riverfront cleanup from C-470 to I-76. Our gratitude goes out to the event’s sponsors - the E.P.A., the South Platte River Commission, and the Denver Water Dept., along with participating organizations Americorps, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Greenbucks Foundation, Rocky Mountain Canoe Club, Colorado Whitewater Association, and several neighborhood volunteer organizations from throughout the Metro Area.

Continued on the Next Page
A special thanks goes to Joan Wilson, Volunteer Coordinator with Denver Parks and Recreation Dept. for coordinating the volunteer registration. By lunchtime, over 500 volunteers reassembled at Fishback Landing Park in Denver to partake in a banquet generously provided by Zang’s Brewing Co., Armadillo Restaurant and local Subway and Arby’s restaurants.

Representatives from all three local jurisdictions were on hand to thank the volunteers. Mayor Wellington Webb handed out doorprizes that included an autographed Avalanche hockey stick donated by Ascent Entertainment, T-Shirts, free passes to the Children’s Museum and more.

Olympic champion canoeist Kent Ford displayed some rodeo boating skills at Confluence Park for the local media and spectators, and the first ever "NIMBY" Trophy, donated by BFI, was awarded to Adams County participants for hauling the most inspired (if not unusual) selection of trash from the River - a commode!

While last year’s event was held in May to coincide with National River Cleanup Week, this year’s participants agreed to move the date to the end of the summer season to avoid potential problems with Spring run-off and high water conditions. The 1999 NIMBY Fest will take place on Saturday, September 11, along the entire Metro Riverfront, with the volunteer banquet again planned for the afternoon at Fishback Landing.

We hope you will join us in September as we once again "pitch-in" to help keep our Riverfront clean and beautiful.

South Platte River Rendezvous

June 5 & 6 of 1998 witnessed over 10,000 people attending the Greenway Foundation’s "Platte River Rendezvous" at one of Denver’s newest parks on the south Platte, Centennial Park, directly adjacent to Six Flags - Elitch Gardens. The festival took place adjacent to the actual birthplace of our city where Cherry Creek merges with the South Platte.

This family-oriented festival recreated the sights, sounds, tastes and history of early Denver, complete with the Wells Fargo stagecoach, Buffalo Soldiers of the American West, a Mountain Man Camp, Native American teepee, gold panning and more.

Title sponsor for the "River Rendezvous" was Wells Fargo Bank, with additional sponsorship from the South Platte River Commission, Six Flags - Elitch Gardens, National Western, King Soopers, Denver Public Schools, and Coors Brewing Co. Media sponsors included KUSA 9News, the Denver Rocky Mountain News and Colorado Parent Magazine.

The Greenway Foundation hosts this event to emphasize the Riverfront as the birthplace of Denver. The River Rendezvous is a great way to promote the renaissance of the South Platte while, at the same time, creating an atmosphere of learning and fun with living history.
Some of the highlights of the 1998 "River Rendezvous" were:

* A Founder's Day Essay Contest, sponsored by the Denver Rocky Mountain News
* A chance to throw out the first pitch in a Colorado Rockies baseball game, sponsored by King Soopers
* A proclamation stating that the event is Denver's "Official Founder's Day Event", read by Mayor Wellington Webb and First Lady, Wilma Webb.

On **June 12 & 13, 1999**, the third annual "**South Platte River Rendezvous**" will return to Centennial Park along with an expansion of the event directly across the River at Fishback Landing Park. Raft shuttles and a pedestrian bridge will make it easy and fun to get from one park to the other.

On **Saturday, June 12th**, in addition to living history reenactments, this year's festival will feature a Dutch Oven Cookoff, a Mountain Man costume contest, featured performer Danny Rael and Friends, a western-style jamboree with square dancing and bluegrass music from Southern Exposure.

On **Sunday, June 13th**, there will be an Olde Tyme Baseball Game by the Colorado Vintage Baseball Association, and a medicine show. Arts and crafts, along with food and beverages (non-alcoholic) will be located throughout both parks.

Bring the entire family to experience the history, cultures and characters of early Denver. Pan for gold, listen to August Tabor, Soapy Smith, and many more.

The "**Rendezvous**" is FREE TO THE PUBLIC!

To get to Centennial Park, follow the signs to Auraria Campus Parking Lots and take the free shuttle bus. Both parks are also accessible off of exits 211 (23rd Ave.) or southbound Speer Blvd. Limited parking is available at 15th St. and Little Raven St. Attendees are also encouraged to pick up the Platte Valley Trolley at the "Bronco Bridge" or at the Children's Museum, and enjoy an old time shuttle ride to the Rendezvous.

**Confluence Concerts**

After an eight year hiatus, the Greenway Foundation hosted the return of free concerts at Confluence Park. Every Thursday in July, the park was filled with the sounds of superb performers including Lannie Garrett, Images and The Denver Brass.

Attendees were treated to some of the best in local entertainment at this very special Riverfront venue. The concerts, promoted through the Denver Post and KVOD - "The Classical Voice of Denver", were greatly received. People of all ages walked, skated and biked into Confluence Park to relax and enjoy this free special summer series. The Concerts were made possible through the sponsorship of American Century Investments, the South Platte River Commission and Michelob Specialty Ales.
Our 1999 series returns every Thursday in July from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. with an American Music celebration on July 1st featuring the 65 piece John Phillip Sousa Band. On July 8th, jump n'jive to one of Denver's hottest bands, The Red Hot Tomatoes, as they play Swing Era favorites from the 1940's and 50's. Join us on July 15th and enjoy the popular tunes of long-time local favorites The Queen City Jazz Band. July 22nd will wind up the 1999 series with Denver's first lady of Jazz, the venerable Hazel Miller and her band.

The 1999 Concerts are sponsored by American Century Investments, the South Platte River Commission, Anheuser-Busch, Vectra Bank and Virgin Music. Our media partners, KVOD and the Denver Post have returned as well. In the event of inclement weather, July 29th is reserved as a rain date. Confluence Park is located at the joining of Cherry Creek with the South Platte. Limited parking is available off of 15th St. and Little Raven St.

Make plans to join us again for this superb FREE summer concert series.

The Greenway Foundation is proud to host these special events with help from the Mayor's South Platte River Commission, the corporate community and our media sponsors. The Foundation continues to host these events in support of its mission to provide cultural, educational and recreational programs for the people of Metro Denver. We hope to have you join us at any or all of the events this summer. To Volunteer, call 303- 455-7109 (special events line) and leave your name, phone number and time(s) you are available.

**DESIGN AND PLANNING EFFORTS**

The Foundation has enjoyed the opportunity to work in partnership with MDG, Inc. in the creation of a master plan for improvements at Confluence Park and the stretch of the South Platte River Greenway adjacent to Overland Golf Course.

The Confluence Park design focused on updating the brick plaza and the ramps leading to the Plaza to bring both into compliance with A.D.A. guidelines and make the plaza more accessible for bringing rafts, canoes and kayaks to and from the River.

The design work on the River adjacent to Overland Golf Course focused on enhancing the River corridor for additional wildlife and riparian opportunities and replacing an obsolete 8' wide asphalt trail with a 10' concrete replacement.

Both projects, upon completion, will improve two of the most popular areas of the Greenway and allow users (of all types) to enjoy the River to an even greater extent.

As the Greenway Foundation celebrates our 25th Anniversary, we are truly grateful to Mayor Webb and his South Platte River Commission for their historic commitment to the River and its surrounding area. We look forward to a continued productive and positive partnership in the years to come.
Since its creation in 1995 by my Executive Order, the South Platte River Commission has made remarkable progress in its efforts to further restore the 10.5 mile South Platte corridor in Denver. The Commission represents a very diverse and broad-based partnership, with a strong support base that has collectively overseen the many completed and ongoing projects highlighted in the following review.

The expansion and restoration of Grant-Frontier Park, located on the east bank of the River just upstream of E. Evans Ave., is now complete. The two lane paved road that separated the park from the River has been vacated. A new pedestrian bridge is in place, and the trail has been realigned to avoid impact on the greatly expanded and newly restored natural area. This treasured neighborhood park is home to new landscaping and picnic areas, as well as a playground and a restroom facility.

Commons Park, the largest park built in Denver in the 20th Century, is now under construction and my fellow Commission members are looking forward with great anticipation to the completion of the first phase of the park in late 1999. Twenty five acres along the east bank of the South Platte, between 15th and 19th streets are being transformed from warehouses and barren fields, with entrance plazas at 15th, 16th and Lipan Streets. Aquatic habitat and boating improvements along this stretch of the River are also included. Some of the key features of Commons Park are:

*THE SEEPS - A natural area with riparian and wetland plantings
*THE GREEN - A raised kidney shaped lawn area
*THE SKY GARDEN - A stone terraced circle constructed on the highest point within the park for optimum views of downtown and the mountains.

City of Cuernavaca (formerly Rockmont) Park is now complete, spanning both sides of the River, and includes improved wildlife habitat, an expanded picnic area and shelter and new trails. A riparian area with new vegetation is in place along with two pedestrian bridges that connect the east and west sides of the park.

Continued on the Next Page
Northside Treatment Plant after demolition, awaiting the construction of park improvements.

The North Denver River Restoration Project has now added 1.2 miles of new trail including wildlife habitat with native vegetation. These improvements also provide enhanced flood control protection for residents and businesses, improved access to the River, and modifications to the River channel to improve aquatic habitat and boating opportunities. This project is a result of extensive neighborhood interaction and provides a major aesthetic, natural resource and flood control improvement to the northern end of Denver's South Platte River Greenway.

Northside Treatment Plant has undergone a major facelift due to the completion of the plant's demolition. The 13 acre park that will replace the plant is expected to be under construction in April, with completion projected in early 2000. The park includes improvements to the Heron Pond Preserve Wildlife Refuge. The National Guard Armory will open this spring on a portion of the site.

The Commission continues to partner with the Greenway Foundation to provide nationally recognized youth employment and education programs which have collectively introduced over 25,000 young people to the River over the last four years. In addition, we are very excited about the recently created Natural Areas program as an added function of Denver's Department of Parks and Recreation, which will provide a coordinated landscaping and maintenance approach to the natural areas along the South Platte as well as throughout Denver.

The accomplishments connected with this exciting project are historic and monumental. My goal is to ensure that with the Commission's continued emphasis on community awareness, education, youth employment and coordination with business, civic and environmental partners, we will provide a valued amenity for future generations.
Support The Greenway Preservation Trust!!

The Greenway Foundation is celebrating its 25th Anniversary as well as the launch of the Greenway Preservation Trust, a permanent endowment to protect the River, implement recreational and riparian improvements, provide youth education programs, youth employment opportunities, and sponsor free family oriented special events.

With your help we can show how the people of Metro Denver, armed with energy and a purpose, can have a positive impact on their surroundings.

Individual

Your help is crucial in establishing a permanent endowment for the South Platte Riverfront and its tributaries. Help us preserve and enhance Denver’s greatest natural treasure and ensure that its many youth education and enviromental programs receive funding well beyond our lifetime.

YES! I want to help support the Greenway Preservation Trust.

☐ $25 Friend       ☐ $50 Advocate       ☐ $100 Family       ☐ $250 Associate

☐ $500 Sustainer   ☐ $1,000 Patron      ☐ $5,000 Benefactor  ☐ $10,000 Partner

☐ I Would like to make a gift through my estate planning. Please contact me about how I can designate the Greenway Preservation Trust through a planned giving instrument.

Name________________________ Phone No. (___)________________________

Best time to call: ___________ Home ______ Office ______

Check with your company to see if they will match your gift. Please make your check payable to the Greenway Preservation Trust, 1752 Platte Street, Suite 200, Denver, Colorado 80202. Your contribution is tax deductible.

Company

Consider becoming a charter benefactor of the Greenway Preservation Trust. If your company pledges an amount of $10,000 or more, your company’s name will be added to a beautiful Colorado red marble marker placed along the River near Confluence Park. You will also receive a handsome plaque for your office. In addition, your company can be part of the Adopt-A-River program along the South Platte River or Cherry Creek. Please call 303-455-7109 x2 to find out how your company can support these important efforts.

To date, the Greenway Preservation Trust has received over $600,000 in commitments for 1999. With your help, we can reach the $1 million goal this year! Please take a moment and pledge your support today.

Check our website at www.greenwayfoundation.org for more information.
SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDERS FOR A SUMMER OF FUN!

PUNT THE CREEK CONCESSION OPENS
*Saturday, June 5
 Norman Hours of Operation-4:00 pm-Dusk
*Tuesday-Thursday-Rides by reservation only
*Friday-Sunday-Rides by Reservation or Walk-up
*Closed-Monday
*Additional hours/discounts for groups of 12 or more
*For information or reservations call 303-893-0750

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER RENDEZVOUS
*Centennial/Fishback Parks
*Saturday, June 12 (10 am-7pm)
Sun., June 13 (10 am-4pm)

CONFLUENCE CONCERTS
*Sousa Band
*Red Hot Tomatoes
*Queen City Jazz Band
*Hazel Miller
*(Rain Date)
*Thursday, July 1
*Thursday, July 8
*Thursday, July 15
*Thursday, July 22
*Thursday, July 29

PUNT THE CREEK CONCESSION CLOSSES
*Sunday, August 29

NIMBY FEST
*Saturday, Sept. 11 (8am-Noon)
*Begin/Ends at Fishback Landing Park

Volunteers for our special events are always needed. If interested, call 303-455-7109 x5 and leave your name and phone number, or check out our website at www.greenwayfoundation.org.