



GREENWAY CURRENT

Volume 19, Spring, 2000

Greenway Preservation Trust

A Successful Beginning!
By Jeff Shoemaker, Executive Director

On February 1, 1999, the Greenway Foundation launched a \$5 Million - 5 Year campaign to establish a permanent endowment for the South Platte River.

After more than 25 years of collaborative efforts to reclaim Denver's "greatest natural resource" from a flowing sewer into the jewel of the City that it is today, it is vital that the River never again become the abused and ignored dumping ground it was only a generation ago. As is the case with our many other cultural institutions, the South Platte River deserves a permanent source of funding to insure that it is protected and preserved for future generations.

Over the last year, thanks to the generous \$1 Million Challenge Grant from cable magnate Bill Daniels, over \$1 Million in additional contributions and pledges have been made to the Trust. This has allowed the Trust to receive the first of four \$250,000 installments from the Daniels Challenge Grant. Over the course of 2000, we will continue to pursue funding from individuals and corporations, but will also seek a collective \$1 Million from the Foundation community, many of whom have played a significant role in the creation of the South Platte River Greenway. Funding from the Foundation community will support the many programs and efforts detailed within this Newsletter which will allow existing funds that fund these endeavors to be set aside into the corpus of the Greenway Preservation Trust.

A highlight of last year's fundraising efforts was the return of the annual **FRIEND OF THE RIVER** Award Party. With a focus on both our 25th Anniversary and the establishment of the Greenway Preservation Trust, over 300 contributors and attendees shared in recognizing Bill Daniels as our 1999 Award Winner. Held at the fabulous Colorado's Ocean Journey, and hosted by John and Carol Saeman, longtime friends and business associates of Mr. Daniels, the evening's emcee, former Senator Bill Armstrong (Greenway Preservation Trust Co-Chair) welcomed the evening's guests to a fun-filled silent auction, buffet dinner and brief program. The evening's guest speaker, Mr. Charles Little, author of "Greenways for America", spoke about the significance of urban waterway reclamation to the resurgence of healthy cities and declared Denver's South Platte River Greenway as his favorite in the entire U.S.



Photo courtesy of Bettinger Photography

Joe Shoemaker, Greenway Foundation Chairman; Charles Little, guest speaker; John Saeman, Event Co-Chair; and Bill Armstrong, Greenway Preservation Trust Co-Chair enjoy a moment together at the conclusion of last year's Friend Of The River Award Party.

Mr. Saeman accepted the 1999 Friend Of The River Award on behalf of Mr. Bill Daniels.

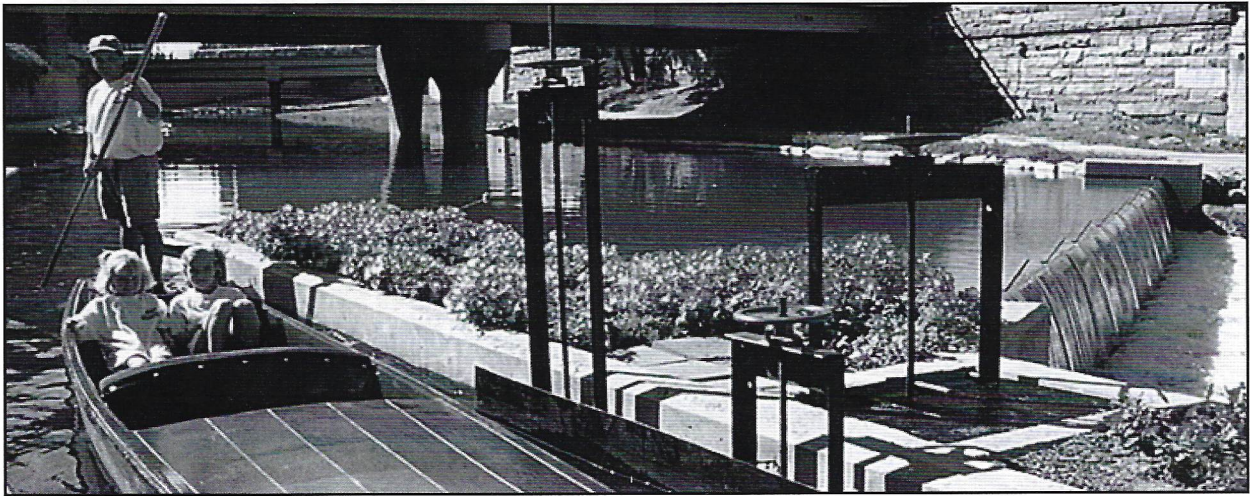
The event was also a financial success, raising over \$70,000 for the Greenway Preservation Trust.

The earnings from the corpus of the Trust provide funding for our Youth Education and Youth Employment programs, free Cultural Events during the summer months and additional environmental and recreational enhancements along the River corridor. Detailed overviews of these programs are provided throughout this Newsletter.

All support for the Greenway Preservation Trust is permanently set aside into the corpus of the Trust, making any contribution regardless of amount a permanent gift for the South Platte River. For more information about the Trust campaign, contact the Greenway Foundation offices at 303.455.7109 or check out our Website at www.greenwayfoundation.org.

Punt The Creek

The Creek: "A Place to Be"
By Warren Astler,
Punt The Creek Concession Manager



Warren Astler, "Punt The Creek" concession manager, guides two young passengers through one of the only locks in Colorado.

As the early American settlers were traveling to the west coast for "real gold", they decided to make a brief stop on the banks of Cherry Creek in search of more gold. At the confluence of the South Platte River and Cherry Creek, they struck a different kind of gold: a home. Instead of continuing their trip to California, many settlers decided to make Colorado their home. They saw the beauty of Colorado and soon the Creek had become a place to be. Although in past years the Creek had become somewhat of a neglected area with a negative reputation, the Creek is making a comeback.

At Punt the Creek, we are excited to be one of the reasons that Cherry Creek is a once again a "place to be". A place to ride a bike. A place to walk the dog. A place to roller blade along the many miles of trails. A place to enjoy gliding down the Creek in a punt. A Place To Be.

THE 2000 SEASON

Punt the Creek has a more manageable lock and dam system, along with a new boat storage area and office on the Creek resembling a train to keep the historic aspect of the Creek alive. We are looking forward to the 2000 season for two reasons:

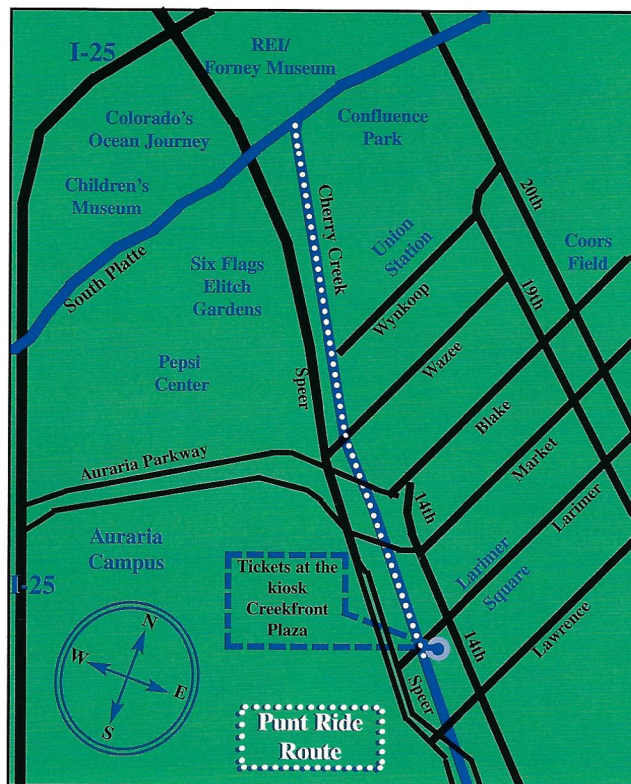
At Punt the Creek we pride ourselves on great customer service. We realize that customers are the most important part of our concession. As a result we set aside customer service training sessions for the crew to ensure that each Punt the Creek patron is treated to prompt service and a fun and friendly atmosphere.

Crew members are also well trained in Denver history. The history of Denver is rich with stories and full of information that patrons will find enlightening and interesting. Our emphasis is on relating many anecdotes as well as interesting facts while you are escorted along the Creek. Punters safely guide people through the 70 minute tour with a superior knowledge of Denver and the desire to tell the Denver story.

THE CREW

As my wife Chantel and I enter into our fifth summer managing Punt the Creek, we look at where we were, where we are and where we are heading with Punt the Creek. By far, our biggest improvement as managers has been with crew selection.

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The summer of 1996 was our opening summer and we thought we were big. We had one lock, four punts, a 30 minute tour and a crew of eight high school students. During the past three summers, we have added three locks, increased our ride by 40 minutes, easily doubled our crew and added two punts to our fleet.

Our crew this summer has many returning members who will serve as veterans of the Creek. These employees will bring a knowledge of the system to new crew members which will make for an easy transition into the summer of 2000. With the type of crew we look to have, we can only improve on an already good product. Our crew for the summer will include a manager and assistant manager, crew and shift managers, punters/lock keepers and a kiosk crew.

THE INFORMATION

Punt the Creek opens for the summer of 2000 on Saturday, June 3 and remains open every day but Monday through Sunday, August 20. We will conclude our summer season during the weekend of August 26 and 27. We are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday by reservation only, and Friday, Saturday and Sunday for walk-up and reservation from 4 p.m. to dusk. Although walk-up rides are available, we encourage you to make reservations to ensure your punting time. For groups of 12 or more, additional hours of operation and pricing discounts are available. For information, contact our ticket kiosk 303.893.0750 or visit our website at www.greenwayfoundation.org.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in being a member of the Punt the Creek crew, please call Warren Astler at 303.893.0750.

THE HOPE

With Commons Park near completion, REI opening this spring, the Pepsi Center hosting a variety of events, Colorado's Ocean Journey celebrating its first year anniversary, Six Flags Elitch Gardens and Children's Museum enjoying a firm hold in the area, along with many other Central Platte Valley renovations and new projects underway or nearing completion, the Creek and the surrounding area is becoming the "Place To Be". Punt the Creek is a fun and unique part of the growth and reclamation that is making our City's birthplace shine on a national level.

Come join us on The Creek!

PUNT THE CREEK



**Complimentary
Ticket**

*Coupon Valid for
One Individual Ride
(Tip Not Included)*

Ticket Office: Creekfront Plaza
Larimer & Speer

303.893.0750

Reflections from Barcelona

By Morgan Smith, Co-Chairman
Greenway Preservation Trust

“It’s raining!” the woman in the bakery exclaimed. Everyone turned quickly to look out on the wet sidewalk.

Why would rain be such an issue here in Barcelona with its humid climate? Because Spain is going through a period of intense drought, especially here in the north. Near Lerida to the west, it hasn’t been this dry in forty years and farmers are already losing their crops. In the south in Andalucía, for the last five years droughts have been interspersed with torrential rains that have caused flooding.

Water quality is also an issue. Two rivers – the Llobregat and the Bessòs – come down out of the mountains, pass through the northern and southern edges of Barcelona and enter the Mediterranean Sea. The headwaters of the Llobregat is near a beautiful mountain town called Castellar de N’Hug. Hundreds of visitors walk down the trail that flanks the beginning of this river but by the time it reaches Barcelona, it’s just a dirty little trickle.

Three major elections have passed since we have been here – Mayor of Barcelona, the equivalent of the Governor’s race, and the national elections to determine who will become President. But the environment simply hasn’t been an issue and these two rivers haven’t been mentioned.

It wasn’t that many years ago, however, that Colorado’s rivers were in the same shape. After graduating from law school, we moved to Brighton and bought some abandoned farm land along the South Platte. One Fourth of July, the Brighton Jaycees organized a raft race on the river but the Colorado Department of Health quickly shut it down and warned us to stay away from the water. When the river flooded in the late 60s and again in 1973, we were warned of the health hazards involved in building dikes and trying to protect our property.

What changed all this? The growth of an environment consciousness and the passage of environmental laws were critical. But there was also a human factor – those Coloradans led by Joe Shoemaker who decided that the South Platte should be a thing of beauty and enjoyment and not just a place to dump garbage and old cars.

Joe and I served together on the Joint Budget Committee during the 1974 and 1975 legislative sessions. One spring noon hour, he hustled the Committee out of the Capital and down to the River. I couldn’t believe what he was saying.



Photo courtesy of Bettinger Photography

Morgan Smith, Greenway Preservation Trust Co-Chair, offered his hopes and goals for the Trust at the 1999 Friend Of The River Award Party.

I knew this River, at least as it went through Adams County where we lived. It seemed like an impossible task that he and the South Platte River Development Council and so many others were working towards.

Later to publicize the work on the river, Joe assembled a legislative team (he, Ted Bendelow and me) and challenged Governor Lamm and his cabinet to a three part race – kayaking, running and bicycling. (For once Joe didn’t do his homework. Dick Lamm is a great kayaker!)

Now this has all changed. We not only take for granted the many amenities of the River, but rarely stop to think what Denver would be like if the River had remained as it was thirty years ago.

Now the goal is to establish permanent funding for the Greenway Foundation, the organization that has been the leader in providing youth education, making environmental and recreational improvements, and initiating cultural events. In the last year, we’ve raised a million dollars towards our eventual goal of five million. This will allow the work of the Foundation to continue no matter what the financial priorities of the city or a new Mayor might be.

Joe and Penny passed through Barcelona briefly in February on a well deserved vacation. I wanted to derail his travel plans and take him down to the Mayor’s office. They have laws and regulations here just as Colorado did in the 1970s. But they don’t have a Joe Shoemaker to take charge of turning these rivers into beautiful civic amenities.

What a Year It's Been!

By Bar Chadwick
Director, South Platte River Initiative

In April 1999, the Mayor asked me to take over and complete his vision for the South Platte River. This to me was an ultimate challenge and a Planner's dream. Having been the primary planner for the Central Platte Valley (CPV) for the past ten years, I had dreamed about the plan created and adopted in 1991 becoming a reality! I had seen the rebuilding of the viaduct system through the valley, the relocation of Elitch Amusement Park, the building of Coors field, the building of Colorado's Ocean Journey, the rezoning of 50 acres of prime real estate owned by the Trillium Corp., the construction of the Pepsi center, and the beginning of an expanded park system along the River. I now had the opportunity to actually implement the rest of the Plan that I had worked on for so long!

It is not often that a Planner gets to implement their dream. The central focus of the CPV 1991 plan is the development of a Riverfront Park system using the River as the backbone of the park system. In 1995 the Mayor institutionalized his Vision for the South Platte by creating the South Platte River Commission. This multi-disciplinary group of individuals has spent the past five years creating goals and objectives for Denver's River corridor that will help ensure its preservation far into the future. My charge is to oversee the completion of numerous projects that had been started, and to ensure that what had been started would be preserved forever.

The vision of the River Corridor to me represents a wonderful smile, but alas, with several key teeth missing! More important to what has to be done, is the crucial need to have it completed or substantially underway before the City administration changes, and a new Administration establishes a new focus for Denver's future. To this end, it has become apparent that the institutionalization of the Commission must occur. In order to ensure that the work Mayor Webb has accomplished during his administration will be preserved and enhanced in perpetuity, the work of the Commission needs to be internalized into the structure of the City. To this end we have started a process to create a long-term framework management plan that will be able to continue what the Commission and several city agencies started.

This process, lead by Conservation Partners and Headwater Consulting, is well under way and will be able to take recommendations to the Mayor by early summer. Another key element has been the creation of the South Platte River Maintenance District, internalized within the Parks Department and solely focused on the vegetation restoration and ongoing maintenance of the River Corridor. A third crucial element is the creation of a City Naturalist who works Citywide but obviously focuses a great deal of her time along the River Corridor to ensure the continued naturalness of the area.



Photo courtesy of Civitas

The "Vision" as it becomes reality! Commons Open Space nears completion.

The Maintenance District and The Natural Areas Program are now up and running and evolving daily to address and meet all the needs of the River.

Thinking I now had time to breathe and focus on future funding needs to complete river corridor projects, the unique and unexpected happened! A local engineering firm, Camp Dresser McKee, came to the City and said that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) wanted to show that they could become a "user-friendly" federal agency. Sounded great to me until those much smarter and wiser than I told me that "user-friendly" and the USACE was an oxymoron! Having always dubbed myself a "bricks and mortar" type gal, I felt I had come a long way as I learned a whole new lingo about vegetation, natural areas, wildlife corridors and riparian zones. Now, I was faced with the need to learn a whole new language, "government engineering", as well as convince our flood control agencies that maybe the USACE could assist us in completing the Mayor's Vision! Since mid-December, I have once again been immersed in learning, explaining and keeping my fingers crossed that the Corps has changed and that Denver, as a local sponsor can maintain control of our flood reduction and re-vegetation projects while using the Corps' money! The City's federal relations consultants Price-Howlett have helped immensely in the strides we have made in obtaining federal USACE monies to enhance our River.

The long and the short of this? I have always had great expectations for myself and over the past year have been given the opportunity to push myself to the limit, while being blessed with an incredible group of people who are also dedicated to our River, its repair and enhancement. The challenges still lie ahead, but so far so good, and I want to thank all of you who have made it possible!

Youth Education and Employment Programs

1999-2000

S.P.R.E.E Summer Excursions By Gail Shands, Summer Program Coordinator

For the fourth consecutive summer, the Greenway Foundation will oversee the S.P.R.E.E. Summer Excursion program in 2000. This innovative and exciting outdoor educational and recreational opportunity is offered to Denver area youth groups and summer camps at no cost, through the support of Mayor Webb's South Platte River Initiative. Participants aged 7-13 rotate through several activities at Grant Frontier Park and Overland Pond Educational Park along the South Platte River Greenway. Each young person has the opportunity to view wildlife along the River "up close and personal" with binoculars, collect insects and water bugs, explore a replica of a mining shack and working derrick, gold pan along the banks of the South Platte and enjoy a raft trip down the River between the two parks.



Photo courtesy of Gail Shands

Sampling the water at Overland Pond Education Park can teach many lessons about the environment. And it's also a lot of fun!



Photo courtesy of Gail Shands

Anxiously awaiting a raft ride down the South Platte River.

Last year's participants hailed from the Boys and Girls Club, Johnson Branch and Cope Branch, East Denver "Y", Girls Inc. of Metro Denver, Mi Casa, and Lake Beacon Neighborhood Center. These fun-filled, 4 hour excursions are coordinated by Gail Shands Associates in conjunction with River Reach Youth Initiative and the Greenway Foundation's River Ranger program, utilizing the combined talents of professional adult staff and trained teenage support staff.

The program is free to participants. Included organizations must provide transportation and coordinate having the participants bring their own lunch.

The 2000 S.P.R.E.E. Summer Excursion calendar is set with five dates: June 28, July 12, July 19, July 26 and August 2. Excursions run from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and can take up to 60 youth per excursion.

For more information about participating in this program, contact the Greenway Foundation's offices at 303.455.7109.

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River Ranger Program- Connecting Urban Youth To Their Environment

By Kyle Ecton, River Ranger Supervisor

Over the last two years, I have enjoyed the opportunity to work for the Greenway Foundation as the River Ranger Supervisor. During this time period, the program has not only honored its tradition as a summertime work crew helping Denver's Parks and Recreation Dept. maintain the South Platte River Greenway, but has also expanded its role along the River in a variety of new and exciting ventures.

The core purpose of the River Ranger program is to partner with a variety of public and private agencies to help preserve and protect the South Platte River Greenway as well as the trails and parkways along the River's tributaries, through the employment of Denver high school aged young people. 1999 witnessed a new and very successful partnership with the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce's Youth At Work program. Staff from this innovative youth employment program and I met, and the scope of responsibilities for a potential River Ranger were provided.

Youth At Work strives to put inner city youth into a positive working environment for the approximate 10 week summertime work period. In our case, prospective employees were screened by myself and the Youth At Work staff. After agreeing to a crew, and with the agreement of the prospective employees that being a River Ranger was a goal of theirs, several days of training by Youth At Work staff took place to further prepare the crew for the reality of working at a demanding job on a full time basis for the entire summer. The 1999 crew was well prepared and accomplished numerous projects and efforts over the summer. They also realized the importance of teamwork and gained an enhanced realization of the value and significance of our urban waterways.

In addition to helping the City keep the trails and parkways along our urban waterways free of trash, graffiti and other obstacles, the Rangers were involved with a variety of landscaping projects to help add to the aesthetic quality of the corridors. The Crew spent several days working in the parks up and down the River, removing unwanted weeds to help promote the growth of desired grasses and groundcover.

The Rangers also served as support staff for the S.P.R.E.E. Summer Excursions during July and August, as well as other Greenway Foundation sponsored special events including the South Platte River Rendezvous, the Confluence Concerts series, and NIMBY Fest.

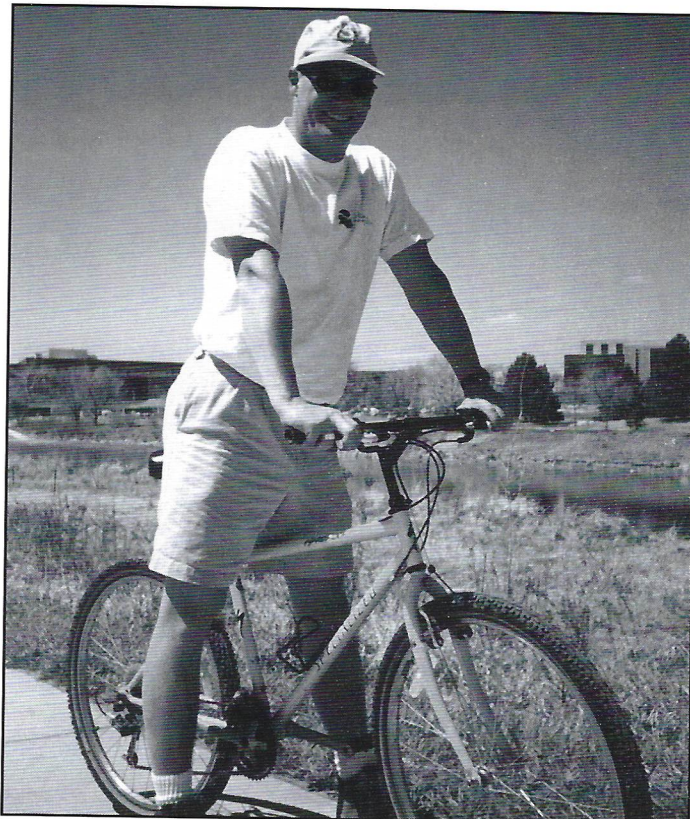


Photo courtesy of Carrie Corey

Kyle Ecton, River Ranger Supervisor.

As we approach the 2000 Ranger season, I will again be working with the Youth at Work Program staff to co-hire this year's crew and am pleased that several members of last year's Ranger Crew have indicated a desire to return for another summer. Plans for this year include the planting and upkeep of additional vines along the Cherry Creek corridor in LoDo, new native plantings along several sections of the South Platte, and serving as support staff for the Foundation's summertime programs and events.

I look forward to another great summer and opportunity to work with a motivated and productive group of young people. The River Ranger program is always looking for areas in need of our help, and I encourage the public to contact the Greenway Foundation with ideas and concerns.

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"Go on a Learning SPREE!"
By Carl Crookham-S.P.R.E.E. Coordinator

This is the catch phrase that will take S.P.R.E.E. into the 21st Century. S.P.R.E.E., which stands for South Platte River Environmental Education, is the result of close to thirty years of planning, design and hard work. S.P.R.E.E.'s "classroom" is the 10.5 miles of the South Platte River that flows through Denver, along with several of the River's tributaries. Thanks to the extensive restoration and beautification accomplished by the Greenway Foundation and Mayor Webb's South Platte River Commission, this historic corridor through the City has become a key player in environmental education for Denver's children.

S.P.R.E.E. offers several different opportunities to learn about and experience Denver's "greatest natural resource". With environmental awareness as the underlying theme, S.P.R.E.E. offers field trip adventures that enhance all curriculum disciplines for every grade level K-12. How wonderful for a teacher to be able to simply pick up the phone and find a trip that will help meet state as well as school curriculum guidelines. The newest excitement is the "S.P.R.E.E. School" concept. When the principal and faculty of a school decide to "adopt" the South Platte River as a permanent part of their school's overall curriculum, they become a S.P.R.E.E. School.



Photo courtesy of Carl Crookham

This group of 4th graders and their teen guides gave us a ferocious growl as they began an animal tracks hunt at Confluence Park.

Maps of the River and other related displays are placed in the classrooms and hallways. South Platte River history begins to appear in all areas of the curriculum: math exercises measuring the flow rates of the River at different sites along the River, lessons about the key role the River had in the creation of what is now Denver, art projects focused on the numerous plant and wildlife species located in and along the South Platte and environmental science experiments involving the collection of water samples to determine the water quality of the River up and down the corridor.

To help in the ongoing connection between the River and the classroom, S.P.R.E.E. School faculty are provided with a list of over 50 organizations that offer field trips, materials and guest speakers. They are also given a "menu" of 25 field trips that require only a phone call to put in place. The S.P.R.E.E. Coordinator also becomes a permanent and ongoing advisor to the faculty and staff at each S.P.R.E.E. School.



Photo courtesy of Carl Crookham

Grant-Frontier Park, located where Evans crosses the South Platte River, is the only site in the state with an operating 1860's mining display.

One of the program's most successful S.P.R.E.E. school collaborations is the bond that has formed between McKinley-Thatcher Elementary School and Grant Middle School which is the feeder school for McKinley-Thatcher. For years, each school has worked independently of the other. Kids completing their years at McKinley-Thatcher would often move on to middle school as complete strangers and with no curriculum continuity. A new school with new kids, new subjects, new teachers and big halls can be scary. The S.P.R.E.E. School concept can help ease this transition. As McKinley-Thatcher kids become involved with S.P.R.E.E. activities, they will periodically combine classes with students from Grant. They then experience fun and educational adventures as they get to know both kids and teachers. Guest speakers will bring them to Grant's auditorium, helping them become familiar with their future school. The elementary students will also work on some projects in Grant's classrooms. Upon leaving elementary school, where the students have experienced S.P.R.E.E. related activities for six years, they will be able to continue to enjoy learning about the River throughout their middle and high school years, potentially becoming high school aged South Platte River Tour Guides.

South Platte River Environmental Education has been a long time coming. Today, however, when you talk about the D.P.S. curriculum, you will note that it is greatly enhanced because "A River Runs Through It"!

Special Events 1999-2000

By Doug Ellis, Associate Director



Photo courtesy of Doug Ellis

Attendees at last year's South Platte River Rendezvous enjoyed participating in a Native American dance, taught to them by members of the Plains tribe.

The Greenway Foundation closed out the year, the decade and the millennium with a trio of special events: the "The South Platte River Rendezvous" in June, "Confluence Concerts" in July, and the 7th Annual South Platte River Cleanup, a.k.a. NIMBY Fest in September.

These events help fulfill the Greenway Foundation's mission to promote Denver's Riverfront as an environmental, recreational and cultural amenity. Over half of the 15,000 people surveyed at one of these fun events were enjoying the River for the first time! The Rendezvous, Confluence Concerts and NIMBY Fest are produced in cooperation with the South Platte River Commission and Denver's Dept. of Parks and Recreation.

South Platte River Rendezvous

An estimated 10,000 people celebrated at Centennial Park, next to Six Flags Elitch Gardens, renamed "Denver City" due to its location near the actual birthplace of Denver on the banks of the South Platte River and Cherry Creek. Highlights featured the return of the ever-popular Buffalo Soldiers of the American West, Native American musician Danny Manyhorses, the Wells Fargo stagecoach, the James Beckwourth trade store, Mountain Man "Doc Grizzly," Gold panners of Colorado, a Wild West Medicine Show and much more. The event was co-sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank, Frontier Airlines, Six Flags Elitch Gardens, National Western, Design West and the Rocky Mountain News.

Due to design upgrades for Centennial Park and because Commons Park, the ultimate home for this event, will not be open to the public until 2001, the Rendezvous is on temporary hiatus. In its place, the Greenway Foundation is happy to announce that it will be the host foundation and beneficiary of the "Denver Duck Derby" and the "South Platte River Relay," both part of a new event for 2000 called "Riverfest" on Saturday, August 26, 2000. This will be the first waterfront festival to be held in the newly revitalized Central Platte Valley near Commons Park. Teams will compete for best times in the Relay in a four-part race - raft, rollerblade, run and "waddle." The entire course is less than 2 miles and is designed to be great fun for company or group teams of four each. For more information, call the Greenway Foundation's special events line at 303-637-2645.

The "Denver Duck Derby" is under license of Great American Duck Races. Denver's ducks will float along the Cherry Creek Greenway in LoDo between the Wewatta Bridge downstream to Confluence Park. Organizers expect between ten and twenty thousand little yellow rubber ducks to compete for a multitude of prizes. A portion of every duck sold or "adopted" goes to the Greenway Preservation Trust to establish a permanent fund for the Foundation's youth programs and cultural events. Ducks will be sold at the Children's Museum, Ocean Journey, Cherry Creek North and the Denver Pavilions and through the Junior League of Denver. Plan to adopt a duck this summer!

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Photo courtesy of Doug Ellis

Music lovers of all ages enjoy another Confluence Concert along the South Platte River at Confluence Park. These free evenings of great entertainment take place Thursday evenings in July.

Confluence Concerts

One of the most unique venues in Denver, Confluence Park, played host to Confluence Concerts, the Greenway Foundation's free summer concert series. Last year, crowds were treated to the "best in local entertainment" with the likes of the Queen City Jazz Band, the Red Hot Tomatoes and Denver's queen of blues, Hazel Miller. The 1999 series was hosted by KVOD and The Denver Post and made possible with financial support from American Century Investments, Anheuser-Busch, Vectra Bank and Virgin Music.

This year's Concerts are sponsored by AMFM radio (formerly Chancellor) and stations MIX100.3, Jammin 92.5 and KOOL 105 and The Denver Post. We are happy to welcome back Vectra Bank and Anheuser Busch as sponsors. Experience great music on the Riverfront in one of Denver's most unique venues. Make it an evening with a punt ride and dinner at the Confluence Park Amphitheatre! Plenty of food and beverages will be available. (Please, do not bring coolers into the park during the concerts.) Make plans to join us Thursdays in July for this great summer concert series. Dates and entertainers can be seen on the back page of this Newsletter.

NIMBYFest

On September 11th, the Foundation organized the 7th Annual South Platte River Cleanup, otherwise known as "NIMBYFest" (Not-In-My-BackYard). Last year's event included participants from all over Denver Metro which was co-hosted by Adams County Parks, South Suburban and Denver Parks departments and over a dozen volunteer organizations including: Americorps, the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club, Fresh Start, BLM, Telephone Pioneers, DDRO, local scouting troops, EPA, COJ, Metro Wastewater, VOC, and many others. A banquet was held at Fishback Park after the cleanup for the volunteers, with food donated from Armadillo Restaurant, Zang's, Old Chicago, and Nantucket Nectars. NIMBYFest was sponsored by REI, BFI, Denver Water, EPA and Urban Drainage & Flood Control District. Approximately ten tons of garbage were removed from the River as a result of this volunteer community effort. Denver was this year's recipient of the annual "Weirdest Waste Winner" award.



Photo courtesy of Doug Ellis

Hundreds of enthusiastic NIMBYFest volunteers such as these helped remove over 10 tons of trash and debris from the channel, banks, trails and parks along the South Platte River.

This year's NIMBYfest will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2000. Volunteers will assemble at the following locations:

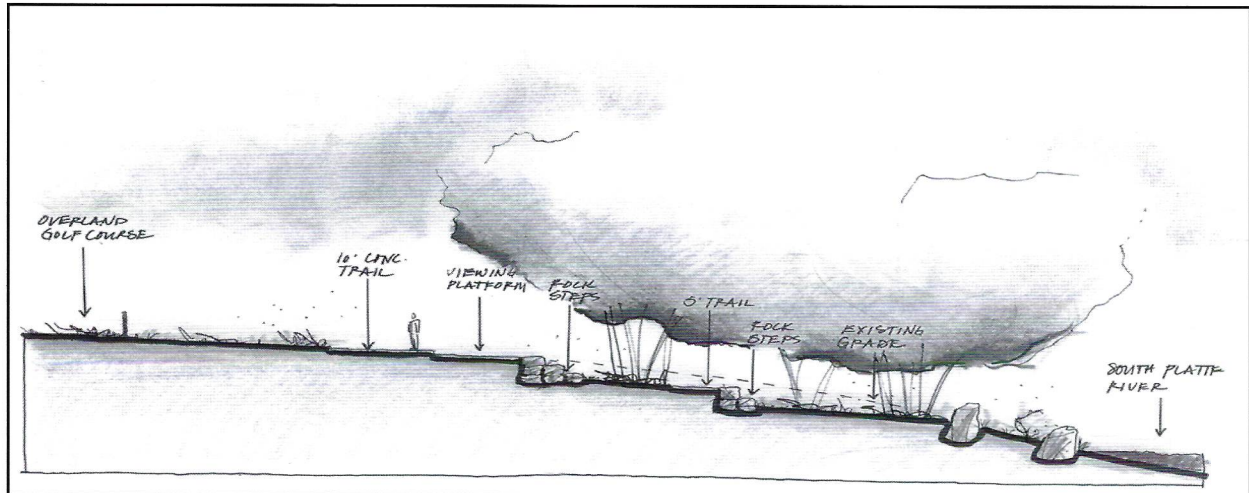
- South Suburban Lot at SW corner of Bowles and Santa Fe Drive in Littleton (across from Echostar)
- Denver Fishback Landing Park (next to Ocean Journey)
- Adams Co. Metro Wastewater, (64th & York)
- Englewood Water Treatment Plant (2800 S. Platte River Drive)

To pre-register you/your group, contact your jurisdiction's parks department (Adams, Denver or South Suburban) or call the Greenway Foundation special events line at 303.637.2645 for more information. Registration material will also be available at metro area REIs. Please help us keep our Riverfront beautiful and "pitch-in" on September 30th!

The Greenway Foundation is proud to host this special events with the help from our many partners and the local community. 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 see you down at the River this summer. For dates and times of upcoming events or more information, call the Event Line at 303.637.2645 or see our website at www.greenwayfoundation.org.

South Platte River Greenway Enhancements

2000



Conceptual Drawing courtesy of MDG, INC.

Enhancements to the Overland Corridor section of the South Platte River include a wide variety of riparian improvements, a concrete hike/bike path and several rest areas.

Overland Corridor By Merle Grimes-MDG, Inc.

Over the course of the next 18 months, close to one mile of the South Platte corridor between Evans Ave. and Florida Ave. will receive a number of improvements to enhance the riparian potential of the River along with a new 10' concrete hike-bike path.

MDG, Inc. has served as the design consultant to the Greenway Foundation for this project and will continue to partner with the Foundation during the construction phase. Over the course of the last year, numerous meetings, several of them on-site, took place with a variety of stakeholders to insure that the project would meet the needs of all users, as well as add a number of ecological enhancements to improve the area for a variety of wildlife species. The funding sources for the project include the South Platte River Commission/City and County of Denver, Great Outdoors Colorado and the Denver Water Dept.

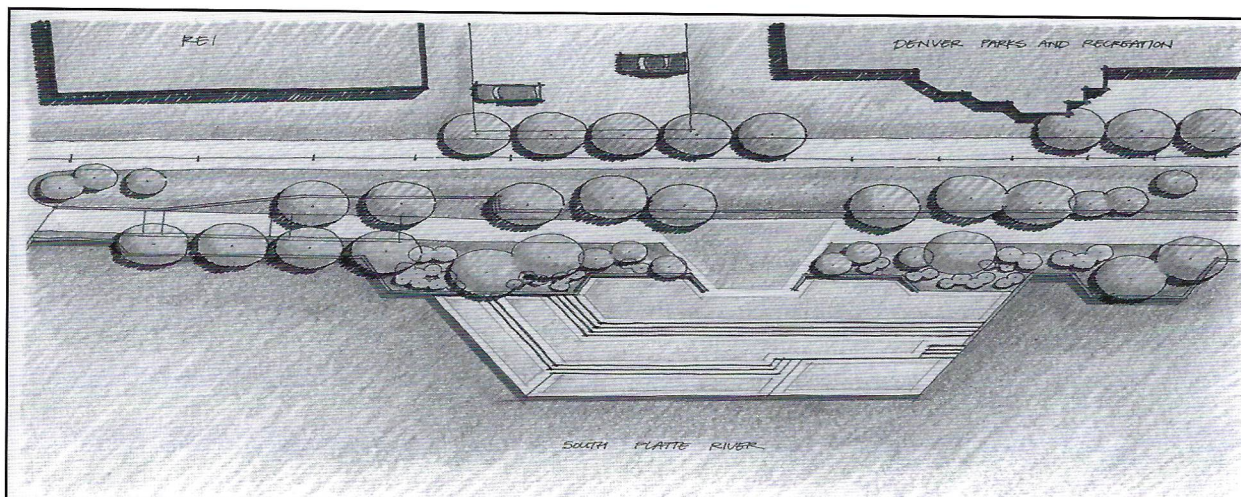
Enhancements to the corridor include landscape restoration consisting of added native grasses and wildflowers, wetland plantings, trees and shrubs. Much of the new landscape will be irrigated so that the establishment of the plant materials will be more successful. Three new River viewing and seating areas along with an improved boating launch/take-out area will also be added. Finally, a new 10' concrete path will replace the existing asphalt trail, which is leftover from the roadway that used to parallel the River corridor prior to the creation of the South Platte River Greenway.

Replacement of the asphalt trail will be completed during 2000. The River overlooks and landscape restoration phase of the project will be completed during the early Spring of 2001. This approximate seven block long stretch of the River, adjacent to Overland Golf Course and across the River from Ruby Hill Park is one of the most beautiful in the City. Thanks to the ongoing support of the organizations listed above, the unique features of this area will be greatly enhanced.

Confluence Park Plaza/Ramp Renovation By Dean Pearson, Architerra Group

The Architerra Group is pleased to be working with the Greenway Foundation and the Mayor's South Platte River Commission to renovate the brick plaza and ramp area at Confluence Park, where Cherry Creek and the South Platte converge, also the birthplace of Denver. Included in the design is the replacement of one of the two existing ramps with a redesigned ramp that will meet current A.D.A. accessibility guidelines. The new ramp will resemble the access ramps along the Cherry Creek Greenway along Speer Blvd. This new design will also add additional space to the plaza area.

Continued on the Next Page



Conceptual Drawing courtesy of The Architerra Group

Improvements to the Confluence Park Plaza, including a new access ramp, will make this popular amenity even more enjoyable.

Plans for the plaza include replacement and repair of the brick pavers, new seating and lighting areas and additional landscaping of the areas around the plaza.

Detailed design work will begin this year with construction scheduled for 2001. It is exciting to see these improvements take place at the site of the Greenway Foundation's first project, originally constructed over 25 years ago.

White Water Park By Gary Lacy, Recreation Engineering and Planning

The J.P. Kenney Foundation, American Whitewater Association and the Colorado Whitewater Association are in the planning and design stages of a new major whitewater park just downstream of Confluence Park. This coalition of local paddling enthusiasts have been working with the City and County of Denver, the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District and the Greenway Foundation to make this project a reality. Conceptual planning has been completed and a grant application has been submitted to Great Outdoors Colorado requesting its support for this exciting project.

The purpose of this endeavor is to make in-stream whitewater improvements which will enrich the aquatic and riparian habitat conditions, as well as create exciting natural appearing whitewater river features. Improvements include creating self-scouring pools between riffle areas, stabilizing eroded and unsightly streambanks, and planting riparian vegetation to enhance overhead cover and shading. In addition, the South Platte River White Water Park will consist of selective bank access improvements, such as put-ins and take-outs and instream drop/pool sequences, random boulder placement and off-set deflectors.

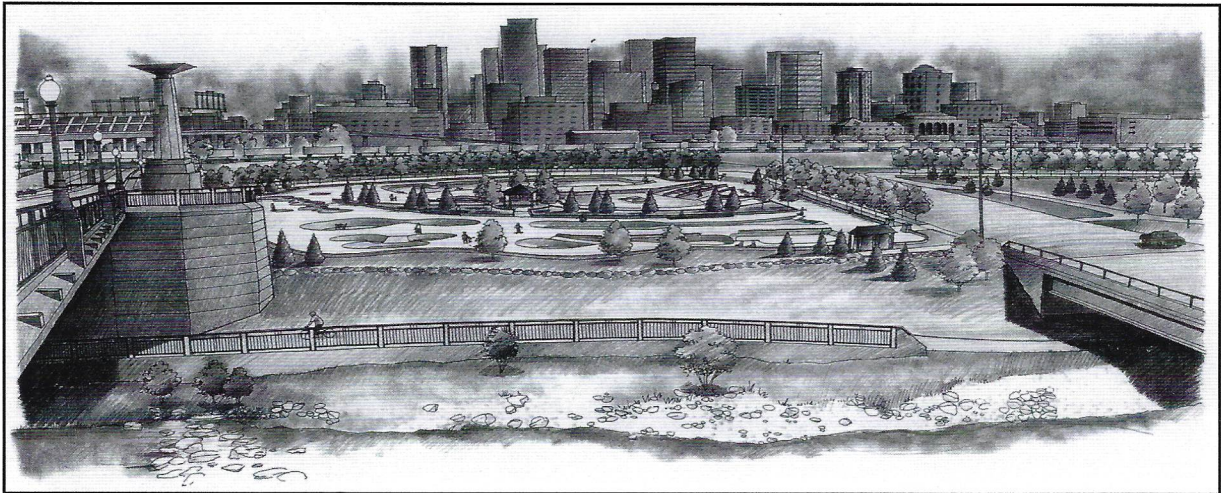
The park will be located adjacent to the new Commons Park between 15th St. and 23rd St.

The project is in response to the growing interest in whitewater boating in Denver and the surrounding area. Having recently been included as an Olympic sport, the sport is currently the fastest of all outdoor recreation activities as evidenced by retail sales. Many people are trying the sport including the use of kayaks, canoes, inflatable boats and rafts. Whitewater sports are a great way to learn outdoor skills, get quality exercise, learn about river safety, and have fun. Due to the current construction of riverside parks and flood control structures in the South Platte, it would be ideal to incorporate these whitewater improvements with existing construction plans.

The preliminary designs for the White Water Park have undergone an extensive public review process including a presentation to the South Platte River Commission, City and County of Denver staff and the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District.

This exciting addition to the South Platte River Greenway will serve many users. The whitewater design and pools provide excellent fish habitat. Many fisherman could frequent the area both during boating season and during the off-season. Creative play areas with natural boulders and sandy riverside beach areas will be fun for kids and their families. The area is already popular for walkers, joggers, picnickers and is ideally suited for watching boating activity along the River. Because the improvements will be available to the public at no cost, they provide an opportunity to enjoy the fun of urban boating free of charge.

Continued on the Next Page



Conceptual Drawing courtesy of The Architerra Group

When completed, the Denver Skatepark will offer a world class facility for skateboarders of all ages and abilities.

The Kenney Foundation has agreed to contribute \$200,000 towards the construction of the project. Great Outdoors Colorado has been asked to provide a \$175,000 match. Other contributions include: riverbank land recently acquired by the City and County of Denver, in-stream improvements planned by the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, and cash and maintenance commitments by the Colorado Whitewater Association and local whitewater businesses.

For more information call Gary Lacy at 303.545.5883.

The Denver Skatepark By Dean Pearson, Architerra Group

The Architerra Group has been hired by the City and County of Denver to oversee the construction of Denver's first public skatepark, located between 19th and 20th Streets along the South Platte River Greenway. The skatepark will be constructed primarily of concrete and will be free and open to the public. At close to 1 1/2 acres, this will be the largest outdoor skatepark in the nation.

We have been working closely with a task force comprised of local skaters, middle and high school students, the business community and City and County of Denver staff. This task force was formed several years ago by Councilwoman Joyce Foster to address the problem of skaters being prohibited from several public areas in the City, including the 16th St. Mall, without offering them a place where they could skate.

The design team for the new Denver Skatepark includes Alan Fishman, a skatepark planner from California and Kevin Thatcher, a former professional skater and the publisher of Thrasher magazine, a popular skating publication. The design team held several workshops with the skaters and helped the skaters to refine their ideas for the skatepark into a buildable plan.

Construction on the Denver Skatepark will begin in the early fall of 2000 and will be completed and ready for use in early 2001. Once completed, the Denver Skatepark will be an exciting addition to the South Platte River Greenway. Everyone is encouraged to visit this new amenity and watch these unique athletes "do their thing"!

Support The Greenway Preservation Trust!

Insuring The River's Future

The Greenway Preservation Trust is 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. Our goal is to raise \$5 million in 5 years.

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 environmental programs receive funding well beyond our lifetime.

Yes! I want to help establish the Greenway Preservation Trust.

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Friend | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50* Advocate | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100** Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Associate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Sustainer | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 Benefactor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 Partner |

* Contribute \$50 and get a free Greenway Preservation Trust T-shirt!

** Contribute \$100 or more, receive Punt The Creek tickets for two and a T-shirt!

☐ 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.

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. Thank you.

Name _____ Phone No. () _____
Best time to call: _____ Home _____ Office _____

Company

Consider becoming a charter partner 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 bronze plaque placed along the River at 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 x 2** to find out how your company can support these important efforts.

To date, the Greenway Preservation Trust has received over \$2 million in commitments.

With your help, we can reach our goal of \$3 Million by the end of 2000!

Please take a moment and pledge your support today.

For more information about the Greenway Preservation Trust, check our website at www.greenwayfoundation.org.

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"A
River is more
than an amenity,
it is a
Treasure."

Justice Wm. O. Douglas

SUMMER CALENDER OF EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDERS FOR A SUMMER OF FUN!

PUNT THE CREEK CONCESSION OPENS Saturday, June 3

- Normal 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.

CONFLUENCE CONCERTS

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| •Confluence Park | Hazel Miller & Band | Thurs.,- July 6 |
| •All concerts begin | Phat Daddy | Thurs.,- July 13 |
| at 6:30pm and | Doo Wop | Thurs.,- July 20 |
| conclude at 8:00pm | The Fab Four | Thurs.,- July 27 |

RIVERFEST 2000

Sat., August 26

PUNT THE CREEK CONCESSION CLOSSES

Sun., August 27

NIMBY FEST

Sat., Sept. 30

- Begins/Ends at Fishback Landing Park
- 8:00am-12:00pm, Metro Riverfront Volunteer Banquet afterwards at Fishback Landing (next to Colorado Ocean Journey).

Volunteers for our special events are always needed. If interested, call **303.637.2643** and leave your name and phone number; or check out our website at www.greenwayfoundation.org.

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