

GREENWAY *CURRENT*

Volume 21, Spring, 2002

Greenway Preservation Trust

Protecting The River/Preserving Our Heritage
By Jeff Shoemaker, Executive Director



Photo courtesy of Bettinger Photography

Joe Shoemaker, Chairman of the Greenway Foundation, recognizes the 2001 Friend Of The River Award Winners, Ken and Ruth Wright.

In November of 1998, the Greenway Foundation announced the initiation of a campaign to provide the beginnings of a permanent endowment for the ongoing protection and preservation of Denver's Great Natural Resource, the South Platte River. Over the course of the last several years, close to \$3 Million has been donated and pledged to this effort. A complete listing of the many individuals and organizations that have made this remarkable achievement possible is contained within this newsletter.

Entitled the Greenway Preservation Trust (GPT), this important source of funds will provide the means of ongoing support for what have been labeled "The Four E's":

Continued on the Next Page

Education

Each year, the Foundation's Youth Education program, known as S.P.R.E.E. (South Platte River Environmental Education), introduces thousands of young people to the South Platte and helps them realize the significance of the River to the creation and growth of Denver.
(For more information, refer to pages 7-9 of this newsletter).

Employment

Over the course of each summer, Punt the Creek provides employment for between 20-25 high school and college aged youth, who serve as guides for the thousands of passengers who enjoy a floating history tour of Lower Downtown Denver along Cherry Creek on one of six punts (similar to gondolas). Each guide provides an entertaining and historical overview of the area known as the birthplace of Denver as well as how this unique summertime amenity was created.
(For more information, refer to page 6 of this newsletter).

Events

As part of our mission to bring cultural and community involved events to the River, the Foundation hosts the Confluence Concerts series each Thursday evening in July featuring some of Denver's best known entertainers and ensembles. In addition, the last Saturday in September witnesses the return of NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) Fest, a multi-jurisdictional volunteer based cleanup of the 25 miles of the Riverfront from C-470 to I-76.
(For more information, refer to pages 10-11 of this newsletter).

Enhancements

The Foundation continues to partner with various public agencies to provide ongoing environmental and recreational enhancements to the River and its surrounding area. In future years, the Greenway Preservation Trust will provide matching funds to bring about additional amenities such as rest areas, natural area enhancements, drinking fountains, etc.
(For more information, refer to pages 14-17 of this newsletter).

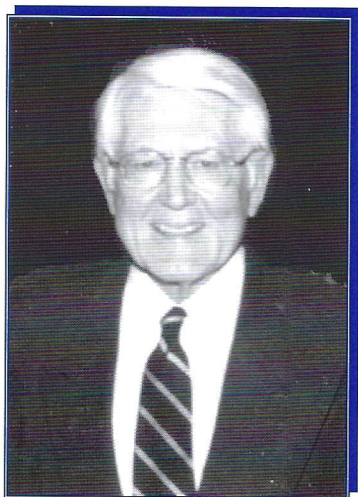


Photo courtesy of Bettinger Photography

Over 250 supporters attend the 2001 Friend of the River Award Dinner at Colorado's Ocean Journey (COJ), which included a very successful silent auction as well as the opportunity to visit the many exciting and education exhibits at COJ prior to the dinner and award portion of the evening.

2001 Friend Of The River Award Dinner

Each November, the Foundation hosts the annual "Friend of the River" Award Dinner as a fundraiser for the GPT and a means of recognizing individuals who have made a longstanding and significant contribution to the revitalization of the South Platte River Greenway. 2001 witnessed the 3rd year the event has been held, and recognized **Ken and Ruth Wright** for their many years of advocacy and support for the South Platte River Greenway through Denver.



Ken Wright- A civil engineer for close to fifty years, Ken has been involved in the rebirth of the South Platte River both professionally and personally since the efforts of the Greenway Foundation began over 28 years ago. He was responsible for the 1975 design and construction of Confluence Park and the 1982 master plan for the 40 miles of the River through Denver's Metropolitan area for the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District. Since then, Ken and his firm, Wright Water Engineers, have been involved in numerous additional projects along the South Platte as well as Bear Creek, Cherry Creek, Clear Creek and many more. Ken is a veteran kayak and white-water raft enthusiast and, over the last seven years, has performed scientific hydrology research at Machu Picchu and Mesa Verde National Park. He recently authored and published *Machu Picchu: A Civil Engineering Marvel*.



Ruth Wright- Ruth has led numerous successful efforts to improve conditions of the South Platte River during her service on the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission as well as during her 14 years in the Colorado State Legislature, serving 6 years as House Minority Leader. She was a member of the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Board of Trustees from 1993-99, and served as Chair the last two years. Ruth was instrumental in launching the GOCO legacy grant program that was critical in helping fund improvements along the South Platte. She received her Ph.D from Marquette University and her J.D. from the University of Colorado. Ruth's interests include scuba diving, photography, archaeology and travel. These talents have been applied through her creation of Machu Picchu calendars and *The Machu Picchu Guidebook*, published in 2001.

Thanks to the support and generosity of over 250 guests and donors, and in particular to our returning corporate sponsor, **Camp, Dresser, and McKee**, this year's Award Dinner raised over \$40,000 for the GPT, all of which will help support the programs listed within this article.

The South Platte River is truly Denver's legacy. The River and its banks served as the host for our city's first permanent settlements. Once a source of pride, the River became a wasteland of refuse and pollution, until the determined efforts of the Greenway Foundation initiated the rebirth of Denver's "Only River in Town". By investing in the Greenway Preservation Trust, our Greatest Natural Resource will continue to receive the preservation and protection it deserves.

Greenway Preservation Trust Supporters

FEBRUARY 1, 1999 – APRIL 30, 2002

\$1,000,000 +

Bill Daniels

\$100,000 - \$1,000,000

DWD Land Trust

Eleanor Quick

Ruth Shaw

Joe & Penny Shoemaker

Carl Williams

\$ 50,000 - \$100,000

Don & Patricia Cook

\$ 10,000 - \$ 50,000

Bill Armstrong

Bonfils-Stanton Foundation

Rudy Bruner Foundation

Camp, Dresser & McKee (CDM)

Earl Dye

East-West Partners

Kenneth Kendall King Foundation

Susan & Dick Kirk

Joseph Levine

R.E.I.

S.C.F.D. – Tier III

Jay & Cheryl Shoemaker

Six Flags Elitch Gardens

Morgan Smith

Storage-Tek Foundation

Wright Water Engineers

\$ 5,000 - \$ 10,000

1st Bank of Cherry Creek –

University Hills Branch

Anheuser Busch

Black & Veatch

CH2M Hill

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Denver Suburban Water District

Dick Deane

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Vectra Bank

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Architerra Group

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Bob Aspinwall

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George Beardsley

Brownstein, Hyatt & Farber

Jay Busch

Alan & Barbara Charnes

Dee Chirafisi

Colorado's Ocean Journey

\$1,000 - \$ 5,000 Cont...

Dana Crawford

Brian Cunningham

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Cortland Dietler

Michael Dowling

Carol Gossard

Patrick Grant

Merle & Sara Grimes

Tom Grimshaw

Barry & Arlene Hirschfeld

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Penny Shoemaker

Bob Silverberg

Taylor Foundation

Jim Theye

Richard & Joanie Todd

Triax Communications

Xcel Energy

Welchert & Britz

Ray Wells

George Writer

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UP TO \$ 1,000

Lou & Penny Aiello
 Marc Alston
 Gary Alvarado
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 Gary Arthur
 Hart Axley
 Stockton Baker
 Bansbach Foundation
 Hamlet J. Barry, III
 Bob Beauprez
 Tim & Susan Bebo
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 John Bermingham
 Dan & Clarissa Bettinger
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 Kendra Black
 Joseph Blake
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 Tracy & Rebecca Bouvette
 Rod Brauer
 Sue Cannon
 Steve Cassin
 Bar Chadwick
 Don Childears
 Dee Chirafisi
 Joseph & Jana Clark
 Colorado Water Congress
 Carrie Corey
 James & Carol Crain
 Thomas Creighton
 Sally Crow
 Daniels Fund
 Casey Davenport
 Peter Decker
 Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
 William & Minnie Diss
 Joe Dolan
 Michael Dowling
 Downtown Denver Partnership
 Lawrence Duggan

UP TO \$ 1,000 Cont.

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 Charles Ennis
 Rick Everist
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 William Fitzgerald
 David Fitzsimmons
 Bill & Judy Fleming
 Patricia Flood
 Charles Froelicher
 Michael Gallagher
 James Gehres
 Barbara Gibson
 Terry Gilberto
 Pam & Jim Glynn
 Grant Goodson
 Rick Griffin
 Hallmark Construction
 Norman Hart
 Ron Hellbusch
 James Hill
 Richard Hill
 Susan Hoffman
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 Bill Jensen
 Doug Jones
 Kaiser Permanente
 Howard Kenison
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 Susan King
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 Melissa Kolwaite
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 Gary Lacy
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UP TO \$ 1,000 Cont.

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 Carol Lock
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 John Love
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 Roger Masquelier
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 David Miller
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 Mary Phillips
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 Susan Powers
 Marge Price
 Ready Temporary Services
 Elizabeth Richardson
 Kent Rickenbaugh
 Daniel Ritchie
 Jim & Janet Rivas
 William Roberts
 Herrick Roth
 Ken Salazar
 Douglas Schaffer
 Jim Scherer
 Steve Schuck

UP TO \$ 1,000 Cont.

Kathy Seidel
 Mike Shaw
 Jim & Cindy Shoemaker
 Robert Smith
 Frank & Doris Southworth
 Mike Stratton
 Erick Swanson
 Louise Tartaglia
 Jane Taylor
 Tom Ten Eyck
 Territory Unlimited
 George Thorn
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 Maggie Fox Udall
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 Steve Wilson
 Charles Wooley
 George and Billie Yates
 Mickey Zeppelin

Punt The Creek

Youth Employment

By Chantel Astler, Assistant Manager

Wow! Has it already been 6 years?! It seems like yesterday we were opening Punt the Creek on a cold and rainy day in 1996. We have come so far since then. And what a joy it has been for me to see the changes in PTC, downtown and myself.

I come to Punt the Creek (PTC) with a unique view. Because I have been with PTC from year one, I can appreciate the "blood, sweat and tears" we have gone through to make PTC what it is today. From the early years of flooding, wooden docks, sandbars and washed out landscaping, we have learned that the Creek is a way of life. Like a spouse, you cannot change it, but you grow to know and understand its moods from day to day. We have learned to take in stride the daily challenges as part of the project we call PTC. These challenges make PTC what it is – a dynamic project that many thought could not happen. I applaud those who have stood by PTC and who believed in an "impossibility" that has changed the way many think of Lower Downtown Denver.

Originally, I was hired to make sense of the customer service side of PTC. My job was to run the ticket kiosk. This job entailed much more than I thought it would initially. From keeping the books, maintaining a reservation log and dealing with the public, I was on the "front lines" – the first contact many people had to the unknown entity called "Punt the Creek". The early days posed many challenges for me mentally and physically. Since this was the first time a boating concession was created to operate within an active flood channel, I could only guess how to prepare for the job. As time went on, I found most of our preparations were moot. Daily operations were slow at first, which gave me the opportunity to figure things out as I went along. The fun part was to come later.

As the summers passed by, the question of what PTC was began to diminish. Much to my excitement, most people knew it had to do with a boat instead of a football. We started to train others to run the kiosk so I could do what I most desired: give tours. Customer service was and is our number one priority at PTC. I found quickly that this was a different reality when I was in the kiosk versus when giving tours on the Creek. In the kiosk, I

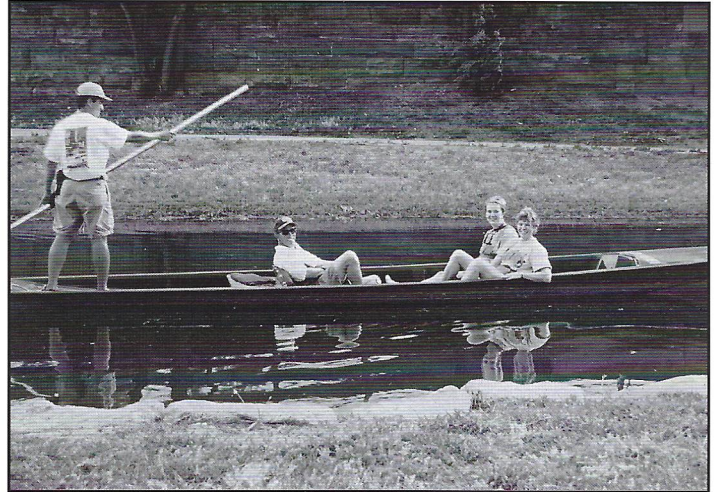


Photo courtesy of Dick Bettinger

Passengers enjoy a relaxing punt ride along Cherry Creek in LoDo.

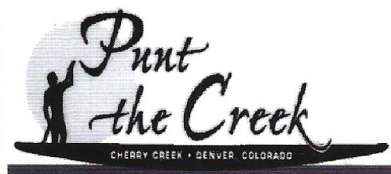
dealt with people who had all different views of PTC – skepticism to curiosity. As a punt guide, I found people very interested in the adventure and uniqueness of the concession. This was such a delight to me. Finally, I was allowed to connect with people through the joys of history. I truly enjoy being a storyteller, and trust me, PTC is a story that started many years ago and will forever be a part of Denver's rich history.

I am fortunate to be a part of such a unique and dynamic project. Today, PTC is serving our community by providing flavor to our downtown culture. It is now a shining light to all, proving that the "impossible" can be done.

I look forward to many great years of Punt the Creek.

The 2002 Punt the Creek Summer Season opens on Saturday, June 1st and continues through Sunday, August 26th. For more information about hours of operation, ticket prices, group reservation and discount opportunities and more, visit our website at www.greenwayfoundation.org or call us at 303.893.0750.

PUNT THE CREEK



*Complimentary
Ticket*

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

Ticket Office: Creekfront Plaza
Larimer & Speer

303.893.0750

Youth Education

S.P.R.E.E. School Program Blossoms By Carl Crookham, S.P.R.E.E. Program Coordinator



Photo courtesy of Carl Crookham

These modern day gold panners work with S.P.R.E.E. Program Coordinator, Carl Crookham, to find out how much gold dust they've accumulated.

Beginning with the 2001-02 school year, McKinley-Thatcher Elementary School became the first full-fledged S.P.R.E.E. (South Platte River Environmental Education) School. This significant step in the growth of the Greenway Foundation's Youth Education program has three overall goals:

- Bring students to the South Platte River on various field trips designed to teach them about the significance of the River to Denver's past and future, while simultaneously connecting these experiences to various curriculum disciplines.

- Incorporate the River into these disciplines during regular classroom lessons (i.e. – apples and oranges in a math problem might become bass and trout)

- Encourage a bonding between the students and the South Platte that will help insure its proper care and enthusiastic use in future years.

Over the last three years, the S.P.R.E.E. School concept has been created with the cooperation of McKinley-Thatcher as our pilot program. The following letters from the program's supervising teacher and four of her students (written to Executive Director Jeff Shoemaker) will give you a better understanding of why this expansion of our Youth Education program has been so successful.

Dear Mr. Shoemaker:

I would like to thank you for several things that you and your organization have done that have greatly affected me. First of all, the 2001 Friend of the River Award Dinner was absolutely wonderful. I can't tell you how much I appreciated your kindness in honoring McKinley-Thatcher as the S.P.R.E.E. School of the Year. I was overwhelmed by the recognition for our school and I'm very grateful.

The reason that this partnership over the past three years has been such a positive endeavor for my teaching is because I believe so much in your dreams and visions for the South Platte River. Being a part of helping to create the proper atmosphere and facilitating our school's decision has been extremely gratifying and worthwhile in the twilight of my career.

Another incredible delight is working with Carl Crookham (good old Mr. "C"). His passion for the River has overcome me and has been shared throughout McKinley-Thatcher School by the students, staff and parents. His spirit is so very special and I feel honored to be able to work with and learn from him. He is truly a master teacher and communicator.

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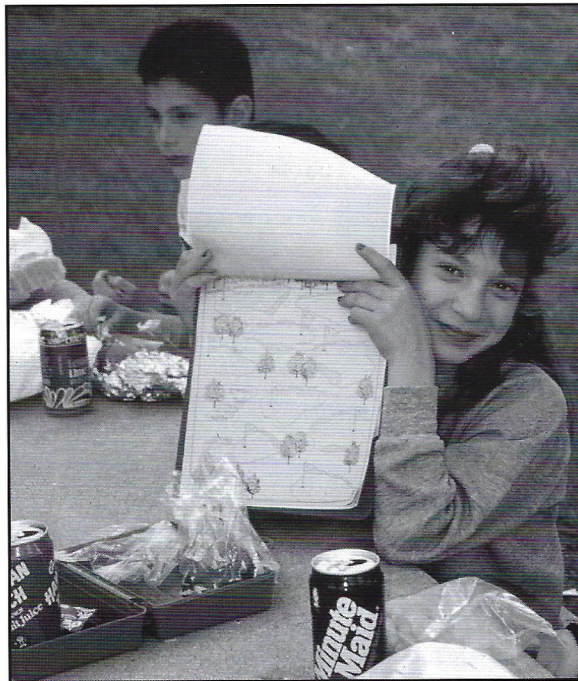


Photo courtesy of Carl Crookham

After spending the morning along the trails and parks of the South Platte River Greenway, this S.P.R.E.E. School student records all the trees and plants she spotted along the River during a well deserved lunch break.

We all know that the best way to insure the continuance of the great visions for the River into the future is by instilling the love and appreciation now into the lives of up and coming generations.

Your wonderful organization has given the students and staff at McKinley-Thatcher such valuable opportunities. As I see the students' passions for life developing, I'm proud to be a part of their lessons in learning to cherish and respect their environment. I know that the experiences that S.P.R.E.E. has made possible will be with all who have participated in the program throughout their lives.

Thanks again for investing so much into the lives of the students of the Denver Public Schools. I look forward to our partnership for many years to come.

~PAULA MONTOJO, S.P.R.E.E. School Program
Supervising Teacher, McKinley-Thatcher
Elementary School

Dear Mr. Shoemaker:

Thank you for the chance to go on field trips. I have gone on a lot of amazing trips. Mr. C has guided us on your trips. He is a terrific man! He knows so much about the South Platte River.

Some of the trips we have taken were to Confluence Park. I have learned a lot about the history of our City. Not to mention, how many things the South Platte River has to offer all of us.

One of my favorite things I learned about was the animals and plants on the River. Ms. Davenport, a friend of Mr. C., came to our school to talk about these things. She showed pictures of the South Platte when it was polluted before you cleaned it up. To sum it up, I want to thank you again for all you do for the children of Denver, especially McKinley-Thatcher students.

~EMILY CARTER

Dear Mr. Shoemaker:

Thank you for being so kind to me. It was fantastic at Confluence Park. I like learning about the South Platte River a lot. Confluence Park is my best field trip so far. I like how clean and fantastic the River is. At Confluence Park, I got to stand right where Denver began.

~STEPHANIE AUBERGLE

Dear Mr. Shoemaker:

I would like to thank you so much for all those great field trips and probably more to come. I have so many S.P.R.E.E. field trips that I love.

Some of my favorites were Confluence Park and Ruby Hill. But my number one field trip was to Strontia Springs and Waterton Canyon. I learned so much about the water source at Waterton Canyon, and at Confluence Park, too. On Cherry

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Creek, Mr. "C" pointed out the breakaway bridge. Then we walked past Mount Trashmore. I think it is so cool that they built the mountain out of the pollution from the South Platte. That was a good idea! I would also like to thank the Greenway Foundation. Thanks again!

~JACKSON EMA

(Ed. Note – when creating the sloping grass amphitheatre at Confluence Park, many tons of the trash from the area was used in the grading of the area and was coined "Mount Trashmore" by those involved at the time)

Dear Mr. Shoemaker:

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to go on so many S.P.R.E.E. field trips. I have learned so many things about the South Platte River.

I have learned where Denver began, and where Cherry Creek and the South Platte River come together. That is called a confluence. I got to see a kayaker and her dog at Confluence Park. Maybe some day I'll be able to learn how to do that.

Thanks to you and your organization, many people of Denver can now do things along the River. I'm a pretty lucky kid to learn about our wonderful South Platte River.

~ZACH ARRAMBIDE

One of the many ways that McKinley-Thatcher connects the River to the students' daily learning is through poetry. The following poems are amongst dozens that were created by the students, ranging in age from 6-11.

FOX

(Cinquain Poetry – Animals Along the South Platte)

| | | | |
|---------|----------|--|----------|
| | Fast | | talented |
| Hunting | smelling | | hearing |
| Smart | as | | people |
| | Sneaky | | |

~RURIK PETERSON – Grade 2 –
Mrs. Vasquez, Teacher

South Platte River (Acrostic Poetry)

Swift
Outstanding River
Umpteen things to do
Teamwork helps the River
Has amazing and wonderful things

People need to be responsible to the River
Legacy to the people of Denver
Always in the limelight
Teaches people about the history
Telling things about the River is fun
Extraordinary beauty

Recreational haven
Important to people
Very nice place to be
Example of Denver's commitment
Rainbow of colors

~KELLYN JOY CRAIG – Grade 3 –
Ms. Montojo, Teacher

South Platte River Tanka (Tanka Poetry)

Gleaming and flowing
It provides us with green life
It gets nothing back
For most humans do not care
That we must give back and share

~ZACH NOEL – Grade 4 –
Mrs. Mayes, Teacher

Spirit River (Free Form Poetry)

A young River Spirit is new and bright
With waves and rocks clashing about

The subtle waves play in the tributary
Of a large old River they laugh and
Play in such a peaceful vein
The clean clear water trickles along undisturbed.
You wonder if the wavelettes will never end.
You wonder if it has seen a canyon before.
You taste the water and one drop rejuvenates you
fully.

You never want to leave.
You want to become the water.
You want to be the water.
You never want to leave.
You wish you could be cradled to sleep
By the quiet conversation of the stream
Then . . . you quietly say.

The Spirit of the River is old and worn
But as it ages it moves more along with the quiet
pace of life and spirit.

~JESSE STAUBACH – Grade 5 –
Ms. Dockery, Teacher

For more information about S.P.R.E.E, contact Carl Crookham, Program Coordinator at 303.778.6558 or visit our website at www.greenwayfoundation.org.

Cultural and Community Events-2001

By Doug Ellis, Associate Director (1997-2001)



Photo courtesy of Photographic Expeditions

Hundreds of music lovers enjoy an evening of free musical entertainment each summer during the Confluence Concerts series at Denver's birthplace - Confluence Park

The Foundation launched its 4th consecutive year of Confluence Concerts, a hallmark summer concert series down on the River. The venue, the site of the Foundation's first project – Confluence Park – yielded spectacular evening views of both downtown and the Rockies on the Western skyline.

Confluence Concerts continue to showcase local artists in an intimate outdoor setting, and last year's featured performers were no exception. The performers included Jarkarta, Liquid Rythumz and the Kool Kats. Attendees were treated to a great evening of entertainment on four consecutive Thursday nights. Infinity Broadcasting, with radio stations KOOL105, MIX100 and Jammin 92.5 returned as radio sponsors along with corporate sponsors **Anheuser Busch, Heritage Bank and Kentwood City Properties**. Many thanks to these local business sponsors who, along with the **Mayor's South Platte River Commission**, help support these free community concerts.

The Foundation played host again for the Greenway Relay, a FUNd-raiser for the Greenway Preservation Trust. Teams of four competed in the August heat for the best time in a series of non-stop events: raft, rollerblade, run and... in keeping with the fun-for-all mood of the event, a scooter! In a test of physical stamina, patience and good humor, team members took in succession, the waves of the boat chutes at Confluence Park, the Greenway trail and the paths at Commons Park. The anchor leg was a furious and often wobbly 'scoot' to the finish aboard an Archie-sized scooter. Our thanks goes out to **1st Bank of Cherry Creek- University Branch** and the **Mayor's South Platte River Commission** for sponsoring this event. We also offer our appreciation to Greg Pratt of River Reach Youth Initiative for supplying the rafts, and our volunteers who helped time and monitor the event. Each team member received a medal with the trophy going to Wright Water

Engineers. The event ended on a high note with a lunch for contestants and a bluegrass concert at Confluence Park.

Where would you find countless cans, bottles, fast food wrappers and other assorted trash? If you're thinking, "Not In My BackYard!" you're right! For the 9th year, members of several organizations cooperated in a clean-up in and around the South Platte River for NIMBYFest, sponsored by **1st Bank of Cherry Creek- University Hills Branch, Denver Water, and CH2M Hill**. The parks departments of Denver, Adams, South Suburban, Englewood, Brighton and Commerce City participated with volunteers from the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club, Denver Water, UDFCD, COJ, Metro Wastewater and others in a 25-mile long effort to beautify the River. Part of American Rivers' National Rivers Cleanup Week, the Greenway Foundation is Denver's host to this great stewardship event. This year, kids from area schools along with members of the local Boy and Girl Scouts were in the vanguard of volunteers along the River from C-470 to Metro Wastewater above I-70. An estimated 10 tons of waste was hauled away courtesy of Urban Drainage & Flood Control District and BFI. The winner to the "Weird Waste Trophy" this year was South Suburban for a piece of something so unusual, well, you just had to be there. Special thanks to our food sponsors Pudge Brothers Pizza, Zangs and the Spaghetti Factory in Lodo.

(Ed. Note - Doug Ellis moved back to his native Virginia at the end of last year, where he is currently the associate director of BikeWalk Virginia, a nonprofit organization devoted to creating bike-ped friendly trails and communities. Doug served the Foundation for over four years and played a key role in the creation of our Summer Special Events, the Annual Friend of the River Award Dinner and the initiation of the Greenway Preservation Trust. Our gratitude goes out to Doug and his family and we wish him well in his future efforts.)

Cultural and Community Events-2002

By Barbara Gibson, Special Events Coordinator



Photo Courtesy of Marc Alston

Hard working volunteers like these individuals help clean up the banks and trails alongside the South Platte River Greenway each September during NIMBY Fest - the Annual South Platte River Sweep.

Confluence Concerts

One of the most unique entertainment venues in Denver, Confluence Park, will be the celebration site for the 5th Annual **Confluence Concerts**, the Greenway Foundation's free summer concerts series. In 2002, we'll be holding the event on Thursday evenings in July and August, beginning at 6:30 with an array of "Oldies" played by local Denver performers.

The schedule includes:

- July 11th - The Kool Kats
- July 18th - The Fab Four
- July 25th - Joe Friday and Just the Facts
- August 1st - Toast

Along with Media Sponsor **Kool 105** we are very pleased to have **Heritage Bank, Kentwood City Properties, Anheuser Busch**, and the **Mayor's Office of Art, Culture and Film** return as our corporate sponsors for the series, along with support from the Greenway Preservation Trust.

Come to the Confluence, wind down from the world, and get ready for the weekend. Make an evening of it with a punt ride on Cherry Creek. Food and beverages will be available (sorry no coolers allowed at the concert site), with concession proceeds benefiting the Greenway Preservation Trust. Sunsets and cool summer nights will be ready to add to the evening.

NIMBY Fest 10th Annual South Platte River Sweep

On September 28th, 2002, the Greenway Foundation will host the 10th annual South Platte River Clean-Up - "NIMBY" fest (not-in my backyard). Partnering with the Greenway Foundation are the Parks Departments from Denver, South Suburban and Adams County, the Cities of Brighton, Commerce City and Englewood and numerous participating and supporting organizations including the EPA, Rocky Mountain Canoe Club, Metro Wastewater, BFI, River Reach Youth Initiative, REI, Ocean Journey, Children's Museum, and Platte Valley Trolley.

We are pleased to have to date, **1st Bank of Cherry Creek-University Hills Branch** and the **Mayor's Office of Art, Culture and Film** as our corporate sponsors for this volunteer based event along with support from the Greenway Preservation Trust.

To pre-register, go to the Greenway Foundation website for a submission form. Fax the completed registration to your chosen participating organization at the number provided on the website. Forms will also be available at metro area REI locations and participating parks departments.

The Greenway Foundation is proud to host these special events with the help from our many partners and the local community. These events support the Foundation's mission to provide cultural, educational, and recreational programs and events along our Urban Waterways that promote the ongoing preservation and enhancement of our Greatest Natural Resources.

For more information and updates about the Greenway Foundation's upcoming Special Events for 2002, visit our website at www.greenwayfoundation.org.

Three Years and the Count Down!!!!

Mayor's South Platte River Initiative

By Bar Chadwick, Project Director



Photo courtesy of Robert Faust, USACE

The section of the River from Lakewood Gulch downstream to I-25 has been completely re-worked to improve flood control and low flow channel capacities. Numerous riparian enhancements have also been added to either bank of the South Platte as part of this cooperative effort between the C&C of Denver, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Greenway Foundation.

When I started this job in April of 1999, the River corridor between Denver's boundaries reminded me of a huge smile, but alas, with a couple teeth missing! Over these past three years, those "teeth" have begun to be filled in and what a beautiful smile is now beginning to emerge along the South Platte River!

From Northside Park to Grant Frontier Park, the restored native vegetation has thrived and multiple missing elements have been completed. The Overland Trail Corridor (Evans to Florida) is now complete and planted and is a huge improvement to the area. The wildflowers last spring were some of the most beautiful in the region and a delight to many. With a new 10' wide multi-use concrete trail and several soft surface trails leading down to seating areas along the banks of the South Platte, this stretch of the River is now accessible to all.

The Colfax Reach Project (from the Bronco Bridge to Lakewood Gulch) is complete. This was a joint project between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Urban Drainage and Flood Control, the City & County of Denver and the Greenway Foundation. The bank restoration and River re-channelization are complete. The wetlands will be planted this fall after this "new" section of the River experiences its first spring run off. If you haven't had a chance to visit this area, you are really missing something!

The Denver County Reach Project (from Lakewood Gulch to 8th Ave) is well underway. Also a joint project with the US Corps of Army Engineers, the feasibility study has been completed and is in Washington, D.C. for final approval. Funding for the Plans and Specifications phase of the project is in President Bush's budget request, and we have had great support from Colorado's Congressional

delegation to help get the necessary funds to improve this section of the River. This project will remove the Xcel Energy fabridam at 13th Ave, but still allow them to obtain the needed water via infiltration galleries to run the power plant. Meanwhile, while we patiently wait for the Federal process of approvals, we are moving forward with the right-of-way acquisition necessary for this remarkable River restoration project.

Centennial Flower Gardens (Little Raven and Speer Blvd) is under construction. Foundations are in place for the entry pavilion and the six fountains. Plants have been chosen and procured and a late August/early September 2002 opening is planned. This garden is being developed through a cooperative agreement with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Denver Botanic Gardens. It will be open daily, free of charge, and will offer a panorama of native plants, grasses, and water features.

Shoemaker Plaza at Confluence Park (15th and the South Platte River) has begun a total renovation. Although it was determined that, due to the Farmers and Gardens ditch, the pathways leading down to the plaza could not be realigned, the entire plaza itself is being rebuilt, with new lights, planters and raft and kayak access. The top of the Plaza in front of the Riverpoint Building and REI will also see a major facelift! The trolley tracks have been removed and a new pedestrian promenade will be built. For those of you Trolley lovers out there, don't worry, the trolley is still available! Its start/end will now be in front of REI.

Continued on the Next Page



Photo courtesy of Barbara Gibson

An entire new signage program is being put in place along the South Platte River Greenway in Denver, featuring mileage locaters, historic and current points of interest, and other items that add to the enjoyment of experiencing this world class amenity.

The Platte Substation at the Confluence (directly across from Shoemaker Plaza) has long been felt to be a detriment to the birthplace of Denver. The files discussing the move of the power station away from the River go back over 20 years! The real issue has always been- "where to move it"? With a great deal of tenacity from Pete West of Xcel Energy and this office, the unbelievable has finally happened. On November 28, 2001, the City and Xcel Energy entered into an agreement to move the existing station away from the Confluence. Xcel will build a new substation (Lacombe) on land the City helped them acquire from Trillium Corp. and RTD. The old substation site will be developed into the final phase of Commons Open Space. Through a Cooperative Agreement between the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Greenway Foundation, a new park will be developed on a site that many thought would never be anything but a power substation. Look for a master plan of the area to be completed by late summer with construction of the new park to possibly begin as early as January 2003.

The 19th Street Pathway is complete and operational and connects Commons to Cuernavaca Park without the fear of the tight turn space under 19th street resulting with someone ending up "head over heels" into the River.

Phase Two of the Denver Skateboard Park is scheduled to begin construction in January of 2003, after an existing building is demolished in late summer of this year.

The Transfer Station which provides power for the new Lacombe substation is under construction under the 20th street viaduct next to Cuernavaca Park. This will allow Xcel to get power from the West Bank, under the River to the new substation site.

Northside Park Phase Three (Franklin and 52nd) is once again moving forward. This project is the final phase of Northside Park, and will take approximately 100 homes and businesses out of the flood plain. A model of the improvements is being constructed at CSU, to ensure that existing water users will still have access to water, and that the project meets all its intended goals.

Historical and Directional Signage is now installed at the majority of the parks along Denver's 10.5 mile run. The historical signs depict the historic significance of the particular locale while the directional signs tell trail users where they are along the Greenway and how far it is to the next point of interest, or rest! These signage programs have been an onerous task to get completed due to the multiple users, funders and interest groups involved, but truly add another human element to our all-important natural asset, the South Platte River. If you are out and about on the Greenway trail, take a minute to read the signs. I'm sure you'll be surprised about the facts they will bestow!

As you can tell, a lot has been happening, and while there is still plenty to do, we will soon be able to have the River produce a perfect, "tooth filled" grin!

The Greenway Foundation continues to enjoy partnering with numerous public and private organizations to collectively bring about new and expanded amenities to the South Platte River and its various tributaries.

- Editor -

Overland Corridor

Riparian and Recreational Corridor Improvements Nearing Completion

By Shaun Gordon, MDG, Inc.



Photo Courtesy of Casey Davenport

Volunteers like these helped plant several dozen trees and shrubs along the Overland Corridor project this past fall.

Construction of the Overland Corridor improvements between Florida and Evans came closer to completion last fall with a coordinated volunteer planting day. Nearly half of the 170 trees planted along the Corridor were installed with the collaborative effort of the Denver Parks and Recreation "Hands On Denver" program, the South Platte River Restoration Program, Denver Water and the Greenway Foundation.

Within a few weeks following the volunteer day, the remaining landscaping efforts were completed along with an irrigation system to help insure the successful growth of the numerous trees and shrubs that have been added to this seven block section of the South Platte River Greenway.

The first year of the three-year wildflower and native grass seeding program is now underway. This program, in coordination with the City and County of Denver Parks and Recreation Department, expects to be utilized as a template for future seeding projects along the corridor and is a part of the re-establishment of native vegetation along the entire South Platte River corridor in Denver.

A 10' wide concrete trail along the entire corridor, along with several seating areas and soft surface pedestrian trails are also part of the project

The Greenway Foundation is pleased to be a partner with Denver's Parks and Recreation Dept., Great Outdoors Colorado, Denver Water, and the Overland Neighborhood Association in making this special section of the River a better setting for urban wildlife, riparian and recreational uses.

Cherry Creek Regional Trail

Arapahoe County Reach
By Shaun Gordon, MDG, Inc.

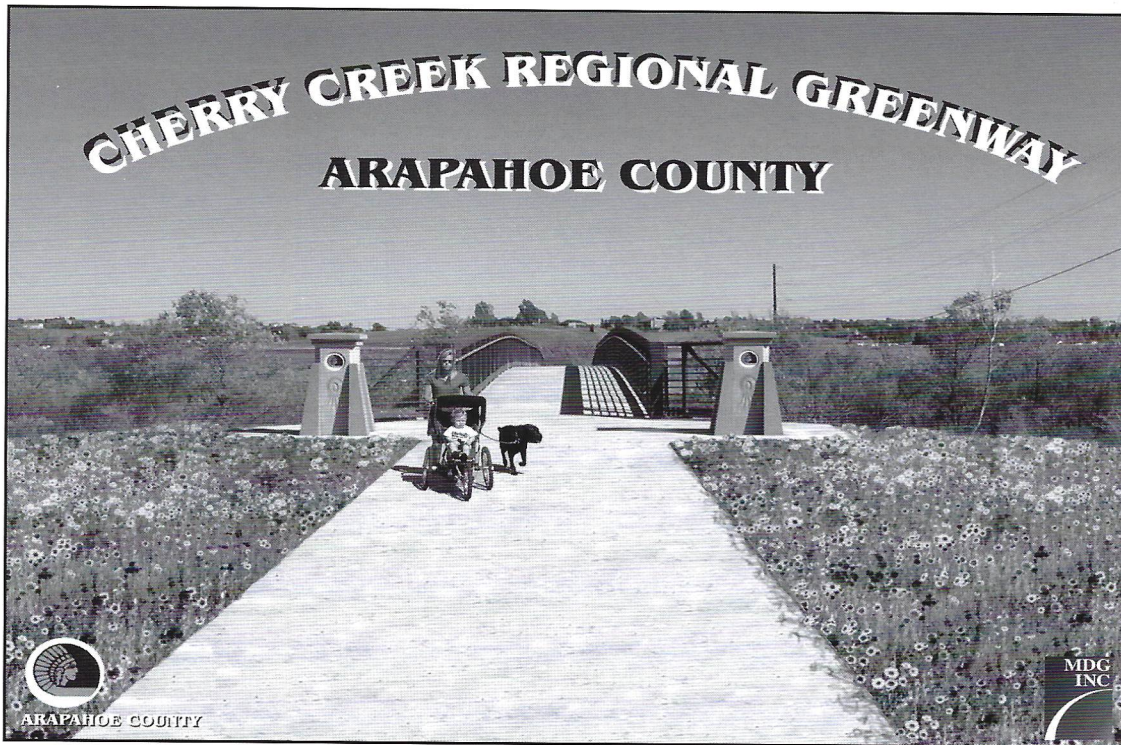


Photo Courtesy of MDG, Inc.

When completed, the Cherry Creek Regional Greenway will include over 26 miles of hard surface and equestrian trails, as well as numerous riparian areas.

The final 1.5 miles of the Cherry Creek Regional Trail within Arapahoe County is expected to be under construction this coming summer. This will bring the Regional Trail that connects the Cherry Creek State Park and Castlewood Canyon State Park to within a few miles of completion.

Year Two of the three-year wildflower and native grass seeding program for the first phase of this project, completed in 2001, will get underway this spring. Upon completion of the final phase of trail, the same three-year seeding program will be instigated.

The current residential development in the area will have front row seats to one of the best recreational amenities in the region, enjoying numerous riparian and recreational amenities along the 26 mile corridor of the Creek between Castlewood Canyon and Cherry Creek State Parks since 1986.

The Greenway Foundation continues to enjoy a successful partnership with Arapahoe County in this latest addition to this nationally recognized amenity.

The Denver Skatepark

The Best in the Nation!

By Dean Pearson
Architerra Group



Photo courtesy of the Architerra Group

The Denver Skatepark is actively used by skating enthusiasts of all ages on a daily basis.

The City and County of Denver's first public skatepark is located between 19th and 20th Streets along the South Platte River. The concrete skatepark opened on July 27, 2001 and has been exceptionally well received by the local skating community. At approximately one acre in size, this is the largest outdoor skatepark in the nation.

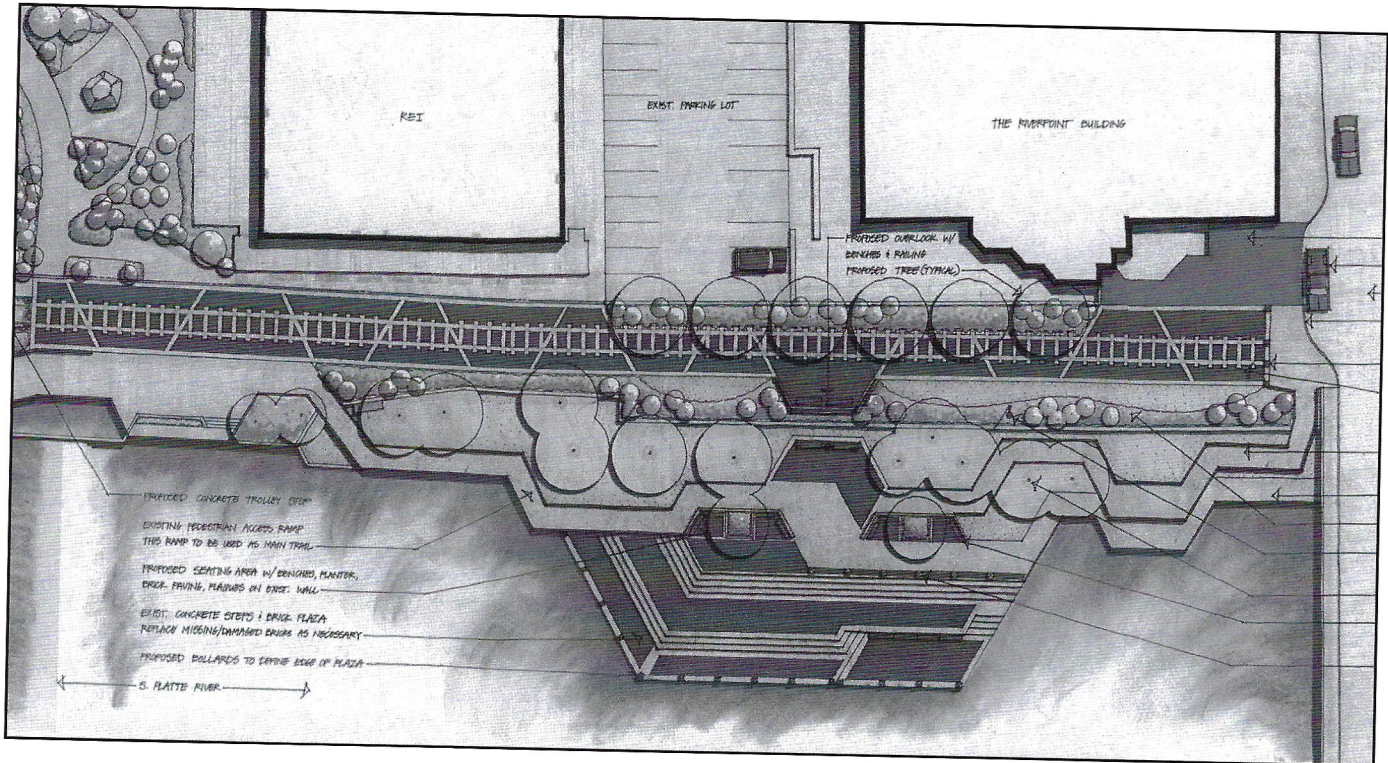
There have been several competitions and professional exhibitions held at the Denver Skatepark. ESPN was present to film the "Concrete Challenge" last fall, which was a professional competition. You can visit the site anytime and find numerous people skating the "street" elements or the "vert" bowls. The park is fully lighted and is open until 11:00 p.m. each night.

The Denver Skatepark has become a welcome addition to the South Platte River Greenway. The City has been so impressed with the success of the Denver Skatepark that they are beginning to plan for Phase Two which will be constructed in 2003, once an adjacent warehouse is demolished. Little Raven Street will be extended from Commons Park to 20th Street.

Please visit the Denver Skatepark and watch some of these incredible athletes do their thing!

Confluence Park

The Latest Enhancements
By Dean Pearson
Architerra Group



Rendering courtesy of the Architerra Group

The improvements to the Confluence Park Plaza area will be completed in time for summer of 2002.

The Greenway Foundation and the City and County of Denver have partnered once again to oversee a number of needed repairs and enhancements to Shoemaker Plaza at Confluence Park including replacing missing and broken pavers, adding upgraded planting areas and a re-configured lighting system.

In addition to the plaza renovations, a pedestrian promenade is planned for the area above the channel wall where the trolley tracks are located. Porous concrete pavers will be used to filter stormwater runoff and create an interesting paving pattern that recalls the railroad use of this corridor. With the new REI flagship store adjacent to this project, the area should have intensive pedestrian activity.

Construction started in March 2002 and should be completed by the time this newsletter is published. These needed improvements will help make the birthplace of Denver an even greater amenity.

South Platte River Greenway Receives National Recognition!

By Jeff Shoemaker, Executive Director



Photo courtesy of Doug Ellis

This past fall, Denver's South Platte River Greenway was honored with a 2001 Award for Urban Excellence from the Bruner Foundation, recognizing the environmental and recreational enhancements that have been brought to the banks of the River over the last three decades. Joining in the celebration and sharing in the award were (l to r): Scott Tucker, Executive Director of the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District; Jane Taylor, President of the James Beckwourth Mountain Club; Chips Berry, Manager of the Denver Water Dept.; Joe Shoemaker, Chairman of the Greenway Foundation; Simeon Bruner, President of the Bruner Foundation and Andrew Wallach representing Mayor Wellington Webb.

Over the course of the last year, the South Platte River Greenway has once again been recognized as one of the premier urban waterways in the nation.

Last autumn, the Bruner Foundation recognized the **South Platte River Greenway** as one of the five 2001 winners of a **Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence**. Based in Cambridge, MA, the Bruner Foundation's award is one of America's most prestigious awards for urban places and the only such competition focusing on the "complex process of urban placemaking". Selected from over 100 entries submitted by public and private sector organizations throughout the United States, the South Platte River Greenway was recognized for its "urban parks and open spaces along the River that now serve as a model for river reclamation across the country, and which boasts an award winning outdoor education program which brings thousands of young people to the River to teach their classmates about the River's history". For more information about this prestigious award, check out the Bruner Foundation's website at www.brunerfoundation.org.

More recently, in the March, 2002 edition of *Sunset Magazine* the **South Platte River Greenway** was proclaimed "**The West's Best Riverfront**", recognizing the remarkable transformation of the River from an ignored eyesore into a "network of pathways connecting a lovely greenway of parks. Perhaps the crown jewel is Confluence Park, where Cherry Creek flows into the South Platte." To read more about this well deserved award, check out *Sunset Magazine's* website at www.sunset.com.

The Greenway Foundation is pleased that Denver's Greatest Natural Resource continues to gain recognition as one of the amenities that makes our community such a marvelous place in which to reside.

Support The Greenway Preservation Trust!

Ensuring The River's Future

The Greenway Preservation Trust is a permanent endowment to protect and enhance the South Platte River, implement recreational and riparian improvements, provide youth education and youth employment programs, and sponsor free family oriented special events. Our goal is to raise \$5 million for the corpus of the Trust by 2005.

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

Individual

Your help is crucial in establishing a permanent endowment for the South Platte River and its tributaries. Help us preserve and enhance Denver's Greatest Natural Resource and ensure that the programs and events that help accomplish this goal 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, 1550 Platte Street, Suite C, Denver, Colorado 80202. Your contribution is tax deductible. Thank you.

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

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 bronze plaque placed along the River at Confluence Park. 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 \$2.7 million in commitments.

With your help, we can reach our goal of \$3 Million by the end of 2002!

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 1st

- Normal Hours of Operation-4:00 pm-Dusk (Sundays-1:00pm-6:00pm)
- 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 or reserve a ride online at www.greenwayfoundation.org.

CONFLUENCE CONCERTS

- Confluence Park
- All concerts begin at 6:30pm and conclude at 8:00pm
- July 11.....The Kool Kats
- July 18.....The Fab Four
- July 25.....Joe Friday and Just Facts
- August 1.....Toast

•PUNT THE CREEK CONCESSION CLOSSES

Sunday, August 25th

NIMBY FEST.....Sat., Sept. 28th

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

FRIEND OF THE RIVER AWARD DINNER

.....Thursday, November 21st, 6:00 pm at Mile High Station

- Volunteers for our special events are always needed. If interested, call 303.455.7109 x2 and leave your name and phone number; or check out our website at www.greenwayfoundation.org.

Preservation Trust

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