In late 1998, the Greenway Foundation Board of Directors and the newly formed Greenway Preservation Trust Steering Committee met at Cableland, former home of cable television magnate Bill Daniels, to announce an exciting endeavor: the creation of an endowment for the South Platte River Greenway.

Armed with a $1 Million challenge grant from Mr. Daniels, a campaign was launched to establish a $5 Million Endowment to allow for the ongoing protection and enhancement of the River and its tributaries. Creating such an endowment would allow for a permanent funding base to support the Greenway Foundation’s programs and projects known as “The Four E’s”:

- Youth Education
- Youth Employment
- Cultural and Community Events
- Ongoing Enhancements

Over the last six years, numerous individuals, corporations and other organizations have realized the importance of providing the same security to Denver’s Greatest Natural Resource as is provided to our City’s other cultural institutions. This collective generosity has resulted in the goal of a $5 Million Endowment not only being met, but exceeded. When all gifts, pledges and bequests are fully realized, the Greenway Preservation Trust will be valued at over $6.5 Million!!

In 2005 alone, over $200,000 of the Foundation’s operating budget will herald from the earnings of the Trust. These funds will play a major role in providing the programs and projects described within the pages of this newsletter. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Steering Committee, we offer our collective appreciation and gratitude to all those who made this critical campaign such a success!
Each November, the Greenway Foundation holds its annual Friend of the River Award Dinner, which provides support for the Greenway Preservation Trust while honoring an individual or organization for their longstanding support to the South Platte River Greenway. In 2004, we had the pleasure to honor Denver Water with this special award. We also had the pleasure of Mayor John Hickenlooper joining us for the evening as the evening’s keynote speaker.

With the generous support from our title sponsor, Camp, Dresser, and McKee, and over 270 guests, we were able to net over $25,000 for the Greenway Preservation Trust. These funds will help support our four “E’s”: Youth Education, Youth Employment, Free Cultural Events, and Enhancements. Each of these endeavors are described within this newsletter.

Denver Water was recognized for their longstanding support of aquatic and riparian enhancements along the South Platte River Greenway in their mission to supply water to the Denver Metro region. The ongoing and successful partnership between Denver Water and the Greenway Foundation continues to allow for increased enhancements and efficiencies along this valuable resource. Accepting the Award for Denver Water were Board Member Denise Maes and Manager Chips Barry.

In addition to celebrating our Friend of the River Award winner, this fun-filled evening also recognized the 2004 S.P.R.E.E. School of the Year – Fairview Elementary. Fairview is the closest school to the River within D.P.S. and has embraced the River into its working curriculum at all grade levels. Most recently, Fairview was a participant in Denver’s Mile High – Mile Long Mural Project which was sponsored in part by the Greenway Foundation. The students at Fairview don’t just attend school near the South Platte, they live alongside it as well and therefore fully and personally understand the need and the value of having our River continue to improve in terms of ecology, recreation and safety. The Award was accepted by Fairview’s principal, Norma Giron and S.P.R.E.E. lead teacher, Don Diehl. Also present at the dinner from Fairview Elementary were faculty members Keith Grace, Amy Kipper, Brooke Lundgren, Shaley Olson and Sarah Smith.

The Friend of the River Award Dinner has been a key component in the Greenway Foundation’s effort to achieve the goals of the Preservation Trust campaign. We celebrate the Award Winners over the last six years, highlighted within our website, and offer our gratitude to all those individuals, companies and organizations who made the event a success each and every year.
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What a difference a decade can make. Ten years ago this summer, the first punt in Colorado history was floated out onto a finicky flood channel that marked the birthplace of Denver. Armed only with a dream and an uncanny vision for what “could be”, the Greenway Foundation attempted to do what no one had been able to do in Denver’s history – make Cherry Creek boatable. The first punting patrons set out on a shaky boat being navigated through a questionable part of Lower Downtown, with the ride lasting a “whopping” fifteen minutes.

This June, Venice on the Creek will lower its 6-boat armada into the waters of one of the hottest urban corridors in the Country. The ride has been extended from a range of 30 minutes for a romantic candle-lit night ride, to 75 minutes for the full four-lock round trip day ride. The scenery has changed from rundown warehouses to loft homes, from abandoned buildings to businesses, from train yards to trails, and from utility sub stations to parks.

Venice on the Creek has high hopes for the 2005 summer following our busiest season ever last summer. With many of our guides returning for another year, our crew has over 40 collective summers of combined experience punting through the heart of Denver. This year more people will enjoy a relaxing cruise down the Cherry Creek than ever before, and they are in good hands.

The last two summers have shown that Venice on the Creek’s nighttime candlelight rides are very popular, and this summer there will be more boats operating nightly to accommodate the high demand. Last year, reservations for these intimate rides were filling up a week ahead of time. We will still offer our regular candlelight ride and our extended candlelight ride for those who just can’t get enough. Candlelight rides start at 8:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

In addition to our normal business hours, Venice on the Creek is open for private charters. With a two-boat minimum, guests can reserve a boating adventure any day of the week but Monday (when we are closed).

Groups can also pick their own time on any of these days and get special group pricing. Group reservations are perfect for any size or kind of group or party. You can even reserve a private candlelight ride.

Ten years ago this summer, Venice on the Creek’s first punt took to the water with a dream of what Denver might someday be. This summer as this same punt once again starts its voyage down the Cherry Creek, we invite you to come and join us as we marvel at what Denver has become. What a difference a decade can make!

Venice on the Creek is open June through August. Punts operate between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday with candlelight rides beginning at 8:30 p.m. On Sunday, punts operate between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Group reservations for 12 or more can also be accommodated Tuesday–Thursday. Please call ahead to make your reservation as we often fill up. If you are interested in booking a group ride or private charter please call for pricing and availability. You can reach us on the web at www.greenwayfoundation.org, by e-mail at punts@greenwayfoundation.org, or by phone at (303) 893-0750.

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Venice On The Creek

Ten Years and Going Strong
By Jolon Clark, Manager, Venice On The Creek

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Venice On The Creek

KeyBank LA PIAZZA DELL’ARTE
ON LARIMER SQUARE
Please Join Venice on the Creek and Larimer Arts Association for the LA PIAZZA DELL’ARTE on June 18th and 19th, 2005!

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LA PIAZZA DELL’ARTE
ON LARIMER SQUARE
Please Join Venice on the Creek and Larimer Arts Association for the LA PIAZZA DELL’ARTE on June 18th and 19th, 2005!
2004 witnessed an exciting and successful summer for the Greenway Foundation’s Special Events.

Every Thursday in July, hundreds of members of the community gathered along the River at Denver’s birthplace at Confluence Park for the ever popular Confluence Concerts Series. September welcomed back the 12th Annual South Platte Riversweep, bringing volunteers down to the River to help keep Denver’s Greatest Natural Resource beautiful. With the generous help from sponsors, sometimes Mother Nature, and many participants, we have witnessed these free community events thrive and grow, bringing awareness to this great part of Denver.

Confluence Concerts

This signature event of the Greenway Foundation continues to draw a growing audience to enjoy the warm summer nights along the South Platte River and is becoming a favorite tradition to those who attend. All who come enjoy the relaxing environment of Confluence Park, the South Platte River, and Cherry Creek.

Changing tradition from oldies to smooth jazz in 2004 brought the sounds of Pan Jumbies, Dotsero, Nelson Rangell, and Groove Society down to the River. Taking on this new format with a new radio sponsor, Smooth Jazz 104.3 of Jefferson Pilot Communications, allowed the biggest crowds at Confluence Park to date.

This great, FREE cultural event series would not be possible without the generous support from a number of corporate sponsors. Along with media sponsor, Smooth Jazz 104.3, Heritage Bank, Anheuser-Busch, SCFD, Denver’s Parks and Recreation Department, and Riverfront Park Community Foundation returned as donating sponsors for the series, along with support from the Greenway Preservation Trust.

With the return of the sponsors mentioned within this article, as well as the newest sponsor, Pepsi Cola, Confluence Concerts will, once again, be the place to be every Thursday evening in July in 2005! Come and partake in this fun community event that brings local residents, families, music lovers, joggers, bikers, kayakers and many others to hear the talents of local artists. Get to Confluence Park early and add to the enjoyment of the evening with a ride on Venice on the Creek before the concert or after the show for evening romance on our candlelight rides. Food and beverages will be available, so come thirsty and hungry. No coolers please.

Hope to see you at Confluence Park this July!

Please Join us on Thursdays in July 2005 where you will enjoy talents of:

• July 7th ~ Dotsero
• July 14th ~ Nelson Rangell
• July 21st ~ Lisa Bell
• July 28th ~ Darren Rahn

All concerts begin at 6:30p.m. and continue until 8:00p.m.

Continued on the Next Page
River Flicks

This coming summer, the Greenway Foundation is excited to announce a new multi-evening family-focused event which will be known as **RIVER FLICKS**.

River Flicks will showcase quality family films in an intimate outdoor setting at Confluence Park every Wednesday evening in August with the sunset, riverfront, and mountain skyline as the backdrop. This community outdoor film series is FREE and open to the public, featuring festival style seating and fun family films and is the newest Special Event Series to be produced by the Greenway Foundation.

The Title Sponsor for River Flicks, **Camp Dresser and McKee** and media sponsor, **Smooth Jazz 104.3** will help support, promote and launch this newest event series. In addition, **Denver's Park and Recreation Department, Anheuser-Busch, 1st Bank-University Hills Branch, Riverfront Park Community Foundation, SCFD, and Pepsi Cola** are “on board” as donating sponsors for the series, along with support from the **Greenway Preservation Trust**.

Movies will begin at dusk and conclude by 10:00pm. After weeks of online voting with our media sponsor, **Smooth Jazz 104.3**, the public have cast their votes, and the movies that will be viewed are:

- **August 3rd** – E.T. The Extraterrestrial
- **August 10th** – Princess Bride
- **August 17th** – Raiders of the Lost Ark
- **August 24th** – Shrek

**River Flicks** will be the place to be Wednesday evenings in August, where we will showcase fun, family films. Popcorn, candy, and beverages will be available. No coolers please.

Please Join us on Wednesdays in August 2005 where you will enjoy our nightly movie features of:

- **August 3rd** – E.T. The Extraterrestrial
- **August 10th** – Princess Bride
- **August 17th** – Raiders of the Lost Ark
- **August 24th** – Shrek

All movies begin at sunset.

**Continued on the Next Page**
South Platte RiverSweep

With glorious weather, many volunteers and the support of several corporate partnerships, the 2004 South Platte RiverSweep was a huge success. Over 200 volunteers were able to collect over 2,200 lbs. of trash, debris, and "hidden treasures" in and along the South Platte River and Cherry Creek.

This was the event's 12th year, made possible due to the help and support from numerous sponsors and partner organizations. Sponsors included: Smooth Jazz 104.3, 1st Bank-University Hills Branch, Jones Lang Lasalle, Riverfront Park Community Foundation, Republic Financial Corporation, the Mayor's Office of Art, Culture and Film, SCFD, Denver's Parks and Recreation Dept., and Pepsi Cola. Partners organizations allowing this event to continue include: Hands on Denver, REI Flagship Store, Trout Unlimited, River Reach Youth Initiative, National Public Lands Day and the Platte Valley Trolley, BFI and Urban Drainage Flood Control District helped haul away all the trash and debris.

The day ended with a volunteer luncheon that included food and beverage from donors Starbucks, Einstein Bagels, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Odwalla Juice, Pudge Brothers Pizza, Zang's Brewery, Chipotle, and Coca-Cola.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, to download the volunteer waiver form, and any information about the Greenway Foundation's upcoming Special Events for 2005, visit our website at www.greenwayfoundation.org.
This has been an exciting year for S.P.R.E.E., and it’s just beginning! The Greenway Foundation’s youth education program is growing and building on a solid foundation educating students for 30 years about the South Platte River. With many new projects taking shape, (like a brand new 5th grade trip to the River and a brand new mascot for the program) it is a great time to be a part of S.P.R.E.E.

The new 5th grade trip may be the most exciting addition to the S.P.R.E.E. line-up. The new trip takes 5th graders to Overland Pond Park along the South Platte River, and offers a very fun and engaging capstone trip to the River for 5th graders before they move on to middle school. To start out the trip, one student is dressed up as a Beaver to talk about the different adaptations that the beaver has to help it live how it does. While their classmate is putting on a fur coat, goggles, flippers and even a set of big front teeth as the resident beaver, the other students pass around a skull, track, and scat replica to get a closer look at this river animal.

“What I liked about the S.P.R.E.E. trip was: the boat trip we took on the pond, when Josh had to put on the beaver costume and we learned about beavers, going in the pond to find different animals.” – Jinea, 5th Grade

After that, “it’s off” to be scientists and compare the pond water to tap water. The students perform eight different scientific tests and then compare the results to see what is different and what is the same. They then have to decide how healthy the pond is and if they expect to find anything living in the pond.
Fairview students and their teacher Don Diehl hold up their mural before attaching it to the world's longest mural during an Earth Day celebration.

These are just a few of the ways that S.P.R.E.E. has been growing, and there is a lot more on the horizon. Each year more and more kids are connecting with Denver's most valuable resource and making a personal investment in taking care of our River through the S.P.R.E.E. program.

S.P.R.E.E.'s New Mascot

"Today I went to an awesome field trip. My class was to learn about the environment in the pond. The part I thought was interesting was the water experiments." – Blake, 5th Grade

After lunch the students switch from scientist to explorer. They search the pond and surrounding area for signs of animals, and the animals themselves. They even get to go out on the pond in an inflatable raft to get a closer look and examine other qualities of the pond, including its depth at different locations.

"Today my class and I went to Overland Pond. While we were there, we became explorers and searched for pond life. My team and I found a baby leech, a grasshopper, a cricket, two water bugs, and a hexigena." – Brennen, 5th Grade

Another exciting project for S.P.R.E.E. this past year was the development of a kid friendly "mascot" for the program. The new S.P.R.E.E. beaver will be appearing everywhere from our website, to curriculum packets, to stickers that the kids get at the end of their field trip.

Each time I see a Kindergartener clutching tight to the treasure of a fresh water clam shell that he just found, a 1st grader laugh uncontrollably after rolling down a hill to reenact Colorado's volcanic past, a 2nd grader raise her arms in triumph after making a giant splash after throwing a rock into the River, a 3rd grader running

**Continued on the Next Page**
around to show all of her friends the huge fish she just spotted from high above the River, a 4th grader bag for one more minute standing in the River to find gold, a 5th grader squeal with delight having spotted a real leech, or an entire class of children hanging on one extra second to wave goodbye to the South Platte River, I know the River will be taken care of for years to come. The great part about my job is that I get to see these things every single day.

For Fairview Elementary School, the South Platte River is a Neighbor

Fairview Elementary was this year’s “S.P.R.E.E. School of the Year” award recipient. Led by 5th grade teacher Don Diehl and Principal Norma Giron’s excitement about the River and S.P.R.E.E., Fairview has fully embraced the S.P.R.E.E. school concept and has made the River an integral part of their students’ educational process. This year Mr. Diehl’s 5th graders even took on responsibility for painting a panel of the world’s longest mural for peace and harmony on the earth and with the environment. Their mural was bordered with pictures of South Platte River animals, and showed a pristine vision of the River flowing free of trash and pollution. Their theme was “Keeping the River Clean,” and this is what they had to say about their project.

“We live by the South Platte River in Denver, Colorado. We live in the Sun Valley Projects and we are 5th graders at Fairview Elementary School. Our school participates in an environmental education program called S.P.R.E.E.. Students at our school learn about the River, its history and how we can change its future. We have learned that we have a choice of helping to keep the River clean or damaging this important natural resource that flows through our neighborhood. We have learned that the River was here long before we were, so it is important to make sure it stays around a lot longer.

It is important on Earth Day to remember how much we can either help or hurt the earth. It is a choice we make. We have chosen to try help, rather than hurt!

We have learned why it is so important to keep the River clean. If we allow the River to stay dirty and polluted like it used to be, then the quality of our neighborhood goes down! If the River is clean and safe, then we can play along the River’s edge and watch people use the River for positive reasons: (kayaking, running, fishing, and biking). We can fish and catch crawdads and watch lots of animals that live along the River and remember how long it has been flowing. Native Americans used to live and play by the River, too.

All of that is worth saving, don’t you think? That’s why we painted our mural about “Keeping the River Clean.”

Representatives from Mr. Diehl’s class tied their mural to two miles of environmental murals during an Earth Day celebration at Barnum Park. The mural will be traveling across the world and end in a display of over 12 miles of mural in Egypt next to the pyramids in 2010.

Fairview Principal Norma Giron is committed to providing a top quality education to her students at Fairview, and she thinks that being a S.P.R.E.E. school helps her students in this:

“What a great thing it is to see students go from one grade level to the next, knowing that what they learned about the South Platte River will be built upon the following year.”

5th Grade teacher Don Diehl has spearheaded his school’s involvement in the S.P.R.E.E. program, and he is always excited to get his students out of the classroom and down to the River:

“Fairview Elementary School is proud to be recognized as the S.P.R.E.E. school of the year. We are proud that our little school, which sits in the middle of the Sun Valley projects near Invesco Field, is being recognized for helping educate Denver Youth about the past, the present, and the many possible futures of the River.

Through the help of S.P.R.E.E., our students have rolled down grassy hills at Commons Park, but only after learning about Native American History that surrounds the River. Our students have ridden the trolley, which now is an attraction for the Children’s Museum, but used to be a means of transportation along the banks of the South Platte and Lakewood Gulch. Our students have stood in the waters of the South Platte and panned for gold, just as the first European settlers did more than 100 years ago.

Thank you S.P.R.E.E. and the Greenway Foundation for helping us teach Denver’s future leaders about the importance of restoring waterways to health...and in so doing, inspiring young students to always be people who make a difference in the world. Thank you!”
Downtown Children’s Playground Moves Forward

By Carol Ann and Paul Rothman
Co-Chairs, Playground Project, Downtown Children’s Coalition

View of the proposed Downtown Children’s Playground from the picnic shelter.

Through a collective effort spearheaded by the Lower Downtown Neighborhood Association and the Greenway Foundation and with the support of Mayor Hickenlooper, Councilwoman Judy Montero and Denver’s Department of Parks and Recreation, the Downtown Children’s Playground is well on its way!

The future playground will be situated on city-owned property located between Speer Boulevard, Cherry Creek, Wewatta Street and the parking lot at the end of 14th Street. The city has agreed to maintain the playground if money can be raised to build and equip it.

Denver’s downtown is a hub of activity where a variety of people work, live and play. It is also a center for local visitors and world-traveling tourists. The leisure time options for adults are endless: restaurants, shopping, cultural and sporting events and the legendary Colorado outdoors. Although children enjoy many adult activities, they thrive in an outdoor setting where they can run, climb and simply be kids. Those opportunities are limited in Denver because there is no children’s playground easily accessible to downtown. A number of downtown groups would like to change that.

The response to date has been gratifying, but we still need more. Those of us who work, play and live in Denver like to believe that it offers something for everyone. It is not only children of downtown families who will benefit from the proposed playground. Families attending events at the Pepsi Center will be able to stop at the playground to give their young children a chance to let off energy. Other families biking along Cherry Creek will be able to make the playground a destination and those attending the Buskerfest, Cinco de Mayo or other downtown festivals will be able to add the playground to their weekend excursion.

Please join The Lower Downtown Neighborhood Association, The Greenway Foundation, and The Downtown Children’s Playground Coalition in supporting this effort. Contributions should be made payable to the Greenway Foundation/Playground Fund. These contributions are tax deductible. In addition, contributions of $250 or more qualify for a 25% state income tax credit.

WE SUPPORT THE DOWNTOWN CHILDREN’S PLAYGROUND

Enclosed is a check payable to The Greenway Foundation/Downtown Children’s Playground in the amount of ____________________.

Name______________________________

Address______________________________

Please mail to:
Downtown Children’s Playground Coalition
P.O. Box 695
Denver, CO 80201-0695
Confluence Park Improvements Continue!

By Dean Pearson, The Architerra Group

The new park space at Confluence Park completes the reclamation of the Birthplace of Denver.

The former Xcel Energy Substation on 15th Street has been transformed into an additional one acre of park space at Confluence Park. The first phase of the project was completed last September. Improvements include a sculpture plaza along 15th Street, a mid level terrace and a lower lawn area adjacent to the River. Removal of the substation walls and creating terraces down to the River’s edge opens up and completes the entire Confluence Park site. Sources of funding for the project include: The City and County of Denver, Denver Water, Great Outdoors Colorado, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, Gates Family Foundation, the Neusteter family, Quick Foundation, Riverfront Park Community Foundation and numerous individual and corporate donors.

Neusteter Plaza, adjacent to 15th St. includes three shade structures, carved granite blocks for seating, and three granite play structures in the shapes of a leaf, duck and fish. Andy Dufford, owner of Chevo Studios, created all the structures in the Plaza. He worked with local S.P.R.E.E. School students to come up with patterns derived from the River, which were then incorporated into the shade structures.

The mid level terrace will have colorful tables with umbrellas and granite paving. Lower than Neusteter Plaza, the mid level terrace provides a quiet place to have lunch or coffee while looking out over the confluence of Cherry Creek and the South Platte River. These improvements are planned for 2006.

In addition, this past April, volunteers from ERO Resources, the Architerra Group and members of the Greenway Foundation board and staff installed 250 willow stakes along the River’s edge to help stabilize the bank.

The Greenway Foundation initially created Confluence Park, the birthplace of Denver, in 1975. The new one-acre addition to the Park is open for public use and is scheduled for final completion in 2006. It took thirty years but the full vision of the Greenway Foundation for Confluence Park is finally being realized!
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.

Please assist us in our efforts to preserve and enhance Denver’s Greatest Natural Resource and ensure that the programs and events that accomplish this goal receive funding well beyond our lifetime.

YES! I WANT TO DONATE TO THE GREENWAY PRESERVATION TRUST:

☐ $50 Friend of the River  ☐ $75 Advocate  ☐ $100 Family
☐ $250 Associate  ☐ $500 Sustainer  ☐ $1,000 Patron
☐ $5,000 Benefactor  ☐ $10,000 Partner

☐ I would like to make a pledge over the next ___ years totaling $___________.
My pledge will be paid in full by the end of 20__.

☐ Please contact me about how I can include the Greenway Preservation Trust in my estate planning.

☐ Check here if your employer will match your contribution.

Please Make Your Check Payable To:

The Greenway Preservation Trust
1040 S. Gaylord St., Suite 201
Denver, CO 80209

Your contribution is fully tax-deductible. For contributions of $250 or more, receive an additional 25% tax incentive through the Colorado Enterprise Zone Program.

Name ____________________________________________

Address __________________________________________

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

VENICE ON THE CREEK CONCESSION OPENS
Friday, June 3rd
• Normal Hours of Operation-5:00 pm-10:00 p.m.
• Candlelight rides start at 8:30 p.m.
• Sunday 3:00 pm - 6:00 p.m.
• Closed Monday
• Open Tuesday-Sunday for group reservations
• Please call for pricing and availability
• Please call ahead and make a reservation as we do fill up.
• For information or reservations call 303-893-0750 or check us out online at
  www.greenwayfoundation.org.

CONFLUENCE CONCERTS
• Confluence Park
• All concerts begin at 6:30 pm and conclude at 8:00 pm
  • July 7......................... Dotsero
  • July 14....................... Nelson Rangell
  • July 21....................... Lisa Bell
  • July 28....................... Darren Rahn

RIVER FLICKS
• Confluence Park
• All movies begin at sunset.
  • August 3...................... E.T. The Extraterrestrial
  • August 10.................... Princess Bride
  • August 17.................... Raiders of the Lost Ark
  • August 24.................... Shrek

VENICE ON THE CREEK CONCESSION CLOSES
Sunday, August 29th

SOUTH PLATTE RIVERSWEEP.............. Sat., Sept. 24th
• Fishback Landing Park – adjacent to Colorado’s Ocean Journey
  • 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
• Volunteers for our special events are always needed. If interested, call
  303.358.6696 and leave your name and phone number; or check out our website
  at www.greenwayfoundation.org.