



Volume 26, Summer 2007



CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSES ON DOWNTOWN CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

By Paul and Carol Ann Rothman
- LoDoNA



Photo/ Rendering Courtesy The Architerra Group

The long awaited Downtown Children's Playground is located across Speer Blvd. from the Pepsi Center.

After years of planning and ongoing fund raising, the long standing commitment of the Greenway Foundation and the Lower Downtown Neighborhood Association to have a children's playground built in Lodo has borne fruit. On December 12, 2006 a groundbreaking ceremony was held at the playground

site at the corner of Speer Boulevard and Wewatta Street. Featured speakers were Councilwoman Judy Montero, Kim Bailey of Denver Parks and Recreation, Aimee Wesley of Great Outdoors Colorado, Jeff Shoemaker of the Greenway Foundation, and Carol Ann Rothman representing LoDoNA. Each

speaker expressed pleasure that construction would soon begin and each thanked those who had helped to make it possible. Dean Pearson of the Architerra Group and Andy Dufford of Chevo Studios were singled out for their creative design work. All present acknowledged that without the \$80,000 of support

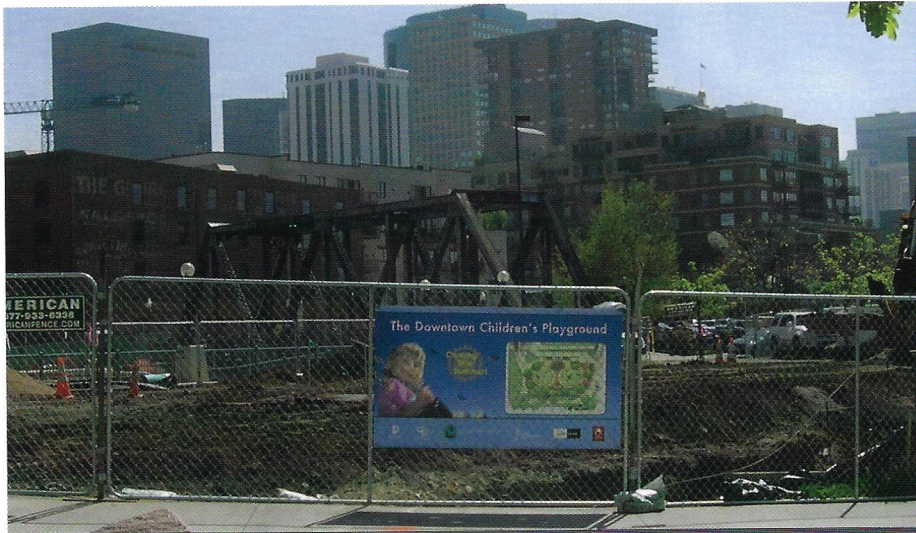
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THE GREENWAY FOUNDATION
Preserving Metro Denver's Urban Waterways Since 1974

**"A RIVER IS MORE THAN AN AMENITY,
IT IS A TREASURE."**

JUSTICE WM. O DOUGLAS



Photo/ Rendering Courtesy The Architerra Group

Construction of the Phase One Improvements will be completed by June 30, 2007

from over 135 residents and businesses in the LoDo community, the larger contributions which have made Phase One construction possible would not have been forthcoming. With major support from the Greenway Foundation, the Opus Foundation, the City and County of Denver, and a Great Outdoors Colorado grant, over \$500,000 is now available for design and construction.

When Phase One opens to the public this summer, it will contain all of the playground equipment, colored concrete and rubberized surfacing, retaining walls and railings, landscaping, site furniture and an informal sand play area. Although Denver's severe winter caused delays in the onset of construction, the site is now filled with workers, all

making every effort to meet the Phase One completion date of June 30th.

Phase Two amenities will be added as soon as funding is in place. Included will be the formalized sand play area with shade canopy, twin shade structures and seating overlooking Cherry Creek, a water tower, water splash table, picnic structure, additional furniture and entry gates.

Needless to say, whatever each of us can do to help in financing Phase Two construction will accelerate the completion date. We are fortunate that in our efforts to secure financing for Phase Two, we have strong commitments of support from both the City and the Greenway Foundation.

As we think back over the many years of work and the financial support of so many that have

made this playground possible, our thoughts turn back to the groundbreaking ceremony. As soon as the first shovel of sand had been turned, the youngest person in attendance, three year old Fuxian Hope, jumped into the sand and began to play. To see the joy in her face left little doubt in our minds that our efforts will surely bring much joy to our children and grandchildren and to theirs as well.

Questions? Call Paul or Carol Ann Rothman 303-298-0180 (parothman@yahoo.com; crothman@mac.com) Checks should be made payable to the Greenway Foundation/ Playground Fund and mailed to Downtown Children's Coalition, P. O. Box 695, Denver, CO 80201-0695. Contributions are tax deductible and those of \$250 or more qualify for a 25% state income tax credit.

VENICE ON THE CREEK

DAYTIME FUN, EVENING ROMANCE

By Brent Applebaum-Crew Manager

Venice on the Creek is entering its eleventh year of providing one of our Country's most unique tourism attractions. Heading into the summer of 2007, this increasingly popular amenity will enjoy its busiest season yet!

In response to the expected higher use, we have updated the way in which we will manage reservations by allowing our customers to view boat availabilities and confirm reservations online. As requests for boat rides increase each summer, this online scheduling will allow us to successfully meet the demand.

Returning in 2007 will be the option of booking a reservation by "bench" or by "boat". Bench seats provide our customers an exciting experience which includes meeting locals and/or visiting tourists while traveling down the 10 block section of Cherry Creek in Historic LoDo in one of the only known punts in the United States. Customers preferring the more intimate experience of a private boat ride have the option of reserving their own punt which

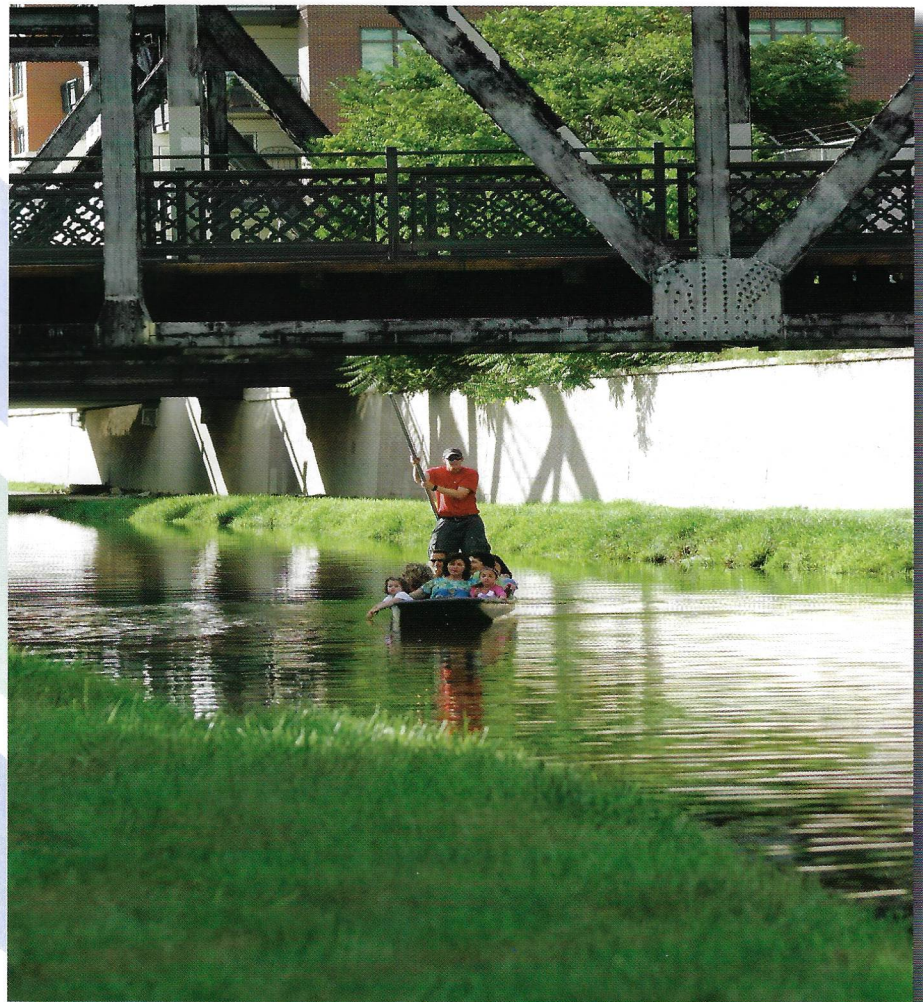


Photo Courtesy of digpicphoto.com

can seat up to 6 friends or family members.

Our popular candlelight rides often require a two week advance reservation. Last year the candlelight rides were the hit of the season. We

expect to see that continue, and customers will enjoy a seasoned crew who will continue to provide the high quality of service our customers have come to expect.

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Photo Courtesy of DigPicPhoto.com

The romance of an Evening Candlelight ride on Venice on the Creek.

Another change you will see with Venice on the Creek for 2007 is our website. It has been updated along with the entire Greenway Foundation website to provide easier web viewing. Our website includes our hours of operation and the most common questions asked about Venice on the Creek. It will also have a direct link to our new online calendar showing ride availability and reservations.

Along with the members of the crew that are returning from previous summers, we continue to recruit new employees based on what we estimate will be an even busier season than last year. Details about employment opportunities with Venice on the Creek can be also found on our website.

We look forward to what we expect will be our most successful summer ever. We know our staff will be up to the

challenge of making it a fun and exciting season and look forward to seeing all of you when you come "down to the Creek" to join us on Venice on the Creek!

Please check out the Venice on the Creek website at:
www.veniceonthecreek.com

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION CONTINUES TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE!

By Jolon Clark-SPREE Program Director



Photo Courtesy of Jolon Clark

Students from SPREE schools across Denver come together at Confluence Park to celebrate the river.

SPREE'S seasonal employee program is growing, allowing us to lower our student to teacher ratio to all time lows, and bring more students and teachers to the South Platte River for SPREE excursions than ever before. In addition to our on-River presence, we have put together the first wave of in-class worksheets and curriculum ideas to help bring the South Platte into the classroom. We also added our 7th SPREE school and enjoyed the 2nd Annual End of Year SPREE Celebration. It was another exciting year for SPREE!

In the fall semester of 2005-2006 school year, we initiated the SPREE Intern program. This was a historic moment for SPREE because it marked the first time that there had ever been more than one SPREE teacher for any of our excursions. We have continued to build and grow this important expansion of the program, and for the spring 2007 semester we benefited from four Interns assisting and working with the SPREE Program Director. This has allowed us to improve the experience for each SPREE student in a number of ways. This increase in staff has allowed us to split the students into smaller groups so that

their experience along the River is more personal and in-depth. It has also allowed us to expose these students to a variety of people and personalities who all love and value our treasured South Platte. This had a profound effect on the SPREE student experience. Here are a few statements gleaned from thank you letters sent to us after SPREE excursions.

To our Intern Carly Gruber from 4th grader Rosa: "I really liked being with you because you were nice, helpful, kind and for sure pretty. I had a good time with you."

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Photo Courtesy of Jolon Clark

Students get ready to perform water quality tests on the South Platte River.

From 4th grader Dominique to our Intern Tristan Kessler: "I would like to come again. I had lots of fun with you today. I hope we meet again."

To three semester Intern JJ Clark from 4th grader Melissa: "Finally, you were the greatest guide ever! For example you're not like other guides that yell at you and say don't do this and don't do that etc. for nothing. You're great and everything but you're crazy, but a nice type of crazy. I hope you are guide for our next trip."

Rosa finished her letter to Carly with, "I wish I could go back. I will miss you a lot."

These were just a few excerpts from hundreds of letters we have received since the Intern program was created, and they speak volumes about how successful the program has been in connecting the students on a more personal level during their SPREE excursions. The Intern program has also allowed us to continue to bring more students to the River than we were able to before. We have done this by adding two new "SPREE Schools" over the past two years.

"SPREE Schools" are schools that have adopted the SPREE program school wide. Students at these schools come to the River each and every year from kindergarten through 5th grade. Our "SPREE School" concept has always been our true strength in creating a meaningful and lifelong relationship between these students and our River. At "SPREE Schools", the South Platte is more than a field trip location; it is the centerpiece that flows through all other areas of the curriculum and school life. In addition, the River becomes the backdrop for art projects, science studies, school assemblies and other school events. For these students, the South Platte River is an integral part of their schooling, their childhood, and their daily lives. SPREE excursions are rights of passage as every student knows what the SPREE activities are for each grade level, and the students are already talking about the trip the following year as they load back onto the bus to go back to school.

In the fall of 2006 we had a unique opportunity when adding our 7th "SPREE School". Front Range Earth Force, another environmental education program contacted us looking for a way to tap into the relationships that we were building with students along the South Platte River. Earth Force works with classrooms to take on in-depth

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service learning projects at various natural sites around Denver. They strive to find a location that students are invested in and let the students steer the goals of the project to make improvements to the site. They were excited to see if they could tap into the excitement and sense of place that SPREE students have about the South Platte River. In a joint venture, we adopted Gilpin K-8 School as a "SPREE/Earth Force School". With this new partnership at Gilpin, students start connecting with the River in kindergarten, build on that relationship through 5th grade, and then as 6th-8th graders, they adopt a location along the South Platte River and attempt to make it a better place.

In addition to the many activities that take place along the banks of the South Platte, we launched our in-classroom curriculum project. This will be an ongoing project to put together material for use in the classroom that continues to build on our excursion curriculum. These activities include worksheets for the students to complete before and after their SPREE excursion, and unique science, social studies, math, reading and writing activities that use the South Platte River as the backbone for all of the subject areas. With this River-based curriculum, we will help teachers at our "SPREE Schools" to further infuse the South Platte into what they do in the classroom. This new curriculum will all be available to download

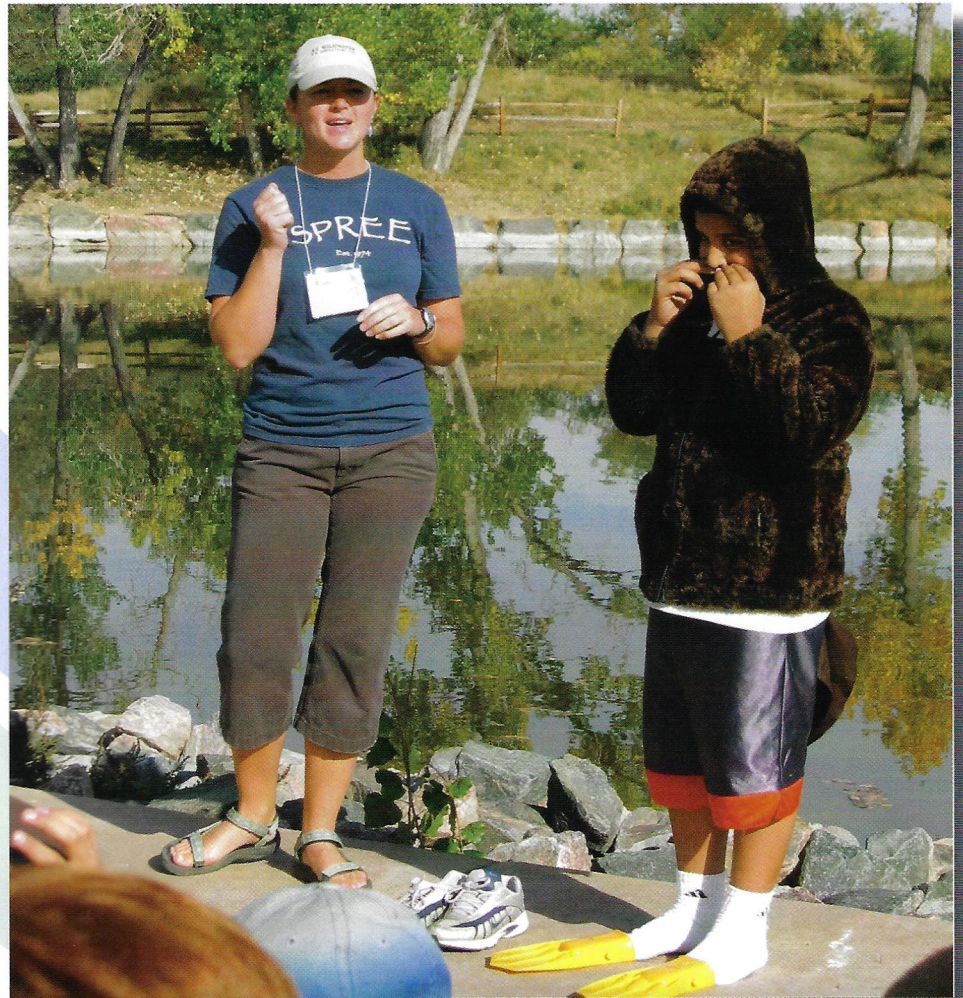


Photo Courtesy of Jolon Clark

Carly Gruber teaches students about beaver adaptations.

and print from our newly redesigned webpage that was completed earlier this year.

At the end of the school year we hosted the 2nd annual End of Year SPREE Celebration. Each of our SPREE schools brought a team of students to show off their favorite things about the South Platte River and SPREE. It was a diverse display of what these students had learned

about and taken from the South Platte. Adult attendees became the students as the SPREE students became the teachers leading the adults through various activities and performances. It was an amazing day bringing together a wide array of people and all of our SPREE schools from across the City in a unified celebration of our shared and beloved River.

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Photo Courtesy of Jolon Clark

Tristan Kessler teaches students how to work as a team to get the boat across the pond during a SPREE excursion.

Students from Southmoor Elementary School choose to show their love of the South Platte at our celebration through their own creative poetry. The following poems by 5th graders reflecting on their journey through SPREE highlight the strength of the "SPREE School" model and the strength of the relationship that SPREE school students develop with the South Platte River.

S.P.R.E.E.

The day was warm,
The lake was blue,
The river was clear,
The sky was too.

We got to catch crawdads,
In groups of four,

Then we put them in tanks,
So we could look for more.

Then we let them go,
And got into the boat,
Then we paddled in a circle,
It was fun to stay afloat.

We learned to paddle,
In groups of eight,
And when we were finished,
We hauled the boat's weight.

We saw a few fish,
And also some leeches,
And we saw a lone turtle,
On one of the beaches.

We saw lots of birds,
And even a snake,
We saw a few butterflies,
As we walked by the lake.

We learned so much,
And tested water,
We learned about beavers,
And also otters.

My last year at S.P.R.E.E.,
Was so much fun,
But I will miss it,
As the years go on.
~ Hannah Skadow

SPREE

By Katie Kerr

SPREE is open,
A chance to explore.
With your own adventures,
Who could want more?

Ruby Hill, second grade
The first stop on the map.
It was so frigid and cold,
With raindrops going SPLATT!

We learned about cities,
And the pollution they spew.
Don't you DARE dump junk
Into rivers so blue!!

Third grade second trip,
With a lot of history.
Who named the city Denver?
Now it's not a mystery!

With murals and trolleys
and a lot of info to deliver,
The chances of not having fun
are only just a sliver!

Fourth grade, Zeus's fault,
The weather was horribly bad.
Instead of gold-panning,
We were immensely sad.

Fifth grade, so much fun,
with water-testing boats,
It was so sunny and warm,
We didn't need to wear our coats.

SPREE is open,
A chance to explore.
With your own adventures,
Who could want more?

SPREE

By: Caroline Johnston

My first year at Southmoor,
My first year of SPREE,
Little did I know,
How much fun it would be.

I still remember,
That warm spring day,
The sun kissed my face,
With a fresh golden ray.

We started our journey,
On a narrow trail,
And across a bridge,
Above water so pale.

We went to the beach,
Right next to the stream,
To learn about Indians,
And the white men so mean.

We saw a big mural,
With lots of big faces,
And glasses with dreams,
Of far away places.



Photo Courtesy of Jolon Clark

5th Graders look for animals during their SPREE trip at Overland Pond.

We got on the trolley,
And started to go,
We learned all the landmarks,
Up high and down low.

We got off the trolley,
And said goodbye,
To the beach to the River,
To SPREE, to the sky.

I took notes,
But not to remember,
SPREE will stick in my head,
From January to December.

My last year at Southmoor,
My last year of SPREE,
Now I know,
How much fun it has been.

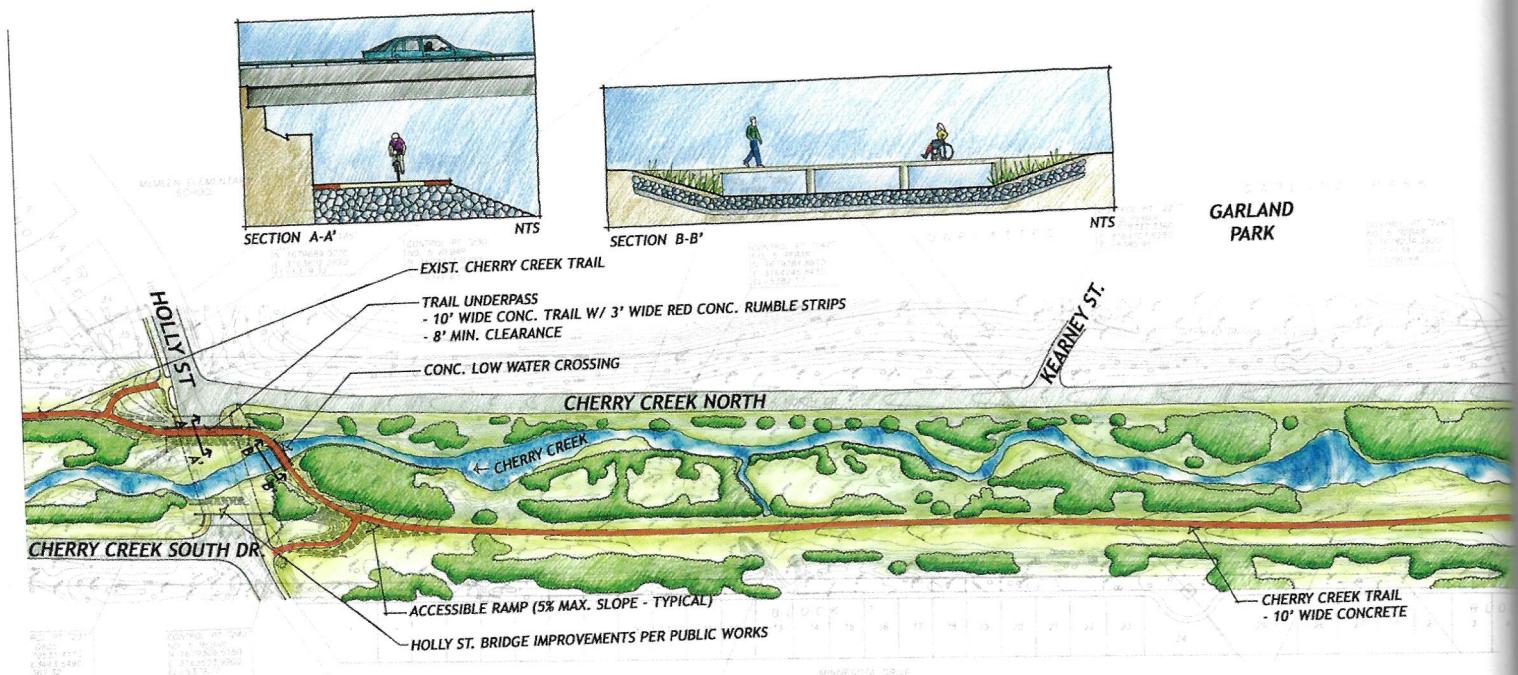
You can learn more about SPREE
online at ...

www.greenwayfoundation.org.

For more specific information,
or if you would like to be invited
to our SPREE River Celebration,
please email us at **[spree@
greenwayfoundation.org](mailto:spree@greenwayfoundation.org)**.

CHERRY CREEK CORRIDOR TRAIL ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

By Dean Pearson-The Architerra Group



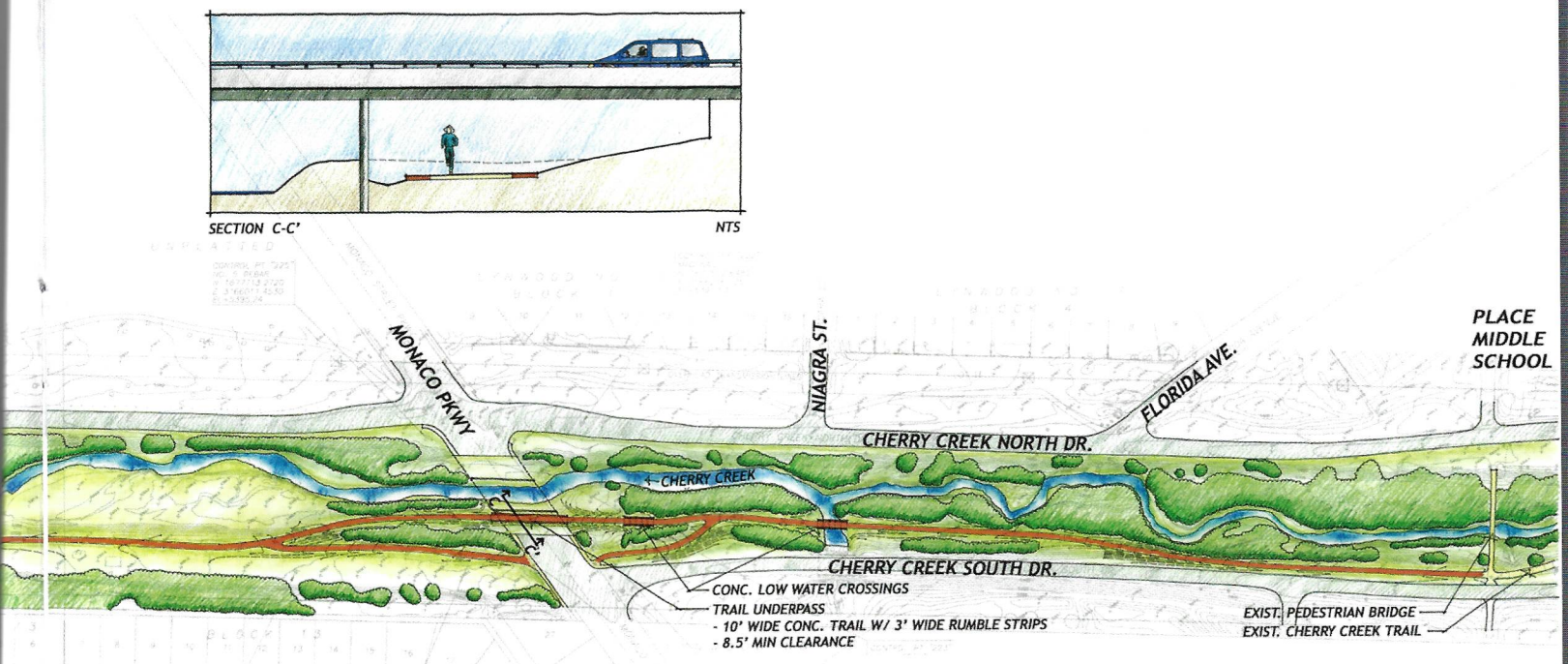
The Greenway Foundation is continuing to partner with the offices of Councilman Charlie Brown and Councilwoman Peggy Lehman, Denver's Department of Parks and Recreation, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, and the Architerra Group

to relocate a section of the Cherry Creek Trail that will result in a safer and more enjoyable experience for the hundreds of daily trail users.

The new 1.25 mile long, 10' wide concrete trail will travel from the existing pedestrian bridge

at Place Middle School along the Creek, under Monaco Parkway, will utilize a proposed low water crossing to travel the Creek channel to the north bank of the Creek and then pass under the new Holly Street bridge and connect to the existing trail.

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Photo/ Rendering Courtesy of The Architerra Group

The conceptual design has been recently completed and the \$1.3 million project is intended to be constructed in 2009 depending on available funding. For more information about this exciting and much needed improvement, contact

the offices of the Greenway Foundation.

SUMMER EVENTS ALONG THE RIVER

2006-2007

By Cindy Shoemaker-Special Events Coordinator



Photo Courtesy of Cindy Shoemaker

Confluence Park has proven to be THE gathering place for Denver's LoDo community. With the celebration of music, film, family, and friends on warm Thursday nights in July and cool summer nights in August, the Greenway Foundation's Summer Events Series is heralded as one of Denver's most popular cultural events. This was certainly the case last summer.

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. River Flicks, returning for its second year, lit up Wednesday nights in August. September welcomed back the 14th 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 and many participants, we have witnessed

these free community events thrive and grow, bringing added awareness to this special place in 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 want to wind up for the weekend or wind down from work. All who come enjoy the relaxing environment of Confluence Park, the South Platte River, and Cherry Creek.

Staying with tradition, we had the smoothest sounds of jazz along the waterways with the talents of Dotsero, Nelson Rangell, Darren Rahn, and Hazel Miller. Our radio sponsor, **Smooth Jazz 104.3 of Lincoln Financial Media Company of Colorado**, help us with bringing the biggest crowds at Confluence Park to date.

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

Along with the return of many of the great sponsors mentioned above, Confluence Concerts is excited to welcome **WR Starkey** as the 2007 Title Sponsor along with **Sean Gilley Realty**. 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** (www.veniceonthecreek.com) 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 and enjoy the musical talents of:

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July 5: Dotsero
July 12: Fusion Juice
July 20: Special Guest of Smooth Jazz 104.3
July 27: Hot Tomatoes

RIVER FLICKS

River Flicks, the Greenway Foundation's newest event series returned in 2006 and has shown to be a popular addition to our summer events. The grass amphitheatre at Confluence Park filled each week with families enjoying some of their favorite films including *ET*, *Ever After*, *Grease*, and *Harry Potter* and the *Goblet of Fire*.

River Flicks will once again showcase quality family films in an intimate outdoor setting at Confluence Park every



Photo Courtesy of digpicphoto.com

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.

Our returning Title Sponsor, **CDM** led the way to make River Flicks a reality along with **Smooth Jazz 104.3**, **Anheuser-Busch**, **1st Bank-University Hills Branch**, **Riverfront Park Community Foundation**, **SCFD**, **Denver's Park and Recreation Dept.**, and the **Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs**, as well support from the **Greenway Preservation Trust**. We are pleased that all of these generous supporters will be returning for the 2007 River Flicks series!



Photo Courtesy of Smooth Jazz 104.3

Volunteers help clean the banks and channel of the River as part of the Annual South Platte Riversweep.

Movies which will begin at dusk and conclude by 11:00pm. Come join us and be entertained with a blast from the past with:

August 1st: Ferris Bueller's Day Off

August 8th: Beetlejuice

August 15th: Big

August 22nd: The Sandlot

River Flicks will be the place to be Wednesday evenings in August. Popcorn, candy, and beverages will be available.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVERSWEEP

What a great Saturday we had in September with over 250 volunteers joining the Greenway Foundation and

Hands on Denver to help clean up Denver's urban waterways during the 14th South Platte Riversweep. With additional support from our generous sponsors, we were able to collect over 2,500 lbs of trash and debris from the trails and banks of the South Platte River and Cherry Creek.

2006's event was 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, Riverfront Park Community Foundation, the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, SCFD, Denver's Parks and Recreation**

Dept., and United Site Services. Partner organizations allowing this event to continue included: **Hands on Denver, REI Flagship Store, Trout Unlimited, River Reach Youth Initiative, National Public Lands Day, and the Platte Valley Trolley.** In addition, **Urban Drainage and Flood Control District** helped haul away all the trash and debris.

The day ended with a volunteer luncheon that included food and beverages donated by: **Starbucks, Wild Oats, Qdoba Mexican Grille, Tamales by La Casita, Odwalla Juice, Blackjack Pizza, and Pepsi Cola.**

Please join us in the 2007 South Platte RiverSweep on Saturday, September 29th, beginning at 8:00 a.m. held in partnership with National Public Lands Day. Bring your family, friends and co-workers to help us collect the trash and debris along OUR River.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, to download the volunteer waiver form, and any information about the Greenway Foundation's upcoming Summer Events for 2006, visit our website at... www.greenwayfoundation.org.

YOU CAN LE



The Peace Action Club from

It was a cold and snowy morning, January 1, 1996 – not a great day for birdwatching but we were out all the same. We took a break from the annual Audubon Christmas Urban Bird Count to attend a presentation by then Mayor Wellington Webb declaring 1996 'The Year of the South Platte'. We would continue to celebrate the ongoing transformation of the communities near the River, especially in central Denver from Colfax to 20th St. Trains, planes and automobiles were moved

YOU CAN LEARN A LOT IN 10 YEARS

By Casey Davenport -Greenway Foundation
Service Learning Coordinator



Photo Courtesy of Casey Davenport

The Peace Action Club from Slavens School is entering its fourth year of providing support for stewardship efforts at Overland Pond Park.

It was a cold and snowy morning, January 1, 1996 – not a great day for birdwatching but we were out all the same. We took a break from the annual Audubon Christmas Urban Bird Count to attend a presentation by then Mayor Wellington Webb declaring 1996 'The Year of the South Platte'. We would continue to celebrate the ongoing transformation of the communities near the River, especially in central Denver from Colfax to 20th St. Trains, planes and automobiles were moved

to make way for the REI Flagship store; riverbanks were restored to a healthier naturalized state from Grant Frontier Park to Globeville Landing. A new park was created from a decommissioned water treatment facility near Denver's northern city limits. New bridges and innovative flood control structures were built bringing residents back to the River.

A new approach to open space management resulted in Denver's Natural Areas Program. Curfew enforcement

along Greenway trails was instituted for better water quality and safety. Programs for students and adult volunteers provided vastly improved stewardship of recreational resources and open space.

As an original member of the Mayor's Commission for the South Platte River – maybe the only one with less than a million dollars on the table – I started looking for ways to be useful. We heard a

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Photo Courtesy of Casey Davenhill

Overland Pond Park habitat provides homes for all kinds of interesting critters.

lot of the potential of the River to be an 'outdoor classroom'. I had met Carl Crookham and, with his encouragement, became involved with SPREE (the Greenway Foundation's youth education program – South Platte River Environmental Education) bringing young students to the S. Platte hoping our love of the River would be contagious. I knew there was a reliable crawdad population at Overland Pond so we decided to introduce ourselves to the bugs and birds at Overland.

They say, love is blind and you had to be pretty nearsighted, to say the least, not to see that Overland Pond Park, originally designed as a unique example of the range of Colorado life zones: alpine, montane and prairie, had fallen on hard times. Although a popular spot for a 'woody' it was not so great as an 'outdoor classroom'. Denver Parks had a hard time keeping beer bottles and trash from littering the banks of the pond and its quiet, out of the way location made it susceptible

to abuse and vandalism. The number of cigarette butts was astounding. A wise man once said that once you allow people to live in a public space it is no longer a public space. Illegal camping and 'homesteading' was a problem.

We decided that Overland Pond Park needed a new friend. Deb Keammerer, The Restoration Group, had just finished designing the natural elements for Commons Park. It was so clear that Deb had



Slavens' students building soft sand safely

a passion and enthusiasm for native landscapes and could provide the technical expertise to help develop a 'to do' list for volunteers. Working together with Susan Fry, our sympathetic ear in the Parks Department we hatched a plan: The Restoration Group would provide the technical expertise, Parks would provide logistical support and I would bring community service volunteers to Overland to restore the park.

The transformation has been remarkable. Working with The Greenway Foundation, Fresh Start, Inc., University of Denver

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Photo Courtesy of Casey Davenport

Slavens' students building soft surface trails at Overland Pond Park so visitors can explore the park safely without damaging the native vegetation.

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The transformation has been remarkable. Working with The Greenway Foundation, Fresh Start, Inc., University of Denver

Environmental Club, Slavens Elementary School's Peace Action Club, Beckwourth Mountain Club, and many others, Overland Pond Park has been reclaimed as a family park. Bird watchers, dog walkers and fishermen enjoy the shade and diversity of this neighborhood jewel. Improvements made by the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District have enhanced safety and aesthetics.

We miss Carl Crookham's wonderful depth of knowledge and range of skills but welcome Jolon Clark's enthusiasm and sense of purpose as the new

Director of SPREE – plus he's easy to see from a distance. Ten years later as we walk along the River, Deb and I continue to make notes, take photos and plan the next small, hands on project and are pleased to be under contract with the Greenway Foundation to help ensure that these important and needed endeavors take place. We see more safe and practical projects than ever. The results of ongoing stewardship are obvious while the potential for connecting people to the River is limited only by our imagination.

Thanks Carl!

CITYWILD

PROVIDING RIVER RAFT RIDES TO AT-YOUTH AND THE PUBLIC

By Read McCulloch-Executive Director



Photo Courtesy of cityWild

Keep your eyes open for a new breed of outdoor leaders, naturalists, and environmental stewards on the South Platte River in Denver this summer. cityWILD youth will be hitting the water in search of serious fun and learning, especially evident at Confluence Park throughout the summer.

cityWILD is a nonprofit youth leadership development

program targeting low-income at-risk middle and high school students in Denver. cityWILD uses the outdoors as a vehicle for developing life skills, giving youth hands-on experience leading and teaching their peers. cityWILD's tuition-free program has been serving youth for over eight years, creating the opportunity for under-served kids to connect with the natural environment.

Last year, cityWILD merged with RiverReach Youth Initiative, to create one synergistic organization with year-round programs to better meet the needs of youth and families. Now cityWILD provides after school programs, weekend adventures, summer expeditions, and river rafting right in downtown Denver.

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This year, cityWILD is launching its Junior Guides and Skippers program. Youth ages 14-18 are eligible to join the South Platte Rafting Operations (formerly RiverReach) as volunteers or paid staff and will go through a guide school in early June to develop their river guiding skills, learn about the natural environment of the riparian ecosystem, and initiate service projects along the banks of the South Platte River. Thanks to the help of Front Range Earth Force, River Watch, Butterfly Pavillion and others, youth guides will have ample interesting science facts to share. Once trained, these youth will act as second guides in the boats on the South Platte, leading and teaching rafting participants from other organizations and programs.



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Junior Guides & Skippers will also lead ongoing service projects, such as stream bank restoration. Each trip will take some time to contribute their labor to whatever project is required, adding much needed person-power to restoring the South Platte to its natural beauty. This gives youth leaders the life experience of being an advocate for the River, and a role model for younger kids. cityWILD will also provide Free Raft Rides at Confluence Park, every Saturday (10am – 2pm) throughout the summer, from June 9th through mid-August. Anyone who shows up (with signed waiver) can get a ride through the waves and holes of the rapids, just across the river from REI. This is youth's opportunity to show Denver just what they can do.

In addition to these services, cityWILD offers Rafting Trips on the Arkansas River near Buena Vista. Just two-and-a-half hours drive from Denver, the Ark is some of the best whitewater in the country. You can help support cityWILD's programs by going rafting AND raising funds to get more kids outdoors.

For more information on cityWILD, and the rafting trips available to the public, go to...

www.citywild.org

or call 303-477-RAFT (7238).

CHATFIELD RESERVOIR REALLOCATION

A COLLABORATIVE SUCCESS STORY

By Marge Price and David Howlett-
Capitol Representatives



Photo Courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1999

Under the leadership of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCBC), the effort to secure the rights to store an additional 20,600 acre feet of water in Chatfield Reservoir for municipal, agricultural, environmental and recreational uses has continued to move forward. There is no question the additional water will help alleviate water shortages. It will also improve the environmental health of the

South Platte River from Chatfield Reservoir downstream to the Adams County-Weld County line, a distance of 53 miles.

Through the stewardship of The Greenway Foundation, the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project Coalition was formed in 2006 to assist CWCBC in reaching this water storage goal. The coalition is a partnership of 21 downstream, instream and

upstream municipalities, water districts and environmental organizations who have come together to support CWCBC. These entities include the Downstream Users - City of Aurora, City of Brighton, Central Colorado Water Conservancy District, Western Mutual Ditch Company; Instream Users - City and County of Denver, Denver Water, The Greenway

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Foundation, City of Littleton, Metro Wastewater Reclamation District; and Upstream Users – Town of Castle Rock, Castle Pines Metropolitan District, Castle Pines North Metropolitan District, Centennial Water and Sanitation District, Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District, Colorado Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation, Denver Botanic Gardens, Parker Water and Sanitation District, Perry Park Country Club, Roxborough Metropolitan District, South Metro Water Supply Authority.

This partnership's principal immediate goal since the early days of 2006 has been to secure federal funding to allow U.S. Army Corps of Engineers resources to continue to be fully available to the Omaha District Civil Works staff to complete the Feasibility Report (FR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Chatfield Reallocation project. Funding for these and preliminary studies began in 1999 and has continued through 2006. The federal cost through FY2006 is estimated to be \$1,687,000. The FR/EIS requires a 50:50 cost share between the federal government and CWCB, which serves as the local sponsor.

The value of the coalition was put to its first test in 2006 during the preparation of the FY07 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill when the President's FY07 Budget was released. Funding for the Chatfield FR/EIS was "zeroed" out by the Administration. This means that no funding request was made for the Chatfield FR/EIS to continue in FY07. The principal reason given was because the Administration through the Office of Management and Budget did not budget for any General Investigations water supply studies

throughout the nation in FY07. The rationale for this decision was an attempt to limit new U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects from moving from the study stage to eventually being eligible for funding for construction.

With CWCB, the coalition initially targeted its efforts on securing funding through the Congressional FY07 appropriations process. Deadlines for submission of funding requests to both the United States Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives was around March 1, 2006. CWCB and the coalition assembled information describing the purpose of the funding requests. The applications were prepared and submitted to three members of the Colorado congressional delegation, including Sen. Wayne Allard, Sen. Ken Salazar and Rep. Diana DeGette. Senator Allard and Senator Salazar represent interests throughout Colorado. Representative DeGette represents the district where The Greenway Foundation is based. In addition, Senator Allard is a member of the Senate Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee. Representative DeGette worked with her House colleagues, including Representatives Mark Udall, John Salazar, Marilyn Musgrave, Joel Hefley, Tom Tancredo and Bob Beauprez, in submitting a funding request to the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee.

Through the efforts of the Colorado Congressional delegation's leadership and support, requests in the amount of \$500,000 were submitted to both the House and Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations subcommittees.

Through Senator Allard's efforts on the Senate subcommittee, he was successful in securing a \$400,000 earmark for the Chatfield FR/EIS. Though the House delegation submitted a request to the House subcommittee, funding was not secured in its bill. They tried to follow the President's budget. The coalition is appreciative of the House members' efforts, but, most likely, the major reason House support was not secured was because the Colorado House delegation does not have a member serving on the House Energy and Water Development Subcommittee.

Under a normal legislative calendar, Congress is responsible for completing all 12 of the appropriations bills by September 30. However, the 109th Congress only passed two appropriations bills – Defense and Homeland Security – that were signed into law by the President. The 109th Congress adjourned during the fall elections and came back after the November elections before adjourning for good in December 2006. Because of the change in congressional leadership, the new House and Senate majority leaders announced that the remaining 10 FY07 appropriations bills, including the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill, would be dealt with through a Continuing Resolution or CR. The purpose of this legislative vehicle is to allow Congress to continue funding government operations at the current year's funding levels while Congress decides how it wants to proceed in dealing with next year's funding.

The new 110th Congress convened in early January 2007. One of the early decisions made by the new Congress was to pass a year-long CR. This is a highly unusual maneuver since a CR is normally passed to cover a shorter period of time. However, in this case, the new leadership decided it did not want to include specific project funding in the CR for the remainder of FY07.

Congress then passed a fiscal year-long CR to allow funding of operations of the government and to fund programs. Then the focus shifted to the agencies, and in the case of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to finalizing a work plan for FY07. That work plan was reviewed by the White House Office of Management and Budget and finally signed by Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works John Paul Woodley on March 18, 2007. It was released to the Congress the next day.

CWCB, the coalition and Greenway worked with the Colorado congressional delegation in crafting a letter of support from the delegation requesting Secretary Woodley to designate \$400,000 in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FY07 work plan. All seven House members signed on to the letter, including Representatives DeGette, Udall, Salazar, Musgrave and Tancredo as well as the newest members of the House delegation, Rep. Doug Lamborn and Rep. Ed Perlmutter. Senator Salazar also joined his delegation colleagues in signing the letter. It is our understanding that Senator Allard wrote his own letter of support on behalf of Chatfield funding.

The FY07 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work plan or final document on allocation of funds for Corps projects does include funding for the Chatfield Reallocation effort. If all of that funding is released, it will total \$354,000, close to the amount the Senate planned to include in its bill last fall. Although the final decision was made by the Corps, there is no question that the efforts of the Colorado Congressional delegation, backed by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project Coalition and The Greenway Foundation helped make that happen.

Now the focus shifts to Fiscal Year 2008. The request for FY08 for the Chatfield Reallocation FR/EIS and related studies is \$400,000. The Omaha Corps capability for the continuation of this study in FY08 is equally \$400,000, which will be matched by local resources through cash and in-kind services.

Capitol Representatives worked with CWCB, the coalition and Greenway to develop the FY08 Energy and Water Appropriations funding requests applications. As was done in 2006 for the FY07 appropriations cycle, applications were submitted to Senator Allard, Senator Salazar and Representative DeGette. Again, Representative DeGette is working with her House colleagues on the funding request. These funding requests were submitted by each office's March deadline.

CWCB, the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project Coalition and The Greenway Foundation traveled to Washington, DC

on March 5 through March 7, 2007, for meetings with Rep. Ed Perlmutter, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Claudia Tornblom, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters professional staff and Colorado House and Senate delegation professional staff. The meetings went well and the hope is that funding for FY07 will continue for the Chatfield FR/EIS and that the FY08 funding request will be secured.

The efforts to secure funding for the completion of the Chatfield FR/EIS will continue throughout 2007 and 2008. If the funding can be maintained, it is expected that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will render a Record of Decision on Chatfield by the third quarter of 2008. After the Record of Decision is rendered, other challenges will need to be addressed by CWCB and the coalition, including determination of costs associated with environmental and recreational mitigation, how the cost of water supply storage will be calculated, how water contracts will be executed with the Corps, and any post-ROD needs for possible future congressional appropriations.

Though more hard work faces this incredibly complex project, we believe that substantial progress has been made and achieved. This could only have been accomplished through the involvement and dedication of the Colorado congressional delegation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project Coalition and The Greenway Foundation.

GREENWAY PRESERVATION TRUST

How CAN I HELP?

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.

Your help is crucial in establishing this ongoing means of support 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 support the Greenway Preservation Trust:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> \$50 Friend of the River | <input type="radio"/> \$75 Advocate |
| <input type="radio"/> \$100 Family | <input type="radio"/> \$250 Associate |
| <input type="radio"/> \$500 Sustainer | <input type="radio"/> \$1,000 Patron |
| <input type="radio"/> \$5,000 Benefactor | <input type="radio"/> \$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 the year 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 Foundation
 1040 S. Gaylord St., Suite 201
 Denver, CO 80209

Your contribution is fully Tax-Deductible. For \$250 or more, receive a 25% additional tax incentive through Colorado's Enterprise Zone Program.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

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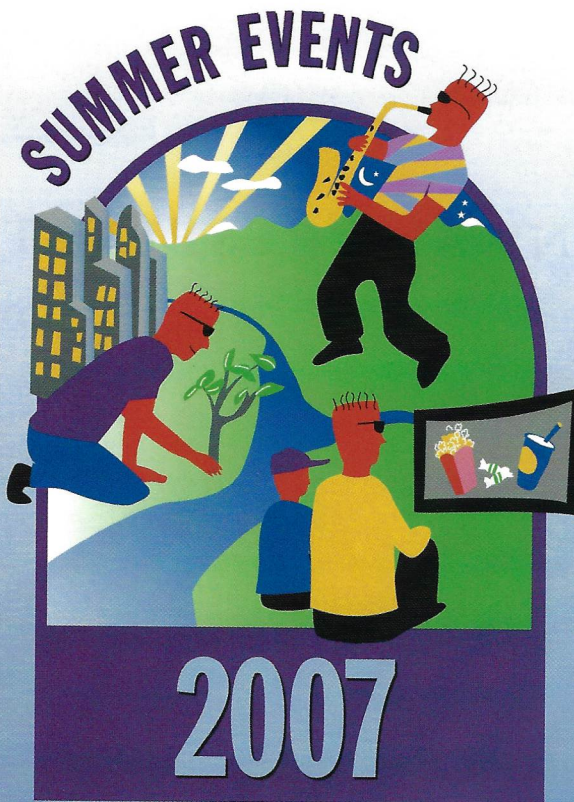
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THE GREENWAY FOUNDATION
Preserving Metro Denver's Urban Waterways Since 1974



Calendar of Events

Venice on the Creek

Concession Opens Friday, June 1st

- Hours of Operation:
Thursday-Sunday 5:00 p.m.- 10 p.m.
Candlelight Rides start at 8:30 p.m.
- Group Rides available Wednesday only.
- Please call 303-893-0750 or visit us online at www.veniceonthecreek.com for more information or to make a reservation.

Confluence Concerts

- At Confluence Park
- All concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. and conclude at 8:00 p.m.
- July 5.....Dotsero
- July 12.....Fusion Juice
- July 19.....Special Guest of Smooth Jazz 104.3
- July 27.....Hot Tomatoes

River Flicks

- At Confluence Park
- All movies begin at sunset
- August 1.....Ferris Bueller's Day Off
- August 8.....Beetlejuice
- August 15...Big
- August 22...The Sandlot

Venice on the Creek

Concession Closes Sunday, August 26th

South Platte Riversweep Saturday, September 29th

- 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.
- Fishback Landing Park-Adjacent to the Downtown Aquarium.



The Greenway Foundation
1040 S. Gaylord Street, Suite 201
Denver, CO 80209
303-455-7109 Fax 303-455-7234
www.greenwayfoundation.org

