



## Fountain Creek Chronicles August 2023

*The monthly e-newsletter about your home watershed*

Welcome! We're excited to share with you the latest updates and engaging stories about this crown jewel. Let's dive in!



**The Fountain Creek Watershed District works from Palmer Lake to Pueblo to protect and enhance the health of the watershed.**



### Feature Update: Pueblo & the Xcel Energy Grant

In 2022, the Fountain Creek Watershed District was awarded \$10,000 from the Xcel Energy Foundation to create a series of programs on watershed health, provide hands-on volunteer opportunities, and create tools and resources geared to help sustain a healthy waterway in Pueblo. With matching funds from the District, long-time outreach coordinator Susan Finzel was hired.

During the 2022 Creek Week Cleanup, 125 Pueblo volunteers were recruited who worked hard to collect and remove an astonishing 1,640 pounds of trash, litter, and heavy items along the waterway and over 50 Boys & Girls Club of Pueblo County members and their staff took part in a fishing derby at Lake Pueblo State Park's Anticline Pond. Beyond Creek Week, numerous groups were organized to assist with the Great American Cleanup in April 2023, watershed pollution prevention sessions were presented to 150 elementary school students in Pueblo's eastside neighborhood, four Pueblo area breweries joined the Brewshed Alliance, and Susan represented FCWD at numerous Pueblo events including the Indigenous

Music & Art Festival on Earth Day, Pueblo County Fair, and the Family Fun Fest at the Fountain. These are just a few of the measurable impacts funded by the awarded grant and our team member's dedication.

We are pleased to announce that the Xcel Energy Foundation has renewed Pueblo Outreach funding through 2024. The community at the confluence will benefit from more cleanups, education, improved awareness of conservation issues, and a watershed tour and bike ride. Many thanks to Xcel Energy Foundation for their continued support!



## Fountain Creek Watershed Public Forum

August 10th, 6:15-7:30 PM  
Manitou Springs City Hall

Join us to share your thoughts and ideas on the Fountain Creek Watershed and how we maintain and improve our region's treasured waterway. Please attend and let your voice be heard. Our watershed is a public amenity and the public deserves a say in its future!

RSVP

## Brewshed® Alliance

THE FOUNTAIN CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT  
BREWSED ALLIANCE PRESENTS:  
LIQUID LECTURE SERIES 2023



**AUGUST TOPIC**  
**As the Water Flows:  
Our Changing Relationship to the  
Colorado River**

**August 16, 6pm at Metric Brewing  
1213 N Circle Drive, CO Springs**

Join Amy McCoy, partner at AMP Insights, as she discusses the importance of the Colorado River, the tangled legal framework that governs it, and its future in a changing climate.

Please RSVP to [fewdaa@gmail.com](mailto:fewdaa@gmail.com)  
Attendees receive \$1 off beer

Brewshed Alliance Featured Partner  
Metric Brewing



Metric Brewing is located in Colorado Springs, offers a great list of craft beers, and has a rotating food truck schedule. The brewery hosts live music, trivia, and is even dog friendly! Check Metric out on socials and join us for this month's Liquid Lecture.



## Upcoming Events



### The Downtown Hoedown

Acacia Park  
August 5th, 4-7 PM

If you're looking for something fun this Saturday evening, look no further than Acacia Park. CONO's first annual Downtown Hoedown will have live music, line dancing, face painting, BBQ, and more! Join in the fun presented by Underline. **TICKETS**



### Starlight Spectacular

Garden of the Gods Park  
August 5th, 7 PM-12:45 AM

A one-of-a-kind event through Garden of the Gods Park starts tomorrow night. Runners, walkers, and bicycles will be lit up as they make their way through the Garden. Prizes awarded for best costumes, plus fun rest stops and pancakes at the finish line. **REGISTER**



### Kathleen Marriage Garden Work Days

Sondermann Park  
August 17th 5-7 PM

These workdays provide a great opportunity to learn about native gardens and connect with like-minded individuals in a grounding environment. Come prepared with comfortable clothing, closed-toe shoes, gardening gloves, and hand tools if you have them. **RSVP**



### Moving Upstream: Protecting Our Water Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow

Garden Pavilion, Penrose House Conference Center  
August 30th, 3:30-5:30 PM

Colorado Springs Leadership Institute, Colorado Springs Utilities, and El Pomar Foundation's Pikes Peak Heritage Series will host a panel discussing the past, current, and future state of water in the Pikes Peak region, free of charge. Whiskey tasting reception to follow featuring Colorado Springs distilleries. **REGISTER**



### From Source to Mouth: a creative survey of Monument Creek

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center  
Opening Reception: Friday, September 1, 5-8pm

Erin Elder's exhibition offers a creative response to her multidisciplinary exploration of Monument Creek. The display showcases field drawings depicting the Creek and the infrastructure that shapes its various uses. Accompanying these drawings are excerpts from oral histories shared by creek stewards and field-recorded soundscapes. Erin's work unveils the unseen, forgotten, and removed aspects of the creek. **LEARN MORE**



# 10th Annual Creek Week Cleanup

September 30th to October 8th

We are thrilled to announce the 10th Anniversary of the Creek Week Cleanup! Creek Week is a 9-day multi-community volunteer event providing citizens a chance to come together and make a lasting impact on the health and beauty of our beloved watershed. Mark your calendars and get ready to join us.

Over the last 9 years, 19,000+ volunteers have picked up 140 tons of trash from Palmer Lake to Pueblo and beyond. Now, in 2023 we are inviting you to add to these impressive numbers and participate in Colorado's largest cleanup event. Service groups, neighborhoods, scouts, schools, colleges, companies, families, churches, nonprofits, and others are encouraged to make a difference during Creek Week this fall.

## How to Get Involved

Pick a time, pick a day, and pick it up! **General registration** will open around August 15th. *Crew Leaders* will reserve a cleanup site and coordinate with their team. *Crew Members* will visit the registration map, select a cleanup site with a crew leader already assigned, and email the crew leader to join the crew.



*Aprivida Cleanup Crew 2022*



*City of Colorado Springs  
Stormwater Enterprise 2022*



*RISE YAC, Generation Wild,  
& Backpackers Sand Creek  
Trail 2022*

## Creek Week Cleanup Sites

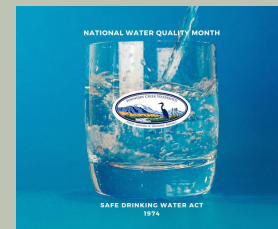
Have you come across areas in the watershed filled with litter and unsightly trash? We would love your input on identifying locations that need to be cleaned up. Help us ensure our Creek Week Cleanup volunteers concentrate their efforts where they are needed most. Click the button below to share pictures and specific locations.

[Email Us](#)

## Conservation Corner

August is National Water Quality month. With only one month until Creek Week, it's a great time to implement longer-term changes to protect water quality. Here are some tips from the **US Environmental Protection Agency** to help guide us.

- Hazardous waste like motor oil, pesticides, paint, and household cleaners should never be poured down the drain or into the watershed. Instead reuse or give away when possible, and take hazardous materials to Household Waste Disposal sites.
- Avoid excessive use of fertilizer & pesticides and never apply chemicals during or immediately before rain. Try natural alternatives like vinegar or consider eliminating the need for these chemicals by creating a native plant garden and reducing and replacing grass lawns when possible.
- Many water treatment plants are unable to process medications which can then enter creeks and rivers poisoning aquatic life and even people who use the water downstream. Never flush or pour medicine down the drain. Instead look for medication take-back programs in your community.
- Neighborhood storm drains with debris blocking the grates can be cleaned by simply removing the debris. Remember to wait until the storm is over! If the clog is below the grates or outside of a neighborhood, leave it for the professionals. Alert your local stormwater utility.
- When you notice trash around trails, parks, or in your neighborhood, pick it up and throw it away. Join larger trash cleanups like those done by Friends groups, the Great American Cleanup, and Creek Week Cleanup!



# Watershed Words

A note from Executive Director Alli Schuch

Water is a precious resource that sustains life, ecosystems, and economies. As we continue to face mounting environmental challenges, the need for effective watershed management and conservation becomes increasingly apparent. At the heart of this critical endeavor lies the power of collaboration between various stakeholders and organizations united in their commitment to safeguarding our watersheds.

We firmly believe that collaboration is the key to achieving our shared vision of a sustainable and thriving watershed. Let's celebrate the spirit of collaboration and the remarkable impact it has had on our collective efforts in our 14-year history:

## 1. Unite the Community for a Common Purpose

Collaboration fosters a sense of unity and purpose. By bringing together diverse groups, including local governments, environmental organizations, businesses, and concerned citizens, we create a powerful force working towards a common goal.

## 2. Leverage Collective Expertise

Each organization involved in watershed management possesses unique expertise and perspectives. By combining the insights of hydrologists, ecologists, engineers, and community leaders, we can craft comprehensive and scientifically sound strategies to address complex challenges.

## 3. Maximize Impact and Resources

Working together allows us to leverage limited resources effectively. Shared funding, grants, and in-kind support from partners enhance the impact of our projects and initiatives.

## 4. Strengthen Public Engagement

Collaboration plays a vital role in fostering public participation and engagement. By involving the community in decision-making processes, every community member may be empowered to take ownership of our local environment. Public input and involvement in project planning and execution ensures that efforts align with the needs and aspirations of the people we serve.

## 5. Lead by Example

Effective collaboration between various stakeholders sets a powerful example for other regions facing similar challenges. By showcasing the results of our collaborative efforts, we inspire and encourage others to follow suit creating a ripple effect that extends far beyond our own district.

At the Fountain Creek Watershed District, we remain committed to fostering collaboration and nurturing partnerships that lead us towards a healthier, more sustainable future. Thank you for your continued support and engagement in our mission. Together we can make a significant difference in safeguarding our cherished watersheds.

~Alli Schuch



Pictured left to right: FCWD staff Aidan, Jordan, Alli, & Hannah with Gayl & Mark.

## Featured Brewshed Warriors: Gayl & Mark

We saw Gayl & Mark eyeing the Brewshed Alliance map during a recent team meeting at VooDoo Brewing Co. After moving to Colorado Springs two years ago, they visited the former Red Leg location where the couple first saw the map. They committed to visit every brewery listed, and they recently met their goal! As a thank you for being the first who've shared their success story with us we sent them Brewshed Alliance hats. And Gayl & Mark inspired us to start our own Brewshed Passport Program...coming soon!

## Stay Connected

We'd love to see your watershed pictures, and hear your ideas and feedback.

[Email Us](#)

[Visit Our Website](#)



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