



Fountain Creek Chronicles

June 2023

The monthly e-newsletter about YOUR home watershed

Welcome! We're excited to share with you the latest updates, fascinating facts, and engaging stories about this crown jewel.

Let's dive right in!



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

Meet the Fountain Creek Watershed District Board!

The Board of Directors has a unique makeup of elected officials from Pueblo County, El Paso County, Cities of Colorado Springs, Fountain, Manitou Springs, Pueblo, and Towns of Green Mountain Falls, Monument and Palmer Lake, as well as citizen representatives.

2023 Board of Directors

- Chairperson, Tamara Estes, City of Fountain
- Vice Chair, Larry Atencio, City of Pueblo
- Secretary, Terry Hart, Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) Representative
- Daneya Esgar, Pueblo County
- Stan VanderWerf, El Paso County
- Jessica Mills, Lower Arkansas Valley Conservancy District
- David Leinweber, City of Colorado Springs
- Jim Romanello, representing Small Municipalities
- Dr Robert Barr, Landowner, Pueblo County

In addition to the Board, there are three committees that provide recommendations, impart technical expertise, and serve on behalf of a diverse array of watershed interests.

- The **Technical Advisory Committee** (TAC) helps to guide policy, funding decisions, and conduct investigations.
- The **Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee** (MMFAC) conducts technical investigations and analysis on projects utilizing the \$50 million in funds from the Pueblo County SDS 1041 Permit's Condition 6.
- The **Citizens Advisory Group** (CAG) represents a variety of watershed interests and provides citizen recommendations to the Board.

The Board and its committees meet monthly. Check our calendar for more information and [email us](#) if you would like to receive meeting agendas in advance of each meeting.

Meet Our Staff

The FCWD team is made up of hard working and dedicated individuals. Let's introduce them.

Alli Schuch

Executive Director

Alli is from Minnesota and has been in Colorado Springs for almost 25 years. Her career has spanned from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo to Alaska, back to Minnesota and again back to the Springs working for the City, El Paso County, Colorado Springs Utilities, managing her own consulting business, and now at the helm of the District. Alli loves to garden, kayak, fish, travel, spoil her cat Luna, and care for 100+ houseplants with her husband Rob.



Hannah Mooney

Outreach Coordinator

Hannah graduated from UCCS in 2021 with a degree in Geography and Environmental Studies with a minor in Sustainability. Hannah was born and raised in Massachusetts until she traded the ocean for



the mountains and moved to Colorado Springs in 2016. She is a passionate environmentalist who loves spending time outdoors with her golden retriever Koa, practicing yoga, listening to live music, and traveling with friends.

Susan Finzel

Outreach Coordinator - Pueblo

Susan has her degree in Recreation and Parks Management, with a Natural Resource Conservation emphasis. She has coordinated programs at nature centers, zoos, parks and local governments. Susan also serves as an Education Specialist for the I Will Projects in Pueblo. She is a Life Member of Girl Scouts USA, and has served on three environmental nonprofit boards.



Jordan Witteveen

Administrative Assistant

Jordan has spent her career in wilderness education helping others explore the outdoors and develop their abilities. She is devoted to positively impacting our communities, especially in the responsible care of our lands (and watersheds!), human rights, and the arts. On a sunny day, you'll find her exploring outside with her three kids. She gladly fills the rest of her time reading, drawing, or experimenting with recipes to share with family and friends.

Aidan Boyd

Colorado College Summer Fellow

Aidan is a sophomore at Colorado College studying International Political Economy with a focus on the environment and law. Hailing from Silt, CO, he spent his high school years in environmental education and advocacy in the Colorado and Roaring Fork Watersheds. This experience combined with previous jobs working for Senator John Hickenlooper, a clean energy lobbying group, and a rafting company have solidified his passion for water education and legal activism, which he brings to this position.



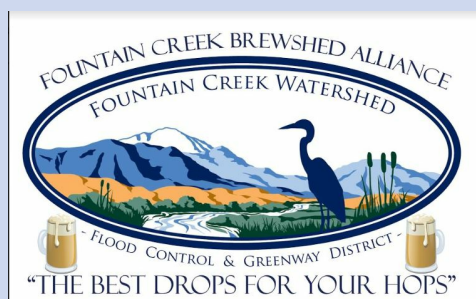
Brewshed Alliance Hats for Sale

You can now represent Colorado's first and only Brewshed Alliance Program!



[Buy Yours Now!](#)

Upcoming Events



Fountain Creek Brewshed Alliance members host monthly Liquid Lectures on a variety of watershed health topics.

This month we have Liquid Lectures in two locations, both on **Wednesday June 21st, 6pm**

PUEBLO WEST Reservoir Brewing

Good Water = Tasty Food in Pueblo County with Beth DeLair and Kristi Bartolo from Pueblo County Extension.

RSVP

First beer is free, and snacks provided by Xcel Energy Foundation Grant!

COLORADO SPRINGS Storybook Brewing

Public and Private Land Conservation in Southern Colorado with Steve Harris from Palmer Land Conservancy.

RSVP

\$1 off beers for attendees!

Brewshed Alliance Featured Partner



Reservoir Brewing 181 S. Purcell Blvd., Pueblo West 81007

Reservoir is hosting one of this month's Liquid Lectures! They are located in Pueblo West just north of Pueblo Reservoir and offer a great list of beer and cocktails, with a delicious selection of appetizers and sandwiches. Check them out on socials and stop in for this month's Liquid Lecture!



POLLINATOR WEEK 2023



3rd Annual Pollinator Party June 24th 10am-2pm Soda Springs Park

1016 Manitou Ave, Manitou Springs

Celebrate our precious pollinators with this super sweet event! Join us for interactive activities and education stations, bee-utiful native plant sale from Rick's Garden Center, live music from Tenderfoot Bluegrass, Hell's Kitchen pizza, and the first ever HoneyPalooza!

Bee there or bee square!



SAVE THE DATE

10th Annual Creek Week Cleanup (Colorado's largest cleanup event!)

SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 8

Seeking Sponsors: Read our [Sponsor Letter](#) or donate [here](#).

Conservation Corner

Here are 10 easy ways to use less water from [American Rivers](#).

Remember, when you are conserving water you are also saving on your water bill!

1. Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth.
2. Only run the washing machine and dishwasher when you have a full load.
3. Use a low flow shower head and faucet aerators.
4. Fix leaks.
5. Install a dual flush or low flow toilet or put a conversion kit on your existing toilet.
6. Don't overwater your lawn or water during peak periods, and install rain sensors on irrigation systems.
7. Install a rain barrel for outdoor watering.
8. Plant a rain garden for catching stormwater runoff from your roof, driveway, and other hard surfaces.
9. Monitor your water usage on your water bill.
10. Share your knowledge about saving water through conservation and efficiency with your neighbors.

Watershed Words

A note from Executive Director Alli Schuch

The Fountain Creek Watershed has experienced record rainfalls this spring and early summer. For gardeners (with hail protection), river rafters, and weather enthusiasts it has been fantastic. But for some creek-adjacent property owners, several of our trails, some roads, and many thunder-scared dogs it has been a challenge to say the least.

The downpours have drenched the region causing widespread flooding, overwhelming creeks and streams, and leaving communities grappling with the aftermath of nature's fury. Meteorologists describe these rainfall amounts as unprecedented with some areas receiving several inches of rain in just a matter of hours.

The Fountain Creek Watershed is especially susceptible to flooding due to its steep terrain and naturally erosive soils. These types of events have been happening throughout its history. Once the ground gets saturated, erosion can happen much easier. Add to the equation rapid development changing our natural landscape into impervious surfaces, our post-fire conditions, and increasingly erratic weather, and these issues worsen.

As we reflect on these past few weeks, be reminded of the unpredictable power of nature and the importance of preparedness in the face of extreme weather events. The rain and subsequent impacts also highlight the need for the work we do: preserving and protecting Fountain Creek and working towards a resilient and healthy watershed.

"Some old-fashioned things like fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat."

Laura Ingalls Wilder

Enjoy the sunshine!

~Alli

STAY CONNECTED!
Send us your watershed pictures, ideas, and feedback.

Email Us

Visit our Website



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