



Fountain Creek Chronicles January 2024

The monthly e-newsletter about your home watershed

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



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

New Year, New Watershed Resolutions

As we step into a new year, resolutions naturally take center stage offering a chance to set clear goals that propel us toward a fulfilling life. When crafted thoughtfully, these resolutions become a powerful roadmap for action, encouraging us to achieve remarkable feats and positively contribute to our local environment and community.

In the spirit of growth, sustainability, and the safeguarding of our beloved watershed, FCWD is fully committed to another year of purposeful strides. This year, let's direct our collective focus toward resolutions that not only elevate our personal growth but also nurture the well-being of our environment and the precious watershed we proudly call home.

Resolutions for a Thriving Watershed:

1. **Waterwise Living:** Cultivate water conservation practices at home. Address leaks, invest in water-efficient appliances, and mindfully manage your water consumption.
2. **Native Landscaping:** Plan to foster gardens that champion local biodiversity. Choose native plants to create a resilient ecosystem benefiting both flora and fauna.
3. **Advocacy & Outreach:** Amplify your voice for the watershed. Advocate for policies promoting conservation and sustainability. Engage in outreach efforts to educate others on the significance of preserving our water resources.
4. **Reduce Plastic Footprint:** Pledge to minimize single-use plastics. Embrace reusable alternatives and support initiatives combating plastic pollution in our waterways.
5. **Waste Reduction:** Minimize your environmental impact through a zero-waste lifestyle. Practice responsible recycling, composting, and choose products with sustainability in mind.

We extend an invitation to each of you to adopt these resolutions and be an integral part of the positive change we aspire to achieve in the Fountain Creek Watershed. Whether you're a resident, business owner, or community leader, your actions play a crucial role in our collective impact.

Share your commitment with us on social media using the hashtag #WatershedResolutions and inspire others to join. Let's make 2024 a year of positive change, a year where we collectively contribute to the health and vitality of our shared natural treasure, the Fountain Creek Watershed.

FCWD Awarded Two Grants

We are thrilled to announce two grants we've received to help fund 2024 efforts!

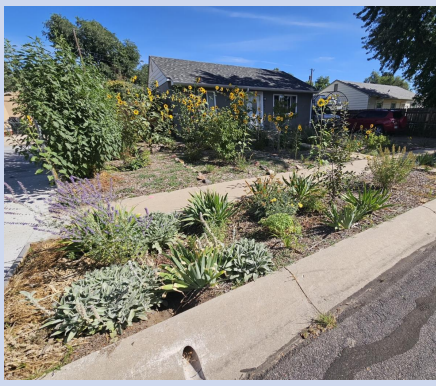
Conservation Service Corps Grant:

Supports partnership with the Mile High Youth Corps to provide maintenance and monitoring of four FCWD projects in Pueblo County. Funds for this project were awarded by Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), which receives a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds, to the Colorado Youth Corps Association for use by accredited conservation service corps. The goal of the program is to employ crews throughout the state on critical outdoor recreation and land conservation projects in partnership with local governments and open space agencies. FCWD will receive 3 weeks of work from Mile High Youth Corps - Southern Front Range valued at \$29,350. Youth and local volunteers will tackle mapping, non-native plant removal, willow staking, and other critical tasks in fragile riparian areas. Stay tuned for updates as we move forward throughout the year.

Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers (CAFSM) Grant:

To promote and install a residential rain garden in an underserved neighborhood in Colorado Springs. The District partnered with local permaculturalist Kelly Bull and secured \$2,500 for educational signage, materials, plants, and labor. A group of interested citizens has formed and will support the effort. We hope to announce work days and a tour in the coming months! What is a rain garden you ask? Check out our [webpage](#).

FCWD is grateful for the many partnerships we have in the region and will continue to seek grants on behalf of any of its member governments. We welcome any ideas and suggestions you have.



Kelly Bull's residential rain garden with curb cut

Fountain Creek Brewshed® Alliance

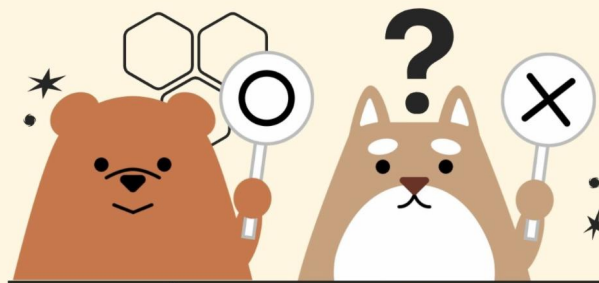
The Fountain Creek Brewshed Alliance Presents:
Liquid Lecture Series 2024



NOW ON THIRD
THURSDAYS!



NATURE NERD TRIVIA



JANUARY
18

Don't miss this opportunity to prove your mettle and earn legendary nature nerd status while having a chance to win great prizes! Prepare for an extraordinary night of trivia excitement hosted by Voodoo's own, Zach Ford. Attendees receive \$1 off beer.

📍 808 Garden of the Gods Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

🕒 From 6 PM to 8 PM

RSVP TO FCWDAA@GMAIL.COM



Brewshed Alliance Featured Partner

Voodoo Brewing Company
808 Garden of the Gods Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Voodoo Brewing Co. in Colorado Springs dishes out delicious fare, a great variety of beers, plus boozy and NA slushies and cocktails EVERY DAY 11am-11pm. Voodoo hosts tons of live music and hugely popular weekly trivia. Check this awesome brew pub out on socials and join us for this month's Nature Nerd Trivia!



Upcoming Events

**CHRISTMAS
TREE RECYCLE**

Location:
Cheyenne Mountain State Park
Visitor Center parking lot
410 J.L. Ranch Heights
Colorado Springs, CO, 80926

Dates & Times:
Dec 29th: 1pm-4pm
Dec 30th-31st: 9am-4pm
Jan 5th: 1pm-4pm
Jan 6th: 9am-4pm

Suggested donation of \$5 per tree
Real trees only, please remove all decorations, wires, and nails from the tree beforehand

**Christmas Tree Recycling
with Friends of CMSP**
Cheyenne Mountain State Park
January 5th, 1-4 PM
January 6th, 9 AM-4 PM

Help support one of our beloved local parks by recycling your tree at Cheyenne Mountain. The tree recycle team will be set-up in the Visitor Center parking lot. All decorations, tree stands, wires, and nails should be removed from trees before dropping them off. Suggested donation of \$5 per tree (cash or credit card) goes to supporting volunteers and park programming.

Seven Convenient Area TreeCycle Locations
OPEN TWO WEEKENDS
December 30 & 31, 2023
January 6 & 7, 2024
9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Baptist Road Trailhead (Baptist Rd. & Old Denver Hwy.)
Falcon Trailhead (South of Woodmen Rd. & McLaughlin Rd.)
Cottonwood Creek Park (Dublin Blvd. & Montarbor Dr.)
UC Health Park (Barnes Rd. & Tutt Blvd.)
Rock Ledge Ranch (Gateway Rd. & 30th St.)
Memorial Park (Pikes Peak Ave. & Union Blvd.)

EXTENDED HOURS AT ROCKY TOP RESOURCES
1755 E. Las Vegas St.
December 26-30, 2023 and January 2-13 & 16-31, 2024
2:00 AM-5:00 PM Weekdays & 8:00 AM-4:00 PM Saturdays (Closed Sundays)

Must Remove Everything from Trees BEFORE Drop Off
FREE TREE MULCH
When Available - Call for Details

Learn More At TreeCycleCOS.org
or afgusos.com (719) 520-2878

DONATE ONLINE AT
givebutler.com/tree

**ALL DONATIONS BENEFIT
COMMUNITY YOUTH PROGRAMS!**

Supported by:

TreeCycle Dropoff
January 6th-7th
9 AM-4:30 PM

Looking for a different spot to recycle your Xmas tree? Trees can be dropped off at the following locations through a City of COS partnership with local orgs & companies:

- Baptist Road Trailhead (Baptist Rd. & Old Denver Hwy.)
- Falcon Trailhead (South of Woodmen Rd. & McLaughlin Rd.)
- Cottonwood Creek Park (Dublin Blvd. & Montarbor Dr.)
- UC Health Park (Barnes Rd. & Tutt Blvd.)
- Rock Ledge Ranch (Gateway Rd. & 30th St.)
- Memorial Park (Pikes Peak Ave. & Union Blvd.)

Theater Along the Trail:
A Bear Creek Living History

A BEAR CREEK LIVING HISTORY
Saturday, January 6
1:00-2:00 ~ 1:15-2:15 ~ 1:30-2:30 ~ 1:45-2:45

Be entertained and learn about Bear Creek Canyon as our actors give first person accounts, including a Signal Service operator, a County Poor Farm matron, and an owner of a rooming house in Cripple Creek, along our beautiful winter trails!




245 Bear Creek Road
REGISTER HERE: \$8/PERSON

Learn more about Bear Creek Canyon's fascinating story. Actors along the hike will give first person accounts of real people that lived in or traveled through Bear Creek Canyon including a Signal Service operator, a County Poor Farm matron, and an owner of a rooming house in Cripple Creek. Explore Bear Creek's rich history and what Bear Creek means to you on our beautiful winter trails! Showings begin every 15 minutes. Prepaid registration required. \$8 per person // \$6 per member.

Presented by Poor Richard's Downtown

RICHARD'S RUBBISH ROUNDUP
EVERY TUESDAY! 3PM - 5PM

Join our weekly trash roundup team, and help keep our community clean!

TEAMS MEET HERE (PARKING LOT OF THE MARIAN HOUSE OFF BLVD BETWEEN CASCADE & P-25)



Head to Poor Richard's at 5pm for a free draft beer or house wine.
Children 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Richard's Rubbish Roundup
Glen Ave parking lot across from the HAS Demonstration Garden
Every Tuesday, 3-5 pm

Richard's Rubbish Roundup works to clean up Monument Valley Park South every Tuesday. This is one of the most used and neglected public spaces in the downtown area. Supplies are provided (trash bags, gloves, safety vests, trash grabbers, etc). Volunteers are invited back to Rico's Cafe for a complimentary house wine or draft beer and discounted appetizers! All ages are welcome. 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Cleanups resume Jan 9, 2024.



Manitou Seed Library
Est. 2012

Seed Saturdays
Manitou Springs Public Library
January 13th, 11 AM-1 PM

Manitou Springs Seed Library hosts Seed Saturdays on the 2nd Saturdays of September-May. Drop into the library to pick up native seeds ranging from wildflower, trees, shrubs, and some native grasses. Resources to learn how to grow and succeed with Front Range regional native species will also be available.

In Honor Of
Martin Luther King Jr.
Until The Dream Becomes Reality



MLK SERVICE DAY
Monday | January 15, 2024 | 12pm-3pm

A Day of Celebration and Service
Concrete Coyote | 1100 S Royer St
Colorado Springs, CO

MLK Service Day
Concrete Coyote
January 15th, 12-3 PM

Concrete Couch will host a day of celebration and service in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. - Until the Dream Becomes Reality - with food, free creative activities, and more! The event will be held at Concrete Coyote, 1100 S. Royer, CS, CO, 80903. Join our community in remembering and giving back!



Featured Native Plant
Blanket flower, *Gaillardia aristata*

Welcome to another article with fascinating insights into the vibrant world of Colorado's native flora. This month, we shine the spotlight on the Blanket flower, also known as Firewheel. This hardy perennial wildflower boasts striking blooms characterized by a captivating blend of red, yellow, and orange hues. Its distinctive appearance makes it a favorite among pollinators and nature enthusiasts alike. Blanket flower thrives in a variety of conditions, and its ability to withstand drought, full sun, and poor soil quality makes it an excellent choice for novice and experienced gardeners. Blanket flower is not just a treat for the eyes; it's also a vital resource for pollinators. Bees, butterflies, and other native insects flock to its nectar-rich blooms, contributing to the delicate balance of our local ecosystems. By planting Blanket flower in your garden, you can actively support and promote biodiversity.

Watershed Words

2024, Here We Come!

A note from Executive Director Alli Schuch

Dear Watershed Community,

As we step into the first month of 2024, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable journey we embarked on together in 2023 and the exciting prospects that lie ahead for our watershed. Last year, our collective efforts and commitment to environmental stewardship yielded numerous successes and milestones, and I am immensely proud of what we achieved as a community.

The District's team grew to add Hannah Mooney, our full time Outreach Coordinator, and Jordan Witteveen, our part time Administrative Assistant. We were thrilled to have Susan Finzel's Xcel Foundation grant renewed to continue her great outreach work in Pueblo. Once again we supported a Colorado College fellow for the summer and engaged a number of special volunteers throughout the year.

Our education and outreach programs flourished in 2023. We increased our reach in terms of participation and impact in underserved communities on Pueblo's east side, and in Southeastern Colorado Springs. From school presentations to community programming, we worked together to raise awareness about the importance of watershed protection and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards. Celebrating a decade of watershed-wide cleanups with Creek Week was certainly a highlight. Our community members inspire me with their continued enthusiasm and engagement.

Looking forward to 2024, I am excited about the opportunities that await us. As we continue to build on our successes, we will also face new challenges and uncertainties. Sustainable funding, managing complex restoration projects, and supporting our member governments are key focus areas for us as we continue our ongoing commitment to adaptive and sustainable practices for a healthy watershed.

Our watershed's health is a reflection of our collective actions and together we can make a lasting impact. Thank you for your unwavering support, dedication, and passion for preserving the beauty and vitality of our watershed. Let's make 2024 a year of continued growth, collaboration, and success.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year and looking forward to another year of positive change!

~Alli Schuch

Stay Connected

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

Email Us

Visit Our Website



Fountain Creek Watershed District | PO Box 8100, Colorado Springs, CO 80933

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