



Fountain Creek Chronicles September 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 our home watershed.



Creek Week 2023 Projects Beyond the Rubbish

At the Fountain Creek Watershed District, we believe in the power of collaboration and community engagement to make a lasting impact on the environment we all share. While trash cleanups are essential, we understand that true community improvement extends beyond picking up litter. That's why we are committed to being impactful stewards and forging partnerships with various agencies, groups, and nonprofits to support and complete land management-based projects that enhance our beloved watershed. In celebration of Creek Week's 10th year and our mission of being IMPACTFUL, we have partnered with 5 organizations across the watershed to bring new and different opportunities to our volunteers.

From invasive tamarisk removal and habitat restoration in Pueblo to mycelium spreading at Concrete Coyote to trail building and cleanups at Palmer Park, volunteers have access to 5 unique opportunities over the next 2 months. These volunteer projects are a chance to improve the health of our watershed and support local organizations.

We invite you to explore the exciting opportunities listed above and consider joining us in our mission to be IMPACTFUL stewards of the Fountain Creek Watershed. By working together, we can create a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable Watershed!

Click on a flyer below to register for a Stewardship Project!



THE FOUNTAIN CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT AND GUARDIANS OF PALMER PARK PRESENTS: A CREEK WEEK LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

PALMER PARK VOLUNTEER DAY

September 9, 2023 8am-noon Maizeland/ Academy Entrance



Palmer Park, Colorado Springs (Photo: Daaku026/Getty Images)

Join us for a volunteer day of trailwork, trash cleanup and social trail closure!

Volunteers age 8 and up can learn how mitigate erosion by building timber check dams with John Hawk.

Come prepared with long pants, closed toe shoes, sunscreen, water, snacks, and work gloves!

[Register here](#)



THE FOUNTAIN CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT AND CONCRETE COYOTE PRESENTS:

CONCRETE COUCH LAND STEWARDSHIP DAY



What: Community volunteer work day consisting of Mycelia spreading, Native tree care, Invasive species mitigation,

Litter cleanup, music and a free lunch!

Where: Concrete Coyote 1100 S. Royer, 80903

When: September 23rd, 2023 from 10am- 1pm

Who: All ages!

Register: Kai@concretecouch.org

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
KAI@CONCRETECOUCH.ORG
FOUNTAINCREEKOUTREACH@GMAIL.COM

September 9th, 9am-Noon

Join the Guardians of Palmer Park for this fun and exciting work day putting in check dams, cleaning litter and a scoop the poop cleanup.

September 23rd, 1-4pm

Concrete Couch will treat you to a free lunch and DJ set during this work day! Choose between native tree care station, mycelium spreading, and a creek cleanup!



The Fountain Creek Watershed District with City of Pueblo Parks Recreation Dept. is hosting:
A Creek Week Land Stewardship Project!

CONFLUENCE PARK VOLUNTEER DAY



VOLUNTEER WITH US FOR A HALF DAY OF CLEARING INVASIVE PLANTS AND RESTORING CREEK HABITAT!!

DATE: FRIDAY, SEPT. 29, 2023 9AM-NOON

Location: Meet at Confluence Park lot,
4301 LaCrosse Ave., near Stockyard Road

Who: Volunteers age 14+

Come prepared! Wear long pants, closed-toe shoes, sunscreen, hat, water, and work gloves. Drinks and snacks provided.

Signed waivers required (FCWD and City of Pueblo Parks & Rec Dept.)

For Info, Call Pueblo Parks & Rec Dept. Volunteer Coord. 719-553-2810
or Register here:



The Fountain Creek Watershed District with Pueblo County CSU Extension Service is hosting:
A Creek Week Land Stewardship Project!

CONFLUENCE PARK VOLUNTEER DAY



VOLUNTEER WITH US TO PLANT NATIVE SEEDS TO RESTORE CREEK HABITAT!!

DATE: SATURDAY, SEPT. 30, 2023 9AM-NOON

Location: Meet at Confluence Park lot,
4301 LaCrosse Ave., near Stockyard Road

Who: Volunteers age 14+

Come prepared with long pants, closed-toe shoes, sunscreen, hat, water, and work gloves. Drinks and snacks provided.

Signed waivers required (FCWD and CSU County Extension-Pueblo)

For Info, Call Pueblo County CSU Extension 719-583-6566
or Register here: <https://PuebloCreekWeek23.eventbrite.com>

September 29th, 9am-Noon

This is the first of a 2-day volunteer project at Confluence Park in Pueblo, Colorado. Volunteers will clear out invasive species from the riparian corridor.

September 30th, 9am-Noon

This is the second day of the Confluence Park project in Pueblo, Colorado. Volunteers will spread native seed to restore the riparian corridor.

10th Annual Creek Week Registration

September 30th - October 8th

The last day to register a Crew is September 15th. We have over 50 crews registered! This year, we would love to see 4,000 people participate throughout our communities - from Palmer Lake to Pueblo - so **pick a time, pick a day, and pick it up!** 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. **Register here.**

Creek Week Cleanup 2023 Commercial



For information and registration
www.fountain-crk/creek-week-2023-registration



Brewshed® Alliance

Tune in for some exciting updates from the Fountain Creek Brewshed Alliance.

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




SEPTEMBER TOPIC
Lost Structures
of Garden of the Gods




September 20, 6-7pm
Goat Patch Brewing Company
2727 N Cascade Ave, #123, CO Springs

Join park interpreter Bowen Gillings as he shows how over the last two centuries pioneers, entrepreneurs, and civic leaders have used the land of the Garden of the Gods for purposes ranging from homes to curio shops to concert stages. We'll take a look at what buildings used to be nestled amongst the rocks, what they were used for, and why they aren't there today.

Please RSVP to fcwdaa@gmail.com
Attendees receive \$1 off beer

Brewshed® Alliance Featured Partner
Goat Patch Brewing Co.
2727 N Cascade Ave, #123



Goat Patch Brewing Co. is a long time friend of the watershed. Goat Patch is located in the former Lincoln School. They bring an awesome community element to the Roswell neighborhood through their multitude of workshops and events. They have hosted numerous Liquid Lectures over the years and they are now hosting the Watershed District twice in one month!

Natives by Seed Initiative

by Billy Richard
Nursery Manager at Rick's Garden Center

Rick's Garden Center has launched a method of propagation that is sure to please native plant enthusiasts. This summer a trial of 12 different species was launched at our garden center. Each of these species are being propagated by seed in order to preserve genetic diversity. The first run of the Natives by Seed Initiative will be available for purchase later in the season and distributed through at Manitou Springs Creek Week events on October 7th. **Register here** for Manitou's cleanups and get your free native plant!
Each species we chose are endemic to broad swaths of Colorado. These include Yarrow,



Blanketflower, Desert 4 O’Clock, Penstemon, Columbine, Milkweed, and others. These plants were chosen because of their beauty, drought tolerance, adaptability, and ecological value. It is our hope that these plants will serve our local pollinator populations and inspire our community to consider native plants when planting their gardens.

The most revolutionary aspect of our Natives by Seed Initiative is the potting medium that we use. Inspired by the work of Alex Crochet, City of Colorado Springs Horticulturist, the medium is comprised of 70% breeze and 30% compost. Breeze, also called crusher fines, is a byproduct of gravel manufacture and is often used for pathways or as a road base. It consists of small, angular granite pieces that range in size from small pebbles to dust. Together with the addition of compost, this medium gives our native plants the lean, free-draining substrate that they prefer. It also significantly reduces our cost and mitigates our dependence on sphagnum peat moss, the main component of most potting mixes, and a resource that is being harvested faster than peat bogs can replenish.

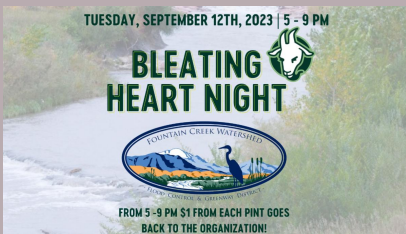
It is our hope that this radical take on native plant propagation will provide our community with low-cost, high-quality plants that would otherwise be unavailable. We have begun to answer the call for species type, non-cultivar native plants with a method that we think will benefit the horticultural destiny of Colorado for many years to come.

Upcoming Events



From Source to Mouth: a creative survey of Monument Creek by Erin Elder September 1st-November 9th Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center

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**



Bleating Heart Night at Goat Patch Brewing Co. September 12th, 5-9pm 2727 N Cascade Ave, #123

"Bleating Heart Nights" are Goat Patch's way of combining good beer with a good cause! They host a new organization every Tuesday night to raise money for that org. By attending one of these Bleating Heart Nights, every pint purchased between 5-9pm will result in a \$1 donation to the highlighted non-profit organization.

"The inspiration for the name "Bleating Heart" came from the distinctive sound goats make, which is referred to as a "bleat." And, in the context of philanthropy, a compassionate and charitable goat is aptly called a "bleating heart."
- Goat Patch Brewing Co.

You're invited to show your support for the Watershed District on Tuesday, September 12th from 5-9pm. While you're there, don't miss the chance to savor our brand-new brew, the Impactful IPA.



World Rivers Day September 22nd

World Rivers Day is an occasion dedicated to honoring the planet's watercourses, shining a spotlight on the diverse benefits they provide, and working to enhance global recognition while promoting better care and management of rivers worldwide.

"Rivers are the arteries of our planet; they are lifelines in the truest sense."
~ Mark Angelo



What Lives in Fountain Creek? September 23rd, 10am-2pm Fountain Creek Nature Center

Fish, frogs, turtles, macroinvertebrates: Fountain Creek is home to an abundance of creatures. Together with Nature Center staff and a DNR fish biologist, using a variety of tools and techniques, we will get into and explore Fountain Creek to see who lives in the creek. For ages 10+. \$5 per person, \$4 per member. **Prepaid registration required here.**



Spring Creek Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study

September 29th, 2-6pm
262 S Academy Blvd

The City of Colorado Springs and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are partnering to develop an enhancement plan for the ecosystem along Spring Creek. USACE will set up an informative booth to share details about the project and address any queries you may have. You're invited to learn more about the proposed ecosystem restoration project at Spring Creek and provide insights. Feedback is highly valued and plays a crucial role in shaping this transformative initiative.



Creek Week 'Clean n Crawl' Cleanup September 30th, 1-5pm along Tejon Street

Clean n Crawl is a unique 21+ event that combines the spirit of community service with the enjoyment of a pub crawl. Participants will come prepared to clean up Tejon Street while making drink stops at four different locations (Atomic Cowboy, Jack Quinn's, Jose Muldoon's, and Tony's) along the way. Crawlers will receive a cozy beanie for participating as well as a beer at each stop and have fun playing games for awesome prizes and improving our community!



Buy Tickets for the Clean n
Crawl

Conservation Corner

It's *Secondhand September*, a sustainability initiative that encourages people to refrain from buying new clothing items for the entire month of September. The campaign originated in the United Kingdom but has gained international recognition as a way to promote sustainable fashion choices. Second Hand September encourages people to address these issues by opting to explore thrift stores, consignment shops, vintage boutiques, and online platforms for second-hand clothing options.

The goal of Secondhand September is to raise awareness about the environmental and ethical issues associated with the fashion industry. Fast fashion, which involves the rapid production and consumption of inexpensive clothing, has been linked to various negative impacts, including:

1. **Environmental Impact:** the fashion industry is a significant contributor to pollution, water consumption, and greenhouse gas emissions. Producing textiles and clothing involves chemical processes and vast amounts of water leading to environmental degradation.
2. **Waste Generation:** Fast fashion encourages the disposal of clothing items after only a few uses resulting in a tremendous amount of textile waste in landfills.
3. **Ethical Concerns:** Many fast fashion brands have faced scrutiny for exploitative labor practices including low wages and poor working conditions in factories.

Here are some of our favorite local secondhand shops:

- Arc Thrift Stores
- Coralun Vintage
- Electric Goodies
- Gearonimo Sports
- Habitat for Humanity ReStores
- Mountain Equipment Recyclers
- Play It Again Sports
- Who Gives a Scrap

Click the button below to pledge to participate and promote a circular economy this September!

Pledge to
Participate



Watershed Words

A note from Executive Director Alli Schuch



A few weekends ago my husband and I headed to the Big City (Denver) to visit the Museum of Science and Nature. I hadn't been there since I was a young child; we really enjoyed the exhibits. Our main reason for going was to see one of my environmental hero's new film, Jane Goodall's Reason for Hope.

I've been a fangirl of Dr. Goodall from a very early age. I have been amazed at her pioneering work as a solo 26-year-old female who headed into the wilds of Tanzania, Africa to study the little-known world of chimpanzees. She has since inspired millions across the globe with her "Roots and Shoots" environmental education programs and messages of hope. I was fortunate to see her when she visited Denver several years ago and will never forget her standard greeting – mimicking the hoots of chimpanzees – as an opening to her talk. Dr. Jane's nearly 60 years of groundbreaking work has shown us the urgent need to protect chimps from extinction. She has also redefined conservation to include the needs of local people and the environments we share.

This film highlights some great success stories and shares her 4 pillars of hope:

1. The amazing human intellect
2. The resilience of nature
3. The power and dedication of young people
4. The indomitable human spirit

I don't know about you, but there seems to be a lot of bad news lately when it comes to the environment. To be honest, it's somewhat frightening. This movie helped me to set those concerns aside and remember there is still so much good happening on our planet. Sometimes you just need to look for it.

The stories shared in the film are about an ibis, American bison, the re-greening of a community in Ontario, and several youth initiatives. They are woven together along with historic footage of Dr. Jane's research and infused with inspirational messages to help us all recognize that *hope does exist*. Dedicated people in communities everywhere are changing the world for the better and these types of efforts will help sustain us despite an unknown future.

I left the film teary-eyed, and re-invigorated about the work we do in the Fountain Creek Watershed. A great example of a success story is our very own Creek Week Cleanup. From its humble beginning 10 years ago with 600 volunteers, Creek Week has not only inspired 20,000 volunteers to love their home watershed by picking up trash, but we've also expanded it to include land management activities where we are removing non-native plants, adding natives plants back in, and chipping away at riparian restoration. We are helping people to understand the challenges of managing this erratic watershed and are slowly but surely helping to increase the resilience and health of our home waterways. Many of you reading this have been a part of that, and I want to thank you for your commitment and support. May I remind you that Creek Week is almost here – have you signed up yet?

Check out this film, and I believe you will be inspired once again as I was. Look for hope; it's out there. Take some action be it large or small. Every day we can make a difference; we must for the future of this planet we share.

~Alli Schuch

Stay Connected

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

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Website



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

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