

Fountain Creek Watershed

Flood Control & Greenway District

FACT SHEET

Greenways



ABOUT THE FOUNTAIN CREEK WATERSHED

A watershed is a region that drains into a river, river system or other common body of water. The Fountain Creek Watershed is located along the central front range of Colorado. It is a 927-square-mile area of land and water that drains to the Arkansas River at Pueblo and, ultimately, to the Gulf of Mexico. The watershed's boundaries are defined by the shape of the land – Palmer Divide to the north, Pikes Peak to the west, and a minor divide 20 miles east of Colorado Springs.

Why is watershed protection important? Improving our waterways helps with water quality, stormwater management, flood prevention, creating recreational opportunities and nature habitat for wildlife. Since 2009, the Fountain Creek Watershed District has actively collaborated with other agencies, organizations, and citizens to address these issues.

WHAT IS A GREENWAY?

A greenway is a long strip of land – often alongside a creek or river – that has been specifically identified for development as a trail, because it meets all or most of these criteria:

- Offers outstanding recreational use,
- Will be appreciated for its scenic value,
- Is critical to protect due to its environmental and riparian value, and
- Can be instrumental in stormwater management and flood control strategies.



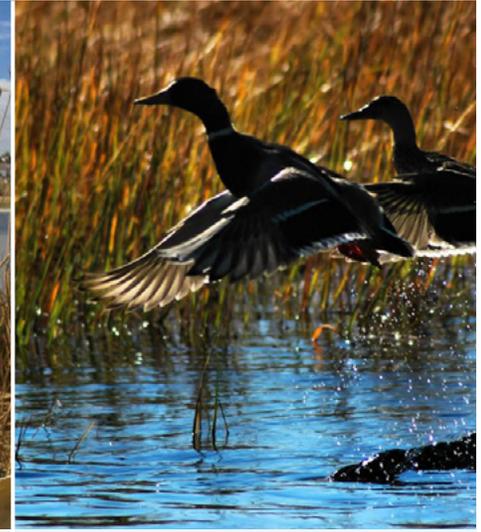
FEATURED GREENWAYS IN THE FOUNTAIN CREEK WATERSHED

- 1 Fountain Creek Trail in Pueblo (Front Range Trail) – This 4.6-mile trail follows its namesake creek through the northeastern neighborhoods of Pueblo and ties into the Arkansas River Trail. Learn more at COTREX (Colorado Trail Explorer): <https://trails.colorado.gov/trails/fountain-creek-21968>
- 2 Pikes Peak Greenway Trail in Colorado Springs (Front Range Trail) – This lengthy north-west spine trail is known by different names: the Santa Fe Regional Trail, Pikes Peak Greenway Trail, and Fountain Creek Regional Trail in El Paso County. Learn more at COTREX: <https://trails.colorado.gov/trails/pikes-peak-greenway-12175>



WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

- A new Fountain Creek Greenway system will allow public access to Fountain Creek. As a community, we'll develop a sense of pride and ownership in the long-term health of this vital community asset.
- As we gain a sense of responsibility – and the will to protect this resource – we can create a healthy creek system that offers a rich riparian habitat and outstanding recreational opportunities.
- Mitigating these issues will result in a watershed that each of us can use and enjoy for recreation.



SHOULD WE CREATE A NEW GREENWAY? YES! HERE'S WHY...

According to *The Fountain Creek Corridor Restoration Master Plan*, pursuing public access to Fountain Creek – including the creation of a greenway – should be a priority in all creek restoration projects. A key consideration is that, currently, public access to Fountain Creek is extremely limited.

The Plan stresses that access/visibility is an important strategy in restoration projects. In order for the entire watershed community to value Fountain Creek as an asset – and worth saving and restoring – we need to be able to experience the creek. (“Community” includes residents of Pueblo, Fountain, Colorado Springs, and beyond.)

To instill a sense of responsibility for our creek, we need to have access to Fountain Creek. A great way to do this is by creating a new greenway trail along Fountain Creek that connects Colorado Springs and Pueblo.

Good news! In October 2019, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) awarded a \$75,000 planning grant to the Fountain

Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District to develop a master plan for a new Fountain Creek Greenway Trail. The eventual goal is to create a 46-mile trail connecting Colorado Springs and Pueblo. Ideally, this greenway trail would be part of the larger Colorado Front Range Trail, a continuous trail network that ultimately would run from Wyoming to New Mexico.

The Fountain Creek Corridor Restoration Master Plan envisions an extensive Fountain Creek Greenway system, which will inspire people to enjoy, support, protect, and restore our creek. This is where the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District can play an active role. In fact, a key reason the District was established was to develop public recreational opportunities including trails and parks in the watershed.

DISTRICT CONTACTS

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC): Technical experts who provide recommendations to the Board on public policy or expenditure of funds for the benefit of the watershed and to carry on other investigations. (Learn more: www.fountain-crk.org/about/technical-advisory-committee).

Citizen's Advisory Group (CAG): Citizens representing various interests within the watershed who offer advice to the Board on managing the watershed. (Learn more: www.fountain-crk.org/about/citizens-advisory-group).

District Board: Representatives from Pueblo County, El Paso County, City of Pueblo, City of Colorado Springs, City of Fountain, and others as defined by statute. (Learn more: www.fountain-crk.org/about/district-board).

For more information about the statutory authority and purpose of the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District, see Colorado Revised Statute 32-11.5. You can also visit www.Fountain-Crk.org or call 719-447-5012.

