



# Trail Signs

2012 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAND CREEK REGIONAL GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP



Welcome to  
our 2012 Annual  
Report!



Stay up to date with  
Greenway news,  
construction updates  
and events on  
Facebook and Twitter

## Upcoming Events

**Race for Open  
Space 5K & Earth  
Day Fest  
Saturday, April 20**



**We are partnering  
with Bluff Lake  
Nature Center to  
host a 5K  
walk/run and  
Earth Day Festival  
on Saturday, April**

## Sunrise On Our Second Decade

### Our Tenth Anniversary Year Was Marked by Major Investment in the Greenway's Future Expansion...

Ten years of service: that's what the Sand Creek Regional Greenway marked in 2012. It was a moment when we celebrated what we've accomplished--and more importantly, when we received a major investment in our future.



Last summer, the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership, along with Aurora, Commerce City, and Denver, received \$4.65 million from the Foundation Fund of the Natural Resource Damage Settlement, a resolution regarding the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. The funds will be used to purchase key parcels on the route of the Greenway in Commerce City and Aurora, and to remove invasive Russian olive trees and tamarisk along the Greenway, with help from the Mile High Youth Corps. Special thanks go to Attorney General John Suthers and his staff for their exceptional efforts on the Arsenal settlement.

**20! Click here for more information and to register for the 5K.**

### **New Volunteer Events in 2012**



With another spring comes a new year of volunteer events on the Greenway! We have some exciting projects lined up for 2013. [Click here to learn more...](#)

**Special Thanks for 'Helping Us Go Wild' in 2012!**



That new investment was among a series of events that marked a year of growing use and appreciation of our Wilderness in the City. Here are other milestones we enjoyed as trail users moved into their second decade exploring the Greenway:



### **Trailhead Renovation & New Paved Trail**

Over 100 volunteers celebrated Earth Day 2012 by renovating our Smith Road Trailhead in Denver. The **Cairn Youth Group** from **Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC)** spent six hours transforming the parking lot, installing a new gate and fencing, two Xeriscape (low water) gardens, and an interpretive sign to educate the public about sustainable gardening. A huge thank you to VOC, Colorado Garden Show, Recycled Materials, Mortenson Construction, and everyone else who made this project possible!



Thanks to a generous donation from Suncor Energy, we will soon see construction of **an underpass at 47th Avenue**. This will lead into a **newly paved**

**trail** extending south to the I-70 overpass over Sand Creek, paid for by a grant from the **Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment**. A habitat restoration grant from **Xcel Energy Foundation** allowed work on removing invasive species



and planting native species, on the Greenway.

### New Trail to National Wildlife Refuge

In 2012 the first trail connection was created linking the Greenway to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (RMANWR). The new Refuge Connector Trail will create a link from the Greenway to



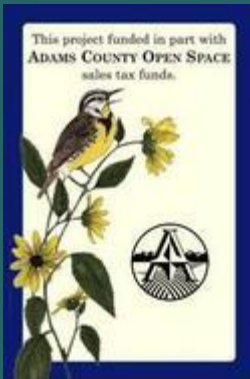
Two Ponds and Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge in the future. Many thanks go to the Fish & Wildlife Service for supporting a major trails planning activity this past year.

### "National Recreation Trail" Designation



U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar bestowed a major honor on the Greenway in 2012, declaring it an official National Recreation Trail. The Greenway was the only in Colorado, and one of only 54 other trails in the nation, to receive the distinction.

The National Recreational Trail program recognizes trails of local and regional significance that link communities to recreational opportunities and activities. Much thanks to Secretary Salazar and the Department of the Interior for recognizing the Greenway.



## A Celebration of our Tenth Anniversary

We marked the 10th anniversary of the Greenway's opening with events in all three partner cities on Saturday, August 26. In Aurora we entertained guests at the Morrison Nature Center with a "birds of prey" presentation by Nature's Educators. In Commerce City we cut a birthday cake with our board of directors, city council members, and Congressman Ed Perlmutter (who rode his bike all the way from Golden!). And in Denver, we hosted a Family Fun Day at our Smith Road Trailhead with games, crafts, live animal presentations, and a ducky derby.



## NextGen Made Great Strides in 2012

SCRGP's youth outreach program, Next Generation Partners or NextGen, made great strides in environmental education and youth career development in 2012. During the summer, NextGen students from Commerce City and Denver





## SCRGP Board of Directors, 2012

### President

**Charles Bayley**

City of Bennett, CO

### Vice President

**Rene Bullock**

Commerce City Council

### Secretary

**Jenna Spendlove**

Community Volunteer

### Treasurer

**Chuck Warren**

Community Volunteer

### Max Dodson

Community Volunteer

### Greg Fletcher

Suncor Energy

### Paul Frohardt

CO Dept. of Public Health and the Environment

### Kathy Green

Former Aurora City Council

### Chris Herndon

Denver City Council

painted and installed recycling bins along the Greenway--the first ever!

Our 2012 AmeriCorps VISTA, Katie Lampe, worked with several local refugee centers, and brought teens formerly from Bhutan and several African countries to the Greenway for water quality testing and trips to Aurora's Morrison Nature Center.



Zach Pekor took over as Sand Creek's AmeriCorps VISTA for 2013/2014. Zach steered the NextGen program more toward career development with the Denver Zoo, the National Center for Atmospheric Research, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

In 2012, Katie and Zach organized 42 NextGen sessions, reaching 465 local youth who received over 1,700 hours of environmental education and contributed over a thousand hours of community service.

## A Note from Kate Kramer, Executive Director and Charles Bayley, Board President



Dear Trail Supporter,

We couldn't have launched the Greenway's second decade in a more promising fashion than with the announcement of major funding for future expansion that will be allowed by the Rocky Mountain Arsenal

settlement.

While we work with our three participating cities in arranging the land purchases those funds will allow, we're recalling a great anniversary year--one that was marked by unprecedented activities involving our volunteers and other trail users. We hope we



**Scott Jaquith**

Community Volunteer

**Marcia Johnson**

Former Denver City Council

**Howard Kennison**

Lindquist & Vennum PLLP

**Kate Kramer**

SCRGP

**Matt Lepore**

Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission

**Barry Levene**

Aurora Open Space Board

**Robert Osborn**

Xcel Energy

**Renie Peterson**

Aurora City Council

**Rich Reading**

Denver Zoological Foundation

**Kathy Teter**

Former Commerce City Council

**Tom Tobiassen**

RTD Board of Directors

**NextGen Schools & Presenters, 2012**

Commerce City Boys & Girls Club

North Middle School

South Middle School

Bruce Randolph

African Community Center

Commerce City Parks & Rec Teen Camp

Commerce City Parks & Rec Youth Camp

Colorado African Organization

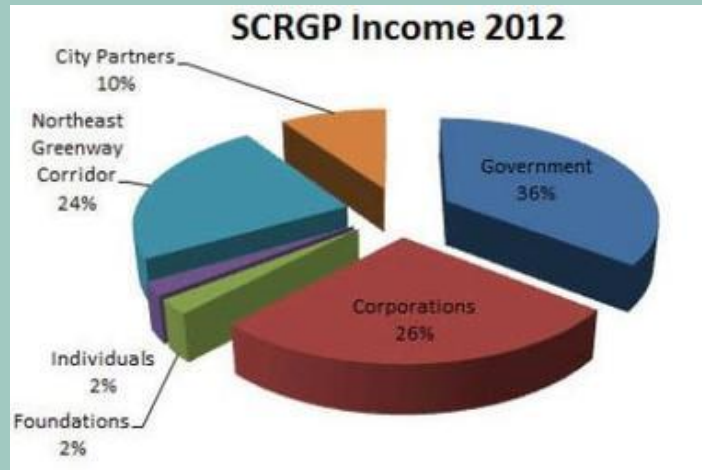
Aurora YMCA

see you on the Greenway this year, and in the very promising years ahead.

**Charles Bayley**  
Board of Directors President

**Kate Kramer**  
Executive Director

**2012 Income & Expenses**



**Race for Open Space 5K Walk/Run**  
*Less than 2 weeks left to sign-up online!*

William Smith H.S.  
Morrison Nature  
Center  
Water for People  
Nature's Educators  
U.S. EPA  
Rocky Mountain  
Arsenal N.W.R  
Earthforce



We hope that you will join us for our upcoming Race for Open Space 5K & Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 20! Discounted online pricing ends on April 17, so sign up today! [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

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