



# ON THE WILD SIDE

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SAND CREEK REGIONAL GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP



AUGUST 2013

## Summer 2013 Newsletter

Welcome to our 2013 Summer Newsletter!



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

Support the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership. [Click here to donate.](#)

### Upcoming Events

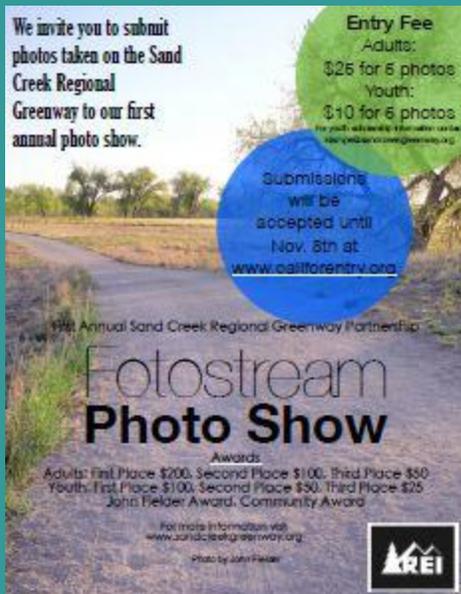
**Photo Contest**

#### What's Your Favorite Place Along the Sand Creek Regional Greenway?

What's your very favorite spot along the 14-mile expanse of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway? Year 2013 is turning out to be a time of expansion along the trail- new access points, new convenience for trail users, and the start of new trail connections north and east that will someday add even more miles to our "Wilderness in the City." This is the right moment to take stock of what we're already enjoying today. We've asked some faces seen frequently along Sand Creek, "which places are special to you right now?"



Users Share Their Special Places Along the Greenway



Submit photos taken on the Sand Creek Regional Greenway to [www.callforentry.org](http://www.callforentry.org) (search for Fotostream) for the chance to win great prizes and have your photo displayed in several locations throughout the Denver metro area!

### Volunteer Events



For information about upcoming volunteer events, [click here](#).

Interested in volunteering, but don't want to get your hands dirty? We are



**Peggy Montaño**, attorney with Trout, Raley, Montaño, Witwer & Freeman, P.C., lives in south Denver and loves riding the trail to see the wildlife or go to Balistreri Vineyards. "There is nothing better than a bicycle ride on a beautiful morning that brings you to the Balistreri Winery along

the South Platte River near the Sand Creek Greenway. Great bicycle ride and wonderful lunch of food and wine along the way!"

**Rene' Bullock**, mayor Pro Tem of Commerce

City, enjoys the Commerce City Wetland Park. He loves to see the progress of trees he has planted over the years. Rene' likes to keep fit and can recommend a longer bicycle ride or run on Greenway with a stop at the picnic tables (and restroom) at the Wetland Park.



SCRGP Executive Director, **Kate**

**Kramer's** favorite spot is a new underpass at 47th Avenue on the Commerce City and Denver boundary- set to open this September. Until now, trail users had to cross 47th Avenue with no stop sign or stop light near Quebec and Sand Creek Drive. The site was the ONLY remaining street-level crossing in all of Commerce City and Denver! A commitment from Suncor Energy made construction possible, dramatically improving trail safety. SCRGP thanks Suncor for this generous investment in our community!

in need of a volunteer to help out in the office a few hours per week. Contact Katie at [klampe@sandcreekgreenway.org](mailto:klampe@sandcreekgreenway.org) or 303-468-3262 if you're interested.

### Walking Tour

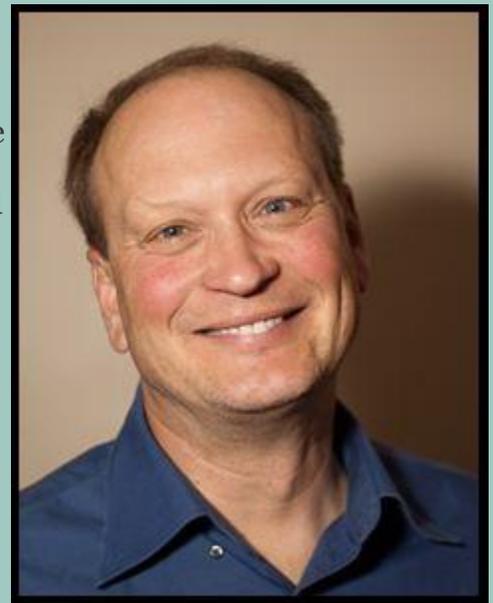
Join us on Wednesday, September 25 at Sand Creek Park in Aurora, for a free walking tour of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway. For more information and to RSVP, contact Christina at [charney@sandcreekgreenway.org](mailto:charney@sandcreekgreenway.org) or 303-468-3264.

Special Thanks for 'Helping Us Go Wild' in 2013!



Outdoor Author **Mark Obmascik** says, "Sand Creek Greenway is one of my favorite getaway places in metro Denver. I enjoy birding at Bluff Lake Nature Center, and I especially like riding my fat-tire bike in spring and winter along the trail from Dahlia

Street to Star K. In the winter, when the trail has snow, I've seen bald eagles and ferruginous hawks along the trail... many species of ducks and herons in spring." He is award-winning author of *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature, and Fowl Obsession*, and *Halfway to Heaven: My Whiteknuckled- and Knuckledheaded-Quest for the Rocky Mountain High*.



**Favorite Spot for Students:** Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch

Students from the African Community Center love visiting the Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch during Next Generation Partners field trips to the site along Aurora sections of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway trail. Hunting for aquatic organisms- bugs, beetles, and insects- in Sand Creek reminded one



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student from Nepal of past fishing trips in their native country. Another immigrant from Thailand said, "Many things I saw made me miss my old childhood places such as the river because trips on it were done with friends." For some ACC Next Gen teens, their favorite attraction at the Nature Center was getting to hold a bull snake. "I loved touching the snake!" exclaimed one of a number of brave visitors from Nepal, Kenya and Sudan.



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

*Recalling Sand Creek Before the Greenway*

What is my favorite place on the SCRGP? I grew up in the Morris Heights neighborhood in Aurora, so my favorite memories come from before there was a Greenway. I remember catching tadpoles and frogs in Sand Creek and exploring the wild areas around Fitzsimons and Stapleton Airport when those sites were runways and a military reservation

- a whole lot less accessible than they are now. Now my favorite places are the ones where the big changes are occurring: the new land purchases near Star K Ranch and south of Colfax which will expand our Greenway toward the Aurora Reservoir. I can't wait to



**Chuck Warren**  
The Park People

**Max Dodson**  
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### Next Generation Partners: Fall 2013

This fall, we are partnering with the African Community Center, Commerce City Boys and Girls Club, Denver School of Science and Technology, Bruce Randolph Middle and High School and Adams 14 School District to engage students in hands-on learning about the

experience two new parks in Commerce City near the confluence, both slated for purchase and restoration for the Greenway in the next few years. And, I'm really looking forward to having the Denver trail paved, which will take at least several years and hundreds of thousands of dollars- but we will get there!

*Charles Bayley*  
Board President



### *How Do We Assure Great Greenway Memories to Come?*

As we add new components to the Sand Creek Regional Greenway, our experiences keep getting better and better- easier ways to access the trail, fewer interruptions from the wilderness while we're riding and hiking, and more connections that lead to interesting new places. Our memories of the Greenway from past years are rich and rewarding, but just a hint of those that will grow from resources we're building now! We could never have achieved what we have without your help; and we hope you'll be with us this coming year with your volunteer time and other support, as we build trail memories to come!

*Kate Kramer*  
Executive Director

## Photo Contest

The Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership is excited to announce its 1st annual photo competition and show. We invite you to explore and photograph the Sand Creek Regional Greenway and submit your best shots to our exhibit! Prizes will be awarded to the winners, and the photos accepted into the competition will participate in a rotating display in Aurora, Commerce City, and Denver.

For more information, [click here](#). To apply, [click here](#) and search for "Fotostream".

environment and about natural resource related careers, through frequent field trips to the Greenway. Check our website for regular [blog posts](#) about what the kids are up to!



Want to support youth programming? [Click here to donate.](#)

We invite you to submit photos taken on the Sand Creek Regional Greenway to our first annual photo show.

**Entry Fee**  
Adults: \$25 for 6 photos  
Youth: \$10 for 6 photos  
For more information visit: [www.sandcreekgreenway.org](http://www.sandcreekgreenway.org)

Submissions will be accepted until Nov. 8th at [www.oaiforearth.org](http://www.oaiforearth.org)

19th Annual Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership

# Fotostream Photo Show

**Awards**  
Adults: First Place \$200, Second Place \$100, Third Place \$50  
Youth: First Place \$100, Second Place \$50, Third Place \$25  
John Fielder Award, Community Award

For more information visit [www.sandcreekgreenway.org](http://www.sandcreekgreenway.org)  
Photo by John Fielder



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