



## Fountain Creek Chronicles October 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!



Pikes Peak in fall. Photo Credit: Steve Krull

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

### Pikes Peak Litter Letter Project



The 6th Annual Pikes Peak Litter Letter Dedication and installation occurred last week organized in

collaboration with the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance (PPORA).

The Pikes Peak Litter Letter project aims to inspire artistic creativity, passion for the outdoors, and environmental stewardship. The letters, constructed from chicken wire and rebar, symbolize our dedication to a cleaner watershed. Nine cleanup crews volunteered to adopt and fill a letter with trash and debris collected from roads, open spaces, and waterways.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to these enthusiastic adopters:

**I:** Ute Pass Elementary

**M:** Manitou Elementary

**P:** Girl Scouts of Fort Carson

**A:** Girl Scout Service Units 406 & 412

**C:** Coalitions & Collaboratives

**T:** PCAPP Partners in Grime

**F:** Poor Richard's Rubbish Roundup

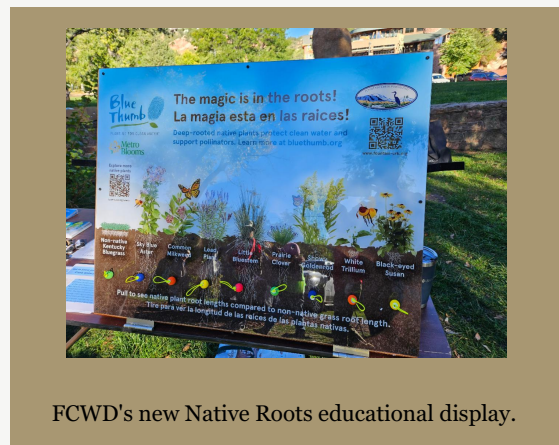
**U:** Gladiators

**L:** Mile High Youth Corps

This year's Litter Letters are on display at America the Beautiful Park for the month of October to provoke inspiration, reflection, and action and to celebrate Arts Month. We invite you to take advantage of a walk along Monument Creek, around the park, or a drive west on Cimarron near the I-25 underpass to enjoy the Litter Letter yourself.



Volunteers with their adoptive plant babies.



FCWD's new Native Roots educational display.

## Plants, Pollinators, and People

Contributed by Melody Daugherty, founder of Manitou Pollinators and FCWD Citizen Advisory Group Member

Fountain Creek has gotten much cleaner this past month with all the impactful Creek Week activities! Thanks to a great new partnership, Manitou Springs volunteers are installing newly adopted native plants around their homes for an even longer-term impact.


This summer, Manitou Springs became the first Municipal Certified Pollinator District in the world after a 5-year long journey. The Watershed District is proud to serve as the Manitou Pollinators' first and longest running Pollinator District partner. Our groups have co-hosted a Pollinator Party for the past three years because there is a clear connection to clean water and pollinators.

Thanks to a grant from the Manitou Springs Garden Club, we launched a pilot plant project during Creek Week. We collaborated with Rick's Nursery and the Manitou Seed Library to grow native species in advance of the cleanups. Ten species were grown from seed in a new "trail mix" potting medium (basically crushed road base), including yarrow, penstemon, bee balm, and chocolate flower – all plants that support pollinators, require less water, have long roots to hang onto soil, uptake pollutants, and will beautify any environment. Volunteers were delighted to "adopt" their plant babies and take them home along with info cards and magnets. We look forward to checking in on those plant babies as they get established.

This most recent collaboration illustrates how Manitou is, "a community that is absolutely committed to conserving and improving pollinator habitat in all aspects of operations." A Pollinator District is described as, "a development - including businesses, schools, public facilities and parks - designed, constructed and maintained in such a way that pollinator habitat demonstrates a net gain over the footprint of development."

These committed Manitou Pollinator District partners are dedicated to the Fountain Creek Watershed health and flow. The pilot project provides a direct benefit and is a great learning opportunity today and for future generations. The future generations I refer to include fish and fowl, bears and dragonflies, bobcats and grasses, trees and columbines and penstemon and on and on and on...

## Brewshed® Alliance October Liquid Lecture



THE FOUNTAIN CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT'S  
BREWSED ALLIANCE PRESENTS:

LIQUID LECTURE SERIES 2023

**OCTOBER TOPIC**

**BATS**



**AND BREWS**

JOIN COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE DISTRICT WILDLIFE  
MANAGER SARAH WATSON AS SHE DELVES INTO THE FASCINATING  
WORLD OF BATS. LEARN WHERE BATS LIVE IN COLORADO, THE  
CHALLENGES THEY FACE, AND HOW THEY ARE MONITORED.

ATTENDEES RECEIVE \$1 OFF BEER AND A CHANCE TO WIN A BAT  
BOX AND BAT STUFFED ANIMALS!

6PM TO 7PM | GOAT PATCH BREWING COMPANY  
OCTOBER 18TH 2023 | 2727 N CASCADE AVE, #123, CO SPRINGS

RSVP TO [FCWDAA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FCWDAA@GMAIL.COM)



**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 numerous workshops and events. They have hosted many Liquid Lectures over the years and are now hosting FCWD for the second month in a row!

## Upcoming Events

**Optional Material Return Day**  
1802 Creek Crossing Street  
Thursday, October 18, 1-4pm

Creek Week Crew Leaders, if you would like to return your materials or have a place to store your buckets, grabbers, and other supplies between cleanups, our team will be at the El Paso County Parks Maintenance Shop to collect them from 1 to 4pm on Thursday, October 18th.



Presented by Poor Richard's Downtown

## RICHARD'S RUBBISH ROUNDUP

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

**EVERY TUESDAY**  
October 10th | 4PM - 6PM

- Sign up to volunteer using the QR code.
- Head to Poor Richard's at 5pm for a free draft beer or house wine and discounted appetizers.
- Children 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

**TEAMS MEET HERE**  
PARKING LOT AT CORNER OF MESA CALINE LA (HOUSE, SEE 'X' ON MAP)

Monument Valley Park  
North Portion  
South Portion





Poor Richard's Downtown | 1322 1/2 N Tejon St, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 | (719) 579-3849

### Richard's Rubbish Roundup

Every Tuesday, 4pm-6pm

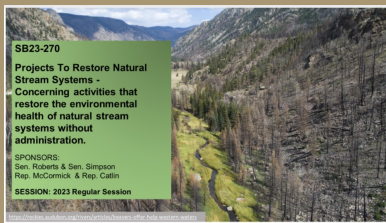
Richard's Rubbish Roundup team works to clean up Monument Valley Park South every Tuesday. This is one of the most used and neglected public spaces in the downtown area. Meet at the parking lot off Glen Ave across from the HAS Demonstration Garden. Supplies will be provided (trash bags, gloves, safety vests, trash grabbers, etc). Everyone is invited back to Rico's Cafe for a complimentary house wine or draft beer and discounted appetizers after the cleanups. All ages are welcome! 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult. **Register**

**SB23-270**

Projects To Restore Natural Stream Systems - Concerning activities that restore the environmental health of natural stream systems without administration.

SPONSORS:  
Sen. Roberts & Sen. Simpson,  
Rep. McCormick & Rep. Cutler

SESSION: 2023 Regular Session



### SB270 Training: Projects to Restore Natural Stream Systems

Manitou Springs City Hall  
Friday, October 27, 9am-Noon

Join the Co-Chairs of the Colorado Healthy Headwaters Working Group for a **free** SB270 Stream Restoration training. This training is for anyone interested in learning about what types of restoration projects fit within the Minor Restoration Activities, which may not, options on how to proceed in either case, other key legal language in the bill, and guidelines to reduce risk of conflicts. If you have any questions, please contact Abby Burk: [abby.burk@audubon.org](mailto:abby.burk@audubon.org), 303-656-6496. **Register**

### Ghouls & Stools Day

Bear Creek Dog Park  
Saturday, October 28 at 9am-11am

Get Ready for a Super Scary Ghouls & Stools

Bear Creek Dog Park  
Saturday, October 28 at 9 am —11 am  
Golden Stool Treasure Hunt  
Dog Costume Contest with Prizes  
Bring your favorite pooper scooper

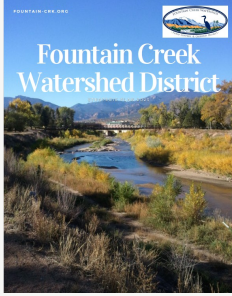





Ghouls and Stools Day offers park users and volunteers an opportunity to give back by picking up dog waste in Bear Creek Dog Park. Pet waste that remains on trails is swept up in rainfall and snowmelt; if left untreated, it can contribute to the contamination of lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands. Bear Creek is especially vulnerable to non-point source pollution because of the increased use of the park by patrons playing with their pets. Activities include the Golden Stool Treasure Hunt and Dog Costume Contest with prizes. Please BYOPS (bring your favorite pooper scooper)!

### Final Strategic Plan: Approved!

The Fountain Creek Watershed District Board of Directors approved the 2023 Strategic Plan at the September Board meeting and implementation is already underway. This is a short-term plan focusing on sustainable funding, strengthening partnerships, and honing in on priorities as the District continues to support its member governments. The final plan can be found [here](#). Thank you for the input you all provided to the Plan through public meetings, our online



survey, and phone polling. We will continue to engage with all of our watershed communities as we implement the Plan in the next year.

### Girls Goin' Fishin! Derby Kicks Off Creek Week Activities in Pueblo

Thirty girls and their leaders from Boys & Girls Club of Pueblo County, Girl Scouts, and Pueblo County 4H had a fantastic day of fishing at the Anticline Pond at Lake Pueblo State Park on September 22. The weather was perfect, the girls received instruction on native fish species, fish anatomy, and etiquette, and heard from women professionals about their careers in natural resources and conservation. Every girl caught at least one stocked trout, and the winner caught 10 fish! The adult mentors made a big impression on the youth participants. Many thanks to key sponsors Dave Pullin and his team from BCER Engineering of Colorado Springs, The I Will Projects of Pueblo, and staff and volunteers from Colorado Parks and Wildlife. FISH ON!



2014 Steering Committee Members



2014 Creek Week Proclamation with El Paso County Commissioners

## Watershed Words A Decade of Creek Weeks

A note from Executive Director Alli Schuch

Happy Anniversary, Creek Week! When I started this program ten years ago, I never imagined that it would have grown, evolved, expanded, and positively impacted our region the way that it has. The measurable numbers are astonishing:

- Ten Years of 9-day, watershed-wide cleanups (over 800 individual cleanups conducted)
- Eleven Communities have participated: Palmer Lake, Monument, Woodland Park, Green Mountain Falls, Manitou Springs, Colorado Springs, Fountain, Pueblo, Trinidad, Greenhorn Valley, and Salida
- Over 23,000 volunteers
- Over 150,000 tons of trash
- Over 80 different governments, businesses, and nonprofits have been involved as cash and/or in-kind sponsors over the years

Creek Week is a celebration of our commitment to protecting our precious water resources, a recognition

of the immense value of collaboration, and a testament to what we can accomplish together for our collective benefit. There have also been several “ripple effects” and program expansions over the years:

- Permanent removal of older, large, historic trash
- Some crews reporting there being “not enough trash” in their areas
- New programs including the Clean n Crawl, Brewshed Alliance, Fishing Derbies, a self-reported 5K during Covid times, the Litter Letter Project, and more
- An increase in the City of Colorado Springs’ Adopt-a-Waterway adopters
- Participation by communities outside of the watershed including Trinidad and the Greenhorn Valley
- District coordination of a one-day, springtime event: the Great American Cleanup
- A “bling out your trash grabber” event

There are also the immeasurables which I hope are lasting among our amazing volunteers and sponsors: a greater appreciation for the complexities of our water resources, a stronger understanding of human impacts on water quality, fostering of community among diverse populations, pride of doing something good for the environment, awareness of the challenging work the District does given our limitations, and promoting the value of clean and safe water as vital public amenities.

I’m proud of this little program that has matured and established itself as a greatly anticipated annual event for so many and has such far-reaching benefits. For each and every one of you that has had any involvement in a Creek Week Cleanup in the past ten years, I sincerely thank you.

~Alli Schuch

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## Stay Connected

We'd love to see your watershed pictures, and hear your ideas and feedback.  
Want to submit an article? Reach out!

Email Us

Visit Our Website



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

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[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

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