



Fountain Creek Chronicles

MAY, 2023

A monthly e-newsletter about YOUR home watershed

Welcome! We're excited to share with you the latest updates, fascinating facts, and engaging stories about this incredible crown jewel. So, let's dive right in!



©Jim O'Donnell

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

What is the Fountain Creek Watershed District?

Fountain Creek Watershed includes 927 square miles of diverse ecosystems, abundant wildlife, excellent recreational opportunities, and many different water users in 7 different communities. Fountain Creek begins as a trickle along Highway 24, flows downhill through Manitou Springs into Colorado Springs where it joins with Monument Creek at America the Beautiful Park (also known as Confluence Park). The creek flows south and passes through Fountain to Pueblo where it joins with the Arkansas River. Our home watershed is one of extremes; drastic variations in temperature and precipitation, large elevation changes, steep gradients, erosive soils, and changing land uses. This makes the Fountain Creek Watershed one of the most studied watersheds in the world! The Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District was established in 2009 as a Special District charged with helping to take care of the watershed.

PROJECT UPDATES

Here are some things we are working on this spring:



SOUTHMOOR DR. Thanks to another collaborative effort led by the District, the Southmoor Drive Project in Fountain is moving forward. Erosion from Fountain Creek has put the road at risk. The District was awarded a \$700,000 grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board, City of Fountain will provide \$600,000, and the District will fund the remainder of this \$4 million dollar project. Design is underway and construction could start later this year.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

We are looking back at our 14 year history and considering our role in the future. We have held a few public meetings to gather input from citizens and will schedule more in the

coming year. Additionally, we launched a survey and would invite you all to take it so your voice can be heard. **Take the survey [here](#).**



UPDATED WEBSITE

Our website has a new, fresh look and is easier to navigate. Haven't visited it before, or in a while? Here's some suggestions on what you can find:

- [Calendar](#) of events and meetings
- Completed [projects](#)
- Colorado's only [Brewshed](#) Alliance
- [Educational](#) resources



Upcoming Community Events:



Our Fountain Creek Brewshed Alliance features monthly [Liquid Lectures](#) at a brewery near you! 3rd Wednesdays, 6pm come learn about a variety of watershed health topics and enjoy \$1 off beers!

JUNE LIQUID LECTURE IN PUEBLO WEST
Wednesday June 21st, 6pm
Reservoir Brewing

Topic: Good Water = Tasty Food in Pueblo County with Beth DeLair and Kristi Bartolo from Pueblo County Extension.

[RSVP here!](#)

JUNE LIQUID LECTURE IN COLORADO SPRINGS
Wednesday June 21st, 6pm
Storybook Brewing

Topic: Public and Private Land Conservation in Southern Colorado with Steve Harris from Palmer Land Conservancy.

[RSVP here!](#)



Get Outdoors Day
June 3rd, 9am-3pm

A free event hosted by PPORA to spread outdoor accessibility and education for kids and families. Keep an eye out for the FCWD table at the event and test your luck at our new fishing game!

Memorial Park/ Prospect Lake,
1605 E Pikes Peak Ave,
Colorado Springs.

[Learn more here!](#)



Fountain Creek Cleanup
June 3rd, 9am-12

Join OCC Trash Fairies and Westside Cares to lend Mother Nature a hand in cleaning up Fountain Creek in Old Colorado City! The cleanup will take place between 25th Street and Ridge Road (35th Street).

Meet at Vermijo Park at 9:00AM for coffee, goodies, and a safety talk.

[Register Here!](#)



Craft for a Cause
June 15th, 5pm-8pm



Pollinator Party
June 24th, 10am-2pm

Red Leg Brewing Co is one of our Brewshed Alliance members and we are the featured organization for this fundraiser. Please come out and help support us by drinking great beer!

2323 Garden of the Gods Rd, CO Springs, 80907

Celebrate Pollinator Week with this super fun event , bee there or bee square! Join us for honey tasting, live music and fun activities.

Bud Ford Pavilion, Soda Springs Park, 198 Lovers Lane, Manitou Springs

RSVP
here!

RSVP
here!



We are thrilled to be celebrating 10 years of Creek Week this Fall!

SAVE THE DATE: CW 2023 IS SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 8

Colorado's largest community cleanup event is back! join thousands of Watershed Warriors in helping to clean up the Fountain Creek Watershed. Registration and additional information coming in future Chronicles.

Seeking Sponsors to support Creek Week!

Help us make the 10th Annual Creek Week Cleanup the most IMPACTFUL event yet! We are seeking sponsor support - please consider a donation! Read our Sponsor Letter [here](#), or just click the button below!

Donate
here!



Creek Week volunteers on Pikes Peak

Community Involvement

We believe that an engaged community is the driving force behind a thriving watershed! Through collaborative efforts with local organizations, landowners, and passionate community members like you, we can work together to protect the health and sustainability of the watershed for future generations. Visit our [Calendar Page](#) to learn more about our upcoming events and how you can get involved!

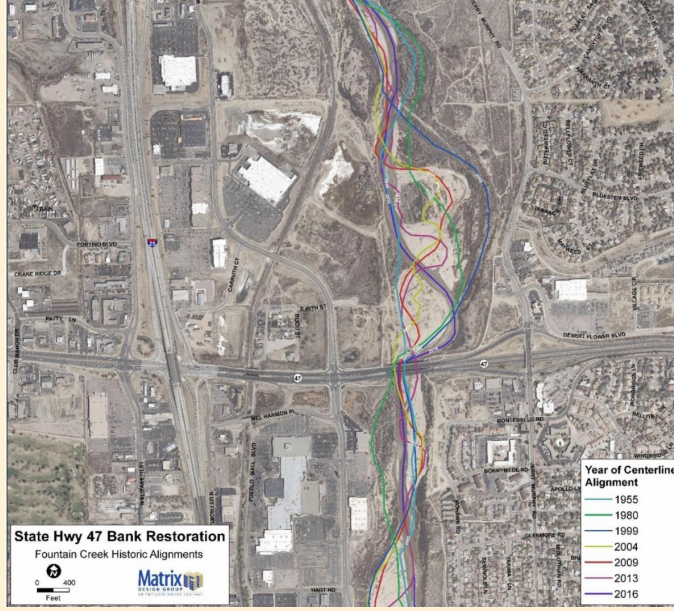
Watershed Words

A note from Executive Director Alli Schuch

Greetings! We are happy to be providing a monthly e-newsletter to keep you all informed and inspired about what is happening in your home watershed.

This month we kicked off our first public meetings to gather feedback from citizens on what is important to them, what are the needs and opportunities, and what role the District can play. We will be providing updates and additional public meetings in the coming months to help shape our future.

It has been a wet spring so far, which helps with our wildfire risk, but we are hearing about impacts to our waterways across the region. The longer storm duration, the amount of rain that fell (almost 4" in some places), and our natural conditions set us up for erosion and sedimentation. This is nothing new, our watershed has always been on the move, as this Historic Channel image shows. This overhead picture of Fountain Creek at Highway 47 in Pueblo depicts 60 years of changing creek alignments - the different colors represent different years and a lot of meandering.



I love ushering in springtime by adding new perennial plants to my garden at home. We turned off our irrigation system and stopped trying to grow Kentucky Bluegrass years ago and are slowly converting to a low-water diverse habitat to support wildlife and pollinators. Here's a few new plants I got from a local plant sale.

“A garden requires patient labor and attention. Plants do not grow merely to satisfy ambitions or to fulfill good intentions. They thrive because someone expended effort on them.” — Liberty Hyde Bailey, American Horticulturist

I hope whatever you are tending to is thriving. Happy spring! - Alli



Spiderwort, *Tradescantia occidentalis*



Gambel Oak, *Quercus gambelii*

Fountain Creek Watershed District Regular Meeting Schedule

Our website will have the most up-to-date information on meeting times and locations. All meetings are open to the public.

- Technical Advisory Committee 1st Wednesdays, 1pm
- Citizen Advisory Committee 2nd Fridays, 9:30am
- Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee 3rd Wednesdays, 10am
- Watershed District Board of Directors 3rd Fridays, 9am

STAY CONNECTED!

Send us your watershed pictures, ideas for articles and feedback.

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Us

Visit our
Website



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