



Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners
2021 Annual Report

Public Information and Education- Highlights

Over 2 million visitors enjoyed Cherry Creek State Park in 2021. They were hikers, bikers, campers, anglers, sailors, skiers, dog walkers and others practicing their skills at horsemanship, remote control aviation and target shooting. The Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners are proud to work with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority and numerous counties and municipalities and other state agencies to provide a coordinated approach to engaging the public in the Cherry Creek Watershed. While the Park is the busiest in Colorado, many residents of Douglas, Arapahoe and Denver counties also connect along Cherry Creek from the headwaters on the Palmer Divide to the confluence with the South Platte River where Denver was born. 2020 Census figures show a population of over 150,000 people in the Cherry Creek Basin. This is a 6.5 fold increase over 1980 and is 20% higher than in 2015. There's a lot to love about Cherry Creek. The Cherry Creek Watershed provides tremendous opportunities to engage people's imagination. In 2021 the Partners have coordinated with the Denver Metro Regional Science and Engineering Fair, Colorado Extension Service, Stormwater associations and the Arapahoe County Library system to explore soil chemistry. The theme of soil health was initiated in response to concerns about nutrient pollution in our creeks and in the Cherry Creek Reservoir.

Denver Metro Regional Science and Engineering Fair

We began the year by creating a program for the Science Fair: Nutrients in the Aquatic Environment. We also provided 10 judges for interviews with students and coordinated with the Parker Water & Sanitation District for additional judges and mentoring. On behalf of Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority, City & County of Denver, City of Aurora and Stormwater Permittees for Local Awareness of Stream Health (SPLASH) five students from area schools were recognized for their “outstanding achievements in environmental science in the study and experimentation for the protection and preservation of life’s most important resource on earth, water!” Four cash prizes were awarded

The Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority
Presents this Award to

Tia Seniw & Akhniyet Makhsat
STEM School Highlands Ranch

In Recognition of Excellence and Outstanding Achievements in Environmental Science in the study and experimentation for the protection and preservation of life’s most important resource on earth, water!

Denver Metro Regional Science Fair- February 22nd, 2021



DENVER with the
City & County of Denver
Presents this Award To

Louis Calkin
Skinner Middle School

In Recognition of Dedication and Service in the Pursuit of Scientific Inquiry



KEEP IT CLEAN
from drain to stream

Denver Metro Regional Science Fair- February 22nd, 2021



DENVER
TRANSPORTATION &
INFRASTRUCTURE

City of Aurora
Presents This Award To

Kabir Srivastava
Challenge School

In Recognition of Dedication and Service in the Pursuit
of Scientific Inquiry

Denver Metro Regional Science Fair- February 22nd, 2021

Denver Metro Regional Science Fair
Presents This Award To

Caden Eagle
Skyview Academy

In Recognition of Curiosity and Creativity in pursuit of Scientific
Understanding.



SPLASH
STORMWATER PERMITTEES FOR LOCAL


February 22nd, 2021


Soil Health



Inspired by our nutrient presentation we revamped our soil chemistry workshops and created a [soil testing video](#). The Partners enjoy a strong relationship with Colorado State University Extension in Douglas and Arapahoe Counties and we are developing relationships with the City & County of Denver as they activate their County Extension program. This is in addition to our engagement with Douglas County Conservation District & Master Gardeners program and the Elbert County Master Gardeners group. The soil health and nitrogen/phosphorus cycle workshops we have hosted are an important opportunity for more engagement with the gardening and agricultural community.


We know that ...”Cherry Creek is both a river of water and of sand (George Cotton, 2012). The sand is rich in Phosphorus that is easily transported as sediment. Certain lawn care practices can increase the amount of nutrients in the sediment if they cause runoff or add nutrients, such as Phosphorus, that plants don’t need and can’t use. Through outreach efforts in 2021 the Partners hosted 3 soil chemistry workshops, led 11 hikes along Cherry Creek, created 3 videos that were shared with youth programs such as Metro DNA, the City of Aurora and the Metro and South Platte Roundtables. We maintain kits and supplies for soil and water chemistry testing which were used at our soil workshops as well as Cherry Creek State Park Lake Appreciation Day and the Arapahoe County Fair.

 Get to Know Your Soil

 Copy link

Get To Know Your Soil



Watch on  YouTube



Cherry Creek Conference

The 2021 Cherry Creek Watershed Conference at Cherry Creek State Park was held on September 10, 2021 with the theme reflecting the regional planning effort currently underway in the Cherry Creek Watershed:

The Five Elements of Stream Function

Hydrology

Hydraulics

Geomorphology

Vegetation

Human Connection

Cherry Creek State Park proved to be the perfect outdoor classroom as we visited various stream segments and heard from numerous experts in the field of stream and watershed function. We also had a very enlightening presentation from the Cherry Creek State Park Manager explaining how they do so much with limited funding for the benefit of well over a million visitors each year. We also discussed a Sixth Element of Stream Function – Water Quality...to be continued.

Through our Planning Committee: Karen Sear, Arapahoe County Open Space; Donny Roush, City & County of Denver Stormwater Division; Ryan Adrian, Environmental Program Manager, Douglas County Public Works; Lisa Knerr, Environmental Program Manager, Arapahoe County; Raylene Owen, Biology Teacher – retired, founding partner; Jason Trujillo, Manager, Cherry Creek State Park (or his designee) we meet to prepare our annual work plan and calendar. Our goal is to build on collaborative partnerships in the Cherry Creek community giving residents and visitors many opportunities to learn about water quality on Cherry Creek.





Thank You!

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to be of service in the Cherry Creek Watershed.
Please visit our website
www.cherry-creek.org for more details on upcoming events.