



**SAND
CREEK
REGIONAL
GREENWAY**
Wilderness In the City

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DENVER/METRO AREA'S NEWEST MULTI-USE TRAIL OPENS JUNE 8
*Sand Creek Regional Greenway Trail Completes a 50- Mile Loop of Trails in
Northeast Metro Denver*

Denver, Colo -- On Saturday, June 8, walkers, cyclists, horseback riders and outdoor enthusiasts will come together to celebrate the opening of Colorado's newest multi-use trail, the 13-mile-long Sand Creek Regional Greenway trail. The trail is nestled along the banks of Sand Creek, a high plains prairie stream that winds through Commerce City, Denver and Aurora.

Blazing Trails, a grand-opening celebration scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., will allow the public to use the trail that fills the missing link in a 50-mile loop of off-street urban trails in northeast metro Denver. Sand Creek Regional Greenway connects the High Line Canal in Aurora at Tower Road and Colfax Avenue, with the Platte River Greenway in Commerce City. The mayors of the three cities involved will be on-hand to mark the official opening as part of National Trails Month and Colorado's Year of Trails - 2002.

Connecting Communities Through Cooperation

The organizations and individuals involved in completing Phase 1 of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway are as diverse as the wildlife that inhabits the region around the trail. Creation of the trail was a six-year cooperative project of the cities of Commerce City, Aurora and Denver, and non-profit organizations Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership and Stapleton Development Corporation. The project is funded in part by Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) through funds from the Colorado Lottery. Each of the three cities and many local businesses, individuals and private foundations also provided significant funding. "Sand Creek Regional Greenway is a testament to governments, businesses, non-profits and dedicated individuals working together to create a resource that connects communities and can be enjoyed by everyone," said Amy Pulver, executive director of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership. "Special thanks need to be extended to the volunteer groups involved, including Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and Commerce City's Mission Possible youth group."

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*A cooperative project of
Aurora
Commerce City
Denver
Sand Creek Regional
Greenway Partnership
Stapleton Development
Corporation*

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The Sand Creek Regional Greenway offers visitors unique panoramic vistas and views of wildlife juxtaposed against an urban setting. The diverse ecosystem along the trail supports a variety of plants and animals. Cottonwood groves and wetlands peppered with cattails provide refuge for the deer, fox, beaver, egrets, hawks and other wildlife that call this area their home. “The character of the Sand Creek Greenway trail is very different from and a compliment to other favorite metro-area trails,” Pulver said. “This is a true urban greenway where nature and the built environment coexist.”

More Work and Money Needed to Complete the Greenway

The June 8 opening celebrates the first phase of the project. “It is important to note that with the opening of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway trail we are a third of the way finished,” said Pulver.

During the second phase of construction, which is projected to last 5 to 7 years, the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership will complete the following additional projects:

- Three new parks, one each in Aurora, Commerce City and Denver
- Multiple trailheads to accommodate cars, horse trailers and horses
- Neighborhood trail links to existing and new neighborhoods in the three cities
- Trail furnishings and amenities such as benches, picnic tables, restrooms and water fountains
- Preserved and enhanced natural areas and wildlife habitats
- Interpretive signs
- Environmental programs

It is estimated that an additional \$23 million will be needed to complete Phase 2. The Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership has initiated a major fundraising campaign to raise the capital necessary to complete the project. Additional investment by the three cities, GOCO and other public entities, businesses, foundations and individuals are vital for the completion of Phase 2.

For more information, log onto www.sandcreekgreenway.org or call Amy Pulver at (303) 393-7700, ext. 224.

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