



SAND CREEK REGIONAL GREENWAY

Wilderness In the City

7350 East 29th Ave.
Suite 300
Denver, CO 80238
303-468-3260
303-393-6805 fax
sandcreekgreenway.org

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CONTACT: KATE KRAMER
(303) 468-3263
LAURIE WAGNER
(303) 468-3262

COLORADO LOTTERY STARBURST CONSERVATION AWARD GOES TO SAND CREEK REGIONAL GREENWAY

2006 AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE USE OF COLORADO LOTTERY PROCEEDS FOR PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND WILDLIFE PROJECTS

Honored for excellence in use of Lottery proceeds for long-term and conservation values, the Sand Creek Regional Greenway took the top award for the Denver Metro region for over grants over \$1 million.

The trail has been under construction for eight years. The last off-road section was completed in early December 2006. What used to be an inconvenient and sometimes dangerous detour on a heavily traveled truck route is now a paved off-road trail, flanked by the natural beauty of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway.

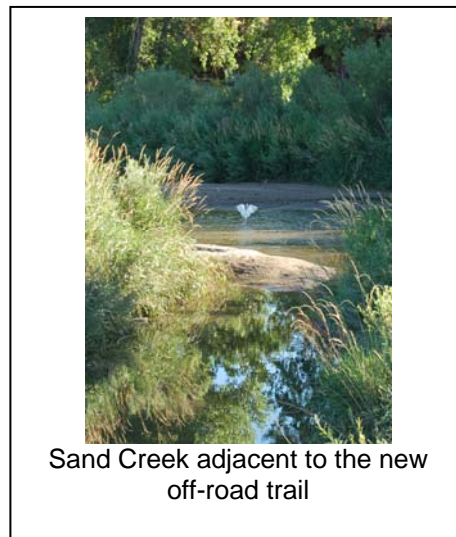
Largely funded by grants from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), this trail provides a nearly 14-mile route that runs from the South Platte River Greenway in Commerce City, through Stapleton in Denver to the High Line Canal and Colfax Boulevard in Aurora.

The Sand Creek Greenway trail also forms the link between the South Platte River Greenway, Cherry Creek Greenway, and the High Line Canal, which completes a 50-mile trail 'loop' around metro Denver, one of the most significant urban off-road trails in the United States.

"The restoration and development of the Sand Creek corridor is one of the best examples of the goals and intent of the Starburst Conservation Award," stated Tom Kitts, Deputy Director of The Colorado Lottery, when presenting the award to the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership board of directors.

Starburst Community Awards have been presented since 1992, but 2006 is the first year for the Starburst Conservation Award.

Awarded at the Colorado Open Space Alliance annual conference in Aspen, the Starburst Conservation Award is judged on cost-efficient use of Lottery funds; long-term/permanent value to preserving the natural resources of the state; protection of open space values; public benefits from the project and partnerships forged.



Sand Creek adjacent to the new off-road trail

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

“Without the grants from GOCO and other funders, and the cooperation of multiple agencies including the mayors’ offices and parks departments from Aurora, Commerce City and Denver, and other Greenway supporters, this project could never have happened,” stated Mary Gearhart, president of Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership. “The long-term vision and commitment of all of our partners has been essential to seeing this dream become a reality.”

The trail along Sand Creek opened in June 2002 and since then has been used recreationally by hikers, bikers, equestrians, bird watchers and commuters despite the challenges of detours, construction, and impassable sections.

Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership is a non-profit organization responsible for managing the development, operation and use of the 14-mile public greenway along Sand Creek. The Greenway links the High Line Canal to the Platte River Greenway, completing a 50-mile loop of off-street urban trails in the northeast metro area. Sand Creek Regional Greenway is a cooperative project of the cities of Aurora, Denver and Commerce City and non-profits Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership and Stapleton Development Corporation.

For more information visit www.sandcreekgreenway.org.

Hi resolution photos for print are available for download at <http://www.sandcreekgreenway.org/1news/starburstaward.htm>

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