



# Colorado News



Rob Bleiberg, Executive Director of the Mesa Land Trust, celebrates community and donor efforts for making Three Sisters Park a reality.  
Photo: NPS

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



### CURRENT PROJECTS 2014

1. Bear Creek Watershed Stewardship  
Groundwork Denver
2. Boggsville Sustainable Stewardship  
National Trust for Historic Preservation
3. Costilla County Greenbelt Development  
Costilla County
4. Grand Lake Motorized Trail Connection  
Town of Grand Lake
5. Montbello Connections to Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR  
Environmental Learning for Kids
6. Monument Road Corridor Protection  
Mesa Land Trust
7. South Platte River Connections  
The Greenway Foundation

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

## Recent Successes

### Grand Junction's Three Sisters Park: A Model of Land Stewardship and Collaboration

With the project leadership and acquisition efforts by the Mesa Land Trust, the community of Grand Junction celebrated the opening of a new network of trails and protected open lands along the Monument Corridor on October 24, 2013. The park and trail system connects with existing Bureau of Land Management (BLM) multi-use trails and provides the community with additional interpretive, recreational, and aesthetic experiences. All of the trails and amenities are a product of collaborative design, planning, and stewardship by the Mesa Land Trust, local organizations representing park and trails users (Grand Valley Trails Alliance, Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association, and others), the City of Grand Junction, and the BLM.

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*"[NPS] assistance has allowed us to broaden our scope of work, setting the stage for greater capacity. We are extremely thankful to have NPS expertise assisting us to effectively accomplish our project goal."*

- Rob Bleiberg, Executive Director of the Mesa Land Trust

# Current Projects



The Rio Grande Greenbelt outside of San Luis is a valuable and significant natural and cultural resource. Photo: NPS

## 1. Bear Creek Watershed Stewardship

Project Partner: Groundwork Denver  
NPS Contact: Alan Ragins  
Location: Lakewood, Denver, Sheridan  
Congressional District: CO - 1,7

### Project Goal

Reduce E-coli levels in 8 urban miles of Bear Creek to support the creek's removal from Colorado's list of impaired waters. Promote broad-based understanding and appreciation of the value of the creek and its associated natural habitats.

### NPS Role

Help to design and support a collaborative, community-driven watershed planning process. Facilitate steering committee, stakeholder, and public engagement sessions in goal setting, data collection, and the development of watershed management strategies. Promote broad public engagement in stewardship, education, and recreation activities.

## 2. Boggsville Sustainable Stewardship

Project Partner: National Trust for Historic Preservation  
NPS Contact: Joy Lujan  
Location: Near Las Animas  
Congressional District: CO - 4

### Project Goal

The Boggsville Historic Site is a hidden jewel in southeast Colorado. Recreational improvements on-site will enhance access and build stronger connections between Boggsville and other historic and recreational area attractions. A plan for sustainable management of the site's resources will assist with opportunities for its continued enjoyment and preservation.

### NPS Role

Assist project partners with identification and analysis of recreational issues and opportunities; help design community outreach and participation strategies; engage stakeholders; and collaboratively develop project priorities and conceptual site plans.

## 3. Costilla County Greenbelt Development

Project Partner: Costilla County  
NPS Contact: Patsy McEntee  
Location: East bank of Rio Grande, south of Colorado Highway 142  
Congressional District: CO - 3

### Project Goal

Develop two greenway trail sites within county-owned open space corridors, including trails, formal access points, camping, picnicking, interpretive and educational features, and fishing access.

### NPS Role

Provide assistance with the development of two greenway master plans, including conceptual site plans for Rito Seco Park and the Rio Grande Greenbelt trails, trailheads, and access.

## 4. Grand Lake Motorized Trail Connection

Project Partner: Town of Grand Lake  
NPS Contact: Hugh Osborne  
Location: Grand Lake  
Congressional District: CO - 2

### Project Goal

Enhance sustainable motorized trail access from the gateway community of Grand Lake to the Arapaho National Forest. The total length of trail would be approximately 4 to 6 miles. A portion of the current winter-use-only corridor is within the boundaries of Rocky Mountain National Park.

### NPS Role

Facilitate discussion about options for improving current trail use and for expanding motorized use access to year-round. Facilitate focus group meetings with diverse stakeholders, open house style public meetings, and community design charettes to generate and evaluate proposals for improvements. Work with partners to consolidate all the information collected and help land managers arrive at reasonable recommendations.

# Current Projects cont.

## 5. Montbello Connections to Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

Project Partner: Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK)  
NPS Contact: Patsy McEntee  
Location: Northeast Denver  
Congressional District: CO - 1

### Project Goal

Create and enhance physical connections and programmatic partnerships that promote interpretive and recreational opportunities for ELK, local residents, and visitors to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Improve Montbello community's relationship with their natural environment.

### NPS Role

Assist with conceptual planning for the Montbello neighborhood trail connections. Ensure safe walking and biking between the future Montbello Open Space and Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

*"This is a conversation that needs to happen and we're glad to have the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program involved."*

- Vaughn Baker, Superintendent, Rocky Mountain National Park.

Facilitate communication and provide technical planning assistance to build working partnerships between the community and federal agencies.

## 6. Monument Road Corridor Protection

Project Partner: Mesa Land Trust  
NPS Contacts: Hugh Osborne, Patsy McEntee  
Location: Between Grand Junction and Colorado National Monument  
Congressional District: CO - 3

### Project Goal

Achieve community-wide success in protecting and enhancing the scenic

and recreational resources along Monument Road. Develop a vision and strategies for this effort with recommendations for next steps. This corridor connects downtown Grand Junction and the Colorado River Greenway with the east entrance of Colorado National Monument. The Three Sisters and Lunch Loop are popular recreation areas in the corridor.

### NPS Role

Work with local partners and interested groups to develop a vision statement to guide the assessment and protection of the resources in the Monument Road corridor. Assist in developing implementation strategies to achieve on-the-ground results.

## 7. South Platte River Connection

Project Partners: The Greenway Foundation; City and County of Denver  
NPS Contact: Joy Lujan  
Location: Denver  
Congressional District: CO - 1

### Project Goal

Work with targeted neighborhoods along the South Platte River to connect local residents to this close-to-home natural and recreational resource, and to help revitalize the river.

### NPS Role

Work with project partners to engage with targeted neighborhoods adjacent to the South Platte River in Metro Denver to identify and overcome barriers and connect people to the South Platte River Greenway.



Targeted water quality sampling is a key part of Bear Creek Watershed Planning Process.  
Photo: Groundwork Denver

## We're Here For You!

Could your project benefit from NPS Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.



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## 2013 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,357 Miles of Trail Developed

736 Miles of River Conserved

20,270 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

Find more information online at

[www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



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## Recent Successes cont.



Grand Junction Monument Corridor. Poster: Mesa Land Trust

### Bent's New Fort

The October dedication and opening of the Bent's New Fort site in southeastern Colorado marked the successful culmination of several years of effort. A diverse group of people and organizations successfully worked to protect and open the significant historic site for public education and enjoyment.

Over ninety people gathered to celebrate the opening, including descendants of the Bent family, representatives from the Santa Fe Trail Association, the Boy Scouts, and local elected officials. The National Park Service has been actively involved in helping property owners and community leaders realize their dream of providing the public a glimpse of the history and the remnants of this important site. NPS Staff from Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, the Long Distance Trails office, and the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program all contributed to the effort.



Bent's New Fort historic monument. Photo: NPS

#### ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.