



(continued from inside)

1992—Carson Nature Center dedicated.

1994—City council approval of Polo Reserve/Sanctuary reduces density from 915 residential units to 61. Requires preservation of the Nevada Ditch and on-site storm water detention and treatment.

1995—City council amends the Management Plan to protect the wildlife habitat surrounding Cooley Lake, keeping the area closed except for staff-led tours. The city applies for guaranteed minimum stream flow levels for the South Platte River to protect habitat and recreational uses. 5.5 acres of open space are added in an agreement between the city and the Polo Reserve developer, providing a buffer on the west side of Cooley Lake.

1996—City council annexes the adjacent 78-acre Newton Trust property. Planned Development Industrial zoning is approved following significant citizen input. Amendments include stringent height limits and increased setbacks from the park boundary. City council allocates \$100,000 in matching funds for open space acquisition.

1997—The City of Littleton acquires the 19-acre Newton Trust buffer for \$1.1 million. Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO lottery funds) awards a \$250,000 grant and \$5,000 is donated by the South Metro Land Conservancy.

2004—The City of Littleton and South Suburban Parks and Recreation purchase the Superchi property. 11 acres are added to the park. A future parking lot will improve access to the river. Park programs are recognized by the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education for Outstanding Achievement.

2005—The Park receives another grant from GOCO and the Gates Family Foundation to expand the solar classroom, refurbish the Nature Center building and exhibits, and install a river model. The City of Littleton contributes \$18,225 to the project, which also wins the Starburst Award from GOCO.

2006—City council and the South Suburban Board sign an agreement with Centennial Water and Sanitation to include South Platte Reservoir within Park boundaries upon its completion in 2007. The reservoir partially managed by South Suburban staff, adds to the Park 212 acres to South Platte Park including a 154-acre water-storage reservoir on the southwest border. The southern access moves from C-470 to Platte Canyon Road.

What's Next—As Littleton continues to grow and fill in around South Platte Park managers will continue to work with developers to minimize impacts. Uses around South Platte Park may continue to change, but the river and its floodplain will remain preserved.

South Platte Park

3000 W. Carson Dr.
(north of Mineral, west of Santa Fe)
Littleton, CO 80120

A Natural Area

- Open daily sunrise to sunset
- 878 acres along South Platte River
- 5 lakes open to fishing
- Local and regional trails

Carson Nature Center

- Open Tu-F from 12-4:30 pm
- Weekends 9:30 am-4:30 pm
- Interactive displays
- Year-round public programs
- Volunteer naturalist program

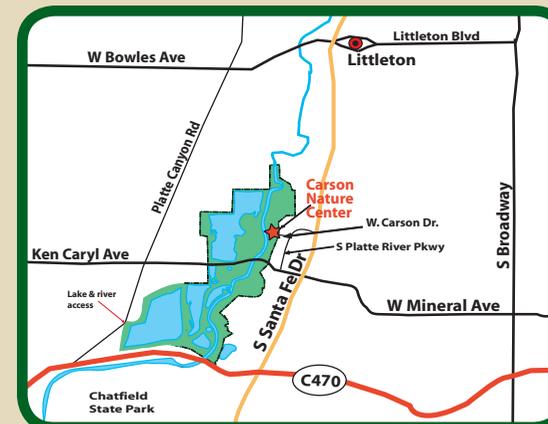
Guided Programs

Request programs for schools, scouts and other organizations.

303-730-1022

www.sspr.org/nature

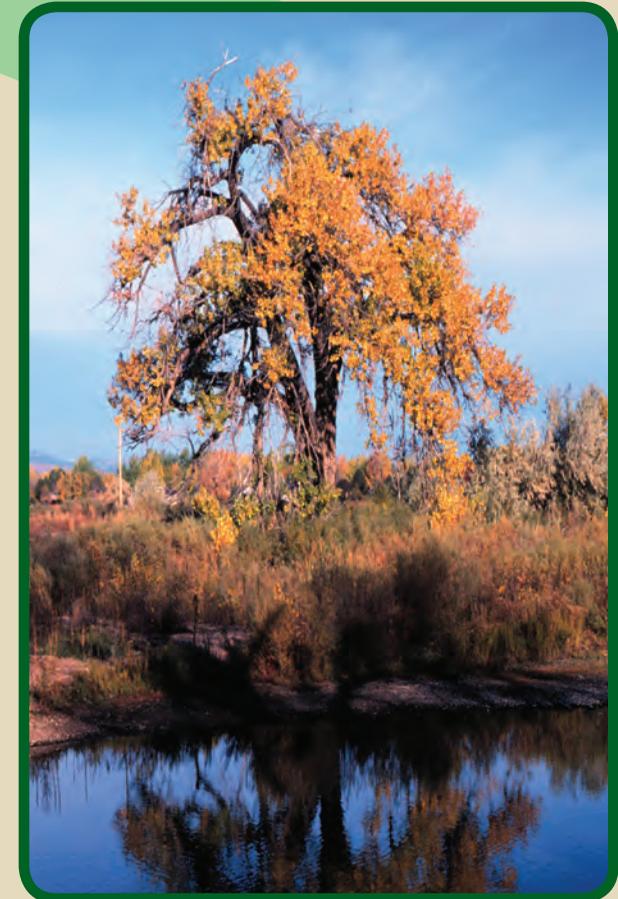
printed on recycled paper



City of Littleton



A Conservation History



South Platte Park

A Natural Area

Littleton's Legacy

More than three decades of partnership between the City of Littleton, South Suburban Parks and Recreation, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the citizens of Littleton and numerous private property owners have resulted in one of the most magnificent natural areas in the country.

Extensively gravel-mined for more than 30 years, the 100-year floodplain is now home to more than 245 species of birds including bald eagles, kingfishers, and great blue herons. Wildlife includes beaver, muskrat, skunk, raccoon, deer, and coyote.

As the Denver area continues to grow, the wildlife, open space and recreational opportunities offered by South Platte Park are ever more important to visitors. The City of Littleton, South Suburban Parks and Recreation and the people of Littleton who love and have built the park are pledged to protect it, while balancing the needs and interests of city taxpayers and adjacent property owners.

A model of cooperation, perseverance and community pride, South Platte Park will inspire many generations to come.



1965—14 inches of rain flood the South Platte River. Ten square miles of homes and businesses are destroyed at a cost of \$325 million.



1968—The Army Corps of Engineers plans to build Chatfield Dam and channelize the river for downstream flood control. The City of Littleton and citizens campaign to preserve the area now known as South Platte Park.

1971—Littleton citizens approve a \$400,000 bond issue to begin land acquisition.

1973 to 1975—The city wins matching Open Space Land Acquisition Grants totaling \$483,000 from the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The city acquires five parcels of land which total 199 acres.

1974—As a result of the city's efforts, the U.S. Congress approves the Water Resource Development Act, which instructs the Corps to work with the city to achieve non-structural solutions to flood control. The law also directs the Corps to consider non-structural alternatives for all future flood control projects nationwide.

1974 to 1977—City negotiations with the Corps lead to agreements on erosion protection to save trees and the Master Plan, which identifies uses permissible in the park.

1979—The city adopts the first in a series of annexation ordinances to include the park within the city boundaries so that dumping, hunting and trapping are prohibited.

1980—The city purchases 112 acres from Cooley Gravel Company at a cost of \$28,000, a major step forward to prevent mining east of the South Platte River. An additional 12 acres are acquired for \$26,000.

1981—Seven more acres are purchased for \$56,000, a portion of which is the site of the Carson Nature Center.

1982—The "Crowning Year" in land acquisition: 294 acres are acquired from four owners at a cost of \$533,000. Another major achievement is the agreement which ends mining operations, provides for a favorable land purchase price and calls for Cooley to reclaim its land at the conclusion of mining.

1983—Formal dedication of the Park. The Ensor family donates a .86 acre parcel. The first full-time supervisor is hired. The Master Plan is approved by the South Suburban Board and the Littleton City Council. South Suburban begins management control of the park under a contract with the city.

1985—South Platte Park named winner of the Wildlife Conservation Award by the Wildlife Society and the National Sand and Gravel Association. Storm drainage standards are adopted to protect Class One Cold Water Stream classification.

1986—The city negotiates the dedication of 7.5 acres from the Newton Trust. The Carson House is moved from Jackass Hill to its present site. The cost for relocation, building the foundation, renovation, constructing the parking lot and other expenses amounts to \$178,000 for the city and \$143,000 for South Suburban.

1988—RTD Park-n-Ride plans approved authorizing weekend use for park visitors.

1989—Park officially named "South Platte Park—A Natural Area." Cooley Gravel Company ends mining and reclaims Cooley Lake.

1990—Formal dedication of Cooley Lake. South Platte Park named first recipient of the Governor's Celebrate Colorado Environmental Award and semi-finalist in the U.S. Department of the Interior's Take Pride in America Award.

1990 to 1993—The 10,000 Trees project taps grants, lottery funds, corporate sponsors and thousands of volunteers to restore natural vegetation.

1991—Rock weirs are placed to improve pool habitat, deflectors are created to inhibit erosion and reduce sedimentation, boulder clusters are installed to improve fish-rearing, two stone revetments are built to protect a valuable habitat area. Spending for the improvements totals \$200,000.

