



Colorado State Forest Service
5060 Campus Delivery
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060
970.491.6303; FAX 970.491.7736
<http://csfs.colostate.edu/>

NEWS

For Immediate Release

October 20, 2011

Contact for Reporters: Keith Wood

303.438.9338

keith.wood@colostate.edu

Grant Funding Available for South Platte River Improvements

DENVER — The Colorado State Forest Service is now accepting urban forestry grant proposals for projects that will restore or improve waterways in the Denver area – one of seven pilot locations recently selected for federal assistance from the Urban Waters Federal Partnership. This partnership aligns with President Obama’s America’s Great Outdoors Initiative, which calls on agencies to support innovative community efforts to provide safe, healthy and accessible outdoor spaces.

The Denver Metropolitan Urban Waters Forestry Project is intended to restore vital Denver-area waterways, involve communities in local land stewardship and showcase local projects for replication in other urban areas with degraded waterways. Projects eligible for funding include those that involve planting native tree species for storm water and flood control, removal of invasive species along waterways, or education about watersheds and water-quality issues.

Projects must occur in the South Platte River corridor or along its major tributaries in the Denver metropolitan area, such as Bear Creek, Clear Creek, Sand Creek and Cherry Creek. A U.S. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Grant is providing funding for the program.

“The South Platte River and its tributaries impact many citizens in Denver metro communities,” said Keith Wood, a community forester for the CSFS. “This program is intended to reconnect our urban areas with their waterways and improve collaboration among federal, state and local agencies working to improve those waters.”

As administrators of the grant, the CSFS will provide a total of \$100,000 to communities and organizations that compete successfully for funding; grant recipients are required to match the funding. Grant proposals will be evaluated and ranked on their ability to demonstrate achievable community forest improvements; improve community stewardship; provide educational, outreach and job opportunities; and serve low-income and distressed urban neighborhoods near the South Platte River or its tributaries.

The deadline for proposals is Jan. 13, 2012, and award recipients will be announced next February. For more information, please contact Keith Wood at 303-438-9338 or visit www.urbanwaters.gov.

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