

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 11-0475 Recognizing the Westerly Creek Greenway Master Plan

Sponsored by Councilwoman Johnson

Whereas, from East 11th Avenue to Montview Boulevard, the Westerly Creek flows between two of Denver's highest growth areas, Lowry and Stapleton, through the East Montclair neighborhood where a major concentration of flood risk is located; and

Whereas, Westerly Creek has tremendous potential to become an amenity in a densely populated and underserved neighborhood, through the creation of a bike and pedestrian trail along an inviting greenway, completing the last major connection between the High Line Canal and Sand Creek Regional Greenway, and further implementing the *Denver Comprehensive Plan 2000* objective to strengthen green connections; and

Whereas, the efforts of the Westerly Creek Connection citizen advisory group and the Greenway Foundation brought focus to the corridor so that the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Denver Public Works, and the Quick Foundation provided funding for the development of a Greenway Master Plan; and

Whereas, the Westerly Creek Greenway Master Plan is based on the premise that greenway improvements must contribute to flood risk reduction, and builds upon the findings of the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District's 2010 Westerly Creek Major Drainageway Plan Conceptual Design Report; and

Whereas, the Westerly Creek Greenway Master Plan was developed with the input and guidance of residents through a Steering Committee, neighborhood organizations, and several public meetings; and

Whereas, the Trust for Public Land, in conjunction with Denver Parks and Recreation, has already taken the first step towards implementation of the Greenway Master Plan, developing a new park along the Westerly Creek, at 13th Avenue and Xenia Street; and

Whereas, Westerly Creek also flows through part of the City of Aurora, which has embraced the vision, participated in development of the Westerly Creek Greenway Master Plan and is in the process of amending its comprehensive plan to formally recognize Westerly Creek as a greenway; and

Whereas, Denver Parks & Recreation and Denver Public Works will pursue, as they do for all of Denver's urban waterways, funding for the implementation of open space improvements along the creek that enhance flood control, water quality, wildlife habitat and recreational experiences; and the Public Works and Community Planning & Development departments will consult the Westerly Creek Plan in review of public and private projects proposed in the vicinity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER THAT:

Section 1. The Council hereby recognizes the Westerly Creek Greenway Master Plan and thanks the Westerly Creek Connection advisory group for the vision and the dedication and tenacity to realize that vision.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Jeff Shoemaker of the Greenway Foundation and Brian Hyde, Dave Duclos and Ellie Horn of the Westerly Creek Connection advisory group.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL _____ 2011

_____ PRESIDENT