

David Eick - Who Am I?

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- Retired 34 year public school educator
last 30 year have taught at Canon, Skyway, and
Cheyenne Mt. JH adjacent to Cheyenne Creek
 - Founder/Advisor of Cheyenne Creek
Conservation Club, since 1996
- Certified in Riverwatch
 - <https://coloradoriverwatch.org/>
- MA in Science Education
- Skyway Resident since 2007
- invited to share my experience with water education
by Parks Dept.



Your Cheyenne Creek from North CC and South CC

- A brief history of human uses
- Place in the larger watershed/ecosystem
- Creek Club's role in the community
- Partnerships the club has developed
- Current data sets on the water (one example)
- Could there be an educational use for this property along the creek?



Human Uses

As far back as any recorded history, the land along Cheyenne Creek was used by indigenous people. There are many stories passed down that the waters of Cheyenne Creek were considered sacred and even healing waters.

Early European visitors to the area reported that Cheyenne people set up tepees at the confluence of the Fountain and Cheyenne Creeks when they traveled through the area, and could be found camping along Cheyenne Creek



Earliest settlers

John Wolfe was believed to be one of the earliest settlers on the land. He built a series of homes on Cheyenne Creek, and lived there over 40 years as a farmer and rancher. He died in his home at 905 W. Cheyenne Rd.

[Google map to John Wolfe home](#)



Then....

In the 1880s, Willie Wilcox and James Portales dammed part of Cheyenne Creek in Broadmoor that ran through their Broadmoor Dairy property to create a man-made lake to make a more enticing environment for a hotel and casino that they were building.

Other ditches were also created in the later 1800's, diverting Cheyenne Creek to allow for irrigation of orchards and small farms in the canyon and Ivywild.

in the last 125 years....

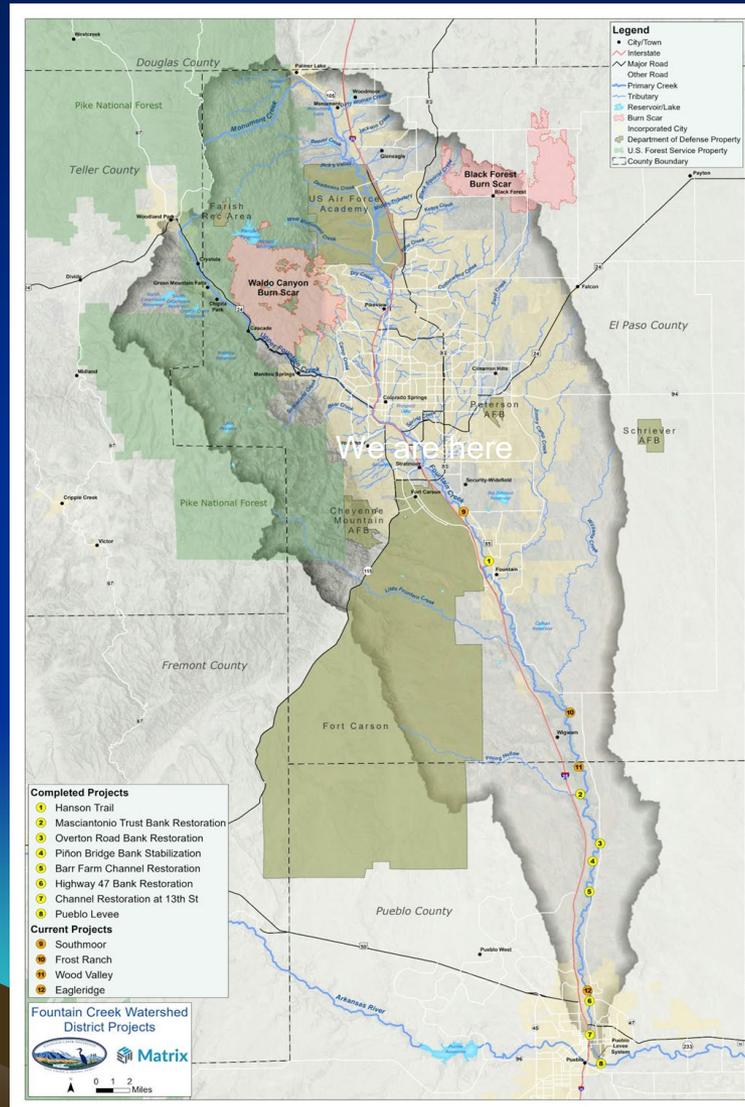
Winfield Scott Stratton, president of the Colorado Springs and Interurban Railway, bought the land in 1900 and donated 20 acres for the park he named Cheyenne Park (later Stratton Park). The park—that had bridges, rock walls for Cheyenne Creek, and footpaths along what had been land of hills, wildflowers, and wildlife—was on the Cheyenne Canyon trolley line. In 1932 part of the park was sold to real estate developer and later about 10 acres was sold for the construction of the Colorado P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter House.



Part of the Greater Fountain Creek Watershed

<https://www.fountain-crk.org/fountain-creek-watershed-map>

[Click Here for Google Map of the Colorado Springs Area](#)



Cheyenne Creek



A special place,
unique to our
community

A beautiful natural resource right in our “backyard”, a fantastic outdoor science experience, and a home and transportation corridor for local wildlife. How can we afford not to use this to keep our students learning about and connecting with nature?



Liquid Gold

One of Colorado's most precious resources is water. While open water and wetlands cover only 3% of the land in Colorado, more than 90% of the wildlife here rely on this watery habitat. In a state where water is so uncommon, the cool respite of Bear Creek with its rich habitat creates the heartbeat of the park and Bear Creek Canyon.



We have our own “liquid gold” right here in Cheyenne Canon. Let’s protect it like the treasure it is.

Cheyenne Creek Conservation Club

- An after school citizen science enrichment and community service program for students in grades 7-8 at CMJH
- Providing 28 years of collected science data on Cheyenne Creek as it flows near the Canon school.



Our Mission

- The club works to educate students and the community about basic stream ecology and local habitat preservation through the use of real world applications of environmental sciences as we monitor the health of our “backyard” watershed, Cheyenne Creek.

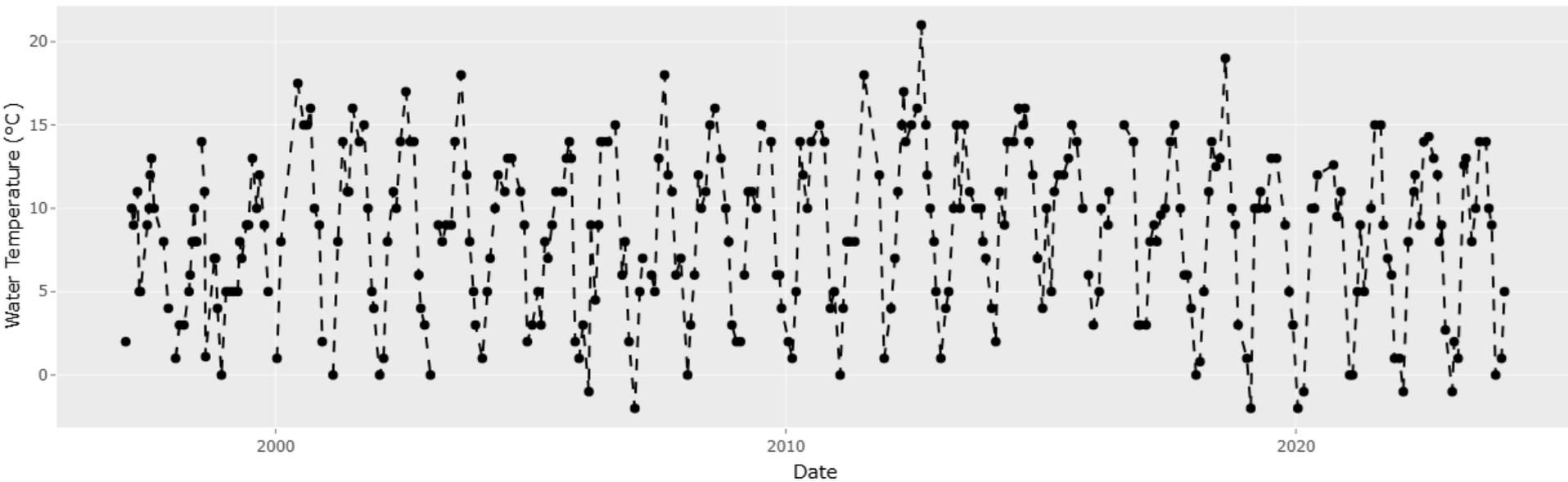


Our History

- Cheyenne Creek Conservation Club has been active part of RiverWatch for 28 years.
- Heritage of our district is connected to the creek which flows behind Canon school.
 - Students in 1920's studied the creek habitat;
 - Native Americans camped along creek long before that, and at the invitation of our superintendent during the 1920's & 30's;
 - Artists also worked along the creek in those days in cooperation with the Cheyenne Mountain schools.



Monthly Temperature of Cheyenne Creek over 27 years



Volunteer Service

- Average over 500 volunteer hours per year training, and monitoring our creek for RiverWatch.
- Volunteer leadership – teachers serve as advisors for a stipend
- Average of 24 students in the club at any given time.
 - Students selected by interest, application & teacher recommendation



Value of Program

- Over 700 students trained in basic stream ecology and environmental stewardship.
- Developed a database with 360 water samples collected and analyzed over past 28 years.
 - Data has been shared with Colorado College
 - Data stored on line at <https://www.coloradoriverwatch.com/#!/home>
- Innumerable moments of “ah-ha” for kids
- Great way to tie kids to the land and water, build community
- Real science where our students can make a real difference



"If there is magic on this planet,
it is contained in water."

- Loren Eisely
Grand Canyon of
the Living Colorado



Additional Projects

- Students have been involved in...
 - The Creation of a Literacy Booklet and Video made by the City of Colorado Springs on steam ecology and safety.
 - “No Dumping...Drains to Stream” Storm Drain Stenciling Projects to raise local awareness several times over last 20 years.
 - Community Awareness activities like Family Science Night and WaterQuest
 - Leadership around school, trash pickups, positive news items, raising environmental awareness



Local Service Projects

- Storm Drain Stenciling
- Tree replanting after local fire
- Annual cleanups



Fish Census



- Each fall, students from Creek Club meet with officials from C.P.W. to conduct a fish census. Each year, 12-56 brown trout are found in Cheyenne Creek in a 100 yard stretch directly behind the school. These were in various stages of life, indicating a healthy population. They ran from 3 grams to 183 grams and from 3 cm. to 35 cm.
- Last year we found 36 brown trout in the same 100 yard length of our stream behind the school. They ranged in size from 1 cm to 20 cm., and weighed in between 5 and 101 grams.

Informal Partnerships

- Starsmore Discovery Center
- City of Colorado Springs, Stormwater Division
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- River Watch/River Science
 - <https://www.river.science/education>
- Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education
- Broadmoor Partners in Education Grants

Could there be an educational use for this property along the creek? Partnerships?

Whatever decisions are made going forward, I hope the stewards will consider conserving this place as a space for furthering watershed and local nature education.

Unfortunately, as a club within a school, we have no significant funds to support such a project. What we do have is people power and young students who care about nature, science, and their local environment.

<https://www.fox21news.com/news/local/cheyenne-mountain-junior-high-conservation-club-gets-hands-on-with-science/>



Thank you

- Thank you for your time and interest

