

## Parker Jordan Metro District Open Space Purchase

In 2009, an amazing piece of land was purchased by the Parker Jordan Metro District (PJMD): the 80 acre-floodplain of the Vermillion Creek development, south of Bronco's Parkway and north of the county line. This rare jewel in Centennial represents everything we love about the upper Cherry Creek Valley: the meandering prairie stream rich in cottonwoods, choke cherry shrubs and upland grasses; the beautiful vistas of the remnant Cherokee Trail and its mile houses; and the gorgeous, robust riparian corridor that is 'home range' for so many wildlife. With the property now in public ownership, there is the potential opportunity to manage this corridor as a unique and special natural resource area, along with Arapahoe County's Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park to the north and the 17-Mile House Park to the south. PJMD has immediate plans to complete the Regional Trail through this property, to be anchored on the north end of the property by the newly-designed Bronco's Parkway Cherry Creek Trailhead, immediately west of our partner, Tagawa Garden Center. They hope to have trail completed in time for the next *Run for the Watershed* in October! In addition, PJMD's consultant, J3 Engineering, is busy designing the stream restoration efforts through this reach, joining the stabilization that has been completed upstream at the 17-Mile House Park and Cottonwood Regional Park, and in design at the Eco Park. Thank you PJMD!

