



# CARPSLAM





# Denver Trout Unlimited

# CARP SLAM



## DTU's Carp Slam VII September 7, 2013

Preparations for Denver Trout Unlimited's annual Carp Slam tournament are underway. The Carp Slam Tournament, which kicked-off in 2007, started as a means of creating awareness of the urban South Platte River as a viable asset and recreation resource in the Denver Metro area. The Carp Slam generated support from the city and its citizens and has provided funding for numerous South Platte restoration projects.

[www.denvertu.org](http://www.denvertu.org)

## Fishermen Take the Carp Challenge

The tournament takes anglers to different sections of the urban South Platte River to fish for the elusive carp. The carp may be the most difficult fish to take on a fly and provides real challenges to the fly fisher. In years past, anglers have recorded catches of carp, trout, walleye and bass. This hook and line survey opened our eyes to the unexpected range of species present in the river and provided proof to those who refused to believe that the urban South Platte is a place that supports sport fish.

Now in its seventh year, Carp Slam is a brand with nationwide name recognition and it has generated tens of thousands of dollars to support restoration efforts on the urban South Platte River. The competition's Pro/Am format brings many of the fly fishing industry's top guides and pairs them with intrepid amateurs in a quest for the coveted Carp Cup. Participants (Pros, Ams and River Supporters) also lock horns in the competition within the competition by seeking donations from their social networks to benefit the river with the largest fundraiser being recognized as the Conservation Champion.

## Our Vision of The Urban South Platte River

We are proponents of a natural-based restoration as opposed to structural control of riverine systems, yet we realize that structural components are necessary in confined quarters like our urban river. We believe that a natural approach would be a significant improvement over the purely structural channel modifications previously completed. Natural stream improvements are more sustainable, provide greater natural resource benefits, and provide active recreation, such as angling, boating and passive recreation including bird watching and relaxing. With correct design natural stream improvements will result in a river that provides needed flood control, as well as being aesthetically pleasing and in unison with the natural setting.



Before



During

## south platte restoration



After

## Carson Nature Center – South Suburban Parks and Recreation



Starting upstream in the tail waters of the Chatfield Dam, Denver Trout Unlimited has been a strong advocate for the restoration and enhancement of the South Platte River. Working with the South Suburban Parks and Recreation District, The City of Littleton, Urban Drainage, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board we have provided input and financial assistance to the project to enhance the Carson Nature Center's reach of the Urban South Platte. The pilot section was completed in May of 2013 and included structural

changes to the river such as low- and high-flow channels, the removal of sediment and placement of obstacles in the river to provide refuge for fish during high water. These changes have already improved the aquatic environment benefiting fish, wildlife and boaters. In fact, the results are so impressive we fully expect to see more of the master plan completed soon.

## What's Next for the River?

Denver Trout Unlimited has partnered with The Greenway Foundation, The Overland Park Neighborhood Association and other organizations to develop and secure funding for approximately two miles of Urban South Platte restoration. The project will focus on stretches at Grant Frontier Park, Pasquinel's Landing and Overland Park. Construction will begin as early as Fall of 2013, with the primary objective to restore water quality, habitat and riparian areas, as well as to reconnect Denver Metro residents to the river.

## Where Has Carp Slam Money Gone?

\$11,000 to South Platte Suburban Parks and Recreation District Project  
\$14,000 to Overland Park Pond Restoration  
\$25,000 to River South Project

We have also provided funding for Denver Metro Area youth to attend Colorado Trout Unlimited's summer camp which focuses on protecting our natural and sporting resources. And for the 2013/2014 school year, Denver Center for International Studies will host our first Trout in the Classroom program which provides unique educational opportunities as high school science students raise trout from roe to fry.

## Overland Park Pond



On January 11, 2011, Denver Trout Unlimited board members voted to provide seed money to begin improvements for Overland Park Pond including deepening it to allow DOW stocked warm water sport fish to more easily overwinter and rebuilding the accessible fishing dock to meet current ADA standards. This pond has provided opportunity for thousands of young anglers to get their start and no doubt will provide an improved opportunity for thousands more. Overland Pond is truly a Gateway Fishery. Construction began May 2013 and is expected to be complete by the end of summer.

## Evening for the South Platte

For the third year, DTU's Carp Slam also serves as the lead-in to one of the best parties in Denver. Music, Food and Drink - All to benefit the Urban South Platte River and support our Trout in the Classroom program at DCIS.

The third annual event will be held at Battery 621 and features music by Ethyl and the Regulars

## Time Line

- Greenway Master Plan is completed – 2010
- River South Project fundraising began – August 2010
- River South Project was identified – January 2011
- June 2012 - RISO reaches 60% design
- May 2013 - SPSR Pilot Restoration Complete
- May 2013 - Overland Park Pond Begins Construction





[www.denvertu.org](http://www.denvertu.org)

