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Green Events

CALENDAR

This August, the EHS office is offering timers for watering hoses and other tips for conserving water this summer. Come by the 2nd floor of Aspen City Hall.

Sat. Aug 1, 1 - 4 pm
Mushroom Fair
ACES Hallam Lake, Aspen
Learn all you ever wanted to know about mushrooms. You're welcome to bring your own mushrooms to share and learn about. FREE. Contact ACES at 970.925.5756 or [click here](#) for more information.

Wed. Aug 5, 7:30 pm
Astronomy Night
ACES Hallam Lake, Aspen
Take a tour of the night sky at Hallam Lake during the Perseid meteor shower! This all ages event features an interactive presentation by solar physicist Dr. Cherilynn Morrow. \$10 suggested donation. Contact ACES at 970.925.5756 or [click here](#) for more information.



Hunter Creek Runoff, Photo by John Hufker

A Look At The River

An Interview with Rick Lofaro of the Roaring Fork Conservancy

Roaring Fork Conservancy (RFC) is a non-profit organization that brings people together to protect the Roaring Fork Watershed. They work to keep water in our rivers, monitor water quality, and preserve riparian habitat. ZGreen spoke with Rick Lofaro, Executive Director, to learn more about the health of our rivers.

ZGreen: Please share with our readers why we should care about the river?

Rick: The river means so much to so many. People come to the Roaring Fork Valley because of the rivers; perhaps even more than for skiing. The rivers in the Roaring Fork Watershed offer a great recreational experience and improved quality of life whether you live along it, fish or kayak in it or just drive alongside it during your commute. It touches everybody in a different way. It runs through the middle of the valley and the middle of us all. We all thrive because of the beauty and health of the rivers and streams in the Roaring Fork Watershed.

ZGreen: From your perspective, how is the health of the rivers in the Roaring Fork Watershed?

Rick: Largely the river health is high in the Roaring Fork

**Thu. Aug 6, 8 am
Family Exploration
Filoha Meadows Open Space
near Redstone**

The Roaring Fork Conservancy and Pitkin Co. Open Space and Trails sponsor an exploration of Filoha Meadows for adults and children of all ages. Call 970.927.1290 or [click here](#) to register.

**Fri. Aug 7, 7 pm
Joel Salatin Dialogue
Paepcke Auditorium, Aspen**

Joel Salatin is the famed farmer at Polyface Inc., featured by food guru Michael Pollan in the New York Times bestseller Omnivore's Dilemma, as well as the award-winning documentary, Food Inc. FREE. Contact ACES at 970.925.5756 or [click here](#) for more information.

**Sun. Aug 16, 10:30 am
Farm to Table Brunch
ACES Rock Bottom Ranch,
El Jebel**

Join us for our first Farm to Table Brunch event and the opportunity to dine at the source with a menu featuring products from Rock Bottom Ranch and the surrounding area. \$44 members/ \$49 non-members. Contact ACES at 970.925.5756 or [click here](#) for more information.

**Fri - Sun, Aug 28-30
Cathedral Lake/Electric
Pass Trails
Cathedral Lake trail, NW of
Aspen**

Join RFOV for a 3-day project to reconstruct, repair and restore damaged sections of these two trails four to five miles in from the trailhead. Call 970.927.8241 or [click here](#) for more information and to sign up.

**Tues. thru Aug 11, 5:30 pm
Time Travel Tuesdays
Wheeler/Stallard Museum,
Aspen**

Watershed. The quality of the fisheries is high with plenty of bugs (aquatic macro-invertebrates like stone flies, caddis flies and may flies) for the fish and American dippers to eat. Bugs in the stream are the canaries in the coal mine. The presence or lack of bugs tells us a lot about the water quality in the river. However, we are faced with water quantity challenges which effects water quality. For example, when flows in reaches of streams become extremely low, then pollutants can get concentrated and impacts to river health begin to occur. Overall we have high water quality but some reaches of streams have specific health concerns.

ZGreen: What is RFC doing in response to the areas of concern?

Rick: We are currently engaged in three comprehensive stream studies. We are working on the Crystal River in an attempt to get more water in the river. The second is a stream health study along Cattle Creek, with a particular focus on macro invertebrates; and the third study is on the Frying Pan River looking at the American dipper and macro invertebrate populations, as well as Didymo algae or "rock snot."

ZGreen: What challenges does RFC face in keeping people mindful of their watershed?

Rick: Many people do not fully understand the water resources in the arid west. The challenge is making the public aware of the value of water We work in an effort to change people's relationship with water by creating a culture of valuing water, rivers and watersheds in our region.

ZGreen: How can our readers gain a stronger awareness and connection to the river?

Rick: Get involved with RFC! Join us on a river float, volunteer at a river clean up, or take advantage of the many other events we host that will provide a unique look into the Roaring Fork Watershed. I also encourage people to share their stories and experiences of the river. This valley is rich with educated, passionate people. We have a strong collective awareness in our valley.

ZGreen: Thank you for your time, Rick.

To learn more about Roaring Fork Conservancy and the opportunities they provide to connect with the river, [click here](#).

CITY SPOTLIGHT: Aspen Water Efficiency Plan

In August, ZGreen is shining the spotlight on the City of Aspen Water Department (*in photo at right*) and its work to conserve water through the creation of a Water Efficiency Plan.

The City of Aspen Water

Join Aspen Historical Society to explore Aspen's abundant history and find hidden historical gems on foot. Dogs welcome! \$10/adult or free for members. For more information, [click here](#) or call 970.925.3721.

Wed. Aug 26, 5 - 7 pm

Aspen Green Drinks

CORE, 111 AABC, Ste M

The fun green networking event series continues. The City of Aspen and CORE team up to host a FREE, fun event for anyone interested in environmental topics. Light snacks and beverages are provided. For more information [click here](#).

FARMERS MARKETS

Aspen Farmers Market

Saturdays, Jul 11 - Oct 10,
8:30 am - 3 pm
Galena and Hopkins

Basalt Farmers Market

Sundays thru Sep 27, 10 am -
2 pm
Midland Spur, downtown

Carbondale Farmers Market

Wednesdays thru Oct, 10 am -
3 pm
4th and Main St

ZGreen Programs
LINKS & INFO



Department just released the Municipal Water Efficiency Plan, a long-term plan that is the culmination of a year's worth of work by City staff and a consulting team. The efficiency plan lays out a strategy for Aspen to conserve water, mostly focusing on actions that can be taken outside of homes and businesses, primarily for irrigation of lawns, parks and gardens where most water use occurs.

Living in the arid West, we are all aware of the need to manage water supplies carefully, especially because this year's snowpack is next year's water supply in a place like Aspen where snowpack is the only form of water storage.

What most of us don't know is that the City of Aspen Water Department has two goals. One is to provide a safe, clean, reliable water supply to thousands of customers in and around Aspen. The other is to protect streamflows in the streams and rivers in and around Aspen, by monitoring the stream levels throughout the year, and operating its water rights and supplies in ways that help to protect the streamflows.

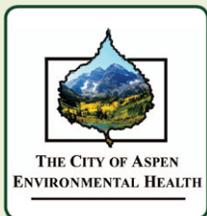
Aspen isn't alone in creating an efficiency plan. Aspen's Water Efficiency Plan is part of a Regional Water Efficiency Plan among municipal water providers that includes individual plans from Snowmass, Basalt, Carbondale, and Glenwood Springs. Once complete, the Regional Water Efficiency Plan will feed into a larger conservation plan for the Colorado River Basin and will also be part of the State of Colorado Water Efficiency Plan.

By identifying water saving opportunities and then taking steps to conserve water, Aspen is showing responsibility for the rivers and streams that start near our community, but eventually flow as far away as Mexico.

WHAT'S IN A NAME:

Transmountain Diversion

A transmountain



diversion is a tunnel, ditch, or other manmade conduit that moves water from one side of the Continental Divide to the other.

According to the Roaring Fork Conservancy (RFC), approximately 80 percent of the population in Colorado lives on the Front Range, but 80 percent of the state's water flows from the Western Slope. To transport water from the western side of the Continental Divide to the Front Range there are 24 large tunnels and ditches.

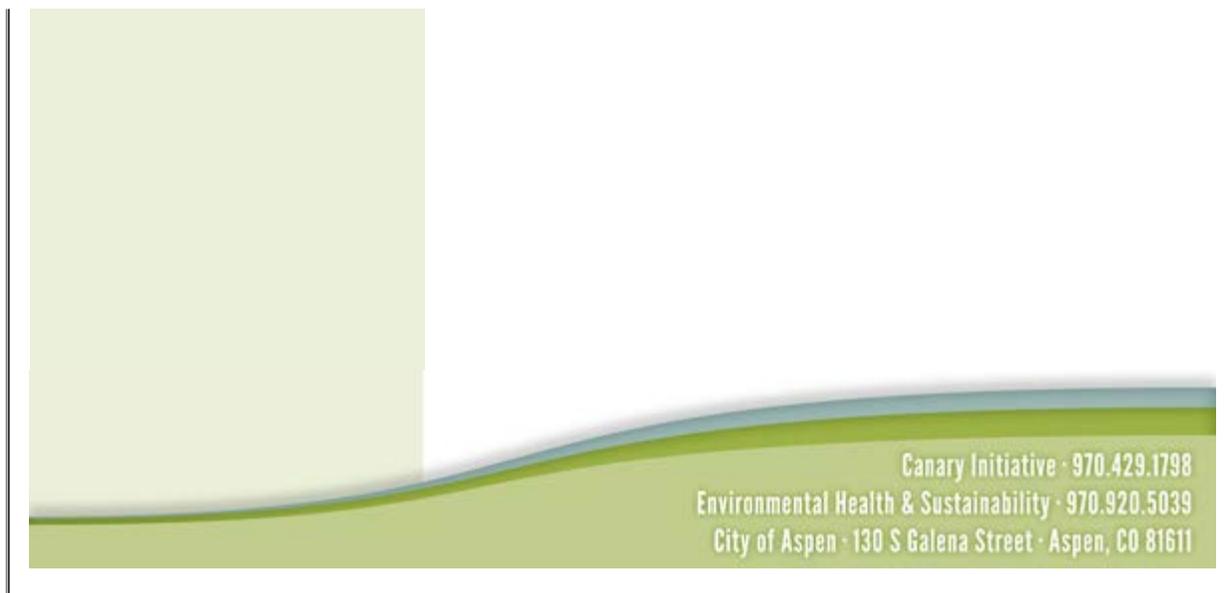


While some diversions were built much earlier, many of these were constructed in the 1930s to provide water for agriculture in Eastern Colorado. In the 1960s and 1970s, additional tunnels were built as the municipal demand on the Front Range grew. These tunnels are incredible feats of engineering. The Harold D. Roberts Tunnel which transports water from Dillon Reservoir to the town of Grant is 23.3 miles long, and it sits below 4465 feet of rock.

The two tunnels that affect the Roaring Fork Valley are the Boustead Tunnel and the Twin Lakes Tunnel (*shown in photo above*). The Boustead Tunnel diverts water out of the Fryingspan River at an elevation of 10,002 feet and delivers it to the Turquoise Reservoir. The Twin Lakes tunnel transfers water from the headwaters of the Roaring Fork River and travels under Independence Pass. John N. Winchester, a Water Resources Engineer, wrote the following about the Twin Lakes Tunnel:

"The Twin Lakes Tunnel is "as straight as a rifle barrel," and when the tunnel is shut down you can stand downstream of the gates at the western portal and see the pinprick of light of the eastern portal, 4 miles away. During the winter when snow closes the road between the caretaker's house and the town of Aspen, and the only flow in the tunnel is what leaks past the closed gates, the caretakers can open an access door and drive through the tunnel to get their groceries and mail at Leadville."

To learn more about transmountain diversions, [click here](#).



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