

# Clean River Design Challenge





# The Greenway Foundation

- Denver-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that has led efforts, since 1974, to reclaim the South Platte River and its tributaries from a virtual cesspool to a place of environmental and recreational pride.
  - Enhancements
  - Environmental Education
  - The Water Connection



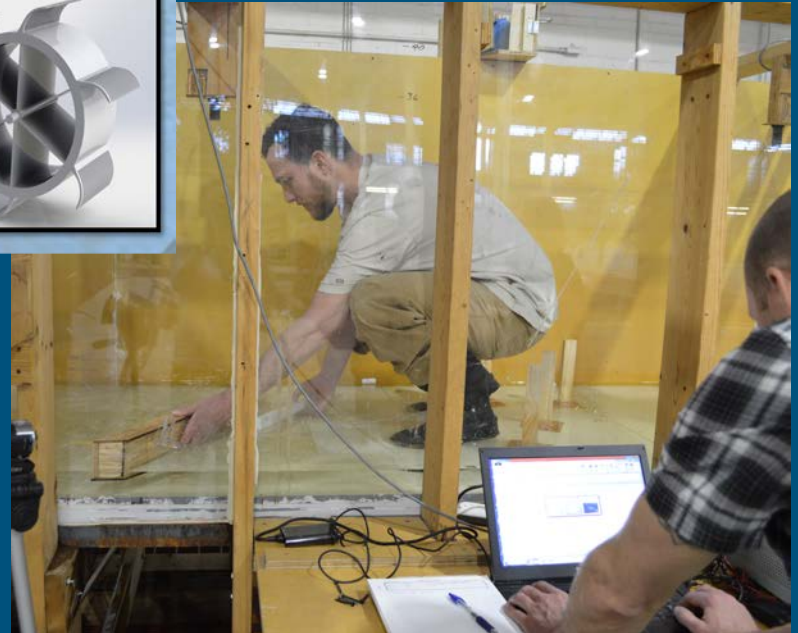
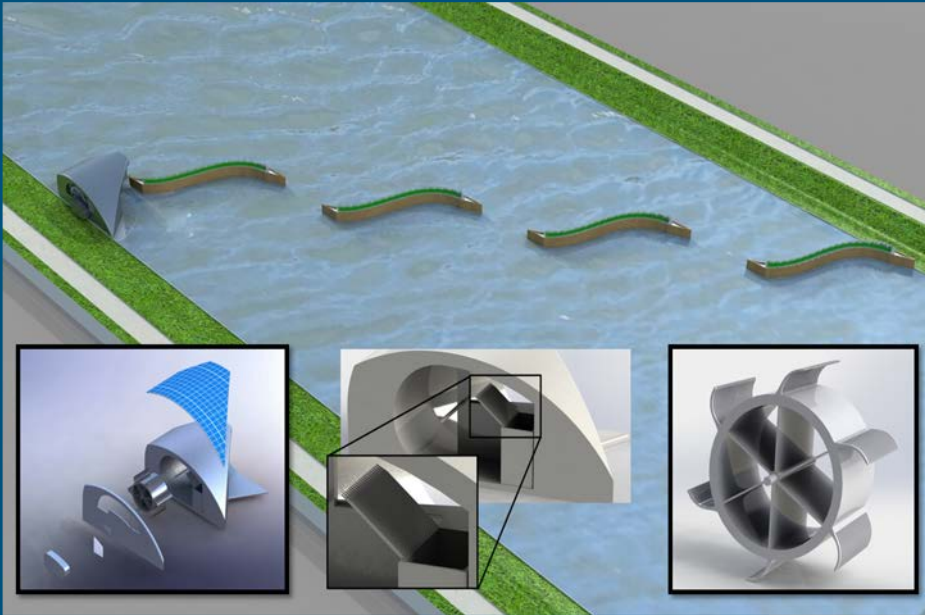
# The Water Connection (TWC)

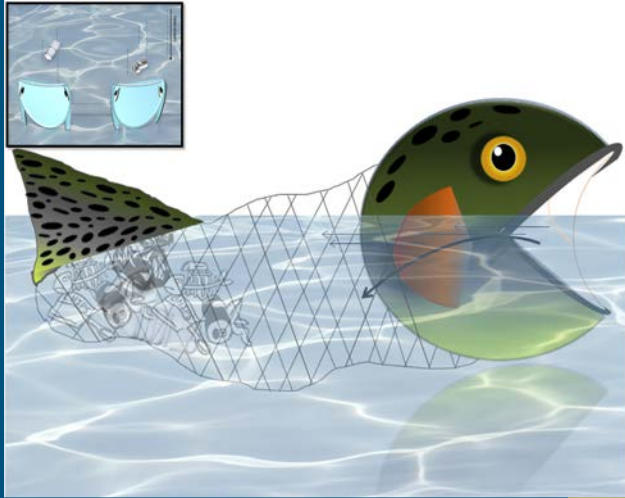
- TWC is the water resources and policy initiative of The Greenway Foundation, fostering civic action and technological innovation for resilient Colorado watersheds. TWC brings academic, industrial, environmental and governmental leaders together as a catalyst for innovative and collaborative work.
- Two full-time staff



# The Clean River Design Challenge (CRDC)

- The goal of this competition is to develop innovative solutions to reduce pollutants in urban waterways. CRDC depends on the creativity of student teams to determine the “how”, but the end impact should be the reduction of pollutants, to create cleaner urban waterways, and raise awareness.
- First semester is dedicated to research and idea generation; second semester focuses on designing a solution to the water pollution issue.
- Highlights:
  - Students work on a local, real world problem
  - Professional development and career exploration
  - Innovative, out-of-the-box thinking









# Reinvention of CRDC

- After 3 years focused on trash, we wanted to evolve the competition.
- New concept:
  - Shift focus to nutrients (phosphorous and nitrogen) and *E. coli*
  - Foster more interdisciplinary teams
  - Require a business plan component
    - Winning team will be invited to participate in Trout Tank H2O, a business pitch accelerator program run by the Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Development Center





# What we Need to Make this Happen

- Professionals to volunteer their time
  - Student progress meetings, pre-recording an “interview” so that it can be viewed by teams later, or other ways to connect with teams
  - Providing resources/connections for our teams
  - Assist TWC in developing judging rubric
  - Sit on the judging panel
- Funding to set-up and run the competition
  - We plan to create a robust online library and communication hub for this competition to grow student participation and to plan for unknown COVID-19 realities in the future



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