



**DENVER**<sup>®</sup>  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

**City and County of Denver**  
Parks and Recreation

Jill McGranahan  
Director of Marketing &  
Communications  
O. 720-913-0633

[jill.mcgranahan@denvergov.org](mailto:jill.mcgranahan@denvergov.org)

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **. First Ever Castor Master in the Front Range Cities**

**Denver, June 23, 2009**— The Denver Parks and Recreation Natural Areas division recently installed the “Castor Master”, a water flow device that will improve beaver habitat and coexistence with an active family of beavers located on a dam in Westerly Creek in the Stapleton neighborhood.

The purpose of the “Castor Master”, named after the American beaver *Castor Canadensis*, is to increase water flow through existing beaver dams, so water behind doesn’t back up, and to stop beavers from building higher dams. The two most common concerns about beaver in urban streams are flooding and tree loss to dam building and the newly installed “Castor Master” will reduce the impact of both.

A group of volunteers with Wildlife 2000 participated in the day long event to work on beaver habitat and coexistence with beaver in the park. Sherri Tippie, president and executive director of Wildlife 2000, oversaw the installation and was trained in building and installing the device by the inventor, Skip Lisle, construction engineer and wildlife conservationist.

“Beaver are the most important wildlife species to aquatic ecosystems,” said Tippie. “It is our responsibility and ethical duty to not only ensure the device works, but that it is good for the beavers and aesthetically pleasing for the community.

By installing the Castor Master, paid for by Natural Areas, there will be many benefits in store for both beaver and the community. Natural beaver dams reduce the need for expensive and labor intensive “drop structures” cities often install in creeks and rivers to accomplish the same goals as the dam.

According to Ashley DeLaup, wildlife ecologist, Natural Areas hopes to continue to use these devices around the city to avoid potential conflicts with beaver and other urban wildlife.

“Keeping beaver in their natural habitat is a win/win situation. They provide valuable benefits including reduced bank erosion and creation of wetlands to help filter and clean water. It also provides key habitat restoration and allow natural ecosystem to re-establish. This is a great solution to protect our urban beavers and their habitats. “

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