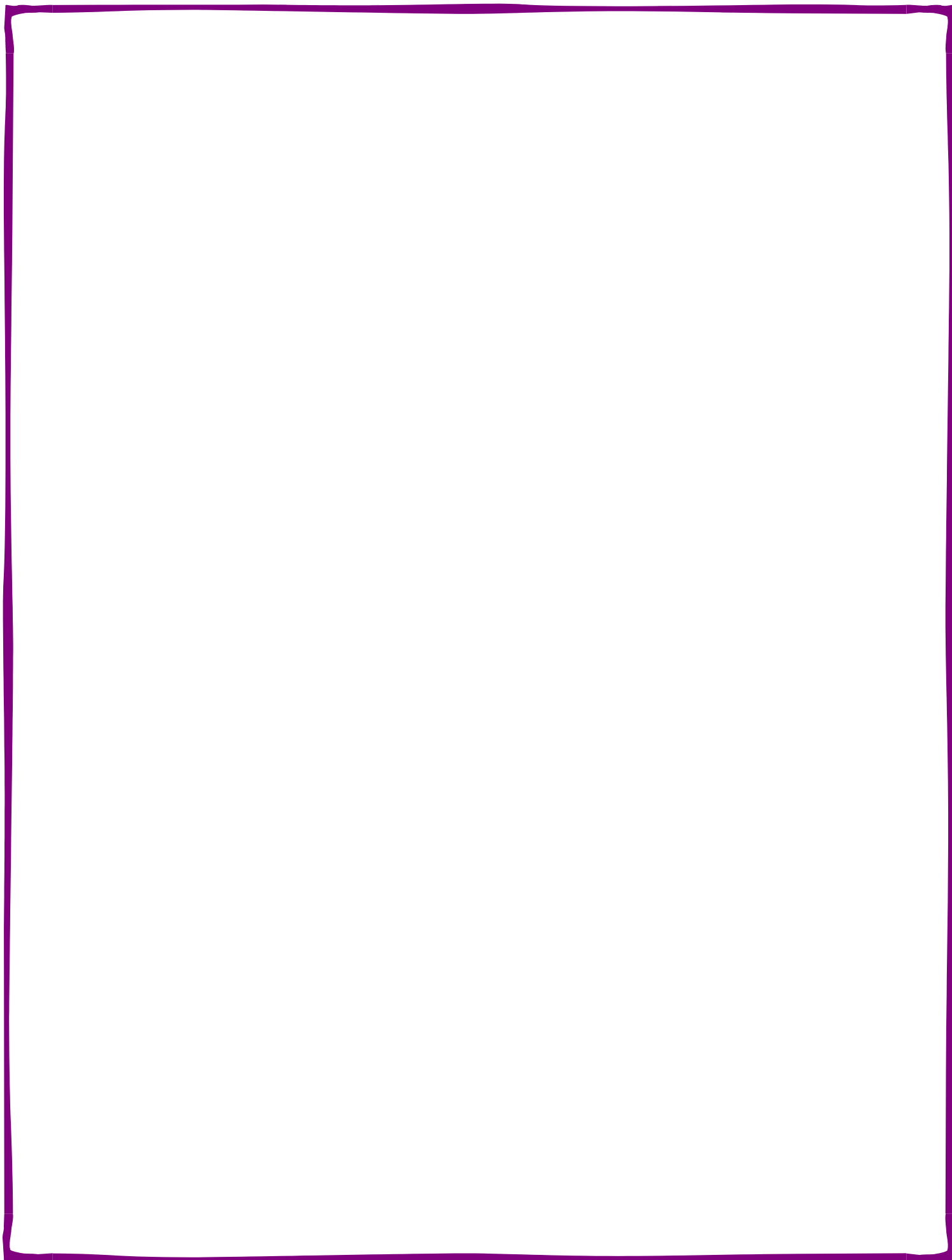




**Community-Based Supplemental  
Environmental Projects (SEPs)  
For the Settlement With  
Rocky Mountain Steel Mills**





### *What is a SEP?*

A Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) is part of an enforcement settlement when there is a violation of an environmental law or regulation. As part of the enforcement settlement, a portion of the monetary settlement is redirected to community based environmentally beneficial projects. A SEP furthers the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) goal of protecting and enhancing public health and the environment. A SEP does not include activities that a defendant must take to come in to compliance with the law.



Rocky Mountain Steel Mill (RMSM) – Pueblo, Colorado

The \$431,678 allocated for these SEPs is provided by Rocky Mountain Steel Mills as the result of a settlement with the EPA for violations of the Clean Air Act. The funds will be allocated over the course of two years to the organizations listed on the following pages.

These SEPs were developed because of RMSM's willingness to direct a part of its monetary settlement to these projects, the Region 8 Air-Enforcement staff's commitment to do the work necessary to create a SEP and the Region 8 Environmental Justice (EJ) Program's focus on implementing SEPs in settlements. The EJ Program is committed to providing continuing assistance in the implementation and oversight of the SEPs to their successful completion. If you are interested in exploring SEPs as part of your enforcement settlements, please contact the staff of the Environmental Justice Program.

## **Project #1: Open Airways for Schools and Asthma 101**

**Sponsor:** American Lung Association of Colorado

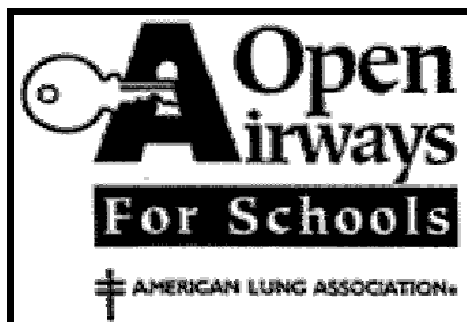
**Summary:** Open Airways for School is the only statewide asthma education program in Colorado, and is currently used in elementary schools across the nation. It is designed to encourage children with asthma, ages 8-11, to participate in the management and treatment of their disease. Asthma 101 is an in depth education program designed to teach families the basics about asthma and proper asthma treatment.

**Project Goal:** Improve the proper care and management of children's asthma by educating low-income children with asthma aged 8-11, their families and school personnel in Pueblo County.

### **Project Objectives:**

- \* Reach out to 220 asthmatic children and their families to educate them about management of their condition.
- \* Two Asthma 101 sessions. Session 1 is designed to provide basic introduction to asthma including diagnosis, treatment and triggers. Session 2 focuses on medications, proper inhaler technique, peak flow monitoring and developing an asthma management plan.
- \* Reduce the number of emergency room visits for asthma.
- \* Reduce the number of school and workdays missed due to asthma.

**Budget:** \$5,000 for each program, two programs totaling \$10,000



## **Project #2: Breathe Better Foundation**

**Sponsor:** Colorado Allergy and Asthma Centers Breathe Better Foundation

**Summary:** The Breathe Better Bus is a crucial tool for educating communities about lung disease and respiratory care. This brightly painted bus is powered by natural gas, and serves as an interactive mobile classroom. Six hands-on exhibits are designed to personalize messages for children and adults about healthy lungs, asthma management, lung capacity measurement, what it feels like to have asthma, air quality, dangerous chemicals in tobacco smoke, and effects of smoking on the lungs.

**Project Goal:** To provide education to children and adults about asthma, air quality and the effects of smoking for seven days.

### **Project Objectives:**

- \* Increased education and awareness about lung health.
- \* An opportunity for a free lung test and educational materials.
- \* Improved quality of life for those who participate in the program.

**Budget:** \$12,693



### Project #3: Children's Lead Project

**Sponsor:** City and County Of Pueblo Health Department Environmental Health Division

**Summary:** The department will talk about any potential lead hazards in homes and neighborhoods next to the Rocky Mountain Steel Mill site. The main concern will be to protect neighborhood children, by testing for lead in homes and remediation of homes where lead is found. Children living in those homes where lead is detected will be tested for elevated blood lead levels.

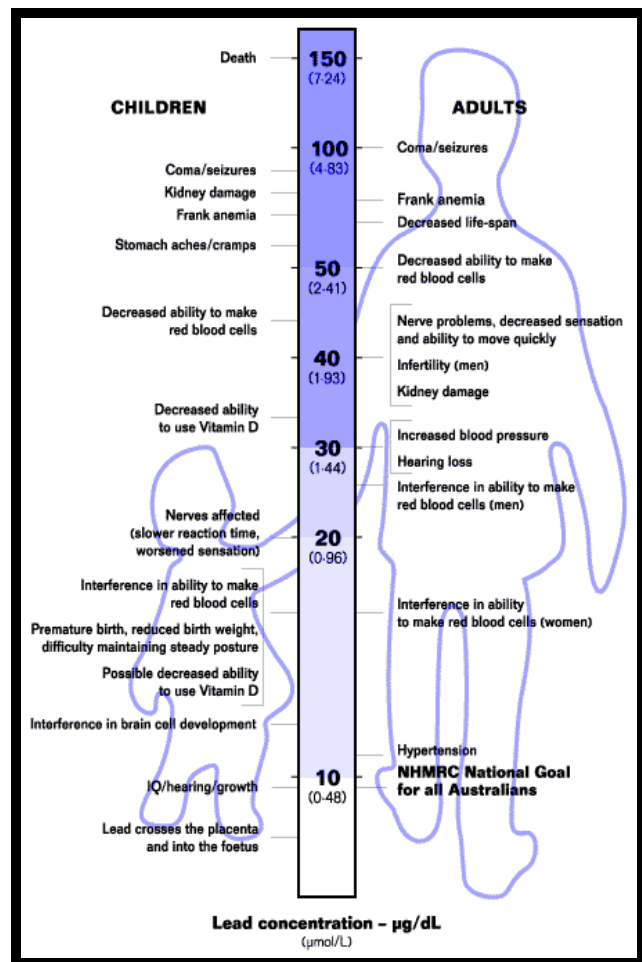
#### Project Goal:

To educate, and to limit lead exposure in children in three low-income neighborhoods. The benefit will be the reduction of lead in children in those areas.

#### Project Objectives:

- \* Reduce the rate of lead poisoning in children.
- \* Teach about the long-term effects of lead on children.
- \* Remediation by a certified lead contractor will be offered to the owners of homes that pose health risks.

**Budget:** \$157,691



## **Project #4: Huff and Puff: The Children's Asthma Program**

**Sponsor:** Parkview Medical Center

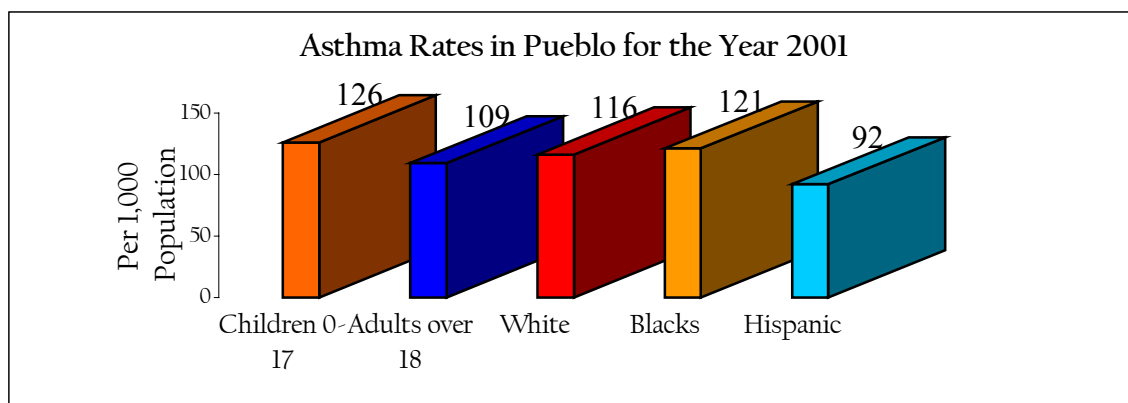
**Summary:** Through games, music, creative play and dialogue, children ages 4 - 10, learn how to take an active role in their care. This project supplements medical care by encouraging cooperative care between physicians and children. It will assist clients in staying healthy.

**Project Goal:** To foster cooperative management that results in the prevention and control of asthma symptoms, and expand community outreach, education, prevention, early recognition and ongoing care, to help children and adults control their asthma.

### **Project Objectives:**

- \* Decrease emergency room and hospital visits.
- \* Decrease unscheduled physician visits.
- \* Decrease missed school/work days due to asthma.
- \* Educate patients and families about asthma.
- \* Assess and identify asthma triggers and interventions.

**Budget:** \$50,000



## **Project #5: Uninsured Asthma Patients Medical Costs**

**Sponsor:** Pueblo Community Health Center

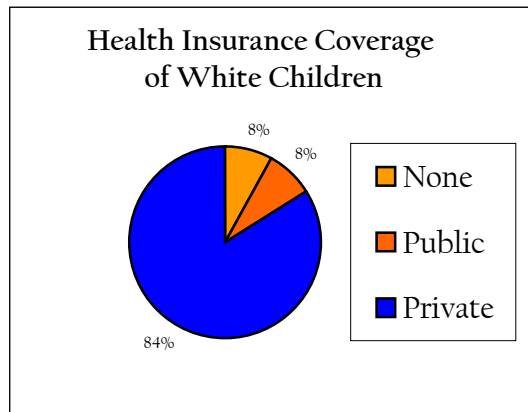
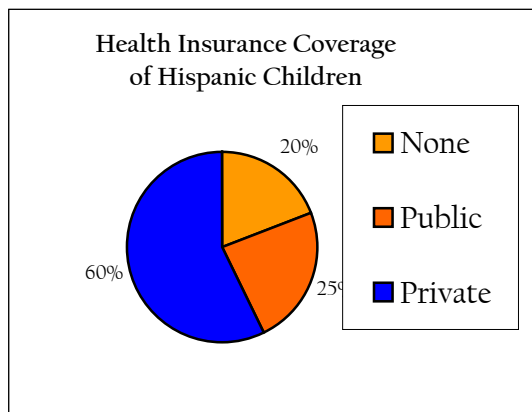
**Summary:** The resources would be used to offset the costs of caring for Pueblo's uninsured residents with asthma.

**Project Goal:** To serve medically uninsured patients in need of medical treatment for asthma, regardless of their ability to pay. This will lead to a healthier community and increased awareness of how to manage asthma.

### **Project Objectives:**

- \* Pueblo Community Health Center will provide a minimum of 426 visits at an average cost of \$94 per visit to asthmatic patients without medical insurance.
- \* Pueblo Community Health Center will provide a minimum of 426 prescriptions at an average cost of \$32 per prescription of asthmatic patients without medical insurance.
- \* Pueblo Community Health Center will continue to provide these services to those in need after the SEP funding is depleted.

**Budget:** \$36,926





## **Project # 6 Arkansas River/Runyon Lake Habitat Restoration**

**Sponsor:** City of Pueblo

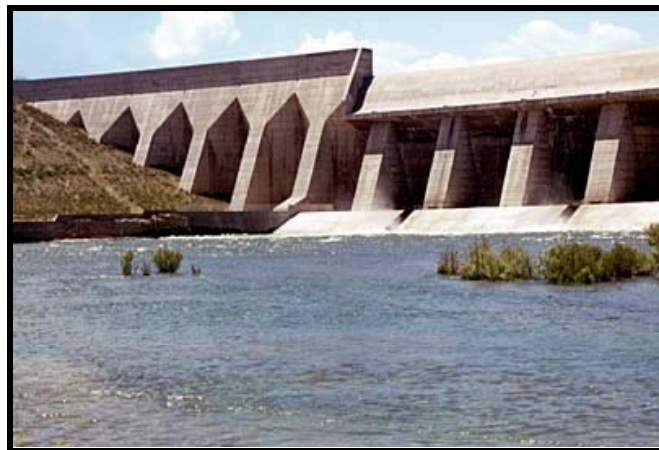
**Summary:** This project adds a critical element to environmental restoration and habitat improvements at Runyon Lake State Wildlife Area and the adjacent section of the Arkansas River bordering the area lakes. The project is being performed in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Pueblo.

**Project Goal:** The goal is to plant 1,200 trees and shrubs within the project area. This will include the removal of non-native vegetation including tamarisk and Russian olive trees within a 30-acre area. These non-native trees will be replaced with cottonwood trees and other native riparian vegetation along the shoreline.

### **Project Objectives:**

- \* Improvement of the air quality of Pueblo. Each tree can absorb the equivalent of 26 pounds of carbon dioxide per year.
- \* Removal of contaminants from soil. The trees can potentially remove 75% of the nitrates in the ground before pollutants reach the Arkansas River.
- \* Reduction of the number of invasive plants that displace native riparian plants in the Arkansas River and its floodplains.

**Budget:** \$50,000



## ***Project #7: GOOD Medicine Program***

**Sponsor:** St. Mary Corwin Medical Center

**Summary:** This program is a traveling community health effort of educational events and health screenings designed specifically for the Pueblo community. Health screenings are free or low-cost.

**Project Goal:** St. Mary-Corwin is offering the GOOD Medicine Program with the respiratory, rehabilitation and other related departments to address health conditions. A total of three workshops will be offered to provide pulmonary health screening a minimum of two times per month. Workshops will offer health screenings; guest speakers and health professionals will be available to answer patient questions and follow-up contacts will be scheduled.

### **Project Objectives:**

\*Hold 3 workshops.

\* Have 2 Cardio-pulmonary health screenings monthly.

**Budget:** \$29,088



## **Project #8: Block at a Time “Environmental Phase”**

**Sponsor:** Bessemer Association for  
Neighborhood Development (BAND)

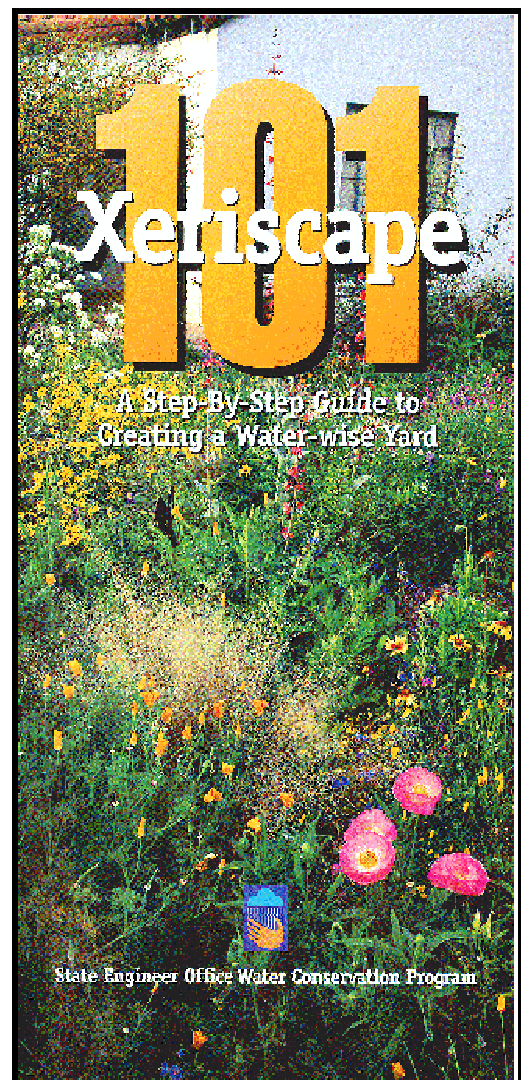
**Summary:** On-site assessment of opportunities for neighborhood physical improvements, including removing and covering potentially hazardous materials and printing and distributing education materials. This program provides assistance for specific exterior improvements to structures and landscaping of properties identified from the assessment.

**Project Goal:** To target the approximately 5 blocks in Bessemer for environmental improvements such as water conservation (Xeriscaping) and reducing outside fugitive dust or pollutants.

### **Project Objectives:**

- \* To beautify a neighborhood around RMSM.
- \* To xeriscape 10 homes and the public areas within the blocks.
- \* Dust reduction in the neighborhood by 50%.
- \* Residents and the public will receive education regarding conservation efforts and how to implement these in their area.

**Budget:** \$50,000



## **Project #9: Historical Study of Hazardous Substances in South Pueblo's Neighborhoods**

**Sponsor:** Citizens for Clean Air and Water

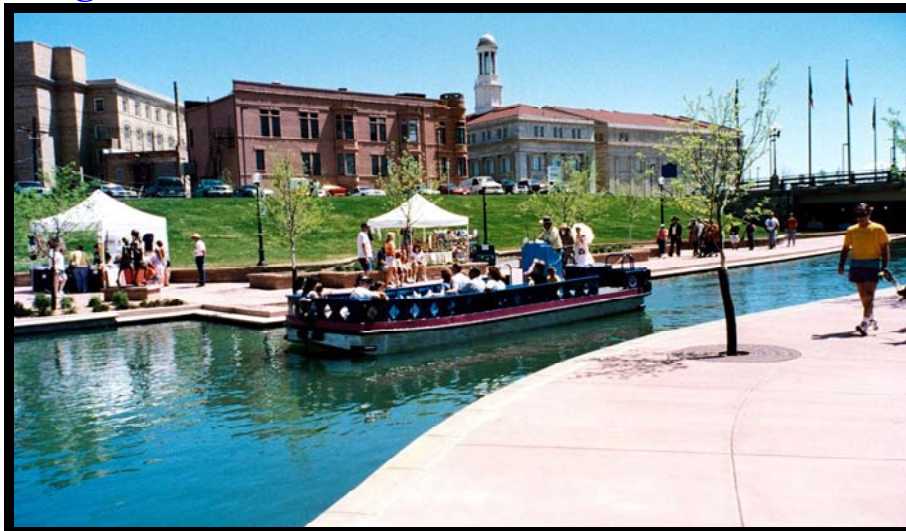
**Summary:** This is an historical study of hazardous substance deposits in south Pueblo's neighborhoods. It uses community interviews, archives and research to develop reports and GIS resources to produce maps.

**Project Goal:** Results will be used to help residents make better decisions about activities where they now live. Information developed in the form of a written report and maps will be shared with the city and county for planning and zoning purposes.

### **Project Objectives:**

- \* Collection of information on Pueblo's pollution history from sources never before studied, such as old industrial sites in the Pueblo area.
- \* Organization of information in a set of documents, including maps suitable for analysis and recommendation for future action and/or related testing and other studies.
- \* Presentation information useful for community planning and decision-making and for addressing local environmental problems.

**Budget:** \$35,910







To learn more about Environmental Justice &  
Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs):

Call: 1-800-227-8917 or Michael Wenstrom at 303-312-7009

Or visit our website at:

[http://www.epa.gov/region08/community\\_resources/ej/ejhome.html](http://www.epa.gov/region08/community_resources/ej/ejhome.html)

Or <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/civil/programs/seps/index.html>

