

ISSUE NO. 1 | SEPTEMBER 2021 | SUGGESTED \$3.25



@gcbbpueblo

GREEN CHILE BIKE BANK'S

the
COMMUNITY
CALIPER



AN ADULT 'ZINE ABOUT ALL THINGS BIKES & PUEBLO

FIX | GIVE | WRITE | SHRED

info@gcbb.org | www.gcbbpueblo.org |



@greenchilebikebank

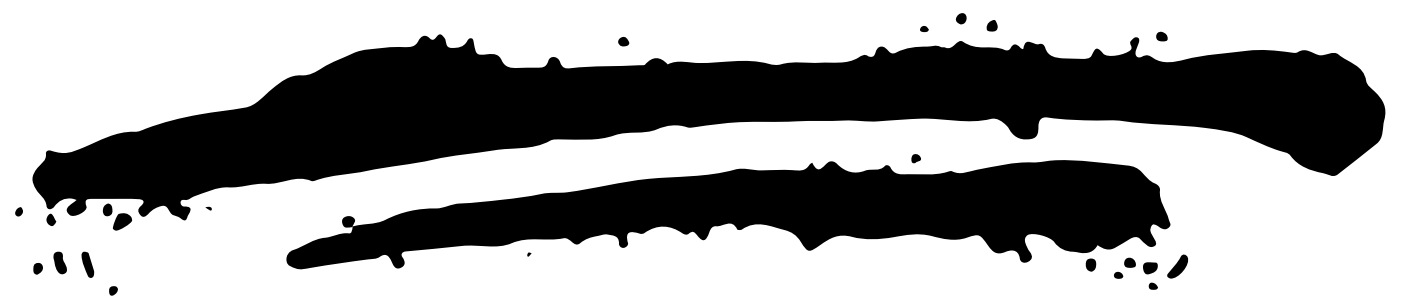
This 'zine is by & for adults and has a few swears and may include "adult" discussions around the challenges of being human. Opinions featured here may or may not represent the views of the GCB. Our own opinions featured here may or may not represent the views of our friends/partners or those who have contributed content.

THE ORIGIN STORY

"

For me this is a very personal and a very Pueblo story.

**IT'S ABOUT MAKING A
F***** COMEBACK!!**



**FROM DONATING PLASMA TO PAY FOR PARTS TO A DUI TO
FINDING THEIR GROUP WITHOUT A HOME, THE FOUNDERS OF
THE GREEN CHILE BIKE BANK ARE ROLLING FORWARD.**

AND YOU CAN BE PART OF THE COMEBACK.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



"Having a bicycle made it easy to get to work, made it easy to get home, made it easy to get around all-in-all. I didn't have to depend on nobody for a ride to get somewhere. I would tell someone that the GCBB are good guys, they build solid bikes and to give 'em a try because they'll fix you up with something good."

-Gary, GCBB bike recipient



\$15,000

value of donated volunteer time so far

400

bicycles given to our neighbors so far

WE ARE... ARE YOU IN?

Donate Items

- Bike Locks
- Cables
- Tires
- Helmets

You can order these things, and our other wishlist items, through our Amazon Wishlist [gcbbpueblo.org/our-needs/](https://www.amazon.com/gcbbpueblo.org/our-needs/) and they'll come right to us.

By ordering through the Amazon Wishlist you'll help us spend our time fixing more bikes instead of picking up donations.

Help us Fix Bikes

We meet at members' homes to work on bikes most Tuesdays, usually 5ish-7ishpm, according to our schedules. If you can't make Tuesdays, join us at a one-off mobile clinic sometime.

We invite volunteer mechanics of all skill levels and can teach those willing to learn.

If you don't see yourself represented in our crew photos yet, please join us. We invite you. Yes, YOU!

info@gcbbpueblo.org.

House Us

We need a home.

- Our needs:
- About the size of a 2 car garage+
 - Ability to not only store items, but also to host open shop nights (people coming in & out while crew is there)
 - Secure for storing donations
 - CHEAP or DONATED
 - Safe access to a restroom

Know a place?

info@gcbbpueblo.org.

Give Us Your Money

We use cash to buy the parts that we don't get donated and miscellaneous items (lube, bottled water, rags...) to do our work.

The easiest way to donate cash:

Venmo @gcbbpueblo
Paypal @gcbbpueblo

In addition to about 15k donated through volunteer time, our small group has contributed over 5k of our own funds via cash and in-kind donations (including earned by donating plasma!). This is why we don't mind askin' for a hand, if ya' can.

WHEEL NEWS & RESOURCES

PACOG [Pueblo Area Council of Governments]

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION NEWS:

Pueblo County was awarded a grant from the Colorado Energy Office to purchase e-bikes for income qualified essential workers. The County will be holding training and deployment for all 42 available e-bikes on October 16. If you are interested in learning more please go to the Pueblo County Parks and Recreation Page and click on the e-bike. Since these e-bikes will be in use, we want to ensure participants are allowed on City/County/Pueblo West multi-use paths and trails. To do this, we are working to amend codes across our jurisdictions that has universal language and content. We hope to have these amendments adopted by October 11.

PACE [Pueblo Active Community Environments] will be submitting a grant in partnership with the Pueblo Arts Alliance's Impact Youth Initiative, Artist Eric McCue, and Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment Communities that Care Youth Action Board to design, construct and install bike and skateboard racks. If awarded, the grant will provide much needed facilities at 5 youth-friendly locations throughout the city.

The September PACE meeting will be **September 30 at 8am**. It is Zoom only, and if you are interesting in attending please send an email at ecosyleon@pueblo.us.

Thank you to PACOG's Eva and P.A.C.E.'s Kim for submitting this exciting news and information about the Bike Tool Stations.

BIKE TOOL STATIONS



Lou repairing a station at Kayak Park



**THE LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS LAUNCHES
CAMPAIGN
TO REACH 1 MILLION MILES OF BIKE TRIPS**

"You don't have to turn your life upside-down and sell your car to make an impact," said Bill Nesper, executive director of the League of American Bicyclists.

"Just converting one or two short car trips per week to bike trips is good for your health, your family's health, the environment, and even putting cash usually spent on gas money back into your pocket. Start with one trip a week, track it through the **Love to Ride app**, and see the benefits add up."

**Taken from/ learn more at
bikeleague.org**

Find Bike Tool Stations around Pueblo:

- Community Garden Park west of Corwin International Magnet School by Lake Minnequa
- Plaza Verde Park on east side near the Fountain Creek trail
- Trail junction west of Runyon Lake by the Moffat bridge across the Arkansas River near The Grove neighborhood.
- Kayak Park
- Nature Center
- Lake Pueblo Arkansas Point trailhead for mountain biking

Continue reading on page 9 to find out who to thank for these stations

THE ORIGIN STORY cont'd



STEPH CHAMBERS

From storing Bike Bank donations in her living room and backyard, to having managed a major walk/bike grant for the city, to promoting the Cruisin' Pueblo bike rides, Steph Chambers does it all.

GCBP Isn't Steph's First (Bike) Rodeo

"When we lived in Johnson City, TN we became involved with Johnson City Bike Bank and we did community rides every week....there was a garage where we could store bicycle donations and work on bicycles. (In order to get electricity, we had a bicycle generator so if someone had to work in the dark they could pedal and get some light in there.) The idea was that if you needed pedals for example, you could come and get pedals and we'll show you how to put one on and then you put the second one on. So we were developing skills and self sufficiency and independence.

We would love to be able to do that [training and education] here but our location is my home now so...boundaries! (As mentioned elsewhere in this 'zine...we are looking for a GCBP home. Hit us up if you have a hot tip.)

It was really great to see [the people who came to the garage] build confidence and get the skills not only to help themselves when a new person would come in, they'd jump in and say "Let me show you how to do that, I know how to do that now." If we can get a more public space that's the way to go, so that individuals can learn from the experience."

Systems Level

Steph has done systems-level bike work here in Pueblo, too. She has been volunteering with P.A.C.E., Pueblo Active Community Environments, since about two weeks after she first moved to Pueblo in 2013.

She also formerly served as the Bike and Pedestrian Coordinator for the City of Pueblo, a grant-funded position, and managed the \$100,000 Kaiser Permanente Walk and Wheel Grant to improve bicycle and pedestrian related matters in Pueblo. She coordinated event planning, educated the public and participated in planning and promoting new bicycle and pedestrian facilities. While Steph hosts the GCBP, a group that focuses on repairing, restoring, and recycling bikes for folks who use bikes as their primary transportation, in her own home, she also worked to promote riding a bike as a leisure and recreation activity too,

"...TO SEE THE JOY THAT IT BROUGHT PEOPLE, TO BE ABLE TO BE INDEPENDENT AND TO BE FREE AND TO GET AROUND AND THE SMILES AND THE FEELING LIKE YOU'RE A KID AGAIN. WHO DOESN'T WANT TO SHARE THAT WITH SOMEONE?"

Which brings us to Cruisin' Pueblo. Steph joined in a long line of other community members who had founded and managed the group rides. The nobody-left-behind Cruisin' Pueblo rides currently meet Thursdays, 6pm meetup time/6:30 roll out time, outside of Walter's Brewery and Taproom. Steph has advocated to keep the ride no-cost, no-matter-what. Steph and her husband Sam Chambers, GCBP's lead mechanic, come up with the ride routes and promote the rides, and other volunteers help to lead, sweep and repair bikes on the rides.

Steph prioritizes the sustainability of the rides so that they could go on if she or any other leader was out of town, injured or needed a break, etc.; "My goal was that I wanted it to truly be a community ride and not hinged only on one person. I feel we've achieved that at this point."

The Power of S-Squared

"If you need to get to work and it's too far and you can't walk there fast enough every day consistently, your bike can open up job opportunities; it opens up social opportunities; it opens up spiritual opportunities in some cases.

We see what a benefit riding a bike is to other people. Sometimes people need someone to show it to them.

We've both been in the positions, health issues or what-have-you, where we're the last person standing, the person in the back. We had each other to reach our hand out and say, "You got this." Some people don't have another person to do that. So we're that person. We'll reach our hands out and cheer them on and say, "You got this! You're doing awesome!" We'll get 'em going."



SAM CHAMBERS

The Birth of GCBP: A DUI and A Come Back: Master Mechanic: Blood, Sweat & PLASMA

One of the first times Sam Chambers, GCBP's head mechanic, ever fixed bikes in bulk was because of a DUI.

THE ORIGIN STORY cont'd

At the time he was working as a mechanic at the Great Divide. To work off his community service hours, Sam would go into the shop early and restore bikes to donate. That first batch included about 56 bikes and they were donated to Pueblo's Posada, who works to "provide housing and supportive services that empower homeless individuals and families in Pueblo County to become self-supporting members of the community," according to their webpage.

Is the Bus Still Runnin?

"We try to give bikes to working homeless [/unhoused] first. They have big, big priority. In fact if we find that out, we'll give 'em a bike whether they want it or not, really. Sometimes they won't even ask! But if I find out that there's someone living at the shelter or living at the river bank and walking to work then that's something we want to know about."

While city and county staff work hard to improve Pueblo's infrastructure and public transit system, achieving equitable and accessible transportation for ALL community members is an overwhelming task that many large or well-funded cities struggle to achieve. Many of our neighbors cannot afford a car, even if they work. Many cannot afford bus passes. And, limited bus routes mean that *many commuters heading home after work don't have access to a bus ride.*

Did We Mention That We Need a Home? Here's Why.

"The Bike Bank has never really had a home."

Sam would like to continue to build capacity so that the Green Chile Bike Bank could repair or provide a restored or recycled bicycle to every person below a certain income level who needs transportation to work/school/etc.

Sam is a trained bicycle mechanic. *He took every single class at the seriously prestigious Barnett Bicycle Institute and is certified to teach community bike repair classes.* Right now, Sam is the only trained volunteer mechanic in the crew, and while other committed volunteers like Michael, Patrick, Steph, Anthony and Stephen have been lending their hands to repair bikes, training more volunteers and community members would help GCBB meet Pueblo's huge need.

GETTING A SPACE WOULD NOT ONLY HELP US STORE MORE DONATIONS, BUT ALSO HELP US TRAIN MORE VOLUNTEER MECHANICS, AND TRAIN COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO REPAIR THEIR OWN BIKES.

(For a short time, the Bike Bank had a space at a local organization. It didn't work out for the long term, and the Bike Bank had almost 2k of tools stolen because someone forgot to lock the door during an open house event. Later, Sam donated his plasma to restock the tools. The tools we currently have were bought with this money. Plasma money.)

In the future, we plan to do more repair clinics on site at community organizations, like the library. Sam would also like to build enough capacity to focus on supporting those at ICSS Pueblo- sometimes, the long walks home from work, especially in heat and inclement weather, can cause problems with their curfew - and providing someone a bike can aid in the successful transition from incarceration to participating economically, civically, and socially in our community.

"THE COMMUNITY SERVICE WAS OVER PRETTY QUICK. THAT'S LONG GONE, A LONG TIME AGO. AND WE JUST NEVER QUIT FIXING BIKES."

Sam would also like to expand to fixing wheelchairs and motorized scooters. He has already started learning about fixing wheelchairs, and has fixed one, and is learning more, "Medicaid pays for them once every "blank." If it breaks down in between there, sometimes those people are screwed. And there's no one to fix them. It's something we need to figure out, I think."

MICHAEL HAZEL

Be There Or Be Bike!

Q: How did you get involved with the Bike Bank?

I used to work in homeless services before moving to Pueblo, and am an avid biker both for fun and commuting. I saw the need alongside the opportunities, and was glad to see a group like GCBB working to do that good in this community.

Last summer I texted Sam and mentioned I knew a bit about bike maintenance and wanted to volunteer, and he said, "C'mon over!" I think I had dinner at his house that night, even. It's a welcoming group, whose members work hard to meet Pueblo's needs and have fun in the process. We welcome volunteer mechanics just as much as we do those with other skills - come help us get folks on bikes!

Q: You have worked for and/or volunteered with multiple organizations and causes in Pueblo - you have a familiarity with the community at both a macro and hands-on level. How does the Bike Bank fit in with Pueblo as a whole. Why is it important?

Pueblo has a significant community of both temporarily- and chronically-unhoused people, and many others who have limitations that don't permit driving. It also has a climate that permits biking most of the year, and a fairly limited public transportation infrastructure. Taken together, this all means that getting bikes out to people who can use them is meeting a real set of needs in the community. We work to get Puebloans rolling, with a special focus on those to whom a bike is everything when it comes to getting around.

Q. You have mentioned wanting to make sure we're speaking up on behalf of people who ride for primary transportation, in addition to considering people who ride for fun. Why?

FOR THOSE TO WHOM A BICYCLE IS PRIMARY TRANSPORTATION (GCBB'S CORE CLIENTELE), A BIKE IS NOT JUST FOR RECREATION AND ENJOYMENT LIKE IT IS FOR SO MANY OF US — A WORKING BIKE IS INDEPENDENCE, IT IS OPPORTUNITY, AND IT IS INDISPENSABLE.

Pueblo has a lot of available avenues to develop both bike culture and capacity. From a city-planning perspective, it's an efficiency no-brainer to build meaningful bike infrastructure alongside of or even to replace some automotive infrastructure - bikes damage roads less, take up less space both while moving and parked; they emit much less both while being manufactured and being operated (and emit nothing at the tailpipe - unless your ride is fueled by bean burritos!).

Bikes get people further, easier, than walking, and WAY more efficiently and healthfully than cars. With the advent of modern recumbents and e-bikes, there is a bike for everyone of almost every ability. Pueblo needs more bikes, for everyone, but especially for those to whom other options are few.



HOW TO LOCK YOUR BIKE RIGHT

1. Lock your bike in a busy place, preferably around other locked bikes.
2. LOCK THE FRAME! and not just the wheel, which can easily be removed and carried away.
3. Use two locks if possible to lock both the wheel and frame, or both wheels.

We found this article by Carl Ellis comprehensive & helpful:
<https://thebestbikelock.com/how-to-lock-your-bike/>

NEED A REPAIR?

We prioritize our limited resources to help restore, repair and recycle bicycles for people, especially veterans, with housing challenges and/or those who need or use a bicycle as their primary transportation, especially for work.

If this is you, email info@gcbbpueblo.org. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

If you're *not* in this group, we recommend calling our badass local bike shop & friends, **The Great Divide!**

We hope to soon host regular by-donation shop nights for community members with expendable income.

Please remember that we are a small group of volunteers, with jobs and families, and are working with limited resources, and do our best to fix as many bicycles as we can and to respond to inquiries in a timely way. We appreciate your love, patience & support!



This is a good example of how to lock your bike.

BIKE SAFETY CHECK



Are your tires inflated at the correct level?



Check front and back brakes. Do they stop your bicycle? You should be able to fit about 2 fingers in between the brake lever and handle bar.



Is your quick release closed?



Do your pedals move freely and evenly?



Is your helmet in good order?
 Does it fit snugly when you move your head around?
WEAR YOUR HELMET.



Do you have a front and back light?
 Do you have a bike lock? Get ready to roll!



Steven Rover: "I'm The Worst Person to Interview. Sam's Always Trying To Get Me To Be Interviewed. I Don't Have Much to Say."

Steven Rover, an Army veteran who was deployed to Afghanistan and worked as a medic and physical therapy assistant, met Sam some years ago through Volunteers of America where Sam works to support unhoused veterans.

Sam lent Steven a bicycle that he used to get to classes and errands. That bike helped him take the pre-req classes for the nursing program he is now enrolled in, studying to become a Registered Nurse.

Steven has helped with the GCBP since the beginning, "It's nice to give back," he said. He prefers to let his actions speak over his words and therefore this piece about Steven Rover, veteran, Registered Nurse student and GCBP OG volunteer, has come to an end.

Wanna contribute your bike-related writing, poetry, art, photography or research to **Issue No. 2?**
info@gcbppueblo.org.

BY AUDRA HAZEL

Thanks to our friends



Businesses

Great Divide Ski, Bike & Hike
Core Natural Wellness Center
Walter's Brewing
Stoke Pizza
Steel City Café

Organizations

Pueblo Rescue Mission
Cruisin' Pueblo
P.A.C.E.
Southern Colorado Trailbuilders
Family Worship Center
POSADA of Pueblo

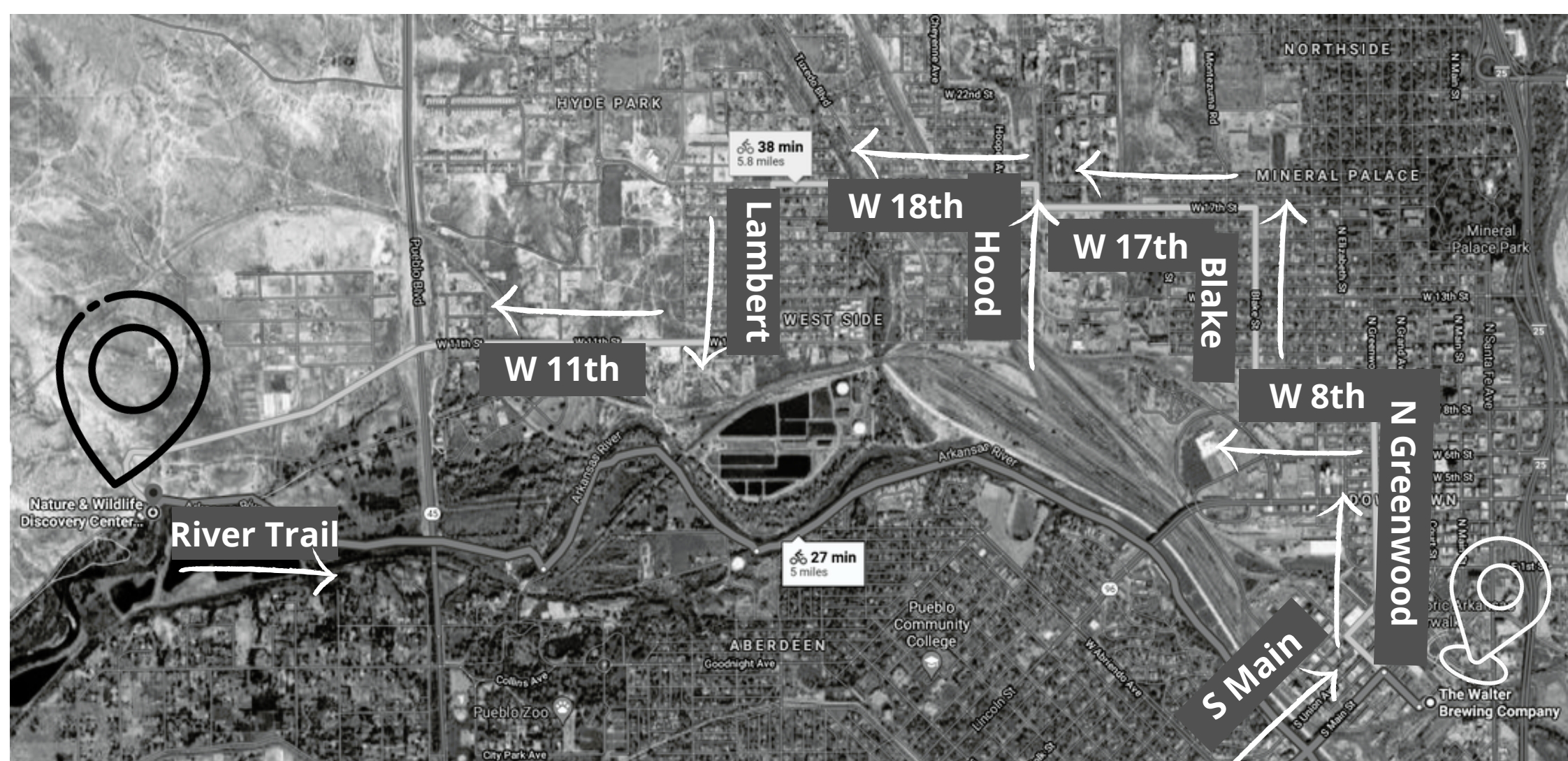
Community Leaders

Mayor Nick Gradisar
Pueblo Area Council of Governments

Our logo was designed by Catherine, a formerly unhoused GCBP bike recipient. Buy her badass artwork, including GCBP merch, at [redbubble.com @Queenwinning](https://www.redbubble.com/@Queenwinning)

FEATURED ROUTES

Our fan favorite Cruisin' Pueblo community ride runs from Walter's to the Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center. Starting off through historic downtown on Main it crosses the Arkansas River to the multi-use river trail, along which riders can enjoy the whitewater park, levee murals, and shady forest. At the Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center, beaches along the river and picnic benches offer a spot to stop and enjoy the quiet before returning home, and gelato if the gift shop is open! There are options for riding further, up to the dam at Lake Pueblo State Park. 10 miles round-trip, with only 1 significant climb (Main St Bridge).



DID YOU KNOW?

You can find a digital map, by The City, that specifies where to find bike lanes, signed routes, and shared routes. You can also see what parts of the routes are paved vs. gravel.

Direct Link:

<https://opendata-puebloco.hub.arcgis.com/apps/regional-bike-lane-multi-use-trails/explore>

Find It:

Google "City of Pueblo Open Data." Choose "City of Pueblo Open Data." Scroll Down to "Explore Public Maps". On the second row, right hand side, you will find "Regional Bike Lane & Multi Use Trail".

Bike Tool Stations continued from Wheel News & Resources

CRUISIN' PUEBLO

mid-April through October, Thursdays

Meet 6pm; Roll Out 6:30pm

Meet at Walter's Brewery & Taproom, 126 Oneida St.

Everybody Welcome. Nobody Left Behind.

Follow Cruisin' Pueblo on Facebook for Ride Routes & Updates. (You do not need to be a Facebook member to see the org's page.)

Pueblo Active Community Environments (PACE) secured funding from a Health Department grant along with cash match from Daniel Muldoon and PACE to purchase and install six new Bike Tool Stations in Pueblo. The tool stations are in parks and along trail system in low income areas targeted by the grant. Anyone can use the tools on cables and the heavy duty bike pump. PACE hopes to see volunteers hosting fix-a-flat classes in neighborhoods or on community rides. We hope no ride has to end for a minor bike repair. Scan the QR code sticker on it and tell us what you think about this or report a repair needed at a station. Share the good news with friends and family to keep the good times rolling!

We are a group of people on bikes with a purpose.

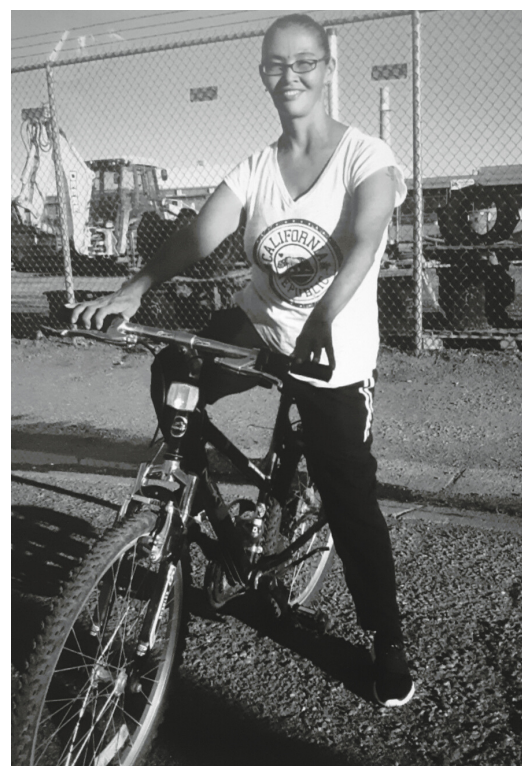
We have worked in social services with people experiencing homelessness and economic insecurity; we have experienced that ourselves.

We know the importance of a safe, sturdy bicycle when other forms of transit are inaccessible.

We know the utility, and beauty, and just plain fun, of a well-tuned bike.

- Restoring donated or abandoned bicycles and distributing them to those in need
- Repairing bicycles for those who may not have access to tools, time, or means to do so
- Teaching maintenance skills and providing tools and guidance for bike owners
- Collaborating with other organizations in Pueblo on bike-related projects
- Connecting people on bikes (and yet-to-be cyclists) of all kinds to each other and the community

info@gcbb.org | www.gcbbpueblo.org |  @greenchilebikebank



@gcbbpueblo

your donation of \$20 supports 2 bikes

SO THAT YOUR NEIGHBORS LIKE
THESE CAN GET TO WORK, RUN
ERRANDS, AND PARTICIPATE IN
OUR COMMUNITY

In addition to about 15k donated through volunteer time, our small group has contributed over 5k of our own funds via cash and in-kind donations (including earned by donating plasma!). This is why we don't mind askin' for a hand, if ya' can. Love ya' either way.