

Summer Will Arrive

by Kenita Gibbins

Grab your favorite camera or mobile phone/camera and go to the best place in Denver to take pictures, the High Line Canal. Early morning sun or just before the sun goes down are generally the best times to take pictures. Forget that little rule and go east to put the high sun to your backside. If all goes well, you can click a selfie shadow. It is fun to see your very tall self.

The second time in the day is later going west to see how the shadows of the trees frame people, dogs, and bicycle riders. Just place yourself off the path and wait for someone to arrive. You can handhold your camera if you are steady or set up a tripod. You can even find a bench to sit on while you wait. I like being on the south side of the path.

See if you can get your pet to notice a shadow. Serena, our cat, often sees shapes my computer lid makes on the top of the ceiling when the light shines in from our lanai. She thinks it is also fun to walk across the computer keys.

Downtown Denver has exciting places for shadows or reflection in the significantly tall buildings. Walking the canal near LoDo makes for astonishing images.

Yes, a shadow can become creepy if you notice one following along behind you. Just step aside and let the person go around you.

Thinking about shadows, you can see are much better than hearing from your friend say, "Oh, you have shadows under your eyes, are you getting enough sleep?" The next day I will try to cover them up with makeup. One of my friends was so happy because she had cataract surgery and didn't have to wear glasses. People started noticing her intense shadows and using bad manners remarked about them. She resumed wearing her glasses.

Shadows can be fun, spooky, and annoying. I'll take the shadows that make my photographs look better. I took a portrait of my husband sitting with the sun shining on one side of his face. This method is called a Rembrandt look.