

Report to Congress for Future Water Resources Development (WRRDA 7001) Submission Package

Proposal Name: Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado General Investigation Study

Submission Date: 08/26/2019

Proposal ID Number: 810e6565-66c0-4110-9382-e0a2130bdcba

Purpose of Proposal: The following language is taken directly from the Chief's Report, signed July 29, 2019 by USACE Chief of Engineers and Commanding General LTG Todd Semonite, "The reporting officers recommend authorization of a project that will make significant contributions to both the National Environmental Restoration (NER) and National Economic Development (NED) accounts. The NER portion of the recommended plan includes the restoration of aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitats along 6.5 miles of the South Platte River. This plan would restore critical habitat connectivity throughout the heart of the Denver, Colorado metropolitan area with ancillary recreation features incorporated throughout the plan. The NED portion of the recommended plan includes widening or enlarging an approximately 2.75 mile-long system of open channel and culverts along the Weir Gulch waterway and removing approximately 360 properties from the 1 percent Annual Exceedence Probability (AEP) defined 100-year floodplain, which will reduce the population at risk within the Weir Gulch community by over 60 percent. The Weir Gulch portion of the recommended plan also includes ancillary recreation features. Included in the NED portion of the recommended plan is a nonstructural flood risk management plan for the Harvard Gulch watershed that would provide added protection for 176 structures throughout the community. Based on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 price levels, a 2.875-percent discount rate, and a 50-year period of analysis, the estimated project cost of the combined NER_NED plan is \$520,630,000, providing 87.4 average annual habitat units (AAHUs) to the NER account by restoring or connecting approximately 450 acres of wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat, and providing \$2,360,000 annual net NED benefits for combined flood risk management and recreation benefit-to-cost ratio of 1.39."

1. Administrative Details

Proposal Name: Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado General Investigation Study

by Agency: City and County of Denver

Locations: CO

POC Name:

POC Phone:

POC Email:

Date Submitted: 08/26/2019

Confirmation Number: 810e6565-66c0-4110-9382-e0a2130bdcba

Supporting Documents

File Name	Date Uploaded
CCD letter of support.pdf	08/26/2019
MHFD letter of support.pdf	08/26/2019
TGF letter of support.pdf	08/26/2019
CWCB letter of support.pdf	08/26/2019
Polis letter of support.pdf	08/26/2019
DeGette letter of support.pdf	08/26/2019
Signed Chiefs Report.pdf	08/26/2019
Denver Story.pdf	08/26/2019
Congressional Briefing Packet.pdf	08/26/2019
USACE site visit.pdf	08/26/2019
Project Map.pdf	08/26/2019
Audubon letter of support.pdf	08/26/2019

2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.

Sponsor	Letter of Support
City and County of Denver(Primary)	The Final Plan (Plan) for the South Platte River provides an opportunity to restore and increase environmental habitats along a nationally significant corridor by creating a linkage between the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains river systems. The Plan restores approximately 160 acres of riparian and wetland habitat and 100 acres of aquatic habitat, and it provides significant indirect flood hazard mitigation including removing over 100 structures from the existing regulatory floodplain. Furthermore, the Plan serves as a capstone to this segment of the river through its physical connection of 190 acres of existing habitat and greenspace in the river corridor and enhanced benefit to over \$50M of recently completed and in-progress projects along the South Platte River sponsored by Denver and local partners.
Mile High Flood District (formerly Urban Drainage and Flood Control District)	Mile High Flood District has been an active partner with the City and County of Denver in this study, supports the recommendations, and looks forward to implementation of the program outlined in the Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado General Investigation Study.
The Greenway Foundation	The Greenway Foundation is honored to continue to support the Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado General Investigation Study. The Chief of Engineer's Report, signed July 29, 2019; and the FR_EIS completed in April 2019 were milestones in our joint efforts to provide critically needed opportunities in Denver's South Platte River and two of its key tributaries.
Colorado Water Conservation Board	The Colorado Water Conservation Board supports projects, such as the Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado General Investigation Study, that contribute to our mission of watershed protection, flood mitigation, and effective water management.

3. State if this proposal is for new feasibility study authority, a modification to an existing feasibility study authority, a modification to an existing USACE project authority, or a modification to an existing USACE Environmental Infrastructure Program authority. If it is a proposal for a modification to an existing study, project or program authority, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.

[x] Modification to a USACE Project Authority : Adam and Denver Counties, Colorado General Investigation Study; Chief of Engineer's Report Signed by USACE Chief of Engineers and Commanding General LTG Todd Semonite on July 29, 2019.

4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.

The following language is taken directly from the Chief's Report, signed July 29, 2019 by USACE Chief of Engineers and Commanding General LTG Todd Semonite, "The reporting officers recommend authorization of a project that will make significant contributions to both the National Environmental Restoration (NER) and National Economic Development (NED) accounts. The NER portion of the recommended plan includes the restoration of aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitats along 6.5 miles of the South Platte River. This plan would restore critical habitat connectivity throughout the heart of the Denver, Colorado metropolitan area with ancillary recreation features incorporated throughout the plan. The NED portion of the recommended plan includes widening or enlarging an approximately 2.75 mile-long system of open channel and culverts along the Weir Gulch waterway and removing approximately 360 properties from the 1 percent Annual Exceedence Probability (AEP) defined 100-year floodplain, which will reduce the population at risk within the Weir Gulch community by over 60 percent. The Weir Gulch portion of the recommended plan also includes ancillary recreation features. Included in the NED portion of the recommended plan is a nonstructural flood risk management plan for the Harvard Gulch watershed that would provide added protection for 176 structures throughout the community. Based on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 price levels, a 2.875-percent discount rate, and a 50-year period of analysis, the estimated project cost of the combined NER_NED plan is \$520,630,000, providing 87.4 average annual habitat units (AAHUs) to the NER account by restoring or connecting approximately 450 acres of wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat, and providing \$2,360,000 annual net NED benefits for combined flood risk management and recreation benefit-to-cost ratio of 1.39."

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Study	\$1,964,500	\$1,883,500	\$3,848,000
Construction	\$325,541,000	\$195,089,000	\$520,630,000

Explanation (if necessary)

Study costs are as of August 2019. Estimated construction costs are taken directly from the Chief's Report, signed July 29, 2019 by USACE Chief of Engineers and Commanding General LTG Todd Semonite.

6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.

The following language is summarized from the July 29, 2019 Chief of Engineer's Report. The estimated project cost of the combined NER_NED plan is \$520,630,000, providing 87.4 average annual habitat units (AAHUs) to the NER account by restoring or connecting approximately 450 acres of wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat, and providing \$2,360,000 annual net NED benefits for combined flood risk management and recreation benefit-to-cost ratio of 1.39. The NER plan would improve habitat deemed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be a critical wildlife resource in Colorado, and ecosystem restoration will benefit 14 different bird species on the national Birds of Conservation Concern list and 12 other State-listed species. Additionally, the restored habitat will benefit many species of migratory birds that travel through the Central Flyway. This plan also provides incidental flood risk management benefits by reducing of the likelihood of impacts within the existing regulatory floodplain and removing approximately 100 structures from the regulatory floodplain. The South Platte River NER plan will serve as a capstone to the billions of dollars invested by local stakeholders in the South Platte River corridor over the past few decades. The NED plan within Weir Gulch would increase the conveyance to accommodate the flows from the 1 percent AEP event by implementing a system of widened open channel segments and enlarged culverts. This plan would remove 360 structures from the 1 percent AEP floodplain within a socially and economically vulnerable community. With poverty and unemployment rates more than double than rates for the Denver metropolitan area, this community's resiliency to recover from a substantial flood event is reduced, further emphasizing the importance of the recommended plan to this community. The NED plan for the Harvard Gulch study area would reduce the community's flood risk by providing nonstructural flood risk management measures for 176 structures

7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.

Yes

Local Support Description

In addition to support from the Mile High Flood District, The Greenway Foundation, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the project has widespread support from Governor Jared Polis, Congresswoman Diana DeGette, and Denver Audubon. Letters of support from each of these entities is attached. As noted in the letter from Governor Jared Polis, "the result is an excellent plan that will facilitate critical habitat restoration and flood risk reduction efforts in addition to improving public recreation and accessibility opportunities."

8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?

Yes

Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

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CCD letter of support.pdf

Michael B. Hancock
Mayor



City and County of Denver

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY AND COUNTY BUILDING
DENVER, CO 80202-5390
TELEPHONE: (720) 865-9090 • FAX: (720) 865-8787
TTY/ TTD: (720) 865-9010

January 14, 2019

Col. John L. Hudson
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Col. Hudson,

The City and County of Denver is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado General Investigations Study. Since the project's inception, Denver and local partners Urban Drainage and Flood Control District (UDFCD), The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), and The Greenway Foundation (TGF) have been integrally involved with all aspects of the Feasibility Study, which has focused on the South Platte River (from approximately 6th Avenue to 58th Avenue), and two of its tributaries, Weir Gulch and Harvard Gulch.

The Draft Final Plan (Plan) for the South Platte River provides an opportunity to restore and increase environmental habitats along a nationally significant corridor by creating a linkage between the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains river systems. The Plan restores approximately 160 acres of riparian and wetland habitat and 100 acres of aquatic habitat, and provides significant indirect flood hazard mitigation including removing over 100 structures from the existing regulatory floodplain. Furthermore, the Plan serves as a capstone to this segment of the river through its physical connection of 190 acres of existing habitat and greenspace in the river corridor and enhanced benefit to over \$50M of recently completed and in-progress projects along the South Platte River sponsored by Denver and local partners.

Denver supports providing its residents with an opportunity to reduce flood risk and is constantly seeking new ideas to provide benefits in a manner that reinforces the values of our neighborhoods. For both Weir and Harvard Gulches, the goal of the study was to reduce flood risk to life, safety, and property. The Plan for Harvard Gulch, provides opportunity to over 175 property owners to reduce their flood risk through voluntary modifications to their property. The Weir Gulch Plan identifies a system of open channels and culverts capable of conveying the 100-year storm event. This Plan results in a significant reduction to the existing flood risk, that would remove approximately 360 properties from the regulatory floodplain.

The implementation of the Plan is of critical importance. It is our intention to maximize the identified benefits by working closely with the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) and the public to evaluate the project design through the lens of our long-term planning initiative "Denverright".

As the study concludes, Denver and its local partners look forward to the legislative authorization expected to

occur in the next Water Resources Development Act bill scheduled for 2020. This action is the first step toward project appropriations. Prior to federal funding the Non-Federal Sponsor is required to enter into a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) and Project Management Plan (PMP). The City and County of Denver understands the responsibilities of a Non-Federal Sponsor (NFS) and accordingly makes the following non-binding acknowledgements:

- All lands, easements, rights-of-way, and relocations, and disposal placement areas (LERRD), necessary for the implementation of the project will be identified during project design. The value of any and all LERRDs provided by the NFS will be included in the total project costs and credited toward the NFS share of costs.
- The NFS understands that it will assume all costs and obligations for the long-term operation, maintenance and repair of the project, after the period of adaptive management is completed, during the useful life of the project.
- The NFS understands it will be obligated to contribute through cash, LERRD's, or other sources, 35% of the total project ecosystem and flood risk management costs, 50% of the complementary recreation costs, and 100% of any costs associated with site remediation and cleanup will be locally funded and not eligible for federal cost sharing. At the current estimated project cost of approximately \$485M the NFS's projected cost share is approximately \$174M.

I wish to thank you and your team for the diligence and flexibility shown the city through-out the study process. Our drainageways are one of our greatest assets and this study and the improvements that will someday result from it will be of great benefit to our city and region for decades into the future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Hancock", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael B. Hancock
Mayor

Other Non-Federal Sponsors Letter(s) of Support

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MHFD letter of support.pdf

August 20, 2019

COL John L. Hudson
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1616 Capitol Avenue,
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Colonel Hudson:

The Mile High Flood District (MHFD) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado General Investigations Study (Feasibility Study). MHFD supports projects that contribute to our mission of protecting people, property, and our environment.

On the South Platte River, the Feasibility Study provides an opportunity to repair and increase habitat along a nationally significant corridor creating a linkage between the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains river systems. The South Platte River recommended plan restores approximately 160 acres of riparian and wetland habitat and 100 acres of aquatic habitat, as well as reconnects an additional 190 acres of existing habitat and greenspace to the project area. The plan complements over \$60M of recently completed and in-progress projects along the South Platte River sponsored by Denver and local partners.

For both Weir and Harvard Gulches, the goal of the study was to reduce flood risk to life, safety, property, and critical infrastructure. For Harvard Gulch, there was no structural plan that was economically justified; however, a non-structural plan, reducing flood risk for 217 structures in the floodplain, was developed. For Weir Gulch, the study identified a system of open channel and culverts capable of conveying the 1% Annual Chance Exceedance (ACE). This recommended plan results in the removal of 360 properties from the floodplain. Overall, the Weir and Harvard recommended plans impact 577 structures by reducing their flood risk, as well as increases Denver's overall resiliency to flooding.

MHFD has been an active partner with the City and County of Denver in this study, supports the recommendations, and looks forward to implementation of the program outlined in the Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado General Investigations Study. Congratulations to you and your staff in Omaha District, the Northwestern Division and to Corps Headquarters as well as to the City and County of Denver, on the issuance of the Chief's Report for this study in July 2019.

Sincerely,



NEIL MACKENZIE
Executive Director
Mile High Flood District



Other Non-Federal Sponsors Letter(s) of Support

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TGF letter of support.pdf



August 20, 2019

COL John L. Hudson
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, NE 68102

FOUNDER

Joe Shoemaker

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Larry Elrod
John Moran
Katie Navin
Lesley Roper
Paula Sandoval
Pete West
Jason Winkler

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jeff Shoemaker

Dear COL Hudson:

The Greenway Foundation (TGF) is honored to continue to support the Adams-Denver Counties, Colorado General Investigation Study (Study), the FR/EIS issued this year, and the projects that will result from this effort.

Since 2007, TGF and the City and County of Denver (Denver) have collaborated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to champion the Study as a critically needed opportunity for Denver's South Platte River and two of its key tributaries.

Prior to this latest partnership between TGF, USACE and Denver, TGF served as the non-federal sponsor with USACE on the Sec. 1135 Colfax Reach Project on the South Platte River adjacent to Mile High Stadium in the late 1990's. The initial partnership between TGF, Denver and USACE has continued over the last two decades and includes successful collaboration on the Southern Platte Valley Sec. 1135 Study. We look forward to our current partnership at hand – the Adams-Denver Counties, Colorado General Investigation Study.

I am grateful for the ongoing engagement and commitment of our local partners. The partnership between TGF, Denver, Mile High Flood District (formerly Urban Drainage and Flood Control District) and many other local, regional and state stakeholders is fundamental toward authorization of this Study. TGF continue to stand "at the ready" to engage and assist, however needed, to allow this opportunity to move from goal to reality.

Congratulations to you and your staff in the Omaha District, the Northwestern Division and to Corps Headquarters as well as to the City and County of Denver on the issuance of the Chief of Engineer's Report for this Study on July 29, 2019.

With regard,

Jeff Shoemaker
Executive Director

"A RIVER IS MORE THAN AN AMENITY, IT IS A TREASURE" – JUSTICE OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

The Greenway Foundation is supported in part by a gift from the Estate of Robert V. and Billie Mae Behrent.

1855 S. Pearl St. Suite 40, Denver, CO 80210 | 303.455.7109 | www.greenwayfoundation.org

Other Non-Federal Sponsors Letter(s) of Support

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CWCB letter of support.pdf



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

August 23, 2019

COL John L. Hudson
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear COL Hudson:

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado General Investigations Study. CWCB supports projects that contribute to our mission of watershed protection, flood mitigation, and effective water management.

Congratulations to you and your staff in Omaha District, the Northwestern Division, and to Corps Headquarters as well as to the City and County of Denver, on the issuance of the Chief's Report for this study in July 2019.

On the South Platte River, the Feasibility Study provides an opportunity to repair and increase habitat along a nationally significant corridor creating a linkage between the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains river systems. The South Platte River Recommended Plan restores approximately 160 acres of riparian and wetland habitat and 100 acres of aquatic habitat, as well as reconnects an additional 190 acres of existing habitat and greenspace to the project area. The plan complements over \$50M of recently completed and in-progress projects along the South Platte River sponsored by Denver and local partners.

For both Weir and Harvard Gulches, the goal of the study was to reduce flood risk to life, safety, property, and critical infrastructure. For Harvard Gulch, there was no structural plan that was economically justified; however, a non-structural plan reducing flood risk for 217 structures in the floodplain was developed. Denver supports providing its citizens with an opportunity to reduce their flood risk. For Weir Gulch, the study identified a system of open channel and culverts capable of conveying the 1% Annual Chance Exceedance (ACE). This Recommended plan results in the removal of 360 properties from the floodplain. Overall, the Weir and Harvard Recommended Plans impact 577 structures by reducing their flood risk, as well as increases Denver's overall resiliency to flooding.



CWCB supports the City and County of Denver, and looks forward to implementation of the program outlined in the General Investigations Study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin J. Houck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a distinct 'J'.

Kevin Houck, P.E., CFM
Chief, Watershed and Flood Protection
Colorado Water Conservation Board

Additional Proposal Information

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Polis letter of support.pdf



COLORADO

Gov. Jared Polis

Col. John L. Hudson
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, NE 68102

January 15, 2019

Dear Colonel Hudson:

I write to support the Adams and Denver Counties Colorado General Investigations Study. As a Congressman, my staff and I watched and supported this planning effort since its inception over three years ago. The result is an excellent plan that will facilitate critical habitat restoration and flood risk reduction efforts in addition to improving public recreation and accessibility opportunities. We are pleased that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proceeding with approval of this plan and hopefully preparing it for congressional authorization in the 2020 Water Resources Development Act bill.

The Draft Final Plan (Plan) provides restoration and reconnection efforts benefitting 450 acres of nationally significant riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitat on the South Platte River, while reducing life-safety risks and economic flood damages within the Harvard and Weir Gulch communities.

The Plan for this project represents a significant investment for both the Federal Government and the local community here in Colorado. As the Non-Federal Sponsor, the City and County of Denver has demonstrated through both past and on-going efforts that they believe restoring and taking ownership of the South Platte River corridor is worth the investment. At the same time, this project presents a unique opportunity for the Corps of Engineers to partner with a dedicated sponsor on restoration efforts of a highly degraded river that would provide a significant boost to habitat into the region, while also providing flood risk reduction to hundreds of structures within both the Harvard and Weir Gulch Communities.

As the newly elected Governor, my administration looks forward to supporting this project as it is implemented through the partnership of the Federal Government and the City and County of Denver.

Sincerely,

Jared Polis
Governor
State of Colorado



Additional Proposal Information

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DeGette letter of support.pdf

DIANA DeGETTE
1ST DISTRICT, COLORADO

2111 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4431
FAX (202) 226-5667

DISTRICT OFFICE
600 GRANT STREET, SUITE 202
DENVER, CO 80203
(303) 844-4988
FAX (303) 844-4988

degette.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
COMMERCE
RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
INVESTIGATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

January 25, 2019

COL John L. Hudson
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Colonel Hudson:

I write to support the Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado Feasibility General Investigations Study. My staff and I have supported this planning effort since its inception over three years ago. Significant effort has gone into engaging all the stakeholders to develop an excellent plan. I am pleased that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proceeding with approval of this plan and hope it will stay on track for Congressional authorization in a 2020 Water Resources Development Act bill.

The combined recommended plan provides restoration and reconnection benefitting 450 acres of nationally significant riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitat on the South Platte River, while reducing life-safety risks and economic flood damages within the Harvard and Weir Gulch communities.

This project represents a significant investment for both the Federal Government and the local community. The non-Federal sponsor has demonstrated through both past and on-going efforts that they believe that restoring and taking ownership of the South Platte River corridor is worth the investment. At the same time, this project presents a unique opportunity for the Corps of Engineers to partner with a dedicated sponsor to restore a highly degraded river. Doing so will provide a significant boost in habitat to the region, while also providing flood risk reduction to hundreds of structures within both the Harvard and Weir Gulch Communities.

I look to support the project as it is implemented through the partnership of the federal government and the City and County of Denver as the local sponsor.

Sincerely,



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Additional Proposal Information

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Signed Chiefs Report.pdf



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
2600 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310-2600

DAEN

SUBJECT: South Platte River and Tributaries, Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado

THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

1. I submit for transmission to Congress my report on ecosystem restoration for the South Platte River and flood risk management for the Weir Gulch and Harvard Gulch tributaries in Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado. It is accompanied by the report of the Omaha District Engineer and Northwestern Division Engineer. This report was completed as an interim response to a resolution adopted on 24 September 2008 by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives, Docket 2813, Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado. This resolution requested a review of the report of the Chief of Engineers on the South Platte River and Tributaries, Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska, published as House Document 669, 80th Congress, and other related reports to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations therein are advisable in the interest of flood damage reduction, floodplain management, water supply, water quality improvement, recreation, environmental restoration, watershed management, and other allied purposes, in Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado. Preconstruction, engineering and design activities, if funded, will continue under the same authority.

2. The reporting officers recommend authorization of a project that will make significant contributions to both the National Environmental Restoration (NER) and National Economic Development (NED) accounts. The NER portion of the recommended plan includes the restoration of aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitats along 6.5 miles of the South Platte River. This plan would restore critical habitat connectivity throughout the heart of the Denver, Colorado metropolitan area with ancillary recreation features incorporated throughout the plan. The NED portion of the recommended plan includes widening or enlarging an approximately 2.75 mile-long system of open channel and culverts along the Weir Gulch waterway and removing approximately 360 properties from the one percent Annual Exceedence Probability (AEP) defined 100-year floodplain, which will reduce the population at risk within the Weir Gulch community by over 60 percent. The Weir Gulch portion of the recommended plan also includes ancillary recreation features. Included in the NED portion of the recommended plan is a nonstructural flood risk management plan for the Harvard Gulch watershed that would provide added protection for 176 structures throughout the community. Based on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 price levels, a 2.875-percent discount rate, and a 50-year period of analysis, the estimated project cost of the combined NER/NED plan is \$520,630,000, providing 87.4 average annual habitat units by restoring or connecting approximately

DAEN

SUBJECT: South Platte River and Tributaries, Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado

450 acres of wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat, and providing \$2,360,000 annual net NED benefits for a combined flood risk management and recreation benefit-to-cost ratio of 1.39. The details of the different components of the recommended plan are described in more detail below:

a. South Platte River: The NER plan along the South Platte River would serve as an integral component to restoring the Rocky Mountains to Great Plains river corridor by directly restoring approximately 160 acres of riparian and wetland habitat and 100 acres of aquatic habitat and reconnecting an additional 190 acres of existing habitat and surrounding green space, providing a significant increase in the amount of functioning and connected habitat within the study area. This habitat has been deemed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be a critical wildlife resource in Colorado, and ecosystem restoration efforts likely will improve habitat conditions beneficial to 14 different bird species on the national Birds of Conservation Concern list and 12 other state-listed species. Additionally, the restored habitat will benefit many species of migratory birds that travel through the Central Flyway. The NER plan includes such ecosystem restoration features as wetlands benching, creation of secondary channels, re-sloping banks, riparian plantings, relocating an irrigation canal to establish a connected wetland/riparian corridor, relocating utility/transportation infrastructure to create and widen riparian corridors on both banks and to connect to existing but isolated natural areas, replacing an existing irrigation diversion dam to facilitate sediment transport, modifying in-stream structures to improve fish passage, and replacing invasive vegetation with natural vegetation. This plan also provides incidental flood risk management benefits to the study area by reducing the likelihood of impacts within the existing regulatory floodplain and removing approximately 100 structures from the regulatory floodplain. Furthermore, the South Platte River NER plan will serve as a capstone to the billions of dollars invested by local stakeholders in the South Platte River corridor over the past few decades. There is also an ancillary recreation component to the South Platte River NER plan that includes features such as trails, interpretive signage, and viewing platforms that would improve access to the river and provide educational opportunities for the community.

b. Weir Gulch: The NED plan within Weir Gulch would improve the existing flood risk management infrastructure that is significantly undersized. This plan would increase the conveyance within the waterway to accommodate the flows from the one percent AEP event by implementing a system of widened open channel segments and enlarged culverts where an open channel segment is not feasible. This plan would remove 360 structures from the one percent AEP floodplain within a socially and economically vulnerable community. With poverty and unemployment rates more than double the rates for the Denver metropolitan area, this community's resiliency to recover from a substantial flood event is reduced, further emphasizing the importance of the

DAEN

SUBJECT: South Platte River and Tributaries, Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado

recommended plan to this community. Integrated within the flood risk management plan for the Weir Gulch study area is a recreation plan consisting of trails, crossings, signage, gateways, pocket parks, community gardens, and site amenities that would significantly improve the existing recreation infrastructure throughout the community, providing recreational opportunities more in line with opportunities found throughout other local communities.

c. Harvard Gulch: The NED plan for the Harvard Gulch study area would reduce the community's flood risk by providing nonstructural flood risk management measures for 176 structures, which are mainly within the primary commercial hubs of the study area that act as the economic core to the community. The measures that would be implemented under this plan are basement fillings of 11 residential structures, elevations of 88 residential structures, and dry flood proofing of 77 commercial structures. Overall, the Harvard Gulch nonstructural flood risk management plan would substantially reduce the existing flood risk for over 30 percent of the structures within the one percent AEP defined 100-yr floodplain.

3. The recommended plan has been determined to be economically justified and environmentally acceptable. The NER component of the plan includes post-construction monitoring and adaptive management for a period of up to 10-years to ensure project performance. Because the recommended plan would not have any significant adverse effects, no compensatory mitigation measures would be required. The potential for site contamination within parts of the project area has been identified and communicated to the non-federal sponsor. The non-federal sponsor has acknowledged and accepted their responsibility to provide a contamination-free, clean site for the project and for 100 percent of any applicable remediation and clean-up costs. The recommended plan is the environmentally preferred plan.

4. The city and county of Denver is the non-federal cost-sharing sponsor for all features of the recommended plan. Based on FY 2019 price levels, the estimated first cost of the recommended plan is \$520,630,000. Of the estimated first cost of the recommended plan, the first cost of the ecosystem restoration features is estimated at \$345,705,000, the first cost of the flood risk management features is estimated at \$118,212,000, the first cost of the recreation features is estimated at \$32,282,000, the first cost of the monitoring is \$895,000, and the first cost of adaptive management is \$23,536,000.

5. In accordance with the cost sharing provisions in Section 103 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended (33 U.S.C. 2213), the federal share of the estimated first project cost of the recommended plan is estimated to be \$325,541,000, and the non-federal share is estimated to be \$195,089,000. Cost

DAEN

SUBJECT: South Platte River and Tributaries, Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado

apportionment is based on a 65 percent federal and 35 percent non-federal cost-share for ecosystem restoration and flood risk management features, and a 50 percent federal and 50 percent non-federal cost-share for recreation features. The value of the lands, easements, relocations, rights of way, and disposal areas required for the recommended plan is a 100 percent non-federal responsibility and estimated at \$109,876,000. The City and County of Denver is responsible for the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (OMRR&R) of the project after construction. OMRR&R costs are currently estimated at \$510,000 per year based on FY 2019 price levels.

6. The recommended plan was developed in coordination and consultation with federal, state, and local agencies and numerous tribes. Risk and uncertainty were addressed during the study by completing a cost and schedule risk analysis and a sensitivity analysis that evaluated potential impacts of change in economic assumptions. Risks include project scope, schedule, and cost changes associated with future land and market values increasing at higher than average levels nationally.

7. In accordance with the Corps Engineer Circular 1165-2-217 on the review policy for decision documents, all technical, engineering and scientific work underwent an open, dynamic and rigorous review process to ensure technical quality. This includes District Quality Control reviews, Division Quality Assurance reviews, Agency Technical Reviews, an Independent External Peer Review (Type 1), and a policy and legal review. All comments from the above referenced reviews have been addressed and incorporated into the final documents.

8. Washington-level review indicates that the plan recommended by the reporting officers is technically sound, environmentally and socially acceptable, and economically justified. The plan complies with all essential elements of the U.S. Water Resources Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Land Related Resources Implementation Studies. The recommended plan complies with other administrative and legislative policies and guidelines. The views of interested parties, including federal, state, and local agencies, have been considered.

9. I concur with the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the reporting officers. Accordingly, I recommend that the plan for ecosystem restoration and flood risk management including ancillary recreation features for the South Platte River and Harvard and Weir Gulch tributaries in Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado be authorized for implementation in accordance with the reporting officers' recommended plan at an estimated first project cost of \$520,630,000, with such modifications as in the discretion of the Chief of Engineers may be advisable. My recommendation is subject to cost-sharing, financing, and other applicable requirements of federal and state laws

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SUBJECT: South Platte River and Tributaries, Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado

and policies, including Section 103 of WRDA 1986, as amended (33 U.S.C. 2213), and to the non-federal sponsor agreeing, prior to project implementation, to perform the required items of local cooperation, including, but not limited to, the following:

a. Provide a minimum of 35 percent, but not to exceed 50 percent, of total project costs allocated to flood risk management, 35 percent of total project costs allocated to ecosystem restoration, and 50 percent of total project costs allocated to recreation, as further specified below:

(1) Provide, during design, 35 percent of design costs allocated to flood risk management, 35 percent of design costs allocated to ecosystem restoration, and 50 percent of design costs allocated to recreation in accordance with the terms of a design agreement entered into prior to commencement of design work for the project;

(2) Provide, during the first year of construction, any additional funds necessary to pay the full non-federal share of design costs;

(3) Provide, during construction, a contribution of funds equal to 5 percent of total project costs allocated to flood risk management;

(4) Provide all lands, easements, and rights-of-way, including those required for relocations, the borrowing of material, and the disposal of dredged or excavated material; perform or ensure the performance of all relocations; and construct all improvements required on lands, easements and rights-of-way to enable the disposal of dredged or excavated material as determined by the federal government to be required or to be necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the project, all in compliance with applicable provisions of the Uniform Relocation and Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies act of 1970, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4601-4655) and the regulations contained in 49 C.F.R. Part 24;

(5) Provide, during construction, any additional funds necessary to make its total contributions equal to at least 35 percent of total project costs allocated to flood risk management, 35 percent of total project costs allocated to ecosystem restoration, and 50 percent of total project costs allocated to recreation;

b. Provide, during construction, 100 percent of the total project costs allocated to recreation associated with the ecosystem restoration features that exceed 10 percent of the federal share of total project costs allocated to ecosystem restoration;

c. Prevent obstructions or encroachments on the project (including prescribing and enforcing regulations to prevent such obstructions or encroachments), such as any new

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SUBJECT: South Platte River and Tributaries, Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado

developments on project lands, easements, and rights of way or the addition of facilities which might reduce the level of protection the project affords, hinder operation and maintenance of the project, or interfere with the project's proper function;

d. Operate, maintain, repair, rehabilitate, and replace (OMRR&R) the project at no cost to the federal government, in a manner compatible with the project's authorized purposes and in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations and any specific directions prescribed by the federal government;

e. Hold and save the United States free from all damages arising from the design, construction, operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of the project and any betterments, except for damages due to the fault or negligence of the United States or its contractors;

f. Perform, or ensure performance of, any investigations for hazardous substances that are determined necessary to identify the existence and extent of any hazardous substances regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), Public Law 96-510, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601-9675), that may exist in, on, or under lands, easements, and rights of way that the federal government determines to be necessary for the construction or operation and maintenance of the project;

g. Assume, as between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor, complete financial responsibility for all necessary cleanup and response costs of any hazardous substances regulated under CERCLA that are located in, on, or under lands, easements, or rights-of-way that the federal government determines to be necessary for the construction, operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of the project;

h. Agree, as between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor, that the non-federal sponsor shall be considered the operator of the project for the purpose of CERCLA liability, and to the maximum extent practicable, OMRR&R the project in a manner that will not cause liability to arise under CERCLA;

i. Not use the project or lands, easements, and rights of way required for the project as a wetlands bank or mitigation credit for any other project;

j. Inform affected interests, at least annually, of the extent of protection afforded by the flood risk management features; participate in and comply with applicable federal floodplain management and flood insurance programs; comply with Section 402 of the WRDA of 1986, as amended (33 U.S.C. 701b-12); and publicize floodplain information

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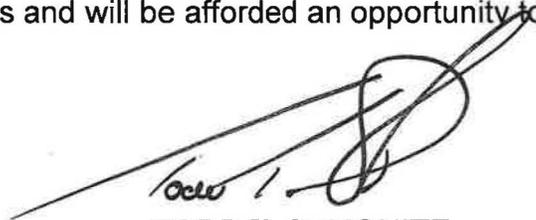
SUBJECT: South Platte River and Tributaries, Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado

in the area concerned and provide this information to zoning and other regulatory agencies for their use in adopting regulations, or taking other actions, to prevent unwise future development and to ensure compatibility with protection levels provided by the project; and

k. Provide and maintain recreation features, access roads, parking areas and other associated public use facilities, open and available to all on equal terms.

10. The recommendations contained herein reflect the information available at this time and current departmental policies governing the formulation of individual projects. These recommendations do not reflect program and budgeting priorities inherent in the formulation of a national civil works construction program or the perspective of higher review levels within the executive branch. Consequently, the recommendations may be modified before they are transmitted to Congress for authorization and implementation funding. However, prior to transmittal to Congress, the non-federal sponsor, the state, interested federal agencies, and other parties will be advised of any significant modifications in the recommendations and will be afforded an opportunity to comment further.

*GREAT PROJECT !!
I fully support THE
BENEFITS IT WILL PROVIDE
THE GREATER DENVER METRO
AREA !!*



TODD T. SEMONITE
Lieutenant General, USA
Chief of Engineers

Additional Proposal Information

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Denver Story.pdf

The Denver Story

TRANSFORMATIVE
CULTURALLY AND NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT
DENVER'S HEART

The South Platte River

A brief history of our waterways in support of:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado: General Investigation Study

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 1135 Southern Platte Valley Ecosystem Restoration



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY



MHFD
MILE HIGH FLOOD DISTRICT



COLORADO
Colorado Water
Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

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A RIVER'S HISTORY

The history of the City and County of Denver (Denver) is the modern history of the South Platte River. The City's origins can be traced back to its first mining settlement in 1858 along the river at the current-day site of Grant Frontier Park. Subsequent settlements focused downstream at the confluence of the South Platte River and Cherry Creek, now the site of Confluence Park. From this point forward, the South Platte River was drastically altered and influenced by its human inhabitants and their decisions. For more than 100 years, humans turned their backs to the South Platte River unaware of its significance as a lifeline within Colorado's arid climate, fragile ecosystem, and economy.

A river wild

Historically, flows along the South Platte River were variable, rising in spring pulses from snowmelt in the Rocky Mountains and lowering to almost dry conditions during other times of the year. It is these dredges and deluges of precipitation and runoff that created the pristine functional watershed.

In its natural state, the South Platte River was able to ebb and flow, expanding and contracting with the changing seasons and precipitation. Urbanization reshaped the natural environment, and the South Platte River experienced pressures of a prosperous Denver. The river was channelized and degraded, and the surrounding land developed creating unintended consequences and placing people and property at great risk.

As of 2019, the flood of 1965 remains the biggest and costliest in metro Denver's history costing 21 lives statewide, more than 600 injuries, and destroyed many businesses and thousands of homes. The damage totaled nearly \$4 billion in today's dollars. The Cherry Creek dam and reservoir, constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1950, was credited with saving hundreds of lives. The South Platte River finally captured attention statewide earning the respect it deserved.

A river controlled

In the flood's aftermath, efforts focused on controlling the river. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers undertook the construction of Chatfield and Bear Creek dams and reservoirs. The Mile High Flood District was established by the Colorado legislature in 1969. Although these projects made great strides in reducing flood risk, the river could not be tamed and flooding along the river still could occur. Additionally, impoundment of the river and controlled releases have severely impacted the downstream ecosystem, affecting the riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitat.

THE VISION

To make the South Platte River a premier urban corridor, where people and nature thrive in harmony, by reducing flood risk and restoring the natural ecosystem.

By investing in the South Platte River, metro Denver will realize:

- Reduced flood risks to adjacent neighborhoods;
- A flourishing ecosystem with improved riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitats;
- Improved neighborhood connectivity;
- Equitable access to a healthy environment for recreational activities; and
- Increased environmental education opportunities.

NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The South Platte River provides an oasis in an otherwise urbanized landscape for a variety of plants and wildlife. It provides a critical habitat linkage between the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains river systems. In particular, the wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitats are critically important in an arid region that has experienced severe losses and degradation of these habitat types. Wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitats play critical regional, national, and international roles, particularly as part of the Central Flyway, which has seen a 66% decline in waterfowl numbers in the South Platte Region over the last 28 years. This decline is the direct result of the decreased quantity and quality of wetlands. The Central Flyway is one of four major biological flyways in North America where migratory birds generally follow a north-south direction as they migrate between nesting and wintering areas.

The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Mountain Prairie region ranks riparian habitats as a critical wildlife resource. **Wetlands and riparian areas represent only about 2 percent of the land area of Colorado, but 80 percent of wildlife species use these habitats.** Colorado has experienced significant habitat losses including over 70 percent for riparian forest and over 50 percent of wetlands statewide with even higher percentages in urban areas. Within the urbanized Denver metropolitan area, wetland habitat is especially rare representing only about 0.7 percent of the land area. Only 5.6 acres of wetlands were identified along a 6.5-mile stretch of the South Platte River through Denver.

The positive impacts from the proposed projects to Denver's portion of the South Platte River cascade as the water flows through the Platte River System continuing to the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, ultimately entering the Gulf of Mexico.

FLOOD DAMAGE & FLOOD RISK REDUCTION- A CLOSER LOOK

Enhancing the environment must be balanced with our regional goal of protecting people and property from flooding by reducing flood risks and flood damages. Projects, such as Urban Waterways, are nationally significant and provide significant, incidental flood risk management.

Flood Damage (n.) - the adverse consequences to people and assets expected (or realized) from their exposure and vulnerability to the flood hazard or a portion of the hazard (that is, one or more possible floods). (USACE Institute for Water Resources)

Flood Risk (n.) - the likelihood and adverse consequences of flooding. Flood risk for assets and people at any location in a floodplain is a function of flood hazard at that location and their exposure and vulnerability to the flood hazard. In areas served by flood hazard reduction infrastructure, the remaining risk is often referred to as "residual risk". (USACE Institute for Water Resources)



The aftermath of the 1965 flood along the South Platte River.

OUR PROGRESS

River Vision Implementation Plan (RVIP)

- Three master planning studies – River North Greenway Master Plan (2007), River South Greenway Master Plan (2008) and River Vision Implementation Plan (2010) – were completed
- Core principles:
 - Maximize health and safety of the river corridor
 - Improve ecological function and sustainability of the river corridor
 - Enhance visibility and accessibility of the river corridor
 - Continue environmental and economic transformation of the river corridor
 - Identify and expand resource opportunities and partnerships
- River Vision Phase 1 has been completed; Phase 2 to be completed by 2020
 - A total of ten project sites (shown as purple dots below)
 - More than \$50M of local investment from 19 funding sources
- Project partners are City & County of Denver, Mile High Flood District, and The Greenway Foundation

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SOUTHERN PLATTE VALLEY ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION [Section 1135 Continuing Authorities Program (CAP)]

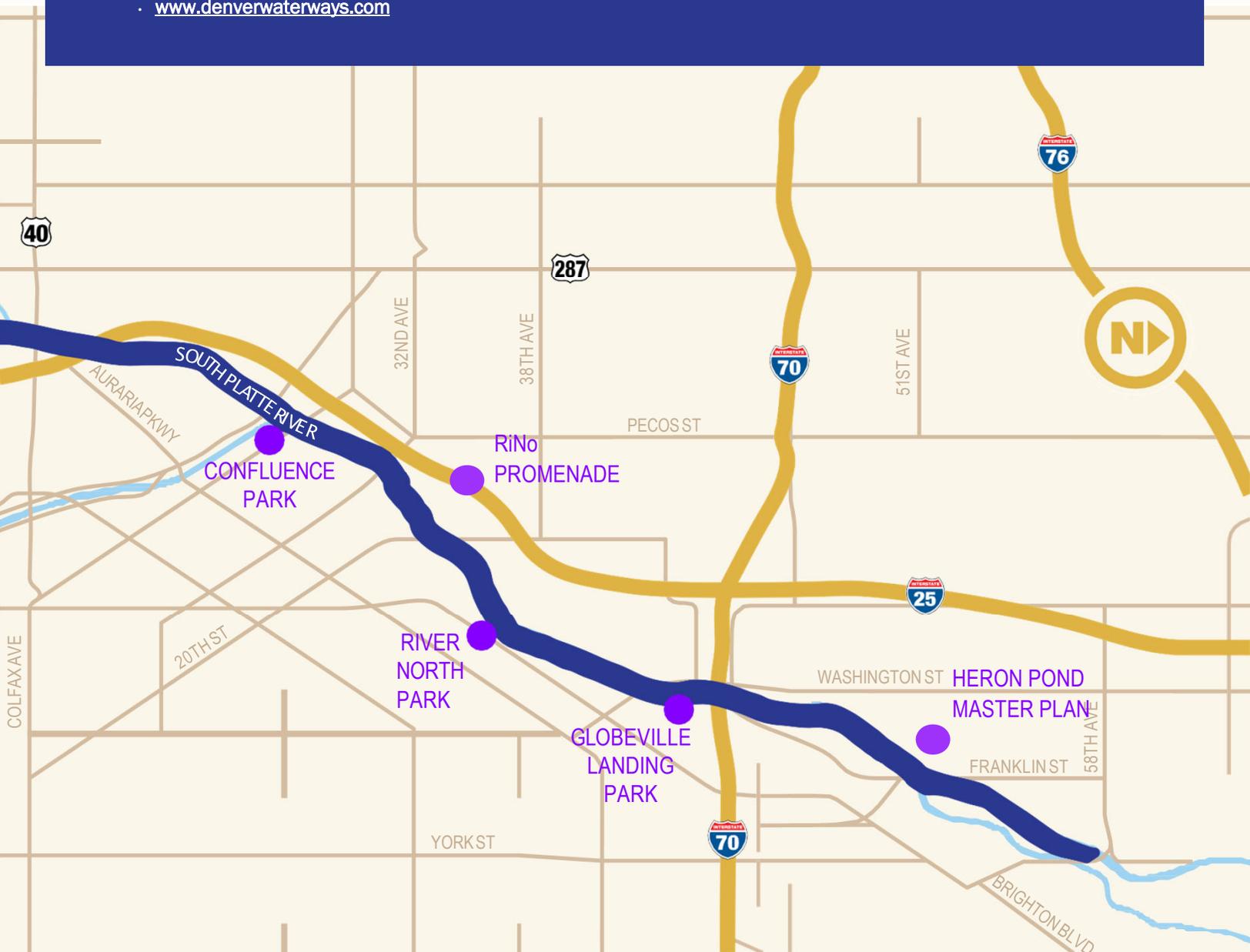
- South Platte River between W. Yale and W. Mississippi Ave. (approximately 2.4 mi)
- Project objective is to restore the wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat impacted by the construction of upstream U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dams and reservoirs.
- Project highlights include revegetation of banks, removal of invasive species, aquatic improvements, and pulling back the banks near Grant Frontier Park.
- Project sponsors are U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, City & County of Denver, Mile High Flood District, and the Greenway Foundation.



URBAN WATERWAYS

[ADAMS AND DENVER COUNTIES, COLORADO: GENERAL INVESTIGATION STUDY]

- Project study area includes:
 - South Platte River between 6th and 58th (approximately 6.5 mi);
 - Weir Gulch; and
 - Harvard Gulch
- Overall project objectives:
 - Restore riparian and wetland habitat quantity, quality and connectivity for migratory birds in the Central flyway, as well as native plants and animals;
 - Restore aquatic habitat for native species;
 - Reduce flood risks to life, safety, property, and infrastructure; and
 - Improve public recreation opportunities, connectivity, and accessibility.
- Project highlights:
 - Restores 160 acres of riparian and wetland habitat, 100 acres of aquatic habitat, and reconnects 190 acres of surrounding habitat along the South Platte River, resulting in an 800 percent increase over existing habitat in the project area;
 - Reduces flood risk along the South Platte River;
 - Reduces flood risk through channel improvements along Weir Gulch; and
 - Creates voluntary floodproofing opportunities for residents and businesses along Harvard Gulch.
- Project sponsors are USACE, City & County of Denver, Mile High Flood District, and The Greenway Foundation.
- www.denverwaterways.com



FEDERAL FUNDING ASK

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Southern Platte Valley Ecosystem Restoration and Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado: General Investigation Study projects are now eligible for federal funding for implementation.

Southern Platte Valley Ecosystem Restoration

The federal funding challenge is that the Southern Platte Valley Ecosystem Restoration project is funded out of the Continuing Authorities Programs (CAP). These are nationwide pots of money, which are authorized at adequate levels, but appropriated at much lower levels. The City and County of Denver and members of the Colorado congressional delegation are working hard to increase appropriations. CAP projects help communities complete much needed, smaller water resources projects in shorter time frames. They are successful, and they are much sought after. This project will allow Denver to move forward with ecosystem restoration of 2.4 miles along South Platte River, enhancing previous investment the City has already made in three locally-funded projects in that reach of the river. The result will be a connected corridor with healthy riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitat vital to wildlife and the region.

Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado: General Investigation Study

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed the Chief of Engineer's Report in July 2019. The project is now eligible for authorization in the next Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill, which is expected in 2020. Both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and members of the Colorado congressional delegation have submitted appropriations requests for Pre-Construction Engineering and Design (PED) funds for fiscal year (FY) 2020. The request amount is \$400,000, with a similar request to come for FY2021.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimates the total cost for all three elements of the Denver County General Investigation project will be \$521 million, with \$195 million local match and \$326 million in federal funding needed. Denver hopes to begin construction as soon as 2022, if all federal approvals are in place. It will take 15-20 years to complete all elements of the Denver County General Investigation Project, pending funding. In spite of the City's strong local commitment, this is a huge undertaking, and Denver cannot complete it without federal assistance.



STRONG LOCAL COMMITMENT

Whether it is partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Urban Waterways or the Southern Platte Valley project, or implementing a future phase of the River Vision Implementation Plan, continued local investment is essential. Available funding sources include:

- Denver sales tax increase, passed in 2018, to raise money for parks, open space, trails and waterways. Estimates are that this new tax will raise up to \$45 million annually;
- A ballot measure, passed in 2018, which doubles the revenue of Mile High Flood District from \$30 million to \$60 million per year; and
- Local, regional and state sources of funding, which came together previously to build projects in the River Vision Implementation Plan (RVIP),

SPOTLIGHT on DENVERIGHT

Denveright (www.denvergov.org/denveright) is a comprehensive set of plans envisioned to shape Denver into the next twenty years. Included within Denveright is the Comprehensive Plan 2040, which highlights the following goals that align with Urban Waterways:

- Connected, safe and accessible places that are easy to get to, no matter how we want to travel;
- Environmentally resilient in the face of climate change; and
- A healthy and active city with access to the types of amenities and experiences that make Denver uniquely Denver.

“Enhance and Protect the South Platte River”

-Vision Elements, Comprehensive Plan 2040



THE FUTURE

The South Platte River will provide a vital connection to both wildlife and residents, with restored aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats and a reduction in flood risks. The direct benefits from the projects cascade into a myriad of indirect benefits as well.

PROJECT BENEFITS

Environment

- See 'Ecosystem Restoration – A Closer Look' below
- Restore the natural ecosystem vital for supporting life along the South Platte River.
- Improve habitat connections for:
 - Three species listed under the Endangered Species Act extirpated from this ecosystem;
 - Twelve state-listed Endangered Species; and
 - Fourteen bird species listed on the National Birds of Conservation Concern list.
- Reduce the potential for future listings of additional species through improved habitat conditions.

Flood Reduction

- Removes more than 100 structures from the South Platte River Floodplain;
- Removes more than 350 structures from the Weir Gulch Floodplain; and
- Provides flood risk reduction to over 175 residential and commercial properties in Harvard Gulch.

Recreation

- Improve the connectivity of Denver's trail systems to unite neighborhoods;
- Create connections to encourage residents to interact with the restored environment;
- Increase opportunities for water activities such as fishing, kayaking, boating, and swimming; and
- Increase the health of residents by providing an easily accessible corridor for walking, biking, and jogging.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION – A CLOSER LOOK

Ecosystem Restoration (n.) – reestablishing the habitats of an area, in this case aquatic, wetland and riparian habitats in the South Platte River, so that native plants and animals can thrive.



Aquatic Habitat

What is it? Habitat permanently covered with water.

How do we improve it? Rock structures placed in stream can create a wider variety of shallow water, deep pool, slow- and fast-moving water. This diversity creates a healthy ecosystem.

Photo: Crayfish are an important food source in the South Platte River (Dave Crane, USACE, 2007)

Wetland Habitat

What is it? Habitat that is periodically covered in water.

How do we improve it? Create benches above the riverbed that will see periodic water, and replace invasive species with native species. These native species, such as grasses, will be present the majority of the year.

Photo: Example wetland (Rebecca Podkowka, USACE, 2015)



Riparian Habitat

What is it? Habitat above the aquatic habitat, may include wetland habitats.

How do we improve it? Create cottonwood-willow communities along the South Platte River. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Mountain-Prairie Region ranks riparian habitat, especially cottonwood-willow communities, as a critical wildlife resource.

Photo: Cottonwood & willow habitat (Rebecca Podkowka, USACE, 2015)



PROJECT INDIRECT BENEFITS

Complementary Private and Public Projects

- **National Western Complex (NWC)**
 - A 130-acre site adjacent to the South Platte River, where the National Western Stock Show has operated for over 100 years.
 - Complementary guiding principles include:
 - Engage the River and Nature;
 - Inspire Health and Wellness; and
 - Community and Neighborhood Integration.
- **The River Mile**
 - A 130-acre private development along the South Platte River.
 - Complementary values include:
 - Reclaim the River: Re-imagine and revitalize;
 - Very Denver: active lifestyle, health and wellness, connection to nature;
 - Smart Growth: support the City's environmental initiatives; and
 - Sustainable Community: social, economic, and environmental balance.
- **Sun Valley**
 - Denver Housing Authority's future Ecodistrict at the confluence of Weir Gulch and the South Platte River.
- **Northeast Colorado Farming & Ranching**
 - Projects and related improvements will help lower South Platte River water temperature assisting downstream efforts to eradicate invasive species impacting irrigation.



A STRONG, UNIFIED PARTNERSHIP

City and County of Denver (Denver)

In the 1970s, Denver embarked on the creation of the South Platte Greenway Trail. This began a long and ambitious plan to restore and revitalize the South Platte River. Beginning in 2007 through 2010, three master planning efforts were undertaken—River North Greenway Master Plan, River South Greenway Master Plan and River Vision Implementation Plan. Since then, \$50 million has been spent on 10 ambitious projects along the South Platte River within Denver. The project partners have leveraged 19 unique funding sources in pursuit of construction.

Mile High Flood District

Established by the Colorado legislature in 1969 through the leadership of former State Senator Joe Shoemaker and in response to the 1965 flood, Mile High Flood District has a regional perspective believing that implementing system-wide flood and stormwater improvements offers the highest chance of restoring the environmental ecosystem along the South Platte River.

The Greenway Foundation

The Greenway Foundation is a Denver-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has led efforts, since 1974, to reclaim the South Platte River and its tributaries to a place of environmental and recreational pride.

Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)

The State of Colorado's CWCB is a funding and technical partner through its Water Supply Reserve Account program and other programs in the South Platte River portion of the project area. CWCB views this as an incredible opportunity to address critical river health issues in the most urbanized area in Colorado.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, our Urban Waterways and Southern Platte Valley Project Partner, oversees 700,00 square miles in the northern Great Plains. The District is executing a total program of over \$1 billion dollars across missions in military construction, environmental remediation, and infrastructure projects, including flood protection, navigation, flood damage control, and ecosystem restoration, among others.



THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER REQUESTS HELP

The South Platte River sustains a culturally and nationally significant, fragile ecosystem in an arid climate. Transformative projects, like Urban Waterways, will lead to corridor revitalization.

Local partners have tirelessly committed to improving the South Platte River. Three master plans, ten projects, and an investment of more than \$50 million in Denver alone are evidence of the local passion and love for the South Platte River. A continued partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and projects such as Urban Waterways and the Southern Platte Valley Ecosystem Restoration, allow Denver to accelerate our progress in restoring Colorado's most important river ecosystem. By sustaining this momentum, local and federal partners will realize the ultimate South Platte River transformation ensuring that it will forever remain the heart of Denver.



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY



MHFD
MILE HIGH FLOOD DISTRICT



COLORADO
Colorado Water
Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

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Additional Proposal Information

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Congressional Briefing Packet.pdf

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

*Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado:
General Investigation Study*

River Vision Implementation Plan

Section 1135 Southern Platte Valley Ecosystem Restoration



Washington, DC Federal Briefings ◇ March 20



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*Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado
General Investigation Study
[Denver Urban Waterways]*



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Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado: General Investigation Study Schedule



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Funding Review

Future Funding

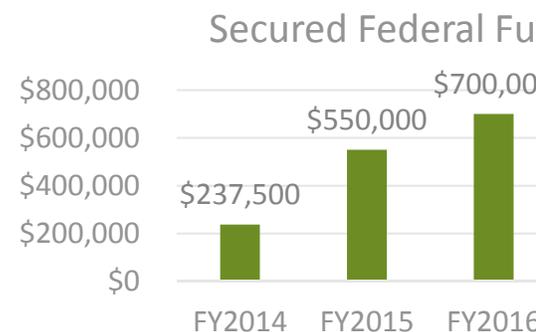
FUTURE FUNDING NEED:

Preliminary Engineering & Design (PED)
Federal FY2020/2021 -- \$400,000
Local FY2020/2021 -- \$133,000

Future Authorization for Construction Legislation Need:

2020 Water Resources Development Act

Previous Funding



USACE General Investigations Account
\$1,964,500 (Included \$81,000 for IE)

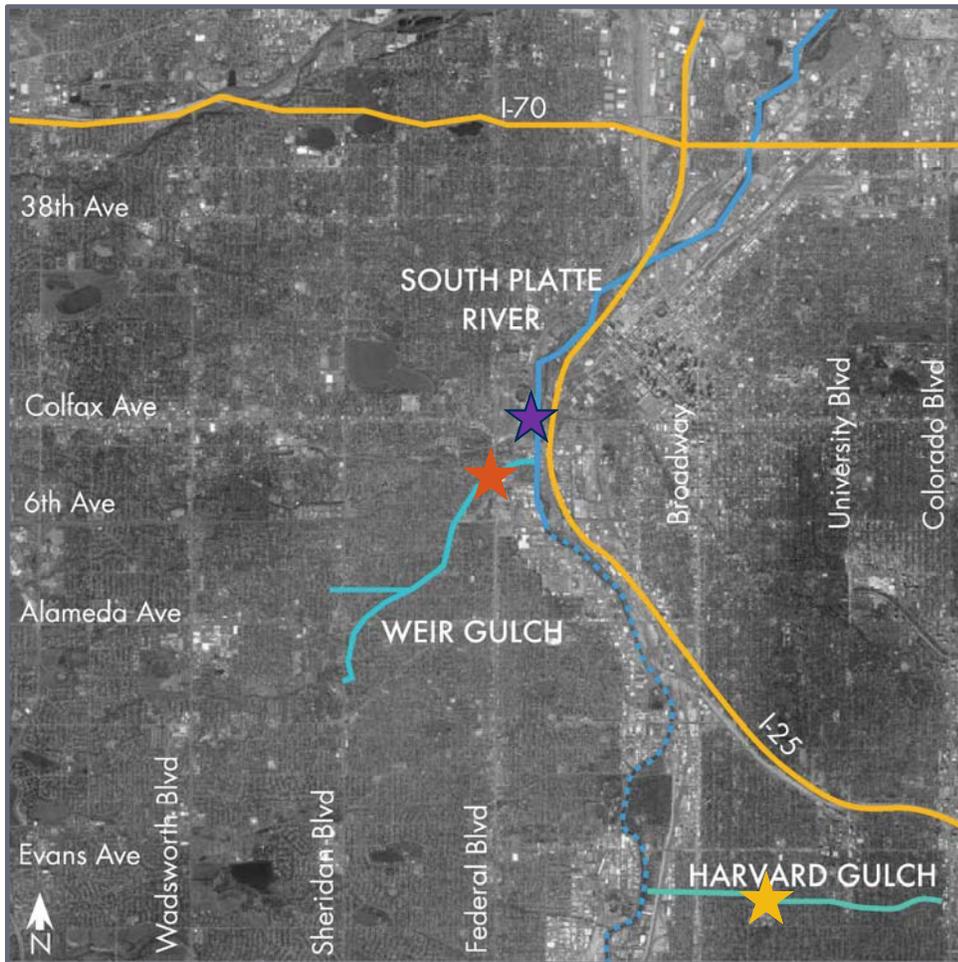
City and County of Denver Funds
\$1,713,500
(Remaining \$170,000 provided as w

Total Study Costs
\$3,848,000



Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado: General Investigation Study

Study Reaches



★ South Platte River



★ Weir Gulch



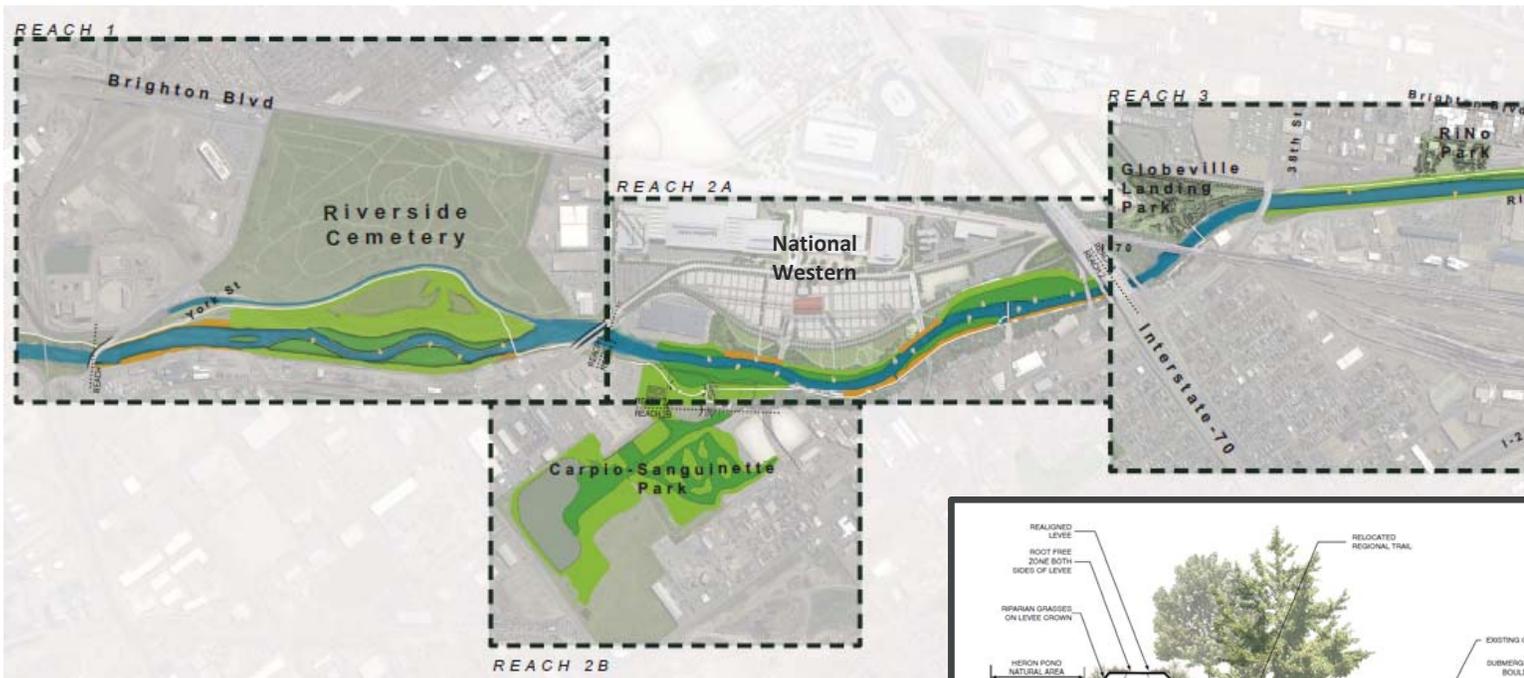
★ Harvard Gulch



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Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado: General Investigation Study

South Platte River: Reaches 1 through 3

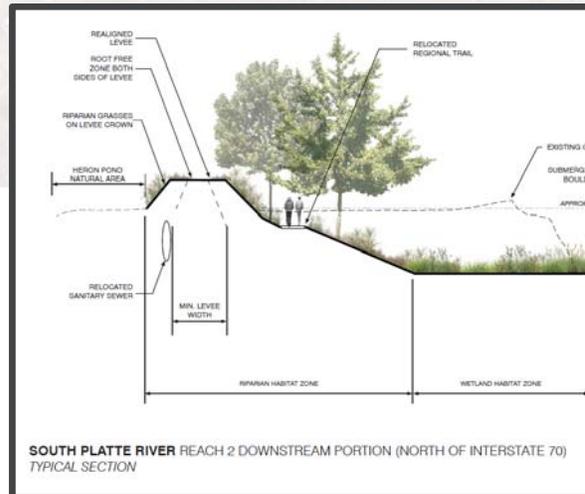


LEGEND

TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN (TSP)

HABITAT (Proposed Improvements)

- Submerged Wetland Habitat
- Wetland Habitat
- Riparian Habitat
- Invasive Plant Removal and Habitat Restoration
- Jetty



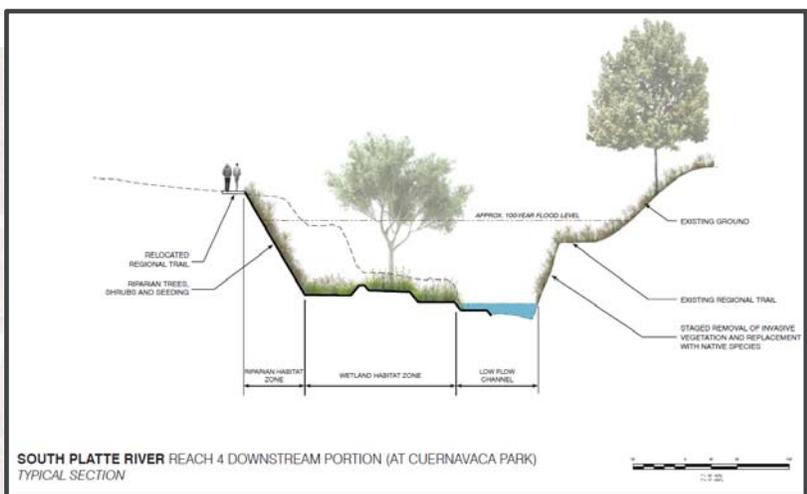
SOUTH PLATTE RIVER REACH 2 DOWNSTREAM PORTION (NORTH OF INTERSTATE 70)
TYPICAL SECTION



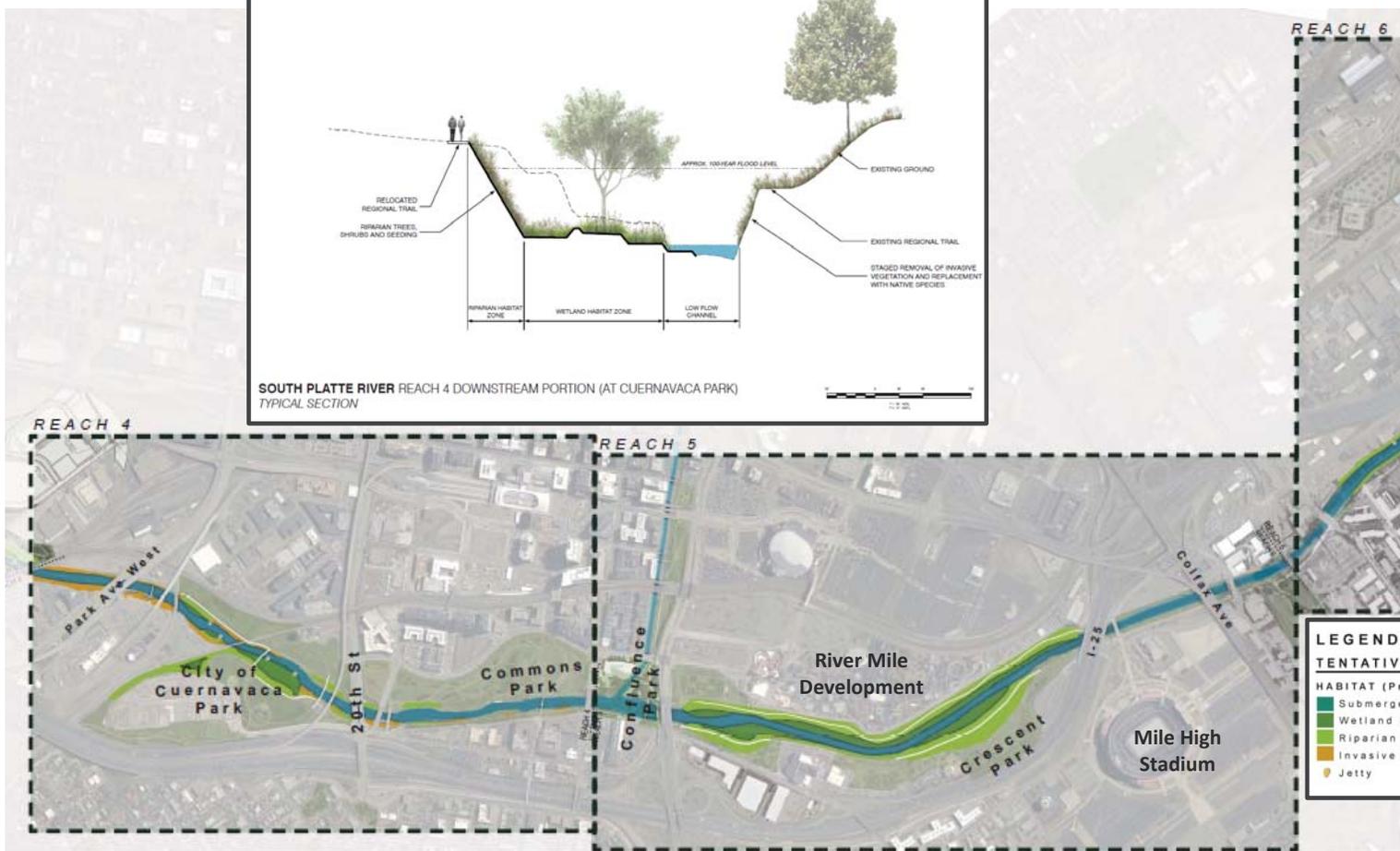
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Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado: General Investigation Study

South Platte River: Reaches 4 through 6



SOUTH PLATTE RIVER REACH 4 DOWNSTREAM PORTION (AT CUERNAVACA PARK)
TYPICAL SECTION



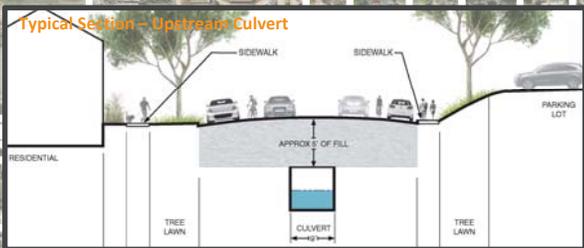
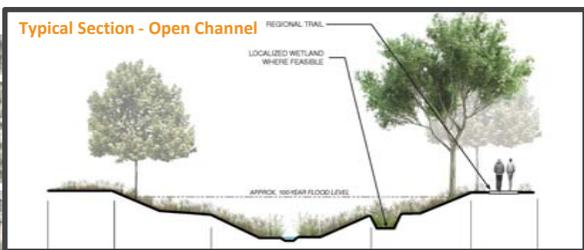
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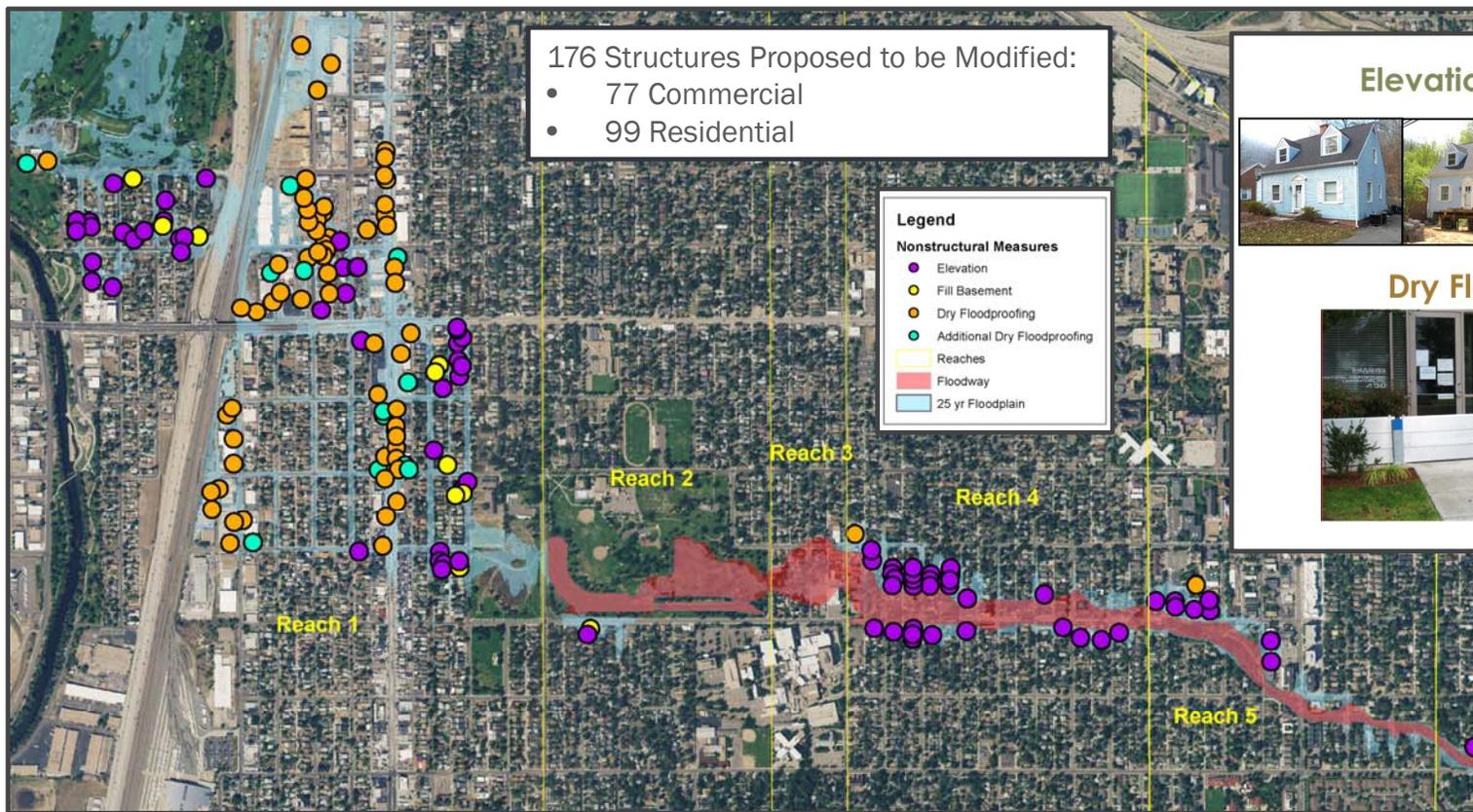
Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado: General Investigation Study

Weir Gulch: Reaches 1-3 and 6



Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado: General Investigation Study

Harvard Gulch – NonStructural P



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River Vision Implementation Plan (RVIP)



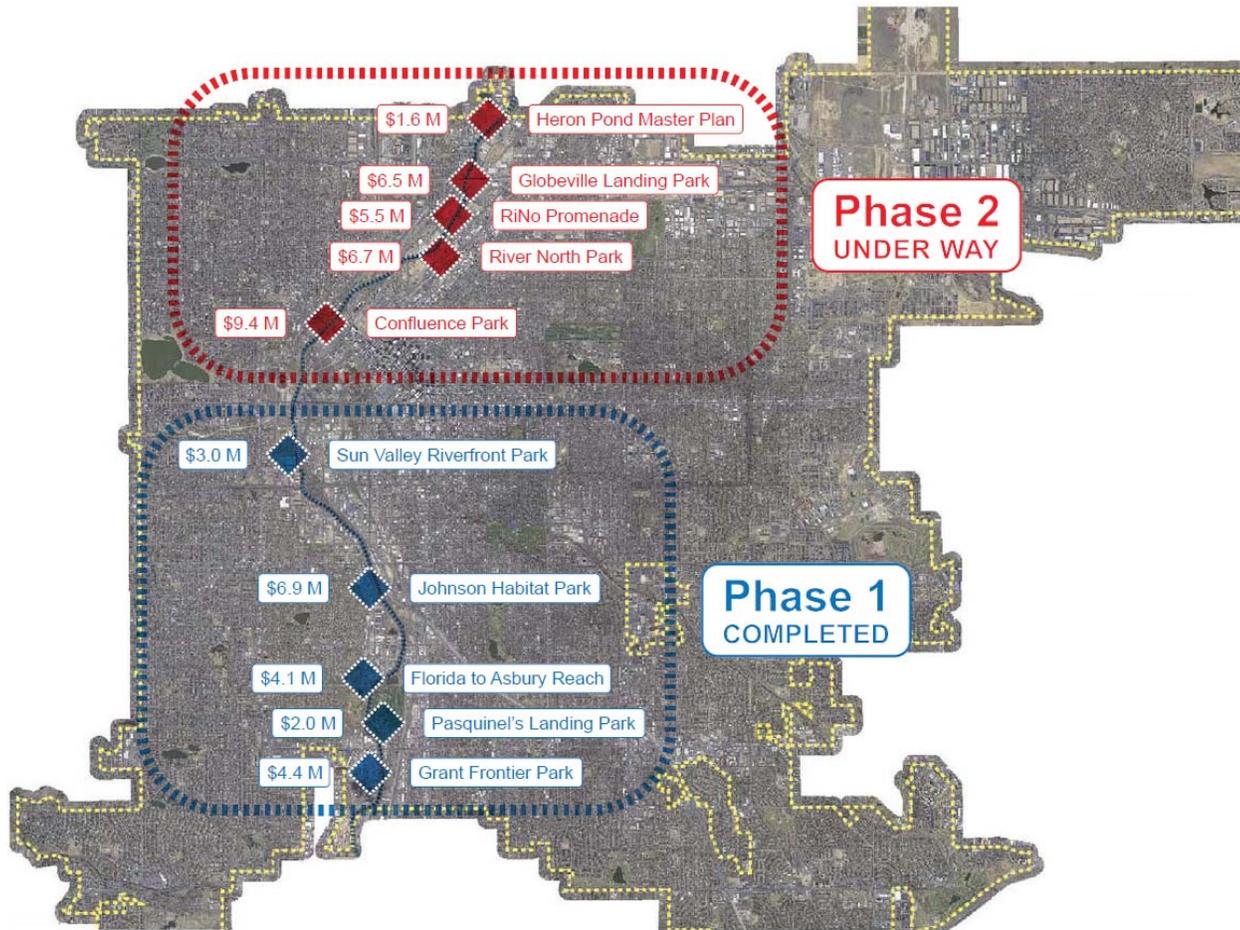
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River Vision Implementation Plan (RVIP)

South Platte River Vision 2012-2020



River Vision

1. Maximize the **HEALTH** of the River corridor for Greenway
2. Improve **ECOLOGICAL** health of the River Corridor
3. Enhance **VISIBILITY** of the River corridor for the community
4. Continue the **ENVIRONMENTAL** transformation of the River
5. Identify and expand **COMMUNITY** and **PARTNERSHIPS**

River Vision

5 years:
5 projects
\$20,400,000

River Vision

5 years:
5 projects
\$29,700,000

Total Funding



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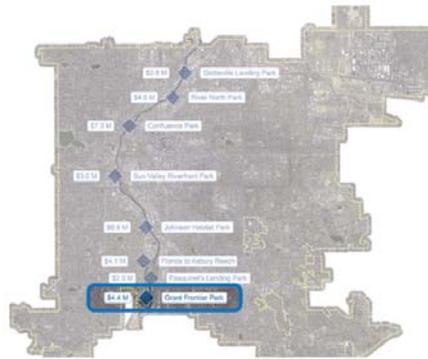
River Vision Implementation Plan (RVIP)

River Vision Phase I: Grant Frontier

Construction Budget: \$3,750,000
Completion Date: Spring 2017

Project Summary:

- Redesign Grant Frontier as an active 'River Park' with secondary channel and island, flood terrace walls, habitat benches, "Montana City" - historic interpretative feature and environmental play area
- Create a new environmental-themed playground with "treehouse" lookout structure, boulders and other natural play features
- Construct 3,000 LF of new SPR Trail with expanded concrete bike path, 4,000 LF of soft surface pedestrian trail, new river access points for fishing and boating and improved underpass at Evans
- Bank stabilization, removal of invasive species and restoration of emergent, riparian and upland vegetation



Key Map



Before



Drone Photo - After



After



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River Vision Implementation Plan (RVIP)

Regional South Platte River Project



Globey
City and County



South Platte Water
Urban Drainage & Flood Control District
(Photo: McLaughlin Whitewater Design)



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River Vision Implementation Plan (RVIP)

Denver South Platte River Project



↑ **Sander**
City and County

← **33rd St**
City and County



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*Section 1135
Continuing Authorities Program (C
Southern Platte Valley
Ecosystem Restoration*

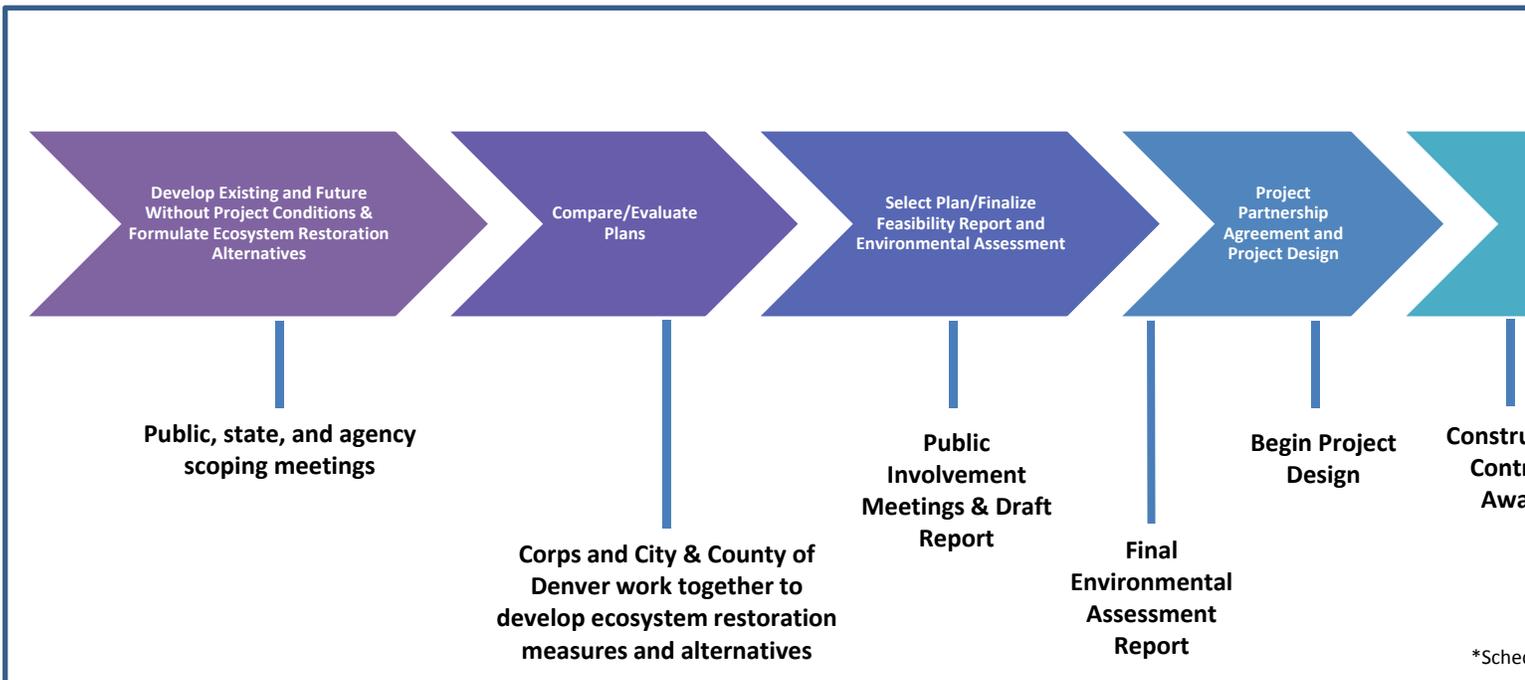


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Section 1135 CAP Southern Platte Valley Ecosystem Restoration Schedule*



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Section 1135 CAP Southern Platte Valley Ecosystem Restoration

Funding Review

Future Funding

FUNDING NEED:

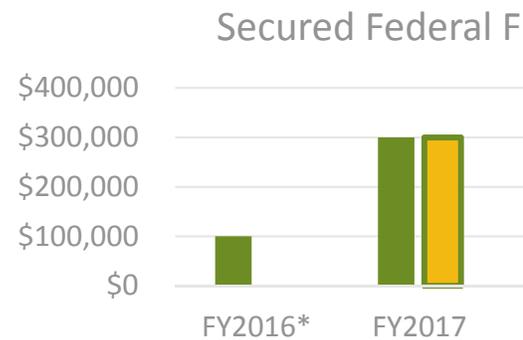
Design and Implementation (FY2019)
 Federal - \$300,000
 Local - \$100,000
 (Pending PPA signing mid to late 2019)

Future Appropriation Need:

Increase the Continuing Authorities Programs (including programs of importance to Colorado Sections 14, 205, 206, 1135, and others) amounts to more realistic levels to meet the national needs for each program.

Continuing Authorities Programs (CAPs)	WRDA 2018 New Program Limits	FY2019 Appropriations
Section 14	\$25 million	\$8 million
Section 205	\$68.75 million	\$8 million
Section 206	\$62.5 million	\$12 million
Section 1135	\$50 million	\$8 million

Previous Funding



Total Federal & Local Study Costs \$750,000

*FY2016 was federal funding only and covered the Feasibility Study, Project Partnership Agreement, and the Feasibility Study C...



Section 1135 CAP Southern Platte Valley Ecosystem Restoration

Plan Components – Riparian & Aquatic

Riparian/Wetland

Reach 1:

- Remove invasive species & replace with native vegetation

Reach 2:

- Re-vegetate east & west bank with native species
- Remove invasive species & replace with native vegetation

Reach 3:

- Excavate bank to create wetland/riparian complex
- Excavate bank to create wetland/riparian complex & create two side channels



Aquatic

Reach 1:

- In-stream structures, vanes, bouy, rootwad control
- Modify Overland structure

Reach 2:

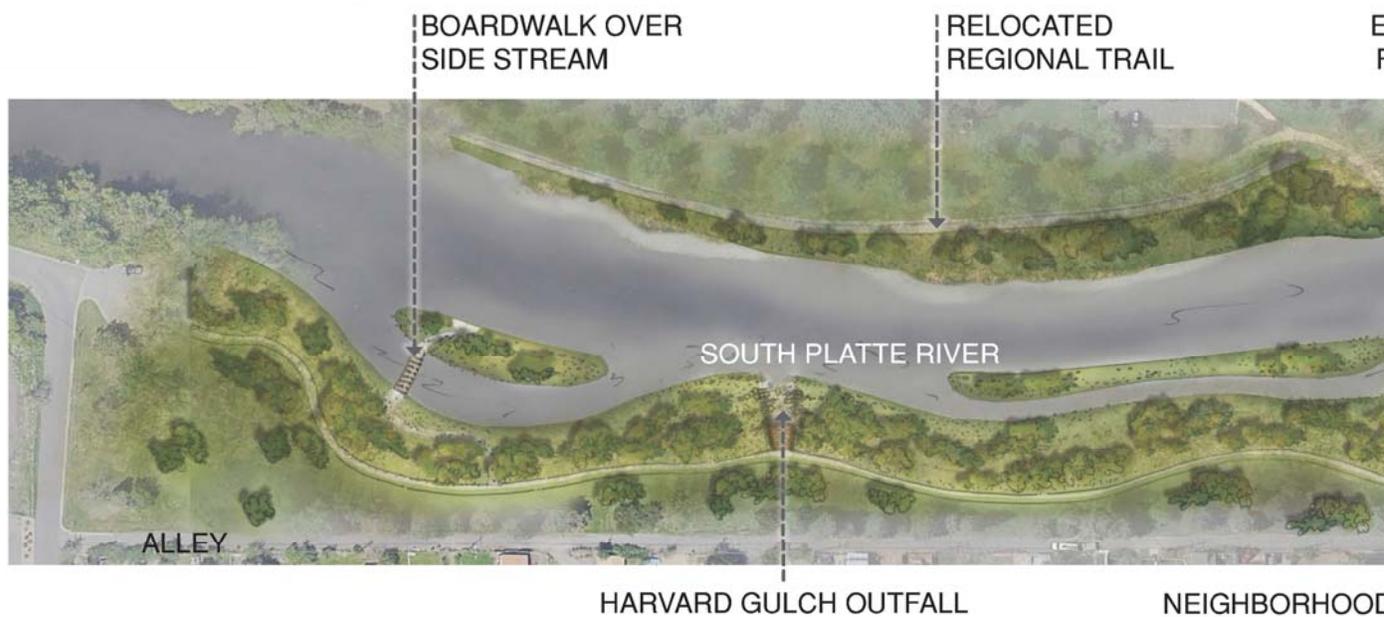
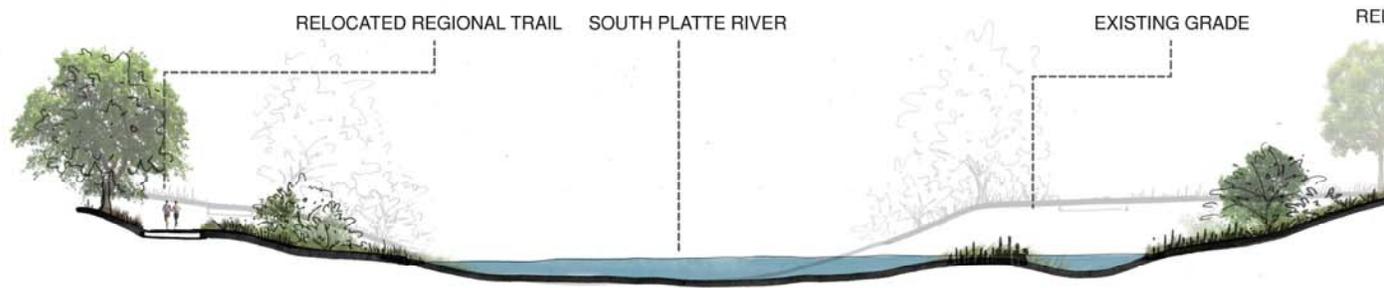
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Reach 3:

- In-stream structures, vanes, bouy, rootwad control
- Modify Xcel structure

Section 1135 CAP Southern Platte Valley Ecosystem Restoration

Plan Components – Grant Frontier



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Additional Proposal Information

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USACE site visit.pdf

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

*Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado: General Investigation Study
[Urban Waterways]*

Section 1135 Southern Platte Valley Ecosystem Restoration



Denver, Colorado ♦ August 16, 2019



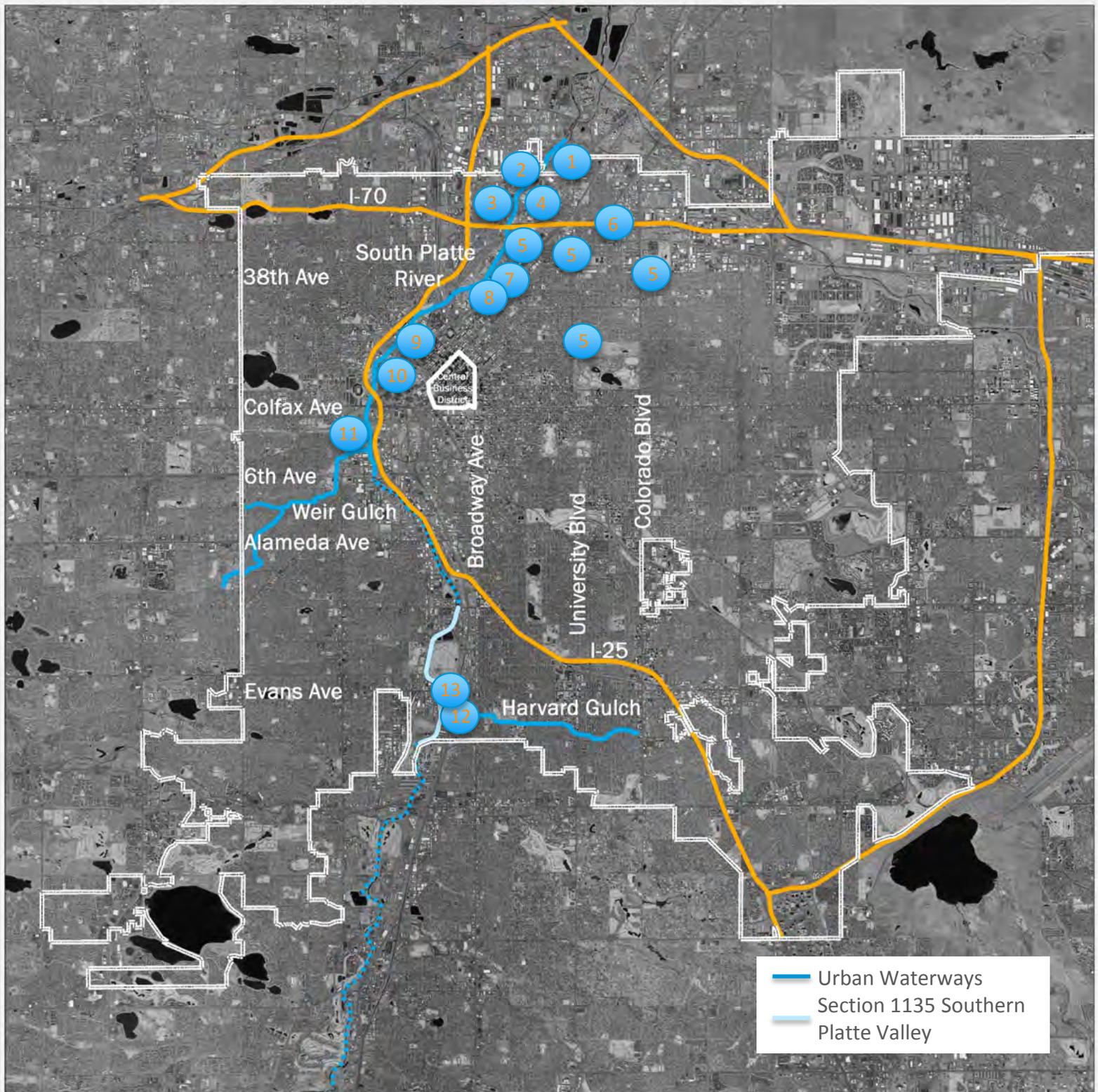
www.denverwaterways.com

Notes:



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Denver, Colorado



Urban Waterways – South Platte River, Reach 1



LEGEND

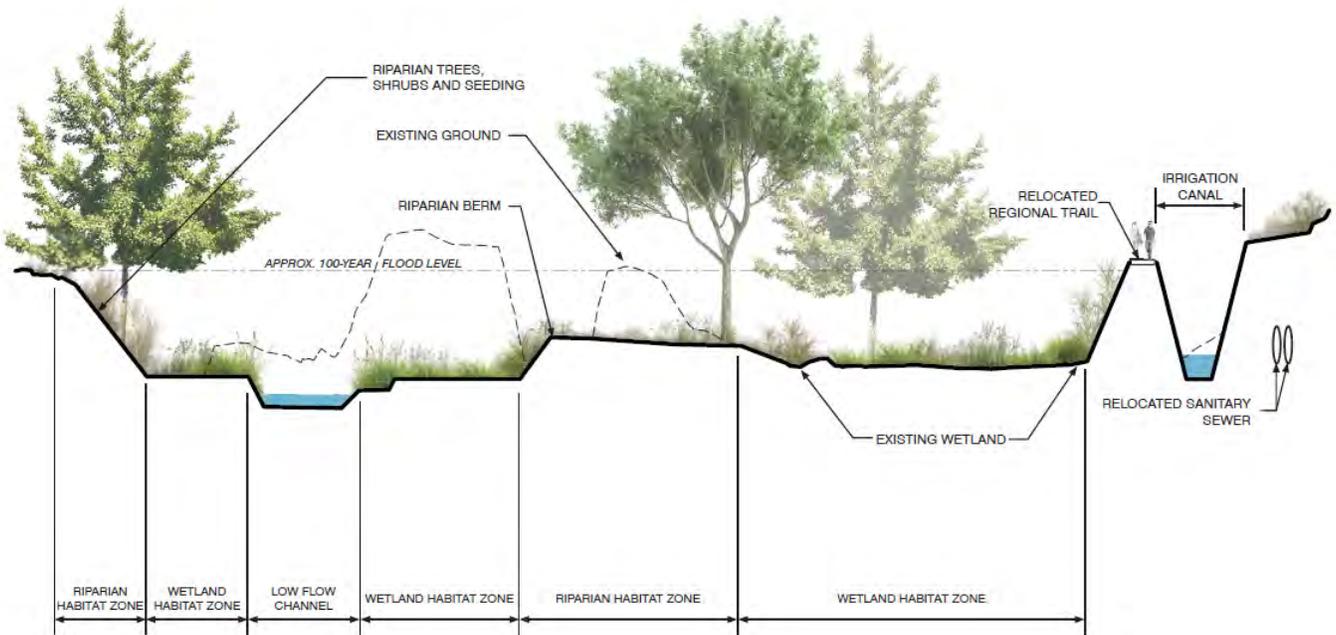
TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN (TSP)

- HABITAT (Proposed Improvements)**
- Submerged Wetland Habitat
 - Wetland Habitat
 - Riparian Habitat
 - Invasive Plant Removal and Habitat Restoration
 - Jetty

1. Riverside Cemetery

Constructed: 1876, oldest in Denver
Size: 77 acres
Interred: 67,000, including 1,000 veterans

The site includes wetlands that are currently disconnected from the South Platte River from the Burlington Ditch. The project would reconnect this habitat with the South Platte River floodplain.



SOUTH PLATTE RIVER REACH 1
TYPICAL SECTION



Urban Waterways – South Platte River, Reach 2

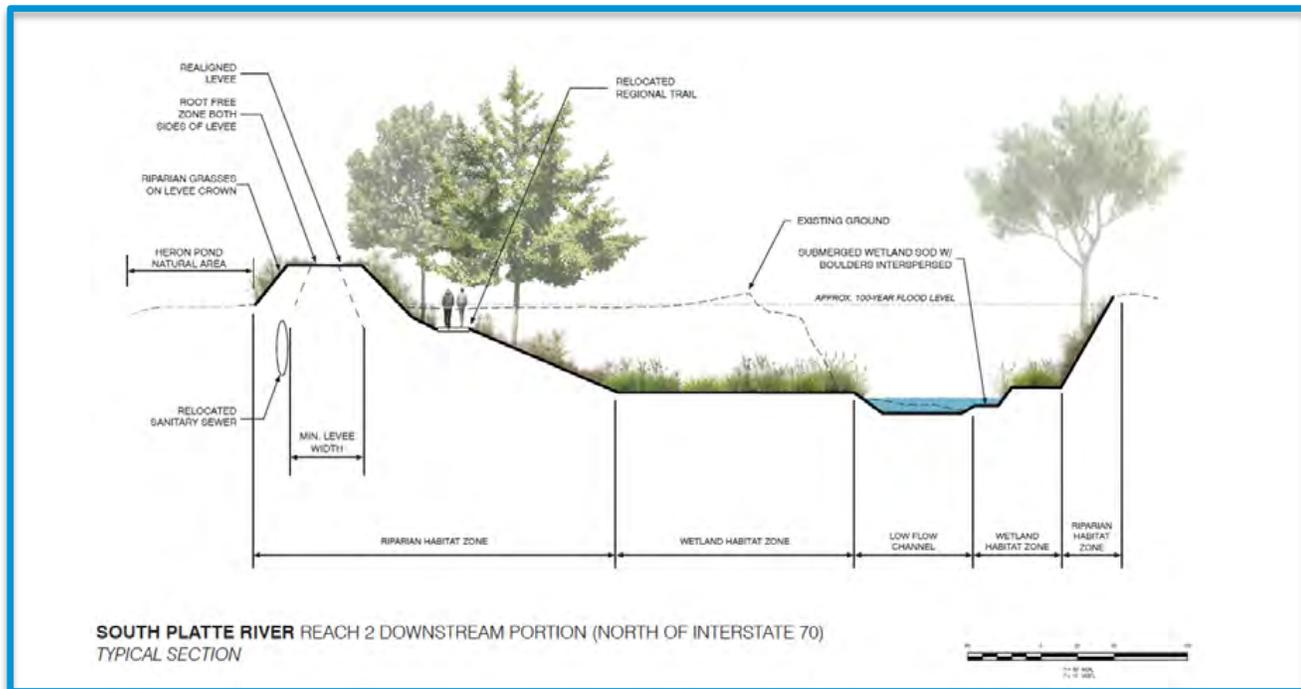


LEGEND

TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN (TSP)

HABITAT (Proposed Improvements)

- Submerged Wetland Habitat
- Wetland Habitat
- Riparian Habitat
- Invasive Plant Removal and Habitat Restoration
- Jetty



2. Carpio-Sanguinette Park

Status: Phase I in design
 Total size: 80 acres
 Estimated cost: \$22 M
 Construction: 2021

Vision: A natural refuge and destination that improves and educates about biodiversity, sustainability, history, community well-being, and safety.

Complementary Project Goals:

- Restore the natural ecologies of the place
- Connect people to the park and the South Platte River



3. Globeville Stormwater Systems

Resiliency planning, education and outreach in the Globeville drainage basin.

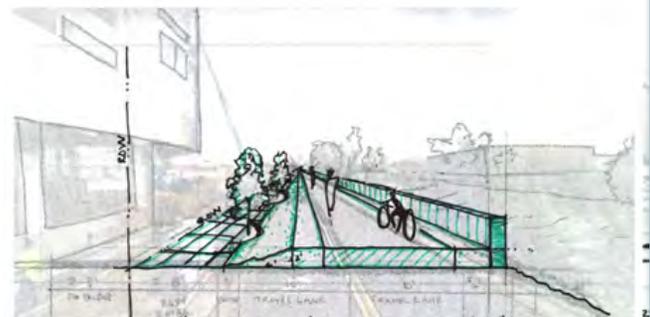
Project Goals:

- Alleviate local stormwater flooding
- Reduce risk of river flooding and avoid floodplain designation
- Improve water quality

The comprehensive solution is a tiered approach to meeting all three goals, and includes improvements to the levee.

Levee Highlights:

- Levee height improvement – from Franklin St to 38th Ave
- Levee extension – 38th Ave to approximately 35th Ave at Ringsby Court



Proposed Ringsby Ct vision - riverside linear park (near freight)
 Visión propuesta de Ringsby Ct.- Parque lineal a lo largo del río (cerca de freight)

4. National Western

Vision: The National Western Center celebrates the pioneering spirit and promise of the West through year-round experiential life-long learning, the arts, entertainment, competition and commerce.

Guiding Principles:

- Community and Neighborhood Integration
- Engage the River and Nature
- Celebrate Western Heritage
- Inspire Health and Wellness
- Build Cultural Crossroads
- Be Pioneering: Break Trail and Foster Innovation
- Create Fun and Entertaining Experiences
- Grow Local, Regional, and Global Intelligence
- Embrace an Ethic of Regeneration

Project Highlights:

- Collaboration with Metro Wastewater Reclamation District on Delgany sewer relocation and campus heat exchange system.
- Collaboration to reflect Urban Waterways values



PHASES 1 & 2 | KEY ELEMENTS

- 1 RTD TRANSIT STATION
- 2 BRIGHTON BOULEVARD - 47TH TO RACE COURT
- 3 SOUTH PLATTE RIVERFRONT
- 4 NEW NATIONAL WESTERN DRIVE
- 5 STOCKYARD / EVENT CENTER MULTI-USE SPACE
- 6 CAMPUS-RELATED TOD
- 7 NEW BRIDGES NEAR 48TH & 51ST AVENUES
- 8 LIVESTOCK CENTER
- 9 EQUESTRIAN CENTER
- 10 CSU ANIMAL HEALTH BUILDING
- 11 CSU WATER RESOURCES CENTER
- 12 MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS FACILITY
- 13 DRIR RAIL CORRIDOR
- 14 WSSA LEGACY BUILDING
- 15 PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
- 16 UNDERGROUND PARKING

Urban Waterways – South Platte River, Reach 3



LEGEND

TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN (TSP)

HABITAT (Proposed Improvements)

- Submerged Wetland Habitat
- Wetland Habitat
- Riparian Habitat
- Invasive Plant Removal and Habitat Restoration
- Jetty

5. Platte to Park Hill

Globeville Landing Outfall Park



5. Platte to Park Hill, cont.

City Park Golf Course	39th Avenue Greenway
Globeville Landing	Park Hill Detention

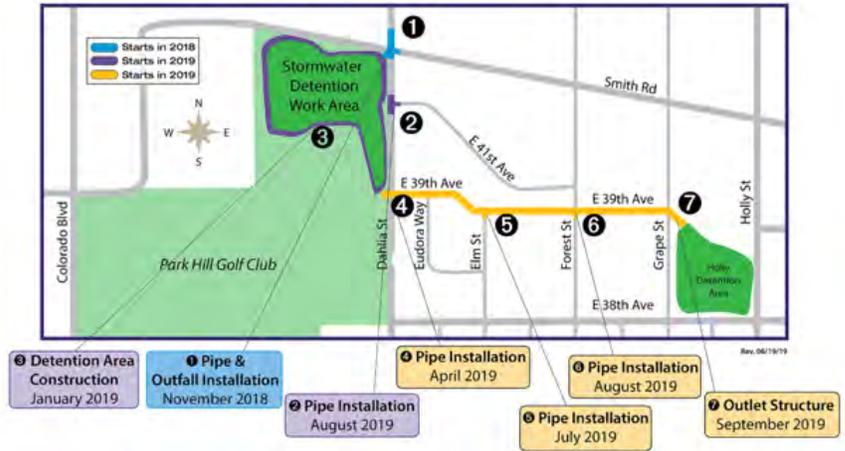
39th Avenue Greenway



Conceptual Rendering

Park Hill Detention

Schedule subject to change. Updated as of June 2019.



City Park Golf Course



6. Central 70

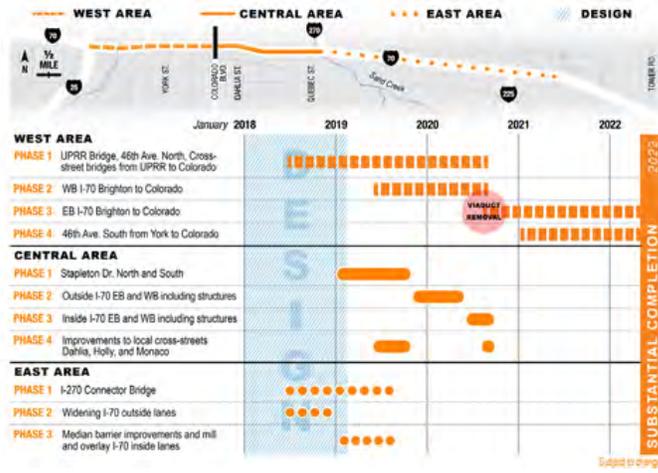
Cost: \$1.2 Billion

Funding Sources:

- Bridge Enterprise: \$850 million
- DRCOG: \$50 million
- SB228: \$180 million
- Denver: \$37 million

Completion Date: 2022

Location: 10-mile stretch of I-70 between Brighton Blvd & Chambers Rd



7. Brighton Boulevard & RiNo Development



Vision: Establish Brighton Boulevard as the gateway to Denver

Project Highlights:

- 2.6 new miles of sidewalk
- More than 400 trees planted
- 28,000 square feet of water quality
- Protected cycle-track
- 3 New traffic signals



8. 33rd St Outfall

Innovative outfall that incorporates water quality for low and dry weather flows.

Project Cost: \$2M

Completion Date: 2018



Urban Waterways – South Platte River, Reach 4

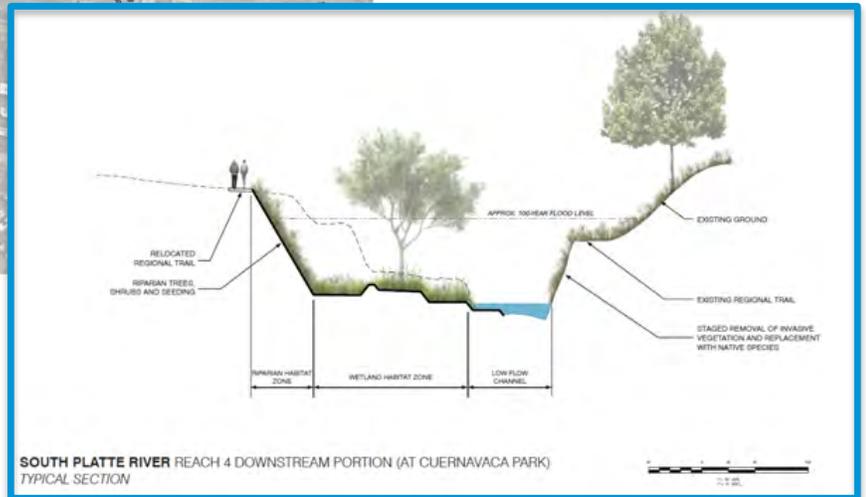


LEGEND

TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN (TSP)

HABITAT (Proposed Improvements)

- Submerged Wetland Habitat
- Wetland Habitat
- Riparian Habitat
- Invasive Plant Removal and Habitat Restoration
- Jetty

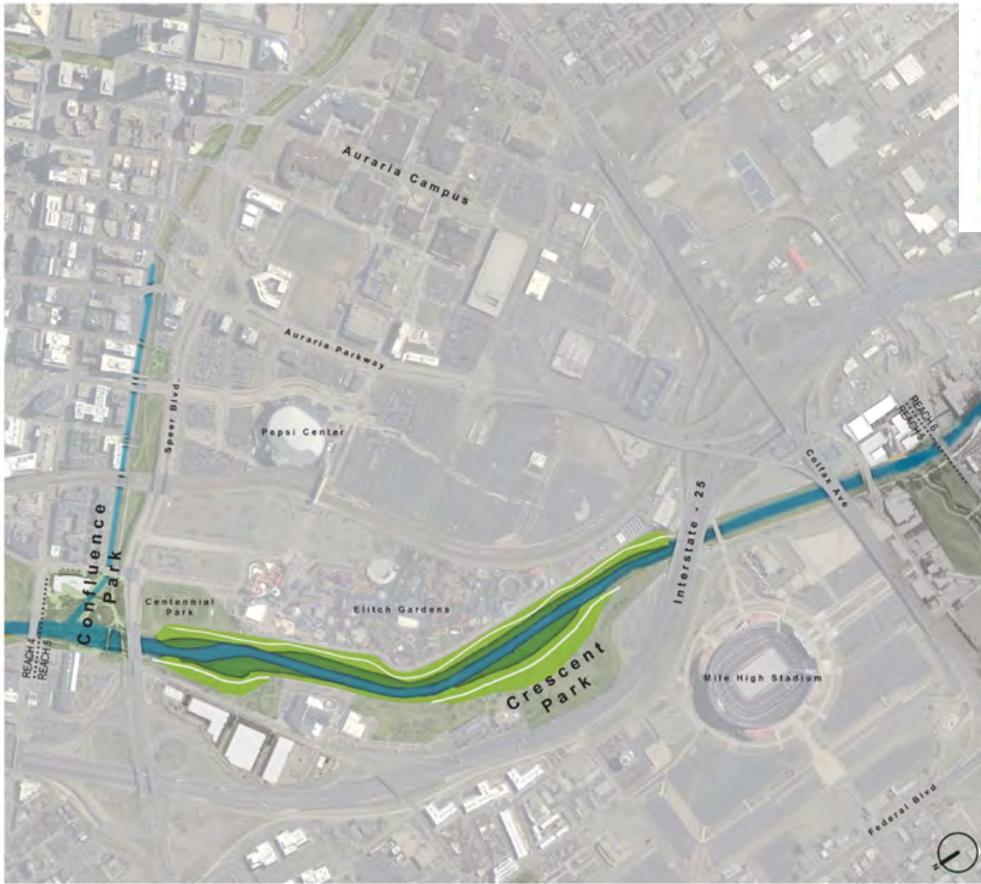


9. Shoemaker Plaza

Construction Budget: \$8.0 M
Completion Date: Fall 2017



Urban Waterways – South Platte River, Reach 5



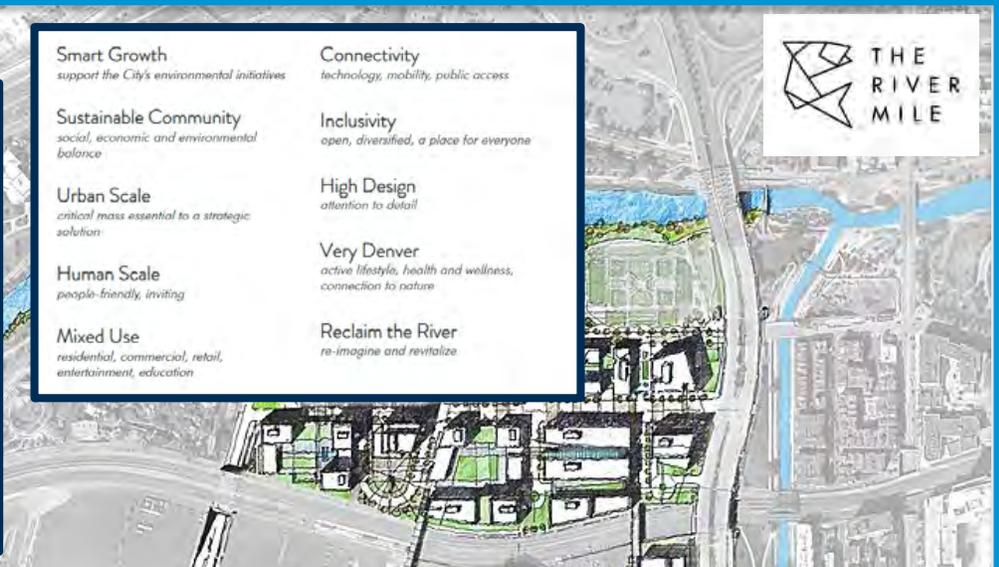
LEGEND

- TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN (TSP)**
- HABITAT (Proposed Improvements)**
- Submerged Wetland Habitat
 - Wetland Habitat
 - Riparian Habitat
 - Invasive Plant Removal and Habitat Restoration
 - Jetty

10. The River Mile



- Smart Growth**
support the City's environmental initiatives
- Sustainable Community**
social, economic and environmental balance
- Urban Scale**
critical mass essential to a strategic solution
- Human Scale**
people-friendly, inviting
- Mixed Use**
residential, commercial, retail, entertainment, education
- Connectivity**
technology, mobility, public access
- Inclusivity**
open, diversified, a place for everyone
- High Design**
attention to detail
- Very Denver**
active lifestyle, health and wellness, connection to nature
- Reclaim the River**
re-imagine and revitalize



Urban Waterways – South Platte River, Reach 6



LEGEND

TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN (TSP)

HABITAT (Proposed Improvements)

- Submerged Wetland Habitat
- Wetland Habitat
- Riparian Habitat
- Invasive Plant Removal and Habitat Restoration
- Jetty

11. Sun Valley EcoDistrict



Site size: 100 acres
 Residents: 1,500
 Economy:

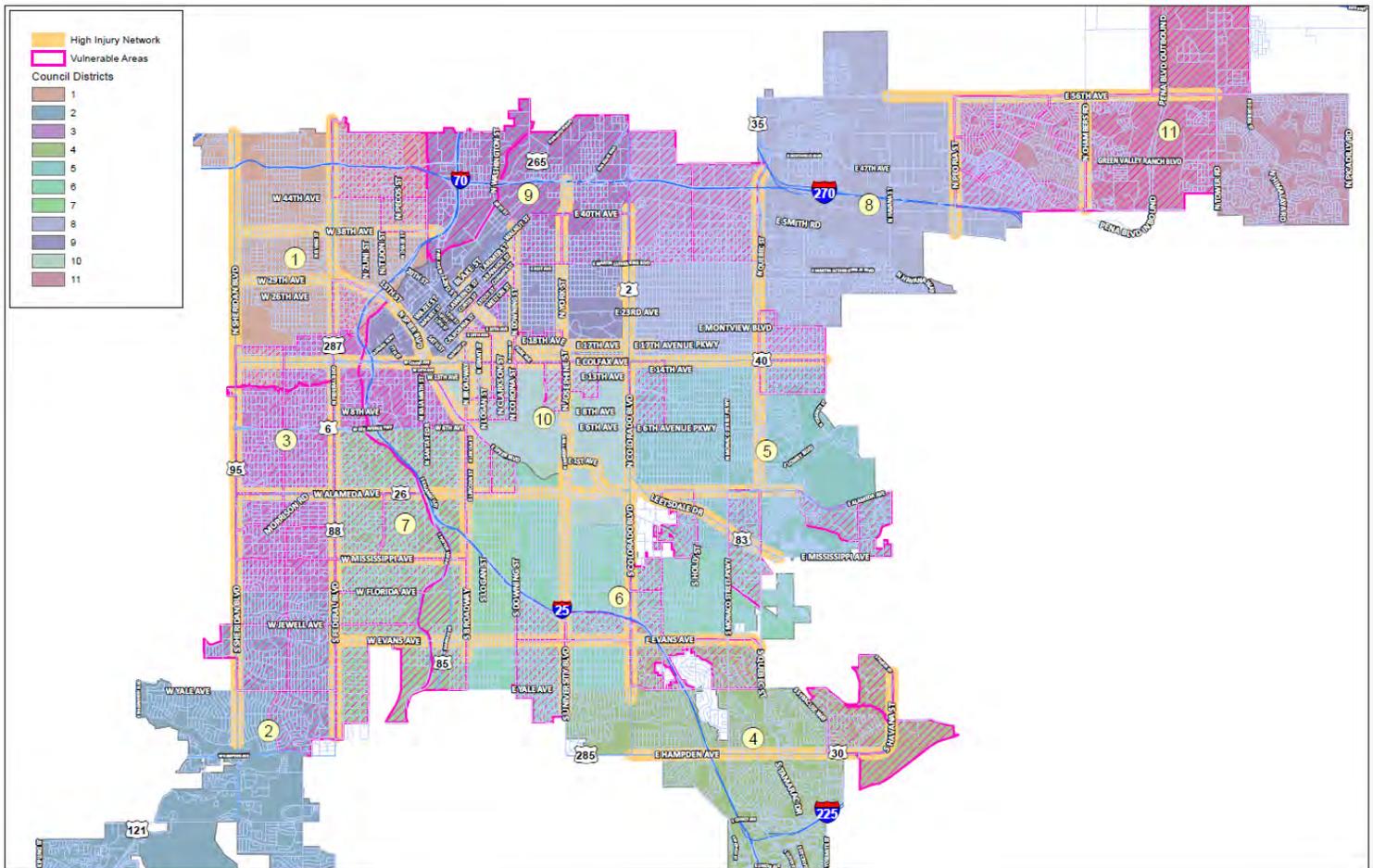
- Lowest income neighborhood in Denver
 - Median income: \$9,874
 - Unemployment rate: 70%
- Recently received a \$30M HUD grant



Redevelopment is focused on:

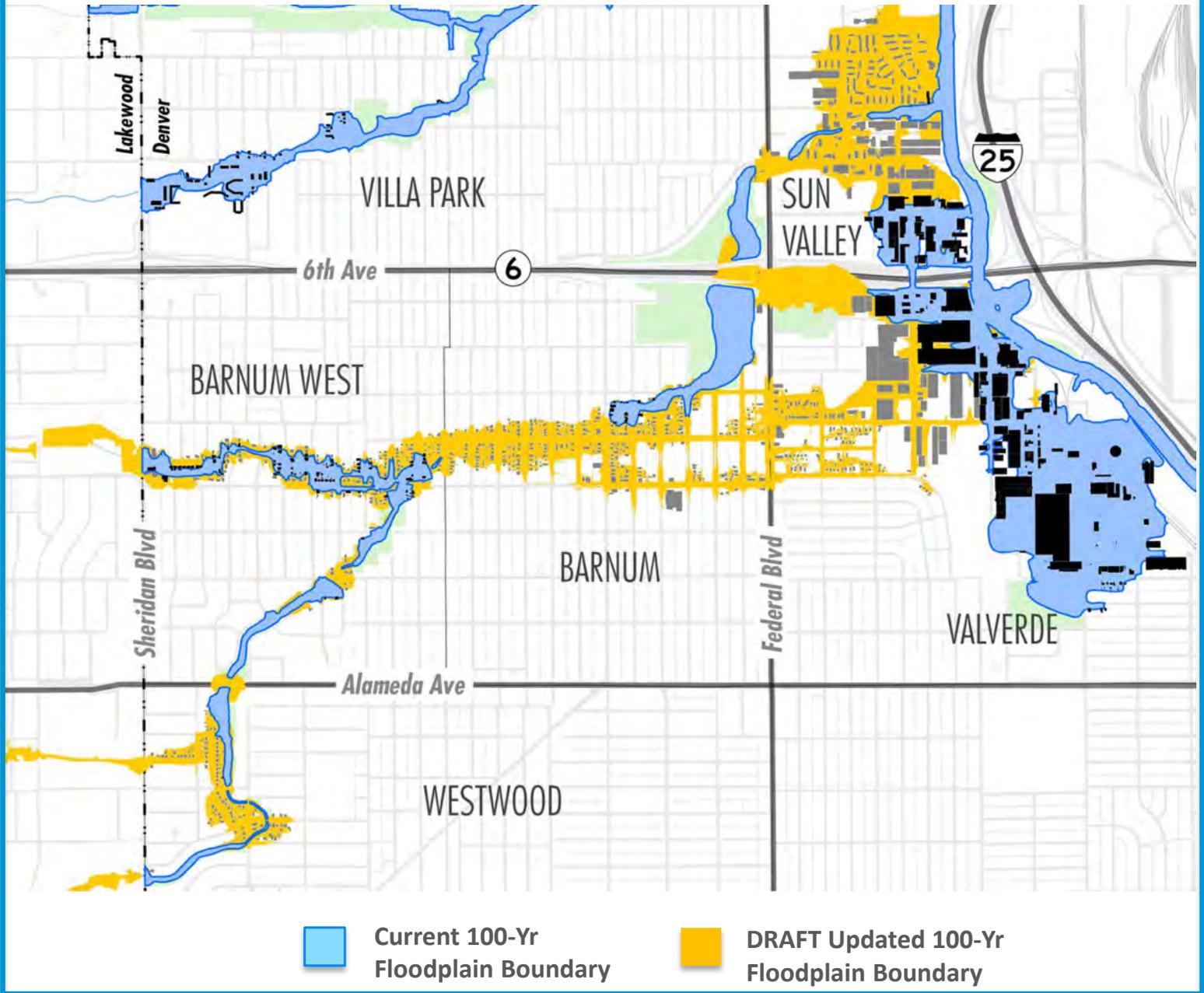
- Youth & education
- Food
- Opportunity
- Intentional Housing
- Connections & Open Space
- Sustainable infrastructure

Denver Vulnerability

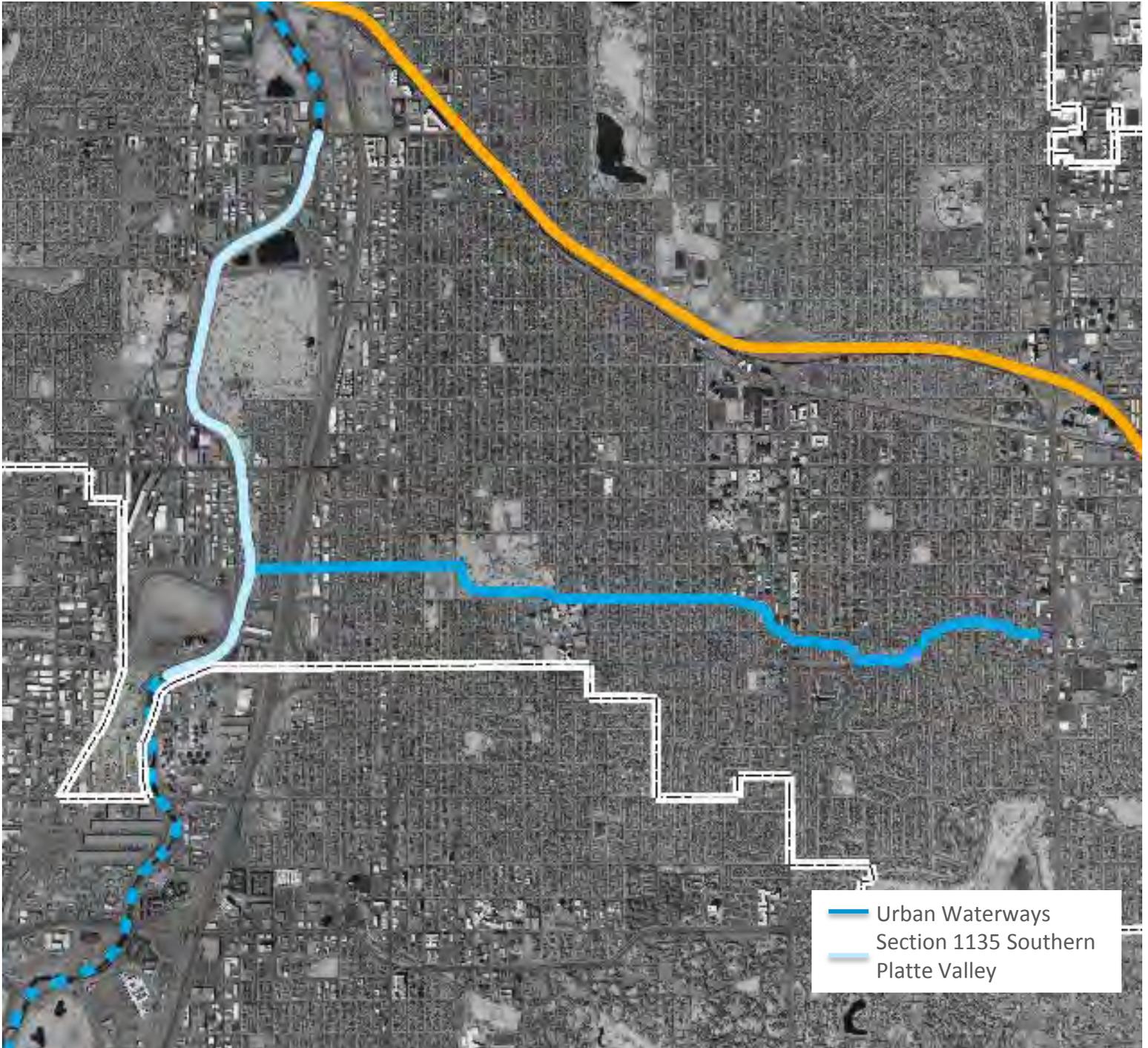


Weir Gulch – Floodplain Update

A Major Drainageway Plan and Flood Hazard Area Delineation Update is currently in progress. Draft boundary shows a significant increase in properties within the floodplain; the Urban Waterways project would remove this designation from approximately 350 properties.



Urban Waterways – Harvard Gulch Section 1135 Southern Platte Valley



SOUTHERN PLATTE VALLEY

RIVER SOUTH RESTORATION
REACH 1-3

IN-STREAM RESTORATION

IN-STREAM MEASURES TO IMPROVE HABITAT WOULD INCLUDE HARD POINT STRUCTURES SUCH AS ROCK VANES, RIFFLES, BOULDER CLUSTERS AND ROOTWAD COMPLEXES TO INCREASE DEPTH DIVERSITY AND LOCALIZED VELOCITY DIVERSITY TO PROVIDE FEEDING AND SHELTER HABITAT TO BENEFIT AQUATIC SPECIES (FIGURE 2)

INSTALL RIFFLE STRUCTURE DOWNSTREAM OF EXISTING DROP STRUCTURE TO IMPROVE FISH PASSAGE (FIGURE 1)

W FLORIDA AVE

OVERLAND GOLF COURSE

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER DR

W JEWELL AVE

S SANTA FE DR

W EVANS AVE

W WESLEY AVE

GRANT FRONTIER ENLARGEMENT



FIGURE 1.
RIFFLE STRUCTURE



FIGURE 2.
ROCK VANE

IN-STREAM MEASURES TO IMPROVE HABITAT WOULD INCLUDE HARD POINT STRUCTURES SUCH AS ROCK VANES, RIFFLES, BOULDER CLUSTERS AND ROOTWAD COMPLEXES TO INCREASE DEPTH DIVERSITY AND LOCALIZED VELOCITY DIVERSITY TO PROVIDE FEEDING AND SHELTER HABITAT TO BENEFIT AQUATIC SPECIES (FIGURE 2)

INSTALL RIFFLE STRUCTURE DOWNSTREAM OF EXISTING DROP STRUCTURE TO IMPROVE FISH PASSAGE (FIGURE 1)

REACH 1

REACH 2

REACH 3



VALERIAN



DENVER
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US Army Corps
of Engineers®

SOUTHERN PLATTE VALLEY

RIVER SOUTH RESTORATION
REACH 1-3

RIPARIAN RESTORATION

REMOVE INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES AND REPLACE WITH NATIVE VEGETATION TO RESTORE APPROXIMATELY 1.16 ACRES OF RIPARIAN HABITAT.

RE-VEGETATE BOTH BANKS OF THE SOUTH PLATTE WITH NATIVE VEGETATION TO RESTORE APPROXIMATELY 3.92 ACRES OF RIPARIAN HABITAT

REMOVE INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES AND REPLACE WITH NATIVE VEGETATION TO RESTORE APPROXIMATELY 1.67 ACRES OF RIPARIAN HABITAT.

CREATE TWO SIDE STREAMS IN THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF GRANT FRONTIER PARK AND RESTORE APPROXIMATELY 5.43 ACRES OF RIPARIAN & WETLAND HABITAT (INCLUDES RELOCATION OF PEDESTRIAN TRAIL) (FIGURE 2)

RELOCATE REGIONAL TRAIL AND RESTORE 0.68 ACRES OF RIPARIAN AND WETLAND HABITAT. (FIGURE 1)

W MISSISSIPPI

W FLORIDA AVE

OVERLAND GOLF COURSE

W JEWELL AVE

S SANTA FE DR

W EVANS AVE

W WESLEY AVE

GRANT FRONTIER ENLARGEMENT



FIGURE 1.
NEWLY VEGETATED BANK



FIGURE 2.
SIDE STREAM

REACH 1

REACH 2

REACH 3



VALERIAN

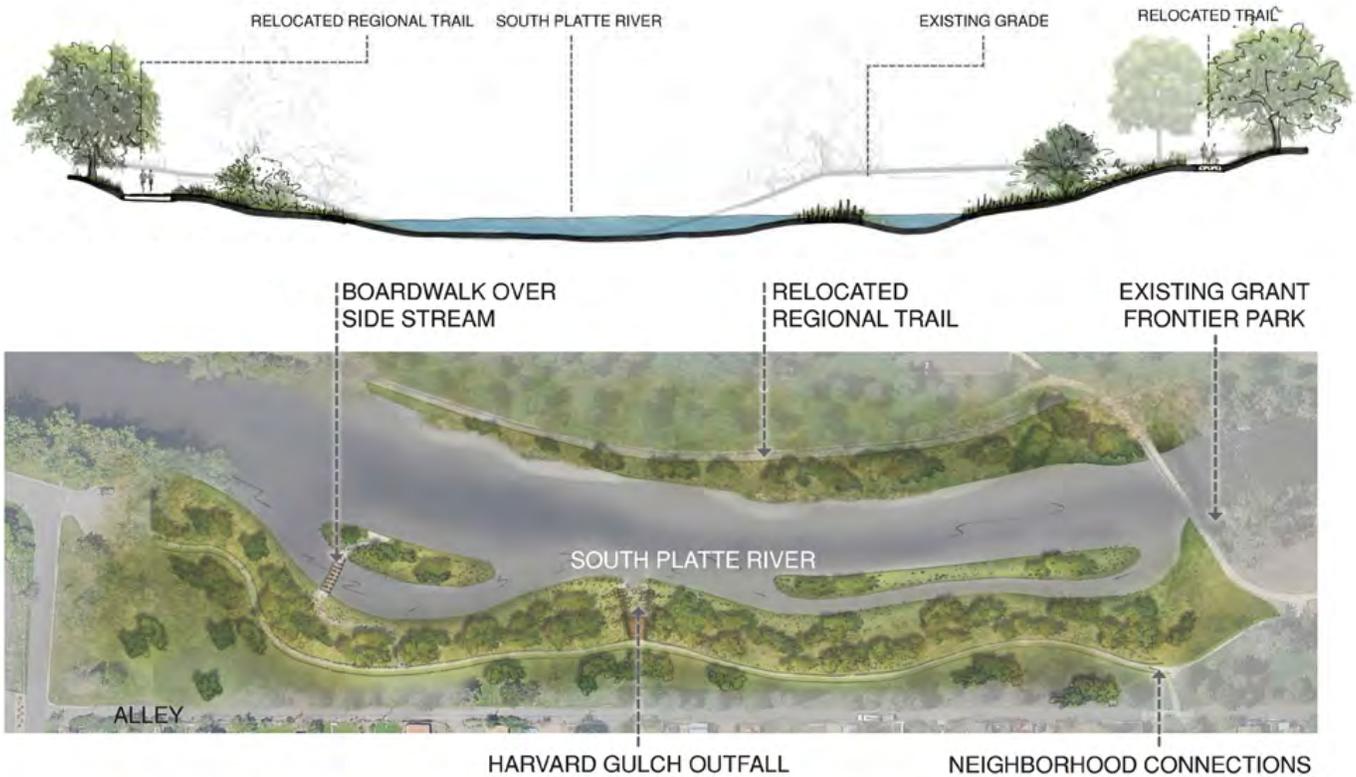


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US Army Corps
of Engineers.

12. Grant Frontier Park South - Proposed

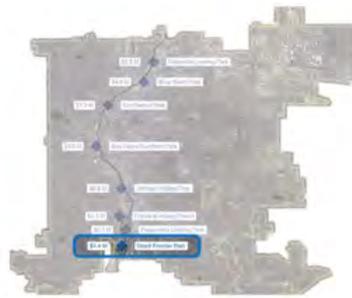


13. River Vision – Grant Frontier Park

Construction Budget: \$3,750,000
Completion Date: Spring 2017

Project Summary:

- Redesign Grant Frontier as an active 'River Park' with secondary channel and island, flood terrace walls, habitat benches, 'Montana City' - historic interpretative feature and environmental play area
- Create a new environmental-themed playground with 'treehouse' lookout structure, boulders and other natural play features
- Construct 3,000 LF of new SPR Trail with expanded concrete bike path, 4,000 LF of soft surface pedestrian trail, new river access points for fishing and boating and improved underpass at Evans
- Bank stabilization, removal of invasive species and restoration of emergent, riparian and upland vegetation



Key Map



Before

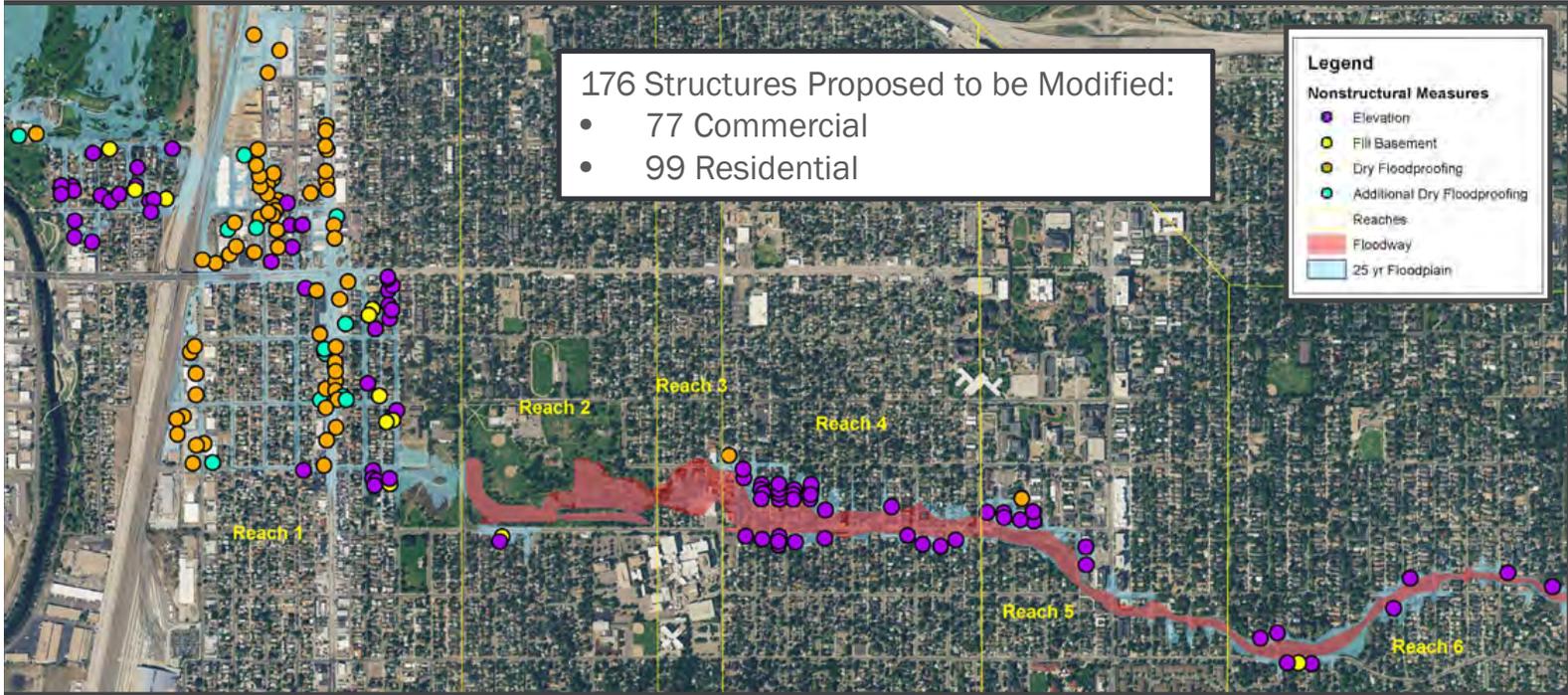


Drone Photo - After



After

Urban Waterways – Harvard Gulch

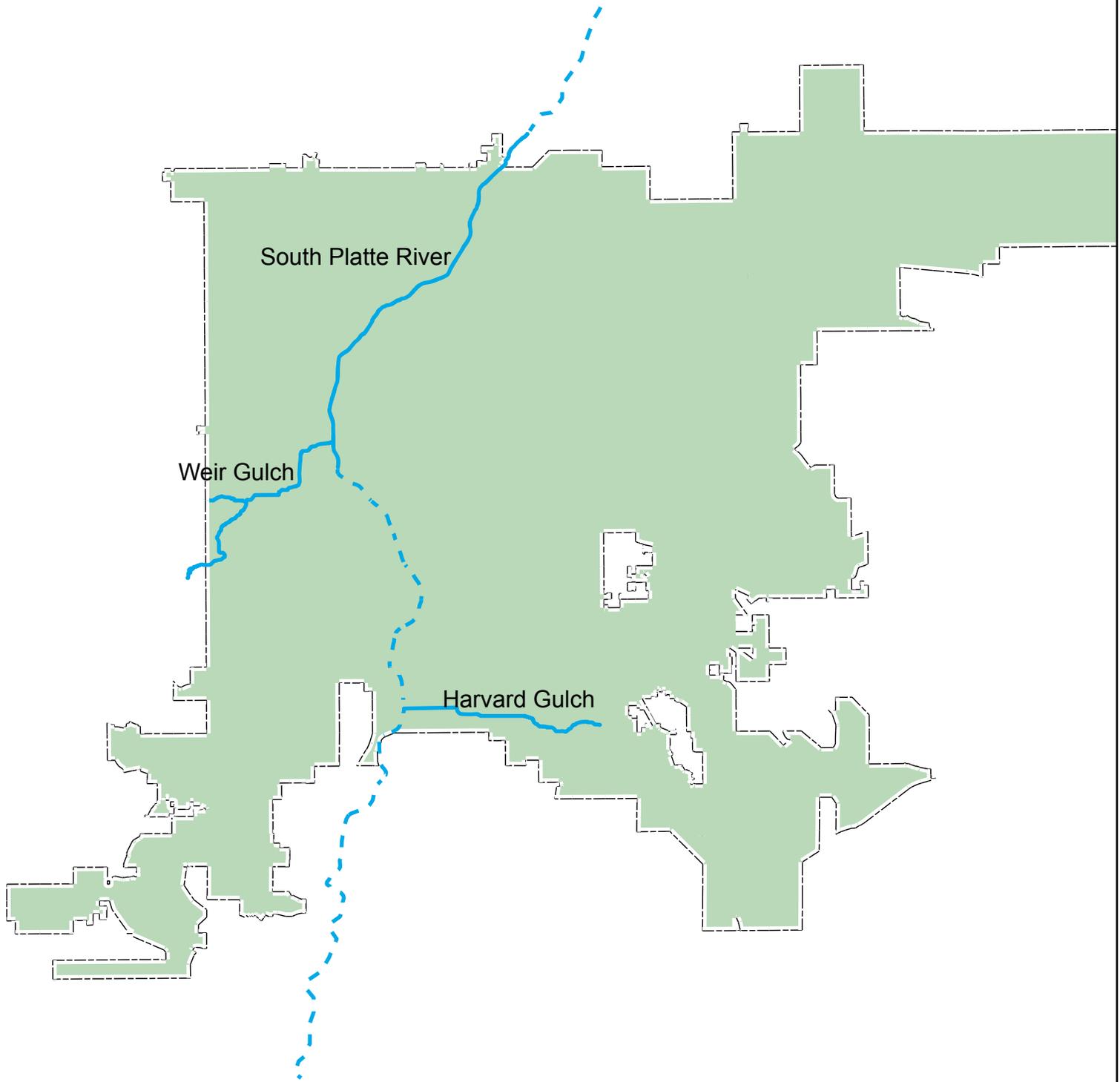


Map Document

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Project Map.pdf

Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado General Investigation Study



Legend

- City and County of Denver
- General Investigation Study

Additional Proposal Information

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Audubon letter of support.pdf



COL John L. Hudson
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear COL Hudson:

Denver Audubon is pleased to submit this letter of support for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado General Investigation Feasibility Study as it nears completion.

The first priority of the study is ecosystem restoration, and the second is flood damage reduction. The tertiary focus is expansion of recreation opportunities. Denver Audubon hopes that the recommendations will be implemented - and to the maximum extent possible, native vegetation be used at all sites, and all facilities, including trails, avoid environmentally sensitive areas – and that all the work will improve habitats and river health for birds and other wildlife, as well as for our community.

The South Platte River Corridor is an important part of the Central Flyway. It is estimated that 80 percent of all wildlife species, including birds, use the corridor.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and for your hard work, with Denver and its partners, to complete this important study. Denver is growing and developing. The opportunities to set aside additional acres of habitat in an urban corridor and to connect existing open spaces along the South Platte River must be secured now or be lost for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karl Brummert".

Karl Brummert
Executive Director
Denver Audubon