

COS Creek Plan

— RESTORE | PLAY | THRIVE —

Fountain Creek Watershed Vision & Implementation Plan

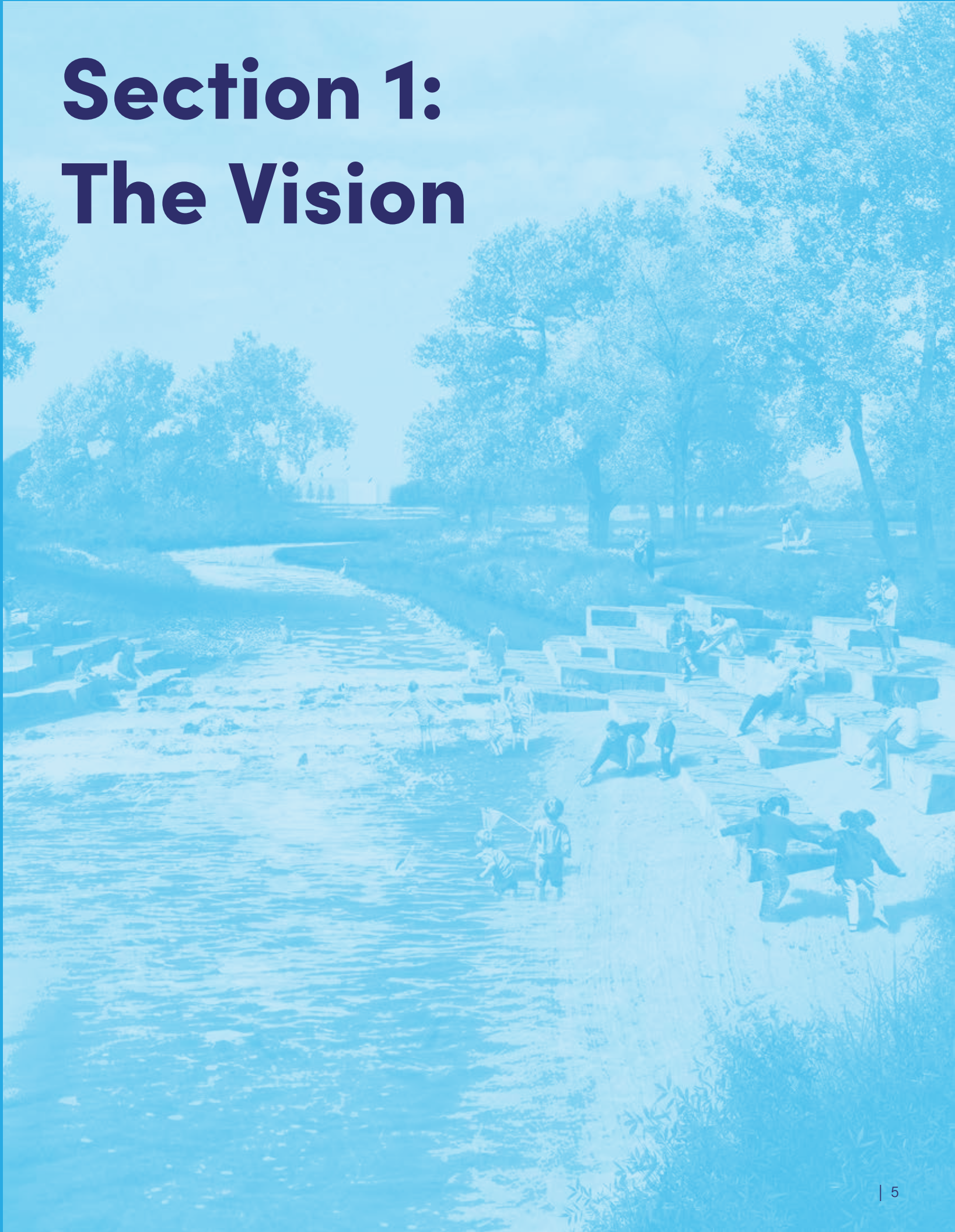


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CONTENTS

SECTION 1: THE VISION	5
COS Creek Plan Vision	6
A Holistic Vision	8
A Watershed Approach	10
Primary Plan Recommendations	12
SECTION 2: A MULTI-PURPOSE CORRIDOR	15
Restore the Creek Channel	16
Water Quality and Sediment Management	17
Selectively Remove and Relocate Levees	18
Trail Connections	19
Expanded Park Network	20
Redevelopment Opportunities	21
Connected Corridors - North	22
Connected Corridors - South	23
A Restored Floodplain	24
SECTION 3: FIVE NEW AND REVITALIZED PARKS	27
Five New and Revitalized Parks - Overview	28
Monument Valley Park and Centennial Neighborhood	30
College Landing at Uintah	34
America The Beautiful Park	38
Drake Waterfront Reimagined	42
Gateway Park South	46
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	50

Section 1: The Vision



COS CREEK PLAN VISION



The Fountain and Monument Creek corridor always has been the lifeblood of Colorado Springs. The corridor's rich natural resources sustained Native American tribes and attracted European settlers. General Palmer, the founder of Colorado Springs, realized the scenic and recreational value of the area and created a network of parkways that have been a defining element of Colorado Springs' identity. Over time, the natural character and functions of the corridor have been altered and disconnected, the richness diminished, and the creek access made inaccessible.

Informed by multiple planning efforts completed in the recent past, this plan lays out a comprehensive vision and strategy to restore the creek's environmental qualities, promote economic vitality, create a sense of place, and greatly enhance and expand the recreational opportunities that were so important to General Palmer's original vision.

A HOLISTIC VISION

A Vision for Restoring the Fountain and Monument Creek Corridor with Implications for the Watershed

The principles that guide this vision for the corridor, including Monument and Fountain Creeks, are based on the belief that storm water and flood risk management can be an integral part of a larger goal to maintain and restore natural functions of the creeks throughout the watershed. Moreover, it provides opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and enhancement of the economic value and quality of life for citizens and visitors of Colorado Springs. These principles include the following:

» Restore the Natural Functions of the Corridor

Reestablish natural functions of the Monument and Fountain Creek floodplains as a part of a larger plan where all stream courses within the watershed are multi-use, multi-functional community assets.

Restored natural functions, which include increased channel sinuosity and working floodplain terraces, can improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitat, and increase groundwater recharge.



» Create a Premiere Destination for Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

Expand recreation opportunities to take advantage of the corridor's natural scenic and recreational qualities to unlock its full potential.

Provide opportunities for water access, water recreation, and environmental education.



» Support Economic Vitality and Revitalization

Capitalize on corridor and waterway enhancements to encourage economic development and revitalization through traditional private development as well as public/private partnerships.

Orient and link new development towards an enhanced creek to encourage revitalization and redevelopment along the corridor.



» Build a Strong Sense of Place Unique to Colorado Springs

Enhance the corridor's natural qualities and recreational potential integrated within the City of Colorado Springs to strengthen its sense of place, distinct identity, improve the quality of life for residents, and provide memorable experiences for visitors.

Placemaking and public art installations act as a beacon along the trail while creating moments of delight and fostering local identity.



The project study area, including Monument Creek and Fountain Creek, extends south from the 'Popcycle Bridge' in Monument Valley Park to the confluence of Fountain Creek and Shook's Run.

A WATERSHED APPROACH

Aligned with the important local value of “complete creeks,” this vision recommends a number of opportunities throughout the Colorado Springs area. This plan’s primary recommendations are fully compatible with the City’s objectives for improving stormwater quality, reducing sediment, and managing flood risk as found in reports such as the municipal stormwater and construction guidelines as well as master planning documents approved by the City.

» Reestablish Functioning Floodplains throughout the watershed

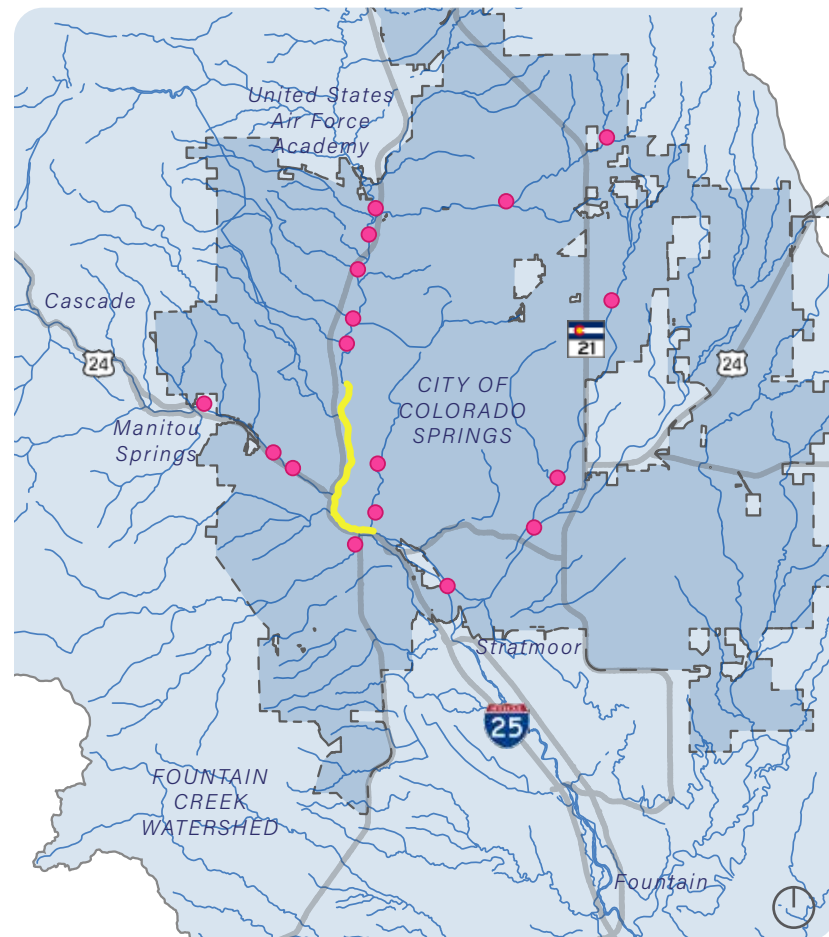
Restore the original sinuosity of the stream channel and reestablish floodplain terraces to the degree possible to enhance water quality, wildlife habitat, and scenic natural qualities.

» Improve Neighborhood Connections and expand the trail network

Create an expanded, interconnected, continuous network of recreational trails that improve creek and neighborhood access. Establish a hierarchy of trails to increase the quality and diversity of recreational experiences and complement the existing regional trail system.

» Encourage Redevelopment oriented towards the creek

Catalyze redevelopment of underutilized lands adjacent to the corridor. Promote land uses that capitalize on the corridor’s scenic and recreational values. Encourage public/private partnerships that incentivize private development to partner with the City of Colorado Springs in the development of joint-use stormwater treatment areas, trails, and other public amenities that benefit both public and private sectors.



POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENT AREAS

- Wolf Ranch
- Cottonwood Creek Park
- Cottonwood Confluence
- Monument Creek North
- University Village
- Templeton Gap Confluence
- Coleman Park
- Goose Gossage Park
- Manitou Ball Park
- 21st Street
- Gold Hill Mesa
- Shooks Run
- Cheyenne Creek
- El Pomar Sports Complex
- Wildflower Park
- Sand Creek Confluence

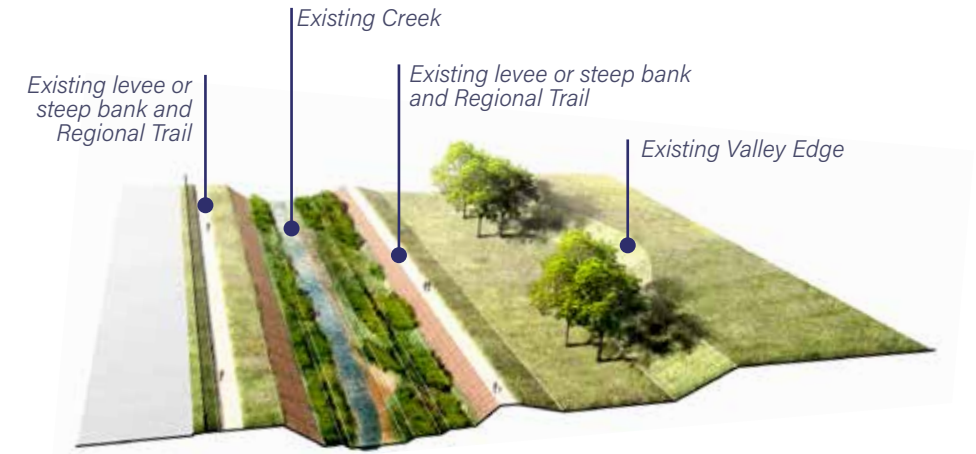
LEGEND

- Future Community / Creek Connections
- Colorado Springs City Limits
- Watershed Boundary
- ~ Streams and Waterways
- Project Study Area

Maintain and restore functioning floodplains along all streams within the watershed. Potential improvement areas indicate opportunities to connect the community to the creeks using the prototypes on the following page.

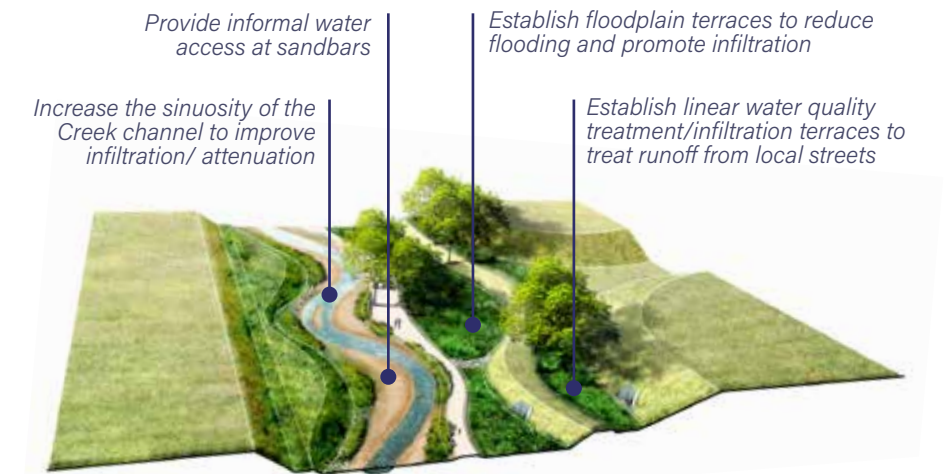
Existing Channel Conditions

Both Monument and Fountain Creeks have been channelized or confined between levees. They no longer have functioning floodplains which limits their natural flood storage and water quality treatment potential.



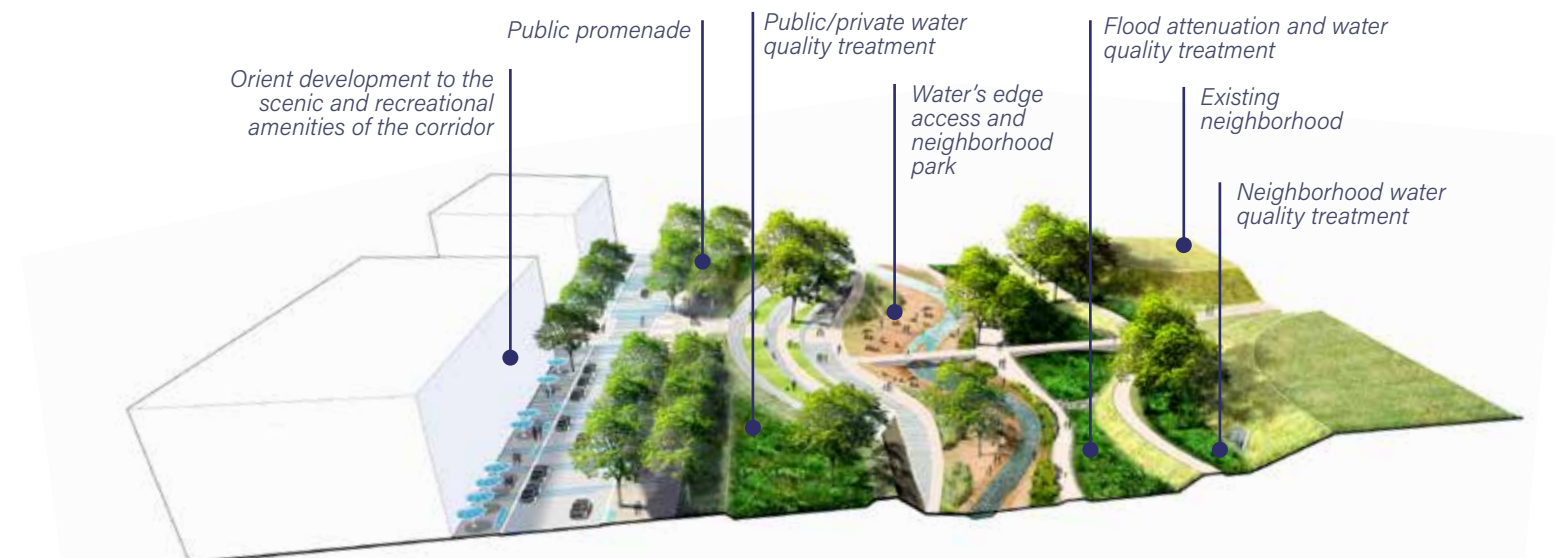
Reestablish Functioning Floodplains

To the degree possible, restore the sinuosity of the creek channel and reestablish floodplain terraces that improve the multiple natural functions lost when the streams were channelized.



Improve Neighborhood Connections and Encourage Redevelopment

Provide for and encourage multiple opportunities to access the water’s edge for nature and water-based recreation. Promote existing and new development orientation towards the corridor to take advantage of scenic and recreational access.



PRIMARY PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

A Continuous Linear Greenway

The Monument and Fountain Creeks corridor would become a continuous multi-functional, multi-beneficial greenway leveraging foundational aspects of the Legacy Loop and Pikes Peak Greenway. Natural functions of the creek would be restored, while maintaining the corridor's important role as one of the city's primary storm water conveyances. A seamless network of trails would support multiple options for access to the waterways and to the natural qualities of the corridor. Both existing and new neighborhoods would orient toward the corridor and connect directly to its natural and recreational assets.

Five New and Revitalized Parks

The greenway corridor would be punctuated by five major parks with naturalized riparian areas in between. Monument Valley Park, revitalized, restored, and supplemented with the new neighborhood parks, anchors the north end of the visioning corridor. The southern end of the visioning corridor is defined by a new linear park with multiple recreational opportunities for the existing Mill Street and adjacent neighborhoods, plus a formalized new gateway entry into downtown from the south.

Implementation

Colorado Springs expects continued and substantial population growth over the next twenty (20) years which makes sustainable waterway development critical. Final design, funding, and implementation of this vision would rely on community leadership through coordinated efforts between landowners and municipal agencies – all timed alongside funding opportunities via local, state, federal, and philanthropic sources. This vision seeks to align various planning efforts and impacts upon creeks. As a result of new infusion of federal dollars across the country, previously unavailable funds may accelerate projects in the first five (5) years for vision implementation.

Immediate Steps

Priority actions for the first twelve (12) months include alignment with the City of Colorado Springs and partners, engaging the community, developing financial strategies and preparing grant application materials, establishing a 501(c)3, as well as forming techniques and timelines for final engineering, design, and permitting of short-term projects.

Short-Term Projects

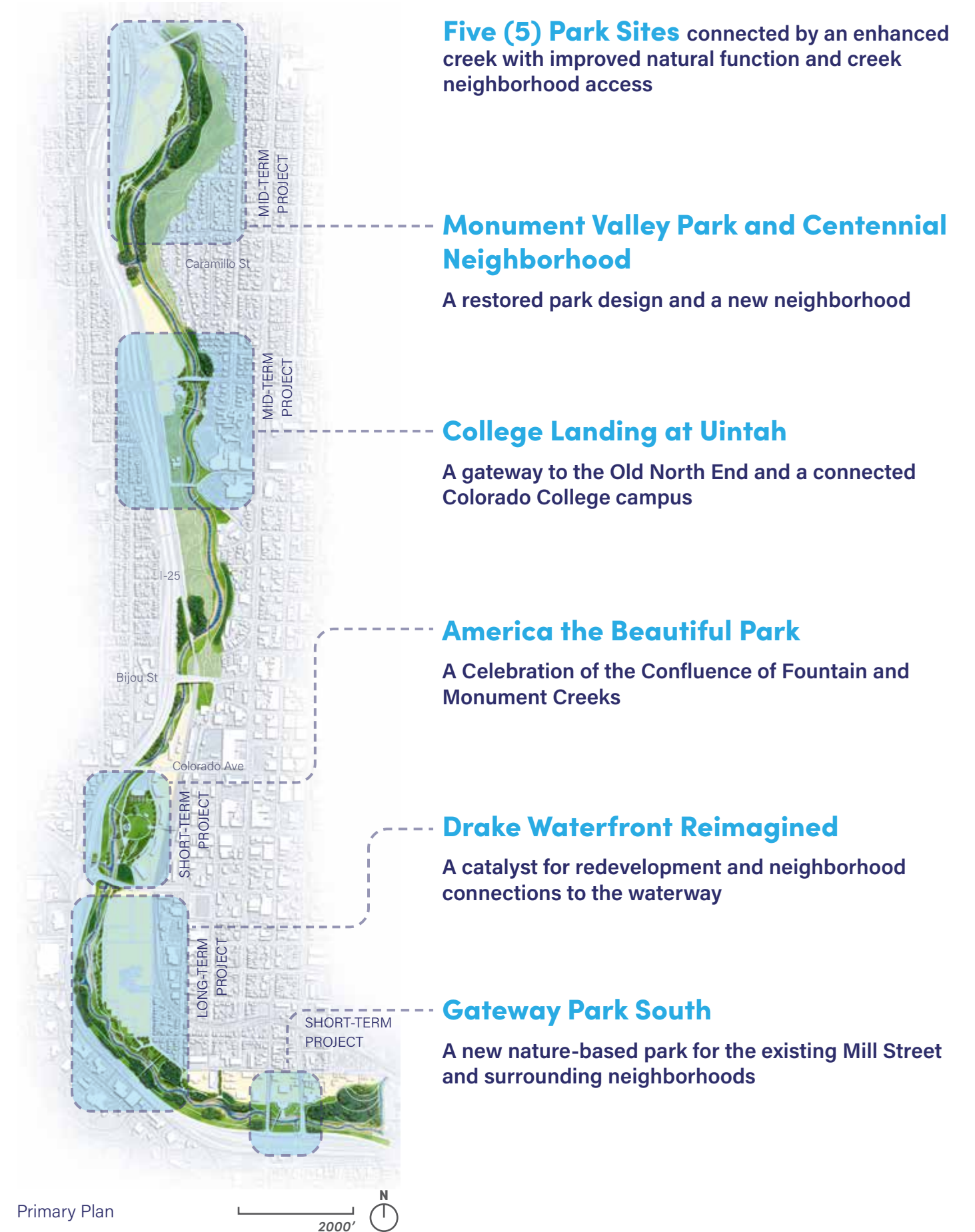
Within five (5) years, the short-term projects will be constructed. This vision identifies two (2) short-term projects that would redefine the southwestern corner of downtown Colorado Springs: America The Beautiful Park (ATB) and Gateway Park South. The projects will leverage current and near-term Community Development, Stormwater Enterprise, and Parks initiatives in coordination with economic renewal/development opportunities.

Mid-Term Projects

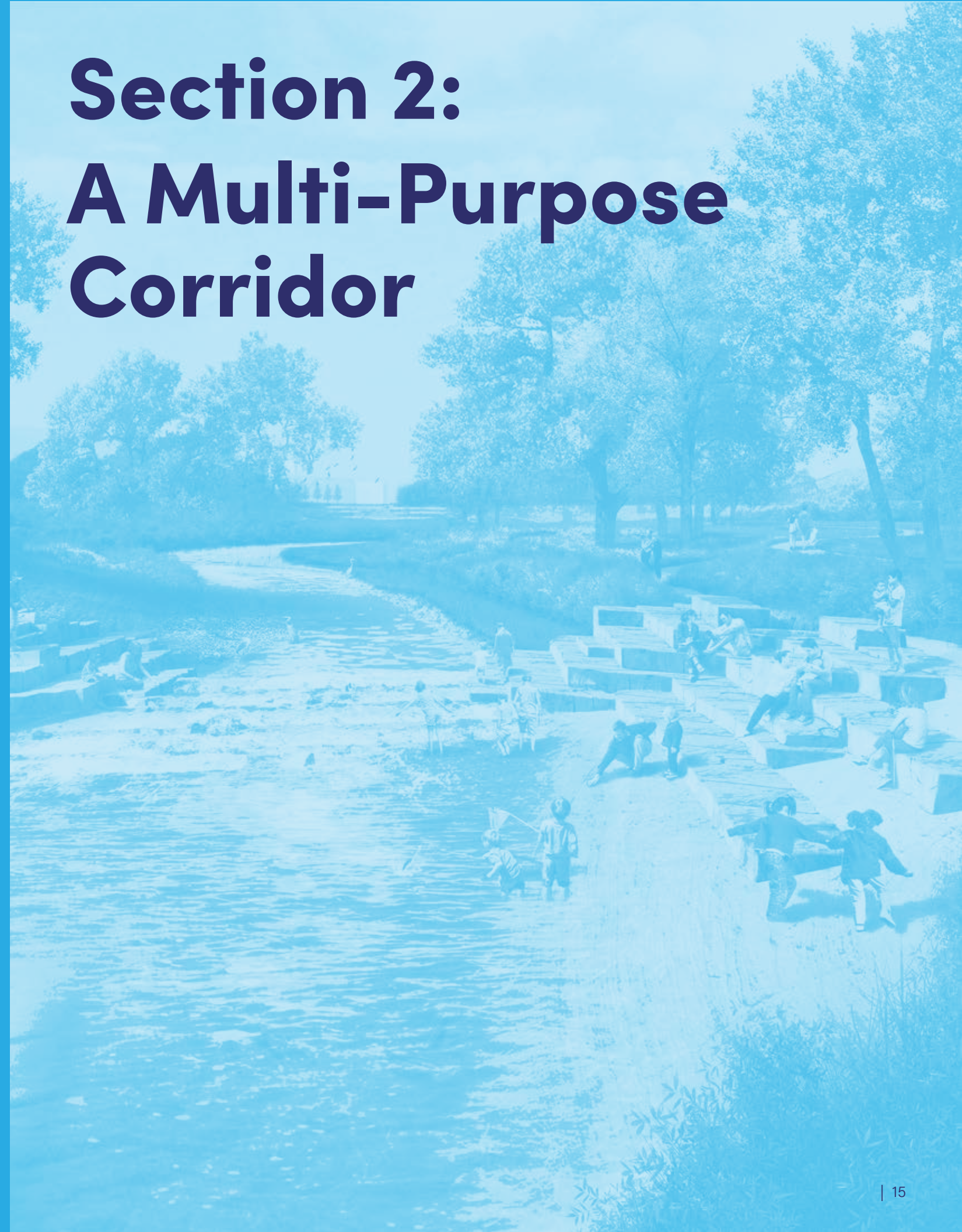
Projects with a mid-term horizon will be completed in coordination with planned development and creek related projects throughout the corridor. The mid-term projects identified are Monument Valley Park and Centennial Neighborhood and College Landing at Uintah. Planning for the Monument Valley Park and Centennial Neighborhood will be underway with potential land preparation activities and development planning in process. College Landing at Uintah is anticipated to be a multi-phase effort as there is private landownership, including Colorado College, which must function within the College's existing master plan.

Long-Term Projects

Projects like Drake Waterfront Reimagined with a longer horizon (20 years) will rely heavily on major community planning and development activities in Colorado Springs. The decommissioning of the Drake Power Plant will require substantial planning and permitting efforts, as well as redevelopment planning. This vision assumes that the site will ultimately be developed to serve a variety of residential and commercial needs. This vision calls for an engaged creekside land use regardless of the intensity of redevelopment efforts.



Section 2: A Multi-Purpose Corridor



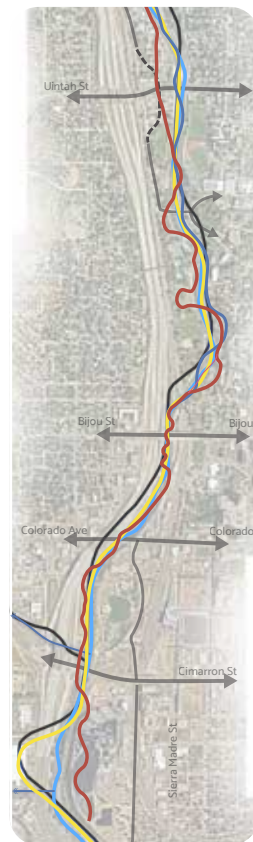
RESTORE THE CREEK CHANNEL

As highways and railroads were constructed for a booming population, creeks were altered to accommodate the growth. The watershed features and natural characteristics of Fountain and Monument Creeks were straightened and narrowed. As a result, stream flows, storm runoff, and base follows increased, destabilizing streambeds and diminishing their ability to infiltrate rainfall, replenish groundwater, store sediment, and remove pollutants from stormwater. Moreover, their ability to support diverse and abundant wildlife was greatly diminished.

The restoration of the creek's natural functions would include widening stream channels and improving sinuosity. This serpentine shape would reverse decades of change to: restore floodplain terraces; slow runoff rates to promote infiltration; reduce channel erosion; and remove urban pollutants from storm runoff. Highly sedimented streams with steep slopes, such as Monument and Fountain Creeks, naturally develop multiple channel threads that encourage sediment drop in a characteristic braided pattern. These braiding deposit patterns encourage small areas of ponding that support ecological diversity.

An indicator of success will be the restoration of natural braiding and observation of biological resurgence. It is expected this success will coincide with the widening of the channel and modification of the levees. The vision anticipates that this would be observable in areas of new creek alignment as creek beds widen and water slows through floodplain terraces.

Image (right): The historic creek alignment changes over time illustrating the sinuous natural qualities of the creek prior to the construction of the levees.



LEGEND

- 1895 Creek Channel
- 1903 Creek Channel
- 1947 Creek Channel

LEGEND

- Proposed Creek Alignment
- Existing Creek Alignment

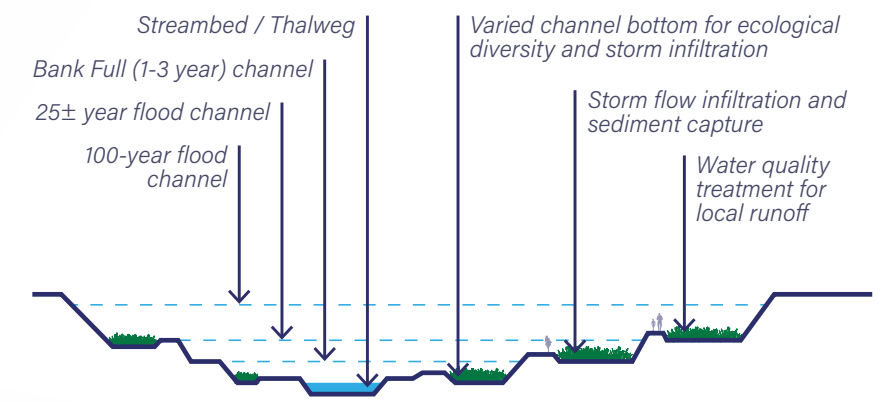


WATER QUALITY AND SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT

The City of Colorado Springs has identified nonpoint source pollution as a significant problem. This pollution consists of contaminants from streets and developments that are carried to urban rivers and streams, including Monument and Fountain Creeks. Nonpoint source pollution negatively impacts the quality of stream flows. It is a municipal priority, and a federal mandate, to improve the quality of storm runoff. An effective way to reduce nonpoint source pollution is to mimic natural stream processes through biofiltration and other natural, more passive, means of water quality treatment before it enters rivers or streams.

An important aspect of this vision, and an integral part of restoring the natural floodplain functions, is the integration of an extensive system of water quality treatment areas. To minimize the potential for regular maintenance due to sedimentation, local water quality treatment areas from adjacent neighborhoods and districts would be located at an elevation that rarely experiences flooding, and other water quality treatment areas intended to attenuate and infiltrate storm flows from the creek would be located at an elevation that would be inundated only during large flood events. Sediment basins would be strategically located to allow regular sediment removal at points where the channel widens and deposition occurs.

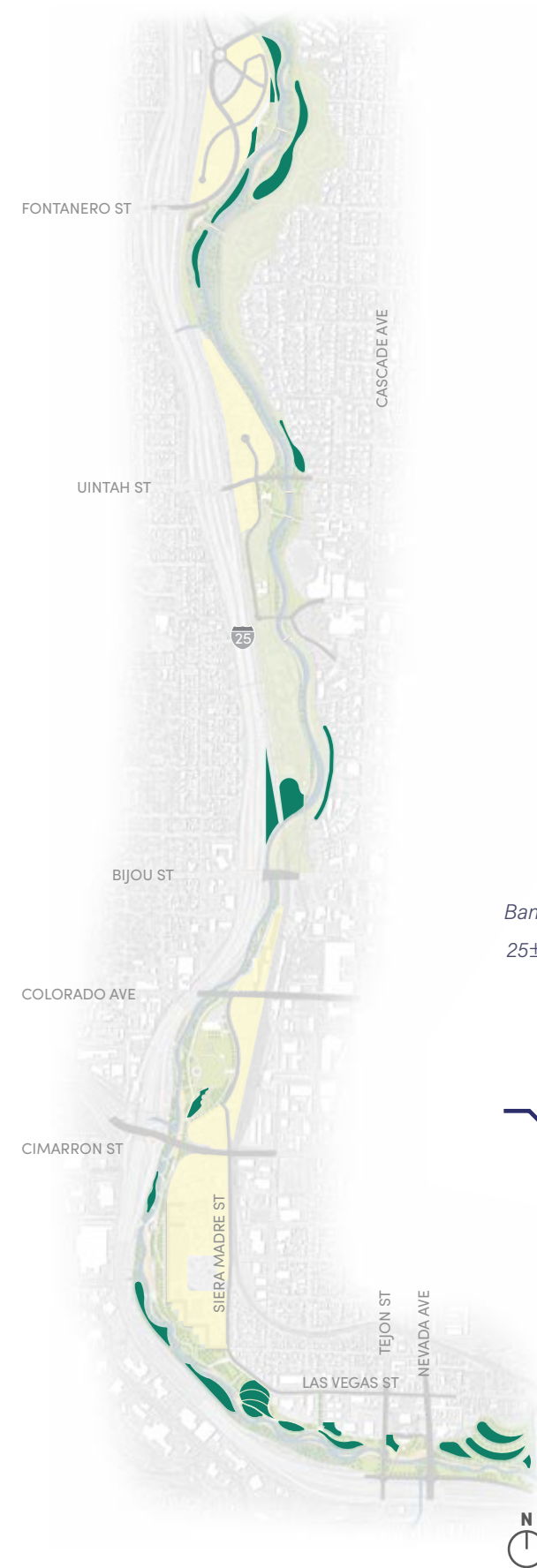
This vision plan proposes approximately twenty-five (25) acres of new floodplain and water quality improvement areas.



Section: Channel terracing can cohesively manage stormwater, water quality, sediment capture, and recreation

LEGEND

- Proposed Water Quality Areas

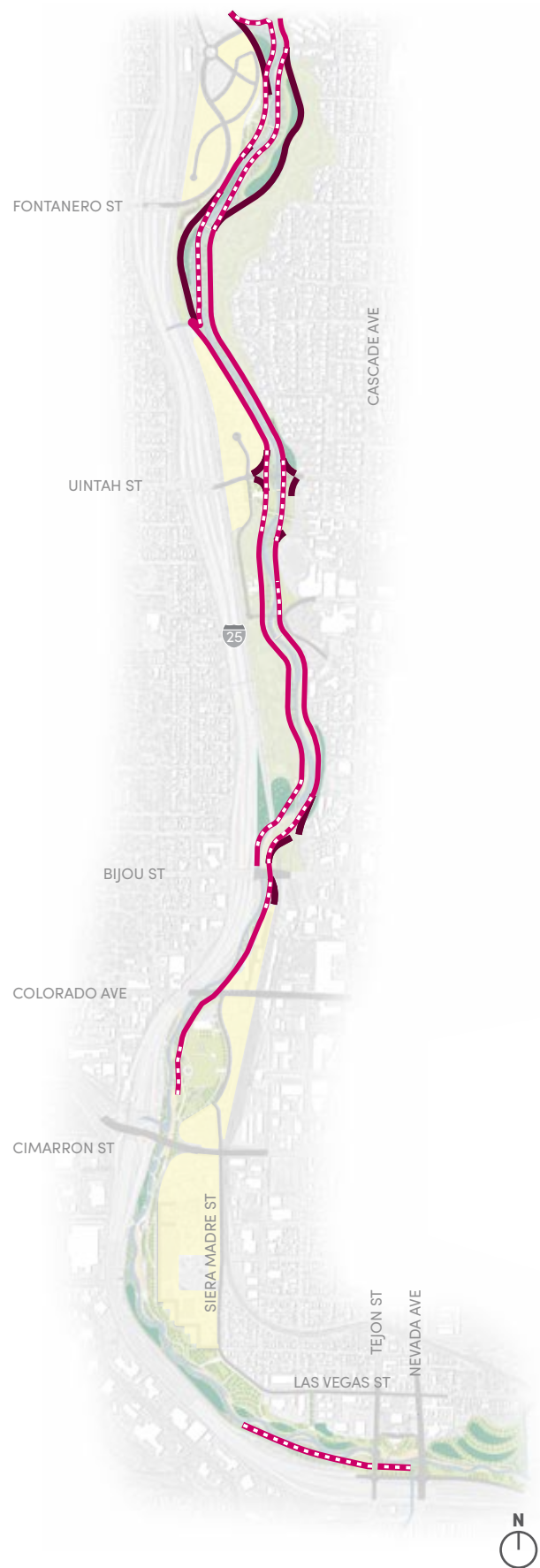


SELECTIVELY REMOVE AND RELOCATE LEVEES

The original plan for the City of Colorado Springs was organized around a network of parks and parkways, including the development of Monument Valley Park, located along Monument Creek. The park's plan recommended extensive landscape improvements, trails, and multiple crossings of the creek, making the creek one of the park's central features. The concepts are illustrated in a park master plan prepared by Charles Levitt in 1903. Monument Creek flooded on a regular basis, causing minor damage to park improvements. In 1935, a much larger flood caused extensive damage, and in response, to protect the park and adjacent neighborhood developments from further damage, levees lining the creek were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Although the levees have been effective at containing flood events, they create a significant barrier between the creek and the park and compromise the original park plan which integrated the sinuous creek channel into the park as a central feature.

The National Park System (NPS) conferred recognition of Monument Valley Park on the National Register of Historic Places. There are various types of historic stone used, including Manitou Green Stone and concrete slabs from the 1960's. It is expected that formal evaluation by a historic preservation specialist will be required to determine not only what is historic, but what sections of the walls and levees contribute to the NPS Historic Register.

As part of this proposed vision and strategy for Monument Valley Park, selected portions of the levees would be removed or relocated to reestablish the park's original relationship to the creek. Removal would be strategic, without damaging or compromising other historically significant park elements, while continuing to protect historic park areas and adjacent development from flooding. The most significant removal and relocation would be at the northern, most rural portion of the park. The pastoral qualities of the original creek would be mimicked and the original relationship of trails, stream access and crossings, and passive uses restored. Downstream, at key channel crossings and at points where the levees create a barrier between existing historic park uses, small portions of the wall would be removed or modified to provide direct channel access and enhance pedestrian crossings.



- LEGEND**
- Existing Levee
 - Proposed Levee Removal
 - Proposed Levee Alignment

TRAIL CONNECTIONS

The vision for the Monument and Fountain Creek corridor includes approximately twenty-three (23) miles of trails, eighteen (18) neighborhood connections, and nine (9) pedestrian creek crossings. The trails provide opportunities for short meanders and long treks to connect important destinations such as the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Museum, Monument Valley Park, Sondermann Park, Downtown Stadium, Colorado College, and neighborhoods such as Old North End, Indian Heights, Westside, Downtown, Mill Street, and Shooks Run.

The existing and proposed trails and connections leverage the Legacy Loop and Pikes Peak Greenway. Critical east-west trail connections are incorporated into the vision. Enhancements for commuting cyclists include better sight lines and separation from recreational users. The trail system consists of a hierarchy of promenades, boardwalks, primary trails, and secondary trails.

The trail system of Fountain and Monument Creeks improves stewardship opportunities for our creeks and adjoining lands, bridging them into the public mainstream, promoting sustainable quality of life, and fostering environmental renewal.



- LEGEND**
- Primary Trails
 - Neighborhood Trail Connections
 - River Promenade
 - Multi-modal Access
 - Neighborhood Access
 - Pedestrian Crossings

EXPANDED PARK NETWORK

Protecting and enhancing the waterway increases natural and parkland opportunities. Curated parks would provide recreational space for local residents and tourists. Increasing outdoor recreational opportunities within Colorado Springs adds value to the already robust tourism industry by encouraging visitors to experience the intrinsic qualities of the great Colorado Front Range, right in the heart of the city.

The vision proposes a new park network, made possible because much of the corridor is publicly owned. Ongoing management and maintenance will be provided by a single entity, such as the Parks Department. Funding for ongoing maintenance will be generated through the economic development activities and captured through special districts or other agreements established through the development process. The development community will be a partner to the City of Colorado Springs in managing the waterfront amenities.

Funding to establish the creekside parkway will be generated through economic investment opportunities including special districts, private investment, and philanthropic funding, as well as state and federal funding.



LEGEND

- Existing Parkland
- Proposed Parkland

REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Throughout the corridor visioning process, land use and related development implications emerged as future alternatives that could add vitality to Fountain and Monument Creeks. Redevelopment areas throughout the corridor are designed to support recommendations of the revitalization as well as the Plan Colorado Springs' (PlanCOS) objectives: Vibrant Neighborhoods, Unique Places, Thriving Economy, Strong Connections, Renowned Culture, and Majestic Landscapes.

Development of these areas is instrumental to the success of this vision's key principles for a holistic greenway and are vital to the success of the larger PlanCOS goals. Opportunities for redevelopment will:

- Improve connectivity to neighborhoods both within and across the watershed;
- Enhance accessibility to green infrastructure improvements not seen in the corridor;
- Facilitate access to downtown in support of key City for Champions projects and other economic vitality projects;
- Reflect the cultural and artistic interests of Colorado Springs; and
- Add options for multi-modal connections to downtown and historic neighborhoods.

These redevelopment opportunities foster economic support by creating investment in both the existing neighborhoods and future development in order to generate forward thinking, sustainable growth, housing needs, and economic progress.

The vision estimates approximately twenty-five (25) acres of new development and one-hundred and fifty-eight (158) acres of redevelopment opportunities.



LEGEND

- Proposed Redevelopment Area

CONNECTED CORRIDORS - NORTH



CONNECTED CORRIDORS

Key corridor investment would create large-scale connective improvements that are watershed-wide, to smaller, more site-specific connective improvements which bind revitalized parks together for increased access and opportunity. These connections not only strengthen the greenway recommendations for sustainable growth, but also support the framework for a regional context that can extend beyond the corridor. The areas between park sites highlight the significance of trail connections, riparian habitat, water quality floodplain terraces, and creek activation for outdoor education and stewardship.

1 Monument Valley Park North

- Western levee realigned closer to the highway to restore a functioning floodplain, creek sinuosity, and add water quality terraces
- Informal trails within valley edges increase interaction with the creek and respect riparian habitat
- Improved connections to the Old North End Neighborhood and corridor

2 Monument Valley Park South

- Historic elements are highlighted and enhanced while continuing to establish a functioning floodplain
- Realigned pedestrian bridge over Monument Creek to strengthen the connection between Formal Gardens and Tahoma Springs as historic landmarks
- Expanded railroad bridge allows for improved pedestrian connectivity
- Underused land near the railway is reclaimed as a large water quality treatment area for highway run-off
- Linear water quality along the eastern edge treats run-off from adjacent neighborhoods

CONNECTED CORRIDORS - SOUTH



3 Old Depot Triangle

- Industrial area between the Old Depot and the Creek repurposed as a development with new vehicular access, expanded parking, and outdoor gathering area for arts festival or beer garden
- Pedestrian promenade cantilevers over Monument creek under Colorado Ave, connecting to America the Beautiful Park

4 Tejon Wetlands

- Creek sinuosity is dramatically improved between the new Drake Waterfront and Gateway South Park
- Floodplain terraces create large water quality treatment areas for adjacent neighborhoods, expand trail networks, and provide water access and outdoor education opportunities

5 Shook's Run

- Eleven (11) acre parcel at the confluence of Fountain Creek and Shook's run is transformed into a water quality treatment park where terraces and elevated trails pull water from the creeks and adjacent developments to be cleaned before re-entering the waterway
- Emphasis on riparian habitat, passive recreation, and outdoor education create a terminus for the urban greenway corridor

LEGEND

- Creek Channels
- Water Quality / Passive Recreation
- River Edge / Riparian Planting
- Proposed Greenspace
- Existing Greenspace
- Redevelopment Opportunity
- Neighborhood Access
- Trail Connection

A RESTORED FLOODPLAIN

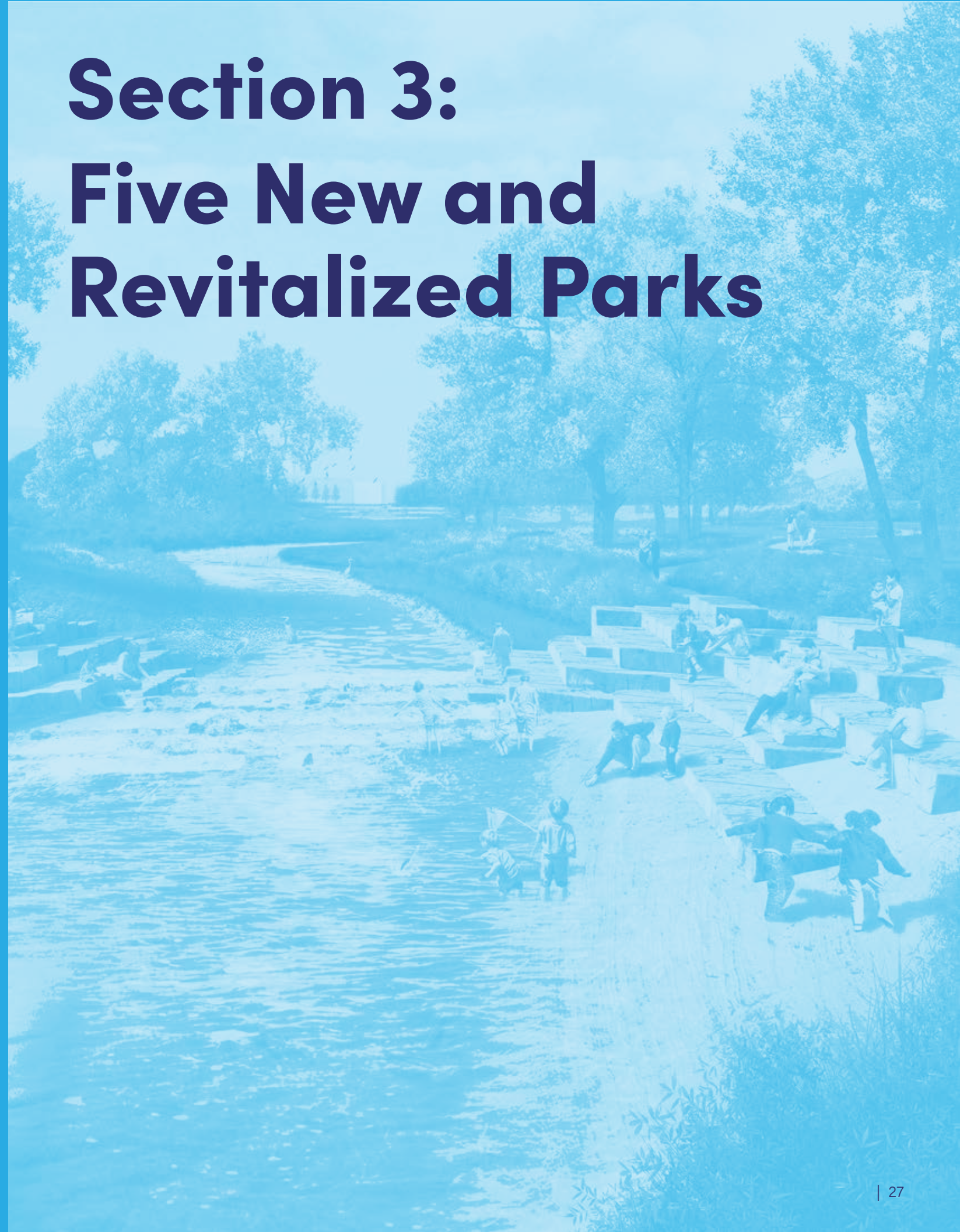


Enhanced natural functions, improved stormwater management, and expanded recreation opportunities

Restoring the natural functions of the floodplain would improve water quality from storm runoff, reduce flood risk, and increase groundwater recharge. Floodplain terraces would be re-established to create a range of native plant communities and wildlife habitats, while allowing for more diverse and extensive passive- and nature-based recreation uses.

- 1 Restore creek sinuosity to improve aquatic habitat and groundwater recharge.
- 2 Design erosion control structures to encourage safe access to the water.
- 3 Restore floodplain terraces to increase ecological diversity and support a broader range of stream risk management goals.
 - 3a Low terraces contain smaller storm events and support diverse riparian plant communities.
 - 3b Intermediate terraces capture and infiltrate flows from larger storms and store sediment.
 - 3c Upper terraces capture and infiltrate runoff from neighborhoods to improve water quality.
- 4 Trails: water-based and nature-based recreation uses extend throughout the corridor.
 - 4a Lower terrace recreation uses are limited to rustic trails and multi-functional channel structures.
 - 4b Intermediate terraces include a variety of trails, passive recreation uses, and adventure sports.
 - 4c Upper terraces allow for traditional neighborhood and urban parks, and passive uses.

Section 3: Five New and Revitalized Parks



FIVE NEW AND REVITALIZED PARKS - OVERVIEW



Monument Valley Park and Centennial Neighborhood

A restored park design and a new neighborhood

Mid-Term Project:
General Palmer's original concept for a pastoral, natural park along a free-flowing stream will be restored on the north end of Monument Valley Park while a new park and neighborhood is defined west of the creek at the existing Fontanero Maintenance Yard.



College Landing at Uintah

A gateway to the Old North End and a connected Colorado College campus

Mid-Term Project:
Modifying existing walls that confine Monument Creek creates a defining entrance for both the Colorado College Campus and Downtown. Moreover, this establishes a gathering place along the creek that unifies Monument Creek Park and the campus.



America the Beautiful Park

A Celebration of the Confluence of Fountain and Monument Creeks

Short-Term Project:
The original vision for America The Beautiful Park will be realized by restoring Monument Creek's primary access for paddle sports, tubing, and enjoyment of its natural qualities.



Drake Waterfront Reimagined

A catalyst for redevelopment and neighborhood connections to the waterway

Long-Term Project:
Fountain Creek's fifty (50) feet of elevation change between Cimarron Street and Mill Street will be utilized for paddle sports, tubing, and informal water play. A series of riffles, small drops, and pools framed by terraces and groves, form an urban edge to the new Drake neighborhood.

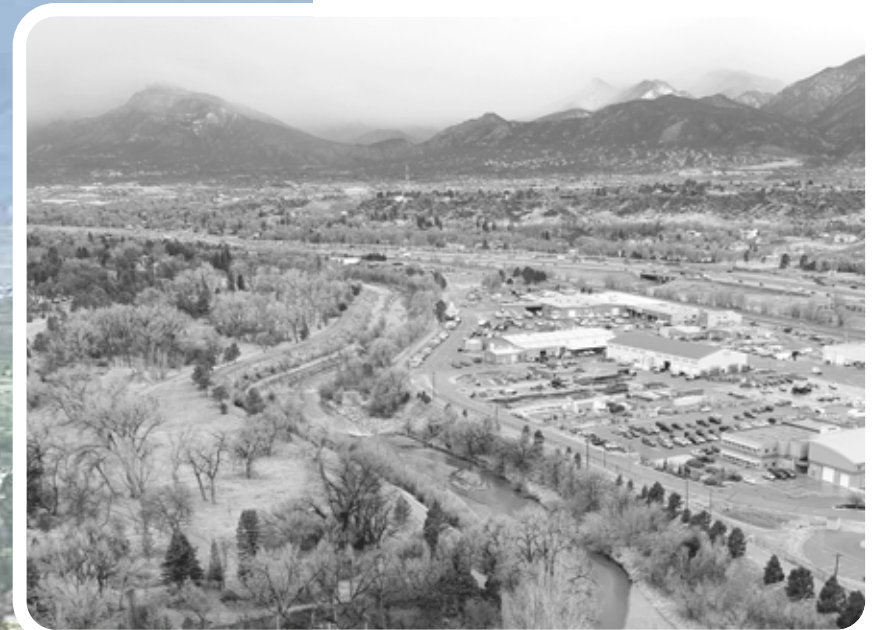


Gateway Park South

A new nature-based park for the existing Mill Street and surrounding neighborhoods

Short-Term Project:
The Fountain Creek corridor creates a new linear park celebrating the natural qualities of the creek and the potential for nature- and water-based recreation. A revitalized Dorchester Park is a central neighborhood gathering place and gateway to the Downtown from the south.

MONUMENT VALLEY PARK (MVP) AND CENTENNIAL NEIGHBORHOOD



Existing conditions

- ① **River Beach** provides access and direct interaction with the creek
- ② **River Access Sloped Lawn Terraces** define additional recreational spaces
- ③ **Low Flow Crossing** connects Old North End and western neighborhoods
- ④ **River Plaza** is a multi-purpose space near the creek for residents
- ⑤ **Pedestrian Promenade** integrates new areas to existing trails and open spaces
- ⑥ **Water Quality Open Space** developed as a public-private partnership

MVP AND CENTENNIAL NEIGHBORHOOD

- 1 **River Beach** provides access and direct interaction with the creek
- 2 **River Access Sloped Lawn Terraces** define recreational spaces
- 3 **Low Flow Crossing** connects Old North End and western neighborhoods
- 4 **River Plaza** is a multi-purpose space near the creek for residents
- 5 **Pedestrian Promenade** integrates new areas to existing trails and open spaces
- 6 **Water Quality Areas and Boardwalks** establish natural riparian areas
- 7 **Flexible Plaza and Open Lawn** offer passive use and open space
- 8 **Lower Trail** enables seasonal access to lower creek areas
- 9 **Future Development Areas** fosters residential and commercial opportunities
- 10 **Existing Electrical Substation to Remain**
- 11 **Levee Removal / Relocation** in selective locations for floodplain management
- 12 **New Pedestrian Bridge** creates critical east-west connection for all
- 13 **Reshaped Trailhead and Creek Access** improves mobility and use of trail system



Land use, waterways, and park space are re-envisioned to pay homage to the values of public space in Colorado Springs as pioneered by General Palmer. This project site celebrates the creekside pastoral qualities imagined over a century ago. New opportunities include reclaimed land for development and restored natural corridor for active and passive recreation. The design explores opportunities for multi-purpose infrastructure that benefits the creek ecosystem, stormwater, and community. Geographically, this section follows the Monument Creek corridor from Popcycle Bridge south to Fontanero Street including the Fontanero Service Yard and a portion of Monument Valley Park.



Restored floodplain terraces



Development oriented towards the creek



Public pedestrian promenade edge

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

- Public funding will include municipal funding, state agency opportunities, and federal agency programs focused on specific outcomes
- Philanthropic funding and granting organizations will be critical partners in the visioning and specific elements
- Private funding sources will leverage the planned public investment to create new neighborhoods and supporting development

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Environmental and riparian restoration
- Residential / commercial development opportunities
- Artistic and cultural interests
- Stormwater and floodplain management
- Recreational opportunities

COLLEGE LANDING AT UINTAH



Existing conditions



- ① **River Beach** invites access and direct interaction with the creek
- ② **River Access Sloped Lawn Terraces** create study and social spaces
- ③ **Low Flow Crossing** emphasizes cross-creek connection and exploration
- ④ **Upper Plaza** connects students to corridor and provides views
- ⑤ **River Amphitheater and Stage Deck** promotes performance and education
- ⑥ **New Pedestrian Bridge** unites campus areas across the creek

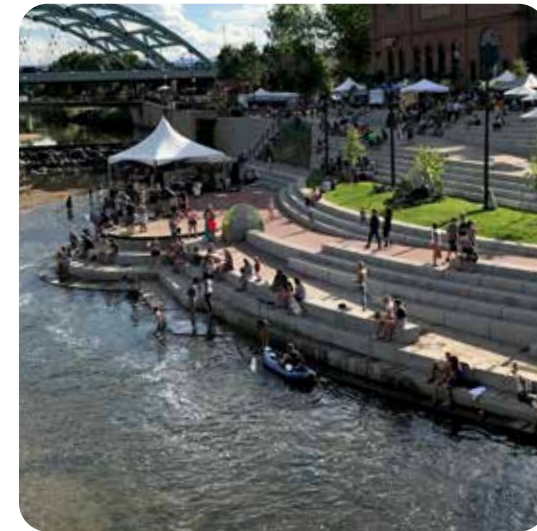
COLLEGE LANDING AT UINTAH

- 1 **River Beach** invites access and direct interaction with creek
- 2 **River Access Sloped Lawn Terraces** create study and social spaces
- 3 **Low Flow Crossing** emphasizes cross-creek connection
- 4 **Upper Plaza** connects students to the corridor and provides views
- 5 **River Amphitheater and Stage Deck** promotes performance and education
- 6 **New Pedestrian Bridge** unites campus areas across the creek
- 7 **Water Quality Areas** treat stormwater from adjacent neighborhoods
- 8 **Lower Trail** provides seasonal access to lower creek areas
- 9 **Future Development** utilizes park and creek
- 10 **Van Briggie Building to Remain** with future use
- 11 **Pikes Peak Greenway Trail** with enhanced trail connectivity
- 12 **Existing Lawn to Remain** for continued recreational use
- 13 **Enhanced Connection to College** brings students and faculty efficiently through campus



As the primary entry to Colorado College's campus and Old North End Neighborhood, this area should celebrate the educational and historical heart of Colorado Springs. The creek brings together the campus and southern end of Monument Valley Park to provide a destination for leisure activities and campus ceremonies along the creek, while maintaining the continuity of natural systems.

This focus area section roughly follows Monument Creek corridor from north of Uintah Street south to Mesa Avenue including portions of Monument Valley Park and Colorado College.



River amphitheater and stage



Lawn terraces



Interconnected pathways for cyclists & pedestrians

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

- Colorado College, philanthropic funding, and granting organizations will be critical partners in the visioning and specific elements
- Public funding will include municipal funding, state agency opportunities, and federal agency programs focused on specific outcomes
- Private funding sources will be keenly interested in the opportunities for Colorado College students and Old North End Neighborhood residents

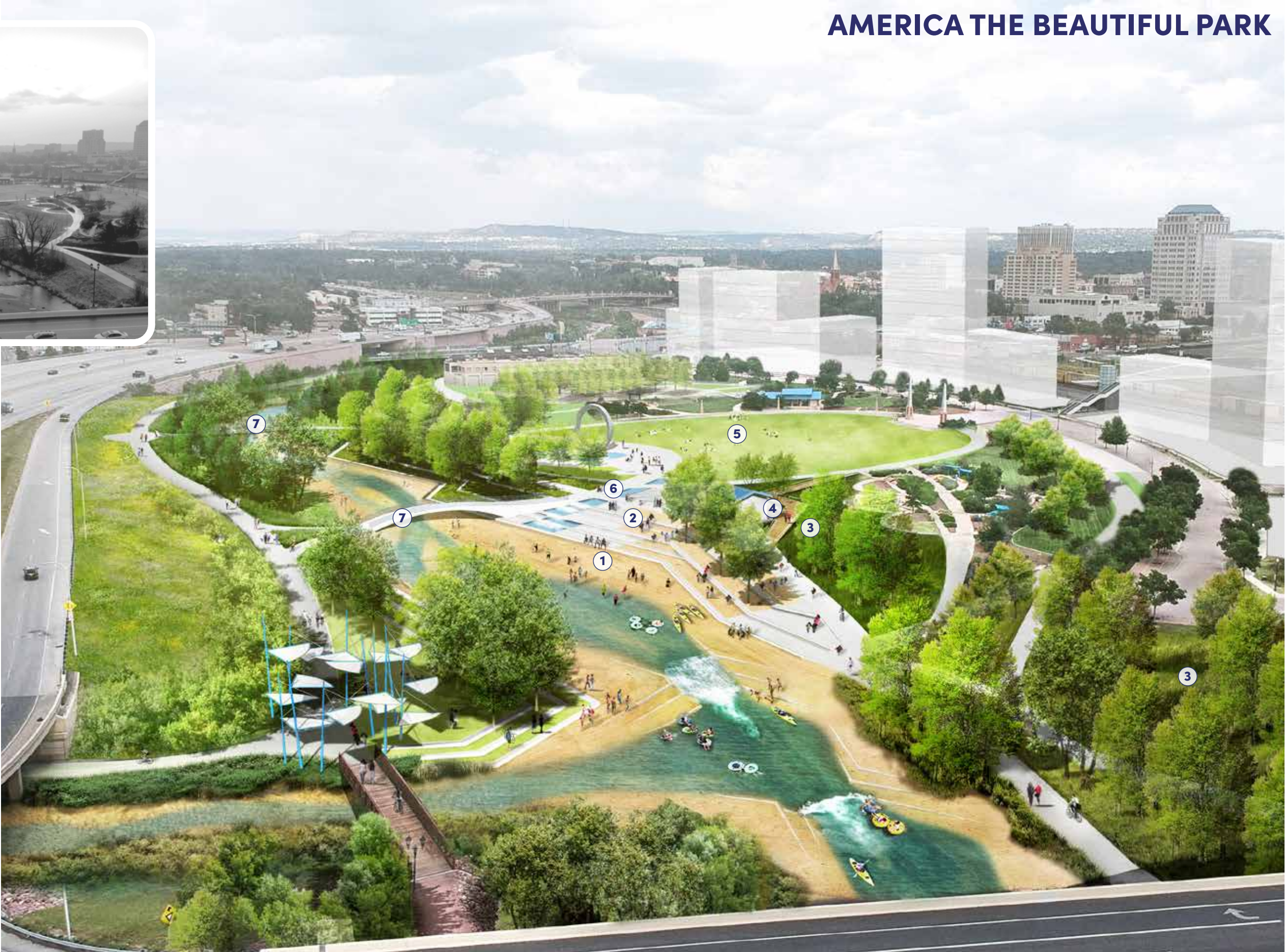
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Environmental and riparian restoration
- Residential / commercial development opportunities
- Artistic and cultural interests
- Stormwater and floodplain management
- Recreational opportunities

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PARK



Existing conditions



- ① **River Beach** offers access and direct interaction with the creek
- ② **River Access Terraces** create creekside seating to view watersports
- ③ **Water Quality Area and Boardwalk** provide dynamic wildlife viewing
- ④ **Restroom, Changing Area, and Plaza** used by families and downtown tourism
- ⑤ **Existing Lawn** enhanced by robust programming of festival and events
- ⑥ **Existing Julie Penrose Fountain with Terraced Expansion**
- ⑦ **New Pedestrian Bridges** unites east and west while opening visual corridor

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- 7 **New Pedestrian Bridges** unite east and west while opening visual corridor
- 8 **Permeable Parking / Festival Court** treats stormwater and expands programs
- 9 **Future Development** by private investment utilizes park and creek
- 10 **Existing U.S. Olympic Building** will flourish as development of area continues
- 11 **Cantilevered Promenade under Colorado Avenue** connects to Downtown
- 12 **Terraced Lawn and Confluence Access** invites visitors with signature canopy
- 13 **Relocated Turnaround** (roadway alignment TBD with parcel development)
- 14 **Existing Pedestrian Bridge** leads to U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum



America the Beautiful Park is honored as a premier downtown amenity space established with its inception almost thirty (30) years ago in the 1992 Downtown Action Plan.

The confluence of Monument and Fountain Creeks has strong potential to stimulate further investment and create a more cohesive urban fabric from the downtown core to creekside. This will be the entry point for water activities such as fishing, tubing and stand-up paddle boarding. This will become a central recreation point for downtown residents and tourists visiting the Pikes Peak Region.



Corridor Key Map



River beach creek access



Water quality boardwalks



Recreational water access and put-in

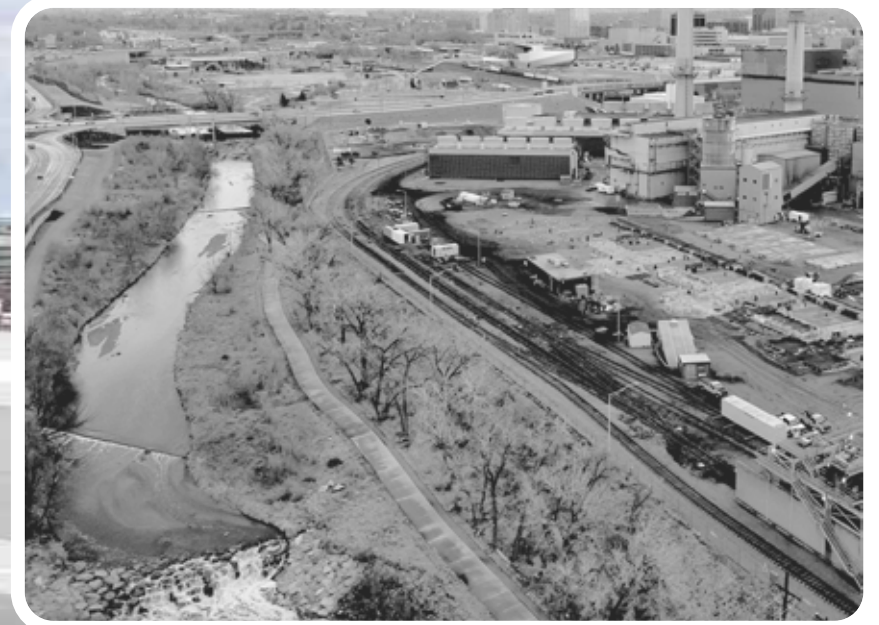
POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

- Public funding including municipal, state agency, and federal agency programs
- Philanthropic funding and granting organizations
- Private funding sources

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Environmental and riparian restoration
- Residential / commercial development opportunities
- Artistic and cultural interests
- Stormwater and floodplain management
- Recreational opportunities

DRAKE WATERFRONT REIMAGINED



Existing conditions

- ① **River Beach** builds access and direct interaction with the creek
- ② **Creek Access Terraces at Drop Structures** create river access for all
- ③ **Stepped Seating and Lawn Terraces** dedicates space to socialize and recreate
- ④ **Water Quality Areas and Boardwalks** receive and treat stormwater
- ⑤ **Pedestrian Promenade** connects new areas to existing trails
- ⑥ **Flexible Sloped Lawn** forms a new creekside space to interact and relax

DRAKE WATERFRONT REIMAGINED

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- 5 **Pedestrian Promenade** connects new areas to existing trails
- 6 **Flexible Sloped Lawn** provides new creekside space to socialize and relax
- 7 **Primary Tubing / Watersports Takeout at River Beach**
- 8 **Pikes Peak Greenway Trail** provides safe access for pedestrians and cyclists
- 9 **New Roadway with Development Access** connects neighborhoods
- 10 **Future Development** determined through separate visioning process
- 11 **Existing Electrical Substation to Remain**
- 12 **New Pedestrian Bridge** spans creek banks and gives access to new areas
- 13 **Restroom, Plaza, and Loading Zone** located at secondary water takeout point



As the historic Drake site undergoes an extensive planning process, new possibilities must be considered for recreation, development, water quality, and habitat along the approximate one-mile of neglected and forgotten creek frontage. This project calls for engaged creekside land use and the reconnection of the Mill Street Neighborhood, following Fountain Creek from Cimarron Street south and east to Las Vegas Street.

The creek's fifty (50) feet of vertical elevation change in this section will be utilized for paddle sports, tubing, and informal water-play. A series of riffles, small drops, and pools framed by terraces and groves form an urban edge to the new neighborhood.



Safe creekside access and water play



One mile water adventure zone



New community development with public edge

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

- Public funding will include municipal, state agency opportunities, and federal agency programs focused on specific outcomes
- Philanthropic and granting organizations are critical partners in the visioning and specific element
- Private funding will leverage public investment in site clean up

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Environmental and riparian restoration
- Residential / commercial development opportunities
- Artistic and cultural interests
- Stormwater and floodplain management
- Recreational opportunities

GATEWAY PARK SOUTH



Existing conditions

- ① **River Beach** offers a final one-mile float take-out
- ② **River Access Terraces** dedicate space for programmed activities and events
- ③ **Existing Historic Shade Structure** retains historical community significance
- ④ **Sloped Lawn** provides creekside opportunities to socialize and relax
- ⑤ **Flexible Plaza with Shaded Seating Edge** extends terrace programming
- ⑥ **New Signature Pedestrian Bridge** connects creek and park to Ivywild area
- ⑦ **New South Pikes Peak Greenway Trail** transfers commuters to westerly trails

GATEWAY PARK SOUTH

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- 5 **Flexible Plaza with Shaded Seating Edge** extends terrace programming
- 6 **New Signature Pedestrian Bridge** connects creek and park to Ivywild area
- 7 **New South Pikes Peak Greenway Trail** transfers commuters to westerly trails
- 8 **Terraced Lawn Seating** adds additional recreational and social spaces
- 9 **New Roadway with Parking and Drop-Off** creates access into site
- 10 **Future Development** utilizes park and creek
- 11 **Water Quality Areas** enhance riparian zones and treat stormwater
- 12 **Pikes Peak Greenway Trail** provides safe means of walking and biking
- 13 **New Low Flow Crossing** extends south trail connections
- 14 **Riparian Planting** provides critical ecological habitat



This is a vital renewal effort for the southern gateway into Downtown Colorado Springs. Designed around the existing historic structure, a revitalized and reconstructed park provides a central gathering place for the south-end as part of a comprehensive redevelopment of the park. The site functions as the final takeout along the one-mile instream water course. Significant social issues are integral to the overall planning effort for this site and the adjacent creek.

This site follows the Fountain Creek corridor between Tejon Street and Nevada Avenue. The space is activated through re-imagined seating, creek access, and circulation. New connections to the creek, trails, and community reinvigorate one of Colorado Springs' oldest parks.



Corridor Key Map



Creekside sunning and programmatic area



Signature pedestrian bridge



Flexible plaza with shaded seating

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

- Public funding will include municipal funding, state agency opportunities, and federal agency programs focused on specific outcomes
- Philanthropic funding and granting organizations will be critical partners in the visioning and specific elements
- Private funding sources will support public initiatives and investment

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Environmental and riparian restoration
- Residential / commercial development opportunities
- Artistic and cultural interests
- Stormwater and floodplain management
- Recreational opportunities

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This vision has been made possible exclusively by a Lyda Hill Philanthropies grant. The significance of re-envisioning the Fountain and Monument Creek corridors in Colorado Springs cannot not be overstated as Colorado Springs continues to evolve and grow. The leadership of Lyda Hill Philanthropies to develop an approach that reconsiders natural creek function, creekside recreation, economic vitality and placemaking has provided the opportunity for a robust community discussion about the future of all of our communities' creeks.

Consultant Team

The Greenway Foundation

Jeff Shoemaker, Executive Director
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Chris Lieber, Principal
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Jon Romero, Associate
Bryn Iten, Landscape Architect

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Travis Coulter, Vice President

Capitol Representatives

Marge Price, Principal
David Howlett, Principal

Critical Stakeholders Interviewed During Development of this Vision

Fountain Creek Watershed District	Lane Foundation	Pikes Peak Community Foundation
Colorado College	Bloom Foundation	Aiken Audubon
Norwood Development Group	Downtown Partnership and Downtown Development Authority	Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance
Colorado Water Trust	Park Union Metro District	Historic Preservation Alliance
Innovative Conservation Solutions	Colorado Springs Chamber and Economic Development	Trout Unlimited
Nature Conservancy	Visit Colorado Springs	Palmer Land Conservancy
Great Outdoors Colorado	Pikes Peak Real Estate Foundation	Past Greenway Fund Board members including Gary Barber, Andrea Barker, David Lord, Shawn Holveck
Trails and Open Space Coalition	Rocky Mountain Field Institute	Various Community Organizations
Legacy Institute		

Special Acknowledgment: The project team built upon decades of initiatives, studies, and implementation projects made possible by "watershed warriors" that included countless City of Colorado Springs staff, Colorado Springs Utilities staff, Fountain Creek Watershed District, volunteers, and philanthropists.

Leadership Team

Pam Shockley Zalabak
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Wenk Associates, Inc.

Bill Wenk, Principal
Nicole Horst, Principal
Kalyn Crosier, Associate Landscape Architect
Cale Wagner, Urban Designer

This vision builds upon the work of the following previous studies:

A Master Plan for the Pikes Peak Greenway (1994)
Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in El Paso & Pueblo Counties (2001)
Monument Valley Park Master Plan (2005)
Strategic Plan for the Fountain Creek Watershed (2009)
Streamside Design Guidelines (2009)
Remediation Scenarios for Attenuating Peak Floods & Reducing Sediment Transport in Fountain Creek, Colorado (2013)
Colorado Springs Parks Master Plan (2014)
Colorado Springs Drainage Criteria Manual Vol. 2 Stormwater Quality Policies, Procedures & BMPs (2014)
Experience Downtown Colorado Springs (2016)
Envision Shooks Run Corridor Facilities Master Plan (2017)
Colorado Springs & The Pikes Peak Region Destination Master Plan (2018)
Natural Solutions for a Communally Vibrant, Ecologically Resilient Fountain Creek – A Strategic Framework and Opportunities Analysis (2018)
The 2019-2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2019)
Mill Street Neighborhood Plan (2019)
Plan COS Comprehensive Plan (2019)
El Paso County Parks Master Plan (2013)
Monument Creek Watershed Restoration Master Plan (2016)
City Of Colorado Springs Water Resources Engineering Division Annual Report Of Activities (2016)
Colorado Springs Stormwater Program – Implementation Plan (2016)
Changes In Biological Communities of the Fountain Creek Basin, Colorado, 2003-2016, In Relation to Antecedent Streamflow, Water Quality, and Habitat (2017)
The 2019-2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2019)



COS Creek Plan

— **RESTORE** | **PLAY** | **THRIVE** —

Fountain Creek Watershed Vision & Implementation Plan

*Learn more and stay engaged throughout the process at
<https://COSCreekPlan.org/>*