

Floodplain (from page 4)

regional detention facilities called for in the upper First Creek master plan, including cost sharing for the Green Valley Ranch Golf Course Pond and the Blue Grama Pond. The IGA called for Town Center to construct the Green Valley Ranch pond in conjunction with golf course construction and to be reimbursed by the other parties. That pond has been built and paid for.

Floodplain delineation

This year we added approximately 84 miles of newly identified 100-year floodplains to our inventory in two major studies that were completed in conjunction with Outfall Planning Studies. The first was *Flood Hazard*

Area Delineation for Lower Box Elder Creek Watershed, September, 2001, by Wright Water Engineers (53 miles); followed by *Flood Hazard Area Delineation, Plum Creek & Tributaries*, November, 2001, by WRC Engineering, Inc. (31 miles).

We have modified our scope of work for these studies to have the flood data prepared in digital form which should be compatible with FEMA's Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) specifications. Our hope is that it will be easier to add these floodplains to the DFIRMs by having them in digital form.

Master planning efforts

As I reported last year I somehow ended up managing two difficult master planning projects, even though the District has a separate Master Planning Program. We have almost completed the final report for the lower portion of the First Creek watershed. It should have a December or January date.

Our recommended plan for South Boulder Creek was accepted by the University of Colorado but rejected by both Boulder and Boulder County. This was the District's third attempt (my second and last) to prepare a plan that had a chance to be implemented.

Please see Ben Urbonas for any of your future master planning needs.

Two District projects win CASFM awards

Two projects sponsored in part by the District won awards at the annual conference of the Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers (CASFM) held in Steamboat Springs in September. Brief descriptions of the projects are given below.

The winner of the Grand Award was the Grange Hall Creek Channel Improvements. Local sponsors were the City of Northglenn Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments. The lead consultant was Muller Engineering Company, Inc. with Wenk Associates.

A 6,000-foot length of channel in Northglenn was stabilized through the use of sculpted and colored concrete drop structures. Existing 15- to 25-foot vertical banks were filled and laid back while preserving trees and wetlands. A wildlife habitat island was created in one location, and a portion of vertical bank was retained for nesting birds. A water-quality pond and a sedimentation basin were built on the North Tributary. A trail bridge-crossing was designed/built similar in appearance to the drops. The project was constructed from May 1999 to April 2001.

The Jewell Wetlands project received an Honor Award at the same conference. Local sponsors were the City of Aurora Utilities and Parks and Open Space

Departments. The lead consultant was ICON Engineering, Inc. with Design Concepts.

A 57-acre natural area was preserved and enhanced in Aurora. Drainage and flood-control protection was provided to a residential area and downstream city-owned facilities through construction of channel stabilization and a flood-control dam/reservoir. Wetland and upland-area educational opportunities were included through the use of a boardwalk and interpretive signs. A hummingbird viewing area was created. Volunteer efforts, including schools and citizen participation, were extensive as was fundraising involving multiple partners.



Two of the Grange Hall Creek sculpted structures.

Design was initiated in 1997 and construction was completed in 2000.