

infrastructure. In working with local governments, developers and their consultants, we have also been mindful that major drainageways must be attractive, provide a community asset and represent a "sense of place" in addition to functioning hydraulically. The aesthetic and urban design components are difficult to capture in criteria manuals, but oh so important in the final product.

RTD's West Corridor Project

Voters approved the \$4.6 billion Fast Tracks project in November. One of the six alignments, known as the West Corridor, will precede the other alignments into design and construction phase. The West Corridor, which will connect downtown Denver to the Federal Center and Jefferson County Government Center, follows the old Associated Railroad alignment, which RTD purchased a number of years ago. The West Corridor project is budgeted at \$500 million with major impacts to

the South Platte River, Lakewood Gulch, Dry Gulch and North Dry Gulch. We have been working with City and County of Denver, City of Lakewood and RTD representatives since mid-summer in an effort to advance the preliminary design, enhance drainageway and open space functions and define budget risks for RTD. Significant progress has been made and significant work still needs to be done. The largest remaining issue is the South Platte River crossing. The crossing alignment is approximately 14th Avenue, just north of the Zuni Power Plant and south of Denver's Solid Waste Management facility. Stay tuned...

In the field

An integral part of the maintenance eligibility process is construction oversight. Construction activity has increased this year over past years. At any given time, we typically have 120 to 150 active construction projects spread out over 1600 square miles in many

different local jurisdictions. We depend heavily on networking and partnerships developed with local governments and various engineering consultants over the years to adequately cover construction oversight. In some cases, local government inspection staffs have conducted construction observations on the District's behalf. Field reports and/or digital photos are typically provided to us through e-mail. We also rely upon local inspection staff, engineering consultants and in some instances, contractors to keep us apprised of construction progress and the need for District construction site visits. During 2004, District staff completed over 100 construction site visits. Over 60 projects were completed and recommended for construction acceptance during the preceding 12 months. Another 30 previously approved projects were re-inspected for adequate vegetative cover and received final approval.

District Projects in the News

Two projects tie for CASFM 2004 Grand Award

Two projects with District involvement tied for the 2004 Grand Award for Engineering Excellence presented by the Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers at their annual conference in August.

The Goose Creek project was a flood mitigation project sponsored by the City of Boulder and the District, and designed by ASCG, Inc. The \$8 million



Goose Creek channel, decorative walls and trail

project 3200 feet of walls, a continuous trail along the 3300 foot length of channel, and creation of wetlands and wildlife habitat.

The Comprehensive Stormwater Management at Stapleton project involved the District in ways other than funding. This project included the restoration of Westerly Creek on the former airport site. In order to meet tight time lines the District met with Denver, developer and designer representatives on a monthly basis to

assure that the completed design would be eligible for District maintenance assistance, and would also experience minimal difficulty in receiving a Conditional Letter of Map Revision from FEMA. Both objectives were accomplished.

The developer is Forest City Stapleton, Inc. and the designers were Matrix Design Group, Inc. and EDAA, Inc.

Marcy Gulch featured in magazine

The Marcy Gulch restoration project which has won several awards and is described in detail in the 2003 edition of *Flood Hazard News* was the cover story in the September/October issue of *Land and Water*. The project was sponsored by the District and the Highlands Ranch Metro Districts.

District wins accounting award

For the fifteenth year in a row the District has received a "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting" from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

The certificate is presented to government units whose comprehensive annual financial reports achieve the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting. Congratulations to Frank Dobbins, Manager of Finance and Accounting, for continuing this string of awards.