

# WEIR GULCH RESTORATION

## DECATUR STREET | REACH 1

*A comprehensive effort to mitigate flood risks, enhance ecological habitats, improve recreational opportunities, and improve the quality of life in the Sun Valley neighborhood*



**DHM DESIGN** LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
URBAN DESIGN + LAND PLANNING  
ECOLOGICAL PLANNING

Submitted July 2024



July 29, 2024  
Susan Newton  
Rocky Mountain Arsenal NRD Project Manager  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division  
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RE: Weir Gulch NRD Grant Application

Dear Ms. Newton,

I am writing to submit our proposal for the Weir Gulch Corridor in response to the Natural Resource Damages (NRD) Solicitation for Project Proposals. This project aims to restore the ecological integrity of the Weir Gulch corridor, enhance habitat diversity, and provide sustainable public access and recreational opportunities.

Our organizations, the Mile High Flood District and the City of Denver, along with our design team have extensive experience in environmental restoration and community engagement. We are excited about the opportunity to partner with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Colorado Natural Resources Trustees on this vital project. We believe our proposal aligns well with the restoration objectives outlined in the solicitation and meets the eligibility criteria for NRD funding.

Enclosed, please find our detailed proposal, which includes the executive summary, scope of work, project objectives, operational plan, and other required documentation. We look forward to the possibility of contributing to the restoration of this important natural resource.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David Bennetts  
Director of Government Relations  
Mile High Flood District

# Executive Summary

The Weir Gulch Restoration Project represents a comprehensive effort to mitigate flood risks, enhance ecological habitats, and improve recreational opportunities within the Sun Valley neighborhood and surrounding areas in Denver, Colorado. The project spans a total area of 372,186 square feet (8.5 acres) and is designed to address both immediate flood risks and long-term environmental and community needs.

**Project Context and Need:** Weir Gulch is one of Denver's most significant unmitigated flood risks, with the potential to impact numerous structures and residents. Recent assessments have shown that the number of structures at high risk of flooding is approximately ten times greater than previously estimated, with a flood risk five times higher over a 30-year period than that of a home fire. This project aims to address these urgent flood risks while also providing ecological and recreational benefits to the community.

**Grant Amount Requested:** \$3,829,434

**Scope of Work:** The project involves a range of interventions, including:

- **Trail Construction:** Installation of 1,860 linear feet of new trails, enhancing connectivity and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists, and ensuring safety with improved street crossings and pedestrian signals.
- **Wetland Creation:** Development of 2,573 linear feet of new wetlands to improve water quality, provide wildlife habitat, and enhance ecological resilience.
- **Channel Restoration:** Restoration of 25,859 linear feet of the existing channel to improve stormwater conveyance, reduce erosion, and create a more stable and beneficial channel environment.
- **Tree Planting:** Planting of 86 trees throughout the site to provide shade, improve air quality, and enhance the aesthetic appeal of the area.
- **Ecological Restoration:** Restoration of 4.6 acres (200,100 square feet) of native plant communities to support biodiversity and wildlife habitats.

**Partnerships and Collaboration:** The project is a collaborative effort involving the City of Denver, the Mile High Flood District (MHFD), neighborhood associations, contractors, and an engineering and design team. MHFD, established in 1969, has a long history of successful flood management and ecological restoration projects. Their extensive experience and commitment to sustainability and community engagement make them a vital partner in this project.

**Environmental and Community Benefits:** The Weir Gulch project aligns with the Denver Housing Authority's redevelopment efforts in Sun Valley, which aim to create a new model of community transformation focused on equity, environmental justice, and public health. The project will provide critical flood protection, enhance green spaces, and improve recreational opportunities, addressing historic inequities and significantly improving the quality of life for residents.

**Technical Implementation:** The project will include comprehensive construction activities such as channel grading and stabilization, roadway improvements, and installation of structural elements like bridges and retaining walls. The landscaping efforts will focus on ecological restoration, erosion control, and the creation of pollinator gardens, ensuring a diverse and resilient ecosystem.

**Funding and Objectives:** The funds allocated for this project will support the extensive range of construction and restoration activities detailed in our proposal. The overall goal is to create a safer, more equitable, and environmentally sustainable community space, providing lasting benefits for both residents and the natural environment.

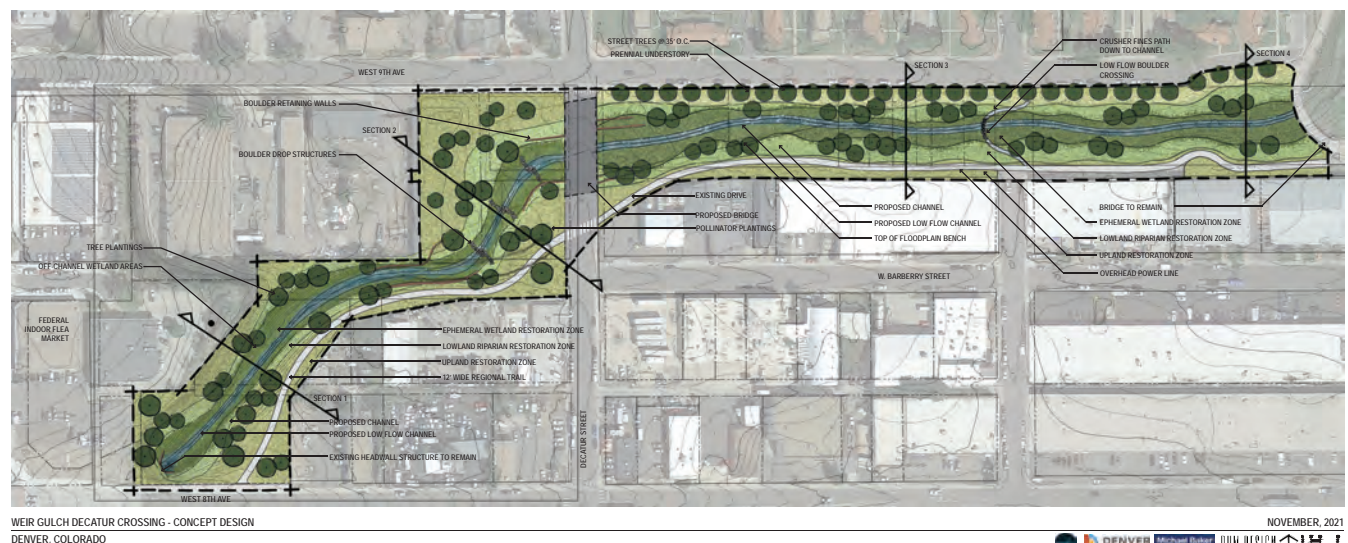
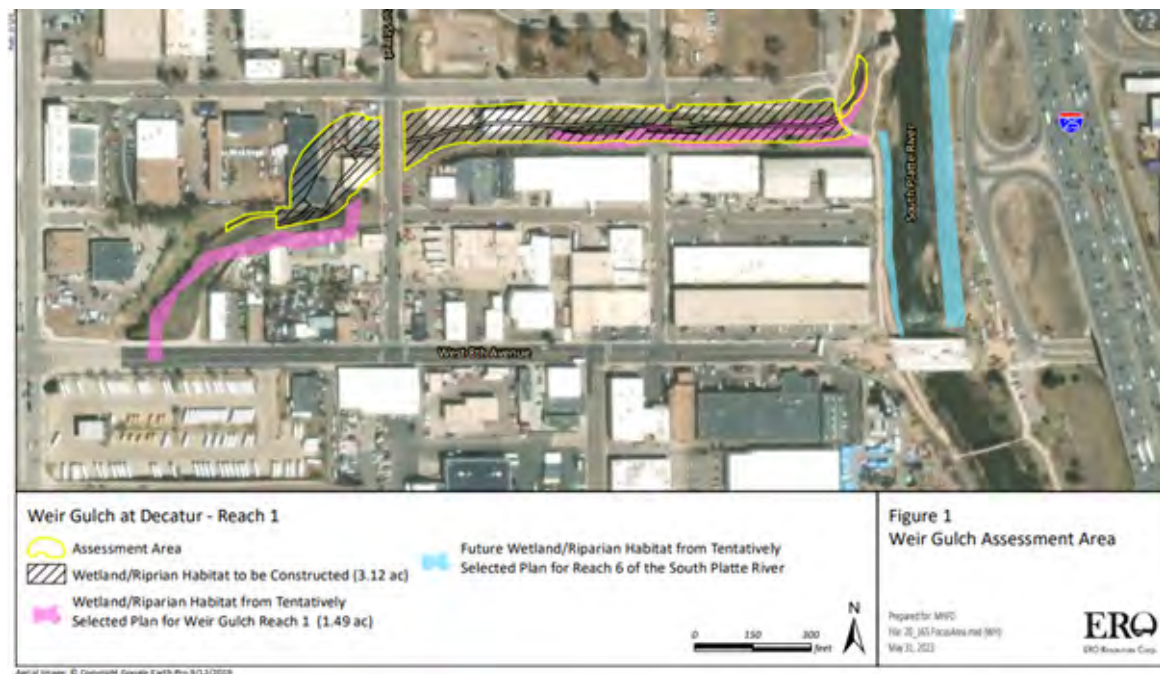
**Conclusion:** The Weir Gulch Restoration Project is poised to transform the area into a vibrant, resilient, and thriving community space. By addressing flood risks, enhancing ecological health, and improving recreational opportunities, this project will provide significant and lasting benefits for the Sun Valley neighborhood and the broader Denver community.



# Scope of Work

The Weir Gulch project is poised to transition from design to implementation, with 90% design and construction estimates already completed and neighborhood outreach for design phases successfully conducted. This comprehensive Scope of Work outlines the necessary tasks and activities to ensure the project's successful execution. It details the steps required for finalizing designs, securing permits, engaging the public, managing construction, and ensuring long-term maintenance and monitoring. Each task is designed to address the project's objectives of mitigating flood risks, enhancing ecological habitats, and improving the quality of life for the Sun Valley community. By following this Scope of Work, the project will achieve its goals of creating a safer, more equitable, and environmentally sustainable neighborhood. Naranjo Civil Constructors was engaged to provide preconstruction services and has been selected to build the project.

Improvements will also address unprotected street crossings, incorporating pedestrian crossing refuge islands to enhance safety and reduce conflicts between trail users and vehicular traffic.



# Objectives

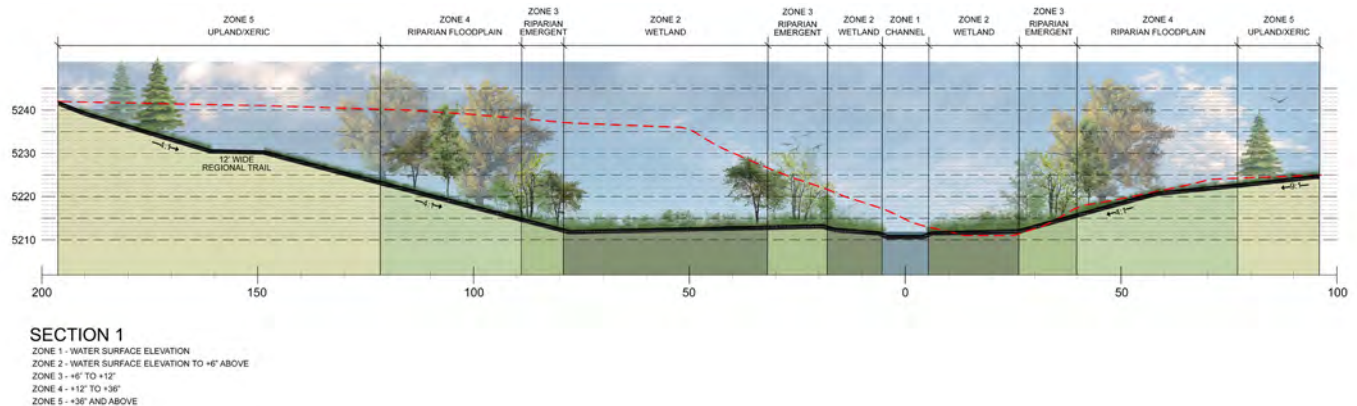
Weir Gulch is one of Denver's most significant unmitigated flood risk drainageways. Recent efforts to better understand the existing flood risk along the Gulch have identified that the number of structures facing a high risk of flooding is approximately ten times greater than previously expected. Because Denver experiences relatively low rainfall, this risk is often underestimated. However, the chances of a flood occurring over a 30-year period are five times higher than those of a home fire. This project addresses the urgent need to mitigate flood risk, particularly in the Sun Valley neighborhood, which has been historically underserved and faced significant socioeconomic challenges. The Weir Gulch corridor's strategic location and the pressing need for flood risk mitigation make this project a critical priority.

Past public policy and infrastructure decisions have had lasting impacts on many of Denver's communities, contributing to historic inequities. By addressing flood risks in areas where homeowners, renters, and business owners are less likely to recover from flood damage, this project aims to make Denver more equitable, affordable, and inclusive. Phase 1 of the Weir Gulch corridor project will provide flood protection for the Sun Valley Redevelopment, supporting the development of 940 new homes and a riverfront park.

## Weir Gulch Floodplain Improvements:

The proposed project replaces an undersized box culvert at Decatur Street with a larger bridge, providing channel improvements to increase conveyance through the project corridor and reduce or eliminate flooding in the Sun Valley neighborhood to the north. The current infrastructure is outdated and hazardous, posing significant safety risks due to Denver's prone-to-flashy storm events. These storms can quickly fill the existing concrete channel, resulting in major safety risks to people and property. This project will open the channel, creating a safer way to convey major flows during storms and increasing access to greenspace trails and recreational opportunities.

Draft results from an update to the Weir Gulch floodplain through Mile High Flood District's Flood Hazard Area Delineation (FHAD) process indicate that the Sun Valley neighborhood is within the 100-year draft floodplain primarily due to the limited hydraulic capacity of the existing Decatur Street culvert crossing. Future phases of improvements are planned for upstream sections of Weir Gulch that flow through residential neighborhoods, identified during the FHAD process as having an expanded draft floodplain, putting more than 400 homes at high risk of flooding. The Reach 1 project will enable the design and construction of similar upstream improvements, ensuring a cohesive approach to flood risk mitigation.



## Ecosystem Improvements:

Wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitats are critically important in a semi-arid region that has seen severe losses and degradation due to urbanization and impacts related to flood control reservoir projects. These habitats play crucial 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 project will increase wetland/riparian habitats from 1.49 acres to 3.74 acres, benefiting local wildlife and improving water quality.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) ranks riparian habitats as critical wildlife resources in Colorado. Wetlands and riparian areas represent only about 2% of the land area of Colorado, but 80% of wildlife species use these habitats. The region has experienced significant habitat losses, including over 70% for riparian forests and over 50% of wetlands statewide, with even higher percentages in urban areas. Within the urbanized Metro Denver area, wetland habitat is especially rare, representing only about 0.7% of the land area. The proposed ecosystem restoration efforts will likely improve habitat conditions for several state-listed species, 14 bird species listed on the national Birds of Conservation Concern list, and potentially prevent future listings of other species.

## Recreation Improvements:

The neighborhoods surrounding Weir Gulch are some of the highest equity needs neighborhoods in Denver. Community input collected as part of the development of the West Area Plan highlights a strong desire for increased and improved accessibility to existing community parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities for all users. Improved access to regional trails, waterways, and the South Platte River were also priorities, with residents voicing the need for enhanced signage, connectivity, wayfinding, safety, security, and lighting improvements.

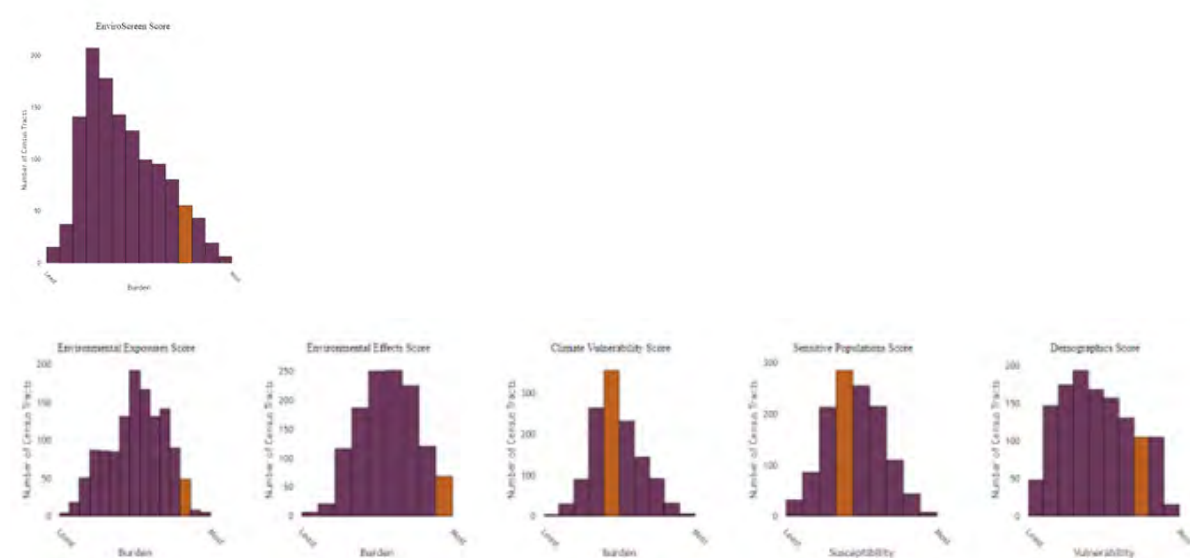
The Weir Gulch project will upgrade existing trails to meet Denver Parks & Recreation standards, improve access to regional trails, and provide new recreational amenities. The current trail is on the north side of the channel and functions as a detached sidewalk for the neighborhood and regional trail. The project will relocate the trail to the south side of the channel and construct a new right-of-way sidewalk on the north side to alleviate user conflicts between local pedestrian traffic and higher-speed regional trail traffic. The existing unprotected street crossing at Decatur Street will be improved by converting it to a bridge, providing a refuge area in the center of the road to increase pedestrian safety. Pedestrian crossing warning signals will also be incorporated to decrease pedestrian and vehicular conflicts.

## Environmental Justice Information: Sun Valley

Sun Valley is a geographically central neighborhood in the Denver metro region, home to some of the city's most vulnerable residents. Most of the population lives in subsidized housing, with over 80% living below the poverty line. Sun Valley residents represent over 33 different cultural backgrounds and speak more than 28 languages, with significant portions identifying as first and second-generation immigrants and refugees. The Denver Housing Authority (DHA) is undertaking significant redevelopment efforts in Sun Valley, replacing 333 units of public housing with 940 new homes, serving upwards of 2,500 residents. The Weir Gulch project supports these redevelopment efforts by providing critical flood protection and enhancing green spaces, contributing to a new model of community transformation focused on equity, environmental justice, and public health.

- **Sun Valley Community Climate Needs Assessment:** The Denver Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency launched its Rapid Assessments Pilot in Sun Valley, funded by the Climate Protection Fund (CPF). This project aimed to engage residents and partners to inform the city on how best to invest CPF funding in their neighborhood. Feedback from these assessments highlighted the need for parks, access to green spaces, climate change education, affordable food access, mobility safety, quality job opportunities, and addressing security and crime.
- **Neighborhood Narrative + Supporting Data:** The Rapid Assessment discussions in Sun Valley, facilitated by the Sun Valley Kitchen + Community Center, involved approximately 58 participants, including community residents and representatives from local institutions. Key community assets identified include a vibrant culture with a young population, diverse ethnic backgrounds, and active local nonprofits. The most urgent issues were identified as the need for parks, green spaces, climate change education, mobility safety, job opportunities, and addressing security and crime.

**Heat/Climate + EnviroScreen Score:** The Sun Valley Census Tract has a high EnviroScreen score, indicating significant environmental and climate burdens. The Pollution and Climate Burden Score is 97.678, reflecting a high combination of environmental exposures, effects, and climate vulnerability. Specific indicators include a floodplain percentile of 92.874 and an extreme heat percentile of 86.629. The demographic indicators show that the area is highly impacted, with 99.838% of the population being low income and 99.359% being people of color. These scores highlight the critical need for environmental and infrastructural improvements in Sun Valley to address these vulnerabilities.



*Sun Valley Census Tract (GEOID: 08031000800) Score: 91 Percentile*

Based on the Data Descriptions (including source and measures), the below information identifies significant burden in the Sun Valley neighborhood in key areas relevant to the purpose and benefits of Weir Gulch R1 Improvements. It is important to dig deeper into the rolled-up/weighted scores to better understand specific impacts to the residents of Sun Valley. For example:

**Pollution and Climate Burden Score:** 97.678

- Combines Environmental Exposures, Environmental Effects and Climate Vulnerability: shows highest combination of factors affecting residents.

**Environmental Effect Score:**

- Wastewater Discharge Indicator: 87.088

**Climate Vulnerability:**

- Floodplain Percentile: 92.874
- Extreme Heat Percentile: 86.629

**Demographics:**

- Housing Cost Burdened: 90.04
- Percent linguistic isolation: 96.518
- Percent low income: 99.838
- Percent people of color: 99.359



## City and County of Denver Equity Indices:

Sun Valley is identified as a high-need area based on both the Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI) Equity Index and the Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR) Neighborhood Equity Index. The DOTI Equity Index highlights significant transportation inequities, including unsafe travel conditions, longer travel times, and historical disinvestment in infrastructure. Simultaneously, the DPR Neighborhood Equity Index underscores the neighborhood's urgent need for increased park access and investment, indicating that Sun Valley residents face considerable challenges in accessing quality recreational spaces. These assessments underscore the critical importance of targeted investments to improve and protect transportation infrastructure and enhanced park amenities in Sun Valley.

### **DOTI Equity Index:**

DOTI developed a data-based Equity Index that the department uses to identify underserved communities and prioritize projects. Specifically, the Transportation and Mobility Division uses the Equity Index to identify Denver's Priority Areas for Transportation Equity. From a transportation lens, this approach helps DOTI understand where residents most burdened by transportation inequities in Denver's current system reside. The Equity Index leverages data that correlate with an increased reliance on walking, rolling, bicycling, and transit to access opportunities. Inequities in the transportation system include unsafe travel conditions, longer travel times, commute cost burdens, and historical disinvestment in quality and comfortable infrastructure. By identifying these areas, DOTI will focus transportation investments that reduce inequities by providing better access to multimodal infrastructure and programs for the people who need it most.

The DOTI Equity Index is comprised of the following seven demographic characteristics:

- Race & Ethnicity
- Income & Poverty
- Education Level
- Populations of Age 65+
- Households with No Vehicle
- Female Heads of Household
- People with Disabilities

GEOID20	MinorRank	IncomeRank	EducRank	AgeRank	NoVehRank	FemaleHHRank	DisableRank	EquityScore	EquityGroupRank
080310009052	3	2	3	3	1	1	1	35	3
080310009053	2	2	3	1	1	1	2	30	4
080310009054	3	1	3	2	1	2	2	33	3
080310010001	4	4	3	3	3	1	4	54	1
080310009051	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	37	3
080310009031	3	4	3	2	1	4	2	44	2
080310009032	3	2	4	2	2	2	1	39	3
080310009023	2	2	3	3	1	4	2	37	3
080310009033	2	3	3	1	1	2	1	32	3
080310009034	3	3	1	3	2	4	3	41	3
080310009035	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	29	4
080310009041	3	2	2	2	1	3	2	34	3
080310009042	3	5	2	4	4	3	5	59	1
080310009043	4	4	3	1	3	3	3	50	2
080310009044	4	2	4	2	3	3	4	51	2
080310008001	3	5	3	1	3	5	2	50	2
080310009021	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	28	4
080310009022	2	2	3	1	1	2	1	29	4
080310009024	4	1	4	3	1	3	3	44	2
080310009025	3	2	3	3	1	2	2	36	3
080310010002	3	2	3	2	1	3	2	37	3
080310010003	4	2	3	2	1	2	4	43	3

*Weir Gulch Neighborhood Data*

### DPR Neighborhood Equity Index:

The Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR) Neighborhood Equity Index assesses park access, park investment, park acres per resident, and various demographic factors. Sun Valley scores high on the equity index, indicating a significant need for increased park access and investment. The Weir Gulch project will contribute to improving these equity metrics by providing enhanced recreational opportunities and green spaces, addressing the community's needs for accessible and quality parks.

The DPR Equity Index is comprised of the following seven demographic characteristics:

- Park Access
- Park Investment
- Park Acres
- Density
- Communities of Color
- Youth
- Low Income
- Health Disparity Indicator

NEIGHBORHOOD	ACCESS	INVESTMENT	ACRES	DENSITY	MINORITY	YOUTH	INCOME	OBESITY	TOTAL	EQUITY RANK
Villa Park	1	3	4	3	5	4	4	5	29	5
Barnum	2	3	4	3	5	4	5	5	31	5
Sun Valley	1	3	4	1	5	5	5	4	28	5
West Colfax	1	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	25	4
Valverde	1	3	4	2	5	5	5	5	30	5
Barnum West	3	3	4	3	5	3	5	5	31	5

### *Weir Gulch Neighborhood Data*

## Neighborhood Outreach:

Neighborhood outreach efforts have included engaging with local community groups and representatives to gather support and feedback for the project. There has been ongoing communication with the Sun Valley Registered Neighborhood Organization (RNO) and other local stakeholders. These efforts aim to align messaging and provide project updates for the project's success. Continuous engagement and outreach will ensure that community voices are heard and incorporated into the project's planning and implementation.

The Rapid Assessment discussions in Sun Valley were facilitated by the Sun Valley Kitchen + Community Center between January and February of 2023. In total approximately 58 people participated, about 40 of whom were community residents. One meeting was held just for youth participants, and two other meetings with neighborhood adults and institutional community partners, including representatives of local institutions such as Namaste Solar, Sun Valley Youth Center, Sun Valley Neighborhood Coalition, and Denver Housing Authority. These were some of the needs identified from the meetings:

### Community Assets

- Vibrant culture, with over half of the population being 17 years or younger
- Diverse Latino, African American, and refugee population
- Denver Housing Authority's redevelopment efforts, including new affordable housing units and a riverfront park
- Local nonprofits like Earthlinks, Sun Valley Kitchen, Sun Valley Youth Center, and Latino Arts Cultural Center contributing to community well-being and preserving cultural identity

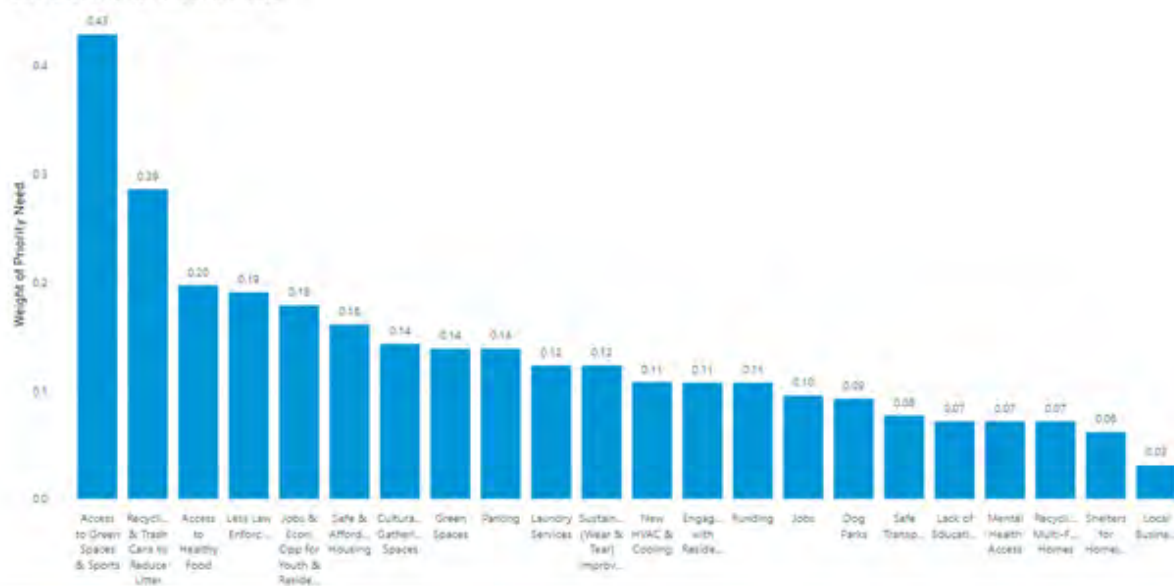
## Most Urgent Issues

- Need for parks and access to green spaces
- Climate change education and access to healthy, affordable food
- Mobility safety and better public transportation
- Quality job opportunities, work training, and economic security
- Addressing security and crime
- Establishing a youth center

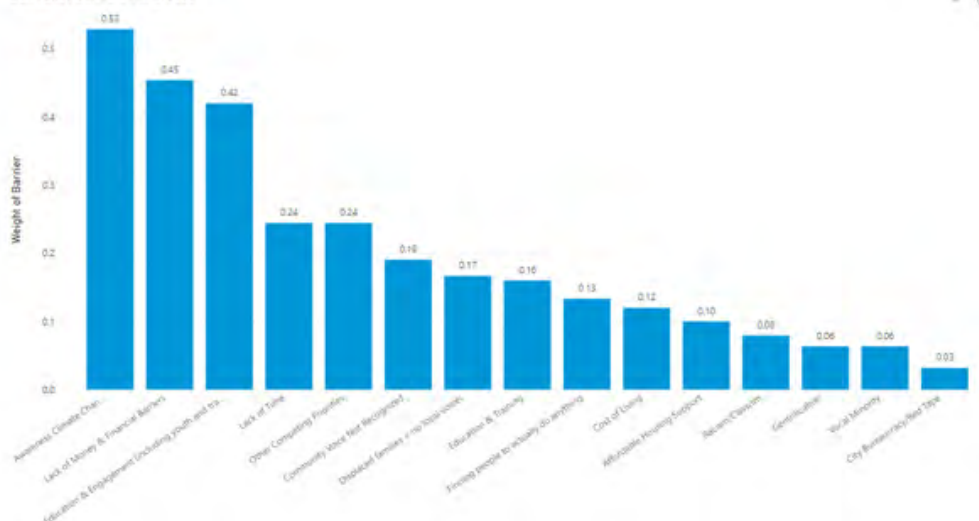
## Priority Needs

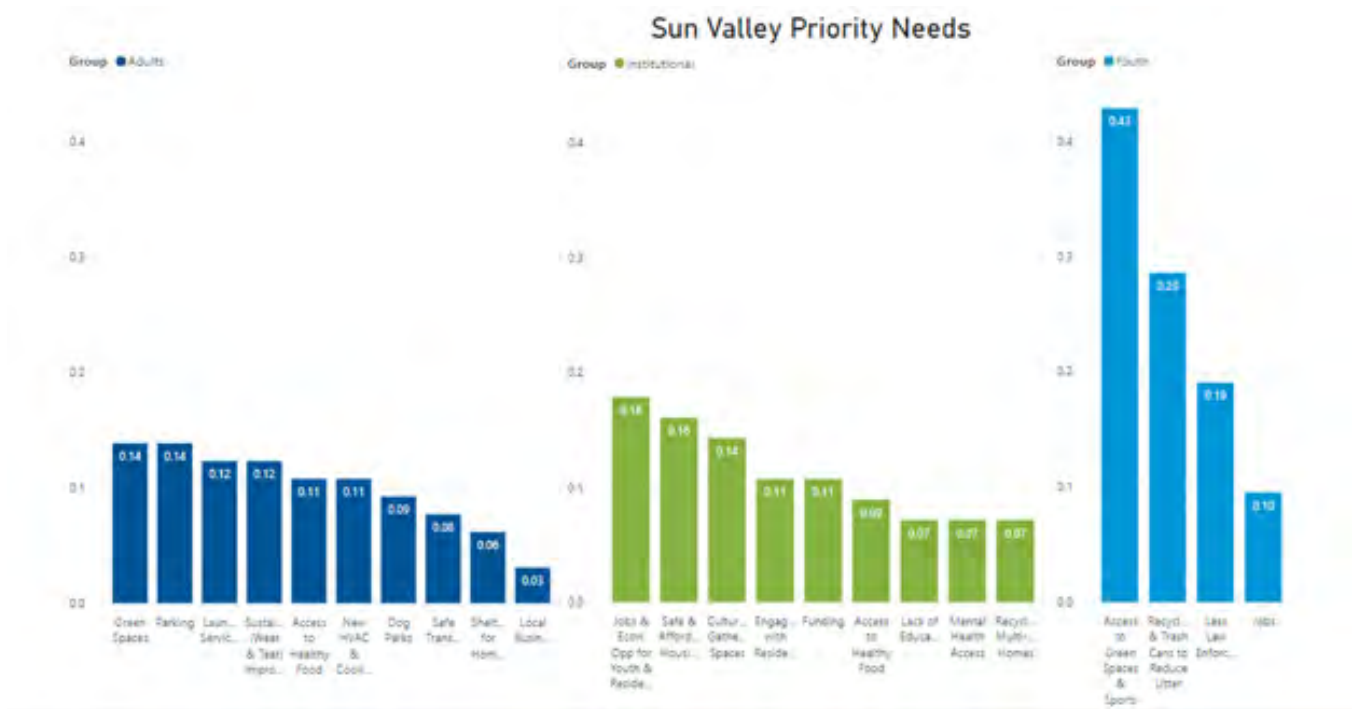
- Access to green open cultural spaces and sports
- Implementing recycling programs and providing trash cans to reduce litter
- Creating jobs and economic opportunities for youth and residents
- Access to healthy food and sufficient parking spaces
- Sustainable infrastructure improvements and cooling initiatives

Sun Valley Priority Needs (All Groups)



Sun Valley Barriers (All Groups)





By addressing these objectives comprehensively, the Weir Gulch project aims to create a safer, more equitable, and environmentally sustainable community, providing lasting benefits for both residents and the natural environment. This alignment with environmental restoration goals, community needs, and collaborative efforts underscores the project's readiness for funding and its potential to achieve meaningful, lasting impacts.



# Operational Plan

The Weir Gulch project is a comprehensive initiative aimed at addressing significant flood risks, enhancing ecological habitats, and improving the quality of life for the Sun Valley neighborhood in Denver. This project, a collaborative effort involving the City of Denver, Mile High Flood District, neighborhood associations, and other stakeholders, is poised to deliver critical infrastructure improvements, environmental restoration, and increased recreational opportunities. With a strong commitment to environmental justice and community engagement, the Weir Gulch project will provide lasting benefits to both the natural environment and the local community.

## 1. Collaboration

The successful implementation of the Weir Gulch project will involve collaboration with multiple stakeholders and partners, including:

- **City of Denver:** Providing oversight, coordination, and support throughout the project.
- **Mile High Flood District:** Project management, funding and technical expertise.
- **Neighborhood Associations:** Engaging local communities for input and support.
- **Contractor:** Naranjo Civil Constructors
- **Engineering and Design Team:** Responsible for finalizing designs, construction documents, and providing technical oversight during construction.
- **Other Potential Collaborators:** Local non-profits, community groups, and environmental organizations to support public engagement and environmental restoration efforts.

## 2. Donors and Contributions

City of Denver and Mile High Flood District: CIP funds have been delegated for 100% of the total \$9.25 million budget for the entire project.

## 3. Construction Designs and Drawings

Comprehensive construction documents for the Weir Gulch project have been developed to ensure successful implementation and adherence to all technical specifications. These documents include detailed designs, plans, and specifications necessary for the project's execution.

## 4. Alignment with Environmental Restoration Goals

The Weir Gulch project is designed to align closely with environmental restoration goals by addressing significant flood risks, enhancing ecological habitats, and improving water quality. Key aspects include:

- **Flood Mitigation:** Replacing undersized culverts with larger bridges and improving channel conveyance to reduce flood risks in the Sun Valley neighborhood.
- **Ecological Restoration:** Increasing wetland and riparian habitats, which are crucial in a semi-arid region, benefiting wildlife and improving ecological functions.
- **Community Benefits:** Providing access to green spaces and recreational opportunities, promoting public health and environmental justice in an underserved area.

## 5. Coordination with Complementary Projects

The Weir Gulch project will be coordinated with complementary projects in the area, such as upstream improvements identified during the Flood Hazard Area Delineation (FHAD) process, which identified expanded floodplain areas affecting over 400 homes. This first phase on improvements on Weir Gulch will enable the design and construction of similar upstream improvements, creating a cohesive approach to flood risk mitigation and environmental restoration across the entire corridor.

Sun Valley Riverfront Park is located at the confluence of the South Platte River and Weir Gulch and provides access to the South Platte River. The Sun Valley Riverfront Park provides amenities along the tributary, while the Weir Gulch North of Alameda and South of Alameda Parks provide neighborhood amenities and walking trails. Access for pedestrian and bicycles to area trails are provided at several of the park facilities in the Weir Gulch project area. The South Platte River Trail, which runs along the river, can be accessed from one of the parks, while the Weir Gulch Trail is accessed from three parks. The Weir Gulch Trail runs from Sheridan Boulevard to the South Platte River Trail, a distance of 3.7 miles.



*Sun Valley Riverfront Park*

By addressing these objectives comprehensively, the Weir Gulch project aims to create a safer, more equitable, and environmentally sustainable community, providing lasting benefits for both residents and the natural environment. This alignment with environmental restoration goals, community needs, and collaborative efforts underscores the project's readiness for funding and its potential to achieve meaningful, lasting impacts.

## 6. Operation, Maintenance, and Monitoring (OMM) Requirements

The OMM requirements for the Weir Gulch project will include regular inspections, maintenance of infrastructure, and monitoring of ecological restoration efforts. The Mile High Flood District and the City of Denver will jointly accept these responsibilities for the duration of the project and for a minimum of 10 years thereafter. Key activities include:

- **Regular Inspections:** Scheduled inspections to ensure the structural integrity and functionality of the constructed features.
- **Maintenance Activities:** Routine maintenance of trails, bridges, and other infrastructure, as well as management of vegetation and habitats.
- **Monitoring:** Ongoing monitoring of ecological restoration areas to track progress and ensure the success of habitat improvements.

## 7. Permits/Approvals/Certifications

The following permits, approvals, and certifications have been obtained for this project:

- **Environmental Permits:** Compliance with NEPA, Clean Water Act Section 404 permits for wetland impacts, and any state-specific environmental regulations.
- **Local Permits:** Construction permits, right-of-way permits, stormwater management permits, floodplain permits, and other relevant local approvals from the City of Denver.
- **Certification:** Certification from relevant agencies confirming compliance with all regulatory requirements.

## 8. Project Schedule

- **Start Date:** Beginning of 2025
- **Construction Duration:** Estimated two years, with completion expected by early 2027.

## 9. Monthly Invoice and Status Report

The project will involve the submission of monthly invoices and status reports to ensure transparency and accountability. Each report will include:

- **Financial Summary:** Detailed breakdown of expenses incurred during the month.
- **Progress Update:** Description of activities completed, milestones achieved, and any issues encountered.
- **Next Steps:** Outline of planned activities for the upcoming month.

## 10. Project Documentation and Deliverables

The project will generate comprehensive documentation and deliverables to ensure a clear record of progress and outcomes. Key deliverables include:

- **Construction Designs and Drawings:** Detailed plans and specifications for the project.
- **Environmental Compliance Documentation:** Records of permits, approvals, and compliance activities.
- **Progress Reports:** Monthly and quarterly reports detailing project status, financials, and activities.
- **Final Report:** A comprehensive report summarizing the entire project, including achievements, lessons learned, and recommendations for future projects.

This operational plan provides a structured approach to implementing the Weir Gulch project, ensuring collaboration, compliance, and effective management throughout the project lifecycle.

# Budget Spreadsheet

The budget for the Weir Gulch project has been carefully formulated to ensure the successful execution and sustainability of all planned activities. The total project budget is \$9.25 million, with the Mile High Flood District funding two-thirds of this amount. This comprehensive budget covers all necessary aspects, including project management, permitting, design and engineering, construction, environmental restoration, public engagement, and ongoing operation and maintenance. The detailed budget spreadsheet provides a breakdown of costs associated with each phase of the project, ensuring transparency and accountability. For a complete view of the budget, please refer to the full budget table in the appendix. This comprehensive budget ensures all aspects of the project are accounted for, promoting transparency and effective financial management.

Task	Budget	NRD Requested Funding	MHFD/Denver Cash Match
GENERAL COSTS	\$1,036,897		\$1,036,897
DEMO AND REMOVALS	\$335,037		\$335,037
CHANNEL GRADING AND STABILIZATION	\$2,692,428	\$2,692,428	
ROADWAY AND SUP	\$1,075,526		\$1,075,526
LANDSCAPING	\$1,137,006	\$1,137,006	
UTILITIES	\$32,186		\$32,186
STRUCTURAL (BRIDGE AND RETAINING WALLS)	\$2,949,926		\$2,949,926
TOTAL	\$9,259,005	\$3,829,434	\$5,429,571



# Public Communication Strategy

Effective public communication is essential to the success of the Weir Gulch project. Engaging with the community, stakeholders, and the public ensures transparency, builds support, and addresses concerns throughout the project lifecycle. The following strategy outlines our approach to public communication:

## 1. Objectives

- The public is convened equitably, engaged thoughtfully, listened to intently, and responded to respectfully.
- Impacted communities understand the goals and impacts of delivering the project, where to find information, and how to connect if they have questions or concerns.
- Information about the project goals, benefits and progress is accurate and timely, misinformation is minimized and corrected quickly.
- Project feedback is incorporated whenever possible, fostering a sense of ownership and support for the project among local residents and stakeholders.
- Transparency and accountability are built into project activities and decision-making.

## 2. Key Messages

- The Weir Gulch project will reduce flood risks, enhance ecological habitats, and improve quality of life in the Sun Valley neighborhood.
- The project is a collaborative effort involving the City of Denver, Mile High Flood District, neighborhood associations, and other community partners.
- Community input is valued and will be incorporated into project planning and implementation.
- The project will provide long-term benefits, including increased green spaces, recreational opportunities, and improved environmental quality.

## 3. Target Audiences

- Community Residents, Homeowners and Businesses, particularly those in Sun Valley the neighborhood
- RNOs and Nonprofit Organizations
- Public Agencies and Institutions
- Contractors, Subcontractors and Technical Resource Centers
- Local media outlets and influencers

## 4. Communication Channels

- **Community Meetings, Workshops and Listening Sessions:** Conduct regular community engagement opportunities to present project updates, gather feedback, and address concerns.
- **City Website:** Updated dedicated project web page with up-to-date information, project documents, and a forum for public comments and questions.
- **Social Media:** Utilize social media platforms (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) to share project news, updates, and engage with the community.
- **Newsletters:** Distribute regular newsletters (both digital and print) to keep the community informed about project milestones and upcoming events.
- **Press Releases:** Issue press releases to local media outlets to announce significant project milestones, public meetings, and other key events.
- **Community Liaison:** Appoint a community liaison to act as a direct point of contact for residents and stakeholders, ensuring open lines of communication.

## 5. Engagement Activities

- **Kick-off Meeting:** Host a project kick-off meeting to introduce the project, key stakeholders, and outline the communication strategy and engagement opportunities.
- **Neighborhood Workshops and pop-up events:** Organize events to involve the community in specific aspects of the project, such as design features, landscaping, and recreational amenities. Regularly attend existing community events and meetings to build relationships, share project information, and understand concerns
- **Surveys and Feedback Forms:** Distribute surveys and feedback forms to gather input from residents and stakeholders on project preferences and concerns.
- **Site Tours:** Offer guided site tours to provide firsthand insight into the project area and planned improvements.

## 6. Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Feedback Analysis:** Regularly analyze feedback from public meetings, surveys, and other engagement activities to identify common themes and address concerns.
- **Communication Metrics:** Track communication metrics, such as website traffic, social media engagement, and attendance at public meetings, to assess the effectiveness of communication efforts.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Adjust communication strategies based on feedback and metrics to ensure ongoing effectiveness and responsiveness to community needs.

## 7. Reporting

- **Monthly Reports:** Include a section in monthly status reports summarizing public communication activities, feedback received, and actions taken in response.
- **Annual Summary:** Prepare an annual summary of public communication efforts, highlighting key achievements, challenges, and lessons learned.

By implementing this comprehensive public communication strategy, we aim to build strong community support, foster transparency, and ensure the successful completion of the Weir Gulch project.

# Relationship to the Ranking Criteria

The Weir Gulch project aligns closely with the key ranking criteria established for funding evaluation. Below, we detail how the project meets each of these criteria, ensuring its suitability and prioritization for grant funding.

## 1. Environmental Restoration

- **Flood Risk Mitigation:** The project addresses significant flood risks in the Sun Valley neighborhood by replacing undersized culverts with larger bridges and improving channel conveyance. This reduces the likelihood of flooding and associated damages, enhancing safety for residents.
- **Ecological Restoration:** The project significantly increases wetland and riparian habitats, which are crucial in the semi-arid Denver region. These enhancements support local wildlife, improve water quality, and contribute to regional ecological health.

## 2. Community Benefits

- **Equity and Environmental Justice:** Sun Valley is home to some of Denver's most vulnerable residents, many of whom live below the poverty line. By providing flood protection and enhancing green spaces, the project addresses historic inequities and improves quality of life in this underserved community.
- **Recreational Opportunities:** The project improves access to green spaces and recreational trails, promoting public health and well-being. Enhanced trails and park amenities will offer safe, enjoyable outdoor spaces for community members.

## 3. Collaboration and Partnerships

- **Stakeholder Involvement:** The project involves collaboration with the City of Denver, Mile High Flood District, neighborhood associations, and other stakeholders. This multi-stakeholder approach ensures comprehensive planning, broad support, and effective implementation.
- **Community Engagement:** Public meetings, workshops, and other engagement activities will be conducted to gather input and build support among residents. This ensures that the project meets community needs and preferences.

## 4. Technical Feasibility

- **Comprehensive Planning:** Detailed construction documents and designs have been developed to ensure technical feasibility and successful implementation. These documents are available in the appendix for review.
- **Experienced Team:** The project team includes experienced professionals in engineering, design, construction, and construction management, ensuring high-quality execution and adherence to best practices.

## 5. Financial Viability

- **Funding Commitment:** The City of Denver and Mile High Flood District has committed to funding 100% of the total \$9.25 million budget. This substantial financial backing demonstrates strong support and reduces reliance on grant funding.
- **Cost-Effective Solutions:** The project employs cost-effective measures, such as value engineering and optimized design solutions, to ensure efficient use of funds and maximize impact.

## 6. Long-Term Sustainability

- **Operation and Maintenance Plan:** A comprehensive operation and maintenance plan has been developed to ensure the longevity and sustainability of project benefits. The Mile High Flood District and the City of Denver will jointly oversee maintenance activities for at least 10 years post-construction.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Ongoing monitoring will track the success of ecological restoration and infrastructure improvements, with adaptive management measures implemented as needed to ensure project goals are met.

## 7. Matching Funds and Leveraged Resources

- **Matching Contributions:** The Mile High Flood District's contribution of approximately \$5,429,571 represents a significant match to the requested grant funding, demonstrating strong financial support and commitment to the project's success.
- **Leveraged Resources:** The project leverages additional resources, including technical expertise and community partnerships, to enhance project outcomes and ensure comprehensive implementation.

By addressing these ranking criteria comprehensively, the Weir Gulch project demonstrates its alignment with funding priorities and its potential to deliver significant environmental, community, and economic benefits. This alignment underscores the project's readiness for funding and its capacity to achieve meaningful, lasting impacts.



# APPENDIX







# Description of Offeror

## Mile High Flood District (MHFD):

**Overview:** Established in 1969, the Mile High Flood District (MHFD) is a public organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing the quality of life for residents within the Denver metropolitan area by managing and mitigating flood risks. MHFD's mission is to protect people, property, and our environment from the impacts of flooding through comprehensive planning, maintenance, and construction of flood control infrastructure.

**Expertise and Services:** MHFD provides a wide range of services, including:

- **Floodplain Management:** Developing and implementing strategies to manage and reduce flood risks in urban and rural areas.
- **Flood Control Infrastructure:** Designing, constructing, and maintaining stormwater management systems, channels, culverts, and detention basins to control and mitigate floodwaters.
- **Watershed Planning:** Collaborating with local governments and stakeholders to create watershed management plans that balance development and environmental protection.
- **Public Education and Outreach:** Educating the public about flood risks and promoting best practices for flood preparedness and response.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Enhancing riparian habitats and promoting sustainable land use practices that protect water quality and support biodiversity.

**Collaboration and Community Engagement:** MHFD works closely with municipalities, counties, and other stakeholders within the district to develop and implement effective flood control measures. The organization prioritizes community engagement and collaboration, ensuring that flood management solutions are tailored to the specific needs of local communities. MHFD's approach emphasizes the importance of public input and education, fostering a sense of shared responsibility for flood risk reduction.

**Commitment to Sustainability:** MHFD is committed to sustainable flood management practices that not only protect human life and property but also enhance the natural environment. The organization integrates green infrastructure solutions, such as wetlands and riparian buffer zones, into its flood control projects to improve water quality, provide wildlife habitat, and increase community resilience to climate change.

With over five decades of experience in flood risk management and a strong commitment to sustainability and community engagement, MHFD is well-equipped to support the Weir Gulch restoration project. The organization's expertise in designing and implementing effective flood control measures will be instrumental in achieving the project's goals of reducing flood risks and enhancing ecological habitats.

## City and County of Denver:

**Overview:** The City and County of Denver is the capital and most populous municipality in the state of Colorado. Denver is renowned for its commitment to innovation, sustainability, and community development. The city operates a range of departments and agencies dedicated to providing high-quality services to its residents, fostering economic growth, and enhancing the overall quality of life.

### **Key Departments Involved:**

- **Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI):** Responsible for the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of Denver's transportation network and public infrastructure. DOTI plays a critical role in managing stormwater systems, roadways, and public spaces.
- **Parks and Recreation (DPR):** Manages Denver's extensive network of parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces. DPR focuses on creating accessible, safe, and enjoyable outdoor environments for all residents.
- **Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency (CASR):** Leads Denver's efforts to address climate change and promote sustainability. CASR develops policies and programs aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing energy efficiency, and increasing community resilience.

**Commitment to Community and Environmental Stewardship:** Denver is dedicated to fostering inclusive and vibrant communities through strategic planning and investment in public infrastructure. The city prioritizes environmental stewardship, with initiatives aimed at enhancing green spaces, promoting sustainable development, and protecting natural resources. Denver's commitment to equity and environmental justice ensures that all residents have access to safe, healthy, and livable neighborhoods.

**Innovative Projects and Initiatives:** Denver has implemented numerous innovative projects to improve infrastructure, reduce flood risks, and enhance environmental quality. Key initiatives include:

- **Green Infrastructure Projects:** Integrating green infrastructure solutions, such as bioswales, permeable pavements, and green roofs, to manage stormwater and reduce urban heat islands.
- **Sustainable Development Programs:** Encouraging sustainable building practices and renewable energy adoption through incentives and regulations.
- **Community Engagement Efforts:** Actively involving residents in the planning and implementation of public projects to ensure that community needs and priorities are addressed.

The City and County of Denver's extensive experience in managing public infrastructure, coupled with its strong commitment to sustainability and community engagement, makes it an invaluable partner for the Weir Gulch restoration project. Denver's collaborative approach and dedication to creating resilient and equitable communities will ensure the project's success and long-term benefits for residents and the environment.

# Resumes

The Mile High Flood District (MHFD), established in 1969 in response to the catastrophic South Platte River flood of 1965, has a long history of protecting people, property, and the environment through innovative flood management and watershed preservation. Covering an area of 1,608 square miles, MHFD serves approximately 3.2 million residents across Denver and 39 surrounding municipalities. The district focuses on managing over 1,600 miles of major streams, ensuring comprehensive flood control and stormwater management across multiple jurisdictions.

## Key Achievements and Initiatives:

- **Flood Management Expertise:** MHFD has been at the forefront of floodplain management since its inception, developing the region's first floodplain regulations before the National Flood Insurance Act. The district's initiatives include creating detailed flood hazard maps and implementing robust flood warning systems to protect communities from potential flood events.
- **Comprehensive Planning and Construction:** The district's early master plans for Weir and Sanderson Gulch set the stage for ongoing, large-scale flood control projects. MHFD has continually updated its strategies to include the latest best practices in urban drainage, stormwater management, and environmental stewardship.
- **River Vision Implementation:** Over several years, MHFD successfully executed the River Vision Implementation Plan, a comprehensive project aimed at revitalizing the South Platte River corridor. This initiative involved enhancing recreational access, improving ecological habitats, and implementing sustainable flood management practices.
- **Community and Environmental Stewardship:** MHFD emphasizes community engagement, providing educational programs such as the Stream Management Academy to advance industry practices and public awareness. The district's commitment to sustainability is evident through projects like the Cherry Creek Restoration, which improved water quality and habitat conditions in collaboration with multiple local governments and organizations.

## Innovation and Adaptation:

- **GIS and Technology Integration:** MHFD has integrated Geographic Information Systems (GIS) into its maintenance programs, enhancing the accuracy and efficiency of flood management activities. The district's web application, MHFD Confluence, combines GIS mapping, project management, budgeting, and stream assessments into a single platform.
- **Legislative Advocacy:** MHFD has played a pivotal role in advocating for legislative changes to support stormwater detention facilities and flood risk management. Notably, the district led efforts to pass legislation that redefined stormwater detention facility regulations to benefit water rights holders and improve flood mitigation.

## Notable Projects:

- **River Vision Implementation Plan:** This multi-year initiative transformed the South Platte River corridor, enhancing recreational opportunities, improving habitat conditions, and integrating sustainable flood management practices. The project was a collaborative effort involving local governments, community organizations, and stakeholders.
- **Cherry Creek Restoration:** This project focused on restoring Cherry Creek's ecological health, improving water quality, and enhancing flood protection measures. MHFD worked with multiple local governments and organizations to achieve these goals, demonstrating the district's commitment to collaborative and sustainable watershed management.
- **Weir Gulch and Sanderson Gulch Projects:** Early master plans for these areas laid the groundwork for effective flood control measures that have since been implemented and updated. These projects highlight MHFD's long-term commitment to comprehensive flood risk reduction and environmental stewardship.

Through its unwavering commitment to flood risk reduction, environmental preservation, and community education, MHFD continues to be a trusted leader in watershed management and flood control in the Denver metropolitan area.



# Full Budget Table

Task	Description	Budget	NRD Requested Funding	MHFD/Denver Cash Match
GENERAL COSTS	Mobilization and Bonding	\$1,036,897		\$1,036,897
DEMO AND REMOVALS	Removing of box culvert and concrete channels	\$335,037		\$335,037
CHANNEL GRADING AND STABILIZATION	Installing riprap and drop structures to stabilize the channel; channel grading for the ecosystem channel	\$2,692,428	\$2,692,428	
ROADWAY AND SUP	Roadway improvements and associated trails	\$1,075,526		\$1,075,526
LANDSCAPING	Tree, Wetland, Riparian Plantings, Erosion Control	\$1,137,006	\$1,137,006	
UTILITIES	Stormwater, Irrigation, Electrical, and Water	\$32,186		\$32,186
STRUCTURAL (BRIDGE AND RETAINING WALLS)	New bridge over Decatur Street	\$2,949,926		\$2,949,926
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$9,259,005</b>	<b>\$3,829,434</b>	<b>\$5,429,571</b>

# Application/Assurances

Proof of organizational status and tax-exempt status

Form <b>W-9</b> (Rev. August 2013) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service	<b>Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification</b>		Give Form to the requester. Do not send to the IRS.
	Name (as shown on your income tax return) <b>URBAN DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT</b>		
	Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above		
	Check appropriate box for federal tax classification: <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/sole proprietor <input type="checkbox"/> C Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> S Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Trust/estate <input type="checkbox"/> Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=partnership) ▶ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (see instructions) ▶ <b>GOVERNMENT</b>		
Print or type See Specific Instructions on page 2.	Exemptions (see instructions): Exempt payee code (if any) <b>3</b> Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any)		
	Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.) <b>2480 W 26TH AVENUE, SUITE 156-B</b>		Requester's name and address (optional)
	City, state, and ZIP code <b>DENVER, CO 80211</b>		
	List account number(s) here (optional)		

## Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on the "Name" line to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the Part I instructions on page 3. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN* on page 3.

**Note.** If the account is in more than one name, see the chart on page 4 for guidelines on whose number to enter.

Social security number								
			-					

Employer identification number									
8	4	-	0	5	9	9	7	8	0

## Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

- The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me), and
- I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding, and
- I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below), and
- The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

**Certification instructions.** You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions on page 3.

Sign Here	Signature of U.S. person ▶ 	Date ▶ <b>4/27/2016</b>
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## General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

**Future developments.** The IRS has created a page on [www.irs.gov/w9](http://www.irs.gov/w9) for information about Form W-9, at [www.irs.gov/w9](http://www.irs.gov/w9). Information about any future developments affecting Form W-9 (such as legislation enacted after we release it) will be posted on that page.

### Purpose of Form

A person who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) to report, for example, income paid to you, payments made to you in settlement of payment card and third party network transactions, real estate transactions, mortgage interest you paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, or contributions you made to an IRA.

Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident alien), to provide your correct TIN to the person requesting it (the requester) and, when applicable, to:

- Certify that the TIN you are giving is correct (or you are waiting for a number to be issued),
- Certify that you are not subject to backup withholding, or
- Claim exemption from backup withholding if you are a U.S. exempt payee. If applicable, you are also certifying that as a U.S. person, your allocable share of any partnership income from a U.S. trade or business is not subject to the

withholding tax on foreign partners' share of effectively connected income, and

- Certify that FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that you are exempt from the FATCA reporting, is correct.

**Note.** If you are a U.S. person and a requester gives you a form other than Form W-9 to request your TIN, you must use the requester's form if it is substantially similar to this Form W-9.

**Definition of a U.S. person.** For federal tax purposes, you are considered a U.S. person if you are:

- An individual who is a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien,
- A partnership, corporation, company, or association created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States,
- An estate (other than a foreign estate), or
- A domestic trust (as defined in Regulations section 301.7701-7).

**Special rules for partnerships.** Partnerships that conduct a trade or business in the United States are generally required to pay a withholding tax under section 1446 on any foreign partners' share of effectively connected taxable income from such business. Further, in certain cases where a Form W-9 has not been received, the rules under section 1446 require a partnership to presume that a partner is a foreign person, and pay the section 1446 withholding tax. Therefore, if you are a U.S. person that is a partner in a partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States, provide Form W-9 to the partnership to establish your U.S. status and avoid section 1446 withholding on your share of partnership income.



# Photo Documentation

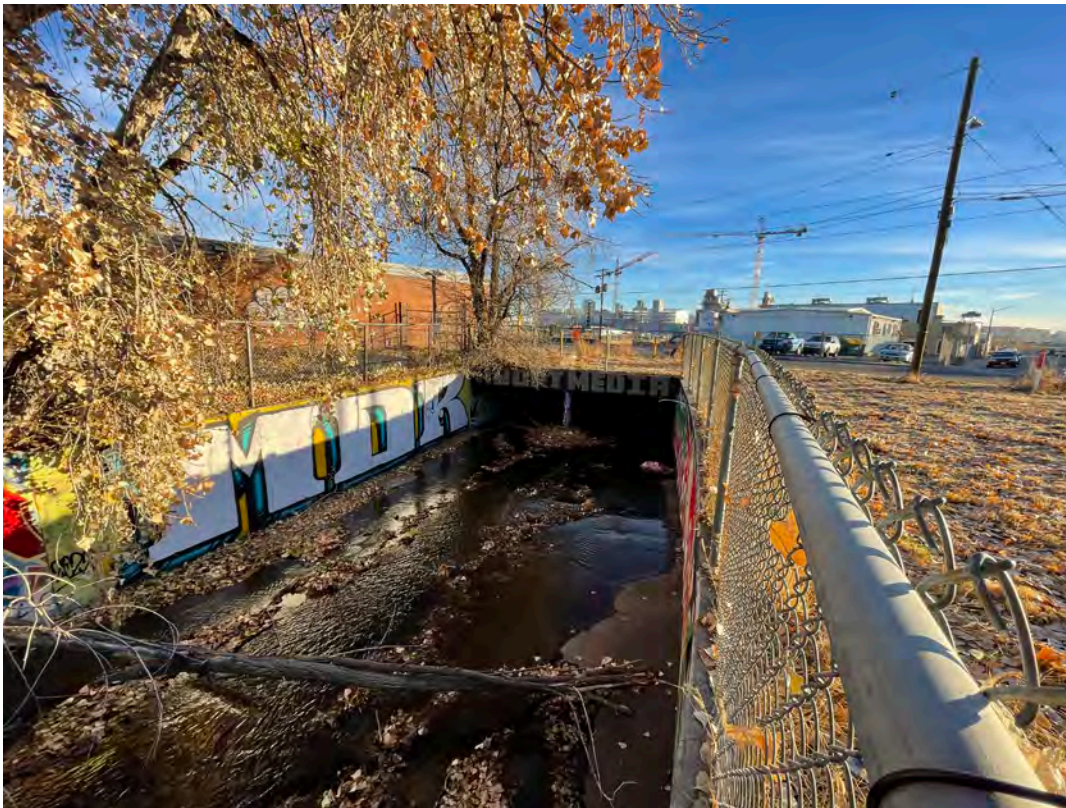


*Overview of the existing pathway and surrounding vegetation at Weir Gulch.*



*Current state of the concrete channel and undersized culvert at Weir Gulch.*





*Graffiti-covered concrete channel at Weir Gulch, illustrating the current state of the infrastructure. The planned project will replace this with a naturalized stream channel, enhancing the aesthetic appeal and ecological function of the area, while also improving flood management.*







*View of the current conditions at Weir Gulch, highlighting the outdated infrastructure and overgrown vegetation.*



*Looking downstream along the existing concrete channel at Weir Gulch. The upcoming project will convert this channel into a more naturalized waterway, improving flood management, enhancing ecological habitats, and integrating recreational paths for community use.*



5/20/2022 11:30 AM P:\Denver\WEIR\_GULCH\_Decatur Crossing-2021\7\_CD\CAD\Sheets\2\_WGC\_Plants.dwg



5/20/2022 11:30 AM P:\Denver\WEIR\_GULCH\_Decatur Crossing-202217\_CD\CAD\Sheets\2\_WGC\_Plants.dwg



# Plant Lists

The Weir Gulch project includes a diverse range of plants to restore and enhance wetland, riparian, and upland habitats. The following list provides details of the plant species specified in the project plans:

## Trees:

- Plains Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*)
- Pinyon Pine (*Pinus edulis*)
- Thinleaf Alder (*Alnus incana*)
- Peachleaf Willow (*Salix amygdaloides*)
- Bigtooth Maple (*Acer grandidentatum*)

## Shrubs:

- Four-Wing Saltbrush (*Atriplex canescens*)
- Dwarf Rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*)
- Tall Blue Rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus* var. *consimilis*)
- Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*)
- Mountain Ninebark (*Physocarpus monogynus*)
- Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)
- Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
- Saskatoon Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
- Yellow Currant (*Ribes aureum*)
- Mountain Mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*)
- Buffaloberry (*Shepherdia argentea*)
- Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)
- Three Leaf Sumac (*Rhus trilobata*)

## Herbaceous Plants:

- Common Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
- Pasture Sage (*Artemisia frigida*)

## Wetland Plugs:

- Various wetland plugs specified for different zones (totaling approximately 10,104 plugs).

## Seed Mixes:

- Pollinator Garden Seed Mix
- Zone 5 - Upland Seed Mix
- Zone 4 - Riparian Floodplain Seed Mix
- Zone 3 - Riparian Emergent Seed Mix
- Zone 2A - Wetland Seed Mix with Plugs
- Zone 2 - Wetland Seed Mix
- Zone 1 - Wetland Plugs

## Other Planting Materials:

- Willow Stakes (various lengths specified for different sections)

**Zones:** The planting is organized into different hydrologic zones to ensure that each species is placed in an appropriate environment to thrive. The zones include:

- Zone 1: Channel (0"-4" above water level) with wetland plugs
- Zone 2: Wetland seeding (4"-8" above water level)
- Zone 2A: Wetland seeding with plugs (4"-8" above water level)
- Zone 3: Riparian emergent (3"-24" above water level)
- Zone 4: Riparian floodplain (24"-36" above water level)
- Zone 5: Upland (8' above water level)

This diverse plant palette is designed to create a resilient and thriving ecosystem within the Weir Gulch corridor, enhancing habitat quality and supporting biodiversity.

# Letters of Support



July 31, 2024

Department of Public Health and Environment Hazardous  
Materials and Waste Management Division  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South  
Denver, CO 80246-1530



Dear NRD Trustees,

On behalf of the Greenway Foundation, I am writing in support of the Mile High Flood District's application for grant funds to restore and enhance Weir Gulch Reach 1 from the South Platte River upstream to Decatur Avenue.

The Greenway Foundation has a long history of working closely with the Mile High Flood District and the City and County of Denver to implement stream restoration projects along the South Platte River and a number of other drainageways in the Denver metro area. Through the River Vision Implementation Plan, the Greenway Foundation, in partnership with Denver and the District, implemented over \$100 million in improvements on the South Platte River. This project on Weir Gulch is a continuation of that vision to create a safe and habitable river corridor to the west of the South Platte River. These improvements will include critical flood protection for residents and important ecosystem restoration benefits for local wildlife.

The Greenway Foundation supports this grant application and is committed to seeing the successful implementation of this project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me directly via email at [ryan@greenwayfoundation.org](mailto:ryan@greenwayfoundation.org).

Thank you,

Ryan Aids

Executive Director  
The Greenway Foundation

[www.TheGreenwayFoundation.org](http://www.TheGreenwayFoundation.org)



July 25, 2024

Department of Public Health and Environment Hazardous  
Materials and Waste Management Division  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South  
Denver, CO 80246-1530

Dear NRD Trustees:

On behalf of the City and County of Denver's Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, I am writing in support of the Mile High Flood District's application for grant funds to restore and enhance Weir Gulch Reach 1 from the South Platte River upstream to Decatur Avenue.

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure has worked in very close partnership with the District on the development of this flood mitigation and stream restoration project that serves some of Denver's most vulnerable residents, a majority who live in the Sun Valley neighborhood. This project will provide flood protection for the Sun Valley Redevelopment and provide trail access and neighborhood connections to some of Denver's most underserved areas. Through the construction of 3.75 acres of wetland and riparian habitat, this project will provide significant ecological restoration in an urban environment where such habitat is especially rare.

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure supports this grant application and is committed to seeing the successful implementation of this project. We are also a financial partner in the delivery of this project, having contributed approximately 60% towards the total project costs to date.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me directly via email at [amy.ford@denvergov.org](mailto:amy.ford@denvergov.org).

Thank you,

Amy Ford  
Executive Director  
Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, City and County of Denver

City and County of Denver — Department of Transportation & Infrastructure  
201 West Colfax Ave. Dept. 608 | Denver, CO 80202  
[www.denvergov.org/dot](http://www.denvergov.org/dot)  
Phone: 720-865-8630

311 | [POCKETGOV.COM](http://POCKETGOV.COM) | [DENVERGOV.ORG](http://DENVERGOV.ORG) | [DENVER 8 TV](http://DENVER8TV)





September 30, 2024

Department of Public Health and Environment Hazardous  
Materials and Waste Management Division  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South  
Denver, CO 80246-1530

Dear NRD Trustees:

On behalf of the City and County of Denver's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), I am writing in support of the Mile High Flood District's (District) application for grant funds to restore and enhance Weir Gulch from the South Platte River upstream to Decatur Avenue.

The Department of Parks and Recreation has worked in close partnership with the District on the development of this flood mitigation and stream restoration project, which serves some of Denver's most vulnerable residents and a majority who live in the Denver Housing Authority's development. This project will tie into the DPR Sun Valley Riverside Park development along the South Platte River providing a much-needed community park for the residents.

The Department of Parks and Recreation supports this grant application and is committed to seeing the successful implementation of this project.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me via email at [Cincere.Eades@denvergov.org](mailto:Cincere.Eades@denvergov.org).

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cincere Eades".

Cincere Eades  
Assistant Director – Urban Ecology and Trails  
Denver Parks and Recreation



**DHM DESIGN** LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
URBAN DESIGN + LAND PLANNING  
ECOLOGICAL PLANNING