

URBAN ECOLOGY & TRAILS | 2023 PROJECT REVIEW



TURFGRASS POLICY

Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR) adopted a new policy that will limit the installation of turfgrass as the primary groundcover in areas outlined as “non-functional”. This policy will guide planning, design, and construction of parks and privately developed parkland to reduce the coverage of water intensive groundcover species.



VILLAGE PLACE PARK

DPR worked with consultants and youth groups to transform 7 annual planting beds into a large perennial bed that utilized both seeding and container plantings.



POLLINATOR RESEARCH

In partnership with the CSU Salazar Center, a research team conducted a study within 25 parks to understand the diversity and abundance of bee and butterfly species across the city, in addition to a social values survey to understand the community’s perceptions of “pollinator friendly landscaping”.



QUEBEC MEDIANS

DPR led a 10-acre landscape transformation in partnership with Denver Water and the Colorado Water Conservation Board to increase water savings and habitat. The seeding was completed in September 2023 and will receive contractor establishment support for the next 3 years.



ULIBARRI PARK

As a partnership between the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Resource Central, Denver Park Trust, and Valverde Neighborhood, a small patch of non-functional turf was transformed into a pollinator garden with big impacts. Over 400 grasses and forbs were planted with support from DPR Green Corps and neighbors, including the Ulibarri Family.

DENNISON PARK

The DPR Resiliency Task Force transformed 16,000sf of bermudagrass into 3 unique climate resilient landscapes showcasing different planting techniques and plant palettes.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN LAKE PARK

Native landscape restoration was included in the Elevate Bond park walk and picnic upgrade project. Approximately 3 acres of landscape along the lake edge was restored or converted to native plants to support wildlife and pollinators.



TRAILS LIGHTING STUDY

This study evaluated trail lighting options including pole spacing, electricity type (solar v electric), and owner/operator (City vs Public Utility), in addition to land use based lighting standards and design criteria.



CHERRY CREEK TRAIL WAYFINDING

The Trails Operations Team installed 70+ wayfinding signs along the Cherry Creek Trail in the walled section between Confluence Park and Downing St.



WAGON CREEK TRAIL

0.3 miles of this 8' wide asphalt trail was improved to a 10' wide concrete trail.



WATERWAY RESILIENCY (WATR) PROGRAM

A historic partnership between U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the City and County of Denver (CCD), the WATR Program goals are to provide flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, and recreation along the South Platte River, Weir Gulch, and Harvard Gulch. The project will create habitat by restoring or reconnecting riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitats. It will also help mitigate existing flood risk for over 500 homes, structures, and businesses across the project area.

This year, the WATR Program formally executed the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) between CCD and the USACE, granting CCD \$349.6 million in matching funds for the program.

In addition, the Ecosystem Services Working Group finalized the program success criteria for ensuring long term ecological outputs are in compliance with the CCD/USACE PPA, and developed a long-term monitoring plan and operations and maintenance framework to ensure program success.