



*Dutch Creek*

*Tributary to Massey Draw*

# COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF STREAM VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

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Lakewood Gulch



Managed vegetation without mowing

Mowed vegetation

Lilley Gulch

## WHAT IS A RIPARIAN AND STREAM ECOSYSTEM

Riparian ecosystems are the transitional areas between dry lands and waterbodies such as streams and lakes. They are commonly associated with floodplains. Plant communities you are likely to see in riparian areas include grasslands, woodlands, and wetlands. In urbanized areas, these areas can be found in parks, greenbelts, and along trails.

### What makes a Healthy Ecosystem?

- Native grasses, shrubs, and trees
- Dense ground cover with limited exposed soil
- Minimal weeds
- Variety of vegetation species
- Absence of trash
- A stream does not just consist of flowing water, but also the vegetation along the banks and channels

### Why Are Healthy Riparian and Stream Ecosystems Important to Our Community?

- Improve our water quality by filtering out pollutants like road oils and fertilizers
- Reduce soil erosion and damage to our bridges, properties, and parks during rainstorms
- Protect wildlife habitat and wildlife movement corridors linking other habitats
- Enhance our recreation and outdoor experiences along multifunction trail corridors
- Provide us with educational opportunities

## WE CREATE HABITAT FOR A DIVERSITY OF SPECIES RANGING FROM PLANTS AND INSECTS TO BIRDS AND MAMMALS.

### What is Being Done to Protect the Health of These Valuable Resources?

Our parks and natural areas are valuable assets to our community, and improving their health with an ecosystem management approach will help them become self-sustaining, ultimately reducing maintenance costs over time.

We identify areas that are in need of revegetation and suitable species that help mitigate erosion and improve the ecosystem, and an enhanced vegetation management approach will be implemented emphasizing weed control and trash removal. The resources previously used for mowing will be reallocated to more effectively improve and maintain the health of these riparian and stream ecosystems.

As these management practices are being implemented, you will see visible changes, such as tall and healthier grasses and shrubs. Actively encouraging and allowing vegetation to grow is an important step in maintaining healthy riparian and stream ecosystems.

### Will the Enhanced Vegetation Management Approach Cost More?

No. The vegetation management plan approach will free up funds to focus on weed control and trash removal, which will help nurture healthy riparian and stream ecosystems.