

A faded background image showing two construction workers in safety gear (hard hats and high-visibility vests) standing on a construction site. They are looking at a large white pipe that is being installed in a trench. There are other pipes and construction materials visible in the background.

Ecosystem Restoration Ordinance Update

May 4, 2023



DENVER
TRANSPORTATION &
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Articles III and V of Chapter 56 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code

Operate and Maintain Stormwater and Sanitary Sewer Systems to:

- preserve water quality;
- mitigate pollution; and
- manage potential drainage and flooding impacts, including **impacts to ecosystems and natural habitats.**

Current Systems

\$1.2+ Billion in Total Assets

(Storm-72%, Sanitary-23%, Other-5%)

STORM

- 1000+ miles pipe, 15k manholes, 23k inlets
- 50+ miles open channel
- 8 Lift Stations

SANITARY

- 1500+ miles pipe, 35k manholes
- 7 Lift Stations

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- 325 streetside stormwater planters
- 16 regional facilities

**LAND, BUILDINGS, SOFTWARE,
VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT, ETC.**



Water Resource Management

The practice of water resource management has evolved from hard engineered structures to “control” water to protect from flooding toward nature-based solutions that provide multiple benefits (i.e. flood mitigation, environmental, social, resiliency, etc.).

These are designed to:

- view water as a community asset and amenity;
- apply a holistic watershed approach;
- preserve and restore the ecosystem; and
- improve natural habitats to support native species.



Central Park/Westerly
Creek

Give it Room



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Westerly Creek



Before



Westerly Creek



During

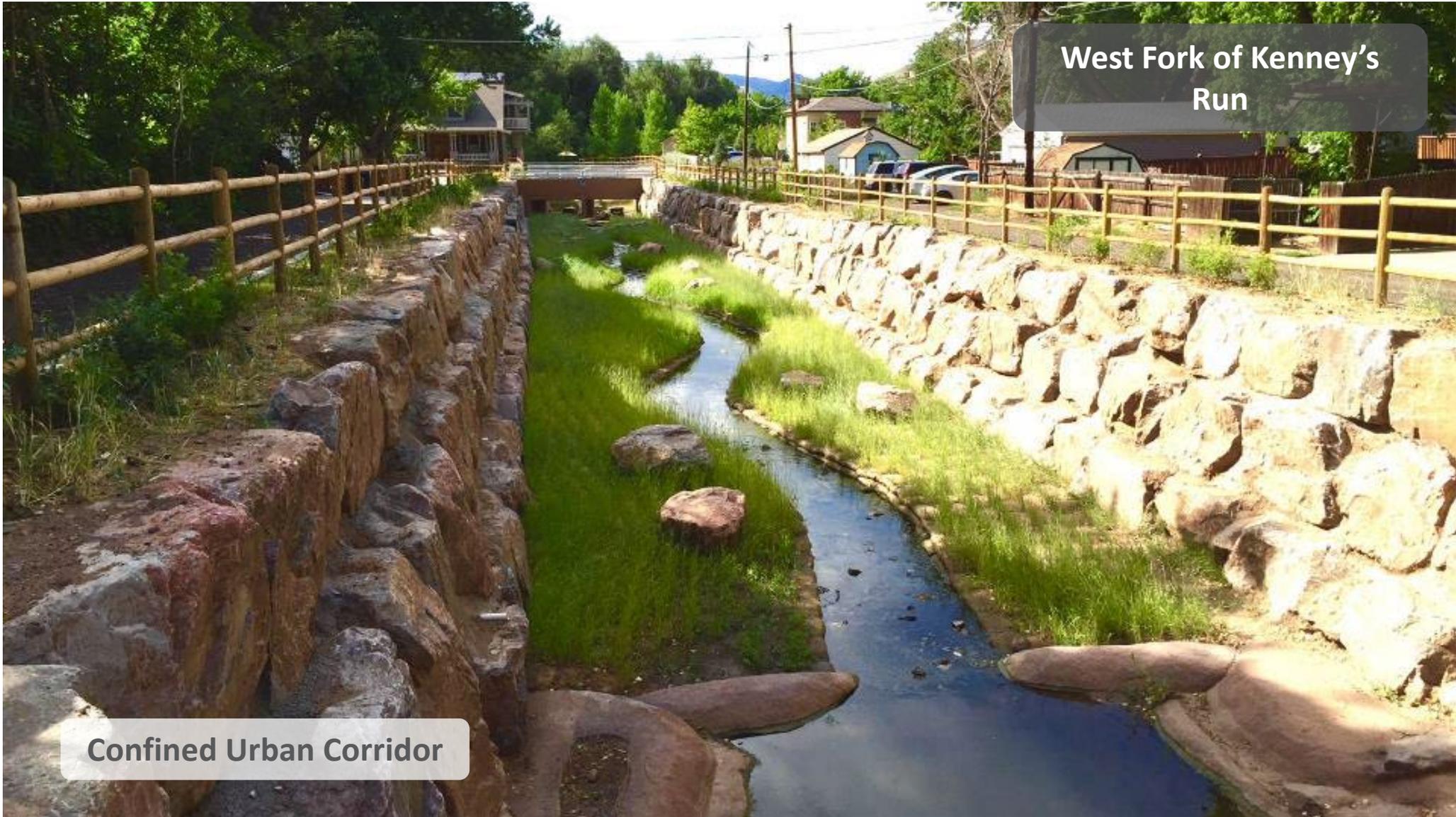


Westerly Creek



After





West Fork of Kenney's Run

Confined Urban Corridor



Maintenance Costs



Purpose of the Ordinance changes

To align the language of our enabling legislation to:

- more accurately reflect industry best practices;
- better support the goals of the Denver One Water Plan;
- clearly support multi-beneficial projects like the Waterway Resiliency Program; and
- critical to approaching our water management in a sustainable and resilient manner.

Specific language proposed revisions:

Section 1: Purpose (language added)

Section 2: Authority of the Manager of DOTI (affirms ED's existing authority to prioritize allocation of wastewater resources)

Section 3: General Provisions and legislative findings (added a purpose that includes the specific language)

Section 4: Definitions (modified definition of stormwater drainage system)

Section 5: Administration by manager of DOTI (affirms ED's existing authority to prioritize allocation of wastewater resources)

Section 6: Legislative intent (added language to the purpose)

Section 7: Administration (affirms ED's existing authority to prioritize allocation of wastewater resources)