



Agenda Memorandum

Agenda Item – {{section.number}}.B.

City Council Study Session
June 5, 2023



Strategic Priority 1: Preparedness and Resilience

Build a system of intentional support for residents, businesses and the environment that mitigates risks and proactively seeks out ways to ensure the community not only endures, but thrives.



Strategic Priority 4: Quality of Life

Ensure that Westminster offers a diverse range of amenities and activities for residents, businesses and visitors that honor the city's history and support the arts, parks, recreation, open spaces, and libraries.



Strategic Priority 5: Robust Infrastructure

Provide safe and equitable access to core services and amenities by safeguarding, maintaining and improving the city's water, wastewater, stormwater, mobility and roadway systems.

Subject: Presentation of the Big Dry Creek at City Park Drainage Project Collaboration and Coordination Efforts

Prepared By: Andrew Hawthorn, PE, Stormwater Utility Administrator

Recommended City Council Action:

Receive a presentation regarding the Big Dry Creek at City Park Drainage Project collaboration and coordination efforts.

Summary Statement:

- The City's Stormwater staff identified sections of Big Dry Creek (BDC) as priorities for repairs in the City of Westminster 2018 Drainageway Study (Master Plan). A walk-through of the City's creeks can be experienced at <https://arcgis.earthviews.com/public/big-dry-creek-8-22#166> (also see Attachment 1).
- Public Works and Utilities Department (PWU) staff identified the BDC Interceptor Sewer (BDCIS) through City Park as a priority project, and Parks, Recreation and Libraries Department (PRL) staff identified City Park for master planning for future improvements.

- Stormwater staff requested maintenance projects and capital project funding from the Mile High Flood District (MHFD) over the next several years to address the severe degradation of the drainageway along these priority sections of BDC.
- PWU, PRL, Communications Division, MHFD, and Stormwater staff have been collaborating since 2019 to minimize construction impacts, share resources, and set the stage for future programming along these sections of BDC with an emphasis on the City Park area.
- The BDCIS Project is currently concluding, and the BDC at City Park Drainage Project (Drainage Project) will begin construction this fall.

Fiscal Impact:

\$0 in expenditures.

Source of Funds:

Not applicable.

Policy Issue(s):

Does City Council wish to receive a presentation regarding the Big Dry Creek at City Park Drainage Project collaboration and coordination efforts?

Alternative(s):

City Council could choose not to receive the presentation. Staff does not recommend this alternative since the Project will be very visible and potentially impactful to the community during the construction period.

Background Information:

The stormwater utility enterprise was established in 2001 in response to Federally mandated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) regulations and permitting requirements. The City's Stormwater section manages four core functions for the City: Capital Projects, MS4 Compliance, Floodplain Management, and Drainage Reports review, which is part of the City's development review process. BDC projects fall under the purview of Capital Projects and Floodplain Management.

In 2019, Staff identified an opportunity for interdepartmental and intergovernmental cooperation to achieve common goals, reduce construction impacts, and share resources. The Master Plan identified priority sections of BDC in need of critical capital repairs. BDCIS was also identified in need of critical improvements in the same locations. Additionally, a master plan was needed for recreational programming of the City Park area. With the help of the City's Communications staff, staff from multiple Departments teamed up for an interdepartmental, holistic approach to these common projects. The presentation by Staff at the June 5, 2023 City Council Study Session will focus on the scope and timing of these coordinated construction activities.

MHFD is the regional authority for floodplain regulation and is the representative for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on these types of issues. MHFD has partnered with the City over the past several decades on numerous, successful drainageway improvement projects. The District has provided, and continues to provide, millions of dollars of improvements to the City's creeks and waterways.

The BDCIS Project has been able to reduce project scope and save project funds by shifting responsibility for restoration of the project site to the Drainage Project, which will be constructed shortly after the BDCIS Project is completed. The BDCIS Project is currently concluding, and the Drainage Project will begin construction this fall. The Drainage Project will continue through 2025 and is expected to be substantially complete in time for the Colorado Municipal League Convention being hosted by the City of Westminster at the Westin Hotel in June 2026. This cooperation and construction overlap will decrease the amount of time the community will be exposed to construction activities. More specific project information can be found on the project website at www.cityofwestminster.us/StreambankRestoration.

The City's Strategic Plan priorities of Preparedness and Resilience, Quality of Life, and Robust Infrastructure are met by proactively mitigating environmental risks, expanding open space amenities, and providing safe and equitable access to the City's stormwater infrastructure.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark A Freitag

Mark A. Freitag
City Manager

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Map of BDC Projects

Presentation of the Big Dry Creek at City Park Drainage Project Collaboration