

# ENVISION SHOOKS RUN CORRIDOR

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



FEBRUARY 14, 2017

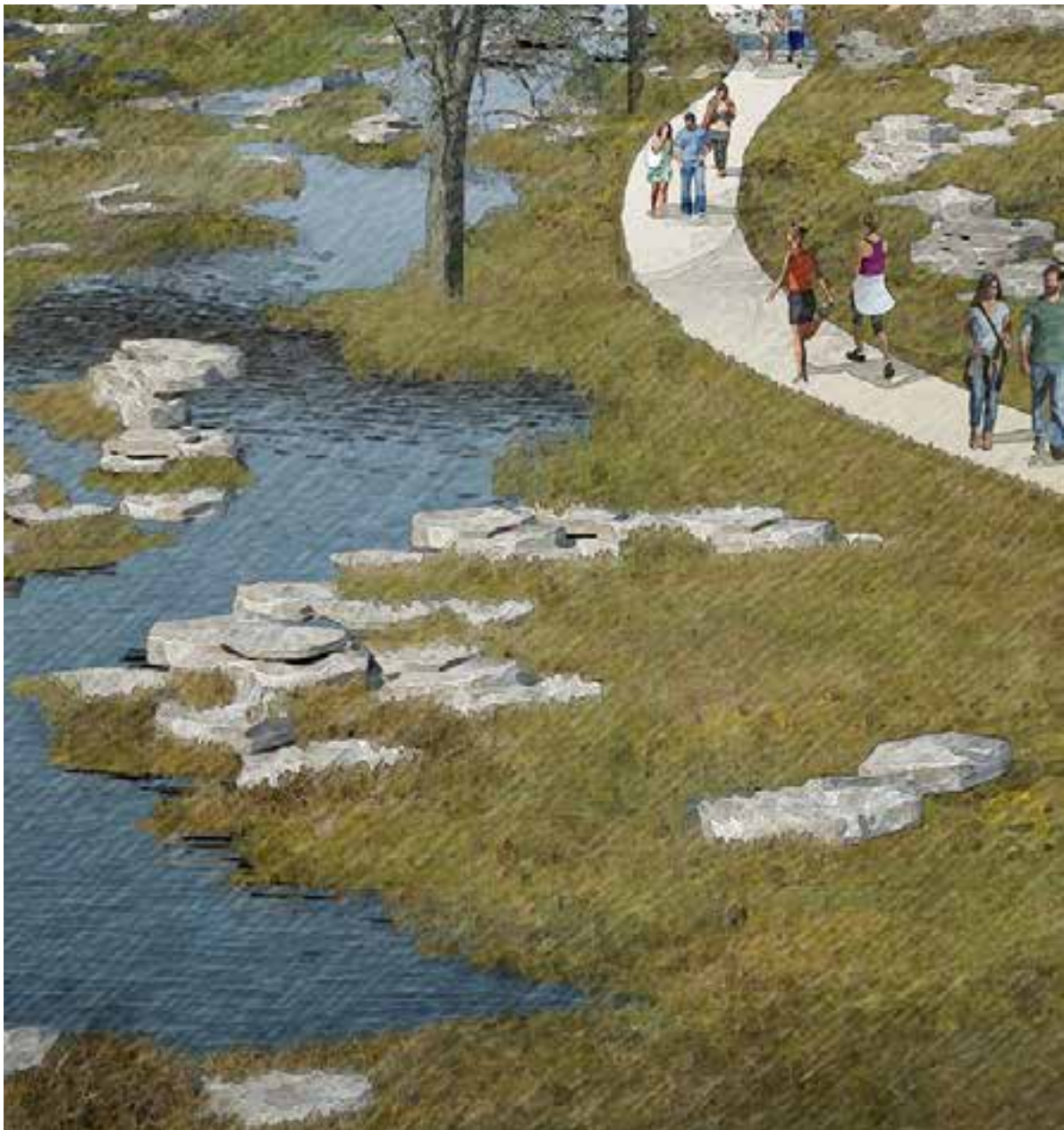
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO







## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Shooks Run Corridor Facilities Master Plan (FMP) illustrates the Colorado Springs community's forward-thinking vision to manage infrastructure replacement, create a transformative greenway and influence land use along the four-mile corridor.

### PURPOSE

- To plan for the replacement of infrastructure along the Shooks Run Corridor and establish it as a significant feature of the city, by defining a continuous greenway along the corridor.
- To establish new trail connections, road, bridge and stormwater improvements that will provide a catalyst for economic redevelopment.

### EXISTING CONDITIONS SUMMARY

Shooks Run is one of the oldest areas of Colorado Springs. Infrastructure along the Shooks Run Channel, including utilities, bridges, culverts, roadways and drainage facilities are in poor or deteriorating conditions. Incidents of flooding and wide channel instability are present, resulting in flooding and erosion conditions. The corridor also includes some of the oldest City owned facilities. Transportation infrastructure is in desperate need of updating, as are the drainage and water quality components of the City's infrastructure network. Updates to this infrastructure will improve existing environmental conditions and lay the groundwork for improved parks, open space, land uses and redevelopment projects.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A comprehensive two-year community engagement effort involving hundreds of Colorado Springs residents provided the foundation for the creation of this plan. Activities included a series of public workshops, surveys and small group outreach events, along with an online platform at the project website: [www.envisionshooksrun.com](http://www.envisionshooksrun.com). Three corridor theme options were developed, and from these, the community selected the Transformative Corridor Theme.

### CORRIDOR THEME

The Transformative Corridor Theme makes Shooks

Run a central part of the city, helps stimulate a number of new uses along the corridor and ties parts of the corridor more closely to downtown. Elements of this theme include: transportation, drainage and water quality, greenway, parks and trails, destination elements, land use recommendations, economic vitality and redevelopment. By leveraging City investment and moving forward with the planning process, economic revitalization will be encouraged.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The overall vision for Shooks Run is **to create a continuous "greenway" along the corridor** from the confluence of Fountain Creek to the headwaters in the Patty Jewett Golf Course. Trail connections extending to Rock Island Trail to support the economic development of this portion of Colorado Springs and the ongoing revitalization of the downtown area are recommended. The greenway would include enhanced park landscapes and amenities along the corridor, along with the development of a grade separated, multi-use trail running along its length. This greenway will complete the eastern leg of the Legacy Loop, a series of trails and amenities that will encircle downtown Colorado Springs.

Conceptual plans for five segments along the Shooks Run corridor have been prepared. These physical plans describe the general locations and nature of park and open space facilities, multimodal transportation and trail connections, infrastructure and bridge replacements and enhancements, and amenities along these segments:

- **Confluence Segment**
- **Urban Canyon Segment**
- **Urban Waterway Segment**
- **Residential Greenway Segment**
- **Headwaters Segment**

This FMP outlines the vision for, and potential to create destination elements at various locations along Shooks Run. Destination elements could include facilities and amenities, such as botanic gardens, bike parks, wetland areas, nature centers, or other facilities intended to attract interest and visitation from the broader Colorado Springs community, as well as visitors and tourists.

The FMP process has identified specific bridge and infrastructure improvements (including drainage facilities and various utilities for improved water quality and detention) necessary to ensure that Shooks Run operates well as a major drainage basin in the community, and to facilitate the completion of the



greenway. Recommendations include the potential replacement of bridges that cross Shooks Run, their general design parameters, and how these bridges would tie in with and complement the greenway concept for the corridor. Channel location, stabilization, flooding and erosion issues, and the size of the overall corridor are also addressed.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Completion of the improvements outlined may span the next 50 years. The required land area expected for infrastructure replacement and greenway use is identified in this FMP. Foundational infrastructure elements will be constructed first. Park and recreation improvements will follow when suitable utilities and channel improvements exist. Where redevelopment is planned, both types of improvements could be bundled as a single package, allowing simultaneous development. The City's various departments and the community at large will have to work together to complete these improvements as funding becomes available. This plan includes a process for amendments and updates as may be required, based on the best interests of the City and evolving community priorities.

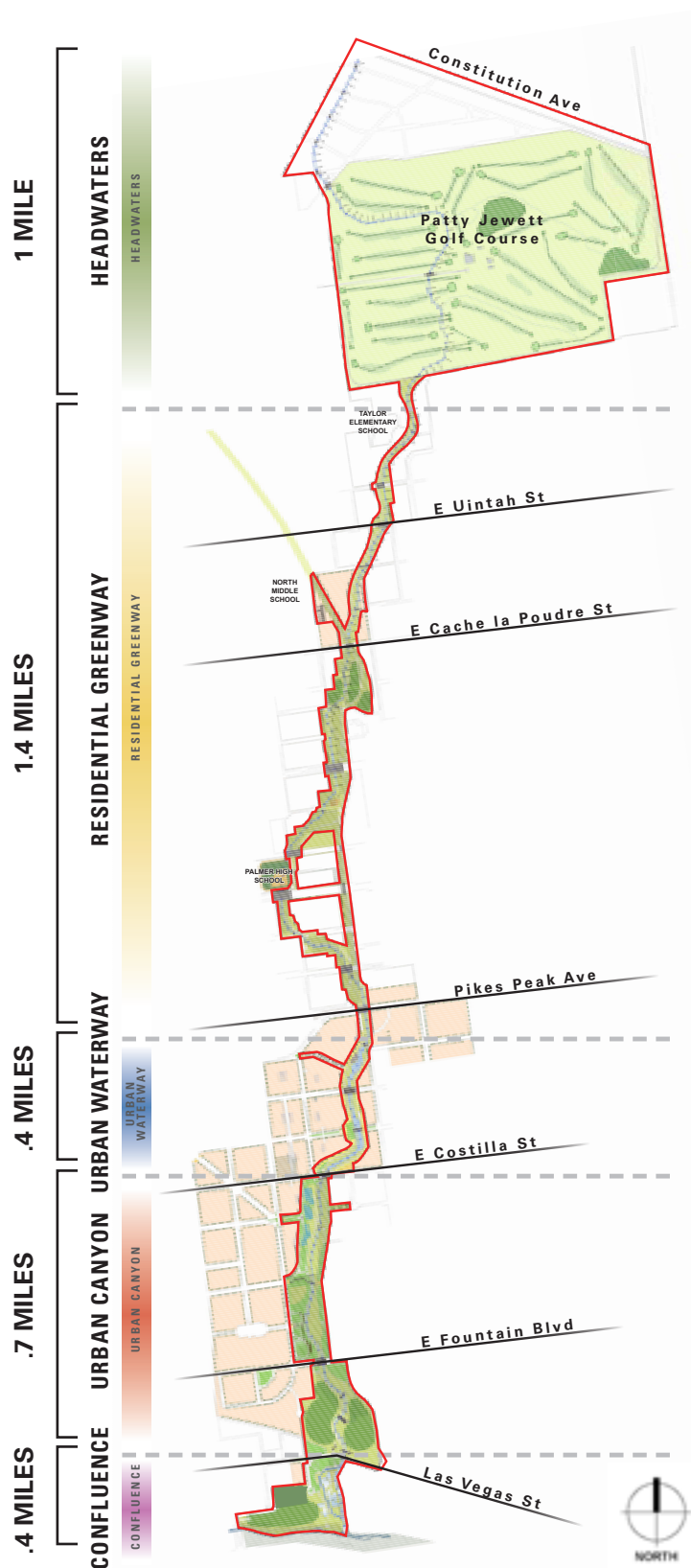
## SUPPORT OF PRIVATE REDEVELOPMENT

An important purpose and intent of this plan is to foster and encourage the participation of the private and non-profit sectors in reinvestment and redevelopment of properties in appropriate locations along the corridor. To achieve this, the expectation is that this FMP and the accompanying Sustainable Infrastructure Plan (SIP) will be used and applied in an adaptive and development-supportive manner. Financial responsibility associated with identified improvements, and particularly the recommended enhancements, should be consistent with City Code. Funds should be fairly allocated among project-specific, corridor-wide and City-wide projects. Both public and private investment is encouraged.

## PRIORITIES

High level priorities include:

- Preventing and managing existing flooding.
- Creating connections currently missing for roadways and non-motorized forms of transportation.
- Replacing critically aging and structurally unsound bridges that restrict the channel.
- Completing the Legacy Loop.
- Encouraging redevelopment and economic revitalization in the southern portion of the corridor.



**Figure 1: Shooks Run Corridor Segments - Corridor segments are defined by the context of surrounding land uses, neighborhood characteristics, street system, and opportunities to introduce new greenway programs along the corridor.**