

SHOOKS RUN CORRIDOR

FACILITIES MASTER PLAN



NOVEMBER 2, 2016

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COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Shooks Run Corridor Facilities Master Plan 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. Establishing new trail connections, road, bridge and stormwater improvements will provide a catalyst for economic redevelopment.

EXISTING CONDITIONS SUMMARY

Shooks Run is one of the oldest areas of Colorado Springs. Aging and deteriorating conditions exist all along the Shooks Run channel, including weakened utilities, bridges and culverts, roadways, drainage facilities, and flooding and erosion conditions, along with 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 these conditions will improve existing environmental conditions and lay the groundwork for improved parks and open space and land use 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. 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. By leveraging City investment and moving forward with the planning process, economic revitalization will be encouraged. Elements of this theme important for the corridor that are discussed in detail include: transportation; drainage and water quality; greenway, parks and trails; destination elements; land use; and economic vitality and redevelopment.

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, with 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. The greenway would include enhanced park landscapes and amenities along the Shooks Run corridor, along with the development of a grade separated, multiuse trail running along the length of the corridor. 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 created. 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 five sections of the corridor:

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



The plan outlines the vision for and potential to create destination elements at various locations along Shooks Run. The destination elements could include facilities and amenities such as a botanic garden, a bike park, 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.

Specific bridge and infrastructure improvements (including drainage facilities and various utilities) necessary to ensure that Shooks Run operates well as a major drainage basin in the community, and to facilitate the completion of the greenway have been identified. Recommendations include the potential replacement of bridges that cross Shooks Run, their general design parameters, and how the various bridges would tie in with and compliment the greenway concept for the corridor. The plan also outlines the locations for drainage facilities along the corridor and provides for resolving channel location and stabilization, flooding and erosion issues, and the size of the overall corridor. Locations for facilities designed to provide for water quality and water detention are proposed.

IMPLEMENTATION

The completion of the improvements outlined may span the next 50 years. The land area expected to be required for infrastructure replacement and greenway use is proposed to be reserved and identified in the plan. Foundational infrastructure elements will be constructed first. Park and recreation improvements will follow when suitable utilities and channel improvements exist. The City's various departments and the community at large will have to work together to complete these improvements as funding becomes available. The plan includes a process for amendments and updates as may be required, based on the best interests of the City and evolving community priorities.

PRIORITIES

The high level priorities include preventing and managing existing flooding, creating missing connections for roadways and pedestrian circulation, replacing bridges which are most needed, due to age, structural condition and channel restriction, completing the Legacy Loop and encouraging redevelopment and economic revitalization in the southern portion of the corridor.

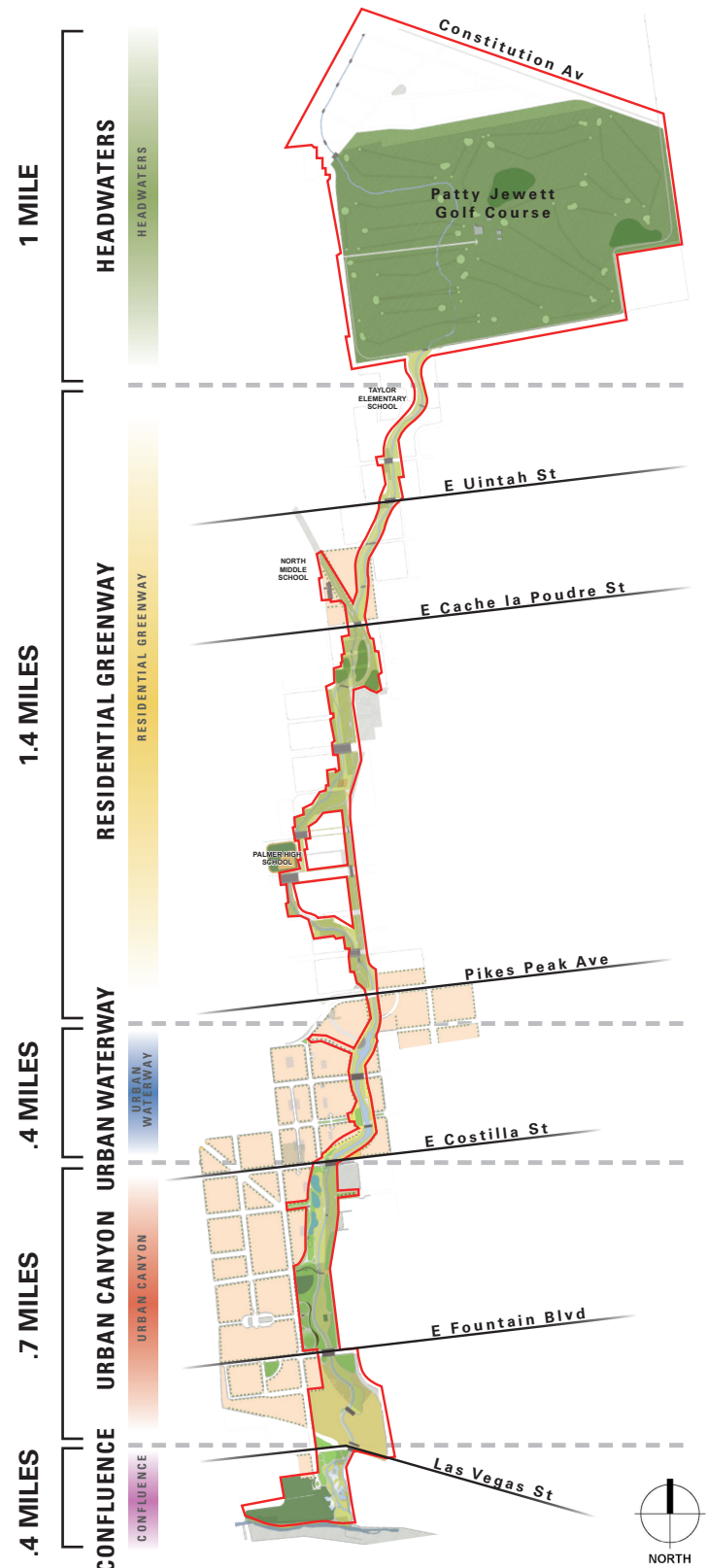


Figure 1: Shooks Run Corridor Segments - Corridor segments are defined by the context of surrounding land uses, neighborhood characteristics, street system, and by opportunities to introduce new greenway programs along the corridor.