



# **FOUNTAIN CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT**

*For the thriving life of the watershed and all it touches.*

## **FOUNTAIN CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE**

### **2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

**October 2024**

**This Document Prepared by the Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory  
Committee for the Fountain Creek Watershed District Water Activity  
Enterprise Board.**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>PURPOSE AND INTRODUCTION</b> .....   | 3  |
| <b>Funding</b> .....  | 3  |
| <b>Adoption of the Capital Improvement Plan</b> .....                           | 3  |
| <b>PROJECT PRIORITIZATION AND SELECTION</b> .....                               | 3  |
| <b>Pertinent Literature</b> .....   | 4  |
| <b>Tiered Criteria and Focus Area Ranking</b> .....                             | 5  |
| <b>THE 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN</b> .....                                  | 6  |
| <b>Project evaluation as applied in the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan</b> ..... | 8  |
| <b>Frost Focus Area</b> .....   | 12 |
| <b>Process for Emergency Projects</b> .....                                     | 14 |

## **PURPOSE AND INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is to document recommendations made by the Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee (MMF) to the Fountain Creek Watershed District Board of Directors for projects that will be executed in the next calendar year. The Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee is convened by the District to investigate, review, recommend, and oversee the \$50 million dollars from Colorado Springs Utilities to offset impacts from the Southern Delivery System. Funds are to be used for new creek restoration projects. The 2025 Capital Improvement Plan is written to ensure that Monetary Mitigation funds are allocated consistent with the terms specified in the [Pueblo County 1041 permit](#).

### **Funding**

Per the conditions of the Pueblo County 1041 permit (the Permit), Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU), to mitigate the effects of the Southern Delivery System (SDS), has fully paid the District \$50,000,000 with interest in five annual installments of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) on January 15<sup>th</sup> beginning the year following completion and commencement of water deliveries through the SDS Pipeline from Pueblo Reservoir to Colorado Springs. Condition six of the Permit states that the District may use the funds provided by CSU "for one or more new projects in the Fountain Creek Watershed between Colorado Springs and the Arkansas River confluence in Pueblo that create a significant and not merely incidental benefit to Fountain Creek within Pueblo County for improvement of water quality, for flood control, or for prevention of erosion and sedimentation".

To date the District has completed seven projects and spent nearly \$35 million dollars. Additional funding has come from project partners and grants. There is approximately \$20 million remaining in the MMF investment account, with \$7.3M approved for the Eagleridge project, and \$4.4M approved for Southmoor Drive project, leaving approximately \$8.3M for future projects. The Director continues to seek funding from outside sources to stretch those limited funds.

### **Adoption of the Capital Improvement Plan**

The MMF shall be advisory to the District Board of Directors, and therefore, has only recommending authority. The MMF will coordinate with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Citizen Advisory Group (CAG), and report to the Board at regular meetings on proposed project priorities, budget, and other recommendations during the development of the CIP. Recommendations for project implementation and use of funds shall be advisory until adoption of the CIP by the District Board.

## **PROJECT PRIORITIZATION AND SELECTION**

As estimated in 2019, the Fountain Creek Corridor between Colorado Springs and Pueblo, Colorado would require nearly \$270M USD to fund all restoration work identified in the [Fountain Creek Corridor Floodplain Management Opportunities Study \(2019\)](#). Pursuant to condition six of the 1041 Permit, acceptable projects may include:

- 1.** Those projects that have been identified by the United States Corps of Engineers (the Corps) as high priority erosion, sedimentation, or flood control projects in a formal Corps recommendation for Fountain Creek;
- 2.** Erosion, sedimentation, flood control, or water-quality improvement projects identified as part of the Fountain Creek Corridor Restoration Master Plan;
- 3.** Any other sedimentation, erosion control, flood control or stream improvement project that is found to be acceptable by the District.

To guide the process, the Committee uses published data to inform discussions on the value of a project to Pueblo County as defined in the Permit. The primary objective of the process is to prepare criteria that allows candidate projects to be compared for applicability to meet condition six of the Permit.

### **Pertinent Literature**

The District has played a significant role in the evolution of plans and studies to define stream restoration techniques and requirements for successfully developing projects designed to mitigate the negative impacts described in the Permit. Four of the key documents referenced for this CIP are summarized below. These documents, as well as other data sets and documents that are relevant to this CIP are curated by the District and can be accessed on the [District's web site](#).

- 1. The Fountain Creek Corridor Master Plan** [Fountain Creek Corridor Master Plan](#) (the Master Plan) was published in 2011 and established a revitalization concept vision for the reach of Fountain Creek between the southern Colorado Springs City limit line and the Creek's confluence with the Arkansas River in Pueblo. The purpose of the report was to address watershed health by reducing erosion, sedimentation, and flooding, and to increase the access and visibility of Fountain Creek to the public, thereby increasing Fountain Creek's value in the community as an asset worth protecting.
- 2. Fountain Creek Watershed Assessment for River Stability and Sediment Supply study (WARSSS)** [WARSSS Final Report](#) was completed in 2017 with the objectives of analyzing the contributing factors that lead to sediment pollution, sediment yield, and channel stability and instability within the Corridor; with the overall goal of creating a priority list of sites to direct future efforts aiming to reduce sediment sources and improve water quality and channel stability within the Corridor. The developed priority list serves as a living document where contributing factors are routinely reevaluated in a continuing effort to provide up-to-date information to decision makers. More specifically, the study set out to assess non-point source contributions of sediment from the banks of Fountain Creek and identify specific problem areas that require further analysis to detail the type, location, and extent of stability or erosion potential for sediment sources. The report identified 215 potential areas of sediment source and 27 high-priority projects that warranted additional consideration.
- 3. The Fountain Creek Flood Control Study** The [Fountain Creek Flood Control Study](#) was completed in 2017 with the objective of evaluating alternatives that may best protect agricultural, commercial, and residential lands, as well as aquatic and riparian habitats along Fountain Creek while avoiding water rights injury. Potential projects identified in this report have been, and will continue to be, evaluated on their ability to meet flow management objectives such as control peak flood discharge and excessive sediment transport while simultaneously meeting non-consumptive objectives. The study identified the "floodplain management" alternative as the preferred alternative and set the stage for the execution of the process for implementation of flood control facilities, multi-use facilities, and stream management alternatives along the Fountain Creek corridor.
- 4. The Fountain Creek Floodplain Management Opportunities Study** The [Fountain Creek Floodplain Management Opportunities Study](#) (FMO) was completed in 2019 and expanded on the previous studies by identifying new projects, organizing and reevaluating prior projects which match the proposed techniques, establishing cost estimates, and prioritizing potential floodplain management projects for Fountain Creek. The study incorporates projects and conservation techniques called out in

these precursor studies along with those identified in the Corps Watershed Study and proposed side detention facility locations from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Flood Control Study.

- 5. Project Effectiveness Study** In 2023, the District had its engineering consultant, Matrix, prepare a report summarizing an assessment of the effectiveness of seven MMF projects they designed. Projects evaluated were: Masciantonio Trust Bank and Young Hollow, Overton Bridge Restoration, Pinon Bridge, Barr Farm, Highway 47 and 13<sup>th</sup> Street restoration projects. Each site was assessed for functionality, sediment reduction, and vegetation. This study identified aspects of the projects that are performing as designed, as well as aspects that have been damaged and are not performing as intended. Recommendations for future work are also identified.

**Tiered Criteria and Focus Area Ranking**

Prior to the FMO being completed in December 2019, which identified and provided a high-level evaluation of 18 different Focus Areas, the MMF developed two tiers of criteria for evaluating and ranking individual potential MMF projects:

- Tier I criteria are tied directly to the three main Condition 6 requirements for the 1041 Permit (i.e., water quality, flooding and Fountain Creek stability). Each criterion also has associated sub-criteria.
- Tier II criteria provide secondary level considerations for evaluating individual projects (i.e., environment and habitat, project partners, recreation, plan relevance, and other criteria, again each with associated sub-criteria). Again, each criterion also has associated sub-criteria.

The MMF Tier I and Tier II criteria, which are listed in Table 1, are used to evaluate the merits of specific, individual projects after they have been identified from prioritized Focus Areas. It is noted that it is acceptable to identify and evaluate potential MMF projects that are not located within the prioritized Focus Areas.

**Table 1. Current MMF Tier I and Tier II Project Criteria**

|  |
|--|
| <b>Tier 1 - Criteria</b>   |
| Project satisfies one or more of the following criteria per SDS 1041 permit terms. |
| <b>Water Quality</b>   |
| Improves Water Quality (Sediment)  |
| Improves Water Quality Constituents of Concern                                     |
| <b>Flooding</b>  |
| Reduces Flooding Risk  |
| Improves Floodplain Connectivity   |
| Protects Life and Property   |
| Addresses Potential Loss of Public Infrastructure (in Pueblo County)               |
| Impacts to Water Rights are Resolved (for detention related projects only)         |
| Feasibility to Protect Infrastructure in Place is Better Than Cost of Relocating   |
| <b>FC Stability</b>  |
| Addresses Erosion and Sedimentation  |
| Address Sediment Source  |
| Protect Streams with Unchanged Hydrology   |

| <b>Tier 2 - Criteria</b>   |
|--|
| <b>Environment and Habitat</b>   |
| Improves habitat quality or rehabilitates native vegetation  |
| Protects high quality ecological systems   |
| Wetland and/or oxbow restoration   |
| Establishes riparian corridor connection   |
| <b>Project Partners</b>  |
| Additional funding partners  |
| Provides opportunity to partner on project implementation  |
| <b>Recreation</b>  |
| Provides creek access opportunity  |
| Provides regional trail connectivity   |
| Provides new recreational facilities   |
| <b>Plan Relevance</b>  |
| Project identified in Fountain Creek Corridor Master Plan  |
| Projects identified in Army Corps of Engineers study for flood control, erosion, and sedimentation |
| Sediment, erosion, or flood control found acceptable by District                                   |
| Rate of return for dollars spent for sediment removed  |
| <b>Other Criteria</b>  |
| Holistic solution - connectivity v. remote small sites   |
| Feasibility  |
| Public Interest  |
| Benefits X# of communities/stakeholders  |
| <b>Other Benefits to Pueblo County</b>   |
| TBD  |

The scores for the 19 criteria, which were all weighted equally, were summed up and the Focus Areas were ranked based on the highest to lowest scores, with the highest score corresponding to the highest need for remediation. The results of this ranking are in Table 2 below:

**Table 2. Floodplain Management Opportunities Study Focus Area Scores and Priorities**

| <b>Focus Area ID</b> | <b>Focus Area</b>       | <b>Decision Matrix Score</b> | <b>Priority</b> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>PC-6</b>          | Hancock-Greenview Trust | 26                           | High            |
| <b>PC-7</b>          | Greenview Trust South   | 23                           | High            |
| <b>EPC-1</b>         | Pinello Ranch           | 21                           | High            |
| <b>EPC-6</b>         | Hanna Ranches           | 21                           | High            |
| <b>PC-1</b>          | Wood Valley Ditch       | 21                           | High            |
| <b>EPC-4</b>         | Fountain South          | 19                           | Moderate        |
| <b>EPC-5</b>         | Clear Spring Ranch      | 18                           | Moderate        |
| <b>PC-2</b>          | T Cross                 | 18                           | Moderate        |
| <b>EPC-3</b>         | Fountain North          | 17                           | Moderate        |

|              |                          |    |          |
|--------------|--------------------------|----|----------|
| <b>PC-8</b>  | Sandoval Property        | 17 | Moderate |
| <b>EPC-7</b> | Frost                    | 16 | Moderate |
| <b>PC-5</b>  | Upstream of Piñon Bridge | 16 | Moderate |
| <b>PC-4</b>  | Masciantonio South       | 15 | Low      |
| <b>EPC-2</b> | Venetucci Farm           | 14 | Low      |
| <b>PC-3</b>  | Masciantonio North       | 14 | Low      |
| <b>EPC-8</b> | BJ Ranches               | 10 | Low      |

It was previously discussed and determined by the MMF that while the ranking of Focus Areas is useful as guidance for determining where MMF projects should be located, it is not definitive (i.e., a project can come from a “lower” ranked Focus Area if determined to be appropriate).

A modified process for ranking the Focus Areas was recommended by the MMFAC to the District Board and adopted by the Board in 2021 to more directly align the rankings with the requirements of Condition 6 of the 1041 Permit. The modified ranking process assigns varying levels of priority to different criteria and is provided below. Results of the modified ranking process are presented in Table 2

The modified scoring and ranking process uses the same 19 criteria to evaluate Focus Areas that are used in the FMO, but differentiates the criteria into three different levels ranging from Level 1 (highest priority) to Level 3 (lowest priority), as summarized below:

- Level 1 criteria – Prioritizes the three main Condition 6 requirements:
  - FMO criterion 1 (Reduces flood risk to the public and residents by providing long term solutions that increase resiliency)
  - FMO criterion 9 (Protect or improve the habitat, water quality, and geomorphology of Fountain Creek)
  - FMO criterion 11 (Reduce quantity of sediment deposited in Fountain Creek and Arkansas River channels)
- Level 2 criteria – Prioritizes protection of people, property and critical infrastructure:
  - FMO criterion 3 (Increase the number of people and amount of land protected)
  - FMO criterion 6 (Protect critical infrastructure that is at-risk)
- Level 3 criteria – Includes the 14 remaining FMO criteria:
  - FMO criterion 2 (Avoid transfer of risks that create impacts downstream to infrastructure, channel, and storm water)
  - FMO criterion 4 (Withstand flooding and minimize the level of effort to repair)
  - FMO criterion 5 (Make use of natural processes to improve resiliency)
  - FMO criterion 7 (Create infrastructure investments that are reasonable to construct and provides the best value for its lifecycle, function, and purpose)
  - FMO criterion 8 (Minimize the effort required to maintain and repair)
  - FMO criterion 9 (Protect or improve the habitat, water quality, and geomorphology of Fountain Creek)
  - FMO criterion 10 (Incorporate locally available materials and environmentally friendly processes)
  - FMO criterion 12 (Meet CWCB's criteria for multi-objective program elements)
  - FMO criterion 13 (Impact wetlands)

- o FMO criterion 14 (Provides access, connectivity, and protects opportunities for enhancements to tourist destinations, community facilities, features, and neighborhoods)
- o FMO criterion 15 (Provides funding, partnering, and collaboration opportunities by meeting multiple stakeholders),
- o FMO criterion 16 (Lend to being supported by current land use regulations or revised land use regulations)
- o FMO criterion 17 (Impact existing water rights)
- o FMO criterion 18 (Impact property rights and uses)
- o FMO criterion 19 (Have a reasonable timeframe required to achieve the benefit)

Using the same scores assigned to each criterion in the FMO, the Level 1 criteria scores were summed, and the different Focus Areas were sorted from highest to lowest. Focus Areas with the same Level 1 score are differentiated and ranked based on their Level 2 scores. Similarly, Focus Areas with the same Level 2 score are differentiated and ranked based on their Level 3 score.

The result of the modified process was the development of a ranked list of Focus Areas that more closely aligns with the priorities for MMF projects as outlined in Condition 6 of the 1041 Permit. Focus areas that protect human health, property and infrastructure are also ranked higher.

In 2021 the MMFAC recommended to the District Board, and the Board approved, the modified process for ranking Focus Areas. The results of the modified process for the five highest ranked Focus Areas are presented in Table 3. The Focus Area rankings can be used to identify those areas along Fountain Creek which are best suited for projects that will achieve the MMF project objectives.

**Table 3. MMFAC Tier III Criteria**

| Focus Area                              | Score Tier I | Rank Tier I | Score Tier II | Rank Tier II | Score Tier III | Rank Tier III | Rank     |
|---|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|----------|
| <b>PC-1<br/>Wood Valley Ditch</b>       | 6            | 1           | 4             | 1            | 11             | 13            | <b>1</b> |
| <b>EPC-7<br/>Frost</b>                  | 6            | 1           | 2             | 4            | 8              | 14            | <b>2</b> |
| <b>PC-6<br/>Hancock Greenview Trust</b> | 5            | 3           | 1             | 10           | 20             | 1             | <b>3</b> |
| <b>PC-7<br/>Greenview Trust South</b>   | 5            | 3           | 1             | 10           | 17             | 3             | <b>4</b> |
| <b>EPC-2<br/>Venetucci Farm</b>         | 4            | 5           | 4             | 1            | 5              | 17            | <b>5</b> |

## **THE 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The 2025 CIP, along with its recommendations for capital projects in 2025, recommends updating the project schedule annually as new data or studies are evaluated to address emergency projects, incorporate lessons learned including considerations for operations and maintenance of project.

### **Project evaluation as applied in the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan**

At several of the 2024 MMF monthly meetings, the committee discussed potential projects through the lenses of the FMO, Focus Area Studies, alternative analysis, budget considerations, funding sources, landowner factors, multiple benefits, and long-term maintenance. Additional information was gathered, and project ideas narrowed further.



At the May 2024 meeting two projects were identified as those with the best potential – Frost Ranch and Sandoval Focus Areas. The District had a call for proposals to assess the Sandoval Focus Area and provide solutions to the erosion issues occurring on several properties. There were four responses with varying budgets. The District was later informed that upstream from this Focus Area there are two landowners that received a first and second Notice of Violation from Pueblo County for ongoing unauthorized activities – piling dirt in the floodplain. Given this new situation, we have decided to table the Sandoval Focus Area project work until these issues are resolved as they likely have downstream impacts that could jeopardize any Sandoval project.

Matrix completed a Feasibility Assessment Report on Frost Ranch Focus Area in 2023 as it was identified as a medium-to high-priority segment in the Fountain Creek corridor based on potential for bank erosion and other mitigation measures. Recommendations made include reestablishing natural channel functions to Fountain Creek by implementing projects that focus on channel realignment and bank stabilization, wetlands and riparian vegetation management. A summary of the potential project elements, costs, benefits, and feasibility is described below in Table 4:

**Table 4. Frost Focus Area Feasibility Report Summary**

| <b>Frost Focus Area Results</b>                     |                         |                       |                    |   |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---|
| <b>Element</b>                                      | <b>Cost</b>             | <b>Benefit</b>        | <b>Feasibility</b> | <b>Comment</b>  |
| <b>Side Detention</b>                               |                         |                       |                    |   |
| Alt 1 – FMOS  | \$63,300,000            | -18% 100-yr Peak      | Low                | Earthwork export/regulatory hurdles/land acquisition                    |
| Alt 2 - Creekside                                   | \$32,000,000*           | -25% 100-yr Peak      | Very Low           | Earthwork export/regulatory hurdles/land acquisition/wetland mitigation |
| <b>Channel Realignment &amp; Bank Stabilization</b> |                         |                       |                    |   |
| Upper Reach Stabilization                           | \$3,050,000*            | 6,000 tn/yr           | Very Low - Low     | Diversion mitigation/wetland mitigation                                 |
| Lower Reach Realignment                             | \$3,880,000*            | 112,000 tn/yr         | Low - Moderate     | Diversion mitigation/wetland mitigation                                 |
| Bank Stabilization                                  | \$3,612,000*            | 112,000 tn/yr         | Moderate - High    | No Diversion mitigation/wetland mitigation                              |
| <b>Wetland Projects</b>                             |                         |                       |                    |   |
| Wetland Conservation                                | \$487,500               | Function preservation | Low                | Private property, existing easements                                    |
| Wetland Enhancement                                 | \$1,079,629 – 3,723,000 | WQ, Stabilization     | Moderate           | Private property, long-term mgmt  |
| Wetland Establishment                               | \$2,803,000             | WQ, Stabilization     | Low                | Private property, long-term mgmt, hydrology                             |
| Vegetation Management                               | \$993,000               | ET reduction, soils   | Moderate           | Private property, watershed considerations, long-term mgmt.             |
| Wetland Preservation                                | \$191,000               | Function preservation | High               | Access  |

Costs associated with this project were discussed by the MMF and there were concerns about Frost given the limited amount of funding remaining. The preference of the committee was to focus on bank stabilization, with or without wetland enhancement. Recommendations for this project component are listed below in Table 5:

**Table 5. Frost Focus Area Bank Stabilization**

| <b>Frost</b>                                      |                         |                               |                 |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
|   | Lower Reach Realignment | \$3,880,000/<br>\$14,246,000* | Low - Moderate  |
| Recommended for CIP                               | Bank Stabilization      | \$3,612,000/<br>4,242,000*    | Moderate - High |
| Recommended for CIP w/<br>Bank Stabilization Only | Wetland Enhancement     | \$112,200                     | Moderate        |
|   | Vegetation Management   | \$993,000                     | Moderate        |
|   | Wetland Preservation    | \$191,000                     | High            |

\*Cost with full wetland mitigation, depending on availability

In the summer of 2024, the District was awarded a Technical Assistance Grant from CWCB to support the development and submittal of an ARPA grant for further study and design of project(s) in this area. The grant would cover up to 75% of the design work and the District’s 25% match would be \$72,000.00. This project is contingent on receiving those grant funds and if not successful the Frost project(s) will not move forward. Additionally, Frost has also been identified as a potential site for a wetland bank per the development of the District’s In Lieu Fee Program. A Prospectus has been developed and will be submitted to the Army Corps in 2024 and could be approved in 2025.

An ongoing issue has been identified and prioritized as a new project for 2025. In 2023 there were significant rainstorms, and as usual Fountain Creek eroded and the main channel naturally shifted, as it frequently does. Along with that movement, multiple large trees and other woody debris have fallen into the channel when the banks eroded and collapsed. Much of that wood is hung up along the sides and in sand bars, staged for the next high-water event to carry them further downstream and cause significant damage to property, critical infrastructure, and the District’s project work. The District will begin with a pilot project in October 2024 partnering with the Mile High Youth Corps and Tall Timbers to remove large woody debris from Fountain Creek near Clear Spring Ranch. This work will be funded from the District’s General Fund.

At the August MMF meeting, a discussion was had about learning from past projects before moving forward on any new ones. The District should utilize the Project Effectiveness Report that was completed in 2023 as a starting point for reviewing the work done to date, and to provide recommendations to incorporate into future projects. Could there be recommendations made for general principles to be applied to future projects? What are the failure mechanisms? The MMF discussed hiring a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to review the Study, designs, geomorphology, and perform additional field work. Stantec has \$1,500 remaining from a previous contract that could be applied to this effort, and if Pueblo County approves, it could use funds to perform this study in 2024.

**1. Recognition of Previously Approved MMF Projects**

These approved projects were tabled in 2023 due to extensive damage from high water events, a design review, and redesign effort. Both projects are scheduled to begin construction in October of 2024 and will carry over into 2025. The District will finalize budgets for each of these, which will likely increase given their delayed start.

- Eagleridge Project (Approved in 2023 budget for \$7.3 Million).

**Commented [AS1]:** Has Pueblo County discussed using MMF for this so we can use GF for Stantec Effectiveness work?

**Commented [IP2R1]:** Yes, there has been discussion among the Pueblo County representatives regarding the use of MMF funds for this work. We would like to discuss the location where the woody debris removal work will start and the planned progression (i.e., direction along Fountain Creek) for that work.

- Southmoor Dr. project (Approved in 2023 budget for \$4.4 Million).

**2. Proposed 2025 MMF Projects**

| Focus Area                   | Estimated Cost   | Comments  |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Frost                        | \$4,200,000.00<br><br>(\$72,000,00 if grant is successful) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 88.1 acres of wetland area conserved.</li> <li>• Could scale down the size of area conserved if necessary/desired.</li> <li>• Provides water quality benefits and can also reduce sediment loading to Fountain Creek.</li> <li>• Cost/per acre (approx. \$13,600/acre) is approx. one third of unit cost compared to wetland creation.</li> <li>• Create conservation easement to protect wetland, in perpetuity (Note: May already have a conservation easement; Matrix will investigate)</li> <li>• Create trail easement to protect trail access in perpetuity</li> </ul> |
| Clear Spring Ranch           | \$100,000.00   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove large woody debris from channel and banks of Fountain Creek</li> </ul>  |
| Multiple                     | \$75,000.00  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Effectiveness Study, identify guiding principals and lessons learned to inform final MMF projects</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Total MMF \$ Proposed</b> | <b>\$247,000.00</b>  |   |

**Commented [IP3]:** As noted above, the MMF Committee should clarify the status of the Frost Focus Area project.

**3. Additional Recommendations**

The District requests that the MMF provide support for the development of a Maintenance Program for the District in 2025. The proposed 2025 General Fund budget includes a new line item for project maintenance. If this new budget item is approved, the MMF can guide the establishment of this critical work. There are many reasons why this is a critical need at this time:

- **Protecting Our Investments:** Given the immense financial and environmental investments already made in creek restoration, the need for ongoing maintenance is required as these projects could deteriorate, leading to costly repairs or the need for re-restoration in the future. We have already seen this occur at several project locations. Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and effectiveness of these initial investments.
- **Preventing Further Degradation:** Proper maintenance helps prevent erosion, sedimentation, and degradation of water quality, which can negatively impact wildlife habitats, recreational use, and downstream water users. Addressing issues early through maintenance is much more cost-effective than waiting until full-scale repairs are needed.
- **Improving Resilience to Climate Impacts:** With increasing climate-related challenges such as flooding and drought, well-maintained creek restorations can act as natural buffers, improving the watershed's resilience. Maintenance is key to ensuring the project functions as intended in mitigating the impacts of extreme weather events.
- **Community Benefits and Safety:** Creek restoration enhances public spaces, provides recreational opportunities, and improves local quality of life. Maintenance ensures that these spaces

remain safe, functional, and accessible for the community, especially in areas where erosion or other issues could pose public safety risks.

- **Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health:** Maintenance supports the long-term health of ecosystems by ensuring that the restored habitats continue to thrive. This includes managing invasive species, supporting native vegetation, and ensuring that wildlife habitats remain viable.
- **Leverage for Future Funding:** Demonstrating a commitment to ongoing maintenance can help secure future grant funding and partnerships, as funders are more likely to invest in projects with proven longevity and responsible management. It shows that that the District and its members prioritize stewardship and sustainability.

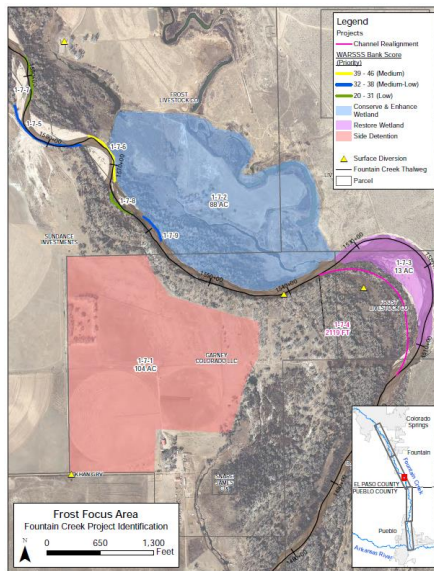
## RECOMMENDED PROJECTS FOR THE 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

### Frost Focus Area

This approximate 88-acre wetland conservation and enhancement project is located between river reach 1530+00 and 1580+00 north northeast of Fountain Creek. Wetlands provide habitat to native plants and animals as well as improving water quality. A functional wetland exists at this site but could be enhanced and placed under a conservation easement to ensure its functionality in perpetuity. This project would consist of the removal of invasive plant species and replanting with native species. Minimal earth movement is expected.

Benefits of the project would include improvement of water quality and the additional habitat for native plant and animal species. Costs could total up to \$4,200,000.00. This cost does not include the purchase of additional water should that be necessary.

Frost Focus Area:



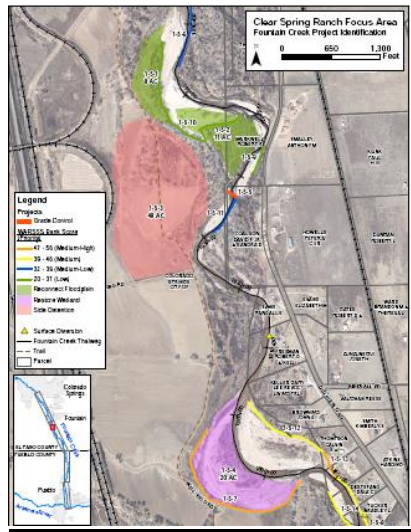
Commented [IP4]: Please see comments above regarding the Frost Focus Area.

**Woody Debris Reduction**

This proposed project focuses on removing large woody debris (LWD) that poses threats to landowner properties, critical infrastructure, and ongoing District projects. Over time, fallen trees and large branches accumulate in the creek, obstructing flow, causing bank erosion, and increasing the risk of flooding during high-flow events. These blockages can redirect water flow, undermining infrastructure and threatening nearby properties.

The removal of LWD will mitigate these risks, restore the natural flow of the creek, and protect both public and private assets. This project aligns with the District's objectives to enhance public safety, maintain creek restoration efforts, and improve the overall health and resilience of the watershed.

Clear Spring Ranch Focus Area:



**Commented [IP5]:** Does this heading mean that the Clear Spring Ranch Focus Area is currently proposed to be the main focus of the woody debris removal project? The preference from Pueblo County would be to start in or near the City of Pueblo and work northward, in terms of removing woody debris.

Woody Debris in Fountain Creek:



**Process for Emergency Projects**

Should an unanticipated emergency event occur, such as a flood, that causes or threatens to cause property damage or create a threat to human health or safety which must be addressed in an immediate manner utilizing MMF previously allocated for approved or listed projects, the MMF shall confer and reach agreement promptly on any required postponement or modification to the priorities in the CIP and present them to the District Board at the following, regularly scheduled Board meeting. Follow-up by the MMF to the TAC and CAG will be made as needed to keep them informed of the changes.