Dear Apple Valley Neighbor,

We are reaching out to share that The Watershed Center is working towards designing and constructing an aquatic habitat restoration project in your neighborhood. While your property is not included in the project area, we welcome neighbor and community input throughout the planning process on this important stretch of river. Please read more below on project intent and what you can expect.

Apple Valley Restoration Project

The Watershed Center is working towards designing and constructing a restoration project that restores fish and wildlife habitat impacted by the 2021 tanker spill and builds a more resilient floodplain on county land and potentially one adjacent property on North St. Vrain Creek.

Project Goals

- Protect and improve riparian and wetland habitat within undeveloped floodplain
- Improve fish population recovery following 2021 tanker spill
- Improve resilience in the face of future flood, fire, and drought
- Improve overall ecological conditions for fish, wildlife, and water quality

Project Approach

Work on this kind of project could include:

- Improving aquatic and wetland habitat
- Connecting side channels, pools, and wetlands
- Planting native vegetation
- Protecting existing habitat and vegetation

Our planning is focused on the floodplain and not in the previously restored river.

These efforts improve river and floodplain health, strengthen resilience to natural disasters, improve habitat and biodiversity, and benefit both the project area and neighboring communities.

The example above shows before (left) and after (right) photos from a 2019 project on Left Hand Creek, designed with similar habitat and resilience goals.

New wetland habitat

New habitat pool

Existing riparian habitat protected

PROJECT INFO

Project Contacts

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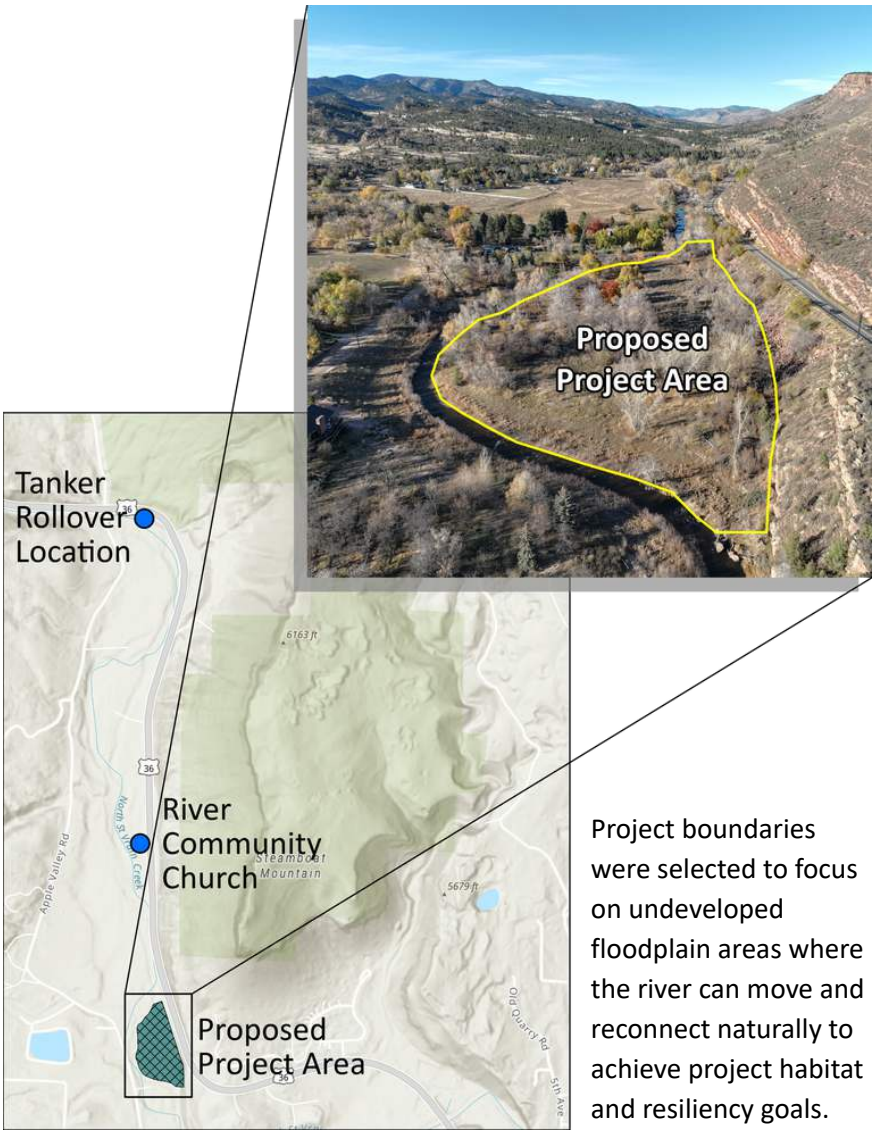
Project Partners and Funders

- Boulder County Foundation
- Colorado Department of Health and Environment Nonpoint Source Program
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Colorado Watershed Conservation Board
- Natural Resources Damages Program*
- St. Vrain and Left Hand Conservancy District
- Trout Unlimited St. Vrain Anglers
- **Project lead by The Watershed Center**

**Post-tanker spill settlement funds*



Project boundaries were selected to focus on undeveloped floodplain areas where the river can move and reconnect naturally to achieve project habitat and resiliency goals.

What's Next?

Coming Weeks: Topographic Surveys	**December Community Meeting**	**Reach Out Throughout the Process!**
Some nearby landowners may be contacted for permission to collect survey data just outside the project area. This is for design purposes only; no restoration work is planned on those properties.	Join us and learn more about the project and share your perspectives and ideas. This meeting will be held on the early evening in the Town of Lyons. Stay tuned for date and time.	Deb and Kara invite you to reach out with questions or concerns throughout the planning process. Please do not hesitate to email or call us.