

Community Resiliency: The St. Vrain Blueprint - Pre and Post 2013 Flood Recovery and Resiliency Plan



MERIT AWARD

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Pre and Post 2013 Flood Recovery and Resiliency Plan

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In 2012, the City of Longmont began planning several capital projects to mitigate the flood hazard associated with the St. Vrain Creek that runs through the core of the city. The flood mitigation would create a channel to carry the full extent of the 100-year flood waters along the creek from one end of town to the other and allow for other necessary infrastructure upgrades to enable the creek to pass 100-year flood flows. The original St. Vrain Blueprint process included engineering, habitat mitigation, landscape design, economic analysis, community outreach, and interdepartmental collaboration.

In September 2013, a devastating 250-year storm caused widespread flooding, requiring both a reactive and proactive plan. The revised process resulted in a new vision for the corridor that balanced flood control, restoration, recreation, and placemaking.

Post-flood, the project team's original process expanded due to flood damage to infrastructure and recreation and the changed creek channel:

- Provide the community with a recovery process and resiliency platform that addressed channel and infrastructure improvements; improved and restored the Greenway; and realized redevelopment potential.
- Expand the plan area.
- Revise the existing conditions and rework adjacent park plans.
- Coordinate closely with city officials, the community and property owners towards recovery and resiliency.
- Integrate new engineering requirements to accommodate the revised flood plain.
- Help redesign the Sunset Bridge.
- Coordinate with flood recovery efforts for bank stabilization and debris removal.
- Coordinate with the regional efforts to develop the Watershed Master Plan.

The completed Plan and ensuing Improvements Projects currently underway are helping the community recover from the flood destruction with improved life safety and enhanced livability, walkability, recreation, and property values.

