



WATERSHED MOMENT

COAL CREEK CANYON WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP'S BI-MONTHLY UPDATE

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COAL CREEK CATCH-UP
 The creek is full with spring run-off, and we are feeling the spring surge here in the CCCWP Office! We have completed our first private well water testing initiative. Planning projects are in full spring swing. We will also be holding a fresh public workshop May 5, 7PM @ CCCIA Hall to talk about native plants. We look forward to seeing you there!

SAVE THE DATE!

Public Workshop:
 The Role of Native Plants in
 Restoring Your Landscape
May 5, 7PM @ CCCIA Hall

CCCWP Board Meeting
 (Public Welcome)
May 28, 7PM @ CCCIA Hall

If you have a topic you would like us to present on or want more information please email david@cccwp.org or call 303-586-1491.



CCCWP's PRIVATE WELL TESTING WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE UPDATE

CCCWP is elated to report that the free private well testing provided to residents of Coal Creek Canyon was a huge success! In honor of World Water Day on March 22, CCCWP, in partnership with TEG, gave away 50 free water quality tests to canyon residents and all 50 tests were spoken for. In total 52 water samples were collected. David Kamin, CCCWP's Watershed Coordinator, brought the 52 samples to the laboratory run by the Colorado Department of Public Health and The Environment (CDPHE).

All of the water samples, collected from either a kitchen sink or bath tub, were tested for total coliform bacteria, E.coli bacteria, and nitrogen in the form of nitrates and nitrites. Twenty residents did pay an additional \$20 for uranium testing, which is common in this area in natural deposits. The results were as follows:

Test	# of Samples Total	% Tested Positive	# of Samples Tested Positive	Average Level	EPA-Recommended Maximum Contaminant Level
E. coli	52	8%	4	N/A	present or absent
Total Coliform Bacteria	52	38%	20	N/A	present or absent
Uranium	20	50%	10	0.06 mg/L	0.03 mg/L
Nitrogen (Nitrate/Nitrite)	52	6%	3	4.3 mg/L	10 mg/L

The uranium results in particular are worth noting. Half of the uranium samples were above the EPA-recommended limit, and four were over 5 times the limit. Uranium is a radioactive atom that will very slowly decay into radioactive particles which can cause damage to cells and molecules in the body. Prolonged exposure to radiation may increase the risk of cancer and consumption of water containing uranium in excess of 0.03 mg/L may be toxic to the kidneys. Effective treatments for uranium are ion exchange, reverse osmosis, lime softening, and coagulation/filtration.

E. coli was also detected in some wells and residents that tested positive for Total Coliform Bacteria shocked their wells. Residents that had nitrogen over the recommended limit are looking into other treatment options. Treatments for all the results are ongoing.

CCCWP would like to iterate that it is important to test drinking water not only after a flood event, but also on an annual basis. Wells can deteriorate over time and land development can introduce contaminants to previously pristine groundwater supplies. It is helpful to test at the same time every year to assure consistent results. These initial 52 water samples in the canyon showed that there are definitely some water quality issues in this area, and we encourage you to get your water tested. You can find information how to test on your own and send your sample to the state lab here: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/lab/generalinfo>

We also have lots of water quality information and links available on our website at: <http://www.cccwp.org/>.

We hope to use this information for community education, mapping, and long-term water quality studies. We also hope to be able to offer another round of free private well testing this summer. Please call us regarding any additional resources that might be helpful for maintaining your well. 303-586-1491.



REACH 8 UPDATE

Now that spring is in the air, we wanted to provide an update on the Coal Creek Reach 8 project. The Coal Creek Canyon Watershed Partnership (CCCWP) and project consulting team, led by ICON Engineering, Inc. have been continuing to make progress towards the goals of developing a restoration plan for Reach 8.

GRANT PROGRESS:

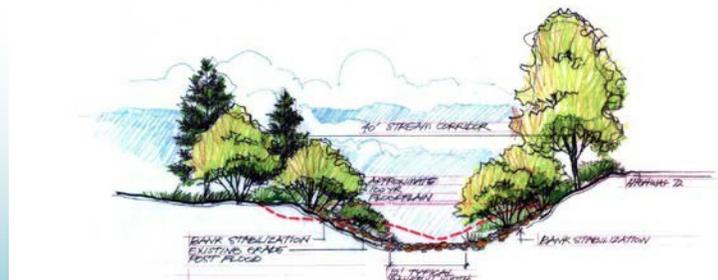
- CCCWP submitted a grant application to implement the stream restoration that is part of the grant funded planning currently in progress for Reach 8.
- CCCWP has since met with the state on-site to discuss the grant in more detail. The most significant development was that the CDBG-DR grant could not be used to fund private access culverts and bridges.
- CCCWP is continuing to explore other grant possibilities which may help cover expenses that the CDBG grant does not.

PROJECT PROGRESS:

- Our project team was able to visit the site and meet with individual residents one-on-one.
- In between snowfalls, our team was able to continue to observe site conditions in the field.
- We were able to conduct aerial mapping, which is currently being processed, and our project surveyors are helping to define property boundaries on our work maps.
- Our team has also continued to develop baseline data, including flood hydrology, floodplain evaluations, and geomorphic restoration assessments. We are making plans to further locate and wetland delineation.

NEXT STEPS:

- Our next steps will be to meet with Jefferson County and CDOT to confirm project support and coordination for the planned work in Reach 8.
- Once we hear the results of our implementation grant application, we will be able to work with the community to refine project specific goals.
- We will then regroup with each land owner to review with project goals and share ideas.



PUBLIC WORKSHOP
**THE ROLE OF NATIVE PLANTS IN
 RESTORING YOUR LANDSCAPE**
JOIN US MAY 5, 7PM @ CCCIA HALL

CCCWP will be hosting its next Public Workshop: **The Role of Native Plants in Restoring Your Landscape. May 5th, 7PM @ CCCIA Hall.** The speaker is John Giordanengo, Executive Director of Synergy Ecological Restoration. Come find out what makes a species native, what species are native the CCC and why they are important.

Planting native vegetation in project areas is one of the most essential elements to accomplish successful and long-lasting post-flood stream restoration projects. Many landowners involved in CCCWP project areas have listed this as a top priority.

CCCWP plans to make good use of native vegetation as we move forward with our project planning. In the words of John Giordanengo, "Native plants are essential to the health and resilience of our floodplains. And while traditional engineering structures (i.e., rip-rap and cement) are often necessary in small portions of the floodplain to protect bridges, diversion structures, and a some road embankments, vegetation plays an integral role in both the short- and long-term stability of the floodplain, river banks, and road embankments."



John Gioranengo continues, "Absent ongoing maintenance, cement and other hard structures are strongest in the days after installation, and continually weaken over time. To the contrary, restored vegetation (seeds and container stock) are weakest in the days following installation, but grow in strength with each succeeding day and season. The strength of vegetation comes in the form of the tensile strength of roots, and the reductions of shear stress afforded by the stems, trunks, and leaves during high flow periods. With a combination of proper design and planning, bioengineering projects lead to long-term resilient solutions for a great majority of our floodplain areas."

STOP BY THE OFFICE AND SAY HI!

30509 Hwy 72 Next to Coal Creek Coffee

OFFICE HOURS:

TUESDAY 10AM-4PM

THURSDAY 3PM-7PM

