

Upper Fourmile Creek Restoration Design Community Meeting

Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 5:30-7:30 PM

Fourmile Canyon Firehouse, 1740 Fourmile Canyon Drive

This summary includes an overview of the purpose and format of the meeting, and questions from the full group discussion. Individual comments shared at the meeting and after the meeting will be evaluated and considered for implementation by both Boulder County and the design team.

Fourmile Creek Recovery and Restoration:

More information on the creek restoration, including the meeting presentation and a link to the designs is available at:

<http://www.bouldercounty.org/flood/creekrestoration/pages/fourmilecreek.aspx>

Contact Information:

Boulder County – Contact with feedback or questions, to submit a form or to be added to the community list serve.

Stream Recovery and Restoration: Clarissa Hageman: 303-441-1610, chageman@bouldercounty.org

Stream Restoration Project Participant Agreement Forms: For questions or to setup a meeting, contact CDR Associates at 720-407-4714 or fourmilemasterplan@mediate.org

Road Reconstruction: Andrew Barth: 303-441-1032 - abarth@bouldercounty.org

Road Permission to Enter Forms: Richard Pittenridge, (720) 689-6080 (office), (720) 320-2070 (cell), richard.pittenridge@trscorp.us

Boulder County Transportation Department, PO Box 471, Boulder, CO 80306, Boulder, CO 80203

Fourmile Creek Watershed Coalition

Maya MacHamer and Cat Price, 303-449-3333, fourmilewatershed@gmail.com, <http://fourmilewatershed.org>

Purpose and Format

The purposes of the community meeting were to share and obtain feedback on the draft 30% Upper Fourmile creek restoration design and discuss next steps before restoration work can begin. Community members were asked to respond to questions including:

- Are you comfortable with the proposed improvements on your property (e.g., where the creek will be located and how it flows/ meanders, in-stream features, bank stabilization, and revegetation)? If not, why? Do you have any stream restoration customization requests?
- Do you have a well or septic system that is on the creek side of your property? Is it within 50 feet of the current creek alignment? If so, can you send us a photo by March 21, 2016?

The meeting began with a brief presentation, which is available on the project website. It included an overview of damage done to the creek, an overview of the assessment and key goals and components of the proposed creek design, a funding and implementation schedule update, and information on required next steps, including obtaining Stream Restoration Project Participant Agreements from all property owners. After a full group discussion (see questions below), people went to reach-specific tables to review the design maps for their area. This was an opportunity for individuals to talk directly with technical team members to ask questions and share input. Feedback

was recorded on maps and comment cards, all of which will be reviewed closely by the Project Team and incorporated into the Plan as appropriate.

Large Group Discussion Questions

The discussion included the following questions and responses.

Under these designs, how resilient or vulnerable will the creek be to future flood events?

If we get another 2013 flood (50- and 100-year events), there will be extensive damage no matter what. We are doing extensive modeling to ensure the creek can pass flow and avoid sediment loading. The design ensures that the floodplain is able to handle more frequent flood events. If we don't do any stream restoration, even minor flood events could cause substantial damage.

What happens to stream bank where rip-rap is currently exposed?

In general, we will bury it and plant over it. It is expensive to haul it offsite. It also provides some flood protection.

What types of boulders will you use?

In general, we'll use what is in the watershed already. If we need more, we'll bring in boulders that are similar to what we find here. We're trying to minimize use of boulders where possible for stream stabilization.

What happens to areas where bedrock has been exposed?

It depends on the location. In general, we won't excavate and will preserve natural features where possible. We will be reshaping the channel, not elevating it.

How will current fish and other populations be maintained?

We use GPS devices to identify features we want to save. We're working with the fish biologist and ecologist on our team to identify and preserve existing aquatic and terrestrial habitat that's stable and functioning. Populations themselves won't be augmented externally.

What happens with private restoration work that's already been done?

We know people have done valuable work and we don't want to change any work you've done on your property. Please identify those places on the roll plot maps so we can make sure to preserve all features you want to protect. We are being diligent in tracking these.

How will stream restoration work impact ability to build private bridges, especially in terms of timing?

We are doing what we can to ensure crossings are sized properly to avoid future flooding and damage, though we don't have control over construction on private lands. Boulder County and the Fourmile Watershed Coalition know which crossings are slated to be replaced and have a goal of trying to make sure crossings are either replaced before or concurrently with stream restoration. We are working closely with the Home Access program to do this.

How are you coordinating with road work?

The Baker Team is also working on the road reconstruction design and we're working hard to coordinate the two projects. The goal is to have stream restoration work done at the same time. For the Wall Street area, the road and creek are mostly not in contact so this section will be done at a different time.

Anticipated duration of creek restoration?

Final 30% design will be completed in Spring 2016. Ideally we'll start restoration work in Fall 2016, in coordination with the road reconstruction. It is uncertain how long the stream restoration will take to complete.

What is the update on other portions of Fourmile Canyon?

For Gold Run, we'll have final 30% stream design around July 2016. The Gold Run project is habitat restoration, not creek restoration since we're severely constrained by geology there. Gold Run is much more integrated with the road project because it's such a tight corridor. For Lower Fourmile (area south of Salina junction and further down), we'll have 30% design in late Summer 2016. It is unlikely that any restoration work will begin before Fall 2016.

Is road work happening in Left Hand comparable to what's going to happen here?

They are quite different. The Left Hand road is moving significantly, whereas here the road is staying generally in the same location in Fourmile. CFL is doing the road work in Left Hand now. They will also do the stream work.

What if people don't sign Stream Restoration Project Participant Agreements?

If only occasional property owners don't participate, we'll try to work around them.

What's the difference between The Fourmile Watershed Coalition's agreements and Boulder County's agreements?

We are working closely together on the forms and they have consistent language. We've tried hard to incorporate and address residents' concerns and make a simple, straight-forward form. We've also worked to change land use policy to ensure we're only looking at issues directly related to the creek, nothing else. We've also worked with the Left Hand Coalition to make our forms consistent across Coalitions.

What are the two letters we've already gotten related to giving the County 'Permission to Enter'?

The Permission to Enter forms are associated with the road reconstruction project. Boulder County ultimately decided to have two separate forms because the projects have different needs. The road Permission to Enter forms are only for survey work (for road or stream projects), while the stream restoration Participant Agreement covers survey, construction and operation and maintenance. The road reconstruction will also require temporary and permanent easements from some property owners. TRS Corporation is helping obtain forms for the road construction. Please contact Richard Pittenridge at (720) 689-6080 (office), (720) 320-2070 (cell), or richard.pittenridge@trscorp.us with any questions.

What if we want to sign one letter but not the other?

Agreements are tied to funding. The Fourmile Watershed Coalition does not have any funding to do work beyond its current section. The Coalition is going to be significantly involved either way, to make sure design and process is appropriate for the watershed. There is a lot of coordination and collaboration.