



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Andrea Harbin Monahan, Watershed and Flood Protection Section

**DATE:** November 15-16, 2022

**AGENDA ITEM:** Agenda Item 17 - Proposed Improvements to Reynolds Landing Park

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**Staff Recommendation:**

This is an informational item and no board action is needed.

**Background:**

In the 1980's, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) constructed the Chatfield Downstream Channel Improvement Project (Project). The Project consisted of improvements to the flow of water in the channel of the South Platte River in Arapahoe County to (1) provide drainage, (2) flood control, and (3) water flow. As part of its participation in the Project, the CWCB currently owns and controls approximately 7 miles of the South Platte River floodplain and channel lands through Littleton in Arapahoe County. The CWCB's management of this land is subject to the terms of agreements dated September 7, 1977 and January 29, 1980 between the CWCB and the USACE, which obligate the CWCB to operate and maintain the Project improvements.

The Project right-of-way flows right through Reynolds Landing Park, which is located in Littleton, Colorado, along the South Platte River near the intersection of Santa Fe Drive and Mineral.

**Discussion:**

The South Platte River through the existing Reynolds Landing Park is degraded, lacks recreation and habitat, and can be hazardous. The CWCB is working with multiple stakeholders, including Mile High Flood District and the City of Littleton, to revitalize this park and restore the river, creating access to the water and providing diverse nature experiences and recreation, allowing Reynolds Landing Park to become more vibrant for the community and improving, expanding, and enhancing the natural environments.

The goals of the revitalized Reynolds Landing Park are to maintain flood protection, improve river health, enhance in-river recreational opportunities, connect the community to nature through access to the river's edge and the river corridor, and promote economic development by drawing residents and businesses to Littleton and the South Platte River.



Improvements at the park will include ingress and egress from the river, improved whitewater rapids, improved riparian vegetation and habitat channels, and riffle and pool sequences. Project partners will be seeking 404 and 408 permits through the USACE to facilitate these improvements, as well as in-river vegetation for habitat and shade.

CWCB staff is currently working with the Attorney General's office to determine what steps need to be taken, as the landowners, to facilitate these improvements within the river channel and the floodplain.

