

Weir Gulch – Meeting Comments & Responses

#1

The gulch as it sits, has some wetlands, but is also ending up being a dumping ground for not only trash, but pollutants, like chemicals and oils. Cement washways in residential areas where I live appear unmaintained and frankly are unsafe.

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of flooding, visual appearance, maintenance, habitat, water quality and recreation to you.

Creating a more open naturalized channel should discourage illegal dumping within the gulch. If this ever happens, please call EPA or 311. It would be helpful to know what is meant by cement washways, so that we can better understand if this is something that we will look into as a part of this study.

The City's Department of Environmental Health is partnering with The Greenway Foundation to decrease the challenges of trash in the South Platte River and its tributaries, including outreach and engagement efforts to help Denver's citizens understand that "trash in my neighborhood = trash in my waterways". Efforts are also underway with local colleges and universities to engage students in a competition to create trash removal devices that can be placed in these urban waterways. This effort was inspired by Baltimore's innovative and successful trash wheel.

#2

To make Weir Gulch much nicer looking than it has in the past

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of visual appearance, maintenance, habitat, and recreation to you.

#3

The access to natural running water is a great benefit of my neighborhood. These areas should be an attraction, not an eye sore. Continued maintenance is needed to keep these areas clean and living in Barnum Park desirable.

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of maintenance, habitat, water quality and recreation to you.

#4

Despite the fact that we live a block or two from the gulch, I'm still worried about flooding and sinkholes. It can still affect us. I also like to walk along Weir Gulch to access other trails to get downtown. It makes my neighborhood feel more connected to nature, which we're so close to anyway, what with the Rockies right up on us. So, if I can walk along a path that makes me feel slightly more connected to that, then I'm happy. More clean up efforts would be nice, too. Hate all the shopping carts in the creek.

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of flooding, visual appearance, maintenance, habitat, and water quality to you.

There is culvert replacement project underway and once that is completed, a path connection will be made through Barnum Park NE of 3rd & Hooker.

Thank you for your support on naturalizing the channel, and feedback on the maintenance which includes keeping large debris out of the channel. Please call 311 if you do see any large debris that could reduce the capacity of the waterway.

#5

I would like to see weir gulch be a place that people and wildlife can co-exist without trash and graffiti all over the place. There should be a nice path that is accessible for all and places to rest or picnic along the way.

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of visual appearance, access, maintenance, habitat, water quality and recreation to you.

Thank you for your feedback on trash and graffiti. The City's Department of Environmental Health is partnering with The Greenway Foundation to decrease the challenges of trash in the South Platte River and its tributaries, including outreach and engagement efforts to help Denver's citizens understand that "trash in my neighborhood = trash in my waterways". Efforts are also underway with local colleges and universities to engage students in a competition to create trash removal devices that can be placed in these urban waterways. This effort was inspired by Baltimore's innovative and successful trash wheel.

Below are some options for removal of graffiti:

- Report graffiti to Public Works for free removal assistance by submitting a 311 Help Request
- For free removal assistance on your property, you must complete a removal authorization form in (English) or Spanish
- Report graffiti to the police to help them track graffiti vandals to more effectively stop graffiti from happening
- Or remove it yourself. Get free materials to remove graffiti from your property

#6

This gulch is constantly used for graffiti. Its a shame nothing is done, but in this area - Westwood, it doesn't surprise me.

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of visual appearance and maintenance to you.

Thank you for your feedback on graffiti. Below are some options for removal of graffiti:

- Report graffiti to Public Works for free removal assistance by submitting a 311 Help Request
- For free removal assistance on your property, you must complete a removal authorization form in (English) or Spanish
- Report graffiti to the police to help them track graffiti vandals to more effectively stop graffiti from happening
- Or remove it yourself. Get free materials to remove graffiti from your property

#7

The weir gulch needs to be maintained...there are no trees planted and it is often a mess with garbage. The paving is crumbling and the neighborhood feels as if it is being ignored. Please restore the vegetation, install garbage cans, and repair!!

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of visual appearance, access, maintenance, habitat, and water quality to you.

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#8

I'd love for the Weir Gulch to be a place that is inviting and safe at all times of the day, so I can walk my dog and/or bike along the gulch without any concern

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of flooding, visual appearance, access, maintenance, habitat, and water quality to you.

#9

Litter is a main concern

Response

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#10

We are supportive of the upkeep and improvement of the weir gulch for the entire Barnum neighborhood. We walk along the gulch twice daily.

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of visual appearance, maintenance, habitat, water quality and recreation to you. Thank you for the support of improving this waterway.

#11

I am most concerned about access and maintenance. Cleanliness is an issue. Since the dumpsters were removed, there is no where to dispose of garbage, except in the streets/trails. Also, the bike path following Weir Gulch needs some attention. I believe there are plans to connect Barnum park to the Platte River trail, but the trail through Barnum and Westwood could also use some TLC.

Response

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There is culvert replacement project underway and once that is completed, a path connection will be made through Barnum Park NE of 3rd & Hooker.

#12

It would be nice if Barnum park lake was fishable.

Love the maintenance and upkeep along the trail system. one of the great things about this neighborhood. Great for bike and walks

Thank you

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of flooding, visual appearance, access, maintenance, habitat, water quality and recreation to you.

Parks and Recreation is currently undergoing a Lake Management Planning process. Assessments are being conducted to assess the fishing ability and water quality of the lakes in Denver.

#13

I was in school with Joe Shoemaker's son when the flood of 65 happened. I know the value of what has happened on the river through the Greenway people. One of these days, people will be able to catch trout at confluence park, but first, they must be able to catch bluegill and catfish at Barnum Park.

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of habitat, water quality and recreation to you.

#14

Better maintenance of trees, shrubs, banks ,wildlife. Trash & recycle bins need to be placed on the trails. Water quality needs to be addressed, maintained, enforced.

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of flooding, visual appearance, access, maintenance, habitat, water quality and recreation to you.

#15

I love the gulch during the daytime, but it is scary and impossible to walk in the evenings. After 1st Ave and before 10th, there are many places that the path is broken, and the lighting is non-existent, so tripping over pavement or encountering alarming people in the blackness is usual. Besides being a great place to have shady business dealings, the gulch trail is just not something non-weapons-wielding people can use as soon as dusk sets.

It would be fantastic to fix the path and get some lighting, although the drug dealers in the neighborhood will have to find new places to sell their meth and accost people.

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of flooding, visual appearance, and maintenance to you.

#16

The gulch is full of trash that seems to collect at points along the waterway. The bank is deeply cut, making it difficult to access the water to remove trash. Barnum lake is rather disgusting, and the collection of trash pains me every time I walk the loop. Many animals call the gulch and lake home, and rely on it as a riparian ecosystem in the area. It is a blight on the community and a depressing sight. The area could be an educational tool and enjoyable destination with improved design.

I am not an expert, and request you take the following as my observations only, not what I claim to be the solution. The depth of the lake seems to be an issue, as it is extremely shallow and warms up in the summer, creating algae and sediment collection. A deeper lake with a broader diversity of aquatic life, and planting along the gulch leading to the lake, seems like it would do wonders for the quality and clarity of the lake and gulch across the board. An improved ecosystem for all would benefit everything

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of visual appearance, maintenance, habitat, and water quality to you.

Parks and Recreation is currently undergoing a Lake Management Planning process. Assessments are being conducted to assess the fishing ability and water quality of the lakes in Denver.

#17

I'd like to see weir gulch and the pond it drains into in Barnum park cleaned up and maintained better.

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of visual appearance, maintenance, habitat, water quality and recreation to you.

#18

Trash in the gulch, erosion exposing the irrigation lateral lines, trees on sides not getting irrigation, low flow.

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of visual appearance, maintenance, and habitat to you.

#19

Just that I always have to keep an eye because the water flows pretty fast down Kentucky.

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of reducing the flood risk.

#20

Weir Gulch is a nice green space that offers a meandering trail for walks in your own neighborhood. The Gulch is maintained only with mowing. The area becomes overgrown with weeds, the walkways are poorly maintained. During high rainfall times the water will overflow the banks of the little stream. The stream will become overgrown with algae at times. The Gulch is also not a continuous trail. It mysteriously ends at Alameda and offers no continuity to connect to Belmar and the large green space available west of Wadsworth.

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of flooding, visual appearance, access, maintenance, habitat, water quality and recreation to you.

#21

People live down there. Old white kids with dreadlox

Plus, I live between Weir and Lakewood and Dry gulch and don't understand why we have so much standing water on 10th. Are our drainage systems up to date or are they being impeded by habitat and lack of maintenance. That's my concern.

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of flooding, habitat, and water quality to you.

#22

I am primarily concerned about the habitats and water quality of the South Plate River and Weir/Harvard Gulch due to increased waste and lack of clean up and maintenance.

Response

We want to thank you for your input on the Urban Waterways Restoration Feasibility Study and the importance of flooding, visual appearance, access, maintenance, habitat, water quality and recreation to you.

#23

since approximately 1.5 miles is in Lakewood, why are they not a partner in this study?

Response

The Urban Drainage and Flood Control District partnered with the City of Lakewood and Jefferson County on a study along Weir Gulch upstream of Sheridan Boulevard (i.e., upstream of the Denver city limits) in the early 90s. This study culminated in a master plan titled “Upper Weir Gulch Major Drainageway Planning Study” by Kiowa Engineering Corporation in 1993. The City and County, along with assistance from UDFCD, are still using this document to manage Weir Gulch in their jurisdictions and didn’t feel it required an update at this time. Most of Weir Gulch within Lakewood lies within a preserved open space corridor so the flooding problems noted in the Denver reaches aren’t prevalent. The main issue is channel stabilization and we have been working with Lakewood over the years to stabilize the channel and prevent sediment from moving downstream.

Weir Gulch – Map Comments & Responses

Recreation/Trails | (C: Comment / R: Response)

C: Connections? (@ S. Fenton St. between Ray Ross Park and Weir Gulch)

R: All options will be initially considered, including better river access and connections

C: Open up pedestrian access to water and nature for residents of Westwood.

R: This is one of the primary goals of the study.

C: Westwood has few parks and highest population of children in the city. Access to nature and recreation is important for health and learning. (@ Westwood / Barnum West Neighborhood)

R: This is one of the primary goals of the study.

C: Trash cans needed along trail / Add trash grates (@ Weir Gulch in general)

R: Thank you for your comment. The trash cans comment will be forwarded to the appropriate CCD agency, and the trash grates will be considered if this section of Weir proceeds with the Design Phase after the study has recommended a selected plan.

C: Challenging area - bike trail consider painting lanes, signage, road buttons - wayfinder mirrors @ corners (suggest Seattle as example) use something physical as separation. (@ Newton St. and W. 2nd Ave.)

R: Thank you for your comment. This option will be initially considered, including better river access and connections

C: Vehicles use the paths as shortcuts, making it not safe for pedestrians. (@ Lowell Blvd. and W. 2nd Avel. To Barnum Park)

R: Thank you for your comment. This option will be initially considered, including better river access and connections

C: Lack of adequate connectivity/sidewalks to trail (@ Weir Gulch in general)

R: All options will be initially considered, including better river access and connections

C: Trash cans, recycling, dog waste bags, lights (@ Weir Gulch in general)

R: Thank you for your comment. The trash cans comment will be forwarded to the appropriate CCD agency.

C: Mark gulch mileage, more wayfinding (@ Weir Gulch in general)

R: All options will be initially considered, including better river access and connections

C: Monet - type bridge because path floods when it rains a lot (@ Barnum Park Lake)

R: All options will be initially considered, including better river access and connections

C: Land acquisition for recreation and habitat restoration (@ Weir Gulch in general)

R: This is one of the primary goals of the study.

C: Reconnect neighborhoods with trails and safer crossings (@ Weir Gulch in general)

R: This is one of the primary goals of the study.

C: Connection across or under Federal Blvd. from Barnum Park to Barnum East.

R: This is one of the primary goals of the study.

C: Need for safe bike/ped connections light rail to both trails (@ Federal Blvd. and 8th Ave.)

R: This is one of the primary goals of the study.

C: Bike route connection needed (@ from Barnum Park to South Platte Trail)

R: This is one of the primary goals of the study.

C: Connection with the Sun Valley community from the east side of the river

R: This is one of the primary goals of the study.

C: Continue improvements that are here (Weir Gulch Marina Park) to here (west of Decatur St.)

R: All options will be initially considered, including better river access and connections

C: Safer bike/ped street crossings (color the concrete for example) (@ Weir Gulch in general)

R: All options will be initially considered, including better river access and connections

C: Bike path underpass @ Alameda

R: All options will be initially considered, including better river access and connections

C: Bike/pedestrian trail ends - don't know where to go (@ W. 2nd Ave. and Knox Ct.)

C: Make bike, walk path along Weir continuous all the way, right now you have to go "up" to roads and then back down to gulch from Sheridan to Federal

R: All options will be initially considered, including better river access and connections

C: Make Weir Gulch a real bicycle connector through Denver.

R: This is one of the primary goals of the study.

C: Add boat dock for canoe/kayak (@ Barnum Park Lake)

R: All options will be initially considered, including better river access and connections

C: Aerate the pond / dredge lake

C: Separate path for bike vs. pedestrian or widen trail so there's more room for both. (@ Weir Gulch in general)

R: All options will be initially considered, including better river access and connections

C: City Parks says no dog park allowed here because of 100 year flood or flash flooding - please fix!
(@Barnum Park)

R: To reduce the flood risk during a 100-year storm event is one of the primary goals of the study.

C: Connect with real trail (@ Federal Blvd.)

C: Bathing in the river (@ Weir Gulch and South Platte confluence)

R: "The City's Department of Environmental Health is supportive of improvements that create opportunities for active, healthy lifestyles, but does not recommend swimming in any surface water body in Denver (wading, fishing, and boating are ok). Swimming in the lakes and streams in Denver is prohibited by Division 2, Section 24-9 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code. We hope someday it will be safe to swim in the City's streams and lakes, but for now, it is not. This study is a step in the right direction to helping us get closer to achieving that goal. If this comment is intended to notify us that there is bathing activity in these waterways, please call 311, while the individuals are there or take a photograph and submit it through denvergov.org"

Ecological Restoration | (C: Comment / R: Response)

C: More green space (park) along gulch would be nice, even if that would mean buying a few houses or properties along it.

R: All options will be initially considered, including better river access and connection. Thank you for the support for land acquisition.

C: Bring all of the gulch above ground, no more pipes and concrete channels

R: This is one of the primary goals of the study.

C: More tree canopy over trail and along water (S. Windsor Dr. between Alameda and Bayaud Ave.)

R: This is one of the primary goals of the study.

C: Old dead trees removed, make more habitat for wildlife, trash removal, banks need work (@ between Bayaud Ave. and 1st Ave.)

R: This is one of the primary goals of the study.

C: Please add funds for invasive species removal and preclude new weeds being planted in erosion control mix. (@ Weir Gulch in general)

R: This is one of the primary goals of the study.

C: Daylighting opportunity (@ from Julian St. to Perry St.)

R: All options will be initially considered.

C: Concrete channels deep for flood? Are these needed? (@ W. 3rd Ave.)

R: There will be a balance between reducing the flood risk and restoring habitat and ecology to this waterway. At times it may be more beneficial to keep a concrete channel section to avoid increasing the cost of the overall alternative recommended from this study. All options will be initially considered, including removing concrete to improve habitat and ecology.

C: Water testing lake and gulch / more reeds (@ Weir Gulch in general)

R: "CCD Department of Environmental Health (DEH) samples (water only) Weir Gulch just upstream of it's confluence with the South Platte once a quarter. Samples are analyzed for nutrients, cations and anions, bacteria, and sediment. At the first of the year we also added metals. Period of record is late 2002 to present although there are some gaps in data collection. Barnum is sampled annually (water and sediment) for essentially the same parameters, although the metals suite is slightly larger. A one page summary of results from 2013 is on DEH's webpage, click on Water Quality Reports and Data. Please submit your name and contact information through the study's website if you would like further information on this. www.denverwaterways.com"

C: Improve habitat corridor / edible landscape (@ Weir Gulch in general)

R: This is one of the primary goals of the study.

C: Route Weir Gulch through artificial wetland (@ Barnum Park)

R: All options will be initially considered.

C: Dredge lake, aeration needed (@ Barnum Park)

R: "Barnum Lake is shallow, urban lake that receives runoff from surrounding neighborhoods and from upstream areas that drain to Weir Gulch. Recent renovations include the 2011 addition of a wetland / forebay complex to trap sediment and other pollutants from storm water runoff from Federal Boulevard. Runoff from urban areas is typically high in nutrients, bacteria, suspended solids, and other pollutants. During the growing season, the nutrients, shallow water depths provide favorable conditions for growth of filamentous algae and aquatic vegetation, especially in areas of stagnant water. City staff are aware of the problems with Barnum Lake including the heavy growths of filamentous algae and aquatic plants and are studying how best to control them. Current recommendations include determining an effective means to minimize stagnant water, considering options to improve flows where Weir Gulch enters the lake, getting the forebay on a routine dredging schedule, and other means to control the growth of filamentous algae and vegetation. "

C: Forestry dept has map of all trees along gulch

R: Thank you for this comment

C: Survey for heavy metal and chemical contamination (@ Weir Gulch in general)

R: "CCD Department of Environmental Health (DEH) samples (water only) Weir Gulch just upstream of it's confluence with the South Platte once a quarter. Samples are analyzed for nutrients, cations and anions, bacteria, and sediment. At the first of the year we also added metals. Period of record is late 2002 to present although there are some gaps in data collection. Barnum is sampled annually (water and sediment) for essentially the same parameters, although the metals suite is slightly larger. A one page summary of results from 2013 is on DEH's webpage."

C: Give people a way to interact with the water, the flora and fauna of the riparian area. Improve access to water through gently sloping banks and have a more natural stream bed/bottom to allow bacteria to establish - increase habitat for crawfish and cleaning species. (@ Weir Gulch in general)

R: This is one of the primary goals of the study.

C: Water quality improvement by bioremediation hemp or rice (@ Weir Gulch in general)

R: All options will be initially considered.

C: Provide clear drops for aeration (@ Weir Gulch in general)

R: All options will be initially considered.

C: Trees - I want to see more trees! Our giant cottonwoods (about 100 years old) have been slowly removed over the 30 years I have lived in Barnum... talk about a long-term plan. Plant trees! - April

R: This is one of the primary goals of the study.

Miscellaneous | (C: Comment / R: Response)

C: Only Westwood Plan and Sun Valley Plans were listed. Please consult the Barnum Neighborhood Plan. Last plan was 1986 and 1979 - both had concerns about Weir Gulch. Right now working on the new updated Barnum/Barnum West Plan.

R: Thank you for this information. Please submit your contact information and how you are involved in these neighborhood plans, so that we can begin and continue to move forward with this study and the neighborhood plan. We checked with the CCD's Community Planning and Development (CPD) department which is the department that is responsible for all neighborhood planning efforts, and currently the CCD is not working on an update to the Barnum neighborhood plan. CPD is also working on a plan to update all of Denver's outdated neighborhood plans.

C: Defensible space because lots of illegal dumping and urban camping along stretches where there is no trail. (@ Weir Gulch in general)

R: "This is one of the primary goals of the study. If you ever see illegal dumping activity please immediately call 311 or take a video or photograph and submit it through 311-denvergov.org The City's Department of Environmental Health is partnering with The Greenway Foundation to decrease the challenges of trash in the South Platte River and its tributaries, including outreach and engagement efforts to help Denver's citizens understand that "trash in my neighborhood = trash in my waterways". Efforts are also underway with local colleges and universities to engage students in a competition to create trash removal devices that can be placed in these urban waterways. This effort was inspired by Baltimore's innovative and successful trash wheel."

C: Work with DHA to make this an amenity (@ Sun Valley housing project next to South Platte River)

R: Thank you. We are currently connected with DHA and are coordinating our efforts.

C: Trash collects here! (@ Weir Gulch's entrance to Barnum Park pond)

R: The City's Department of Environmental Health is partnering with The Greenway Foundation to decrease the challenges of trash in the South Platte River and its tributaries, including outreach and engagement efforts to help Denver's citizens understand that "trash in my neighborhood = trash in my waterways". Efforts are also underway with local colleges and universities to engage students in a

competition to create trash removal devices that can be placed in these urban waterways. This effort was inspired by Baltimore’s innovative and successful trash wheel.