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BIG DRY CREEK AT 104TH AVE TO SHERIDAN BLVD WESTMINSTER, COLORADO

Client: Mile High Flood District and
City of Westminster, Colorado



A prefabricated truss pedestrian bridge being placed by a crane.



An outdoor education area offers shaded seating with log benches sourced from on-site tree removals.



Water quality pond forebays with boulder baffles and vegetated forebays to blend infrastructure with the park's natural environment.



Challenges

Big Dry Creek's history reflects decades of suburban development and channel straightening that simplified flows, disconnected the creek from its historic floodplain, and stripped away its natural ability to manage high flows. The result was accelerating erosion that threatened the sewer system running beneath the corridor.

Solutions

At its core, the project is a water resources solution, taking a process-based approach that works with the creek's natural functions. Coordinating the restoration with the Big Dry Creek upgrade consolidated disruption into a single construction effort.

Unique Innovations

Channel Restoration

- Reshaped 3,850 linear feet to restore hydraulic balance
- Reintroduced sinuosity through riffle-pool sequences
- Stabilized banks with bioengineered techniques

Water Quality Improvements

- Five new vegetated water-quality ponds
- Intercept and treat neighborhood runoff before it reaches the creek

Community And Corridor Benefits

- Flood risk reduction
- Benches, picnic tables, and park enhancements
- Outdoor classroom and nature play area
- Ecological restoration
- Pollinator species habitat improvement



Aerial view highlighting the new pedestrian bridge, trail connection, and channel sinuosity.



Children using one of the steppingstone boulder crossings. The experiential crossings invite the community down to the water.