DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT
4101 JEFFERSON PLAZA NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87109-3435

February 28, 2025

Planning, Project and Program Management Division Planning Branch
Environmental Resources Section

Chairman Durell Cooper
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
PO Box 1330
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005

Dear Chairman Cooper:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District (USACE) is partnering with the City of Colorado Springs, the non-Federal sponsor, to restore degraded wetland and riparian ecosystems along Spring Creek in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The project is being conducted under the authority of Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. The proposed Federal (USACE) action would be within the project area and consistent with the City of Colorado Springs's plan to create a stream corridor along Spring Creek and support the greater vision for the Fountain Creek watershed to create a healthy waterway with appropriate erosion, sedimentation, and flooding that supports diverse economic, environmental, and recreational interests. USACE has the unique opportunity to address problems in the project area by restoring habitat in a rapidly developing urban area.

The project area is located along Spring Creek in Colorado Springs, El Paso County, between Pikes Peak Avenue and Airport Road (Enclosure 1). The project area is located within 6th Meridian, Township 14 South, Range 66 West, Section 15 in USGS Quad Colorado Springs, CO. The Spring Creek basin is within the larger Fountain Creek Watershed (HUC 8: 11020003 - Fountain; HUC 4: 1102 - Upper Arkansas). Spring Creek's headwaters are located in urban Colorado Springs. The defined stream channel generally slopes from the northeast to the southwest approximately 4 miles, from just under half a mile upstream of the project area to its confluence with Fountain Creek.

For the purposes of this study, the area was divided into three reaches (Enclosure 2). Below is a detailed account of the location of each reach and the undertakings (measures) proposed in each reach. These measures focus on invasive species removal, riparian planting, physical exclusion of the environmentally sensitive areas, increasing instream habitat diversity, and promoting public outreach and education.

- **Reach 1: Pikes Peak North** is bordered to the west by Wagner Park, the south by Pikes Peak Ave., the north by a city fire station, and to the east by commercial businesses. The undertakings proposed for Reach 1 involves construction of a stone toe protection on the west bank, riparian plantings behind the stone toe, placement of boulder clusters within the channel, a new pedestrian access road (will double as a recreation path) to a stewardship area with a bench, and removal of invasive species on the east bank (Enclosure 3).

Sample

Table 1. Details for Reach 1 Measures

Measure	Component	Specifications
West Side Bank Stabilization	Boulder Toe Protection	• Rock Size: D50 = 1.5 feet, length = 540 feet
	Plantings (Area = 600ft)	• Species: Narrow leaf Willow (*Salix exigua*), Slender Wheat Grass, Armleaf arrowhead (*Sagittaria cuneata*), Shortbreak sedge (*Crex brevior*)
Instream Habitat Structure	Boulder Clusters	• 40-60 Boulders, Rock Size: 2.25-3 feet
Invasive Species Removal	-	• Manual (1.5 acres) and Chemical (0.75 acres) removal of invasive species
Pedestrian Access Road into Reach		• Length of Access Road = 500 feet • 14 feet wide with 10 feet wide tread width, crushed rock over geotextile filter fabric • Curb cut needed off Pikes Peak Rd • Bollard posts to restrict vehicle access
Covered Area with Picnic Table	-	• Anchored to the ground, no concrete pad • Sitting Bench • Information Sign

Sample

- **Reach 2: Former Wetland** is located southwest of the intersection of Pikes Peak Ave. and S. Academy Blvd and directly south of Reach 1. The undertakings proposed involve two constructed rock riffles (CRR1 & CRR2) which will act as grade control structures to counter the incision that is occurring in the reach (Enclosure 4). Upstream of each CRR, the banks will be laid back at varying elevations and degrees of slope (BM) to create areas that will be permanently and periodically wet (wetlands) and planted with suitable wetland plants. All riparian areas disturbed will be replanted. An overflow channel will be filled with the material removed during bank modifications (Area F1). Area F2 will be filled to create a gradual slope suitable for a maintenance path to the center of the site. All remaining fill material will be added to Area F3. Stone will be added to the banks where there are currently sharp bends to stop the erosion occurring and stabilize the stream (SBS1 & SBS2). Access paths into the site will include a trail from the west, south, and northeast corner.

Table 2. Details for Reach 2 Measures

Measure	Component	Specifications
Constructed Rock Riffles (CRR)	CRR1	• Rock Size: D50, 1.5 feet • Length: 45 feet, Width: 40 feet, Height: 4 feet
	CRR2	• Rock Size: D50, 1.5 feet • Length: 45 feet, Width: 40 feet, Height: 4 feet
Invasive Species Removal	-	• 18 acres, mix of manual and chemical removal
Fill	-	• Overflow Channel (F1 Area) = 5520 cubic yards • Fill F2 Area = 8065 cubic yards • Fill F3 Area (Upland Habitat) = 7125 cubic yards
Stone Bank Stabilization	SBS1	• Rock Size: D50, 2.4 feet • Volume: 237.59 cubic yards
	SBS2	• Rock Size: D50, 2.4 feet • Volume: 368.33 cubic yards
Access Roads into Reach	-	• Length: 1576 feet • 14 feet wide with 10 feet tread width, crushed rock over geotextile filter fabric • Bollard posts to restrict vehicle access (one access point)
Walking trails	-	• Length: 836 feet • 5 feet wide, crushed rock over geotextile filter fabric
Three Covered Areas with Picnic Table	-	• Anchored to ground, no concrete pad
Instream Habitat Structure	Boulder Clusters	• 20-30 Boulders • Rock Size: 2.25- 3 feet
Bank Modification	BM1	• Cut: 12489 cubic yards • Wetland Planting Area: 30283 square feet, includes Marsh milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*), Tufted hairgrass (*Deschamsia cespitosa*), Arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*)
	BM2	• Cut: 508 cubic yards • Wetland Planting Area: 3532 square feet, includes Coyote willow (*Salix exigua*), Sunflower (*Helianthus annus),* Rocky Mountain Beeplant (*Cleome serrilata*)
	BM3	• Cut: 7939 cubic yards • Wetland Planting Area: 13605 square feet • Riparian Planting Area: 5455 square feet

Sample

- **Reach 3: South Channel** is located directly south of Reach 2 and is bordered to the west and south by private land, to the east by S. Academy Blvd. The undertakings proposed include a concrete slab removal on the west bank and modification of the slope of the bank to a 3:1 with a 10-foot riparian bench; covering the slope with riprap and including plantings along riparian bench and within riprap; adding a constructed rock riffle at northern end of reach; and, adding instream habitat boulders (Enclosure 5).

Table 3. Details for Reach 3 Measures

Measure	Component	Specifications
Removal of Concrete Slabs on West Bank	-	• Amount: 2250 square yards
Cut of the West Bank	-	• Amount: 5100 cubic yards
RipRap on West Bank	-	• Size of Rock: D50, 1.34 feet (angular) • Volume: 605 cubic yards
Riparian Bench Plantings	-	• Area: 6485 square feet • Species: Coyote willow (*Salix exigua*), Sunflower (*Helianthus annus),* Rocky Mountain Beeplant (*Cleome serrilata*)
Rock Rip Rap Plantings		• Area: 16426 square feet • Species: Narrow leaf Willow (*Salix exigua*), Slender Wheat Grass, Armleaf arrowhead (*Sagittaria cuneata*), Shortbreak sedge (*Crex brevior*)
Instream Habitat Boulders	-	• Rock Size: D50, 1.5- 2 feet (round) • 80-120 Boulders
Rock Rifle	-	• Height: 1 foot • Size of Rock: 1.34 (angular) • Volume: 95 cubic feet or 3.52 cubic yards

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) is approximately 30 acres and includes all three reaches. The APE was surveyed for cultural resources in December 2022 by USACE archaeologist, Kaitlyn Fuqua. No cultural resources were identified within the project area. The associated report, “A 30 Acre Cultural Resources Survey Along Spring Creek in Colorado Springs, El Paso County”, and data was submitted and received by the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office. A copy of this report can be requested via the contacts provided below.

Based on the results of the cultural resources survey of the APE and the undertakings described above, USACE is making the determination that **no Historic Properties will be affected**. If the scope or the APE changes, an additional survey and consultation may be needed.

The Corps is seeking input from tribes, local governments, and other interested parties regarding the proposed project. The purpose of this consultation letter is to provide you with the opportunity to submit concerns or comments regarding potential effects to historic properties in the area. Further, we are interested in any concerns you may have regarding the environment such as natural, biological, or cultural resources; wildlife, vegetation, and special status species; air, water, or sound quality; aesthetics; health and safety; Traditional Cultural Properties; or Indian

Trust Assets that may occur within or adjacent to the project area. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Corps Albuquerque District archaeologist Kaitlyn Fuqua at Kaitlyn.N.Fuqua@usace.army.mil, or myself at Danielle.A.Galloway@usace.army.mil or at (505) 342-3661. If you would prefer not to be contacted regarding certain types of projects, or would prefer not to receive consultation letters, please let us know.

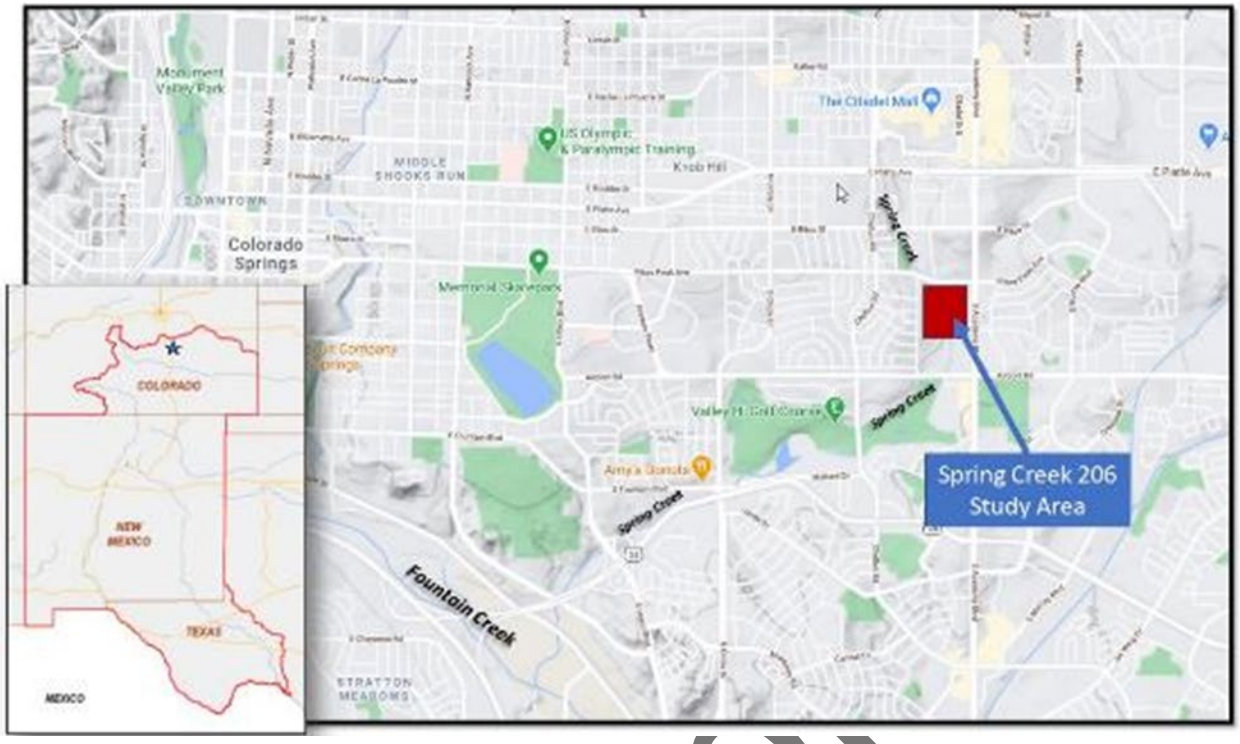
Sincerely:

Danielle A. Galloway

Danielle A. Galloway
Chief, Environmental Resources Section

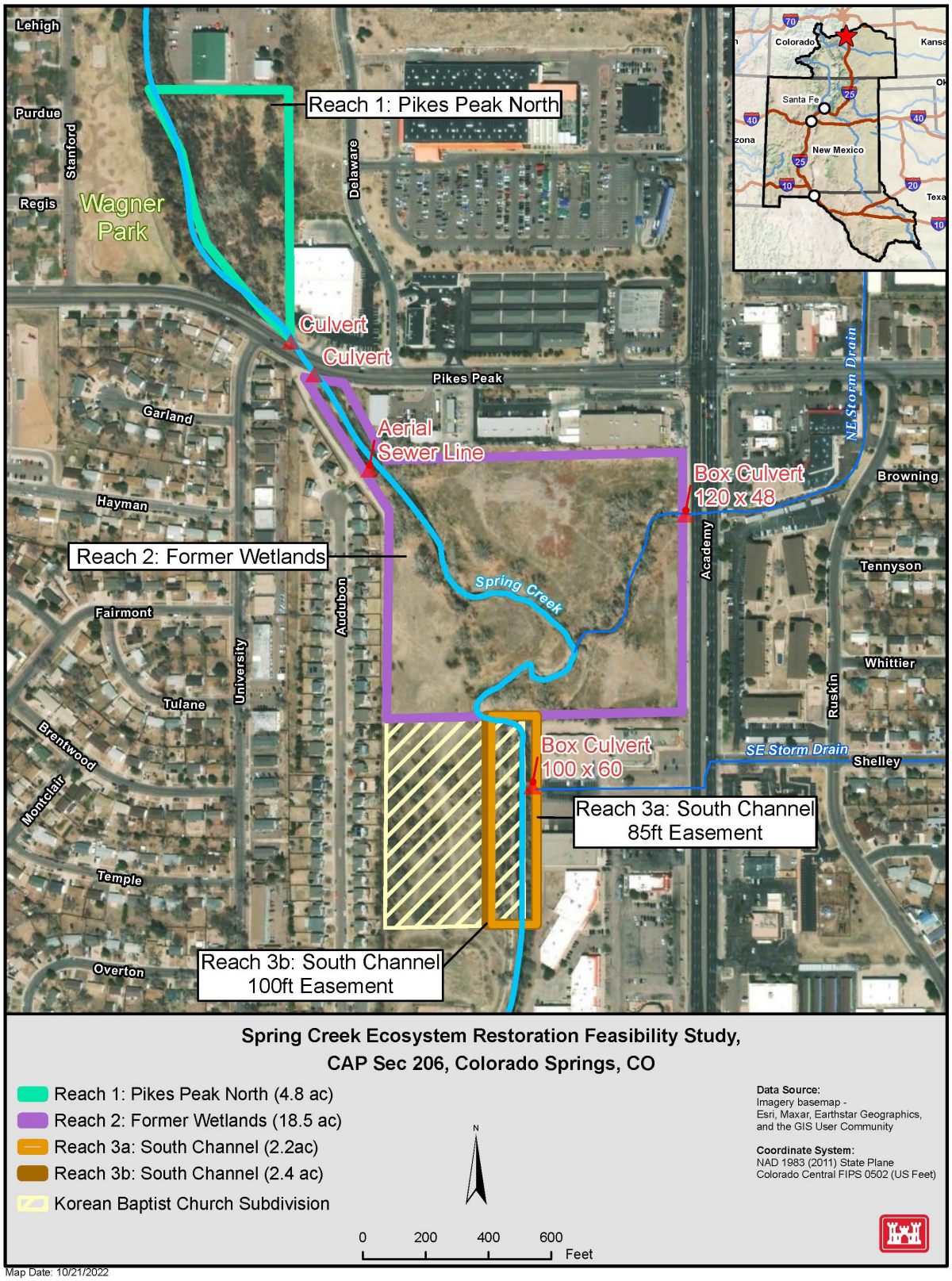
Enclosures

Sample



Enclosure 1: Location of project on the Spring Creek in Colorado Springs, CO

Sample

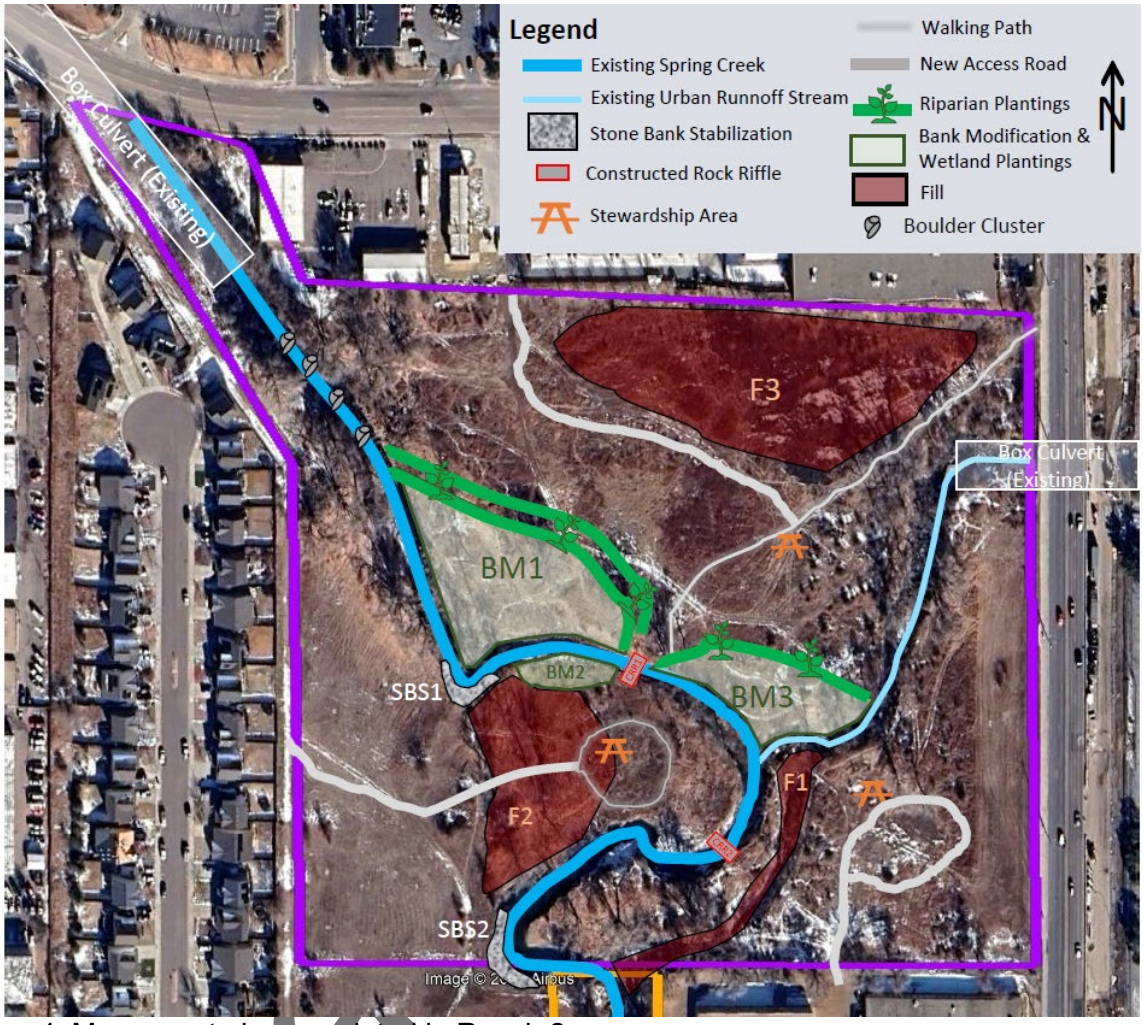


Enclosure 2: Spring Creek Ecosystem Restoration study reaches

Reach 1b – Protect, Plant Bench, & Stewardship

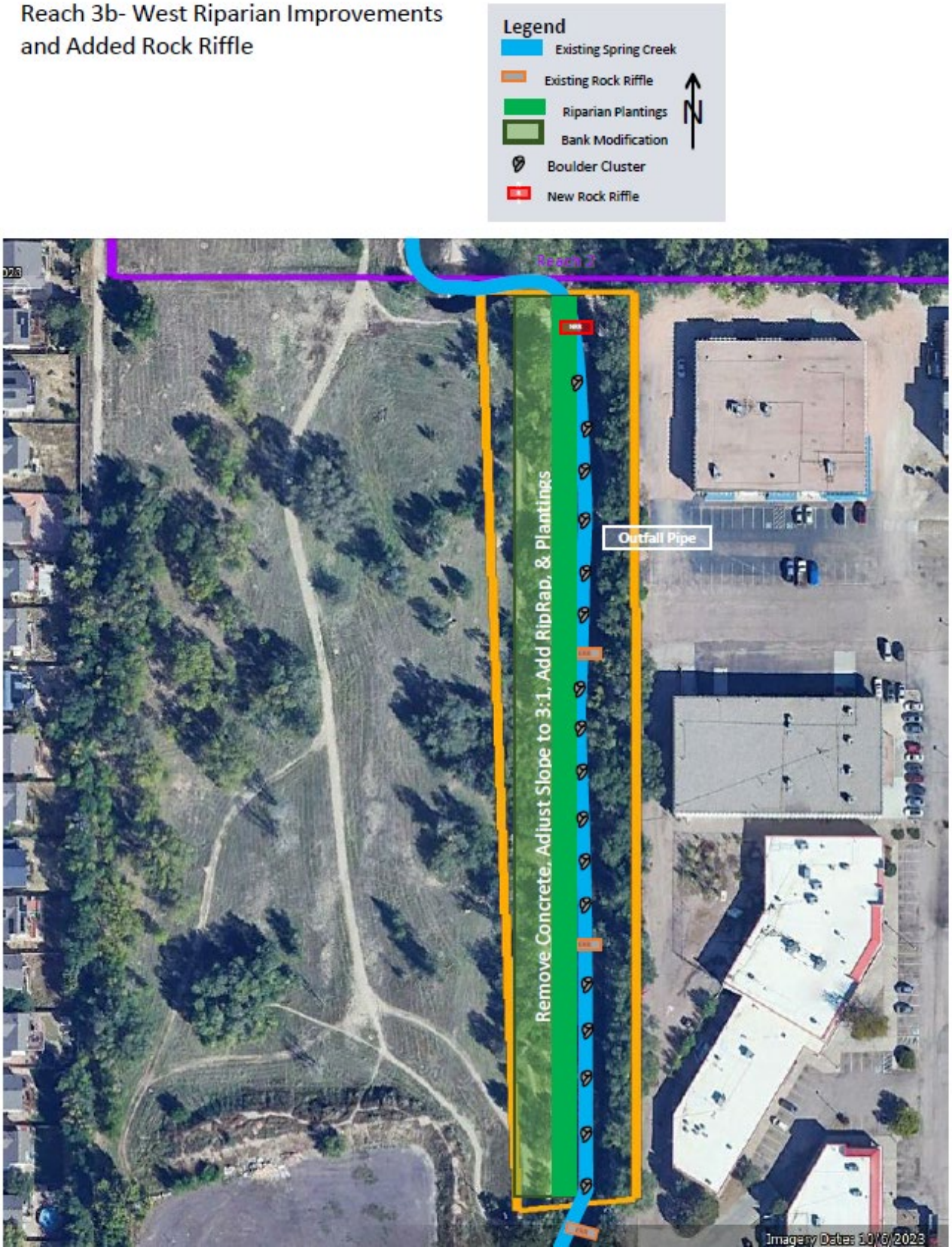
Enclosure 3: Measures to be completed in Reach 1

Reach 2b –
Wetland Creation, Riparian Plantings, Stewardship



Enclosure 4: Measures to be completed in Reach 2

Reach 3b- West Riparian Improvements and Added Rock Riffle



Enclosure 5: Measures to be completed in Reach 3