



US 24 has a long history of serving Colorado and the communities along it. The corridor is a vital east/west connection for the Pikes Peak region providing mobility for cars, bikes, pedestrians, animals, even the Fountain Creek. The US 24 solutions are being designed to meet critical issues established by the stakeholders, addressing mobility, the environment, the community, local economics and construction.

While planning for US 24 using these critical issues, it has become apparent that there are many systems at work in the corridor. These include the roads, the trails, the bus routes, the creek, shopping, restaurants, parks and open space. These systems are and must remain interconnected, so a solution for US24 must integrate with recommendations that help solve flooding, connect trails and improve access to local businesses. This integration can include:

- Connecting roadway improvements with trails for better access and safety
- Using floodplain improvements to improve water quality and aesthetics
- Having transit parking used for weekend park access
- Connecting local amenities with local businesses (trails with restaurants)

This approach has led to the idea of a greenway, which is typically defined as a stretch of undeveloped land close to an urban area that is kept for community use. This greenway could include trails, natural water quality treatments, trees, fountains, places to play and areas to discover. It will be designed to carry a 100-year flood so surrounding homes and businesses will not be damaged.

Additionally, the greenway can optimize resources such as local, state and federal dollars by combining improvements and resources. Construction of elements using a variety of funds and accomplishing different goals can be done concurrently. Examples include:

- CDOT raising the bridges to prevent flooding and City trails being built underneath without street crossings
- Water quality treatments being built to clean the water in Fountain Creek and the roadway runoff



Historically, Fountain Creek has been the east/west corridor connecting the plains and the mountains in the Pikes Peak region. The greenway will be a focal point and an asset of Colorado Spring's West Side. This will create gateways to the mountains, the metropolitan area, and the neighborhoods. By connecting local and regional destinations the greenway will make the West Side a truly "walkable community." The greenway will also focus on Fountain Creek itself, and provide a safe and fun environment for both residents and visitors. Improving Fountain Creek will enhance the area for residents, business owners and visitors.

The greenway will be...

Something for everyone

The greenway will have active and passive uses. It will be a gathering place for many types and sizes of groups and it will include elements such as paths, trails, parks, recreational opportunities, interpretive opportunities and business opportunities.

A natural place

The greenway will fit the area and blend in with its surroundings. Its appearance will change with the seasons, and vary along its course. The natural design will make sustainability the first goal and will facilitate its role in improving water quality and managing the floodplain.

A gateway

The greenway will help to aesthetically define the Westside, as well as announce a gateway to the community and to the mountains. It will convey to travelers on US 24 that this is a place, and not just a passageway.

A destination

The greenway will be a regional destination, hosting events and encouraging people to stop. It will be a stopping place along local and regional trails and will encourage development of compatible adjacent businesses.

A connector

The greenway will provide connections to existing business districts, local attractions and to the Westside's parks and open spaces. Key elements to be connected on the west side include Garden of the Gods, Old Colorado City, Manitou Springs, Red Rocks open space and the Midland Trail. It will also bind together local and regional trails.

About the community

From the history of the area to its present day mixed-use the greenway will tell the story of the west side. The planning, management and maintenance of the greenway will be a community success and a template for other projects within the Pikes Peak area. A true community partnership.