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Joint Press Release from Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority, Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners, City of Centennial, Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District.

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Neighbors learn about stream stabilization project at Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park during Open House April 18

Project to mitigate the effects of urbanization and storm runoff causing Cherry Creek stream erosion, loss of vegetation and more.

Centennial, Colo. --- Neighbors of Arapahoe County's Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park in Centennial recently attended the April open house to learn about the upcoming stream stabilization project.

Urbanization and the resulting increase in storm runoff have taken a toll on the area's natural systems, leading to stream erosion, loss of vegetation and infrastructure damage. To manage these effects, Arapahoe County Open Spaces, Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority, Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District and the City of Centennial have partnered to reclaim an unstable stream corridor and expand recreational and educational amenities in this beautiful ecological park originally constructed in 2000.

During the open house residents learned about the multitude of improvements taking place within the park and along the Cherry Creek Corridor. Topics included regional and project specific stream reclamation efforts, upcoming construction project impacts, new park amenities, watershed water quality, flood awareness and volunteer opportunities.

When local resident Vanessa Blum and her two daughters learned about the new interactive children's play area proposed for the section just north of the extended parking lot should funding permit, she said, "It looks fabulous."

For more information about the Cherry Creek Valley Eco Park Stream Stabilization Project, visit <http://bit.ly/CCEPark> or call/e-mail Molly Trujillo, Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority, at 303-858-8844 or mtrujillo@semswa.org.

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To download photos click on the link: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/OpenSpace/>

CCVEPOHouse_Apr2012: Neighbors learn about stream stabilization project at Arapahoe County's Cherry Creek Valley Eco Park during an April 18 Open House.

DegradedCCStreamBed: Urbanization and storm runoff into Cherry Creek has created significantly degraded banks. The incised channel has lowered water levels killing much of the vegetation. Project improvements will not only stabilize the channel but also restore the corridor's natural qualities, improve wildlife habitat, and enhance water quality.

AfterExample: This image shows what Cherry Creek will look like after the stream stabilization project is complete and habitat has a chance to grow to its potential.