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Arapahoe County earns top award from the Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers

Littleton, Colo. --- On Tuesday, the Arapahoe County Public Works and Development department received the 2007 Grand Award for Engineering Excellence for the Cherry Creek Stream Restoration and Crossing project at 17 Mile House by the Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers. The award is the highest honor given by CASFM.

The Restoration and Crossing project's goal was to stabilize the Cherry Creek stream bed during floods using a new stream reclamation approach. The approach uses more vegetation to protect from erosion, which has a high risk of failure until vegetation takes root. When successful, the approach has a much softer look and blends in with the native landscape of the area.

Today, Cherry Creek has a dense vegetation growth around the channel and the riparian corridor has seen an influx of plants, land, aquatic animals, and people.

"The results have exceeded our expectations," said Bill Ruzzo with the Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority. "In my line of work, I tell people that if we do a good job, you won't be able to see it because it will disappear into the environment. On behalf of the Authority, we thank the Public Works and Development department for not only protecting the water quality of Cherry Creek Reservoir, but for making the project 'disappear.'"

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Photo: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/CASFM Award.jpg>

Arapahoe County received the 2007 Grand Award for Engineering Excellence for the Cherry Creek Stream Restoration and Crossing project at 17 Mile House by the Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers.

Pictured: Commissioners Rod Bockenfeld, Jim Dyer, Susan Beckman, Lanae Raymond with Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority, Bill Ruzzo with the Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority, Commissioner Pat Noonan and Public Works and Development Director Dave Schmit.