

Fleshman Creek Urban Restoration Project – Then and Now!



The purpose of the Park County Fleshman Creek Urban Restoration project was to restore and enhance a two-mile reach of the creek within the urban limits of the City of Livingston. Initial planning for this project began with engineering studies in 2008, continued with funding source applications and awards and culminated in completion of multiple restoration activities in 2014. Infrastructure replacements were critical to provide for stream restoration activities and address existing utility deficiencies within, and immediately adjacent to, the project area. Infrastructure work activities included water main replacements, new sewer main installation and the installation of a new sanitary lift station at G-Street Park. Undersized and inefficient culverts were replaced with hydraulic structures designed for high water events and water movement, while reducing stream velocity. Fish movement has been aided by the prevention of debris jams at pipe inlets. Newly contoured streambanks were replanted with native woody and herbaceous vegetation aiding in bank stabilization, riparian protection, flood energy dissipation, pollutant filtration and improved water quality.

This collaborative, multi-year approach habitat restoration project united noteworthy partners from multiple federal, state and local agencies and groups, in both cash and in-kind support, and combined extensive restoration, scientific research, community outreach and long-term conservation and monitoring methods to manage the improved fisheries habitat, stream channels and riparian areas. Of broader community value is the availability of Fleshman Creek to spawning fish, in an improved watershed, and instilling in Livingston students and community members a sense of ownership in the stewardship of a local and important tributary.

The \$3,091,000 project was largely funded through state and federal grants including Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the United States Fish and Wildlife Services, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency. During construction and restoration activities, rigorous publicity and outreach was facilitated with many organizations, entities, businesses and area stakeholders. One of the most important community partnerships as part of this project was with the Livingston School Districts and individual classrooms and teachers. Throughout the period of restoration activities, presentations were given to students and teachers and weekly project updates were provided to administrators and officials for disbursement to students, parents and other invested stakeholders.

Nearly four years after completion of a very necessary and important community project, students from Ms. Robin Lovec's and Ms. Chris Pavlovich's 5th grade classes at East Side School have continued to utilize the creek as an important science and education resource.

Please enjoy the reports produced by six of East Side School's 5th grade students – Morgan Sites, Tess Goosey, Ivy Everson, Cora Clayton, Analeece and Quinci Wood. They provide both historical and scientific information about Fleshman Creek and reiterate why this waterway is an important community, recreational and habitat resource.