

# PROJECT VISION

The Whitewater Park area will be a special destination to highlight the Animas River, Smelter Rapids, the Animas River Trail, city parks and the entire Durango Community. Improving the user experience and Animas River Trail circulation adjacent to the most popular park in the Animas River Corridor, Santa Rita park, the Whitewater Park and shore amenities will be a marquee project for the entire Durango Community.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### 1 Fully design the Whitewater Park shore amenities area adjacent to the Durango Whitewater Park improvements, between the Animas River and WWTP.

- Provide bank stabilization, delineate pedestrian access points to the river, and limit pedestrian access at the steep banks between structures. Improvements and landscaping along the river bank shall be located to provide clear access to the river, provide access and viewsheds for spectators, and provide for emergency/river rescue access to the river. Location and mature size of vegetation shall be considered in relation to the slalom gate system.
- Provide access for maintenance of in-river structures (large tractor/backhoe).
- Provide accessible route to the river for river users both at the top (above river structure #1) and bottom (below river structure #12) of the Whitewater Park.
- Stabilize bank, protect existing vegetation, and create planting pockets with appropriate placement of boulders. Use boulders to create stepped access routes to the river and stepped seating above the in-river play structures. Appropriate vegetation shall be installed on the river bank to help stabilize the river bank.
- The corridor between the top of the river bank and the WWTP shall include irrigated landscape beds and irrigated turf grass. Pockets of turf grass shall provide space for grass seating and viewing of activities in the Whitewater Park and provide some areas for vendor setup during events.
- Provide landscape screening/visual buffer between the Animas River Trail and the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Provide for seating and viewing areas, group gathering areas with shade structure and paving, and possible amphitheater type seating. Design shall consider and provide for special events.
- Provide for structure with men's and women's changing room facility adjacent to existing parking lot and restroom structure. It is anticipated that this structure will be open at top and bottom of walls (open for security with adequate coverage for changing).
- Provide for refurbishment of existing sand volleyball courts.

### 2 Fully design approximately 2,400 linear feet of the Animas River Trail.

- New trail alignment should eliminate the "T" intersection and provide trail radius that meets current standards.
- Increase horizontal radius and provide additional space between the ART and riverbank at the northwest corner of the WWTP storage yard. Size of storage yard to be reduced to provide additional space for trail alignment.
- Increase paved trail width to 14' to provide for heavy use along the Whitewater Park and to provide for variety of users.
- Provide separation between the main line of trail and the viewing and activity areas associated with the Whitewater Park.

### 3 Fully design approximately 400 linear feet of spur trail connecting the ART to the existing signalized crosswalk at the intersection of Camino del Rio (Hwy 550/160) and Santa Rita Drive.

## CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

- Meet anticipated schedule and allocated budget.
- Completion of the Whitewater Park project including the in-stream improvements will permanently protect the RICD water rights.

## Strengths

- Animas River Trail usage and proximity to the site
- New in-river whitewater course
- Chamber of Commerce proximity to site
- Santa Rita Park
- Existing tree canopy
- Within one mile of downtown Durango with access from Animas River Trail
- Central location for River Trail users
- Existing infrastructure
- US 160 / 550 accessibility
- Parking
- No adjacent residential neighbors

## Weaknesses

- Negative smells from the adjacent wastewater plant
- Minimal trees and landscaping
- Not visible from the parking lot or Highway 550.
- Foot traffic has killed vegetation resulting in dirt surfaces which can become dusty and/or muddy resulting in poor transition to the river
- No changing rooms
- Lack of signage
- Poor visibility at the intersection with the Animas River Trail
- No bike racks
- Vegetation blocking the views to the river in certain locations.

## Opportunities

- New identity of Whitewater Park shore
- Re-establish Durango Whitewater Park as a regional destination.
- Re-align trail and separate boaters, walkers/ joggers and bicyclist
- Provide for special community events, races, and competitions.
- Provide for bicycle racks in key locations
- Create a bypass for bicycles around the congested area near the park
- More shade structures, maybe with solar roof panels
- Improve on signage, both way-finding and history (Smelter, Anasazi, other)
- Create a whitewater information center describing the opportunities for visitors
- Improve boat access near playground
- More public art
- Screen the wastewater treatment plant
- Screen the RV dump station
- Improve the bathrooms instead of a changing building
- Make this place something special

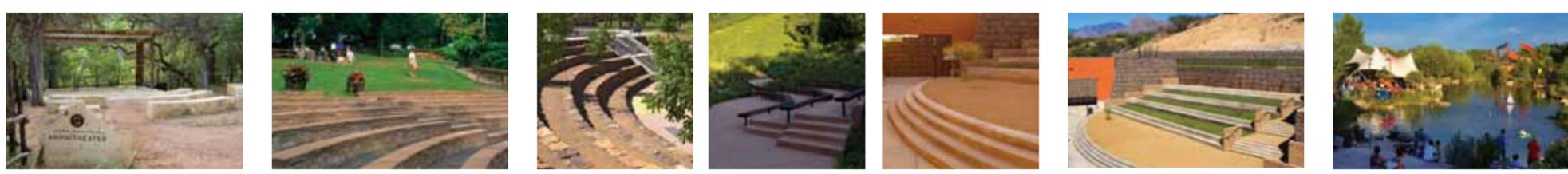
## Threats

- Animas River flooding potential
- Other whitewater rapid locations on the Animas River
- Stormwater detention overflow

## TRAILS



## AMPHITHEATER



## RIVER EDGE



## AMENITIES



## LANDSCAPES



## ART / INTERPRETIVE



