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## North Shields Ponds Restoration Project Fact Sheet

The City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department is improving ecological conditions at North Shields Ponds Natural Area's Sterling Pond. The restoration project will restore the wildlife habitat within the pond, the north bank of the Cache la Poudre River and adjacent land within the natural area.

### Goals

1. Create five acres of new vegetated wetlands within Sterling pond;
2. Lower of the artificially steep and unnatural bank between the Cache la Poudre River and Sterling pond to an elevation that promotes the growth of cottonwood forests, and;
3. Remove the abandoned Josh Ames diversion structure to improve public safety around the structure and improve in-river fish/aquatic wildlife habitat.

### The Process

First, construction equipment will lower the banks between the Poudre River and Sterling pond. The fill material will be moved to the southern end of the pond to create shallow, vegetated wetlands. Beginning in November, 2013, when the river is at its lowest, the City will partner with the Colorado Water Trust to begin removal of the abandoned Ames diversion structure. This structure was last used in 1985 and has remained inactive. Once the diversion structure is removed, natural in-channel river grading will be performed to create more natural and stable river geometry. Finally, in the spring, 2014 you will see extensive plantings of trees, shrubs, wetlands, grasses and forbs that will enhance the area both visually and for wildlife habitat. Pending unpredictable spring weather, the project is anticipated to be completed by the end of June 2014.

### Trail Closures

There will be some site closures of North Shields Ponds Natural Area as well as trail detours and reroutes while there is active construction for restoration. This is to ensure your safety as well as the safety of the contractors on site. Check [www.fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://www.fcgov.com/naturalareas) for current trail conditions.

### Flood Control

The City Natural Areas Department, its contractors, and the Larimer County Flood Review Board have carefully examined the dynamics of river flooding in this area up to and including a 100 year flood event. The project has been specifically designed to ensure that no properties adjacent to this project are exposed to any additional flood risk as a result of this project. In fact, we believe that this project in combination with the replacement of the Shields St. Bridge will represent an overall improvement of flood control throughout the area.

### Contact

If at any time you have questions related to the project, please do not hesitate to contact Rick Bachand, Environmental Program Manager, 970-416-2183 or [rbachand@fcgov.com](mailto:rbachand@fcgov.com)