

PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE  
AND SECTION 4(f) AND 6(f) ANALYSIS TECHNICAL REPORT  
FOR THE  
6TH AVENUE PARKWAY EXTENSION  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

*Prepared for:*  
City of Aurora  
15151 East Alameda Parkway, Suite 3200  
Aurora, CO 80012

*Prepared by:*  
Felsburg Holt & Ullevig  
6300 South Syracuse Way, Suite 600  
Centennial, CO 80111

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

CDOT .....	Colorado Department of Transportation
CEQ.....	Council on Environmental Quality
CPW .....	Colorado Parks and Wildlife
E-470.....	E-470 Tollway
EA.....	Environmental Assessment
FHU .....	Felsburg Holt & Ullevig
GOCO .....	Great Outdoors Colorado
LWCF .....	Land and Water Conservation Fund
NPS .....	National Park Service
NRD.....	Natural Resource Damages Fund
PROS .....	Parks, Recreation and Open Space
ROW.....	right-of-way
SH 30 .....	State Highway 30
TCGC .....	Triple Creek Greenway Corridor

## 1. INTRODUCTION TO ANALYSIS

This technical report has been prepared in support of the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parkway Extension Environmental Assessment (EA) extending 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue from State Highway 30 (SH 30) to the E-470 Tollway (E-470). This technical report evaluates the effects of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative with respect to parks, recreation and open space. In addition, this technical report evaluates Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) resources.

### 1.1 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would extend the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parkway for approximately 2 miles along a new alignment, connecting existing 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue/SH 30 to the west with the existing 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parkway at E-470 to the east. This would close a gap in the existing major arterial street system, reducing out of direction travel and improving the efficiency and reliability of the transportation system. The Proposed Action would be a six-lane arterial roadway with a raised median and sidewalks.

Six initial alternatives were developed and screened through three screening levels to identify the Proposed Action. The alternatives screening is summarized in **Appendix A1 Alternatives Technical Report** of the EA. Details of the Proposed Action are presented in **Appendix A2 Conceptual Design Plans** of the EA.

The Proposed Action is shown on **Figure 1**. Major elements of the Proposed Action are identified by number from west to east on **Figure 1**, and include the following:

**Element 1. Tie into existing 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue/SH 30:** 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue/SH 30 is an existing two-lane arterial. At the western end of the Proposed Action, a signalized “thru-tee” type intersection would be constructed connecting the Proposed Action roadway to existing 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue/SH 30. This new signalized intersection would include bypass lanes for the eastbound SH 30 through movement or a thru-tee signalized intersection with bypass lanes for both the eastbound SH 30 through movement. The tie-in would be an urban curb and gutter section with three 12-foot travel lanes in each direction to connect to future 6-lane section to the west. A 10-foot sidewalk would be located on both the north and south sides of the roadway.

**Element 2. Triple Creek Trail realignment and connections:** A portion of the existing Triple Creek Trail would be realigned and would pass beneath the Proposed Action roadway which would be on a bridge at this location (see Element 3 in **Figure 1**). The Triple Creek Trail would be connected to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue via a spur trail to the sidewalk constructed along the south side of the new roadway. The Triple Creek Trail is a 10-foot wide soft surface trail that serves equestrians, bicyclists and pedestrians. The realigned portion would match the existing width and surface. A 10-foot sidewalk on both sides of the bridge (Element 3) would provide connections to the trail. The southern terminus of the trail is currently at the Coal Creek Arena, and further extension to the south is planned by the City of Aurora.

**Element 3. Roadway bridge over Sand Creek:** Immediately east of the new intersection with existing 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue/SH 30 (Element 1 in **Figure 1**), the roadway would be elevated onto a six-lane bridge crossing over Sand Creek and its associated floodplain/floodway, and over the Triple Creek Trail. The bridge length and profile would be set to minimize impacts to Sand Creek, while still providing a minimum 10-foot vertical clearance over the Triple Creek Trail. The bridge would have a median and sidewalks. The bridge would be approximately

680 feet in length with 5 variable length spans supported on four piers. The bridge would be designed to be compatible with the surrounding environment and to allow wildlife connectivity along Sand Creek and the Triple Creek Trail.

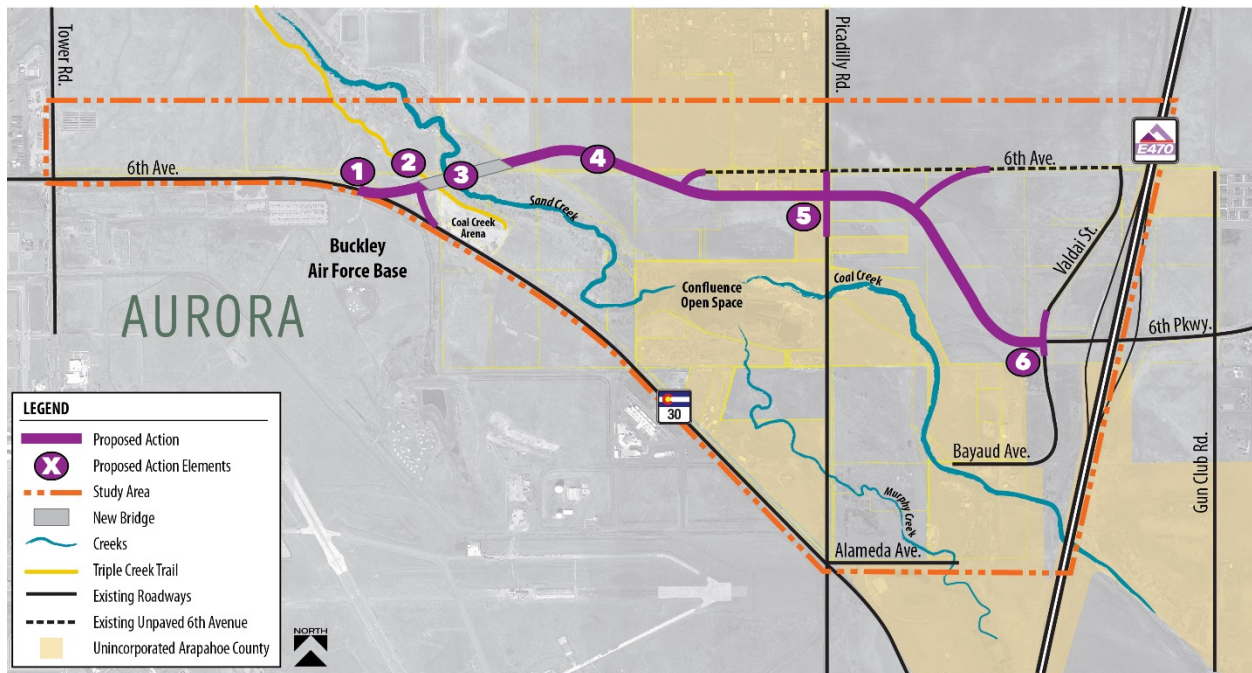
**Element 4. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parkway arterial roadway:** The 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parkway extension would consist of a 144-foot wide, six-lane arterial roadway (three lanes in each direction) with a raised vegetated median. There would be curb and gutter and 10-foot wide sidewalks on the north and south sides of the roadway. The Proposed Action would provide two new access connections from the Proposed Action to two existing portions of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. One of these connections would provide access to the existing residences along unpaved 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, west of Picadilly Road. The second connection would extend northeast from the Proposed Action to unpaved 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue to areas planned for development east of Picadilly Road.

**Element 5. Intersection with Picadilly Road:** The Proposed Action roadway would cross Picadilly Road, which is an existing north-south road. A signalized intersection would be constructed at this location. Picadilly Road is currently two lanes, but the City of Aurora anticipates that expansion to six lanes would occur in the future as a different project. Therefore, the intersection would be configured such that future expansion of Picadilly Road to six lanes can be accommodated and is not precluded.

**Element 6. Tie into existing 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parkway at E-470:** On its eastern end, the Proposed Action roadway would tie into the existing E-470 interchange, which currently truncates at this location, forming a connection with the existing 6<sup>th</sup> Parkway to the east of the interchange. The intersection tie-in at Valdai Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parkway would be signalized. This connection would allow access from the west via the Proposed Action to the E-470 interchange and to the existing 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parkway extending to the east of E-470.

In addition to these transportation elements, the Proposed Action would include permanent roadway stormwater drainage with water quality features for roadway runoff and accommodate offsite stormwater flows. Details of drainage and water quality features are presented in **Appendix A6 Floodplains and Drainage Assessment Technical Report** of the EA.

Figure 1 Proposed Action and Study Area



Note: Numbers in graphic correspond with text above.

### 1.2 No Action Alternative

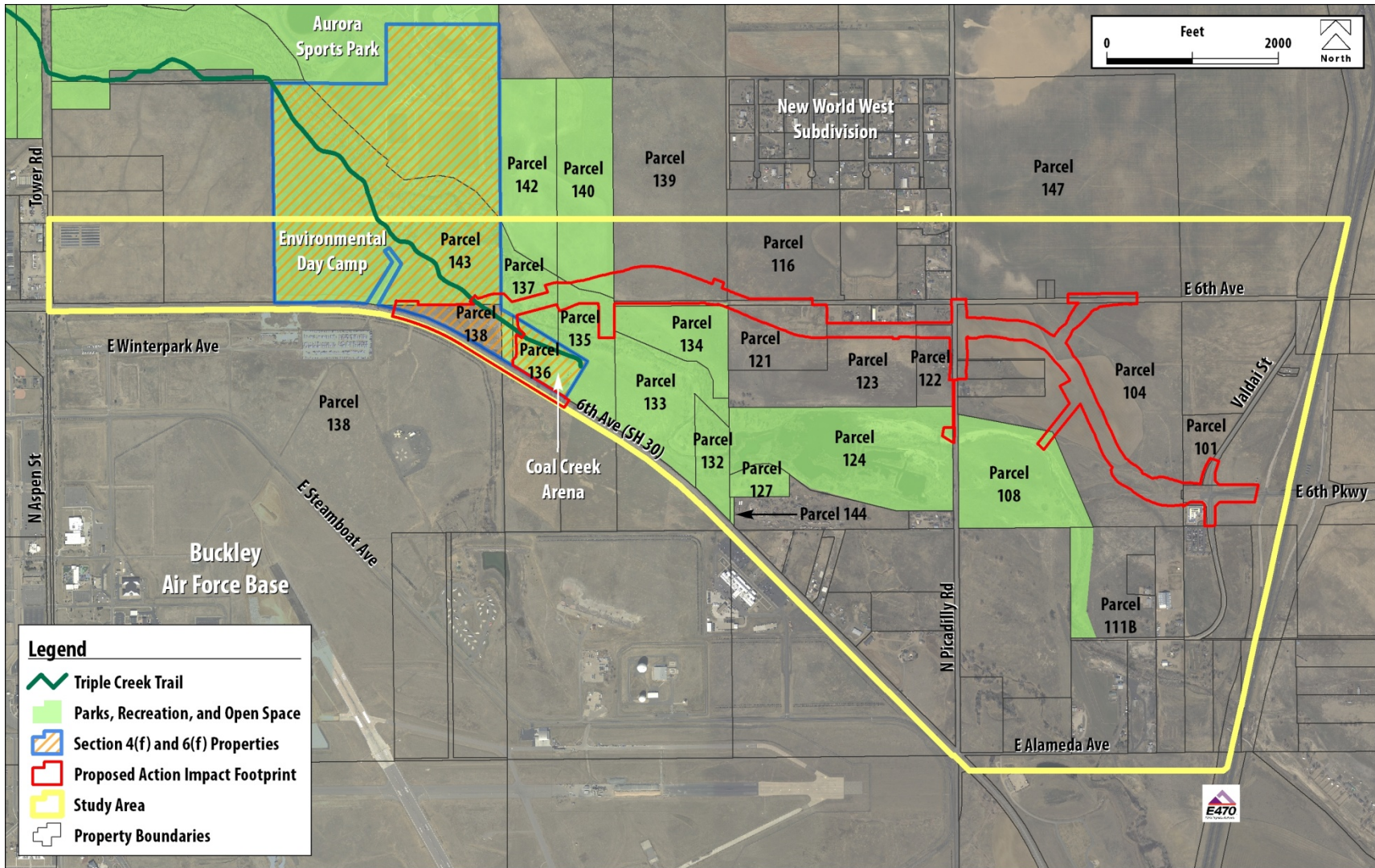
If the Proposed Action is not selected for implementation, there would be no improvements made to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue beyond the existing and committed transportation system. The No Action Alternative was carried forward as a baseline comparison for environmental analysis purposes.

## 2. PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE ANALYSIS

The study area is rich with park, recreation and open space resources (**Figure 2**). The locations, features and parcel details (ownership, size) of existing parks, recreation, and open space resources within and adjacent to the study area were identified through planning documents, ownership documents, grant/funding applications, meetings with and information from City of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Department and Arapahoe County.



Figure 2 Existing Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Resources



114046-01 - Parks and Open Space

### 3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

For parcels within the study area, a map identification system was created early in the project for individual parcels and has been carried forward into analysis for consistency with discussions held during the project. These parcel numbers are referenced when speaking of particular parcels in this technical report and can be found on **Figure 2**.

#### 3.1 *Description of Existing Conditions*

The parks, recreation, and open space within the study area are located within the Triple Creek Greenway Corridor (TCGC). Details of the existing parks, recreation, and open space areas is provided in **Table 2**. The TCGC is a collaborative planning effort by Arapahoe County and the City of Aurora prepared under the auspices of the Arapahoe County Open Space Program. The TCGC Study serves as the foundation for a planned extension of the Triple Creek Trail, which passes through the study area. The TCGC follows Sand Creek, Coal Creek and Murphy Creek and protects the natural function of the drainages, such as flood mitigation, stormwater and water quality management and natural habitat, while also providing for recreation and transportation uses – including the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parkway Extension.

The planning of the Proposed Action Alternative was considered during preparation of the TCGC study. The City of Aurora PROS is actively pursuing and has been successful at purchasing parcels of land to continue the TCGC to the southeast. Development and alignment of the TCGC has been actively coordinated with the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parkway extension project.

#### 3.2 *Funding Sources*

There are several funding mechanisms that have been utilized throughout the study area to fund park, recreation, and open space resources. It is important to note the various funding sources used to purchase parcels as they often prescribe particular management strategies that have been considered during the selection of the Proposed Action Alternative. Additionally, owners with jurisdiction in the study area include City of Aurora and Arapahoe County. **Table 1** describes further the types of funding sources used in the study area followed by **Table 2** which describes further the parks, recreation, and open space resources.

Table 1 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Funding Sources

Funding Mechanisms	Funding Description
Natural Resource Damages (NRD) Funds	The Colorado natural resource damages program reviews releases of hazardous pollutants to determine if natural resources have been injured. If the State finds injury, then it sues the responsible party for compensatory damages. This compensation is known as NRD. The NRD consent decree between the State of Colorado and Shell Oil Company established the Northeast Greenway Corridor Advisory Committee which includes the City of Aurora and Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership. The funds can be used on projects selected by the Advisory Committee that restore, replace, and acquire the equivalent of the natural resources injured by release of hazardous substances at or from the Rocky Mountain Arsenal (Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damages Foundation Fund [RMANRDFF], 2012).
Great Outdoor Colorado Funds (GOCO)	An amendment to the Colorado Constitution that directs lottery proceeds to projects that preserve, protect and enhance Colorado’s wildlife, park, river, trail and open space heritage.
Arapahoe County (ArCo) Funds	Funds from Arapahoe County Open Spaces.
Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF)	A federal program that works in partnership with state and local efforts to acquire and protect outdoor recreation resources. These resources are referred to as Section 6(f) resources and are further discussed in <b>Section 3.4</b> .

Those parcels within the study area that are parks, recreation, and open space are presented in **Table 2** and shown in **Figure 2**. The information presented in **Table 2** was compiled using information provided by PROS and ArCo meetings, and online data.

Table 2 Existing Parks, Recreation, and Open Space in Study Area

Parcel No.	Managed by	Description/Location/Size	Resource Type	Special Funding Sources
108	<b>City of Aurora</b> – Acquired in 2014 as part of Picadilly East for the Triple Creek Greenway and Trail initiative.	Parcel is 34.40 acres. <u>Current Use:</u> undeveloped with no public access <u>Future Uses:</u> 1) public access for passive outdoor recreation and education; 2) trail connections and associated recreation access for the use and enjoyment of the public; 3) stormwater conveyance and floodplain management; and 4) accommodation of a future 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue alignment.	Open Space	NRD, GOCO, and ArCo (The Trust for Public Land, 2015)
111B	<b>City of Aurora</b> – Acquired in 2014 as part of Picadilly East for the Triple Creek Greenway and Trail initiative.	Parcel is 7.50 acres. <u>Current Use:</u> undeveloped with no public access <u>Future Uses:</u> 1) public access for passive outdoor recreation and education; 2) trail connections and associated recreation access for the use and enjoyment of the public; and 3) stormwater conveyance and floodplain management.	Open Space	NRD, GOCO, and ArCo (The Trust for Public Land, 2015; City of Aurora, Colorado, 2014)
124	<b>City of Aurora</b> – Acquired in 2013 as part of the Confluence Open Space for the Triple Creek Greenway & Trail initiative.	Parcel is 58.08 acres. The property holds great ecological value due to the confluence of two creeks that provide for some unique winter range habitat for particular species. <u>Current Use:</u> The property is in transition and is being reclaimed and is not currently open to public. <u>Future Uses:</u> 1) public access for passive outdoor recreation and education; 2) trail connections and associated recreation access for the use and enjoyment of the public; 3) stormwater conveyance and floodplain management; and 4) accommodation of a future 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue alignment. Former land use was a sand extraction (mining) operation.	Open Space	NRD, GOCO, and ArCo The Trust for Public Land, 2013a)

Parcel No.	Managed by	Description/Location/Size	Resource Type	Special Funding Sources
127	<b>City of Aurora</b> – Acquired in 2013 as part of the <b>Confluence Open Space</b> for the Triple Creek Greenway & Trail initiative.	Parcel is 7.12 acres. The site holds great ecological value due the confluence of two creeks that provide for some unique winter range habitat for particular species. <u>Current Use:</u> The property is in transition and is being reclaimed from its former use as a sand extraction (mining) operation. Not currently open to public due to active reclamation efforts. The area is fenced except for an access piece off of SH 30 that is a shared access with an adjacent property. <u>Future Uses:</u> 1) public access for passive outdoor recreation and education; 2) trail connections and associated recreation access for the use and enjoyment of the public; 3) stormwater conveyance and floodplain management; and 4) accommodation of a future 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue alignment.	Open Space	NRD, GOCO, ArCo, and LWCF The Trust for Public Land, 2013a)
132	<b>City of Aurora</b> – Acquired in 1976.	Parcel is 10.05 acres. <u>Current Use:</u> Existing social/informal trails used by the public, including periodic organized horse races. Partial seasonal access restrictions due to presence of bald eagle habitat. <u>Future Uses:</u> Public access for 1) passive recreation; 2) education; 3) trail connections and access; and 4) stormwater conveyance and floodplain management.	Open Space	City of Aurora

Parcel No.	Managed by	Description/Location/Size	Resource Type	Special Funding Sources
133	<b>City of Aurora</b> – Acquired in 2007 as part of the <b>Coal Creek Open Space - Adventure Park</b> to expand the Sand Creek Regional Greenway.	Parcel is 29.96 acres. <u>Current Use:</u> Public access for 1) passive recreation, 2) education, 3) trail connections and access; and 4) stormwater conveyance and floodplain management. Partial seasonal restrictions for bald eagle habitat. Existing trails used by the public, including periodic organized horse races. A 2006 Arapahoe County open space grant application recognized the planned 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue extension. <u>Future Uses:</u> Public access for 1) passive recreation, 2) education, 3) trail connections and access; and 4) stormwater conveyance and floodplain management. Partial seasonal restrictions for bald eagle habitat. Existing trails used by the public, including periodic organized horse races. A 2006 Arapahoe County open space grant application recognized the planned 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue extension.	Open Space	City of Aurora (Arapahoe County Clerk & Recorder, 2007; City of Aurora Parks Recreation and Open Space, 2006; Arapahoe County, Colorado, 2006)
134	<b>City of Aurora</b> – Acquired in 2013 as part of the <b>6th &amp; Coal Creek Expansion</b> for the Triple Creek Greenway & Trail initiative.	Parcel is 18.75 acres. <u>Current Use:</u> 1) public access for passive outdoor recreation and education; 2) trail connections and associated recreation access for the use and enjoyment of the public; and 3) stormwater conveyance and floodplain management. <u>Future Uses:</u> 1) public access for passive outdoor recreation and education; 2) trail connections and associated recreation access for the use and enjoyment of the public; and 3) stormwater conveyance and floodplain management.	Open Space	NRD, GOCO, and ArCo (The Trust for Public Land, 2013b)

Parcel No.	Managed by	Description/Location/Size	Resource Type	Special Funding Sources
135	<b>City of Aurora</b> – Acquired in 2006 as part of the <b>Coal Creek Open Space</b> to expand the Sand Creek Regional Greenway.	Parcel is 18.87 acres. <u>Current Use:</u> Partial seasonal restrictions for bald eagle habitat. Existing trails used by the public, including periodic organized horse races. Public access for 1) passive recreation; 2) education; 3) trail connections and access; and 4) stormwater conveyance and floodplain management. <u>Future Uses:</u> Partial seasonal restrictions for bald eagle habitat. Existing trails used by the public, including periodic organized horse races. Public access for 1) passive recreation; 2) education; 3) trail connections and access; and 4) stormwater conveyance and floodplain management.	Open Space	ArCo funds (Arapahoe County, Colorado, 2006a; Arapahoe County Clerk & Recorder, 2006a)
136	<b>City of Aurora</b> – Coal Creek Arena. Acquired in 1978.	Parcel is 10.00 acres. <u>Current Use:</u> A Special Use area with a rodeo arena and trailhead serving the Triple Creek Greenway/Trail. No long-term arrangements, but the facility is rented out on short-term basis for organized/group activities upon request. Several structures are present on the property. <u>Future Uses:</u> A Special Use area with a rodeo arena and trailhead serving the Triple Creek Greenway/Trail. No long-term arrangements, but the facility is rented out on short-term basis for organized/group activities upon request. Several structures are present on the property.	Park/Recreation	LWCF (Arapahoe County, State of Colorado, and City of Aurora, Colorado, 1974)

Parcel No.	Managed by	Description/Location/Size	Resource Type	Special Funding Sources
137	<b>City of Aurora</b> – Acquired in 2006 as part of the <b>Coal Creek Open Space - Adventure Park</b> to expand the Sand Creek Regional Greenway.	Parcel is 14.13 acres. <u>Current Use:</u> Partial seasonal restrictions for bald eagle habitat. Existing trails used by the public, including periodic organized horse races. Public access for 1) passive recreation; 2) education; 3) trail connections and access; and 4) stormwater conveyance and floodplain management. The Triple Creek Trail passes through this parcel. <u>Future Uses:</u> Partial seasonal restrictions for bald eagle habitat. Existing trails used by the public, including periodic organized horse races. Public access for 1) passive recreation; 2) education; 3) trail connections and access; and 4) stormwater conveyance and floodplain management. The Triple Creek Trail passes through this parcel.	Open Space	ArCo Arapahoe County, Colorado, 2006b; Arapahoe County Clerk & Recorder, 2006b)
138	<b>Federal Government (Buckley Air Force Base [AFB])</b> – Acquisition by City of Aurora is in progress. Acquisition is expected to be completed prior to construction.	Parcel is 8.41 acres. <u>Current Use:</u> Public access for 1) passive recreation; 2) education; 3) trail connections and access; and 4) stormwater conveyance and floodplain management. The Triple Creek Trail passes through this parcel. <u>Future Uses:</u> Public access for 1) passive recreation; 2) education; 3) trail connections and access; and 4) stormwater conveyance and floodplain management. The Triple Creek Trail passes through this parcel.	Federal	LWCF
140	<b>City of Aurora</b> – Acquired in 2013 as part of the <b>6<sup>th</sup> &amp; Coal Creek Expansion</b> for the Triple Creek Greenway & Trail initiative.	Parcel is 37.36 acres. <u>Current Use:</u> 1) public access for passive outdoor recreation and education; and 2) trail connections and associated recreation access for the use and enjoyment of the public. <u>Future Uses:</u> 1) public access for passive outdoor recreation and education; and 2) trail connections and associated recreation access for the use and enjoyment of the public.	Open Space	NRD, GOCO, and ArCo (The Trust for Public Land, 2013b)



Parcel No.	Managed by	Description/Location/Size	Resource Type	Special Funding Sources
142	<b>City of Aurora</b> – Acquired in 2013 as part of the <b>6th &amp; Coal Creek Expansion</b> for the Triple Creek Greenway & Trail initiative.	Parcel is 31.48 acres. <u>Current Use:</u> 1) public access for passive outdoor recreation and education; and 2) trail connections and associated recreation access for the use and enjoyment of the public <u>Future Uses:</u> 1) public access for passive outdoor recreation and education; and 2) trail connections and associated recreation access for the use and enjoyment of the public.	Open Space	NRD, GOCO, and ArCo (The Trust for Public Land, 2013b)
143	<b>City of Aurora</b> – Acquired in 1978.	Parcel is 180.00 acres. <u>Current Use:</u> Partial seasonal restrictions for bald eagle habitat. Existing trails used by the public, including periodic organized horse races. The property was designated by City Council ordinance in 1983 as a public park referred to at the time as the "Environmental Day Camp." The Triple Creek Trail passes through this parcel but it is not actively managed as a park. <u>Future Uses:</u> Public access for 1) passive recreation; 2) education; 3) trail connections and access; 4) stormwater conveyance and floodplain management; and 5) park.	Park/Recreation	LWCF (City of Aurora, Colorado, 1983; U.S. of America, 1976; U.S. of America, 1975; Arapahoe County, Colorado, 1993)
<b>Triple Creek Trail</b>	<b>City of Aurora</b>	<u>Current Use:</u> Extends about 2 miles from the High Line Canal. The Trail is a soft surface trail that currently extends into Coal Creek Arena. This trail passes through parcels 143, 137, 138, and 136. <u>Future Uses:</u> There are future plans for trail construction to extend east of the arena, ultimately to the Aurora Reservoir.	Recreational Trail	LWCF (City of Aurora, Colorado, 2014)

Source: City of Aurora Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

In addition to specific funding sources, many of the parcels have recorded conservation easements, intergovernmental agreements, or other protective documents in place that were established in association with the funding sources. These conservation easements were also considered carefully when selecting the Proposed Action Alternative. The conservation easements were established with the purchase or transfer of the property to City of Aurora. Those parcels with conservation easements are called out in **Table 3**. Of note, some conservations easements cover numerous parcels and are listed as such.

Some of the protective documents acknowledged the future presence of the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parkway extension. Prior to this EA, the City of Aurora had prepared previous planning studies dating back to 1986 discussing the extension of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. In these studies, the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue alignment connected to SH 30 and extended east to E-470; however, the alignment between these points was an alignment that was evaluated and dismissed in this EA. Additional, information on prior alignments and the alternatives screening process is in **Appendix A1 Alternatives Technical Report**.

**Table 3 Protective Document Details**

Parcel No.	Protective Document Details
108/111B	<b>Conservation easement</b> contains restriction on the use and development of the property which are intended to protect its open spaces and other conservation values. The 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue extension is mentioned in the document as being located on the southern border of the property. Grantor shall notify Grantee for review and approval of the modified 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue alignment and compensation shall be provided. This property is also known as the Picadilly East Open Space. (Trust for Public Land, 2015)
124/127	<b>Conservation easement</b> contains restriction on the use and development of the property which are intended to protect its open spaces and other conservation values. This property is also known as the Confluence Open Space. (The Trust for Public Land, 2013a)
134, 140, 142	<b>Conservation easement</b> contains restriction on the use and development of the property which are intended to protect its open space and other conservation values. The 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue extension is mentioned in the document as being located on the southern border of the property. Document does not mention 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Extension. (The Trust for Public Land, 2013b)
133, 135, 137	<b>Intergovernmental Agreement</b> – regarding 2006 grant of Arapahoe County Open Space Program Funds. In 2003 Arapahoe County approved a county wide sales and use tax awarding funds from the Open Space Sales and Use Tax to be distributed to municipalities. Money provided to City of Aurora for Coal Creek – Adventure Park. Although the properties were purchased with the intent of park purposes, PROS’ long-range vision for the parcels no longer involve park use/development and the area is actively managed and maintained as open space as part of the Triple Creek Greenway Corridor. (Arapahoe, County, Colorado, 2006)
143	<b>Ordinance</b> from the Aurora City Council in 1983 designating the property as public park known as Environmental Day Camp. (City of Aurora, Colorado, 1983)

### 3.3 Section 4(f) Resources

This Section describes protected resources known as “Section 4(f) properties” located within the study area. Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Act of 1966, as amended, and codified in 49 United States Code § 303, declares that “It is the policy of the United States Government that special effort should be made to preserve the natural beauty of the countryside and public park and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites.” The *FHWA Section 4(f) Policy Paper* (2012) was also referenced for this project.

Section 4(f) requires consideration of:

- Parks and recreational areas of national, state, or local significance that are both publicly owned and open to the public
- Publicly owned wildlife and waterfowl refuges of national, state, or local significance that are open to the public to the extent that public access does not interfere with the primary purpose of the refuge
- Historic sites of national, state, or local significance in public or private ownership regardless of whether they are open to the public

#### 3.3.1 Section 4(f) Property Descriptions

The PROS department determined which parcels should be considered Section 4(f) in the study area. It was determined that Parcel 138, although considered Section 6(f) as discussed in **Section 3.4**, would not be considered Section 4(f) for the following reasons:

- The parcel is not a park or recreational area of national, state or local significance, nor is there a management plan for this property.
- It is not managed as a Section 4(f) recreation area but is used as open space for passive recreation and regional trail purposes instead.
- The parking lot on the parcel is gated and not open for general public access and use.
- The parcel is currently under the ownership of the U.S. Government (Buckley AFB) and the City of Aurora is negotiating to purchase it for roadway purposes.

There are three recreational Section 4(f) resources in the study area as shown on **Figure 2**:

- **Environmental Day Camp (Parcel 143)** – This parcel was officially designated as a public park in 1983, known as Environmental Day Camp, and is considered a Section 4(f) resource (City of Aurora, Colorado, 1983). The purpose of the park was to provide outdoor education opportunities. The parcel contains archery ranges, benches, and shelters. However, the plans for this parcel changed since the designation and the parcel is currently managed as open space. The parcel is not actively managed as a park or listed in the inventory of parks in the City of Aurora.
- **Triple Creek Trail** – is primarily used for recreational purposes and is therefore considered a Section 4(f) resource. The Triple Creek Trail extends from the High Line Canal on the west and currently terminates within the Coal Creek Arena. The trail is soft

surface and approximately 10 feet in width. Primary users of the trail include: equestrians, bicyclists, hikers, and walkers.

- **Coal Creek Arena (Parcel 136)** – is a 10-acre arena that hosts rodeos, riding events, and other horse use. It has a trailhead for the Triple Creek Trail and an unpaved parking area. The arena has a fenced area for rodeo activities, bleachers, and holding pens. The Arena has several buildings including:
  - Building 1: This building is the main electrical building for the site. It has multiple control panels and provides power to building 2 and 3. It also has electrical outlets on the outside of the building for use.
  - Building 2: This is an abandoned, inoperable restroom facility. This building contains a holding tank for the water well. It also contains the electrical panel and connections to the water pump. Non-potable water from the well is distributed through pipes to various spigots around the rodeo grounds. It appears that the water well is located just to the north of this building.
  - Building 3: This building is the announcer’s booth for Arena events. It is elevated above the ground and it is served by electricity for lighting.

### 3.4 Section 6(f) Resources

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965 provides matching grants to state and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The program is intended to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high-quality recreation areas and facilities, and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States. Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act prohibits the conversion of property acquired or developed with grants from this fund to a non-recreational purpose without the approval of the National Park Service (NPS) and replacement lands of equal value, location, and usefulness.

#### 3.4.1 Section 6(f) Property Descriptions

Public parks and recreation areas acquired, developed, or improved with grant funds provided by the federal LWCF are protected under Section 6(f) of the Act from conversion to uses other than public outdoor recreation. Within the study area, there are two Section 6(f) resources as identified in **Figure 2**:

- **Section 6(f) Project # 748 Springhill Park Addition (Parcel 143, 138, 137, and 136)** – This project comprises both Parcel 143 (Environmental Day Camp), Parcel 138, Parcel 137 and Parcel 136 (Coal Creek Arena) (LWCF, 1978). The LWCF grant for this project was received in 1978 as shown in **Figure 3**. The funds were for engineering services, an asphalt trail, a picnic shelter, road improvements, and a parking lot. It should be noted only a portion of Parcel 137 is considered Section 6(f) as shown in the 1978 boundary in **Figure 3**.
- **Section 6(f) Project #750 Triple Creek Trail** – A LWCF grant was received for the trail in 1978 (titled Sand Creek Trail at the time), and as such the trail is considered a Section 6(f) resource. **Figure 4** shows the Section 6(f) boundary for the trail improvements. The grant was for the development of two and a half miles of trail adjacent to 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Sand Creek. The trail currently continues east and terminates within the Coal Creek Arena near SH 30.

Figure 3 Section 6(f) Project # 748 Springhill Park Addition

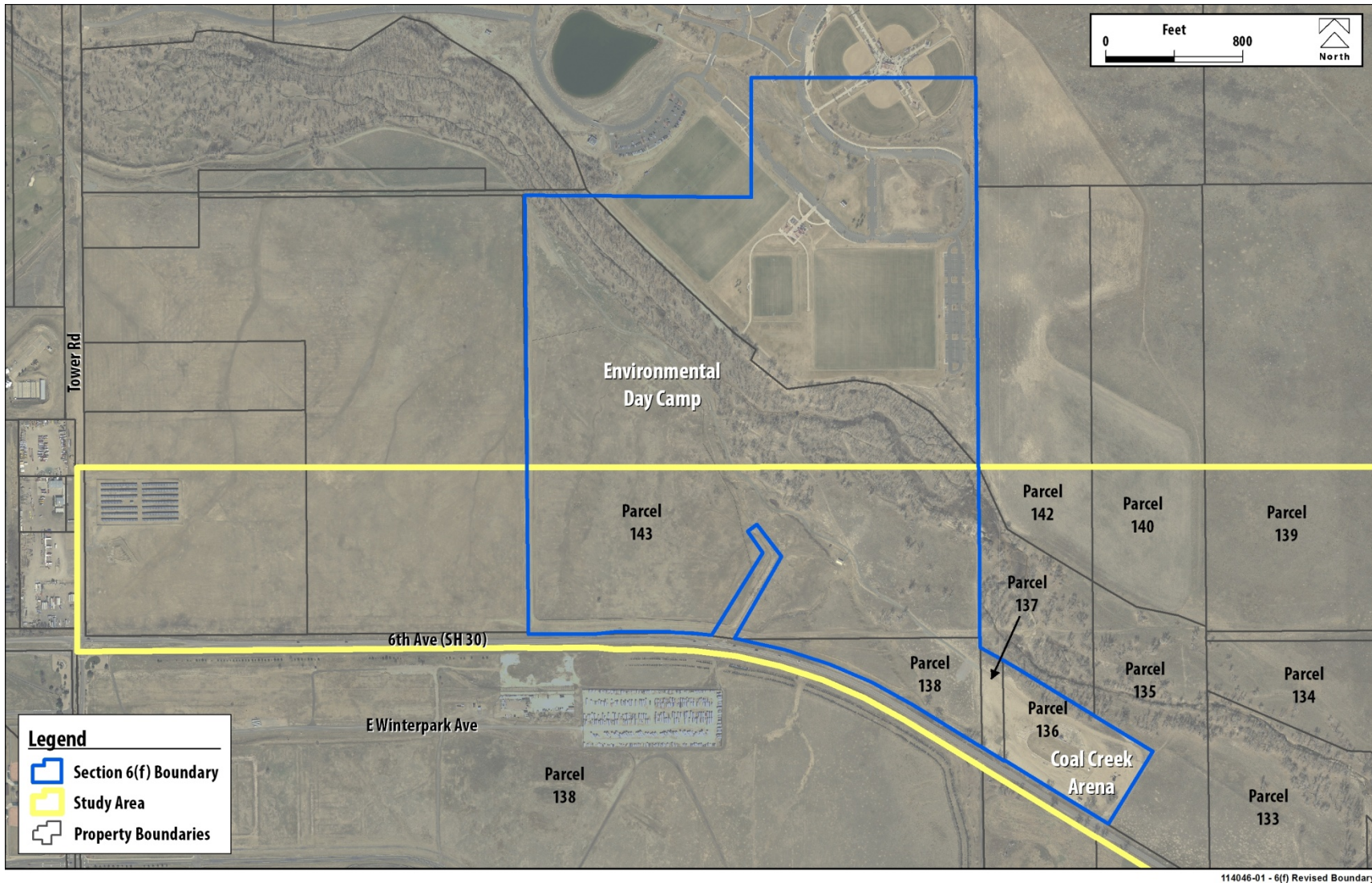
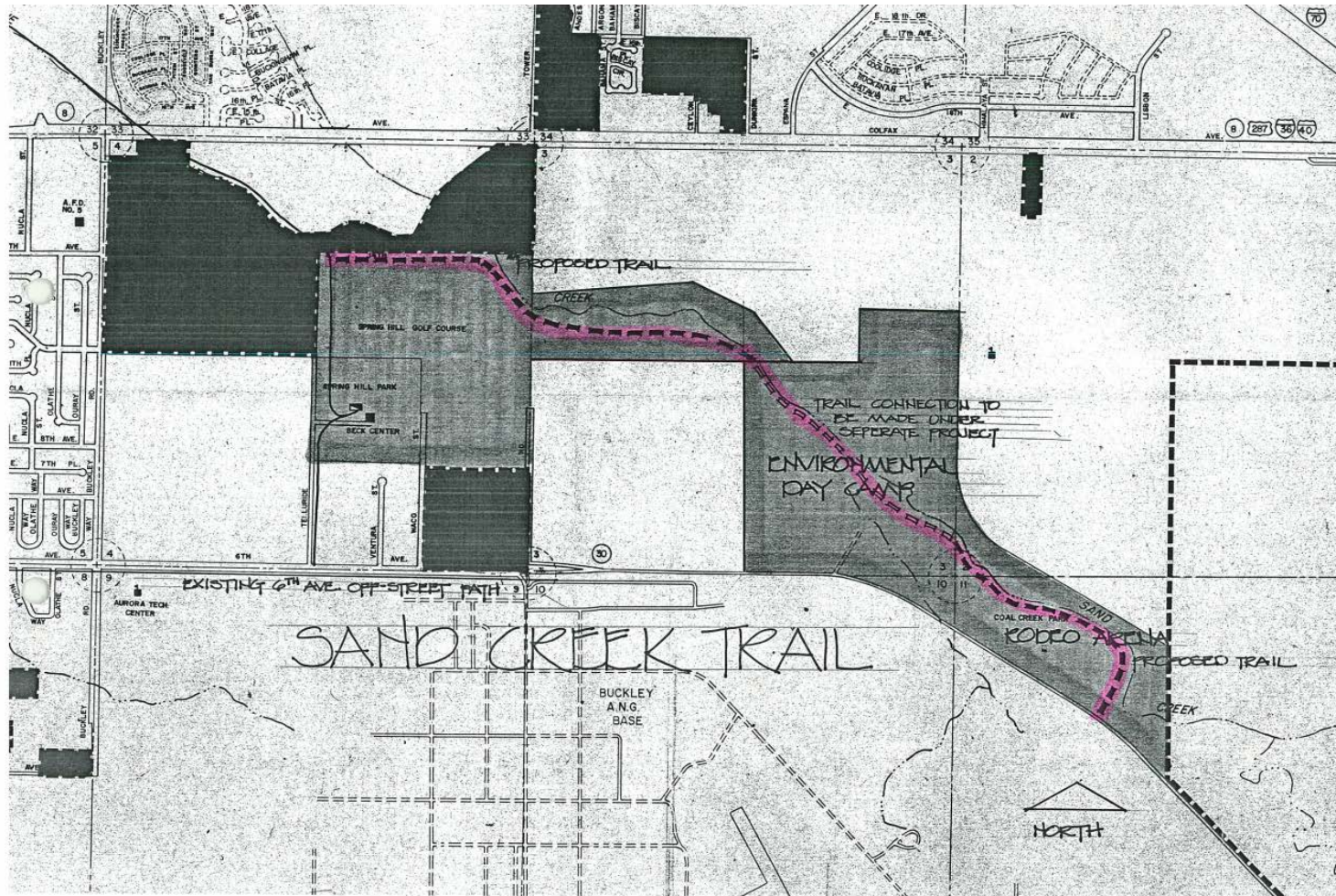


Figure 4 Section 6(f) Project #750 Triple Creek Trail



## 4. IMPACT EVALUATION

**Appendix A** provides a compiled table of the impacts for insertion into the EA.

### 4.1 *Methodology for Impact Evaluation*

Given the number of park, recreation, and open space amenities and funding sources in the study area, specific meetings were held to discuss these resources throughout the project process. Park, recreation, and open space topics were regularly discussed at the Project Management Team and Technical Working Group meetings, and specific meetings to discuss these topics were held with staff from:

- City of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department
  - October 29, 2014
  - December 16, 2014
  - February 13, 2015
  - May 5, 2015
- Arapahoe County Open Spaces
  - February 2, 2015
- Great Outdoors Colorado/The Trust for Public Land
  - January 26, 2015
  - June 4, 2015
- Northeast Greenway Corridor Trustees
  - May 15, 2015 (only City representatives attended)
- CDOT Region 1
  - October 28, 2015
- Federal Highway Administration
  - February 3, 2015
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
  - February 3, 2016

Discussions to determine the appropriate use of each parcel (e.g., open space, parks, Section 4(f), Section 6(f)), occurred at the meetings listed above and were utilized for the impacts analysis. Appropriate use determination was discussed with FHWA on February 3, 2015 and CPW on February 3, 2016.

City of Aurora PROS staff were consulted during each phase of the alternative screening process (Level 1A, Level 1B, and Level 2) to obtain input on potential impacts and the Proposed Action Alternative (reference **Appendix A1** *Alternatives Screening Technical Report*). General guidance from PROS staff centered on avoiding and minimizing impacts to PROS resources. Ultimately the Proposed Action Alternative minimized the impacts to PROS resources as

compared to other alternatives. The Proposed Action threads between the Section 4(f) and 6(f) resources and specifically avoided bisecting open space parcels.

Thorough discussions were centered around any impacts to those parcels with conservation easements in place and how compensation would be handled with funding partners.

#### 4.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would have no impacts on existing parks, recreation, and open space parcels as no transportation infrastructure improvements would be constructed.

#### 4.3 Proposed Action

##### 4.3.1 Open Space Impacts

For each open space resource, **Table 4** identifies impacts for the Proposed Action. The impacts are shown on **Figure 5** as referenced in **Table 4**.

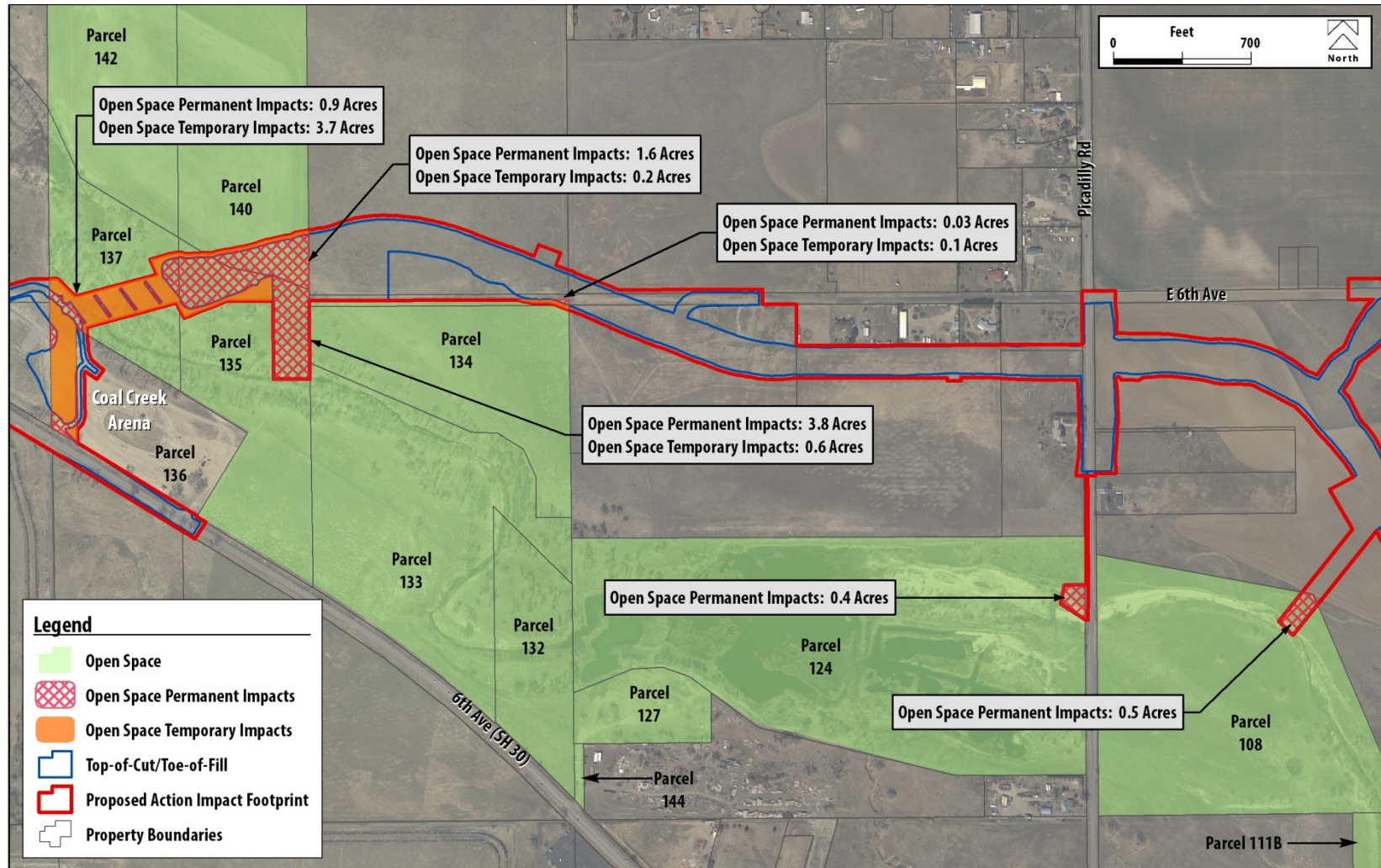
**Table 4 Impacts to Open Space Parcels from the Proposed Action\***

Parcel No.	Impacts under Proposed Action
<b>108</b>	As shown on <b>Figure 5</b> , a drainage/water quality feature is required to Sand Creek that extends south from the 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Extension and would have 0.5 acre of permanent impact to the parcel.
<b>124</b>	As shown on <b>Figure 5</b> , a drainage/water quality feature is required to manage the stormwater off of Picadilly Road and would have 0.4 acre of permanent impact to the parcel.
<b>134</b>	As shown on <b>Figure 5</b> , some grading activities would have 0.03 acre of permanent impact and 0.1 acre of temporary impact to the parcel.
<b>135</b>	As shown on <b>Figure 5</b> , a drainage/water quality feature is required to discharge stormwater from the structure into Sand Creek and would permanently impact 3.8 acres and temporary impacts of 0.6 acre of the parcel.
<b>137</b>	As shown on <b>Figure 5</b> , a drainage/water quality feature is required to manage the stormwater off of the structure and would have 0.9 acre of permanent impact and 3.7 acres of temporary of the parcel. It should be noted that a portion of Parcel 137 is considered Section 6(f). The impacts to the Section 6(f) portion are discussed in <b>Section 4.3.3</b> .
<b>140</b>	As shown on <b>Figure 5</b> , the roadway alignment would have 1.6 acres of permanent impacts and 0.2 acre of temporary impacts on the parcel.

\*Impacts to parks and recreation (Section 4(f) and Section 6(f)) parcels are discussed in **Sections 4.3.2** and **4.3.3**.



Figure 5 Impacts to Open Spaces



114046-01 - Parks and Open Space Impacts

#### 4.3.2 Section 4(f) Use

Impacts to Section 4(f) parcels are shown on **Figure 6** and discussed below.

- **Environmental Day Camp (Parcel 143)** – Parcel 143 is permanently and temporarily impacted by grading associated with the Proposed Action Alternative roadway and bridge. Permanent impacts would include 0.2 acre of the parcel and temporary impacts would include an additional 0.6 acre. The new roadway must transition to existing SH 30 on the east side of the project and is constrained by Buckley AFB south of existing 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue; therefore, minor grading impacts occur north of existing 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Parcel 143 at the SH 30 tie in. There are additional grading impacts on the west side of Parcel 143 that are tied to the bridge over Sand Creek. The 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parkway roadway elevation must be raised significantly from existing elevation to meet minimum vertical clearances for the bridge over the Sand Creek and the Triple Creek Trail, causing the 4:1 slopes to spill into Parcel 143 leading up to the structure. An avoidance alternative of building a wall was considered instead of grading the impacted area. However, due to a major water line being located in the immediate vicinity, a wall would have been placed on the water line. It is generally preferred to not have structures on top of utilities because in the need for repairs the walls would have to be removed and reconstructed. As such, grading of the area was selected.

Avoidance and minimization of impacts to Parcel 143 were considered during the alternatives screening process and the Proposed Action Alternative best minimized impacts to Parcel 143 as compared to the other alternatives. The impacts would not affect existing recreational use of the park.

- **Triple Creek Trail** – The existing soft surface Triple Creek Trail would be realigned to provide passage beneath the Proposed Action bridge. Realignment of the Triple Creek Trail would impact approximately 700 feet of the existing trail. The current alignment of the trail would be shifted to the north to cross beneath the Proposed Action bridge. The trail would then gently curve to the south to connect with the existing trail location within the Coal Creek Arena. In addition, a new spur will be added to the trail that connects it with 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parkway. The impacts to the Triple Creek Trail are considered an excepted use under Section 4(f) due to its enhancement by the project.
- **Coal Creek Arena (Parcel 136)** – Portions of the realigned Triple Creek Trail would be located within the Coal Creek Arena. The trail extends into the Coal Creek Arena to allocate appropriate space for a new drainage channel that extends from the SH 30 right-of-way to Coal Creek conveying water off site. The placement of the drainage channel minimizes impacts to the Coal Creek Arena. The realignment of the Triple Creek Trail within the arena would have 0.7 acre of temporary impacts to the Coal Creek Arena during construction. Once completed the trail will add enhanced access to the arena. Because the realigned trail and new trail spur enhances access to the parcel, the impact to the arena is considered an excepted use under Section 4(f).

There are three structures located within the Coal Creek Arena that would be adversely affected by the changes in the floodplain/floodway. All three existing structures are currently in the floodplain, and one is currently in the floodway. One structure is the main electrical building for the arena, one structure is an abandoned restroom facility that now contains a holding tank for well water and distributes non-potable water to the rodeo

grounds and the third structure is the announcer's booth building. These structures currently experience periodic flooding; however, due to the rise in the floodplain/floodway from the project, some mitigation will have to take place. This is described in **Section 5.2.2**.

#### 4.3.3 Section 6(f) Impacts

Impacts to Section 6(f) parcels are shown on **Figure 7** and discussed below.

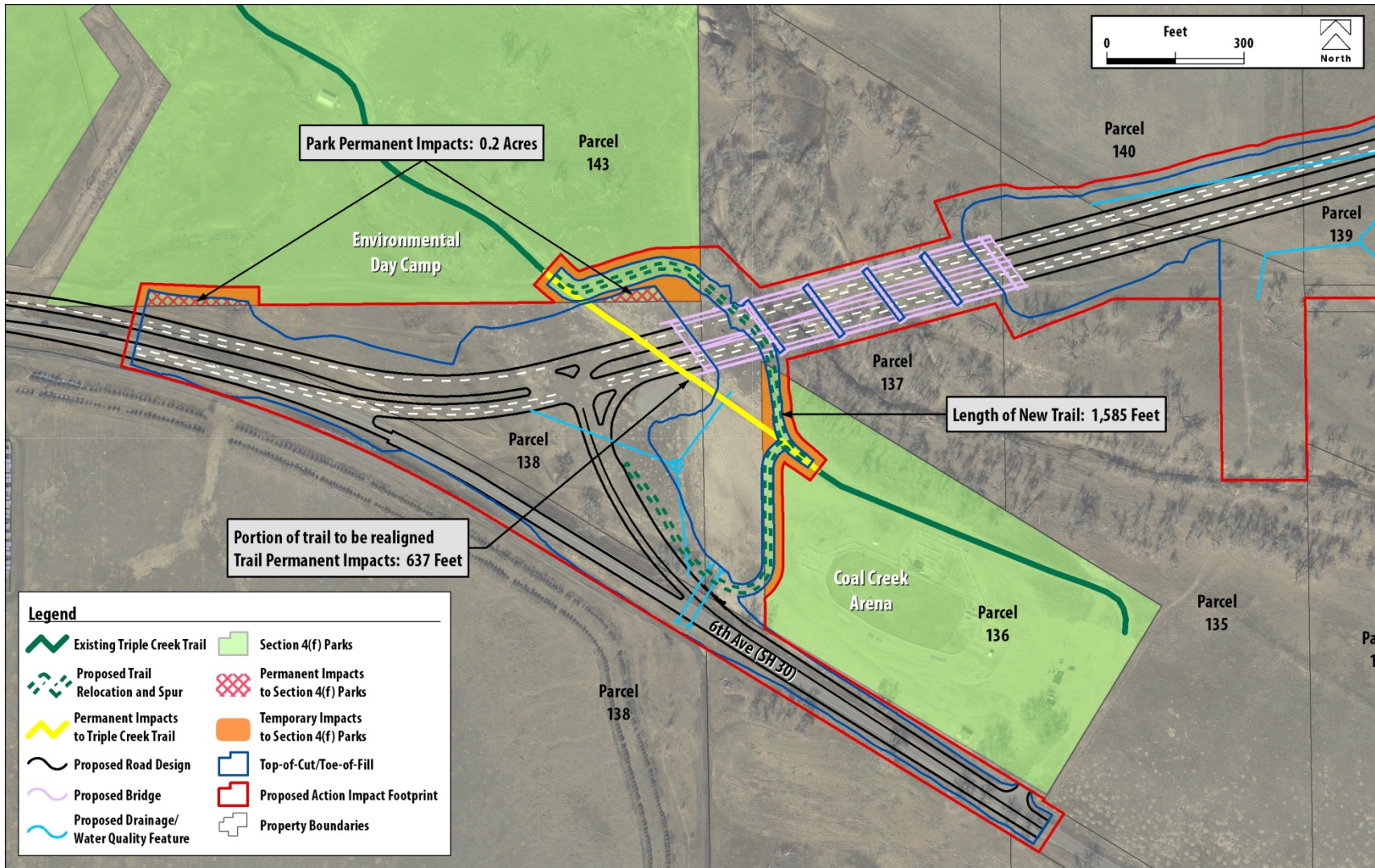
- **Section 6(f) Project # 748 Springhill Park Addition (Parcels 143, 138, 137, and 136)** – The impacts are the same as discussed above for the Environmental Day Camp (Parcel 143) and Coal Creek Arena (Parcel 136). The permanent impact to Parcel 143, 138 and 137 total 10.4 acres and are considered a conversion under Section 6(f) and will need to be mitigated. The impacts to Parcel 136 enhance the recreational ability of the area and are considered a temporary non-conforming use under Section 6(f) during construction. Coordination with CPW is ongoing to confirm the temporary non-conforming use and required mitigation.

All of Parcel 138 would be impacted as this is the location of the tie-in for the Proposed Action to the existing SH 30/6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Given the existing alignment and curve of the existing roadway and amount of area needed to make grade to cross Sand Creek, this was determined to be the best place to tie-in to the existing roadway. In addition, this tie-in location was selected so that Section 4(f) resources (Coal Creek Arena, and Environmental Day Camp) could be avoided. The impacted area of Parcel 138 would be 8.4 acres.

A portion of Parcel 137 would be impacted as well to accommodate drainage features. It should be noted that not all of Parcel 137 is considered Section 6(f) and Section 6(f) impacts have been adjusted according to the original Section 6(f) boundary from 1978. Placing the drainage features within Parcel 137 avoided the Coal Creek Arena, a Section 4(f) resource. The amount of impacts on the Section 6(f) portion of Parcel 137 would be 1.8 acres.

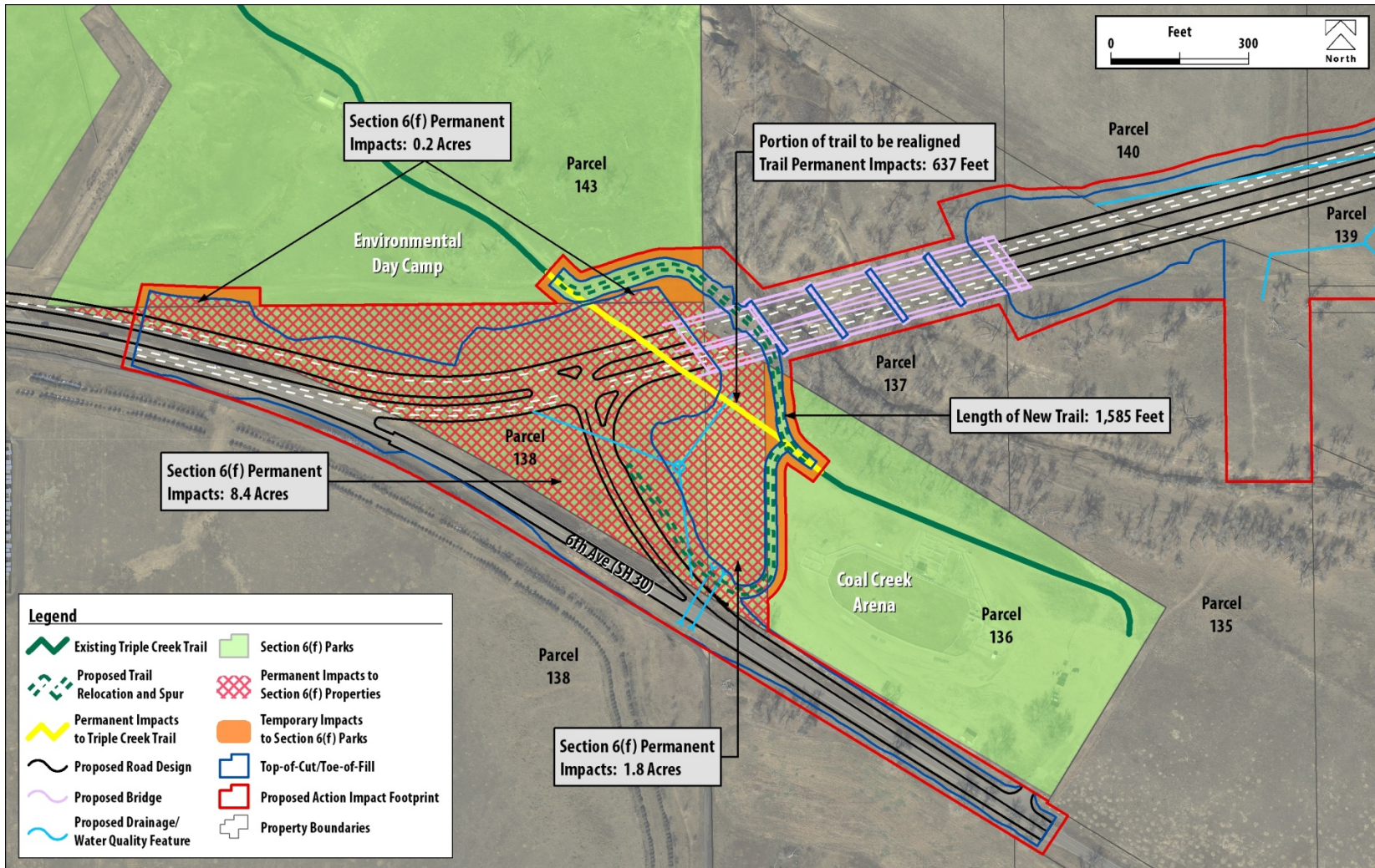
- **Section 6(f) Project #750 Triple Creek Trail** – The impacts to the Triple Creek Trail Section 6(f) resources are the same as described under Section 4(f) impacts and on **Figure 6**. The impacts enhance the recreational ability of this resource and are considered a temporary non-conforming use under Section 6(f) during construction.

Figure 6 Section 4(f) Impacts



114046-01 - Section 4f Impacts

Figure 7 Section 6(f) Impacts



114046-01 - Section 6f Impacts

## 5. MITIGATION MEASURES

### 5.1 *No Action Alternative*

Mitigation measures would not be required for the No Action Alternative as no improvements would be made to the existing transportation infrastructure.

### 5.2 *Proposed Action*

**Appendix B** provides a compiled table of the mitigation for insertion into the EA.

#### 5.2.1 *Open Space Mitigation*

For impacted parcels (108, 124, 134, 135, 137, 140, 143) impacts will be mitigated in compliance with applicable requirements from the agencies that had provided funding to benefit the impacted land. Mitigation will involve payback of funding received relative to the current value of the property being converted, and monetary penalty payments, among other measures.

#### 5.2.2 *Section 4(f) Mitigation*

In addition to the payback provisions discussed above, several parcels require additional mitigation measures because of their Section 4(f) status.

#### Environmental Day Camp (Parcel 143)

##### ***Mitigation, Minimization, and/or Enhancement Measures***

During the alternatives screening process and subsequent conceptual design, efforts were made by the design team to minimize the impacts to Parcel 143. These included consideration of walls versus grading, and minimizing the roadway footprint. Impacted vegetation will be reseeded with native seed once construction activities are completed to blend in with the surrounding open space.

##### ***De Minimis Determination Process***

FHWA is considering making a *de minimis* finding in accordance with Section 4(f). FHWA and CDOT currently believe that the permanent impacts to the Environmental Day Camp represent a *de minimis* use of this recreation resource because the impacts are a very small part of the overall parcel, and the property to be converted to right-of-way is adjacent to the existing SH 30 and away from developed recreation features. It is a small portion of the parcel, approximately 0.4 percent of the total acreage.

Coordination with the official with jurisdiction for this property has been ongoing. Public review and comment will be solicited through the EA public comment and public hearing process. After reviewing public comments, the City of Aurora PROS will need to provide written concurrence that they believe that these impacts are *de minimis*. Once that occurs, FHWA will make a final determination on the *de minimis* finding.

### Triple Creek Trail

#### ***Mitigation, Minimization, and/or Enhancement Measures***

As a trail enhancement, a trail realignment and new trail spur will be constructed extending from the realigned trail location within the Coal Creek Arena that would provide access for trail users up to the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parkway (**Figure 8**). The realigned trail will be approximately 138 feet longer than the existing trail to accommodate the shift beneath the bridge. In order to meet the vertical clearance criteria, the trail has to pass under the bridge in a specific location. In addition, the trail spur will add another 757 feet of trail to connect with 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parkway. The trail will be constructed as soft surface and recreational use of the trail would continue during construction. The trail spur will tie into a concrete 10-foot-wide sidewalk located on the south side of the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parkway. As the trail is being constructed, detour options will be provided to maintain continuous access. Trail users will be provided adequate notice of the detours including but not limited to signing along the trail itself.

The Proposed Action will provide the following benefits for users of the trail that the No Action Alternative would not provide:

- Currently, along its existing 2-mile distance access to the Triple Creek Trail is limited to access points at Telluride Street, Tower Road (via the Sports Park Connector Trail), and Coal Creek Arena. As a result of the trail realignment, trail users will have access to the Highline Canal Trail and the Triple Creek Trail from 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parkway. In addition, the exposure of the Trail will be increased as drivers-by will see the amenity and potentially choose to recreate.

Coordination with the official with jurisdiction, City of Aurora PROS, has been ongoing and will continue during final design and construction.

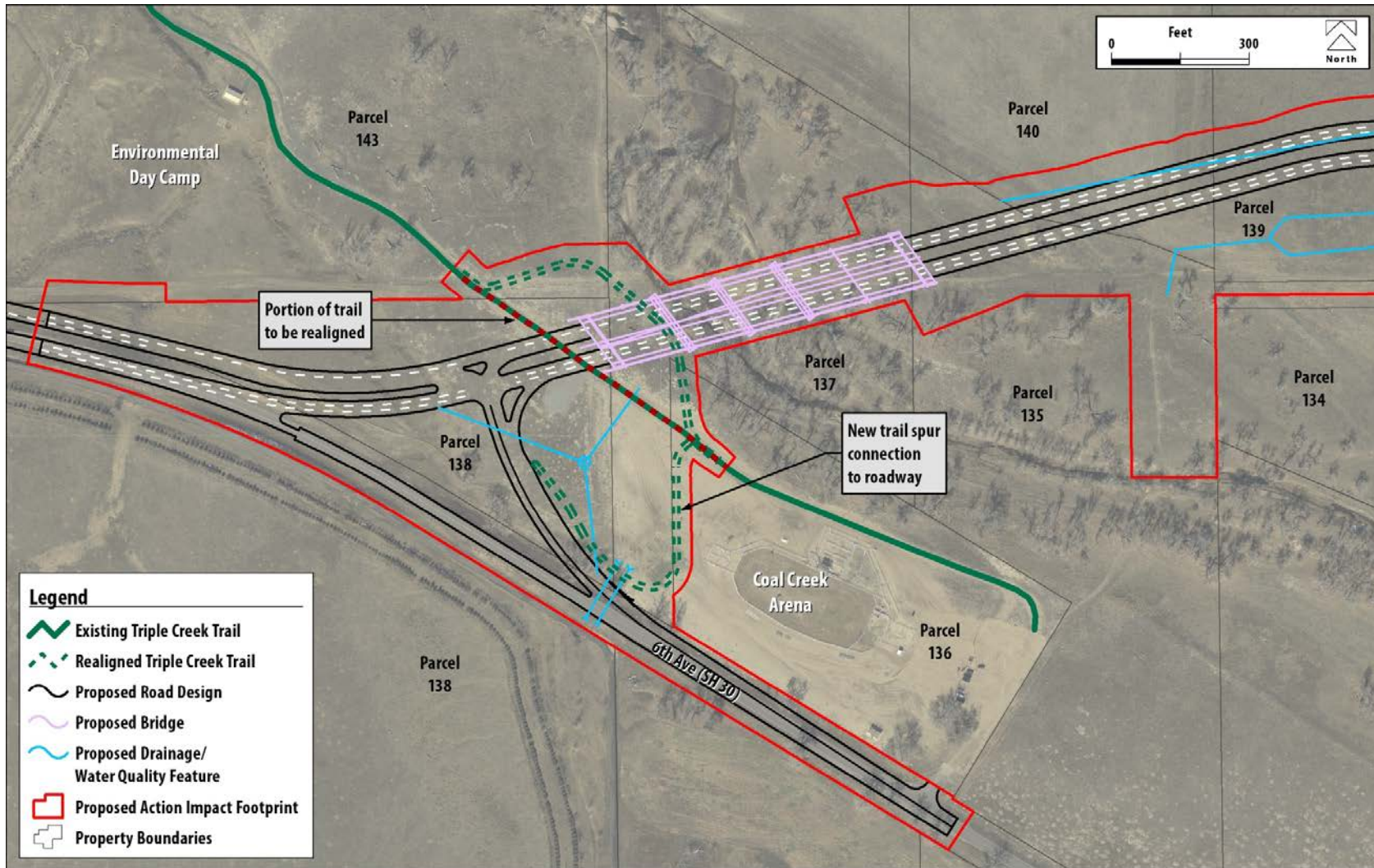
#### ***Section 4(f) Determination***

The Proposed Action qualifies for an exception to the requirement for Section 4(f) approval per 23 CFR 774.13(g) because:

- The use of the Section 4(f) property is solely for the purpose of preserving or enhancing an activity, feature, or attribute that qualifies the property for Section 4(f) protection; and
- The official(s) with jurisdiction over the Section 4(f) resource agrees in writing to paragraph (g)(1) of this section.

The written concurrence declaring that the City of Aurora PROS has agreed with the exception criteria is located in **Appendix B** of the EA.

Figure 8 Triple Creek Trail Realignment





### Coal Creek Arena (Parcel 136)

#### ***Mitigation, Minimization, and/or Enhancement Measures***

The realignment of the trail would not affect existing recreational use of the Coal Creek Arena, and would enhance access for users. Since the trail is a Section 4(f) resource, and the Coal Creek Arena is a Section 4(f) resource, the impacts are considered as enhancements and do not require mitigation.

The Coal Creek Arena is located within the floodplain/floodway, **Appendix A6 Floodplains and Drainage Assessment**, provides more detailed information. In order to mitigate for the increase in the 100-year floodplain elevation and resulting impacts to the existing three buildings on the arena, the following mitigation will occur:

- The main electrical building and the abandoned restroom building will be consolidated to a single building that will be constructed near the existing water well with a finished floor elevation above the proposed 100-year floodplain elevation. The new building will house the electrical facilities required for the Coal Creek Arena.
- The announcer's booth stilts will be reinforced to improve the integrity of the structure and protect it from increased flooding hazards caused by floating debris.

The above mitigation will serve as enhancements to the property by providing newer, consolidated facilities that withstand flooding.

#### ***Section 4(f) Determination***

The Proposed Action qualifies for an exception to the requirement for Section 4(f) approval per 23 CFR 774.13(g) because the trail would enhance recreation on the property and the buildings will be updated. The official with jurisdiction, the City of Aurora PROS, has agreed to the following criteria. This is in conformance with the Section 4(f) regulations which require:

- The use of the Section 4(f) property is solely for the purpose of preserving or enhancing an activity, feature, or attribute that qualifies the property for Section 4(f) protection; and
- The official(s) with jurisdiction over the Section 4(f) resource agrees in writing to paragraph (g)(1) of this section.

The written concurrence declaring that the City of Aurora PROS has agreed with the exception criteria is located in the **Appendix B** of the EA.

### 5.2.3 Section 6(f) Mitigation

#### **Section 6(f) Project # 748 Springhill Park Addition (Parcel 143, 138, 137, and 136)**

Conversion of 10.4 acres of the Springhill Park Addition will be mitigated in-kind in accordance with Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF act, which requires land of comparable value and equivalent usefulness and location. Coordination with, and conditional approval from, the National Park Service will be required prior to any Section 6(f) property conversion.

To provide the 10.4-acre replacement land, a parcel of land that the City of Aurora is currently negotiating to purchase is proposed (**Figure 9**). This land is adjacent to existing open space within the study area and is of equivalent and/or greater value to the impacted parcel. There is the potential for the ultimate mitigation parcel to be larger than the impacted area. Once the project begins, a property appraisal will take place assessing the value of the land to be converted and the mitigation property according to the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970. In addition, the recreational value of each property will be determined and agreed to by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). A final conversion package will be sent to CPW and NPS for approval.

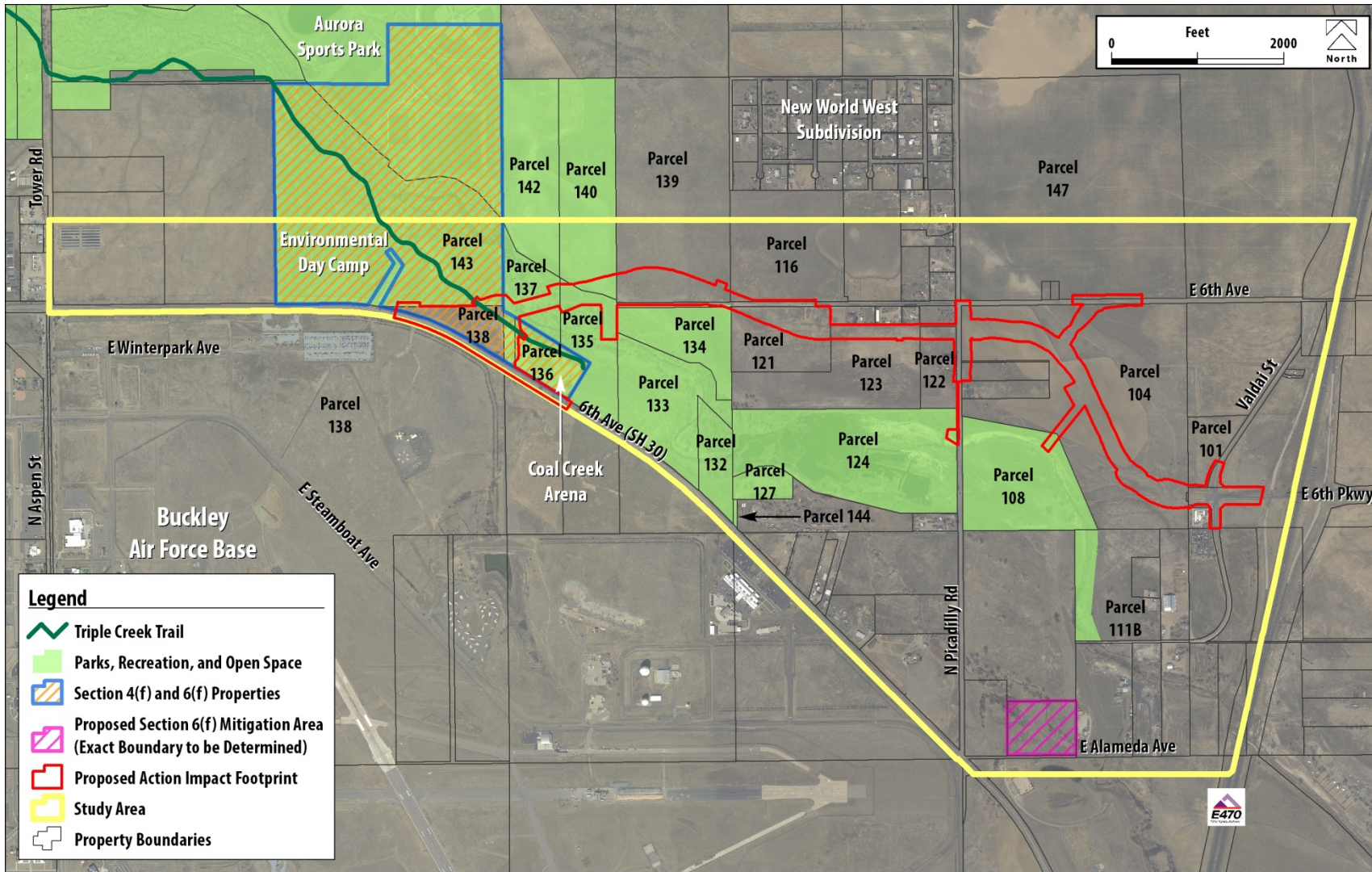
For Parcel 136, the Coal Creek Arena, the main electrical building and the abandoned restroom building would be demolished and consolidated to a single building that will be constructed near the existing water well with a finished floor elevation above the proposed 100-year floodplain elevation. The announcer's booth stilts will be reinforced to improve the integrity of the structure and protect it from increased flooding hazards caused by floating debris. Mitigation for the temporary non-conforming use on Parcel 136 is the same as discussed above under Section 4(f). Coordination with CPW is on-going.

The temporary impacts due to the trail realignment through the property will be revegetated.

#### **Section 6(f) Project #750 Triple Creek Trail**

The Triple Creek Trail is a Section 6(f) resource and is being realigned. Mitigation for the temporary non-conforming use of the trail is the same as what is described for the trail under Section 4(f). The trail realignment and new spur are shown in **Figure 8**.

Figure 9 Section 6(f) Project # 748 Springhill Park Addition (Parcel 143 and 136) Proposed Mitigation



114046-01 - Proposed Mitigation

## 6. REFERENCES

- Arapahoe County Clerk & Recorder. 2006a. Warranty Deed between Irian K. Bounds, Brennen B. Bounds, Rebecca K. Petriello and Barry B. Bounds and Aurora Capital Leasing Corporation. Registration # B6136580. September 22. (Parcel 137)
- Arapahoe County Clerk & Recorder. 2006b. Warranty Deed between Sherrilyn L. Coakes Living Trust, dated July 3, 2002, Sherrilyn I. Coakes Trustee, Tanya Sue Relander, Shaunda Rai Ruckman and the T.L. Weston Living Trust, dated July 3, 2002, Sherrilyn I. Coakes Trustee and Aurora Capital Leasing Corporation. Reception #B6136576. September 22. (Parcel 135)
- Arapahoe County Clerk & Recorder. 2007. Warranty Deed between Tyron K. Sell, Kristine L. Sell n/k/a Kristine Delagnes and Misty D. Sell, individually and d/b/a Four Sell Partnership and Aurora Capital Leasing Corporation. Reception #B7019920. February 14. (Parcel 133)
- Arapahoe County, Colorado. 1993. Deed between Thomas W. Nevin and the City of Aurora. Reception #9300030590. Book 6842, page 451. March 15. (Parcel 143)
- Arapahoe County, Colorado. 2006. Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding 2006 Grant of Arapahoe County Open Space Program Funds. Project Name: Coal Creek – Adventure Park. Agreement between Arapahoe County and City of Aurora. July 6. (Parcel 133, 135, and 137)
- Arapahoe County, State of Colorado, and City of Aurora, Colorado. 1974. Deed between Irian K. Bounds and Sherrilyn I. Coakes, formerly Sherrilyn I. Munsey and the County of Arapahoe and State of Colorado, of the first part, and City of Aurora, Colorado. Reception No. 1445488. Book No. 2275, page 224. September 6. (Parcel 136)
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- City of Aurora Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department Planning, Design & Construction Division. 2011. Triple Creek Greenway Corridor Study. January.
- City of Aurora, Colorado. 1983. Ordinance No. 83-23. A Bill for an Ordinance Designating Various Sites within the City of Aurora, Colorado, as Public Parks. March 22. (Parcel 143)
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- City of Aurora, Colorado. 2014. LWCF Funded Trail Development. Map showing Environmental Day Camp Public Park Designation. November 24.
- City of Aurora, Colorado. 2014. Parcel Land Map from Warranty Deed Reception #B6084473 from Arapahoe County. September 19. (Parcel 111)
- City of Aurora, Colorado. n.d. Coal Creek Park Master Plan.
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). 2012. Section 4(f) Policy Paper. July 20.
- H.C. Peck & Associates, Inc. 2014. ALTA COMMITMENT 6-17-06. Agent No. CO1032, Order No. 05966A014, Assessor No. 1976-10-1-00-001 (part of). September 22. (Parcel 138)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (LWCF). 1965.

LWCF. 1978. #08-00748 Grant Application Package and Materials.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damages (NRDs) Foundation Fund. 2012. Project Funding Application Package for the Triple Creek Corridor Initiative Parcel Acquisitions.

The Trust for Public Land. 2013a. Special Warranty Deed between The Trust for Public Land and City of Aurora. Reception #D3134421. October 28. (Parcel 124,127)

The Trust for Public Land. 2013b. Special Warranty Deed between The Trust for Public Land and City of Aurora. Reception #D3068179. June 3. (Parcels 134, 140, and 142)

The Trust for Public Land. 2015. Deed of Conservation Easement between The Trust for Public Land and Arapahoe County, Colorado. (Parcel 108/111)

U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Act of 1966, as amended

Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 as amended

United States of America. 1975. Quitclaim Deed between the United States of America and Thomas W. Nevin of Denver, State of Colorado. Project: Buckley Air National Guard Base, Aurora, Colorado. Reception #1517901. Book No. 2390, page 507. November 7. (Parcel 143)

United States of America. 1976. Deed without Warranty between the United States of America and the City of Aurora, State of Colorado. Reception #2599033. Book No. 2526, page 699. (Parcel 143)

[www.SandCreekGreenway.org](http://www.SandCreekGreenway.org) accessed October 14, 2015. <http://sandcreekgreenway.org/our-greenway/trail-maps/>

## Appendix A Resource Impact Table

Resource	Context	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action	Mitigation #
Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Section 4(f) and 6(f) Analysis	<p>The study area contains a number of parks, recreation and open space resources that include a continuous gallery of mature cottonwood trees and willows along Sand Creek, and naturalized ponds creating a visually harmonious landscape experience for open space, park, and recreation visitors. User groups include pedestrian, bike, equestrian, educational, and bird watching. The specific uses and restrictions on these resources have been identified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Open space</li> <li>■ Section 6(f) resources present include: Project #748 Springhill Park Addition (which encompasses Environmental Day Camp and Coal Creek Arena), and Project #750 Triple Creek Trail</li> </ul>	Would not result in impacts to parks, recreation, open space, or Section 6(f) resources.	<p>Would result in 7.23 acres of permanent impact to open space properties.</p> <p>Would result in 4.6 acres of temporary impact to open space properties.</p> <p>Section 6(f) impacts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Project #748 Springhill Park Addition (which includes Environmental Day Camp and Coal Creek Arena) – conversion of 10.4 acres of permanently impacted area</li> <li>■ Project #750 Triple Creek Trail – 700 linear feet of trail impacted</li> </ul> <p>Enhanced access to open space and parks would be provided with the Proposed Action. Would not negatively impact access, parking, or use of the areas.</p>	
Section 4(f) Resources	Section 4(f) resources present in the study area include: Coal Creek Arena, Environmental Day Camp, and Triple Creek Trail.	Would not result in impacts to Section 4(f) resources.	<p>Section 4(f) impacts would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Environmental Day Camp – 0.2 acre of permanent impact and 0.6 acres of temporary impact.</li> </ul>	

			<p>After consideration of public comments, FHWA will decide whether or not to make a <i>de minimis</i> finding for the Environmental Day Camp and will seek the concurrence of the Official with Jurisdiction (City of Aurora Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces) for any <i>de minimis</i> findings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Triple Creek Trail – 700 linear feet of trail impacted. Impacts to the Triple Creek Trail are considered an excepted use under Section 4(f) due to the enhancement from the project.</li> <li>■ Coal Creek Arena – 0.7 acre of temporary impacts from Triple Creek Trail realignment and impact to three structures (electrical building, abandoned restroom, and announcer’s booth) due to a rise in the floodplain. Impacts to the Arena from the realigned trail and new spur within the Arena would provide enhanced access and are considered an excepted use under Section 4(f) due to the enhancement from the project.</li> </ul>	
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## Appendix B Resource Mitigation Table

Mitigation Category	Proposed Action Impact	Mitigation Commitments for the 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Extension Project	Responsible Branch	Timing/Phase that Mitigation will be Implemented
Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Section 4(f) Analysis	Impacts to Open Space Parcels 108, 124, 134, 135, 136, 137, and 140	<p>The specific measures to compensate for impacted open space will be determined with each funding partner prior to construction. but will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Where possible provide replacement land of equivalent value,</li> <li>▪ Payback of funding received relative to the current value of the property being converted, and monetary penalty payments, among other measures.</li> </ul>	City of Aurora	Construction
Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Section 4(f) Analysis	Impacts to Coal Creek Arena from increase to floodplain/floodway	<p>The main electrical building and the abandoned restroom building will be consolidated to a single building that will be constructed near the existing water well with a finished floor elevation above the proposed 100-year floodplain elevation.</p> <p>The announcer's booth stilts will be reinforced to improve the integrity of the structure and protect it from increased flooding hazards caused by floating debris.</p>	City of Aurora	Pre-Construction

Mitigation Category	Proposed Action Impact	Mitigation Commitments for the 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Extension Project	Responsible Branch	Timing/Phase that Mitigation will be Implemented
Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Section 4(f) Analysis	Impacts to Section 6(f) parcels	To offset the permanent impacts to the Section 6(f) Project #748 Springhill Park Addition by conversion to a non-recreation use, a replacement in-kind with land of at least current fair market value and of reasonable equivalent usefulness and location will occur.	City of Aurora	Pre-construction
Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Section 4(f) Analysis	Triple Creek Trail impacts	Trail realignment and new trail spur will be constructed. The existing Triple Creek Trail will be open until proposed trail realignment is completed. Access to the trail will be maintained during construction.	City of Aurora	Construction

Mitigation Category	Proposed Action Impact	Mitigation Commitments for the 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Extension Project	Responsible Branch	Timing/Phase that Mitigation will be Implemented
Section 4(f) resources	<p>Impacts to Section 4(f) resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Environmental Day Camp</li> <li>■ Triple Creek Trail</li> <li>■ Coal Creek Arena</li> </ul>	<p>CDOT and FHWA will seek public review and comment regarding the impacts and mitigation for the Section 4(f) properties, through the EA review and comment process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Environmental Day Camp – Areas temporarily impacted during construction will be revegetated and restored to pre-construction conditions.</li> <li>■ Triple Creek Trail - Trail realignment and new trail spur will be constructed. The existing Triple Creek Trail will be open until proposed trail realignment is completed.</li> <li>■ Coal Creek Arena – The main electrical building and the abandoned restroom building will be consolidated to a single building that will be constructed near the existing water well with a finished floor elevation above the proposed 100-year floodplain elevation. The announcer’s booth stilts will be reinforced to improve the integrity of the structure and protect it from increased flooding hazards caused by floating debris</li> </ul>	City of Aurora	Design Construction