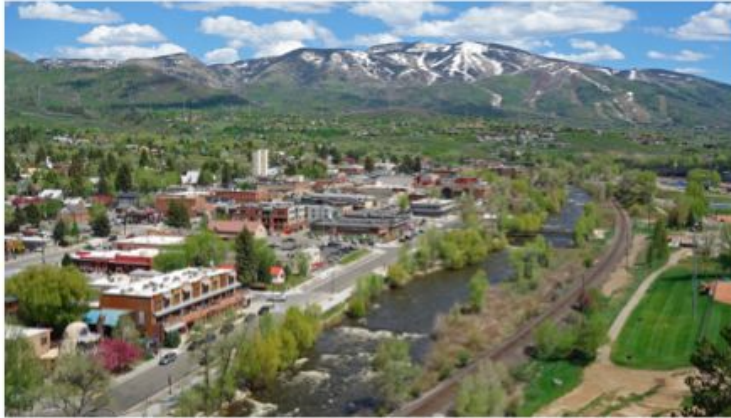


# Yampa River Health Assessment & Streamflow Management Plan



City of  
Steamboat Springs 

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# Plan Framework





# Plan Goals

1. Preserve and enhance healthy aquatic and riparian habitat.
2. Meet regulatory responsibilities including water quality and temperature standards.
3. Build upon existing information to develop a science-based assessment of river system conditions to inform decision-making and long-term monitoring.
4. Establish integrated and flexible management strategies that align with other planning efforts and strengthen resilience and sustainability.
5. Protect a strong local economy, particularly the agriculture and recreation sectors.
6. Foster a culture of shared stewardship of the Yampa River among stakeholders and community members.

# Plan Framework



# Health Assessment Key Findings

## Examples

- The natural flow regime is the primary driver of the Yampa River's good condition.
- Natural processes that maintain aquatic habitat complexity are more intact on the Rotary Park and Below Town segments, and habitat conditions are better there.
- Channelization and armoring near downtown Steamboat Springs reduces channel resilience.

# Community Values Input



# Planning Process to Objectives

1. Identified Plan Goals



2. Assessed Yampa River Health



3. Gathered Input on Community Values



4. Developed Management Objectives



## Example Key Finding:

The conversion of riparian area to urban and rural land uses affects many conditions of river health....

### Objective 5. Maintain or improve riparian vegetation extent and condition (continued).

Selected Monitoring Indicators	Segment	Targets for Future Conditions	
		Short Term	Long Term (stretch)
5.2 Percent of mapped highly functioning riparian area by reach	Chuck Lewis	> 30%	> 40%
	Rotary Park	> 30%	> 40%
	Above Town	> 30%	> 40%
	Through Town		> 15%
	Below Town	> 30%	> 40%
5.3 Percent of mapped riparian area with woody vegetation cover by reach	Chuck Lewis	≥ 20%	≥ 30%
	Rotary Park	≥ 20%	≥ 30%
	Above Town	≥ 20%	≥ 30%
	Through Town		≥10%
	Below Town	≥ 20%	≥ 30%

**Rationale** – Health Assessment Key Finding 3: The conversion of riparian area to urban and rural land uses affects many conditions of river health. Riparian conditions and landscape connectivity are impacted on all segments, but are most impaired in the downtown area where urban development has taken over most of the historic riparian zone.

# Management Objectives

1. Maintain natural flow regime
2. Support the protection of natural conditions in undeveloped areas of the watershed
3. Maintain or improve natural river form and processes
4. Maintain or increase functional floodplain extent above and below town
5. Maintain or improve riparian vegetation extent and condition
6. Protect native fish populations from further decline and promote range expansion where possible
7. Promote a self-reproducing sport fishery
8. Maintain compliance with State water quality standards and regulations