

## **Restoring and Protecting Wildlife Corridors in Urban Development: Two Front Range Colorado Case Studies**

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Restoration of wildlife corridors often evoke an image of big game species crossings and expensive bridge projects. But what about corridors through urban and developing environments? Development should not equate to a total loss of diversity or connectivity, nor should wildlife managers be resigned to losing common species, but rather find ways to create more opportunities for human-wildlife benefits. We share case studies of conservation-minded planning and adaptive management strategies for a new community in Douglas County, Colorado, USA and a master plan for an established 90-acre park and open space surrounded by existing homes in Denver, Colorado USA. We discuss early successes and challenges we faced during ecosystem recalibration, the successional evolution of plant and wildlife communities resulting from development, and how to mindfully provide wildlife habitat in urban settings. Development that considers restoring corridors from larger game species to pollinators as well as common nuisance wildlife issues, protects developers and homeowner investments through landscape design that enhances lifestyles and allows opportunities for beneficial coexistence with wildlife. These case studies offer models for consideration when communities consider growing responsibly, and we provide additional considerations and opportunities to reduce human-wildlife conflicts.

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