

Retaining Walls Control Landslides in Sheridan Wyoming Project Protects School and Goose Creek



Landslides from a hillside above Goose Creek and the Sheridan Wyoming Junior High School had been a hazard for several years. A retaining wall was constructed about five years ago, but was not successful in fully controlling the hillside movement. High rainfall events had caused the landslide to accelerate and was putting the school and the city at risk from flooding from Goose Creek.

The City of Sheridan worked with several partners in the design and construction of two additional retaining walls on the northwest side of Goose Creek. Between the two walls a pathway was constructed for service vehicles and pedestrians. The walls, instead of looking like a concrete slab, were fashioned in a way to make them look like natural cascading boulders.

The City requested assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service with the \$8,269,664 project. NRCS provided \$4,755,000 toward construction costs and \$600,000 for engineer, design and quality assurance through their Emergency Watershed Program(EWP). The City also utilized a \$350,000 mineral royalty grant through the State of Wyoming, a \$1,500,000 state revolving loan fund loan; a \$1,584,664 Sheridan County School District #2 contribution; and \$485,000 Capital Facilities Tax funds.

This project was delivered through a design build process. This allowed the City and its partners to provide a quality solution that was cost effective, attractive, and provide an additional asset to the community according to Lane Thompson P.E., Director of Public Works, City of Sheridan.

Part of the project included widening the stream to a required width of 40 feet. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is also involved in the project and will work to help naturalize the creek.

The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, a federal emergency recovery program, helps local communities recover after a natural disaster strikes. The program offers technical and financial assistance to help local communities relieve imminent threats to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms and other natural disasters that impair a watershed. To obtain information or assistance through this program contact your local NRCS office or the NRCS State Engineer in the NRCS state office.

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