

FOREWORD

In concept, urban stream restoration is not new, it is not radical, and it is not something that many would consider as being undesirable or unrealistic. Why, then, is it that such little progress is being made on restoring urban streams when fundamentally we all understand the multiple benefits that can be realized from reduced flood damages, improved water quality, enhanced ecosystems, and a resource to which people can connect physically, socially, and, in some cases, spiritually? Setting aside momentarily the willingness to invest in stream restoration, the primary limiting factors are the tools, examples, and confidence needed to move into areas of uncharted planning and design that may look risky and maybe even daunting to designers and decision makers. Since the 1980s, groups have been urging the creation of such tools and training, with limited success. During this time, the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) has strongly advocated for floodplains, both in terms of reducing flood risk and in terms of enhancing and restoring natural functions too often degraded using traditional methods of design. The ASFPM has also partnered with Ann Riley on multiple ventures and has come to understand her vision, knowledge, and passion as being integrally entwined with urban stream restoration. We are pleased and grateful about this book, her latest contribution to educate and lead by example on how to approach urban stream restoration. This book helps fill the gaps for the planning and design tools we all need.

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