

Auger Falls Heritage Park...A City Legacy in the Making

Abstract: In 2002, the City of Twin Falls purchased approximately 500-acres of land in the Snake River Canyon known as Auger Falls based on the recommendations of a Citizens Task Force. The outcome of a public involvement process to guide the development of the Auger Falls site resulted in a vision to establish the property as a natural park. The vision sought to enhance the ecological and environmental benefits of the site by protecting, enhancing, rehabilitating, and preserving the natural and man-made features within the Auger Falls area, while also providing recreational opportunities and benefits for the citizens.

To fulfill part of the vision, the community desired to create new and diverse wetland and wildlife habitat. Existing habitat is limited by lack of water over most of the site and the absence of productive vegetation types that depend on water, including wetlands, large shrubs, and trees. As a result, a key component identified in the conceptual plan was to transmit a discretionary portion of Class D/E effluent from the City's wastewater treatment plant to Auger Falls. The use of recycled water will allow the establishment of diverse wetland habitats with high wildlife and aesthetic value in and around existing dry basins. Target wetland habitats span a range of cover types and hydrologic conditions including riparian shrub, wet meadow/emergent marsh, and open water/mudflat.

This presentation will address some of the planning, design, permitting, and construction challenges and lessons learned for Phase 1 of the project. At its completion, the Auger Falls Heritage Park will showcase wetland and wildlife habitat in a natural wastewater system and demonstrate that recycled water is a public asset, not a liability.

Presenters: Lee Glaesemann, P.E. and Mark Holtzen, P.E.

Professional Backgrounds:

Presenter: Lee Glaesemann, P.E.
Title: Staff Engineer
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Professional Background: Lee is a Staff Engineer with the City of Twin Falls, where he has worked for 12 years. He has designed and managed a wide variety of city infrastructure projects that include water, wastewater, pressurized irrigation, streets, and park improvements. Lee began his involvement in the development of Auger Falls shortly after the City's purchase of the property in 2002.

Name: Mark Holtzen, P.E.
Title: Project Manager
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Professional Background: Mark is a project manager in the Twin Falls, Idaho office of J U B ENGINEERS, Inc. He has 15 years of experience in the planning, design, construction, funding, permitting, and management of water and wastewater system projects. Mark's experience with wastewater systems includes collection systems, pump stations, lagoons, mechanical treatment plants, wastewater reuse and reclamation, rapid infiltration basins, and NPDES and Reuse permitting.