



## Westerly Creek Restoration Erosion Control Products



***Erosion Control Blankets and Coir Netted Mats restore a streambank central to community redevelopment.***

**LOCATION:**

*Aurora, Colorado*

**PRODUCTS:**

*Erosion Control Blankets (ECBs)*

*Coir Netted Mats*

**PROJECT PARTNERS:**

*Owner and Consultant*

*City of Aurora*

*Contractor*

*BrightView Landscapes, LLC*

*Completion Date:*

*September 2015*

The City of Aurora, Colorado, embarked on an ambitious project to redevelop a neglected area filled with abandoned buildings and soils contaminated by its past use as an airfield. In addition to the housing and small shops planned for the neighborhood, a greenway park along the centrally-bisecting creek was a key landscape feature. The creek had eroded banks that required considerable attention.

### **Challenge**

The creek restoration area, including streambanks, adjacent floodplain and community parkland was 50 acres. The creek required some realignment in conjunction with bank stabilization, both of which had to be completed while the creek was in constant flow. Both also had to proceed in an aesthetically-pleasing and safe way, for the sake of area residents drawn to the creek for recreation. The chosen solution had to address the creek bank's loose wet soil, which was difficult for vegetation establishment, and had to withstand a 100-year storm event.

### **Solution**

The City of Aurora specified their desired products, so Nilex developed a competitively priced solution to meet an ambitious delivery schedule that would allow crews to work quickly and efficiently. In addition to these logistics, Nilex also provided material-based technical assistance. Three coir-based products were used, each matched to the conditions encountered along the creek. High material tensile strength was crucial for bank wrapping and net opening sizes were maximized for the combination of live planting and overseeding.

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## Installation

The six acres of ECBs and coir mat was sized and cut in the field to ensure the best fit for the shape of the channel. Since soils were contaminated from past industrial use, they had to be replaced and reshaped along the creek alignment. Total installation took six weeks for a crew of 10 labourers, and included a combination of live planting and seeding to achieve the desired vegetation. A temporary irrigation system was installed to support the revegetation work since crews worked during the peak heat of summer. Standard earthmoving equipment was used, along with 18-inch wooden wedge stakes to secure the mats.

## Results

The reclamation of former industrial land in Aurora involved a balance of appropriate residential options and the surrounding aesthetics to make the area appealing. As the namesake central feature of Westerly Creek Village, a safe and pleasant waterway was key.

City officials chose strong and durable coir products for the anchoring and revegetation of the creek and benefited from the close collaboration between the contractor and Nilex representatives to ensure plans were interpreted properly and installation procedures were followed. The work of all parties resulted in an appealing and sustainable new neighborhood.



## The Nilex Advantage

Nilex is committed to unearthing better results. Whether it's for a civil, resource or environmental project, we offer the latest engineered and technically-superior materials and techniques to save our customers time and money, minimize the need to move or remove earth, and reduce the need for granular materials.

With 40 years' experience, a long-standing commitment to the environment and highly qualified staff, Nilex delivers the products and technologies that give clients an economic advantage with environmental benefit.