

## About YStew

The Yampa River Stewardship Program (YStew) is an initiative of the Yampa River Collaborative, led by Friends of the Yampa, that provides support, resources, and training to landowners, land managers, and practitioners to better steward the Yampa River.

## A Collective Vision

In early 2025, YStew hosted community meetings in Yampa, Steamboat Springs, and Hayden to identify the community's vision for the river's future. This brochure summarizes the stakeholders' collective vision for the **Town Section**, where the river interfaces with urban and exurban land uses.



By definition, the **Town Sections** have experienced the most historical impacts and changes. They are also the sections of river most often used for recreation, from water sports like rafting and kayaking to riverside trail construction and use. Improvements in the Town Sections include addressing over-loved streambanks, managing stormwater run-off, protecting existing intact natural riparian areas, and strategically rehabilitating historically-impacted floodplain areas.



## Planning a Project?

YStew is here to help! We've developed comprehensive resources to help landowners complete a project or implement new land management practices. Resources include a guidebook with practical, how-to tips for planning, design, and construction, as well as support for finding funding and connecting with technical assistance. Whether you plan to upgrade your irrigation infrastructure, have concerns about bank erosion, want to improve wildlife habitat on your land, or something else entirely, YStew can provide support. Please reach out using the contact information below.

## Your YStew Partners



The Yampa River Stewardship Program is funded by the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Walton Family Foundation.

### Contact:

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# ENVISIONING A RESILIENT YAMPA

## Town Section Watershed Zone



YAMPA RIVER  
STEWARDSHIP  
PROGRAM

Photo by City of Steamboat Springs

# Town Section Watershed Zone

*Desired Future Conditions*



Illustration by LVBrown Studio

## Our Focus for the Future

- 1 Keep the river clean and cold**  
The Town Sections are the areas with the most interface between people and the river. Stakeholders support improved management of stormwater from residential, urban, and industrial areas, as well as decreased river temperatures.
- 2 Leave a lighter streamside footprint**  
In some cases, we have degraded the Town Sections' streambanks with multiple social trails and trampling of riparian vegetation. Designating clear river access points and communicating the multiple benefits of these streamside ecosystems are critical strategies in these areas.
- 3 Restore historically-impacted areas**  
Mitigating the impacts of previous residential and commercial developments, gravel mines, highway and railroad embankments, and bridge construction through restoration of these areas is a focus.
- 4 Preserve high-quality riparian areas.**  
Pockets of high-functioning, natural riparian areas still remain in the Town Sections. These areas should be preserved—especially those that contain a diversity of vegetation species and age classes—to support floodplain function and wildlife habitat.