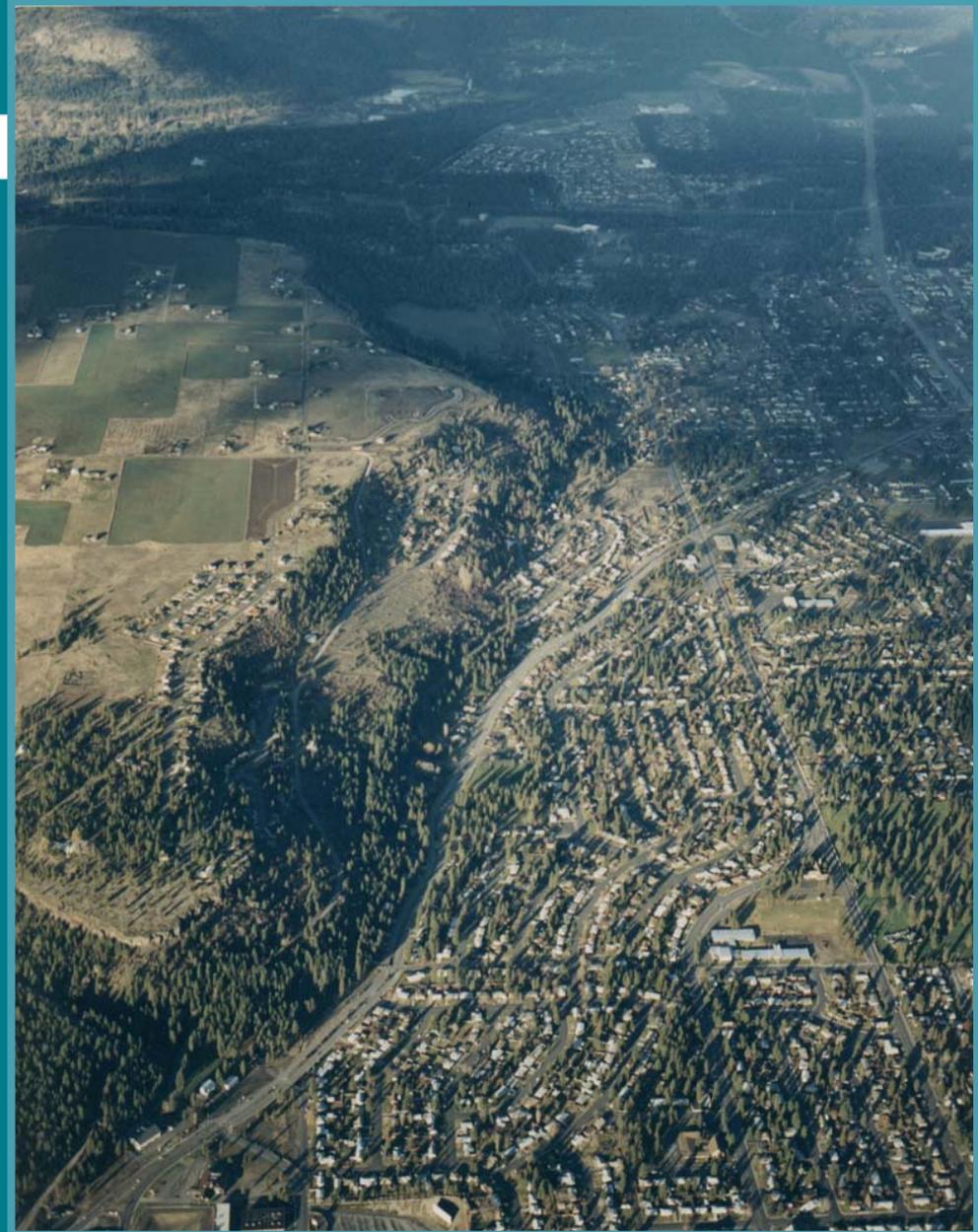


FIVE MILE WATERSHED

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You are entering

Five Mile
Virtual Tour



FIVE MILE WATERSHED

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What is a watershed?

- A watershed is a geographic area that drains to a common point.
 - The Five Mile Watershed drains to the Little Spokane River. In most years, rain and melting snow soak into the ground instead of flowing all the way to the River. The water that soaks in helps replenish our aquifer.
- A watershed contains many pieces, such as ravines or natural drainageways that carry runoff from hillsides and down major drainage paths.



Development of regional stormwater systems involve:

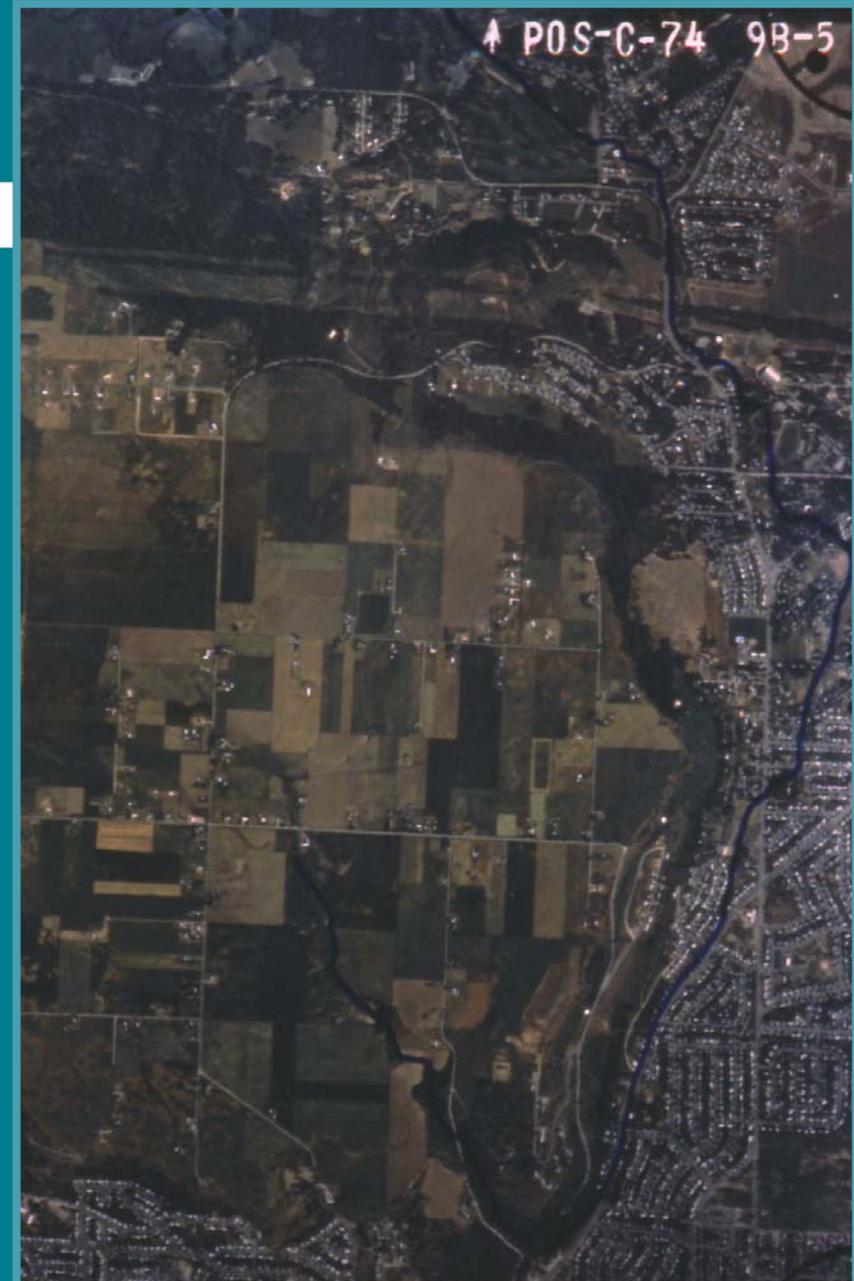
- examining the way nature handles runoff
- creating features such as ponds to mimic the natural system as much as possible

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Five Mile Drainage System:

Drainage from the southern $\frac{3}{4}$ of
Five Mile Prairie drains down
Austin Draw



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Rain and melting snow pond in low areas. Though this is not usually a big problem for farmlands, it is for new subdivisions.



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Five Mile Prairie residents have used boats in low spots where runoff has collected.

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High ground water tables and poorly draining soils can:

- cause street drains to fail
- create soggy yards and basements



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On the northwest edge of the prairie, excess rain or snow results in flooding homes.

On the east edge of the prairie, high groundwater, which is warmer than the surface temperature, flows across homeowners' lawns.



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Much of Five Mile Prairie drains southward down Austin Draw.

At right: Austin Draw goes through the treed area.



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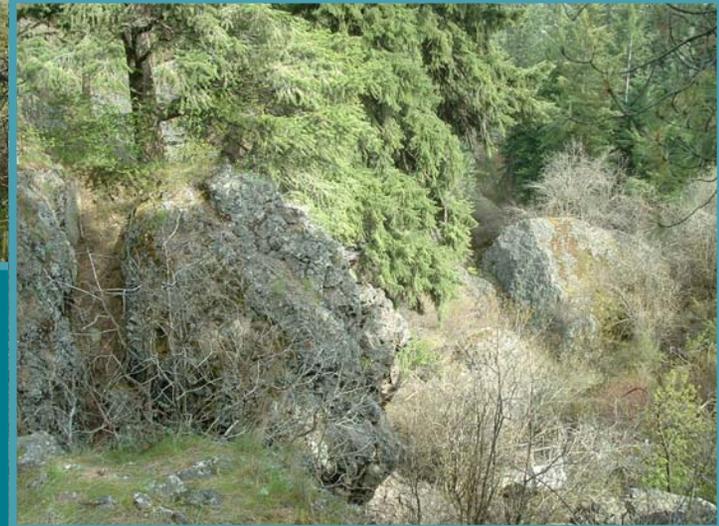
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In some places, including along Austin Road, the draw is shallow.

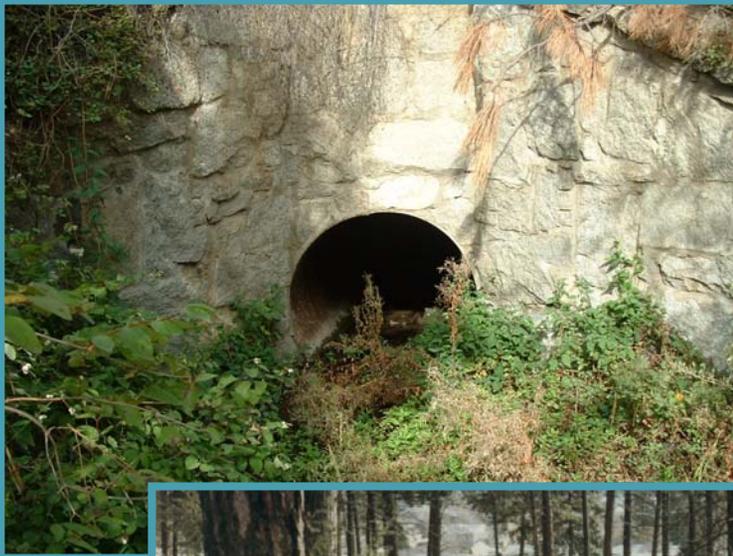


As the draw drops off the prairie edge, it is steeper and deeper.

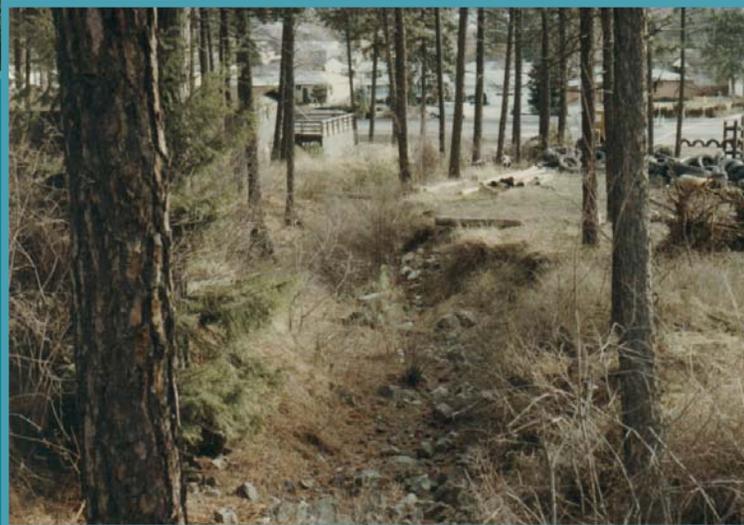


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The drainageway then continues alongside a church, making a U-turn and heading north toward Country Homes Boulevard.



Water flowing down Austin Draw joins with water from springs along the west side of Cedar Road. The flow continues under Cedar Road.

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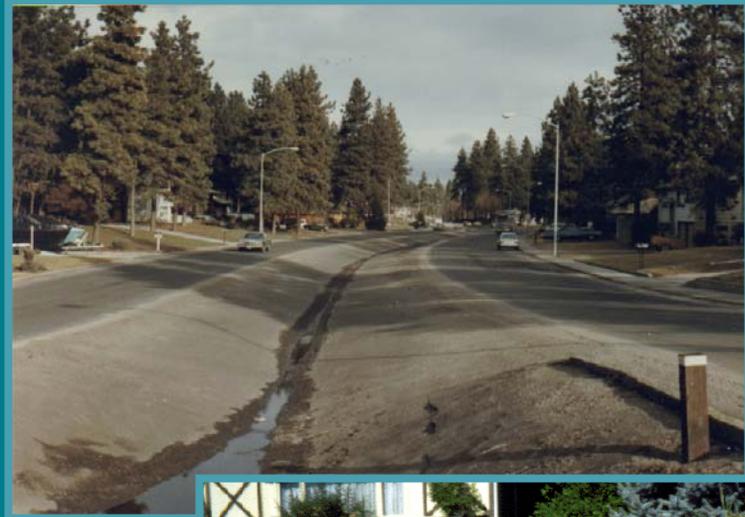


A paved channel conveys stormwater to the
Country Homes Boulevard ditch.

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The Country Homes Boulevard ditch carries drainage from Five Mile Prairie and surrounding neighborhoods. Some of the drainage comes from springs on the sides and at the base of the prairie.



Several of the springs, such as a spring on Jefferson near Carolina Way, produce water year-round (picture on right). Water from this spring drops into a catch basin and a short pipe system, ultimately draining into the Country Homes Boulevard ditch.

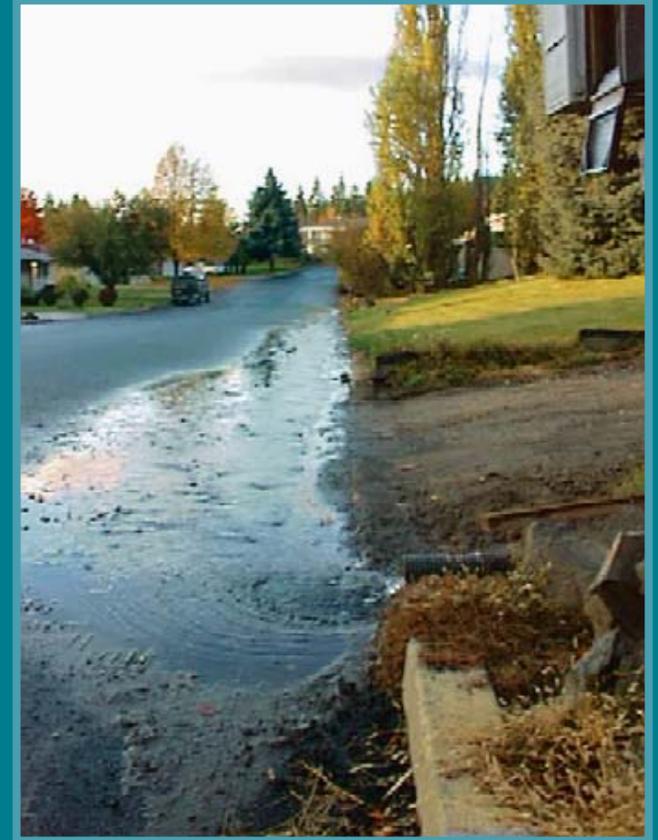


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Water from other springs at the base of the prairie flows down streets or through private drainage easements to Country Homes Boulevard.



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When water leaves the Country Homes Boulevard ditch, it flows into a private drainage easement.



Some landowners along the easement try to keep the drainageway open, however some do not.



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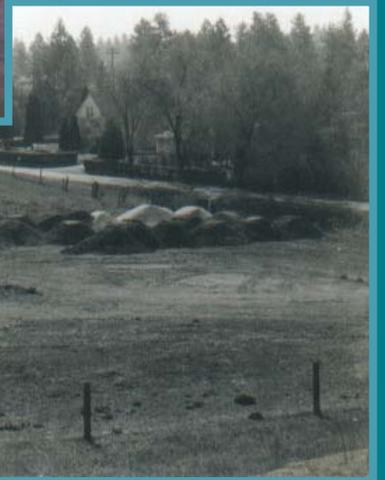
Leaving the private easement, water flows onto County property and then north under Price Street through a box culvert.



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The northwest property at the Price and Wall intersection has a long history of flooding. Several times large volumes of dirt have been deposited on the site.



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The Price and Wall site stores stormwater, allowing some to soak into the ground.

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Spokane County purchased the Price and Wall site to construct a regional stormwater facility.

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Water leaving the Price and Wall site crosses under Wall Street and then winds through several neighborhoods.

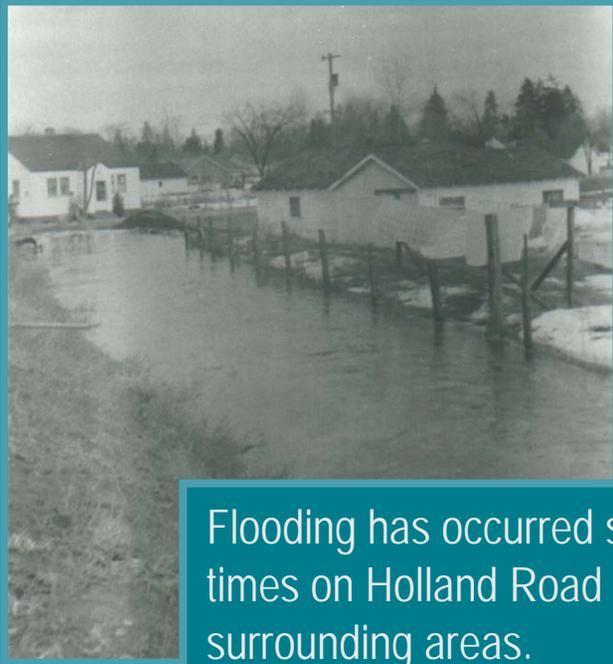


The drainage crosses streets such as Jay, Barnes, Ivanhoe and West Holland. To find the drainage crossings, look for the railings over box culverts or little bridges.



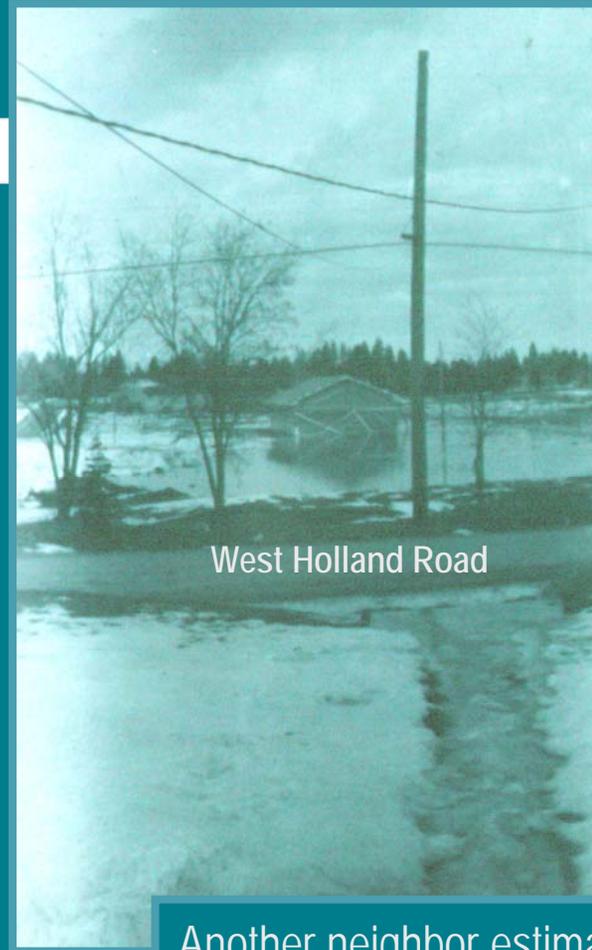
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Flooding has occurred several times on Holland Road and in surrounding areas.

A long-time neighborhood resident remembered water several inches deep in the kitchen of the house behind the clothesline.

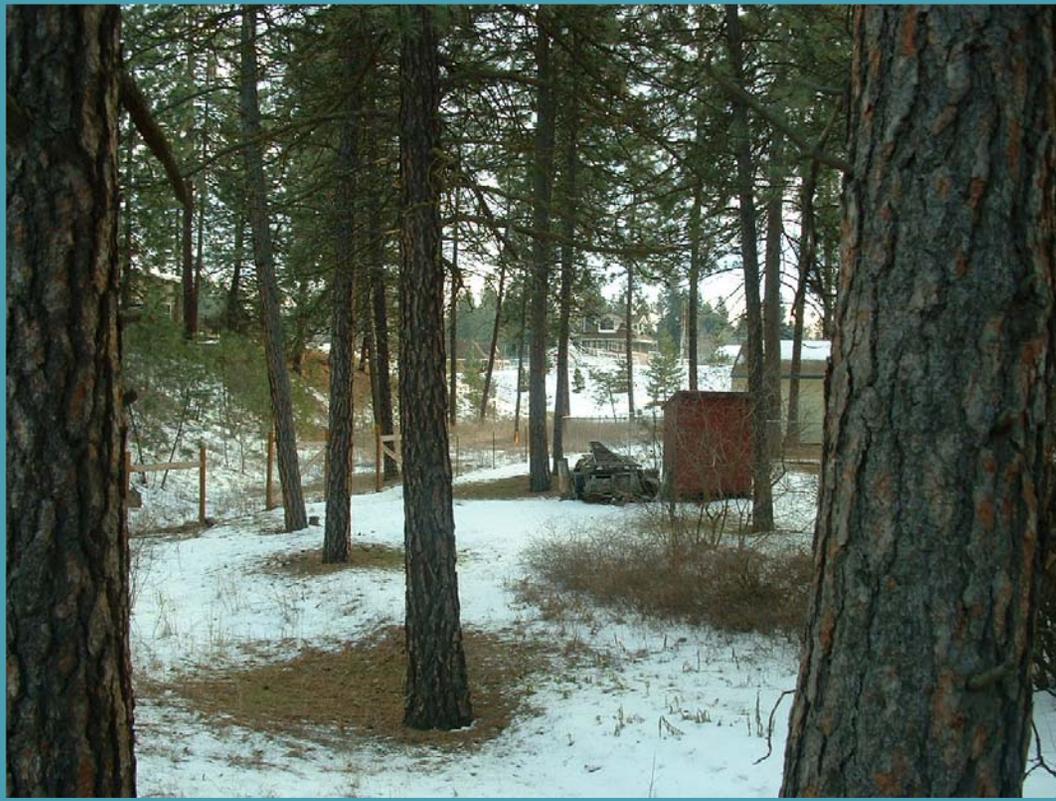


West Holland Road

Another neighbor estimated the water to be around 10 feet deep in the ditch. She also remembered seeing an old sofa floating with other debris down the ditch.

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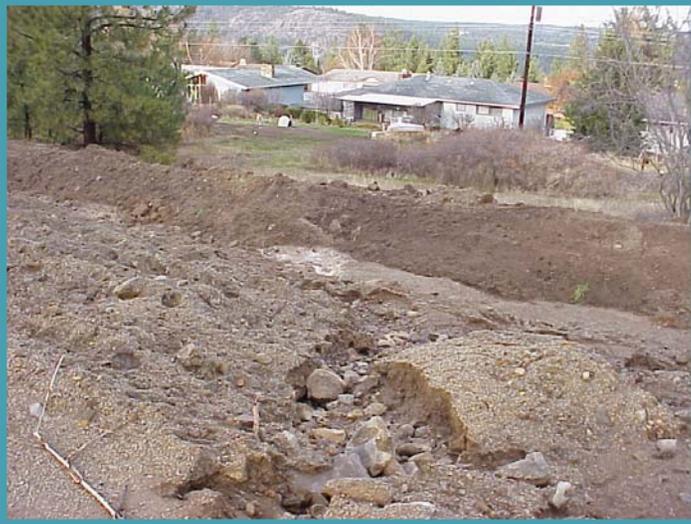


The drainage path continues through Whitworth College.

Just north of Whitworth, roadside ditches and ravines carry runoff down to the major drainageway located on the east side of Waikiki.

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Removal of vegetation for hillside development, such as here on the north slope of Five Mile Prairie, can create erosion and flooding problems for the neighborhoods below.



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Some of the older subdivisions on the north side of the prairie have drywells. Due to the high ground water and rock in the area, many of the drywells don't work well. Runoff from this neighborhood flows down to North Five Mile Road that intersects Waikiki.



Erosion continues to be a problem, especially during snow melt time and during summer thunderstorms.

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Drainage from the Five Mile Watershed continues to wind through more neighborhoods, heading northwest to Mill Road and Waikiki.



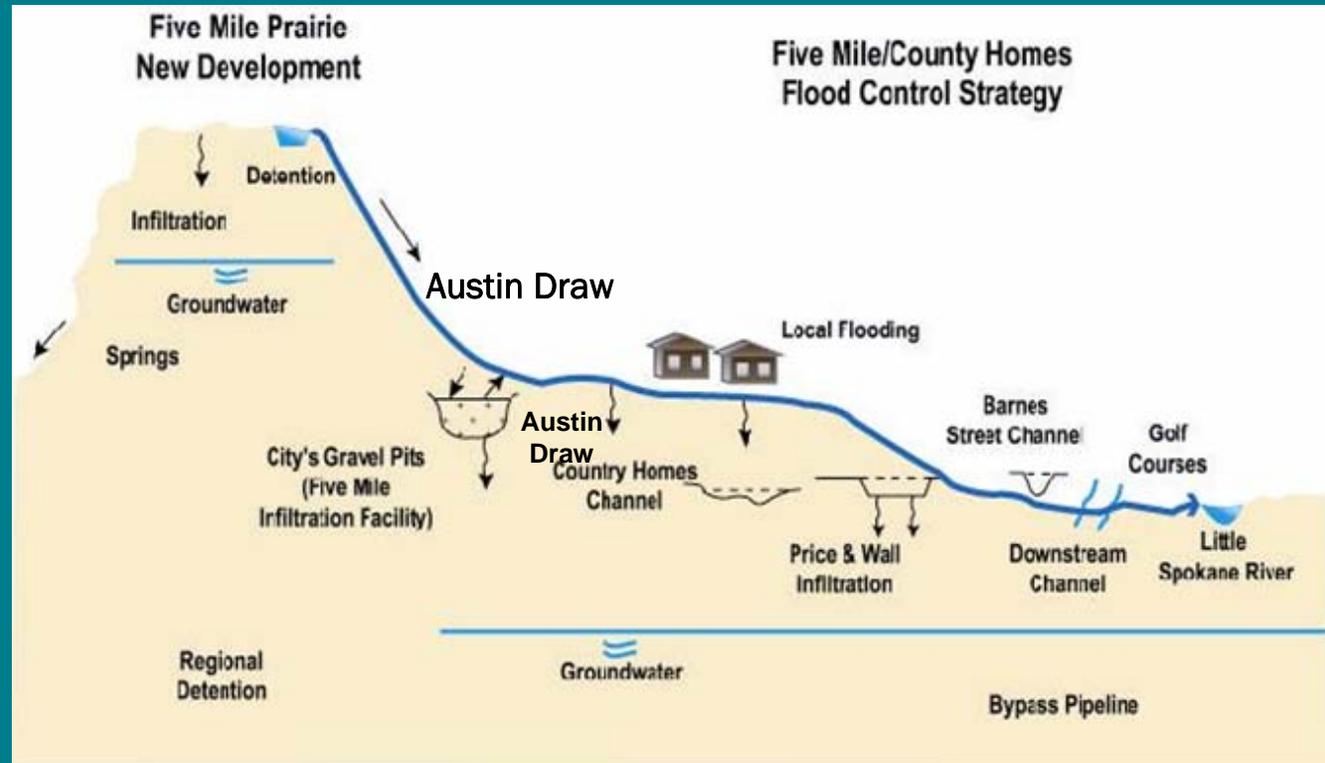
The water eventually finds its way to a golf course on the north side of Waikiki, and then under high flow conditions could drain into the Little Spokane River.



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Putting the watershed pieces together into a regional stormwater system will involve a lot of ideas from residents and landowners in the area, as well as close coordination between Spokane County and the City of Spokane.



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If you have questions or would like more information about the Five Mile Stormwater project, please contact:

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509-477-7258

bsims@spokanecounty.org

Visit our website: www.spokanecounty.org/engineer