

# SALIDA WHITEWATER PARK

SALIDA, COLORADO

With Colorado's largest historic district and the Arkansas River flowing right through downtown, Salida, Colorado is a proud example of REP's visionary engineering. Long neglected and abused by both the rail corridor on one side and the town on the other, the Arkansas River in Salida was literally cut-off from the community when the Arkansas River Trust initiated this project in the spring of 2000. Through six phases of development over 20 years, a public/private partnership between the City of Salida and the Arkansas River Trust raised grant funding for this national attraction. Having hosted kayak national championships and the longest running whitewater festival in North America (FIBArk), the Salida Whitewater Park has four world class whitewater play features, a slalom course, riverside shared-use paths, creative bank terracing, a renovated community theater/conference center, an outdoor amphitheater, a rock climbing wall, and restaurants lining the banks of the Arkansas River. This project serves as an example of a community transformed by a whitewater park.

## CHIEF ENGINEERS

GARY LACY, P.E. &  
MIKE HARVEY

## DATE COMPLETED:

PHASE 6: 2022



The success of this project has led to additional phases designed by REP including new riverside trails, river access, additional in-stream recreational features, bank restoration, and fishing access. The most recent addition consisted of a new wave feature with improved fish passage completed in 2022.

## REFERENCES:

PARKS & REC DIRECTOR  
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*"Our river park is our downtown anchor and was the key piece in our revival helping make Salida the economic hub for our region and is our city's social center" - P.T. Wood, Salida Mayor and Business Owner*



Recreation  
Engineering & Planning