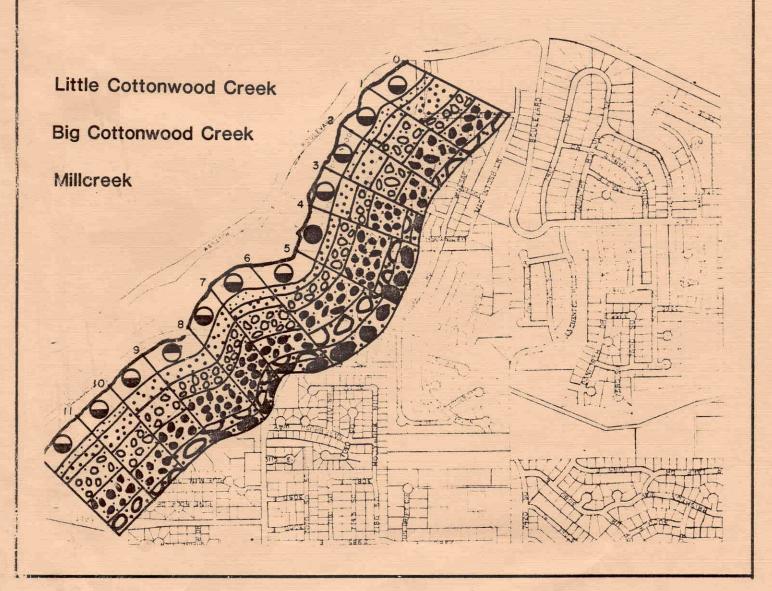
SALT LAKE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER QUALITY SALT LAKE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CHANNEL STABILITY EVALUATION & STREAM REACH INVENTORY



REVIEW DRAFT

SALT LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

DIVISION OF FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER QUALITY IN COOPERATION WITH

SALT LAKE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

STREAM BANK STABILIZATION

INVENTORY FOR LITTLE COTTONWOOD,

BIG COTTONWOOD, AND MILL CREEK

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SEPTEMBER, 1984

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I. OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF STUDY: SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present data on riparian and stream stability conditions for three Salt Lake valley tributaries: 1) Cottonwood Creek; 2) Little Cottonwood Creek; and 3) Mill Creek. these streams head in the alpine reaches of the Wasatch Mountain Range and flow into the Jordan River. In turn, the Jordan River empties into the Great Salt Lake, a closed hydrologic basin. Combined, the creeks run for approximately 28 miles with a significant amount of adjacent riparian and flood plain vegetation. In February and early March 1984, the three creek environmental systems were inventoried. Using a bank stabilization inventory developed by the Forest Service, the inventory procedures differentiated the system into the floodplain, upper creekbank, lower creekbank, and creek bottom. These procedures were developed to systemize measurements and evaluations of the resistive capacity of riparian zones and stream channels to the detachment of bottom and bank materials. Additionally, the capacity of the creeks to adjust and recover from changes in flow and sediment delivery can be correlated with inventory data at a later date. Observations, taken on each creek at 500 foot intervals, allowed the creeks to be represented as segments and/or a continuum.

Although, upper and lower bank vegetative resources were identified, they were examined primarily as they relate to stream sediment loading caused by bank erosion. Available information suggests that much of the sediment loads have a bank source. The streambank stabilization inventory identifies these sources, and surrounding conditions which directly or indirectly accelerate bank erosion rates. These data will help achieve the objective to prioritize stream reaches which may require either structural or non-structural bank stabilization for flood control and water quality purposes.

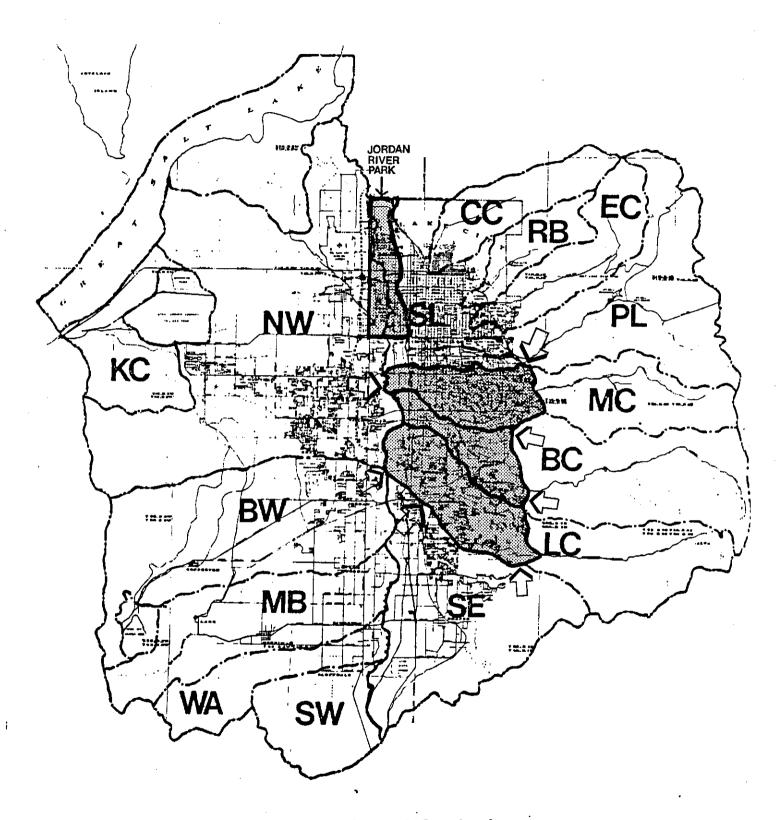


Figure A. Location of Study Area

II. ÍNTRODUCTION

Water is one of Salt Lake County's most important resources serving many and often conflicting consumptive uses. As urban growth continues to accelerate in Salt Lake Valley, the demand for water increases. However, the benefits of water also spill over into indirect and intangible functional relationships. One such relationship is enhanced aesthetic values placed on stream or creek environmental systems. This real or perceived benefit has resulted in land use patterns that focus on the Jordan River (valley) tributaries, limiting flood control effectiveness.

The impact on both man and environment is enhanced during seasonal and cyclic flood events. Stormwater and snowpack runoff and the spring flood of 1983 heightened public awareness of potential flood damage caused to natural creek conditions as well as urban and residential structural development. Data was needed to identify current riparian and creek characteristics, in order to structure multi-resource management components into the flood control program.

This inventory was undertaken to identify creek and adjacent riparian conditions following the 1983 spring flood. Since the character of a creek is molded by the velocity of its current, it was expected that creek conditions have been altered by the flood event. Three natural tributaries of the Jordan River; Big Cottonwood Creek, Little Cottonwood Creek, and Mill Creek were inventoried during minimum flow levels in February and early March of 1984. Combined, the three creeks have approximately 28 stream miles and 53 acres of creek bed within the study area. Observations were recorded at "points" of 500 foot intervals totaling 291 data points. Conditions between points were generalized to be representative of each 500 foot reach.

Historical land use policies, e.g. streamside development, channelization,

etc.) adjacent to and within the creek channels have disturbed and modified much of the natural condition resulting in a loose assortment of unstable bottom material. The extent of artificial manipulation of the creek bottoms has been extreme and widespread with very few natural areas remaining. While the merits of these policies may be controversial, and contradictory, with respect to multiple beneficial uses, it is assumed that flood control measures take precedent. It is intended that information from this streambank stabilization inventory be integrated into existing data to provide a framework for policy decision making regarding land and creek use along the Jordan River Valley tributaries. It will also identify conditions of instability which, if appropriately corrected, will reduce expensive dredging needs and expand the use of the creek resources by the public.

III. MĚTHOĐÔLÒĞÝ

Inventory procedures were developed and applied to Big Cottonwood Creek, Little Cottonwood Creek and Mill Creek, beginning at the mouths of Big Cottonwood Canyon, Little Cottonwood Canyon and Mill Creek Canyon respectively. Observation points were identified and mapped at 500 foot intervals prior to actual field investigation. The 500 foot intervals were decided upon to correspond existing fishery classification procedures by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

To insure uniformity at each observation point, a standardized inventory format was developed and utilized, based on prior work performed by the United States Forest Service. Inventory sheets, developed by the Forest Service for use on nonurban forest lands, were modified to better fit creek and riparian conditions found on urban lands, Figures 1 and 2. The inventory sheet is divided into two general areas; adjacent land and vegetation characteristics and creek characteristics.

Land and vegetation characteristics Figure 1, ranged from valley shape, width and gradient to general vegetative communities and types of riparian, floodplain, and terrestrial phases of creek systems. Since much urban development has occurred in the floodplain and terrestrial components, it was expected that introduced vegetative species would be found and were discounted. This study concentrates on native vegetation with the exception that all vegetation located in the riparian phase, providing bank stabilization benefits, would be included. Available vegetative material that could possibly contribute to debris and log jams were included and identified. A subjective boundary between terrestrial and stream stata had to be determined.

Creek characteristics included channel gradient, width, average depth,

Figure One

Major Drainage	District	Date
Observer(s)St:	ream Name	Reach Number
Elevation to feet	P.W.I. Watershed	#
A valley bottomland is that total are the adjacent floodplain, benches or those valley toe slopes which may directly bottomlands may be stratified floodplain phases.	terraces, and other rectly affect or be into aquatic, ripar	gentle terrain, and normally affected by the stream. rian, terrestrial, and
FLOODING THOMASIN	1	TERRETRIAL
	WILLIAM PROUNTIE	PHASE
Directions: Circle the appropriate	response or fill in	the blank as required.
Valley Shape: Worth V-shaped U-3	HAPED BOX-SHAPED	BROAD
Valley Width: narrow (100") mode		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Side slope Gradient: low (30')		-
Valley Gradient: low(4%)		
Channel Gradient: very low (2%)	low (2-3%) moderat	tely steep (3-6% steep (6%)
Channel Size: width ft. Av	verage depth f	ft. Flow pattern
Geologic materials in bottom: Landform/Type		

RIPARIAN PHASE	ET AADDT A TAT	
yegetative type:	FLOODPLAIN	TERRESTRIAL PHASE
yogetative type.		
vegetative cover density:		
type of debris:		
sediment buffer potential:		
Number of debris jams &/or fish block	cs/mile Upstrea	am watershed impacts (Type)
Size Composition of 2. Large boulder 3. Small boulder (Total to 100%) 4. Large rubble,	s, 3' + Dia% s, 1-3' %	5. Small rubble, 3"-6" % 6. Coarse gravel, 1"-3" % 7. Fine gravel, 0.1"-1" % 8. Sand, silt, clay, muck %

Figure Two

8

(16)

some over 24" high. Fail-

(15)

migration occurring. Almost continuous cuts.

(16) \mathfrak{E} € (8) (16)

| ure of overhangs frequent. |Extensive deposits of pre-| dominantly fine particles. | Accelerated bar development

sions, surfaces smooth.
Predominantely bright, 658+

Well rounded in all dimen-

3

old and some new bars. Corners & edges well round-

Moderate deposition of new gravel & coarse sand on

0

and sloughing evident.

3

Mixture, 50-50% dull and bright, ± 1% ie, 35-6%. Hostly a loose assortment

11 10

12 13

exposed or scoured surfaces.

No packing evident. Loose

(9)

(12)

Moderate change in sizes. Stable materials 20-50%. with no apparent overlap.

(5

change nearly yearlong.

(18)

Marked distribution change.

Stable materials 0-20%.

More than 50% of the bottom
in a state of flux or

(*)

(3) absent. Yellow-green, short

Some filling of mools.
Present but spotty, mostly
in backwater areas. Season-

2

constrictions, and bends, & scour at obstructions,

7

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 \mathfrak{E}

Inadequate. Overbank flows common. W/D ratio > 25.

3

Barely contains present peaks. Occassional overbank

8

< 20% rock fragments of gravel sizes, 1-3" or less Frequent obstructions and

9

floods. Win ratio 15 to 25. 20 to 40%, with most in the 7-6" diameter class.

Moderately frequent, moder-ately unstable obstructions & deflectors move with high

Bunks

water causing bank cutting

and filling of pools. Significant, Cuts 12"-24" high, Root mat overhangs

L ower

deflectors cause bank ero-

sion yearlong. Sediment

9

traps full, channel

(8)

Fredominantly larger sizes.

species & less vigor indi-

6

and still fewer species form a somewhat shallow and

50-70% density. Lower vigor by water during high flows. Present, volume and size

Upper Banks

<50% density plus fewer

cate poor, discontinuous,

and shallow root mass.

Moderate to heavy amounts,

9

imminent danger of same

(9) sediment nearly yearlong OR

Bank slope gradient 40-60%, S Bank slope gradient 60%.

Noderate frequency & size,

Frequent or large, causing with some raw spots eroded (9) sediment nearly yearlong 01

vey Dar	H INVENTORY and CHANNEL STABILITY EVALUATION	.75 Time /// 30 Obs. D.R.	· F
	ACH INV	Survey Date 8-1	
	H-1 STREAM REACT	REACH LOCATION:	•

Stream Width 6 ft.X Ave. Depth 05 ft.X Ave. Velocit (13)/s=3.6 Flow cfs

Turbidity

Gradient 4 %, Order 3

Temperature Air 86 Water 52, Others ph 72, Conductance 45 UNhos Vater Quality Sample Botte # 34

ndicators by Classes

Sinuosity (1.2),

Stream Fern Creek W/S No. 16-02-00-04-23-05-01-01
Reach Description & Aeriel Reference other Identification Read Crossing Sec 3 to 14 mill up them #279-191

Stability	lity Indicators by Classes	sses	(Fair and Poor on reverse side,	
	EXCELLENT			
Bank slo	slope gradient < 30%.	(2)	Bank slope gradient 30-40%.	(†)
No evidend potential	No evidence of past or any potential for future mass	©	Infrequent and/or very small. Mostly healed over. Low	(9)
wasting	wasting into channel.)	al.	,
Essentia immediat	Essentially absent from	(2)	Present but mostly small	(±)
90%+ pla	90%+ plant density. Vigor	(70-90% density. Fewer plant)
and vari	and variety suggests a	<u></u>	vigor	9
root mass.	reep, tense, moit officially,		suggests a less dense or deep root mass.	
Ample for	present plus		Adequate. Overbank flows	(
tained. W	W/D ratio < 7.	3	rare. Width to Depth (W/D) ratio 8 to 15.	Ŋ
65%+ with boulders 1		(2)	40 to 65%, mostly small boulders to cobbles 6-12".	(2)
Rocks and			Some present, causing erosive	
out cutt	emberned, Flow pattern with	0	cross currents and "Indi poor filling. Obstructions and	(4)
Pools ar	Pools and riffles stable.)	ţ.	-
			ı	
Infrequent rad	Little or none evident. Infrequent ray banks less	(4)	Some, intermittently at	1
than 6"	than 6" high generally.	E	Raw banks may be up to 12".	9
Little (Little or no enlargement	(Some new increase in bar	
of channel	mel or point bars.		formation, mostly from coarse gravels.	(8)
Sharp ed		Ξ	d corners and	0
Simfacer	Surface Aul darband on) (
stained,	. Gen. not "bright".	Ξ	nostly dull, but may mave up to 35% bright surfaces.	<u> </u>
Assorte	Assorted sizes tightly	0	Moderately packed with	3
packed and	ind/or overlapping.)	some overlapping.	7
No chang Stable	No change in sizes evident. Stable materials 80-100%.	(Distribution shift slight. Stable materials 50-80%.	(8)
Less tha	than 5% of the bottom	(Scour at	
affected by	by scouring and	છ	ctions and where	(75)
dame it ion	ou•)	grades steepen. Some demosition in nools	
Abundant.			Common, Algal forms in low	(
moss-like,	dark green,	Ξ	ity	(2)
Ennial.	DYCELLENG COLUMN WORKS	7	here too and swifter waters.	
rabha ar santan	each column and mooned	7	אנטט ננטטט ייין ביינים ב	7
E.24 + C.2	+ G.77 + F. A + P. A =	i C	TO+2) Denot Column Scores	ຮູ້
tive rat	ings < 38-Excellent.		Adjective ratings:<38=Excellent. (39-76=000) 77-114=721r. 1154=Poor*	
•	The state of the s		TOTAL STREET	

ころでき

Good 77-114=Fair, 115+=Poor* by Forest Hydrologist)

Add values in each column and record in space E.24 + G.22 + F.6 + P.0 = 52 Tr Adjective ratings:<38=Excellent, 79-76=Good *(Scores above may be locally adjusted by Fol

6

flow pattern and size composition of bottom materials. More specifically, the creek channel was divided into the following strata:

<u>Upper Bank:</u> That portion of the topographic cross-section from the break in the general slope of the surrounding land to the normal high water line. Upper bank characteristics that were inventoried included landform slope, existing or potential mass wasting, debris jam potential and bank protection;

Lower Bank: The intermittently submerged portion of the channel cross-section from the normal high water line to the water's edge during minimum flows. Characteristics that were inventoried include channel capacity, bank rock content, cutting, deposition and flow deflectors.

Channel Bottom: The submerged portion of the channel cross-section which supports an aquatic environment. Characteristics inventoried under this strata included degrees of rock angularity, rock brightness, particle packing, bottom size distribution and percent stable material, scouring and deposition and clinging aquatic vegetation.

Individual creek characteristics were measured in predefined degrees of condition and placed in columns of excellent, good, fair and poor condition, Figures 2. Each condition was assigned a weighted numeric value, ranging one to twenty-four, with the higher numbers indicating poorer condition. Table 1 respectively shows weighted numeric values.

Information from the inventory data sheets were combined into a matrix format and mapped to provide graphic documentation (See Appendices 1-3).

Graphic and matrix documentation allows better visualization of specific creek lengths and/or points. Specific problem areas and non-problem areas were then identified and discussed.

TABLE ONE
WEIGHTED VALUES FOR SPECIFIC CREEK CHARACTERISTICS

	Creek	Γ	Conditio	n	
Cha	racteristic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Α.	Upper Bank				<u> </u>
	Landform Slope Mass Wasting Debris Jam Potential Bank Vegetation	2 3 2 3	4 6 4 6	6 9 6 9	8 12 8 12
В.	Lower Bank				}
	Channel Capacity Rock Content Flow Deflectors Cutting Deposition	1 2 2 4 4	2 4 4 8 8	3 6 6 12 12	4 8 8 16 16
c.	Channel Bottom	!			
	Rock Angularity Brightness Particle Packing Size Distribution Scouring/Deposition Aquatic Vegetation	1 2 4 6	2 2 4 8 12 2	3 6 12 18	4 8 16 24 4

The actual conditions of a/point were identified and summed to give a point score and expanded to make certain assumptions concerning the stream segment or reach. Individual points were catagorized based on Table Two.

TABLE TWO
POINT OR REACH SCORES

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Total Score	< 38	39-76	77-114	7 114

IV. INVENTORY RESULTS/DISCUSSION

Inventory results show many similarities as well as differences. Generally, the artificial manipulations of the creek systems, and more specifically the creek channels, have minimized natural interactions between conditions. Dynamic biotic and abiotic relationships allow characters to maintain balanced and sustainable systems. Where one component fails, others will expand to recreate and achieve the balance. Conversely, sustained artificial manipulation maintains an unbalanced creek system susceptible to increased disasters. Ongoing manmade manipulation create the need for further manmade manipulation. However, certain creek condition parameters indicate high degrees of correlation, while others seem individual. For example, the extent of upper bank mass wasting seems to be a function of quantity of riparian vegetation.

For the purposes of this report, each creek is discussed individually. The inventory of current conditions is divided into four sections: 1) General Geologic and Reach Characteristics; 2) Upper Banks; 3) Lower Banks; and 4) Channel Bottom. Specific characteristics are discussed within each section.

A. BIG COTTONWOOD CREEK

The inventory area of Big Cottonwood Creek extends from the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon, where Wasatch Boulevard crosses the creek, approximately nine miles to the confluence of the creek and Jordan River. 102 observation points are located within the study area. The elevational change is approximately 800 feet.

Parent geologic material, the source being Big Cottonwood Canyon, consists primarily of sedimentary shale, sandstone and carbonic limestones (3). Lesser amounts of granite were found in the creek bottom. Since artificial man-caused movement has occurred routinely over the years, only preliminary

identification was established. Rather, bottom size composition was more critical to this study.

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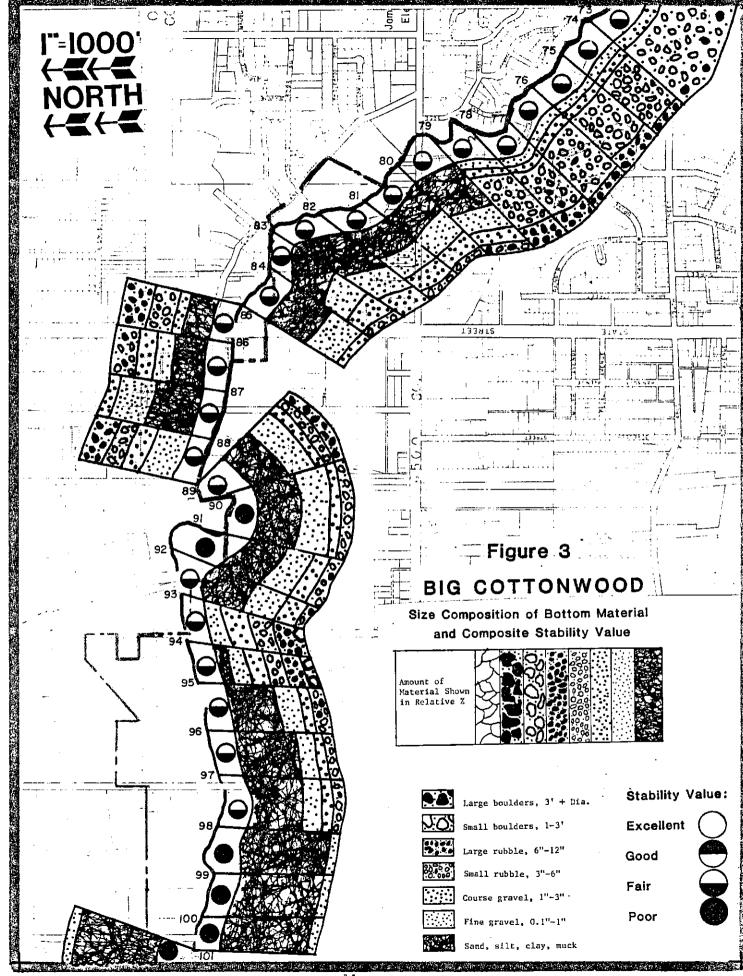
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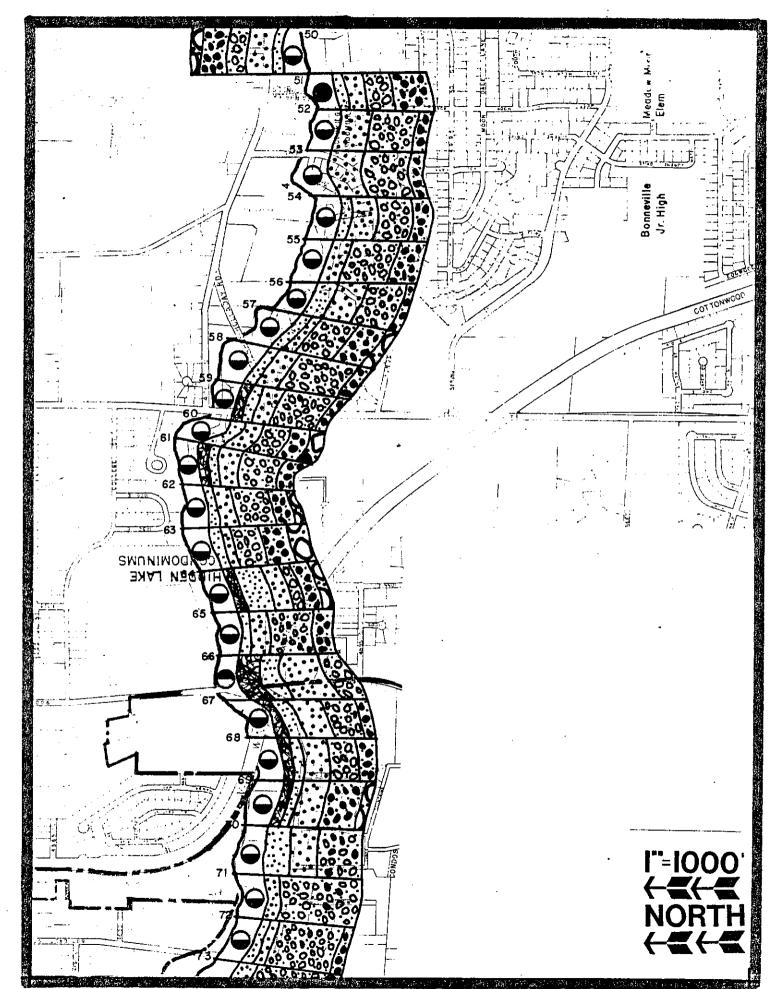
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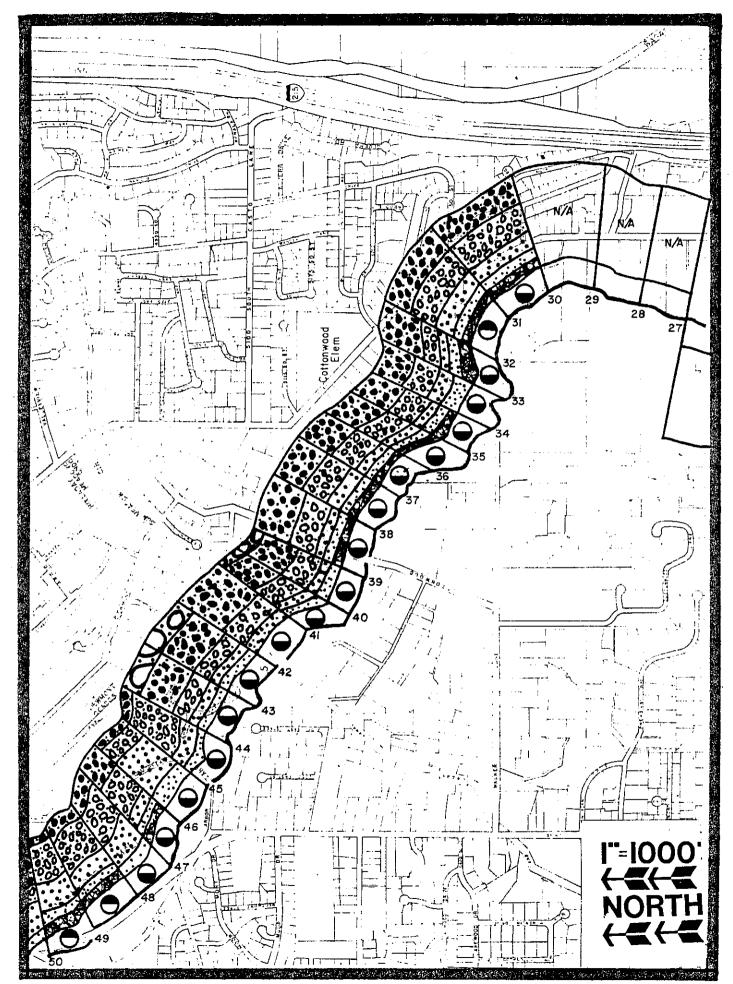
Identification of the size composition of bottom materials is normally a function of local channel gradient and stream velocity. Figure 3 shows the composition and size distribution of bottom material. Point differences may be due to micro creek gradients or man-caused movement. Generally, larger boulders were present but decreased slowly downstream and were virtually gone by point 17 (above Knudsens Corner Area). Extensive gabion construction below point 20 can account for the rapid disappearance of larger bottom material. Local available larger bottom material is utilized to fill gabion baskets. Additionally, channelization techniques push bottom material against the bank and subsequent bank erosion allows smaller materials to return to the creekbed prior to larger material. Rubble material (3-12 inches), too small to be utilized extensively as gabion fill material, predominates bottom material below Point 11, only to be placed by fine gravel and muck at Point 79 where the creek velocity slows considerably and dredging activities have taken place. Slower velocities allow smaller particles to settle out. Riffle-pool conditions, bridge and other road and development activities have affected size composition of localized creek segments.

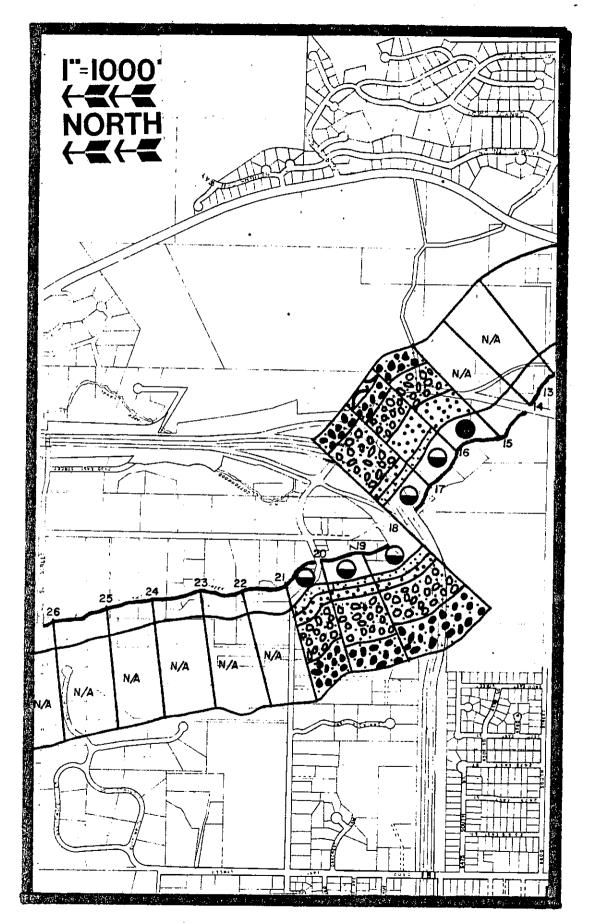
Overall, the reach character scored 75 percent in fair condition, 9 percent in poor condition and 5 percent in good condition. Observations for 11 percent of the creek were omitted due to construction activities. The majority of poor conditions are found on the lower segments closer to the confluence of the Jordan River. Specific creek channel characteristics are found in Appendix A.

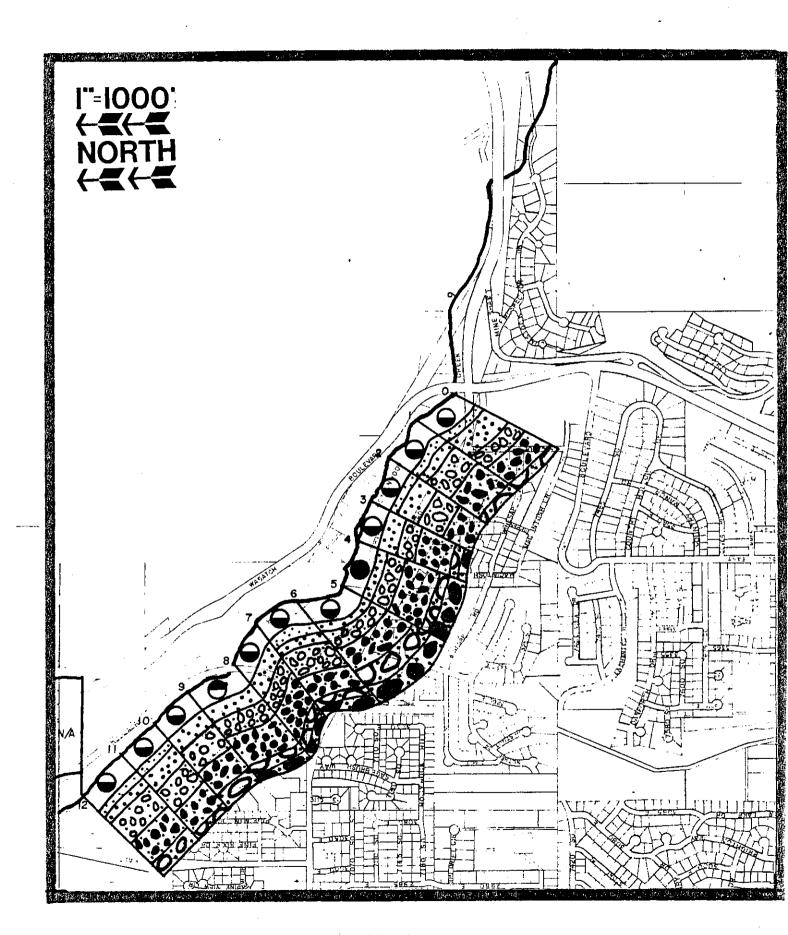
Creek conditions were identified and plotted to visually show relationships Figure 3 against channel strata.











Upper Bank:

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Approximately 85 percent of the upper bank has a greater than 40 percent slope with only 10 percent being less than 30 percent. Creek segments with slopes exceeding 60 percent are localized and found at points 1-3, 35-38, and 95-101. Mass wasting is enhanced by steep slopes and a lack of vegetation. Of the 38 points with significant mass wasting, all had less than 70 percent (fair to poor) vegetative density with shallow and discontinuous root masses. In general, bank protection from vegetation is lacking with 74 observation points showing fair or poor condition. This seems consistent with current flood control policies concerning vegetation removal when implementing channeling activities. There was little or no debris jams potential.

Lower Bank

Channel capacity was excellent or good with few exceptions. This is consistent with flood control policy to allow maximum flows through the creek channels. The size and amount of rock in the banks interfaced with mass wasting. Of the 13 points with extreme mass wasting, 11 points show bank rock content below 40 percent and consisting of small rubble sized material. Approximately 73 percent of the points identify bank rock content as fair or poor. However, this does not include structural bank stabilization practices such as gabions rip-rap, or concrete retaining walls. Channelization efforts have placed some bottom material along and upon the banks. This practice has cleared most of the channel from obstructions and flow deflectors as well as pool sediment deposition areas. 65 points were identified having minor or no obstructions and flow deflectors. Cutting is associated with both mass wasting and bank rock content. 44 points indicated significant lower bank cutting (fair and

poor condition). Of these, 36 had little bank rock content and fair and/or poor mass wasting conditions. The inventory showed little deposition, probably due to channeling activities.

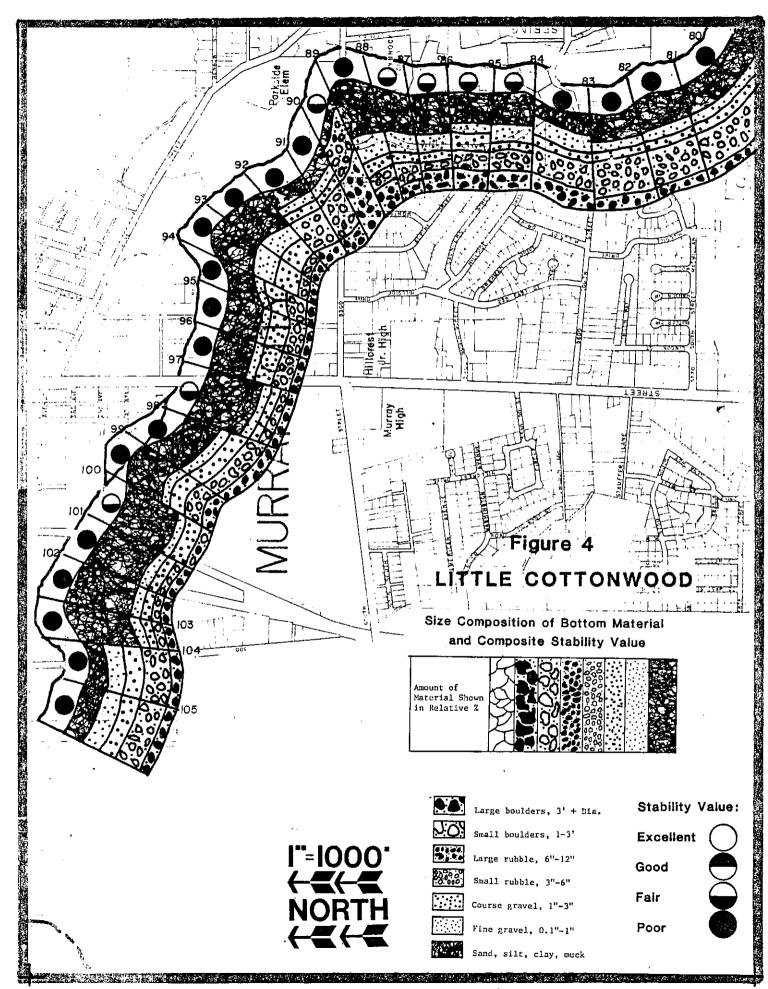
Channel Bottom

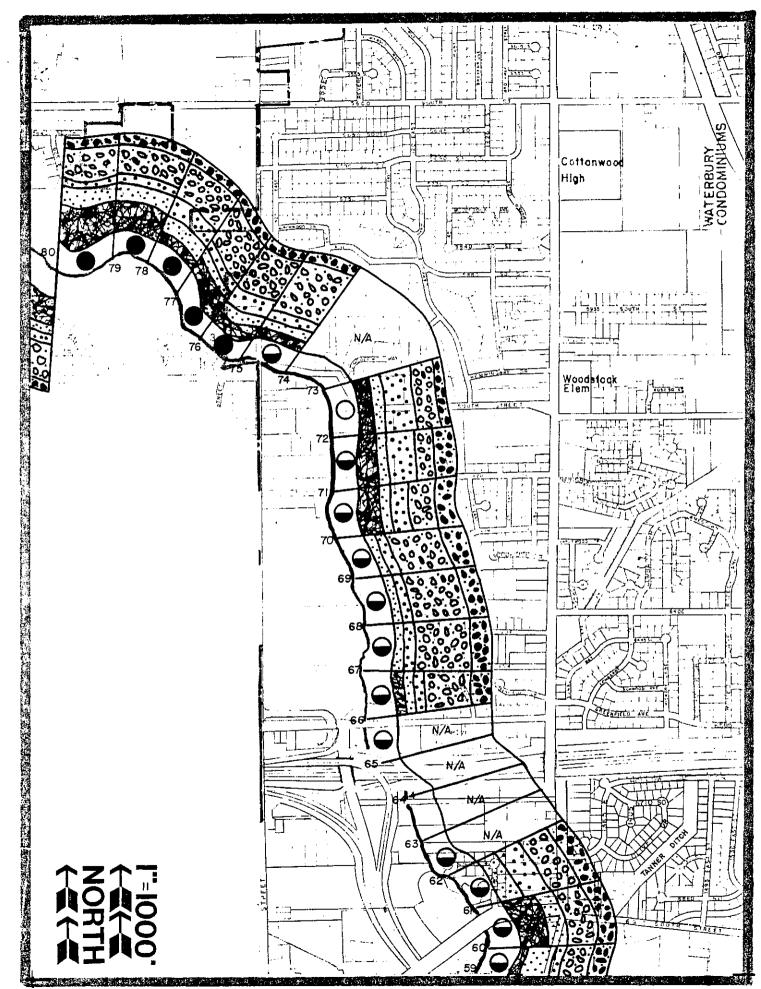
Bottom material mainly consisted of rock with sharp edges or rounded corners and edges. Sixty-two points identified rock angularity as either excellent or good. Only near the Jordan River confluence did rock angularity drop to the poor classification. Generally, rock brightness and aquatic vegetation was not a factor with most exposed bottom rock with bright surfaces. This is most likely due to channeling efforts as well as dewatering the creek. Most aquatic vegetation was found below storm drains and other outlets. Much of the creek bottom material consisted of a loose assortment with little overlapping. Only in natural undisturbed areas were tightly packed and overlapping bottom material found. A large range in bottom size distribution was identified (See Figure 3). However, stability was generally lacking. Only minor bottom scouring was identified and is not considered a factor. Major deposition areas were found at points 79 to 101.

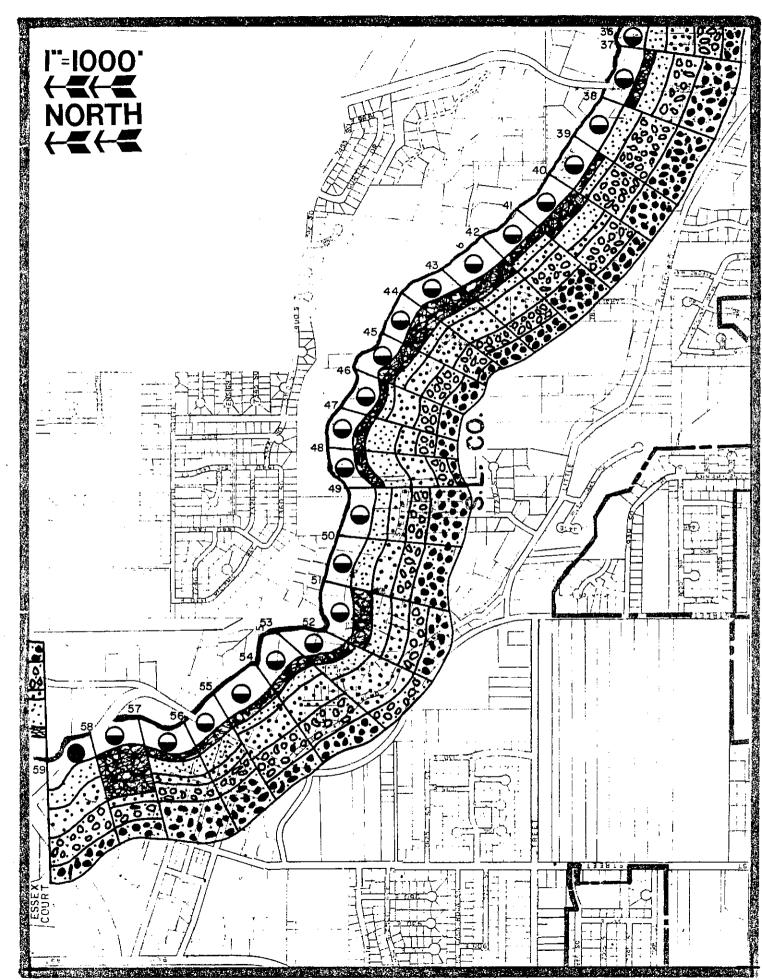
B. Little Cottonwood Creek

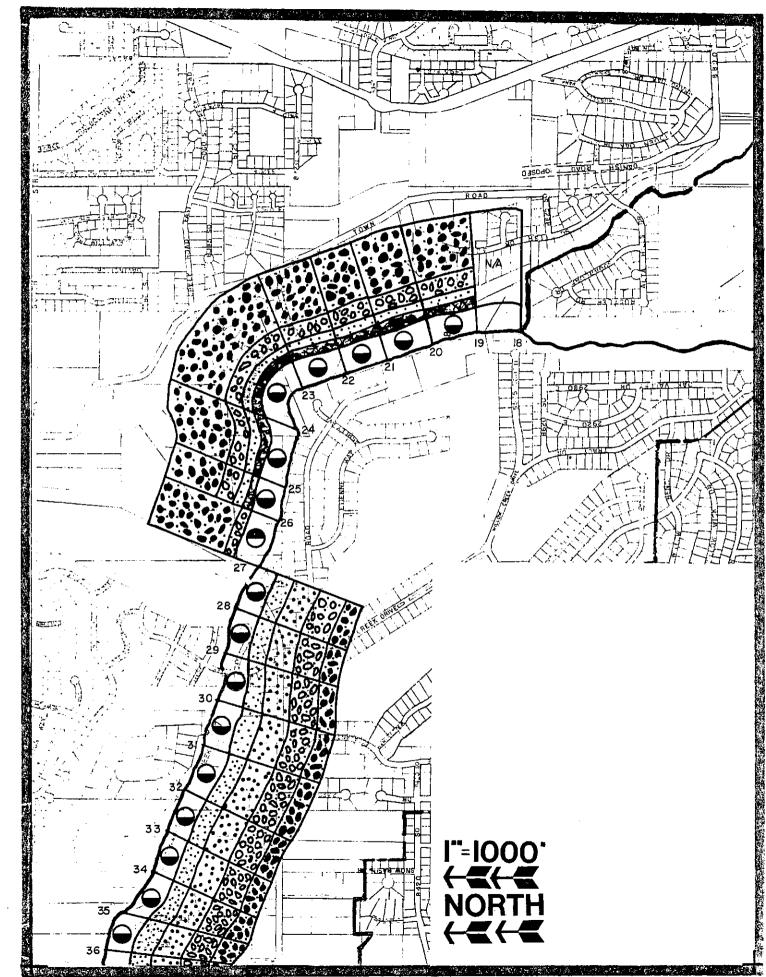
The study area for Little Cottonwood Creek included the creek below the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon to interstate fifteen. About 9.5 miles of creek was inventoried totaling 114 observation points.

The parent geologic material is predominately granitic and was found throughout the creek. Much of the creek has been straightened and channelized. The size composition distribution of bottom material is represented in Figure 4. Large boulders, greater than one foot were found to point 18 where extensive gabion construction occurred. Rubble, 3-12

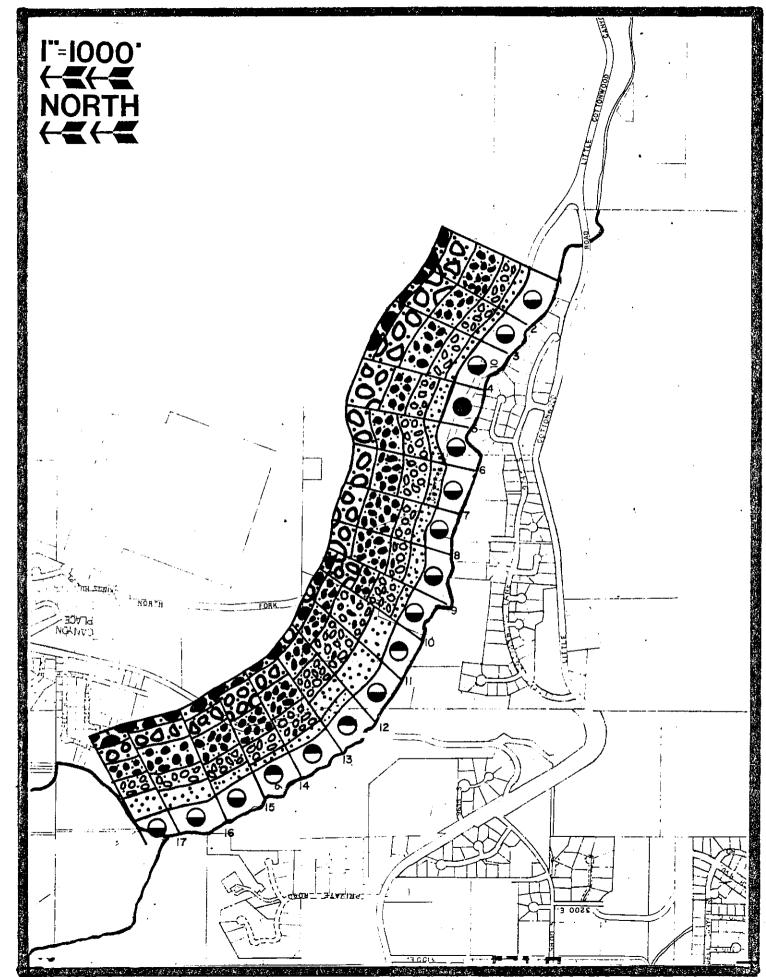








- 21 -



- 22 -

inches, was found throughout the inventory but dominated middle points. Sediment-laden muck dominated at point 80 and below.

Creek characteristics varied with both natural and man-caused events. Inventory results are summarized in Appendix B. Much of the channel bottom has been disturbed below point 65 and have particularly poor marks. Summed weighted scores for individual creek conditions resulted in 6 points having good condition, 77 points in fair condition and 25 points in poor condition. Two observation points were omitted due to construction activities. While the creek scored very good in channel capacity and obstructions and flow deflectors, other characteristics faired less well. Individual conditions are discussed below.

Upper Bank

Approximately 73 percent of the observation points identified greater than 40 percent slopes for upper banks. Twenty-three percent of the points had slopes of less than 30 percent. However, extensive gabion construction minimized bank cutting and mass wasting. Significant mass wasting was found in 21 points, where slopes exceeded 40 percent and bank vegetation poor. Half of the mass wasting occurred above point 26B which is also directly above a major sediment catch basin. For the most part vegetation scored low with 93 points in the poor category, and less than 50 percent with discontinuous shallow root mass condition. This is mostly due to stabilization practices placed prior to the bank inventory and channelization efforts. Channeling and debris removal have minimized debris jam potential. Limited debris jam potential exists at road bridges, drop structures and other flood control devices.

Lower Banks

Channel capacity for the study area was excellent, only 4 points showing fair or poor condition. Bank rock content was excellent until Point 27 where bank rock dropped to less than 40 percent of 3-6 inch rock. Bank rock dropped to poor and fair conditions below Point 75. Channeling efforts have removed obstructions and flow deflectors. thirteen points identified having frequent obstruction and flow deflectors. Thirty points show lower bank cutting in either fair or poor condition. Over half of the points are associated with mass wasting and all possess a shallow and discontinuous vegetative root mass. Most of the moderate cutting occurred in reaches below Point 73 where the least amount of bank rock content was found. The inventory identified scouring and deposition areas scattered throughout the reach with major deposition occurring below Point 96.

Channel Bottom

Rock with angular fragments resist tumbling. The most angular rock was located at the top of the study area. Rock became more rounded in two dimensions as the creek dropped elevation. Overall rocks remained bright indicating minimal nutrient loading. Local aquatic vegetation appeared mostly below storm drain and irrigation outlet structures but further down the stream returned to bright. Bottom particle packing was good in the upper segments where limited construction activities have taken place but became fair to poor in channelized and construction areas. Twenty-seven points show particle packing in good or excellent condition. 74 percent are in fair or poor condition. Extreme scouring and/or deposition was identified below Point 75 and scattered areas of moderate deposition occurred throughout the inventory.

C. Mill Creek

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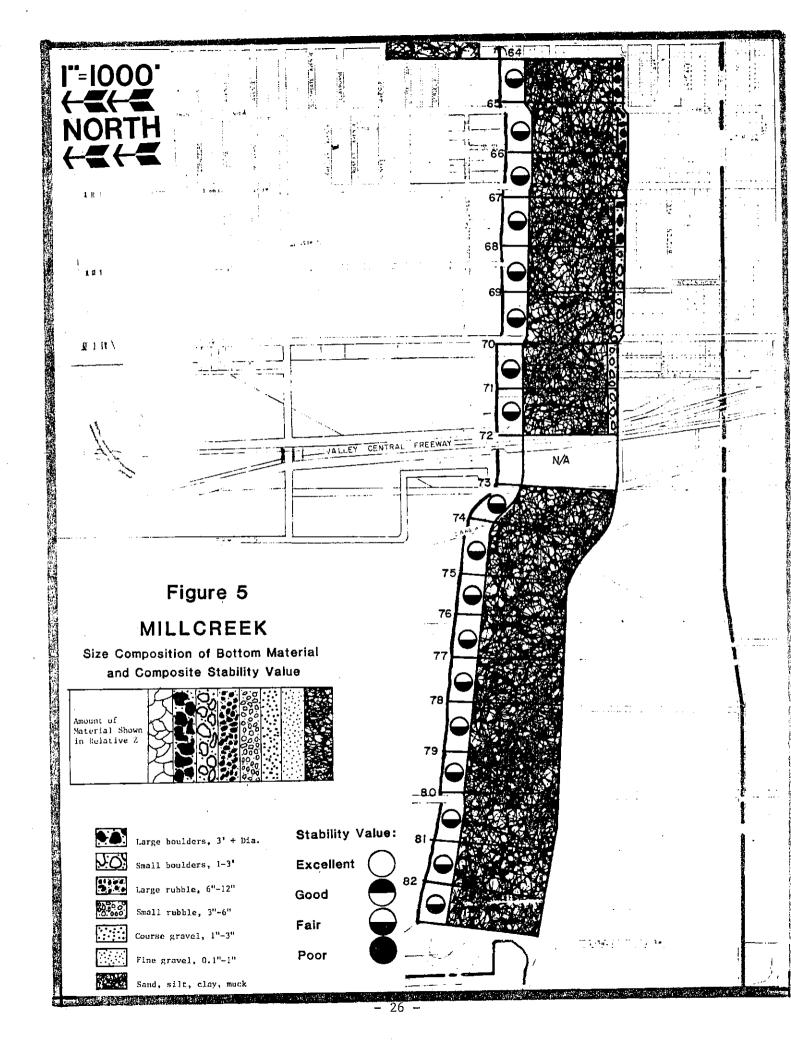
The study area of Mill Creek included 7.9 miles from Gilroy Road west to the confluence of the Jordan River. A total of 83 observation points were studied on the Jordan River tributary.

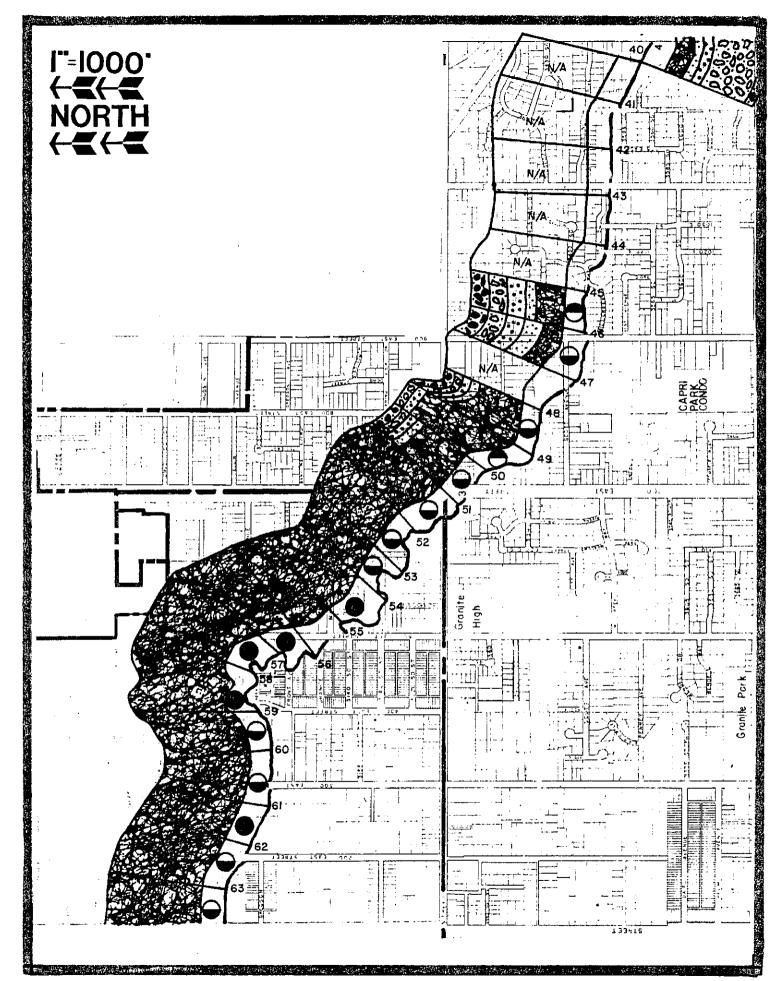
parent geologic material, originating in Mill Creek Canyon consists largely of limestone and sedimentary shale and sandstone. Smaller amounts of granite were identified in the creek channel.

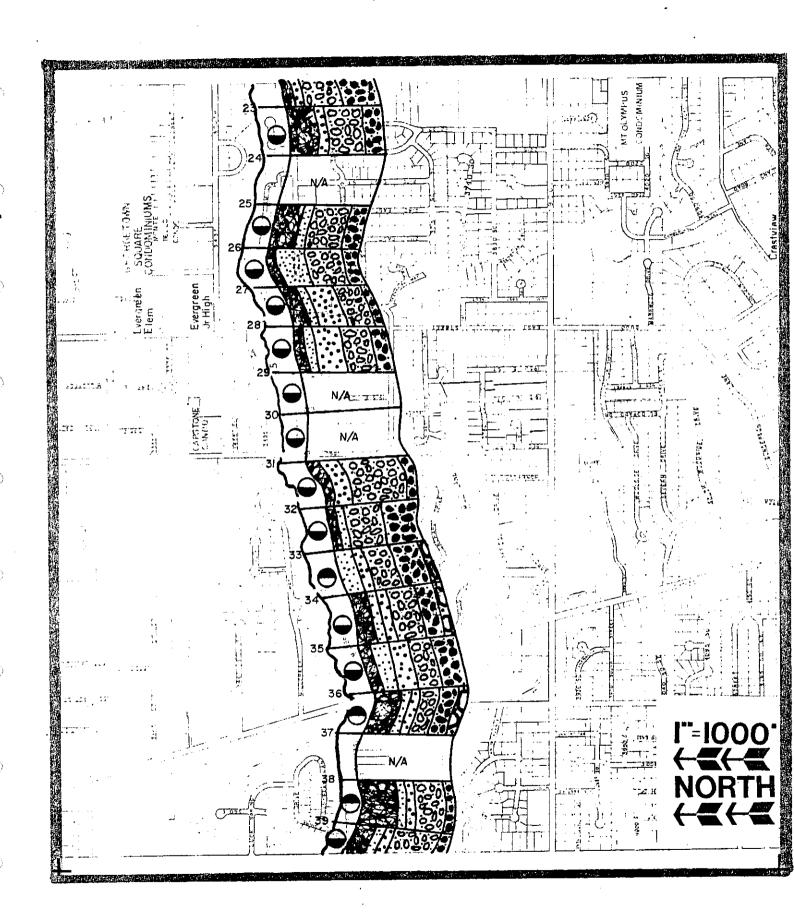
size composition of bottom materials was observed and recorded. Figure 4, shows size composition for the creek. Few large or small boulders were found over the study area. Large rubble (6-12 inches) and small rubble predominated to Point 40. This observation corresponds to the higher channel gradients of the creek. Small amounts of deposition occur throughout this segment, particularly on the lower banks. However, much of this segment had recently been disturbed and it is to be assumed that existing deposition had been relocated or removed. Rifflepool conditions are located in this segment. Past Point 45, the channel gradient lessens and the creek meanders and is channeled into the Jordan River. Within this segment, the bottom consists mostly of deposited silt and muck with evidence of present dredging. The creek has been linear channeled below Point 64 and passes through meadow lands and vacant lots.

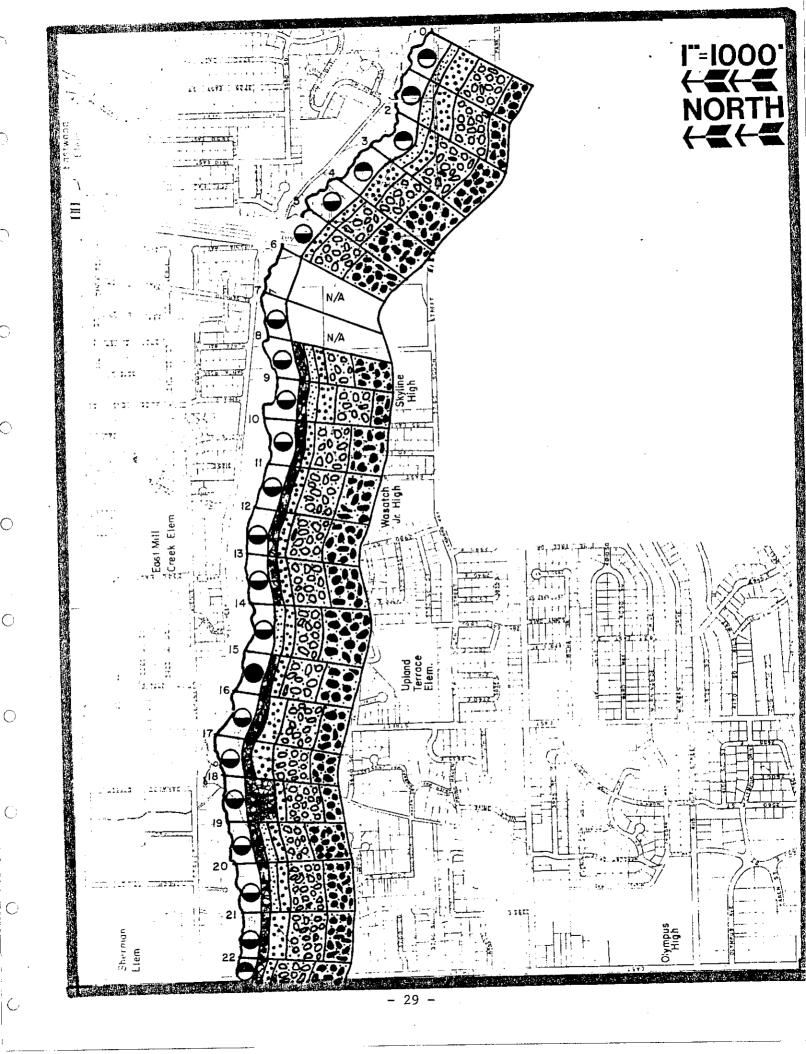
The creek reach scored 57 points (70 percent) in the fair condition category, 9 points (11 percent) in good condition and 6 points (7 percent) in poor condition. Ten points were unavailable for observation due to construction.

Overall, Mill Creek showed a discrete relationship among inventory components. Inventory observations are plotted in Figure 5. Discussion on the three channel strata follows.









Upper Bank

Upper bank creek characteristics exhibit trends quite different from the other two creeks. Where most of the Big and Little Cottonwood Creek points identify 40 plus percent landform slope, Mill Creek has only 25 percent with slopes in excess of 40 percent. Mill Creek has a minimum amount of mass wasting, relative to the other two creeks. Only three points, directly west of Belt Route 215, identified significant levels of mass wasting, while 66 percent of the points show little or no mass wasting and low potential for future wasting. Like the other two creeks, little debris is available to the creek and riparian vegetation is in poor condition, having shallow and discontinuous root masses. Eighty percent of the points show vegetation is fair or in poor condition. Points 73 and higher have a 200 percent vegetation grass cover, but no overstory.

Lower Banks

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Channel capacity was found to be good to excellent the length of the creek. Obstruction and flow deflectors were also found to be lacking. Channel capacity, obstruction and flow deflector data support current flood control implementation policy. Bank rock content ranged from less than 20 percent of gravel sized rock to greater than 65 percent content consisting of boulders. Eleven points show bank rock in good to excellent condition and 62 points in fair or poor condition. Lower bank cutting was found to be localized. The creek segment between points 7 and 20 has significant-continuous cutting 12 to 24 inches in depth. This can partly be attributed to higher channel gradients. A recently installed drop structure may alleviate future cutting, but some stabilization on existing cuts may be required. Relatively little cutting occurred below Point 28. Recent deposition and/or scouring was observed between Points 9 and 17.

This may be related to bank cutting and channelization. Massive deposition has occurred on all points below 52 where the creek velocity slows to permit settling.

Channel Bottom

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A fairly sharp deliniation of bottom materials occur in the study area, between Points 0 to 45 and 45 to 82. The upper portion of the creek to Point 38 identifies rubble with sharp edges and corners to rounded edges and corners. Below Point 38, the edges and corners are well rounded in two dimensions. Generally, rock brightness is good to fair indicating some movement through the creek. At the upper end of the creek, bottom materials were moderately packed with some overlapping. The bottom was less stable in areas of construction and dredging activities. material distribution and stability corresponded to upper and lower segments with the upper part more stable. The lower part (Below Point 48) was found to be less stable consisting of a loose assortment of silt and muck. While bottom scouring and deposition occurred throughout the study area, the upper part showed localized deposition. The vast majority of deposition occurred below Point 45. Only minor aquatic vegetation was found on the upper portion of the creek. Points 18 to 22 had little or no aquatic vegetation, the other points possessed present but spotty vegetation. Since only silt and muck was found on the lower section, no moss or algae was found on rocks.

V. CONCLUSIONS

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This study is intended to provide information that can be applied to policy and implementation decision making. Management implications of channelization are ongoing. Man caused manipulation of creek channels create the need for further and in many cases, increased manipulation, perpetuating implementation of flood control measures. For example, over half of the three creeks are dredged annually, each ongoing year at inflated costs. In 1982, the county spent over \$414,000 for creek dredging activities. Cyclic climatic events, both drought andd flood, accelerate management decisions. Highly visible implementation schedules corresponding to climatic events may provide public relations and/or political relief during times of crisis but may also be at environmental expense.

Data gathered during the streambank stabilization inventory support the assumption that riparian vegetation adjacent to the creek channels is in poor condition and have not received adequate attention during creek policy implementation. This is not to say that some vegetation is not a detriment and cause injury or damage and should not be removed. Rather, vegetation is not identified as a coefficient and is not considered as a potential solution component or solution in itself and is presently not part of decision options. A vegetative maintenance program to promote extensive root growth while maintaining safe vegetative canopies can be integrated into conventional creek zone programs, maximizing flood control benefits.

Single purpose control implementation is supported by inventory data. Channel capacity, debris removal and channelization to remove obstructions and create uniform topographic bottoms scored very high indicating ongoing efforts in these areas. Bank stabilization efforts, including rip-rap, gabion baskets and retaining walls have been placed in much of the creeks. A need still

exists for localized bank stabilization, but on a small scale and in a reactive posture. The creek bed will be self-stabilized over time by the dynamic nature of the system. Continued, but reduced sediment removal will probably be needed. Sediment catch basins and traps recently installed should minimize the need to enter most segments of the creeks allowing bottom restabilization to occur.

Since most of the large scale flood control work has been completed in the tributaries, it would seem that a transition to structural maintenance mode is the next logical step. A vegetative maintenance program can be developed and integrated into creek policy decision making.

Access to the creeks continues to be a problem in implementing creek policy. Limited access requires that heavy construction and maintenance equipment must travel greater distances, resulting in the periodic destruction to bottom stability, aquatic habitat and visuals. Increased access via maintenance easements parallel to the creek channel will reduce the need to drive appreciable distances. Dedicated easements should be required on all new site planning and negotiated for key locations on existing developments.

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A considerable amount of sediment loading to the creeks is caused from development construction activities near and adjacent to creek channels. Construction setbacks should be required on all stream zone development. Additionally, all construction activities should have approved erosion/sediment control plans prior to actual construction. Existing riparian vegetation should be retained in development activities and integrated into erosion/sediment control planning.

The streambank stabilization inventory was intended to provide documentation as to the Jordan River tributaries environmental conditions.

Inferences, based on inventory results, allowed assumptions to be expanded to

conclusions based on logic. Other conclusions and other logics may be as sound depending on perceived economies and diseconomies.

APPENDICES

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APPENDIX 2

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