Globeville Landing Outfall
Denver, Colorado

The Montclair drainage basin, the largest basin in the City and County of Denver, had no open drainage channel and the stormwater infrastructure was extremely undersized. Rainfalls greater than a 2-year storm event would cause extensive surface flooding to numerous residences, businesses, railroad tracks and Interstate 70. The City embarked on a critical infrastructure project to create a conduit system to alleviate this drainage problem. An ideal approach would have been to construct an open channel with the capacity to convey the 100-year flow to the S. Platte River; however, due to the dense existing development and lack of open space, this was simply not practical or feasible.

To meet this challenge, the Merrick team designed 4,500 linear feet of concrete conduit to carry stormwater in a 100-year event under 17 freight train tracks, two heavy commuter rails, Brighton Boulevard, the Pepsi Bottling Company property and through an existing Superfund site on the Denver Coliseum property. One of the biggest hurdles of the conduit design was the 500-foot-long segment (four 8’ diameter pipes) tunneled under the UPRR yard. The conduit system outfalls in Globeville Landing Park in a key location, where much of the runoff from the Montclair Basin naturally enters the S. Platte River.

The existing outfall was an unsightly and unsafe concrete lined channel with a steep chute and double box culverts down to the river. With Merrick’s expertise, leadership, and collaboration with Denver Parks and the community, the park has become a safe and desirable gathering place.