Iron Horse Park is the largest community park within the Fort Carson Army Base in Colorado Springs, CO. The park was in need of site improvements and updated amenities to improve the safety and overall experience for park visitors. A main component to this project was to contain drainage and manage flooding within the park while improving access to the larger fields. Our challenge on this project was determining the amount of runoff traveling through the base since FEMA does not include military installations in their mapping data. This information was necessary to formalize the drainage channel, and to add pedestrian crossing structures as well as a flood control structure at the southern end of the park. We worked with the Fort Carson Department of Public Works and the U.S Corp of Engineers to determine the design flow rate and develop a strategy to control downstream flooding and erosion. Our solution improved the functionality of the park during minor storm events and eliminated localized flooding creating hazards for individuals using the trails. During large events, the park will impound the runoff and restrict the runoff to mitigate some of the erosion that occurs downstream of the park. Huitt-Zollars was able to meet the two primary goals of the site improvements project at Iron Horse Park — improved visitor access and flood mitigation.

- Existing pedestrian crossing goes down into channel area, subjecting users to threats from potential floods
- New pedestrian/small vehicle crossing consists of a pre-cast box culvert and cast-in-place headwalls
- New running bridge provides safe crossing of formalized channel
- Existing parking area paved to allow better drainage control and improved use for visitors to park
- Finished channel from south-west end to new pedestrian/small vehicle crossing at north-east end
- New culvert being installed under road on south-west end of stabilized channel

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