

# City Purchase of Woody Creek Parcels

The City of Aspen is under contract to purchase 62.8 acres on Raceway Drive in Woody Creek to potentially use for municipal water storage. City Council approved this purchase October 23, 2017. One major benefit of this purchase is it offers the City the ability to transfer some or all of its water storage rights off of Maroon and Castle Creeks.

The \$3 million purchase price of the property will be accomplished using existing and future Water Utility Fund revenues, with a short term advance from the Wheeler Opera House Fund, without the need for external borrowing.

## Why is the City buying this land?

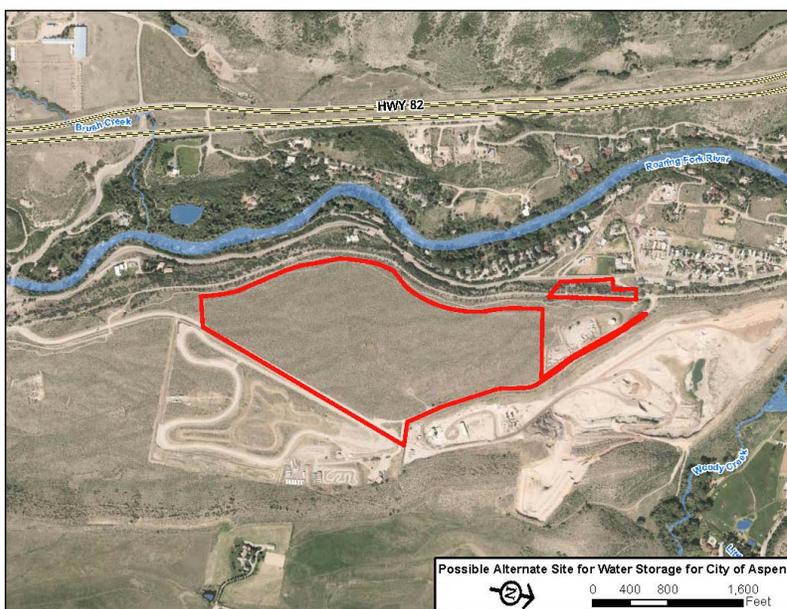
Currently the City's primary water supply is snowmelt that flows into Maroon and Castle Creeks and is stored in Thomas Reservoir. Prudent and responsible planning for the future equates to creating water storage facilities to account for low snow years, growth, and climate change impacts. Current water storage rights on Maroon and Castle Creeks are controversial with the public and moving the storage facility to Woody Creek is meant to avoid using Maroon and Castle Creek valleys for storage.

## How much water storage do we have now?

Thomas Reservoir holds approximately 3 million gallons of water. To put this into context, in the winter Aspen water users consume about 3 million gallons of water per day. In the summer, consumption can be up to 9 million gallons a day, which means customers are reliant on the flowing river. Should there be an emergency where the water supply from the river is cut off, or the river is low or dry, or demand is higher than what the river can provide, Aspen water customers may be vulnerable to a reduction or loss of service.

## What will happen on the land?

Right now there are four alternatives for creating between 300 and 8,000 acre feet of water storage, depending on need, projections, and timing.



## Why Woody Creek?

Vacant land parcels are difficult to find near Aspen. These parcels are adjacent to water sources and an existing gravel pit. This property was identified after an extensive search as one with great potential for water storage with minimal environmental impacts.

Map  
1.805 + 61 acres  
Raceway Drive  
in Woody Creek

