Watershed Planning

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is interested in using a watershed approach when looking for solutions to water resource problems. In fact, the 38 Districts use watershed boundaries, very similar to many of the countries in Europe, who resolved water conflicts with that approach in the past. Today, USACE districts, such as the Kansas City District, continue to use the watershed approach.

The Brush Creek Basin is an example project that is striving to find the most cost effective solutions to flood hazards and environmental degradation.

USACE can lead or simply be a participant in watershed studies. Studies authorized specifically as watershed studies are eligible for a 75% federal cost share.

Other USACE projects involving watershed planning are listed below, and the first two are similar, based on size and degree of urbanization, to the Brush Creek Basin study.

- Upper Turkey Creek
- Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan, (Baltimore District, USACE)
- Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study
- Missouri River Recovery

For more information

Brush Creek Basin,
Feasibility Phase website

www.nwk.usace.army.mil/projects/BrushCreek

Our local sponsors

Johnson County, KS website

http://stormwater.jocogov.org

Kansas City, MO website

www.kcmo.org/CKCMO/Depts/WaterServices/index.htm

Partnerships

Brush Creek Coordinating Committee website

www.brushcreekwatershed.com

Mid-America Regional Council website

www.marc.org

BUILDING STRONG®

For more information contact:
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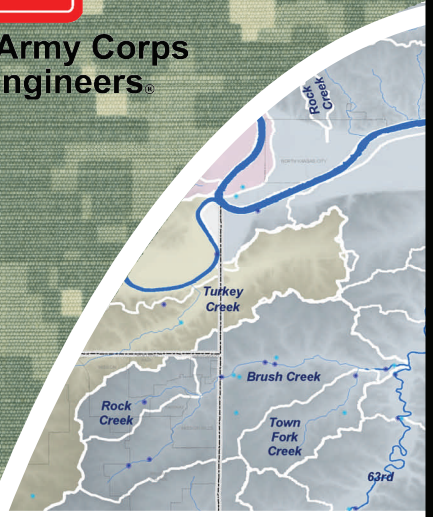
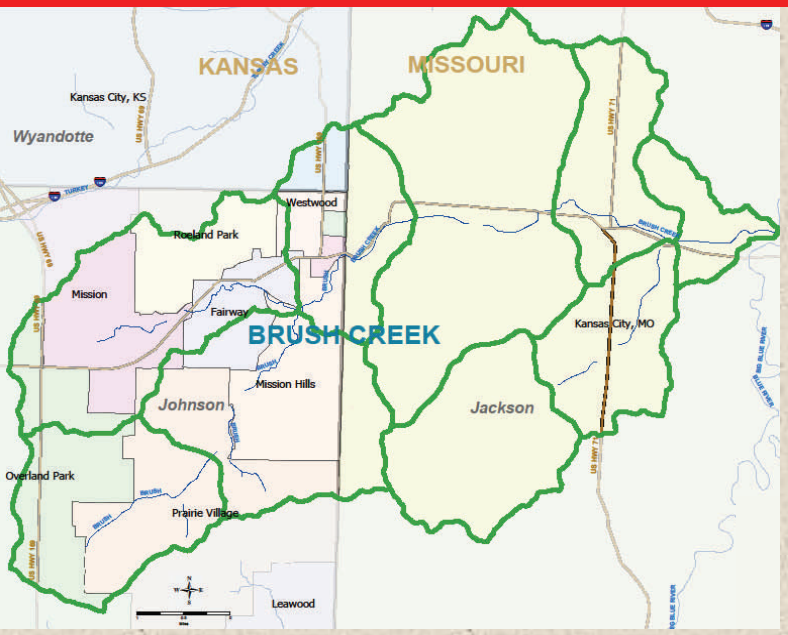
Planning Branch
Richard Bolling Federal Building
601 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106
816-389-3543
www.nwk.usace.army.mil/

US Army Corps of Engineers®



BRUSH CREEK BASIN

KANSAS CITY DISTRICT



Study Focus Points

The sponsors are focused on three watershed planning products, and this is known as the **Three-Prong Approach**, which the Brush Creek Coordinating Committee developed. One product will be a **Watershed Management Plan**. Another will be the development and facilitation of a future **Organizational Framework** for the local entities that can be used to implement the watershed management plan. For the USACE, a feasibility report will be produced, documenting **Project Sites**, whether just locally funded or jointly funded with a Federal cost share. Together, these three points are like the tip of a trident.

Project Sites

Project sites have been noted where the best opportunities have been identified for improving the environment at locations throughout the watershed. The most appropriate features and activities, which are both considered measures within the alternatives, will vary. Each project site faces unique circumstances, the values of stakeholders near those sites and the way these measures produce the most effective output to achieve watershed objectives. Planners will form the alternatives after considering public feedback about acceptable features and activities for each of the project sites.

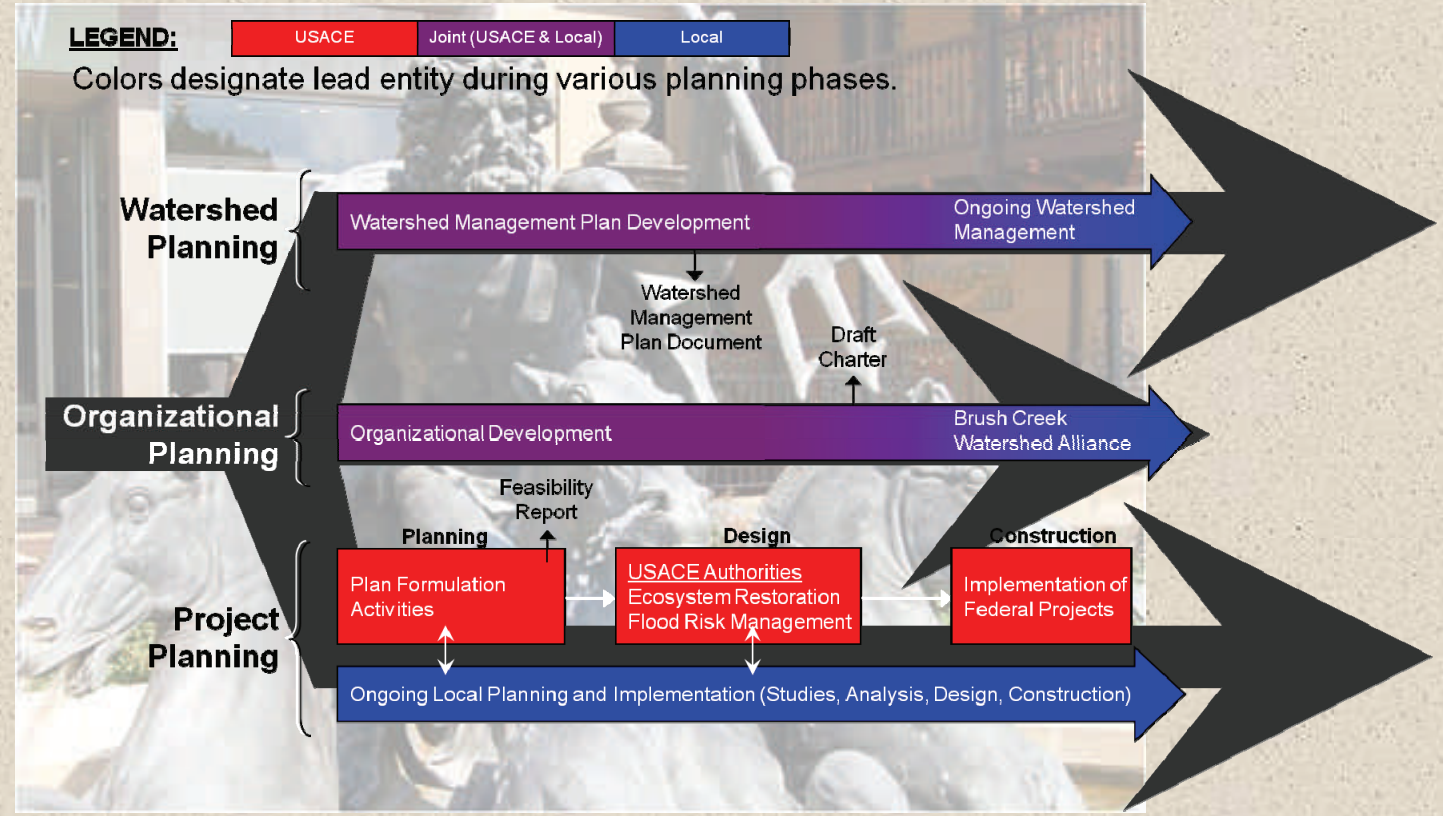
The study will also look at activities, or management measures, whether better managing floods or improving the environmental quality. Such activities, may include policies, operation and maintenance practices, codes, ordinances, and guidance plans.

The integrated effort and partnerships are the success of this bi-state study. This effort will address the need to recommend a locally lead organizational framework, establish a watershed management plan, and form alternatives for construction projects consistent with that watershed management plan. Building projects may or may not involve the USACE. The study will provide a cost effectiveness analysis of the projects that best meet the watershed goals and objectives established by the Brush Creek Coordinating Committee.

Visit this website for more information:

http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/projects/BrushCreek/

Feasibility Phase

The goal of a feasibility phase is to determine the federal interest in sharing the cost to build one of the alternatives, and this is written in a report. This work is a congressionally authorized feasibility study, jointly sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Johnson County (JOCO), the City of Kansas City, MO (KCMO), and with the support of the area's metropolitan planning organization, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC). The Brush Creek Basin has 30 square miles of urban land requiring coordination on water resource issues across many boundaries. The effort enables collaborative development of integrated watershed planning products, coordinated across the 18 cities in the basin.

The area is know for the many fountains. The historic Neptune Fountain symbolically represents the three focus points of the study and the three USACEC mission areas: Watershed planning, ecosystem restoration and flood risk management.