

*1. Administrative Details*

**Proposal Name: Blue River Watershed Integrated Planning Study**

**by Agency: City of Kansas City, Missouri**

**Locations: KS,MO**

**Date Submitted: 08/20/2018**

**Confirmation Number: 0013265a-b063-45db-8d88-6b7e2cd479ab**

*Supporting Documents*

<b>File Name</b>	<b>Date Uploaded</b>
Blue River.pdf	08/20/2018
Office of the Director-Blue River Watershed Integrated Planning Study 7001 Letter of Support.pdf	08/20/2018
MARC-Corps Blue River Basin letter of interest 2018.pdf	08/20/2018
MOARC KCMO 7001 Support for Blue River Integrated Study.pdf	08/20/2018
SAstro18082010160.pdf	08/20/2018

**2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.**

Sponsor	Letter of Support
City of Kansas City, MO(Primary)	The City of Kansas City, MO, KC Water, ensures the accessibility and quality of water services to meet the growing needs of the region by investing in the future of water, wastewater, and stormwater systems. The Blue River corridor runs through the heart of Kansas City, connecting with the Missouri River. The Blue River is a critical resource in our community that has been impacted by urbanization. KC Water supports the efforts of this feasibility study to provide highly beneficial habitat restoration, improved flood protection, and associated other benefits that will also improve infrastructure and economic development in the region.

**3. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study, a modification to an authorized USACE feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project. If it is a proposal for a modification, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.**

Feasibility Study

***4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.***

The purpose of the Blue River Basin Study is to explore solutions to the aquatic and stream ecosystem of the Blue River, located in Johnson County, KS and Jackson County, MO. The Blue River watershed is a heavily urbanized area that has suffered degradation as the surrounding municipalities have expanded in both area and population. Thousands of acres of wetland and miles of riparian and aquatic habitat have been lost and adversely impacted. Additionally, there are indications that flood risk remains and that opportunities may be present to further reduce flood damages. This study will take a comprehensive basin and systems approach to properly account for changing future conditions and coordination across multi-jurisdictional boundaries to ensure regional and sustainable ecosystem restoration solutions. Record flooding in 1961 and 1990 caused millions of dollars in damages to industrial areas along the lower river. A 12.5 mile channel modification was completed in the lower Blue River in Kansas City, Missouri in 2014 by the Kansas City District under authority of Public Law 91-611, Flood Control Act of 1970. In 2017, the Blue River watershed was heavily impacted by two severe flooding events, mainly in the upstream tributaries of the Blue River. These two flooding events have renewed interest in undertaking a regional analysis of the watershed, and has sparked public interest at an unprecedented level. This feasibility study will evaluate the Federal interest in modifications to project and new project opportunities in the entire basin for the purpose of ecosystem restoration, enhancement of flood risk management, compatible recreation, and other allied purposes.

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Study	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation (if necessary)

***6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.***

Restoration to the Blue River basin will come with a great diversity of benefits. The project has the potential to restore lost and/or degraded wetland, riparian and aquatic habitat. In addition, the basin should see improvements to flood risk, recreation, the regional economy, and a strengthening of regional ties to address future issues. Missouri, alone, has lost 87% or 4,200,000 acres of its wetland habitat, some of which has the potential to be restored. The project also has the potential to restore nationally scarce bottomland hardwood & wet prairie wetland with historic losses per Dahl in “Losses in the United States 1780’s-1980’s”, 1990. Other benefits include restoring riparian and hydrologic connectivity to recreate historic habitat nodes and fish passage, while create compatible recreational features. Moreover, several Federal levees exist within the watershed; conducting a feasibility study will present the option to modify and enhance levee systems. Lastly, the watershed study will result in recommendations for improvements and practices by local jurisdictions that will help sustain the critical level of protection of federal flood-risk management projects.

*7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.*

Yes

### **Local Support Description**

Yes, the City of Kansas City and the surrounding region has made the restoration of the Blue River watershed a high priority. A collaborative effort has been underway to conduct a regional analysis of the entire basin; the "Core 4" municipal groups participating consists of: The City of Kansas City, MO; Johnson County, KS; Jackson County, MO; and Wyandotte County, KS. As mentioned above, the 2017 flood events along Indian Creek, a tributary of the Blue River, has sparked public interest in the watershed.

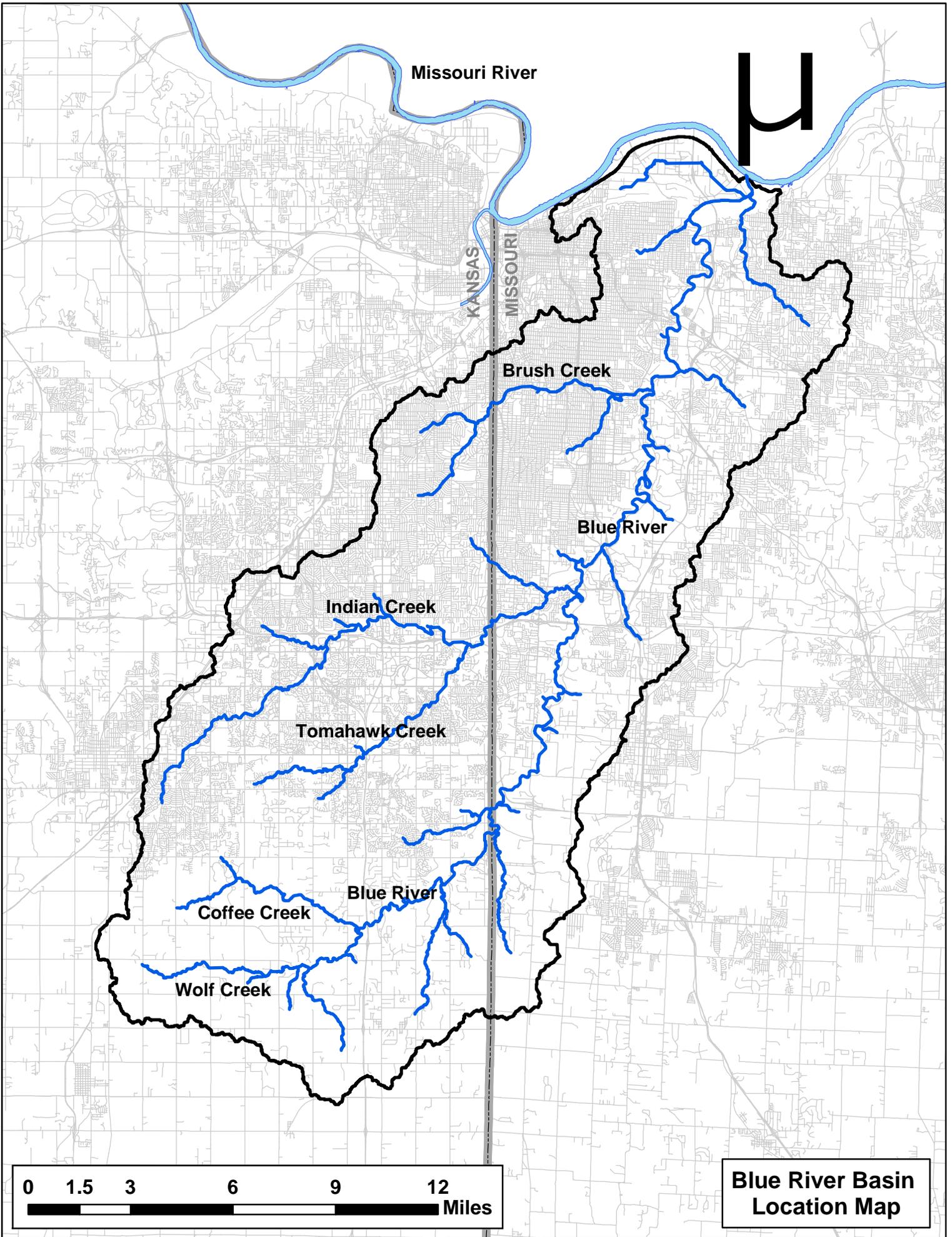
*8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?*

Yes

# Map Document

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## Blue River.pdf



# Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

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**Office of the Director-Blue River Watershed Integrated Planning  
Study 7001 Letter of Support.pdf**



## KC WATER

### OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

4800 E. 63rd Street • Kansas City, MO 64130

P: 816-513-0504 • F: 816-513-0185 • [www.kcwaterservices.org](http://www.kcwaterservices.org)

August 20, 2018

Colonel Douglas B. Guttormsen  
Commander, Kansas City District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Kansas City District  
601 E. 12<sup>th</sup> St.  
Kansas City, MO 64106

Re: Blue River Watershed Integrated Planning Study 7001 Letter of Support

Dear Colonel Guttormsen:

The City of Kansas City, Missouri and its Water Services Department (KC Water) strongly support this 7001 application for the Blue River Watershed Integrated Planning Study. This study will take a comprehensive basin and systems approach to properly account for changing future conditions and coordination across multi-jurisdictional boundaries to ensure regional and sustainable ecosystem restoration solutions.

KC Water ensures the accessibility and quality of water services to meet the growing needs of the region by investing in the future of water, wastewater, and stormwater systems. The Blue River corridor runs through the heart of Kansas City, connecting with the Missouri River. The Blue River is a critical resource in our community that has been impacted by urbanization. KC Water supports the efforts of this feasibility study to provide highly beneficial habitat restoration, improved flood protection, and associated other benefits that will also improve infrastructure and economic development in the region.

This feasibility study will evaluate the Federal interest in modifications to project and new project opportunities in the entire basin for the purpose of ecosystem restoration, enhancement of flood risk management, compatible recreation, and other allied purposes.

We fully support and look forward to the opportunity to continue working with the Corps of Engineers on Blue River Watershed Integrated Planning Study.

Sincerely,

Terry Leeds  
Director of Water Services  
Kansas City, Missouri

# Additional Proposal Information

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MARC\_Corps Blue River Basin letter of interest 2018.pdf

600 Broadway, Suite 200  
Kansas City, Missouri 64105-1659

816-474-4240  
816-421-7758 FAX  
www.marc.org



August 15, 2018

Colonel Douglas B. Guttormsen  
Commander, Kansas City District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
601 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, MO 64016-2896

Dear Colonel Guttormsen:

The Mid-America Regional Council is highly supportive of and interested in participating in the 7001 proposal for the Blue River Integrated Feasibility Study in partnership with other interested local communities and the Kansas City District, Corps of Engineers. This is a unique opportunity to attain economically beneficial and sustainable improvements for the environment, flood risk and water quality. Multiple local, state and federal agencies are working together in a cooperative effort across state lines to improve conditions in the basin. We would like for the Corps of Engineers to be a partner in this effort because of their expertise in engineering and their capability to participate in construction of cost effective, multipurpose improvements.

We understand that the local sponsor is required to provide 50 percent of study cost in cash or work-in-kind. We also understand that the planning phase is intended to be completed within three years and at a cost not to exceed \$3 million. We understand that a detailed scope along with planning objectives and desired outcomes would be developed in partnership with and mutually agreed upon with the Corps of Engineers, and would be a first step in the project. Should this basin study proceed, MARC would engage other partners and stakeholders to leverage the diverse and significant resources needed to identify and authorize beneficial improvements to the system.

We understand that this letter of intent does not legally bind MARC to any funding appropriations. Rather, the signing of the Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) typically precedes the provision of study funds. We would enjoy the opportunity to work with the Corps of Engineers on Blue River basin plans. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (816) 701-8352 or via email at [Tjacobs@marc.org](mailto:Tjacobs@marc.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Jacobs", written in a cursive style.

Tom Jacobs  
Director, Environmental Programs

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Lee's Summit, Missouri

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David A. Warm

# Additional Proposal Information

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**MOARC KCMO 7001 Support for Blue River Integrated  
Study.pdf**

Promoting Beneficial Use of Water & Land Related Resources



August 15, 2018

**MOARC BOARD**

Colonel Douglas Guttormsen  
Commander and District Engineer  
Department of the Army  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Kansas City District  
601 E 12th St. Ste. 700  
Kansas City, MO 64106

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\* Past President

***Re: Blue River Watershed Integrated Planning Study 7001 Letter of Support***

Dear Colonel Guttormsen:

This letter is to express the Missouri and Associated Rivers Coalition's (MOARC) support to the City of Kansas City, Missouri's Section 7001 request for a Blue River Watershed Integrated Planning study. The proposed bi-state study would address the needs for additional flood control along with habitat restoration and recreation throughout the watershed in Kansas and Missouri. MOARC continues to support local governments in their interest in integrated flood risk management and improvement of regional ecosystems. We recognize the importance of flood risk management and restoration of ecosystems in the economic development of the region. The study as we understand would be a new start and require additional authorization under a future Water Resources Development Act. The proposed study efforts have the support of local governments and various organizations within the watershed with viable study sponsors in the Mid-America Regional Council and the City of Kansas City, MO.

The Blue River has undergone multiple efforts to address flooding within portions of the watershed; however, there are continued flood threats within other areas. In addition, local governments and organizations have tried to address environmental degradation of the river through various small-scale efforts. Recognition of the need for an integrated approach to address issues within the basin and the need to seek viable solutions is leading the regional governments and the various Blue River organizations to reach out for assistance.

The proposed planning study will consolidate all regional efforts in addressing flood risk management, water quality improvement, restoration of a degraded ecosystem, and potential recreation under one integrated approach. The objective is to seek solutions in flood protection and opportunities for improved economic, environmental, and social development within the watershed.

We fully support this study of the Blue River watershed and the integrated approach across the state boundaries within the basin.

Best regards,

Tom Poer, P.E., PMP, ENV SP

**PO Box 22647 · Kansas City, MO 64113**

*Flood Control & Risk Management, Water Quality & Supply, Power, Environment, Agriculture, Shipping & Ports and Recreation*

# Additional Proposal Information

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**SAstro18082010160.pdf**

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August 17, 2018

Colonel Douglas Guttormsen  
Commander and District Engineer  
Department of the Army  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Kansas City District

ATTN: Planning Division  
601 E 12th St. Ste. 700  
Kansas City, MO 64106

Dear Colonel Guttormsen:

This letter is to express the Kansas City Industrial Council's (KCIC) support to the City of Kansas City, Missouri's Section 7001 request for a Blue River Watershed Integrated Planning study. The proposed bi-state study would address the needs for additional flood control along with habitat restoration and recreation throughout the watershed in Kansas and Missouri. We recognize the importance of flood risk management and restoration of ecosystems in the economic development of the region. The study as we understand would be a new start and require additional authorization under a future Water Resources Development Act. The proposed study efforts have the support of local governments and various organizations within the watershed with viable study sponsors in the Mid-America Regional Council and the City of Kansas City.

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We fully support this study of the Blue River watershed and the integrated approach across the state boundaries within the basin.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Lally". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael J. Lally, P.E., P.G.  
KCIC President