

1. Administrative Details

Proposal Name: Line Creek Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Study

by Agency: City of Riverside, Missouri

Locations: MO

Date Submitted: 08/17/2018

Confirmation Number: d1504937-6664-4df2-bd83-e670efeb815f

Supporting Documents

File Name	Date Uploaded
2018-08-08-SupportLet-LCR-Riverside.pdf	08/17/2018
2018-08-RiversideSupportLetters7001.pdf	08/17/2018
7001-Area-Map.pdf	08/17/2018

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 Riverside, Missouri(Primary)	<p>The City of Riverside is greatly interested in and supportive of restoring the aquatic ecosystem of Line Creek. Line Creek flows directly through the heart of Riverside and is key to our downtown economic development project. Currently, the Creek has little to no aquatic wildlife due to it being channelized and lined with rip-rap on both sides. Not only does it lack aquatic life, but it is visibly barren and aesthetically unpleasing. These conditions create an area that is uninviting for visitors to our community and not enticing for developers.</p> <p>Riverside is the primary sponsor of this 7001 Water Resources Development Proposal to engage in a feasibility study and construction project that will restore the aquatic ecosystem of Line Creek. We are committed to providing the required 50% match for the Feasibility Study and 25% match for construction. This proposal is submitted under the existing authority of Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended. We appreciate that this existing authority recognizes the value of robust aquatic ecosystems. These systems are essential to the health of the environment and our communities as well. A vibrant community needs a healthy ecosystem backbone to provide a high quality of life for all residents. We look forward to a continued collaboration with USACE. Thank you for your consideration of this key project that will allow the City to have an even more vibrant environment and economy.</p>

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 proposed study is to show the feasibility of restoring the aquatic ecosystem of Line Creek. The portion of Line Creek to the north of NW Gateway Ave is natural and thriving. The portion south of NW Gateway Ave that has been lined with rip-rap is barren. We believe the aquatic restoration can be done in a way that protects the existing levee infrastructure and will provide economic benefits. Our neighbor, Kansas City, Missouri has installed some weirs and other features in the Blue River that have created more natural channel conditions, such as pools and riffles, and restored riparian vegetation. Kansas City's Blue River project could be a good model for the feasibility study of Line Creek. People are attracted to water and the natural beauty of riparian landscapes. Helping to restore the aquatic ecosystem of Line Creek will create a more attractive area in the heart of Riverside. Creating a natural, thriving environment will be a catalyst to our downtown development.

A related benefit to the aquatic restoration is recreation. There is an existing bicycle _ pedestrian trail along Line Creek. The stretch of trail within the study area is unpleasant and on summer days miserable to traverse because the sun's heat reflects off the rip-rap and there is no shade. Additionally, restoring the Creek and the habitat will provide more areas for fishing. "People who bike, run or walk on trails, go camping or fishing tend to participate in other sports as well. Gateway activities like these get people moving and often introduce them to new outdoor recreation options" (pg. 110, Missouri Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan). As people participate in outdoor activities, they find greater appreciation for outdoor beauty and become better stewards for waterways. Although this project will improve recreation in the area, there will be no additional costs to the project for the recreational benefits as the trail is already constructed.

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	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$400,000
Construction	\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$4,000,000

Explanation (if necessary)

These estimates were arrived at by consulting with our local USACE office.

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.

In the past decade, Riverside has benefited the national economy by developing into a major center for light industrial; creating opportunities for business growth. We are committed to continued growth of light industrial as well as retail and office downtown. Currently, the rip-rap lined Creek looks sterile and desolate. It is a very uninviting aesthetic in the heart of our City and along the most active regional trail connection in the Northland of the Kansas City Metro. A revegetated creek will be more inviting for downtown development and trail users. Natural riparian systems withstand flooding better than channelized systems. Restoring Line Creek will bring more flood resilience and decrease the expense of after flood restoration. It will also increase plant diversity and help to outcompete invasive plants. Our nation is at a critical point of needing restored biodiversity for the protection of pollinators and native plants. Without biodiversity, we are in danger of having continued problems with decreased agricultural productivity, more air pollution, and eroded soils. All of these concerns are damaging to our environment and our economy. Riverside is “Upstream from Ordinary.” One of the ways we fulfill this motto is by choosing to sustain the environment. We believe that environmental preservation and restoration go hand in hand with improved quality of life. Non-monetary benefits are clear. Studies have shown that people seek out natural water systems as places for relaxation. In this world of non-stop action and entertainment, it is good for mental health when people take time to reflect and be in a natural setting. Natural systems also reduce the heat island effect and make an area more pleasant and livable.

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

Yes

Local Support Description

The City of Riverside, our citizens, businesses and development community are very supportive of this proposal. We view this as an opportunity to take the sustainable growth of our City to a new level and provide greater understanding for how natural systems and sustainable development strengthen each other.

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

Yes

Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

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Upstream from ordinary.

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

August 8, 2018

Dear Colonel Guttormsen,

The City of Riverside is greatly interested in and supportive of restoring the aquatic ecosystem of Line Creek. Line Creek flows directly through the heart of Riverside and is key to our downtown economic development project. Currently, the Creek has little to no aquatic life due to it being channelized and lined with rip-rap on both sides. Not only does it lack aquatic life, but it is visibly barren and aesthetically unpleasing. These conditions create an area that is uninviting for visitors to our community and not enticing for developers.

Riverside is the primary sponsor of this 7001 Water Resources Development Proposal to engage in a feasibility study and construction project that will restore the aquatic ecosystem of Line Creek. We are committed to providing the required 50% match for the Feasibility Study and 25% match for construction.

This proposal is submitted under the existing authority of Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended. We appreciate that this existing authority recognizes the value of robust aquatic ecosystems. These systems are essential to the health of the environment and our communities as well. A vibrant community needs a healthy ecosystem backbone to provide a high quality of life for all residents.

We look forward to a continued collaboration with USACE. Thank you for your consideration of this key project that will allow the City to have an even more vibrant environment and economy. Feel free to contact me with any questions at 816-741-3993.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Rose".

Kathy Rose
Mayor

Additional Proposal Information

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2018__08__RiversideSupportLetters7001.pdf



August 13, 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,

Briarcliff has been actively developing property within Riverside and just outside its eastern city limits for more than 25 years. A founding principle in how we approach our development is to create a sense of place and walkability by how we landscape, add trails and sidewalks, and preserve green space that existed prior to our development coming in. We support the City of Riverside in their efforts to restore the aquatic ecosystem of Line Creek. Our trails and sidewalks connect to Riverside's trails; one of which takes you adjacent to the area of Line Creek this application is focused on. I personally walk this trail from time to time and would welcome a more natural environment to this stretch of Line Creek to enhance the experience of walking or biking in the City of Riverside. In addition, the overall growth of Riverside will be enhanced with these efforts as more people find the area more desirable because it more harmoniously connects with the natural environment.

Briarcliff has and will continue to be an important contributor in sustaining and improving the economy of Riverside. We appreciate working with a City government that is supportive of economic development.

We encourage you to give Riverside the opportunity to be listed on the 7001 Water Resources and Reform Development list and to engage in a feasibility study to restore the aquatic ecosystem of Line Creek.

Thank you for your consideration of this key project that will allow the City to have an even more vibrant environment and economy. Feel free to contact me with any questions at 816-595-5829 or rcb@briarcliffkc.com.

Sincerely,



Richie Benninghoven, President
Briarcliff Development

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

August 16, 2018

Dear Colonel Guttormsen,

The Riverside Chamber is pleased to hear that the City of Riverside would like to study the feasibility of restoring the aquatic ecosystem of Line Creek. We understand from our partnership with the City that Line Creek is central to the economic development Master Plan. Currently, the channelized Creek has rock-lined banks and supports little to no aquatic wildlife. Not only does it lack aquatic life, but the Creek is almost completely dry during hot summer months with no cooling vegetation. This is not an ideal or inviting condition for the existing bicycle pedestrian trail along the Creek.

We hope that Riverside will be given the opportunity to be listed on the 7001 Water Resources and Reform Development list and to engage in a feasibility study to restore the aquatic ecosystem of Line Creek.

We look forward to a continued collaboration with the City of Riverside. We greatly enjoy working with a City that is so supportive of thoughtful and sustainable economic development. Thank you for your consideration of this key project that will allow the City to have an even more vibrant environment and economy.

Sincerely,

April Roberson
Executive Director

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

August 8, 2018

Dear Colonel Guttormsen,

The Riverside Park Board knows the value of natural systems and parks to a high quality of life. We are happy to hear that the City of Riverside would like to study the feasibility of restoring the aquatic ecosystem of Line Creek. Line Creek is the central spine to our City and a major recreational trail is adjacent to the Creek.

Currently, the channelized Creek with its rock-lined banks is not a very inviting place for recreational trail users. We would love for trail users to see and experience a more natural riparian system. The Creek could become an ideal location for fishing, educational field trips for water quality monitoring and other activities that would bring energy back to this area of Riverside.

We see this area one day being a beautiful natural system that is a vibrant connector of parks and other amenities in the City. Restoration of the Creek can aid in improving the overall aesthetic of Riverside and provide new opportunities for beautiful, sustainable economic development.

We hope that Riverside will be listed on the 7001 Water Resources and Reform Development list and receive support for a feasibility study to restore the aquatic ecosystem of Line Creek. Thank you for your consideration of this key project to enhance Riverside.

Sincerely,



Deana Winter
Park Board President
City of Riverside

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

August 8, 2018

Dear Colonel Guttormsen,

The Riverside Quindaro Bend Levee District has the responsibility operating and maintaining the Riverside and Quindaro Units of MRLS-385. A Periodic Inspection and Risk Based Levee Screening were recently completed for both Units.

The City of Riverside is focusing on the aquatic eco-system restoration of Line Creek from Station RL 9+00 to Station RL 28+00 and QL Station 245+00 to Station 217+50 for the Section 7001 WRRDA listing. This stretch is essentially the portion of Line Creek from the point where Line Creek crosses under NW Gateway Avenue to the location of the Burlington Northern Railway Bridge crossing Line Creek –approximate Station QL 217+50. This encompasses the Levee on both the right hand and left hand banks of Line Creek as it flows to the Missouri River.

In recognizing the City of Riverside's desire to restore the aquatic eco-system of Line Creek, the Levee District encourages and supports the City's application to explore the feasibility of restoring the aquatic eco system of Line Creek.

Additionally, the District requests guidance from USACE commenting on the implementation of habitat restoration on Line Creek to ensure Levee integrity and the Levee's eligibility in the PL 84-99 program is maintained .

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. We look forward to working with the City in evaluating the measures proposed by a feasibility study as they pertain to the District's mission of providing flood protection for people and property within the MRLS L-385 jurisdiction.

Sincerely,



Jeff Goodwin
Board President
Riverside Quindaro Bend Levee District

Map Document

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7001__Area_Map.pdf

