



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Louis District

Section 206 of Water Resources Development Act 1996 (Public Law 104-303), as amended by WRDA 1999 (PL 106-53), as amended by WRDA 2007 (PL 110-114), as amended by WRRDA 2014 (PL 113-121)

Information Paper Watkins Creek, MO

Feasibility (CAP Section 206)

Location: The project is located north of St. Louis City in northeast St. Louis County. Watkins Creek runs for 6.2 miles through north St. Louis County from the city of Black Jack, emptying into the Mississippi River north of Interstate 270.

Description: The goal of the project is to restore and improve the quality and diversity of aquatic and riparian ecosystem resources within Watkins Creek.

Status: The expansion of St. Louis City and County has altered the 4,300-acre Watkins Creek watershed by converting riparian and aquatic habitat into urban areas, constructing structures in the creek that constrict and inhibit flow, channelizing the creek, and increasing flow energy with increased water input into the creek. These alterations have degraded aquatic resources, reduced fish and wildlife habitat quality, impaired ecosystem functions, and threaten the future sustainability of the watershed ecosystem.

Importance: The feasibility study would examine opportunities to restore the aquatic ecosystem such as: increase connectivity to Mississippi River; reduce bank erosion and increase bank topographic diversity; reduce sedimentation; restore riffle and pool habitat; and enhance riparian habitat quality and diversity.

Risk: If no project measures are undertaken to address the degraded condition of Watkins Creek, the project area would continue to deteriorate.

Consequence: Without the project, habitat degradation would continue within Watkins Creek. If commercial development continues in the area, resulting stormwater runoff is anticipated to increase. This increase would hasten the degradation and destabilization of aquatic and riparian habitat. Additionally, as riparian corridor in the lower

portion of the watershed declines and is replaced by invasive species, bank instability and erosion will increase further.



Steep Eroding Banks in Lower Portion of Watkins Creek

Activities for FY 17: FY17 allocation of \$34,000 is being used to execute a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement and initiate Feasibility Report.

Acquisition Strategy: No contracts scheduled to be awarded in FY17.

Activities after FY17: Finalize the Feasibility Report.

Project Sponsor/Customer: Great Rivers Greenway District

Congressional Interest: Senate: McCaskill and Blunt
House: Clay (MO-1)

Phase	FY 17 Allocation	FY 18 Budget
Feasibility	\$34,000	TBD