



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District

Information Paper

Kaskaskia River Basin Ecosystem Restoration

Investigations (ENR)

Contact:

Shawn Sullivan, Strategic Planning Coordinator
(314) 331-8580

Shawn.f.sullivan@usace.army.mil

Location: The Kaskaskia River Basin (Basin), Illinois, from the headwaters at Champaign, Illinois, to the confluence of the Mississippi River, its backwaters, side channels, and all tributaries, including their watersheds, draining into the Kaskaskia River.

Description: The Basin has six functional USACE business lines and contains three authorized USACE projects—Lake Shelbyville, Carlyle Lake, and the Kaskaskia Navigation Project. The Kaskaskia Navigation Project design (1961) failed to consider plan and profile degradation by reducing the rivers length 31% and width 80%. The profile change resulted in a destructive headcut that travels at a rate of 1-mile per year. Damages induced by headcutting have resulted in increased dredging, loss of private property, significant ecosystem degradation to the riverine environment.

Status: The authority requires a new start feasibility study for the Kaskaskia River Basin. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources would serve as the non-federal sponsor but was unable to secure its cost share in FY24.

Importance: Landscape changes and modifications to the Kaskaskia River mainstem have affected the hydrology and hydraulics in the basin, resulting in headcutting, streambank erosion, widening of the stream, and loss of riparian floodplain and aquatic habitats. As a consequence, the species diversity and richness of both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife have and continue to decline. The study area contains the largest contiguous stand of bottomland hardwood forest in the State of Illinois.

Authority: Section 5073 of Water Resources Development Act 2007.

Schedule:

- Submit FY26 PRESBUD: February 2024
- Submit FY25 Workplan: March 2024



Incised, over-widened and aggrading Kaskaskia River channel upstream of Fayetteville, IL.

Activities for FY24: Confirm non-federal sponsor interest and prepare for budget submittal.

Activities after FY24: TBD

Project Partner: TBD

Congressional Interest: Senate: Durbin (IL), Duckworth (IL); House: Bost (IL-12), Miller (IL-15).

Financial:

Estimated Federal cost: \$1.5M

Estimated Non-Federal cost: \$1.5M

Total estimated cost: \$3M

Total Federal funding to date: \$0