



Clean Water. Healthy Life.

BEST PRACTICES *for* STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN METROPOLITAN KANSAS CITY

STREAMBANK RESTORATION | BIOSWALE

Wildflower Storm, Confluence of the East Fork and Little Blue Rivers, eastern Jackson County, Missouri

Goals

To utilize native plantings for stream buffer and stormwater management and educate the public, city, county and other governing organizations on the importance of using “green infrastructure” solutions.

Description

A natural stream buffer was planted on 5 acres on the west side of the Little Blue River between Blue River Parkway and Pink Hill Road. Native prairie species were planted to create a functional stream buffer.

Stormwater runoff from Pink Hill Road created a 300 foot eroding ditch. The ditch was widened and vegetated with natives to create a swale which would better manage runoff. In addition, a 0.3 acre wet prairie/emergent wetland was constructed and planted to facilitate filtration of sediment and pollutants contained within the stormwater runoff.

A multi-dimensional outreach program will educate various public and private agencies, organizations, and citizens on the importance of green solutions to effectively manage stormwater issues.

Community Benefits & Lessons Learned

This project seeks to restore the non-native vegetation with native prairie vegetation. The result will be a more aesthetically pleasing and stabilized streambank along the Little Blue. The emergent prairie wetland also will manage stormwater while exhibiting a different group of prairie plants not often seen in an urban environment. The public will have educational and service learning opportunities as the restoration project continues.

The greatest challenge has been establishing the native vegetation. Frequent flooding and a host of invasive weedy species are making progress very difficult, costly, and time intensive. Maintenance of native seedlings is critical to the success or failure of this type of planting. Persistent control of the invasive species and additional seedlings will be necessary for the success of this project.

Funding Sources and Partnerships

Mid-America Regional Council, Little Blue River Watershed Coalition, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7

Contact

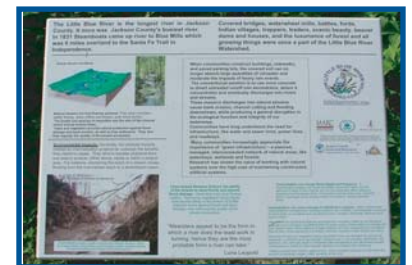
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Conversion of an eroding ditch to a vegetated swale provides improved stability and aesthetics.



Native plants assist with bank stabilization along the Little Blue.



The high use trail and interpretive signs promote opportunities for public education.