

Kansas City, Missouri

Wet Weather Solutions Program

Goals, Objectives, and Guiding Principles



Goals & Objectives

Approved by the Community Panel May 2006

The Wet Weather Solutions Program is designed to accomplish three primary goals (*displayed in no particular order of importance or priority*):

Minimize loss of life & injury and reduce property damage due to flooding, and improve water quality while maximizing economic, social, and environmental benefits.

Goal				Goal			Goal			
<i>Minimize loss of life and injury and reduce property damage due to flooding</i>				<i>Improve Water Quality</i>			<i>Maximize economic, social and environmental benefits</i>			
Objective	Objective	Objective	Objective	Objective	Objective	Objective	Objective	Objective	Objective	Objective
Warn public of dangers of high water	Provide passable roads during flooding	Reduce flood damage to structures	Protect public infrastructure from flood damage	Protect Streams & Natural Resources	Reduce pollution in streams, lakes and rivers	Meet or exceed all applicable regulations	Create and Sustain Recreational Opportunities	Support Economic Development and Sustainable Growth	Optimize Infrastructure Investment	Enhance Natural Habitats

Guiding Principles for the Wet Weather Solutions Program

Approved by the Community Panel February 2006

"It's not just about the water. It's about a stronger, more prosperous, and sustainable community." – Deborah O'Bannon, Wet Weather Community Panel Member

The City of Kansas City, Missouri faces immediate challenges in managing water quality, sewer overflows, economic development demands, changing regulatory requirements, time and financial constraints, and in meeting diverse citizen expectations. The Guiding Principles are the Wet Weather Community Panel's recommendations regarding the development and implementation of the Wet Weather Solutions Program. The Guiding Principles are based on community values and will guide decisions regarding how best to manage the city's resources in a sustainable way.

Desired Outcomes

Through the Wet Weather Solutions Program, Kansas City, Missouri will:

- ✓ Protect people from loss of life and injury and property from damage due to flooding.
- ✓ Reduce sewer overflows.
- ✓ Improve water quality.
- ✓ Generate multiple benefits such as natural resource preservation, recreational opportunities, economic investment and enhanced quality of life, as it pursues a standard of excellence in water management.

Guiding Principles

Through strong creative **leadership** and a **stewardship** ethics, the Wet Weather Solutions Program will **take action** to manage the City's water resources in a sustainable way. The following ten (10) principles will guide the program participants in achieving desired outcomes.

Leadership

- **Communication:** Use plain language so that information and discussions are immediately understood by all participants in the process
- **Participatory:** Many people have a stake in program decisions and their involvement will lead to more effective solutions. Because solutions will be watershed based, stakeholders outside of Kansas City will need to be involved. Citizens will have a meaningful say in actions that affect their lives and spend their tax dollars/user fees.
- **Collaborative:** Stakeholders are partners in each aspect of the decision-making including the development of alternatives and identification of preferred solutions.
- **Accountable:** Stakeholders and the project team are mutually accountable for successful program development and implementation. The City Council is the ultimate decision-maker and is accountable to the citizens it represents.
- **Transparent:** Strive for openness in data collection, analysis, option development, and decision-making so that the public and other stakeholders have confidence that outcomes are rational in light of all identified interests and inputs.

Stewardship

- **Watershed-based:** Considers all sources of problems and solutions so that strategies account for the interrelationship of water, land use, air quality, and human communities within a watershed, leading to project outcomes with multiple benefits.

- **Maximize environmental, community and economic benefits:** Prefer options that create multiple benefits for the community, environment, and the regional economy so that the legacy is a stronger, more appealing, and more prosperous community.
- **Financial:** Manage the community's resources with a long-term view, pursuing fairness in the distribution of the economic benefits and burdens.

Take Action

- **Innovative:** Innovate while developing the program to foster learning and adjustments. Let experience inform future plans.
- **Show progress:** Actively seek out existing projects that can demonstrate quick progress.

Discussion Questions

The following questions can be used to systematically assess how the Guiding Principles were considered in the development of design options.

1. How were the perspectives of stakeholders taken into account in developing the recommendation?
2. How can value be added to this recommendation (e.g. open space, recreation, aesthetics, interagency cooperation, intradepartmental coordination, and/or education)?
3. How is this strategy/recommendation tailored to the identified problem in this specific location, neighborhood, and/or watershed?
4. How will the recommendation move the community towards achieving desired outcomes?
5. How can this strategy/recommendation be used to build community partnerships and support, as well as capacity to solve other problems.