



CREATING A VISION FOR LOWER BRUSH CREEK

KC Water and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, have partnered to create a Master Plan for Lower Brush Creek from The Paseo to its confluence with the Blue River near Coal Mine Road.

The purpose of the Master Plan is to guide future projects that will improve recreational and cultural opportunities, as well as environmental conditions and aesthetics along the creek. It is intended to establish a long-range vision for development and programming along the Lower Brush Creek corridor.

The Master Plan is strictly a planning exercise that may, or may not, result in construction activities. Its completion will lay the foundation for future improvements that will benefit all those who live, work, and play in the area. Your feedback will play an important role in determining the direction and priorities of the Master Plan and the future of Lower Brush Creek.

As part of the Master Plan's community engagement program, the project team hosted open house workshops in April and May 2023. The feedback received from local stakeholders and public participants furthered the team's understanding of how improvements to the Lower Brush Creek corridor could enhance safety, resource sustainability, and quality of life for local residents.

Community insights and preferences include:

- Removing existing dams so the connected water bodies become a free-flowing creek.
- Improving water quality, park cleanliness, and wildlife habitats.
- Enhancing safety and security within park areas.
- Improving park access with new crosswalk and parking connections.
- Incorporating a mix of both active and passive recreational features along the corridor.



PROJECT STUDY AREA



SCHEDULE

The Lower Brush Creek Master Plan involves four stakeholder and public workshops.

1 WORKSHOP 1 – APRIL 18, 2023

Introduction of the master planning process

2 WORKSHOP 2 – MAY 23, 2023

Collection of public ideas and feedback on Master Plan features.

3 WORKSHOP 3 – AUGUST 3, 2023

Presentation of potential Master Plan components.

4 WORKSHOP 4 – SEPTEMBER 2023

Refinement and completion of Master Plan components.

5 CONCLUSION

At the conclusion of the fourth workshop, the project team will finalize the workshop findings and incorporate them into the Master Plan.

ABOUT THE MASTER PLAN PROJECT TEAM

The Master Plan is a 50-50 cost-sharing partnership between the City of Kansas City, Missouri, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, with subject matter and public involvement support from HDR and Parson & Associates.



FAQS

1. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE BRUSH CREEK MASTER PLAN?

The purpose of the Lower Brush Creek Master Plan (Master Plan) is to guide future projects that will improve recreational and cultural opportunities, as well as environmental conditions along the creek. It is intended to establish a long-range vision for development and programming along the Lower Brush Creek corridor, in the area between The Paseo and Blue River confluence.

2. DOES THE MASTER PLAN INCLUDE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS?

The Master Plan creates a map for future construction that the city may or may not decide to implement. It is intended to lay the foundations for future improvements, which could include construction projects.

3. WHERE ALONG BRUSH CREEK IS THE MASTER PLAN BEING DEVELOPED?

The western boundary for the Master Plan is the Paseo Boulevard Bridge, and the eastern boundary is located where Brush Creek meets the Blue River. Emanuel Cleaver II Boulevard forms the northern boundary and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard the southern.

4. HOW LARGE IS THE MASTER PLAN STUDY AREA?

The study area covers approximately 200 acres along the Brush Creek corridor, and is being coordinated with the KC Parks.

5. WHY IS PUBLIC INPUT IMPORTANT TO THIS MASTER PLAN?

A good master plan considers the feedback and needs of the people who are impacted by the area or resource being studied. As part of this Master Plan, the project team will request feedback from local stakeholders and public participants to better understand how improvements to the Lower Brush Creek corridor could enhance safety, resource sustainability, and quality of life for local residents.

6. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING THE MASTER PLAN?

The Master Plan is a partnership between Kansas City, Missouri (KCMO) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), with support from HDR.

7. WILL THE PUBLIC BE ABLE TO VIEW DESIGNS OR MAPS?

While detailed project designs are not a part of the Master Plan, public participants will be able to view or learn about conceptual plans. These plans could include resource and programming features that align with the mission of KCMO's Parks & Recreation Department, the maintenance or improvement of recreational, cultural, and natural resources along Lower Brush Creek, and a review of community-based input.

8. WHEN WILL THE MASTER PLAN BE COMPLETED?

The Master Plan will be completed and published later in 2023.

9. WHEN WILL THE MASTER PLAN FEATURES BE CONSTRUCTED?

While the Master Plan will establish a vision for the Lower Brush Creek corridor, it does not involve project construction activities. Future planning, design, and construction will be scheduled based on available city funding and coordination with other planned activities along the corridor.

10. HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE AND PROVIDE INPUT TO THE MASTER PLAN?

Several in-person public workshops have been scheduled for you to provide input and feedback throughout the master planning process. In addition to in-person workshops, online engagement opportunities are also provided.

11. WILL THE MASTER PLAN CONSIDER WATER QUALITY AND FLOODING ALONG BRUSH CREEK?

Yes. The Master Plan will be coordinated with KC Water's Smart Sewer program and USACE's ecosystem restoration feasibility study. This will allow the project team to incorporate current creek conditions and identify long-term solutions.

12. HOW WILL MAINTENANCE OF THE AREA BE EVALUATED AND ADDRESSED?

The development of the Master Plan will consider the surrounding issues and challenges associated with maintenance. Brush Creek is susceptible to periodic flooding, refuse accumulation, urban runoff, and sediment collection in and along the corridor. Operations and maintenance costs will be considered when planning future improvements, with an eye towards sustainability.

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