



Eastern I-70 Corridor Chapter

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

Making the Most of Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Urban Settings

Eastern I-70 Corridor Chapter Purpose:

The Chapter serves as a clearinghouse for wetlands and riparian areas information and activities, promotes educational opportunities with a variety of targeted audiences, and facilitates project implementation for wetland and riparian area projects along the I-70 corridor.



KAWS Mission: To ensure the future of wetlands, streams, and their adjacent riparian areas as an integral part of our Kansas heritage and landscape.

KAWS Vision: A public that is well informed and involved in activities that foster the protection, enhancement, and establishment of wetlands and riparian areas in Kansas.

The **Eastern I-70 Corridor Chapter** of the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams organized in May, 2000 to meet increasing needs for quality informational and educational materials stressing the importance of the function and values of these areas, to demonstrate how they can be enhanced, restored, and protected; and to encourage closer cooperation between agencies, municipalities, developers and others that impact these valuable natural resources. **The Chapter** covers *Douglas, Johnson, Franklin, Miami, Osage, Shawnee, and Wyandotte* counties. The group is an affiliate of KAWS and supports its mission and vision.

The Challenge:

The loss of valuable wetland and riparian areas continues at an alarming rate in parts of this rapidly urbanizing area. Each year, thousands of acres are being permanently altered with the construction of homes, businesses, parking lots, and other impervious structures. These types of development often increase soil erosion and storm water runoff, destroy unique wildlife habitat, and increase the use of pesticides and other potentially harmful substances.

But, interest is growing in changing how development impacts these sensitive natural resource systems. Wetlands and riparian areas can be used to filter sediment, nutrients, and pesticides; provide additional detention storage for flood control; protect critical wildlife habitat; maintain the natural beauty and screening properties these areas offer; and increase neighborhood recreational opportunities.

Making the Most of Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Urban Settings

The Chapter supports a voluntary, educational approach that relies on open communications between members. The group embraces the KAWS philosophy of building local capacity to get projects “on the ground.”

Who is Involved:

The Eastern I-70 Corridor Chapter of KAWS is providing oversight and support to help get quality wetland and riparian area projects on the ground. Currently, our partner/members include:

Douglas County Conservation District	City of Lawrence
George Butler Associates	US Air National Guard, Topeka
Shawnee County Conservation District	Osage County Conservation District
Franklin County Conservation District	Miami County Conservation District
Wyandotte County Conservation District	Mid-America Regional Council
Tetra Tech EMI	Johnson County Conservation District
The Nature Conservancy	Johnson Co. Public Works
Steve Parker and Associates	Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District
FMC Corp.	City of Topeka
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks	Hillsdale Water Quality Project
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	Kansas Water Office
Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment	US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Environmental Protection Agency	City of Lenexa
State Conservation Commission	Kansas Rural Center
Johnson County Parks and Recreation Department	Westar Energy
Kaw Valley Heritage Alliance– Streamlink	Patti Banks Associates
KS Assoc. for Cons. and Env. Education	City of Overland Park
K-State Extension	Hillsdale Water Quality Project
Friends of the KAW	Blue River Watershed Association
Kansas Biological Survey	City of Olathe

How Can You Get Involved:

If you are interested in promoting wetland and riparian area enhancement, restoration or protection in this area, you can:

- Contact the I-70 Chapter through the Douglas County or Johnson County Conservation Districts for information and upcoming activities/meeting details
- Discuss your organization’s involvement with your leadership and offer the potential benefits from joining the Alliance - synergy, project technical support, project financial support, and the opportunity to help lead the community you live and work in to maximize the benefits wetlands and riparian areas offer
- Provide information to the Alliance on wetland and riparian area projects you are interested in seeing put on the ground
- Offer your support—technically, financially, or “in-kind” to help the Alliance succeed.
- Membership is free and open to anyone interested.

For More Information:

Contact the Douglas County Conservation District at (785) 843-4288, fax (785) 841-1087, or mail to 3010 Four Wheel Drive, Lawrence, KS 66047-3149; or contact the Johnson County Conservation District at (913) 764-1931, fax (913) 829-4490, or mail to 930 East 56 Highway, Olathe, KS 66061-4989. For more information on KAWS, contact John Bond, Chapter Coordinator at 785-463-5804, fax same as phone, email johnloribond@yahoo.com, or mail to Box 414, Wakefield, Ks. 67487.

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