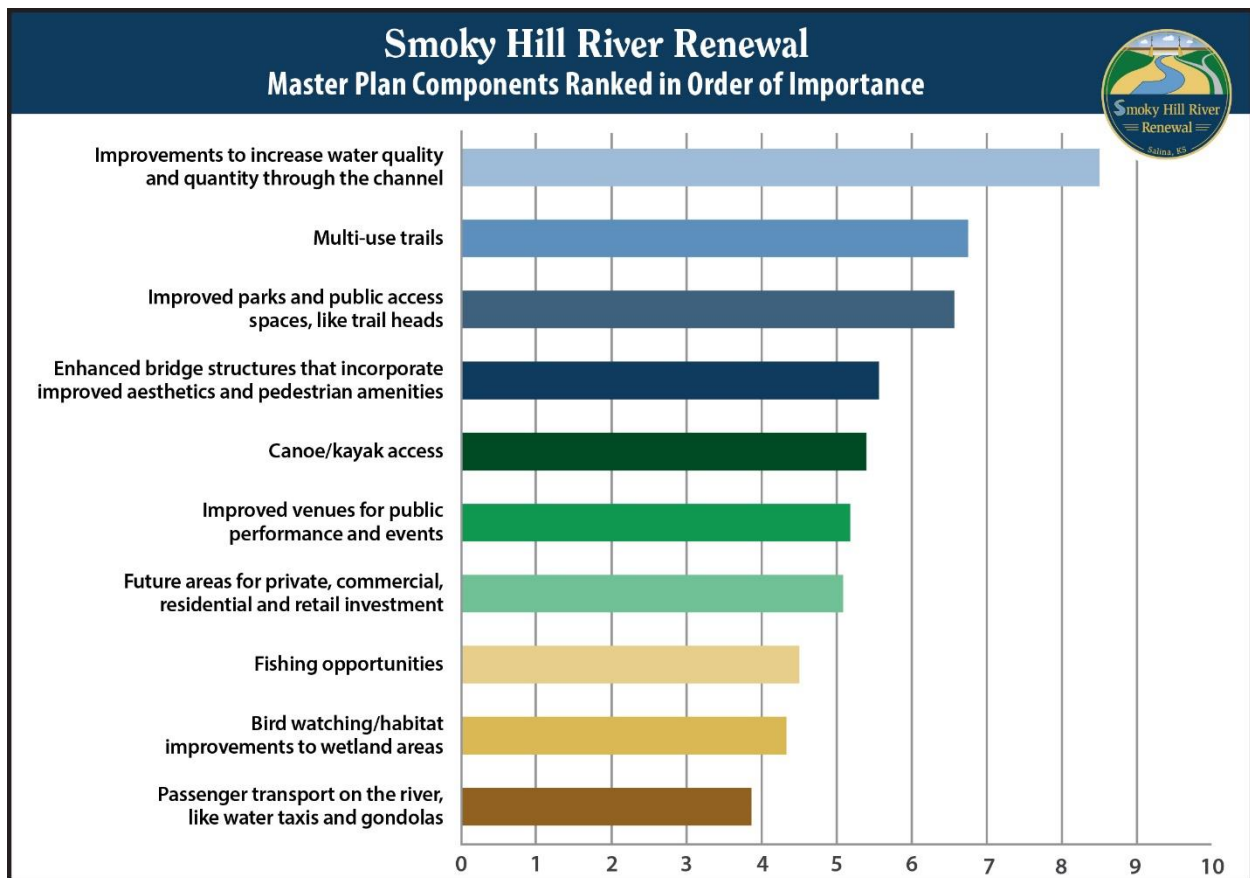


Salina Smoky Hill River Renewal Project Survey #1 – Preferences & Ideas

This survey was presented to the public as part of the kickoff public meeting held for the project on Thursday, June 22. It was provided to participants as a hard copy at the meeting and was also provided online through the City's website. A total of 663 people took part and provided feedback.

Ranking Master Plan Components

The public was asked to rank 10 ideas presented as part of the original master plan. Respondents ranked items in order of importance. The number one ranked priority was interest in improvements to increase water quality and quantity through the channel.



Recreational Activities along the River

The public was asked to reflect their interest in six different activities by selecting strongly prefer, prefer or no interest. Results in the order of importance:

1. Multi use trails
2. Boardwalk area at river level
3. Non-motorized boating like canoes and kayaks
4. Piers along the river for fishing and viewing access
5. Fishing opportunities
6. Bird watching and passive habitat improvements

Trails

Trails have been proposed throughout the project area. When thinking about trail locations, the public was asked to rank trail segments. The Oakdale Park trail was ranked highest, closely followed by the Downtown area and Kenwood Park.

Water Features

The original master plan indicated two areas for future water feature improvements like dams and cascading pools. The public was asked to provide their preference on locations for these features. Both sites: the Tony's Pizza Event Center / Midway area and the Founders Park area behind the Salina Community Theatre were nearly equally preferred. Additionally, an equal number of respondents had no preference. With all options ranking closely together, understanding opportunities and challenges at each site will be key.

Downtown Streetscape

The Santa Fe Avenue Downtown Streetscape Project is a separate effort. However, public input and ongoing outreach has been part of determining aesthetic treatments and fixtures. The public indicated a strong preference in carrying downtown design elements over to river project.

Additional Ideas for Amenities and Activities

Of the 663 survey respondents, 149 people provided ideas. Ideas centered around common themes, ranked here based on the number of comments received. Respondents also provided comments on functionality, access, safety and maintenance.

1. Arts / Entertainment / Performances
2. Recreational Opportunities
3. Trails / Amenities
4. Education Opportunities
5. Historic Components / Honoring the Past
6. Boating
7. Downtown Tie-in / Connection

Opportunities and Concern

The public was asked to provide comments on project components that excited them as well as project aspects that were concerning to them. Some of the most positive comments included the natural beauty of flowing water, opportunities for growth, tourism, families and recreation. Many people commented on providing a sense of community and providing connections. Negative comments centered on project costs, ongoing maintenance, prior ballot initiatives, safety and security, litter and vandalism.

Next Steps

Survey responses will be used to guide the design team in the first charrette focusing on the area from Iron Avenue to the YMCA. The design team is working closely with the City and Steering Committee to complete a design charrette. This work culminates with a public meeting / pinup session of refined concepts on Thursday, June 20, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. The Steering Committee, future public meetings and surveys will continue to guide the project through preliminary design.