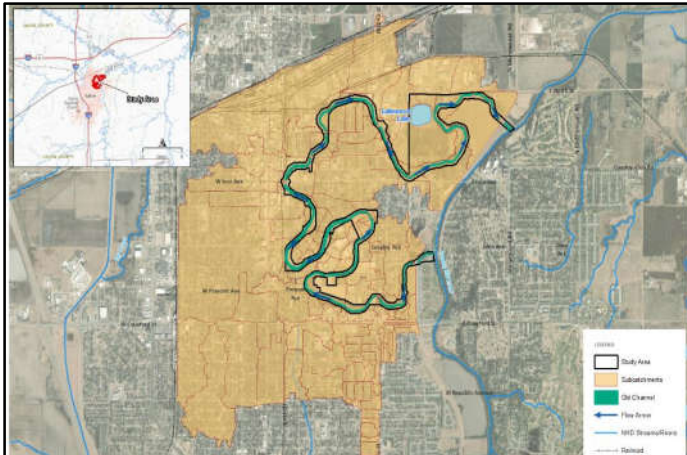




Smoky Hill River Restoration, Kansas

**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Kansas City District

Study Authority: Section 216 of Flood Control Act of 1970, P.L. 91-611, Dec 31, 1970



Old Channel Study Area in Salina, Kansas

Location & Description: The project area, located in Saline County, Kansas, includes approximately 6.8 miles of remnant “Old Channel”, which flows through downtown Salina as well as adjacent riparian forest areas. The Old Channel inlet captures flow from the Smoky Hill River north of the Bill Burke Sports Complex. The Old Channel meanders west through downtown Salina, then turns back east through Lakewood Lake Park, then drains through a federal levee outlet control and pump station and re-connects to the Smoky Hill River south of East North Street.

Problem & Need: A USACE Flood Risk Management (FRM) project, including a levee and

cutoff channel, was completed in 1961. The project isolated the Old Channel from the Smoky Hill River and permanently diverted a significant volume of surface water away from the Old Channel, resulting in lost flow regimes and natural sediment transport functions. These changes have resulted in sediment aggradation, loss of high quality in-stream, wetland, and riparian corridor habitats, and the ability of the Old Channel to support native fish and wildlife communities. The City of Salina (local non-Federal Sponsor) and surrounding public are interested in reestablishing flow, recreating stream habitat, and incorporating the rehabilitated stream into the larger downtown revitalization plan.

Proposed Activities for FY24: The project was originally authorized under Section 1135 of the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP). Due to high-cost estimates of the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP), the project is recommended to be converted and completed under the General Investigations (GI) program. FY24 funds would be used for Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) signing, negotiation of the Project Management Plan (PMP), conversion of the CAP draft report into required GI formatting, and identification of any additional restoration opportunities not originally included in the CAP feasibility study. FY25 activities would include agency/public review of the draft report, response to comments, an Agency Decision Milestone meeting, preparation of the final report, and the Chief’s Report.

<u>Financial Data</u>	<u>Feasibility</u>
Workplan for FY23	\$0
FY24	\$200,000

Issues and Other Information: The City of Salina has received a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant from the US Department of Transportation. The grant would help the urban community move forward with modernization of roads, bridges, transit, and intermodal transportation in the downtown Salina area, making transportation safer, more accessible, affordable, and sustainable, and create greater incentive for people to use the downtown area. The modernization construction will be completed in early 2026. Therefore, USACE construction activities in the Old Channel should begin in 2027. It is critical that there is seamless transition from the CAP program to the GI feasibility study to avoid delays in obtaining new start GI program Federal funding for the Feasibility and Design phases, which should occur in the 2023 through 2026 timeframe.