

3.0 Goals and Objectives Shared by the Communities

The Wildcat Creek Watershed Working Group conducted a number of work sessions to develop the goals and objectives on how to manage the shared flood risks along Wildcat Creek and its tributaries. A consensus was found through several group meetings and feedback with City and County staff.

3.1 Goal: Develop a collaborative multi-jurisdictional approach towards floodplain management to address the flooding concerns and impacts in the Wildcat Creek watershed.

3.1.1 Objective: Establish an organizational framework to facilitate ongoing collaboration, coordination and discussion of floodplain management issues and activities. Establish a funding mechanism, like the Watershed District to provide necessary resources.

3.1.1 Objective: Adopt and implement a Wildcat Creek Floodplain Management Plan by Riley County and the City of Manhattan.

3.2 Goal: Proactively manage and reduce flood risk along Wildcat Creek and its tributaries to protect life and property.

3.2.1 Objective: Reduce risk to life, property and the economy to acceptable levels identified by the community.

3.2.2 Objective: Identify and mitigate repetitive loss areas.

3.2.3 Objective: Develop a Storm Water Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for the Wildcat Creek watershed.

3.2.4 Objective: Revise floodplain and subdivision policies and regulations.

3.2.5 Objective: Identify and understand the causes and impacts of the events that have occurred within the watershed over the past seven years, as well as changes in development.

3.3 Goal: Protect and preserve the natural riparian corridor environment to enhance habitat connectivity, water quality, erosion and sediment management, bank and channel stabilization, and provide compatible recreational opportunities.

3.3.1 Objective: Implement appropriate Best Management Practices to stabilize channel and stream banks, protect wildlife and habitat, conserve open space, and reestablish riparian corridors.

3.3.2 Objective: Implement restoration and storage capacity of existing floodplain.

3.3.3 Objective: Develop a Joint City – County Recreation Plan for the Wildcat Creek watershed.

3.4 Goal: Obtain a balance between development needs and the proper functions of the floodplain within the Wildcat Creek watershed.

3.4.1 Objective: Implement appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) for public and private development projects. Encourage green infrastructure through incentives and development standards for redevelopment areas and with new development.

3.4.2 Objective: Encourage BMPs for agriculture and range land through appropriate incentives.

3.4.3 Objective: Continue to assess the performance of the Wildcat Creek watershed as a complete system.

3.4.4 Objective: Implement appropriate policies and regulations that incorporate the Future Build Out Model and address needs of existing properties.

3.5 Goal: Improve public understanding of the flood risks within the Wildcat Creek watershed.

3.5.1 Objective: Develop a range of educational tools to inform the general public, elected officials and interested parties (i.e. Realtors, property owners, tenants and developers) of the flood risks, promote floodplain stewardship, connect citizens to the riparian environment, encourage appropriate recreational activities, and develop a sense of watershed ownership along Wildcat Creek.

3.5.2 Objective: Implement an Early Warning System that incorporates multiple media tools that are tied to the National Weather Service Wildcat Creek Prediction Model, which could include sirens, road sign warning, Immediate Response Information System (IRIS) and internet-based systems.

3.5.3 Objective: Establish an emergency preparedness and evacuation plan for residents and property owners within the floodplain. Implement voice warning capabilities.