

Middle Blue River Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Application Process Story

The Middle Blue River (MBR) site was nominated by EPA Region 7 (EPA R7), via a process internal to the Urban Waters Federal Partnership Executive Committee. EPA R7 first nominated the entire Blue River Watershed as a pilot site in 2010. Though the Blue River was not chosen as a pilot, the federal partnership agencies were invited to nominate sites again in 2012.

During a financial resource meeting for the Municipal Farms Sustainable Reuse Plan, an Area Wide Brownfields Planning Effort with Kansas City Missouri, it became apparent that 4 major projects that had undergone significant planning, had overlapping geographies in the middle reach of the Blue River. Since the leads for all of those projects were present at this planning meeting, we convened over lunch to decide whether there was interest and support for nominating this overlapping project area – the Middle Blue River – as a new Urban Waters Federal Partnership Site. There was overwhelming interest.

EPA R7 proceeded to nominate the MBR site and was then invited to submit a full application in Sept 2012. We convened a facilitated meeting of project leaders and support organizations to collectively compile information to be used to answer questions in the application.

The final application was submitted and awarded in late 2012 with the Heartland Conservation Alliance and the Mid America Regional Council as co-leads.