

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

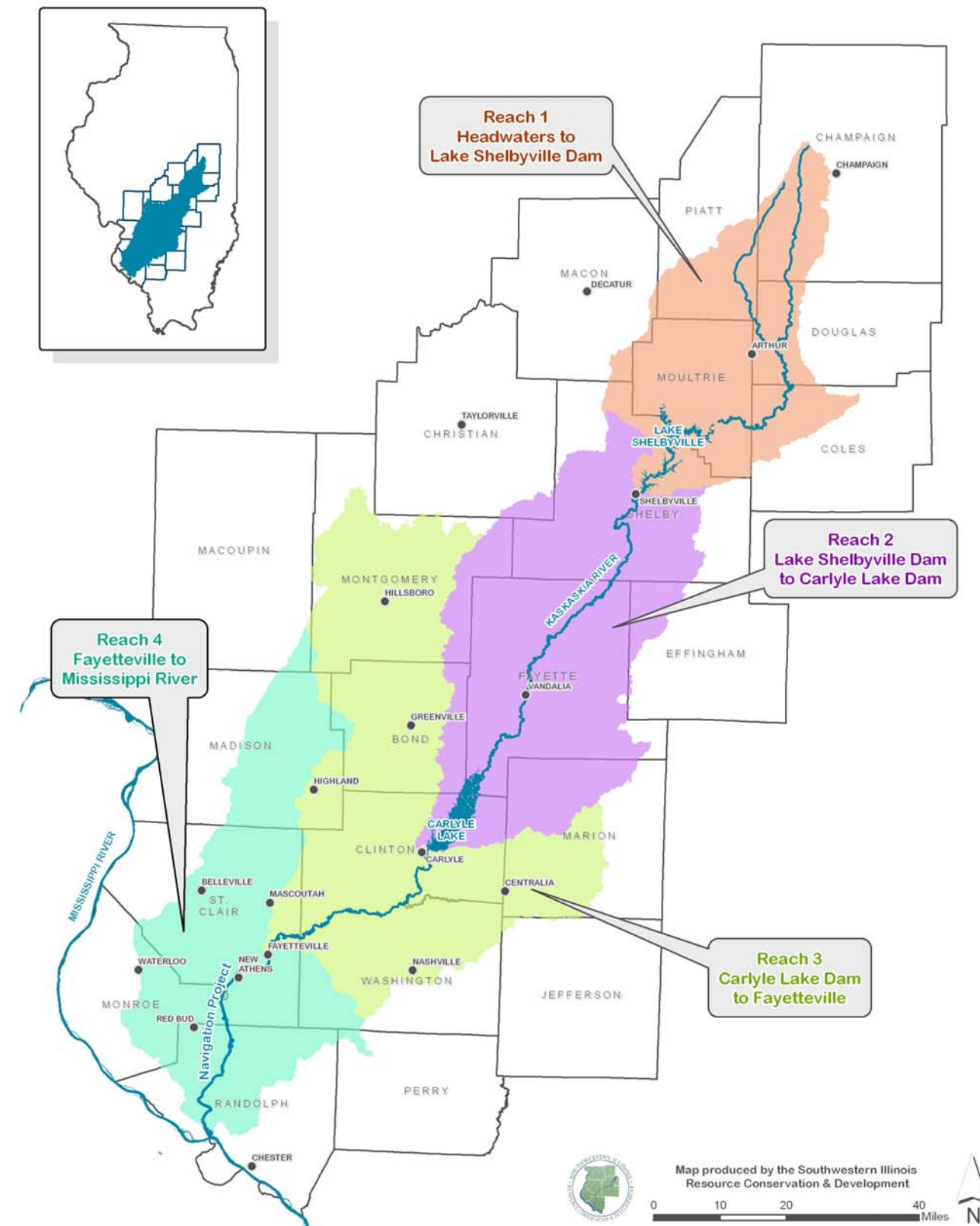
- ◆ Established Communication Among Stakeholder Groups - KWA is the forum for exposing the needs of individual stakeholder groups and their impact on other stakeholders throughout the watershed.
- ◆ Conduct Stakeholder Conferences - An annual summit and showcasing event are held each year to discuss the KWA collective needs with members of Illinois State, federal and local government agencies, industry and academia.
- ◆ Obtained High-Water Discharge Strategy Consensus - Communication among stakeholders has facilitated the formation of a compromise strategy for dealing with flood events.
- ◆ Initiating Water Quality Survey - A water quality survey is performed at Carlyle Lake and Lake Shelbyville periodically. KWA is working to extend this effort to the entire river system, which will serve as a guide for water quality improvement efforts.
- ◆ Initiate & Secure Funding for Conservation Projects - All four reaches have partnerships within the IDNR Partners in Conservation Program. The lower reach of the watershed was selected for the USDA NRCS Conservation Security Plan (CSP).
- ◆ Identified Future Needs & Challenges - KWA has developed a comprehensive listing of key projects, by individual reach and watershed-wide. Many of these projects are either under construction or have been completed within the past five years.

OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ Obtain Operation & Maintenance Funding for Existing Facilities - Government funding has created three US Army Corps of Engineers projects on the Kaskaskia River. The threat of losing funding for lock operations each year looms over area businesses. Additional funds are also necessary to repair recent flood damage at both federal and state recreational facilities at Carlyle Lake and Lake Shelbyville.
- ◆ Initiate Action on Water Quality Improvement - Water quality is slowly declining within the river and two reservoir lakes. Additional studies must be undertaken to further identify the cause/source of the impairments.
- ◆ Enhance Illinois State Master Plan for Water Rights/Sales - Continual requests for use of water from the Kaskaskia River are granted by the state for projects such as power plants, local water systems and other industrial uses. However the amount of water available is finite, and there is insufficient research on how much water will be available in times of drought if all permits became active.
- ◆ Publicize Value of Recreational Activity to Watershed Economy & Conservation - The benefit to economies in the watershed from recreational spending is substantial, but is just beginning to be fully understood. Recognition of the benefits of recreational activity, and its economic benefit, will encourage a larger segment of the local population to support the efforts of the Kaskaskia Watershed Association.
- ◆ Execute a Plan for Head-Cutting, Bank Erosion, and Siltation - Head cutting, bank erosion and siltation issues on several reaches of the river cause land loss, flow and recreational access restrictions and a reduction of fish nurseries.
- ◆ Restore Fish & Wildlife Habitat and Unique Ecosystems - Over the years ecosystems necessary to the preservation of important plant and animal species have been dwindling. Efforts are being undertaken to obtain grant funds and enlist landowner and public support to reverse this trend.
- ◆ Integrate Agriculture with Economic, Conservation & Recreation Efforts - The support of agricultural producers is paramount in efforts to support conservation, recreation and clean water initiatives.

Further information related to the Kaskaskia Watershed Association may be directed to: Dave Eustis, Secretary
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KASKASKIA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



A cooperative effort to manage the watershed is a sustainable manner that will promote, but not abuse, the natural resources, and also encourage additional recreational opportunities, new economic development, implementation of sound agricultural practices and the restoration of natural ecosystems.

REACH 1 INITIATIVES

HEADWATERS TO LAKE SHELBYVILLE DAM

- ◆ Landowner Contact – Non-point erosion and sedimentation Control - The Upper Kaskaskia Ecosystem Local Planning Council will hire an individual to contact individual landowners and inform them on the importance of erosion and sedimentation control from non-point sources and the various funding programs that exist.
- ◆ Wildlife Management Area, Lake Shelbyville 1135 project - The restoration project consists of new construction to form separate management compartments and rehabilitation of several low profile levees.
- ◆ Lake Shelbyville Greenway - Visitor interest in a greenway and bicycle trail at Lake Shelbyville is at a high level. To meet this need, an existing hiking trail, the Illini Trail, will be modified, making it a multi-purpose trail.
- ◆ Shoreline Erosion Repair - Completion of Phase 2: (Forest W. “Bo” Wood Recreation Area) - Shoreline Erosion continues to threaten the recreation facilities at Lake Shelbyville. Continued erosion and inattention to repairs will render these sites and other recreation facilities such as boat ramps, picnic shelters, comfort stations, shower buildings and infrastructure items unusable.
- ◆ Environmental Compliance (Wastewater Treatment – A Regional Solution) - Wastewater improvements around Lake Shelbyville.



WATERSHED-WIDE INITIATIVES

- ◆ Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) - Work with the Governor and Farm Service Agency to designate acreage specifically for the Kaskaskia River Watershed.
- ◆ Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) - Seek appropriation of \$400,000 within Energy & Water Appropriation to initiate development & completion of the Comprehensive Basin Restoration Plan.
- ◆ Retention of User Fees at US Army Corps of Engineers Facilities— Address the inability to retain a portion user fees charged to enjoy the recreation and camping potential of the Kaskaskia and its lakes.
- ◆ Water Usage Within the Kaskaskia River - Participate in, if not initiate, a rewrite of the Illinois Surface Water User Laws and/or statutes pertaining to long term water usage and withdrawals from lake, rivers, and streams.
- ◆ Water Retention - Assist local communities and landowners in implementing water retention features, including lakes, wetlands and urban stormwater best management practices.



REACH 3 INITIATIVES

CARLYLE LAKE DAM TO FAYETTEVILLE

- ◆ Forest fragmentation Reduction & Southern Flatwood Expansion - Since the construction of Carlyle Lake in the 1960's significant fragmentation of the large block of bottomland hardwood forest has occurred.
- ◆ Volunteer Stewardship Coordinator - Individual to oversee the development and implementation of a comprehensive stewardship program within the lower Kaskaskia River, including tributaries.
- ◆ Erosion Control - An Erosion Study has been completed below Carlyle Lake funded by IDNR C-2000/Corps. Considerable erosion damage on both sides of the Kaskaskia River is occurring.
- ◆ Shoal Creek Stream Stabilization - Utilizing a low-level aerial flight over Shoal Creek over 300 areas of concern have been identified along Shoal Creek in Montgomery, Bond and Clinton Counties. Special funding is required to assist landowners in implementing structures and or practices that will address these areas of concerns.
- ◆ OKAW – Conservation Easements - OKAW, Inc. will purchase from willing landowners conservation easements of bottomland timber and cropland in the 100-year floodplain of the Kaskaskia River between Carlyle Lake and Okawville.

REACH 2 INITIATIVES

LAKE SHELBYVILLE DAM TO CARLYLE LAKE DAM

- ◆ Dredging and Bank Stabilization Capability - Studies undertaken in conjunction with the Carlyle Lake Association have shown that siltation and the associated bank erosion is the Number 1 problem at Carlyle Lake and its tributaries.
- ◆ Carlyle Lake North End and Wildlife Management Area Wetland Rehabilitation/Expansion - Heavy silting over the years has made the portion of Carlyle Lake north of the railroad causeway too shallow to support “lake type” recreation activities during much of the year.
- ◆ Eldon Hazlet State Park Sailing Harbor High Water Improvements - The sailing facility harbor (CSA) was built 35 years ago, and was intended to be accessible to sail boaters at lake levels up to 450 NVDG. Frequent lake levels in excess of this hinder use of the facility.
- ◆ Kaskaskia River Main Channel Stabilization, Head Cutting Prevention - A number of locations along the Kaskaskia channel between Carlyle Lake and Shelbyville Dam are major sources of erosion and siltation.
- ◆ Kaskaskia East Fork/North Fork Stabilization Project - A number of locations along these tributaries are major sources of erosion and siltation into the Carlyle Lake reach of the river.

REACH 4 INITIATIVES

FAYETTEVILLE TO MISSISSIPPI RIVER

- ◆ Kaskaskia River Dredging—New Athens to Fayetteville - Headcutting of the river channel above Fayetteville has resulted in the extensive deposit of sediment in the river channel between Fayetteville and New Athens.
- ◆ Remediation of Head-Cutting - A study performed by the St. Louis District of the Corps of Engineers has concluded that the severe upstream bank erosion and head-cutting between Fayetteville and Illinois Rte 177 is the result of a design deficiency in the original Navigation Project.
- ◆ Remediation of Oxbows—Fayetteville to the Mississippi River- Sediment entering the channelized section of the Kaskaskia River from tributaries and upstream head-cutting is deposited at the mouth of the 26 remnant side channels of the river.
- ◆ Development of Evansville Marina - Expanding services and facilities in support of recreational boating is the goal of the Evansville Marina.
- ◆ Demonstration Project to Control Invasive Aquatic Species - Since the Great Flood of 1993 the Mississippi River and its tributaries have been plagued by the release of Asian Carp/Big Head Carp. Their proliferation has had a deleterious effect on other fish species.