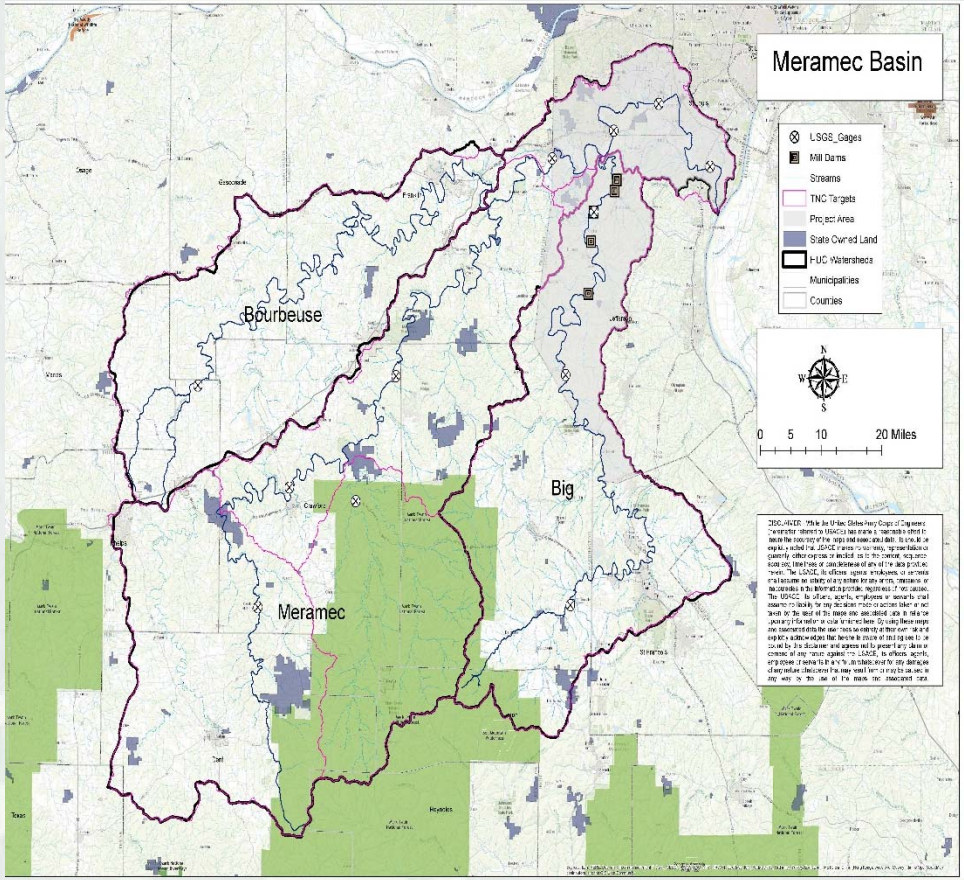
USACE in the Meramec Basin

- Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study
- Urban Waters Federal Partnership
- Flood Risk Management



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Feasibility Study

- Received Federal appropriation to start an ecosystem restoration Feasibility Study in FY15
- Executed Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) with Missouri Department of Natural Resources on 27 August 2015
  - Study is cost-shared 50/50
- Funding for feasibility studies is very limited; each one a high priority (only 10 new starts funded in 2015 nationwide)

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USACE Feasibility Studies…

- Investigate water resource problems and opportunities
- Are started as a result of Congressional Authorization
- Recommend potential projects for construction
- Are required to demonstrate cost effectiveness and engineering feasibility

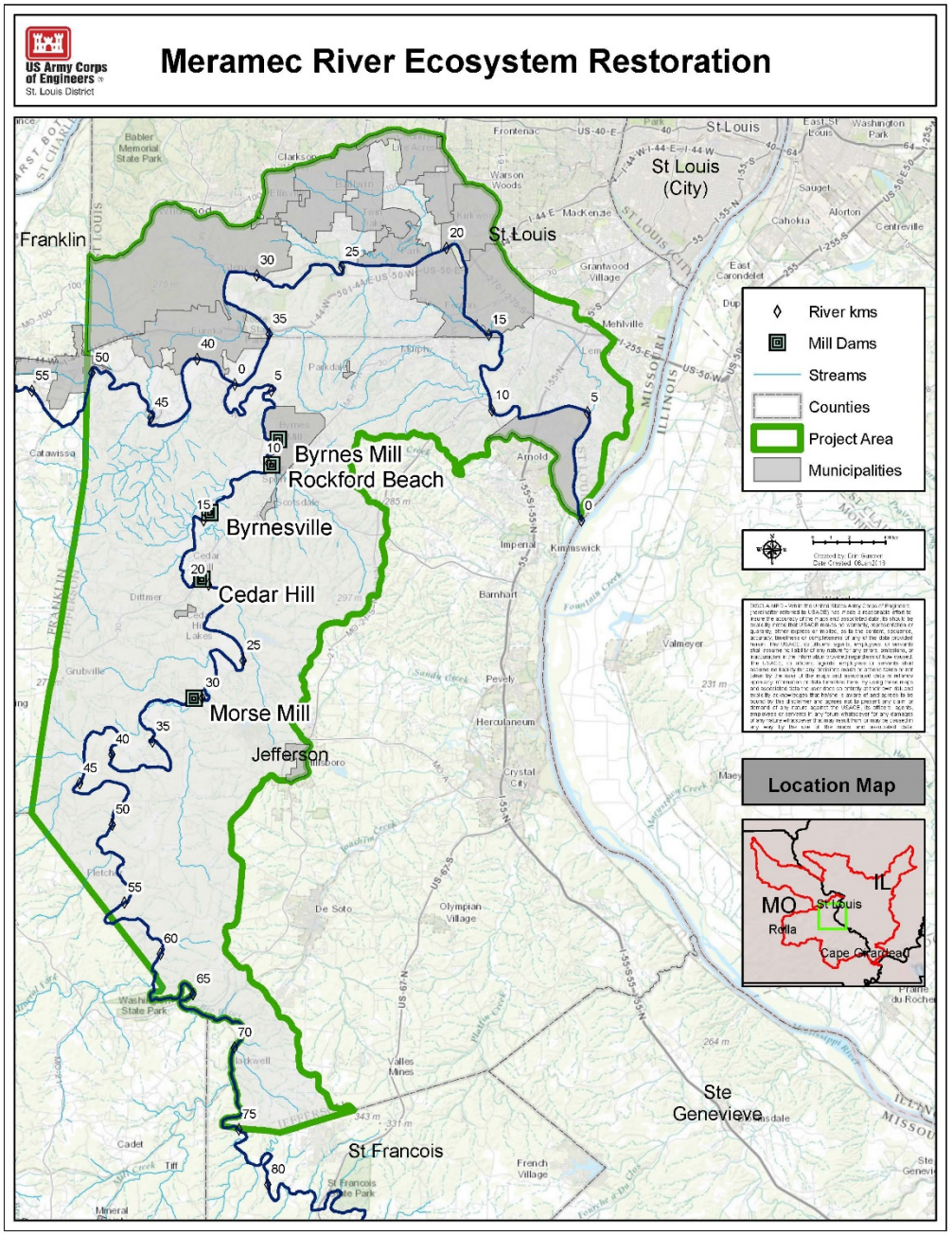
Feasibility Study

- Goal of this study is to identify cost effective projects that will protect, enhance, and restore degraded aquatic ecosystem structure and function of the Meramec River Basin within St. Louis and Jefferson Counties

- Intent is to identify implementable restoration projects to recommend for construction
  - Have to demonstrate quantified ecosystem benefits (or lift)
  - Will have an estimated total project cost that is subsequently authorized for construction

Feasibility Study

- Focusing primarily on the Big River and Lower Meramec
- Collaborating with other agencies and partners to leverage $
- Goal is to achieve greater outcomes than would otherwise be possible



Problems

- Connectivity
- Bank instability and erosion
- Contaminated and excessive sedimentation
- Altered hydrology and habitat

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Schedule

- Sept 2015 – May 2016
  - Scope study, describe existing/future conditions, develop alternatives to address specified problems
- May 2016 – Nov 2016
  - Evaluate and compare alternatives; select an alternative for more detailed analysis
- Nov 2016 – July 2017
  - Complete initial draft report and complete reviews
  - 30-Day Public Review, public open house meeting

Schedule

- July 2017 – April 2018
  - Detailed feasibility-level (35% level of design) analysis on recommended alternative plan
- April 2018 – Aug 2018
  - Complete final report; final reviews
- August 2018
  - Final Feasibility Report (Signed Chief's Report)

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US Army Corps of Engineers

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Greg Kohler, Project Manager
314-331-8169
Greg.Kohler@usace.army.mil

Kat McCain, Lead Biologist
314-331-8047
Kathryn.McCain@usace.army.mil

Submit Comments to Meramec@usace.army.mil