

Chapter 5

Mission, Objectives and Goals

553.020 Creation of water control districts; purposes; limits.

- (1) Water control districts may be created as provided in this chapter for the purpose of acquiring, purchasing, constructing, improving, operating and maintaining drainage, irrigation, and flood and surface water control works in order to prevent damage and destruction of life and property by floods, to improve the agricultural and other uses of lands, and to improve the public health, welfare and safety.
- (2) A water control district, organized for one or more of the purposes provided by subsection (1) of this section, may also acquire, purchase, construct, improve, operate and maintain works and facilities for the secondary purposes of domestic, municipal and industrial water, recreation, wildlife, fish life and water quality enhancement. However, a water control district may not be created solely for one or more of the purposes provided by this subsection. [Amended by 1969 c.691 §2]

Mission

The mission of the Ash Creek Water Control District is to support and engage educational opportunities and conservation activities to develop and maintain a functional stream; one that provides a reasonable and sustainable balance between effective floodplain management, adequate drainage of agricultural and residential lands and an appropriately supportive environment for fish and wildlife.

Strategic Objectives

The district will fulfill its mission through a three-part approach combining:

1. Information and education
2. Physical/maintenance activities
3. Policy work within the community

To that end, the District has established the following set of long-term strategic objectives. These strategic objectives provide the general strategy of how the District will fulfill its mission over a long-term period (10-20 yrs.).

Goals

The following goals identify both specific projects and general tasks anticipated for implementation during the 10-year period between 2026 and 2036. The ability of the District to complete these tasks depends on a number of factors outside the control of the District, including:

- cooperation of other agencies/landowners
- regulatory restrictions
- climatic conditions
- availability of funds

1. Information and Education

- A. Develop a comprehensive understanding of the drainage basin characteristics and stream response to significant rain events.

Goals

1. Revise hydraulic model geometry
2. Conduct wet weather inspections during storm events.
3. Conduct dry weather inspections to evaluate channel conditions.
4. Maintain a record of maintenance and/or physical improvements.

- B. Maintain information on fish/wildlife species known or suspected to inhabit Ash Creek along with the needs of each, with the goal of developing a working knowledge of the natural resource issues along the stream.

- C. Provide public education to increase awareness of flood management and permitting issues.

Goals

1. Develop information regarding flood management issues for distribution to the public.
2. Provide periodic reports on current projects and upcoming work to district taxpayers.
3. Maintain education learning resources for property owners wishing to perform work in or near the stream.
4. Maintain District website.
5. Develop an updated informational pamphlet on District goals.

- D. Provide director training opportunities to maximize board effectiveness.

Goals

1. Provide new Director Orientation to include Director roles/responsibilities, District policies and procedures, and 10-year plan.
2. Provide continuing education opportunities for Directors pertaining to Administrative and/or Technical aspects of District.
3. Involve Directors periodically in specific work tasks to maintain connection with District activities.

4. Provide opportunities for Director field visits to enhance understanding of relevant issues or projects.

E. Maintain accurate records of District boundaries and landowners.

Goals

1. Maintain accurate map of District boundaries
2. Maintain list of tax lots and owners within District boundaries.
3. Maintain list of tax lots and owners adjacent to stream within District boundaries.
4. Maintain list of tax lots and owners where District holds easements.

F. Develop resources regarding best management practices for physical improvements.

Goals

1. Coordinate with local and state agencies to develop a list of resources containing best management practices and design guidelines for stream-related work.
2. Maintain updated list on District website along with links to available documents.

2. Physical/Maintenance Activities

A. Provide routine maintenance activities to protect, restore, or improve hydraulic capacity.

Goals

1. Continue on-going control of target vegetation species.
2. Provide physical removal of trees, brush and other obstructions where required.
3. Maintain ongoing nutria eradication program to reduce temperature, nutrients, bacteria and erosion.

B. Perform in-stream work activities where improvements are necessary to protect, restore, or improve flood management objectives.

Goals

1. ~~Provide stream bank armoring/reinforcement in areas of significant erosion.~~ Promote Bank Stability/Erosion control
2. Riparian plantings

3. Modify channel geometry/location where necessary to protect property or improve hydraulic characteristics.
4. Participate in physical improvements that align with District Mission.
5. Participate in project(s) intended to mitigate flooding, where appropriate.

C. Perform physical improvements outside the banks of the stream where these improvements will either protect property or lower peak flood levels.

Goals

1. Participate in developing wetlands, expanding floodplain, or constructing ponds where these projects function as flood attenuation.
2. Participate in projects to reduce runoff and/or sediment transport to Ash Creek.

D. Participate in projects intended to relocate "at-risk" infrastructure or property outside of the 100-yr flood plain.

Goals

1. Participate in a project to raise elevation of Gun Club Road.
2. Participate in project to raise elevation of Godsey Road bridge

E. Participate in cost-sharing projects with individual landowners or other agencies when these projects support District flood management objectives. (LWC, SWCD)

Goals

1. Provide property owner incentive to plant trees in riparian zone according to District guidelines.
2. Provide cost sharing opportunities for landowners wishing to perform streambank restoration according to BMPs.
3. Participate in projects that improve access for maintenance and/or inspection.
4. Provide cost sharing opportunities to landowners or other agencies who are performing work that furthers the goals and objectives of the District.

3. Policy Work

A. Acquire easements, when/where appropriate, along critical reaches of the stream to reduce encroachment and provide access for inspection, maintenance and improvements.

Goals

1. Identify critical reaches of stream
2. Acquire new easements or access license in critical areas.

B. Cooperate with regional planning officials and regulatory agencies in the creation or modification of floodplain development policy.

Goals

1. City of Dallas – Flood map revisions, storm water retention policy, floodplain development ordinance.
2. City of Monmouth – Storm water retention policy, floodplain development ordinance.
3. City of Independence – Storm water retention policy, floodplain development ordinance. Storm water Manager hire
4. Polk County – Storm water retention policy, floodplain development ordinance.

C. Cooperate with regional planning officials and regulatory agencies in floodplain mapping within the Ash Creek watershed by providing support for flood map revisions within the Ash Creek watershed.

D. Establish productive working relationships with other regional agencies to improve coordination and share information/assistance.

Goals

1. Periodically send District representatives to other regional agency meetings to discuss flood management issues.
2. Develop interagency information-sharing agreements and provide technical assistance to local, state or federal agencies conducting stream-related work in the watershed.

E. Perform Periodic Review of District Boundaries and consider adjustments to District boundaries, as appropriate.