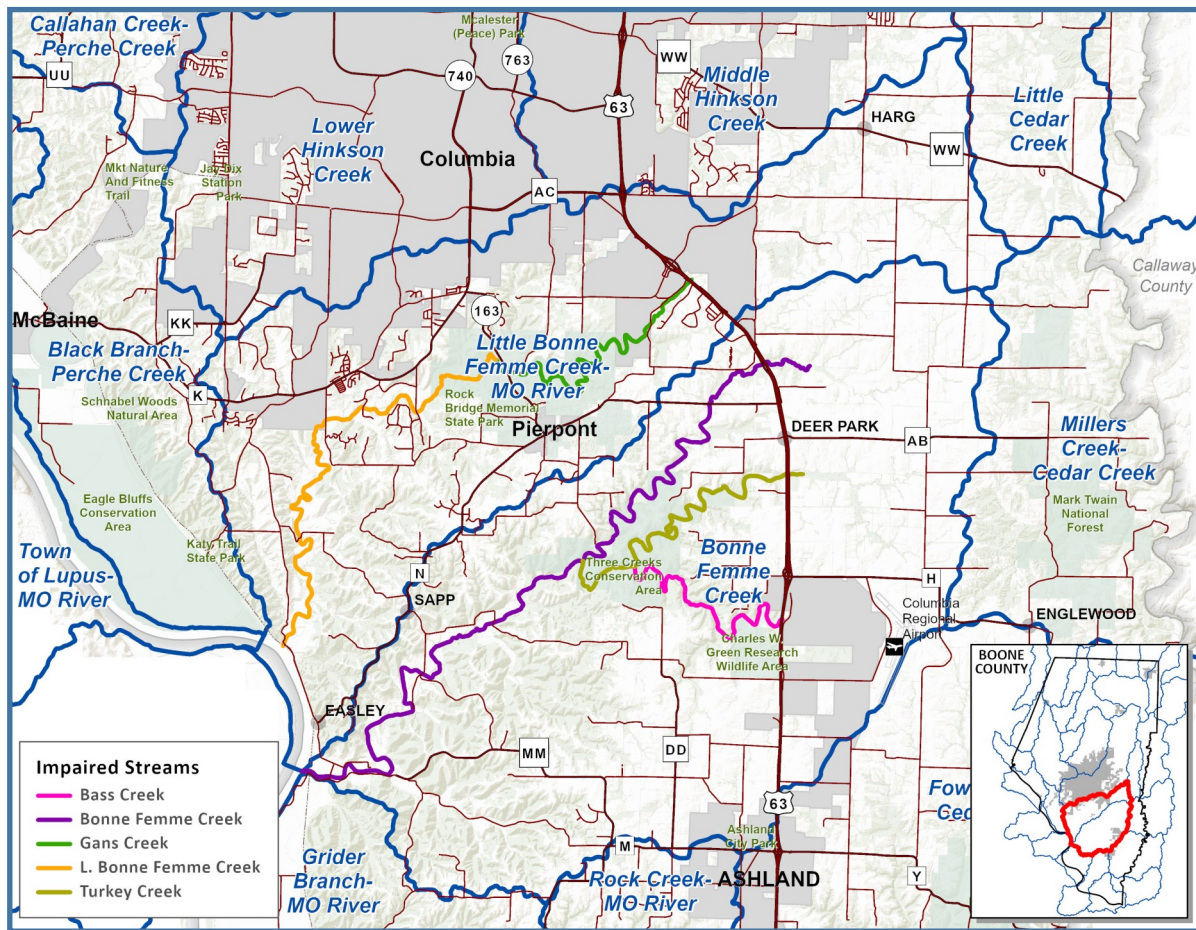


Greater Bonne Femme Watershed Initiative



- Since 2012, there have been six stream segments in the Greater Bonne Femme Watershed (Little Bonne Femme and Bonne Femme Watersheds) (GBFW) on the Clean Water Act 303(d) list of impaired waters for exceedance of the *E. coli* water quality standards, as shown on the map above
- To restore these waterways and to protect Outstanding State Resource Waters in the GBFW, Boone County Resource Management and partners developed a 9-element watershed-based plan (WBP) which was approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency on June 12, 2023 and is available for review at www.cavewatershed.org
- The WBP outlines a path forward to improve water quality in the GBFW by installation of best management practices (BMPs) on the agricultural landscape—the BMPs have great potential to reduce the loading of *E. coli* into streams, as well as mitigating nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment transport from stormwater runoff
- Additional highlights from the WBP include: a 21-year timeframe to achieve water quality goals as installation of the recommended BMPs by landowners is entirely voluntary; a cover crops pilot project with edge-of-field monitoring to provide feedback on BMP effectiveness; a demonstration project highlighting riparian corridor restoration and management; outreach and education for agricultural landowners; a septic system maintenance program
- Boone County Resource Management and partners felt that the WBP did not offer all of the restoration and protection measures necessary given the bountiful natural resources in the GBFW

The Greater Bonne Femme Watershed Initiative takes a broad approach to restoration and protection of water quality in the GBFW:

Overall goal: Creation of a watershed management plan that will be adopted by Boone County, the City of Columbia and the City of Ashland.

Working with project partners, we will integrate four conceptual pillars into the language of the plan:

Pillar One, Implementation of the WBP: This involves voluntary installation of best management practices (BMPs), such as cover crops, by agricultural landowners in the watershed and installation of demonstration projects. BMPs will increase the amount of living vegetation on the ground to slow, spread, and infiltrate runoff. Demonstration projects will allow the public to view the best management practices in action.

Pillar Two, Creation of a Watershed-wide Wildlife Habitat Restoration Project: The County will collaborate with agency partners, including the Missouri Department of Conservation and private wildlife groups, to work with landowners in the watershed to improve wildlife habitat on their property. Wildlife habitat restoration is projected to have similar water quality benefits to installation of agricultural best management practices.

Pillar Three, Education and Outreach: This element is more focused on residential landowners than the WBP, encouraging protection of riparian corridors and the use of more native vegetation in landscaping. Additional partnerships for the Initiative are being cultivated at the time of this writing.

Pillar Four, One Health Integration: Healthy water and soil for humans, wildlife and the ecosystem will be the focus of this element, incorporating a variety of concepts from regenerative agriculture to increasing health benefits from recreation in the GBFW.

