

What's the Score? ~ Results & Ratings from February 2006

% = Frequency Which Response Was Chosen
Top Responses Highlighted Red

Category: Education

29 Responses

17% Provide factual information to the community at large about both corrective and preventive actions they can take as individuals, groups, government, industry, etc. which sustain the river in a "clean" condition under all ranges of flow

17% Develop community-wide River Festival event on improving water quality -- Incorporate environmental ethics into River Festival, i.e., waste reduction and conservation related events, river history including pre-city biology

14% Identify potential non-point sources of pollution that come from the general public and develop media awareness / education campaign for public -- Public education to address: littering, lawn chemical applications -- Public education -- make folks aware of cumulative effects of motor oil, anti-freeze, etc. (herbicides, insecticides, fertilizers) -- Have ongoing multi-aspect public service campaign dealing with river-related pollution (oil, fertilizer, etc)

7% Post signs with BMPs for certain activities at rivers, streams, etc

7% Spin the positive -- water quality on the Ark River has improved greatly in the last 30 years -- Somehow show people the BIG picture to increase awareness

7% Conduct annual one-day progress symposium: Hold a symposium II, III, etc.

7% Develop education program to focus students on studying own watershed and doing local based projects. "Water Fair" -- student work funnels to general public -- what is "Healthy River"

3% The first step must be quantification by location of pollution levels. This probably means a coordination of efforts among several entities in a number of localities along the river corridor. From this group, a public relations spokesperson to the media.

3% Educate public and homeowners on how to use pesticides etc. Work with county extension office to educate homeowners on sustainable maintenance of home and lawns

3% Identify and communicate pollutant levels acceptable to the community -- Provide as much information as possible to public about what standards mean

3% Establish education program at the River's edge where people can learn the history of the river and its importance to our community

3% Use "Stream Teams" to help educate targeted public; train a volunteer workforce: and implement approved BMP's

3% "Riverstar" program or Develop slogan and pitch points for program -- i.e.: Good Neighbors Care About Clean Water

3% Intensive educational sweep so that all residents of the watershed area claim the river and see its significance and the environmental threat to it

3% Conduct "education" opportunities simultaneously with early action steps -- don't delay process by doing one before the other (combine and overlap whenever possible)

Category: Best Management Practices (BMP's)

40 Responses

17.5% Begin a pilot program for storm-water inlet filters -- Catch basins for parking lots -- Impound runoff which is now discharged from storm-water sewers and permit some deposition / treatment before it enters open waterways -- Better means to clean storm water before it goes to the river -- Prevent runoff events (or treat all storm-water)

15% Create larger buffer zone along creeks and river channel to prevent runoff -- Mandate riparian borders to waterways to prevent erosion -- Install buffer strips everywhere -- Create edge / buffer zones in designated areas

10% Incorporate wetlands & riparian areas into existing developed areas

7.5% No building in areas prone to flooding

7.5% Develop industry / technology mentor projects to exchange ideas and development of creative solutions to minimize runoff impact and reduce waste in general -- Educate and promote best management practices to developers

7.5% Develop a land / habitat exchange brokerage to maintain critical wetlands and filter areas in the flood plains in exchange for less environmentally sensitive areas

7.5% More use of natural means to filter runoff waters -- More green belt areas on river or wetlands -- No mow strips around drainage and retention ponds

5% Replicate the "Cheney Reservoir Project" to the Little Ark River basin and to the next largest tributary upstream on Big Ark River

2.5% Homeowners education programs concerning fertilizer and pesticide applications -- Work with outlets for lawn chemicals to hold training seminars for their customers on how to best maintain a non-polluting lawn -- Work with garden stores reassure label recommendations on fertilizers and pesticides

2.5% Tie a tax % to the downtown area for greenways, drainage improvements and BMPs

2.5% Provide discounted water rates for homeowners that establish "native" beneficial landscapes, turf alternatives, etc., that minimize use of pesticides and herbicides

2.5% Have curb recycling pick up and all pay extra charge if not recycling by end of year

2.5% Promote native landscapes for everywhere

2.5% Preserve / protect mature "good" riparian areas -- note it takes 15 to 20 years to grow a tree which provides riparian area water quality protection; A bulldozer can wipe out a mature area in a matter of hours

2.5% Increase in-stream habitats

2.5% For city runoff -- find ways that the water can be kept from the river (holding ponds near large paved areas)

2.5% Establish examination of best management actions for all sectors of population as an educational program at all public education levels in Sedgwick County. Students from agricultural homes would study best management farming practices that impact water quality

Category: Enforcement & Compliance

15 Responses

67% Require improved storm-water design for all new construction

20% Re-inspect each permitted outfall for possible exceedances (SSOs) or combined sewer overflows. Dry weather overflows, etc

13% Fees for offenders

Category: Government

38 Responses

21% Establish zoning regulations to limit development, add setbacks, and create more green space along river and tributaries

13% Require all new plats or housing areas to have greenway drainage areas

13% No more channelization of rivers and their tributaries. Free range waterways

11% City council commitment for clean water quality -- County council commitment for clean water quality--Statement by Governor supporting water quality standards consistent with Clean Water Act

8% Public needs to better connect to river -- "adopt river", other campaigns--Ownership in the river, e.g., "Adopt a Stream Segment" by businesses, government, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc

- 8% Work on finding renewable energy sources that are clean and will reduce air pollution which in turn causes water pollution
- 5% Home septic systems
- 5% Coordinate efforts across government borders
- 3% Monitoring businesses for discharge
- 3% Coordinate water quality standards between Colorado and Kansas, especially on salt-load standards -- Continue political and legal efforts to increase river flow from Colorado
- 3% Replace / repair sanitary sewer collection systems
- 3% Provide increased number of city / county employees who serve to investigate corporate waste disposal and hold companies responsible. Provide awards for achievers
- 3% Increase staff and interagency cooperation to minimize repetition of work efforts
- 3% Better leadership from city and county – something POSITIVE
- 3% Monitor tributary quality to locate potential sources

Category: New Regulations

17 Responses

59% City / county watershed area – ban or containment of resident / company use of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer for beautification in companion with campaign to edify more natural looking landscape values

23% Fast food containers tax

18% Regulations for atrazine. We know most of this comes from corn and grain sorghum. We also know what the water quality protection measures that work

Category: Planning & Development

34 Responses

24% Establish zoning regulations to prevent building in zones near rivers and creeks -- Reduce development in flood plains -- New development should be limited in watersheds, like Cowskin Creek

21% Increase green space in city along river and tributaries

18% Establish long-range vision and create plan for use & development of river – establish goals for water quality--Better long-term determination of land use

12% Look at more innovative subdivision development

12% Tie planning and zoning decisions to watershed management rather than plat by plat

6% Acquire unimproved land bordering all rivers and creeks in Sedgwick County and in the city

6% Establish design principle for new developments based on no increase in pollutant load discharged after developed condition

3% Develop a water quality goal for the river

Category: Rural

25 Responses

40% Provide and promote BMPs to encourage better agricultural practices then cost-share programs--Provide counsel and incentive to farmers and ranchers to reduce pesticide/fertilizer use -- Apply fertilizer and herbicides for optimum yield – not maximum yield

20% Plan for & create setbacks for agricultural developing areas for wetlands / riparian areas

12% Urban & small acres – soil testing, fertility management, “Pet” (small and large) waste management, geese control, no more ponds/lakes, well-head protection, better waste management – lagoons, Rangeland management regulations – not just BMPs – keep livestock out of river, increase use of filter strips

8% Encourage new tillage crops to reduce soil erosion

8% Farm / school partnerships--Monitoring workshops for farmers / school kids

8% Bring landowners (farmers) to the table without crying guilty

4% Responsibility for large and small animal waste management

Category: Urban

24 Responses

59% Urban area – increase grassy areas, decrease impermeable surfaces to slow storm water runoff

25% Monitor parking lot drainage -- Require treatment of parking lot runoff--Green belts around parking lots (shopping areas)

8% Urban areas should take their share of blame because of litter, excessive use of fertilizer, pesticides, and herbicides

4% Cleanup trash from tributaries / canals in the City of Wichita

4% More detailed monitoring of sites in and around Wichita

Category: Visioneering

32 Responses

16% Establish county-wide visioning exercise for what the river could / should be in 2020--Develop plan of action based on a consensus vision of river water quality -- Develop a master plan for Arkansas River restoration / protection

16% Develop vision for the River – what do “we” want it to look like?-- DEFINE THE PROBLEM -- Make a determination of how clean we want the Arkansas River to be – i.e., establish specific measurable cleanup goals -- Need to better define what the real problems are

13% Give people / businesses a feeling of ownership in the river as a resource so they will want to be part of the solution

9% Promote and foster community involvement and actions (e.g. – in neighborhoods to reduce pollution in storm-water runoff)--

Create widespread community involvement in addressing the problem, identifying solutions and strategies

9% Build cooperative partnerships with small cities near the river

6% Create stakeholder information / advisory / planning groups-- Make contact with stakeholders – get commitments like 33/50, including all stakeholders -- Identify stakeholders, develop rivers vision and ask for improvement and commitments – set targets and goals -- Establish community expectations and goals for the uses of the Arkansas River

6% What is important? What outcome? Public health, fish abundance / diversity, recreation – what will make others think the Ark River is a good place to spend time?

6% Bring about a cultural change in attitude toward the river

3% Need small step success stories -- Determine attainable goals

3% Adopt city of Tulsa as sister city on Ark River -- Match city for city in other 4 states to work together along river, i.e., Hutchinson with Pueblo, CO, Wichita with Tulsa OK.

3% Establish and empower a group to address pollution problems in the forms of monitoring for locating and identifying sources; implementing actions to address problems (such as: storm traps, grass filters, education, programs, etc); and overseeing the comp

3% Coordination between rural and urban groups

3% Need to determine if there is the “public will” to address issue

3% Visualize to public of what “could be”