



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Council Memo

Department Source: City Utilities - Sewer/Stormwater

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: August 17, 2026

Re: Authorizing a joint funding agreement with the United States Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior for operation and maintenance of a stream gage on Hinkson Creek to provide historical stream flow data and flood stage information.

Impacted Ward: Citywide

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with the United States Geological Survey for the operation and maintenance of a stream gage on Hinkson Creek. This is currently the only stream gage on Hinkson Creek that provides real time and historical stream flow data and gage height (flood stage information) that is publicly available. The annual cost for these services is \$16,900.00.

Discussion

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) operates and maintains a stream gage on Hinkson Creek. This stream gage is located on Hinkson Creek west of the bridge on Providence Outer Road and collects real time data on both the discharge and gage height of Hinkson Creek. This gage was originally installed in 1966 and has been operated for significant time periods since installation. The USGS funding source was discontinued in July 2017 and the City Storm Water Utility contracted with the USGS to continue operation and maintenance of this gage at that time. Staff believes collecting this data is beneficial. Hinkson Creek is currently identified as impaired and the City is a party in the Collaborative Adaptive Management process intended to address the impairment of the stream. Additionally, this continued funding was identified in the Wastewater and Stormwater Integrated Management Plan approved by City Council in December 2018 and is currently being updated. The historical, current and future data obtained from the operation of this gage can be used to calibrate flood models, determine overall soil runoff characteristics, stream response, pollutant loadings, etc. This information can assist in determining effective and appropriate projects and anticipated impacts to help in addressing the impairment to the stream and to address anticipated future regulatory compliance requirements.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$16,900 from the FY2027 Storm Water Utility operating budget.

Long-Term Impact: Funding for the operation and maintenance of this stream gage will be included in the Storm Water Utility operating budget in future years. This is currently anticipated to be approximately \$16,900 annually.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
08/18/2025	B222-25 Authorizing a joint funding agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior for operation and maintenance of a stream gage on Hinkson Creek to provide historical stream flow data and flood stage information.
08/19/2024	B183-24 Authorizing a joint funding agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior for operation and maintenance of a streamgage on Hinkson Creek to provide historical stream flow data and flood stage information.
09/18/2023	B216-23 Authorizing a joint funding agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior for operation and maintenance of a streamgage on Hinkson Creek to provide historical stream flow data and flood stage information.
10/30/2022	B273-22 Authorizing a joint funding agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior for operation and maintenance of a streamgage on Hinkson Creek to provide historical stream flow data and flood stage information.
09/20/2021	B291-21 Authorizing a joint funding agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior for operation and maintenance of a streamgage on Hinkson Creek to provide historical stream flow data and flood stage information.
08/17/2020	B203-20 Authorizing a joint funding agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior for operation and maintenance of a streamgage on Hinkson Creek to provide historical stream flow data and flood stage information.

Date	Action
09/16/2019	B283-19 Authorizing a joint funding agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior for operation and maintenance of a streamgage on Hinkson Creek to provide historical stream flow data and flood stage information.
09/17/2018	B223-18 Authorizing a joint funding agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior for operation and maintenance of a streamgage on Hinkson Creek to provide historical stream flow data and flood stage information.
06/19/2017	B163-17 Authorizing a joint funding agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior for operation and maintenance of a streamgage on Hinkson Creek to provide historical stream flow data and flood stage information. I

Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance.