

State News for NSPE Members

The Lower Mississippi River's Largest Ecosystem Restoration Project Got the Federal Go-ahead

A first-of-its-kind project seeking to restore river ecosystems along 39 miles of the Lower Mississippi River has federal approval to move forward — if it can secure a slice of the federal bankroll, [the Tennessee Lookout reports](#).

The Hatchie-Loosahatchie Mississippi River Ecosystem Restoration project would restore the habitats of endangered species, support natural culling of invasive carp and restore floodplain ecosystems severed from the Mississippi River by decades of flood control measures.

The project received legislative approval in January in the Water Resources Development Act, a law passed by Congress every two years that gives the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) authority to conduct studies and projects for water resource conservation and development. The roughly \$63.7 million undertaking would be the largest ecosystem restoration project in the history of the USACE Memphis District.

Restoration efforts would touch more than 6,000 acres in Tennessee and Arkansas, stretching from the Hatchie River to the Wolf River near downtown Memphis. The project will cover the portion of the Mississippi River bordering Crittenden and Mississippi counties in Arkansas and Lauderdale, Tipton and Shelby counties in Tennessee. [Read More](#).

Tennessee Needs at Least \$77.7B Worth of Public Infrastructure Improvements

Tennessee needs at least \$77.7 billion worth of public infrastructure improvements during the five-year period of July 2023 to June 2028—a \$9.5 billion (14%) increase from the year before—[according to a new report by the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations \(TACIR\)](#).

Transportation and Utilities infrastructure needs increased by \$3.8 billion—40% of the overall increase in the total estimated cost of the inventory. Three billion, one hundred million dollars is needed for new projects and \$3.7 billion of cost increases in existing projects. The increase was largely offset by \$1.8 billion in completed projects, \$444 million in cost decreases, and \$191 million in canceled projects.

Health, Safety, and Welfare infrastructure needs increased by \$1.4 billion—15% of the overall increase in the total estimated cost of the inventory. Water and wastewater (\$484 million) and law enforcement (\$475 million) comprise 66% of the increase in the category. Changes to existing projects drove the increase in water and wastewater needs by \$414 million, including a \$68 million wastewater treatment plant upgrade in Blount County and a \$38 million water tank in Sumner County. New law enforcement needs also contributed, with two major jail construction projects: \$70 million in DeKalb County and \$30 million in Humphreys County. [Read More](#).

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

2025 Spring Webinar Series Kicks Off in March

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members—“WORKability Wednesdays”—to support their professional development goals. The first webinars of the season will take place on **March 12**—[2024 Board of Ethical Review: Case Review and Discussion](#) and **March 26**—[My Way or the Highway? The Impact: Designing Flexible and Future-Ready RTO Policies That Work](#). Additional presentations will take place in April and May.



Register now at [NSPE's PE Institute](#) and invite a colleague to attend. **Members are advised to consult their state licensing board to determine requirements for PDH or CPD credits.*

2025 NSPE Awards & Recognitions

Nominate a deserving colleague for the NSPE Award and the New Professional Award. The nomination deadline is March 1.

RECOGNIZING **EXCELLENCE**

Call for Nominations

NSPE Award

The NSPE Award is the highest award bestowed on an individual by our organization and recognizes the outstanding contributions the individual has made to the profession, public welfare, and humankind. Access more information and the nomination form [here](#).

New Professional Award

The New Professional Award recognizes a young engineer who is either licensed or an engineering intern/engineer-in-training who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and community. The individual must also be an NSPE member who is 35 or younger. Access more information and the nomination form [here](#).

NSPECon25 – Sponsorship and Exhibitor Opportunities

We invite you to showcase your company at NSPECon25 with a sponsorship or to participate as an exhibitor! NSPECon25 takes place in Kansas City, Missouri, August 6-8. Special discounted exhibitor pricing is available for local Kansas City businesses.

Learn more about the options and download the prospectus on the [NSPECon25 sponsorship and exhibitor webpage](#).



You received this e-mail because you are subscribed to *PE Matters* e-newsletter.

To update your e-mail address, visit www.nspe.org and login to manage your account.

If you do not wish to receive any more issues of *PE Matters*, [click here to unsubscribe](#).

Share with your network



**National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA
22314**