Part of this program’s success has been due to farmer support in the Little Arkansas River Watershed. To date, a reported total of 201 developments (893 acres) are participating in the Offsite BMP program, and these acres would produce an estimated 357 tons of sediment. To offset this, 496.7 acres of upstream farmland has been converted to no-till through the program’s incentives and education. As a result of this program, offsite sediment load has been reduced by an estimated 1589 tons, developers and businesses in Wichita have been able to save $4.2 million in upfront costs, and the city reports $310,200 in ongoing annual savings.
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The offsite BMP program in Wichita will continue to grow and evolve, and its continued success will help to establish a model for a regional approach to water quality management.

As the Offsite BMP Program forges ahead, careful monitoring and accurate reporting is necessary to establish actual costs and savings for all involved. Local engagement and detailed accounting of sediment removal and other water quality impacts such as atrazine use is a key requirement for city, state and federal regulators. Ensuring that water quality benefits from the offsite practices continue in perpetuity remains the fundamental key to this program’s long-term success. Progress hinges on participation by farmers in the Little Arkansas watershed, located upstream from the City of Wichita.

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$4.2 million in upfront cost savings for private development
893 development acres enrolled and 496.7 offsite acres converted to no-till
1589 tons of offsite sediment reduced as a result of BMP implementation on area cropland
$310,000 in annual savings for private development and businesses