community development, colleges, the medical center, and employers are all seeking improved public spaces and greenways that can retain and attract a new generation of workforce. Furthermore, expanded public spaces and greenways serve as recreation areas where existing communities come together and connect with nature, activities with proven physical, mental, spiritual, and social benefits. Community leaders from south Jackson and other economically struggling areas, see opportunity in economic development associated with a reconnection to the river. Local entities may consider executing projects that reconnect the community to the river.

- Operation of the Ross Barnett Reservoir. The Pearl River Valley Water Supply District operates the water control features of the Ross Barnett Reservoir and in their vision for operation of the reservoir acknowledges there is a flood reduction capability associated with the reservoir. The Ross Barnett Reservoir, a non-Federal project operated by the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District, was constructed in 1962 for the purposes of water supply and recreation. Although the reservoir was not designed for flood control, the reservoir does participate and provide some flood reduction benefits. The reservoir does not have a requirement to implement flood reduction in any specific way but has been actively reducing peak flows during large inflow events since at least 1979 with an estimate that peak flows are reduced by as much as 28 percent due to these operations. Public comments across the watershed highlighted concerns with reservoir operations. State and local entities may consider operational changes at the Ross Barnett Reservoir and revising the Ross Barnett Water Control Manual to formalize continued flood reduction capacity inform future discharge operations. A sensitivity analysis shows that reducing the flows from the Ross Barnett Reservoir by 20 percent, reduces damages to the project area. The goal of this consideration is to formalize future informed releases within the reservoir limits to delay or decrease peak releases for events with a forecasted peak discharge above 35,000 cfs. Further changes to rate of change rules could further limit erosion and bank caving.

- *Water Supply and Water Quality*. The EPA and USACE are currently working with the City of Jackson to address local water and wastewater infrastructure under existing federal authorities. This work addresses the immediate and to some extent long standing problems with aging local environmental infrastructure. The J.H. Fewell Water Treatment Plant is 90 years old and remains in service, and under court order is being upgraded. The Ross Barnett Reservoir and Pearl River surface water are the two primary sources of drinking water for the surrounding communities. Flood control projects in the area must directly account for substantive work occurring and ensure alignment with such infrastructure modernization work.

- *Downstream Concerns on the Pearl River.* Public testimony and comments from communities south of the project area demonstrated current problems on the lower Pearl River. Public testimony included observations of extended periods of flooding and extended periods of low water, sand bars forming in the river threatening tributary access, low water flows impacting the Louisiana Wildlife Management Areas, and low