



## We Care About Water

Preserving and Improving Springfield and Greene County Water Supplies Since 1984.

Newsletter-Summer 2008

### Watershed Center Update

- The Fishing Piers are under construction
- Grading Work for the parking lot and main building slated for September.
- Volunteer Work Day September 20th
- Hundreds of students have experienced nature hands-on at Valley Water Mill this summer!

### Closing in on the Center

It's been a long time coming, but the main building at the Watershed Center is slated to become a reality next year. The capital campaign is in high gear, trying to close the funding gap. Completed architectural plans and drawings have been sealed and delivered. Site work will begin shortly, clearing the parking lot and building site and preparing for the re-use all of the plant materials removed. The plan is to break ground on this main facility, with its host of energy and water conservation features, next spring.

If you haven't already, please help us complete the Watershed Center project by donating to the cause. Clean water is vitally important to southwest Missouri, as you probably know if you're reading this newsletter. The Watershed Center will make a big—a lasting—difference, through demonstrations, education, research, networking and collaborative efforts among all of us who care about water.

You can donate online, right from our website. Just as importantly, talk to your friends and business associates, to see if they'll help. If you want clean water in your future, we need your help—now! NAP tax credits still available.

Watch for Watershed Center Ads on select Media COM channels and PSA's on KOLR10 & KY3. Starting at the end of August, you will see the Watershed Center Ad played before every movie at Campbell 16 Cinema! We also have advertisements on Ozarksfirst.com and three City Utilities buses.

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## Water Conference September 11-12

What do Joplin and Springfield have in common? Both places are dealing with rapid growth and both are thinking more about their waters futures. Springfield has invested in a pipeline to Stockton Lake for a long-term source, while Joplin is focused on where their community will get enough water in the future. Meanwhile, northwest Arkansas, though fairly water rich, has some of the fastest growing counties in the nation. People in northeast Oklahoma and southeast Kansas wonder how their water futures, and those of Missouri and Arkansas, will intertwine.

How do we ensure a sustainable water future? One way is to start talking to each other more, across the region. That is why a regional conference, "Our Water Future: The Regional View," will take place in Joplin on September 11-12, at the LaQuinta Inn. For more information on this important conference, or to register online, go to the Watershed Committee website, [www.watershedcommittee.org](http://www.watershedcommittee.org) or the Ozarks Environmental and Water Resources Institute, [www.oewri.com](http://www.oewri.com).

## Children in the Woods?

Environmental educators are all abuzz about the book *Last Child in the Woods*, which makes the point that if we want our kids to care about the environment, we had better get them outdoors, away from their video games. It turns out that the book's author, Richard Louv, will be in Springfield for two days in October (7-8) and the Watershed Committee and Bass Pro plan to host him for lunch on October 8 at the Watershed Center. Watch for details about this exciting event!

## Watershed Committee at Price Cutter Charity Championship

The Watershed Committee, in cooperation with the City of Springfield and New American Recycle, helped the Championship go GREEN during the tournament by providing recycling containers for plastic bottles. This was the first year the Championship provided recycling and we felt the endeavor was a success! The Watershed Committee staff also manned a vendor booth at the Championship from July 17 to July 20. While we were there, we raffled a kayak and two rain barrels. A special thanks to Dynamic Earth for donating the kayak and Watts Radiant for donating the rain barrels!

**Monthly meetings of the Watershed Committee are held the first Friday of each month.**

**7:30 a.m. at the Midtown Carnegie Branch Library  
397 E. Central Springfield MO**



**Help Us Build  
Missouri's First  
Watershed Center,**

**The Watershed  
Center at Valley  
Water Mill**



[watershedcommittee.org](http://watershedcommittee.org)

## The Source Water Protection Plan

In 2004, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources gathered information to assess the susceptibility of drinking water sources to contamination. One outcome of this effort was a database of potential contamination threats. Local communities are encouraged to use this information to reduce potential threats to the drinking water supply. City Utilities, in cooperation with the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, is working to establish a community-based initiative to preserve and protect our drinking water sources from contamination through the creation of a voluntary process to safeguard local water supplies. The SWPP can provide emergency response information and educate citizens about water quality and the opportunity to expand protection of source waters in the future. The Watershed Committee will be holding an informational meeting on Source Water Protection in October. Details will be announced at the September monthly meeting.

Check out our new updated website! The Watershed Committee website now includes a blog. Watershed Staff will be blogging weekly, so check the site often for news, updates, and tips!  
[www.watershedcommittee.org](http://www.watershedcommittee.org)

## Education Update

Watershed Ed has turned up the heat in the summer of 2008. Interpretive signs have been popping up at the Watershed Center like mushrooms after a warm rain. These signs offer information about lake biology, wetlands, rain gardens, and lots of topics related to stormwater. Go check it out!

WCO also partnered with the YMCA and Springfield Greene County Parks to bring summer campers to the Watershed Center. Kindergarteners through fifth graders got to experience nature hikes, watershed education and a messages about water conservation. The Watershed Center site and learning stations already have so much to offer!

## Watershed Center Grading

Site grading for the main building, drive, and stormwater infrastructure will begin this September. Queen City Green has been contracted to remove trees prior to site grading work. Since the Watershed Center is all about the demonstration of Best Management Practice's, Queen City will harvest the wood for re-use in the building and on the site as a forestry learning station.

We have finally had a break in the heavy rain, which has allowed construction of the fishing piers on the east side of Valley Water Mill Lake. The foundation work has been completed and by October, the decking and roof for the piers are scheduled to be finished.

**JOIN US!!! Mega Volunteer Event** at the Watershed Center 9:00 a.m. to noon, September 20.  
**FREE LUNCH** following!

The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society has received a grant from the National Audubon Society to assist volunteer projects in our community. Our local chapter has chosen the Watershed Center for the **kickoff project!** We hope to have the largest volunteer event ever held at the Watershed Center, with several teams of volunteers directed toward multiple projects. The Missouri Master Naturalists, Ozark Greenways, Environmental Advisory Board, Choose Environmental Excellence, and several other organizations will partner with us to make the event a huge success!

## **Watershed Committee of the Ozarks**

### **Board**

Ted Hillmer, *Chair*  
Dr. William Cheek, *Vice Chair*  
Leslie Carrier, *Secretary*  
David Roling, *Treasurer*  
Robin Melton  
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### **Staff**

Loring Bullard, *Director*  
Matt Keener, *Operations Manger*  
Mike Kromrey, *Education Outreach Coordinator*  
Stacey Armstrong, *Projects Coordinator*  
Kelly Guenther, *Office Manager*  
Kyle Kosovich, *Projects Assistant*

## **Little Sac Management Plan**

Work on the Watershed Management Plan is flowing smoothly. At the first Stakeholder Meeting, landowners from around the watershed came to share and discuss issues and concerns. Technical support for this planning process is being provided by: City Utilities, MSU, Drury, Ozark Greenways, Polk County NRCS, Greene County SWCD, City of Springfield and others. These groups all have a major role in the watershed and are building partnerships to make the plan a success.

If you live in this watershed and would like to be involved, please feel free to contact Kyle Kosovich at the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, 417.866.1127.

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks is sponsored By:  
City of Springfield, Greene County & City Utilities of Springfield

For more information about the Watershed Committee, Watershed Center,  
Our Projects and Upcoming Events, please visit our website at:  
[www.watershedcommittee.org](http://www.watershedcommittee.org)



**Watershed Committee of the Ozarks**  
**320 N. Main Avenue**  
**Springfield, MO 65806**