



Project Overview

Valley Water Mill

In 2002, the **Watershed Committee of the Ozarks** began a 5-year watershed protection project at Valley Water Mill, a five square mile sub-watershed of the Fulbright Spring Recharge Area. The Valley Water Mill tributary feeds into the South Dry Sac River, and much of the flow of this stream goes underground at a prominent karst "swallow-hole," or losing section. This lost stream reappears at Fulbright Spring, three miles due west.

Fulbright Spring, the city of Springfield's original public water source beginning in 1883, still

supplies the city with a significant percentage of its drinking water. The rapid pace of urban growth in the geologically sensitive Valley Water Mill sub-watershed led the Committee to apply for Clean Water Act Section 319 funds to address urban and suburban sources of nonpoint-source pollution.

Major goals of the project were: 1) to assess the conditions of the Valley Water Mill sub-watershed, particularly the pollution of runoff from developed areas and from eroding stream zones, 2) to implement watershed-friendly practices in the

sub-watershed as demonstrations, and 3) to design and build educational facilities in the sub-watershed where generations of Ozarkers can learn about nonpoint source pollution and develop the skills to address this nation-wide problem.



Watershed Center at Valley Water Mill

In 1999, the **Watershed Committee** embarked on a project to develop a **Watershed Center** at Valley Water Mill, a publicly owned parcel in north Springfield adjacent to the South Dry Sac River, and a component of the community drinking water supply. The **Watershed Center** will provide watershed and water quality education, demonstrations of better watershed practices, networking for water professionals, and will showcase the good

watershed management approaches and efforts of the **Watershed Committee** and partners.



The project includes the development of sustainably designed and constructed "green" structures and

a host of energy and water conservation strategies. Some of these innovative practices include vegetated green roofs, cisterns for runoff catchment, pervious concrete parking areas, biofilters for runoff, plant-based wastewater recycling, worker friendly daylighting features, energy efficient construction and passive solar. It is the hope of the Watershed Center that these will become common practices throughout Springfield.



Our Partners



Valley Water Mill 319 Project

www.watershedcommittee.org



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

"U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7, through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, has provided partial funding for this project under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act."

