



Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.

2009 Annual Report

Watershed Committee Sponsors:



Table of Contents:

3	Executive Summary
4	2009 Board Members 2009 Staff
5	Watershed Committee Highlights Watershed Center Project Federal Grant Wrap-up
6	Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) WQIP: Professional Travel and Development WQIP: H2Ozarks Premier Onsite Wastewater Training Center (OWTC)
7	Trail Improvements Waterfowl Viewing Blind Trail Monument Wayfinding Signs Trail Extension
8	Water Quality Dye Trace Research Springfield-Greene County Health Department Sampling Adopt a Spring Watershed Management Plan
9	Education and Outreach Media Releases Publications Partnership for Conservation YMCA Summer Odyssey SMY&N Groundwater Guardian Groundwater Green Site WOW WOLF School Freewheelin' Friday Watershed Festivals Volunteering
13	Special Events 25th Anniversary Clean Water Day with Springfield Cardinals OSI Trail Summit
15	2009 Revenue and Expenses
16	Grant Activity

Executive Summary

Like most governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations, the Watershed Committee suffered considerable financial stress in 2009. Most of our operational support comes from the Committee's three founding sponsors, the city of Springfield, Greene County and City Utilities of Springfield. Each of these sponsors had their own financial difficulties, so we could not expect the levels of funding from them that we have enjoyed in the past. Just the same, we have tried to stay focused on our water quality mission and maintain those programs that have been proven successful in support of our mission for the last twenty-five years.

Like other non-governmental entities, we have looked to supplement our financial portfolio by seeking grants, partnerships, foundation funding, workplace giving and other means. But the hard financial times have also increased competition for funding from these same kinds of sources. Obviously, we cannot hold it against other organizations for also seeking additional sources of revenue.

In spite of this situation, we have moved ahead with plans to build the main education building at the Watershed Center. At the end of 2009, we had enough in cash and pledges to complete the project as it was reconfigured earlier in the year, with a smaller building that would still provide public meeting spaces and meet the intended LEED energy and water efficiency criteria. But procuring financing for projects like the Watershed Center has also become more challenging due to the changed economic climate. In any event, we hope to make the arrangements and begin construction on this last major piece of the Watershed Center project in 2010, with a goal of opening it to the public in the spring or summer of 2011.

Whether you are a City Councilperson, City Utilities Board Member, Greene County Commissioner, an employee of one of our sponsors, or simply an interested citizen, we hope that you will find this annual report helpful. Please contact us if you have questions, concerns, suggestions or ideas about our services or how they could be improved. Our goal, as always, is to protect the sources of public drinking water for our community. Since 1984, we have not wavered in pursuit of that mission.

Loring Bullard, Executive Director

2009 Board Members

William H. Cheek, Chair; Leslie Carrier, Vice Chair; Robin Melton, Secretary; Ted Hillmer, Stuart Murr, Michael Bridges

2009 Staff

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



Pictured from left to right 2009 Staff
Kyle Kosovich, Stacey Armstrong, Loring Bullard,
Mike Kromrey, Matt Keener, Kelly Guenther



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Watershed Committee Highlights

Watershed Center Project

Significant work occurred at Valley Water Mill in 2009 in anticipation of completing the final major piece of the project, the main education center building in the southeast part of the Park. Given the financial conditions, the Watershed Committee began working with the architect in early 2009 to reduce the building footprint, while at the same time keeping all of the LEED and water demonstration features intact. The smaller building meant that the offices of the Watershed Committee would remain downtown. The new building at the Watershed Center would contain three work stations, along with a large public meeting room, small catering kitchen, reception area and restrooms.



Grading work for the building pad and site runoff features was completed in 2009 and the area reseeded. The pad was built large enough to accommodate the larger building, as originally planned. The Watershed Committee also installed 19 wells on the site for the ground-source heating and cooling system, with enough capacity to serve the eventual larger building. The well field and loop system was constructed using \$50,000 in grant funding from the Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority, an arm of DNR set up to fund innovative and energy efficient projects.

After the completion of construction drawings for the education building in the fall of 2009, the Watershed Committee advertised for bids. Bids were opened publicly in late October 2009. It is our hope that construction can begin by the spring of 2010, and that the building will be completed and open for public use by the spring or summer of 2011.

Federal Grant Wrap-Up

Early in the history of the Watershed Center project, the Watershed Committee received federal assistance in the amount of nearly \$1.5 million through the help of Senator Bond. This funding was not for “bricks and mortar,” but instead helped to fund educational features and programs, site investigations, architectural services and other non-building related activities on the Valley Water Mill site. The project was extended twice, but the funding finally expired in September 2008 and the final report for the grant was produced in early 2009.

The report contains an overview of the Watershed Center project and in successive sections provides details about Project Management, Site Assessments, Design Services, Technology and Office Support, Laboratory and Monitoring Services, Business Plan Development, Demonstration Projects and Education and Outreach. The final report was submitted to EPA, which had oversight of the grant. If you would like to see the report, or receive a copy, please contact the Watershed Committee at 866-1127.

Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP)

The Springfield-Branson On-Site Remediation Project is entering its final year. Funding was awarded through the Water Quality Improvement Project in May 2006 to improve and protect water quality while enhancing economic development for municipalities, agriculture, and tourism. The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks teamed up with Table Rock Lake Water Quality, Inc. to demonstrate the remediation of wastewater systems that were failing to groundwater. The project also provided educational opportunities to landowners and wastewater installers on advanced treatment technologies.



Thirty-five site visits and evaluations have been completed, leading to the installation of fourteen on-site wastewater systems. An additional two systems are scheduled to be installed in the summer of 2010. An extension of the grant will focus on utilizing these remediation projects as demonstration sites. The Valley Water Mill Onsite Training Center will be used for five workshops to train and educate home and business owners and wastewater professionals about advanced wastewater treatment and maintenance. The funding awarded throughout this five year project, including the extension, totaled \$486,664.

WQIP: Professional Travel and Development

In May 2009, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks staff attended the 5th national Conference on Non-point Source and Stormwater Outreach in Portland, Oregon. This week-long conference focused on education for the public, industry, and policy makers in the areas of stormwater, wastewater, water conservation and water quality. It provided an excellent opportunity for WCO staff to meet and learn from other water professionals across the country. The WQIP grant provided funding to attend the Conference. The information obtained there will be used to develop WQIP workshops and demonstration projects in southwest Missouri.

WQIP: H2Ozarks Video Premier

A short film about clean water in the Ozarks, called H2Ozarks, premiered at the Moxie Theatre April 23, 2009. The event was free and open to the public. This half-hour film focuses on water quality efforts in southwest Missouri accomplished through the Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP). The project was managed by Environmental Resources Coalition and included participation by several area watershed groups, including Elk River Watershed Improvement Association, James River Basin Partnership, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Table Rock Lake Water Quality Inc., Shoal Creek Watershed Improvement Group, and Upper White River Basin Foundation. Funding for the project was made possible by Senator Kit Bond and former Senator Jim Talent.

Onsite Wastewater Training Center (OWTC)

This Training Center serves as an outdoor classroom for onsite wastewater installers. The Community Onsite Wastewater and Stormwater 319 grant (COWS) and Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) helped to fund this collaborative project between Greene County and the Watershed Committee. In 2009, five installer classes and one soil science class used the facility, and a public service video for onsite wastewater education was filmed at the site.

Trail Improvements

Waterfowl Viewing Blind

With the help of the Greater Ozarks Audubon Society and Greene County, the Watershed Center now has a well positioned waterfowl viewing blind in the wetland near Valley Water Mill Lake. The blind is camouflaged and has two viewing ports allowing for wildlife watching, photography, or a shady place to rest along the trail. We are thankful for the donated labor and funding that brought this project to completion.

Trail Monument

The Watershed Committee installed the Kelley-Stokes memorial bridge monument in July 2009. This handsome monument is made of limestone from the historic Phenix Quarry, matching the stones used at the Streamside Learning Station. The monument bears the message: *“Good water quality is not just a gift from our fathers, but a debt we owe to our children and grandchildren.”*



Wayfinding

The wayfinding project will help people explore the Watershed Center site. Stacey Armstrong developed a new map of the facility and each trail, or section of trail, is now distinguished by colored trail markers corresponding to colors on the map. Plans for a comprehensive kiosk and Watershed Center Guide Book have been developed and will be produced in 2010.

Trail Extension

In 2009, the WCO completed a section of trail that connects the main loop trail to the Streamside Learning station. This was accomplished using a product called GravelPave, which allows for both pedestrian and wheel-chair use on a semi-hard but pervious surface. An educational display was placed into the ground showing the different layers of the GravelPave system. In addition, two stream crossings were repaired after the flooding in 2008 caused serious damage to them.



Water Quality

Dye Trace Research

Greene County, in partnership with the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, investigated groundwater hydrology in the Rogersville area. The studies were undertaken due to high levels of bacteria in a few citizen's drinking water wells. WCO conducted the laboratory analysis of tracer recovery packets using the Hitachi F-2500 spectrofluometer. Wavelength synchronous scans were utilized to look for traces of fluorescein dye, which was released in the sinkhole next to Rogersville School. The results will be used for educational purposes and to assist future groundwater research.

Sample Collection Dates: 10/08/2009-12/03/2009

Total Number of Sample Sites: 31

Total Number of Tracer Charcoal Packs recovered: 556

Total Number of Samples ran in Laboratory: 278

Springfield-Greene County Health Department Sampling

The Watershed Committee partnered with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department during the summer months in 2009 to collect bacteria samples in local stream swimming holes throughout Greene County. The samples were collected once a week from May through September. The results are posted on the Health Department website for public access.



Adopt a Spring

Adopt a Spring is a volunteer water quality monitoring program. In this on-going project, trained volunteers collect quarterly water samples from major springs with public access in Greene County. In 2010, we focused on eight springs, collecting twenty-six samples during the year.

Watershed Management Plan

In November, the WCO submitted its final draft of the Upper Little Sac Management Plan to the Missouri DNR. The plan is intended to help stakeholders understand watershed issues and make better management decisions. It is a non-regulatory document, portraying the watershed characteristics and water quality, actions that are presently being taken to maintain water quality, and actions that are needed to improve water quality. All best management practices suggested to stakeholders are purely voluntary. It is the residents in the watershed who have the ability to improve water quality, whether on city, county, public or private properties.

The plan is intended to be ever-changing and dynamic, just as the river and its watershed. Plans made at this time may not meet the challenges that arise in the future. If major changes occur in the watershed or in the water quality of the Little Sac River, then the plan will need to be revised to compensate for those changes. Otherwise, it should be re-visited every 5-8 years to evaluate the effectiveness of management measures and the perceptions of the people within the watershed.

Education and Outreach

	<u>Quantity</u>	<u># Individuals</u>
Students Visiting Watershed Center		1,600
Watershed Event bookings:	82	
K-12 Education events		4,324
Website hits		10,000
Onsite Wastewater Training Center uses	5	
Total Number Reached	87	15,924

Highlights

Media Releases

The Watershed Committee enjoyed excellent media spotlights in 2009. KSMU'S Erika Brame covered the Watershed Committee's 25th Anniversary in a story titled, *After 25 years, Watershed Committee Still Educating Public*. Ozarks First.Com and the Springfield News-Leader also covered our 25th Anniversary event.

Publications

The Value of Protecting Ozarks Streams: An Economic Evaluation of Stream Bank Stability for Phosphorous Reduction by Eric Dove, Kasi Johnson and Matt Keener
Missouri Resources Winter 2009 *Watershed of Information* article by Victoria Lovejoy featuring the Onsite Wastewater Training Center

A Partnership for Water Conservation

Drury University, City Utilities of Springfield and the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks have teamed up for a multi-step water conservation initiative on the Drury Campus. Through grant funding, the Watershed Committee purchased a large quantity of water conserving devices including sink aerators, low flow shower heads, leak detecting tablets, and shower timers. Over the summer, 600 showerheads and sink aerators were installed in buildings on Drury Campus and the same number of shower timers and tablets were dispersed to the students. WCO hosted a booth at Drury's new student involvement fair on August 24th to recruit volunteers and promote water conservation. To help tell this story and see how effective the programs are, Drury and CU will be working to record how much water we are saving. We are looking forward to making a difference and measuring it!



Education and Outreach cont.-

YMCA Summer Odyssey

The Ozarks Regional YMCA helped a lot of kids experience the Ozarks at the Watershed Center this summer through their “Summer Odyssey” program. Summer Odyssey is similar to the “day camps” based out of schools throughout Springfield. During field trips students experience nature while learning important, age appropriate information about water. In spite of some cancellations due to weather, two hundred and thirty students toured the Watershed Center, where they learned about water and water conservation.



Missouri Environmental Education Association (MEEA)

MEEA’s mission is to provide innovative professional development and networking opportunities for Missouri’s Environmental Educators, both for teachers in the classroom as well as non-formal educators. WCO is a long time supporter of MEEA. This year two notable events occurred: First, the annual MEEA conference was held in Ozark, Missouri and a wide range of educational sessions occurred over the two day event; second, MEEA board member and WCO staffer Mike Kromrey was voted president-elect for the coming year.

Show Me Yards and Neighborhoods

Show Me Yards and Neighborhoods is an educational program designed to raise awareness about the effects of runoff and yard care activities on nearby streams, creeks, rivers, and lakes. SMY&N offers environmentally responsible alternatives to traditional lawn care and construction practices contributing to the runoff of contaminants and excess nutrients. The program also recognizes individuals and professionals who put the SMY&N techniques into practice. Homeowners can earn an attractive yard sign and professionals can become certified. Choose Environmental Excellence, the city of Springfield, Greene County, Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District, MU Extension and the WCO are partners on the project.

Groundwater Guardian

Groundwater Guardian (GG) encourages communities of all types (cities, counties, watersheds, etc) to support groundwater education and protection activities. Guardian supports communities in their efforts and recognizes their achievements. The Watershed Committee helped Greene County achieve Groundwater Guardian status for the fourteenth consecutive year.

Groundwater Green Site

The Watershed Center is recognized as a “Green Site” by the Groundwater Foundation. The Groundwater Guardian (GG) Green Site program recognizes good stewards of groundwater by encouraging managers of highly-managed green spaces (golf courses, ball fields, education campuses, parks, etc) to implement, measure, and document their groundwater-friendly practices related to chemical use, water use, pollution prevention, water quality, and environmental stewardship.

Education and Outreach cont.-

WOW

The Wonders of Wildlife National Outdoor Recreation and Conservation School (WOW School) teaches participants how to enjoy a wide range of outdoor recreation activities while practicing personal safety and outdoor responsibility. Each course includes an outdoor skill, conservation, safety and ethics component. WCO participated in two WOW Schools in 2009, offering beginner stream ecology for participants.

WOLF

Students in the 2008 class of WOLF (Wonders of Outdoors Learning Facility) school have more than gotten their feet wet with watershed education. In fact, it has been full immersion. Students have been to the Watershed Center to do water monitoring and to Bull Creek to learn about riparian areas, stream life, and snorkeling. The stream trailer model visited them at their school. It is a pleasure to be involved with the students and teachers of WOLF.

Freewheelin' Friday

This is a yearly event to help teachers explore the field trip resources available in the Springfield and Greene County area. This year the Watershed Center was a stop on the field trip and approximately twenty teachers learned about what the Center has to offer.

Watershed Festivals

The James River Basin Partnership holds Watershed Festivals every year, and WCO is a strong partner and supporter. In 2009, we pledged volunteers and/or staff to every Festival, where about 2,100 regional fifth graders experienced an intense day of fun and water education.

Greene County Watershed Festival

The Greene County Watershed Festival was held at Valley Water Mill Park on May 5th and marked the first event of our 25th Anniversary celebration series. About a hundred 5th grade students came out to learn about water resources. Volunteers ran four demonstrations: a macro invertebrate exploration station; a groundwater flow model; the Enviroscape model; and a walking tour of the watershed and green building features at the park. Watershed Festivals are a great tool for reaching a lot of students at one time, but they take careful planning and preparation. The Watershed Committee, James River Basin Partnership, Project WET, and the Community Foundation of the Ozarks collaborated to make this event a success.



Education and Outreach cont.-

Volunteering

We could not do what we do at the Watershed Committee without volunteers. The Watershed Committee volunteer Board has dedicated countless hours to furthering our organization. Volunteers from Springfield Public Schools, OTC, MSU, and Drury have done everything from picking up trash to shoveling mulch to laying sections of pervious sidewalk at the Watershed Center. Greene County Resource Management staff lent a great deal of time, tools, and expertise to the Onsite Training Center and nearly every other project at the Watershed Center. We have had Stream Team and Adopt-a-Spring members monitoring the water quality of local waterways, and the City's Adopt-A-Stream program helped remove mountains of trash. Each semester we are fortunate to involve MSU students through the Citizenship and Service-Learning Program (CASL). Greater Ozarks Audubon helped us finance the waterfowl viewing blind, placed bird houses around the Watershed Center, and involved us in their Together Green events. The local Springfield Plateau of the Missouri Master Naturalists continued their involvement with the Watershed Center in 2009. We have been blessed by donations of time, talent and treasure and would like to humbly thank all of our volunteers.

Students at the Watershed Center in 2009



Special Events

25th Anniversary

The Watershed Committee celebrated a major milestone in 2009—twenty-five years of protecting the communities water supplies! About 300 people came to Valley Water Mill on a warm fall day to have lunch under the big tent, take part in fun and educational activities around the site, and watch or participate in canoe races on the lake. At the end of the celebration, current and former Board Members of the Watershed Committee cut and served a commemorative cake.

Many dignitaries provided reflections during the event, including Greene County’s Presiding Commissioner, Dave Coonrod (first Director of the Watershed Committee and also Emcee for the canoe race); Representative Bob Dixon; Springfield’s Mayor Jim O’Neal; John Twitty, General Manager of City Utilities of Springfield; Bob Belote, Assistant Director of the Springfield-Greene County Parks Department; Watershed Center Architect Tim Rosenbury; and William H. Cheek, 2009 Chair of the Watershed Committee Board. After the celebration, some of the major donors for the Watershed Center (including Titus Foundation, O&S Trucking, 3-M Foundation, Springfield Underground and Jeanette Unsell) posed for pictures with their “big checks.”

The Watershed Committee Board and Staff had a lot of help from volunteers at the event. Without them, in fact, it would have been impossible to keep 300 people fed and entertained and happy for a whole afternoon! Thank you to everyone who helped, and who attended, to make our 25th Anniversary a fun as well as a meaningful milestone.



Special Events cont.-

Clean Water Day with Springfield Cardinals

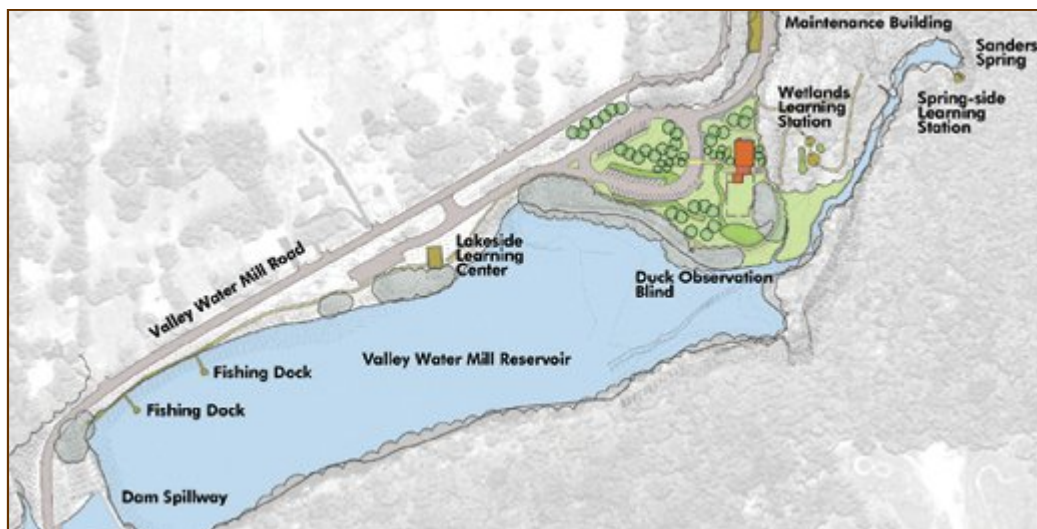
Springfield Cardinals and the Watershed Committee promoted clean water education and conservation at the 2nd Annual Clean Water Day at Hammons Field on Friday, August 21, 2009. The event was announced during two public radio interviews with WCO staff. The event focused on the importance of water conservation in the Ozarks and how to keep our drinking water clean. WCO hosted a booth by the entrance of the ballpark where patrons could sign up to take the “water savers pledge” and receive a Home Water Conservation Kit, containing a low-flow showerhead, sink aerator, five minute shower timer and a dye tablet to check for toilet leaks. There was water trivia on the big screen, signage displayed in the stadium and a variety of water conservation materials available to the public.



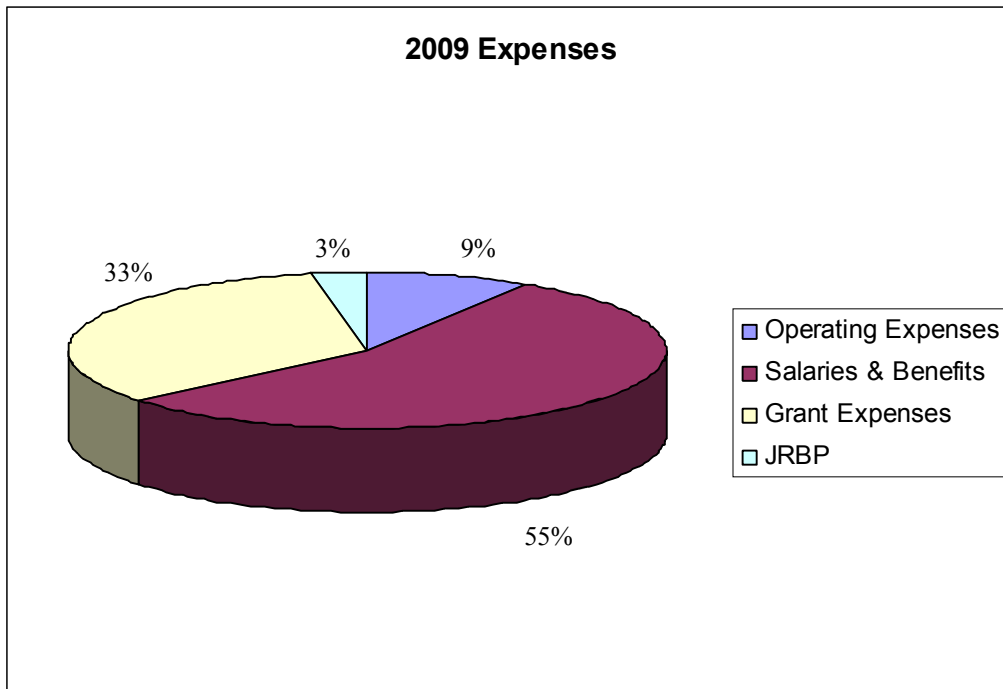
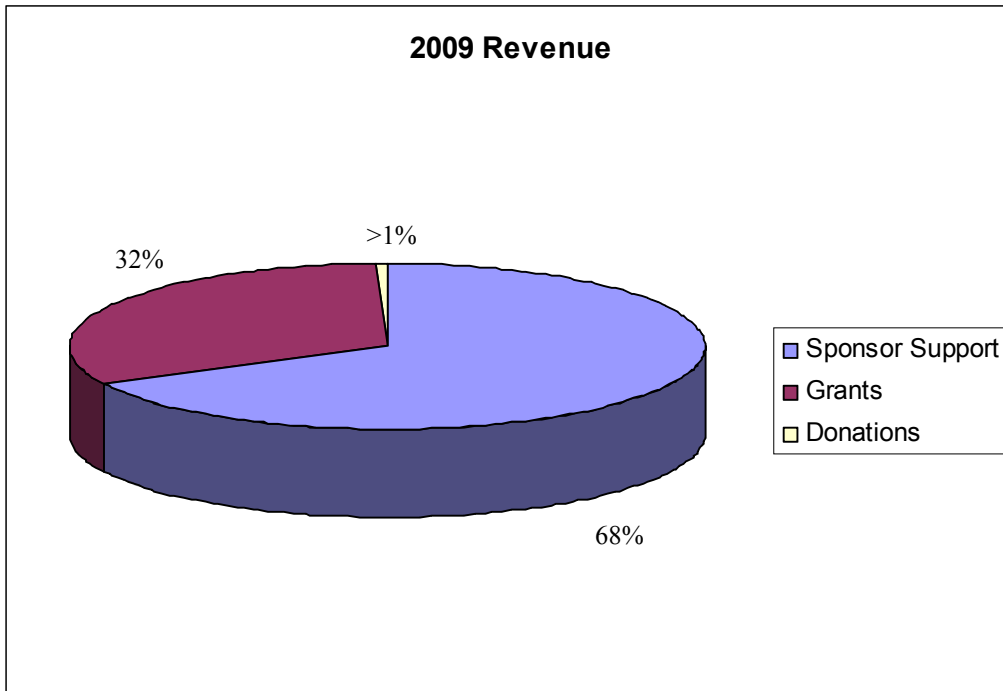
OSI Trail Summit

In October, twenty-seven volunteers took on the rain and cool weather to learn about land stewardship and trail building skills. This training took place on the Watershed Center’s nature trails and was offered by the Outdoor Stewardship Institute, and underwritten by the Department of Natural Resources-Division of State Parks. This was some great training and we encourage park resources professionals involved with trail planning, design, construction and maintenance to seek this kind of training in the future. Volunteers came from as far away as Denver, Colorado.

Valley Water Mill Park



2009 Revenue and Expenses



Grant Activity

Grant Project	Date initiated	Total Grant	Non-Local Funds
Greene County GIS Project	1988	\$325,000	\$235,500
Fullbright Spring Monitoring System	1989	\$40,000	\$20,000
Fellows-McDaniel Lakes 319 Project	1992	\$119,000	\$63,000
McDaniel Lake Remediation Project	1993	\$66,621	\$40,500
Fullbright Spring 319 Project	1996	\$190,000	\$100,000
Splash Exhibit for Discovery Center	1997	\$6,800	\$3,500
Little Sac River Pollution Study	1999	\$145,000	\$140,000
Discovery Center Project	1999	\$205,000	\$125,000
Adopt-A-Spring Volunteer Initiative	2000	\$12,000	\$4,900
Little Sac Restoration 319 Project	2000	\$625,000	\$343,500
Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods	2000	\$8,475	\$4,975
Valley Water Mill 319 Project	2001	\$920,838	\$480,000
Cause Marketing for Clean Water	2001	\$8,334	\$5,000
Radio Promotion White River Basin	2001	\$8,334	\$5,000
Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods II	2002	\$8,350	\$5,000
Time to Come Clean Awareness	2002	\$8,334	\$5,000
Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods Tips	2002	\$8,334	\$5,000
Recreational Trails Program	2003	\$84,500	\$42,500
Jordan Creek Education Event	2003	\$2,315	\$0
Science Based Field Trip Grant	2003	\$4,000	\$0
Watershed Center	2003	\$447,000	\$447,000
Watershed Center	2004	\$994,600	\$994,600
Community On-Site	2006	\$309,650	\$185,750
Water Quality Improvement Grant	2006	\$400,000	\$400,000
LAD	2006	\$5,000	\$0
CFO Streamside Learning Station	2006	\$20,000	\$0
CFO Wetland/Curricula Grant	2006	\$22,288	\$0
LAD Interpretive Signage	2007	\$3,500	\$0
Rotary Service Grant	2007	\$500	\$0
Rotary Service Grant-Southeast	2007	\$1,000	\$0
Corporate Agency Partnership Program-			
Fishing Piers	2007	\$49,500	\$0
LAD Forestry Learning Station	2007	\$5,000	\$0
CFO Fishing Piers Grant	2007	\$30,000	\$0
Watershed Mgmt Planning Grant	2007	\$15,000	\$0
MO Recreational Trails Grant	2007	\$142,000	\$100,000
Rotary Service Grant-Southeast	2008	\$4,500	\$0
Total		\$5,245,773	\$3,755,725