



WATERSHED
COMMITTEE
OF THE OZARKS



2013 Annual Report

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Cover Photo: Clouds roll in over Fellows Lake by Aaron Sco

Below: The cool blue flow from Sanders Spring along the trails at the Watershed Center



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Stacey Armstrong, Projects Manager

Kelly Guenther, Business Manager

Rob Hunt, Watershed Center Coordinator

OUR MISSION

To sustain and improve the water resources of Springfield and Greene County through education and effective management of the region's watersheds

OUR SPONSORS

City Utilities of Springfield

Greene County

City of Springfield

OUR PARTNERS

Drury University

Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District

Master Naturalists

Missouri Department of Conservation

Missouri State University

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)

Springfield-Greene County Park Board

This report covers our fiscal year: January 1-December 31, 2013

Dear Friends,

Watershed work, like a river, is a continuum. New challenges and concepts continue to cor from upstream, and we anticipate and adapt to the currents. From time to time, it's import to test the waters—take samples—to monitor quality and assess long-term trends. This annual report serves that purpose for our organization.

As you will see, 2013 was a year of impactful, missio -related work. This “snapshot sample” shows we reached more citizens than we ever have, we worked on many projects to improv our water supply, and began initiatives to make our organization more sustainable. This pro- gress is possible because of our small, diverse, dedicated board and staff, and our sponsors, partners, and community members that work together with a shared vision.

We can put 2013's work in context by looking at trends over tim —like an aquatic life asses: ment on a stream. Now into 2014, we are celebrating our 30th year, and our waters, in man cases, are getting cleaner. Wilson's Creek isn't black and stinky. Table Rock is getting clearer. Fellows Lake is not currently in jeopardy, and green infrastructure and low-impact develop- ment are now on the radar of local engineers, architects, and developers. Equally importantly, there is a growing community of citizens who understand the value of our waterways, and ur derstand the things we need do to keep them clean. The Watershed Committee has been a the heart of this community for 30 years, and plan to be for 30 more. I'm excited about what we can accomplish: Clean Water...For Life!



Kind Regards,

Mike Kromrey
Executive Directc

Preface

At the Watershed Committee, our mission focuses the organization and directs the work that we do. The work of watershed protection is complex, but a compass, with four cardinal directions, helps categorize what it takes to achieve our mission. Our north and south represent education and outreach and projects and management. These directions are the real work of water protection. East and west represent funding and people. These are the resources necessary to accomplish the work.

In the center of the compass, the place from which everything radiates outward, is our mission. The accomplishments of 2013 contained in this report are organized in this manner, so our compass can be your guide. Please take joy in these accomplishments because none of this could happen, or is even possible, without supporters like you.





Education and Outreach

Education and Outreach are at the core of our mission. In order to protect our resources, citizens must understand where our water comes from, what can negatively affect our resources, and what actions citizens take to protect them. We strive to connect kindergarteners through engineers with the information they need to help keep our water clean and plentiful.

Pictured: Students on a field trip at the Watershed Center

Website and Media

We strive to reach as many people as possible with current issues, ideas, and topics in the realm of water protection. Websites and social media presence has become increasingly important in our society, and we have responded. This year, we:

- Maintained a Facebook presence and updated our page nearly daily, often with pictures from the Watershed Center <http://www.facebook.com/WatershedCommitteeoftheOzarks>
- Wrote over 25 blog articles
- Continued the successful “Water Wednesday” blog series
- Updated our (we must say) excellent Website
- Continued to publish our Quarterly Newsletter

Watershed Center Field Trips

We were busier than ever at the Watershed Center in 2013. As always, the busiest times were in the spring and fall when schools are in session and the weather is lovely. We had a lot of successful trips and even in the bad weather, we found activities to do inside to keep the kids engaged. We had a higher turnout this year, with **more than 1,700 students visiting** us. Beyond our returning classes, we also had a few first-time groups that had not visited before, including homeschool students. Frequent field trip activities include identifying macroinvertebrates to assess water quality, hiking the trail, and looking for fall plants and animal tracks.



WOLF students on a field trip at the Watershed Center

Fishing

Fishing continues to be a major attraction at Valley Water Mill Lake. The Department of Conservation completed more fish surveys this year and they are still finding good populations. We had a few field trips in which the students had the chance to go fishing at the lake, and we look forward to incorporating that activity more in the future. One major issue that could impact fishing in the area is a plant called *Hydrilla*. The Department of Conservation has been educating people and learning as much as they can about the invasive plant that has been choking out lakes in the southern United States. So far, there is no sign of it on our little lake, but we are keeping a sharp eye out. The algae on the lake continues to be an issue, though it did get flushed out several times over this rainy year. We are still working with the Department of Conservation to manage the green stuff, and we are continuing to refine the floating wetland experiment, which will shade some of the algae out.

Onsite Wastewater Training Center (OWTC)

Greene County, Missouri Small Flows, and the State of Missouri have been making good use of the Onsite Wastewater Training Center to teach new groups of installers about the technology available to address the challenges of our unique soil and bedrock types in the area. This training is essential to ensuring protection of our groundwater resources from unwanted pollution. On top of the usual training courses, we had the chance to use the OWTC to teach the students of the Watershed Academy about soils and wastewater treatment options. The prairie restoration area is looking better than ever thanks to the rain and a successful controlled burn made possible by Parks and Greene County.



Onsite Wastewater Training Center

Medicine Take-Back Event

As part of a nationwide campaign by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, Ozark Area Pharmacy Association hosted seven medication take-back events on Saturday, April 27, 2013, in collaboration with the Greene County Sheriff's Department, City of Springfield, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, SafeKids Springfield, and local pharmacies. The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks assisted by providing volunteers and local water quality information to participants of the event. This event collected 1,570 pounds of expired or unused prescriptions. Proper disposal of these medications helps to prevent possible misuse while also keeping them from entering our drinking water supply where they have the potential to harm aquatic life or even humans.

Water Savers

In 2011, the Missouri State University (MSU), City Utilities (CU) and the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks (WCO) teamed up to encourage water conservation on the MSU campus. WCO volunteer and MSU student, Erin Murray, helped the WCO continue the Water Savers project on the MSU campus. Residence Halls on campus including Kentwood Hall, Hammons House, Hutchens House, Woods House, Blair-Shannon House, Freudenberger House' and Wells House were retrofitted with sink aerators and low-flow shower heads, and students were given shower timers. After the completion of the partnership project, the Staff and students continued expanding the project to the remaining residence halls. The results below are impressive!



Missouri State Water Conservation

Building	2009 or 2011	2012	Percent Savings
Blair-Shannon	9175.00 MGAL	7032.20 MGAL	24%
Freddy	15840.00 (not sure what's up with this number. 7718.00 in 2010)	6072.40	NA
Hammons	10200.00	8932.00	13%
Hutchens	9726.00	8718.00	11%
Kentwood	4509.00	1948.00	43%
Scholars	2031.00	1879.00	8%
Sunvilla	5479.83	4921.00	10%
Wells	5894.00	4517.19	23%
Woods	3592.00	2757.85	23%

Average Savings in Residence halls

19.4 %

City Utilities has also been working to help citizens conserve water through education, rebates, and incentives several years now. WCO partners with CU on water conservation projects when possible. Some of the results are below, including the outcome of the High-Efficiency Toilets for Low-Income Residents project funded by the Community Foundation:

- 8,615 rebates Since 2007
- To Date, >187 million gallons of water have been saved by CU's programs
- Conservation efforts offset the annual usage of nearly 2,800 home:
- 273 toilets were installed in low-income homes in partnership with the Watershed Committee of the Ozark
- In addition to distributing hundreds of high-efficiency showerheads & faucet aerators, free water audits were offered to high-water-usage customers.

Stormwater

Teaching Tools

At the Watershed Center, we have a few special teaching tools that we can take on the road. One of those is called the **Enviroscape model**. Using this model, we can demonstrate the concept of stormwater runoff and simulate a pollution event followed by a rain event. It's not all doom and gloom though; we focus most of the lesson on Best Management Practices that prevent the pollution from running into our waters! This model has been on the road this year, traveling to: Sprouts in the Garden at the Botanical Center, Earth Day at the Discovery Center, Outdoor Days at Springfield Lake, and Robberson Elementary School.

Robberson Elementary

In November, Rob went to Robberson Elementary school to demonstrate the stormwater action in our watershed. The next day, those same kids got to come out to the Watershed Center to see our Stream Table where we demonstrate the effects of development and riparian habitat loss on a river. The combination of these activities can leave a big impression on students who might not have considered how the street drain in front of their house is connected to a wild river.



Stream Table

Jordan Creek Tours

Jordan Creek tours increased in popularity this year. Over the summer, we tried something new and offered several public tours. We posted the tour dates and times on social media and our website and let people drop in rather than pre-register. These tours were really rewarding and helped us to connect to many people we might not have otherwise. Groups that participated in a Jordan Creek Tour include:

- The Healthy Living Alliance
- Leadership Springfield
- Ozark Greenways
- Drury Environmental Science Students
- BASE program with Springfield Public Schools
- Public Tours (3)
- Parkview Environmental Science Students

Pecha Kucha

Our urban streams got some more great exposure through a special presentation style called Pecha Kucha. Japanese for "chit chat", presenters are allowed 20 slides for 20 seconds each. The Idea X Factory held an event for the community and 6 people gave presentations on various topics to the audience. Rob talked about the history of Springfield urban streams, various issues that they face, and improvements in our city's future, all in about six minutes! This presentation with its unique format and setting reached out to a different audience than we typically interact with.



Jordan Creek Tour

Educational Partnership

Partners

We strive to work with our educational partners throughout the community in order to bring quality outreach to people. Our list of partners includes:

- Ozarks Technical Community College
- Missouri State University
- Springfield Public Schools
- The Springfield Art Museum
- Wonders of the Ozarks Learning Facility (WOLF)
- Springfield Greene County Park Board
- The Botanical Center
- Interpreters Coalitic
- Outdoor Initiatives
- The Discovery Center of Springfield
- Wonders of Wildlife
- The Missouri Master Naturalists, Springfield Plateau Chapter

Ozarks Technical Community College

As in past years, we have been able to work with Ozarks Technical Community College, especially with two instructors at the Springfield campus.

Kyle Kosovich brought his Environmental Science class out to study the macroinvertebrates of the South Dry Sac. Mara Vaile teaches at the OTC middle college, working with high school students who take college classes at the campus. Rob had the opportunity this year to talk to her students about rainwater harvesting, water conservation, and help them capture and identify macroinvertebrates in Jordan Cree Silver Springs Park.

Partner Events

We are lucky to have so many great resources in Springfield for Environmental Education. In the spring, The Watershe Committee got to talk to hundreds of kids at the Young Sprouts in the Garden at the Botanical Center, teaching ther about stormwater and inviting them out to explore the Watershed Center. At the annual Earth Day celebration hosted by The Discovery Center of Springfield, we were able to show our support with a booth and information about saving water and caring for our planet. Over the summer, The Springfield Greene County Park Board had a large day camp organized, and the summer interns at the Watershed Center were able to man a few stations to help the group enjo their day. There were more than 100 kids fishing, hiking, and catching crayfish.

Ozarks Summer Watershed Academy

A new project for this year was our first Ozarks Summer Watershed Academy. We invited students, teachers, and professionals to a weeklong class that covered everything from geomorphology to caves to septic systems, and macroinvertebrates. The excellent speakers from Missouri State University, Greene County, The City of Springfield, and others gave presentations on a variety of topics. Attendance was not where we had expected, but we will be working in the years to come to make this event more successful and to meet the needs of those attending



WOLF Students on a field trip at the Watershed Center

Monthly Meeting

Every first Friday of the month, the WCO continues our long tradition of gathering community stakeholders together learn about water-related topics. In spite of the 7:30 am meeting time, over 500 attended in 2013. The meetings also serve as a networking opportunity, and a time for participants to share announcements and upcoming events. The meetings are truly a great tradition of the Watershed Committee, and we are thankful to all our participants and presenters. Our topics for 2013 were:

- **January:** “Protecting Water for Future Generation” - Barbara Lucks, Sustainability Officer, Department of Environmental Services, City of Springfield
- **February:** “Riverbluff Cave” - Matt Forir, Lead Paleontologist, Executive Director Missouri Institute of Natural Science and Greene County Geologist
- **March:** “What is the Healthy Living Alliance?” - Patty Cantrell, Director, Healthy Living Alliance
- **April:** “Ecological Flow for the White River System” - Andy Austin, Regional Fisheries Supervisor, Missouri Department of Conservation
- **May:** “Farmers Park Development and Low-Impact Development Features” - Matt O’Reill
- **June:** “Invasive Species Hydrilla” - Kara Tvedt, Fisheries Management Biologist, Missouri Department of Conservation
- **July:** “The Land Ethic” - Mike Kromrey, Executive Director, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks and Rob Hu Watershed Center Coordinator, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks
- **August:** “Dye Trace Detectives” - Matt Forir, Missouri Institute of Natural Science; Danny Tavares, Greene County Environmental Services
- **September:** “Springfield/Greene County Stormwater Task Force Recommendations” - Todd Wagner, P.E., Principal Stormwater Engineer, City of Springfield
- **October:** “Statewide Water Resource Update” - Ryan Mueller, Missouri Department of Natural Resources’ Water Resource Center
- **November:** “Greenhouse Project at the City Landfill” - Barbara Lucks, Sustainability Officer, Department of Environmental Services, City of Springfield
- **December:** “Tri-State Water Resources Coalition Update” - Harry Styron, Director, Tri-State Water Resources Coalition —RESCHEDULED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER



Barbara Lucks presenting at the November Monthly Meeting

Year at a Glance-Education and Outreach

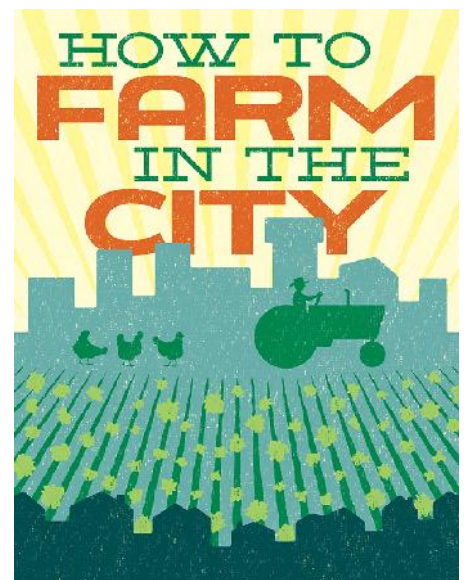
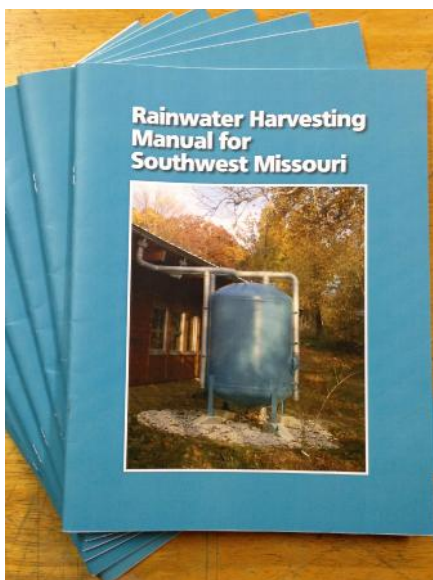
Participants Visiting Watershed Center	1605
Event Bookings	53 (Excluding Field Trips)
Watershed Center Field Trips	53
Volunteer Hours Logged	1,626
Booths at Community Events	6
Jordan Creek Tours	11
Onsite Wastewater Training Center Uses	3
Events in C. W. Titus Education Facility	71
Blog Posts	92

New Publication (available on our website, downtown office, and C.W. Titus Education Facility)

- WCO general purpose brochure was revised, redesigned, and printed
- Big Urbie LID Brochure
- “How to Farm in the City” webpage and postcard
- “Rainwater Harvesting Manual for Southwest Missouri”

Several **other interviews and presentation:** a few of which are listed here:

- Stacey Armstrong interviewed by Shane Franklin at KSMU about the stormwater task force findings
- Stacey Armstrong interviewed by Community Free Press about WCO’s summer water sampling program
- Stacey Armstrong interviewed by Jennifer Davidson at KSMU about high e-coli levels showing up in first swimming hole sampling run
- Mike Kromrey interviewed by News-Leader reporter Wes Johnson about Bull Creek
- Rob Hunt Pecha Kucha presentation





Projects and Management

Projects and Management is where the rubber meets the road. Source water protection, watershed management plans, stormwater best management practices, and policy recommendations are water protection techniques important to all members of our community. Support from our sponsors allows us to operate and apply for additional resources to fund projects that improve our community's water resource

Pictured: Rain garden at Doling Park installed with Big Urbie funds

The Big Urbie, Defined: Springfield-Greene County Urban Watershed Stewardship Project

On May 1st, 2011 Watershed Committee of the Ozarks was awarded Federal funding through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant to apply stormwater best management practices in Springfield and Greene County. The project includes installation of numerous "green" stormwater management practices, the monitoring of their effectiveness at reducing and treating pollutants commonly found in urban stormwater runoff, and educating the public about stormwater

The grant is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, and is administered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks applied for the grant in partnership with the City of Springfield's Department of Public Works Stormwater Engineering Division, Missouri State University's Ozarks Environmental and Water Resources Institute (OEWRI), Greene County Resource Management, James River Basin Partnership, Missouri Project WET, and Ozark Greenways. The grant requires a match of funds and in-kind services that bring the total value of the project to more than \$1.8 million.

The Big Urbie, Expanded

In April 2013, WCO was awarded an additional \$100,000 grant funds which will be matched with \$66,667 in matching funds. The award will allow more stormwater improvement projects to be completed.

The Section 319 grant implement **stormwater improvement practice** that reduce and treat runoff from streets, buildings and parking lots, thereby protecting area streams, lakes and springs. The improvements are being **implemented at residences, businesses, schools, and community parks** located in the South Creek, Fassnight Creek, Jordan Creek and Pea Ridge Creek watersheds. The grant also **monitors the water quality** before and after improvements are installed. This allows local experts to measure the effectiveness of these natural solutions for reducing, absorbing and treating stormwater runoff

The Big Urbie, Projects Implemented

During the 2013 calendar year, several stormwater water quality projects were completed including rain gardens, tree box filters, bioswales, riparian corridor improvements and designs for LID (low-impact development) stormwater best management practices. Some examples include:

- Organized 3 Big Urbie Clean-ups with 186 volunteers removed an estimated 2 tons of trash
- Partnered with Springfield Public Schools to design LID stormwater improvements (including a rain garden) at Boyd and Robberson Elementary
- Partnered with Missouri State University to redesign the detention basin on Grand and National to improve water quality treatment and promote infiltration
- Collected 427 water quality samples during 8 sampling events to be analyzed by OEWR for pre-monitoring at Missouri State and Drury University detention basins
- Planted 290 native seedlings along South Creek at the MSU William H. Darr Agricultural Center in Springfield on April 11th with the help of MSU Agronomy students
- Planted 40 seedlings along the Jordan Creek riparian corridor on May 17th
- Held a ribbon cutting for the Doling Park stormwater improvements on June 10th which highlighted the Big Urbie raingarden and wetland



Volunteers planting raingardens for Campbe Streetscape Project



The Big Urbie, Projects Implemented (continued)

- Held a two day Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) Stormwater Management for Educators course at Missouri State University on June 18th and 19th
- Planted 444 native plants in 3 raingardens as part of the Campbell Streetscape Improvements on October 1th with the help of the Springfield Plateau Master Naturalist volunteers
- Constructed 2 bioswales and planted 40 native seedlings with the Greene County
- Created a LID educational brochure
- Held a field trip for Ozarks Technical Community College Environmental Stewardship class on November 5th



Students planting seedlings along South Cree



Doling Park Wetland

Springfield-Greene County Health Department Sampling

WCO assisted Springfield-Greene County Health Department with **collecting weekly bacteria samples in stream** that are public swimming locations during the summer months. After the samples are analyzed, the E.Coli and Total Coli form results are posted on the health department's webpage the following day for the public to access. Samples were collected from May 21st till Septemberrd, 2013 and results can be found at <http://health.springfieldmo.gov/index.aspx?NID=218>

Asher Creek Sampling

The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks (WCO) partnered with the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District (GCSWD) to conduct the water quality sampling component for the Asher Creek 319 Project. WCO and the GCSWD have the common objective of encouraging the responsible use of our natural resources and the protection of critical drinking water supplies in the Little Sac River Watershed. WCO collected the water quality gages-samples, flow measurements, downloaded stage logger data, and delivered the samples to Ozarks Environmental Water Resources Institute for analysis.

The Asher Creek watershed is a sub-basin of the Little Sac Watershed in Greene and Polk Counties. The Little Sac River Watershed includes Fellows Lake, McDaniel Lake, and Stockton Lake and makes up the majority of the City of Springfield's public drinking water supply. The primary goal of the Asher Creek water quality weekly monitoring effort was to identify the bacteria levels and quantify the nutrient loads within the watershed. The 18 month water quality monitoring was conducted from May 1st, 2012 to October 31st, 2013 with a total of 343 samples being collected.

Asher Creek Sampling (continued)

The results yielded E.Coli bacteria levels exceeding the State of Missouri water quality standard for whole-body contact at all sites. Seasonal trends in concentrations show that sources of bacteria are varied throughout the year at different locations in the watershed and should be investigated further.

Greene County Dye Traces

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks (WCO) partners with the Greene County Resource Management to investigate hydrology and groundwater concerns. In fall 2013 WCO conducted a dye trace from local springs and caves. This dye trace did not yield a positive hit but this dye trace and others like it are instrumental in understanding the unique connections our surface water has with our groundwater and provides a beneficial tool for source water protection.

Watershed Center Site Projects

Improvements

The first thing that may stand out to visitors has to be our great big new sign just inside the gate. Pinnacle sign company designed and installed the project, and it has been a great addition to the site. We are currently working on a native garden to surround our wonderful sign and make it even more attractive. A slightly more subtle addition is the erosion control that Greene County employees installed during the United Way's Day of Caring. They used landscape cloth, bricks, and topsoil to fix eroded areas along the banks of the lake and adjacent to our paved trail. With these improvements, we should be able to keep our asphalt path in good shape for a while to come.

Upcoming Projects

In upcoming projects, we are excited to be working on a new grant from the LAD foundation to build a new section trail. Although the construction has not started yet, all of the planning is underway, and we are eager to expose visitors to different habitats and sights.

As we continue to settle into the new building, we are finding and making necessary improvements to the building and site to make it run as efficiently as possible. Overall, things are going off without a hitch and the facility has been a joy to work and teach in.



Rob Hunt standing by new Watershed Center sign



Day of Caring at Watershed Center

Conservation Innovation Grant

The Conservation Innovation Grant concluded on October 31, 2013. The \$100,000 project (50% match) accomplishes a variety of projects to safeguard our local water resources. The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks administers the grant, and also produced a rainwater harvesting manual for Southwest Missouri, and a dynamic web-based resource called "How to Farm in the City" as part of the project. Urban Roots Farm and Millsap Farm were the two producers involved in the Conservation Innovation Grant.

Urban Roots grant projects included:

- Installation of high tunnels (match)
- Constructing a 600 sq. ft. packaging and washing house for washing and storing produce prior to distribution. The project utilized innovative building design, rain water harvesting, highly efficient insulation, passive heating/cooling, and re-claimed construction materials and equipment.
- Installing a rain garden to catch parking lot runoff and water from the pack/wash shed (a.k.a., draingarden).



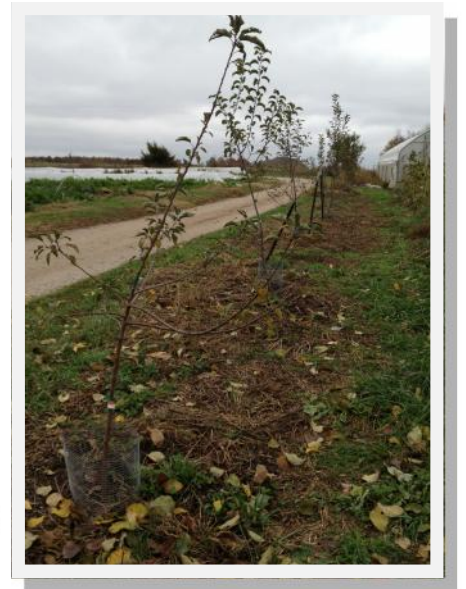
High Tunnel at Urban Roots Farm

Pictured: CIG Steering Committee and Adam Millsap

Millsap farms grant projects included:

- Testing biostrip Intercropping
- Constructing a Chinese high tunnel (an innovative, bermed in greenhouse that is proving to be warmer with less energy/cost inputs than conventional designs)
- Planting an organically controlled disease resistant orchard
- Implementing water and energy demonstration practices
- Starting a vermicomposting unit
- Installing raised bed gardens/impervious parking removal

Additionally, this project provided a good connection to the burgeoning local food movement. As local agricultural production grows to meet the goal of 20% local by 2020, demonstrations of water wise micro-farming practices are im-



Organically controlled disease resistant orchard at Millsap Farm

portant. The project was a success, and there are links, more information, and a final report on the Projects page of our website.



Greenhouse at Millsap Farm upgraded with CIG funds



People

The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks is **People**—people who are dedicated to protecting our water resources now and for the future. Our board, staff, sponsors, volunteers, partners, and supporters are a group of dedicated and dynamic individuals who make our mission possible. This chapter is about those people.

Above: Mike Kromrey, Bill Ritter, Tim Smith, Roddy Rogers (left to right) at the “Watershed Event”

Staff Development and Professional Involvement

Mike Kromrey has had a busy year with professional development and community involvement. In 2014 he began class 29 of Leadership Springfield, was a member of the Ozarks Regional Food Policy Council and co-chaired the Sustainable Ecosystems sub-committee, a member of the Sustainability Advisory Committee, the Biology Department Advisory Board, and the Professional Science Master’s Program advisory council at MSU, was a member of the Our Missouri Water’s Advisory Committee and “Director’s Kitchen Cabinet” for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and spoke at several meetings and events.



Leadership Springfield Class 29

Staff Development and Professional Involvement (continued)

On March 19th and 20th Stacey Armstrong traveled to the St. Louis Earth Day Symposium to present on Big Urbie grant and storm-water improvements being implemented in Springfield. This Symposium provided educational and networking opportunities for local government officials, community leaders, and professionals from diverse backgrounds in the planning and environmental fields. Stacey also attended the "Restoration of Rivers" Conference in Bentonville October 3rd and 4th which focused on storm-water management. Presentations included Land Use Impacts, Watershed Approach, Parks and Open Space, Dynamic Clean Water Practices, Clean Energy and the Illinois River Conservation Project.

Rob Hunt has been representing the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks as part of several professional organizations, including the Interpreters Coalition, Environmental Collaborative, Association of Missouri Interpreters, Project WET, the and Missouri Environmental Education Association. As part of his involvement with these organizations, Rob has been able to attend a few local, regional, and national workshops this year, including the Land Ethic Leaders Training in Baraboo, WI, Project WET Regional Facilitators Workshop in Fayetteville, and Association of Missouri Interpreters conference in Branson, Missouri.

Land Ethic Leaders

Mike Kromrey, and Rob Hunt traveled north to learn more about engaging the community. They were privileged to attend a two-day workshop at The Leopold Center, home of the shack from which Aldo Leopold drew inspiration for his writings *A Sand County Almanac*. The aim of the conference was to explore our own land ethics through dialogue and group discussion. Along the way, we learned very tangible skills for guiding our own discussions here in our own community. We also inherited a generous supply of written resources from the conference, as well as an extensive network of professional contacts. These ideas have given us a foundation for expanding the uses of the Watershed Center as a professional retreat center.

Kelly Guenther and Stacey Armstrong attended Community Foundation of the Ozarks Millennial Giving and Nonprofit Advocacy Training. All staff attended the Annual Water Conference, Sustaining Our Water Supply.



Bridget Dierks, CFO Director of Nonprofit Services, presenting Rob Hunt and Mike Kromrey a certificate of completion of the Learning Community Series. All staff participated in the Learning Community Series.



Land Ethic Leaders class attended by Mike and Rob at the Leopold Center in Wisconsin



2013 Staff Retreat at Oovvda Winery
Pictured from left to right: Mike Kromrey, Rob Hunt, Kelly Guenther, Stacey Armstrong

Volunteering

The 2013 volunteers were outstanding. Notably, **Nicole Boucher**, who logged close to 200 hours last year, blew her own record out of the water with **over 300 hours** over the course of 2013. She has been instrumental in organizing field trips, work days, and the Watershed Center educational materials. This summer we had three interns: **Samantha Bley, Clarissa Hatley, and Felix Corrodi**. These college students were a blast to work with. They led field trips, worked at summer events and outreach programs, and completed a lot of projects around the site. Even into the fall, they continued to lend their help to different events we participated in

During the semester, we worked with many volunteers on field trips, including several members of the Springfield Plateau chapter of the **Missouri Master Naturalists**. A student volunteer from Missouri State University worked on eliminating some of our invasive plant species and made some headway on clearing the trails during the late fall season. Two high school students, **Scott and Anr**, are working with us now to create an art project as well as helping us establish a presence on various internet websites. Anna also worked with us, by hiking the trail for litter and beginning the process of translating some of our signs into Spanish. We hope to utilize the products of these two hard-working students next year. Volunteer **Levi Decker** has been very helpful in organizing the front reception area brochures as well as updating our outreach and education efforts

Work Days

Missouri State University sent over groups of students this year too. We hosted two **Bear Service Days** in 2013 and accomplished a great deal of work on the trails and around the site with the help of 15 to 20 students each trip. **Ozarks Technical Community College** students lent a hand and accomplished a great deal of trail work. They were a tremendous group! We hosted **students from Evangel** and a local church group as well.



WCO staff and volunteers Felix Corrodi and Clarissa Hatley celebrating a successful summer internship



MSU Bear Service Students at the Watershed Center



Dr. Sean Terry's Drury class cleaning up Jordan Creek



Evangel Students volunteering at the Watershed Center

Volunteering (continued)

The **United Way's Day of Caring** was a major collaboration and benefit to the Watershed Committee. We had two well-organized and hard-working crews out here for the better part of a day. One group from **Fed Ex** gave our big rain garden a major make-over, complete with new mulch and piles of pulled weeds. **Greene County** also sent a crew who fixed a wetland bridge, mended some badly eroded sections of trail, and placed a fresh layer of mulch on a muddy patch of the loop around the lake. We ended with a cook out, and we cannot express enough how much work these people did or how much it really helped us. All-in-all we logged over **1,600 volunteer hours** in 2013, and we are sure to surpass that number next year!

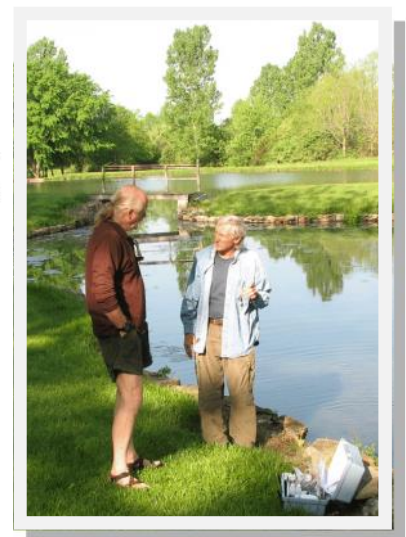
Thank you to the many volunteers who came out to help with the 53 school field trips booked at the Watershed Center in 2013!



United Way Day of Caring volunteers at the Watershed Center

Adopt-A-Spring

Adopt-A-Spring is a volunteer water quality monitoring program. Since the program began over seven years ago, trained volunteers have collected quarterly water samples from many of the major springs in Greene County. Over the years, this program has assimilated a large data set that can help locate groundwater problems and track changes over time. The results of the nitrogen, phosphorous, and bacteria tests are kept on a spreadsheet and can be easily shared with interested parties.



Volunteer Bob Ranney explaining the Adopt-A-Spring program

Volunteering (continued)

Our Board



Keran Lemons, Chair

Keran Lemons, a native of Southwest Missouri, is the Loan Manager for the Springfield Region of Arvest Bank. Growing up hiking, biking, hunting, fishing and participating in all lake activities created a long term interest in the maintenance of the natural resources available in the area. A graduate of Springfield's Leadership Springfield, he has served this organization as president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, Academy Chair and Kenworthy Award Recipient. Other community organizational associations include Greater Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce membership, previously chairing the Ambassador Committee, and as a past board member of the Springfield Family "Y".
At-Large 1st Term Expires December 2014



Dan Hoy, Vice Chair

Dan Hoy's passion for the Ozarks water resources date back to the early 70's when he began floatin and fishing the areas lakes and streams. This passion inspired Dan's personal values of caring for creation and resource conservation. He's put these values to work in his career of more than 30 years as Bass Pro Shops Director of Facilities. Maintaining Bass Pro Shops facilities throughout the country overseeing energy and waste management, and providing for environmental compliance sustain Dan's inspiration in conservation causes. In addition to the WCO board membership Dan is active with the James River Basin Partnership, very involved with his church, St. Elizabeth Anne Seton, and various other boards and community outreach opportunities. Dan conspires every spare moment to pursue the passions of his youth in the great outdoors with his childhood sweetheart and wife, Diane.
1st Term Expires December 2016



Stuart Murr, Secretary

Stuart Murr is the owner of Smart Designs, a company committed to the design and construction of high-quality, environmentally responsible homes. Stuart grew up in Cabool, Missouri and graduated from Drury University in 1997 with a Bachelor of Architecture. As an Intern Architect he worked with Bass Pro Shops and Pellham, Phillips, Hagerman before branching into residential architecture in 2001. In 2005 Stuart formed Smart Designs. Stuart is passionate about preserving the environment, including the quality of water that flows through our beautiful Ozarks lakes and streams and ultimately into our homes for drinking. He is a member of the US Green Building Coalition - Missouri Heartland Chapter, The James River Basin Partnership, and currently sits on the board of the Ozarks Green Building Coalition, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity, and the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks.
Greene County Appointed 2nd Term Expires December 2014



Michael Bridges

Michael Bridges, a Springfield area native, is a partner with the law firm of Husch Blackwell LLP. A significant part of his practice involves water-related matters, and he has a longstanding interest in issues pertaining to water quality and availability in the Ozarks. A graduate of the Springfield Chamber's Leadership Springfield program, he is a past president of the Springfield Little Theatre board of directors, a past-chairman of the Springfield Art Museum board, and a past-member of the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association board. He is a state-certified mediator and has served as a co-ordinator at several mediation trainings conducted by the Missouri State University Center for Dispute Resolution.
City Utilities of Springfield Appointed 2nd Term Expires December 2014

Volunteering (continued)

Our Board



Bridget Dierks

Bridget Dierks is the Director of Nonprofit Services at the Community Foundation of the Ozark: where she works with the CFO's nonprofit Agency Partners in fund development and education programming. Bridget is a Cabool, MO native and a lifelong Ozarks resident. She completed undergraduate degrees in communication and professional writing and was a technical writer before joining the CFO staff. Bridget earned a graduate degree in communication, having partnered in developing new research in the field of collaborative leadership. Bridget is currently on the board of directors for Junior Achievement of SWMO and a member of the Network Advisory Board of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce. She also serves on the Missouri State Public Affairs Committee and

served six years on the Tree City USA Citizens Advisory Committee. Bridget and her husband Andy spend spare time traveling but always return home with a greater appreciation for the Ozark

At-Large 1st Term Expires December 2015



Scott Bratcher

Scott works with the agency team at Marlin, the Springfield based marketing company. Scott worked with Marlin since 2010 as the Director of Digital to help deliver integrated marketing and business solutions for a list of Fortune 500 clients. He applies his creativity and marketing expertise for the benefit of the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks and is a great asset to the board. He also enjoys spending time with his family and really fast machines

At-Large 1st Term Expires December 2015

We owe a special thanks to our Board Members, who volunteer about 300 hours each year, helping us with major decisions, Monthly Meetings, and guiding us as we move forward into our 30th year



Scott Bratcher and Mike Kromrey receiving the Community Foundation Community Response Challenge Grant Fund:

Funding

Funding is necessary to accomplish the work of protecting our water. Our sponsors, City Utilities, Greene County, and the City of Springfield provide our core operational funding. This three-way agreement is a powerful fund leveraging mechanism for each sponsor. Grants, donations, and in-kind contributions are also vital to advancing our mission. As an example, the Watershed Center project was made possible by \$659,222 in private funds.

Long-Term Fund

At the Watershed Committee, we continue to successfully leverage funds, create partnerships and receive grants, but to help ensure we can continue our work in the community over the long-term, we are striving to become more financially resilient. Recently, the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks developed a Long-Term Fund, with the assistance of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. The Fund is treated as an endowment, with the added benefit of being unrestricted so it can be accessed in the case of dire emergencies. As this fund grows it will provide the added benefit of providing interest that can be reinvested or applied to projects or personnel to further our mission.

Cause Momentum Buy-a-Brick Campaign

The Watershed Committee raised over \$12,000 through our Cause Momentum Buy a Brick campaign. Donors had the option of buying an engraved brick, which are the pervious pavers in the walkway to the C.W. Titus Education Facility at the Watershed Center. We are thankful so many people and organizations wanted to be a permanent part of the WCO and the Watershed Center.



Endowment Fund

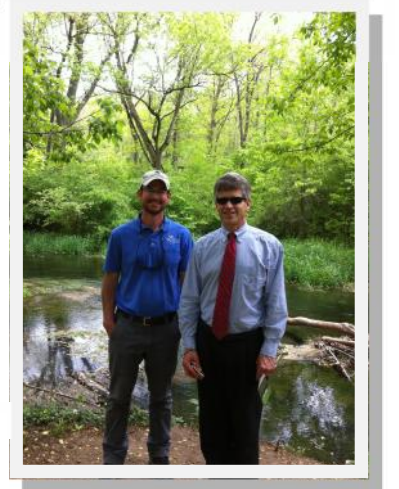
The Watershed Committee established a restricted Endowment Fund in 2008 held at the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. Thanks to some key donations and interest accrued, the fund has surpassed the \$10,000 mark required to be a vested account.

Watershed Center Rentals/Programs

In 2013 we doubled our Watershed Center rentals and held two programs, the Watershed Academy and A Watershed Event.

Plateau Fly Shop Raffle to Benefit WCO

At the annual Plateau Fly Shop Christmas Party Event on December 14th, fly tiers assembled an Ultimate Fly Box which was raffled to benefit the WCO.



Mike Kromrey and Jon Jones on a tour of the Watershed Center

Our Generous 2013 Donors

Aaron J. Sco
Amy Strickland
Anonymous
Bass Pro Shops
Bill and Maret Cheek
Bob and Barb Kipfer
Bridget and Andy Dierks
Calvin and Barbara Armstrong
Carrie Lamb
Chris Carson/Carson-Mitchell, Inc.
Cina Canada
Dan and Diane Hoy
Dave and Mary Sturdevant
DeDe Vest and Steve Wilson
Doug Jacobs
Environmental Works
Erin Blaszak
Gail Emrie
GeoEngineers, Inc.
George and Sandra Kromrey
Husch Blackwell
Janet Haworth
Jarad Johnson
John and Nicole Montgomery
Kelly Knauer
Keran Lemons
LAD Foundatio
Leslie and Ron Carrier
Linda Forbes Chorce
Lori Strawhun
Louise Whall
Lucy
Lyndsey Fronterhouse
Matt Boehn
Matt Dav
Michael Baird
Michael Bridges
Mike and Mary Kromrey
Mike and Mary Chiles
Mona Menezes
Mother's Brewing Company
Nicole Boucher
Olsson Associates
Patricia Kay Parker Estate
Positronic Industries
Rey Gumucio
Rob Hunt
Roddy and Lindy Rogers

Ryan and Stephanie McCoy
Scott Bratch
Sean and Megan Terry
Stacey Armstrong
Stuart and Kate Murr
Suze Powell
Dr. Tamera Jahnke/MSU CNAS
Ted Hillmer
Terry and Jeannene Whaley
Thomas Bieker
Tim Smith
Tom Caldwell
Wesley and Tammy Trantham
Winter Skelton
Wright Water Engineers

Missouri Master Naturalists-Springfield Plateau Chapter and the Greater Ozarks Audubon Society generously donate their time and knowledge throughout the year at the Watershed Center.

This list reflects donations received January —December 31, 2013



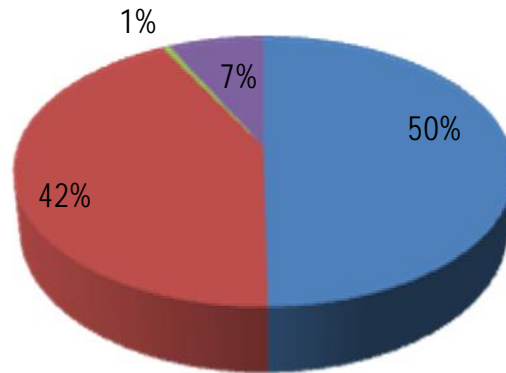
Jerry Vineyard presenting Rob and Mike with a grant from LAD Foundation



Master Naturalists teaching students at the streamside learning station

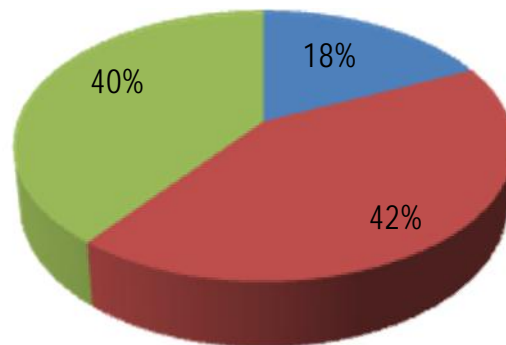
2013 Revenue

■ Sponsor Support ■ Grants ■ Watershed Center Revenue ■ Donations



2013 Expenses

■ Operating Expenses ■ Salaries & Benefits ■ Grant Expenses



C. W. Titus Education Facility Donor

3M Foundatio	Greater Ozarks Audubon Society	Mr. & Mrs. Reynaldo J. Gumucio
ARIA Foundatio	Greene County	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bachus
Barbara J. Lucks & Gregg J. Larsen	J.D. Slaughter	Neal & Newman, LLP
BKD Foundatio	Jan Horton	O & S Trucking
BNSF Foundatio	Jeanette Unsc	Palmerton & Parrish, Inc.
Brenda Putman	Jennifer Jones	Patricia Kay Parker Estate
Bruce & Jo Ann Marti	Jodie Adams	Patricia Rea & James E. Jackson
C.W. Titus Foundatic	John Black	Paul & Judy McCune
Calvin & Barbara Armstrong	John & Brooke Griesemer	Positronic Industries, Inc.
Carney Cove Boat Dock Associatio	John & Culah Nixon	Robert & Cynthia Davies
Charles & Mary Beth O'Reilly	John & Jean Twit	Ron & Leslie Carrier
City Utilities of Springfi	Jon & Becky Treadway	Rosalie Wooten-O'Reilly
Community Foundation of the Ozark	Jonina & Keith Buterbaugh	Ruth O. Kelley
CONCO	Jonathan & Karen Jones	Sara Garretson
D-4 Investments	KRAFT Foods	Sara Lampe
Dan & Margy Chiles	Kyle McClure	Scott Millk
Dave & Mary Sturdevant	LAD Foundatio	Shane Webb
David & Christine Rauc	Larry & Dr. Nancy O'Reilly	Sharon Faulkner
David & Gloria Roling	Leonard & Kay Million	SMC Packaging Group
David & Kathleen Hutchison	Liberty Bank	Springfield Plateau Grot
David O'Reilly	Lisa Turner	Springfield Rotary Club
DeDe Vest	Lois & Cleo Hanson	Springfield Underground
Derek Marti	Loring & Carol Bullard	Steak n Shake
Dickerson Park Zoo	Mark & Sharon Go	Steve Owens
Doug & Rae Nickell	Marla Calico	Stuart Wetzel
Dr. Duane Addleman	Matt & Sara Keen	Sunbelt Environmental Services
Dr. Sally Hubbard	Meeks	Ted & Cathie Gearing
Duane & Anita McConnell	Megan & Sean Terry	Ted & Rachel Hillmer
EIERA	Michael & Jan Wooten	Terry & Jeannene Whaley
Environmental Works	Michael & Kelly Guenther	Todd & Betty Parn
Erin & Amy Austi	Mike Finch	UMB Bank
Erin Hutchison	Mike & Ann Howell	US Bank
Fred & Jean Palmerton	Mike & Mary Chiles	Wade Stinso
Gail Emrie	Mike & Mary Kromrey	Wal-Mart Foundatio
Gary & Marti Buckle	Mike Jungers	Wild Horse Development
Gayle Harper	Mona Menezes	William & Maret E. Cheek
Great Southern Bank	Mr. & Mrs. Ross Ausburn	Wright Water Engineers

These reflect donations received from the years 200 -2012

Grant Activity

Grant Project	Date initiate	Total Grant	Non-Local Funds
Greene County GIS Project	1988	\$325,000	\$235,500
Fulbright 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
Fulbright 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

Grant Activity (continued)

Grant Project	Date initiate	Total Grant	Non-Local Funds
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
USDA-NRCS CIG Grant	2010	\$100,000	\$50,000
Missouri Solid Waste Mgmt. District O Grant	2010	\$46,350	\$46,350
LAD Foundatio	2010	\$4,000	\$4,000
DNR 319 Nonpoint Source Grant	2011	\$1,684,900	\$1,000,000
DNR Recreational Trails Grant	2011	\$143,090	\$85,000
Community Foundation of the Ozarks Endowment Grant	2012	\$1,000	\$0
Community Foundation of the Ozarks Community Response Challenge Grant	2012	\$6,000	\$0
LAD Foundation	2013	\$2,000	\$0
Source Water Protection Plan Grant	2013	\$15,000	\$10,000
DNR 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Amendment	2013	\$166,667	\$100,000
Total		\$7,246,690	\$5,725,975

SPONSOR SUPPORT

Organizatio	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
City of Springfield	\$53,100	\$40,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$20,000
City Utilities of Springfield	\$225,600	\$150,000	\$181,840	\$188,000	\$188,000
Greene County	\$85,800	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$27,500	\$15,000
Springfield-Greene County Parks Watershed Center Support			\$14,300	\$14,300	\$14,300

For Every Dollar



Keeping our water resources clean and plentiful is the right thing to do for many reasons. Clear water is vital to our personal growth, our community's growth, and our economic growth. Legally, Springfield and Greene County are held accountable for the quality of the water leaving our domain. It is difficult to put a price tag on these important things, but we do know that in the world of water resources an ounce of prevention is truly worth a pound of cure —local demonstrations of this abound.

Another truism of local water protection is that the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks is a very good investment of our sponsors' (citizens') funds. The three-way agreement of our sponsors leverages every dollar spent by each individual organization from the beginning. This basic sponsor support allows WCO to operate and seek other financial resources for water protection. If you look at "total grant" dollars and compare it to the financial support from our sponsors over the past 5 years (both values are on the previous page), you can begin to quantify our value to the community. Each City, County, or CU dollar resulted in a **\$10.67, \$10.41, and \$2.32 per dollar invested** respectively. This simplistic equation is impressive, but the real financial would be much greater if we included the efficiencies, the funding leverage of the three way agreement, partnerships generated, regulatory cost avoidances, and volunteer resources we provide.



OUR MISSION

To sustain and improve the water resources of
Springfield and Greene County through education
and effective management of the region's
watersheds

We are a wise investment with a track record of
achieving successful outcomes