



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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Area school children learning about water quality by discovering water testing at the Watershed Center.

Cover Design by Aaron J. Scott

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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 Dist.

Missouri Master Naturalists, Springfield Plateau

Missouri Department of Conservation

Missouri State University

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)

Springfield-Greene County Park Board

Springfield Public Schools

This report covers our fiscal year: January 1-December 31, 2018

DEAR FRIENDS,

This report shares a year of progress IN our mission. We hope that you enjoy reading about our collective success. I say collective success in the sense that you, as a reader, and many others have contributed in ways large and small. And sometime it's the little things that can make a big difference.

One of the most important successes of 2018 was one of those "little things." Along with our sponsors, we tackled the project of updating a seemingly mundane document which we call THE Sponsor Agreement. The Sponsor Agreement outlines the partnership and investment which is the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks' foundation. The process of updating the document afforded us a chance to examine our roots. As time continues to distance us from the series of taste and odor events in the water supply and watershed/land-use conflicts, it is important to remember that the road to long-term source water protection was paved with partnership, long-term thinking, and investment. As we move forward, City Utilities, Greene County, and the City of Springfield remain steadfast partners in the essential work of protecting source water.

As each year passes, I become more keenly aware of how water resources, the community, sponsors, and WCO benefit from the partnership and investment outlined in the Sponsor Agreement. We are able to spend more time focused on our mission than many other nonprofits, who must spend a lot of time and effort attempting to raise funds, sometimes to the detriment of their missions. By contrast, WCO is in a position to concentrate on the work of protecting source water and continually adapting and refining programs which serve that mission.

The Watershed Conservation Corps and expanded educational partnerships outlined in this annual report are making exciting steps in that direction. We continue to receive a wealth of talented volunteers and to work on honing an ever-improving, mutually beneficial volunteer experience. We also continue some of our best traditions, like our monthly community meeting to keep the dialogue about water resources "flowing." We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to work with so many talented people for a mission that remains just as relevant and vital today as when it was established in 1984.

Kind Regards,

Mike Kromy



PREFACE

At the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, 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. Points north and south represent Education & Outreach and Projects & 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, is our mission. The accomplishments of 2018 contained in this report are organized in this manner, so our compass can be your guide, too. Please share our joy in these accomplishments, because none of this could happen, or is even possible, without supporters like you.





Education & Outreach

Field trip at the Watershed Center.

Education and outreach are at the core of our mission. To protect our resources, citizens must understand where our water comes from. They must see what can positively and negatively affect our resources, along with what actions can be taken to protect them. We strive to connect a range of learners, from “kindergarteners through engineers,” with the information they need to help keep our water clean and plentiful.

WATERSHED CENTER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Over the last few years, we have made tremendous advancements and improvements in our educational and outreach programs. The number of participants in field trips to the Watershed Center has increased by more than 500%. Our outreach programs are reaching more people than ever. We also realize that it is not just about the numbers. We strive to continue to increase the quality of our programs. As we reflect on 2018, we would like to celebrate our successes and to look at the opportunities ahead that will allow us to continue to expand our programs in both quantity and quality.

WATERSHED CENTER FIELD TRIP PARTICIPATION 5-YEAR TREND

Field trips to the Watershed Center are still our educational “bread and butter.” We continue to be a resource for private and public schools, universities and colleges, home school groups and numerous clubs and organizations. This year, over 5,470 individuals visited the Watershed Center, sometimes multiple times, leading to about 8,000 on site field trip participants and 173 field trips to the Watershed Center. Individuals from pre-kindergarten students through adults took part in our programs. While the overall number of field trip participants at the Watershed Center dropped from the record numbers of 2017, the number of unique visitors showed only a slight decrease. This is in large part due to scheduling changes in two of our largest programs: *Splash!* and *Greener Greenspaces*. Participants in these programs are now visiting other locations in the community like the landfill and Fantastic Caverns instead of visiting the Watershed Center multiple times, which

provides and even better learning experience for the students and a great collaborative opportunity for the partners (the City of Springfield and Fantastic Caverns).

Springfield Public School students made up the bulk of our participants, groups as far away as Lebanon and Nevada made field trips to the Center. We need to provide these experiences if we want students to appreciate the abundant, special relationship the Ozarks has to water. As we near capacity for Watershed Center field trips, we have continued to expand our educational outreach programs. Almost 2,900 students participated in off-site field experiences and classroom visits. Our most popular outreach activity is an underground tour of Jordan Creek. Exploration of this urban stream provides historical, cultural, and environmental lessons—along with a very dynamic art scene.

Year at a Glance for Education & Outreach Activities



	2015	2016	2017	2018
Field Trip Participants to Watershed Center	3,502	4,735	11,131	7,890
Watershed Center Field Trips	86	116	201	173
Booths at Community Events	13	15	14	12
Jordan Creek Tours	20	19	20	28
Volunteer Hours Logged	1,813	1,523	2,996	3,224
Outreach Activities Participants		1,914	3,349	4,964

JORDAN CREEK TOURS

We continue to offer a unique educational experience with our Jordan Creek tours, in which we lead members of our community on a hike through the big box culvert that forms the artificial cave running beneath downtown Springfield. In an educational experience like nothing else, we can clearly see the many complex relationships between homelessness, folklore, urban design, local history, and water quality. While many participants come along for the thrill of exploring these concrete catacombs, most leave with a stronger sense of the big picture. As we walk, we point out the wide-open storm drains, familiar from the street but new and surprising from our vantage point in the creek, clearly demonstrating that stormwater is directly connected to our streams and rivers. While our new headquarters office is no longer located on the banks of Jordan Creek, we are still happy to guide tours for interested groups. Please call (417) 866-1127 or email jeff@watershedcommittee.org for more information or to book a tour.



Earth science class on a Jordan Creek tour.

COLLABORATION—MORE EFFECTIVE WHEN WORKING TOGETHER

Not captured in the numbers is the continued improvement in our programs through the increased collaboration and partnership with community businesses and organizations. We have strengthened our partnerships with Springfield Public Schools (SPS) and the Springfield Art Museum (SAM) by expanding programs and bringing in new partners. Providing meaningful experiences that lasts a lifetime is one of our most powerful tools to create good water stewards. Continually improving these experiences by collaborating with area partners is an enduring goal. This year, students benefited tremendously from field trips to the Sanitary Landfill and Fantastic Caverns as they explored the role solid waste disposal and karst topography play in protecting our groundwater quality.

SPS—Splash!

Working with SPS, we are developing a curriculum that reaches elementary, middle school, and high school students. This spiral approach to education provides a deeper understanding of water-related issues. The **Splash!** program was first piloted as part of the summer Explore program in 2016. Second and third graders participating in the **Splash!** program explore our watershed and develop a deeper understanding about where our water comes from and what can be done to protect it. These students make four visits to the Watershed Center over the month-long course, participating in a variety hands-on activities.



Students learning by the stream



Splash! students searching for macroinvertebrates.

Greener Greenspaces: SPS, City of Springfield, and Fantastic Caverns

Seventh grade students participating in the project-based learning (PBL) unit titled **Greener Greenspaces** were given a \$1,000 budgets to make improvements to green spaces around their campuses. Over the course of the program, students made two visits to the Watershed Center, where they investigated best management practices, local threats to our water supply, and the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems. This year two new partners were added to the program: **Fantastic Caverns** and the **City of Springfield**. These additions enabled students to make field trips to the Sanitary Landfill and Fantastic Caverns as they explored the role solid waste disposal and karst topography play in protecting our groundwater quality. Students applied this knowledge in their designs for campus improvements. Students presented their designs to a review committee where winning designs were selected. The school district then provided funding and support to assist the students in installing the winning designs on each campus.

SPS—Earth Science

In 2018, we piloted a new PBL unit for high school Earth Science students. The **City of Springfield's Director of Environmental Services, Erin Kemper**, provided the introductory video to a **Hydrology** unit that challenges teams of students to identify local water issues and come up with strategies for making improvements. Students participate in field trips to Jordan Creek to study urban streams and the threats they face. Water quality tests and a first-hand experience of the urban water cycle provide students a deeper understanding of water quality issues facing urban environments.



Earth Science class chemistry testing at Jordan Creek

Springfield Art Museum Collaboration

The continued collaboration with the Springfield Art Museum to offer Science Technology Art & Math (STEAM) programs has allowed us to reach rural schools in new and creative ways. The **Placeworks STEAM Residency** provides two classroom visits by Museum and Watershed staff, as well as field trips to both the Art Museum and Watershed Center for participating schools. Students use journaling to connect science and art. A journal provides a reliable record of observations and encourages students to focus much deeper than a typical casual observation. Journaling also forces us to slow down and make deeper connections. This is a tremendously rewarding experience for teachers, students, and both Watershed and Museum staff.



Clarissa teaching at the bug tubs

Jeff Birchler, *Watershed Center Coordinator*

Watershed Center Field Trip Participants		
417Kids Classroom	OTC Construction Technology	SPS Splash Delaware
Springfield Art Museum Staff	OTC Environmental Science	SPS Splash Delaware
Boy Scouts Pack 289	OTC Wildlife Management	SPS Splash Disney
Boy Scouts Republic Troop	Ozark Finley River School	SPS Splash Disney
Branson High School	Ozark Scouts Pack 1890	SPS Splash Disney
Buffalo DA Mallory Elementary	PS Grace Classical Academy	SPS Splash Field
College of the Ozarks Land & Water Mgmt.	Reeds Spring	SPS Splash Field
CHAOS Home School Group	Republic Elementary	SPS Splash Field
Datema House	Sparta Middle School	SPS Splash Fremont
Fair Grove Elementary	SPS Academy of Exploration	SPS Splash Harrison
Greenfield Elementary	SPS AIMS	SPS Splash Holland
Henderson Boys and Girls Club	SPS Careers in Conservation	SPS Splash Jeffries
HS Home School Acad.	SPS Disney Elementary	SPS Splash McGregor
Magnolia Christian Academy	SPS Field Elementary	SPS Splash Pershing
Ozark East Elementary	SPS Cherokee Middle School	SPS Splash Pittman
Ozark North Elementary	SPS Hickory Hills Middle School	SPS Splash Portland
Ozark South Elementary	SPS Jarrett Middle School	SPS Splash Sunshine
Ozark West Elementary	SPS Pershing Middle School	SPS Splash Truman
LR Click Academy	SPS Pipkin Middle School	SPS Splash Watkins
Marionville	SPS Westport Middle School	SPS Splash Weller
Marshfield Extension Center	SPS Glendale High School	SPS Splash Wilder
MSU Aquatic Entomology	SPS HAWK Program	SPS Splash York
MSU BIO Classes	SPS Hickory Hills Elementary	SPS WOLF
MSU Civil Engineering	SPS Mercy BASE	STEAM Everton
MSU Earth Sci. Elem. Ed.	SPS Parkview High School	STEAM Strafford
MSU Elementary Ed.	SPS Portland Elementary	STEAM Willard North
MSU Gen Bio	SPS Robberson	Stockton Middle School
MSU Nature Unfolds	SPS Rountree Elementary	Summit Prep Academy
MSU Ornithology	SPS Splash Watkins	Taneyville
MSU Stormwater Class	SPS Splash Bowerman	uSchool
MSU Tri Beta Club	SPS Splash Bowerman	Willard
Nixa High School	SPS Splash Bowerman	Willard East
Osage Prairie YMCA	SPS Splash Delaware	Youth Volunteer Corp



Students nature journaling

COLLEGES

Local universities and colleges provide many benefits to our community, infusing this Midwestern town with energy and vigor in a way that only young, excited, and expanding minds can provide. Our local students often improve the trails that we enjoy at the Watershed Center, teach the kids that come through on field trips, reduce the presence of invasive species, and spread the message of water conservation and sustainability farther than we ever could on our own. It is always a pleasure to work with these students in the classroom and in the field, and we are happy to continue hosting them as they use the Watershed Center as a classroom to learn about streams, forests, and sustainable design.

Drury University continues to use the Watershed Center as a classroom for ecology classes. For the past few years, we've had the chance to work with the incoming freshman students on a service project, usually involving Jordan Creek, which runs near the Drury campus. This project serves as a unique way to engage these new students in the local world of community service and environmental stewardship. Some of these students go on to join the Think Green Team at Drury. This group is already self-sufficient with service projects and cleanups, needing only bags and trash pick-up support from us here at the Watershed Center.



Drury University Service Plunge students clearing out invasives

Missouri State University (MSU) has the Citizenship and Service-Learning (CASL) program in which students can earn extra course credit for participating in a local organization's work for 40 hours over the course of a semester. In 2018, we were happy to host seven of these students. These students helped us in a variety of ways from providing Spanish translations of our educational documents, creating educational posters on plankton, to a variety of on-site habitat projects. In addition to providing a large number of volunteers, students in the Science and Education departments stay busy here learning native plants, macroinvertebrates, and how to teach the Discover Nature Schools Curriculum.



MSU Public Affairs Academy students cleaning up Jordan Creek

Ozark Technical Community College has become increasingly involved with the Watershed Center. Individual student volunteers and campus organizations have assisted with a variety clean-ups and projects. A number of classes have made field trips to the Watershed Center and participated in Jordan Creek underground tours. We are also exploring increased collaboration and curriculum development with the Environmental Science classes.

Jeff Birchler, *Watershed Center Coordinator*

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Every first Friday of the month, the WCO continues the long tradition of gathering community members and stakeholders together to learn about water-related topics. In spite of the 7:30 a.m. meeting time, total attendance exceeded 450 in 2018. The meetings also serve as a networking opportunity and a time for participants to share announcements and upcoming events. These meetings are a great tradition of the Watershed Committee and we are thankful to all our participants and presenters. Our topics for 2018 were:

- **January:** “Trails and streams: protecting our heritage and improving life for all”, Mary Kromrey, Director, Ozark Greenways and Mike Kromrey, Director, Watershed Committee
- **February:** “A conversation about long-term water supply in Southwest Missouri”, Gail Melgren, Ex. Director of Tri State Water Resource Coalition and the Southwest MO Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission
- **March:** “History of Protecting Ozark Streams”, Leyland Payton, author of *James Fork of the White: Transformation of an Ozark River*
- **April:** “Smoky Hill River Renewal”, Eric Dove, HDR
- **May:** “Living Ozarks: The Ecology and Culture of a Natural Place”, Tom Peters and Dr. James Baumlin
- **June:** “Conservation Partnerships for Healthy Land, Healthy Water and Healthy Communities”, Kelly Srigley Werner, State Private Lands Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- **July:** “Groundwater Availability in the Ozarks Plateaus-simulations of regional flow”, Brian Clark, Hydrologist, United State Geological Survey
- **August:** “Mayor’s Milkweeds for Monarchs,” Mona Menezes, Environmental Specialist, City of Branson, and Barbara Lucks, former Sustainability Officer for the City of Springfield
- **September:** “‘Wasted Water-A Trashy Tale...’ Solid waste and water don’t mix! Learn about some of the resources available through the City of Springfield to keep solid waste out of our waterways!” Laurie Duncan, Education Outreach Coordinator, City of Springfield
- **October:** “Watershed Committee Update,” Mike Kromrey, Executive Director
- **November:** “City Utilities Energy and Renewables”, Cara Shaefer, Director of Energy Services and Renewables, City Utilities of Springfield
- **December:** “Clear Span Crossings—A Win-Win for Southwest Missouri,” Andy Austin, Missouri Department of Conservation



Eric Dove presenting



Projects & Management

The streambank stabilization project site on the Little Sac in its first growing season.

Projects and Management is where the rubber meets the road. Source water protection, watershed management plans, stormwater best management practices (BMPs), and policy recommendations are the 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 resources.

LITTLE SAC RESTORATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (LSRIP)

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks was awarded a subgrant agreement from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources on April 1, 2014 for the Little Sac Restoration and Improvement Project. On June 21, 2018 a grant amendment was awarded, bringing the total grant funding to \$380,442 with a required \$225,222 in local match. The goal of this project is to improve the drinking watershed of Springfield and Greene County with implementation of best management practices that will reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Since the start of the grant, several projects have been completed, including the installation of five prescribed agricultural grazing systems, the installation of three bank vegetative buffers strips, riparian corridor improvements, continued collection of water quality data at five locations in the watershed, and a 300-foot section of eroding streambank was stabilized and restored (see image above)! As part of the Little Sac Restoration and Improvement Project the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks hosted a hands-on educational workshop, which coincided with the construction of a stream stabilization project on the Little Sac River.

LITTLE SAC RESTORATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CONT.)

Many additional accomplishments were made in 2018. Perhaps most significantly, a grant amendment, which extends the grant until May 31, 2019 with additional grant funding of \$29,154.85 to finish the Upper Little Sac Watershed Management Plan and revitalize the Little Sac Agricultural Demonstration area. Here are a few of the LSRI related accomplishments of 2018:

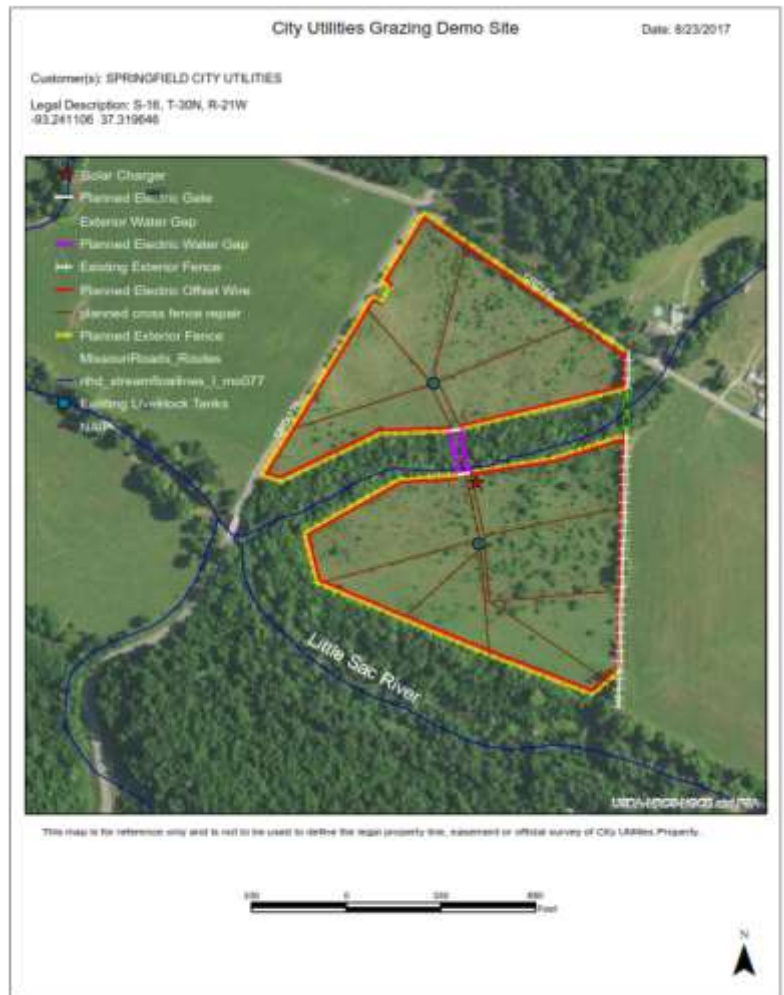
- In March, WCO staff and volunteers planted 125 seedlings at the Little Sac Stream Restoration Site to further establish the riparian corridor.
- The Little Sac Agricultural demonstration area had invasive trees cut, overgrown vegetation brush hogged.
- The old well was remediated with new watering tanks, new solar panel, pump and is now operational.
- Old perimeter fencing was bulldozed and new perimeter fencing installed.
- New interior electric fencing was installed at the Little Sac Agricultural demonstration area.
- In December, the water crossing to connect the north and south pastures was completed by Wildscape Environmental.
- Shortly before Christmas, the first 7 cattle arrived to initiate water-friendly, managed grazing

All of these projects help to reduce nonpoint source pollutants from entering the Little Sac River, which will benefit our drinking water supply for many years to come. We are very thankful to all of our community partners that make these projects possible, including the landowners, the grant steering committee, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Greene County, Missouri Department of Conservation, City Utilities of Springfield, and the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District.

USDA CONSERVATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks was awarded the USDA Conservation Technical Assistance Grant for \$49,0000 on September 15, 2018. The project is titled the Sac and James River Watershed Conservation Outreach Project and the objective of the project is to promote public awareness and implementation of Farm Bill activities, especially in historically underserved communities and in watersheds critical to drinking water supply. The project partners include the Greene, Polk, Cedar and Dade County NRCS and Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the Missouri Department of Conservation and the grant will last for 2 years.

Contributed by Stacey Armstrong Smith, *Projects Manager*, and Mike Kromrey



Grazing System Map for Little Sac Agricultural Demonstration Area; LSRI funds helped install much of the necessary infrastructure for

AGRICULTURAL DEMONSTRATION AREA

Farming is a major land use in the Sac and James River Watersheds, and nearly all agriculture in these watersheds occurs on private land. Farming operations can occupy a wide spectrum of impact, ranging from land-healing to land-using and abusing. Not all farms are land-healing, but almost no farmer intends to degrade land and water. We find that land-healing farming methods are often adopted once people are exposed to these profitable, productive, and effective practices. With the help of City Utilities, local Natural Resources Conservation Services staff, and the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District, we are working to renovate and reopen the Agricultural Demonstration Area (ADA) to provide another way to showcase and share excellent farming practices.

The ADA is located between Fellows Lake and McDaniel Lake. The land is owned by City Utilities, which has leased the parcel to WCO to manage this endeavor. The ADA will showcase riparian protection, prescribed/rotational grazing, warm and cool season pastures, and alternative watering systems. The ADA will be used for classes, tours, and scientific study, and offer sub-leases to local farmers who want to use the land within the restorative farming principals. The Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Greene County Soil and Water District will be the primary education partners, and Missouri State University and City Utilities will likely participate in the science and research aspects.

Some of the infrastructure from the original project have been re-used, and some of the previous improvements—like a warm-season grass pasture and a robust buffer of trees along the stream—will be valuable assets. Funds from the Little Sac Restoration and Improvement Project, City Utilities, and a grant from Lucky's Market have helped bring the ADA back into working order. In 2018, this support allowed us to install new perimeter fencing, refurbish the watering system, install a water crossing, complete interior fencing (except for one water gap), install a new solar power unit for the electric fence, burn several tons of brush and trees accumulated in the process of re-clearing out the pasture areas, and accomplish many other tasks to get the place up and running.



Reinforced Stream Crossing connecting the north and south pastures.



The cows come home, thanks to a partnership with our neighbors, the Krasser family.



Exterior Fence—before



Exterior fence—After

THE HYDRILLA PROJECT

Hydrilla is a highly invasive aquatic plant. In areas of the U.S. where hydrilla is established, it causes great expense to local economies and businesses. It damages ecosystems and water supplies, and it hampers recreational opportunities. Hydrilla was first found in southwest Missouri in 2012. A landowner in the Pomme de Terre River Watershed contacted the Missouri Department of Conservation for assistance, because a plant, which was later identified as hydrilla, had “taken over” his pond. Since then, hydrilla has been found in multiple impoundments, including locations in the Little Sac and James River watersheds.

Eradicating hydrilla from our drinking water watersheds is our goal. A Missouri Department of Conservation-led team that includes City Utilities, Greene County, the Army Corps of Engineers, and WCO, cooperates on the eradication effort. Our multifaceted approach includes multi-year chemical treatment of infested water bodies, public education and outreach, inspections, and planning.

In 2018, no new sites of hydrilla were detected. As of today, we have 34 sites, with a combined infested acreage of approximately 83.8 acres. Thirteen of these sites are within the Little Sac Watershed. All known sites are under a hydrilla eradication plan and are actively being treated and/or monitored.

The good news is that we are making progress. Several sites completed their treatment phase in 2018 and will be going to “monitoring only” in 2019. Previously, 2 of the 34 sites had already made it to this phase because of early detection. This now gives us a total of 11 sites that are in “monitoring only”. We are hoping the 1.8-acre stand at Fellows Lake will continue to follow this same path. To date, 150 sediment cores have been collected within the known hydrilla area and zero tubers have been collected. This just re-emphasizes the importance of inspections and early detections in our overall battle against hydrilla.

Partnerships and volunteers have been integral to our battle against this invasive species and will continue to be the key to success. In 2018, staff and volunteers from various agencies, including WCO staff and volunteers, participated in an intensive search of Fellows Lake for hydrilla. This combined effort was invaluable. We raked many acres throughout the lake and conducted various visual surveys by diving and snorkeling select areas. Not only did we not find any hydrilla plants in the known area, but we did not find any hydrilla in other parts of the lake. No one group or agency could have done this alone. Another highlight from 2018 was the launch of our new smartphone application for submitting inspection results. The app is provided to hydrilla training attendees and seems to increase reporting: Almost 80 entries were received in its initial outing in 2018, representing more entries than all e-mail submissions from the previous years combined.

In 2019, treatments will resume in late March or early April, and we also plan to train more volunteers to help search more public waters in the Ozarks and around the state. We will also continue organized inspection efforts at Fellows Lake and the Aldrich area of Stockton Lake. As long as hydrilla is within the watershed, we cannot afford to let up. Diligence is key.

Contributed by Kara Tvedt, Fisheries Biologist, MDC



This year a major sampling effort was conducted on Fellows Lake.



WATERSHED CENTER SITE PROJECTS

Numerous improvement projects have been completed over the course of 2018. These would not be possible without the generous help of our volunteers.

Trail maintenance and improvement efforts are continuous. Throughout the year our staff worked to improve the safety and accessibility of our trails. With the help of various volunteer groups, we were able to apply mulch and gravel to sections of the trails to improve visitors' experience and to help mitigate erosion. Encompassing the savanna ecosystem located on the northwest side of our property, a short outer-loop was added to our trail system which has further improved wildlife viewing opportunities here at Valley Water Mill Park.

Visitors of Valley Water Mill Park will see a new **trailhead sign** located just south of the Watershed Center. Alongside members of our staff, construction of the sign was completed by a volunteer group from the Datema House. This new sign will help orient visitors with the trail system and the park's various ecosystems, display our sponsors, and provide updates or any additional information.

The proximity of the Watershed Center and Valley Water Mill Park to an urban setting is a double-edged sword of sorts: while the short drive from anywhere in Springfield to the park provides educational and recreational opportunities for the public, the park receives heavy influence from **exotic and invasive flora** that its rural counterparts may not experience. To combat this influence, **Ben Parnell, Caleb Sanders, Seth Wheeler, Conservation Corps members**, and numerous volunteers have worked diligently to remove mature invasive plants in conjunction with the chemical treatment of seedlings using the appropriate herbicide as they sprouted. As a result, the understory density of our park has been reduced and we have altered species composition in favor of native forbes and shrubs. Come next spring, visitors will notice fewer invasive species at our park.



Forest stand improvement area

Following the 2017 update to our **Forest Stewardship Management Plan**, we have begun **forest stand improvement** efforts in two small sections of our park. Forest stand improvement involves the manipulation of forest species composition and structure by cutting or killing selected trees and understory vegetation. With the guidance of **Paul Johnson**, MDC Resource Forester, undesirable tree species have been removed from these two sections. This practice accomplishes three different goals: the remaining species will be healthier because of reduced competition, species composition has been shifted to favor native oaks and hickories, and it promotes regeneration of favorable seedlings.

While invasive removal and forest stand improvement are both physical in nature, each practice provides an excellent educational opportunity for visitors and volunteers alike. Our staff strives to enrich the visitor or volunteer experience by explaining what types of work are being done and why they are important. A better understanding of the ecological processes unfolding in front of a volunteer or visitor helps to evoke a deeper passion for environmental stewardship. Our long-term goal is to create a more resilient forest which directly correlates with improved water quality. In 2019, we hope that more visitors enjoy a hike in a healthier ecosystem and an improved aesthetic around our park.

Seth Wheeler, *Watershed Fellowship Intern*

HDR FOUNDATION SOLAR PROJECT

Late in 2018, we finally realized a long-term goal of adding renewable energy generation to the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks! The HDR Foundation made it possible. But what is the HDR Foundation?

The **HDR Foundation** is affiliated with **HDR Inc.**, a premier engineering firm with global reach, although the two are legally separate entities. HDR Inc. encourages employees to be engaged in their local communities and leave their mark on the future through partnerships aligned with HDR's values and areas of expertise. The HDR foundation was founded on July 12, 2012 to extend that corporate ethic, and the Foundation is fueled/funded primarily by donations from employees of HDR Inc. Watershed Committee of the Ozarks board member and former board chairman Eric Dove works for HDR Inc. which provided access for WCO to apply to the HDR foundation for grant funding. The HDR Foundation has provided more than \$1 million in grant funding to deserving non-profit organizations from all across the United States, and WCO was the beneficiary of a major grant of \$80,000, which was the largest single disbursement the HDR Foundation had awarded to date!

The one-time gift from HDR will literally be the gift that keeps on giving—every time the sun shines on the solar array. The **solar array will reduce operating costs**, essentially allowing us to spend less money on energy and therefore allow us to apply more resources to our mission. In very real terms, the cost-savings will allow us to hire an additional part-time educator for the busy spring and fall field trip seasons. The solar array also provides another **educational opportunity** for the Watershed Center. The solar array comes with monitoring equipment that populates a real-time dashboard which can be accessed online through a computer or mobile device. The dashboard elegantly shows current energy output, kilowatt hours per day, and keeps a running tally of carbon offset and cost savings. We plan to continue developing the educational component with our partners at **City Utilities and Sunbelt Solar**.

Sunbelt Solar was an instrumental partner in the project. From the onset, Sunbelt stepped up in a big way by agreeing to provide \$10,000 in in-kind services for the installation of the project which helped both in the grant application process and with the success of the project over all. The project had many, many twists and turns, including new steel and solar tariffs which affected prices and design possibilities, buried lines, City codes, and aesthetic considerations. The Sunbelt team was with us from start to finish and adapted to all the challenges that we encountered. Upon the writing of this, our solar array seems to be performing like a “hot rod” in comparison to other local systems.



Assorted board members and staff at the ribbon cutting event

Solar and Efficiency Phase II

Late in 2018, the **C.W. Titus foundation** came through with a grant which should allow the Watershed Center to become net-positive, or to generate more energy than we consume. The way we hope to get there is two-fold. The grant will allow us to do a major **energy efficiency upgrade** to the outdoor restrooms attached to the C.W. Titus Education Facility. The restrooms use a prodigious amount of energy because of the uninsulated structure with electric resistance heating (think giant space heaters in a two story continually vented chimney). In 2019, in partnership with Springfield Greene County Parks, we will add insulation, lower the ceilings, and add a highly efficient heat source called a mini-split heat pump system. The area above the new ceilings will also add an attic storage space which will be useful as we grow. The remainder of \$45,000 grant will allow us to **add roof-mounted solar panels** to the Lakeside Pavilion, which is an excellent location for solar based on the access to direct sun and a separate meter which can be utilized. The generosity of the HDR employees through the HDR foundation, the C.W. Titus Foundation, Sunbelt, and the Springfield Greene County Park Board have lead to some incredible developments, and we are excited to report on the outcomes in our 2019 annual report.

DISTRICT O GRANT

In April of 2018 we were awarded a \$21,156.00 grant through the Ozarks Headwaters Recycling and Materials Management District. The grant funds are designed to reduce the amount of solid waste generated and sent to the landfill. Through this grant we were able to install recycling bins throughout the park and purchase a utility vehicle and trailer for maintaining the bins.

We also created an educational program focusing on the connection between solid waste disposal and water quality. A key component of this program is to work with school groups visiting the park to educate both students and parents about reducing solid waste. Students eating lunch at the Watershed Center participate in a Litter Less Lunch activity where students sort their lunch waste into recyclable, compostable, and disposable streams. Not only does this activity reduce the steam of waste generated by the students, it also provides a hands-on experience on the importance of producing less waste. We hope that our Litter Less Lunch message spreads to both the parents and schools and they find ways to reduce the impact of school lunches on waste streams flowing to landfills.



District O Utility Vehicle for Recycling and other projects at the Watershed Center



New recycling containers with easy to understand labeling



SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAMPLING

WCO assisted the Springfield-Greene County Health Department with collecting voluntary weekly bacteria samples in streams that are public swimming locations during the summer months. After the samples were analyzed, the E.coli and Total Coliform results were posted on the Health Department's webpage the following day. In 2018, samples were collected from May through August, and results are found at [Springfield-Greene County Health Department—Stream Testing](#). The Health Department does not regulate these sites in any way, nor are they required under any state or federal law to collect these samples.



Water sample collected
from Wilson's Creek

WATERSHED CONSERVATION CORPS

In 2018 WCO piloted an exciting new program “to engage and employ young people in hands-on watershed improvement” called the Watershed Conservation Corps (WCC). The WCC provides a strong educational component for crew members, focusing on Missouri ecology, safety, and building career skills. The program fulfills a need for ecological/watershed restoration. The fees for services provided to public and private clients will cover the operational costs of the program.

In the first year of the program, the WCC made significant contributions to the health of our local watershed by making improvements to the land. In 2018 the WCC restored glades at Valley Water Mill Park, Lake Springfield Park, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, George Washington Carver National Monument, and private residences in Springfield, Missouri. As we work to restore this threatened natural community, we expect to see an improvement of water quality in these areas. This is because the shallow soil of glades are highly susceptible to erosion. Erosion is the number one pollutant of waterways. As the health of our glades increase, so too does our water. Another way the Watershed Conservation Corps helps to improve our watershed is through the removal of invasive plants. These plants include Bush Honeysuckle, Privet, and Burning Bush which have shallow root systems that increase the rate of erosion and rapidly outcompete native vegetation. Invasive plant removal and native plant installations are a part of our ongoing project with Bass Pro at their Base Camp Corporate Headquarters. Bass Pro has contracted the Corps with the intention of having an entirely native landscape at their headquarters! The native trees, shrubs, and grasses we install will act as a pollution sponge, cleaning our groundwater, as the robust native root systems take in polluted water.

In 2019, we will continue these efforts with the addition of trail reconstruction for erosion mitigation for a sensitive watershed in Mark Twain National Forest. We will also be installing native plant for the Springfield Discovery Center, made possible through Missouri Department of Conservation's Community Conservation Grant.

Kathryn Krydynski, *Watershed Conservation Corps*



Watershed Conservation Corps Crew with WCC Program Manager,
Caleb Sanders, summer 2018.

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION COMMUNITY CONSERVATION GRANT

In 2018, the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks (WCO) completed a \$10,000 extension to the Community Conservation Grant (CCG) awarded from the Missouri Department of Conservation in 2017. The financial resources provided by the CCG allowed us to complete a tremendous amount of work toward our Forest Stewardship Management Plan. We invested in “people power” by using our funds to pay a person—our Watershed Center Habitat Improvement Specialist (Ben Parnell). This allowed us to leverage a tremendous amount of volunteer labor which we are privileged to have access to and also improve the volunteer program. This grant, in tandem with the Missouri Bird Conservation and Habitat Initiative Grant, provided additional resources, leverage, and effectiveness. It is safe to say that in 2018 we made more progress toward our management goals in the last year as the last 10 years combined.



WCO and partners work to demonstrate habitat improvements at the Watershed Center.

MISSOURI BIRD HABITAT CONSERVATION INITIATIVE AT THE WATERSHED CENTER (MoBCI)

The MoBCI grant was completed in 2018. The grant award of \$25,000 allowed us to make tremendous progress toward the actions and goals set forth in our Forest Stewardship Management Plan which complements our mission. In fact, it has been the most successful habitat project we’ve ever completed at the Watershed Center and Valley Water Mill Park. Not all of our goals were completely accomplished, as we initially underestimated the magnitude of the woody invasive species infestation we were experiencing (especially bush honeysuckle, Chinese privet, and winter creeper). We also initially underestimated the match amount we would be able to apply to the effort. In addition to the grant award, WCO generated over \$34,000 in matching funds, primarily through volunteer hours applied to the effort.

An additional Community Conservation Grant from the Missouri Department of Conservation and the efficient use of volunteers facilitated by the MoBCI grant technician accelerated progress toward our goals. In fact, this arrangement worked so well, we asked ourselves how we could keep it going to further our mission here and elsewhere in the region. To continue the momentum of the MoBCI project, we created the Watershed Conservation Corps (WCC) whose mission is “to engage and employ young people in hands-on watershed improvement.” The WCC summer pilot program solidified the niche for this type of work in the area and increased the likelihood that the WCC will be financially sustainable.

The MoBCI project also dramatically altered the aesthetics of the park. The representative habitats are now much more apparent—our glade looks like a glade and our savannah looks like a savannah. As visitor and program participant numbers continue to grow, these physical improvements, coupled with interpretive signage and programming are valuable educational resources as well as healthier habitat. In summary, we are thrilled with the outcomes of the MoBCI grant. It had benefits we never imagined when we started and we have a better idea of the work we have left to do.

MoBCI project Continued...

Lastly, the MoBCI project and Community Conservation Project served as a catalyst to generate burn plans (with the help of the Missouri Department of Conservation) and begin using fire as a management tool. The first controlled burns at the Watershed Center were conducted in January of 2018. We appreciate our sponsors and partners for their help in the effort.



MDC Staff, volunteers, city and county staff, parks staff, and Watershed staff at the end of the first ever burn in the savannah restoration area in January 2018.



Before



After



People

Day of Caring volunteers.

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.

VOLUNTEERS

The tremendous successes of this year are due in large part to an amazing group of volunteers and interns. Our volunteer participation numbers continue to increase. We simply could not continue to meet the growing demand for our services without the help of these dedicated individuals. Volunteers were a mix of both old and new faces.



Careers in Conservation—W.O.L.F. school volunteers

VOLUNTEERS (CONT.)

Throughout the year, many organizations have provided a great deal of help during scheduled work days. **FedEx** workers spent a Saturday morning removing trash from the James River and Lake Springfield. A variety of **Missouri State University** groups have dedicated a number of Saturdays working on numerous projects throughout the park. Students participating in **Drury University's Service Plunge** provided much needed help for trail maintenance. The **United Way's Day of Caring** was a huge benefit to the Watershed Committee this year. Volunteers from **Greene County Resource Management, Bass Pro Shops, and 3M** helped stain and reseal the Watershed Center, maintain trails, and cleanup Valley Water Mill Lake.

The entire **Summit Preparatory School** student body, from kindergartners to seniors, spent a volunteer day at the Watershed Center. The staff, students, and many parents planted native species in the restored glade, improved trails, and eliminated invasive species. Thanks to all the groups and organizations that helped out this year!

Outside of scheduled group work days, this year over 130 people generously volunteered their time and energy, assisting with a variety of projects ranging from trail maintenance, habitat improvement, and removal of invasive species, to guiding educational field experiences. Many of these individuals volunteered a number of hours per week. The major habitat improvements throughout the park are a testament to their dedication.

In June, **Seth Wheeler** was awarded our second **Watershed Center Fellowship** position. Seth graduated from Arkansas Tech University with a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife Science. As a Fellow, Seth has been tremendously valuable in coordinating volunteer efforts, leading educational programs, and working on numerous land management projects. Seth's diverse skill set makes him a valuable addition to the Watershed team.

Jeff Birchler, *Watershed Center Coordinator*



Ben helping the students plant trees.



Summit Preparatory School students working in the glade .



WCO volunteers at Treasures of the City.

MEDIA

We strive to reach as many people as possible with current issues, ideas, and topics related to our mission. A high quality website and social media presence have become increasingly important platforms for education and outreach in our society, and we have responded. Here is a summary of WCO's media outreach in 2018:

- Increased Facebook likes to 1,525 during the year, twitter followers to 482 and Instagram followers to 595
- Wrote over 50 blog articles that were posted on our website, Facebook, and Twitter
- Published the *WCO Quarterly Newsletter*
- Ozarks First "Testing Waters for E.coli and Bacteria Levels, Preventing Heat Related Illnesses," May 27, 2018
- KY3 "On Your Side: How Clean is that stream, lake or creek?" May 29, 2018
- KSMU "Recreational Spot on Galloway Creek Tests High for E.coli," June 4, 2018.
- *417 Magazine* Upcoming Events: Watershed Summer Gala
- *Springfield News-Leader* Weekend Edition and Faces in the Crowd: Watershed Summer Gala
- SPS.org "The Watershed provides learning, fun for Explore students," July 17, 2018
- City Utilities Facebook Live "What would your day look like without water," October 10, 2018.
- Springfield News Leader "Overcast Day fails to dim hopes for Watershed Center's new solar array," December 17, 2018.

AWARDS

Partnership Award

Springfield Public Schools identified the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks as an organization that goes above and beyond in their demonstration of support for students. The school board presented the WCO with a certificate **Honoring Excellence and Ongoing Support** for their longstanding partnership with Springfield Public Schools (SPS). Below Mike and Jeff pose with the award and **Anne Wallenmeyer**, the long-time science curriculum coordinator for SPS. She has been instrumental in innovative, experiential curriculum, developing partnerships, and helping a generation of students gain a better understanding of the natural world.



OUR BOARD

Jason Hainline, Vice Chair, Greene County Appointee 1st Term Expires December 2020

Jason Hainline is a design associate with Dake Wells Architecture, a design-centered practice with an emphasis on progressive and sustainable design solutions. While attending Drury University, Jason began his career in the Design Development Department of Bass Pro Shops. Following, Jason moved to Boulder, Colorado and joined a nationally recognized environmentally sustainable architecture consulting firm, ENSAR Group, led by the late Greg Franta, FAIA, co-founder of the American Institute of Architects Committee on the Environment. With a move back home to the Ozarks, Jason joined EMSI, an international green building consulting practice that established green building consulting in China.

Jason's experience in sustainable design includes site and landscape planning, energy efficient architectural design and analysis, daylighting, material selection, and LEED™ coordination. He has been active in a wide range of projects in the US and abroad that include facilities for each branch of the military, the National Park Service, private retail developments, low and high-rise offices, laboratories, educational buildings, restaurants, and private residences. Jason has worked in numerous countries, including Brazil, Egypt, Dubai, Poland, Czech Republic, India, Vietnam, as well as throughout China. Currently he is serving as a board member of the Springfield Component of the American Institute of Architects. In the fall of 2013, Jason was selected into the 2013 Class of LEED Fellows for his contributions to the green building movement.



Dan Hoy, Vice Chair, City Appointee 2nd Term Expires December 2019

Dan Hoy's passion for the Ozarks water resources dates back to the early 70's, when he began floating and fishing the area's 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. Dan's inspiration in conservation causes is sustained by his work maintaining Bass Pro Shops facilities throughout the country, overseeing energy and waste management, and providing for environmental compliance. In addition to his WCO Board membership, Dan is active with the James River Basin Partnership, involved with his church, St. Elizabeth Anne Seton, and 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.



Karen Spence, Secretary, at-large, 1st Term Expires December 2018

Karen Cordes Spence is the Associate Dean of the Hammons School of Architecture at Drury University. Karen grew up in Fayetteville, Arkansas, where her family was active in the Ozark Society's efforts to save the Buffalo National River. She has spent considerable time hiking, canoeing, and camping in the Ozarks. Karen is an architect with degrees from the University of Arkansas, the University of Cincinnati, and Texas A&M University. She has always been interested in building that complements, rather than competes with, the natural environment. Karen is the first LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certified faculty member at Drury University and she co-chairs the President's Council on Sustainability. She is also involved as a board member for AIA Springfield and has served on numerous committees for the City of Springfield and Springfield Public Schools. Karen and her husband Rod enjoy gardening, hiking, and kayaking in the Ozarks with their two daughters, Sarah and Lauren.



Eric Dove, at-large, 2nd Term Expires December 2020

Eric Dove is a professional engineer and has an extensive technical background solving problems related to surface water supply and water quality in streams and lakes. Over 20 years ago, Eric fell in love with the Ozarks while on a vacation with his wife. Since moving to the Ozarks, Eric enjoys taking his wife and three sons to the local lakes, streams, and mountain biking trails. Eric has dedicated his career to the protection and enhancement of our precious water resources. He has published and presented at national conferences on a wide variety of water resources topics such as the value of using natural approaches to stabilize Ozark streams. Eric's educational background includes a bachelor's and master's degree in civil engineering with an emphasis in water resources.



Laura Greene, Vice Chair, City Utilities Appointee 2nd Term Expires December 2020

Laura Greene is an attorney in the Springfield office of Husch Blackwell, LLP. She grew up in the Midwest, spent several years in the Northeast, and then moved to Springfield over nine years ago. Since making the Ozarks her home, Laura has enjoyed exploring the waterways, hiking trails, and lakes of this beautiful area. She also loves indulging in her newly-discovered passion for fly fishing. Laura is a past Board Member of Breast Cancer Foundation of the Ozarks, serves as the Chair for the American Heart Association's Springfield Circle of Red, is the founder of Springfield Women of Influence, and is in Class 30 of Leadership Springfield. Laura spends as much time as possible outdoors with her husband Chuck and their three children, Andy, Abby, and Sarah. She believes in the mission of conserving the pristine natural resources of the Ozarks for the enjoyment of generations to come.



Angela Blevins, at-Large 1st Term Expires December 2021

Angela Blevins grew up alongside the James River in rural Southwest Missouri. Throughout her childhood and young adulthood she floated the James River and many other local rivers with her family. She and her husband, Tom, have traveled all over the world. Through their travels she has fallen in love with the ocean and has grown to appreciate protecting all waterways big and small, salt and freshwater. Growing up Angela shared her parents' passion for building and joined her family's construction company. After her parents' retirement, Angela and her brother formed their own construction company and today she is co-owner of BP Builders. Throughout her 20 years in the construction industry she has held the belief that it's possible for building and growth to go hand in hand with sustaining our natural resources. Expansion doesn't have to mean destroying the natural environment. Angela is a past president of the Junior League of Springfield. She has served on the Isabel's House board, has been chair of the Better U Committee for the American Heart Association and is currently a board member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ozarks. In her spare time, Angela and Tom enjoy kayaking, hiking and learning all they can about other cultures. Angela is a self-proclaimed geo-nerd and loves learning everything she can about geology.



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 33rd year!

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

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 (with Board approval). As this fund grows it will provide interest that can be reinvested or applied to projects or personnel to further our mission. With the help of our gracious donors, this fund balance was over \$93,000 at the end of the year.

Watershed Summer Gala

The Watershed Committee raised over \$34,000 in 2018 through the Watershed Summer Gala event and gifts from organizations and individual donors.

Endowment Fund

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

Watershed Center Rentals

We continue to have demand for the C.W. Titus Education Facility and the Onsite Wastewater Training Center. Many area organizations have utilized the Watershed Center including the City of Springfield, Springfield Plateau Grotto, MO Mycological Society, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, and Stream Team.

Sustaining Donors

The Sustaining Donors program is a new avenue for people to invest in the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks. One-time donors are fantastic, but building relationships with people and businesses that lead to yearly commitment is even better. **Commercial Metals Company** has the honor of being the Watershed Committee's first sustaining donor.

Watershed Summer Gala

We are excited to announce that our Watershed Summer Gala raised over \$30,000, exceeding our fundraising goal of \$30,000. These funds have helped us pay for our Watershed Center Fellowship Program and will enable us to keep pace with the growing demand for our education programs. At the event, the local food catered by Chartwell's was exceptional, it paired well with Mother's Brewery beer and 7'C's Winery wines. Several attendees expressed similar comments: that this event is quickly becoming a favorite because of the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet new people with similar interests—and it is laid back and fun. Thank you to our silent auction donors, the sponsors, the bidders, the partners, and all who attended. Put Saturday, July 13th on your calendars for 2019!



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SPECIAL THANKS



OUR GENEROUS 2018 DONORS

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who donated their financial resources, time, talent, and good-heartedness to the Watershed Committee this past year.

Watershed Summer Gala Sponsors

Presenting:

Bass Pro Shops

Silver:

Hush Blackwell

Bronze:

Bud and Mary Hogan

Commerce Bank

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Southwest Missouri Fly Fishers , in memory of Fred E.

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Special Thanks to:

HDR Foundation

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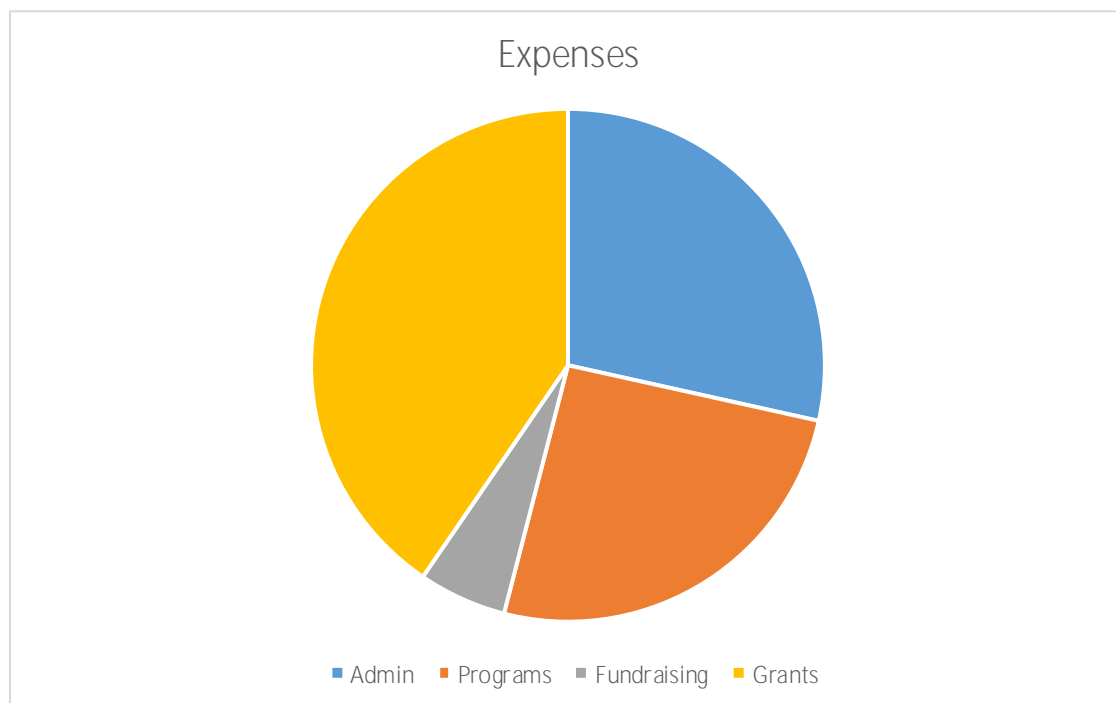
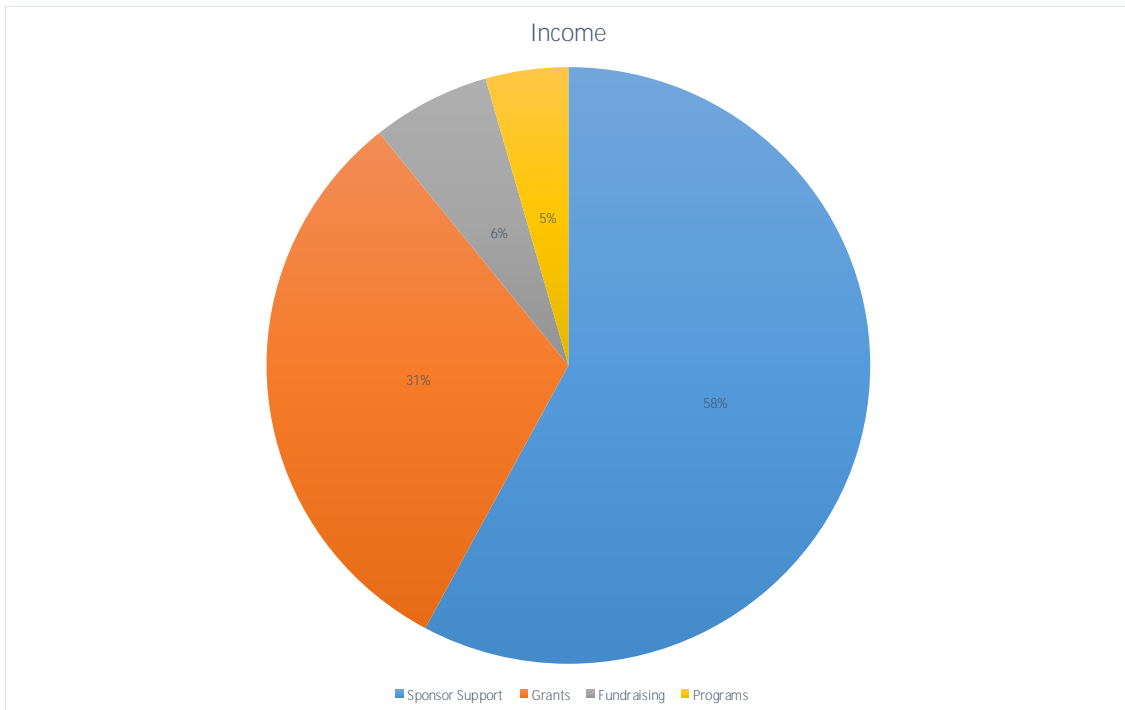
C. W. TITUS EDUCATION FACILITY DONORS

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Gayle Harper	Mona Menezes	William & Maret E. Cheek
Great Southern Bank	Mr. & Mrs. Ross Ausburn	Wright Water Engineers

These reflect Watershed Center Capital Campaign donations received from the years 2005-2012

BUDGETING

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization that depends on sponsor support and grant and donor dollars. Income from these sources allows us to fund our education and outreach programs, implement grant work, maintain the Watershed Center, and provide other important services. Last year, 31% of our income came from grants, and this money is restricted to specific projects and programs, such as the solar array, bird habitat improvements at the Watershed Center, and our streambank stabilization project. Unrestricted funds support general operations as well as our education and outreach programs, including our collaborative efforts with Springfield Public Schools. Unrestricted funds also help us maintain and improve the Watershed Center and Valley Water Mill Park.



GRANT ACTIVITY

Grant Project	Date initiated	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
Watershed Mgmt Planning Grant	2007	\$15,000	\$0
MO Recreational Trails Grant	2007	\$142,000	\$100,000

Grant Activity (CONT.)

Grant Project	Date initiated	Total Grant	Non-Local Funds
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 Foundation	2010	\$4,000	\$4,000
DNR 319 Nonpoint Source Grant	2011	\$1,869,672	\$ 1,100,000
DNR Recreational Trails Grant	2011	\$ 143,090	\$85,000
<u>Community Foundation of the Ozarks Endowment</u>			
Grant	2012	\$ 1,000	\$0
<u>Community Foundation of the Ozarks Community</u>			
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
<u>DNR 319 Little Sac Restoration and Improvement</u>			
Project	2014	\$428,461	\$172,910
Missouri Department of Conservation	2014	\$ 6,500	
Our Missouri Waters Project	2015	\$ 64,000	
MDC Community Conservation Grant	2015	\$ 10,000	
<u>Community Foundation of the Ozarks</u>			
Community Innovation Grant	2015	\$ 11,000	
<u>DNR Little Sac Restoration and Improvement</u>			
Project Extension	2016	\$104,512	
Community Conservation Grant (MDC)	2016	\$ 10,000	
Community Conservation Grant (MDC)	2017	\$ 10,000	
Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative Grant	2017	\$ 25,000	
HDR Solar Demonstration Grant	2017	\$ 80,000	
Lucky's Market Agricultural Demonstration Grant	2017	\$ 6,000	
DNR 319 Little Sac Restoration and Improvement	2018	\$ 29,155	\$19,437
Missouri Department of Conservation	2018	\$ 10,000	
CW Titus Foundation	2018	\$ 45,000	
USDA	2018	\$ 49,000	\$25,334
OHRD	2018	\$ 21,000	
3M Grant	2018	\$ 5,000.00	
Total		\$8,494,180	5,378,756

SPONSOR SUPPORT

Organization	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
City of Springfield	\$45,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$45,000	\$52,000
City Utilities of Springfield	\$188,000	\$188,000	\$188,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Greene County	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$65,000
Springfield-Greene County Parks	\$14,300	\$14,300	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000

FOR EVERY DOLLAR

Keeping our water resources clean and plentiful is the right thing to do for many reasons. Clean 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. In the last 5 years, WCO has brought home \$818,640 in grant funding to our community (see page 32). 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 City Utilities dollar resulted in a return of **\$5.03, \$7.32, and \$0.95 per dollar invested**, respectively. This simplistic equation is impressive, but the real financial value provided would be even greater if we included the efficiencies, the funding leverage of the three-way agreement, partnerships generated, regulatory cost avoidances, and volunteer resources utilized.



OUR MISSION:

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



The WCO—a wise investment with a track record
of achieving successful outcomes .