



## THE JRBP YEAR IN REVIEW -- 2011

At the end of one year and the beginning of another it is helpful to reflect a bit on the year past and the year to come. The following information is intended to provide interested individuals with a snap shot of the way we here at JRBP spend our time. Information about new activities will be found at the end of this review.

### Ongoing Implementation Programs

- ◆ **Septic Pump Out Program**—We offer a \$50.00 incentive for individuals who are a first time participant in the pump-out program. Each homeowner is visited by JRBP representative and given a packet of educational information. Individual eligible for this program include residents of the James River Basin. **Completed 111 Septic Reimbursements and informed 162 households about septic systems.**
- ◆ **Urban lawn-testing Program**—A JRBP representative collects a soil sample from the lawn participants. Soil sample is analyzed by state soil testing laboratory. Our staff along with NRCS prepares an urban nutrient management plan for the homeowner so they have a proper fertilizer plan for their yard based on a soil test. Individuals eligible for this program include Branch Level members of the James River Basin Partnership. Each participant also receives information/education materials during the site visit. **Completed 25 NMP for homeowners.**
- ◆ **Rain Barrel Sales**—Approximately 70 rain barrels were sold in our region as a part of the Greene County Resident rebate program. This program provides rebates for residents of Greene County in partnership with City of Springfield Public Works, Greene County Resource Management and City Utilities. In addition to providing rain barrels at a discounted rate this program has served to educate the public on stormwater runoff issues as well as water conservation. Before the introduction of this program, sources of rain barrels were not available in Springfield. Since the program kicked off in 2007 rain barrels have become increasingly available as the demand has been recognized by businesses across the watershed.

### Demo Projects

- ◆ **Realtor Garden**—The garden was planted in cooperation with The Greater Springfield Board of REALTORS outside their headquarters. This native plant garden is designed to showcase the use of natives in a conservative business setting.
- ◆ **Conservation Easement**—Coordinated appraisal and survey of property to finalize an agreement to acquire and establish a perpetual easement on 4.5 miles of the James River in Stone County. This easement will average approximately 300 feet wide and forever protects an excellent riparian corridor. We anticipate recording of the easement shortly after January 1, 2012. In 2012 we anticipate at least two more easement acquisitions in fulfillment of the requirements of the Riparian Easement Grant requirements.
- ◆ **Green Streetscape**—Utilizing the Water Quality Improvement Project funds, JRBP Worked with the City of Springfield to develop and implement the first green streetscape project. This is located in downtown Springfield and features two green methods; a rain garden that drains a roadside parking area and a section of pervious pavement. For each location an informational sign has been developed.

- ◆ [Residential Cistern](#)—JRBP staff assisted in planning for the first residential rainwater harvesting cistern in Springfield. This cistern is designed to use rainwater indoors as well as outdoors for irrigation and is designed to be a demo for other residents. To implement the project a thorough review of existing codes was conducted and new Plumbing Codes were developed. It is expected that the new codes will be adopted in early 2012. The cistern will be installed when the new codes are adopted.

### Events

- ◆ [Storm Drain Reveal](#)—JRBP contracted with the City of Springfield to assist with the requirements in their MS4 permit. The contract provided for JRBP to assist City to develop the first annual Storm Drain Reveal event. Storm Drain Reveal is built on the successful framework of the previous Rain Barrel Reveal Event. JRBP staff worked with local artists to paint 10 storm drains located downtown. A brochure was developed and artwork was featured at the First Friday Artwalk & Artsfest in Springfield, MO. The program gained national attention and has been duplicated in several cities around the county.
- ◆ [River Rescue](#)—Conducted the annual river clean-up and benefit concert on June 11, 2011 on the James River. The 6.5 mile clean-up float drew 198 floaters, removed 182 regular tires, 18 oversized tires, approximately ¾ ton of metal and 5.4 tons of trash. Approximately 300 people attended an evening concert held next to the Finley River in Ozark.
- ◆ [Earth Day Lake Springfield](#)—Conducted the annual clean up on April 22<sup>nd</sup> (Earth Day) at Southwood Access, with over 50 volunteers and approximately 1 ton of trash removed from Lake Springfield.
- ◆ [Adopt-A-Highway](#)—JRBP volunteers removed 15 bags of trash from our 1 mile stretch of highway in Stone County.
- ◆ [County Wide Watershed Festivals](#)—About 2,300 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from schools in Christian, Taney, Stone, and Barry Counties attended watershed festivals that teach about water quality and conservation, including stormwater issues. The goal is to provide a fun interactive educational component so each student can better understand point and non-point source pollution and how it relates to water quality.
- ◆ [Workshops/Conferences/Presentation/Booths](#)—During the past year staff members:
  1. Conducted 6 Board of Director's Update Presentations.
  2. Coordinated 4 Riparian Corridor Committee meetings focusing on conservation easements.
  3. Staffed display booths at 10 area events.
  4. Presented LID & Septic System Information at the North Central Regional Construction Science Institute Conference.
  5. Conducted a LID presentation at the GREATER Springfield Board of REALTORS monthly meeting.
  6. Presented Rain Barrel & Rain Garden information to the Pulaski County Master Gardeners
  7. Participated and presented at the 2011 GLADE event
  8. Consulted with the City of Springfield Environmental Advisory Board.
  9. Presented LID information to a meeting of the Seminole & Holland Homeowners Association.
  10. Presented Storm Drain Reveal to Springfield City Council.
- ◆ [Swimmin In Moonshine](#)—Where 208 swimmers tested their ability and endurance in Southwest Missouri's *ONLY* open water swim event, featuring a 500 yd, 1 mile and 2 mile swim. This

event was held at the beautiful Moonshine Beach, Table Rock Lake on August 27<sup>th</sup> and was co-sponsored by UltraMax Championship and State Park Marina.

- ◆ [Stream Environments Course for Teachers](#)— Part of Water Watch Week where 25 elementary – high school teachers attended a course that included classroom instruction, and a 6-hour Project WET workshop in addition to a day-long float on the James River. During the float, teachers were provided instruction on the hydrology of the James River, the aquatic communities of the river and stream dynamics.
- ◆ [Attorney General Meeting](#)—Following-up on a previous meeting with the Office of the Attorney General in Jefferson City, JRBP sponsored a meeting with a representative of the Office of the Attorney General in August. The location of the meeting was sponsored by the City of Ozark at the Ozark Community Center. In attendance at the meeting were representatives from local and regional watershed groups, City of Nixa, City of Ozark and City of Springfield. The focus of the meeting was to inform the groups about the role of the Attorney General in water quality issues.
- ◆ [Banff Film Festival](#)—JRBP was the local not-for-profit chosen to co-sponsor the first annual Banff Film Festival premier in Springfield. This included promoting the festival with the ability to use it as an educational platform for stormwater information as well as receive a portion of the proceeds.
- ◆ [Earth on Your Plate](#)—The first annual fundraising event held during Earth Week 2011 in which 28 local restaurants volunteered to dedicate 10% of their total food and drink sales during a shift to the benefit of JRBP, Ozark Greenways and the Watershed Center of the Ozarks. The Community Foundation of the Ozarks matched the donations to bring the total for the event to nearly \$6,000.
- ◆ [Water Watch Week in cooperation with Ozarks Water Watch, Watershed Center and Table Rock Lake Water Quality](#)—“Celebrating Ozarks Waters Guarding our Treasure.” The week started with River Rescue and Dam Jam with 9 other events to follow including a Water Quality Summit sponsored by Table Rock Lake Water Quality (TRLWQ).

### Publications

#### ◆ [Available Brochures:](#)

1. JRBP general brochure-Focused on water quality issues of region, [redesigned](#)
2. Rain Garden Guide redesigned with MDC, WCO, and the City of Springfield
3. Make-Your-Own Rain Barrel Guide
4. Septic tank maintenance brochure
5. Sinkhole protection brochure
6. Green Circle-Case Study
7. What Goes Down Does Come Around!
8. Rain Barrel program handout
9. Septic Tank folder-pumping record keeper
10. Urban Lawn folder-fertilizing record keeper
11. Storm Drain Reveal Brochure

#### ◆ [Internet Outreach:](#)

1. [www.jamesriverbasin.com](http://www.jamesriverbasin.com) –general water quality information with approx 1000 visits per month. Website redesigned.
2. Quarterly digital newsletter and updates sent out as needed.
3. New WordPress format for The Current newsletter

## Service on Committees, Commissions and Work Groups

- ◆ MSU Sustainability Advisory Committee
- ◆ Planning Committee for 319 Conference
- ◆ State wide Nutrient Reduction Task Force
- ◆ Planning Committee for the Ozark Summit hosted at MSU
- ◆ Planning Committee for the 4-State Watershed Academy—held in Oklahoma
- ◆ Member of Multi-Basin Organization—A coalition of groups in Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri
- ◆ Christian County Health Department Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) Ordinance Review Stakeholder Committee
- ◆ City of Springfield Wastewater Task Force
- ◆ Secretary of the Ozark Green Building Coalition Board

## Current Grants

- ◆ Stormwater 319-Ended January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011 (Final Report Available)
- ◆ Water Quality Improvement Project-Throughout the year
- ◆ Riparian 319-Throughout the year: Secured 4.5 miles of riparian easement in Stone County
- ◆ Table Rock Lake 319-Ended September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011
- ◆ Big Urbie 319-Started May 1, 2011
- ◆ Successful grant application for the Show Me Yards Neighborhood, Farms and Ranches 319 Grant—official start date will be March 1, 2012

## Staff Professional Development

- ◆ Blue Planet Conference-Kellie Herman
- ◆ MNRC-JRBP Staff
- ◆ Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) State Certified Septic Installer 2 day training-Melissa Bettes
- ◆ State Certified OWTS Inspection 2 day training-Melissa Bettes
- ◆ Project WET Training-Joe Pitts and Kellie Herman
- ◆ Low Impact Development (LID) Symposium-Tiffany Frey
- ◆ Missouri Smallflows Organization (MSO) training-Melissa Bettes

## NEXT YEAR

The staff members here at JRBP are looking forward to a banner year in 2012. We will continue implementation of the Riparian Easement grant and in March begin implementation of the Show-Me Yards, Neighborhoods, Farms & Ranches grant. In addition, we will move into full implementation of the JRBP portion of the “Big Urbie” grant in conjunction with the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks.

You can look for a renewed emphasis on building our membership base to include more individual and business members and partners. Along with our membership drive we will be working with media outlets on a “Love Your Water” campaign to get the word out about JRBP and all the great things we do in the basin.

Kellie, Tiffany, Melissa and Joe deeply appreciate your help, guidance and wisdom throughout the year. We wish you a happy and prosperous new year.