



2023 Annual Report



From the Desk of the Director

If you are tuned into the local news, you are likely aware of the Lake Springfield master plan and the recent attention that has been placed on the upper James River. This plan has been a catalyst for conversations about economic growth, water quality, and the desire to enhance recreational opportunities within our community. The plan and these discussions happen to coincide nicely with our Upper James River 319 grant and the launch of our newest educational initiative, 100 Hours Outdoors. The common goal of all of these projects is to improve quality of life for everyone in our community. For some folks, the quality-of-life improvement comes from cost-share assistance to install management practices that benefit their livestock operation while also reducing erosion and nutrification of local creeks and streams. For others, it's clean and safe places to go for a quiet paddle or fish with their grandkids. Everyone's "hook" is going to look a bit different, but I think we can all agree that quality of life and quality water go hand in hand.

We look forward to continuing to focus on these efforts and more in 2024. As always, there will be plenty of opportunities to bag some trash, float your boat, catch some fish, and drink a Blue Canoe or two on the Historic Riverside Bridge. I hope that you'll find some time to connect with us this year and take some time to appreciate the blessings provided by our beautiful Ozark streams.

See you on the river,



Brent Stock
Executive Director

2023 by the Numbers

804 volunteers

2,690 volunteer hours

3,451 student contacts

1,736 outreach participants

6,950 lbs of trash removed



Our Mission

We are a grassroots, not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization working to improve and protect the water quality of the springs, streams, rivers, and lakes in the James River watershed which consists of almost a million acres of land in portions of eight counties.

Board of Directors

Steve Childers, *President*
Travis Cossey, *President Elect*
Shiloh Beeman, *Treasurer*
Jim Lumpe, *Secretary*
Dave Coonrod, *Past President*

Michael Bridges
Dan Chiles
Louanne Danner
Gordon Day
Greg Fritz
Jessica Hayes

Ray Jones
Kaitlyn McConnell
Brian Shipman
Nathan Stearns
Miles Sweeney
Mark Wood

We want to recognize our outgoing board members, Louanne Danner and Brian Shipman. Thank you for your many years of leadership and service to JRBP.

Staff



Brent Stock
Executive Director



Todd Wilkinson
Project Manager



Brooke Widmar
*Education Outreach
Coordinator*



Katherine Kranjec
*Administrative
Assistant*



Loring Bullard
Grant Technician



Tim Smith
Grant Technician



Bekah Davis
AmeriCorps Member



Cecilia Kayser
AmeriCorps Member

Individual Members

We are committed to creating a community of water quality advocates that come together through education, action, and recreation.

Your membership dollars make a difference!



Membership Perk: Member Float

JRBP's annual Member Float was held on September 30th, with participants paddling 6 miles from Shelvin Rock to Hootentown. During gravel bar stops members learned all about Missouri's wild grapes that frequently grow in riparian areas, as well as the legend of the Yocum Silver Dollar. Want to join us in 2024? Become a member today!

Become a member today!

Annual and monthly memberships available.

Level 1 - \$30/year

Level 2 - \$60/year

Level 3 - \$100/year

Level 4 - \$180/year

Level 5 - \$300/year

Lifetime - \$1,000

Join at www.jamesriverbasin.com/membership

Thank You Members

LIFETIME

Chico & Molly Seay
Carol Hutcheson*
Dan & Diane Hoy
Dan & Margy Chiles
Jim Lumpe
Loring Bullard
Shiloh & John Beeman

LEVEL 5

Adam Bolyard
Allison Osredker*
Becki & Michel Davis
Brandon West
Brian Kuehn
Dave & Elisa Coonrod
Floyd & Nancy Schmitz
Gordon & Cynthia Day
James Fossard
Jane Earnhart
Katelyn Langford*
Katie Wendt
Larry P. O'Reilly
Louanne Danner
Lynn & Michael Greenstreet
Robert & Barbara Kipfer
Timothy Wayne Smith
Tina Ballhorn*
Travis Cossey

LEVEL 4

CeCe Haden
Gary & Amy D. Strauss
Holly & Eric Neill
Jacob Berger
Jeremy Pinegar
Jim Lewis
Mark & Marie Wood
Pamela Anderson
Sean Fay
Sharon Weidelman
Tamera & David Jahnke

LEVEL 3

Alex Cayer
Amber Howard
Anita Kay Burk*
Autumn Willis*
Barbara Lucks
Barry L. Rowell
Catherine Bahn*
Cathy & Alex Primm
Chad Hartman
Gregory & Denise Bischof
John Havel
John Mihalevich
Joseph R. Fry
Kaitlyn McConnell
Larry Wantland
Laura McCaskill
Laurel Browning
Lisa Berger
M Zach & Jess McDonald
Matt Taylor
Miles Sweeney
Mike & Mary Chiles*
Rachel Vanhoozer
Ronna Haxby
Roy Holand
Saki Urushudani
Stephanie Hurt
Steve Coller
Susan Wade*
Tammy Trantham
Timothy R. Coppinger
Todd Parnell

LEVEL 2

Brent Stock
Brooke Widmar
Bryan McQueary
Caleb Roth Sanders
Curtis Copeland
Dan Smith

LEVEL 2

Dave Millsap
Dave Tobey
Diana Sheridan
Garon Todd*
Greg Fritz
Heather Blades
Jason Frantz
Jim Coombs
John W. Ricketts
Kelly Guenther
Kevin Hess
Mandi Hubbs
Steve Sanders*
Sue Elizabeth Pyle
Todd Wilkinson

LEVEL 1

Brent Bolyard*
Chelsea Russell*
Cindy Mueller*
Cody Knodell
Connie Atkins
Danny & Barbara Self
David Stokely
Gary Tombridge*
Joe & Sarah Smith
Kevin Hedgpeth
Mark O'Dell
Nate Reed
Nathan Stearns
Patrick Byers
Russell & Sue Gaddie
Ryan Edwards
Steve Long*
Steve Spencer
Vonnie Ronald Prentice

**Thank you for joining
or renewing in 2023**

*new members in 2023

Business Members

Our business members are a valued part of our organization. These businesses recognize the importance of improving and protecting our local waterways. Thank you for joining or renewing in 2023!

Level 4



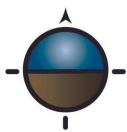
Level 3



White River Valley
Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



CMC Commercial Metals



GRE
GREAT RIVER
ENGINEERING



KERRY



Level 2

Springfield Brewing Company; PCnet

Level 1

O'Reilly Auto Parts; Computer Recycling Center; Associated Electric Coop, Inc; Illumine Collect; Husch Blackwell LLP

Become a business member today!

Annual and monthly memberships available.

Level 1 - \$350/year

Level 2 - \$750/year

Level 3 - \$1,000/year

Level 4 - \$3,000/year

Level 5 - \$5,000/year

Join at www.jamesriverbasin.com/membership

Annual Supporters



Bass Pro Shops has been a longtime supporter, providing us with annual financial support. In addition to their annual giving, they sponsor the River Rescue lunch to make sure our volunteers stay energized for the event.



The Hulston Family Foundation has provided generous support for our education and outreach programming. This year the family increased their gift, allowing us to reach new audiences across the watershed.



Support from Missouri State University keeps us running. From office space to technology services, we wouldn't be able to do what we do without their help. Thank you Missouri State for many years of partnership!

We receive annual support from Greene County, City Utilities, and the cities of Nixa, Ozark, Republic, and Springfield. Through these partnerships JRBP provides educational programming to satisfy the requirements of each entities state and federally mandated stormwater permits. These partnerships greatly expand the capacity of our education and outreach. We can't thank them enough for their support!



REPUBLIC
MISSOURI



Annual River Events



Earth Day

This year saw our annual Earth Day cleanup move to the Lake Springfield Boathouse. While cold weather and low water temperatures kept us off the James River, we still had 118 volunteers who paddled Lake Springfield, or cleaned the shorelines. Volunteers came from groups such as Lippert Industries, Springfield Catholic High School students, Missouri State University's English Language Institute, Ozark Mountain Paddlers, and Outdoor Initiatives. Join us for our next cleanup on April 22, 2024!

River Rescue

While we originally planned to hold River Rescue on the Finley River, low water moved us to the James from Delaware Town to Shelvin Rock, where 40 volunteers brought in 40 bags of trash and 17 tires. Big thanks to Bass Pro Shops for sponsoring lunch, Republic Services for donating a trash receptacle, Lippert Industries for providing take-out volunteers, Mitchem Tire for recycling tires, Ozark Mountain Paddlers for serving as safety volunteers, and Hootentown Canoe Rental for shuttling.



Litter Cleanups



Day of Caring Cleanup

In June we partnered with the City of Springfield's Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant to host a cleanup along the Wilson's Creek Greenway Trail as part of the United Way of the Ozarks' Day of Caring. Thirty-five dedicated volunteers from KY3 News, Miller Engineering, and American National Insurance removed over 75 bags of trash, large debris, and five tires from the creek.



Drury University Freshman Cleanup

An exciting new partnership this past year was working with Drury University on their Service Plunge. On August 21st over 200 incoming freshmen combed the banks of Jordan and Fassnight Creeks, removing 87 bags of trash from our urban waterways. Participants also learned about efforts that JRBP and our partners have made to protect these important urban streams.



Fassnight Creek

Missouri State University Service-Learning Student, Katelin Meek, organized a student cleanup at our adopted section of Fassnight Creek by the Springfield Art Museum. Members of The Wildlife Society teamed up with other student volunteers to remove trash while also learning about the native plantings and stream bank improvements along Fassnight Creek.

Join us for future cleanup events!
Sign up to volunteer at jamesriverbasin.com/volunteer

Rebates and Programs



In 2023 we provided 82 homeowners with septic pump out rebates, totaling \$7,400. All septic tanks in the James River watershed are eligible, with rebates ranging from \$50 to \$150 depending on location. It is important to pump out septic tanks at least every 3-5 years depending on tank size and usage. This extends the life of the system, protects against groundwater contamination, and reduces nutrient loading into nearby waterways. Learn more at jamesriverbasin.com/septic



Residents of Greene and Christian Counties were eligible for rain barrel rebates in 2023. JRBP paid out over \$500 to 6 homeowners. The rebate is for \$0.50 per gallon based on the system's capacity, up to \$300 per residence. Rain barrels harvest rainwater from rooftops, reducing runoff, minimizing erosion, and conserving drinking water. In 2024 residents of Greene County are eligible for rebates at jamesriverbasin.com/rain-barrel



JRBP staff and our summer AmeriCorps member Bekah Davis conducted 49 soil tests for residents of Springfield, Greene County, and Republic. Soil samples are collected, sent to the MU Extension lab for testing, and results are reviewed to create a personalized nutrient management plan for the lawn. This program helps Springfield residents achieve Yard Ethic designation for their lawns. Sign up to get your lawn tested at jamesriverbasin.com/lawn-steward

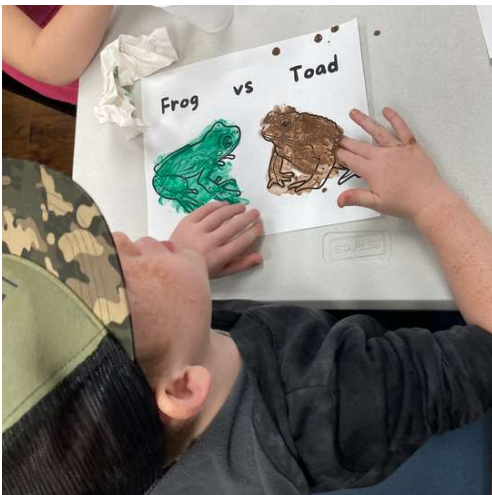
Learn more about JRBP's rebates and programs at www.jamesriverbasin.com/rebates-programs

Community Partnerships



Integrated Plan Field Day

Over 60 attendees from a variety of local governmental agencies and nonprofits attended this year's Integrated Plan Field Day at the Lake Springfield Boathouse. Topics of discussion included our Upper James 319 grant, the Regional Conservation Partnership Project, the Lake Springfield Master Plan, and the City of Springfield's Sustainable Return on Investment (SROI) studies.



Cassville Watershed Education

Through a new agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) we are focusing on providing water quality education to residents of Cassville. Programs include library lessons for children and adults, future elementary lessons, field trips, and more. Cassville is a priority area for MDC, and we are grateful to partner with them, expanding our reach into the Flat Creek watershed.



SAAB Morning Paddle

In partnership with the City of Springfield's Environmental Services and their "Let's Talk About Water" project, JRBP teamed up with Outdoor Initiatives to host the Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB) for a morning paddle on Lake Springfield. The event included an introduction to paddling and discussions about local water quality and outdoor recreation.

Upper James 319 Grant



Our Upper James 319 Implementation Grant officially began in March. Here are some of our initial accomplishments:

- We hit the ground running with our annual Earth Day cleanup at Lake Springfield on April 22, with volunteers removing trash from the lake and shorelines.
- We held a series of meetings with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Greene & Webster County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) to develop a cost-share program for landowners to implement best management practices in the Upper James.
- In October we conducted our first round of macroinvertebrate monitoring at three sites on Pearson Creek and at Crighton Access on the James River. Three of the four sites had excellent scores in terms of macroinvertebrate diversity, a trend we hope will continue.
- JRBP staff attended a Greene County SWCD Grazing School in Fair Grove to learn more about agricultural best management practices.
- We worked with Ozark Greenways and the City of Springfield to enroll two parcels of land along Galloway Creek into conservation easements.
- Staff worked with Missouri State's Ozarks Environmental Water Resources Institute to develop a Quality Assurance Project Plan for bacteria source tracking on Pearson Creek.

Follow our progress in 2024 on our Upper James 319 page at jamesriverbasin.com/upper-james-grant

Septic Remediation Project

There are more than 20,000 onsite wastewater treatment systems (commonly referred to as septic systems) in Greene County. Failing or poorly functioning septic systems are a public health concern and can easily contaminate both surface and groundwater.

In 2023, JRBP was awarded a \$133,000 grant from Greene County to remediate failing residential septic systems within the James and Sac River watersheds. Funding for this grant was provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). JRBP has partnered with H2Ozarks, Missouri Smallflows Organization, and the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks to design and implement a replacement program that focuses on limited income households.

So far, we have provided \$72,307.74 to assist homeowners with the replacement of four advanced treatment systems. We have several additional projects that are expected to be completed in the early months of 2024.

For more information, please visit jamesriverbasin.com/greene-septic



Sunset Soiree



PRESENTED BY:



On September 16th we hosted our 7th annual Sunset Soiree fundraiser, presented by Bass Pro Shops. Guests enjoyed an evening with picturesque views of the Finley River from the historic Riverside Bridge at Finley Farms. Crowds feasted on a delicious buffet catered by the Ozark Mill, enjoyed tasty libations from Springfield Brewing Company and St. James Winery, and supported JRBP through the silent auction and wine & whiskey pull. This year's event was the most successful yet, bringing in over \$57,000, thanks to our generous sponsors and attendees. **Join us for our next event on Saturday, September 14, 2024.**



2023 Sponsors: Bass Pro Shops, Capital Quarry; Phenix Marble; Cochran Engineering; Crawford Murphy & Tilly; Fiochi of America; Ollis Family Foundation; Arvest Bank; Commercial Metals Company; Liberty Utilities; Great Southern Bank; Husch Blackwell; Great River Engineering; Croley Insurance; Curulli LIHTC Consulting; Finley Farms; St. James Winery; 37 North Expeditions; Springfield Brewing Company; Forrest Keeling Nursery; City of Ozarks Parks and Recreation

Fundraising and Grants

Thanks to our generous partners we had multiple successful fundraisers during the year! **Springfield Brewing Company** donates a portion of all Blue Canoe Pale Ale sold, and this past year it brought in \$878. During the month of March, we continued our partnership with **Illumine Collect**, offering special “Earth Day Every Day” t-shirts and stickers to benefit JRBP. We raised \$305 through sales. During the summer months we sold raffle tickets to win a Mariner paddleboard thanks to our friends at **ORW Boards**, bringing in \$1,600. Thank you for supporting our mission!



Dedicated Funds

- **Larry Martin Memorial River Rescue Fund:** Throughout the year almost \$5,000 was raised for the Larry Martin Fund. This fund enabled us to offer the River Rescue event free of charge to participating volunteers and allowed us to purchase our new canoe trailer.
- **Education Outreach Fund:** Through an end-of-year appeal over \$1,500 was given for the Education Outreach Fund, ensuring we can reach students in all parts of the watershed.

We received many small grants throughout the year that supported work across the watershed. Thank you to the following organizations:

- BNSF Railway Foundation - \$1,500 for education and outreach
- The Nora Roberts Foundation - \$2,000 for library programs
- TTEC - \$2,500 for educational supplies
- Finley River Community Foundation - \$2,700 for education and outreach in Christian County
- Veterans United - \$10,000 for general support
- Stream Teams United Mini-Grant - \$200 for Boys and Girls Club programming supplies





Outreach and Education

This was a record year for education! Over 3,450 students received water quality education through partnerships with schools, libraries, scout troops, early childhood centers, homeschool groups, after school clubs, and more.



Watershed Education

Fifth grade students are always a target for JRBP since our water quality curriculum aligns with 5th grade Missouri Learning Standards. During the year we worked with 50 different 5th grade classrooms, either in class, on field trips, or during summer school. Many dedicated volunteers made it possible for these students to learn about watersheds, macroinvertebrates, the water cycle, pollutants, and more.



Community Partnerships

JRBP partnered with the Springfield Art Museum to host “The Great ARTdoors” summer camp for 20 elementary students in Springfield. Participants learned about nature through art with nature journaling, stream watercolors, fish printing, and nature-inspired pottery projects.



Library Programs

We worked with the Springfield-Greene County Library, Christian County Library, and Cassville Branch Library on programs for both children and adults. Young students in STEM and homeschool programs learned about wildlife in and around our streams, including insects, frogs, toads, and crayfish. Adult programming included a native plant and yard ethics presentation for community homeowners. We even had a fishing field trip with the Ozark Branch Library where participants were able to fish the Finley River with help from experienced volunteers.



Homeowner Outreach

Through the Lawn Steward soil testing program JRBP staff met with 49 landowners to discuss lawn care and soil health. During the Lawn and Garden Show staff and board members spoke with 564 contacts to discuss rebates and programs for those in the watershed.

100 Hours Outdoors

Presented by
 Hatch

JRBP kicked off the inaugural 100 Hours Outdoors challenge, where families pledged to spend at least 100 hours outside during their summer vacations. A total of 297 children across southwest Missouri took the pledge, and 76 logged 100 hours or more. Over 10,000 hours were logged between all participants! Thanks to donations and sponsorship by the Hatch Foundation, children were able to win exciting prizes throughout the summer, and every child who finished the challenge received a free James River Explorer's Guide. Special events were held for families to gain more hours while spending time learning about the watershed. Stay tuned for the 2024 summer challenge! Find out more at jamesriverbasin.com/100hours



JRBP hosted two AmeriCorps members through a partnership with Stream Teams United. **Bekah Davis** served as a summer associate, focusing on youth education, soil testing for homeowners, and created a coloring book. **Cecilia Kayser** started a year-long position in July, working with both JRBP and Missouri Smallflows Organization. She is focusing on onsite wastewater education, career education, and capacity building.

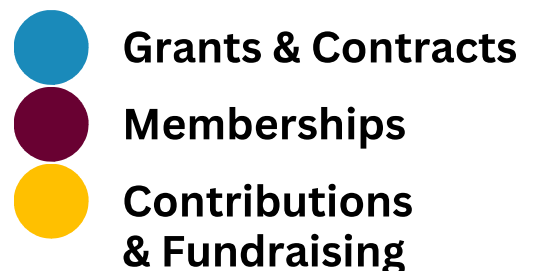
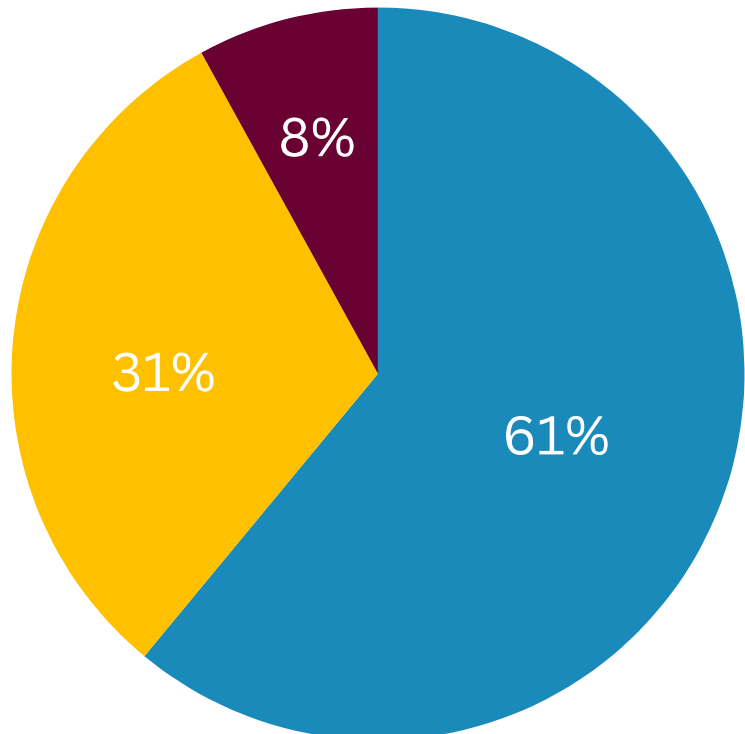
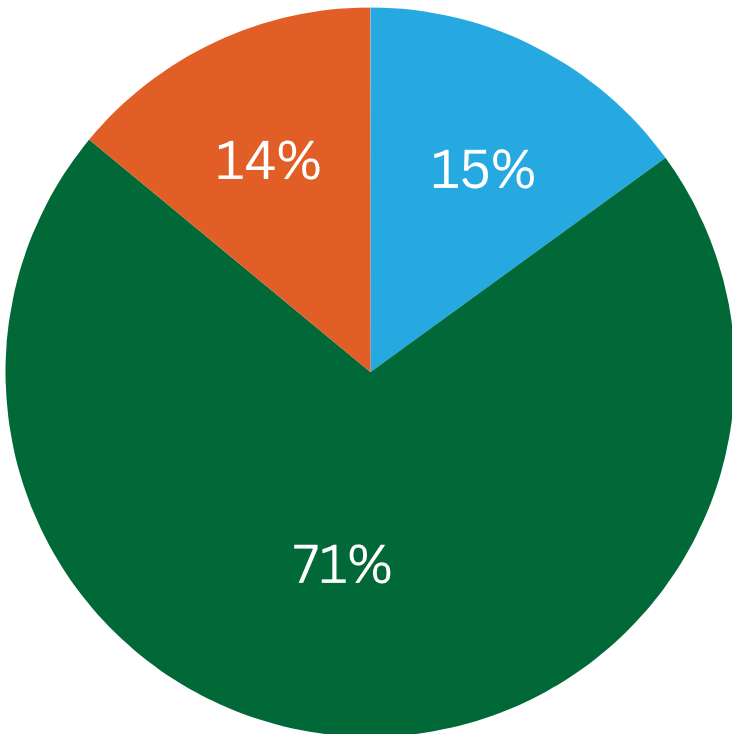
Financial Report

Expense Summary

Fundraising	\$52,263
Grants & Contracts	\$240,909
Administrative & Management	\$46,278
Total	\$339,450

Income Summary

Grants & Contracts	\$250,315
Memberships	\$31,871
Contributions & Fundraising	\$128,036
Total	\$410,221



In Loving Memory

Long-time JRBP board member and “water warrior” Ray Jones (center) passed away in 2023. Ray was an avid paddler, a voice for water quality on the lower James, a dedicated volunteer, and a good friend.

“We must begin thinking like a river if we are to leave a legacy of beauty and life for future generations” - David Brower



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