



THE CURRENT NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

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Earth Day Cleanup

JRBP hosted our annual Earth Day cleanup on Saturday, April 22 at Lake Springfield. Partners for this event include Springfield-Greene County Park Board, Shapiro Metals, Bass Pro Shops, and the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Due to the cold weather, paddlers weren't able to float the river section, and instead focused on the upper arms of Lake Springfield. Other volunteers opted to paddle the lower sections of the lake, or clean along the shorelines of the lake and the James River. We had 118 volunteers who helped removed hundreds of pounds of trash from the area!

The volunteer crew was made up of individuals from all across the watershed, including groups from Missouri State University's English Language Institute, Springfield Catholic High School students, Lippert employees, and safety boat volunteers from Outdoor Initiatives and Ozark Mountain Paddlers.

Thank you volunteers for braving the cold to keep our watershed clean!



Yard Ethic Certification for Springfield, MO Homeowners

The Yard Ethic community is a group of individuals dedicated to responsible lawn care to support a healthy community of people, plants, and wildlife. Becoming certified is easy! Implement new practices that save money, beautify your yard, conserve water, reduce stormwater pollution and create habitat. Silver or Gold Level certifications available.



*Building community from the ground up...
one yard at a time.*

JRBP partners with the City of

Springfield Environmental Services for this project, supplying rebates for rain barrels and soil testing through our Lawn Steward program.

Learn more and start your certification at yardethic.com

Lawn Steward Soil Testing



A healthy lawn will create the right environment for plants to thrive while holding the soil in place and allowing water to soak in rather than leave your property as stormwater runoff. Healthy soils will require fewer inputs and amendments, saving you time and money while preventing excess nutrients from entering our waterways.

Let us help you to get started down the path of improving soil health and protecting water quality by providing you with a FREE soil test and FREE three-year nutrient management plan tailored to your yards specific needs.

In 2023 a limited number of soil tests will be available to residents of the City of Springfield, Greene County, and the City of Republic.

Sign up if you're interested in having your soil tested this year: www.jamesriverbasin.com/lawn-steward

Native Plants For Your Yard

Learn more about local native plants at GrowNative.org



2022 Annual Report

Check out all of our accomplishments in our recently published 2022 Annual Report! Many thanks to our individual and business members and donors throughout the year!

Available online here:

www.jamesriverbasin.com/mission



Larry Martin Memorial River Rescue Fund

Larry Martin first joined JRBP as a volunteer, before joining the board in 2003, and serving as president from 2012-2025.

One of Larry's most treasured events was the annual "River Rescue." He poured himself into this event year after year. Many of the JRBP traditions and events are possible today because of Larry's passion for, and diligent efforts towards, the protection and betterment of local water sources.

Though Larry is no longer with us, his memory and dedication to our local waterways is carried on through the Larry Martin Memorial River Rescue Fund. During the month of May we are focusing on raising funds to

continue the River Rescue mission and offer this river cleanup for free for all participants. Funds raised will cover staff time, logistics, and lunch for the crew of dedicated volunteers. All donations are tax deductible and will help make this event possible.

Donate at <https://www.jamesriverbasin.com/larry-martin>



Save the Date!

Annual River Rescue Cleanup

June 10, 2023

Registration opens May 1st. More details to come at www.jamesriverbasin.com/calendar/2023-river-rescue



Coming Summer 2023: 100 Hours Outdoors

100 Hours Outdoors



Make it a goal to spend 100 (or more!) hours outdoors this summer! JRBP is sponsoring "100 Hours Outdoors" in southwest Missouri, where children and families are encouraged to spend at least 100 hours outdoors during summer break. Sign up, log your hours, and upon completion, the first 100 families to complete

the challenge will receive a James River Explorer's Guide. All who submit will be entered to win exciting prizes including outdoor gear!

Check the website to learn about 100 Hours Outdoors events with various Springfield-area partners and find tips for making the most of your time outside this summer!

Learn more at www.jamesriverbasin.com/100hours

Presented by:



Hatch

Education Updates: Watershed Festivals and Grant

Spring is Watershed Festival season for JRBP! We are excited to expand our festivals this year, working with 5th grade students in Ozark, Sparta, Nixa, and Springfield to teach water quality topics that align with Missouri State Learning Standards. Watershed field trips include lessons about macroinvertebrates, the journey of the water cycle, watersheds, citizen science, point and non-point source pollution, best management practices, and more.

JRBP is thrilled to have received a \$2,500 grant from TTEC to purchase supplies for our education and outreach programming! This funding has been used to purchase waterproof binoculars for expanded birding programs, equipment for teaching kids how to fish, art supplies for various lessons, new underwater viewers for water exploration, and more! Thank you TTEC for your support of our expanding educational programming. We are able to offer so many new activities thanks to this grant!



Explore the Watershed: Y-Bridge



The Y-Bridge is located in Galena, Missouri and stands over the James River. The bridge was built in the 1930s as the emergence of the Missouri State Highway Department pushed for better transportation systems.

Today, the float from the H.L. Kerr access to the Ralph Cox access point is still one of the most scenic floats along the James. Besides the historic bridge, there are gorgeous natural rock features as well as great fishing

opportunities year-round. It's a great place to enjoy some local history and scenic Ozark views.

Learn more and visit the Y-Bridge: www.jamesriverbasin.com/river-ramblings/explore-the-watershed-y-bridge

Mini Grant from Stream Teams United

Thank you Stream Teams United for awarding us with a 2023 Mini Grant! Funds were used to send Education Outreach Coordinator Brooke Widmar to the Missouri Department of Conservation Stream Management Workshop held in Sedalia in March 2023. This grant helped increase our staff knowledge and training, gaining skills that will be used on future projects across the watershed.



New 319 Grant for Upper James River



We're excited to announce that our Upper James River Implementation Project officially began on March 1. This grant will focus on the headwaters of the James River, including Pearson Creek and Lake Springfield. JRBP staff are looking forward to working with landowners in eastern Greene and Webster County to help promote best management practices such as managed grazing systems, conservation easements, riparian corridor restoration, and grazing schools. Additional activities will include our annual Earth Day cleanup at Lake Springfield, macroinvertebrate monitoring and a snapshot sampling

event. The James River headwaters, Lake Springfield, and Pearson Creek are all on the state's 303(d) list of impaired waters due to high levels of E.coli bacteria, nutrients, and loss of aquatic macroinvertebrate diversity. Watch for grant project updates in future issues of *The Current!*

This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources under project number G19NPS-03 to The James River Basin Partnership. It has been subjected to the EPA and the department's product and administrative review and has been approved for production. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the EPA or the department, nor does the EPA or the department endorse trade names or recommend the use of commercial products mentioned in this document.

Business Members



Level 5



Level 4

Level 3: Olsson; White River Electric Co-op; ORW Boards; Great River Engineering; SMC Packaging Group; Commercial Metals; Wild Horse Development; Environmental Works; CFS Engineers; Nixa Public Works; Kerry

Level 2: Springfield Brewing Company; PCnet

Level 1: Timber Ridge Rentals, LLC; Husch Blackwell LLP; ABM Properties LLC; Hootentown Canoe Rental; Diventures; Jack Henry & Associates; Computer Recycling Center; Illumine Collect, Nixa Chamber of Commerce

Annual Supporters



James River Basin Partnership 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. Learn more at JamesRiverBasin.com