



THE CURRENT NEWSLETTER

Winter 2024

www.JamesRiverBasin.com

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2023 By The Numbers

- **804** volunteers
- **2,690** total volunteer hours
- **3,451** student contacts
- **1,736** outreach participants
- **6,950** lbs of trash picked up
- **35** tires removed from rivers

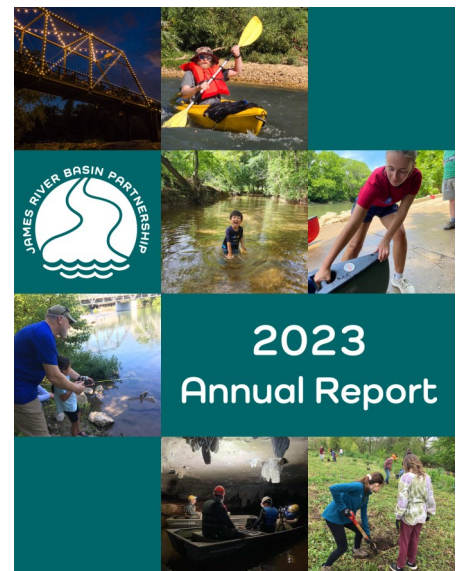
26th YEAR

What a year! We had the opportunity to hit the water with many different groups, either enjoying the James River or clearing out trash. We doubled the number of students we worked with, adding many new school districts and libraries to our educational circuit. Staff and volunteers met with lots of community members and landowners to discuss best management practices and education them about local water quality. 2023 was one for the books, and we're looking forward to all that we have in store for 2024! Thank you for your support in this partnership!

2023 Annual Report—Out Now!

Dive into our newly published 2023 Annual Report to learn more about our accomplishments throughout the year! This report covers community partnerships, grant successes, events, fundraisers, education updates, volunteer opportunities, and more. Big thanks to our Board of Directors, individual and business members, and our annual supporters who make all of this work possible!

See the full report online:
jamesriverbasin.com/mission



2023
Annual Report

Earth Day Music Festival Benefitting JRBP

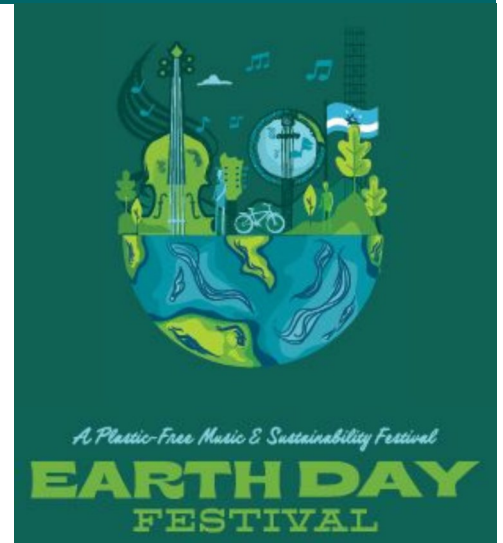
JRBP was selected as one of three organizations to benefit from the Earth Day Music Festival being held on April 27, 2024 at Jordan Valley Park.

The plastic-free music and sustainability festival will feature live musical acts from prominent local and regional bands as well as environmental information through speakers and booths. Headlining the festival is Langhorne Slim, as well as National Park Radio and local favorites like Dallas Jones and The Shandies.

Organizer Molly Healey, who is also a featured performer, says, "Imagine if doing a good environmental deed was as easy as getting a ticket to a music festival and having a good time outside with your friends and dancing to music? In Springfield, it *is* that easy, as 100% of the proceeds from your ticket are donated to help keep our environment clean and sustainable. Join us April 27th, and help us make Springfield's Earth Day Festival a yearly institution!"

Tickets are on sale now! A portion of proceeds benefit JRBP, so the more tickets sold, the more that comes back to our organization to support litter cleanups across the watershed. We hope to see you there!

See the full festival lineup and buy your tickets at www.earthdayspringfieldmo.org



Save the Date: Earth Day 2024

JRBP will be hosting our annual Earth Day cleanup on Monday, April 22, at Lake Springfield. This is a FREE event open to anyone who would like to get out and make a difference in their community. We will have shoreline, lake, and river cleanup opportunities available. Pre-registration is required. Trash bags and gloves will be provided.

Experienced floaters have the option to float a 4.75-mile section of the James River from Creighton Access to the Southwood Access. Shuttling from Southwood to Creighton Access will be provided. Bring your own boat or call and reserve one of ours for free. A limited number of canoes are available on a first come first serve basis, so don't delay. Paddlers may also paddle to remote shorelines of Lake Springfield to pick up trash.

If paddling isn't your thing, grab a trash bag and walk the shorelines of Lake Springfield and the James River. We will have multiple shoreline cleanup opportunities available including the Tailwaters Access and Clay Henshaw Memorial Access, all starting from the Lake Springfield Boathouse.

Registration opens March 1st at

www.jamesriverbasin.com/calendar/2024-earth-day



Lawn Steward Soil Testing



The benefits of a healthy lawn go beyond curb appeal and the satisfaction of a job well done. 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.

Through the Lawn Steward program, JRBP offers free soil tests and nutrient management plans to homeowners in Springfield, Greene County, and Republic. Staff will meet with homeowners, discuss their lawns care practices and goals, and take a sample of soil. Once the soil is processed by MU Extension, JRBP will review the results and create a personalized 3-year nutrient

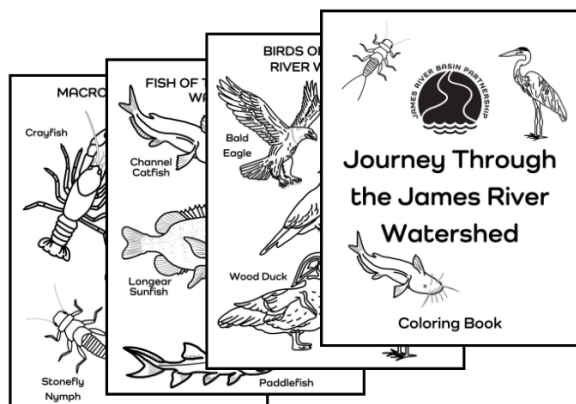
management plan for the lawn. The plan will explain the soil test results and give recommendations for what to do each season, including compost or lime application, overseeding, lawn mowing recommendations, and more. Sign up today to receive alerts when spots open up this spring!

Learn more about the program and sign up at www.jamesriverbasin.com/lawn-steward

NEW: Clean Water Kids Membership

Education is one of JRBP's main avenues to drive our mission forward, so we know the importance of including children when talking about water quality. Through this new program we are inviting children through age 13 to sign up for our FREE membership program, Clean Water Kids. All new kid members will receive a JRBP coloring book in the mail and will be invited to special member events. Explore our webpage to learn about connecting children with nature!

Learn more and sign up at www.jamesriverbasin.com/cleanwaterkids

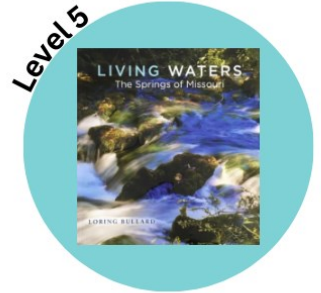
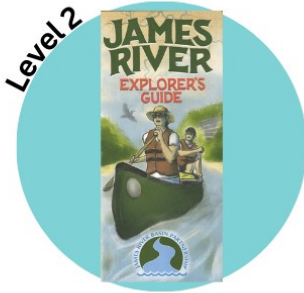


Check out JRBP's new coloring book!

Illustrated and designed by Bekah Davis, who served as our AmeriCorps Summer Associate in 2023. Bekah took the initiative to start this project and completed the 8-page coloring book during her service. Download and print the coloring book at www.jamesriverbasin.com/cleanwaterkids

Become a Member in 2024

Memberships and donations continue to make a huge impact on our ability to implement community projects, including clean-ups. JRBP and our volunteers remove thousands of pounds of trash and recyclables from local rivers each year. Your membership helps fund these clean-ups as well as educational outreach opportunities for adults and youth, projects & programs within our community, and general operational duties. Join as a member and receive perks at every level! All members receive a vinyl decal and invitations to member events like our annual member float. Additional perks for each membership level listed below. Members receive the item for their level and all levels before.



Your membership dollars make a difference!
Join now at jamesriverbasin.com/membership

Business Members



Level 4

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

Level 2: Springfield Brewing Company; PCnet

Level 1: Husch Blackwell LLP; Computer Recycling Center; Illumine Collect; O'Reilly Auto Parts; Associated Electric Coop, Inc

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