



# THE CURRENT NEWSLETTER

Fall 2022

[www.JamesRiverBasin.com](http://www.JamesRiverBasin.com)

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## Getting Involved: Recent Volunteer Opportunities

**Adopt-A-Highway** – Volunteers picked up 10 bags of trash and other debris along JRB's adopted section of Highway M, south of Nixa. Volunteers came from many groups, including Missouri State University, Missouri Master Naturalist, Environmental & Community Action of the Ozarks, Conservation Leadership Corps, and Missouri Stream Team.



**Adopt-A-Stream** – JRB recently adopted a section of Fassnight Creek in Springfield, and held our first cleanup in partnership with Missouri State University's Wildlife Society. Students removed 9 bags of trash from the creek, as well as sampled for macroinvertebrates. The adopted section is by the Springfield Art Museum, including the stream habitat improvement section along Brookeside Drive. Join us for a future cleanup along Fassnight!



**Stream Sampling** – JRB staff and volunteers sampled 4 sites along Jordan Creek and 5 sites along Fassnight Creek in Springfield. Macroinvertebrate sampling was done to determine water quality, along with physical tests to measure the flow of the stream sites. A diversity of critters in the creek showed us that many of these urban stream sites ranked "good" on the Missouri Stream Team scale.



**Join us for future volunteer opportunities! Sign up at**  
[www.jamesriverbasin.com/volunteer](http://www.jamesriverbasin.com/volunteer)

## Education Update

JRBP has been busy educating folks all over the watershed this fall! Nature journaling and fish printing during the Wonders of Wildlife school in Cassville, fishing with Reeds Spring Middle School students in Galena, coloring camouflaged crayfish during the Homeschool Outdoor Fair, teaching students how to be environmentally friendly at Republic High School, presenting about the watershed to a local Audubon organization, and more! We want to connect with more schools and community groups across the watershed! Contact us for educational support, classroom presentations, speakers, etc.: [brookewidmar@jamesriverbasin.com](mailto:brookewidmar@jamesriverbasin.com)



## Republic Boat Donation

JRBP is grateful to the City of Republic Parks and Recreation for donating their fleet of 10 canoes and 8 kayaks to us last month! A famous saying around the JRBP office is “connect with what you protect.” Giving the community a chance to connect with their local waterways through river cleanups and ecotourism float trips is important to JRBP. With this donation we can expand our on-the-river offerings! We are looking forward to many years of utilizing these boats to connect people with the James River watershed. Thank you, Republic!



## Order Your James River Explorer's Guide

The James River Explorer's Guide is written and illustrated to help explorers like you navigate our waterways while learning about the rich history, fascinating geology, and unique plants and animals found throughout our alluring and charming Southwest Missouri watershed.

Purchase a guide online and have it shipped directly to you or a loved one. This Explorer's Guide makes for a compact, meaningful, and beautiful gift! Order now: [www.jamesriverbasin.com/explorers-guide](http://www.jamesriverbasin.com/explorers-guide)

*Proceeds directly benefit JRBP's mission to improve and protect water quality in the Ozarks through action, education, and research.*



## Give Your Septic Tank a “Fresh Flush”

Septic systems are very effective at treating wastewater when they are maintained. Here are a few tips to keeping your system working:

1. If you haven't pumped your tank in over 5 years, consider getting that done. This basically gets the buildup of sludge in the bottom of your tank back to a manageable level and gives the microbes a chance to catch back up with the wastewater coming in.
2. Clean your effluent filter. Most onsite wastewater treatment systems have an effluent filter at the outlet end of the tank heading out to your soil treatment area (drainfield). Periodically, this filter needs to be removed and hosed off back into the front (inlet) end of the tank. An effluent filter is important because it catches anything too big to go out to the soil treatment field. Never remove this filter permanently or you can cause damage to your drainfield.
3. Risers are great additions to your tanks. Risers make it easy to access filters for cleaning and for getting to the tank when it needs to be pumped. Most pumping companies can install these risers. They may even charge less next time if they don't have to dig up the tank!
4. Advanced Treatment Systems such as drip irrigation or low-pressure pipe (LPP) systems need a higher level of maintenance. There are a few more filters that need to be cleaned about every 6 months. Consider hiring a Septic Maintenance Contractor to do this for you. A skilled contractor who is certified to work on these systems can make sure your system is working properly.

Did you know that JRBP offers a rebate to residents of the James River basin who apply for our Fresh Flush Septic Rebate Program prior to pumping? Proper maintenance of your septic system not only helps save you money, but it also helps protect our most precious resource – our local water. Learn more at

[www.jamesriverbasin.com/septic](http://www.jamesriverbasin.com/septic)



## Paddle MO James

JRBP partnered with Stream Teams United to host the inaugural Paddle MO James float, a 3-day, 22-mile adventure from Hooten Town to Galena. 40 participants from across the state and country joined us, many getting to experience the James River for the first time. Paddlers learned about the flora, fauna, and cultural history of the watershed in the evenings with presentations by JRBP staff. During the floats we got to see geographic wonders, identify macroinvertebrates, and learn about other critters living in and around the river.



## Integrated Plan Field Day

In September, JRBP staff, along with our partners from Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Watershed Conservation Corps, Ozark Greenways, Springfield Environmental Services, City Utilities, and Greene County, held our annual Integrated Plan Field Day. Attendees toured the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant and participated in a 2-mile paddle along Wilson's Creek within Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. We learned about the National Park Service's efforts to monitor and protect water quality, as well as the impact upon this tributary of the James by the Springfield metro area.



The Integrated Plan ensures that our community's resources will be invested in what matters most to our community, while addressing the most significant problems, using the most effective solutions, in a way that is affordable to our citizens. Learn more about the Integrated Plan at: <https://springfieldintegratedplan.com/>

## Business Members



Level 5



Level 4

**Level 3:** Olsson; White River Electric Co-op; Ozark River Walkers; Great River Engineering; Commercial Metals; Wild Horse Development; Environmental Works; CFS Engineers; Nixa Public Works; Kerry

**Level 2:** Hartman & Company; Springfield Brewing Company; PCnet

**Level 1:** Timber Ridge Rentals, LLC; Husch Blackwell LLP; ABM Properties LLC; Webster County; Hootentown Canoe Rental; Diventures; Jack Henry & Associates; Computer Recycling Center, Illumine Collect, Austin's Pumping Service

## 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](http://JamesRiverBasin.com)*