



THE CURRENT NEWSLETTER

Winter 2023

www.JamesRiverBasin.com

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2022: Our Accomplishments!

- **570** volunteers
- **3,788** total volunteer hours
- **1,658** student contacts
- **1,019** outreach participants
- **3,730** lbs of trash picked up
- **53** tires removed from rivers



We had a busy year and made a big impact across the watershed.

Thanks to the many volunteers who helped during litter cleanups, education events, fundraisers, and more! What a way to celebrate 25 years!

The JRBP team is looking forward to making an even larger impact in 2023!



AmeriCorps VISTA

In January 2023, our AmeriCorps VISTA member Allison Osredker ended her 12-month term of service with JRBP and Missouri Smallflows Organization. Here is a note from Allison about her experience:

“During my time as an AmeriCorps VISTA member for the James River Basin Partnership I gained experience working with non-profit organizations, building partnerships, organizing events, and so much more. This position has been extremely enriching not only for my professional development, but it has also expanded my interest in conservation work as a whole.



Highlights of my service include networking, hands-on field experience with water quality monitoring and soil testing, learning about grant research and writing, and visiting classrooms to teach water quality lessons.

My favorite part of my service experience is how much independent development I had. It pushed me out of my comfort zone to reach out to organizations, individuals, and department heads to work with them projects or ask for their financial support. I gained a lot of public speaking experience - which no one can ever have enough of! There have been so many opportunities through my service that I never would have had otherwise. I never felt pressured to “prove” myself like in many past entry level positions. During my service year, I was always in a very encouraging environment where everyone wanted me to succeed, gain experiences that would benefit me, and prepare me for my future.”

JRBP and MSO are now accepting applications for a 12-month AmeriCorps VISTA position. Apply by February 11th for a start date of March 13th. Learn more at www.jamesriverbasin.com/river-ramblings/ameri-corps

Explore the Watershed Series



Watch our website and social media for the next few months to catch our new “Explore the Watershed” blog posts highlighting places to visit in the James River watershed.

This month’s feature is Sequiota Park in Springfield, MO. This park is known for the caves, spring, and rock formations on-site, and was once a fish hatchery. The cave is home to North America’s smallest bats, the endangered tri-colored bats. The Springfield Green County Park

Board now owns the property and hosts johnboat and kayak tours in the spring and fall. Check out the Outdoor Initiatives website for more information about the tours scheduled for March.

Read the full entry here: www.jamesriverbasin.com/river-ramblings/explore-the-watershed-sequiota

Right as Rain: Rain Barrel Rebates

Prepare for spring showers by installing a new rainwater harvesting system...and get paid to do it! Residents of Greene and Christian Counties are eligible to receive a one-time rebate as a direct reimbursement at a rate of \$0.50 per gallon, up to \$300. To qualify, rainwater harvesting systems must hold a minimum of 50 gallons and be closed installations.

Why capture rainwater?

- Reduce Pollutant Runoff – collect water that would otherwise carry pollutants into your local storm drains
- Minimize Erosion – slow down water that would otherwise contribute to erosion
- Conserve Drinking Water – Use rainwater for non-potable applications to reduce demand on potable water resources
- For Springfield Homeowners: Show Your Yard Ethic – rainwater systems are part of the Yard Ethic certification program, learn more at yardethic.com

Learn more about the program and apply at

www.jamesriverbasin.com/rain-barrel



Earth Day 2023: Save the Date

JRBP will be hosting our annual Earth Day cleanup on Saturday 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/2023-earth-day

Get Outside with New Educational Resources

Check out our updated Education webpage to learn about programs available to you: www.jamesriverbasin.com/education

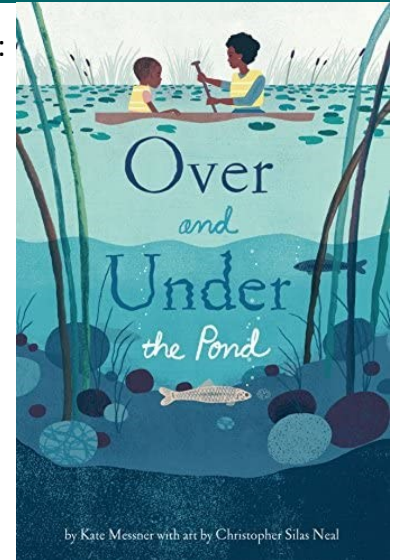
Our webpage now includes education resources! Find a list of children's books to help teach water quality and environmental principals. Each book includes links to check out at a local library in the watershed. See the book list here:

www.jamesriverbasin.com/books

Technology is a huge part of day-to-day life, so put those smart phones to use and download apps for outdoor exploration:

- Aqua Bugs – Use the dichotomous key to find the correct ID. App contains a full list of macroinvertebrates so you can learn more about each one.
- Merlin Bird ID – ID's birds from photos, sounds, or through simple questions. Must download regional packs.
- iNaturalist – ID's plants and animals from a photo, can be submitted to received ID input from other users.
- Shroomify – Use the dichotomous key to narrow down your ID and see a list of mushrooms commonly found during each month.

Read more about each app, including links to download here: www.jamesriverbasin.com/apps



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: 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, 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