

Stream Team Annual Report

2021

promoting citizen awareness and involvement in river and stream conservation

A Summary of Stream Team Activities

2021 saw many changes in the world around us as we continued to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and things transitioned back to "normal" towards the end of the year. The Program again allowed people to get out and enjoy nature on their own terms and it was apparent by the increase in numbers that volunteers were getting back out! Program volunteers reported over 74,000 hours of volunteer time to our stream resources. We gained 138 new Stream Teams adding to our roster of over 5,000 active Teams statewide. Here are some highlights from 2021:

- ◆ 214 tons of trash were removed from Missouri's rivers and streams.
- ◆ 519 water quality monitoring trips were completed.
- ◆ 20,069 trees were planted.
- ◆ Over 27,000 volunteers participated
- ◆ Over \$2 million worth of volunteer labor was dedicated.

Volunteers are enjoying the new hybrid format of water quality training, making it more flexible for the volunteers to become certified. Trained monitors submitted over 1,136 datasheets in 2021 that totaled over 5,000 hours and 1,600 participants. Our tiered VWQM training structure allows flexibility for citizen involvement while increasing education and use of data collected at each level of training.

Water Quality Monitoring Workshops	Number of Field Trainings	Number of Volunteers Trained
Introductory	55	87
Level 1	11	48
Level 2		
Level 3	1	1
VWQM Validation	7	18
Total	74	154

The Stash Your Trash Program targets trash on Missouri streams by providing litter bags to Missouri's float outfitters. There were 138 float outfitters throughout the state participating in the Stash Your Trash Program in 2021; 82 of them offered discounts to Stream Team volunteers in the *Stream Team Float Outfitters Discount Directory*. More than 334,000 red mesh bags were provided to livery business owners to distribute to the public, preventing countless tons of trash from entering Missouri's recreational waterways. An additional 37,700 red and green mesh bags and over 3,600 blue poly bags were provided to Stream Teams in their cleanup efforts.

Stream Team Awards

The Stream Team Ambassador Awards recognize volunteer accomplishments in the Program's three primary goals of education, stewardship, and advocacy, as well as water quality monitoring. The 2021 recipients for activities conducted in 2020 were:

- ◆ **Stewardship: Kevin Tosie**
Stream Team 1875
- ◆ **Stewardship: Sarah Wright**
Stream Team 168
- ◆ **Stewardship: Jeanette and Jim McGrath**
Stream Team 5645 (not pictured)
- ◆ **Advocacy: John Madras**
Stream Team 2586
- ◆ **VWQM: Josette Coffman**
Stream Team 4617



ST6011 - A young member from Team 6011 displays his finds from Fishpot Creek in St. Louis County.



ST2608 - Quincy University Ecology Class monitoring the Wyaconda River for macroinvertebrates.



ST5863 - Members of Team 5863 stand with their impressive haul from the Meramec River in Buder Park.



ST3206 - Team 3206 were happy to have members of the public join in on their cleanup of the Mississippi River while they were out.





Scenic Rivers Stream Team Association honored long-time Stream Teamer, Ted Haviland for his many years of work and dedication to the Association and Jacks Fork River.

Activity	Participants	Hours	Units	Value*
Adopt-An-Access	18	20	17 agreements	\$544.20
Advocacy	17	75	7 events	\$2,040.75
Agency Project Participation	60	204	41 events	\$5,550.84
Articles Written (newspaper, newsletter, etc.)	21	21	21 articles	\$571.41
Association Activities	50	170	26 events	\$4,625.70
Award Winners	3	8	3 awards	\$217.68
Display at Fairs, etc.	34	266	14 events	\$7,237.86
Educational Projects	9,516	12,998	155 events	\$353,675.58
Forestkeepers (Forest Monitoring)	3	9	6 trips	\$244.89
Habitat Improvement	416	1,447	54 projects	\$39,372.87
Invasive Species Monitoring	41	117	26 trips	\$4,625.91
Letters (written in support of ST issue)	14	112	7 letters	\$3,047.52
Litter Pickups	7,502	36,201	214 tons of trash	\$985,029.21
Media Contacts	27	44	18 interviews	\$1,197.24
Monofilament Recycling Project	9	14	12 ounces	\$380.94
Meetings (held or attended)	1,340	2,037	1,408 attendees	\$55,426.77
Other Miscellaneous Projects**	2,938	7,947	57 projects	\$216,237.87
Planted Trees	1,997	4,007	20,069 trees	\$109,030.47
Pre-activity Planning	225	616	132 projects	\$16,761.36
Photo Point Monitoring	28	57	27 photos	\$1,550.97
Presentations to Other Groups	1,137	1,328	113 presentations	\$36,134.88
Rain Garden/Barrel or Green Roof	1	15	30 projects	\$408.15
Recruitment (new members)	31	65	20 people	\$1,768.65
Stream Access Maintenance	3	36	3 projects	\$979.56
Storm Drain Stenciling	44	48	34 drains	\$1,306.08
Workshops (attended or conducted)	247	1,676	251 attendees	\$45,603.96
Water Quality Monitoring	1,640	5,092	519 trips	\$138,553.32
Totals	27,362	74,684		\$2,032,151.64

What's to come ...

After the struggles of the last couple years it is promising to see our numbers slowly bouncing back and our volunteers finding their new "flow." As technologies continue to advance we hope to continue to adjust to the ever-changing electronic age, and finding new and better ways to reach audiences with the Stream Team message. Be on the watch for exciting new upgrades to our data entry forms as we work to overhaul our entire data entry process. The outstanding commitment to our statewide water resources is awe-inspiring. Take a minute to think what our water-rich state would look like without all of your awesome work!

Questions? Please contact us at:
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*\$27.21/hour is the 2021 Missouri wage rate for the estimated value of volunteer time (Independent Sector).
 **Includes projects like website development, newsletters, scout programs, fundraising, etc.

2021 Fast Facts

- During 2021, Stream Teams . . .
- ◆ collected **214** tons of trash.
 - ◆ planted **20,069** trees.
 - ◆ stenciled **34** storm drains.
 - ◆ conducted **519** water monitoring trips.
 - ◆ gave **113** presentations to other groups.
 - ◆ completed **155** educational events.
 - ◆ reported **74,648** total volunteer hours.

32-year Fast Facts

- Since 1989, Stream Teams have . . .
- ◆ collected **13,581** tons of trash.
 - ◆ planted **391,634** trees.
 - ◆ stenciled **20,973** storm drains.
 - ◆ conducted **33,879** water monitoring trips.
 - ◆ given **3,542** presentations to other groups.
 - ◆ completed **5,904** educational events.
 - ◆ reported **3,290,558** total volunteer hours.