

Stream Team Annual Report



2019

promoting citizen awareness and involvement in river and stream conservation



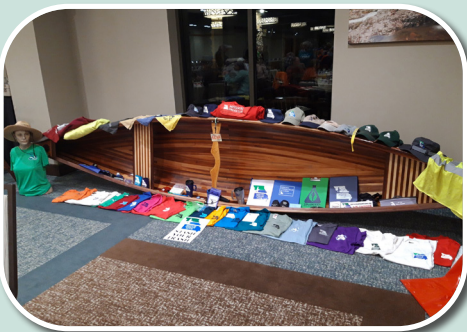
Girl Scouts with Stream Team 5254 stenciled the storm drains in a local neighborhood in Fulton.



Streams Team 5692 look for macroinvertebrates in Spring River in Jasper County.



Stream Team 5390 proudly display their haul from Brush Creek in Jackson County.



An assortment of Stream Team swag from over the years on display at the 30th Anniversary celebration courtesy of Team 211.

A Summary of Stream Team Activities

2019 marked the 30th Anniversary of the Stream Team Program and over 2.8 million hours donated by our dedicated volunteers around the state in spite of rising flood waters again this year. We added 197 new Teams in 2019 bringing the total number of Teams to over 6000, of which nearly 4800 are still active. Here is a look at some of the other highlights from last year:

- ◆ 320 tons of trash was removed from Missouri's rivers and streams.
- ◆ 864 water quality monitoring trips were completed.
- ◆ 11,800 trees were planted.
- ◆ 671 storm drains were stenciled.
- ◆ 46 habitat improvement projects were completed.
- ◆ Over \$2.8 million worth of volunteer labor was dedicated.
- ◆ Stream Team Academy hosted workshops on Riparian Birding, Nature Photography and Cleanup Special Handling.

Trained monitors submitted over 1,300 datasheets in 2019 that totaled over 6,800 hours and 2,900 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 Workshops	Number of Volunteers Trained
Introductory	11	215
Level 1	5	48
Level 2	4	19
Level 3	1	1
VWQM Validation	4	26
Total	25	309

The Stash Your Trash Program targets trash on Missouri streams by providing litter bags to Missouri's float outfitters. In 2019, 145 float outfitters throughout the state participated in the Stash Your Trash Program, 100 of which offered discounts

to Stream Team volunteers in the *Stream Team Float Outfitters Discount Directory*. More than 314,000 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 32,000 red and green mesh bags and over 5,000 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, advocacy, as well as water quality monitoring. Also in 2019 a benefactor award was presented. These awards are given to groups or organizations who provide significant contributions to the Program. The 2019 recipients for activities conducted in 2018 were:

- ◆ **Education:** Caroline Toole
Stream Team 313 & 3215
- ◆ **Stewardship:** Tom Caldwell
Stream Team 3067
- ◆ **Advocacy:** Greg Poleski
Stream Team 463
- ◆ **VWQM:** Cliff Parmer
Stream Team 2760 & 3612
- ◆ **Benefactor:** Dobbs Tire and Auto

Stream Team Ambassadors



2018

For distinguished stewardship efforts for Missouri's rivers and streams

Activity	Participants	Hours	Units	Value*
Adopt-An-Access	14	14	14 agreements	\$356.02
Advocacy	22	74	40 events	\$1,881.82
Articles Written (newspaper, newsletter, etc.)	49	174	213 articles	\$4,424.82
Association Activities	135	685	20 events	\$17,419.55
Award Winners	17	71	4 awards	\$1,805.53
Display at Fairs, etc.	89	694	30 events	\$17,648.42
Educational Projects	4,378	17,962	109 events	\$456,773.66
Forestkeepers (Forest Monitoring)	2	34	21 trips	\$864.62
Grant Projects	4	36	3 projects	\$915.48
Habitat Improvement	471	1,142	46 projects	\$29,041.06
Invasive Species Monitoring	223	513	15 trips	\$13,045.59
Letters (written in support of ST issue)	1	1	2 letters	\$25.43
Litter Pickups	17,020	70,505	329 tons of trash	\$1,792,942.15
Media Contacts	56	98	109 interviews	\$2,492.14
Mentoring	73	145	11 projects	\$3,687.35
Monofilament Recycling Project	38	36	35 ounces	\$915.48
Meetings (held or attended)	1,118	2,399	1,102 attendees	\$61,006.57
Other Miscellaneous Projects**	374	2,623	45 projects	\$66,702.89
Planted Trees	183	968	11,800 trees	\$24,616.24
Pre-activity Planning	409	1,175	182 projects	\$29,880.25
Photo Point Monitoring	4	2	21 photos	\$50.86
Presentations to Other Groups	905	1,704	76 presentations	\$43,332.72
Rain Garden/Barrel or Green Roof	11	49	6 projects	\$1,246.07
Recruitment (new members)	20	50	62 people	\$1,271.50
River Observation (possible pollution event)	10	29	5 projects	\$737.47
Stream Access Maintenance	8	48	1 projects	\$1,220.64
Storm Drain Stenciling	152	749	671 drains	\$19,047.07
Streambank Stabilization Projects	17	74	3 projects	\$1,881.82
Workshops (attended or conducted)	393	2,892	393 attendees	\$73,543.56
Water Quality Monitoring	2,993	6,899	891 trips	\$175,441.57
Totals	29,189	111,845		\$2,844,218.35

*\$25.43/hour is the 2018 national wage rate for the estimated value of volunteer time (U.S. Dept. of Labor).
The 2019 rate was delayed due to COVID-19 at the time of compiling this document.

**Includes projects like website development, newsletters, scout programs, fundraising, etc.



Team 387 honor their team leader with a quilt made of t-shirts from over the years.

What's to come ...

No one could possibly predict how 2020 would unfold, as new challenges face the Program, its sponsors, volunteers, and the waters that flow through the great state of Missouri. While it would become clear social distancing is a key behavior in preventing a widespread and deadly coronavirus outbreak, Stream Teams still hold dear their mission to protect their beloved adopted streams, prompting individual and small group cleanups, rather than the at-large community activities that typically draw in hundreds—or thousands—of people. Innovation in communication technology has become even more crucial in connecting with Teams, their leaders, and communities to combat the challenges of the new decade while still keeping education, stewardship, and advocacy for Missouri streams at the forefront of the Stream Team promise. Many obstacles lie ahead, but the Stream Team spirit remains strong!

Questions? Please contact us at:

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2019 Fast Facts

During 2019, Stream Teams . . .

- ◆ collected **320** tons of trash
- ◆ planted **11,800** trees
- ◆ stenciled **671** storm drains
- ◆ conducted **864** water monitoring trips
- ◆ gave **76** presentations to other groups
- ◆ completed **109** educational events
- ◆ reported **111,845** total volunteer hours

30-year Fast Facts

Since 1989, Stream Teams have . . .

- ◆ collected **13,101** tons of trash
- ◆ planted **365,485** trees
- ◆ stenciled **19,879** storm drains
- ◆ conducted **32,522** water monitoring trips
- ◆ given **3,390** presentations to other groups
- ◆ completed **5,595** educational events
- ◆ reported **3,153,361** total volunteer hours