



Uniting Stream Teams for Healthy Waters and Watersheds in Missouri, “The Great Rivers State”

Stream Teams United Annual Report 2020

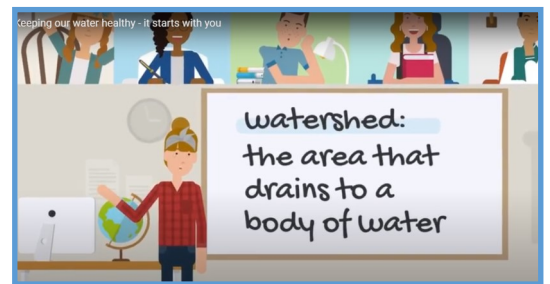
Who are we?

The Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition, doing business as Stream Teams United, is a not-for-profit 501c3 organization that is a coalition of Stream Team Associations throughout the state. Associations are groups of Stream Teams that work together within watersheds. Stream Teams United promotes and facilitates education, stewardship, and advocacy for Missouri’s rivers and streams and works to build a culture of river conservation in Missouri. Twenty-two regional Stream Team Associations across the state each work in their own watersheds to improve and conserve the quality of water in area lakes and streams.

Stream Teams United works to further the efforts of the Missouri Stream Team Program and Stream Team Associations. Check out our 2020 activities:

Education

- ♦ Created new education resources available at streamteamsunit-ed.org, including an animated “[Keeping Waters Healthy—It Starts with You](#)” video, educational fact sheet for youth, and a social media library that is available for anyone to download and share to help educate about healthy stream practices
- ♦ Provided a mass email system for Stream Team Associations to utilize and published weekly “This Week in #MOWater” bulletins to over 7,600 email subscribers, including a new “Creek of the Week” feature to help build awareness and knowledge of streams in Missouri
- ♦ Coordinated an AmeriCorps project and sponsored 6 AmeriCorps members at four Stream Team sites throughout the state to build capacity of water education programs to reach low-income youth
- ♦ Hosted a “Work in Water” online train-the-trainer session in cooperation with the Wichita State Environmental Finance Center



AmeriCorps

Stewardship

- ♦ Provided mini-grants to six Stream Team Associations to purchase equipment for river clean-ups and native plants for streamside restoration projects
- ♦ Coordinated two community lake clean-up events in the Salt River Watershed in efforts to connect Stream Teams in northeast Missouri for stewardship of the Mark Twain Lake watershed
- ♦ Continued to host stewardship information for clean marinas at mocleanmarina.org



Advocacy

- ♦ Hosted a Stream Advocacy workshop in January 2020 in Blue Springs, MO
- ♦ Mentored two volunteer advocacy interns to assist with monitoring water-related legislation during the 2020 legislative session
- ♦ Monitored state level bills during the 2020 legislative session and tracked the progress of 108 bills on the Coalition's Legislative Lookout webpage
- ♦ Created and distributed 19 weekly legislative updates during the legislative session and five issue alerts
- ♦ Provided public comment regarding changes to the 2022 303(d) Listing Methodology Document
- ♦ Recognized Emily Tracy-Smith as the Stream Team Advocacy Award winner at the July 2020 virtual Watershed Celebration ceremony



Connecting People to Rivers and Promoting Missouri as “The Great Rivers State”

- ♦ Coordinated the 5th annual Paddle MO 100-mile river trip on the Missouri River from Hermann to the confluence. Due to Covid-19, the number of participants was limited to half of the normal trip size, and a third trip option (a 3-day trip) was added to allow people to participate in a shorter trip. Participants learned about the history, ecology, and biology of the river from expert educators, including Bill and Jody Miles of Earth's Classroom. A commemorative video of the adventure was created by the non-profit Magnificent Missouri highlighting the 30th Anniversary of the Katy Trail and the efforts to connect people to the Missouri River.
- ♦ Coordinated the 2nd annual Paddle MO Ozarks river trip on 25 miles of the upper Current River within the Ozarks National Scenic Riverways
- ♦ Hosted a virtual “Great Rivers State Wild and Scenic Film Festival” as a way to share environmental themed films and promote Stream Teams as part of the 2020 virtual Watershed Celebration weekend held during the last weekend of July
- ♦ Hosted a 2020 “Great Rivers State” photo contest and promoted #GreatRiversState
- ♦ Continued to promote Missouri as the Great Rivers State through the Stream Team license plate



Association Growth, Remote work

In 2020, Stream Teams United welcomed the Clean Water Coalition Stream Team Association as a Coalition member. The Clean Water Coalition is Stream Team #6,080 and leads stewardship activities in the Elk River watershed of southwest Missouri.

As a response to Covid-19, Stream Teams United applied for and obtained a grant from Mosaic, a project of the Tides Center to equip Stream Team Associations with technology to enhance remote work and virtual communications.



To learn more about Stream Teams United, or sign up for our weekly news bulletin, please visit streamteamsunited.org. To learn more about Paddle MO and trip opportunities, visit paddle-mo.org. For information about the Missouri Clean Marina Program, visit mocleanmarina.org.

Thank you to all of our volunteer board members who make Stream Teams United possible!