

## Welcome to the Watershed

As you are driving through the Greater Bonne Femme Watershed, keep a lookout for new watershed signs! These signs welcome you into the watershed and tell you which stream the watershed feeds.

A watershed is an area of land that drains or “sheds” water into a specific waterbody. Every body of water has a watershed. Watersheds drain rainfall and snowmelt into streams and rivers. These smaller bodies of water flow into larger ones, forming a network of waterways.

These watershed signs build on watershed signs found throughout the City of Columbia, and serve as a tool to help people understand watershed boundaries. Our goal is to develop a connection of how actions on the landscape, such as littering and planting stream buffers, directly impact streams the watersheds feed.

The signs are part of the Greater Bonne Femme Watershed Project. The Greater Bonne Femme Watershed encompasses an area from South Columbia, to North Ashland, to the Missouri River.



It is home to many notable features, including Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, Three Creeks Conservation Area, streams, and caves. Six stream segments within the watershed have impaired water quality.

The project’s mission is to improve water quality, prevent further water resource deterioration, and engage Boone County residents in conserving our natural resources. The goal of installing these signs is to assist in the mission thought, helping people form a connection with the watershed they are in.

These signs were made possible by and paid for through funding provided by a section 319 grant. The City of Columbia, MO - Office of Sustainability assisted with the signs’ design. A big thank you for the hard work of Teresa Shaw and Jerry Rice from Boone County Road and Bridge, as seen in the photos, for installing the signs throughout the watershed!



## Community Scientists

Community science is the practice of public participation and collaboration in scientific research to increase scientific knowledge. Through community science, people share and contribute to data monitoring and collection programs. Research groups, government agencies, and universities coordinate these programs and train these weekend scientists. Volunteers can explore the world around them while providing curtal information that dramatically advances the scope and knowledge of scientists.

Community science isn’t new. Professional and weekend scientists, such as farmers, have collected weather data for centuries. Today, organized citizen science programs like Missouri Stream Teams, iNaturalist, and Lake of Missouri Volunteer Program are flourishing. More and more, scientists are relying on individuals and community groups to be their “eyes and ears” to study populations, water quality, and habitats. Scientists need data, and many residents want to contribute to conservation and understanding the environment.

Community science is essential to understanding the health of our local waterways. By observing how stormwater and land use throughout the different watersheds impacts the water quality and quantity of streams. YOU can engage in the scientific process to address real-world problems, including making weather observations, monitoring streams and lakes, and contributing to research.

### Event Calendar

**September 2nd**

9:30-11:30 am

**Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Training Level 1**

**September 11th**

11:00am-5:00 pm

**Preparedness Fair in the Courthouse Plaza**

**September 15th**

4:00-5:00 pm

**Soil Microbiome is the Basis for Soil Health**

**September 21st**

1:00-2:30 pm

**Stormwater Professional Development**

**October 16th**

9:00am-12:30 pm

**Monitoring Blitz in Rock Bridge Memorial State Park**



You have an opportunity to be a community scientist during the Monitoring Blitz at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park on October 16th. Catch aquatic animals, conduct chemical tests for water quality, and check on the health of park streams as part of an ongoing citizen science project for the Bonne Femme Watershed. No prior training is necessary. New volunteers will be placed on teams with experienced Stream Team scientists. The stream Monitoring Blitz is conducted every fall and spring, and is co-sponsored by Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, Boone County Stormwater Management, and Missouri Stream Teams.

### Stormwater Fact

**Warm water holds less oxygen than cold water: thus, water running off roofs and driveways during hot summer months can be hazardous to aquatic life.**

## Quick Quiz

Take this quick quiz at [forms.gle/mf5B42GNJQ6XrQpB8](https://forms.gle/mf5B42GNJQ6XrQpB8) or send it to Michele Woolbright in Resource Management, or email them to [Stormwater@boonecountymo.org](mailto:Stormwater@boonecountymo.org) with your awnsers by August 27th. Participants can win a travel mug!

1. What event is on October 16th?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Warm water holds more or less oxygen compared to cool water?

More                      Less                      Same

3. Watershed signs are currently being installed in what watershed?

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