



# STORMY DAY REVIEW

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## Greater Bonne Femme Watershed Return on Environment

Fields, forests, streams, and other green spaces supply many benefits to the community including clean air, water purification, wildlife habitat, timber, food, nutrient cycling, and recreation. These benefits are supplied freely by nature, so they are not traditionally accounted for in economic analyses.

The environmental decisions we make today will set us on course for the future. A Return on Environment Study (ROE) can provide government officials, businesses, and residents with perspective for the unseen values and services these green spaces offer. The Greater Bonne Femme Watershed is currently a region of growth and development.

The purpose of this ROE is not to hinder growth, but to help ensure change is economically, environmentally, and socially sound.

The Return on Environment Study (ROE) for the Greater Bonne Femme Watershed will analyze the benefits of the natural resources, ecosystem services, and community values found in the watershed, through an economic lens, translating these functions into dollar amounts. The ROE does not replace the intrinsic values held by many people. By providing monetary values to these natural system services, the ROE creates a universal language more people can understand.



Boone County Resource Management wants to hear from you. Share what natural resources you value in the Greater Bonne Femme Watershed. The watershed is home to Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, Three Creeks Conservation Area, and the Katy Trail by Cooper's Landing.

**TAKE THE SURVEY AT**  
[www.cavewatershed.org/spotlight.asp](http://www.cavewatershed.org/spotlight.asp)



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region 6), through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, has provided partial funding for this project under Section 109 of the Clean Water Act.

The ROE is used when making decisions concerning land use, economic development, safety, and utility costs, and the preventive costs of replacing them, or artificially reproducing their functions.

The environmental decisions we make today will set us on our course for the future. The ROE will provide government officials, businesses, and residents with perspective about the unseen values and services these green spaces offer. These natural system services are supplied free of charge, and the value of these services are not accounted for during traditional decision-making. To fill this gap, a ROE will holistically bring together the full economic worth of the Greater Bonne Femme Watershed. Survey responses from landowners and visitors in the watershed will help supply value for this unmeasurable importance, as well as thoughts the community may have about these green spaces.



Ecosystem Services Diagram is from the Forest Preservation of Winnebago County

## **We need your input!**

The cornerstone of making a Return on Environment Study meaningful and accurate is input from people who live and visit the watershed. You can make your voice heard by completing the ROE survey. There are two surveys; the first is for the people who live in the watershed and the second is for people who visit the watershed for travel, recreation, or other activities. The purpose of these surveys is to learn the attitudes and values community members have about undeveloped land and green spaces. The results, along with an economic benefit analysis of these areas, will be used to complete a Return on Environment Study for the Greater Bonne Femme Watershed.



Missouri River Relief and Show-Me Stormwater have teamed up to create an adventure challenge just for you!  
Are you up for it? **Let's get started!**

*Safety: Please always follow CDC guidance on personal hygiene when going outside and observe the CDC's minimum recommended physical distance of 6 feet from other persons. Do not use parks or trails if you are showing symptoms.*

1. Find your watershed. Discovering your watershed is like mapping where rain travels, like a road map for rain drops. Find what creek "roads" a rain drop follows in your neighborhood on its way to the Missouri River by going to this website: <https://www.showmeboone.com/stormwater/education/watershed-info.asp>
  - a. Read about watersheds and how you can help keep our creeks healthy!
  - b. What is your watershed? How does your creek find its way to the Missouri River? *For example, if you live in the Flat Branch Watershed, Flat Branch flows to Hinkson Creek, Hinkson Creek flows to Perche Creek > Perche Creek flows to the Missouri River!*

**Time to get ready for an adventure at your watershed creek; bring snacks, water, a litter bag, camera and anything else you might want for your adventure!**

2. Now that you know your watershed creek, you can learn more about the animals in your neighborhood that need clean water. You can also make your watershed safer for animals. Next step: Go to your creek and take a picture! Post your picture with the name of your creek on social media. Use **#MoRiverScavengerHunt**
3. Find a flower blooming. Take a picture and try to identify it when you get home.
4. Find an insect pollinating a flower.
5. Find something that does not belong in nature and could harm wildlife. Hint: This is why you brought your litter bag!
6. Think of (or observe) a critter that needs clean water: A bird, mammal (squirrel), reptile (snake) or amphibian (frog).

**Time to head home and discover more about your critter (and your flower) here.**

7. Find some paper and draw your critter! Now list or draw 3 things that your critter eats and 3 things that like to eat your critter. Post your drawing and use **#MoRiverScavengerHunt**

**Congratulations!** You have made a food web! You also learned about your creek, critters that might use your creek, and you picked up litter. Picking up litter saves critters lives. You are now a trash hero! If you would like to meet some more trash heroes, continue to complete the Great Missouri River Scavenger Hunt!

9. Find Missouri River Relief on the web: <https://www.riverrelief.org/>
10. How many tons of trash have these heroes picked up since they began in 2001?

Wow, that's a lot of trash! Thank you for joining in the game! Can't wait to see your photos!

**More information about Food Webs and water sheds:**

- For younger kids: What is a Food Chain? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuO4WB4SwCg>
- For older kids: Who's in My Backyard? <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/media/whos-my-backyard/>
- Watershed Inventory of Missouri: <https://mdc.mo.gov/property/watersheds>
- Missouri's Watersheds: <https://dnr.mo.gov/omw/>



## Alternative Activities to Keep You and Your Family Busy

Missouri Botanical Gardens Searching for Spring: Scavenger Hunt App

<https://discoverandshare.org/2020/04/08/searching-for-spring-scavenger-hunt-app/>

Search your neighborhood or yard for the **80 species** of plants, trees, animals and insects commonly found in the region.

Virtual Earth Day and Citizen Science Plastic Project

<https://earthchallenge2020.earthday.org/app/a80a28bab7f64bd7b9b8f6c9a6080aaa>


April 22, 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. All around the world, citizen science is happening! Earth Challenge 2020™ (EC 2020) is launching a global citizen science activation experience led by the Wilson Center, Earth Day Network, and the United States Department of State.

This project activates researchers and citizens globally. Together with partners from academia, the private sector, government, and public policy community, we seek to engage millions of people in collecting and sharing 1 billion open and interoperable data points on human, environmental, and planetary health.

### Stormwater Fact

USDA-NRCS SOIL HEALTH INFOGRAPHIC SERIES #002

what's underneath



healthy soil has amazing water-retention capacity.

Every **1%** increase in organic matter results in as much as **25,000** gal of available soil water per acre.

Source: Kansas State Extension Agronomy e-Updates, Number 357, July 6, 2012

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Want more soil secrets? Check out [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Organic matter** is the partially decomposed remains of soil organisms and plant life, including lichens and mosses, grasses and leaves, trees, and all other kinds of vegetative matter

## Quick Quiz

This season's quiz is completing the Greater Bonne Femme Watershed's Return on Environment Survey. Send an email to [mwoolbright@boonecountymo.org](mailto:mwoolbright@boonecountymo.org) saying you completed the survey by May 4th to be entered to win a Starbucks gift card and a travel mug!

### Visitor Survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2L3BV5F>

If you have ever been to Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, Three Creeks Conservation Area, or the Katy Trail by Cooper's Landing, please take this survey. Investigate the maps tab to see if you have visited other locations within the watershed.

### Landowner Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S2LPJGJ>

Please take a look at the [maps](#) tab to see to see if you live in the Greater Bonne Femme Watershed. If you do, please take this survey.

