

Stormy Day Review



WATER FESTIVAL

9^{A.M.} - NOON
SATURDAY,
JUNE 15

Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

Devil's Icebox Trailhead
Rock Bridge Memorial State Park
5901 S. Highway 163 Columbia, MO 65203

Join us at the annual Water Festival on June 15th, from 9:00 AM to noon, as we celebrate the beauty of water and the life it sustains. Engage in exciting activities that will help you discover the wonders of streams and the diverse animals that call them home.

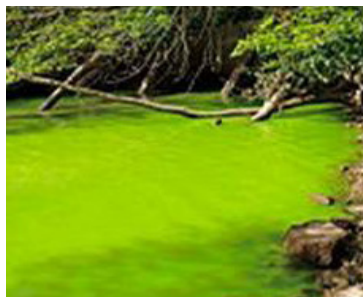
This family-friendly event offers a range of activities, including guided tours of Connor's Cave, close encounters with turtles, stream bug catching, interactive stream model play, and engaging educational sessions about the various wildlife found in and around streams. Discover captivating nature stories and learn about the essential steps to maintain the health of our streams.

The Water Festival is made possible through a collaboration with Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, Boone County Stormwater, Missouri Stream Teams, and the Greater Bonne Femme Watershed Initiative, alongside the participation of organizations such as the US Fish and Wildlife, Friends of Rock Bridge, Daniel Boone Regional Library, and the Missouri Bird Observatory. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to connect with and appreciate the natural world around us.

Algal Blooms

During the summer months, rising temperatures and increased nutrient runoff can lead to algae growing excessively, forming harmful algal blooms in slow-moving water bodies such as creeks, ponds, and lakes. These blooms can deplete oxygen levels in the water, leading to the death of fish, shellfish, and plants. Some of the bacteria produced by these blooms can be toxic to humans, pets, and livestock.

The blooms appear as a thick foam or scum on the water's surface, resembling spilled paint. Their colors range from bright green and blue-green to white, red, or yellow-brown. As the bacteria die off, they emit an unpleasant odor reminiscent of rotting plants.



Not all algal blooms are toxic; however, it's recommended to avoid water bodies that appear or smell unsafe, refrain from fishing in affected areas, and keep pets away, abiding by the principle of "When in Doubt, Stay Out".

Tips for reducing Harmful Algal Blooms!

1. Use phosphorus-free fertilizers and detergents to reduce nutrient-rich runoff.
2. Plant native trees and plants using rainscaping practices to enhance groundwater filtration and slow down water.
3. Maintain natural vegetation near the water's edge to create a buffer.
4. Properly dispose of pet waste and keep livestock and their manure away from water bodies. Consider fencing off livestock and providing an alternative water source.
5. Introduce pond aeration and water movement through aerators or fountains.
6. Install rain barrels to minimize polluted runoff in the community.
7. Remove grass clippings and leaves to prevent decomposition in or around ponds and lakes.

If you think you see a harmful algal bloom, report it!

Harmful Algal Bloom Reporting Form:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/ecbda1ab2a3845c284d65dbe7e4eb986>

Upcoming Events

June 15: 9am - Noon

Water Festival

June 15: 9am

Juneteenth Parade

June 22: 10am - 4pm

Butterfly Festival

August 22: 6:00 - 9:00pm

Town and Country Dinner

September 7 & 8:

Conservation Expo

September 12:

Boone County Ready Festival

Featured 3M Wetlands Mission: Playable in Spanish & English



Quick Quiz

Take this quick quiz at <https://forms.gle/RWrdn3oHBuiajWtC6> or send it to Michele Woolbright in Resource Management, or email them to Stormwater@boonecountymo.org with your answers by June 25th. Participants can win a travel mug!

1. What event is on September 12th?

2. What is one thing people can do to reduce harmful algae blooms?