

Springfield – Greene County, Mo Integrated Plan for the Environment



Environmental Priorities Task Force

Date: Thursday, November 6, 2014
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Watershed Center
2450 W. Valley Water Mill Road
Springfield, MO 65802

[Map to meeting site on page 2](#)

Meeting purpose:

- Review challenges protecting land resources
- Discuss land protection, air quality & water quality priorities
- Discuss draft community priority policy statements

AGENDA

5:00 p.m.	Introductions and Overview	Fred Palmerton, Co-Chair
5:15 p.m.	Land Resource Presentation	Staff from Three Entities
5:30 p.m.	Integrated Planning Discussion	Errin Kemper, City of Springfield
5:50 p.m.	Recommendations Document	Sheila Shockey, Facilitator
6:45 p.m.	Prioritization Exercise	All
7:00 p.m.	Adjourn	Dan Hoy, Co-Chair

In accordance with ADA guidelines, if you need special accommodations when attending any City meeting, please notify the City Clerk's office at 864-1443 at least three days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Handouts:

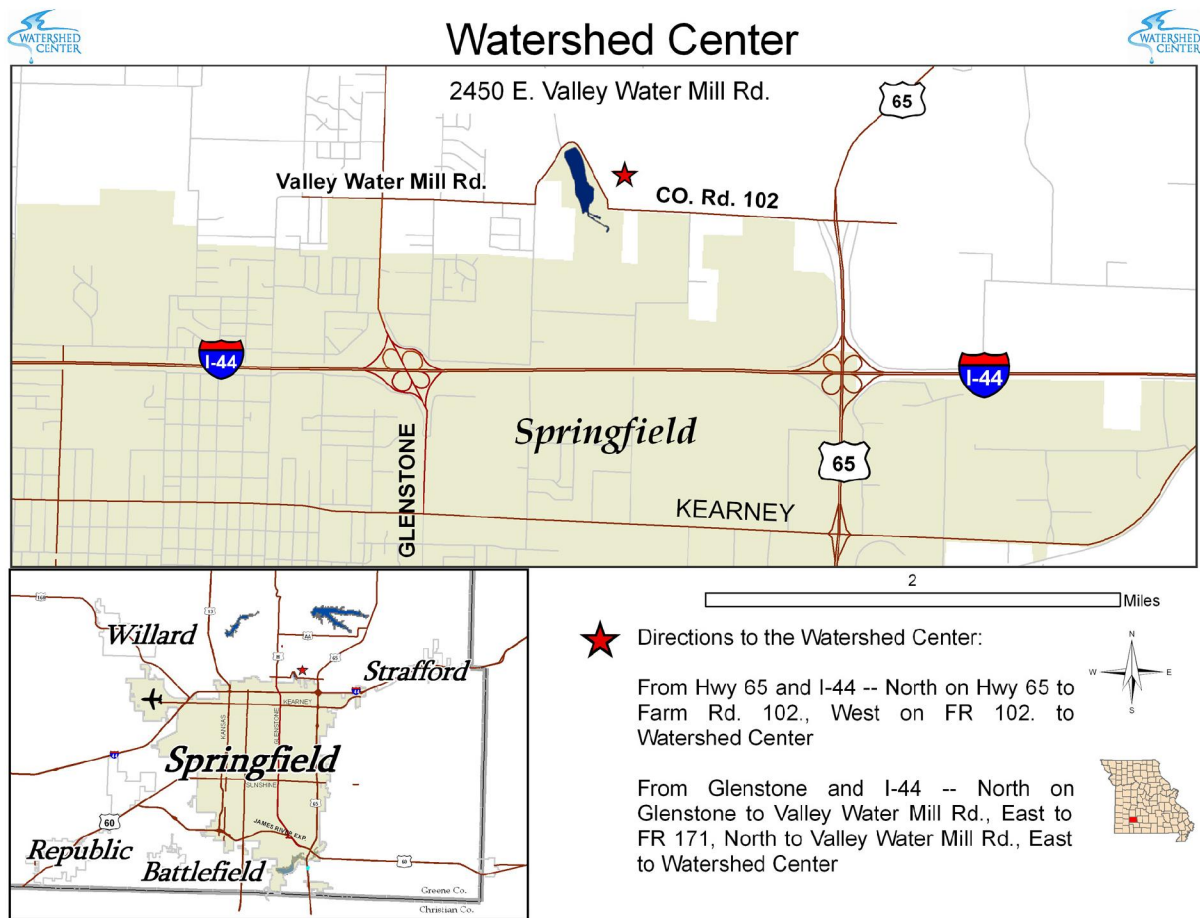
- 1. Background Information

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Meeting Site:

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Springfield, MO 65802

For assistance call 417.861.7102



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DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS DOCUMENT

11/10/2014

Introduction

Background

The citizens and leadership of the Springfield-Greene County region recognize the importance of environmental stewardship and are widely renowned as a model community in this regard. Quality environmental resources are especially important to the Ozarks since much of our economic development, tourism, and overall quality of life is directly tied into the quality of our air, water, and land.

Like many others across the nation, our community is facing increasing stringent environmental regulations from every front. From stormwater and wastewater to air quality and drinking water, as regulations continue to evolve, our community is required to devote more money and resources to comply. The concern is that, if communities such as ours are pushed too hard to address mandates for which our community sees little value, we could see a backlash which might swing the pendulum in the other direction and we'll relinquish the gains that we've made over the last several decades.

This is a huge issue for communities who are struggling to meet these regulations with limited resources. The Environmental Protection Agency realizes this and in June of 2012, released its "Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework" which emphasized a commitment to work with states and communities to implement an integrated planning approach to address environmental objectives.

In response to this opportunity, leaders from the City of Springfield, Greene County and City Utilities developed a local approach to integrated planning titled "A Citizen Focused Approach." This holistic approach proposes to use local knowledge to examine our environmental resources related to wastewater and stormwater as well as solid waste, drinking water, and air quality. The planning approach has received written approval from both the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and EPA Region 7. At the heart of this proposal are six guiding principles:

- Affordability – Ensure that the plan is affordable to the community's citizens.
- Effectiveness – Ensure that the plan addresses environmental issues in a manner whereby citizens receive the "biggest bang for their buck." Recognize that every community is unique, and ensure each community gets an opportunity to address the environmental needs that are greatest in their community.
- Fairness – Ensure that the plan results in all communities being treated equally and fairly.

- Attainability – Ensure that the plan outlines actions that can reasonably be accomplished within the “community affordability” limit.
- Measurability – Ensure that the plan includes performance measures that track progress over time and indicate which projects are “best practices” that can/should be adopted or adapted by other communities, if applicable.
- Adaptability – Learning must be a part of the process moving forward. For the plan to be effective, we must be able to adjust and improve our plan based upon our experiences and results.

Furthermore, this approach proposes to develop local solutions using local expertise and community values to determine how we can best protect and improve our environment while still making the solution affordable to our citizens. What makes the Springfield-Greene County approach unique is that it proposes to include, not only stormwater and wastewater, as the USEPA guidance suggests, but also includes resources related to solid waste, drinking water, and air quality.

Task Force Charge

To help guide decision-making regarding environmental planning for the City of Springfield, City Utilities and Greene County, Missouri, the Environmental Priorities Task Force was empaneled. They are a citizen’s task force formed to represent community interests. The Task Force is charged with providing input into the following:

Outcomes:

- VISION: What is the vision for the environment?
 - *(A vision states what you want to do in idealistic terms. It is future-oriented and creates a vivid mental picture of where you are headed. It should be an inspirational statement that energizes the community. It should be easy to remember and recite.)*
- GOALS: What are the goals for the environment? What are we trying to achieve in terms of outcomes for the environment?
 - *(Goal statements are long-term and define what you intend to do to fulfill the beliefs and values expressed in your vision statement. Objectives are more precise than goals; they should define how you expect to reach your goals. More measurable objectives with targeted outcomes could be developed once more baseline environmental data is available.)*
- POLICIES: How should the community go about accomplishing the goals and vision?
 - *(Policies are statements of intention to influence and guide future decision-making.)*

Priorities:

- What are the priorities in terms of outcomes desired?
- Where should we first start investing our limited resources?
- What environmental resources are most important to protect/improve & why?

The specific “how” or action steps to achieve the outcomes and priorities will be developed later by technical staff as part of the Integrated Planning process which includes the Multiple-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) matrix and the Sustainable Return on Investment (SROI) approach. As members of the Task Force, you will focus on the outcomes and priorities that drive this process.

Draft Vision, Goals & Policy Statements

Environmental Vision Statement (From Field Guide 2030) – REDRAFT THIS?

We cannot afford to ignore our Natural Environment. It provides us with a large portion of our economy, the food we eat, the water we drink, and the air we breathe. History is littered with glittering civilizations that ignored their environment and perished. Our region will prosper if we preserve our natural assets for ourselves and our children.

Goals

Protect and improve the environment and ecosystem health to **protect human health**. This is the highest priority to our community.

Protect our watersheds so that people can use them for drinking water supply, fishing, swimming, boating & wading. Improving the environment for citizens and tourists to enjoy is important to our community.

Protect air, water and land resources as they support quality food production.

Protect the environment and meet regulations to attract/retain business and maintain our high quality of life.

Policy Statements

Focus our resources on activities that result in the most benefit to the environment and our citizens is the highest priority. Making environmental protection investments locally will also improve the environment regionally and globally.

Work together on a watershed/airshed basis when making plans and taking actions to protect environmental resources.

Engage the public in pollution prevention.

Understand the sources of pollution and invest in emerging best practices to solve pollution problems effectively.

Align resources with investments that achieve multiple benefits. Air, water and land resources are connected. Target investment to improve air, water and land resources in priority places.

Water Quality Priorities

1. Protect drinking water sources such as McDaniel Lake, Fellows Lake and Upper James River. Safe drinking water is the most important water resource priority.
2. Support aquatic life in waterways where people fish and consume fish they catch such as Wilson's Creek, Lower James River, Sac River, Little Sac River and McDaniel Lake. Protecting certain waterways to support fishing is the second most important water resource priority.
3. Protect water from pollution in Lower James River, Upper James River, Sac River and Little Sac River in areas where people swim. Protecting certain areas so people can swim and float is the third most important water resource priority.
4. Protect waterways used for irrigation and that support livestock and wildlife. This is the fourth most important water resource priority.
5. Protect Lower James, Wilson's Creek, and Little Sac so people can wade and boat in these waterways. This is the fifth most important water resource priority.
6. Improve the aesthetics of the Wilson's Creek watershed. This is the sixth most important water resource priority. There is an important trail system in this highly visible watershed and it is positioned upstream of important recreational uses.

Does this help summarize the priorities in 3 tiers?

Watershed Priorities:

1. Drinking Water Supply: Fellows Lake/McDaniel Lake and Upper James River
2. Aquatic Life & Swimming: Lower James, Little Sac, Sac River
3. Aquatic Life & Urbanized but Upstream of Priority Areas: Wilson's Creek

(See the attached map)

Air Quality Priorities

1. Meeting air quality standards to protect human health is the top priority.
2. Protecting our food supply through air quality initiatives is our second priority.
3. It is important to maintain attainment of air quality standards creating an environment that attracts/retains businesses and supports the economy. This is the third most important priority.
4. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is the fourth priority for air quality.
5. Protecting air quality to maintain visibility and reduce the degradation of building materials is the fifth priority.

Land Resource Priorities

Continue to monitor existing sites that are required by law with potential risk to human health & priority waterways.

Invest in environmental clean-up of sites in priority locations:

1. Clean up & protect sites that have the greatest risk of human exposure to pollutants. Human health is the highest priority.
2. Clean up & protect sites upstream of our highest priority streams and groundwater.
3. Clean up & protect sites with the highest economic re/development potential.
4. Clean up & protect sites that provide the greatest aesthetic and/or community benefit.

Overall Priorities

At the meeting, we will be asking you to prioritize the following issues pertaining to our natural resources. How should the community prioritize its finite resources to have the biggest positive impact on your life and the welfare of our community? If you had one dollar to spend on preserving, protecting, or enhancing our environmental resources, how would you divide it up amongst issues that impact.....

- ...our ability to swim in a stream or lake _____
- ...our ability to wade or boat in a stream or lake _____
- ...our drinking water supply _____
- ...aquatic life _____
- ...the safe consumption of fish _____
- ...water for irrigation, livestock, and wildlife _____
- ...the aesthetics of our streams and lakes _____
- ...air quality issues that impact our health _____
- ...air quality issues that impact our food supply _____
- ...our ability to achieve air quality standards to attract and retain business _____
- ...greenhouse gas reduction _____

WHO should fund environmental issues?

Is it the people who benefit from the activity or the people who benefit from the resource?