

# Springfield – Greene County, Mo Integrated Plan for the Environment

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## Task Force Meeting Notes June 24, 2014

### Attendees

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Task Force members present were:

Dan Hoy	Matt Pierson	Charley Burwick
Ken McClure	Fred Palmerton	Jim Peterson
King Coltrin	Joe Pitts	Zach Miller
Bob McCartney	Natasha Longpine	Michelle Garand
Kara Tvedt	Luke Westerman	
Emily Denniston	Clay Dodson	

Absent with prior notice: Janet Dankert, Brad Erwin, and Skip Jansen

Absent: Bridget Dierks, Doug Neidigh, Terry Whaley, Debra Dorshost, Charlyce Ruth, Jennifer Wilson, Jason Hainline, Janet Hicks, Jared Rasmussen, John Twitty

Technical Committee members: Dave Fraley (City Utilities), and Randy Lyman (City Environmental Services), Erick Roberts (City Environmental Services), Jessica Peebles (City Environmental Services), Barbara Lucks (City Environmental Services), Kimberly White (City Environmental Services), Errin Kemper (City Environmental Services), Olivia Hough (City Planning), Kevin Barnes (Greene County Resource Management), Tim Davis (Greene County Resource Management), Todd Wagner (City Public Works), Doug Durrington (City Environmental Services), and Daniel Hedrick (City Utilities)

Springfield/Greene County staff present: Tim Smith (Greene County)

Missouri DNR or EPA staff present: Gwenda Bassett (MDNR)

Others present were: Eric Dove, Milton Dickensheet, David Braun, Trent Stober, Kimberly White's son, Mike Pessina, Sheila Shockey (Shockey Consulting), and Mike Rawitch (KC Mapping & GIS)

## Environmental Priorities Task Force Meeting #4 – Land Issues

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Fred Palmerton welcomed the Task Force members and guests. He explained that the purpose of the meeting is to establish land protection priorities for the community. He introduced the first speaker, Olivia Hough who is the City's Brownfields coordinator.

Ms. Hough explained the importance of land resources. She said we are trying to protect people, wildlife, and natural resources. She stated that one of the challenges to protecting land resources is our karst geology and explained the connection to air, as well as, the ground and surface water connection. She explained the sources of pollution. Ms. Hough described the pollutants and what affects they have on our population. She described what we do now to control land pollution.

Dave Fraley, CU, said there are a few changes in Missouri on hazardous waste and storage tanks in the last year in terms of how the programs work. Doug Durrington, City ES, explained historically how trash was landfilled and how the landfills are now engineered to protect air, water, and land and are heavily regulated.

Over 200 sites have been assessed in Greene County for land contamination, primarily in the center city. Ms. Hough explained that the Brownfield sites are real property that may be contaminated by hazardous materials or petroleum products. She described a few of the Brownfield programs-including Jordan Valley Park which won a Phoenix award. Then she talked about Superfund sites and explained that action is required by regulation once a property has been identified and is on the national priorities list.

There are many challenges to protecting land resources. These include:

- Illegal activities: illegal dumping, mismanaged disposal sites, sham recycling facilities, littering
- Improper management of industrial and household hazardous waste
- Over-application of fertilizers and weed/insect control chemicals
- Land management practices that cause soil erosion
- Improper sewage disposal – failing septic tanks and poor animal waste management

The categories of pollutants that impact our land resources were also presented. The importance of protecting land resources and the connection to air and water quality was presented to the Task Force. Brownfields and Superfund sites in the area were briefly discussed.

Errin Kemper, Assistant Director Environmental Services, gave a recap of the integrated planning process. He explained that in Phase I: staff will develop an assessment of where we are now. He gave an example of potential pollution sources in Jordan Creek such as rail yard land uses from the past, historic pollution such as underground storage tanks and current hazardous waste producers, and those land uses that release toxic. He showed 1886, 1953, and current day land use in the urban creek- Jordan Creek.

We have 7,000 sinkholes in Greene County and 350 mapped in Springfield. Examples of land resource issues were presented with maps of case studies from the area. For example, bacteria from the septic systems that fail or sanitary sewer overflows.

The Task Force then moved into setting priorities for land resources. The group was reminded that the community can identify the pollutant sources and methods for cleaning them up, but good science doesn't tell us what is most important to the community. The Task Force was asked, "Where should we focus?"

- Upstream of our highest priority streams and groundwater?
- On sites with the highest economic development potential?
- On sites that have the greatest risk of human exposure to pollutants?
- On sites that provide the greatest aesthetic and/or community benefit?

This is a hard question to answer because land, air, and water issues are connected, but the solutions and regulations are not necessarily connected.

The discussion then turned to, "What do you need to know to answer the question?" and "How do we best use our limited resources to protect our land?"

The Task Force members participated in an exercise with three scenarios to help articulate the community's values on land resources. The group discussed the results of the small group activity. The results will be used to formulate the next steps for the Task Force in the Integrated Planning process.

	Number of votes
Quality of Life	7
Economic Development – redevelopment entice	6
Environmental Stewardship (Unknown Pollutant source)	6
Environmental Stewardship (Monitor existing site)	6
Knowledge is Power	4
Return on Investment (\$+social+environment)	4
Public Safety	4
Do Onto others- Golden Rule	4
Practical	3
Enhance property values & economic opportunity	3
Fiscal responsibility (Urban Redevelopment)	3
Sense of community	2
Don't put off problem	1
Right thing to do	1
Balance communities interests	1
Legal Obligation	0
Fiscal responsibility (Monitor existing site)	0
Care for community/ neighbors	0
Risk adverse (can of worms- creating a problem?)	0