

How can I help improve Watkins Creek?

Everyone has a role to play when it comes to protecting our water. Many of the tools used to manage, sustain and restore our watershed must be implemented and monitored by community leaders. You can help your leaders by keeping yourself informed and by supporting their efforts. And, there are ways your everyday decisions can help, too.

Here are the top 10 easy ways to reduce the sources of pollution:

1. Only water your lawn when it really needs it. (1" per week)
2. Install a Rain Garden or Rain Barrel so that water does not pool in your yard.
3. Reduce runoff from home car washing by washing it on your lawn.
4. Use native plants in your garden to reduce the need for fertilizer, pesticides and watering.
5. Dispose of all paint, oil, grease, anti-freeze and cleaning products properly.
6. Properly maintain your car to prevent fluid leakage.
7. Dispose of pet waste in a trash can or toilet.
8. Protect natural, noninvasive vegetation along stream banks.
9. Think about the ways you use water; share ideas with family and friends.
10. Get involved!

Living Green is a public private partnership with the Hazelwood School District, Spanish Lake Community Association, Metropolitan Sewer District, Shaw Nature Reserve, Missouri Botanical Garden, and Missouri Department of Conservation. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7 through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, are providing partial funding for this project under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.



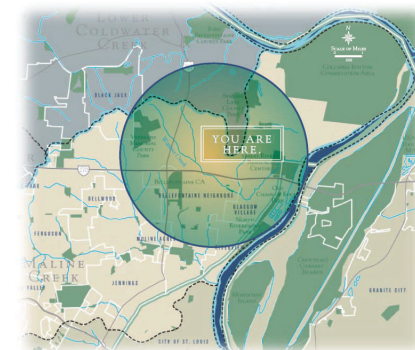
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LIVING GREEN... IN WATKINS CREEK WATERSHED

- ☛ Community Education
- ☛ Best Management Practices
- ☛ Student Science Curriculum



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What is a Watershed?

A watershed is...all of the land that drains to a specific stream, river, lake or wetland.

Who is affected by a watershed?

Everyone! It doesn't matter where you live—on a farm or in a city, on the seashore or in the mountains, in the woods, even in the desert—you live in a watershed.

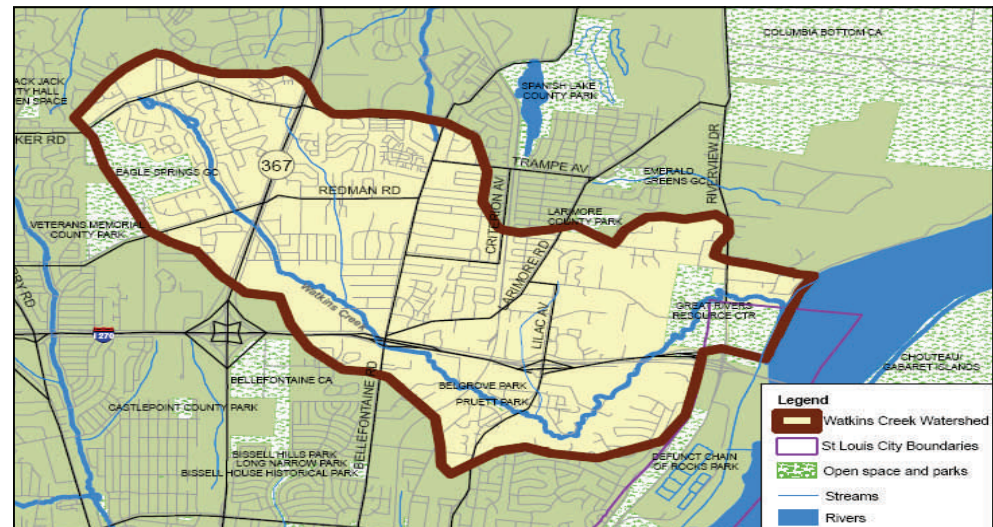
However, in our case that's Watkins Creek. Then Watkins Creek, flows into a larger body of water, the Mississippi River, which then flows in the Gulf of Mexico...it's all connected from your back yard to the ocean.

What is the Living Green Project about?

Living Green in Watkins Creek Watershed is a public/private partnership aiming to enrich lives by connecting us to the natural water resources that support life in countless ways—whether through clean healthy drinking water or recreational spaces.

It specifically addresses pollution from rain, snow, and other sources of runoff that contaminate our water as it flows over land and beneath the ground.

You might be able to live for several weeks without food, but you can't last more than a week without water. About 70% of the human body is made of it and 70% of the earth's surface is covered by it.



Prepared by **regionwise**
Saint Louis University, College of Public Service
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Sources: East-West Gateway Council of Governments and
St. Louis County Department of Planning

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Exactly where is Watkins Creek and its Watershed?

Watkins Creek flows 6.2 miles primarily in North St. Louis County through unincorporated Spanish Lake, Glasgow Village, the cities of Bellefontaine Neighbors and Black Jack, and the Hazelwood School District, before draining directly into the Mississippi River near the Chain of Rocks Bridge in St. Louis City. Its watershed covers 4,309 of mostly developed acres. This urbanization with extensive pavement, roofs and other impervious surfaces is what is causing damage to Watkins Creek and other bodies of water that make up our natural water system.

How does a healthy creek affect me and my neighborhood?

- Provides a natural water filter and helps to ensure clean, healthy drinking for you and your children and grandchildren,
- Reduces Erosion.
- Helps control stormwater and flooding.
- Provides space for recreation such as hiking, swimming and fishing.
- Naturally cools the air.
- Promotes economic growth.