



Annual Report

2025

promoting awareness
& involvement in
river & stream
conservation since 1989

A Summary of Team Activities



Stream Team #6897 in October on Brush Creek in Kansas City picking up litter.



Stream Teams #4922, #6096, #6708, #6877, in March in Hillsdale, Saint Louis, collecting and shredding tires.



Stream Team #6800 in July on the confluence of Grindstone and Hinkson Creeks in Columbia teaching scientific skills and aquatic biology with summer camp students (educational project).

Program volunteers reported over **58,000** hours of volunteer time to our stream resources. We gained **318** new Stream Teams, adding to our roster of over **7,000** Teams statewide. Here are some highlights from 2025:

- ◆ **506** tons of trash were removed from Missouri's rivers and streams
- ◆ **334** water quality monitoring trips were completed
- ◆ **1,119** trees were planted
- ◆ Over **37,000** volunteers participated
- ◆ Over **\$1.8 million** worth of volunteer labor was dedicated

Stash Your Trash

The Stash Your Trash Program targets trash on Missouri streams by providing litter bags to Missouri's float outfitters. There were **147** float outfitters throughout the state participating in the Stash Your Trash Program in 2025; **116** of them offered discounts to Stream Team volunteers in the Stream Team [Float Outfitters Discount Directory](#).

More than **413,000** red mesh bags were provided to livery business owners to distribute to the public, preventing tons of trash from entering Missouri's recreational waterways. An additional **32,010** red mesh bags, **10,981** green mesh bags, and **2,360** blue poly bags were provided to Stream Teams for their cleanup efforts.

Missouri Stream Team Awards

The Stream Team Ambassador Awards recognize volunteer accomplishments in the Program's three primary goals of education, stewardship, and advocacy. The 2025 recipients for activities conducted in 2024 were:

- ◆ **Education: Brooke Widmar**
Stream Team #1365
- ◆ **Education: Jim Hinds**
Stream Teams #4956, #5758
- ◆ **Stewardship: Joe Oelke**
Stream Team #6096
- ◆ **Stewardship: Roger MacBride**
Stream Team #2560
- ◆ **Advocacy: Susan Williams**
Stream Team #3251
- ◆ **Water Quality Monitoring: Susan Williams**
Stream Team #3251
- ◆ **Paddles Up: Robert Bass**
Ozark Outdoors
Stream Team #72
- ◆ **Inexhaustible Award: Bernie Arnold**
Stream Team #211

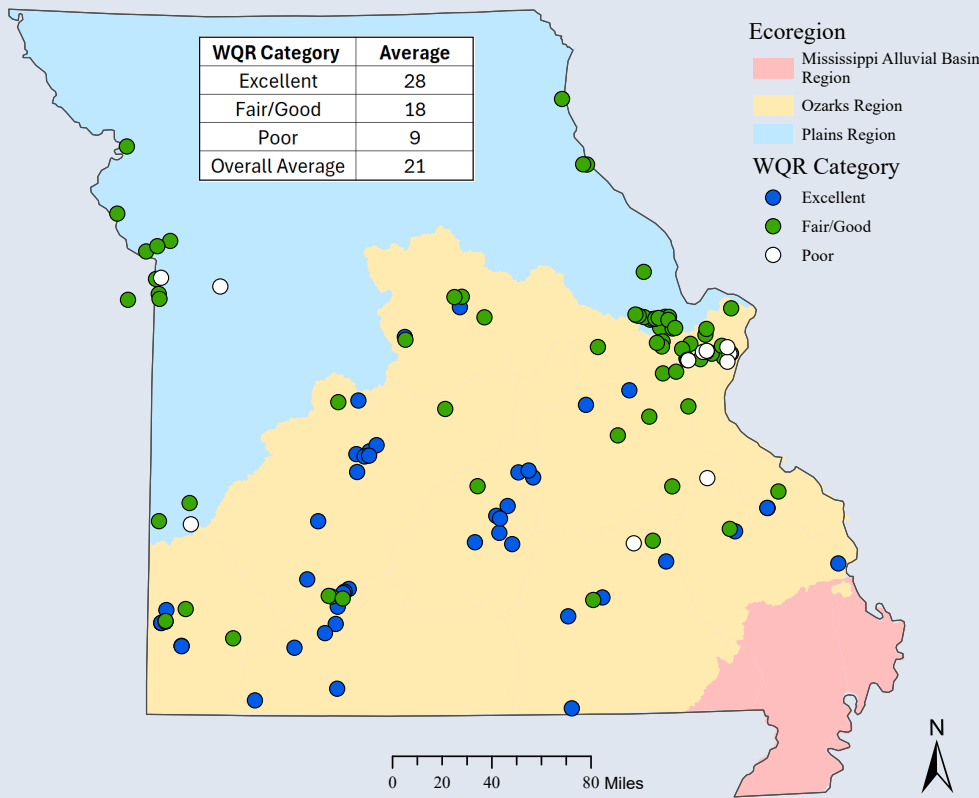


Pictured above is Bernie Arnold (right) with Brian Waldrop (left) at the yearly Watershed Festival, an annual celebration of Missouri Stream Team volunteers across the state.

Learn about what Teams have been up to each quarter in more detail by reading our quarterly newsletter, found [here](#).

2025 Maximum Water Quality Ratings

Macroinvertebrate Data



The highest water quality rating was used from each of the 128 sites sampled in 2025 to minimize seasonal variation. Water quality rating categories were divided into Excellent (ratings over 23), Fair/Good (ratings from 12 to 22), and Poor (ratings lower than 12). All data entered after February 24th, 2026 are not included in this report.

Data stars are water quality volunteers that have completed at least two submissions of macroinvertebrates, discharge, water chemistry, and visual survey data as a Level 1 trained volunteer.

In 2025, we had **14** repeat data stars representing **15** different Stream Teams, and **11** brand new data stars! Our staff are incredibly inspired by our volunteers' dedication, and we appreciate the high-quality, long-term data that they continue to gather as a part of our program.

Trained monitors submitted over **800** data sheets in 2025 that totaled over **3,000** hours and **1,300** participants. Our tiered Water Quality Monitoring training structure allows flexibility for citizen involvement while increasing education and use of data collected at each level of training. With the hybrid learning format, volunteers are able to learn at their own pace before attending an in-person field training on collection methods.

Water Quality Monitoring Workshops	Number of Field Trainings	Number of Volunteers Trained
Level 1	8	87
Level 2	8	29
Level 3	2	2
Total	18	118



Stream Team #5221 in October on Gravois Creek in Saint Louis monitoring water quality.



Stream Team #6963 completing winter sampling as part of the Deer Creek CSI project.

Cooperative Stream Investigations

Cooperative Stream Investigations (CSIs) are special volunteer water quality monitoring projects where volunteers collect professional level data for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), chloride, discharge, and other parameters of concern in specific watersheds. In 2025, three CSI projects were completed.

The Shady Grove Creek CSI project began in April 2024 and wrapped up in March 2025 with the goal of providing water quality assessment data for several sites along Shady Grove Creek and Deer Creek in St. Louis County. This study found *E. coli* concentrations at all sites that exceed acceptable levels and higher than acceptable chloride concentrations on several occasions. Nitrogen, phosphorous, and total suspended solids were higher on Shady Grove Creek than on Deer Creek.

The Hickory Creek CSI project began in April 2025 and went through October 2025 with the goal of measuring *E. coli* concentrations across seven sites on Hickory Creek in Newton County. For all of the sites that 5 or more samples were collected from (5 sites), *E. coli* levels were acceptable levels.

The Deer Creek CSI project ran from April 2025 to October 2025 with the goal of identifying priority areas for implementing best management practices along Deer Creek in St. Louis County. Ten sites were monitored for nitrogen, phosphorous, total suspended solids, and *E. coli*. The data from this project was combined with data from the previous CSI projects over the last five years to update priority areas for stream restoration efforts.



Activity Type	Participants	Hours	Measured Units	Value*
Litter Pickup	9,975	40,200	506 tons	\$1,289,241
Educational Project	1,090	6,037	22,964 attendees	\$193,591
Water Quality Monitoring	1,317	3,059	334 trips	\$98,110
Invasive Species Removal	367	1,787	403,238 square feet	\$57,317
Planning for Events	383	1,493	355 projects	\$47,881
Meetings	467	1,222	1,726 attendees	\$39,190
Advocacy	175	1,124	140 events	\$36,047
Workshops - Water Quality Monitoring	104	876	103 attendees	\$28,093
Habitat Improvement	182	691	17 projects	\$22,160
Planted Trees	156	661	1,119 trees	\$21,198
Education	133	524	51 events	\$16,805
Storm Drain Stenciling	65	374	53 drains	\$11,994
Volunteer Appreciation	33	242	231 events	\$7,769
Agency	28	164	9 events	\$5,243
Mentoring and Recruiting	45	149	467 people	\$4,778
Display	18	108	3 events	\$3,464
Invasive Species Monitoring	25	77	7 trips	\$2,453
Adopt-An-Access	4	54	4 projects	\$1,716
Watershed Mapping	1	53	1 map	\$1,700
Stormwater Mitigation	23	29	1 project	\$922
Grant	3	14	2 projects	\$449
Stream Stabilization Project	1	4	1 project	\$128
Media Contact	4	4	4 interviews	\$112
Photo Point Monitoring	1	1	41 photos	\$32
* \$32.07/hour is the 2025 Missouri wage rate for the estimated value of volunteer time (Independent Sector).				
Totals	14,606	58,957		\$1,890,746



A Year of Growth...

The Stream Team family continues to grow! In 2025, we welcomed **318** new Teams, bringing our total over 36 years to **7,172**. You and the Teams you led engaged over **37,000** Missourians in learning, hands-on stewardship, and advocating for clean water across the state. Your impact is clear in the numbers: volunteers dedicated more than **58,000** hours and removed **506** tons of litter and debris from Missouri waterways, sustaining last year's record gains. Litter pickups, education, water quality monitoring, and invasive species removal continue to lead as the most popular activities.

This year also marked important progress, including the relaunch of Stream Team Academy, expanded advocacy through our non-profit partner Stream Teams United, and the launch of our new database. We are incredibly grateful to the staff and volunteers who helped bring this system to life. As you continue your work, we encourage you to log your activities in the new database so we can share your impact and support the program's future. We're always here to help if you need assistance.

Looking ahead, there are endless opportunities for every Missourian to connect with and care for our state's 110,000+ miles of streams. We encourage you to keep the momentum going and invite others in your circles to get involved.

With much admiration and appreciation,

Rebecca D'Heam

2025 Fast Facts

- During 2025, Stream Teams . . .
- ◆ collected 506 tons of trash
 - ◆ planted 1,119 trees
 - ◆ stenciled 53 storm drains
 - ◆ conducted 334 water monitoring trips
 - ◆ educated 22,967 attendees
 - ◆ reported 58,946 total volunteer hours

36-Year Fast Facts

- Since 1989, Stream Teams have . . .
- ◆ collected 15,079 tons of trash
 - ◆ planted 407,842 trees
 - ◆ stenciled 22,458 storm drains
 - ◆ conducted 35,692 water monitoring trips
 - ◆ completed 6,889 educational projects
 - ◆ reported 3,584,647 total volunteer hours