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News Release

For Immediate Release

Rain barrel sale goal: increased water harvesting

James River Basin Partnership is coordinating a special one-day only sale on rain barrels to encourage more rain water harvesting in the Ozarks. Barrels with downspout diverter kits will be offered at a discounted rate and the price will also include an instant rebate funded by the City of Springfield, Greene County Resource Management, City Utilities, and James River Basin Partnership. Rain or shine, the event will take place on 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Saturday, June 29, 2013, in the parking lot of Bass Pro Shops at 1935 S. Campbell in Springfield.

The 60-gallon rain barrels are available in four colors and each comes with a downspout diverter kit. Diverters make installation and maintenance simpler and allow expansion to a two barrel system on one downspout. Single rain barrel systems will be available for the rebated price of \$99.99 plus tax and a two barrel system for one downspout is available for the rebated price of \$164.99. Each system includes all the parts needed and an instruction manual for installation.

Walk-up orders are welcome, but because of the expected demand and limited supply available, participants are encouraged to pre-order online at www.rainreserve.com/ozarks. The event is open to all residents of the Ozarks.

There are both individual and community benefits to rainwater harvesting. Rain barrels store water for later non-potable uses during dry periods. Using rainwater for non-potable uses such as irrigation helps conserve public and private drinking water supplies and saves on the energy and costs associated with pumping and treating drinking water. The use of rain barrels also reduces stormwater runoff which helps to protect our streams and lakes from pollution and erosion. Over the years, rain barrels have become a popular addition to homes of even novice gardeners. According to the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association, rainwater is preferable to treated drinking water for use on plants.

"The region-wide use of rain barrels as a water management best practice has been a growing trend." says Tiffany Frey, Project Manager for the James River Basin Partnership. "Just one-quarter inch of rain on a 400 sq. roof area is enough to completely fill a rain barrel." The City, County, and CU have been working with James River Basin Partnership since 2007 to provide rain barrel rebates and promote their use as part of stormwater and water conservation education programs. This cooperative effort has resulted in over 1400 rain barrels in the community.

For questions about the event, contact Tiffany Frey, James River Basin Partnership, at 417-836-6183 or tfrey@missouristate.edu.