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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

**Annual Report Details Efforts to Protect Water Quality**

The City's annual report detailing its storm water management program and activities is now available and can be viewed online.

The annual report is submitted to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to document the City's activities fulfilling the requirements of its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit as well as additional efforts to protect the quality of area streams and lakes.

The City's MS4 permit is part of a program within the federal Clean Water Act requiring communities across the country to conduct a variety of programs and activities to reduce the impacts of urban storm water runoff pollution to area waterways. City efforts cited in the report include:

- An increased focus on green infrastructure in new developments and City projects, including: Lakes, Waterways & Streams improvements in the Springfield-Greene County Park System; the new Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center; and Park Central Streetscape green infrastructure improvements such as rain gardens and pervious pavement that reduce and filter runoff.
- Municipal operations to protect area waterways, including clearing storm drains and sweeping streets.
- Implementation of the City's Land Disturbance Permit program to protect area waterways from the discharge of sediment from construction sites.
- Monitoring of water quality in streams and rainfall runoff.
- Working with industries to reduce pollution to waterways.
- Public education and involvement activities.

The report notes that a major challenge for the program is the lack of an adequate long-term funding source to provide resources needed to comply with increasing federal and state water quality regulations and meet the City's needs for flood protection and replacement of aging infrastructure.

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