May 16, 2011

News Release

For Immediate Release

People's Choice Awarded for Favorite Storm Drain Mural

The James River Basin Partnership (JRBP) and the City of Springfield Public Works Storm Water Services Division are excited to announce Brad Davenport as the winner of the 2011 Storm Drain Reveal People's Choice Award. Brad's storm drain mural entitled "Down to the River" is located on the west side of Market Street near Springfield Brewing Company.

Brad was raised in Springfield, attended Kickapoo High School, and is currently attending classes at Ozarks Technical Community College. After completing his Associate of Arts degree he plans to transfer to Drury University to study architecture.

When asked why he chose to get involved in the project Davenport said, "To be honest, when the project was brought to my attention I knew very little about what happens to water once it enters a storm drain. I don't think I ever really took the time to think about it. However, once I was made aware, being a person who enjoys floating and trips to the lake with friends and family during the summer, I felt this was my chance to help and possibly make a difference. The project has been successful in bringing awareness to the public, which hopefully will make people think before they throw trash out a car window or dump chemicals in the street."

Photographs of the storm drain art, printed on aluminum, were displayed during the May First Friday Artwalk and at Artsfest on Walnut Street. The public was invited to vote on their favorite mural during those events. The goal of the display and the project is to raise awareness that storm drains lead directly to our streams and rivers. Soapy water, litter, yardwaste and other pollutants that end up in storm drains can impact water quality. Stormwater runoff can also pick up and carry pollutants from the landscape such as excess lawn fertilizer, pet waste and sediment from construction sites. The 10 storm drains that were painted in the downtown area lead to Jordan Creek which drains to the James River and eventually Table Rock Lake.
Download a larger photo of Davenport with his storm drain mural (photo credit: Steve Koehler, OTC). Photographs of all of the storm drain murals can be seen hanging at Mudhouse Coffee, 323 South Avenue, for the remainder of the month. A map of the storm drain mural locations, along with artist biographies and other information is available at www.jamesriverbasin.com.

For more information, contact Tiffany Frey, James River Basin Partnership, at tfrey@missouristate.edu or 836-6183; or Carrie Lamb, City of Springfield Public Works Storm Water Services Division, at clamb@springfieldmo.gov or 864-1996.