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News Release

For Immediate Release

Big Urbie-funded Robberson Elementary greenspace project out for bid

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Springfield Public Schools and the City of Springfield Public Works and Environmental Services departments have requested contractor bids for a project to improve water quality and provide a greener, more functional courtyard space at Robberson Elementary School.

The project is part of the Big Urbie grant and includes removal of a portion of the pavement and the addition of a native grass swale, rain barrels, trees, landscaping, and benches. The replacement of impervious pavement with green stormwater practices and trees reduces runoff and improves water quality by slowing down the water, filtering it with vegetation and allowing it to soak into the ground.

"This project is an opportunity for contractors to be involved in and gain experience installing green, innovative stormwater practices," said Stacey Armstrong, projects manager for Watershed Committee of the Ozarks. "We are excited not only about the water quality benefits of this project, but that it will provide a more inviting and functional space for the school and provide opportunities to educate students and the community about stormwater and water quality."

Contractors can access the bid documents through the City's Purchasing Department Web site at www.springfieldmo.gov/purchasing/processing.html. Bids are due by 3 p.m. Nov. 26.

Interested contractors can attend an optional pre-bid meeting at 10 a.m. Nov. 12 in the City Purchasing Division conference room at 218 E. Central, followed by a site visit. The project is being funded by the Big Urbie grant, with matching funds and in-kind assistance provided by Springfield Public Schools and the City.

The Springfield/Greene County Urban Watershed Stewardship Project (nicknamed Big Urbie) is a \$1 million federal grant awarded to Watershed Committee of the Ozarks by U.S. EPA Region 7 through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources under section 319 of the Clean Water Act in 2011. The City is one of several grant partners and is providing matching funds and assistance. Several more projects are in the design phase and will be out for bid in 2014. More information is available at www.bigurbie.org.

For more information, contact: Stacey Armstrong, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks Projects Manager, (417) 866-1127; Carrie Lamb, City of Springfield Environmental Services Water Quality Coordinator, (417) 864-1996; Teresa Bledsoe, Springfield Public Schools Director of Communications, (417) 523-0019.