Ten Years of ACHIEVEMENTS

Deer Creek Watershed Alliance

Moving New Best Practices Forward

- In 2008, planned and implemented 3 demonstration bioretention projects in the watershed in partnership with Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD)—the first bioretention projects ever designed and installed by MSD staff.
- In 2010, established native soil rain gardens and lawn alternatives as newly accepted Best Management Practices.
- In 2012, established a demonstration woodland restoration project in partnership with the Deer Creek Club.
- In 2014, worked with MSD to plan a stream bank biofiltration project—the first one designed and installed by MSD in Deer Creek.
- In 2016, brought internationally recognized scientists to St. Louis to explore the impact of soil biology on plant health and infiltration rates.
- In 2017, planned a demonstration wetland arborescent restoration project with City of Brentwood, Great Rivers Greenway, and the Technical Advisory Group.

RECEIVING AWARDS

- The Rainbird Intelligent Use of Water State of the Union Award in 2009
- The Open Space Council William C. Schock Clean Water Conservancy Award in 2010
- The St. Louis Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects Civic Stewardship Award in 2013

PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

- Created the first urban USEPA accepted nine-element watershed plan in the state of Missouri.
- The Deer Creek Watershed Plan was voted on and approved by all 20 municipal city councils in the watershed.
- Created multiple watershed partnerships resulting in the establishment of a Deer Creek Steering Committee, a Community Leaders Task Force, and a Technical Advisory Group to guide the Alliance.
- Collected baseline water quality data to analyze 17 water quality parameters at 12 sites on Deer Creek and its tributaries.
- Produced 52 watershed maps in partnership with East West Gateway Council of Governments.
- Identified the need to reach single family dwelling landowners where no development or redevelopment is taking place (almost ¾ of the land in the watershed), and designed a Rainscaping Cost Share Program to reach those landowners.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR Public Engagement

- Organized 2009 Ladue Day of Service: 571 Volunteers collected 9,740 pounds of trash in Deer Creek. Over 10 years, 1,300 volunteers have cleaned trash out of the creeks and removed invasive honeysuckle from creek banks.
- Created an online Rainscaping Guide to educate landowners and contractors alike on rainscaping best management techniques. The Guide has received over 42,000 unique page views by 12,000 unique visitors.
- Named 14 unnamed tributaries in the watershed. Added 17 creek signs posted along roads.
- Established and implemented a Deer Creek Speaker Series and rainscaping orientation sessions to disseminate innovative ideas in the watershed. More than 3000 people have attended educational workshops.
- Distributed 500 educational tree booklets to schools in the watershed.

WE’VE INSTALLED

364 PROJECTS

Our projects currently remove 186 tons of sediment, 77 lbs. of nitrogen, and 15 lbs. of phosphorus per year from Deer Creek.