Meramec / Big River
Urban Waters Federal Partnership

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Urban Waters Ambassador

Water Resources Committee Meeting

February 4, 2021

East-West Gateway
Council of Governments
Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

Urban Waters Federal Partnership

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Urban Waters Federal Partnership

The Urban Waters Partnership reconnects urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies.

The Partnership also collaborates with community-led revitalization efforts to improve our Nation's water systems and promote their economic, environmental and social benefits.

https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners

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The Meramec River and Big River UWFP

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Big River Clean-up and Restoration Effort

The Big River Clean-up and Restoration Effort is a coalition of federal, state and non-governmental organizations dedicated to restoring the Big River with the support of landowners and the public.

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- The Nature Conservancy
- East-West Gateway Council of Governments

CLEAN-UP & RESTORATION EFFORT
Big River
A Better Big River

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Big River Clean-up and Restoration Effort

- Remove built up contaminated sediment from behind dams and other structures,
- Restore trees and vegetation along the riverbank,
- Stabilize eroding riverbanks with engineered designs using trees, shrubs and rocks,
- Restore native mussels, crayfish, and fish, and
- Address contaminated yard soil.

https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/big-river-clean-and-restoration-effort-missouri

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4 Facts to Know: Lead and the Big River

1

Missouri is one of the world's largest lead-producing regions, dating back to the 1700s.

2

Lead pile waste has contaminated the Big River.

3

Lead is toxic to fish and wildlife.

4

Lead exposure poses human health risks.

What Lead Contamination Means for the Big River

Soil and sediment may contain lead.

Lead in the Big River impacts fish, crayfish, and endangered mussels.

A fish advisory is in effect for the Big River.

Without action, contamination will continue moving down the river, impacting the Meramec and Mississippi.

Lead in the Big River Can Harm Your Health

Lead exposure can be especially harmful to children, reducing the ability to learn and focus.

How Can You and Your Children Be Exposed to Lead?

How Do We Get To A Better Big River?

State and federal agencies work together with landowners and the public.

5 Ways to Protect Yourself from Lead

1

Regularly wash hands and clean or remove dirt tracked into homes.

2

Talk to your healthcare provider about testing your children for lead poisoning.

3

Don't eat certain fish caught from the Big River. Check fish advisories.

4

Have the soil in your yard tested, especially where children play.

5

Avoid using untested soil and sod from the Big River and surrounding areas.

Urban Waters Ambassador Activities

Wichita State University
Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs
Environmental Finance Center

- Funding Research
- Communications Strategy Implementation/Outreach
  - Dangers of Lead
  - Blood Lead Levels Testing
  - Soil Lead Levels Testing
  - Residential Soil Remediation
- Workplan Update
- State and Federal Agency Collaboration

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Thank you!

Contact Information

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