Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper

The **Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper** is a grassroots, citizen-led conservation organization focused on clean water and dedicated to protecting fishable, swimmable, drinkable water.

website mowaterkeeper.org // social media @mowaterkeeper

Clean Water Advocacy and Enforcement

Above: Missouri River Drainage Basin that enters the Mississippi River near St. Louis, Missouri (red dot)

Below: Confluence of the Missouri River (left) and Mississippi River (right)

Trash Free St. Louis

The *Trash Free St. Louis* pilot project is a collaborative initiative in the region designed to facilitate cleaner rivers through targeted capture, collection, and documentation of waterborne litter. Three in-stream litter collection devices “trash traps” will be used.

“It’s kind of like a toilet bowl if you will…once the water starts going down, it gets clear of the bridges, most of that stuff will flush out, just like your toilet does in your house.”

Pilot Project Objectives

- Improve overall WATER QUALITY through capture and removal of litter.
- Identify pollution inputs and work to eliminate at the source — UPSTREAM SOLUTIONS.
- Collect DATA, create useful maps, and share information with local governments, universities, researchers, and tech.
- Increase community AWARENESS and understanding of water quality and protection efforts.
- Provide opportunities for community ENGAGEMENT through citizen participation and greater sense of CONNECTION to our water resources.
- Encourage more people to paddle, play, swim, float, enjoy, and protect our urban waterways.

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River des Peres (Heman Park)

Trash Trout (Deer Creek)

Microplastics Monitoring

Microplastics, defined as any plastic particle smaller than 5mm, are often too small to see with the naked eye. And while this pollution might be less visible than the larger plastic debris, it is not without consequence.

Plastics break down over time and find their way into our rivers, fish and wildlife, drinking water, and ultimately us.

What is Tributary?

Tributary is a microplastics monitoring, mapping, and outreach initiative launched by Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper in 2019.

It is a citizen-science project that identifies the location and amount of microplastics in ground, surface, and tap water throughout the state of Missouri.

Using the collected data and AI predictive modeling, we are tracing plastic pollution to its source, exploring the story of how litter moves through our waterways, and working at the grassroots level to affect change.

Wichita State University

Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs

Environmental Finance Center

Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper®

WSU EFC Will...

Analyze data collected by MCW volunteers

Develop a report to drive actions to **reduce** litter

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