

Have flooding and sewage issues affected you?

Learn about the Prairie du Pont/Judy's Branch Watershed Planning & BMP Implementation Project



Murdock Mound, Fairmont City



Frank Holten State Park, East St. Louis



Gateway Geyser, East St. Louis



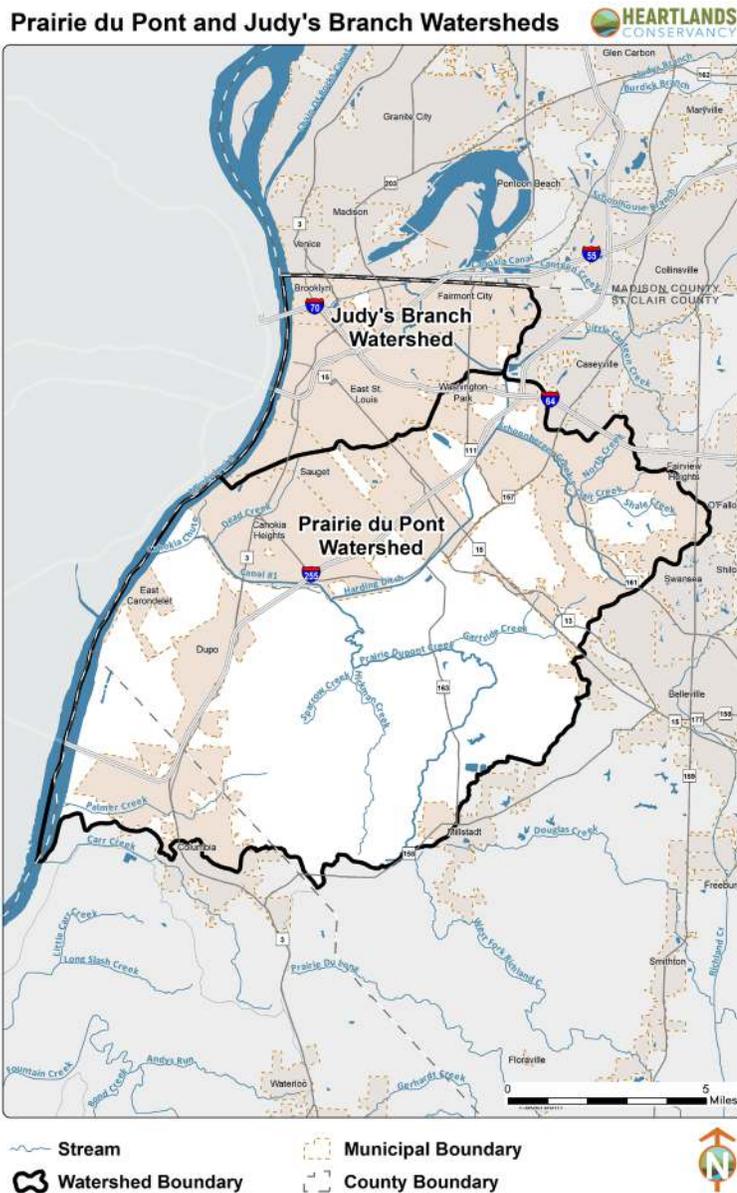
HEARTLANDS
CONSERVANCY

Overview

Heartlands Conservancy has partnered with Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) and the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center (NGRREC) to embark on a watershed planning process for the Prairie du Pont and St. Clair County portion of Judy's Branch watersheds. These watersheds cover a 96,250-acre area in St. Clair and Monroe counties.

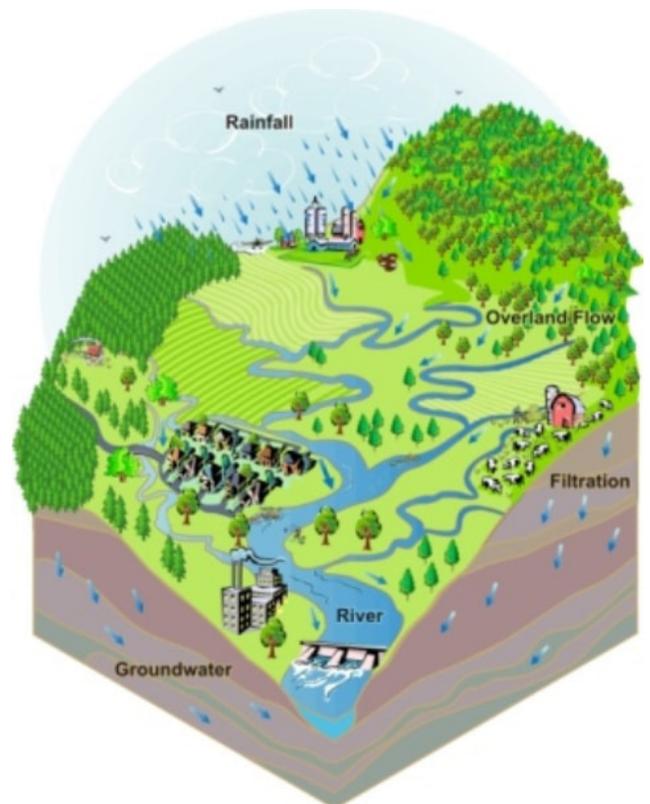
Watershed planning is a way to strategically identify and address water quality, sanitary sewer, and flooding issues, creating a long-term vision for the improvement of drainage. The planning process will bring together technical analysis and public input to create a roadmap for healthier watersheds. When complete, these plans will make informed recommendations on how to decrease flood damage, repair sanitary sewers, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, and restore fish and wildlife habitat.

Best management practices (BMPs) are installations that will act as pilot demonstrations to help reduce flooding and sewage issues in known problem areas. These projects can include sewer system repairs, pump station maintenance, sediment capture, and bioswales. The purpose of installing these BMPs is to immediately help improve the health of the watershed and also provide a guide for future projects to be installed.



What is a watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a specific location or body of water. A good way to think of a watershed is to picture a bath tub, water in the tub eventually flows to drain. For the Prairie du Pont/Judy's Branch watershed, stormwater within this area flows to the Mississippi River through various creeks, lakes, and canals.



Common Questions and Answers

About Prairie du Pont/Judy's Branch Watershed Planning

Q Why is watershed planning being done for the Prairie du Pont/Judy's Branch watersheds?

Flooding causes tremendous economic burdens on communities by damaging homes, businesses, farm fields, roads, and bridges. Likewise, failing water infrastructure can cause sewage issues, poor or declining water quality, serious health effects on residents and degrade the environment health for wildlife habitat and ecosystems causing inability to fish or play in creeks. Watershed planning is an opportunity to identify ways to enhance water quality and reduce the impacts of flooding. By analyzing existing conditions and developing strategies for improvement, each watershed plan will become a roadmap for communities, agencies, and residence to work together to address stormwater issues. The plans will also identify potential sources of funding for these improvements and will help reduce long-term costs for residents, businesses, and taxpayers.

Q Will the public be involved in the planning process?

Yes! The public will be involved in a number of ways throughout the planning process, including residents and small group meetings, public Open Houses, surveys and mapping. Involvement will include, local, state, and federal governments, community and civic groups, and others interested in water issues. The input received will help shape plan recommendations. A committee of local residents, governments, and community groups will provide ongoing guidance.

Q Will this study solve flooding problems in our communities and on our land?

Solving all flooding and sewage related problems will not happen overnight. Long-term strategies are needed to reduce flooding and sewer backup impacts. However, this planning process will be an important step. During meetings and Open Houses, stakeholders and the public are asked to identify flooding locations on maps provided by the planning team. In addition, a mobile mapping platform is being created to allow residents to map flooding areas and other issues in real time. Mapping these locations and understanding upstream-downstream connections will help generate recommendations in the watershed plans.

Q Who are the partners involved with the watershed planning?

To create the watershed plans, HeartLands Conservancy is working closely with various groups throughout the watershed including counties, local governments, and key organizations such as the Illinois EPA, Army Corps of Engineers, and Illinois Department of Transportation to name a few. Project partners include the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Q What happens when the plan is complete?

Watershed planning is an opportunity for regional partners (e.g., local leaders, stakeholders, agencies, residents) to develop objectives and goals for the drainage in the area. Input from partners will shape plan recommendations, such as best management practices, improvement projects, or updated policies. The watershed plans will identify potential sources of funding and partners that can assist in completing the recommendations.

Schedule

Prairie du Pont/Judy's Branch Watershed Planning and Pilot BMPs

- Document existing conditions in each watershed.
- Hold meetings to gather public input that guides the planning process (e.g., problematic flooding locations).
- Meet with residents, groups, project partners, and municipalities.
- Further community engagement at local events.
- Gather resident feedback through survey distribution, activities, and events.

2021

- Residents and other stakeholders work together and join the Watershed Planning, BMP, and Technical committees.
- Identify solutions for flooding, sewer backups, and water quality issues related to infrastructure, policy, and land use.
- Hold open houses and pop-up events to gather public input on the draft solutions.
- Residents and stakeholders develop a plan, edit it, and identify/ implement demonstration areas and projects.

2022

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For More Information

For more information or to be added to the mailing list, please contact:

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<https://heartlandsconservancy.org/pdp/>



Scan with your smartphone's camera to visit the project website

About HeartLands Conservancy

HeartLands Conservancy, a nonprofit serving southwestern Illinois since 1989, works for clean water, access to the outdoors, healthy ecosystems, and resilient communities. Visit www.heartlandsconservancy.org or www.facebook.com/heartlandsconservancy for more information.



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