



# STREAMGRAM

## Action Needed to Help Streams

Willow Creek Subdivision Association has been a part of the Missouri Stream Team for many years. It is known as Cold Water Creek Missouri Stream Team #30 - Sandy. The Missouri Stream Team is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation, The Conservation Federation of Missouri and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. A Stream Team is a working partnership of citizens who are concerned about Missouri streams. The Stream Team program provides an opportunity for all interests to get involved in river conservation. Citizens attending the first Rivers and Streams Conference in 1988 set the following Stream Team goals: Education: Learning all you can about Missouri's 56,000 miles of flowing water but most especially learning as much as one can about their own adopted stream. In this case, the adopted stream of Willow Creek Association is Cold Water Creek which is located at the back and forms the border of the subdivision. Stewardship: "Hands-on" projects such as litter control, streambank stabilization, streamside tree planting, water quality, monitoring, and storm drain stenciling, are all possibilities. Advocacy: Speaking on behalf of your adopted stream when development projects or harmful activities tamper with them. Those who have gained a first hand knowledge of problems, solutions, and needs are best equipped to speak out on behalf of Missouri's stream resources. You may want to write a letter, attend a meeting, or find another way to get involved.

When the first homeowners bought homes in Willow Creek Subdivision the homes were sold by the Jones Co. on the condition that the land was out of the floodplain and no flood insurance was required. Since then, further development of the land in the Cold Water Creek Florissant Valley and neighboring communities, has (according to some sources) placed Willow Creek into the floodplain. Development is inevitable near urban areas as population growth and economic expansion continues. Many urban streams have been adversely affected by past development activities, but some types of degradation can be anticipated and appropriate management techniques applied to protect the stream. In other cases, the stream can be saved only by avoiding development in the first place. Over the years the amount of storm water, liquid disposal and toxic wastes from many sources and storm sewers, new business and new residential water run off is continuing to increase along Cold Water Creek. The Creek's carrying volume is not enough now to deal with normal and heavy rainfalls. When grass and trees that absorb water are removed from the land, rain and water aren't absorbed into the ground, but become runoff that causes flooding and its consequences. Expansion of Lambert St. Louis Airport and every new development in the area will greatly increase the stormwater volume along Cold Water Creek for the future. The chances for flooding throughout the Cold Water Creek Florissant Valley and neighboring communities which are already experiencing erosion and flooding problems will also increase. *SHAPS and HISS (refrigerator waste sites at Adams Garden airport leak into the Creek.*

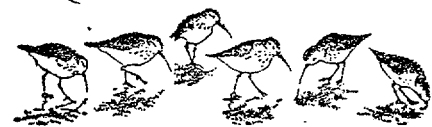
Residential and commercial developments along waterfronts are among the most valuable properties everywhere in the world. The Cold Water Creek Valley does not need additional developments in its area as the Creek is already overstressed with excessive stormwater volume during storms and rain. With your help in observing Stream Team goals, Cold Water Creek can and should be managed wisely, so that quality of life and quality of living in a green and natural, unhurried environment will only increase here where we all live. For more info call Sandy at 921-8369.

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