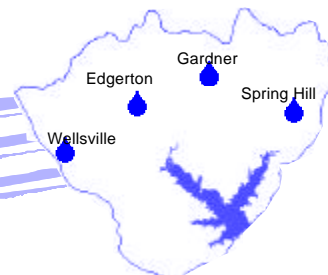


A quarterly publication of the Hillsdale Water Quality Project, Inc.
Volume 10, Issue 2
April, 2002

Water Source



Business, agriculture, recreation and communities — a partnership for water quality

Project wins National Association of Counties Award

The National Association of Counties, NACo, headquartered in Washington, D.C., recently chose the Hillsdale Water Quality Project as a winner of the Acts of Caring Award in the Environment Division.

The award illustrates the county and project's commitment to working together to improve communities and the environment.

Third District Johnson County Commissioner Annabeth Surbaugh, a long time water quality activist, said the project's success was the result of a public-private partnership.

"This project demonstrated the strong working relationship between the county and the Hillsdale watershed residents, which I think will be strengthened as our population expands to the southwest and more development occurs in those areas," Surbaugh said.

Most importantly, the project benefited from the involvement of an active, informed group of citizens, Surbaugh added.

"Johnson County citizens are committed to improving our community," she said. "This project—more than anything else—proves that citizens who are concerned, who get involved, can make the difference. I'm so happy to have the Hillsdale Water Quality project recognized by the National Association of Counties because it truly underscores the importance and positive impacts of community volunteerism."

Tom Bach, Hillsdale Water Quality Project board chairman, said the project was honored by the county's nomination.

"This award is just another example of what can be accomplished when a valuable partnership of volunteers and government is formed," Bach said. "Hillsdale Water Quality Project is proud of our relationship with Johnson County and their support of our efforts to improve water quality in Hillsdale Lake."

Eileen Hack, Johnson County Water Quality specialist, nominated the project for the award.

"The project is a model of how citizens can make a difference and can share their vision towards development of partnerships with all sectors of a community to work towards a common goal," she said. "The project has really served as a model for a citizen-based water quality environmental activist organization."

Area farmers attend cost-share meeting

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Many area farmers attended an informational cost-share meeting, Feb. 27, at the Spring Hill Community Center. The meeting featured presentations by Mary Howard, Kansas Rural Center, Linda Prothe, Miami County Conservation District. Frank Gillespie, Edgerton resident, also spoke about EQIP practices implemented on his farmland.

Cost-share programs are programs, which offer funding assistance to eligible farmers and landowners. The programs include EQIP, River Friendly Farms, Clean Water Neighbor Grants, Conservation Easement or Reserve programs, Environmental Education Grant programs, best management practices through Hillsdale Water Quality Project and many more.

The Hillsdale Water Quality Project will be hosting a River Friendly Farms program meeting in the fall.

For more information contact the project for a complete listing, 913-829-9414 or online at: www.hwqp.org. Information is also available through local conservation services and districts, see listing page 2.



Local farmers learn about a variety of cost-share programs during Feb. 27 meeting.

Phone: 913.829.9414

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Fax: 913.393.1394

Cost-share application deadline looms

The United States Department of Agriculture Service Centers in Kansas are now taking applications for landowners and operators that need cost-share and incentive funds for applying conservation practices for improving water quality and grazing lands health.

The application deadline is April 12, 2002.

For more cost-share information, contact the local conservation offices

Douglas County Conservation District 785-843-4288
Franklin County Conservation District 785-242-1109,
Ext. 3.

Johnson County Conservation District 913-764-1931
Miami County Conservation District 913 294-3751,
Ext. 3

Natural Resources Conservation Service, 913-764-1391

Project welcomes new, returning board members

The Hillsdale Water Quality Project recently welcomed two new and one returning board members to the project's board of directors and thanked two board members for their service to the project.

Retiring from the board were Dale Everhart, long-time resident and farmer, and Jeff Donovan, Haz-Mat Response, Inc. Don Spreitzer, KCP&L, returned to the board for an additional two-year term.

Welcomed to the volunteer board were Troy Wickham, watershed resident, and Jessica Baetz, Kansas Corn Growers Association, for two-year terms.

The Board meets at 5:30 p.m., the third Thursday of each month at the Johnson County Airport Commission Building, One New Century Parkway, New Century, KS. The board meeting is open to the public.

Household Hazardous Waste site to restart second Saturday drop-off hours

Miami County Household Hazardous Waste, 327th Hospital Drive, Paola, will begin second Saturday hours May through October., beginning May 11. The site is also open Wednesdays, 1 a.m. to noon, throughout the year. For more information contact the office at: (913) 294-4117.

Members support Hillsdale Water Quality Project

Attention! New and renewing 2002 members don't miss this opportunity to receive one free soil sample for watershed residents, a complimentary rain gauge, discounts on purchasing low-flow showerheads and water conservation kits at a discounted price! If you are not listed in this publication, please renew your membership today. Contact the office or go online at www.hwqp.org and print out a membership form.

Mail check and membership form to: Hillsdale Water Quality Project, P.O. Box 23, New Century, KS 66031.

Individuals

(\$15 annual contribution)

★ Jessica Baetz



(\$15 annual contribution)

- ★ *Jessica Baetz* ●
- Jim Benz
- ★ Dr. Ronald Daly
- ★ Gale Garber
- ★ *Lee Quaintance*
- Greg Smith
- ★ Dick Weisser

Families

(\$20 annual contribution)

- Tom and Kay Bach*
- Hanley and Amy Barker
- Jim Bell and Julie Lewis Bell
- ★ Bill and Connie Coulter
- Dinnis and Pat Crownover
- ★ Ben and Barbara Donovan ★
- ★ Walter and Suzanne Dotson
- Morris and Myrtle Eastland
- ★ Dale and Jean Everhart
- Michael Franano Family
- David and Diana Green

●	New Members
★	Recently Renewed Members
	<i>Board Members italicized</i>

One New Century Pkwy, Suite. 115

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P.O. Box 23, New Century, KS 66031

Hillsdale Water Quality Project begins "first-flush" sampling

With every significant rainstorm, Hillsdale Water Quality Project staff will be taking to the streams to capture "first-flush" samples.

Through an EPA grant, the project stepped up its monitoring and assessing of urban and agricultural nonpoint source contributors of pollutants within the watershed.

Nonpoint Source Pollution is primarily created by stormwater runoff. Researchers have determined that nonpoint pollution sources have the highest impact on the state's water quality. These sources are not easily identifiable because runoff comes from yards, gardens, roadways, cropland, pasture and recreational areas.

Jason Downs, Hillsdale Water Quality Project field representative, said the "first-flush" samples will provide comparative information about nonpoint source pollution.

"The initial flow during a runoff event, or "first-flush," contains the most pollutant concentrated portion of runoff water," Downs said. "Samplers designed to capture water during this "first-flush" have been placed in upstream - urban areas and downstream - agricultural areas. Samples will be collected from March through September and will give us a comparative look at urban and agricultural runoff."

The "first-flush" samples will be taken in addition to the project's current sampling. Four upstream and four downstream locations within the watershed are being used to test streams' components through the area's wet season. The project will continue testing for total suspended solids, total kjeldahl nitrogen, phosphorus, soluble phosphorus and nitrate nitrogen. In addition to these items, the "first-flush" samples will capture fecal coliform bacteria and ammonia. They are also noted as "first-flush," because the samplers capture the immediate increase in a stream's water flow and shuts off once it is full.

The project is implementing the "first-flush" samplers in Little Bull and Big Bull Creek Subwatersheds. Hillsdale Watershed consists of four subwatersheds, or smaller watersheds: Big Bull, Little Bull, Wade and Rock Creeks.

This information will be used for comparison and will also be added to the composite samples taken at the project's permanent sampling sites.

City of Hillsdale
Fifth Annual
Race for the Lake
Sept. 14, 2002 at Hillsdale State Park
Contact ggarber@hwqp.org

Be a clean water neighbor.

Everyone can do their part to recognize that clean water is essential to the health and welfare of plants and animals and people. Do your part today and everyday by making the following pledge.

I, _____,
(print your name here)

pledge to be a clean water neighbor by promising to do the following:

pledge to be a clean water neighbor by promising to do the following:

- Be aware of activities which threaten the quality of Kansas' water resources.
- Be aware of measures and practices which prevent the discharge of pollutants to Kansas' water resources.
- Conduct business and personal activities, to the extent that I am able, in a manner that will assure restoration and maintenance of clean water in Kansas.

Take the Clean Water Neighbor pledge above and fill out this form below to receive a Clean Water Neighbor certificate through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Please print clearly. Mail form to: Hillsdale Water Quality Project, Clean Water Neighbor Pledge, P.O. Box 23, New Century, KS 66031 or Jaime Ziesenis c/o KDHE, Bureau of Water, Watershed Management Section, 1000 Jackson, Topeka, KS 66612.

Name: _____ Telephone: () _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

_____ Age: _____

Would you be interested in volunteering to help preserve water quality within the area? Yes _____

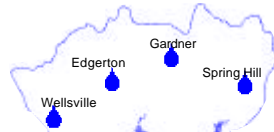
What area would you like to work in? Stream cleanups _____ Educational activities _____

Storm drain stenciling _____ Other: _____

Website: www.hwqp.org

E-mail: hwqp@hwqp.org

Lake Region RC&D
Hillsdale Water Quality Project
P.O. Box 23
One New Century Parkway, Suite 115
New Century, KS 66031



Water Source

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage PAID
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Permit No. 49

CURRENT RESIDENT
SPRING HILL KS 66083

The Hillsdale Water Quality Project is funded by local private, corporate and municipal contributions, in addition to an EPA Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grant NPS-2K1-077, administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Students, residents volunteer to participate in Hillsdale Watershed environmental projects

April showers bring May flowers right? Well, the showers also increase the potential for pollution to enter the waterways throughout the watershed. So, numerous volunteers are taking to the streams in April to cleanup the environment and help improve water quality in Hillsdale Lake.

Events began on April 1 with a local cub Scouts group completing a stream cleanup and stencil project. To celebrate K.C. Clean Streams 2002, April 5, sponsored by the Blue River Watershed Association, and Earth Day students and residents volunteered to pickup trash, debris, litter and everything else that doesn't belong in local streams.

In Spring Hill, high school chemistry teacher Chris Clausing's class picked up trash, attended the event and worked with the project to help stencil storm drains in Spring Hill, April 5.

In Gardner, Greg Smith, Wheatridge Middle School science teacher, and additional teachers, combined classes for

with the project to help stencil storm drains in Spring Hill, April 9.

In Gardner, Greg Smith, Wheatridge Middle School science teacher, and additional teachers, combined classes for K.C. Clean Streams 2002. About 240 students participated.

Students in both cities spent the morning picking up trash in their cities, then traveled to the Overland Park Arboretum for additional activities.

Smith said he believes middle school students are receptive to the world around them and are very willing to participate in caring for their environment.

"Middle grade students are in a developmental age where they are reaching out for who they are and what they believe in," Smith said. "Service learning/environmental opportunities such as Clean Streams 2002 can have a huge positive impact on our students."

On April 20, Gardner Parks and Recreation will host its annual Earth Day Celebrations from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Greenway-Corridor– Madison Street. Families, organizations and individuals of all ages are invited. There will be tree planting demonstrations, a volunteer appreciation picnic and drawings.

Earth Day follows on April 22.

On May 4, the Hillsdale Water Quality Project will host an annual Stream Cleanup event in the Big Bull Creek Sub-watershed. Volunteers interested in assisting staff in the cleanup are requested to contact the office at 913-829-

Volunteers needed to help with storm drain project

Volunteers are requested to contact the project office to help repair and replace stenciling on area storm drains throughout the watershed. Last year, project volunteers stenciled more than 450 storm drains. Yet, with area growth and normal wear and tear, some stencils may need repair or replacement.

Contact Jason Downs at (913) 829-9414.