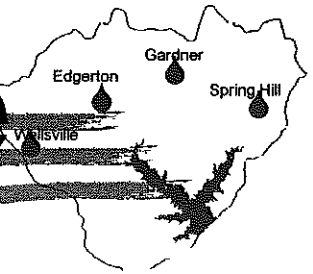


Water Source



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

Stenciling underway throughout watershed communities

Have you seen "Dump No Waste, Drains to Hillsdale Lake" signs featuring a fish on a storm drain in Spring Hill, Edgerton or Gardner?

The reasons for the markings are many. Volunteers for the Hillsdale Water Quality Project, in cooperation with local cities, have been stenciling fish or placing decals on area storm drains to remind residents and visitors not to dump harmful materials down storm drains.

Storm drains funnel water away from area roadways, parking lots and streets into nearby streams, rivers and lakes. Many Spring Hill, Edgerton and Gardner drains lead directly to Hillsdale Lake tributaries. Storm drains are not hooked up to wastewater treatment plants, nor does the water that flows through the storm drains get treated before it reaches a stream, river and into a lake.

The pollutants come from everyone. Runoff from storms picks up street and parking lot litter, yard waste, excess lawn and garden fertilizers, pesticides, residue from oil leaks, sediment and loose oil and takes the pollutants to the nearest stream, groundwater, wetland, river or lake.

As a helpful reminder and educational tool to area residents, Hillsdale Water Quality Project and volunteers "painted the town" in hopes of protecting the lake which provides drinking water for about 30,000 people.

In the areas where the stenciling is taking place, residents also receive reminders on their doorknobs and are requested and reminded to use caution with items they dispose of in their yards and driveways.

In addition to the stenciling, the volunteers collect data through global information systems that will further aid the project by mapping the drains' geographic locations.



Volunteers for the Hillsdale Water Quality Project stencil and collect data on area storm drains.

Area residents can help reduce pollutants from reaching area streams, rivers and lakes by taking the following preventative measures:

- ◆ Use less fertilizer on lawns and gardens.
- ◆ Recycle used oil and fix oil leaks.
- ◆ Avoid using pesticides and herbicides.
- ◆ Compost yard trimmings and raked leaves in to the compost pile.
- ◆ Don't litter.
- ◆ Pick up pet wastes and dispose of by burying underground or flushing down the toilet.
- ◆ Take leftover paints and cleaning or gardening chemicals to the local household hazardous waste collection site.
- ◆ Wash vehicles on the lawn rather than parking lots or streets.
- ◆ Sweep the driveway debris rather than hosing it off into the street.

Persons interested in more information about the stenciling may contact the Hillsdale Water Quality Project at (913) 829-9414 or hwqp@hwqp.org

For information about where and how to properly dispose of household hazardous waste materials in Johnson County call the Johnson County Environmental Department at (913) 492-0402 to set up an appointment, or in Miami County contact Household Hazardous Waste at (913) 294-4117.

DUMP NO WASTE



DRAINS TO HILLSDALE LAKE

Above is a reproduction of the stencil.

Shoreline plants, trees to increase fish habitat, protect against soil erosion

Water willow will continue to be introduced along the shoreline of Hillsdale Lake this summer. Like all Kansas reservoirs, Hillsdale Lake is lacking in aquatic shoreline vegetation, which provides crucial fish habitat and protects the shoreline from excessive erosion.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks began this year's water willow (*Justicia americana*) planting in Hillsdale Lake in late June. The water willow will be collected from other area lakes and ponds and transported to Hillsdale. Depending on the soils, the willow either will be planted individually into the lake bottom or on long rolls of mesh that will be staked into place. It will likely take several years for the water willow to become established.

This is the second year for the project. Craig Johnson, KDWP District Fisheries Biologist, said last year's planting was successful.

"The plants have survived the winter," Johnson said.

"The early signs are very promising."

He said there is much more work to do in the upcoming years to enhance the lake's 51 miles of shoreline.

Water willow was selected for the project because it:

- ◆ Is a native plant that grows in water up to four feet deep.
- ◆ Emerges from the surface to produce leaves that are out of the water enabling it to survive during turbid water conditions.
- ◆ Is tolerant of drought conditions.
- ◆ Is not good tasting to carp and turtles.
- ◆ Grows on most soils from silt to coarse gravel.
- ◆ It spreads naturally.

For more information or volunteer opportunities, contact Craig Johnson, KDWP District Fisheries Biologist, at (913) 894-9113, ext. 5.

Membership growth continues

Please join us in welcoming our new members and recognizing those who have renewed their project memberships. Please renew your membership today. Call the office for more information (913) 829-9414.

◆ New Members

★ Recently Renewed Members

Individuals

(\$15 annual contribution)

Jessica Baetz
Hanley Barker
Betty Chaney
Bennie Erwin
Gale Garber
Lee Quaintance
Joseph Rowe
Allan Soetaert
Debbie Smith
Dick Weisser
Joe Yelton

Families

(\$20 annual contribution)

Tom and Kay Bach
Jim Bell and Julie Lewis-Bell
Francis and Eloise Bennett
Bill and Connie Coulter
Dennis and Pat Crownover
Ben and Barbara Donovan
Walter and Suzanne Dotson
Morris and Myrtle Eastland
Harold and Marilyn Erickson
Dale and Jean Everhart

Families (continued)

Damon and Debbie Frizzell
David D. and Diana Green
Mr. and Mrs. Carl F. Gump
James and Linda Heimbach
Marshall Hitchcock
Al LeDoux
Robert and Janet McRae
Warren and Mary Medlin
Dr. John and Constance Murphy
Ken and Annalee Nelson
Darrell and Juanita Paris
Richard and Alice Piezuch
Dick and Sue Redinger
Teresa Reeves
Larry and Carrie Stricker
Larry and Debra Sumner
★ Mike, Becky and Ryan Stewart
★ Judith Taggart
Jack and Gloria Weiss
Eugene Wetzel

Small Business Members

(\$100 annual contribution)

Drs. Hawks, Besler & Rogers

Small Business Members (continued)

Coldwell Banker New Horizons, Dale Harsh
★ Southwest Johnson County EDC

Corporate members

(\$250 annual contribution)

Executive Beechcraft
Haz-Mat Response
Johnson County Stormwater Management
KCP&L
KPL — Western Resources
Mr. Goodcents Subs & Pastas
★ Niffie Printing
★ Ponzer Youngquist, P. A.
★ Sprint

Municipalities

(Contributions vary)

City of Edgerton
City of Gardner
City of Spring Hill
★ Miami County Conservation District
Rural Water District No. 2 of Miami County
Rural Water District No. 7, Johnson County

Help Prevent Pollution!

Fourth Race for the Lake date set, runners, volunteers wanted!

Runners to your marks- Ready- Set- GO!

Yes, it's that time of year again for the fourth Annual Race for

the Lake to take place. This year's race will offer exercise, music, food, fun and prizes for the entire family, while raising funds for the Hillsdale

Water Quality Project. The 5K run/walk is the only fundraiser for the project, a nonprofit organization promoting better water quality for the Hillsdale Lake.

The race begins with registration at 7 a.m., Sept. 15.

The race starts at 8 a.m. Prizes and drawings will be drawn following the race. Participant awards will be distributed shortly following the race, once results are complete.

Participants may walk, run or wheel themselves to the finish line. The cost is only \$15 prior to Sept. 1 and \$20 after Sept. 1 and on race day.

For more information about the race, contact the Hillsdale Water Quality Project (913) 829-9414; or ggarber@hwqp.org.



Runner Registration

Please print. One entry per form.

Copy blank form for additional entries.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Sex: **(circle one)** Male Female

Age on Race Day (9/15/01): _____

Yes! I want to volunteer and receive a free T-shirt!

Age divisions: **(circle one)** 14 & Under 15-19 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60 & Up

I will participate in: **(circle one)** 5K Run 5K Walk 5K wheelchair

T-shirt size: **(circle one)** M L XL (selection limited for late entrants)

As a donation to the Hillsdale Water Quality Project, I have added \$_____ to my entry fee.

Make checks payable to: Hillsdale Water Quality Project. Mail to: P.O. Box 23, New Century, KS 66031

Waiver of Liability

By signing below, I acknowledge and represent that I am physically fit and have trained sufficiently to participate in the third annual Race for the Lake. I also accept any and all responsibility and hold harmless the Hillsdale Water Quality Project, the race sponsors, and the officers, employees, volunteers, and representatives of those organizations for any injury, accident, or loss of personal or group property resulting from my participation in Race for the Lake.

_____/_____/_____
Signature (Parent or guardian if under 18) /Date/ Print name (if different than registrant)

Runners may register online at www.active.com.

Big Bull Creek Subwatershed continues as the project's designated priority area

The project's stream monitoring data has shown that Big Bull Creek carries the largest amount of pollutants into the lake.

Located in the north-central area of the Hillsdale Watershed, Big Bull comprises about 30 percent of the total watershed and receives effluent from the Gardner and Edgerton wastewater treatment plants. The KCP&L Prairie Wetland was constructed downstream from Gardner's treatment plant to help reduce the amount of pollutants in the plant's outflow before reaching the lake.

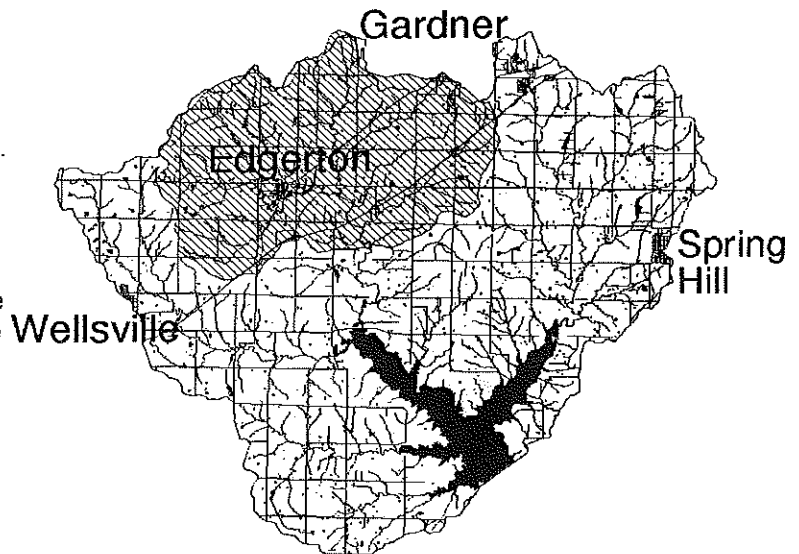
In 2000, Big Bull Creek contributed about 8.5 times more phosphorus than Little Bull Creek. The Big Bull Subwatershed is also 25 percent larger than the Little Bull Subwatershed.

Therefore, the phosphorus contribution per acre of land in each subwatershed was analyzed to compare the two equally. It is shown that the Big Bull Subwatershed contributes more phosphorus per acre than the Little Bull Subwatershed.

A similar comparison is demonstrated when analyzing the amount of phosphorus contributed per volume of water from each subwatershed. Again, the Big Bull Subwatershed dominates in comparison.

For these reasons, the Big Bull Subwatershed continues to be the project's priority subwatershed.

The image below indicates the Hillsdale Lake Watershed, which covers 144 square miles, or 92,000 acres. The shaded area indicates the project's designated priority subwatershed, Big Bull.



Identify the two types of pollution: point versus nonpoint source

Point source pollution comes from specific locations, such as wastewater treatment plants. Virtually all point sources are subject to government regulations and are monitored on a regular basis.

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 easy to identify because runoff comes from yards, gardens, roadways, cropland, pasture and recreational areas.

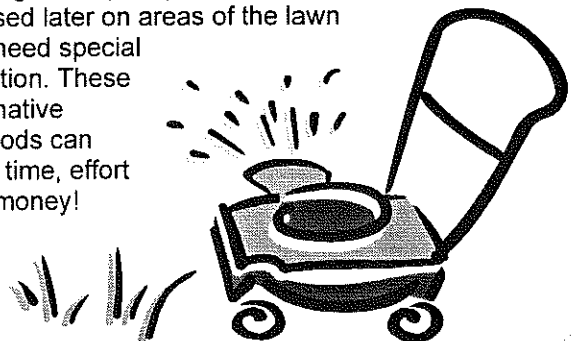
Because few national and state regulations address nonpoint source pollution, control measures are voluntary and require everyone's involvement.

Don't bag it!

Leaving grass clippings on the lawn is the easiest and most cost-effective way to handle them. Clippings decompose and return nitrogen to the soil.

Grass clippings left on your lawn help to build a healthy biocommunity of microorganisms and earthworms. You can reduce a lawn's nitrogen needs by as much as 40 percent by leaving clippings.

Consider using a self-mulching mower or starting a compost pile. Composted yard wastes can be used later on areas of the lawn that need special attention. These alternative methods can save time, effort and money!



Visit the Hillsdale Water Quality Project online at www.hwqp.org

Grazingland management proves vital to water quality

By Ryan Higbee

Nearly 20 million grazeable acres in Kansas, utilized by livestock, mainly consist of native species of grass and some tame grasses like fescue and brome.

Along this acreage lie many streams, rivers, ponds and lakes which prove to be invaluable to the livestock industry and make it a viable operation by providing livestock with clean and healthy water supplies. The current status and future of these water areas are not only dependent upon the existence of the grass acting as filtering agents for the water, but these bodies of water are highly influenced by grazingland management.

Range plants prove to be extremely valuable to the soil and water quality as the vegetative growth provides cover to intercept raindrops, plant crowns provide barriers to the movement of water and solid pollutants and the root mass in the upper soil profile holds soil particles in

place, reducing soil erosion. Therefore, if the range plants are not managed correctly, any one of these key factors could be hindered.

Six management principles are utilized in proper grazing management, including: stocking rate, uniform utilization, degree of utilization, season of use, kind and class of livestock and systematic rest. These factors play a key role in good water quality. Many other influences in the water quality in and around grazinglands, include: mineral feeder location, winter feeding location, prescribed burning, cross fencing, livestock water location, fertility and weed and brush management and working facilities.

- ◆ The following are good reminders to improve water quality for grazing areas:
- ◆ Overgrazing should be avoided.
- ◆ Apply nutrients according to plants' needs.
- ◆ Utilize a planned strategy to manage pests, including

management, cultural and biological controls.

- ◆ Manage use of riparian areas to maintain productivity and promote stable stream characteristics.
- ◆ Provide alternative watering sites to promote grazing distribution and loafing areas to allow for maintenance of vegetation.
- ◆ Use pesticides in a planned strategy to get maximum effectiveness and use according to label directions.

Always remember it is how the grass is managed which affects water quality. The promotion of high quality plant growth and good livestock returns without damaging water quality will help you be closer to having a healthy grazingland area for many years to come.

Ryan Higbee is the agriculture agent for the Kansas State Extension Office in Johnson County, at (913) 763-6400.

Project welcomes new staff member

The Hillsdale Water Quality Project recently welcomed Gale Garber, information specialist, who joined the staff in March.

As information specialist, she will be coordinating the annual Race for the Lake, work to educate the public about the watershed and promote the results of the monitoring and testing of area streams.

"I am really enjoying my new position," she said. "I am facing new challenges coordinating the Race for the Lake and enjoy working to increase public awareness of the Hillsdale Lake Watershed and its relationship to water quality."

Garber graduated in 1998 from the University of Kansas with a bachelor's degree in journalism, news-editorial with an emphasis in photography. She worked for three years as the special project coordinator, photographer, sports editor and staff writer for Tri-County Newspapers Inc., publishers of *The Gardner News*, *The Spring Hill New Era*, *The Wellsville Globe* and *The Southwest Journal*. While special projects coordinator, she oversaw the beginning of the monthly all-Spanish newspaper, *La Presencia Latina*, for Johnson County and Lawrence.

Mark your calendar



July-

19- Kid's Bingo- Spring Hill Civic Center, (913) 592-2304.

20- Sand, Sun & Fun, Spring Hill Civic Center, (913) 592-2304.

28- Aug. 4 Miami County Fair, Paola, fairgrounds; visit the project's booth!

August-

7-11 Johnson County Fair, Gardner, fairgrounds; visit the project's booth!

14- Senior Pot Luck Supper, Spring Hill Civic Center, (913) 592-2304.

18-Edgerton Stream Cleanup- Volunteers needed! (913) 829-9414.

September

3- Labor Day.

7 NFL Flag registration deadline Gardner Parks and Recreation (913) 856-5791.

15- 4th Annual Race for the Lake, registration begins at 7 a.m., race begins at 8 a.m. (913) 829-9414.

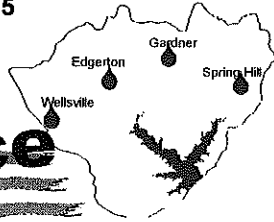
22- 23rd Annual Wellsville Harvest Festival, Wellsville; visit the project's booth!

Contact the Corps of Engineers for upcoming events and programs at Hillsdale Lake (913) 782-4366!!!

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

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage PAID
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Permit No. 49

Water Source



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 c9007405-00, administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

New displays debut throughout watershed

Have you been wondering what the Hillsdale Water Quality Project has been doing? Are you ready to volunteer for fun events associated with the project?

Well, you don't have to wait much longer, the project is preparing to spotlight its new display, educational activities and projects.

Just visit the new website, www.hwqp.org, or while you are out at an upcoming event just check out the project's recently redesigned display!

The new display comes from work coordinated by Gale Garber, information specialist, and local artist Jamie Lavin, Gardner. Lavin is scheduled to complete another display for the project by mid-July.

Garber said the displays are nearly booked through October.

"Having the two displays will allow us to use them interchangeably

at conferences, schools, libraries and numerous local events," Garber said.

The first display features the Hillsdale Watershed shape and a variety of locations throughout the watershed to help the public better locate where their home or office is located.

The new display has been featured at Edgerton City Hall, Gardner Library and Spring Hill Library. It can be seen throughout the summer and beginning of fall in numerous area locations and events.

The display will be available for public viewing at:

- July 23-27: Spring Hill Civic Center, resource room.
- July 26: Spring Hill City Council Meeting, Spring Hill Civic Center, resource room.
- July 30– Aug. 3: Miami County Fair, Paola.
- Aug. 7-11: Johnson County

Fair, Gardner.

- August 13-17: Edgerton Bank of Knowledge Library.
- Aug. 20-31: Wellsville Library.
- Sept. 10-Oct. 8: Paola Library.

Two other smaller informational displays will be exhibited at Wellsville Library and the Paola Library in July.

The project offers a wide variety of educational activities and opportunities throughout the year.

For more information, contact Gale Garber at 913-829-9414 or ggarber@hwqp.org.

Looking for a fun outdoor summer activity? Visit the KCPL wetlands in Gardner!
For more information, call 913-829-9414 or 816-556-2259

Edgerton Stream Clean-Up Event set for 9 a.m., Aug. 18.
Call the Hillsdale Water Quality Project today! 913-829-9414