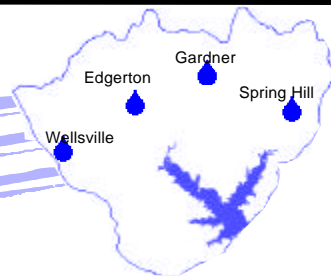


# Water Source



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

## *Volunteers take to the stream, clean up*

On a beautiful May morning 30 volunteers attended the Hillsdale Water Quality Project's annual stream cleanup in the Big Bull Creek Subwatershed.

The trash and litter volunteers recovered from around the Edgerton City Lake, Martin Creek Park, Big Bull Creek under I-35 and from Rock Creek filled a trailer.

Volunteers, ranging in age from five to their 50s, worked for about two-and-a-half hours in the various sites picking up trash.

Removing trash from the Hillsdale Watershed is one

of the many things the Hillsdale Water Quality Project staff and volunteers encourage to ensure healthy water quality within the watershed and the lake.

Excess trash, litter and debris enter waterways following rainfall, as runoff. The items become pollution and add to the sediment that enters streams and larger bodies of water.

The Hillsdale Water Quality Project has a variety of volunteer opportunities offered throughout the year.

To be a part of upcoming events or programs, please contact the office at 913-829-9414 or visit the project's website at [www.hwqp.org](http://www.hwqp.org).



*About 30 local volunteers picked up trash, debris and litter from area streams, Martin Creek Park, Edgerton's City Lake Park, Big Bull Creek and Rock Creek, May 4, during the Hillsdale Water Quality Project's annual stream cleanup.*



## *County Commissioners present national award*

The Johnson County Board of County Commissioners presented the Hillsdale Water Quality Project with the National Association of Counties Acts of Caring Award in the Environment Division during the May 9 county commission meeting.

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

The project received one of three awards presented to the county. Johnson County was the only county to receive more than one award from the national organization.

# Riparian areas improve water quality

With all its vital properties, water can also be one of the more destructive forces.

Stream beds often reveal water at its worst. The ebb and flow of streams wears away soil and cuts gullies. For property owners, this stream action can actually erode several feet of property a year, if left uncontrolled.

To reduce erosion and sedimentation by stream, the development of riparian areas is being encouraged in the Hillsdale Watershed. Limiting stream bank erosion contributes to the overall health of Hillsdale Lake. In areas where heavy erosion occurs, soil is carried to the lake by the streams. Excessive soil deposits build up in the lake, increasing the lake's aging process.

A riparian area includes stream banks and part of the floodplain. Because soils in a riparian area are generally fertile, trees and other vegetation can easily be supported. Riparian areas have value both economically and ecologically.

One of the greatest values associated with riparian areas is the effect on water quality. Riparian areas serve as filters for sediment and nonpoint source pollutants contained in runoff. The root systems of trees and other plants absorb pollutants and nutrients from cropland, livestock areas, urban development and construction sites. This reduces the amount of pollutants entering streams and their effects on water quality. The plants' root systems also stabilize the stream banks and prevent soil erosion. The "shade" from riparian corridors also has a positive effect on water quality by cooling the water and allowing for greater oxygen saturation in the water, and that the vegetation contributes organic material to the stream to fuel the aquatic ecosystem.

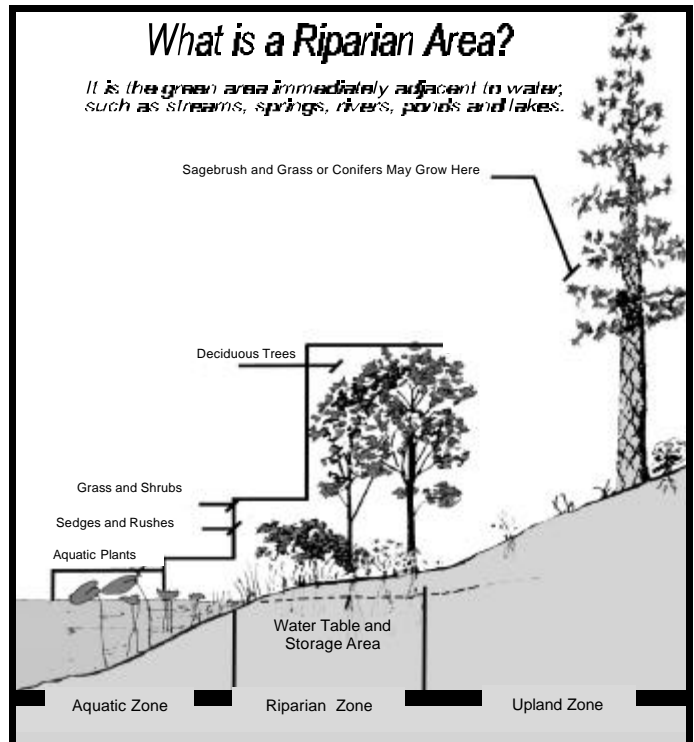
Riparian areas can be developed on agricultural, urban or suburban lands. Many cities develop riparian areas around walking trails and nature areas. This allows the creation of habitats for animals as well as protecting water quality.

Riparian areas occur naturally. In the Hillsdale Watershed riparian areas have a mixture of shrubs, grasses, wildflowers and trees. Those areas that have retained their natural characteristics need to be protected and maintained.

Where riparian zones have been disturbed through cropping, development, overgrazing or channelization the area should be restored and then managed carefully afterwards.

One method for reducing stream bank erosion is to anchor cut cedar trees into stream banks to move the water away from the eroding sides. This is called a revetment. The trees help decrease the velocity of the water. Sediment moving in water is deposited near the cedar trees. Live willow stakes are then planted into the bank. They will sprout and grow deep roots to support the bank.

This type of stream stabilization has almost immediate results for reducing erosion and regaining vegetation. The costs of stream stabilization or riparian



and wetland projects can be subsidized through a variety of cost-share programs offered through the Hillsdale Water Quality Project, Natural Resources Conservation Service and participating county conservation districts. The funds are used to assist landowners to improve their streams, reduce soil erosion and produce long-term water quality protection in the watershed.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, regulates the placement of dredged or fill material in creeks, streams and rivers, and any adjacent wetlands. The construction of a cedar tree revetment, or other bank stabilization measures is generally authorized by a Nationwide Permit (NWP), but occasionally may require an individual permit review. The NWP limits and mandatory conditions are posted on the internet at <http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/regulatory/regulatory.htm>.

While most riparian areas are outside of the Corps Regulatory Program jurisdiction, the Corps considers the preservation or maintenance of these areas as essential to maintaining the natural functions of the waterway. The permits often require restoration or enhancement of degraded riparian areas as mitigation for work in waterways.

For more information about available programs, call 913-829-9414 or online at [www.hwqp.org](http://www.hwqp.org); the Kansas City District Regulatory Program office at 816-983-3990 or online at [www.nwk.usace.army.mil/regulatory/regulatory.htm](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/regulatory/regulatory.htm); Johnson County Conservation and Olathe NRCS at 913-764-1931; Miami County Conservation and Paola NRCS at 913-294-3751, ext. 3; Franklin County Conservation at 785-242-1109, ext. 3; or Douglas County Conservation at 785-843-4288, ext. 3.

# Fifth Annual Race for the Lake

## 2002



### Benefiting the Hillsdale Water Quality Project

Date: 9/14/02

Pre-register by: 9/1/02  
Registration Available Race Day

Time: 8 a.m. Packet Pickup begins at 7

*Additional information and directions on page 4.*

***Flat, Scenic, Certified Course!***

**Register early to ensure you  
receive a 100% organic cotton  
T-shirt and water bottle!**

*T-shirts guaranteed to first 200 registrants!*

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_____	<b>T-Shirt Size: (circle one) S M L XL</b>	<b>Register online at <a href="http://active.com">active.com</a></b>
Name _____		
_____	<b>Sex</b> _____	Mail form to: <b>Hillsdale Water Quality Project P.O. Box 23 New Century, KS 66031 Phone: 913.829.9414</b>
Address _____	<b>Date of Birth</b> _____	
_____	<b>Age Division: (circle one)</b>	
_____	14 & Under    15-19    20-29 30-39    40-49    50-59    60+	
Phone _____	Please mark here if you would like a receipt for you tax-deductible entry fee. <u>  </u> Y <u>  </u> N	
E-mail _____		

I will be participating in the race as a (please circle):    Runner    Walker    Wheelchair Participant    **Volunteer**

**Waiver of Liability:** By signing below, I acknowledge and represent that I am physically fit and have trained sufficiently to participate in the fifth 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 the Race for the Lake.

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Signature _____	Date _____	Signature of parent or guardian if under 18 years of _____	Date _____
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# Fifth Annual Race for the Lake 2002

**Flat, scenic, certified 5K**

**course crosses the**

Entry fees:

- \$15 for pre-registered runners received by 9/01/02
- \$20 after 9/01/02 and race day.

**Registration and packet pick-up begins at 7 a.m. race day!**

Directions: Hillsdale Lake State Park is located off of 255th Street and U.S. Highway 169 Highway. **From Olathe**, travel South on US 169 to 255th Street, turn right- heading west. **From Paola**: go north on US 169 to 255th Street, turn left-heading west. From 255th Street, go west about 5 miles (through the Community of Hillsdale) take first right west of the lake's dam. Registration tents will be located to the north at the Jayhawk Shelter.

Awards will be distributed following the race. Awards will be given to female and male runners in the following categories: Overall Finishers, Overall Masters (40+) and to the top three run finishers in each age division, including wheelchairs. Walkers will be eligible for an exclusive drawing.

Other great drawings and gifts! Wheelchairs welcome! Sponsorship available! Volunteers Needed! Volunteers also receive a T-shirt!

For more information

Call Gale Garber at 913-829-9414

or register on-line at <http://www.active.com>

Registration forms available at <http://www.hwqp.org>

## **Marais des Cygnes Basin Advisory Committee visits Hillsdale Watershed sites in joint tour**

More than 20 members of the Marais des Cygnes Basin Advisory Committee toured locations within Hillsdale Lake Watershed June 5.

The members who attended the meeting and tour came from areas throughout the Marais des Cygnes Basin. The event provided information to the committee with information that can be implemented in their communities.

The group visited four locations, including: a United States Geological Survey stream gauge and sampling site in Spring Hill, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' Big Bull Arm wetland north of the lake, Kansas City Power and Light's Prairie Wetland in Gardner and Ken Nelson's livestock waste system in Paola.

The USGS stream gauge site on Little Bull Creek, near Spring Hill, is beneficial to the project. At the site, staff gather data through collecting grab and composite samples. It is also home to the project's Spring Hill Middle School stream team. The students work at the site includes stream monitoring, performing Hach kit tests and biological assessments and holding a stream cleanup event.

The group toured two constructed wetland areas- the Kansas City Power and Light Prairie Wetland in Gardner and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks wetland located at the Big Bull Creek Arm of Hillsdale Lake.



*The Marais des Cygnes Basin Advisory Committee stopped at a Paola livestock waste system, owned by Ken Nelson, left, during a June 5 tour given jointly by the Miami County K-State Research and Extension Office and the Hillsdale Water Quality Project. Nelson spoke to the tour group about the livestock waste system.*

Ken Nelson's reconstructed livestock waste system prevents livestock from grazing on both sides of the Wade Branch Creek and decreases the amount of nonpoint source pollution from entering the stream.

The Miami County Extension Office and the Hillsdale Water Quality Project jointly planned the tour. The committee's meeting took place at the Miami County Rural Water District No. 2 office, at Hillsdale Lake, prior to the tour.

# Home composting will feed lawns, flowers

Thinking about starting a compost pile in the yard, but are not quite sure where to start? Follow these tips for a great compost pile that will ensure correct materials and a great organic fertilizer for the lawn and plants.

## What is composting?

Composting is a biological process during which organic materials, such as grass and leaves, are broken down into a soil-like product. It is a form of recycling and a natural way of returning nutrients to the soil.

## Why compost?

By composting kitchen and yard waste, homeowners create a free source of fertilizer. Composting also conserves valuable and limited landfill space normally used to dispose of this material.

## How to compost...

Begin a compost in the yard by saving yard debris, like clippings, leaves and prunings. Add certain items from the garbage, preparing them properly and placing them in a compost pile. It is easy when the following guidelines are followed:

### Step 1- Choose the right materials...

**DO COMPOST:** vegetable scraps, citrus rinds, egg, peanut and nut shells, lettuce leaves, apple cores, nail clippings, human hair, feathers, weeds, bark, wood ashes, horse manure, small garden clippings, leaves, stalks and stems and vines.

**DO NOT COMPOST:** meat, fish, fat, bones, poultry, beans, vegetable oils, dairy products and plastic or synthetic fibers.

### Step 2- Select and prepare a site...

Choose a place in the yard that receives equal amounts of sunlight and shade during the day.

There are many ways to prepare a compost site, which include:

Use no enclosure at all. Simply pile the materials up keeping them in a fairly dense heap.

Assemble wooden stakes and chicken wire into a simple round enclosure for the pile.

Construct a wooden compost bin, use extra or old lumber.

Make holes in the sides and bottom of a garbage can and use it to contain the pile.

Fashion a three-sided enclosure by placing cinder blocks on top of each other. Leave the front open.

### Step 3: Prepare the compost materials...

Begin by cutting or shredding the ingredients into small bits and pieces.

Then: Add enough water to keep the compost heap moist, but not soggy.

Provide adequate ventilation. To increase air circulation, turn the compost at least once a week. You can also push rods or poles through the heap and then

remove them, leaving channels through which air can pass.

During rainy weather, cover the pile with a plastic sheet, wood or some other waterproof material to keep it from becoming too wet.

As the compost materials decompose, they create heat. This is natural, and when the pile is turned, you will be able to feel the heat. If your compost is properly prepared, contains no animal fats and is turned regularly, it will not attract pests or create odors.

### Step 4- Test whether the compost is ready...

Decomposition will occur in about two to three weeks, depending on the materials in the pile, the size of the pile and how often it is turned.

The compost is ready for use when it is dark red, brown or black, and when the materials have broken down into small fine particles.

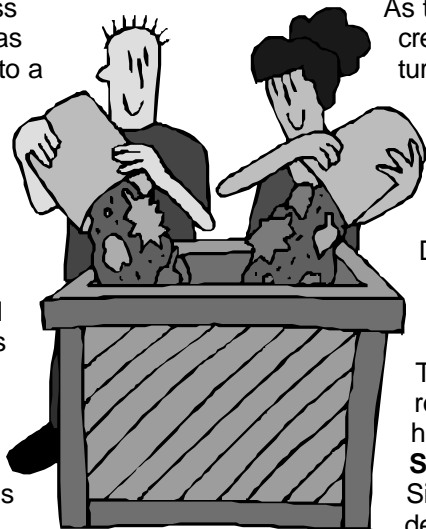
### Step 5- Use the compost...

Sift through the compost and set aside the decomposed materials, returning the rest to the pile. Apply the decomposed matter to the garden in a layer about 1 inch to 3 inches thick. As you apply the compost, turn and mix it with the soil. It is best to apply no more than 1 pound of compost per square foot of soil.

### Benefits of composting...

Composting on a regular basis decreases garbage volume by as much as 25 percent. What was wasted and sent to the landfill, taking up valuable space, becomes an important part of a garden.

For more information about composting, contact one of the following local Extension Agencies: Johnson County at 913-764-6300; Miami County at 913-294-4306; Douglas County at 785-785-843-7058 or Franklin County at 785-229-3520. The above material was developed by Portland Metro and distributed through the Environmental Protection Agency, Region VII.



## Look for the project's display in these locations

Volunteers and staff will be hitting the fairs and festivals to inform area residents of all ages the importance of improving water quality in Hillsdale Lake. Stop by the display at the following locations:

**Johnson County Library, Gardner, June 24 -July 22**

**Miami County Fair, July 30 - Aug. 3**

**Johnson County Fair, Aug. 6 - Aug. 10**

**Spring Hill Fall Festival, Aug. 18 - Aug. 19**

**Wellsville Days, Sept. 21**

**Paola City Library, the month of October**

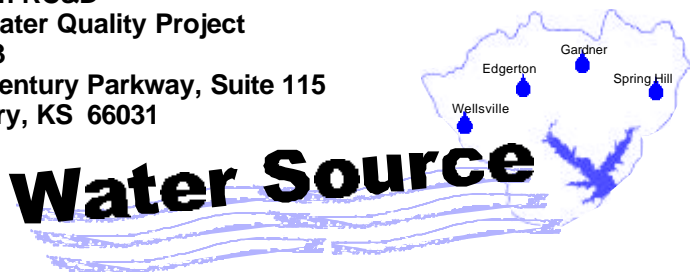
**Wellsville Library, the month of November**

**Johnson County Edgerton "Bank of Knowledge"**

**Library, the month of December**

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  
 Gardner, KS  
 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.*

## *Members, volunteers continue to protect water quality*

All new and renewing 2002 members won'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](http://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*

Jim Benz

Dr. Ronald Daly

Gale Garber

★ Marshall Hitchcock

*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

★ Harold and Marilyn Erickson

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Michael Franano Family

### Families (Continued)

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★ Mr. and Mrs. Carl F. Gump

The Hack Family

Edward and Doris Haselrick

★ James and Linda Heimbach

Al LeDoux

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Warren and Mary Medlin

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💧 Sonny and Kathy Wickham

Troy and Brian Wickham

Joe Yelton

★ Recently Renewed Members



New Members

*Board Members Italicized*

### Small Business Members

*(\$100 Annual Contribution)*

Southwest Johnson County EDC

Miami County Conservation District

### 💧 Corporate members

*(\$250 Annual Contribution)*

Cramer Sports Products

Haz-Mat Response, Inc.

★ Johnson County Stormwater Management

*KCP&L*

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### Municipalities

★ *(Contributions Vary)*

★ City of Edgerton

*City of Gardner*

*City of Spring Hill*

★ Rural Water District No. 2 of Miami County