

# Rivers of life

**About half of** Missouri's area drains into the Missouri River. Most of the state's cities, towns, factories, and businesses are in the Missouri's watershed. All need a clean river for public health. Plants and wildlife also require unpolluted habitats. People in homes and on farms can help by slowing runoff from properties and reducing chemicals to make the outgoing water pollution-free. Landscaped "raingardens" of native plants are useful for dealing with runoff.

Spanning the park is highway 370. Vehicle oils and fluids and winter road treatments are carried by water onto the park and river. The longer they're held on the surface, the better.

The St. Charles Ecopark has its own runoff problems.



### MISSOURI STREAM TEAMS

Missouri Stream teams are a state-wide effort to involve Missourians in caring for their rivers. If you join a Stream Team—as an individual, family, school, or civic or church group—you'll keep our state clean and learn about water quality. For more information, see [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).



**Top to bottom:** Boats carry Missouri River trash during a cleanup. Storm runoff drains into streams and rivers. Large cities can be pollution sources. **Background:** River Relief volunteers prepare to collect trash. (All photos courtesy of Missouri Department of Conservation)