



Date: September 11, 2009

For Immediate Release

**MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN LAUNCHES INITIATIVE TO
REDUCE POLLUTION IN DEER CREEK WATERSHED**

(ST. LOUIS): In cooperation with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Quality and the Water Protection Program, the Missouri Botanical Garden will work to improve water quality through the Deer Creek Watershed Initiative. Partial funding provided by the U.S. EPA through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$390,446 and matching contributions of \$260,363 will allow the Garden and partners to reduce organic waste pollution in the Deer Creek watershed through the implementation of bioretention and other green infrastructure methods.

Deer Creek originates near Creve Coeur and flows southwest nearly 11 miles before it enters the River des Peres at Maplewood. It encompasses multiple municipalities including Creve Coeur, Frontenac, Warson Woods, Glendale, Rock Hill, Brentwood, Webster Groves, Maplewood and Richmond Heights. The watershed includes Deer Creek, Two-Mile Creek, Sebago Creek, Shady Grove Creek and Black Creek.

Water quality in the Deer Creek watershed is threatened by stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces, debris and trash, sediment from the stream bed and bank erosion, and pollutants associated with combined sewer overflows, and storm sewer discharges. As documented by the U.S. Geological Survey stream gauging stations, the streams within the Deer Creek watershed tend to be flashy due to the amount of urbanization and high percentage of impervious surface in the area.

(over)

ADD ONE: Deer Creek Initiative

To reach the main goal of reducing organic waste pollution in the Deer Creek Watershed by Dec. 2011, the Missouri Botanical Garden will conduct community outreach in partnership with Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, Washington University, East-West Gateway Council of Governments, Great Rivers Greenway District, Missouri Department of Conservation, and local municipalities and non-profit organizations. Other strategies include:

- Increasing public awareness of water quality and their role in improving area streams through the Deer Creek Watershed Friends Web site and monthly newsletters.
- Documenting historical water quality data on each stream to confirm, identify and quantify the timing and magnitude of organic related pollutants in Deer Creek.
- Developing a watershed management plan according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's nine element watershed plan.
- Working with schools to educate teachers, students, and parents regarding the impact of rain gardens on water by installing or upgrading four to eight school-based demonstration projects.
- Developing a Deer Creek Watershed Task Force with project partners to plan and implement Deer Creek Watershed initiatives.

On Apr. 25 of this year, the City of Ladue held a Ladue Creeks Clean Up. 571 volunteers collected 4.87 tons (9,740 pounds) of trash from area creeks. For their efforts, the City of Ladue was awarded a Certificate of Excellence from the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District.

The Fall Deer Creek Friends Quarterly meeting will be held on Oct. 21 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Deer Creek Club, 9861 Deer Creek Rd. Jeff Theerman P.E., the executive director of the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District will address attendees. To register for the meeting and to sign up for monthly newsletters visit www.deercreekfriends.net.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is the oldest continually operating botanical garden in the nation, celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2009. *Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years*.

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NOTE: A digital color image is available by request. Download media materials at www.mobot.org/press.

The Missouri Botanical Garden's mission is "to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment, in order to preserve and enrich life." Today, 150 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science, conservation, education and horticultural display. *Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years*.