



## MISSOURI SENATE

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### **Senator Jeff Smith Announces Missouri Botanical Garden Awarded Grant for Deer Creek Watershed Project**

JEFFERSON CITY — Senator Jeff Smith, D-St. Louis, recently announced the Missouri Botanical Garden has been awarded a \$390,466 grant by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for the implementation of the Deer Creek Watershed Initiative Project.

The watershed initiative is a continuing project of the Missouri Botanical Garden and its partners to help reduce organic waste pollution in the Deer Creek Watershed that runs through many St. Louis-area municipalities. Organic waste pollution includes items such as grass clippings, leaves, nutrients from fertilizer applications and dog waste. The grant money will be used to reduce this organic waste, primarily through the implementation of bio-retention and other green infrastructure methods.

The Missouri Botanical Garden project includes staff members working with area schools to implement rain gardens, demonstration projects, data collection, and community outreach in partnership with the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, Washington University, East-West Gateway Council of Governments, the Soil and Water Conservation District, American Society of Civil Engineers, Great Rivers Greenway District, Missouri Department of Conservation, and local municipalities and non-profit organizations.

“The Deer Creek Watershed Initiative is an important project and this grant money will enable the Missouri Botanical Garden to continue leading the way in educating other groups in regional sustainability efforts,” Sen. Smith said.

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