



News Release

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

Address:
4821 Quail Crest Place
Lawrence, KS 66049-3839

Email:
dmturk@usgs.gov

Release
Immediately
(Issued: October 15, 2002)

Contact:
Donita Turk

Phone:
785-832-3570

Fax:
785-832-3500

USGS and Johnson County Announce New Study to Evaluate Stream Water Quality

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in cooperation with the Johnson County Stormwater Management Program, is announcing a new 5-year study to evaluate water quality in streams in Johnson County. An overview of the project and a demonstration of water-monitoring instruments and sampling techniques will take place in conjunction with National Water Monitoring Day at 10:30 a.m. on October 18 along Mill Creek at Johnson Drive, north of the Mid-America Sports Complex. The Johnson County study is the most recent of several ongoing USGS studies designed to describe water quality in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

“This is an important study for the people living in Johnson County because it will provide data to document current stream conditions. That information can be used to evaluate land-management practices that can improve water quality conditions in the future,” said Teresa Rasmussen, USGS hydrologist.

Urban, industrial and agricultural land uses affect the water quality of streams and lakes in Johnson County, where more than 450,000 people live. Results of the study will help Johnson County officials assess current water quality conditions, identify source areas, estimate chemical loading characteristics, preserve recreational benefits and evaluate future land-management practices intended to reduce contaminants in the water. Study results also will assist other ongoing and recently completed USGS studies to assess water-quality conditions downstream of Johnson County in the Blue River and Brush Creek watersheds, and in the Lake Olathe watershed.

“We are excited to have the opportunity to work with USGS on this project. This project has the support of the county and its cities through funding from the Stormwater Management Program,” said Eileen Hack, Johnson County water quality specialist. “Staff from the Environmental, Wastewater and Stormwater Management Programs will be actively involved in assisting USGS in this project, and we look forward to working together towards identifying and addressing water quality issues in our streams. Results from this project will assist the county and its cities in developing management plans that will protect our natural resources, which the residents of Johnson County have identified are so important to the quality of life in the county.”

During the next year, water and sediment samples will be collected at about 30 stream locations across the county during different flow conditions. In addition to analysis for bacteria, nutrients, sediment and pesticides, samples will be analyzed for compounds associated with wastewater such as caffeine, nicotine, hormones, antibiotics and detergents. Also, continuous water-quality monitors installed in Cedar and Mill Creeks will be used in conjunction with two existing water-quality monitors on Cedar Creek and in Lake Olathe to provide round-the-clock information on the chemical and physical health of these important water bodies. Information from the new and existing continuous USGS water-quality monitors is available to the public in real time on the Web at:

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/Ks/nwis/current?type=qw>

OR

<http://ks.water.usgs.gov/Kansas/rtqw>

<http://ks.water.usgs.gov/Kansas/qw/olathe/>

Other USGS water information in Kansas can be found at:

<http://ks.water.usgs.gov>

For results of the USGS Blue River and Brush Creek study, visit:

<http://missouri.usgs.gov/Reports/WRIR02-4107/index.htm>

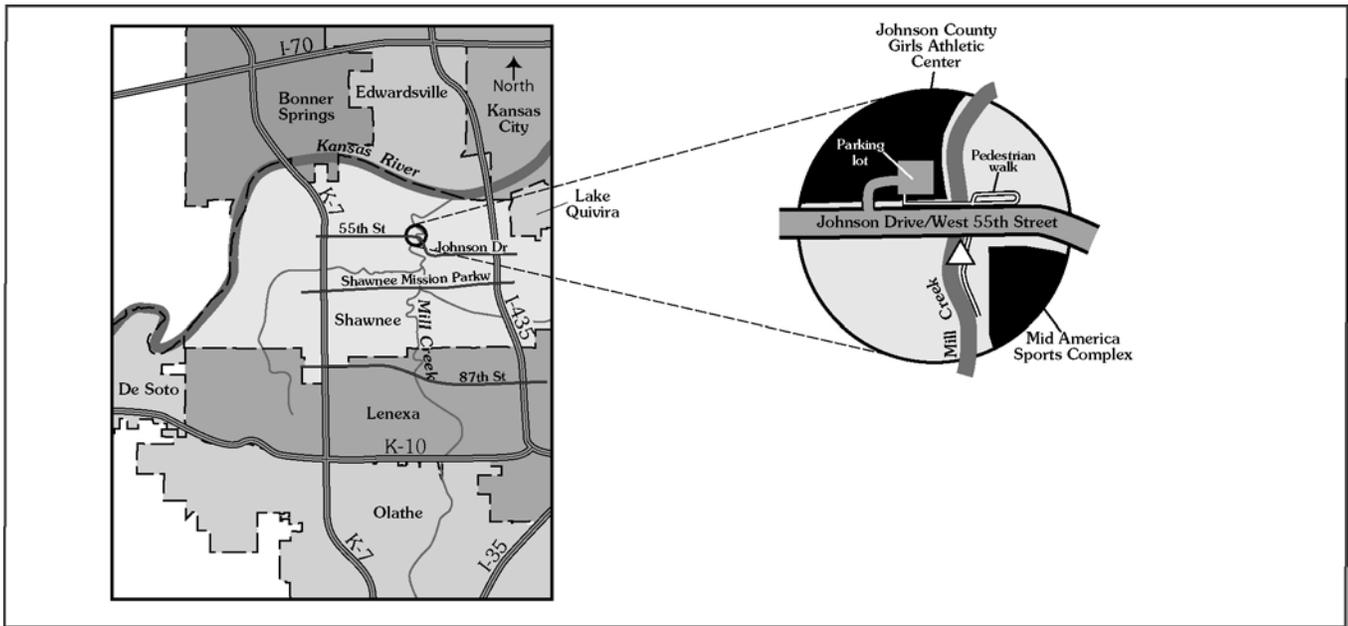
The USGS serves the nation by providing reliable scientific information to: describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life.

*****USGS*****

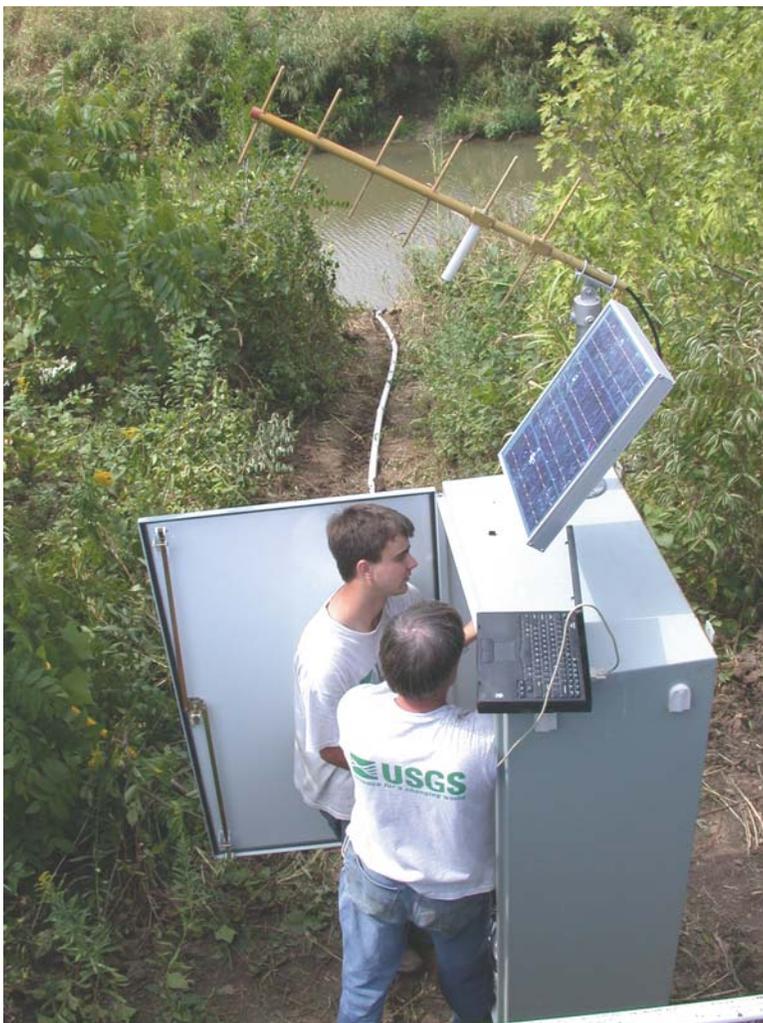
Note to Editor: For more detailed information about this study and to schedule interviews or photograph opportunities, contact: Donita Turk, USGS, Lawrence, Kansas, 785-832-3570; fax: 785-832-3500; email:dmturk@usgs.gov The news release is available to download from our Kansas District home page at:

<http://ks.water.usgs.gov/Kansas/pubs/press/>

If you are unable to download the photograph or the map from this site, please contact Michael Kempainen at: 785-832-3556 or Jeff Hartley at: 785-832-3555.



Location of USGS and Johnson County water-quality project announcement and demonstration to be held in conjunction with National Water Monitoring Day, October 18.



USGS hydrographers installing stream-gage equipment and water-quality monitor on Mill Creek at Johnson Drive in Shawnee.