

# PROP P PROGRESS

## Storm Water Projects to Use Natural Methods

A remote-controlled boat moves back and forth across a pond in a St. Peters neighborhood. It might be a fun kid's toy if the boat weren't also a cutting-edge tool using GPS and sonar to map the bottom of the pond.

The pond is one of 249 storm water detention basins in St. Peters. Many of these basins need upgrades so that they can handle more storm water and improve water quality in our community. The high-tech boat is being controlled by a contractor hired by the City of St. Peters to quickly create maps, or "hydrographic surveys," of some of these basins.

By looking at a hydrographic survey, engineers can answer some important questions. Does the basin have enough volume to take on storm water from heavy rains? Can it provide a good home for fish? Where along the pond's edge might be a good place for new plants?

This type of information is important as the City of St. Peters moves forward with a new storm water management system that will rely more on plant life and other natural methods to "retrofit" storm water detention basins. The idea is to allow nature to work for us to help reduce erosion, flooding and pollution.

Funding for the projects comes from the passage of Proposition P, a four-tenths of a cent sales tax approved by voters in August 2012. The tax went into effect on Jan. 1. The first round of 16 Proposition P storm water projects will retrofit basins in **Country Creek, Canyon Creek, Country Lake, Turnberry, Crown Colony, Pegasus, Willott Square, Ohmes Farm, Applewood and Enwood**, plus restore a stream in **Country Crossing**.

"We're changing the face of these basins from functional water *holding* vessels to, hopefully, functional water *filtering* vessels that look more

A contractor uses a boat equipped with GPS and sonar to map the bottom of a storm water basin to create a hydrographic survey (opposite page). The information from this mapping tool will help St. Peters build basin "retrofit" projects as we upgrade our storm water management system.

natural," said Russ Batzel, manager of the City's Transportation and Development Services group. "No longer should you see mowed grass right up to the surface of the water. But, you should see a more natural vegetative palette that might transition from short grass in someone's backyard to longer prairie grass, and then wetlands grass along the edge of the water."

A buffer of plants along a detention basin can slow down storm water to reduce property erosion and flooding, and it will filter pollutants for better water quality.

"The key to water quality and storm water is to slow it down, spread it out and soak it in, so you're not just trying to move the water as quickly as possible downstream to where it's someone else's problem. You're trying to retain the water on site," Batzel said.

Pollutants often wash from our own homes into nearby ponds and streams. Pet waste, household chemicals, cleaners from washing cars, leaky automobiles, fertilizers and yard waste are some of the sources of pollution. If you fertilize your lawn or garden, for example, excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous will get washed from your property. These nutrients can actually harm local waterways and destroy animal habitats. A buffer of plant life can absorb some of these nutrients before

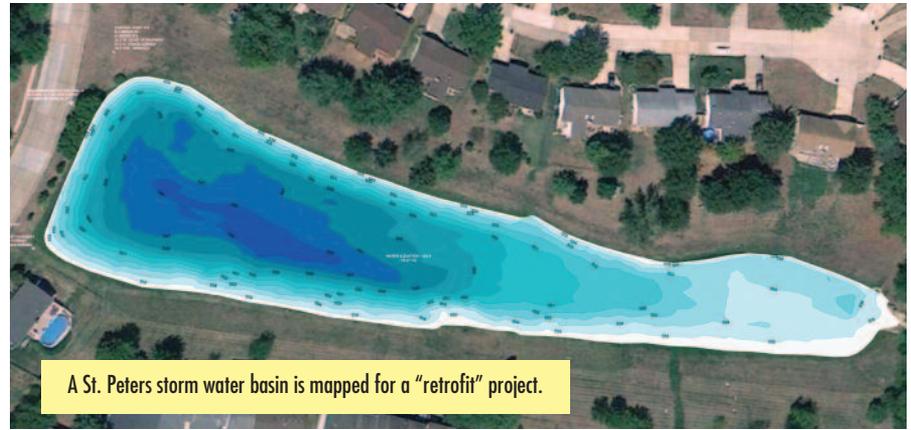
## Storm Water Projects | continued from previous page

they can cause problems for the environment.

In all, the City of St. Peters has identified 100 storm water projects in our community costing nearly \$120 million in order to fix storm water issues as well as meet federal guidelines for water quality.

This first group of Proposition P projects will be designed within months and could begin construction in the fall. Two more groupings of projects are also in the planning stages. Group two includes a number of projects to stabilize streams. Neighborhoods affected will include **Englewood, Summer Hill Condos, Sunny Hills Estates, Dardenne Park, Crescent Hills, Springwood, and The Highlands**. The third group addresses the **McClay Valley** storm water basin, and includes areas stretching to **Francis Howell North High School** and **Woodbriar** subdivision.

The storm water management effort in St. Peters is a community effort that will require cooperation between the City and property owners. For St. Peters to begin construction on a storm water project, 100% of the property owners in the project area will have to agree to provide easements that will allow the City to both build and maintain the storm water projects.

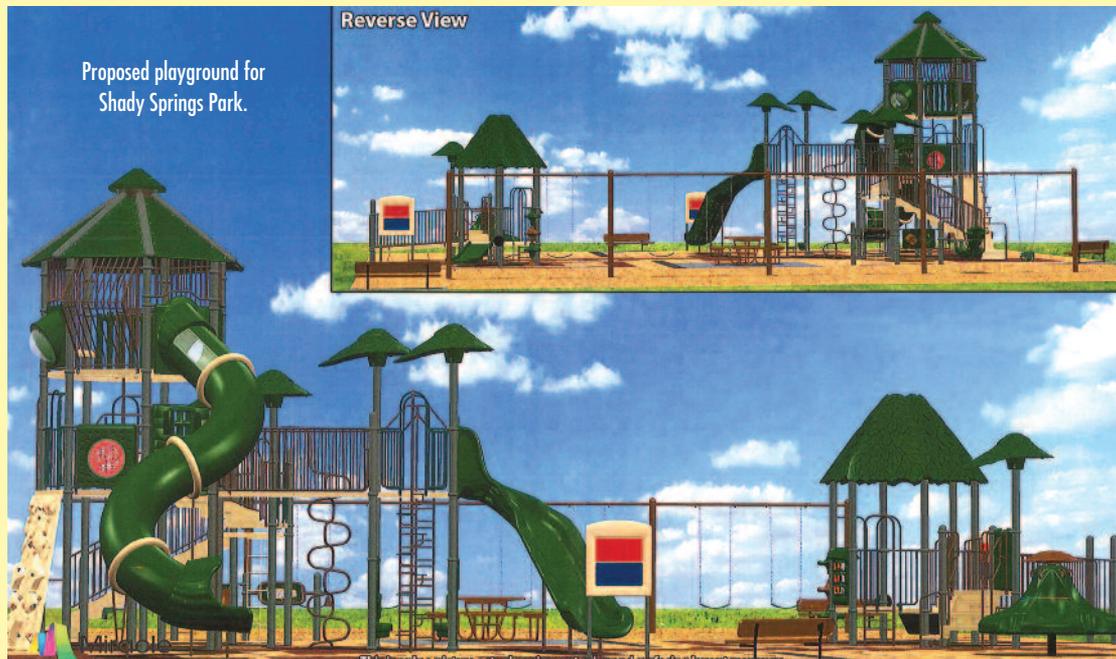


A St. Peters storm water basin is mapped for a "retrofit" project.

The first group of projects was chosen because a) they will benefit a lot of people in our community, and b) the projects are generally in common ground areas controlled by homeowners associations who have shown their intent to provide easements.

Learn more about Proposition P online at [www.stpetersmo.net](http://www.stpetersmo.net), and search the website for "storm water management" to learn how you can help improve our community's water quality.

# Prop P Parks Projects Underway



St. Peters' Proposition P was approved by more than 68 percent of voters last August, and in January the City started collecting an extra four-tenths of a cent sales tax on purchases made in St. Peters.

Because of Proposition P, visitors to our Senior Center are looking forward to playing cards and eating lunch at brand new tables, and working out on some new fitness equipment soon.

Over at the Rec-Plex, swimmers and divers in the natatorium will get a state-of-the-art scoreboard, and skaters will appreciate the new sound system going in the ice rink.

The Parks Department does a great job providing a place for our residents to relax and play, and now thanks to Proposition P our Parks staff will be busier than ever. Several City parks are on the short list for

improvements.

For instance, a new scoreboard and field lights will be installed at the football field at Brown Road Park, and Shady Springs Park will get new playground equipment. Field 18 at City Centre Park will have new sideline turf installed along with an irrigation system. The soccer fields at Woodlands Sports Park will get lights on fields 2 and 3, and T-ball parents will be grateful for a much-needed restroom facility to be built near fields 26, 27 and 28 at the top of the hill at Woodlands.

Thanks to Proposition P, 370 Lakeside Park will continue to grow. An archery range is in the works for this spring, and work on Phase 1 of St. Peters' first dog park will begin this summer with plans to complete it by the end of this year.

Since 370 Lakeside Park opened just two years ago, we have welcomed visitors from 48 states, the District of Columbia and six Canadian provinces to our RV park. Needless to say, it's a popular place to stay. To meet the high demand, 25 new RV sites are being added this summer along with another comfort station with restrooms, showers, and laundry facilities.

A corporate pavilion will also be constructed along with additional parking.

Our talented parks staff will take on much of the work being done in 370 Lakeside Park. This helps to keep project costs as low as possible.

These parks projects are just the beginning; there are plenty more to come in 2014 and beyond.