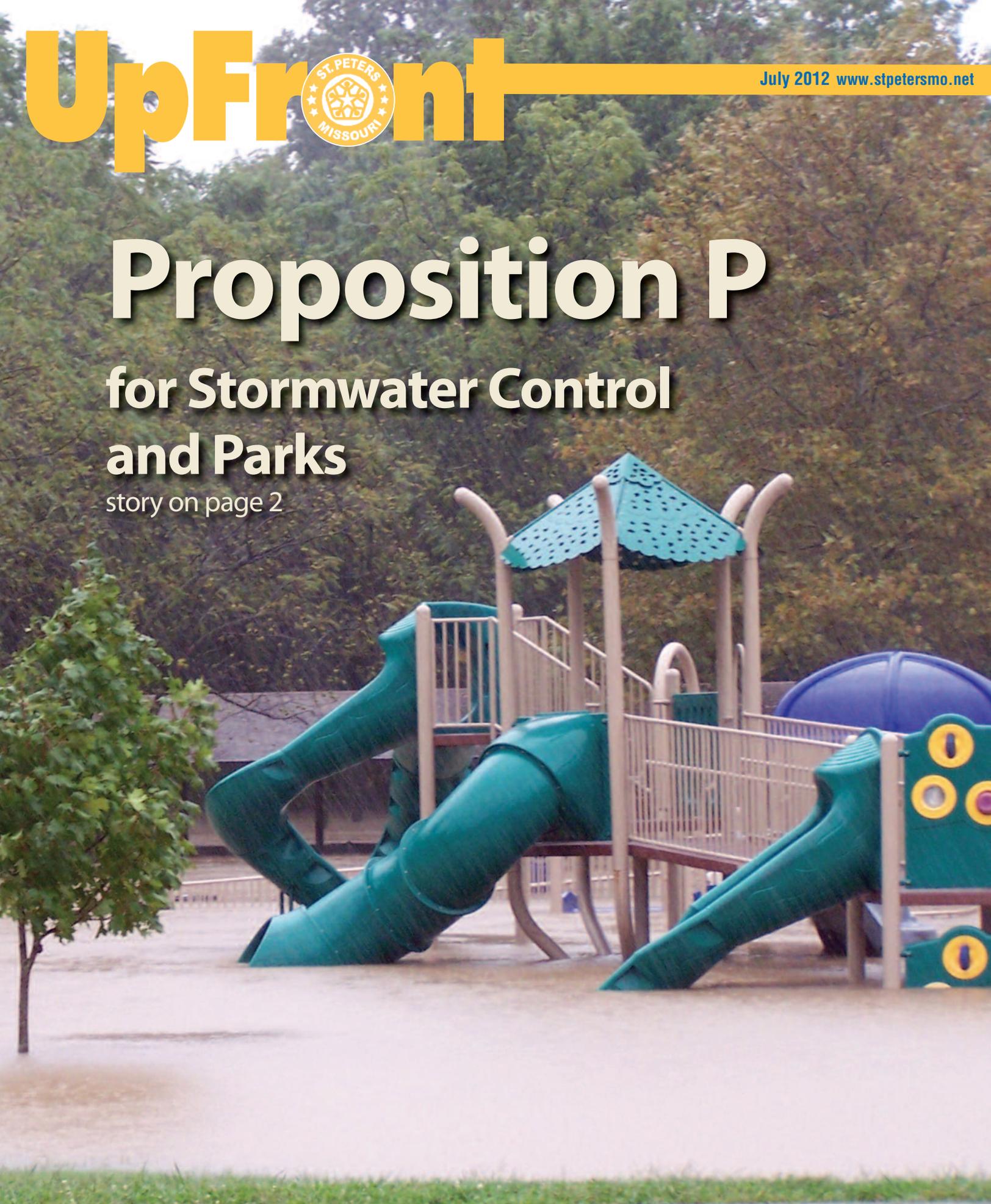




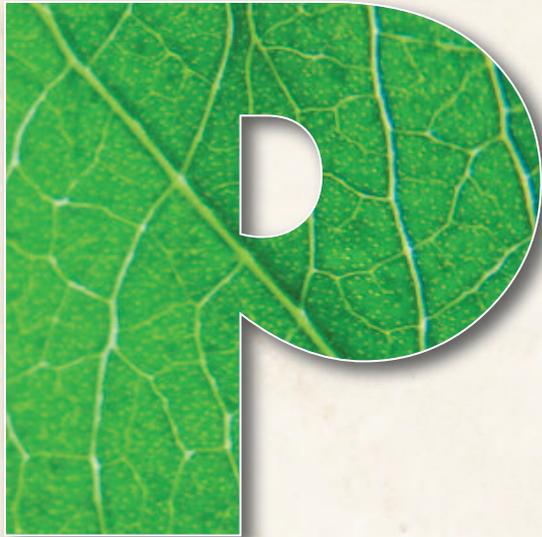
Proposition P

for Stormwater Control and Parks

story on page 2



Proposition



A Promise to Fix Stormwater Problems

The City of St. Peters is facing a crossroads—how do we deal with the increasing costs of fixing stormwater issues before the problem gets even more expensive?

Right now, we've identified 100-plus projects that will cost nearly \$120 million in order to fix stormwater issues in our community related to flooding, erosion, pollution and federal guidelines.

Proposition P on the Aug. 7, 2012, ballot would give the City of St. Peters the funding we need to pay for these projects through a four-tenths of a cent sales tax. If passed, Proposition P would pay to fix stormwater detention basins, address creek erosion, clean our waterways and meet stricter federal guidelines. In addition, Proposition P would help repair and maintain our aging park and trail system.

"Stormwater" is rainwater that runs off structures, streets and other surfaces, and cuts through our neighborhoods on the way to nearby streams, ponds and lakes. Our responsibility as a community is to get this stormwater from Point A (our neighborhoods) to Point B (nearby waterways) without causing erosion, flooding and pollution. We are required by federal law to maintain our storm water quality so that by the time it empties into our waterways, it is both "fishable and swimmable."

St. Peters has 249 storm water detention basins and 47 miles of creeks and streams. Storm water detention basins—which can look like a pond or lake, or appear more like a ditch—help control the flow of water until it reaches the waterways.



Stormwater Issues

Unfortunately, we've found that many streams and stormwater detention basins are in poor condition. Many detention basins aren't performing the way they should during storms, which means they're not able to allow water to soak into the ground, filter the stormwater and release it slowly to area streams. And, about three out of every four miles of streams in St. Peters need to be restored.

These problems have gotten worse over time, and won't get better on their own. Many detention basins were built decades ago to serve neighborhoods, but they also need constant maintenance. We also need to work to keep our streams in good shape. Stormwater can wear on creeks over time, eroding the banks and bringing down trees. Fallen vegetation combined with junk in our streams can plug up streams, make flooding more likely and cause streams to erode even more quickly. Sometimes, these creeks erode away private property and threaten homes.

As these detention basins and streams decline, this leads to the potential for more and more neighborhood flooding problems. Which means this is everyone's problem, because everyone lives in a watershed that drains to a detention basin or stream. Stormwater doesn't care—it just backs up ... maybe into your yard or basement.

The question isn't IF we need to address storm water issues. It's WHEN.

New federal regulations will require us to fix problems, and by the time we are forced to fix these problems, they will be much more

continued on next page

Proposition P

continued from previous page

expensive to all of us. In fact, Dardenne Creek is already on the federal government's impaired list—it needs to be cleaned up.

St. Peters resident Chris Winslow, who chairs the Citizens for a Better St. Peters committee that's supporting Proposition P, said that the main issue for him is keeping St. Peters from going down the same road as MSD customers in St. Louis County. He notes that residents across the river are facing large rate hikes to fix stormwater quality issues that have lingered for years. You can easily find the many news stories explaining just how expensive that will be for MSD customers.

"We need to handle stormwater issues in a proactive manner rather than a reactive manner like they're doing in St. Louis County," Chris says. "By law, we have to make the water both swimmable and fishable. We need to do that."

If Proposition P passes, the City has immediate plans to tackle 13 repair projects that directly serve nearly one in five St. Peters residents and also impact our entire stormwater management system:

- McClay Valley retention basin (\$1.6 million)
- Country Creek retention basin (\$160,000)
- Canyon Creek detention basin (\$183,000)
- Pegasus Farms stream stability & detention basins (\$260,000)
- Crown Colony detention basin (\$173,000)
- Henry Street storm sewer (\$450,000)
- Enwood detention basin (\$10,000)
- Applewood detention basin (\$97,000)
- Country Crossing & Country Crossing Estates stream stability & riparian renovation (\$388,000)
- Englewood stream stability & riparian renovation (\$661,000)
- Crescent Hills & Springwood stream stability & riparian renovation (\$811,000)
- Misty Valley, Orchard Hills, Spencer Creek East, & Carrington Estates stream stability & riparian renovation, culvert replacement (\$3.2 million)
- Highlands & Highland Estates stream stability & riparian renovation, detention basin (\$1.7 million)

Much more work will be needed after these initial projects. You may remember that in 2010 St. Peters voters approved a no-tax-increase bond issue that authorized the City to borrow \$40 million for



Stream Stability

stormwater management. When that bond issue passed, we had enough tax revenue coming in to be able to borrow that money to pay for these projects.

But then, we began feeling the impact of the housing crisis. Since 2007, there's been an 11% decline in our property values. The City of St. Peters has absorbed the loss of more than \$2 million in property tax revenue, while the costs of doing business has gone up.

We did not take this lightly. For the past four years we've cut personnel, employees are paying more for their benefits, and we've delayed replacing equipment and repairs for our parks. We even held off replacing police cars by extending their replacement cycle. We've continued to make tough choices and we've continued charging the lowest water/wastewater and trash fees of any

City in St. Charles County.

None of those cutbacks help address the stormwater issue. We cannot meet stormwater challenges without the added resources.

To address stormwater issues correctly, we would need about \$3.9 million per year. Right now, the City of St. Peters budgets \$600,000 for stormwater projects. That's an annual shortfall of \$3.3 million. Proposition P would cover that deficit and make it possible to fix and maintain our stormwater systems.

Learn more about Proposition P, including how it will help us maintain our aging parks and trails, online at www.stpetersmo.net.



Detention Basin Repair



370 Lakeside Park