Fact Sheet

Whitehead Creek Stormwater Pipe Installation Enters Final Phases

WHO: The City of St. Joseph Water Protection Program is completing an important project in the Whitehead Creek basin, located in south-central St. Joseph.

WHAT: The Whitehead Creek Stormwater Separation project consists of a new large stormwater pipe that will transport a portion of the stormwater runoff in the Whitehead Creek Basin directly to the Missouri River.

Currently, stormwater runoff from streets, roofs and other areas that reaches Whitehead Creek is piped along with wastewater (sewage) in a large pipe known as the Whitehead Creek Combined Sewer. The existing pipe is not large enough to carry all the runoff and the sewage and it overflows to the Missouri River after most rain storms. The new large pipe will intercept water from the creek before it reaches the larger pipe and reduce the quantity of water and sewage that overflows.

City representatives have met with property owners and occupants throughout the project to share information and gather feedback from members of the neighborhood. The City of St. Joseph is making every effort to work with property owners and occupants to minimize disruptions as a result of the project.

WHERE: The new separation pipe's installation is shown below, beginning near the intersection of 17th Street and Garfield Avenue, installed approximately 165 feet north of Seymour Street and extending west under I-229 to 6th Street. The pipe will tie into the existing Whitehead Creek channel west of 6th Street.
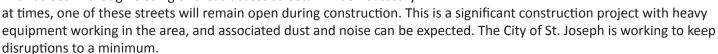
WHY:

- The Missouri Department of Natural Resources requires the City of St. Joseph to control sewage overflows in Whitehead Creek and other waterways. The Whitehead Creek Stormwater Separation project is part of the City's Long Term Overflow Control Plan.

- It will be less expensive to transport the creek water in a separate pipe, directed to the Missouri River, instead of building other facilities to capture and treat the water at the wastewater treatment plant. The stormwater pipe will eliminate the cost of treating dry weather creek water at the plant by up to 2 million gallons per day, benefitting all rate payers.

- Reducing the amount of sewer overflows improves the water quality in creeks, lakes and rivers and improves public health. The Whitehead Creek Stormwater Separation project will reduce overflows from this basin from 1.7 billion gallons a year to 580 million gallons a year.

WHEN: Spring 2014 Construction and Neighborhood Repair Work Includes—

- final work in the tunnel portion of the project

- completing the stormwater separation pipe installation; directing creek water to the pipe

- neighborhood improvements, including repaving Seymour Street, 11th to 16th Streets; repaving 15th Street; repaving 16th Street; replacing stormwater inlets near 16th and Seymour Streets; and grading and seeding of the work area.

Targeted completion for the project's construction is in summer 2014.

WHAT TO EXPECT: Vehicular access to the Seymour Street area neighborhood will be open from either 17th Street, or from Seymour to 11th Street. Although closing of these access streets will be necessary at times, one of these streets will remain open during construction. This is a significant construction project with heavy equipment working in the area, and associated dust and noise can be expected. The City of St. Joseph is working to keep disruptions to a minimum.

HOW: In April 2011, St. Joseph voters supported the City's eligibility to apply for subsidized interest rates offered by the State of Missouri. The City of St. Joseph submitted a loan application for the Whitehead Creek Stormwater Separation project through the State and received a Clean Water State Revolving Fund low interest loan. Adjacent property owners will NOT be asked to pay any assessment for the improvement project. This project has city-wide benefits to water quality, public health and regulatory compliance and is not neighborhood specific.

Project cost: $12.2 million

WHO: For more information, or if you have questions or concerns contact:

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