

## Habitat for Humanity Conservation Site Community

Springfield, Missouri

Habitat for Humanity's newest subdivision is also its first in the nation using Conservation Site Design principles. Truly a community wide effort, Habitat is partnering with Greene County, the Springfield/Greene County Parks Department, Intuition & Logic, local colleges and business leaders, many donating time and expertise. In this new neighborhood the site amenities, landscaping and stormwater management are fully integrated into a beautiful family-friendly community. The fifty-six homes are snuggled amongst more than 50 species of native Missouri trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses.



The runoff from each home and road is directed to one of 15 micro or mini-detention basins for storage and treatment. The native grasses and forbs planted throughout the basins provide water quality, habitat and aesthetic benefits. A play area, tot lot and a "critter corner" for wildlife viewing also double as stormwater treatment areas. To further enhance the neighborhood feel, a trail runs throughout the site often along the basin edges. One of the major challenges of this task is designing features that are both fully functional as stormwater management and aesthetic assets to the neighborhood while staying within Habitat's tight budget. The reduction in concrete piping associated with conventional stormwater management, minimum grading and the general reduction in impervious surface are part of the solution. Other cost-conscious efforts include growing thousands of plants from seed in community greenhouses.