

## Valley Water Mill Wetland Restoration

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Springfield, MO



The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks is building an education center overlooking the revitalized wetland complex. The Watershed Committee, in keeping with their award-winning standards of stewardship and community engagement, is restoring the wetlands. The wetlands and associated ecosystems are paired with “green technology” buildings to create a working model of sustainable living. The first step is

the restoration of the badly degraded wetland. In recent years the biodiversity declined as the wetland suffered a severe infestation of Reed Canary Grass and lost connection with groundwater through much of the site. Intuition & Logic and Adaptive Ecosystems are working together to eradicate the exotic species and establish vigorous stands of Missouri native grasses, forbs and shrubs. The design includes subtle grading creating a remarkable array of habitats on the 13 acre site. In addition to the stream and open water marsh, the restored site includes slough, wet prairie, prairie, spring fringe and Ozark bluff seep habitats each with diverse, beautiful plant communities.

One of the major challenges on the site is its immediate proximity to a drinking water reservoir for the City of Springfield. For this reason the Reed Canary Grass eradication plan does not include the use of any herbicides. The design team devised an aggressive schedule of grading followed by repeated burns and scalping over the next four years. The erosion and sediment control activities are similarly intensive with the entire site seeded and blanketed immediately after grading. The installation schedule extends over four years to allow aggressive treatment of invasive plants while sparing the high value forbs.

