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# NEWS RELEASE

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## CITY OF BOSWORTH CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

An Earth Day celebration was held at the Bosworth R-V School in Bosworth, MO on Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Staff from the Green Hills Regional Planning Commission at Trenton, MO and the USDA Rural Development Area Office in St. Joseph, MO participated in a joint Earth Day presentation to the third and fourth grades at the school.

USDA Rural Development funds in the amount of \$1,868,500, in conjunction with \$500,000 of Community Development Block Grant funds, will be used to construct a new centralized wastewater collection and treatment system to serve the 382 residents, businesses and school located in Bosworth. The USDA Rural Development funding consists of a \$970,000 loan and \$898,500 grant. The Rural Development loan will carry a fixed interest rate of 4.125% for a 35 year repayment term. In addition, a Predevelopment Planning Grant of \$6,750 assisted the City with the completion of the preliminary engineering report, environmental report and legal services involved with the initial planning phase of the project.

Earth Day is celebrated across the Nation to recognize communities and organizations for their accomplishments in providing environmentally safe living conditions to rural residents. Since the first celebration on April 22, 1970 in which 20 million people participated, Earth Day events have grown worldwide with recognition by more than 500 million people in 175 countries. This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day.

The Bosworth event was part of many Earth Day events across Missouri.



Front row left to right: Naomi Boss (Field Representative for U.S. Congressman Sam Graves); Katie Jones (3<sup>rd</sup> grade student); Janie Dunning, (Missouri USDA Rural Development State Director), Rose Miller-Gillett (3<sup>rd</sup> grade student), Brooke Balentine (Field Representative for U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill). Second row left to right: Neal Miller (Area Manager with the USDA Rural Development Area Office at St. Joseph), Randy Railsback (Executive Director of the Green Hills Regional Planning Commission at Trenton, MO), Aaron Bell (Mayor of Bosworth), Amanda Covey (Community Development Assistant with Green Hills Regional Planning Commission), Josh Thompson (Intern with U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill), Stan Wolfe (Area Specialist with the USDA Rural Development Area Office at St. Joseph), Dick Rhodes (Project engineer with Rhodes Engineering Co., Inc.). The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes of the Bosworth school are in the third and fourth rows.

“We appreciate the cooperative efforts of the many people involved in helping our project become a reality. Bosworth will be able to have a safe and sanitary public sewer system,” said Aaron Bell, Mayor of Bosworth.

“There's no doubt that making sure all Missourians have access to clean and safe water is vitally important,” said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. “I’m pleased to hear the citizens of Bosworth will be celebrating Earth Day with the construction of a clean wastewater collection and treatment system.”

“This project is important to the future of Bosworth and its infrastructure. I want to thank the USDA Rural Development program for their work on behalf of rural Missouri,” said U.S. Congressman Sam Graves.

Missouri Representative Mike Lair, stated, “I am always pleased to see tax dollars return to the 7<sup>th</sup> District in the form of infrastructure improvement. Congratulations to Bosworth and thank you USDA.”

“I would like to extend my appreciation to the leadership of the City of Bosworth for their dedication in providing an environmentally safe waste disposal system for their town,” said Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. “It’s particularly appropriate to recognize this achievement as part of the national celebration of Earth Day.”

The Green Hills Regional Planning Commission located in Trenton is assisting Bosworth with the administration of the \$500,000 of additional grant funds through the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). The Missouri Department of Economic Development administers CDBG funds to eligible applicants that are at least 51% Low to Moderate in income.

Richard Rhodes with Rhodes Engineering Co., Inc. of Brookfield, MO is the project engineer. Stephanie Ross, Resource Development Advisor, with the Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. is providing technical assistance to the City of Bosworth for the project.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides funding and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contacting Stan L. Wolfe, at the St. Joseph Rural Development Area Office, 3915 Oakland Avenue, St. Joseph, MO 64506 or by calling (816) 364 - 3767 (extension #5).

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