



Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District

PRESS RELEASE

**April 18, 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

ANNUAL WATERSHED RIPARIAN VOLUNTEER PLANTING DAY ANNOUNCED

**Saturday, April 26th at 9:00 AM
at Spring Meadow Lake State Park**

CONTACT: JIM WILBUR, LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY WATER QUALITY DISTRICT, 457-8927

HELENA --The Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District (District) and the Lake Helena Watershed Group will be holding the 6th Annual Watershed Riparian Planting Project Volunteer Day on Saturday, April 26th at Spring Meadow Lake State Park starting at 9 AM. The target for this year's volunteer planting is the re-establishment of native trees and shrubs at the state park that was burned in last year's fire.

“We are planting the burn area to restore bird and wildlife habitat as well as repair vegetation along the lake,” explains Jim Wilbur, Water Quality District Coordinator. “Since 2002, the annual project has planted over 25,000 seedlings of trees and shrubs along miles of riparian areas adjacent to streams, lakes, and wetlands within the Lake Helena Watershed.”

As the kickoff to the weeklong project, the District and the Lake Helena Watershed Group, formerly the Lower Tenmile and Prickly Pear Creek Watershed Groups, are working cooperatively with the MT Department of Fish Wildlife & Parks, Last Chance Audubon Chapter, and Growing Friends of Helena to plant new seedlings, larger trees and shrubs at Spring Meadow State Park. Following Saturday's event, a crew from the Montana Conservation Corps will continue planting seedlings at the Park, the Lewis & Clark County Fairgrounds, and on private lands to help restore riparian areas within the watershed.

Volunteers should assemble at Spring Meadow State Park at the Pavilion off of Country Club Avenue before 9 AM. The tasks for planting will be explained and then everyone will break into teams to tackle the effort. To help out, each volunteer should bring a set of gloves and a shovel if they have one. The planting effort will go until around noon and be followed by a post riparian planting social gathering sponsored by the Lake Helena Watershed Group at the park. This project is coordinated by the Lewis and Clark Water Quality Protection District, whose mission is to preserve, protect, and improve water quality within the district boundaries. For more information, please call 457-8927.

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