

Summer 2024

## Water Celebrated In New Park Art Installation

An eye-catching sculpture at a local park is exploring the importance of source water protection for our local water resources.

WaterOne was invited to participate in the Johnson County Parks Department's artist-in-residency program. The Art and Natural Resources Residency (ANRR) is a short-term program to engage a local artist and allow them to work with the JCPRD Natural Resource team to learn, respond artistically, and amplify important work. The 2024 ANRR focused on the role of water in Johnson County and the importance of clean water and quality watersheds as part of our regional ecosystem's resilience.

The JCPRD invited Communications Manager/PIO Kelly Fry and representatives from other local utilities to participate on the art committee and select an artist.

The selected artist, Matthew Dehaemers, toured WaterOne's Hansen Treatment Plant for inspiration and afterward produced a large colorful water drop sculpture. Staff took Matthew around a WaterOne warehouse as well so that he could explore materials used in our daily work. He ended up using a valve, tubing and other items in his piece. His sculpture is titled "Is it Water Under the Bridge?"

According to the artist, the artwork symbolizes the journey of the Kansas watershed. The installation begins with 81 strands of rope that form 27 braids, then even larger 9 braids, and still yet bigger 3 braids, ultimately becoming one large, massive braid. According to Matthew, the 81 strands of rope that form braids represent how we all impact the water.

The strands, woven with yellow, orange, red, and white, symbolize pollutants such as oil and trash. Flowing



through a water drop, the braid echoes the natural rhythm of water and signifies the collaborative efforts in Johnson County to maintain clean water for our community.

"Walking inside the large water drop represents our integral relationship with water," said Matthew. "Our body composition is made up of mostly water. Without water, there would be no life. With all this to consider, it is not just water under the bridge. There is so much more to it."

The sculpture helps promote WaterOne's journey to protect Kansas source water. WaterOne is involved in many conservation efforts in Johnson County, including programs like the Milford Lake RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program), which allows us to take action for source water protection in our region. Learn more about this and other efforts at [waterone.org/sustainability](https://waterone.org/sustainability).

You can go see the sculpture at Mill Creek Streamway Park: 10298 Ridgeview Rd. Lenexa, KS 66220. It will be up all summer for all to enjoy!





## WaterOne Connects with the Community This Summer

WaterOne has been out and about this summer with a full schedule of Outreach and Community Engagement events. Here's what we've been up to!

### Tower 2 Tower 5K

WaterOne's 8th annual Tower 2 Tower 5K attracted nearly 700 people to raise money for Water For People, a non-profit that works to bring safe, clean water to developing communities around the world. The total raised since the event began now tops \$92,000. Thanks to sponsors Burns and McDonnell, Black & Veatch, CyberTech, CDM Smith, HomeServe USA, Lockton, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City, and BrandingStop, it is possible for 100% of the 5K registration fees to be donated.

### Quench Buggy

WaterOne's Quench Buggy has more than 20 appearances booked for the 2024 event season, making appearances at the Moonlight Market, Juneteenth Overland Park, and much more!

The Quench Buggy is a 300-gallon mobile hydration station, bringing fresh, chilled WaterOne tap water to locations throughout Johnson County. The Quench Buggy supports WaterOne's community outreach and provides delicious tap water to beat the heat at outdoor events. Our goal is to promote tap water over bottled water, and to keep community members safe in the summer heat! Quench Buggy appearances are accompanied and monitored by WaterOne employee staff partners.

### Upcoming Events

- **Moonlight Market** (11110 Johnson Dr, Shawnee, KS)  
Thursday, August 15
- **Kids Triathlon at Kill Creek Park** (11670 Homestead Lane Olathe, KS)  
Saturday, August 17
- **Jazz Fest** (1616 E 18th St, Kansas City, MO)  
Saturday, September 7
- **GO GREEN Environment Fair** (Powell Community Center, 6200 Martway Street, Mission, KS)  
Saturday, September 14
- **Movie Night at Deanna Rose** (13800 Switzer Rd., Overland Park)  
Saturday, September 14
- **OP Fall Fest** (7935 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS)  
Friday, September 27
- **OP Fall Fest** (7935 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS)  
Saturday, September 28
- **Botanical Brewfest** (8909 W. 179th Street, Overland Park, KS)  
Saturday, October 19

Summer 2024

## WaterOne Explores Sustainable Solutions for Facility Maintenance

WaterOne is actively exploring sustainable solutions for facility maintenance which includes electric lawnmowers, tools, and even the use of livestock!

Recently, the organization replaced aging lawnmowers with an electric commercial model. Staff are evaluating the mower to ensure it meets WaterOne's operational needs, but initial reviews highlight its responsiveness, quiet operation, and elimination of gas requirements, as well as offering enhanced comfort and handling. WaterOne is currently in the process of demoing other electric technology. Future plans include exploring electric heavy equipment that are core to WaterOne's operations such as backhoes and skid steers.

Additionally, WaterOne has introduced an innovative grass maintenance approach at its 211th Street Pump Station, using sheep from a local livestock grazing service. These animals are used to control noxious weeds, brush, and invasive plant species, without the use of herbicides or CO2-spewing equipment. While the animals graze, they trim grass and other herbs naturally. This eco-friendly method reduces costs and complies with city ordinances while promoting sustainable practices. The sheep are currently undergoing a trial phase with potential for broader adoption based on successful outcomes.

Being good stewards of the environment is a strategic goal at WaterOne. Trying out new solutions like these are helping us create a more sustainable future. 💧

## New Water Academy Program Makes Waves

WaterOne recently launched a Water Academy pilot program. It engaged community members in four immersive sessions to learn about WaterOne, covering customer service, finance, sustainability, affordability, regulations, and future plans. Participants toured the water tower located at our Administration Offices and our Hansen Treatment Plant. The pilot included family and friends of WaterOne staff and Board members, and it was aimed at refining content and receiving feedback. Both participants and staff had a positive experience, paving the way for a public academy program starting Spring 2025. Learn more at [waterone.org/WaterAcademy](https://waterone.org/WaterAcademy) 💧



## WaterOne Recognized For Excellence

WaterOne has been honored with several awards showcasing its commitment to both employee wellness and financial excellence. 💧

### Healthiest Employers Award

The Kansas City Business Journal has recognized WaterOne as a longstanding honoree for the Kansas City's Healthiest Employers Award, which highlights area businesses that make health and wellness a priority at their companies. This award affirms WaterOne as one of the top organizations in the region for excellence in employee health and wellness. 💧



### GFOA Budget Award

WaterOne has earned the Distinguished Budget Award for the 2024 budget! This is our 8th year in a row receiving this award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The award recognizes budgets that meet a set criterion which includes topics such as revenue/rates and departmental goals. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. 💧



2 “We made a phone call, and within less than 60 minutes there was a crew out to fix the issue! The crew that was sent out were very customer-focused. Very polite and nice, as well as knowledgeable. They fixed a situation with the pouring of the sidewalk. I really appreciate the attentiveness and care that we receive from Water One! Thank you!”  
- A Happy Customer



3



# WaterOne

Water District No. 1 of Johnson County

10747 Renner Blvd | Lenexa, KS 66219

## Setting the Standard for Utility Excellence

### GOVERNING BOARD

Whitney Wilson, Chair

Melanie Kraft, Vice Chair

Renee Dinsmore

Kay Heley

Bob Reese

Jill Westra

Ulyses Wright

Shaun Pietig

General Manager

### Media Contact

Kelly Fry

Communications Manager/PIO

[kfry@waterone.org](mailto:kfry@waterone.org)

(913) 895-5543

### Stay CURRENT at

[waterone.org/newsroom](http://waterone.org/newsroom)

### Customer Service

**913/895-1800**

24-Hour Emergency Contact



In an emergency,  
**would we reach you?**

**Notify** JoCo

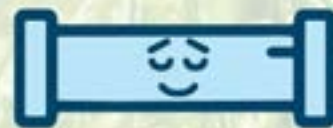
Sign up for emergency alerts at  
[www.notifyjoco.org](http://www.notifyjoco.org)

## SKIP RUSH HOUR!



**AVOID WATERING ON  
PEAK DEMAND DAYS**

*- Instead -*



**WATER ON TUES,  
THURS, & THE WEEKEND**

# 4

## #MyWaterOne



Facebook | YouTube | LinkedIn | [WaterOne.org](http://WaterOne.org)