Arkansas Natural Resources Division/U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 319 Grant: Beaver Watershed Alliance/City of Elkins Announced Low Impact Development Project

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The Beaver Watershed Alliance ("BWA") issued a November 16th news release describing a Low Impact Development ("LID") for:

. . . Design for improving stormwater runoff, increasing native plants along the riparian of the East Fork – White River, increasing educational opportunities for park visitors and nearby schools, as well as developing a plan for education to residents and visitors.

The LID project is described as a joint venture between BWA and the City of Elkins to make improvements at the local city park.

Project funding is stated to be from BWA's Smart Growth for Source Water Protection program. BWA's stated source of funding is a grant from the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Division and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Grant money totaling $984,056 (including in-kind services) is described as being utilized to develop programming for watershed management in urban areas and installation of three LID features within the Beaver lake watershed area. The City of Elkins is receiving $95,000 for design and implementation of LID features.

The EPA Section 319 grant program provides funds for a variety of activities designed to address nonpoint source pollution.

BWA Executive Director Becky Roark is quoted as stating:

. . . We are excited to have the opportunity to restore this historic floodplain landscape with Elkins and reinvigorate this space for education, enjoyment, stormwater treatment, and to protect Beaver Lake, our drinking water source.

A copy of the news release can be downloaded here.