

Citizen Science Opportunity

SOIL HEALTH SURVEY TRAINING

January 17th, 2017 – Weldon Spring Interpretive Center, MO



MO DIRT - Missourians Doing Impact Research Together, is a citizen science initiative to educate citizens on the importance of healthy soils and engage them in examining the current properties of our state soils and how these are being influenced by land use and climate change. The **soil health surveys** are conducted by volunteer citizens working as individuals or in small teams (~2-5 people). They measure indicators of soil health in sites that are representative of natural systems (prairie, forest, woodland) or agricultural systems (grassland, crop fields, pastures). Urban or suburban gardens are not included. The sites are monitored monthly between February and November for at least one year. Participants can join anytime. The data generated from the soil surveys offers baseline information that is shared through an open access online website. We envision the data to be used by teachers to design lesson plans, farmers to decide land management strategies, and scientists to better understand soil-climate interactions.

WHEN: January 17th, 2017, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm.

WHERE: Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center, 7295 Highway 94 South, St. Charles, MO 63304.

WHAT: Participants will learn about soil science, how to monitor soil health by measuring soil physical, chemical, and biological indicators, and how to contribute data.

WHO: Volunteer citizens (teachers, high school students, land owners, youth groups, etc.). Interested high school students are encouraged to attend the training even if their teachers cannot attend.

COST: Free

WHAT YOU WILL GET: If you decide to join the soil health surveys project you will receive a manual and a soil kit free of charge.

REGISTER AT: MODirt@danforthcenter.org; 314.587.1412

VISIT WEBSITE AT: modirt.missouriepscor.org

TOUR: After the training, participants are invited to visit the Weldon Spring Site, a remediation site from the Department of Energy with a 75-foot-tall (23 m) permanent disposal cell (www.lm.doe.gov/Weldon/).

