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Table Rock Lake Water Quality Inc. was formed in 1998 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization by the Table Rock Lake/Kimberling City Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's board of directors recognized that improvement and preservation of water quality in Table Rock Lake is a monumental challenge deserving of commitment from a one-purpose organization. Their mission; "to maintain & improve the quality of ground & surface waters of the Table Rock Lake watershed." Table Rock Lake was being severely affected by excessive nutrient concentrations in 1998-1999 which experienced an overabundant growth of algae in some areas of the Lake causing water quality problems.

For the following 15 years, TRLWQ's Board of Trustees has concentrated heavily on self-education, a continuing and long-term process. Their focus has been on action and projects that help prevent and/or resolve water pollution through identifying the sources, cooperation with various local, state and federal agencies, community events and activities, public education and facilitation of resources to address water quality issues.

Major impacts of TRLWQ Inc. have included a change in how Missouri, particularly the Ozarks region, installs onsite wastewater treatment systems. An [EPA-funded study by TRLWQ](#) tested various types of septic systems in soils and slopes around the lake and showed that per-treatment of the sewage before discharging to a drip-irrigation field worked well in areas that did not have adequate native soil to support proper treatment with a conventional septic system. This project also formed a non-profit sewer company to own and properly operate small community sewer treatment plants; [Ozarks Clean Water Company](#). Proper maintenance of community sewer systems can become a challenge without a responsible party designated to care for the system, which many small communities cannot afford.

Other programs of TRLWQ included organizing the annual [Table Rock Lake Shoreline Cleanup](#) which removed over 240 tons of trash and 3,000 tires from Table Rock Lake and start of the annual Lake Taneycomo Cleanup. Additionally, TRLWQ coordinated the septic tank maintenance incentive program, funded by Missouri Dept. of Conservation, which provided a \$50 rebate to over 2,000 homeowners around the lakes who got their septic tanks cleaned out; part of recommended maintenance. These and numerous other projects, including the replacement of the worn-out, 3-acre parking area at the [Kimberling City Center with new pervious pavers](#) that capture the oil, grease and other pollutants, are the proud legacy of the trustees and staff of TRLWQ.

In late 2014, the Board of Directors for Table Rock Lake Water Quality Inc. and the Board of Trustees for Ozarks Water Watch decided to join efforts and merge the two organization's staff, programs and projects in order to better serve the communities through their common mission of protecting water this the Upper White River watershed. While the legal organization of TRLWQ is dissolved, the experience, mission and programs of TRLWQ continue through Ozarks Water Watch, also a non-profit organization dedicated to preservation of the lakes and streams on the upper White River watershed including Table Rock Lake.

