**FRIENDS OF LITTLE SUGAR CREEK ADVOCATE FREEING LITTLE SUGAR CREEK**

**AND SAVING TAXPAYERS’ MONEY**

Tuesday, October 13th, 2015 at 6:00PM

The Council meets at: 305 SW A. Street, Bentonville, Arkansas

Attend the Bentonville City Council Meeting to show support for restoring the flow of Little Sugar Creek, instead of rebuilding the Bella Vista Lake dam.

The Friends of Little Sugar Creek is a group of concerned citizens who are advocating for a cost effective and environmentally friendly alternative to the reconstruction of the dam that created Lake Bella Vista in 1915. In 2008 the dam was classified as a “failed” dam by the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, listing the cause of failure as “hydrologic deficiencies and faulty material.” Rather than spending hundreds of thousands of tax dollars on its repair, Friends of Sugar Creek advocates for allowing Little Sugar Creek to once again follow its natural path. Freeing Little Sugar Creek would recreate a living flowing Ozark waterway; eliminate the unsightly and harmful algae blooms which de-oxygenate water and kill aquatic animals and plants; and provide new opportunities for family recreation along the creek. Removal of aging and unsafe dams is happening nationwide. Communities benefit from improved ecological conditions of rivers and streams and it helps cities and towns meet water quality requirements.

The flow of Little Sugar Creek was blocked to create Lake Bella Vista in 1915 when a poorly-engineered dam was constructed to quickly and cheaply create a lake to support real estate development and provide recreation for a new resort. By 1925, guests were complaining that the water in the lake had become murky and was no longer suitable for recreation which is the situation that exists today. For more information about Friends of Sugar Creek and the history of the stream contact the Friends of Little Sugar Creek Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/friendsoflittlesugarcreek.