Locally-led watershed management efforts for the Elk River and upper Shoal Creek watersheds in extreme southwest Missouri were initiated in 2003 in conjunction with the development of a Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The Elk River Watershed Improvement Association (ERWIA) and Shoal Creek Watershed Improvement Group (SCWIG) were established as consensus-driven, community-based watershed planning entities for their respective watersheds. The ERWIA is addressing water quality impairments identified by the TMDL (excess nutrients), as well as, those issues identified by local stakeholders (erosion/sedimentation, fecal coliform, and urban/suburban stormwater runoff). The SCWIG is addressing water quality impairments identified by the TMDL (excess fecal coliform), as well as, those issues identified by local stakeholders (high nutrients). This presentation will discuss these two locally-led watershed improvement alliances, their structure, priorities, projects, progress and challenges.