

Valley Park, Missouri, is one of those places that tends to reveal itself slowly. At first glance, it looks like a quiet suburban community tucked into the western edge of St. Louis County. Spend a little time there, though, and the layers start to show. The creek corridors, the older residential streets, the influence of nearby rail and river commerce, the neighborhoods that grew with the region's westward expansion, all of it gives Valley Park a grounded, lived-in character. It is not a city that tries to impress you with flash. It has a working sense of place, the kind that comes from generations of people building homes, raising families, and adapting to the realities of Missouri weather.

That same weather is part of what makes house washing in

