



Youth Outreach & Activities 2019

Overview

Environmental Resources staff conducts various education activities throughout the year. These outreach efforts are a great way to connect with students to help foster the environmental connection to the natural resources of Lakeville. These activities also meet the City's state requirements. The following outreach and activities were completed in 2019.

North Trail Elementary Science Fair

March 7

Environmental Resources staff served as judges for North Trail Elementary's

Science Fair. Staff spoke to 65 students about their projects and provided feedback and questions to determine who would proceed to the regional competition.



Practices

- ◆ Education for students

Project Benefits

- ◆ Baseline knowledge to promote better environmental stewardship in the Lakeville community such as:
 - protect water quality
 - conserve water
 - support of local plants and wildlife
 - promote waste reduction and increase recycling
- ◆ Community Connectivity

Timeline

- ◆ Year Round

Partnerships

- ◆ Area School Districts
- ◆ Park & Recreation Dept.

Ritter Farm Park After Dark

May 17



Starting at dusk, staff led 45 youth and adults around Ritter Farm Park while teaching frog and owl calls. Attendees practiced their newly acquired skills while visiting the wetlands and walking in the woods.

Impact Academy at Orchard Lake Water Presentations

May 29

Staff worked with teacher Michelle Johnson to present to ~ 150 students about Lakeville surface waters and what they can do to protect it.



Nature Detectives

July 9 & 11



This year marked the 10th annual Nature Detectives camp at Ritter Farm Park. Over 30 kids, ages 5 to 12 attended both days of the camp, which was the largest attendance to date. Participants used their detective senses along with bug nets, bug boxes, dip nets, sorting trays, and field microscope to locate and temporarily capture insects and wildlife. Kids were able to get up close to many toads, frogs, and insects as Environmental Resources staff helped the kids explore the water, forest and prairie. There has now been over 163 participants who've attended this program, with several kids attending over multiple years. Emphasis on water quality is always a major component of this class to meet state requirements.

3,395 youth reached in 2019



Metro Area Children's Water Festival

September 25

The Metro Children's Water Festival (CWF) provides area fourth graders hands-on opportunities to learn about water's importance to people and our natural environment. This year, ~70 students learned about the process required for water treatment at the City's *Cleaning Dirty Water: How Easy is it?* learning station. The station incorporated the CWF's theme of: 'Water Connects Everyone and Everything on Earth' by having kids try to make polluted water clean again.



Imagine a Day Without Water

October 18



The City participated in this national event by hosting Water Treatment Facility Tours and educating attendees about water conservation, stormwater pollution and water quality. Approximately 60 were in attendance at the event.

Lakeville South Capstone Projects

April 19;
October 31

For over 5 years Environmental Resources have been assisting Lakeville South students complete a senior capstone project by managing buckthorn in the city property just south of the school near the creek, ponding, and infiltration areas. In 2019, four students worked in the area to remove buckthorn in spring and fall.

Girl Scout Silver Award Project

September 5

Two girl scouts, Gabi and Autumn, earned their Girl Scout Silver Award by coming up with designs and creating insect hotels. Once the insect hotels were built, they recruited friends and family members to install them in three different locations in Ritter Farm and Casperon Park.



Century Middle School Environmental Engineering Activity

December 2 & 3

Staff taught twelve 6th grade physical science classes for two days at Century Middle School presenting about development in relation to natural resources through a staff created activity that directly applies to school curriculum. Students did well grasping concepts and putting them into action. Staff reached ~340 students.



Future Lego League

October 7—Trash Robot;
December 12—Animal Bridges

Environmental Resources staff met with two Future Lego League groups to assist them by answering questions to complete their project, or to critique their completed projects and ask questions to get ready for their competition (~18 people).



Puppet Wagon—Summer



Skip the Drip completed a fourth season of puppet shows with the Park & Recreation's Puppet Wagon, reaching a total of 2,613 attendees in 2019. 76 shows occurred between June to August at 13 locations.