



Youth Outreach & Activities 2020

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. Far less of our typical programs occurred in 2020, but new ways were developed to reach out to the youth.

Online Earth Day Celebration

April 2020

Earth Day turned 50 in 2020, so Environmental Resources staff determined we couldn't just cancel Earth Day so we came up with an online celebration for youth. We used Storymap to set up a challenge for youth and their parents. There were 10 challenges relating to topics like trash pickup, adopt-a-drain, pollinators, rock collecting, water conservation, recycling, frog call identification, bird house building, & composting. The challenge was posted on social media and sent to all schools in Lakeville. The response was very positive by the community and teachers. We had over 3,400 visitors to the challenge. As part of a few of the Earth Day Challenges, we were able to track that 14 residents signed up for the Organics Drop Site as well as 17 residents adopted a drain. There are plans for another online challenge in 2021.



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.

~5,000 youth reached in 2020

Environmental Puppet Wagon

The Environmental Education Intern created 8 shows that focused on the following topics:

- watersheds & protecting water quality
- pollinators & importance of native plants
- frog life cycle and it's connection to clean water
- spill and pollution prevention
- phenology – signs of seasonal changes in nature
- recycling & waste reduction
- stormwater & connections to streams, ponds, wetlands, lakes and rivers

All shows were video taped and put on [YouTube](#) for viewing. Each show has a corresponding worksheet associated with it which makes it very useful for education purposes and connecting viewers with the shows. There were 1,330 views at end of 2020.



Environmental Education Bin Check-Out

The Environmental Education Intern worked on creating 6 environmentally based education bins during her internship. Each bin contains materials for different lesson bins in the following 6 subjects:



WATER
Water Cycle Whirl
Watersheds Watersheds Everywhere
Great Groundwater Debate



WASTE MANAGEMENT
The 3 Arrs
The Waste We Don't See
Waste Audit



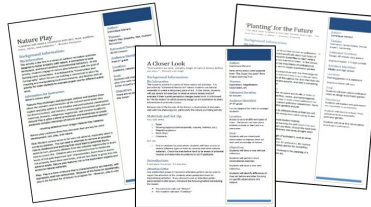
POLLINATORS
'Bee' a Hive
The 'Butterfly' Effect
'Planting' for the Future



PHENOLOGY
Migration Relay
Nature Journaling
Out of Sync



OUTDOOR RECREATION
Nature Play
Construction & Cartography
Land Usage



ART
Ephemeral Nature Art
A Closer Look
Art for Action

Many of the lesson plans are created with adaptations, like distance learning, and are flexible for teachers or other community leaders helping educate youth on environmental topics. The bins are available for online check out at lakevillemn.gov and search '[Resources for Educators and Community Groups](#)'. The website was made live December 18, 2020. Promotional efforts will be made in 2021 to ensure the community is aware of this unique resource.

5th Grade Career Fair

January 10

District 196 has an event that invites in various professions to come to the school and share what they do for their job to help spark potential future job interest of the students. Environmental Resources got to share what we do with the ~600 attendees and found the experience rewarding and enjoyed the interaction with the students.

North Trail Science Fair

March 13

Environmental Resources staff served again as judges for North Trail Elementary's Science Fair. Staff spoke to over 50 students about their projects and provided questions and feedback to help determine who would proceed to the regional competition.

Nature Detectives



June 16 & 18

The annual Nature Detectives class was able to continue in 2020. The Environmental Resources Specialist had twelve kids attend the two day camp. Attendees were able to use the equipment after it was sanitized as well as bring their own bug nets and boxes. The kids used their detective senses and explored the woods, prairies and water to investigate what lives in each area. The kids were lucky enough to find turtles and frogs as well as dragon and damselfly adults & larvae to observe and then return them to the wild.

