

Alliance of Downriver Watersheds Museum to You: River Residency Stream Table Simulation Workshops



As part of the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds (ADW) 2018 Green Infrastructure Education Campaign, Wayne County's Water Quality Management Division (WQMD) coordinated the scheduling of the Stream Table Workshops for recognized Michigan Green Schools in the ADW. The University of Michigan's Museum of Natural History offers three different workshops using their 12-foot stream simulation table. These workshops provide Kindergarten through 8th grade students with hands-on opportunities to explore how water flows, the effects of erosion of flooding, the consequences of human activities on water quality, and much more. Students work in small groups and record their observations in accompanying student journals. All workshops are inquiry-based and meet state standards for social studies and the new Next Generation Science Standards.

The Green Schools can choose any combination of the following workshops:

Water, Weather and a River Community - Where does water come from? Where does it go?

Students will explore what happens to water when it rains, model flood dangers in a river community, conduct experiments about water flow, and discuss how rivers are used;

How Water Shapes the Land - Students discover how flowing water causes erosion and sedimentation, shaping and creating various landforms. They will explore how human activities influence erosion and test various methods of erosion control; and

Protecting Our Watersheds - What is a watershed and why is it important? Students explore how various human activities affect water quality both in a stream and as groundwater.

Nine ADW Green Schools took advantage of the opportunity to invite the River Residency to their school:

- Bates Elementary, Woodhaven had the Stream Table for two days, January 22-23, 2018; one hundred-ten 5th graders participated.
- St Sebastian Catholic School, Dearborn Heights had the table for two days January 29 & 30, 2018; ninety 3rd-5th grade students participated.
- Arno Elementary, Allen Park had the table for one day, April 23, 2018; eighty-five 4th graders participated.
- Barnes Elementary, Flat Rock had the Stream Table for five days, April 9-13, 2018; four hundred-thirty 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders participated.
- Shumate Middle had the table for two days, May 21-22, 2018; one hundred-one 6th & 7th grade students participated.

- Brownstown Middle, Brownstown had the table for 1 day, October 8, 2018; one hundred- sixty six 6th grade students participated.
- Creative Montessori Academy, Southgate had the table for two days, November 14-15, 2018; one hundred-fifteen 7th & 8th graders participated.
- John Paul II Catholic School, Lincoln Park had the table for two days, November 26-27. 2018; one hundred-ten Kindergarten-8th grade students participated.
- Wegienka Elementary had the table for one day, December 7, 2018; sixty-three 5th graders participated.

A total of one thousand, one hundred sixty nine (1,169) students from ADW Green Schools learned from the River Residency Stream Table Simulation Workshops. The cost of a 1-day workshop is paid for by the ADW. Six of nine schools scheduled multiple days.

Teacher's comments:

"The Stream Table was so much fun, for the students and me! We had our biggest class of Fifth Graders in a decade go through this program: 110 children! It was great to see the children so engaged in the lesson. We will definitely schedule this again next year!" - Brenda Mayes, 5th grade teacher, Bates Elementary

"It was cool that we actually got to filter water." – Emily, 5th grade student, Bates Elementary

"It was fun how we got to see how fast water could get through different materials: sand, clay, and loose gravel."
- Nik, 5th grade student, Bates Elementary

"It was a perfect match for our discussion of groundwater, which is exactly what we are studying at the time."
– Mr. Kozlo, science teacher, Bates Elementary

"Teachers have been positive and feel that this program does a great job of helping kids to understand the importance of understanding and protecting our water."

One teacher said, "I loved the program last year, and I liked it even more this year. I knew what to expect and could be more attentive to the presentation."

I received many thanks for arranging the program, and I made sure to give credit to you and the Alliance of the Downriver Watershed. I will be sending out thank you notes to express our appreciation." – Kim Smith, 5th grade teacher, Barnes Elementary

"Teacher feedback was incredible. They absolutely loved it and enjoyed the experience. They could tell their students were completely engaged and interested. Teachers have also said their students have expressed their excitement with the activities." – Katie Thomas, Advisor, Creative Montessori Academy

"We all enjoyed the Stream Table. The Principal and Teachers thought it was phenomenal. Students really were engaged and excited to learn more about the water. Students especially enjoyed the community building on the stream table then watching for erosion." – Amy Castelli, teacher, St Sebastian Catholic

"It was very engaging and informative! My students enjoyed the entire experience. The instructors were well organized and presented the information in a timely manner. Students were commenting throughout the day about their experience and learning." - Christy Schultz, 5th grade teacher, Wegienka Elementary

"The kids had a great time so far today. Most of them told me it was cool, awesome, fun and we should do it again. One teacher came in right after a group had finished and told me that it was a good thing the kids were done because she would have shoved them out of the way to get to the erosion table. Thank you so much for the opportunity to have the STREAM table come to Shumate. The kids had a wonderful time and it was a great to have hands on opportunities for my special ed students." – Debbie Turley, teacher, Shumate Middle

