

GREAT LAKES STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE



April 2010



PACE Local 6-1015



Students Monitor Wetland 1st Restoration Site

In April, 2009, a ten million dollar fish and wildlife restoration project proposal was developed by members of the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership Habitat Committee, Great Lakes Commission, GVSU Annis Water Resources Institute and Muskegon River Watershed Assembly. The project, selected for funding by the National Oceanic And Atmospheric Coastal and Marine Habitat and American Restoration and Reinvestment Act,

will remove approximately 145,000 cubic yards of unnatural fill to restore 24 acres of aquatic natural resources. Up to 10,000 linear feet of hardened shoreline will be restored with bioengineering and native wetland plantings.

Grand Trunk is the first of the sites along the Muskegon Lake Shoreline to be restored. Bunker Middle School students will be involved in a five year monitoring program of the site. Students will take water quality samples in the Spring and Fall. They will divide the site into twelve

experimental group plots. Two will be on site A west of the Muskegon City boat launch. The other ten experimental plots will be along the western shoreline of Grand Trunk. Students, together with adults from the Lakeside Neighborhood Association, the Muskegon Conservation District and the Muskegon Area Math Science Center (Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative) will carry out plant surveys over the next five years. The experimental plots will be compared to two control sites which will be left in their pre-restoration condition. The data (continued page 2)

Students Monitor Wetland 1st Restoration Site

will be posted on a web page for public assess by our partners and others who are interested in wetland restoration data. The data will be used to: 1) assess the effectiveness of the wetland restoration, 2)

determine which plants are best for future planting, and 3) help fulfill one of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrations grant requirements.



2009 - 2010 Project Timeline

Teachers meet to plan GLSI Project

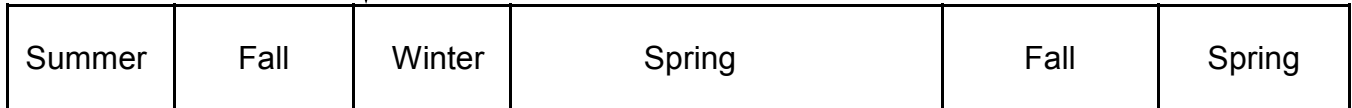
JFNew meets with teachers, WMSRD, MCD, GLSI & PACE Local 6-1015 to discuss student involvement.

Students on-site to meet community partners & learn their project roles

Students photograph site & gather water quality monitoring.

Students participate on site with agency officials to inaugurate project

Students lay-out quadrants for collecting survey data & collect data with adult community



WMSRD & MCD recommend the Grand Trunk Restoration Site for student/community partnership

Meet on site with JFNew project engineer & botanist to determine survey site lay-out & indicator species

Students participate in annual Earth Day community Grand Trunk site clean up

Students collect water quality data

