

Newaygo Middle School



Restoring our waters, one lake at a time!

Community Partners

- Muskegon River Watershed Assembly
- Muskegon Conservation District
- Sarah Pregitzer
- Hess and Brooks Lake Property Homeowners

Students prepared and planted lakeshore sites for property owners



Lake Restoration Project

It all started when the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MRWA) approached Newaygo Middle School to assist them with a lakeshore restoration project on Brooks Lake and Hess Lake. Gary Noble, (MRWA) came to present this project to the Science Club. The project consisted of preparing and planting sites for property owners to replace traditional lawn areas to shoreline buffers composed of native plant species. Native plant species were used to replace lawns because they do a better job of reducing the effects of storm water runoff. Also, homeowners will not be mowing to the water ' s edge and these buffers will filter out pollutants such as fertilizers before they enter the water. In turn, this will be beneficial for the water quality of the lake.

The students were very excited to have a project such as this to work on. Landowners chose certain native species plants to be used on their property. These plants were provided free of charge through the MRWA who received a grant from the Fremont Area Foundation. On project day, students prepared sites on each of the property owner ' s shoreline to be ready for planting. Students were able to assist with plantings on a couple of the site. Both students and landowners were present on these days. Each were appreciative of the opportunity to work with each other.

Newaygo Middle School
2009-2010

School Year Team:

- 135 students
- 2 Teachers
- 6th grade



Students provided each landowner with a packet and flipchart including information and pictures of the native plants used on their property.



West Michigan
Great Lakes
Stewardship
Initiative



2009-2010 Project Timeline

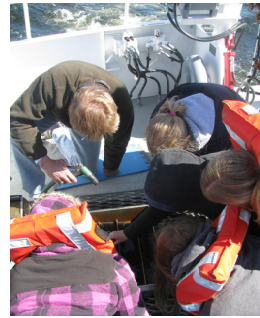
Meeting with Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MRWA) to discuss project ideas

Science Club met with MRWA to discuss the project and why it is important.

Students prepared informational packet and picture book for landowners.



September October March April May June



Study affects of water pollution in class and the Science Club studied water quality on the W.G. Jackson research vessel.

Scheduled implementation dates.

Project implementation

- Content addressed**
- Water Quality research
 - Human Impact on Environment
 - Biotic and Abiotic factors and how they affect ecosystems
 - Benefits of planting Native vs. Non-Native species
 - Community Involvement

