

North Muskegon Middle & High School



Community Partners

- Shields family, Bear Lake Property Owner
- JFNew
- Muskegon Conservation District (MCD)
- West Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (WMGLSI)

Project Overview

North Muskegon 8th grade science classes participated in a community-based project this school year. The project was initiated by the Shields family, private property owner on Bear Lake. The concern was that the storm water runoff from their property and neighboring properties ran directly into Bear Lake.

The eighth grade students began to research rain gardens and native Michigan plants as a solution to stopping the storm water from impacting Bear Lake. They research types of plants needed for rain gardens and learned they needed a variety to handle various water conditions; wet, semi-wet, and dry. Also, the plants needed to vary in height, color, and bloom time to be visually appealing all season. The students formed groups of 2-4 students to create their own rain garden designs. The Shields analyzed the student generated designs and made the tough decision of which design to use. The rain garden design chosen determined the plants needed to be ordered.

The property owner funded and organized the major excavation that needed to take place before the students could plant their rain garden. The order for plants was placed through JFNew and a week later the plants were delivered. The planting took place on May 27th under the direction of Alyssa Merten from the MCD and Melissa Maxson from the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD). The funding for this project was provided by West Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative and the Shields family.

North Muskegon MS
2009 - 10

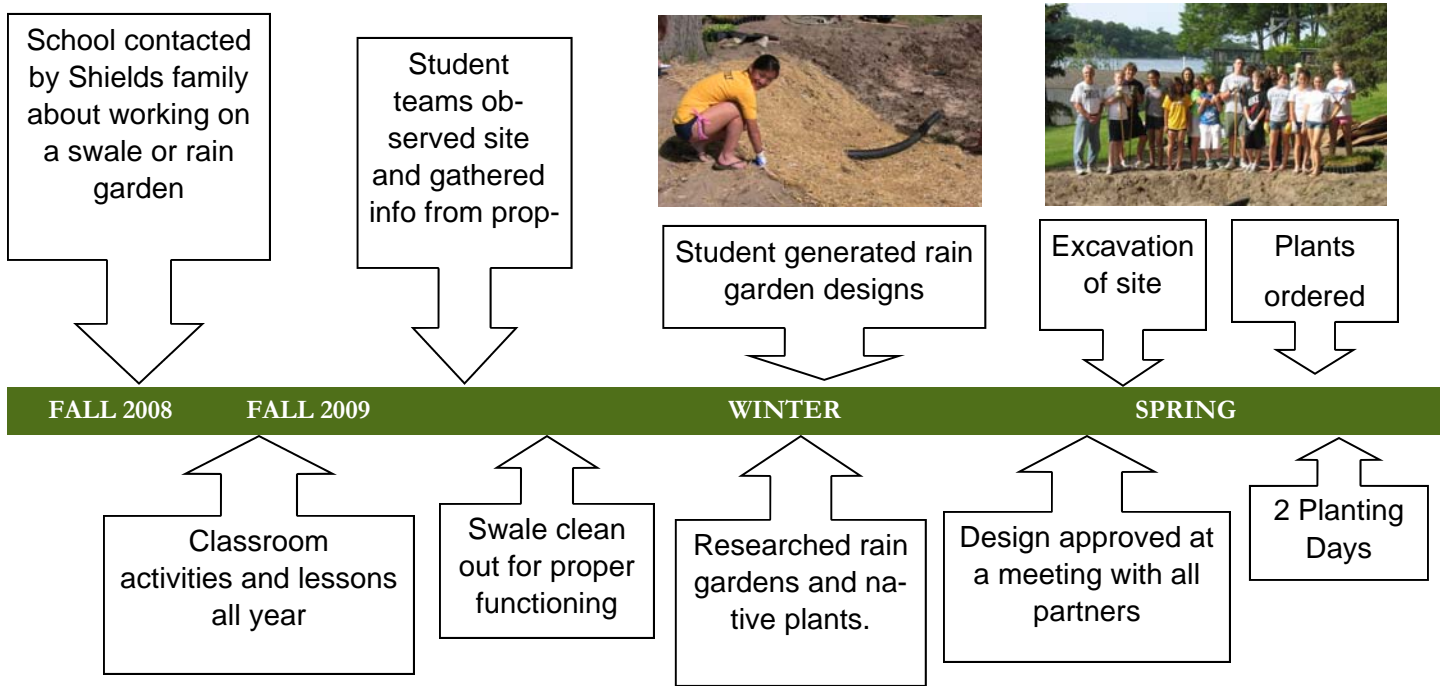
School Year Team:

- 70 Students
- 2 Teachers
- 8th grade students





Timeline of Activities



Essential Questions:

- Why should citizens care about the quality of Bear Lake/Bear Creek?
- How can we measure the quality of the watershed?
- What impact do citizens have on Bear Lake?
- What is the history of Bear Lake including human impact?

