West Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative - Project Summaries 2008-2009

Teacher & School	Community Partners	Project Abstract
Whitehall Middle School Susan Tate Tiffany King 100 8th grade students 55 6th grade students	• Muskegon Conservation District (MCD): project expertise and assistance • Happy Mohawk Canoe Livery: canoes • Michigan Department of Natural Resourcers (DNR): salmon eggs, tour of hatchery • White Lake Sports Fishing Association: assistance with canoe educational trip	**White River Requires Restoration** Students conducted habitat restoration on the White River at site number 54. White River site 54 suffers from erosion due to misuse. The restoration coincides with the release of classroom raised salmon. Topics covered in class included; water quality, biodiversity, human impact, biotic and abiotic factors, watersheds, interconnectedness of earth systems, and life cycles of the salmon.
Hesperia Middle School Ben Westgate Kelley Hatch Lisa Miller 120 6th-8th grade students	• MCD: technical assistance • Local Restaurants: used watershed placemats	**Watershed Education** Students created a watershed education plan for the community that includes storm water education placemats to be placed in local restaurants. During the process students learned about their community, its watershed, and how the two are related.
Newaygo Middle School Debra Iwema 20 environmental club students 60 6th grade students 30 7th grade students	• Cooperative Extension Service • City of Newaygo/ Chamber of Commerce • Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MRWA)	**Macroinvertebrates Tell All** Students assisted with collecting water quality data from local bodies of water with WMU and community volunteers. The macroinvertebrates collected can provide community members with information regarding the health of local watersheds. During this project students learned about human impact, ecosystems, watersheds, biotic/abiotic factors, biodiversity, benefits of native plants, and water quality.
Grant Middle School Sarah Pregitzer 30 6th grade students	• Land Conservancy: presentation, expertise • Brooks Township: grant funds • Nature Association: expertise, presentation	**Local Endangered Species Needs Help** Students removed an invasive plant species from the Karner Blue Nature Preserve to protect native plant species beneficial to the endangered Karner Blue Butterfly. They also educated other students and parents about the importance of a sand prairie, which is home to the Blue Karner Butterfly. The students served as guides to their entire class during a tour of the sand prairie and educating them on the features and benefits. Students learned about invasive species, native plants, and local ecosystems.

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Fruitport Middle School Rachel Kent Karen Pavlich Christy Prins 260 8th grade students	• MCD: expertise, trees • GVSU Annis Water Research Institute: water quality testing on the W.G. Jackson research vessel • Nature Conservancy/ Stewardship Network: presentation, expertise • Ottawa County Parks: presentation, expertise, and project site	**Habitat Restoration** Students assisted in restoring habitat in a local county park by planting trees, removing invasive species, and building brush habitats. During this project students learned about watersheds, biodiversity, and water quality.
North Muskegon High School **North Muskegon Middle School** Debra Johnson Richard Howard 150 8th and 9th grade students	• MCD: expertise • MRWA • City of North Muskegon	**Educate and Act** Students provided the school board with parking lot options to improve/mitigate storm water issues. Baseline data for local stream was collected to be used with future projects. While, the middles school students learned about stormwater issues, maintained a local swale, and removed phragmites in their community.
Oakridge High School Amy Weesies JoAnn Flejszar 120 High School students	• MCD: expertise, presentation • White Lake Nursery: mulch, plants • Montague High School AgSci: native plants	**Rain Garden Restoration** Students completed an assessment of Ryerson creek and storm water issues in their community. They discovered several rain gardens were not working properly and redesigned them in order for them to function properly. In class students covered human impact, biodiversity, surface runoff, watersheds, water quality, local geology, etc.
Montague High School Kyle J. Fiebig 60 High School students	• FFA Officer Team: native plants, community liaison • The White Lake Sports Fishing Association: • Parent (land donation): location to plant natives	**Attack White Lake in a Positive Manner** Students designed an awareness campaign, which alerted community members of the small things that could be done to "Attack White Lake in a Positive Manner". Students started with a survey to identify community attitudes on water quality. From the results they determined what are behaviors directly affect the White Lake Watershed and created alternatives that would lessen the negative impact on White Lake. The students also offered a "Green Design" service by growing

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		native plants, in their Montague Agriscience Community Center, that community members were interested in and then planted them in the Spring. The students also grew native plants and trees for 200 2nd and 3rd grade students and assisted them in the planting. The plants grown were also planted in a local golf course to improve storm water drainage. During the project students learned about human impact, native plants, invasive plants, growing plants, abiotic/biotic factors, ecosystems, and water quality.
Mona Shores Public Schools Blake Groenhout Julie Wernette Sara Busken 185 High School Students	• MCD: technical expertise, supervision of project • Mona Lake Watershed: presentation • Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ): permit	**Improvement of Watershed** Students evaluated the health of a local stream and designed and implemented a stream bank restoration plan which included installing coconut logs to reduce erosion, planting native species and additional water quality testing. Students learned about water quality parameters, human impact, ecosystems, native plants, invasive species, communication skills, and more during this project.