

PROJECT: George Middle School - Applied Learning Program
10000 N. Burr
Portland, Oregon 97203

CONTACT: Ginny Rosenberg (503) 916-6262

BUDGET: Metro grant \$2,500
Approximate Volunteer Hours: ?
Total Project \$18,242

QUESTION: How can students learn about and improve the natural environment in which they live?

GOAL: For students to research wildlife areas, assess the health of the Columbia Slough, and inform their community about the urban wildlife environment.

COMMUNITY: The Applied Learning Program has a curriculum designed to encourage students to be interested in how they can improve the natural environment in which they live. George Middle School serves at-risk youth in North Portland. The students already play, fish, and hike in the Columbia Slough and surrounding lakes.

DESCRIPTION:

Students have the opportunity to participate in several projects: Public Health, Smith and Bybee Lake Urban Wildlife, Animal Handlers, and Urban Development. The Public Health project concerns the water quality of the Columbia Slough and nearby lakes. The students answer the question, "Is it safe to eat the fish you catch in the Columbia Slough?" In the Smith and Bybee project, students assist in wildlife research and data collection, habitat restoration, problem solving for issues involving public access and education concerning new management restrictions. Also, students participate in trail construction, maintenance, educational signs, and interpretive center development. This portion of the project focuses on the question, "What flora and fauna live at Smith and Bybee lakes?" The Animal Handlers portion allows students to design lesson plans. Students then have the opportunity to teach elementary students, head start students, and the St. John's community about animals as pets and animals in nature. For the urban development project, students participate in collecting data about undeveloped land in the Metro area to add to the city's database. The students visit sites, gather data, and make landuse recommendations.

ACTION:

Several classrooms and after school groups conduct the projects in conjunction with the Applied Learning Program. Most of the groundwork had been laid. Participating classes, groups, and partnerships were already established.

March 1993

- Begin gathering data in all projects

902993

LM - not in
w/ detail
CB-Mono 7

HOME#

90
60 pollution patrol
15 by bee lakes
30 banners
10-15 animal handler

→ not releasing
into wild

March 1994 Ranger Rick

April 1993

- Make banners
- Contact businesses to hang banners
- Public information day at Smith and Bybee Lakes
- Animal handlers presentations
- Data collection

May 1993

- Reports for each project completed
- Public information meeting scheduled and conducted
- Evaluations started

June 1994

- Projects completed
- Evaluation completed
- Similar projects outlined for the following year

PARTNERSHIPS:

National Wildlife Federation

City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

City of Portland Parks

RESULTS:

Youth have become aware and are educating their community about the natural environment they live-in.

BARRIERS: ???

- went to businesses & asked for permission to hang banners
- questionnaire on where people fished & how many fish they ate
- community meetings re.

health of fish in Slough

study of pollution & toxins to fish
wrote letter to mayor asking for \$ - BES fish & wildlife metro
fish analyzed ODFW
look at fish under microscope, aged fish
fish were unhealthy → area was posted

Frogs & salamanders @ Smith & Bybee reproduction
research boards → hibernaculum
metro tour - gave tours
posted banners in St. Johns to inform community about lakes







