

PROJECT: Fernhill Wetlands Council
Pacific University
2043 College Way
Forest Grove, OR 97116

CONTACT: Rob Stockhouse (503)359-2254

BUDGET: Metro grant \$5,300
Approximate Volunteer Hours: 224
Total Project \$26,364

QUESTION: How are teachers encouraged to become environmental stewards?

GOAL: Instruct teachers and community members how to conduct a thorough wetlands inventory and develop trails.

COMMUNITY:

Fourteen community educators from the greater Forest Grove area were the project participants. Each participant took his or her knowledge back to an "adopted" wetland and activated an educational program for the students of their school.

DESCRIPTION:

Educators, especially from fourth to twelfth grade, participated in a one week course at Pacific University and Fernhill Wetlands. The course title, "Educate to Facilitate Participation in Wetlands - Adopt a Wetland and Establish a Wetland Nature Trail," conveys the course objective. After the intensive week of study, Dr. Stockhouse spent a half-day with each participant at his/her "adopted" wetland assisting with plans and lectures, and facilitating student/parent involvement.

ACTION:

Day One

- Orientation and basics of wetlands ecology at Pacific University
- Hands-on inventory techniques: birds, invertebrates, vertebrates, vegetation, and other significant organisms - learning how to do a biological inventory in the field
- Designing a nature trail system: field orientation, mapping, and design

Day Two

- Hands-on vegetation survey, collecting methods, and identification for wetland trail at Fernhill
 - Physical layout of trail system, posting, mapping, etc.
 - Soil survey to determine the wetlands limits
 - Plant, bird, and mammal identifications in Pacific University biology museum
- Homework: In Pacific Computer Lab, design a layout for trail at wetland site (Fernhill Wetland computer generated map provided)

Day Three

- Designing a trail brochure

- Unified Sewerage Agency (USA) orientation: significance of USA and the importance of wetlands
 - Water quality lecture and demonstration included in Fernhill guide
 - Hands-on water sampling and birding in field, water analysis in Pacific University lab
- Homework: In Pacific Computer Lab, design a Nature Wetland Trail Brochure for the Fernhill Wetland Trail

Day Four

- Orientation at Pacific, printout sample brochures and graphics
 - Move to Fernhill Wetland to physically layout and sample various team generated brochures in the field
- Homework: Redesign brochures

Day Five

- Orientation at Pacific, printout finished brochures and graphics
- Discuss teaching techniques for wetland ecology and class implementation
- Ideas to facilitate personal and student continued involvement in Wetlands
- Hands-on participation in recruitment activities and curriculum development for fall classroom activities in Wetland Education Programs

Half-day consulting workshops

- Dr. Stockhouse assisting each participant in generating a Wetlands Nature Trail or appropriate educational activity at their "adopted" wetland

PARTNERSHIPS:

Pacific University
Unified Sewerage Agency
City of Forest Grove
Oregon Waterflow and Wetlands Association
Woodfold Marco Company

RESULTS:

At the conclusion of the course the following tasks had been accomplished at each of the 14 participants adopted wetlands: complete mapping, complete biotic inventory, nature trail flagged, and nature trail guide completed with bird, mammal, and flora checklists.

BARRIERS:

Each wetland is at a different level of restoration, activities must be adaptable.