

**PROJECT:** The Bridge  
Hollyrood School  
3560 NE Hollyrood Court  
Portland, Oregon 97212

**CONTACT:** Margaret Dey (503) 916-6766

**BUDGET:** Metro Grant \$1,000  
Approximate Volunteer Hours - 500  
Total Project \$3,890

**QUESTION:** How can students observe firsthand, the intricate web of life?

**GOAL:** Provide students with an ecosystem aquarium and outdoor habitat to watch and learn from.

**COMMUNITY:**

Hollyrood School is located on the border of Grant Park and has been designated a Math-Science-Technology Demonstration Site. Classrooms serve Kindergarten through 3rd grade and the 184 students account for the smallest elementary school in Portland. Transfer students from several other schools in the area constitute 25% of the student population at Hollyrood. Parental involvement is a priority, and over 5000 volunteer hours are logged annually, representing 75% of the parents.

**DESCRIPTION:**

The project was termed "The Bridge" to represent the joining of two K-3 integrated science projects. The first project was a garden plot on the grounds of Hollyrood. A pond was added to the naturescaping of the garden to attract wildlife. The second part of the project included constructing an in-class river tank ecosystem aquarium. The children were part of the STEP program and were given salmon eggs to hatch and later release in Johnson Creek. The ecotank provided students and parents with an opportunity to observe the life cycle of fish, newts, and frogs.

**ACTION:**

March 1997

- Students study fish biology, habitat and life cycle
- Ecosystem aquarium operating in school's front hall
- Students received steelhead from STEP program

Weekly

- Students and parents monitor and moderate pH of the aquarium
- Garden maintenance by volunteers, time spent dependent upon season

June 1997

- Complete Wildlife Habitat in garden
- Release newts, frogs, and worms to determine sustainability of habitat

**PARTNERSHIPS:**

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife - STEP Program

**RESULTS:** The eco-system continues as a vital part of the school's focus on scientific inquiry, and provides many daily opportunities. Several teachers use the eco-system as a teaching tool. Newts, Frogs and worms raised in the tank are released to the school's outdoor pond.

**BARRIERS:** The tank must have a refrigeration coil, without which the STEP fish egg project must be conducted in the classroom, rather than in the front hall.



# EcoSystem Tank

Hollyrood School, Portland OR.



We have the tank in the front hall where everyone can enjoy it and observe changes throughout the school year.











The tank has about five fish and there's about four frogs and it's neat.

Erin





It is really fun and I like the fish.

Anael





In March we received steelhead trout from Oregon Dept of fish and wildlife. We spent weeks learning about fish biology, habitat and life cycle.





I was making a model of a rainbow trout.

Alexandra









This is how big an adult can get.  
Emily





It was fun and I liked the colors  
and that was the one I liked the  
most. Ian.

The Bridge  
Hollywood School  
1996-1997

student with artwork  
representing salmon  
life cycle

interdisciplinary





I made one of the stages of the  
trout life cycle.

Yamille