

## METROPOLITAN GREENSPACES EDUCATION GRANT

Children's Clean Water Festival – 2000

Portland State University Center for Science Education

### Project Description:

The Children's Clean Water Festival is an interactive academy-like conference for approximately 1,600 4th - 6th graders in the Portland metropolitan region and Clark County, WA. It provides a hands-on opportunity for students to learn directly from water resources experts, representing more than 70 partnering organizations. This learning both reinforces concepts and studies students work on throughout the academic year and introduces new topics regarding water(shed) resources, conservation, management, protection, and related issues. Students also have an opportunity to showcase and share their own projects with community organizations and participating students. Teachers receive reinforcement for teaching about water resources in the classroom, new opportunities to meet with community partners, community-building opportunities with other teachers, and new tools and curricular materials.

### Goals of the project:

- 1) to increase the frequency and quality of water resources and watershed education in our schools.
- 2) to facilitate teacher and student access to water(shed) education programs in our communities.

### Grant Progress:

The 2000 Clean Water Festival was held in March at PCC-Rock Creek Campus. The Metro Greenspaces grant provided scholarships for all attending schools to participate. Approximately 1,600 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade students attended with their teachers. Additionally, 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade students presented projects in the Student Showcase. This newly added component to the Festival provided an opportunity for students to showcase their work to a younger audience, as well as the community involved in the water festival.

Attending students participated in Stage Shows, Exhibit Halls, Game Shows, classroom and laboratory sessions, and the Student Showcase. Teachers visited the Teacher's Resource Center for curricular resources and networking opportunities. Thirty five funding and partnering organization administrators attended and VIP Luncheon, with special guest speakers Steve Amen (Oregon Public Broadcasting), Frank Luzaich and Students (Archer Glen Elementary), and Wayne Lei (Portland General Electric).

### Challenges and Solutions:

We still experience challenges in getting Washington schools to apply and we continue to strategize ways to make this more possible. We are now offering the Festival as a youth summit opportunity to a new community action and problem solving program offered by the Center For Science Education, Cascade Earth Force. This program is enrolling educators currently, and some Vancouver organizations are already involved.

### Next Steps & Future Plans:

The Children's Clean Water Festival is expanding its efforts to provide an opportunity for students to showcase their studies and community projects that they work on during the school year. The newly added Student Showcase Hall was a big hit this year and is in high demand. The project will continue to offer stage experiences, classroom and laboratory activities, exhibit hall, and resources for teachers.

"Dear Sponsors of the Clean Water Festival:

Hi. My name is Chad. I am 12 years old and I go to Gregory Heights Middle School and I want to thank you for doing what you do. The festival you sponsored helped me learn more about water. It made me want to clean the rivers by hand and have my friends help. Thank you so much!

From, Chad"