

Cascadia Wild!

1417 SE 34th Ave
Portland, OR 97214
(503)235-9533
al@cascadiawild.org

922602

February 20, 2002

Deb Scrivens
Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces
600 NE Grand Ave
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Dear Mrs. Deb Scrivens:

Please find enclosed our grant report for the 2000-2001 Metro Environmental Education Grant cycle.

Thank you for your support. Please let us know if you have any other questions about our work.

Sincerely,



Al Thieme
Executive Director
Cascadia Wild!

cc: Rachel Fox

Metro Environmental Education Grant Report
The Nature Awareness Project (Jan. 2001-Jan. 2002)
Al Thieme, Cascadia Wild!

Number of Students participating in the program:

Chapman Elementary; 120 students
Fircrest Elementary (Vancouver); 50 students
Clarendon Elementary; 150 students
Reynolds Learning Center; 36 students
Riverside Elementary; 24 students
Clear Creek Elementary; 15 students
Waldorf School; 30 students
James John Elementary; 24 students
Madison High School; 36 students
Sunnyside Elementary; 75 students

Total Number of Students in project: 560 students

This year we more than doubled the number of students that we had anticipated working with in the Grant Proposal. (We had estimated 240 students from 5 schools in the grant report) We also doubled the number of schools that we worked with, thereby expanding our outreach to other communities.

List of schools and teachers who participated in program funded by this grant:

Chapman Elementary; Steve Brand and Jim Mangan.
Fircrest Elementary (Vancouver); Ann Rangos.
Clarendon Elementary; Ida Greenwich, Angela Freeman, Rebecca Levison, Ron Soliv.
Reynolds Learning Center; Seth Needler, Giovanna Joffre.
Riverside Elementary; Genevieve Bouwes.
Clear Creek Elementary; (After-School Program, no specific teacher, Mae Cha supervised).
Waldorf School; Nancy Pierce.
James John Elementary; Sue Webb.
Madison High School; Julie Howland, Jeremy Cat.
Sunnyside Elementary; Elizabeth Draper, Zach

List of field trips funded by this grant:

Chapman Elementary: 4 field trips to Forest Park
Fircrest Elementary: 2 field trips to Oxbow Park, 2 field trips to local greenspaces in Vancouver
Clarendon Elementary: 3 field trips to Pier Park, and 1 field trip to Oxbow Park
George Middle School: 2 field trips to Oxbow Park
Reynolds Learning Center: 3 field trips to Oxbow Park, and 4 field trips to local greenspace
Riverside Elementary: 1 field trip to Oxbow Park, and 1 field trip to local greenspace
Clear Creek Elementary: 1 field trip to Oxbow Park, and 5 field trips to local greenspace
Waldorf School: 1 field trip to Oxbow Park
James John Elementary: 1 field trip to Oxbow Park
Madison High School: Field Trips to Johnson Lake, Powell Butte, and Oxbow Park
Sunnyside Elementary; 4 field trips to Erol Heights, and 3 field trips to Oxbow Park

List of project accomplishments/Summary of benchmarks completed:

Cascadia Wild! involved different Elementary/Middle/High School Students in the Nature Awareness Project. Students participated in a nature awareness and naturalist training program that

allowed them to expand their experiences, and appreciate the natural world in an intimate way. The type of instruction the students received included core naturalist routines such as Naturalist Inventories, Journaling and Sketching, and Awareness exercises. Cascadia Wild! had multiple visits (4 to 9 visits per classroom over 4 months in spring and fall) to the same classes to pattern the students on the natural world in a positive, long-term manner. Students received tracking instruction followed by instructional tracking field trips to Oxbow Regional Park and/or field trips to local greenspaces.

Specific outcomes of the project for the students include: learning the basics of animal tracking (definitions of track components, measurement skills, recording accurate data, preparing plaster casts of animal tracks, basic mammal track identification, basic mammal gait pattern identification), proficiency in nature awareness skills (using all the senses through foxwalking, owl vision, deer ears, raccoon hands), understanding of bird language (knowledge of four common passerine bird alarm calls, grasp of the importance of call intensity, knowing the five voices of the birds (alarm, song, male-to-male aggression, feeding young, and companion calling)); and knowledge of native plants and trees including utilitarian uses for these species.

Overall evaluation of program with reactions from participating students:

In the spring of 2001, Cascadia Wild! served five schools and a total 8 classes in those schools. In the fall of 2001, Cascadia Wild! expanded to serve ten schools and a total of 14 classes. Cascadia Wild! created a new after-school program for the first year. This program was run in coordination with the SUN program at Clear Creek Middle School. Providing long-term naturalist mentoring to this number of schools for two paid staff people required an enormous effort. However, the rewards were significant. In all the schools the response from individual students was overwhelmingly positive. Students enjoyed scout games, wilderness survival skills, fire-making, and tracking the most of all the activities that they participated in. An example of the achievements of the students echoes from the eloquence and creativity of the students at Fircrest Elementary. In the beginning of the fall semester, these students felt shy about even allowing an instructor read some of their poetry of the natural world aloud to the rest of the class. (Cascadia Wild! had been teaching the students how to write poetry about their experiences in the natural world.) At the end of semester celebration in December, virtually all the students performed wonderful presentations of their naturalist poetry in front of a crowd of parents, teachers, students, and Cascadia Wild! staff. The evening was a fabulous testimony to the power of Nature to provide inner strength and self-esteem to these young students.