

## Alliance of Rouge Communities Museum to You: River Residency – Stream Table Simulation Workshops



As part of the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) 2017 Green Infrastructure Education Campaign, Wayne County's Water Quality Management Division (WQMD) coordinated the scheduling of the Stream Table Workshops for recognized Michigan Green Schools in the ARC. The University of Michigan's Museum of Natural History offers three different workshops using their 12-foot stream simulation table. These workshops provide Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with hands-on opportunities to explore how water flows, erosion, effects of flooding, the consequences of human activities on water quality, and much more. Students work in small groups and record their observations in accompanying student journals. All workshops are inquiry-based and meet state standards for social studies and the new Next Generation Science Standards.

The Green Schools can choose any combination of the following workshops:

**Water, Weather and a River Community** - Where does water come from and where does it go? Students will explore what happens to water when it rains, model flood dangers in a river community, conduct experiments about water flow, and discuss how rivers are used;

**How Water Shapes the Land** - Students discover how flowing water causes erosion and sedimentation, shaping and creating various landforms. They will explore how human activities influence erosion and test various methods of erosion control; and

**Protecting Our Watersheds** - What is a watershed and why is it important? Students explore how various human activities affect water quality both in a stream and as groundwater.

Three ARC Green Schools took advantage of the opportunity to invite the River Residency to their school. Farrand Elementary, Plymouth had the stream table for two days, June 12 & 13, 2017. One hundred eighty (180) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders participated. Dearborn Heights Montessori, Dearborn Heights had the table for three days, October 16, 17 & 18, 2017. One hundred forty (140) 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders participated. St Mary School, Wayne had the table for three days (September 25, 26 & 27, 2017). One hundred thirty three (133) Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> graders participated. A total of four hundred fifty three (453) students learned from the stream table.

## Teacher's comments:

It was awesome!! I had all 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade classrooms go through it. We all loved it. I am so thankful and happy that we were able to experience it. (June 2017)

*Deanna Coughlin, 3rd grade teacher, Farrand Elementary*

Teacher comments were all very positive, with many wishing that the student had a similar material/sand table to explore and discover natural occurrences and water behavior on their own. I have a feeling we will try to have this again, or visit the UM Natural History museum for this exhibit in the future.

*Sue Fitzpatrick, Outreach Coordinator, Dearborn Heights Montessori*

My students had been studying erosion in science and social studies. The stream table brought what we had discussed to life and extended their understanding of the process! Constructing the town and learning about ways to reduce the impact of erosion on humans fit the fourth grade science standards well.

*Diane Johnson, Grade 4 teacher, St Mary School*

I thought it was a great program. Even though we haven't done the water cycle this year in science I was able to make connections to mixtures/solutions in science and the five themes of geography in social studies with them.

*Jennifer Hunt, Grade 5 teacher, St Mary School*

The 8th grade students learned a lot about building towns and how important it is to make sure you place buildings, farms and homes where there is less chance of water pollution. They also learned how chemicals and pollutants really can harm the water.

*Deb Armstrong, Grade 8 teacher, St Mary School*

The students worked so carefully when trying to filter their contaminated water. This activity really opened the students' eyes about taking care of our water sources.

*SanJuanita Lopez, Grade 7 teacher St Mary School,*

My second grade loved this presentation. The hands on activities were great. It kept my class's interest and attention. The presenters were very well prepared for each age group.

*Judith Rausch, Grade 2 teacher, St Mary School*

