

"Water Connects Everyone
and Everything on Earth!"



www.metrocwf.org

Item 7F.
BCWMC 12-21-17

2017 METRO CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL

September 27th, 2017
Minnesota State Fair Grounds

November 2017

Dear Laura Jester & the Basset Creek Watershed Management Commission,

On behalf of the Metropolitan Conservation Districts and the Children's Water Festival Planning Committee, I would like to thank you for your generous contribution to the 2017 Children's Water Festival. The festival would not have been possible without your support.

The festival was a huge success. The 1433 students had a great experience outdoors interacting with water resource specialists, and learning much about how Water Connects Everyone and Everything on Earth! We were very lucky to have decent weather again this year with a beautiful sunny fall day.

This year brought about many changes. The planning committee worked on how to bring the festival to more students throughout the past year. This required major changes to the logistics including redoing curriculum, volunteer positions and orientations, our evaluation system and class schedules. We were able to increase the attendance this year by 300+ students and we are planning to increase it again next year.

This year also marked our 20th anniversary. The festival started in 1998 and is celebrating twenty years of water education that has reached over 25,000 students. The first students are now around 30 years old and hopefully helping protect water wherever they are. To celebrate, we created 20th anniversary patches for all participants. We included one with your packet. Please contact me if you'd like more.

Enclosed is the 2017 Children's Water Festival booklet, listing sponsors, participating schools and presenters. Sponsors are recognized on the website, booklets, and signs throughout the festival. Also included are the 2017 Program Summary, the Composting Summary, and a Sponsor Certificate.

Plans for the 2018 Children's Water Festival have begun. The date is currently set for September 26th, 2018 at the State Fair Grounds. The planning committee will evaluate all the changes made this year and continue to strive to reach more students and enhance this festival.

Thank you for your commitment to educating Minnesota's students in the metro area, and your commitment to protecting water as one of Minnesota's most valuable resources.

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MetroCWF.org

Program Summary for the 2017 Metro Area Children's Water Festival

September 27th, 2017
MN State Fair Grounds.

Participation: 18 schools, 57 classes, 1433 students, 58 teachers plus 2-3 chaperones per class.

- Crooked Lake Elementary in Andover (Anoka Co.) with 3 classes.
- Epiphany Catholic School in Coon Rapids (Anoka Co.) with 2 classes.
- Rice Lake Elementary in Lino Lakes (Anoka Co.) with 3 classes.
- Chanhassen Elementary in Chanhassen (Carver Co.) with 2 classes.
- Central Elementary in Cologne (Carver Co.) with 3 classes.
- Jonathan Elementary in Chaska (Carver Co.) with 4 classes.
- Highland Elementary in Apple Valley (Dakota Co.) with 4 classes.
- Diamond Path Elementary in Apple Valley (Dakota Co.) with 5 classes.
- Vista View Elementary in Burnsville (Dakota Co.) with 2 classes.
- Aurora Charter School in Minneapolis (Hennepin Co) with 2 classes.
- Good Shepherd School in Golden Valley (Hennepin Co.) with 2 classes.
- Rogers Elementary in Rogers (Hennepin Co.) with 5 classes.
- Brimhall Elementary in Roseville (Ramsey Co.) with 3 classes.
- Richardson Elementary in North St. Paul (Ramsey Co.) with 3 classes.
- Lake Elmo Elementary in Lake Elmo (Washington Co.) with 4 classes.
- Newport Elementary in Newport (Washington Co.) with 2 classes.
- Saint Peter's School in Forest Lake (Washington Co.) with 2 classes.
- Woodbury Elementary in Woodbury (Washington Co.) with 4 classes.

Program Booklet: Access a copy of the program booklet online at <http://metroclf.org/pastfestivals/>

Making a Difference: The program provides effective, interactive education and supports goals for water literacy from teachers, schools, and organizations proven through the comprehensive evaluations. Highlights include:

- ✦ 82% of the teachers indicated that the Water Festival will help them achieve State and school district science standards and most indicated they would incorporate lessons, activities, and topics from the Metro CWF into their classroom lesson plans and teaching and use the 2017 Metro theme "*Water Connects Everyone and Everything on Earth*" in their classroom.
- ✦ The Metro CWF follows the best practices for effective outdoor environmental education. Teachers, classroom guides, and presenters all agree, the learning stations that provided exceptional learning had the following components:
 - Hands-on, interactive, & demonstrations
 - Fun and enjoyed by students while learning
 - Knowledgeable presenters all had the ability to connect, to talk, & to present to students



- Content was interesting
- Level of material was appropriate

- ✦ The Metro CWF included 35 specific learning stations with more than 65 presenters including water and natural resource professionals and educators. See the complete list and descriptions under “Resources” on the website found at www.metrocwf.org.

Staff and Volunteers:

- ✦ **We had 155 professionals and volunteers participated in the Metro CWF this year.** Staff and volunteers represent water resource professionals from many state and local agencies and from a number of groups this year including Volunteer Match, MN Master Naturalists, Master Water Stewards, Wells Fargo and more. The Metro CWF would not be possible without their support!
- ✦ **New volunteer roles.** In order to expand the festival we had to restructure out volunteers roles to be more efficient. greeter guides and area guides replaced our class guides.
- ✦ Our festival works at promoting zero waste lunches and having composting and recycling during the lunch periods creating another teachable moment. **67.7 % of the waste at the CWF was composted or recycled! Although the festival added over 300 students this year, trash made stayed less than one ounce per person.**

Presenters: Over 65 presenters participated, including staff from the following organizations and agencies; The Science Museum of Minnesota, MN Geological Survey, US Dept. of Agriculture, KARE 11, Metropolitan Council, MN Dept. of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Friends of the Mississippi River, Trout Unlimited, and Metropolitan Mosquito Control District.

Curriculum: Presentations focused on water conservation, water quality, stormwater and runoff, groundwater and wells, native plants benefits to water, aquatic species (fish, macro-invertebrates and invasive species), mercury, and more.

Format: CWF is a one day Program. Each class attends three 25 minute learning stations, 1 hour long Science Museum presentation, one Water Arcade session and lunch time.

Costs: The 2017 final budget will not be reconciled until January 2017 when all expenses are in. Anticipated costs with the increase of 300 students is \$14000.



Collaboration: The Metro CWF Planning Committee consists of representatives from each of the following organizations; Carver County, Washington County, Hennepin County, Dakota County, Anoka County, Ramsey County and Ramsey Conservation District, Metropolitan Council, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources, Rice Creek Watershed District, and US Forest Service. In addition there are many partnerships that take place in order to make this program possible. See CWF booklet for complete list of partners.

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PROUD SPONSOR OF THE 2017

METRO AREA CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL

AWARDED TO

Basset Creek Watershed Management Commission



Project: Children's Water Festival (CWF) Recycling and Organics Recovery

Results:

- 67.7% of waste (205 pounds) was recycled or composted, down from the 74.1% diversion rate from 2016 and short of our goal of 75%.
- Even though trash increased by 23 pounds (31.5%), Per Capita trash amounts are still low at just over one ounce per student.

Indicator: Measurements (weights) were taken after the lunches

Target: Manage waste sorting areas during lunch to direct students where to place items and answer their questions with a goal of recycling or composting 75% of the waste.

Partners: CWF organizers, Counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington

Background: Each September, 4th Graders attend the CWF to learn about water through hands-on activities, demonstrations, and performances. This year, the number of students increased by almost 20% to 1,433 which tested the sorting system we have used since 2013. Despite the increased number of students, we were still able to maintain five waste sorting stations using the same number of volunteers as in past years with only minor delays.



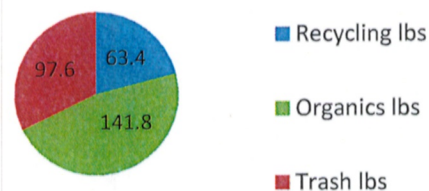
How was it done?

Five sorting stations comprised of a recycling, compost, and trash container were placed in the lunch area. An additional container was used to collect unopened food and a container for plastic film. Paper towels were also collected from the bathrooms and added to the organics. Stations were overseen by county staff or volunteers who helped students sort their trash and answer questions.

Plastic bags collected from lunches



2017 Childrens Water Festival Lunch Waste



Recommendations for 2018:

- Move sorting stations so they are closer to the students
- Have classroom guides encourage students to sort as soon as they are done with lunch. This will reduce bottle-necks at the stations
- Decide if students can take unopened food items from the collection container. Much of the unopened food was taken by students this year, with permission from the sorting helpers, but it would be good to have the CWF committee decide if this is ok or not. Either way, we would still collect unopened food
- Revisit the 75% goal to determine if it is achievable given the composition of lunches brought to the event

