

SPONSOR OF THE 2019
METRO AREA CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL
PRESENTED TO
Basset Creek Water Management Commission





Program Summary for the 2019 Metro Area Children's Water Festival

September 25th, 2019
MN State Fair Grounds.

Participation: 24 schools, 76 classes, 1925 students, 77 teachers plus 2-3 chaperones per class.

- Hamilton Elementary in Coon Rapids (Anoka Co.) with 3 classes.
- Linwood Elementary in Wyoming (Anoka Co.) with 2 classes.
- Epiphany School in Coon Rapids (Anoka Co.) with 3 classes.
- Valley View Elementary in Columbia Heights (Anoka Co.) with 3 classes.
- Wyoming Elementary in Wyoming (Anoka Co.) with 3 classes.
- Central Elementary in Norwood Young America (Carver Co.) with 3 classes.
- Carver Elementary in Carver (Carver Co.) with 8 classes.
- Kaposia Education Center in South St. Paul (Dakota Co.) with 5 classes.
- Vista View Elementary in Burnsville (Dakota Co.) with 2 classes.
- Sky Oaks Elementary in Burnsville (Dakota Co.) with 3 classes.
- Webster Elementary in Minneapolis (Hennepin Co.) with 2 classes.
- Good Shepherd School in Golden Valley (Hennepin Co.) with 2 classes.
- Bethune Community School in Minneapolis (Hennepin Co.) with 2 classes.
- Vickers homeschool in Minneapolis (Hennepin Co.) with 1 class.
- Brightwater Elementary in Minneapolis (Hennepin Co.) with 2 classes.
- Kenny Community School in Minneapolis (Hennepin Co.) with 3 classes.
- Windom Dual Immersion School in Minneapolis (Hennepin Co.) with 3 classes.
- Brimhall Elementary in Roseville (Ramsey Co.) with 3 classes.
- Turtle Lake Elementary in Shoreview (Ramsey Co.) with 7 classes.
- Central Park Elementary in Roseville (Ramsey Co.) with 3 classes.
- St. Peters School in Forest Lake (Washington Co.) with 2 classes.
- Lake Elmo Elementary in Lake Elmo (Washington Co.) with 4 classes.
- Forest Lake Elementary in Forest Lake (Washington Co.) with 5 classes.
- Newport Elementary in Newport (Washington Co.) with 2 classes.

Program format: The festival 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. The festival follows the best practices for effective outdoor environmental education with learning stations including the following qualities.

- Hands-on, interactive, & demonstrations
- Fun, interesting content
- Knowledgeable presenters with the ability to connect to and present to students
- Age appropriate level of material

Curriculum: Learning stations 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.



Making a Difference: The program provides effective, interactive education and supports water literacy as shown from teachers and organizations through evaluations. Highlights include:

- ✚ In follow up with students after the festival, many talked about the water cycle and how important water is. The Science Museum show and the water arcade remain as favorite activities.
- ✚ Teacher evaluations show that the festival helps them meet science standards. Teachers also responded that they love the day and think the festival is very well run.
- ✚ Most presenters return every year expressing the festival as a highlight of their annual activities.

Staff and Volunteers:

- ✚ **We had over 257 professionals and volunteers participate this year.** Staff and volunteers are water resource professionals from state and local agencies and a number of organizations including MN Master Naturalists and Master Water Stewards.
- ✚ Our festival works at promoting zero waste lunches and having composting and recycling during the lunch periods creating another teachable moment. 63.3% of the waste at the festival was composted or recycled. An additional 45 pounds of unopened food/drink was collected and reused.

Presenters: The Metro CWF included 46 specific learning stations with 137 presenters including water and natural resource professionals and educators. Presenters included staff from the following organizations and agencies; The Science Museum of Minnesota, MN Geological Survey, Academy for Sciences and Agriculture, H2O for Life, Metropolitan Council, Central States Water Environment Association, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Friends of the Mississippi River, Trout Unlimited, and MN Department of Transportation.

Costs: The 2019 final budget will not be reconciled until January 2020 when all expenses are in. Anticipated costs are around \$20,000.

Collaboration: The Festival Planning Committee consists of representatives from each of the following organizations; Carver County, Washington County, Hennepin County, Dakota County, Anoka County, Ramsey County, Metropolitan Council, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, 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 festival booklet for complete list of partners.

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