



Maymont MWEE Outreach Programs

Maymont educators provided 156 outreach programs to 2,247 students in grades K-5 at all five schools to introduce their local watersheds. The 45-minute program was conducted at the school and used hands-on enviroscape models to help students build vocabulary and a clear understanding of their watershed. For our younger students in Grades K-2, we incorporated a book to help them visualize the journey of water from the mountains to the shore. Students gathered with the educator to explore the enviroscape model and discuss important topics like properties of water, weather, and natural resources. Older students collaborated in teams to work with their own enviroscape model to observe human influence on the land and water. Students enjoyed the hands-on activities of the program and teachers felt this was a meaningful part of their classroom curriculum.



Field Investigations at Maymont

Students also participated in a Field Investigation at Maymont meant to build on their knowledge of local waterways and factors that impact the watershed. Grade levels selected programs that best tied in with their curriculum such as life cycles, habitats, adaptations, food webs, and wetlands. During their visits, students participated in a hands-on lesson, exploration of the Robins Nature Center gallery, and additional self-guided time on the Maymont grounds to explore the wetland areas, visit the Farm, and animal habitats.

Field Investigations conducted at Maymont were modified to provide more watershed focused concepts such as reviewing the life cycle of water dependent animals and building

habitats in our local waterways. Teachers were provided with guides to help support students' learning while exploring the grounds. This resource provided them with a map of our creeks and guided questions for students to make observations, connect concepts, and discuss watershed health.

Teachers were very satisfied with their field investigation experience and visit to Maymont. One teacher said the program was well developed and engaged her students. "Students participated in an engaging lesson which helped them understand the importance of keeping our wetlands clean."

The Maymont education team was grateful to work closely with School Division Curriculum Specialists to develop and schedule additional meaningful teacher professional development. These trainings focused on helping teachers develop field experiences in their own schoolyard and introduce available school equipment including field guides, nets, and water quality testing kits. Participating educators received all the lesson plans created for their schoolyard to conduct with their students. These plans were created with their MWEE supplies and standard classroom materials in mind so they can be easily replicated. In addition, each school will receive a set of enviroscares for classroom use in the future.



Teachers playing a runoff game with Maymont educators.