

2016 Activity Summary Report

Waukesha County Storm Water Education Program

As part of the agreements Waukesha County has with 26 participating communities, and as required in our storm water discharge permits from DNR, an annual report of storm water education activities is required. This report represents a summary of the activities Waukesha County has been involved with during 2016, sorted by the target audience.

Target Audience: Contractors, Developers, Consultants and Municipal officials

- Held annual storm water workshop in April, focused on storm water regulations, planning and BMP updates. Workshop was filled with 95 people and received very positive ratings in evaluations.
- Presented to 25 municipal planners on soils, groundwater and basement flooding information.

Target Audience: General Public

- Five groups in four different communities stenciled storm drains with “dump no waste” message.
- Produced and released 4 different news articles or ads on various topics such as rain gardens, rain barrels, lawn care and water conservation.
- Distributed over 100,000 newsletters with recycling and storm water information
- Presented hands-on programs on storm water runoff and pollution prevention actions to 660 county residents at 20 different events/locations.
- Toured the display boards to 25 different community events/locations with an estimated audience of over 17,500 people. The display covers basic storm drain and runoff information as well as specific information on rain gardens, rain barrels, shoreland restoration, pet waste, car washing, fertilizer, chemical use and more.
- Gave 8 presentations on rain gardens and rain barrels to 113 people.
- Sold 28 rain barrels in promotional 1 day sale.
- Sold and distributed 3800 rain garden plants to 17 people through the Graham Martin Foundation grant program.
- Provided equipment and maintained 28 stream monitoring sites throughout the county. Of these, 26 sites were monitored at level 1 and 7 sites were monitored at level 2. Eight new volunteers were trained this year at level 1. Three sites received state funding for phosphorus sampling.
- Taught 3 yard care/composting classes to 116 people.
- Sold 33 compost bins through special sales.
- Composted over 4036 tons of community yard waste at the Waukesha County Yard Waste Composting site in the Town of Genesee.
- Collected over 238,400 pounds of household and agricultural hazardous waste from 4 permanent county collection points and several seasonal sites with a total of over 5200 participants.
- Taught 4 Green Cleaning classes to 60 people.

Teachers and Students

- Trained 22 local teachers through a bus tour of local sites. Sites included the Payne and Dolan gravel pit, a county boat launch for an aquatic invasive species discussion, Retzer Nature Center for a soils lesson, 3 Brothers Farm and Cozy Nook Farm.
- Trained 5 teachers/naturalists in Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), a hands-on supplement of water related educational activities.
- Presented at 37 schools to over 2700 students information on runoff pollution and how to prevent it.
- Provided field experience in water testing for 7 schools and over 600 students.
- Funded two water projects through the Green Schools program. Through this program, the county offers technical and financial assistance in recycling, waste reduction, water conservation and water pollution control activities. Projects included rain garden plants for the Pewaukee Schools and Silver Lake Elementary.