



The Environmental Educator

Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use

Waukesha County Teacher E-News

January 2017



Retzer Nature Center Homestead

Greetings!

During 2016, we almost doubled our program numbers, hosted our 2nd successful Land Conservation Teacher Tour, planned & designed a new interactive recycling & water exhibit space at Retzer Nature Center (due to be completed in summer 2017) and started an Environmental Education Partnership with the Waukesha School District & Carroll University. 2017 looks to be an exciting year! We invite you to be part of it!

Regards,
The Parks & Land Use Education Team

News

Miss the old Recycling Facility in Waukesha? We have Good News!

A capital project is underway to remodel existing Retzer Nature Center space, incorporating exhibits for recycling and resource conservation programs. Exhibit features will include an interactive Materials Recycling Facility, an Eco-home, stormwater run-off "dos and don'ts" activities, a word board for literacy theme connections, iPad games and more.

The Retzer remodeling project is scheduled to be completed in summer of 2017 with program bookings starting in fall. Retzer will remain open for current programming and events during the project.

What Recycling Programs are currently available?

- Age-appropriate classroom presentations for grades K-12
- School Recycling Assemblies
- Recycling Facility Tours for grade 5 & up in City of Milwaukee
- Classroom Papermaking
- School & Classroom Composting & Vermi (worm) Programs

Our programs are free to Waukesha County public and private schools. Call 262-896-8300 for details, or e-mail recycling@waukeshacounty.gov



Program Updates

2017 PROGRAM BOOKINGS

Our comprehensive school guide lists field trips, school assemblies, in-school & professional development opportunities available through Waukesha County staff educators. Options include recycling, water, environmental health, nature, & planetarium programs.

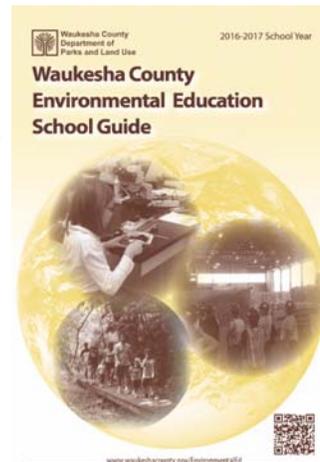
Many programs can be held at school and some programs are **free!**

Our school guide is available in hard-copy or online [here](#).

Our next guide will be available in late spring.

Contact our Land Conservation office and ask for a recycling, water or environmental health program.
Call: **262-896-8300**.

For Retzer Nature Center or Planetarium programs, call: **262-470-6680**.



**Plan Now for a
School Rain Garden!**



If your school is part of the Waukesha County Green Schools Assistance Program, native rain garden plants can be provided at no cost! Installing a rain garden is a great community service learning project that serves as functional storm water treatment. They look great and work hard for the environment—a win, win! Rain gardens can also be used for the water focus of the Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin program. You can also book programs related to water and soil conservation. Programs are available on:

- Rain gardens
- Polluted urban runoff
- Water quality sampling
- Age-appropriate soils activities

Call Jayne Jenks, Conservation Specialist, at 262-896-8305 for more information on installing a rain garden or booking water & soil programs.

Whoo's There? All about Owls: *Featured Program at Retzer Nature Center*

Decipher these feathered flyers from head to toe as we uncover their amazing **adaptations, unique behaviors & habitats**. A visit from our teaching birds & hands-on objects will assist in this exploration of our feathered friends. Extend your experience by **dissecting an owl pellet**. Call 262-470-6680 for details.



Professional Development

SAVE THE DATE!

**3rd Annual Waukesha County Land Conservation
Teacher Tour
Wednesday, July 19 9-3:00**



Our tours are designed to raise awareness of local resources related to curriculum, raise awareness of county programs & educational opportunities for staff & students, and assist teachers in the county who educate students on our core conservation subjects.

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!