



Teachers & Students Reflections

- ◆ “The kids enjoy the fact that by being part of the stewardship program, they will be doing something that will make Belle Isle more enjoyable for not only themselves, but for others too.” - DPS Teacher
- ◆ “Some students have never been this close to nature and they really enjoy it!” -DPS Teacher
- ◆ “Workshops are very well done— informative and my time is well spent!” -DPS Teacher
- ◆ “It’s not just about making a path... it’s about making a difference” -DPS Student
- ◆ “My favorite part of the forest were the chip-munks. It was my first time seeing one!” - DPS Student



Program Sponsors

- ◆ Michigan Technological University
- ◆ Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education

Funders

- ◆ USDA Forest Service (2011-2014)
- ◆ Michigan Space Grant Consortium (2010)

Partners

- ◆ Belle Isle Nature Zoo (Mike Reed)
- ◆ Detroit Public Schools (Alycia Meriweather)
- ◆ Hawk Woods Nature Center (Mike Mansour)
- ◆ Michigan Forest Foundation (Bill Botti)
- ◆ Michigan Project Learning Tree (Ada Takacs)



For More Information

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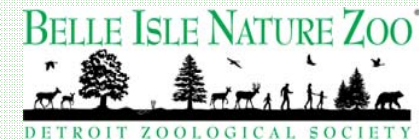
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Urban Forest Stewardship Program in Detroit Schools 2011-2014

<http://www.maeoe.com>

http://www.sfi.mtu.edu/Urban_teachers/



Program Objectives

1. Provide urban teachers with the training and resources to integrate forestry into their curriculum
2. Provide opportunities for urban middle & high school students to participate in hands-on forest stewardship projects.
3. Enhance the ecological health and accessibility of the urban forests on Belle Isle to youth and the community.



Program Activities

- ◆ Students participate in at least 3 class field trips per school on Belle Isle.
- ◆ Each school participates in a Stewardship Project on Belle Isle .
- ◆ Each teacher team plans & creates a schoolyard natural area using native trees, shrubs and flowers so students can learn about native Michigan plants at their school without taking a field trip.
- ◆ Teachers & students participate in community work days on Belle Isle.
- ◆ Each school participates in one Community Open House event on Belle Isle to showcase their work to parents and school administrators.
- ◆ Teachers develop new lessons, write a reflection paper, and complete a program evaluation.



Teacher Professional Development

- ◆ Introduction to the Forest
- ◆ Creating Schoolyard Natural Areas
- ◆ Caring for our Urban Forests
- ◆ 5-Day Summer Forestry Institute on Belle Isle

How Many Have Participated?

- ◆ **56 Middle & High School teachers**
- ◆ **26 schools**
- ◆ **1380 Detroit students in Grades 5-12**

Participating Schools

2013-2014 Schools

Bates Academy
Ralph J. Bunch Prep
Ronald Brown Academy
Clark Preparatory Academy
Communication & Media HS

Emerson Elem/Middle
Fisher Magnet Upper Academy
Ludington Magnet Middle School
Mackenzie Elem/Middle

2011-2012 Schools

- ◆ Clippert K-8 Academy
- ◆ Dickenson West Elementary
- ◆ Durfee K-8 Academy
- ◆ Osborn-Evergreen Academy
- ◆ Pershing High School
- ◆ Priest Elementary
- ◆ Ronald Brown Academy

2012-2013 Schools

- ◆ Ben Carson High School
- ◆ Cass Tech High School
- ◆ Chandler Park HS
- ◆ Detroit Collegiate Prep
- ◆ Edsel Ford High School
- ◆ Hutchison @ Howe
- ◆ Lincoln-King Academy
- ◆ Martin Luther King HS
- ◆ Ronald Brown Academy

Stewardship Projects

Shoreline Restoration & Beach Monitoring

Students are planting shrubs, removing litter, testing water, and completing a beach health assessment. Their data is entered into an Adopt-a-Beach™ online database used to educate the public, and shared with local authorities to improve local beaches.



Invasive Plant & Woody Shrub Removal

Students are removing several invasive woody shrub species and garlic mustard in order to restore and protect the hardwood habitat on Belle Isle.



Creation of an Interpretive Trail

Students are transforming an abandoned road in the Belle Isle woodland into an interpretive trail accessible from the Belle Isle Nature Zoo.

