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 chipmunks. 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)

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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.

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.