

2016 Appleton Summer Camp:

A Renew Our Waters flyer was provided for all campers each week.

Week 1: Pondering Stormwater—the campers learned about stormwater runoff and went on a hike to the stormwater pond in the park. They picked up garbage along the way. Afterwards, the campers got to see what they learned by demonstrating the Enviroscape model. Lastly, they took the watershed pledge—promising to help keep pollutants out of our stormwater runoff.



Week 2: It's for the Birds—The campers learned about different habitats that birds live in, discussed different bird beaks and bird feet, and discovered the different parts of a feather while looking at a real Turkey Vulture feather. We discussed the importance of having clean water in the habitats that birds depend on. Then the campers hiked around the park searching for birds using binoculars. They had a checklist of six bird species to spot. Afterwards, the campers worked hard creating stained glass birds.

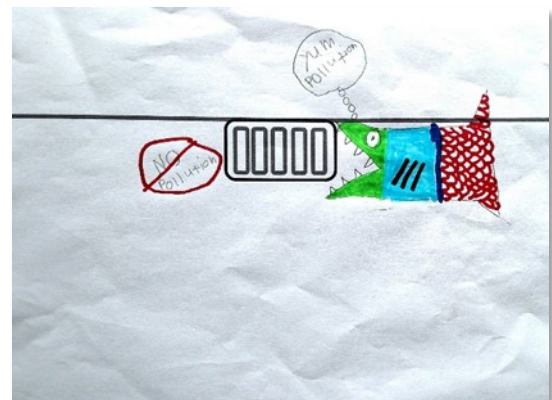
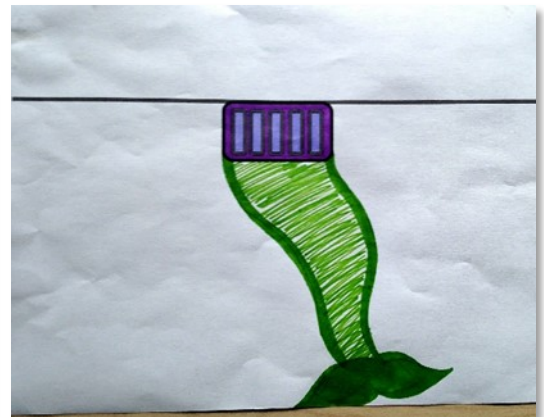
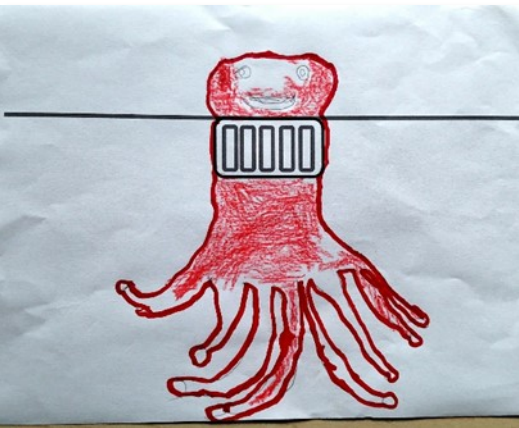


Week 3: Wetland Wonders—this week was cancelled due to low enrollment

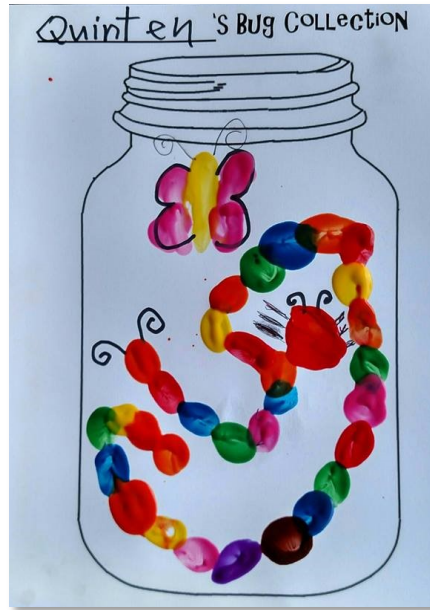
Week 4: Prairie Pastimes—The campers learned about prairies. We discussed the types of plants found in prairies, how animals use the habitat to hide from predators, and talked about loss of prairie habitats in Wisconsin. We also looked at pictures that compared the root structures of native plants to that of grass found in our lawns and talked about how roots help prevent erosion. Next, the campers went on a scavenger hunt in the prairie area of the park, and then played prairie dog tag in the grassy area.



Week 5: Runoff Races—The campers discussed different types of pollution that enters our waterways through our storm drains using the wheel of pollution. Next, the campers played runoff races which demonstrated that slowing water down prevents some pollution from making its way into our local waterways. Afterwards, the campers designed fun storm drain stencils that would educate the public on how storm drains lead to our local waterways



Week: 6 What's Bugging You?—The campers discussed the characteristics of insects vs. other bugs like spiders, centipedes, and snails. Next, we hiked through the wetland area searching for bugs and discussed how certain insects are indicators of a healthy water ecosystem. Afterwards, the campers created their own bug collection jars. Check out a few of their completed projects below.



Week: 7 Aliens Live Among Us—The campers learned about invasive species and their effects on different ecosystems. They got an up-close look at several invasive species specimens. We then walked to the wetland area and showcased three invasive plant species, Phragmites, Hybridized Cattail, and Queen Ann's Lace. Afterwards, the campers made their own Quagga & Zebra Mussel specimen jars



Week 8: Dreams of Streams

For our last day of teaching summer camp, we went on an adventure to a stream, did a scavenger hunt, used view scopes to see things underwater, and followed that with several rounds of stream bingo. We also talked about the difference between the stormwater stream and the more natural stream with a meander and native plants.

