



# Conservation Education Programs

The Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District offers a wide variety of environmental education programs at no cost to any school, club, or organization in Geauga County. For Pre-K through High School, these programs can be tailored to meet any specific grade, topic, or class size. An asterisk (\*) denotes programs adaptable for very young children. For more information or to schedule a program, please contact Gail Prunty at 440.834.1122 or [gprunty@geauga.oh.gov](mailto:gprunty@geauga.oh.gov).

Our programs are:

- Approximately one hour in length, however can be modified.
- Designed to reinforce Ohio's Learning Standards

## Soil Sleuths

More than just dirt, soil is a vital resource that sustains life! In this enlightening program students will investigate soil, its properties, and functions. Through activities and demonstrations we will discover how soil is formed, what lives in it, and ways we can protect it.

## Trees are TREEmendous\*

There are so many amazing things that trees provide, but often overlooked are their contributions to clean water and healthy soil! Let's take a closer look at these planet "superheroes" and learn to identify some of Ohio's common tree species.

## Soil to Spoon\*

Discover Geauga County and its rich agricultural history. Find out how far your food traveled and why local IS better. Students will unearth the importance of healthy soil equaling healthy food. A special visit with a local Geauga County farmer will help students understand an average day on a farm and the importance of supporting and buying local.

## Planting the Seed to Read\*

*Kindergarten only*

Discover the importance of soil health, the role of pollinators, and the seasonal rhythms of farming. Children become food source detectives, discovering where their food comes from by identifying examples of a food and its source. Each child will receive their own copy of the book "Right This Very Minute" by Lisl H. Detlefsen ."

## Bats Incredible\*

What can eat countless insects, plant trees, disperse seeds, and pollinate plants? BATS! Every night these fascinating flyers act as unseen gardeners doing jobs that are vital to healthy ecosystems and economies. Learn about bat behaviors and adaptations as well as what threatens their survival. Through games and activities, we will dispel myths while gaining a better understanding of these magnificent nocturnal mammals.

## Wildlife Detectives\*

Ohio is home to many fascinating creatures! By investigating fur, skulls, tracks, and clues, students will use their detective skills to identify and classify some of Ohio's wildlife. We will explore the unique adaptations that our native animals use to thrive and survive.

## Buggin' Out\*

In this interactive program, we will look closely at the amazing world of insects from their life cycles to their role in the food web. Students will learn some "bug basics" including their characteristics and incredible adaptations which enable them to live everywhere on earth! If time allows, we will go on a search for these critical critters!

## Web of Life

Discover the interdependency of plants, animals and humans through this hands-on program. Explore food chains, food web, ecosystems and the energy cycle!

## There's No Place Like Home!

Forests, prairies, wetlands and caves are just some of the special places that Ohio's wildlife calls home. Through games and activities, we will delve into different types of animal dwellings, identify the essential components that all living things needs, and maybe even go on a habitat hike!

## Pollinators

Bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, beetles, and bats are just a few of our hardworking pollinators! This program takes a closer look at our valuable pollinators, their relationship with native plants, and the critical role they play in plant reproduction and food security. Grab your nets... the pollinator hunt is guaranteed to "bee" a good time!

## Wildlife in Winter\*

Let it snow, let it snow, but where did all the animals go?! We will become wildlife detectives and find out how our native Ohio critters survive when Old Man winter arrives!

## Incredible Journey\*

Come along on a water cycle adventure! Students will become water molecules that embark on an incredible journey. Through fun activities, we will explore the complexity and importance of the water cycle and identify ways to conserve and protect the freshwater resources on which we depend.

## Stream Quality Monitoring

Learn about stream ecology while analyzing the health of Geauga County's streams and rivers. By using kick seines and equipment, macroinvertebrates are collected and identified to determine water quality. Chemical tests are also performed for pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity.

## Where Does Your Watershed?

Gain an understanding of watersheds and how humans impact water quality through an Enviroscope adventure! This interactive landscape model demonstrates point and nonpoint source pollutants and their impact to our streams and lakes. Students see firsthand the sources of water pollution within a community, then identify practices that protect and preserve our clean water resources.

## Freddie The Fish\*

Let Freddie the Fish give your students a fisheye view of how our actions on land affects the quality of our water. Participants will follow Freddie downstream to gain an understanding of the importance of clean water, the impacts pollution has on aquatic life, and how we can protect our water quality.

## Pond Exploration

Do you have a pond near your school? Let us "jump in" and take a closer look at ponds as important ecosystems. We will explore some of the fascinating organisms and aquatic plants within a pond community.

## What's Under Your Feet? Groundwater!

Gain a "deeper" understanding of groundwater and its importance. Through activities and demonstrations with a groundwater model, students explore the movement of water as it travels through layers below the land's surface, along with strategies to protect our underground water reserves.

## Anchor it with Roots before it Pollutes!

Did you know that sediment is Ohio's biggest water pollutant? Using a rainfall/soil erosion simulator, students will predict, measure, and compare how rain infiltrates and runs off different land surfaces. We will see firsthand how erosion impacts water quality, how development increases stormwater runoff, and ways we can protect our water and improve soil health.

## The Loan Zone

Geauga SWCD has a variety of resources available to teachers and educators to help supplement your curriculum. Items may be borrowed for up to two weeks.

### Available resources include:

- Envirothon Resource Bin
- Enviroscope Model
- Streamulator
- Ohio Wildlife Trunk (provided by ODNR Division of Wildlife)
- Beneficial Bats Trunk (provided by ODNR Division of Wildlife)

### Additional Conservation Opportunities

- Envirothon Competitions
- Teacher Workshops for Graduate Credit
- Annual Conservation Poster Contest
- Camp Canopy Scholarships