DISTANCE LEARNING LANDSCAPE

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, all seven school districts in Washington County closed school buildings in mid-March and moved to distance learning options for all students. This change greatly impacted the number of students we connected with and how we reached them. Field programs and facility tours saw the greatest change as most outings occur in spring. Read on to learn about how we adapted programs to engage students and support teachers.

SNAPSHOT

More than 6,500 students participated in at least one presentation, lab or field experience delivered or funded by Clean Water Services.

OUR TEAM

The Education Program team takes the lead on developing, coordinating and delivering classroom and field programming with support from every CWS department.

Staff led tours, gave presentations, provided expertise and funded partner programs.
PLACE-BASED EDUCATION

**FERNHILL**

300 students in Forest Grove and Hillsboro schools and from local colleges and universities studied water quality, native plants, wildlife and natural treatment systems.

**FACILITY TOURS**

1,290 students from 24 schools or community groups visited one of our water resource recovery facilities.

Nearly 80% of those students participated in classroom or field programs related to water resources prior to their tour, taking content from conceptual to real world.

**IN THE CLASSROOM**

**RIVER RANGERS**

1,631 3rd - 5th grade students in 22 schools participated in our cornerstone education program in person.

2,300 additional viewers tuned in after we pivoted to live streaming presentations in April and May.

**SEWER SCIENCE**

For the sixth year in a row, Tualatin High School biology students participated in our multiday lab where they create, test and treat synthetic wastewater before touring one of our water resource recovery facilities.

14 out of 20 classes completed the unit and tour before schools closed in March.
high school science students participated in the Student Watershed Research Project (SWRP) to monitor local stream conditions. 50 students from Sunset High School studied Gales Creek and 15 students at St. Mary’s Home for Boys monitored Beaverton Creek. Due to school closures, SWRP staff developed online content and virtual experiments that can be used in the future.

Forest Grove Community Alternative Learning Center (CALC) students visited Fernhill twice this school year. Once to tour the treatment facility and again to plant native species (including camas and willow) to enhance the site. Fernhill is within walking distance from campus.

In collaboration with the Portland Metro STEM Partnership, we hosted our first teacher externship in August. 20 high school teachers toured our facilities and met with staff to learn about natural resource careers.

100 college students from Portland Community College, Pacific University and Portland State University toured our treatment facilities and got specialized presentations from CWS staff about nutrient recovery, engineering and ecology.

CWS offers nearly 20 internship positions each year for current college students or recent graduates in Resource Recovery, Engineering, Regulatory Affairs, Natural Systems and Public Affairs.
PARTNERSHIPS, FUNDING & SPONSORSHIPS

CWS funded $85,500 worth of programs, presentations, competitions and camps through nonprofit and partner organizations that reached more than 7,000 Tualatin Basin students.

$28,660 for watershed health programming, delivered virtually this year, to 7th and 8th grade students at South Meadows Middle School by Friends of Trees and Jamie Stamberger.

$16,395 for Student Watershed Research Project.

$12,717 to support 31 days of Cascade Education Corps’ service learning through restoration.

$3,363 for bus transportation to tours, planting events and festivals for 1,614 students.

$10,000 to fund Bienestar Explorador summer camp activities and field experiences for more than 80 elementary students.

$8,600 to support Jackson Bottom Wetlands’ traveling education programs that reached nearly 300 students in Hillsboro Title 1 Schools.

$5,500 to support planting activities for Fowler Middle School students with Friends of Trees.

$3,640 for 60 4th and 5th graders to participate in beaver-centered programming exploring habitat, ecosystems and water quality with The Wetlands Conservancy.

For more information, contact Ely O’Connor at OConnorE@CleanWaterServices.org or 503.681.4463