

Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape SUCCESS STORY

By: Penn State Extension
Northampton County 4-H
extension.psu.edu/4h

Easton Youth Nature Workshops (Awarded 2016)

SUMMARY

The Northampton County 4-H Program is working to expand youth outreach to Northampton County's Urban Centers using environmental science curriculum. Throughout 2016 and 2017, the program collaborated with the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley (CACLV) to bring 4-H Environmental Science projects to the youth located in the West Ward of Easton.

With support from Lehigh Valley Greenways, two introductory programs were offered to area youth: 4-H Sportfishing and Adopt-a-Tree projects. Through both programs, youth learned basic skills and applied them to real world situations through culminating field trips at the end of each session.



CHALLENGE

The Lehigh Valley is home to many green spaces which provide unlimited opportunities for youth to learn an appreciation for the outdoors. Unfortunately, many youth in urban settings do not have the opportunity to explore those spaces or take the time to understand the roles they play in impacting their environment. Youth often overlook what is right in their own "backyard".

Our programming goal was to teach youth about the environment through concepts that were already familiar and connect them to our 4-H projects focused on sportfishing and tree identification. The projects convey many of the hard skills necessary for fishing and tree identification but also promote outdoor recreation through green spaces.

By offering these programs to West Ward youth, we were able to get them exploring environmental science concepts, increased their awareness of outdoor recreation opportunities, and worked toward increasing their science interests and abilities!

FUNDING

Grant Amount:
\$1,350.80

Match:
\$1,350.80

Total Project Cost:
\$2,701.60

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

Penn State Extension and Northampton County 4-H worked with CAC-LV West Ward in Easton to identify a program site for delivery and maximum youth reach.

The program was partnered with Easton Area Community Center as their site is a trusted resource in the West Ward and there is a large youth audience in attendance.



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SOLUTION

Youth participated in two week long workshops:

2016: Youth participated in the 4-H Sportfishing project which focused on tying knots, how to cast at targets, rig various lines, select tackle, identify where fish are, how to use different baits & lures, identify fish, and went on a field trip to catch and release fish.

2017: Youth participated in the Adopt-a-Tree project, youth choose a tree to adopt and journal -- they learned about the roles trees play in our environment, basic forestry concepts, and tree vocabulary. With a self-guide extension, youth can continue to journal their trees throughout the seasons.

RESULTS

Over 140 youth actively participated in the West Ward 4-H programs. Field trips were attended by participants to get a hands-on experience either fishing and/or journaling their trees. Many youth fished for the first time. "I caught one, I caught one!" a girl yelled out in joy, later explaining how it was the first fish she ever angled. While tree journaling one young boy explained how he really enjoyed learning about and connecting with the tree he identified.

Participation in these workshops have encouraged a positive shift for West Ward youth to strongly agree with the following statements regarding science activities:

- I Like Science- Pre: 29% to Post: 50%
- I'm good at Science- Pre: 37.5% to Post: 46%
- I want to learn more about Science- Pre: 33% to Post: 46%
- I do science activities that are not for school- Pre: 17% to Post: 29%

Contact



www.LVgreenways.org

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