Waquoit Bay Research Reserve Education is Change on the Ground

2017

Connect
3,000 acres of land and water
4,560 people participated in programs
Visitor Center exhibits

Prepare
62 teachers trained
2,862 K-12 students engaged
69 college students engaged

Improve
42 education volunteers
Over 1,000 education volunteer hours

Partnerships Link Tribe, Reserve and Community

Reserve staff joined members of the Wampanoag tribe to offer programs that connect Wampanoag culture and history with estuary science. Grade three-five STREAMSS (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, Math, Social Studies) teachers explored the bay and Wampanoag traditions through the Teachers on the Estuary and the Wampanoag Circle of Life workshop. The Preserving Our Heritage summer program allowed Wampanoag middle school students to soak up traditional and scientific knowledge from tribal elders and reserve scientists and educators. During the school year, Reserve educators worked with the tribe’s Indian Education Coordinator to engage primary students in the afterschool program to build their science literacy.

Students Study Shoreline

Reserve staff conducts lessons for twelve eighth grade classes at a public STEM Academy that reflects the Reserve’s work and incorporates the topics of ocean currents, weather and climate change. NOAA’s Digital Coast and a local on-line mapping tool help students investigate potential impacts and consider the vulnerability of critical structures and their own neighborhoods. During field studies, students measure the beach and estimate future tide levels based on climate change predictions for our area. Student understanding of these concepts is critical in this community where severe coastal erosion, exacerbated by the redirection of sediment from the 100 year old Cape Cod Canal is an on-going and contentious issue.

Are You Ready for the Next Big Storm?

The Reserve teamed with local organizations to offer the workshop “Are You Ready for the Next Big Storm? A Workshop for Hardy Cape Codders”. Local experts raised awareness about coastal impacts in the face of sea level rise, how to make your home more resilient during power outages, food security, and local municipal actions.
National Estuarine Research Reserve Education

Change on the Ground in 2017

**Connects**

People to Estuaries

- 1 million+ ACRES of natural classrooms & living laboratories with 28 INTERPRETIVE CENTERS

**Prepares**

the Next Generation

- 3,079 TEACHERS are trained in the estuary & supported in the classroom
- 87,899 STUDENTS take learning out of the abstract & into the outdoors

**Improves**

the Environment

- 12,849 CITIZENS are trained & inspired to protect their coasts & estuaries

28 RESEARCH RESERVE EDUCATORS lead programs that foster coastal stewardship in communities in 23 states

cost.noaa.gov/estuaries

**SKILLS BUILT**

- Observation
- Asking research questions
- Problem solving
- Data driven decision making

**VOLUNTEER ACTIONS**

- Protect wildlife
- Monitor water quality
- Plant native species
- Clean up the coasts

Creating value through education 39,035 volunteer hours = $942,305*

*Value of a volunteer hour is calculated at $24.14 based on data from the Independent Sector.