

Lake Superior Reserve Education is Change on the Ground



2017

Connect

1,500 visitors to the new Lake Superior Estuarium

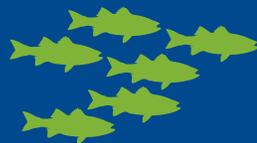


Prepare

50 teachers trained in 2017
851 students engaged
2,832 student contact hours

Improve

451 citizens engaged in preventing plastic pollution in Lake Superior in 2017



"(It's) hard to believe I've lived in the Superior area most of my 57 years not having known about the ecological importance of the confluence of St. Louis River waters".

Pat B.
Review of the Lake Superior Estuarium on *TripAdvisor*

"It has been such a pleasure being a part of the Rivers2Lake program. My teaching will never be the same."

Stacy Burfield
Northern Lights Elementary, Superior

A New Superior Destination

Financial support from NOAA and the University of Wisconsin-Extension enabled the Reserve to open the Lake Superior Estuarium in September 2017. This new public space invites visitors to experience how ecology and culture coexist and thrive in the Lake Superior watershed. Over 1500 people visited the space since its opening.

The Reserve commissioned a National Geographic photographer and local muralist, diverse partners and regional scientific research to add beauty and relevance to the 1700 square foot space. Exhibit topics range from industrial history to threatened species to legacy pollution and include a giant map of the St. Louis River Estuary built into the floor. Half of the building was designed as a community meeting space, classroom and offices. Over a dozen community organizations have made use of the space, dubbed the Confluence Room, in its first few months. Already, the Estuarium has earned 5-star reviews on Trip Advisor and welcomed students from twelve area schools, including three colleges.

Rivers2Lake: real world learning and teacher support

The signature Rivers2Lake Education Program is the Teachers on the Estuary (TOTE) professional development opportunity at the Lake Superior Reserve. In 2016, the program partnered with the non-profit Superior Rivers Watershed Association to reach new school districts along Wisconsin's Superior coast. Two new 2017 grants from the NOAA Great Lakes B-WET program and Wisconsin Sea Grant increased funding for staff and interns in the program, greatly expanding capacity.

Rivers2Lake provides teachers with an immersive summer field experience along the St. Louis River. Staff then offer year-round mentoring, helping to incorporate Lake Superior across subjects. Rivers2Lake provides multiple field experiences for classrooms and connects teachers and students to real research in the Lake Superior watershed. Evaluation results show that students participating in Rivers2Lake have greater academic engagement than their peers. Sixty-eight teachers have participated in the program since its inception in 2012.

The Lake Superior Reserve is one of 29 sites in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. Each site is a state federal partnership that combines research, monitoring, and education to advance the understanding and management of estuarine environments.



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**



**650,340
VISITORS**

learn about estuaries through Research Reserve outreach & education



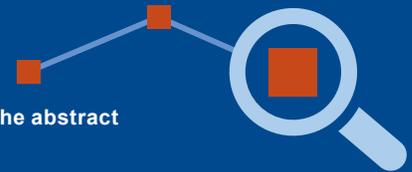
Aloha to our Hawai'i Reserve, designated in 2017!

Prepares

the Next Generation

**87,899
STUDENTS**

take learning out of the abstract & into the outdoors



**3,079
TEACHERS**

are trained in the estuary & supported in the classroom



SKILLS BUILT

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

ESTUARY SCIENCE

LOCAL DATA

LAB WORK

FIELD INVESTIGATION

Improves

the Environment

**12,849
CITIZENS**

are trained & inspired to protect their coasts & estuaries



VOLUNTEER ACTIONS

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

**28 RESEARCH RESERVE
EDUCATORS**

lead programs that foster coastal stewardship in communities in 23 states



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