

# Wells Research Reserve Education is Change on the Ground



2017

## Prepare



2,003 K-12 student learners  
7,686 K-12 student contact hours



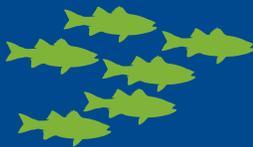
## Improve

2,994 adults in community programs  
170 community education programs

## Connect



38 educators trained  
702 training contact-hours



*“Everything at this facility has always been excellent since I first began attending some 16 years ago!”*

*“Wells Reserve puts on a highly engaging and experience-rich workshop. Definitely worth the trip to Maine.”*

## Preparing the Next Generation

The Wells Reserve’s school and camp programs provide outdoor opportunities for K-12 learners, who explore and discover forest, field, salt marsh, and beach habitats first-hand. Students analyze water samples from salt pools with specialized equipment. They observe plankton while engineering their own microscopic drifters. They investigate the effects of pollution on watersheds and think holistically about solutions they can implement. Walking along the trails, they are employing all their senses. They learn by doing and have fun!

## Improving Community Education

The Wells Reserve offers visitor programs during all seasons. Noontime and evening lectures inform and inspire people on topics such as climate change, current reserve research, and wildlife. Kayaking programs encourage visitors to discover the estuary while paddling through it. Walks in nature connect people to wildflowers, trees, birds, and insects. Visitors extend their learning by reading trailside interpretive signs and exploring interactive exhibits.

## Connecting Educators to Training

Throughout the year, Wells Reserve educators facilitate trainings that help teachers, docents, and interpreters to share their knowledge and passion with learners of all ages. Teachers on the Estuary workshops bring teachers from many states together to learn about estuaries, with a focus on environmental change. Docent trainings prepare local volunteers to lead trailside school programs and summer walks. Reserve educators certified by the National Association of Interpretation lead trainings for interpreters from across the country, enabling them to effectively facilitate meaningful visitor experiences.

Maine’s Wells 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.



**wellsreserve**  
at laudholm

Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

# 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



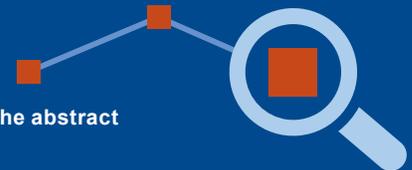
*Aloha to our Hawai'i Reserve, designated in 2017!*

## Prepares

the Next Generation

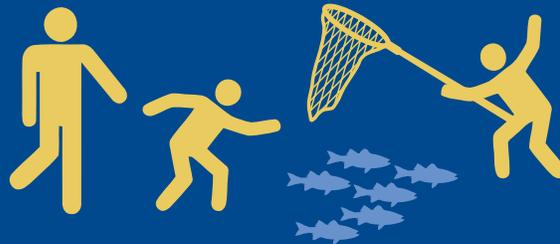
**87,899 STUDENTS**

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\*