

Padilla Bay Research Reserve Education is Change on the Ground

2017

Connect



9,000 acres of eelgrass habitat
15,000 visitors
Breazeale Interpretive Center



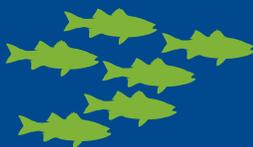
Prepare

55 teachers trained
8,400 students engaged
15,400 student contact hours

Improve



70 citizen scientists activated
1,174 volunteer hours



"The Stream Team provides us with an invaluable service. We deploy them to take samples from the Samish River when we can't, and we use their data to manage closures of oyster beds and clam flats."

Rick Haley
Skagit County
Public Works

"I felt really good about what we have done as a club. By sharing with other clubs, I realized how much we've accomplished. I also realized that we need to do more with saving energy, because that's something we haven't tackled yet."

Student,
Mount Vernon
High School



Students Say YES to Stewardship

Thinking of going solar and not sure where to start? Ask a high school student. Encouraged by the Padilla Bay Reserve's annual **Youth Earth Summit (YES)**, seniors from Anacortes High School worked with community members to install solar panels at their school—an effort that sparked solar projects at the local city hall and library.

Every year, YES inspires students, teachers, and volunteers from throughout Northwest Washington for a day of networking, learning, and inspiration. Since 2009, YES has inspired nearly **1,000 Washington students** to get involved with environmental stewardship projects including waste audits, water bottle filling stations, rain gardens, and habitat restoration.

Stream Team = Dream Team

From polluted runoff to closed shellfish beds, many of Washington's water quality problems are linked to how we live and work on the land. However, many residents do not understand their connection to water quality or what they can do to do protect it. Now they can do both as part of the Skagit Stream Team. Established by the Padilla Bay Reserve and partners in 2000, this program educates volunteers about non-point source pollution and engages them in collecting data to assess water quality. In 2016, **60 volunteers spent 1,174.5 hours** monitoring 46 sites around Padilla Bay and its tributaries.

Educators "Storm the Sound"

Each January, the Padilla Bay Reserve brings environmental educators together to "Storm the Sound." This annual conference engages approximately **150 teachers, students, faculty, agency and non-profit staff, and community volunteers** in a day of seminars and professional sharing. They leave with new tools and fresh ideas to catalyze public action to protect local environments.

Washington's Padilla Bay 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.



Padilla Bay
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



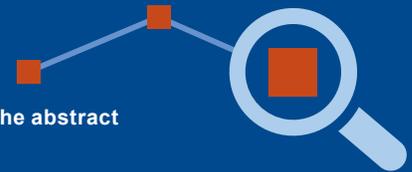
Aloha to our Hawai'i Reserve, designated in 2017!

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*