

For Immediate Release

April 6, 2009

For more information, contact Jennie Fyock, Information Specialist for Hillsdale Water Quality Project at jfyock@hwqp.org or 913-829-9414.

Hillsdale Water Quality Project Hosts Sixth Annual Hillsdale Watershed Festival

Around 136 Spring Hill Middle School eighth grade students learned about water quality and improving the environment during the Sixth Annual Hillsdale Watershed Festival April 3, 2009.

Hillsdale Water Quality Project, a non-profit organization working to improve and restore water quality in Hillsdale Lake, provided the hands-on educational experience for the youths to gain knowledge about water quality, watersheds and protecting water. The water festival included six different activities by county, city and community organizations.

Jennie Fyock, Hillsdale Water Quality Project (HWQP) information specialist said the students had fun while learning about natural resources.

"The youths ask questions and get involved with the activities," Fyock said. "It's rewarding to see the younger generation getting a head start on learning to improve and protect the environment and its natural resources."

There were a variety of presentations and hands-on activities based on water and natural resource topics. Those activities included: Groundwater in Action, Fred the Fish and Urban Stew, Wildlife Habitat, Humpty Dumpty, Aqua Animals, Nature Recycling, Macroinvertebrates, Incredible Journey, Water Flow, EnviroScape, Oil in the Lake, and the Storm Vacuum Truck. The groundwater activity focused on the impact that fertilizers, animal wastes and chemicals have on groundwater quality. Fred the Fish and Urban Stew follows a fish while it swims through a watershed and encounters the various stormwater pollutants. The Wildlife Habitat activity provides information to youths about the importance of keeping wild animals wild and how to protect their habitat.

Participating organizations and agencies included: Kansas Rural Water Association, Johnson County Stormwater Management Program, Wyandotte County Conservation District, Hillsdale Lake U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Miami County Conservation District, Benedictine College, Miami County Master Gardeners, City of Overland Park, Johnson County Conservation District, Ernie Miller Nature Center, and the Miami County Environmental Health Department.

The event is sponsored through a Johnson County Stormwater Management Advisory Council educational outreach grant program. T-shirt donation provided by O.K. Kids.

This festival is possible through a Johnson County Stormwater Management Advisory Council Education Outreach Grant administered by Johnson County Stormwater Management Program awarded to Hillsdale Water Quality Project.

For more information about Hillsdale Water Quality Project or volunteer opportunities, contact Jennie Fyock, Hillsdale Water Quality Project information specialist, at 913-829-9414 or jfyock@hwqp.org.

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