

## Hillsdale Water Quality Project

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*A Partnership For Water Quality*



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### Students Soak In Knowledge During Fifth Annual Shawnee Mission Park Water Festival

Summer day camp event provided wet and fun learning activities during the Fifth Annual Shawnee Mission Park Water Festival, held July 23. About 110 Ernie Miller Nature Center and Outdoor Discovery Camp youths, ages six to 12, participated in the educational event aimed on improving water quality and protecting natural resources.

Jennie Fyock, HWQP information specialist, said the festival offers wonderful hands-on environmental activities.

“Hands-on activities are an important part of learning,” Fyock said. “The activities keep the students active and peak their interest in their local surrounding and the natural world.”

Cheri Miller, Wyandotte County Conservation District’s District Manager agrees.

“Kids are able see the direct impact of the information from sessions by looking at the ecosystem around the lake.”, Miller said. “A great example is viewing a Blue Heron diving to catch a fish, this act reinforces their experiences of how water quality is reflected in the wildlife we see at the lake.”

Six activity stations were provided by local organizations, including: Johnson County K-State Research and Extension, Johnson County Stormwater Management Program, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, City of Lenexa, Miami County Conservation District and Wyandotte County Conservation District. Topics included non-point source pollution, urban stormwater runoff, wetlands, composting, macroinvertebrates and native fish.

Fyock praised the partners on helping the festival serve as successful year after year.

“All the presenters do a wonderful job providing their expertise on the topics,” Fyock said.

The festival was sponsored through a Johnson County Stormwater Management Advisory Council educational outreach grant program.

Hillsdale Water Quality Project (HWQP), a non-profit organization working to improve water quality in Hillsdale Lake and the Marais des Cygnes Basin, partnered with the camps to provide this opportunity for youths to gain knowledge about water quality, watersheds and protecting water while having fun participating in the hands-on activities.

For more information about Hillsdale Water Quality Project or volunteer opportunities, contact Jennie Fyock at 913-829-9414 or [jfyock@hwqp.org](mailto:jfyock@hwqp.org).

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