

2025 DCR MWEE Grant – Amherst County Public Schools

Amherst County supported a Teacher Professional Development Day, field activities for students and a stewardship action project.

The teacher professional development day focused on an overview of the MWEE grant objectives, facilitating teacher input to inform in-class lessons and on-site field trip stations, a review of Biology SOL data from the spring of 2024 to identify key standards for reinforcement through lessons and activities, and initial planning for the stewardship action portion of the project, ensuring alignment with MWEE principles.

232 General Biology Students received instruction in class and 163 students attended a field trip to the James River Association's Upper James River Education Center where they learned about conservation principles and experienced hand-on learning as they paddled the river and participated in watershed lessons.

169 Advance Biology and Forestry class students received instruction and 121 of those students also participated in a trip to the James River Association's Upper James River Education Center to learn about conservation and river health.

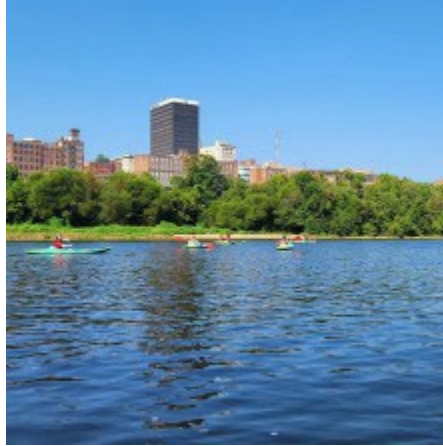
Following these experiences, students participated in stewardship action projects. These projects were led by the James River Association. Activities focused on student-driven conservation efforts, including direct engagements with the Amherst County Public Schools Day of Giving providing a meaningful community connection to their learning. In an effort to restore areas damaged by recent construction, students learned proper ways to plant vegetations, selected native species, and planted approximately 400 trees. They also constructed and installed four wooden benches with the support of Amherst County Public Schools' forestry classes.

The overall performance across MWEE-aligned standards reflects meaningful growth and indicates that integrating real-world environmental issues into instruction can deepen understanding and promote higher achievement. The continued use of MWEE provides a promising pathway for deepening conceptual understanding and strengthening environmental literacy in Biology classrooms.

Teacher Professional Development



Biology Students During Field Experiences (Fall)



Biology/Forestry Students During Field Experiences (Spring)



Stewardship Project (Spring)

