



Henrico County Public Schools

Overview

- Number of Students Impacted: 480 6th-grade students from Brookland Middle School, Fairfield Middle School, and Henrico Virtual Academy
- Number of Educators Impacted: 10 educators trained in MWEE and outdoor education

Summary

This project engaged 480 6th-grade students from Brookland Middle School, Fairfield Middle School, and Henrico Virtual Academy in a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE). Students participated in paddling excursions on the James River and explored the unique habitat of Great Shiplock Park. These experiences deepened their understanding of watersheds, ecosystems, and the interconnectedness of human and natural systems. Educators received training to incorporate MWEEs and outdoor learning into their classrooms, ensuring the program's long-term success.

Highlights and Feedback

A standout moment came when students, many paddling for the first time, expressed awe at seeing wildlife such as bald eagles and hearing about the history of the James River. Teachers shared that the hands-on nature of the activities made abstract concepts tangible for students, significantly enhancing engagement and understanding. One teacher noted, *"This was the first time many of my students truly connected science to the real world—they left inspired to protect their environment."*

Details of Activities and Outcomes

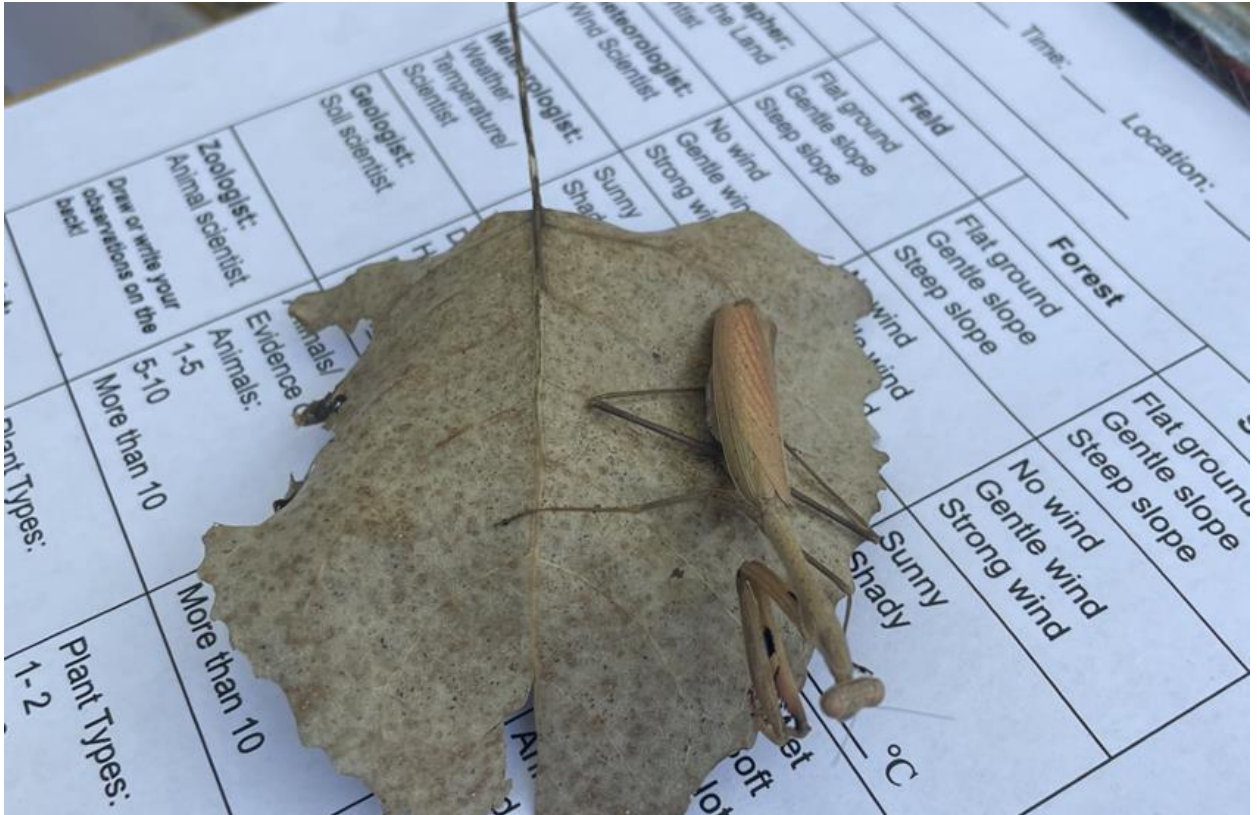
Summary of Activities

Students participated in immersive learning activities, including:

1. Canoe Paddle

- a. Students engaged with the river by working together to paddle canoes. Before paddling, they received a safety briefing, were fitted for appropriate-sized life jackets, and received basic paddle instruction. Once loaded onto the canoes, students practiced navigating on the water. Students spent time with an educator observing the James River. After discussing concepts like sediment pollution and

A photograph of a light-brown praying mantis resting on a large, dried, brown leaf. The leaf is placed over a white data collection sheet with a grid of fields for recording environmental and observational data. The mantis is positioned diagonally across the leaf, with its head pointing towards the top right. The data sheet includes fields for 'Time', 'Location', 'Field' (with sub-fields for ground type, slope, and wind), 'Forest' (with similar sub-fields), 'Weather' (Temperature, Wind, Humidity), 'Soil Scientist', 'Geologist', 'Zoologist', 'Plant Types', and 'Evidence'. The mantis's body is slender, with long, jointed legs and a raptorial front leg. Its head is elongated with large, prominent eyes. The dried leaf has a serrated edge and a prominent central vein. The background data sheet is partially obscured by the leaf and the mantis.



2. Nature Exploration Walk

- a. At this station, students joined a group and were assigned a scientific role to play in observing the different environments around the river. Student roles included meteorologist, zoologist, botanist, geologist, and cartographer. Outside, the group visited 2-3 locations around the River Center and the James. The students were given time to record observations on a worksheet at each location. At the end of the hike, students shared their observations and compared each location.

Educator Training

Ten educators participated in MWEE-focused professional development, gaining skills to create interdisciplinary, outdoor-based learning opportunities.

Impact and Feedback

This MWEE gave students a memorable, hands-on experience that connected them to their local watershed. Students learned about ecosystem health and watershed dynamics while building a sense of stewardship for the James River and the Chesapeake Bay. The program also empowered teachers to sustain outdoor and environmental education in their classrooms, expanding its long-term impact.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Department of Conservation and Recreation

Attachment B

Project Financial Report Form
FY25 Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences
DCR Grant Agreement: 50301-2025-MWEE-06

DUNS #	088121421	Cardinal ID:
Federal ID #	54-6001344	
Grantee:		Phone #: 804-652-3370
Contact Person:	Cheryl Gray Ball Eric Byers	Email: cgrayball@henrico.k12.va.us
Mailing Address	3820 Nine Mile Road Richmond, VA 23223	
Project Title:	<u>MWEE Experience for 6th Grade Science Students with James River Association</u>	
Reporting Period:	July 1, 2024 - May 31, 2025	
	(beginning date)	(end date)

Department Funds

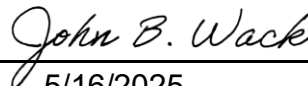
	Project Budget	Current Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	*Unexpended Project Balance
Personnel	\$ 4,390.00	\$ 4,390.00	\$ 4,390.00	\$ -
Fringe	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Travel	\$ 1,654.00	\$ 1,560.29	\$ 1,560.29	\$ 93.71
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contractual	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ -
Construction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Direct	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
*TOTAL	\$ 27,044.00	\$ 26,950.29	\$ 26,950.29	\$ 93.71

Total Reimbursement Request: \$ 26,950.29

Match Funds (Federal and Local) - if applicable

	Project Match Budget	Current Match Expenditures	Cumulative Match Expenditures	*Unexpended Match Balance
Personnel	\$ 867.00	\$ 867.00	\$ 867.00	\$ -
Fringe	\$ 233.00	\$ 233.00	\$ 233.00	\$ -
Travel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contractual	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Direct	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Indirect	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
*TOTAL	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ -

Authorized Signature:



Date:

5/16/2025