

Old Woman Creek Research Reserve

Education is Change on the Ground



2022

Connect



6 mi. of land and water trails
530 kayakers and canoers
4,500 visitors



Prepare

335 hours of teacher training
1,000 students engaged
3,400 student contact hours

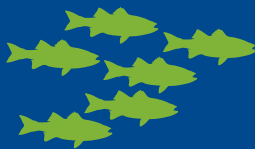
Improve



50 active volunteers
975 volunteer hours

"I like being in nature and being able to help. Old Woman Creek has a lot of trust in me as a volunteer, I'm shown a lot of respect. I have fun when I go there."

Tommy
Volunteer from
Erie County Board of
Developmental Disabilities



"The teacher workshop enhanced my love for science even more and gave me a fresh outlook that I can spread to my students with even more enthusiasm!"

High School Teacher
TOTE 2022

Girls in Science

Old Woman Creek staff hosted high school seniors in Advanced Placement Biology for an overnight wetland studies program at the reserve. During their stay, these young women had the opportunity to learn and practice fish survey techniques, add to the reserve's fish database, and use their fish observations to take part in discussions about the food chain in the estuary. Old Woman Creek's staff shared with them how the reserve monitors water quality and works to increase our understanding of nutrient movement through wetland ecosystems. Through the two days the students spent studying and experiencing the science conducted at Old Woman Creek Research Reserve, they gained knowledge and skills that will help them in their academic career and as future decision makers in the Great Lakes.



Partnering to Increase Access at the Reserve

For the past year, reserve staff have partnered with the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities by offering programming to help members of the Board to become more comfortable experiencing the outdoors. These experiences led to a greater understanding of hiking in different seasons, provided confidence for some to branch out to join public paddling trips, while others became stewardship volunteers to help with land management and invasive species removal. This partnership has been the impetus for a new public program called Tranquil Tuesdays that offers low impact and accessible experiences at the reserve like birding, meditation at the beach, and gentle impact hiking to anyone who wants to try it.

Ohio's Old Woman Creek is one of 30 sites in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. Each site is a state and federal partnership that combines research, monitoring, and education to advance the understanding and management of estuarine environments.



National Estuarine Research Reserve Education Change on the Ground in 2022

Connects

People to Estuaries

**1 million+
ACRES**

of natural classrooms & living laboratories with



**26 INTERPRETIVE
CENTERS**



Hello to the Connecticut Reserve, designated in 2022!



296,131 VISITORS

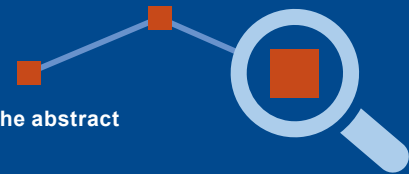
learn about estuaries through Research Reserve outreach & education

Prepares

the Next Generation

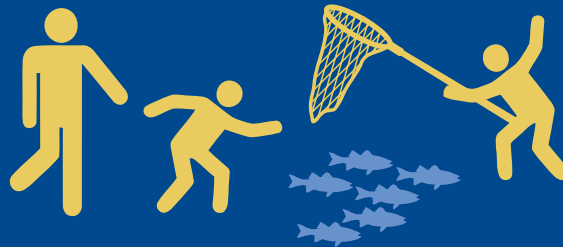
54,773 STUDENTS

take learning out of the abstract & into the outdoors



4,347 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

10,570 CITIZENS

are trained & inspired to protect their coasts & estuaries



VOLUNTEER ACTIONS

- ✓ Protect wildlife
- ✓ Monitor water quality
- ✓ Plant native species
- ✓ Clean up the coasts

30 RESEARCH RESERVE EDUCATORS

lead programs that foster coastal stewardship in communities in 25 states



Creating value through education
37,371 volunteer hours = \$1,119,261*