

Delaware Research Reserve

Education is Change on the Ground



2022

Connect



3,061 visitors, public program and outreach participants



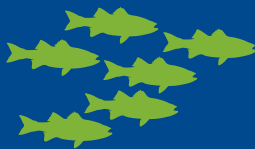
Prepare

1,323 students engaged
2,913 student contact hours

Improve



609 community scientists activated
1,682 volunteer hours



"I really enjoyed myself, and I know the kids had an amazing time. The bus ride back some of us had brief conversations about the stations!"

Make a Splash Teacher

"The festival was great! There were so many enthusiastic visitors to my table that I got to share my activity with hundreds of adults and children."

Blackbird Creek Fall Festival Educational Vendor

Bringing Water and History Education to 4th Grade Classes

With some help from the John Dickinson Plantation, National Parks Service, and numerous partners within the state of Delaware, The Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR) was able to return to a full day, in person Make a Splash Festival in 2022. The annual Make a Splash festival connects fourth grade classes with hands on science and Delaware history education. In 2021, while many schools were still under field trip restrictions, this educational opportunity was offered virtually with videos and worksheets provided by DNERR and their partners. In 2022, while still adhering to COVID-19 protocols, DNERR was able to host 374 students from five different schools at the St. Jones Reserve, making the return of the in person Make a Splash festival a success.

Blackbird Creek Fall Festival

The Blackbird Creek Fall Festival is hosted by DNERR annually on the third Saturday in October. The Blackbird Creek Fall Festival was originally hosted to build connections between the Reserve and the local community members after a popular, privately owned, campground was acquired into the Blackbird Creek component of the Reserve. Now, the Blackbird Creek Fall Festival acts a day of family fun complete with hay wagon rides, canoe trips, activities for kids, and local artisans, musicians, and food vendors. The connection to the local community has not been lost. The Festival provides opportunities for the community to interact with the Reserve and gain information from several educational vendors in attendance, including many from our state partner, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. After canceling the 2020 festival and having strict COVID-19 guidelines to follow in 2021, the Blackbird Creek Fall Festival was back and better than ever in 2022 with 1,400 participants in attendance.

The Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve is one of 30 sites in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. Each site is a state 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**

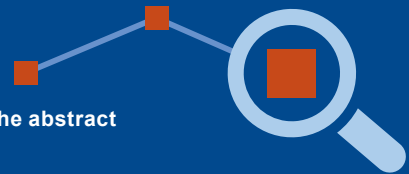
learn about estuaries through Research Reserve outreach & education

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*