

Wells Research Reserve Education is Change on the Ground



2022

Connect



54 docents and interpretive guides trained
1,483 training contact hours



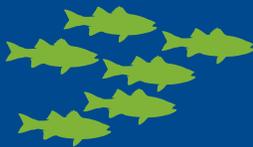
Prepare

10 Teachers on the Estuary workshop educators trained
160 Teachers on the Estuary hours
1,257 P-12 student learners
4,192 P-12 student contact hours

Improve



3,028 people in community programs
3,058 hours served by volunteers in education roles



"It will help us in our upcoming science classes and inspire some of us to be part of the many women in fields of science."

"I learned so much and also refreshed/dusted off knowledge from long ago. I will be a better interpreter because of this course."

Connecting Educators to Training

The Wells Reserve's two certified Interpretive Guide Trainers (National Association of Interpretation) facilitated two workshops in 2022. An in-person workshop drew participants from centers across New England, while a virtual workshop reached Maine State Park rangers from eighteen locations. Both workshops covered interpretive concepts and guided participants in fostering stronger and more heartfelt connections between their visitors and the natural and cultural resources of their sites.

Preparing the Next Generation

Twelve students from Portland High School, recent immigrants from Africa and Central America, spent four days at the Wells Reserve learning about endangered piping plovers on Laudholm Beach, observing an ornithologist measuring and banding birds, walking trails with a bird-language expert, kayaking on the salt marsh, and meeting "animal ambassador" owls up close. The female-identifying students experienced many "firsts" at the Wells Reserve.

Improving Community Education

Kayaking programs attracted 123 visitors in 2022. Each program featured a paddling lesson, a half mile trail walk, and more than two hours on calm tidal waters with a seasoned naturalist. Paddlers learned about the System-wide Monitoring Program, about invasive species, and about themselves while truly engaging with their surroundings.

Maine's Wells 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.



wellsreserve
at laudholm
Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

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

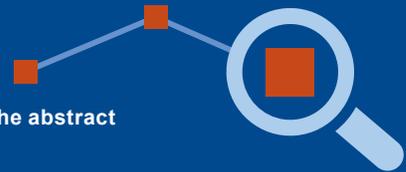
learn about estuaries through Research Reserve outreach & education

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*