

Connecting Students from The Hill School to the Schuylkill River



SCHUYLKILL RIVER
GREENWAYS
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



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Background

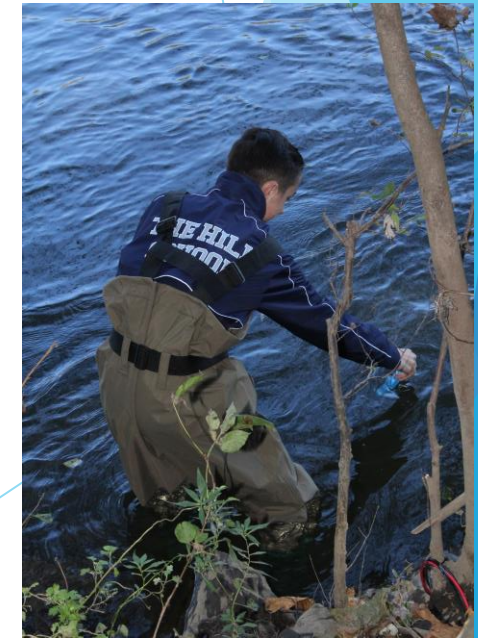
- ▶ Schuylkill River Greenways
 - ▶ Non-profit located in Pottstown located right on the Schuylkill River
 - ▶ Foster community connection to the revitalized Schuylkill through education and recreation along the Schuylkill River Trail and Schuylkill River Water Trail
- ▶ The Hill School
 - ▶ A prestigious preparatory boarding high school in Pottstown, PA
 - ▶ Diverse group of students from local neighborhoods and counties, students from different states, and international students
- ▶ SRG partnership with Stroud
 - ▶ We installed our Mayfly in October 2018 to gain insight into the health of the river in order to be more informed and communicate to the public the state of the river



Fall- Winter Learning

► October- Installation Day

- Installed Mayfly water quality sensor with Stroud water research center CTD sensor as well as Turbidity and Dissolved Oxygen
- SRG hosted a training with Stroud to teach Hill School AP Environmental Science class about the sensor
- Completed Field Data sheet together under guidance of David Bressler






Fall- Winter Learning

- ▶ October- In-classroom indicator and watershed day
 - ▶ SRG went to Hill School classroom to teach in more detail about the different indicators and their significance
 - ▶ Related the field work and sensor data to their curriculum
 - ▶ Taught about Delaware River Watershed and Schuylkill River Watershed and the threats in detail



The Delaware River Watersheds



ALLIANCE FOR
WATERSHED
EDUCATION
OF THE DELAWARE RIVER

Welcome to an Alliance location

- 1 Abbott Marshlands, Tulpehaking Nature Center
- 2 Bartram's Garden
- 3 Heritage Conservancy at Bristol Marsh
- 4 Camden Children's Garden
- 5 Camden County Env Center
- 6 Cobbs Creek Community Env Ed Center
- 7 DuPont Env Ed Center (DE Nature Society)
- 8 The Nature Place (Berks Nature)
- 9 Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center
- First State National Historic Park
- Gateway Park (NJ Conservation Foundation)
- Independence Seaport Museum
- John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum
- James Audubon Center
- Recovery Center (Audubon Pennsylvania)
- Tap Nature Center
- Aquatic Sciences at Adventure Aquarium
- Delaware (NJ Natural Lands Trust)
- First Center
- Center for Env Ed
- Heritage Area
- Water Park

Where do **you** live within our watershed?

Drop a pin!

Fall- Winter Learning

► October- Sampling Day

- Sampled Conductivity, Turbidity, Dissolved Oxygen, Temperature, pH, Nitrates, and Phosphates using probes, LaMotte testing kits, and Hanna checkers
- Sampled for macroinvertebrates but location was not the best

► November- In classroom training with Stroud

- Went over data that was collected in the past month and any questions they had over pizza
- Continued to connect the experiential learning to their classroom curriculum



Spring Field Work

► May- Sampling

- Sampled Conductivity, Turbidity, Dissolved Oxygen, Temperature, pH, Nitrates, and Phosphates using probes, LaMotte testing kits, and Hanna checkers for a second time and added on E.Coli testing
- Students felt more comfortable in waders and confident in their sampling abilities
- Students enjoyed addition of E.Coli testing and learned about the significance of MS4 and CSO systems, where E.coli comes from, why E.Coli can be concerning



Conclusion and Future Goals

- ▶ Students are more informed about watersheds and, in particular, the Delaware/ Schuylkill River watersheds
- ▶ They feel more connected to their local waterways, they understand the indicators and why they are important
- ▶ Greenways now has a stronger connection with the Hill School, we hope to further the partnership and create research projects with these students for more in-depth studies
- ▶ Greenways is hosting other collaborative projects with the students to engage them in other environmental activities- native plant planting

