

Fact Sheet

Outdoor Education Day Program

The Outdoor Education Day Program is an annual fall event that is sponsored by the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). It provides an environmental learning experience to all fifth- and/or sixth-grade students in Scott County.

The program was started in 1985 and was so popular with students and teachers that it became an annual event that now offers education in soil and water resource protection to close to 1,300 students each year.

20 acres of outdoor classrooms

The event is held at the Bisek Brothers woods near New Prague. John Bisek is former chairman of the Scott SWCD Board of Supervisors. The district staff is grateful for his family's generous offer to host the event in his 20-acre woods. The site is adjacent to both wetlands and cropland, giving students an insight into rural living, conservation practices, gravel roads, crops in the surrounding fields, wetland areas and several neighboring farmsteads scattered throughout the countryside.



Trails are cut through the woods with clearings for seven learning stations -- mosquito control, wildlife, water cycle, forestry, plants, soils and environmental health.



Focus is soil and water conservation

During the two-hour program, the students take a closer look at mosquitoes and other bugs; answer jeopardy questions about Minnesota animals and plants; roll large square-shaped dice to help them better understand the water cycle; learn about coniferous and deciduous tree varieties in the woods; play bingo, with game boards identifying parts that make up edible plants; get their hands dirty while examining the various soil types in the soils pit; and enjoy a light-hearted play by CLIMB Theater about recycling.

Each fall this event is sponsored by the Scott SWCD in cooperation with volunteers from the Metropolitan Mosquito Control, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture, the Minnesota Forestry Association, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the City of Shakopee, Prior Lake/Spring Lake Watershed District, Scott/Carver Master Gardeners and the Scott County Extension Service and Scott County Environmental Health.

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