



New Jersey Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership

Project Executive Summary Sheet

Project Name: Community and Urban Science Enrichment Water Stewards Program

Project Purpose: The Community and Urban Science Enrichment (CAUSE) Water Stewards Program seeks to expand and extend the work done under their U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant #NE96291913. The CAUSE Water Stewards will continue to test water quality sites around Camden's waterways, such as the Newton Creek, Cooper River, and Delaware River. The Stewards then use the collected information, in conjunction with their aquatic training, to present workshops and other informal presentations to families and students in Camden, as well as those up river.

Brief Description:

CAUSE Water Stewards are high school students in Camden participating in the CAUSE youth development program at the Center for Aquatic Sciences at Adventure Aquarium. The CAUSE program provides youth with character education, life skill training, mentoring, and advanced aquatic science education that leads to paid work as educators for younger kids in their community in summer science camps. Youth with an interest in furthering their science experiences can choose to join the Water Stewards program and gain further training in water testing and the importance of water quality to the environment and city that surround these rivers. These youth will be knowledgeable about the current state of the local waterways and will become leaders of their community, educating their Camden neighbors about ways to protect the environment.

Resource Values/Project Outputs:

1. The project will lead to a better informed public that understands local water quality issues and their effects on these waterways, ultimately leading to action to improve conditions as warranted.
2. Additionally, we will create a corps of environmental stewards that are trained with marketable 21st Century workplace skills in water quality monitoring.

Cost/Budget: \$25,000 requested

Schedule: Initiation of project in April 2015; with completion by November 2015 (7 months)

Permit Status: n/a





List of Partners: Delaware Riverkeeper Network, US. Environmental Protection Agency, Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority

What is requested from the CWRP/Contribution: The funds from this proposal would allow the continued support of staff and youth to do additional water testing sites and extend the testing beyond the original EPA timeline (ends in June 2015). Additionally, funds would support test supplies, workshop materials, and travel expenses.

Point of Contact: Barbara Kelly, Director of Development & Communication, Center for Aquatic Sciences, 1 Riverside Drive, Camden, NJ 08103, (856)361-1014; bkelly@aquaticsciences.org

Water Stewards sample sites

Untitled layer

-  Aquarium Site
-  Cooper River State Street
-  Newton Creek Park
-  Newton Creek

