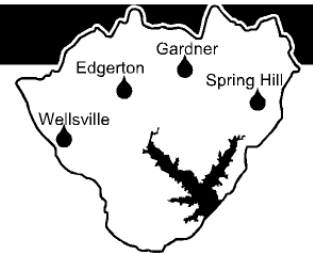


Hillsdale Water Quality Project

One New Century Parkway • Suite 115 • P.O. Box 23 • New Century, KS 66031
Phone: 913.829.9414 • Fax: 913.393.1394 • E-mail: hwqp@hwqp.org • www.hwqp.org

Business • Agriculture • Recreation • Communities
A Partnership For Water Quality



News Release

For Immediate Release

October 21, 2009

For more information, contact the Hillsdale Water Quality Project Information Specialist, Jennie Fyock, at 913-829-9414.

Local Eighth Graders Take to the Streams in Celebration of World Water Monitoring Day

The chilly autumn weather didn't stop local eighth grade students from monitoring Hillsdale Watershed streams to test water quality.

Gardner- Edgerton School District's Wheatridge Middle School and Pioneer Ridge Middle School eighth grade stream team students tested water at various sites Oct. 1-2 and Oct. 5-8 in celebration of World Water Monitoring Day (Sept. 18). During the six-day period, the students monitored sites in Edgerton and Gardner, including the KCP&L Prairie Wetlands, Gardner Cemetery, Edgerton City Lake and Celebration Park. The variety of sites in the Hillsdale Watershed give a range of nonpoint source pollution entering the streams and the health of each site's water quality.

Students test for various pollutants from point and nonpoint sources, including: fecal coliform (a non pathogenic bacteria that can indicate the presence of disease causing bacteria), turbidity, phosphorus, nitrates, nitrogen, dissolved oxygen, pH levels, total dissolved solid levels and air and water temperatures.

Prior to hitting the streams, the students studied water quality, mapping skills and watersheds in the classroom.

Spring Hill Middle School's eighth grade after school stream team students also participate in annual water monitoring. This fall, the after school group will visit area streams approximately three times. Monitoring sites may include: Hillsdale Lake, Spring Hill's City Lake, Sycamore Ridge Golf Course streams and Little Bull Creek.

Spring Hill students' water quality tests include turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen and air and water temperatures. In addition, the students perform a kick net test, which reveals macroinvertebrates, or small aquatic organisms, living in the streams.

Hillsdale Water Quality Project's Information Specialist Jennie Fyock leads the on-site monitoring education.

"During each monitoring trip to a stream, students complete chemical, visual and biological tests," Fyock said. "They also pick up trash and leave the site in better condition than when they originally arrive- knowing that their actions will improve the stream's health."

Stream teams are an educational way for the public and local schools to get involved in the environment around them. Contact Jennie Fyock at 913-829-9414 to become a Hillsdale Water Quality Project stream team. Civic groups, Scouts and families are all great resources for Stream Teams.

The Hillsdale Water Quality Project is funded by local private corporate and municipal contributions in addition to an EPA Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grant 9007405-08 3889 959P administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Stream monitoring is possible through Hillsdale Water Quality Project's Johnson County Stormwater Management Program's Education Grant.

For more information about Hillsdale Water Quality Project, creating a stream team and volunteer opportunities, call 913-829-9414 or visit the Project's website at www.hwqp.org.

###