Water Education

for Kirkland Elementary Schools

The Surface Water Division of Kirkland Public Works offers several fun and exciting programs in local schools to help students explore the fascinating world of water. All programs are tailored to our region and are offered free of charge (sponsored by the City of Kirkland).

Each program is taught by an experienced educator from Nature Vision, a non-profit environmental education organization. These programs support the Washington State K-12 Learning Standards and STEM Education.

Public schools, private schools and youth organizations within the Kirkland Surface Water service area are eligible to participate. Choose from the many exciting options!

Programs Offered

Water Cycles (Grades 4-5)
Students will learn the stages of the water cycle and play the role of a water drop as it travels through the cycle. Discussion will include the function of watersheds, our local water supply, and how to protect water.

Salmon Cycle (Grades K-5)
Discover the connection between Pacific salmon, people, and the water we share. The salmon life cycle and what this keystone species requires from its ecosystem is discussed. Students will explore water quality issues and understand why healthy salmon habitat is good for Northwest ecosystems, and people, too.

Watershed Ecosystems
(Grades K-5)

We all live in a watershed, and it is up to us to keep the water that flows through it clean and plentiful. This program introduces students to their own local watershed and to the plants and animals that share this important ecosystem. Students will also learn how a healthy environment cleans water naturally, and gain insight into the impact of humans on this system. Positive human actions on the combined natural-and human built environments are discussed.

Wetland Filters (Grades 2-5)
Wetlands are like the kidneys of the earth, filtering water as it circulates through the water cycle. Students will learn how wetlands perform this important function through hands-on activities.

Register for a Program: https://naturevision.org/program-registration

Questions: info@naturevision.org or 425-836-2607

Watershed Dynamics (Enviroscape) (Grades 3-5)

Students will interact with a tabletop model of a typical community to learn how their everyday choices affect the water quality in our watershed. Alternative choices to prevent watershed pollution are discussed.

Water Connections Field Trip (Grades K-5)

Students will visit Juanita Bay Park, or a local lake, wetland or pond near their school and explore it with an educator. Students will observe plants and animals in this environment, examine and identify local freshwater invertebrates, and learn about the health of our greater watershed systems. Older students may also participate in water quality tests for oxygen, pH, temperature and more.

Healthy Water, Healthy Soil (Grades K-3)

Dig into healthy soil and discover the living creatures that benefit the soil and plants all around us. Touch and feel the non-living parts of soil, and explore how healthy water keeps our soils in the Northwest healthy.

Healthy Water, Healthy Soil

(Grades 4-5)

Dig into healthy soil and discover the living network of decomposers that benefit the ecosystems around us. Explore how healthy water keeps our Northwest soils healthy and understand how humans can impact soil through our interactions with water.

If you have any questions regarding environmental community service or stewardship opportunities, please contact your Kirkland Surface Water Utility representative, Betsy Adams, at badams@kirklandwa.gov or (425) 587-3858.

Additional Resources

PugetSoundStartsHere.org
- Learn how you can help heal Puget Sound

KingCounty.gov/Salmon
- Find information about local salmon populations

Kirklandwa.gov/Stormwater
-Learn about the protection of local creeks and watersheds

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