



“Healthy Habitats on White Lake”

An Environmental Stewardship Project by

8th Grade Students at Whitehall Middle School

Community Partners

- White Lake Public Advisory Council
- Muskegon Conservation District
- West Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative

**Nerves of steel,
breaking the
accuvac!**



Student Learning Outcomes

White Lake and its surrounding community have been negatively affected by over a century worth of industrial pollution, shoreline degradation, and wildlife habitat loss, which led to the lake being identified as an Area of Concern by the US EPA in the 1980s. Community partners, such as the Muskegon Conservation District and the White Lake Public Advisory Council, have worked diligently in recent years to reverse habitat loss, and repaired damaged ecosystems. The H₂O: White Lake project will monitor six tributaries of the White Lake watershed—Coon Creek, Buttermilk Creek, White River main branch, Bush Creek, Mill Pond Creek, and Wildcat Creek—for nutrient pollution (nitrogen and phosphorous), seek to identify the source of pollution (if found) through analysis of land usage and com-

munity behaviors, and then address the issue through community outreach and education. Outcomes from our project included researching the environmental history of White Lake, forging new partnerships between Whitehall Middle School and our community, successful monitoring of the six tributaries in the study, hatching and raising Chinook Salmon alevins in our classroom tank, increasing public awareness of issues pertaining to watershed health through speaking at a White Lake Public Advisory Council meeting, and improving the health of the White Lake watershed by planting native trees on our school grounds to reduce stormwater runoff. We look forward to continuing this project in the future.

Whitehall Middle School

2012-2013

School Year Team:

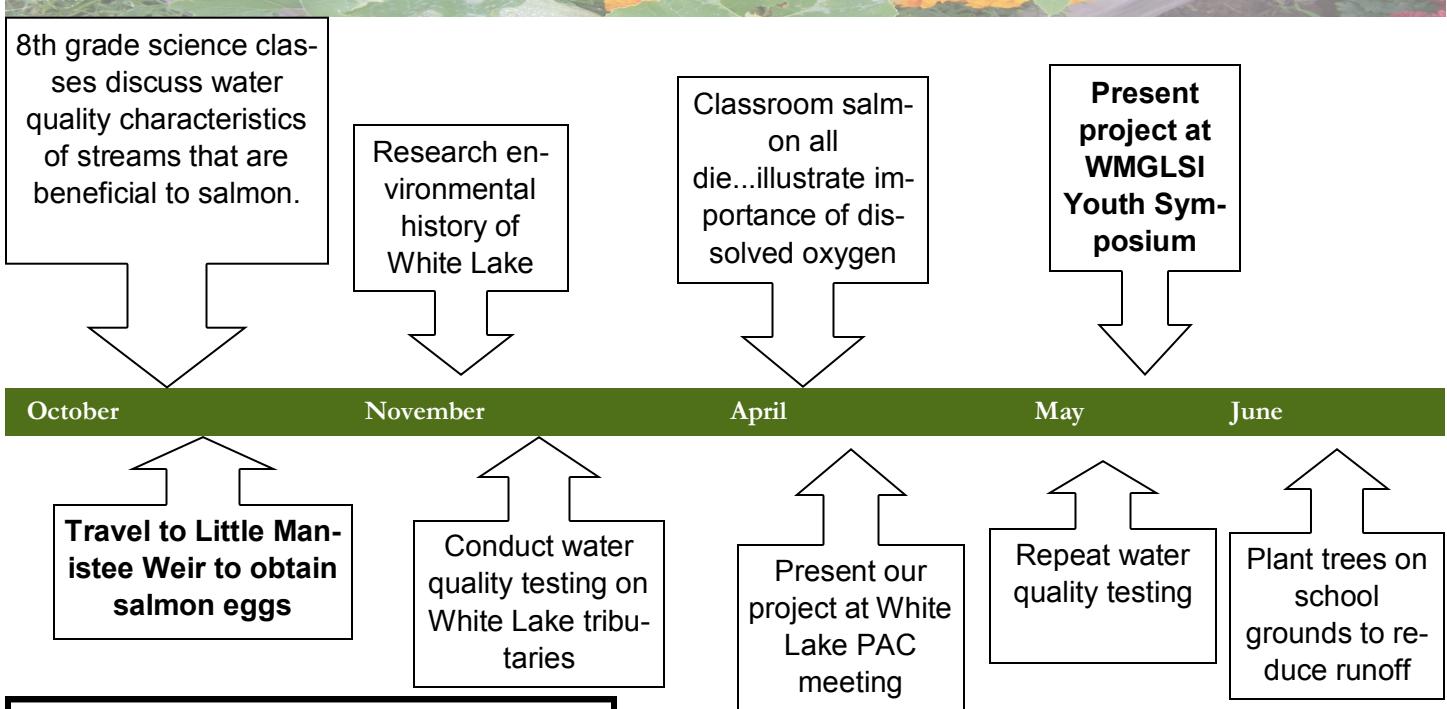
- 150 Students
- 2 Teachers
- 6 Classrooms



**West Michigan
Great Lakes
Stewardship
Initiative**



2012-2013 School Year Project Timeline



Skills learned:

- Civic & Community Responsibility
- Stream Monitoring
- Creative Writing & Journaling
- History & Cultural Studies
- Communicating Science Findings to the General Public
- Mitigation of Stormwater Runoff



Michigan DNR interpreter Shana Ramsey discusses weir operations with WMS students

