



School Year 2015-2016

Results of last year's work:

- Recycling containers installed last year have reduced the amount of trash and increase recycling.
- Map holders created to be installed on trail posts



Areas of work for this year:

- Trail posts installed to guide hikers
- Erosion fence built to maintain trails and reduce foot traffic off the trails
- More recycling containers were added



Whitehall Middle School 7th Grade Small

WMS 7th Grade Small Team Continues Work at Duck Lake State Park

The students from Whitehall Middle School 7th Grade Small Team continued their environmental stewardship partnership with Duck Lake State Park for the 2015-16 school year. Students began with the Alliance for the Great Lakes annual Beach Sweep in September, 2014. During the sweep, students were given a first hand look at some of the environmental challenges faced by Duck Lake State Park.

After the Beach Sweep, students brainstormed ideas to help the park meet some of its environmental needs. Students decided on four main work areas: trails, recycling, erosion control, and invasive plant species.

Throughout the school year, students researched methods and solutions for providing their service to the park.

The Future of the Partnership

WMS 7th Grade Small Team will continue to work through the West Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative to provide their service to Duck Lake State Park.

Future endeavors include officially mapping all trails at the park, provide full time recycling service, create informational signs along trails and at histori-

Through communication with park staff, the final decisions were made to provide more recycling bins for high traffic areas, replace old trail posts and install posts on new trails, create covered map holders to be placed throughout the trails, and begin a plan for removal of invasive plant species.

In June, 2016, the students returned to the park for a work day to implement the plan.



cally relevant sites, and create a plan for erosion control in high needs areas such as the Duck Lake boat launch.





Duck Lake State Park: An Environmental Learning Partnership

School Year 2015-2016

Skills learned:

- Civic & Community Responsibility
- Invasive Plant Species Monitoring
- Creative Writing & Journaling
- Trail Mapping w/ GPS & Building
- Historical Studies
- Interpretive Sign Making



Beach Sweep and Needs Study

FALL

Science classes use GPS units to record existing and proposed trail location around the park.

WINTER

SPRING

Community Partners

- WMGLSI
- Robb Zoellmer– Field Coordinator
- Duck Lake State Park Staff including Matt Schwemin, Kris Kluting, and Ken Cornelisse

Work day at the park. Install trails posts, erosion control fence, install map holders, plan future rain garden.