



**GVMC Environmental Programs Updates Board on Education Initiatives**

At our last Board of Directors Meeting, Kristine Szurna Berche presented to the Board the latest information about our GVMC



Environmental Education Initiatives.

Our key components for the education program are:

- Build and maintain collaborative partnerships to educate students in our region
- Conduct activities and programs in accordance with the Public Education Plan in the NPDES Stormwater Permit
- Connect with existing municipal issues and efforts
- Develop tools to track progress and success in environmental education programs identified in the Lower Grand River Watershed Plan

- Identify funding sources and secure funding commitment to support GVMC environmental education programs.

During 2014/2015 the education program served 10 different schools in 5 school districts. Over 2,000 students were direct participants in our environmental education programs. In the near future we expect to be working with 3,500 students.

Our watershed activities include catch basin marking, water quality testing and in-classroom presentations and field experiences within our watershed.



One of the districts we are currently working with is the Jenison Public Schools. We are working in partnership with Groundswell, Ottawa County, Georgetown Township, Grand Valley State University, Jenison Public Schools and River City Wild Ones.

The students at Pinewood Elementary School are combining classroom and field work completing a variety of tasks that give them real experience with their environment. These include marking storm drains, storm sewer system identification, creating public educational materials, water quality monitoring on Hager Creek and native planting in parks.

If you would like more information about the GVMC Environmental Education Program, please feel free to contact Wendy or Kristine at [wendy.ogilvie@gvmc.org](mailto:wendy.ogilvie@gvmc.org) or [Kristine.berche@gvmc.org](mailto:Kristine.berche@gvmc.org).



**Board Vacancies**

**We have 2 vacancies for at-large members of our Board of Directors. If you know someone that might be interested please have them contact us.**