



MAYMONT®

Maymont's formal environmental educational programming is designed to enrich the Virginia public school curriculum, aligning with the standards of learning for grades K-12. We believe in a hands-on, demonstrative approach that offers students a wide range of unique experiences with Virginia ecosystems. A highlight of our environmental education programs is the immersive watershed education provided in part at The Robins Nature Center. This 30,000-gallon facility houses an exhibition dedicated to the James River watershed, its captivating flora and fauna, and important environmental issues, fostering stewardship and learning opportunities. In the 2022-23 school year alone, over 11,000 students had the privilege of participating in this enlightening exhibition.

To further enhance our educational offerings, Maymont extends formal watershed educational experiences to schools. In 2023, we welcomed nearly 2,000 students from over 30 schools across the Greater Richmond area, representing nine school systems, to engage in spring watershed field investigations. Our goal is to expand this project's reach, specifically targeting students from marginalized communities within the Greater Richmond area. Through this grant award, we aim to provide priority school divisions with essential support for transportation and scholarships, enabling more students to access the invaluable educational opportunities at Maymont, focusing on Virginia's watersheds, including the James River and Chesapeake Bay.

To ensure maximum impact, our dedicated education team will collaborate closely with teachers to develop watershed kits tailored to their schools. These kits will equip educators with the necessary materials to facilitate engaging watershed activities, fostering student enthusiasm and deepening their understanding of these vital ecological systems. Maymont completed the following objectives:

1. Recruited teachers from priority schools in the Greater Richmond area with specific focus on schools who have a strong need for support in implementing MWEEs into their curriculum and/or pacing guide.
2. Provided pre-visit materials to teachers to use in the classroom to help introduce MWEE, suggest activities for students to gain an understanding of local environmental issues, and encourage teachers and students to explore and assess their school grounds as part of the watershed.
3. Provided field investigations which are immersive and correlate to real-world data collecting methods for determining the health of a watershed. Programming included the

following:

- a. Maymont staff facilitated guided programs based on the James River, wetlands, and water quality and benthic macro invertebrate surveys.
 - b. Teachers and students had an opportunity to see demonstration strategies at Maymont for storm water runoff management, water conservation, and habitat enhancements.
 - c. Teachers and students had time for self-guided exploration at The Robins Nature Center at Maymont, which focuses on the James River and Chesapeake Bay watersheds.
4. Maymont created MWEE kits for teachers to use in their schools during and beyond the grant cycle. The kits include:
 5. Provided coaching support for student action projects and assisted schools to develop a plan for their student action projects and work with other local organizations who may be able to provide support resources.

Maymont was proud to serve 3,758 Richmond Public School students from 19 schools using funds from the DCR MWEE grant.