

Alice Ferguson Foundation

Useful and Recommended Websites

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On the Alice Ferguson Foundation's website, you will find information about environmental education programs as well as useful classroom resources. Click on the "Resources" tab more than one hundred student activities, teacher resources and lesson plans. fergusonfoundation.org

General

BayBackpack is an excellent resource for lessons, field trips, grants, and other resources related to watershed education. baybackpack.com

DC Naturally is the website of the District of Columbia Environmental Education Consortium (DCEEC). They have valuable information, particularly for creating school gardens in their Schoolyard Greening section. dcnaturally.org

Mapping

Fieldscope is a handy tool to look at a map of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, input water quality data, and analyze data throughout the watershed with students. It is limited in the amount of data it currently has and can maintain. They are actively seeking teachers to start projects for more data collection. fieldscope.org/

CEC has many layers you can add to maps including land use, population areas, pollution, glaciers(!), etc. This is a more useful teaching tool without the option of data input. cec.org

USGS has a list of useful mapping websites in addition to other disciplines. usgs.gov

EPA has a program called Map Your Watershed where you can input your zipcode and find out your watershed address. Test this in advance of using it with kids – depending on where you live, it can be more or less useful. There is a list of links to local organizations within your watershed that could be of use to you. epa.gov

Issue Investigation

Earth Force Resources and workshops can be found at. earthforce.org/

Water Quality

DOEE RiverSmart Program help to reduce stormwater runoff that harms the District's waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. RiverSmart programs provide financial incentives to help District property owners install green infrastructure such as rain barrels, green roofs, rain gardens, permeable pavers, shade trees, and more. These practices allow rainwater to stay on site

and soak into the ground, where natural processes help remove pollutants.

doee.dc.gov/riversmart

Anacostia Watershed Society engages K-12 students from Maryland and D.C. in comprehensive learning programs that benefit the Anacostia River and its watershed communities. Students and teachers participate in watershed education lessons; field experiences on the river; and hand-on restoration activities, such as: wetland plant propagation, native meadow seed collection, tree plantings, schoolyard greening projects, and the restoration of native fish populations. anacostiaws.org/what-we-do/education/school-based-programs.html

Rain Barrel

Arlington Echo also has great rain barrel information on its website!

arlingtonecho.org/restoration-projects/rain-barrels.html

Worms and Composting

The Adventures of Herman the Worm is a cute kid-friendly site about worms!

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/worms/>

Bottle Biology has lots of ideas about using bottles in science, including one for composting.

Check it out! bottlebiology.org/

Gardens and Plantings

U.S. National Arboretum

The U.S. National Arboretum is a great place to bring your students for a field trip! Their mission is science and education and support your efforts to teach your students about the fascinating world of plants. We encourage you to lead your students on self-guided field trips to explore the many trails, trees and plants the arboretum has to offer. You can plan your field trip using Washington Youth Garden staff resources of the Science Program Reaching OUT (SPROUT) program or you can design your own field trip.

washingtonyouthgarden.org/sprout/

<https://www.usna.usda.gov/visit/teachers/>

DOEE Native Plants

Native plants are naturally adapted to the local climate, weather, and soil conditions. Once established, native plants do not need pesticides or fertilizers and require minimal watering, which reduces water consumption and stormwater run-off. You can also learn how District residents can beautify their yards and create valuable habitat for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. Even a small backyard garden or balcony with the appropriate native plants can support pollinators that are necessary for healthy and diverse plant life in our city.

<https://doee.dc.gov/service/native-plants>

The ultimate guide to all things native plants in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

<https://www.fws.gov/Chesapeakebay/pdf/NativePlantsforWildlifeHabitatandConservationLandscape.pdf>