Impact Report.

Be curious. GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC MUSEUM

Community Input and Creation.

2018

grpm.org

The Watershed Laboratory.

The Watershed Laboratory was created by the community for the community. A scientific advisory team assisted in the technical components and a community watershed laboratory advisory team helped to ensure key concepts and themes that the community values were incorporated. The GRPM Youth Watershed Team was also involved in design of the Watershed Laboratory. The group focused on what aspects of a laboratory that teens in particular would utilize and find most engaging.

Youth Watershed Team: 12 Students from 4 schools

Community Advisory Group: Local representatives from non-governmental organizations, universities, regional watershed councils, municipalities and neighborhoods

Scientific Advisory: GVSU geologist, USGS hydrologist, retired educators, fisheries biologist and restoration ecologist

Water Programs.

The Laboratory includes multiple areas that are used in program offerings. There is a space for artifact investigation and secure storage of GRPM Collections related to the river. Multiple stations have been developed that allow for scientific inquiry into the physical and chemical properties of the Grand River. Additional hands-on activities include an augmented reality table and a floodplain model that allow for interaction, modeling and description of watersheds, land use and ecological processes. Modular stations can accommodate water quality testing, biological monitoring or mapping exercises.

Guided Education Programs 2017-2018:

2,273 students
76 classes

Watershed Wonders Summer Camp:

2 sessions annually

Open Laboratory:

20,000 visitors during spring break 2017

Curiosity Labs:

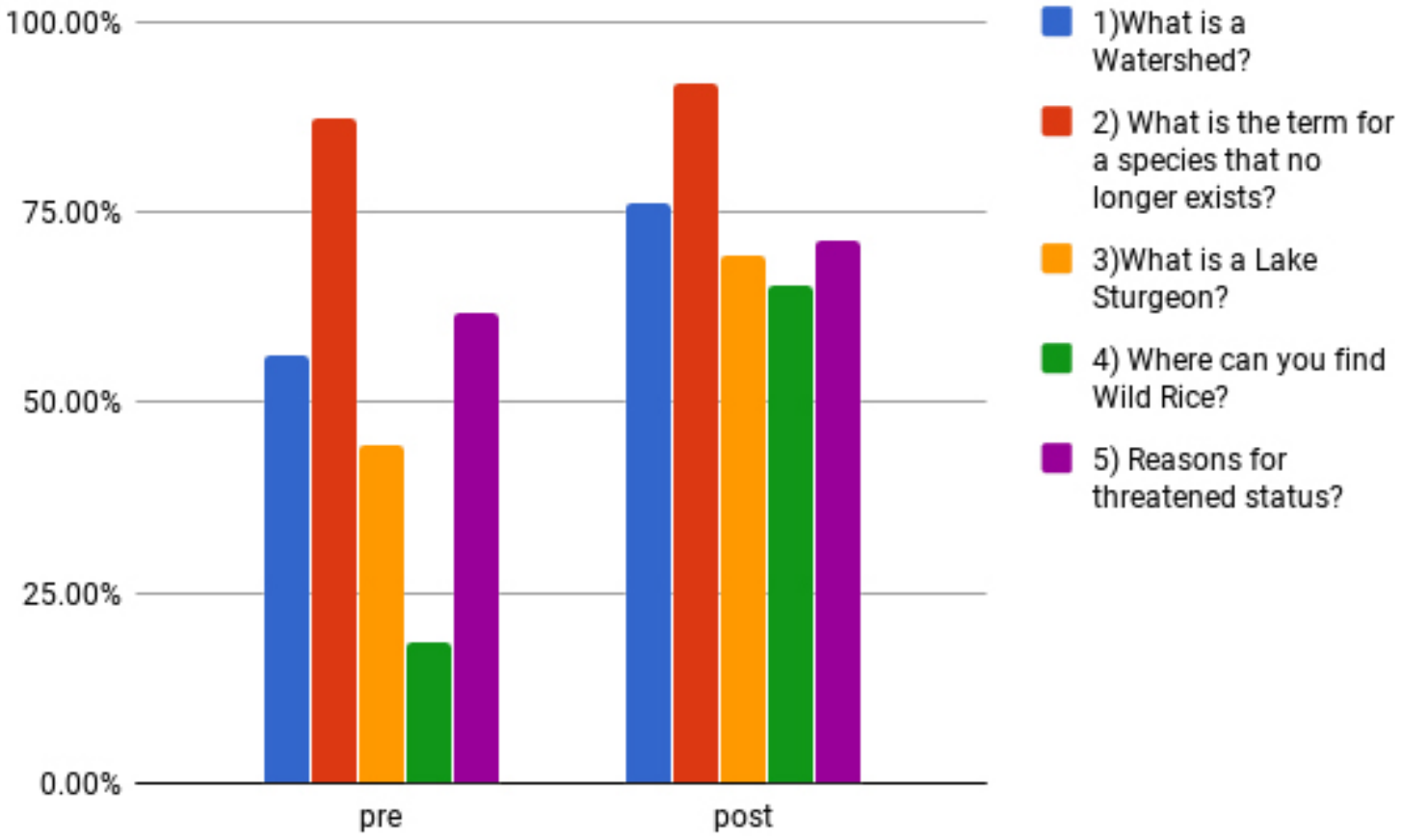
10 monthly weekend family labs

Research Team:

Summer Science and Leadership Program in collaboration with Grand Rapids White Water and Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds

Content:

The Museum developed four specific education programs that can be booked by schools and are taught in the laboratory by GRPM educators. These programs focus on inquiry based learning as well as utilizing primary sources. Surveys for content area knowledge were conducted pre and post session. Results indicate an overall 21% increase in scores.



Evaluation results for 2017-2018 watershed programs (10% of total students surveyed).

Visiting Teacher Testimonials.

My favorite part was being able to provide my students with real-world application and hands-on learning. Many of these students will never get this opportunity otherwise. For one of the first times, they had learning that they could see, touch, feel and experience. This deepens and extends their learning. This is an experience that is invaluable to both me and my students.

- Leann Boosamra, 5th grade teacher, Southwest Community Campus

My students loved moving to the different habitats and seeing/handling specimens from those habitats. The worksheet went well with the activities that the students were doing and was easy to understand. The students then really enjoyed going over to see the sturgeon and learning about their history and how we can preserve their lives now.

- Allison Diaz, 5th grade teacher, Godfrey Elementary

The hands-on learning we did with the natural history items (sturgeon scute, wild rice, snuffbox mussel shells) was perfect and grade-level appropriate.

- April Simmons, 3rd grade teacher, Murray Lake Elementary

My favorite part of my whole visit was the water quality testing lab.

- Beth Adelman, 5th grade teacher, Harrison Park

Student Testimonials.

It was fun and we learned about the past and how to get ready for the future.

- 5th grader, Burton Elementary

My favorite activity was the sturgeon exhibit because the worksheet was fun and I got to see it alive in a tank.

- 5th grader, Burton Elementary

My favorite activity was the watershed one because we learned how to take care of the water.

- 4th grader, Godfrey Elementary

My favorite activity was the water testing program because I felt like a real science expert.

- 4th grader, Godfrey Elementary

It was way more hands on and a different way of learning.

- 6th grader, Grand Rapids Montessori

This was cooler than being in the classroom because we get to touch mussel shells and see lake sturgeon.

- 4th grader, Godfrey Elementary