



**NATIONAL GREAT RIVERS**  
RESEARCH • EDUCATION • OUTREACH

*2024-2025 School-year*

# **WATER FESTIVAL ON WHEELS (WOW) INITIATIVE - IMPACT REPORT**

**WOW!** For the first time in over 20 years, severe weather forced the cancellation of the Water Festival in September 2024. However, the Education Team at the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center (NGRREC) was determined to bring this one-of-a-kind water science experience to students nonetheless. With that commitment, Water Festival on Wheels (WOW) was born.



This special mobile version of our signature event brought hands-on water education directly to schools, parks, and community spaces. Students gathered for energetic, half-day field trips that were every bit as engaging and fun as our traditional fall festival, proving that rain or shine, water education flows on.



## **IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS:**

# 680

students reached across **5** separate Water Festival field trips.

# 25

hands-on water education activity stations across our WOW series.

# 100%

of surveyed students (n=472) left WOW saying **YES**, I think protecting water from pollution is important for future generations.



## A SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO OUR

### EXHIBITING PARTNERS:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers The
- Nature Institute Illinois State
- Historic Site TreeHouse Wildlife
- Audubon Center at Riverlands St.
- Louis University WATER Institute
- Southern Illinois University -
- Edwardsville STEM Center
- Madison County CAREE (Ag in the Classroom)
- Sierra Club (Piasa-Palisades Chapter)
- St. Louis Zoo
- MadCo GreenSchools
- Illinois RiverWatch
- Big Muddy Adventures



### PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:

- North Elementary
- East Elementary
- Lovejoy School (Academic Development Inst.)
- Estelle Kampmeyer Elementary
- Trinity Lutheran
- East Alton Middle School
- Henning Elementary School



### AND LARGEST SPONSORS:



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