



Got Water? (Learning Experience #1) Student Procedures



Lesson Essential Questions

1. What can citizen groups do to contribute to the responsible use and protection of aquatic natural resources?
2. How may wetlands and waterways be preserved and valued by local residents for recreation and tourism?

Overview

Working with your project team, find a place in your region that could become a magnet for local residents and tourists who are looking for opportunities for recreation and renewal. It should include a river or stream, a lake, a pond, or a wetland, and it should be on public property such as a city or county park or state land (if possible). What could be done to expand use of this area as a natural resource for people while improving or sustaining its value as a habitat for native species of plants and animals? Describe in your journal how and why your team made this choice.

Procedures

1. Use *Description of the Study Area* (Student Sheet #1) to describe the site your team has chosen. Include the site's location, size and what it looks like. What plants and animals live there? Include a labeled picture or sketch of your area.
2. As a team, develop a plan to promote and sustain recreational use and eco-tourism in the area of your chosen site. Record all of your ideas in your journal, including those that you decide to discard.

Use *Developing a Plan* (Student Sheet #2) to record your group's final answers to the following questions:

- What is already there? Are there any trails? Boat access? Fishing spots? Tables for picnicking, etc.?
- What would you and your family (all ages) and friends add to this location to make it more appealing and usable for recreational use? Consider the cost and people power that would be required. Visit the Friends of Chemung River Watershed website for some ideas. www.chemungriverfriends.org





3. Now that your plan is ready, consider solutions to the following practical problems. Record your team's ideas and answers to the following questions in *Let's Get Practical* (Student Sheet #3):

- What information is needed to develop programs such as self-guided hikes and paddle trails? Where will you go for this information?
- What exists in the way of hotels, restaurants, equipment rentals, etc., that could support visitors from outside the area? What would be needed if your plan is a success and there is doubling or tripling of tourists?
- How do local residents feel about your plan? Is their opinion important? How could you find out?
- How will you spread the word? Include ideas for nearby and regional advertising.
- How will you encourage individuals and groups in the region to get involved in developing responsible attitudes and interest in the resource?

