

Mill Creek Healthy People/Healthy River Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership

Cincinnati, Ohio



Students Clearing Trails at Wayne National Forest in Ohio

This partnership will restore and regenerate a total of 17 acres of wildlife habitat and wetlands in Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge in Indiana and in multiple Mill Creek riverine/riparian sites in Cincinnati. The program will also engage at least 960 participants, including 860 middle and high school students and 100 adult volunteers from Mill Creek neighborhoods and diverse organizations.

Groundwork will use the Lower Mill Creek Watershed as a living laboratory for teaching youth about their urban environment. Green Team youth will go on field trips for stream surveys and water monitoring, and will participate in service learning fieldwork at the chosen restoration sites. Students will participate in a Mill Creek Student Congress and Green Career Fair.

Conservation and restoration fieldwork will include preparing sites, removing invasive species, planting native hardwood trees, and planting edibles to provide food and habitat for diverse wildlife, including the Black-crowned Night Heron and the Indiana Bat. Groundwork will complete a restoration plan for an additional 30 acres of riparian habitat.

USFS at Wayne National Forest and USFWS at Muscatatuck NWR conservation professionals will visit Cincinnati twice for a total of 4 days each to train Groundwork staff, Green Team youth and volunteers. The USFS & USFWS staff will participate in the Student Congress/Green Career Fair. The USFWS will also provide training for 12 Green Team youth in Groundwork's summer employment program.

Partners

Partners include Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge, Groundwork Cincinnati-Mill Creek, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Easter Seals Work Resource Center, Cincinnati Public Schools, and other educational and environmental agencies.



Refuge Managers Joe Robb and Alejandro Galvan talk to students at Mill Creek's Annual Year-end Student Congress



For more information, contact:
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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