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Green Woods Charter School Students Clean Up Trash With The Schuylkill Center!

Philadelphia, PA—November 30, 2005 - Walkers, runners and cyclists on the Schuylkill River Trail between the Manayunk towpath and Shawmont Avenue may notice less trash and the addition of informative posters on their next outing. On Thursday, November 10th students from Green Woods Charter School (GWCS) in Roxborough hosted a “Clean Up the Watershed Day” with The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE) and spent the afternoon picking up litter and debris along the path.

The GWCS 4th grade class is part of SCEE’s Student Water Monitoring Network, which includes four other schools in the Philadelphia area. The 4th graders regularly monitor Smith’s Run, a small stream that runs through SCEE’s 340-acre property and empties directly into the Schuylkill River just upstream of Shawmont Avenue. The students conduct chemical, physical and biological tests as a part of the Student Water Monitoring Network.

The idea for a “Clean Up the Watershed Day” came directly from the students, as they voted on ways to make a positive impact on the Schuylkill watershed and to improve water quality.

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Green Woods Cleans Up Trash

Fourth grader Jeffrey Schwartz remarked, “the project helped us and other people to have healthier drinking water”. The students discussed how removing trash close to the river would prevent it from flowing downstream where the city’s drinking water is collected.

During the walk to the Schuylkill River Trail, students talked about wildlife that may be dependent on the Schuylkill River, including fish. Students watched from across the river as work was done on the fish ladder at Flat Rock Dam. Jennifer Whalen, fourth grader, commented, “The ‘Clean Up the Watershed Day’ was an important project because we made the watershed a better place for fish to live”.

Funding for the project was provided through an Environmental Careers Organization Cookie Grant—awarded to SCEE to maintain and improve the Student Water Monitoring Network, which began in 2001. Other projects funded by the grant include a school-wide play about planting trees and protecting the environment by Patterson Elementary School students in Southwest Philadelphia and a presentation of stream data by Baldi Middle School students in Northeast Philadelphia.

More information about The Schuylkill Center’s Student Water Monitoring Network can be found at www.studentwatermonitoringnetwork.org.

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