



Learning With Public Purpose

Erosion Restoration Project at Hemlock Shores Campground

Students in Poland, Maine worked with the owners of Hemlock Shores Campground, the Soil & Water District, and the Lake Association to create and implement a plan that would decrease the amount of erosion entering Tripp Lake.

Essential Question

How do we create and implement a plan to decrease the erosion entering Tripp Lake?

Introduction

The Terrestrial Biology class at Poland Regional High School took on an erosion restoration project at Hemlock Shores Campground. The plan was to stop the heavy erosion that was occurring by redirecting water and planting gardens using native plants. To redirect the water run-off we planned on installing two water bars. Water bars are pieces of rubber and wood that stick out of the ground a few inches and redirect flowing water into other places more suitable to handle the water.

Project Goals

- Help students understand how humans interact with the world around them in beneficial and harmful ways.
- Students help educate the local community about the watershed that they live in and what they can do to protect it.
- Engage students as partners in the successful implementation of the Tripp Lake Watershed Management Plan.
- Practice applying classroom knowledge to real-world situations.
- Help students realize they can make a difference in the environment; specifically in their local habitat.

Implementation

When it came time to plant we decided to have two separate gardens. The top garden is a drier area and the plants that went there need to have shallow roots to match the shallow soil conditions. Consequently, we planted high bush blueberries and sedum there. The lower garden is much wetter; it was planned as a rain garden. It needed plants that could withstand lots of water, like the red-twig dogwood and Japanese painted fern. Due to a very wet spring the project took longer than we had planned and more hand digging was involved than we had planned for. Everyone was pleased with the end result and proud of the work they had done.

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