

# USING WATER RESPONSIBLY - SUPPORT PACKAGE

## World Wetlands Day



Wetlands are nature's sponges, water filters, and nursery habitat. These ecosystems are a major part of the Nova Scotian landscape and contribute to our communities by filtering our drinking water, providing wildlife habitat, and recreation areas. Many organisms like amphibians and migratory birds depend on wetlands to survive. Wetlands are often disregarded as expendable and as obstacles but these systems are precious for reasons beyond water filtration. Wetlands help prevent flooding by absorbing water that would otherwise flood our streets and homes. World Wetlands Day is a day recognized by the United Nations to celebrate and protect wetlands. In 2017 the theme was "Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction" because "healthy wetlands help us cope with extreme weather events". Extreme weather is more frequent as a result of climate change, so now is a perfect time to learn about and value our wetlands.

Wetlands experiences are widely available and can be incorporated into curriculum grounded in various subjects, from science to social studies, on themes such as ecosystems, populations, geography, and chemistry. You could also explore issues related to fresh water resources and explore other issues related to water.

## Action Plan

**Step 1-** Introduce students to wetlands. In a classroom you can integrate the wetlands theme. This topic has many curriculum links such as food webs, human impacts such as agricultural drainage, development, or water pollution. You may want to consult [Resources for Educators from Ducks Unlimited Canada](#) for activities and lesson plans. Ask your Engagement Officer for water-related resources.



This rain garden was created at an urban school along with outdoor classroom and garden sites

**Step 2-** Check out these great resources: [Project Webfoot](#) from [Ducks Unlimited Canada](#). Some examples of resource offerings include [Wetland Heros](#), [Taking Action! Teacher and Student Guide](#) and [How to Deliver a Wetland Field Trip](#).

**Step 3-** Participate internationally with your class on [World Wetlands Day](#). Find out how the annual theme relates to a wetland near you, and plan a lesson grounded in a wetland setting. If you can't get out to a site, why not recreate the ecosystem in the classroom with crafted decorations or stuffed toys? How can your class contribute to the success of this global initiative? A simple school yard garbage sweep is a

great contribution since many hands make light work. A larger water issue like bottled water or an action



campaign to install a rain garden or water bottle refill station would be an additional challenge.

**Step 4-** Finally, visit a wetland site. Students can be scientists! Wetlands are great places for citizen scientists to observe wildlife, from the microscopic to the moose. Wetlands study presents an opportunity for a field trip for observation such as a [nature scavenger hunt](#) or [scavenger hunt worksheet](#). Students can learn to do science through data collection like community-based groundwater monitoring project, for example, [Groundswell](#).

## Resources

[Green Schools NS - Using Water Responsibly Slideshow Grade 6-8](#)

[Green Schools NS - Using Water Responsibly Slideshow Grade P-2](#)

[Green Schools NS -Building a Model Watershed Activity](#)

[Green Schools NS -Using Water Responsibly Pinterest Board](#)

[Green Schools NS - Water Footprint Support Package](#)

[Green Schools NS - Water Bottle Filling Stations Support Package](#)

[Green Schools NS - World Water Day Support Package](#)

[Evergreen - Go With the Flow: Storm Water Guide](#)

[Project Wet - Publications](#)

[The Water Project - Teaching Tools & Resources](#)

[Water Footprint Network - The Water Footprint Calculator](#)

[Ramsar - Handbooks](#)

[Canadian Water Resources Association- Project Wet: Lesson Plans & Support Materials](#)

[University of Wisconsin Extension - Rain Garden Guide](#)

[Canadian Geographic - Protect Your Watershed: Lesson Plans & Resources](#)

[ACAP Cape Breton - Teacher Resources](#)

[Government of Nova Scotia - Water Stewardship Checklist](#)

[Shubenacadie Wildlife Park](#)

[Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization](#)

[Clean Annapolis River Project](#)

[Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation](#)

[Clean Foundation - Atlantic Stormwater Initiative](#)

[World Water Day](#)

### **Videos**

[Water Rocks - We All Live in a Watershed](#)

[The Story of Bottled Water](#)

[WWF Canada - Water Footprint](#)

[ACAP Cape Breton - From the Source to the Tap](#)

