Friends of the St. Clair River
Key Education Messages

Friends of the St. Clair River's education programs inspire watershed stewardship and promote citizen action for healthy rivers, clean water and green spaces

Everyone Lives In a Watershed

- Geography
  - The first step to understanding how humans impact water quality is to understand how and where water from our rivers, streams, creeks flows and drains to
- Geology
  - Water moves through the landscape differently depending on topography, soil type and moves between ground water and surface water

The Health of our Water and Land Are Connected

- Pollution
  - Physical and chemical pollution in the water affects human and environmental health. Litter and other pollution on land can ultimately find its way into waterways
- Habitat Destruction
  - The alteration or removal of high-quality habitat within our watershed has widespread impacts
- Invasive Species
  - The spread of invasive species, terrestrial and aquatic, can be intentional or accidental. Invasive species have the potential to impact native species by outcompeting them for resources such as food and space.

Managing Land Protects and Improves Water Quality for People, Plants and Wildlife

- Habitat Restoration
  - Terrestrial and aquatic habitat restoration can improve water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife
- Stewardship
  - Consistent hands-on stewardship activities benefit natural and restored habitats
- Native Species
  - The St. Clair River and its watersheds are home to many native species of plants and animals. The protection of their native habitats is crucial to their survival.

Citizen Science is an Effective Tool to Track Watershed Health

- Citizen Science Definition
  - Citizen science is the collection and reporting of data by the public, often in partnership with professional scientists
- Citizen Science Program Examples
  - Programs include a variety of monitoring including macroinvertebrates, microplastics, butterflies, bird nest boxes, river clean-ups, beach cleanups and storm drain marking