

NEWS RELEASE

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Wisconsin Environmental Education Board Awards Grants to Milwaukee Area Institutions

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB), located at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, will award 34 grants worth \$449,419. Projects comprise both statewide and grass roots initiatives. These initiatives enable the target audiences to obtain a better understanding of and appreciation for both the built and natural environments. Projects may begin on July 1, 2001 and may run through December 31, 2002.

Recent grant cycles reveal a strong interest in the program. The 88 proposals received this year requested a total of \$1,151,049. To date the Board has received over 1,200 proposals totaling over 13 million dollars. Public and nonpublic educational institutions, all units of government, and corporations (nonprofit, non-stock) are eligible for WEEB grants. Requests cannot exceed \$20,000. Projects must be designed for Wisconsin residents and assist learners in achieving the goals of environmental education.

Initiated in 1990, the WEEB's mission is to "provide leadership in the development of learning opportunities that empower Wisconsin citizens with the knowledge and skills needed to make wise environmental decisions and take responsible actions in their personal lives, work places, and communities."

Board members include State Representatives Neal Kedzie (Elkhorn) and Mark Miller (Monona) as well as State Senators Brian Burke (Milwaukee) and Sheila Harsdorf (River Falls). "Leadership on both sides of the aisle and in both houses of the legislature has been a critical component of our success," said WEEB chairperson Rick Koziel. Koziel is the Director of the Beaver Creek Reserve in Fall Creek.

For a complete list of this years applicants and description of recipients' projects please see our website <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb/database/2001applicants.htm> and <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb/database/2001recipients.htm>

For more information on the WEEB's environmental education grant program, including current grant opportunities, contact Administrative Liaison Ginny Carlton at (715) 346-3805. The email address is weeb@uwsp.edu

Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee

The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee was awarded \$19,110 for a project entitled "Environmental Youth Leadership Program ". The goal for the project is to provide children attending after-school programs the opportunity, skills and experiences to become youth leaders in local environmental issues. For more information contact the project director, Gail tumidiawicz, at (262)538-1190.

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Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful

This \$15,436 project, entitled “A Coalition for Waste Reduction Education”, will provide municipal governments, businesses and residents of Jefferson County and Cedarburg with waste reduction education programs. For more information contact the project director, Margo Kuis, at (414) 272-0877

River Revitalization Foundation, Inc.

The River Revitalization Foundation was awarded \$5,003 for a project entitled “Milwaukee River Basin Conference”. The goal for the conference is to bring people together to exchange information on the Milwaukee, Menominee, and Kinnickinnick rivers. For more information contact the project director, Lillian Boese, at (414) 271-7077.

Urban Ecology Center

The Urban Ecology Center was awarded \$16,099 for a project entitled “The Water Partners' "Just Add Water" Curriculum and Wisconsin Beach Sweep”. The goals for the project are to enable Milwaukee area teachers and students to participate in a water-based curriculum and a beach clean up program. For more information contact the project director, Kae DonLevy, at (414) 443-1494.

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