

NAME _____

WATERSHED WARRIORS

MAKE IT LOCAL

“Environmental science is crucial to how we all live. It adds value to people’s lives individually and adds value to the community.”

- Gary Swick, Educator, President of Friends of the Fox River

Through speaking with the public at Friends of the Fox River educational events like “Fox River Day” Gary and Jenni encourage people to join in evaluating river water quality and provide experiences to connect with the Fox River.

They hope to inspire people to care for the river ecosystem through personal experiences like water quality testing with macroinvertebrates and activities like kayaking.

Identify Your Local Watershed

Name the rivers and lakes closest to where you live below.

Research the Current Issues

Research current issues affecting your local water sources. Use the graphic organizer below to share your information sources, notes, and reflections.

Not sure where to start your search?

- Type “Issues affecting [Name] River/Lake” in a Google Search.
- Visit the nature or science section of your local newspapers.

Source	Research Notes	Why is this important?



Learn About Local Efforts

There are many issues affecting watersheds all over the world, but the good news is, there are also many inspiring individuals and groups trying to make a difference through cleanup events, sustainability awareness, and advocating for policy changes. Who are the local River Heroes in your community?

Learn About Local Efforts - Continued

Research Tips:

- Type “Organizations working for [Name] River/Lake” in an internet search.
- Type “Conservation efforts in [town/city]” in an internet search.
- Visit your local town/city/government website and navigate to the environment section to learn about local conservation efforts.

Individual or group	What do they do?

Take Action

In the film *Watershed Warriors*, Gary shares that if we want to change the culture [around caring for the environment], we must be working with who we think the culture is going to be. That means the next generation of River Heroes -- your generation!

What is one small action you can take toward reducing your trash creation?

In the documentary, Jenni shared that she cared about the Fox River because she grew up around it and played in it. Gary shares **“Education is the first step. Compassion for the natural world is what will lead to protecting the river and the environment as if it’s a loved one.”**

What is a personal memory you have connected to your local rivers or lakes? If you don’t have one, why do you think having a personal memory on a river or lake would make a person want to protect it?

Local Cleanup Projects

1. Look up your local non-profits
2. Type “Friends of the [Name] River” to discover non-profit organizations doing work to protect your local rivers.
3. Cleanup Events
4. Like in the film, there is preparation involved in river cleanup events. Try and find a description of what happens at a river cleanup. Look for an information tab about Events, Calendar, Get Involved, or About Us.
5. Type [river cleanup event near me] in a Google search.

After completing your research, create an impact plan below:

Plan for a River Cleanup Event at your local river. Consider what supplies are needed and how you will get them.

Local Cleanup Projects - Continued

Plan how to dispose of the trash that you will collect.

(Recycling? Dump? Reuse?)

Get Involved!

1. Look for Events or a Calendar on the website to learn when a cleanup, stream monitoring, or an educational event is happening. Pick an upcoming event that sounds interesting to you.

2. What is the event? When is it happening?

3. Sign up as a class. (optional but encouraged)

4. Some non-profits require you to register for an event ahead of time to make sure there are enough supplies for everyone participating.